

The Independent American
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A Free Life

March/April 2005

~ There is no truth of which I am afraid ~

Thomas Jefferson

Bear Guns!

by Corceigh
Green

The thaw is beginning in the Mountain Northwest. The ice is breaking on the river and many of the locals are eager to emerge from their winter lodgings. Not all of the locals stirring could be called human beings.

Among those not of the human species are bears. Spring is near and spring brings outdoor activity and fishing. For bears as well as humans. Bears sleep through a good deal of the winter. When they wake, they are hungry and begin looking for food as soon as they emerge from their dens.

In the Mountain Northwest, we have black bears and grizzlies. They frequent the same waterways and fishing streams as humans. When fishing seasons open, those hungry bears are in the streams enjoying the fish as a needed source of food. Sometimes there are conflicts on just who has the right of way to a particular piece of stream or river. Bears



don't seem to respect a rule of fair play. With them, it's the law of fang and claw and the law is on their side!

Now here in Idaho, voting people with a modicum of common sense have voted to retain the Right to hunt bears with hounds. As hunting seasons coincide with the spring and autumn, bears have retained a healthy fear of human beings. As a result, bear attacks on humans are quite rare in the Mountain Northwest.

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About This Issue



Corceigh Green; junior editor

Welcome to *The Independent American* March/April 2005 issue and yet another theme. Our theme with this issue is ***Survival On The Waterways***. March and April brings spring. During the spring and summer millions of Americans enjoy the outdoors and as the season warms, areas near water see a lot of activity. America's waterways provide a great many resources for recreation and survival.

It was America's waterways that helped to build our country. Providing drinking water, irrigation, fish, wet land habitat and shipping, the waterways were blessings on the land. This is true for today and in the future as well. The prudent Independent American will know how to take advantage of America's most precious natural resources. Therefore, as the spring season approaches, *The Independent American* has devoted this issue to taking advantage of those waterways.

We begin our theme with our lead article, *Bear Guns!* Bears also see the advantage of using the waterways to feed themselves. Each

year there are many encounters between humans and bears. When traveling along streams and rivers, Independent Americans need to be wary of such encounters. If you happen to encounter a hungry bear just awakened from winter's hibernation, you need to be able to protect yourself.

When it comes to bears there is no better protection than having a firearm with you. You don't want to pack any ol' pea shooter, however. What guns are right? Which will work for even the large griz and kodiak? Before taking to that fishing stream, read this article and find out.

Any survivalist who wishes to take advantage of America's waterways should have a boat. With a boat, a survivalist may travel using rivers and lakes, fish, forage and hunt. There are many advantages to owning a boat. What if a boat isn't in your budget? You could build one. I'm not talking about Huck' Finn's Mississippi River raft either. I'm talking about some bona fide small river and lake traveling, useful craft that is very manageable and handy to survivalists. Look in on the article, *Small Boat Designs For The Survivalist* for plans for building two different designs.

Those of you who are new to survival may be wondering what to do or look for once you begin using the waterways for survival. The article, *Surviving On America's Waters* is a practical guide for what America's waters can do to help you survive. Do you think you are up to the task? Do you have the knowledge? Read the article and find out.

What was that fish you just caught? You're fishing in the mountain and don't know the fish species here? No problem! Just check your specimen *A Guide to the Fish Species of the Mountain West*. You'll know exactly what you caught and you won't here any more of that ribbing from us locals. *tee-hee*

Survival can be an everyday affair. You don't just have to wait for something bad to happen.

Sustenance fishing should be considered to augment your food supply and provide meat for your table. When there is no emergency, however, game regulations will still apply. This means no gill nets, no fish traps or pens, nothing that is not allowable by the Fish and Game department. If you want to feed yourself now using our waterways what gear can you or should you use? Read the article, *Fishing Gear For Survivalists*. Get a heads up on fishing gear and it's use from the prospective of feeding yourself and family in more "normal" times.

This issue's column, *About Plants*, concerns itself with *Noteworthy Plants That Grow Around The Waterways*. Plants are quite important to survivalists. This is no different around the water. The covered plants are among the most noteworthy to look for when depending on waterways for survival. These plants will help shelter, clothe and feed you.

Projects For Home And Life details instructions on making your own fishing plugs. For fun, survival or to spend time with your family, making these plugs is a skill every Independent American will want to learn.

Of course, we have much more information packed in this issue as well. As April approaches we believe that we should not allow the anniversary of the mass murders of the members of the Mount Carmel Church of Waco, Texas go unheeded. Our chief editor, Douglas Paul Bell, has put together some reviews of books about the government attacks on Citizens there. Doug lets you know which books are worthy and which merely try to obfuscate what happened by attacking the characters of those who were murdered.

In *The Brushfire News*, Hari Heath takes a close look at how your automobiles are stolen from you by the States through registration and regulatory schemes. Do you think you own your automobile just because you paid for it? Read this column, then think again!

We also continue our series on the manufacture of smokeless powder. *Necessary Components To Obtain Before Manufacturing Smokeless Powders* details just that. Smokeless powder manufacture is a complicated process. It utilizes many components for many purposes. What are those components and how are they used? Should the enemies of America's freedoms find the courage to ban or excessively tax ammunition, you will need to know all about these components if you are to manufacture your own smokeless powders.

Douglas Paul Bell also contributes the article, *How To Read The Shotgun News*. *The Shotgun News* is a great resource for gun collecting and for acquiring a firearms battery. Which vendors are honest? What do the ratings mean? If you are collecting or still acquiring a battery, you will definitely want to check out this article.

Glenn Boman considers calibers, loads and firearms to carry for self defense in his column, *Firearms And Survival*. There are minimum requirements for this and weapon that you may feel comfortable with. The differences could mean your life.

There is much more yet in these pages. Please read through them and enjoy. Have a happy St. Patrick's Day and spend April 19th at the range in reflection of the shot heard 'round the world. As always, May you never need the information herein, but may it prosper you and see you through any situation.



(Continued from page 1)

While this is true for Idaho and a few other States, this is not the case where hound hunting has been prohibited and where people are denied their basic Right to arm and protect themselves. Bear attacks are becoming more common in such areas in Canada and America's park systems where bears have never experienced how dangerous an armed human can be to a large predator. Without this fear of humans, men and women entering these parks without protection, (I don't mean pepper spray and whistles!) are being viewed as just another food source by bears. An easy to catch and easy to kill human is considered a certain lunch box by bears who have tasted human flesh.

Although rare, bear attacks can still occur in such areas where hunting and the Right to keep and bear arms are preserved. That's why it is always important to be adequately armed and alert when traversing bear country. Although I am in favor of avoiding confrontations with bear and other wildlife when possible, sometimes it is not possible. While pepper sprays are purported to work to ward off hostile bears, I prefer to bet my life on an instrument that can make me as lethal as my attacker. (Or more so.) In bear country that means packing firearms.

Not all firearms are equal to this task. This is due in large part to the bear's physiology. First and foremost, bears are BIG, BAD and TOUGH! If you aren't carrying a cannon that can launch a brick at supersonic speed, stay out of bear country. The following story illustrates this point very well.

Last year, a hunter was forced to kill a grizzly when it charged him from 50 yards away. The grizzly was a bore, so it was not protecting cubs. The hunter was forced to empty a magazine of 7MM Magnums from his Browning BAR semi-automatic rifle into the bear to stop it. The bear was still alive after being downed a mere few feet away from the hunter. The hunter reloaded and fired several more bullets into the grizzly's head, necessary

to kill it. The grizzly stood at 14 feet tall and weighed 1,600 pounds!



The huge 1,600 pound grizzly that mauled and ate two hikers armed with .38 caliber revolvers. It took two full magazines of 7mm Magnum round to dispatch this killer.

A surprise followed as the bear was examined by the Department of Wildlife. Several .38 caliber bullets were found just under the bear's hide and the contents of it's stomach revealed that the bear had recently dined on a hiker. A search of the area resulted in the finding of two human bodies that had been eaten by the large grizzly. Both hikers had been armed with .38 special revolvers and both had fired in defense of themselves to no avail.

In another incident, a friend of mine was driving from St. Maries to his Calder home along the upper St. Joe River. Along the long and lonely stretch, he stopped his car for a little "relief break". Now the terrain in this territory is wild and steep. When my friend stepped out of the car, he ambled over to a steep bank off the shoulder of the road. The cliff side was heavily forested and grew densely packed bushes of huckleberries. The first inclination of the presence of the 200 pound sow black bear was the crash of the bush and the familiar 'pop, pop, pop' sound of the bears jaws clamping together in warning. At the sight of the bear rapidly closing distance uphill toward him as though the black bear were sprinting across level ground, my friend drew a Grizzly Magnum chambered in .50 AE and fired one round into the chest of the charging bear at now close range. The bear folded over onto the ground and rolled back down the steep incline. A search of the area proved that no cubs were present. Most likely the black bear had been

startled by the presence on a human and charged reactively.

The lesson is to carry a weapon that is capable of downing the most dangerous wildlife in the region you are traversing. The black bear was far less dangerous than the grizzly, but still not an opponent you want to tangle with without some serious firepower. The grizzly is much tougher and roams my area of north Idaho as well as black bears. It makes sense for me and others who live in or visit Idaho to carry a firearm which will stop the larger grizzly.

There are a couple of options for sure stoppers against the larger bears. These are rifle or shotgun. Both are long arms and may be a bit inconvenient for constant carry, but when in bear country, they are worth their weight and the space on your back.

No sidearm can approach the stopping power of a rifle cartridge made for taking large game. Staying away from the rifles chambered for mid-powered military cartridges and pistol and revolver cartridges, rifles chambered for big game rounds is what you'll need to focus on for a bear gun. This runs a huge gamut of hunting cartridges. For all around purposes, I always like to recommend cartridges that are popular and can be found in any sporting goods store. That still leaves you with a wide variety of cartridges to choose from.

Most popular cartridges are .30-06, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington, .308 Winchester, 7 MM Mauser, .243 Winchester, 7MM Magnum, .300 Winchester Magnum, .338 Winchester Magnum and the .300 Weatherby Magnum. At least that's the line-up in my area. Of course, there are much more and we will examine them in a bit. Right now, let's cover these, because they are chambered in finer hunting rifles and are the most likely rifles to be on hand in most homes.

All of the above cartridges can be expected to

perform against black bear. Many people regard even the excellent .30-06 cartridge to be a bit light for grizzly, however. There is no dispute that the .300 Winchester Magnum, 7MM Magnum, .338 Winchester Magnum And the .300 Weatherby Magnum *will* perform against even the largest grizzly. With adequate loads, the .30-06 will also give sufficient protection against the big bear.



A Ruger M-77 chambered in 300 Winchester Magnum. This rifle and round will perform against even the biggest grizzly.

Almost any load from the large magnums are sufficient for bear protection, so we won't have to go into them. For the .30-06, stick with the heavier bullets between the 180 grain to 220 grain weights. Nosler Partition makes the best performing bullets for griz. They expand well, retain their jackets, penetrate very well, and do not fragment. This is exactly the performance you need for bear protection. Many bullets will come apart when smacking into the tough hide, muscle and bone of the big grizzlies, thus the bullet does not penetrate and reach a vital. This usually has the effect of enraging an already murderous beast.

I trust my elk loads for defense against grizzlies in the wild (which is anywhere outside and sometimes inside my little mountain home town). This is a .30-06

loading of a 180 grain Nosler partition bullet stuffed on top of 55 grains of IMR 4350 powder. Not an incredible powerhouse against the larger grizzlies, but sufficient for defensive ranges.

Good bear loads can be worked up from moose loads as well. Cast or jacketed Nosler partition bullets in the 200-220 grain range can be loaded with IMR 4350 starting at the 51 grain load and worked upwards from there. Of course, you need a reloading manual and never exceed the maximum loads. Such loads would be very effective for defense against bears.

The configuration of a bear defense rifle also needs to be considered. While I am with my hunting rifle during most of my outdoor ventures in the autumn and winter, there are drawbacks to carrying a long barreled, scoped rifle for defense. The longer barrel makes the rifle a bit slower to bring into action, though a little practice will negate this. Harder than bringing the long barrel smoothly into action is using the scope at close distance to sight at a swiftly advancing animal. For this type of quick sighting, keep the iron sights and do not scope the rifle, or if your eyes are like mine and you need a bit of help to focus, use a see through scope mount, so you have the option of using iron sights close in and quickly.

Your rifle may be of any action type. You can train to work any type of action when encountering a charging bear. Bolt and semi-automatic hunting rifles abound that are chambered in perfectly acceptable calibers for grizzlies. Another action type that should be looked into is the lever action. Lever actions can be found produced by Browning, Winchester, Marlin and some imports. The Browning lever guns can even be had in the magnum calibers.

Marlin lever guns make some very efficient brush guns. Chambered from .444 Marlin, .450 Marlin and up to .45-70, they are sufficient for bear country. The .450 Marlin and .50 Alaska were designed for stopping

big bears in the brush country. The .45-70 is a proven stopper and a great caliber to consider for a lever gun to carry in the brush.

Winchesters are most noted for the .30-30 caliber. These may be a bit weak for the large grizzlies, however. Again, as with the Marlins, stick with the .45-70s.

The Remington 742 is a great, accurate hunting rifle available in magnum rifle calibers and in .30-06. It's action is pump operated like that of many shotguns and makes for quick handling with iron sights.

You will probably not want to constantly carry your bear defense rifle in your hands while hiking, foraging and camping and certainly not while fishing. Your bear rifle will need a sling for carry on your shoulder or back. Any military sling will work well for this. Nylon slings are more resistant to weather than are leather or cotton web, so consider them. Many slings incorporate wide, cushioned shoulder pads for more comfortable carry. These may help you when carrying throughout the day, but they can get in the way when wrapping the sling around your arm for steadying your shots. In a quick confrontation, this won't matter, but if you are using your rifle during hunting season it may.

Since your bear defense rifle must accompany you constantly while in bear country, your rifle's finish and stock can make a difference in the wear on your rifle. A good parkerized or stainless steel finish will protect against wet weather and humidity more readily than plain blued finishes. Synthetic stocks will not expand, contract or warp with the weather. This gives synthetic stocks a huge advantage over wood as they will never cause the firearm to change it's point of impact.

While rifles are excellent defense against bears, especially grizzlies, some believe their range makes them a bit dangerous when deployed in populous areas. A miss can send a bullet quite a ways and find an accidental

human mark. To avoid this, more and more people are opting to carry shotguns for defense when in bear country.

Shotguns offer as many choices as rifles in action and configuration. As for gauge, however, you are looking at 10 gauge, 12 gauge, 16 gauge, 20 gauge, and .410 gauge. The most popular being the 12 gauge. As the 12 gauge is the most popular, stick with that. You will have no problem getting components and ammunition for this. As for the other gauges, they will all work for bear defense as well, except for the .410 gauge which could prove a bit too light for the large mammals.

For loads, stay with slugs. Forget any type of bird shot loading! Birdshot just does not have what it takes to stop a bear, period. Odds are birdshot won't even penetrate the hide. The same advice applies for buckshot. While buckshot is larger, heavier and will penetrate slightly better than bird shot due to it's heavier weight, it still doesn't have the necessary penetrating ability and inertia necessary to effectively stop an angry griz. Slugs do. These chunks of lead come in varying sizes, weights and designs. Slugs can be found in sabot configurations, with fins to help to spin the slug which stabilizes it's flight, with grooves to mimic rifling in a barrel and with hollowpoints.



This Remington 1100 is

equipped with a slug barrel, making it handy for bear defense.

If you have a rifled slug barrel, do not use the slugs with the grooves that mimic riflings. Some of the sabots with stabilizing fins have unstable flight paths and have been known to "keyhole" in paper targets. This is not what you want for performance against bear, so stick with the more conventional slugs and sabots. The conventional slugs work because they fly downrange head first and their inertia plows them through hide, muscle and bone. This is the performance you need if you come up against a hungry bear.

A shotgun chambered for the 3" magnums will give you the most versatility in shotshell choices. The 2 3/4" shotshells are plenty sufficient in slugs, however. The 3 1/2" magnum will give an extra, minor thump to your slug, but not that noteworthy. If you are going to choose a shotgun chambered for a "magnum" shotshell, the 3" magnum is the better choice.

As for configuration of your shotgun, everything that applies to your rifle will apply to how and why you carry your shotgun. Your shotgun must have a slug barrel. If all you intend to shoot through your barrel are slugs, then you should consider a rifled slug barrel. Rifled barrels will add accuracy and improved ballistics to your slugs. Many slug barrels come with rifle sights these days and that is an improvement. Again, if all you intend to shoot through this barrel are slugs and perhaps buckshot, then consider a slug barrel with rifle sights. A smooth bore in cylinder bore configuration gives great versatility if you are also planning to use your shotgun for more than just bear defense. You will be able to shoot slugs, buckshot and birdshot for both home and bear defense. If you can afford both, that's great. If you must choose between one or the other, consider what you want your shotgun to do for you.

As with your rifle, a shotgun must be carried with you at all times if you depend upon it for

defense. This means a sling is necessary. As with your rifle, nylon material will resist weather better and is lighter of weight. However, leather and cotton web will work as well, especially in dryer climates.

Synthetic stocks are an improvement with shotguns as with rifles. Stainless steel is the best finish. The synthetic stocks together with the stainless finish will help your shotgun to resist the effects of weather.

The long guns are the best stoppers, hands down, but they can be a bit unwieldy to carry if you are carrying other equipment as well. Millions of American hike or wade streams and river banks each year while carrying their fishing poles. Fishing is a popular sport for humans and a vital food gathering skill for bears. It is not uncommon to cross a bear in the more remote parts of a favorite wilderness fishing hole. If you've left your long gun home to more easily handle your fishing gear, you could get into a lot of trouble awfully fast! For this reason some Americans opt to carry a sidearm for bear defense.

As with rifles and shotguns, any handgun you choose for bear defense must pack a wallop. This is even more important when choosing a handgun than with any of the long guns. Handguns, even when chambered in the most powerful handgun cartridges, do not have anywhere close to the stopping power of a rifle. Even the lead brick spit from the muzzle of a shotgun will out power most handguns due to the slug's inertia created by it's incredible weight. For bear defense, the handgun option is a trade-off. It allows you to fill your hands with other activities while still packing better defensive equipment than throwing rocks.

This doesn't mean that packing a handgun for bear defense is useless. Handguns can be an effective bear defense weapon. You must choose the right handgun and the right cartridge. The old stand-by, the .44 Magnum, is quite effective on black bears, but still lacks the punch necessary for stopping grizzlies for

defensive purposes. You will need to go way beyond factory loads for the .44 Magnum if you are to have any confidence in this round for grizzlies. When I opt to carry my .44 Magnum I load up with a hunting/bear defense round. This is a 300 grain Sierra bullet loaded with 21.5 grains of Hodgdon H-110 powder. This is a *very strong* loading. Not just any firearm is going to stand up to this kind of pounding. The strongest firearms on the market chambered for the .44 Magnum are the Rugers. If you are going to load your cartridges up similar to the loading above, I strongly suggest that your sidearm be either the Ruger Super Blackhawk or the Ruger Super Redhawk. The Super Redhawk is more versatile in that it is double action and can be used as a self defense sidearm when loaded with .44 specials as well as a hunting or bear defense handgun when loaded with the Magnums. The Super Blackhawk is every bit as capable as the Super Redhawk, but is a single action of the old SAA style and is time consuming to reload therefore not suitable for defense against humans.



The Ruger Super Blackhawk chambered in .44 Magnum. Once touted as the most powerful handgun cartridge on earth. Today more appropriate handgun cartridges exist for bear defense.

Once touted as “the most powerful handgun cartridge on earth”, the .44 Magnum is not the only cartridge to consider for bear defense. More powerful cartridges have moved onto the scene since Elmer Keith's brain child made it's debut in the 1950's. Today there are many cartridges to choose from that are more appropriate for bear defense.

One of the cartridges knocking the .44 Magnum from the throne is the .454 Casull. Freedom Arms brought out its beefed up single action handgun in the super cartridge in the 1980's. The .454 Casull was marketed as the answer to bear defense and hunting in handguns. The Freedom Arms Model 83 took handgun hunting and stopping power to the next level.



Freedom Arm's Model 83 in .454 Casull

Since the Freedom Arms Model 83, other firearms makers have produced models chambered for the .454 Casull. This includes the Taurus Raging Bull and Ruger Super Redhawk. I've shot the Raging Bull and it didn't impress me. It felt very loose in its cylinder and I did get some lead spit into my face. I had examined another Raging Bull and found its cylinder loose as well. My advice is to stick with Freedom Arms or Rugers.

The .454 Casull cartridge is quite effective for bear. Factory ammunition is offered that utilizes a 300 grain Remington Core-Lokt bullet. This load pushes the big game grade bullet at 1625 fps at the muzzle for 1759 foot pounds of energy. Recoil is definitely felt, but is nowhere as bad as many make it out to be. I believe that many shooters hear so much of the cartridges power and recoil that they flinch at the first shot and miss. They, then blame this on recoil and quit shooting the big powerhouse. The truth is; the recoil is not much worse than a stiff .44 Magnum load. Test shoot one first if you are recoil sensitive. Otherwise, there is no reason anyone could not master a handgun chambered for this cartridge.

The .454 Casull set off a new race for the most powerful handgun cartridge. The .475 Linebaugh followed the Casull and offered even more power in the bear defense

category. The .475 Linebaugh is also offered in the Freedom Arms Model 83. Wanting some of the revolver shooters' action, pistol manufacturers joined in by offering pistols chambered for harder hitting calibers.

The Widley Magnum and Grizzly Magnum had been in manufacture since the 70's and '80s. The Widley Magnum was one of the first pistols out to chamber cartridges like the .357 and .44 Auto Mags., but was plagued with problems. When the bugs were finally worked out of the firearm, the Widley Magnums had a bad reputation. This led to no sales and the company could no longer operate, so the Widley Magnum is no longer produced.

The Grizzly Magnum was first introduced chambered in the .45 Winchester Magnum. The .45 Winchester Magnum, the .357 Auto Mag and .44 Auto Mag. were all meant to bring pistol cartridges up to a power level close to revolvers. They were alternatives that could be effective for black bear, but still under powered for grizzlies. It wasn't too long until Desert Eagle chambered a beefy pistol in .50 AE. This cartridge definitely brought pistols into the grizzly bear stopping class. Also chambered in AR style rifles, the .50 AE even outperforms the .223 Remington at all distances. It was not long before Grizzly Magnum chambered one of their pistols in this cartridge as well. For pistol carriers, this is the cartridge to carry for bear defense.

For those in black bear country where the chance of running into a grizzly is almost nil, another alternative is offered. Invented by Johnny Rowland, The .460 Rowland cartridge is based on the .45 ACP. The case is lengthened a sixteenth of an inch and packed with enough AA #7 powder to push a 230 grain Speer Gold Dot bullet at 1678 fps giving .44 Magnum performance. The .460 Rowland can be found chambered in Dan Wesson pistols and revolvers, but the best part of the cartridge is that if you already own a Colt Government Model or clone, you can buy a drop in kit to convert your pistol to this

cartridge. The addition of a drop in kit that allows you to fire a .44 Magnum class cartridge through your .45 ACP pistol will add a great deal of versatility to your carry handgun in black bear country. Also, if you have no other choice, the .460 Rowland has been proven to be viable against grizzlies.

Due to their construction, revolvers have always been able to handle cartridges with more kick, therefore more stopping power. Ruger built a reputation on building strong revolvers. When Ruger decided to way into the cartridge business, they chambered a new round in one of their own Super Redhawks. The .480 Ruger was never designed to knock the .454 Casull or .475 Linebaugh from the throne of the world's most powerful handgun cartridge. It was designed as a handgun hunting cartridge. Having a bullet diameter of .476", the .480 Ruger can throw a 405 grain cast bullet at 1300 fps. On the surface, this is not much better than a .44 Magnum, but consider the bullet is at least 100 grains heavier than most of the heaviest .44 Magnum loads and is .047 larger in diameter. This means that inertia will move the bullet to penetrate better giving it a bit more of a wallop for grizzlies.

The .480 Ruger's recoil is no worse than the .44 Magnum. If you are recoil sensitive and do not want a handgun in the Casull or Linebaugh class, the .480 Ruger may fill your bill.

Smith & Wesson took a different approach to cartridge development than did Ruger. For many years Smith & Wesson enjoyed a lot of publicity from some Hollywood films depicting it's S&W Model 29 as "the most powerful handgun on earth and can blow your head clean off". Though other sidearms were chambered in the .44 Magnum, when the .44 was dethroned by the bigger .454s and 475s, Smith & Wesson felt slighted. S&W wanted to take back the title of the most powerful handgun on earth.

In their quest to regain the most powerful

handgun title, Smith & Wesson designed the cartridge before a handgun existed that could stand up to the punishment the cartridge dishes out. Once Smith & Wesson worked a cartridge spitting a 440 grain cast lead bullet at 1625 fps for a 2580 foot pounds of energy wallop, they then designed a firearm strong enough to handle the cartridge.



Feeling lucky? Knocked from the throne of most powerful handgun with once powerful models like the 629 above, Smith & Wesson jumped back to the top with it's .500 S&W Magnum.

This was no easy trick. Launching a heavy bullet at the velocities listed produces a good deal of recoil. Recoil that can punish any firearm including any revolver ever made. Smith & Wesson went to the drawing board and developed the next level in revolver frames. The X frame revolver isn't just a beefed up version of a double action revolver frame. Several points of the frame needed to be better secured in order to survive the .500 S&W Magnum cartridge's blast. The first of these improvement was how the barrel was screwed into the frame. The barrel is, of course, screwed into the forward area of the frame, however that is not the only point where the barrel is secured to the frame. A barrel shroud is secured to the frame and the forward end of the barrel locks the shroud from it's forward end. This also secures the barrel to the frame at it's muzzle. The compensator is then screwed into place and torqued against the barrel shroud further securing the barrel to the frame. This configuration utilizes the barrel shroud and muzzle to keep tension against each other along their entire lengths. This distributes

recoil forces evenly throughout the configuration and undue stress on the frame/barrel joint is negated.

The cylinder lock-up needed to be beefed up as well. A huge ball detent lock is incorporated into the forward frame below the forcing cone. A conventional rear locking device, though much heavier built, is utilized at the rear of the cylinder and frame.

The frame is very massive as well as the five shot cylinder. The grip is borrowed from the K frame making the feel in the hand very familiar to Smith & Wesson shooters. The weight is something different, however. The massive X frame weighs in at 5 pounds fully loaded. This may seem like a heavy load to heave with you on a trip to your favorite fishing stream, but if you are confronted by a big griz you'll be happy to jerk and glean this howitzer from it's holster to protect your life.

The above are your best options for bear protection when traveling in the wilds. Remember, when you are visiting the forests and waterways tread lightly and respect what you find there. The bears and other wildlife were put on this earth for a purpose as well, but if your life or the life of a loved one is threatened, then you must defend yourself. In defense of those you love, you'll want the best protection you can carry. Use this article as a guide.



"If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude than the animating contest of freedom, - go from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains sit lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen!"

-Samuel Adams- "American Independence," 1 August 1776 Occasion: Speech delivered at the State House in Philadelphia.

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Small Boat Designs For The Survivalist

Reprints of designs from the 1950s and 1960s

Original text for *The Independent American* by Corceigh Green

The waterways can be an excellent resource for survivalists. Supplying food, water, material and a means of travel the Independent American is better able to make use of these waterways with the proper tools.

When gathering resources like fish, wild rice, and crawdads, or when merely wanting to travel quickly across territory, a boat is a major tool to have on hand. You may walk a mile to the river to gather some wild rice only to find that the rice is growing along the bank grows only a few feet into the bank, but extends along the river for a couple of miles. To gather enough rice, you may need to walk up or down the river bank. A small boat will help with this task. By threshing the rice directly into the boat, you will have a floating wagon to carry your gathered supply. The same can be applied to gathering anything from cattails to mint, in fact, anything you find growing along the waterways. When finished, pull or paddle your boat back to your launch point and place it on it's trailer or car top and hitch up your horse team or vehicle and drive it home.

The style of boat the Independent American should choose is very important. It should fit the waterways you visit or travel and it should be able function in accordance with the task for which you need it. In other words, if you want a fishing boat, it should be open, able to land fish, and allowing maneuverability for casting and netting. Something for a speedy get away or long range travel down river or across a lake should be narrow, light and closed in against the water. For ocean coasts where distance may accrue unnoticed by a boater, something that can be propelled by a

force other than the boater's oars may be necessary. A small tea-cup style sail boat will fill the bill for this.

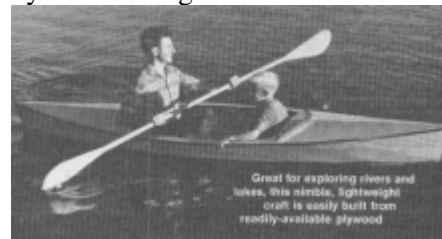
Each style should be small for easy carry and maneuverability. The Independent American should be able to man-handle the boat on shore or across land when necessary. This also makes it easier for the Independent American to handle while wading and pulling the boat behind him or her in shallow water by the banks.

While going through some stacks of older magazines I happened to have collected over the years, I have come across a few boat designs that will help the Independent American to survive on the waterway he or she envisions him/her self on and for the task needed in an emergency. A couple of them I will share here.

The first boat design is called the Plyak. It is a plywood crafted open kayak. It's sleek design makes it ideal for travel over distance when boating downriver or lake into town. It's open design also makes it worthy for fishing and hauling light supplies, but keep it out of rough weather and waves along coastal regions.

THE PLYAK

by Steve Ellingson



Boat Builder Magazine circa 1955

In all countries of the world, particularly the United States, the kayak is enjoying newfound popularity. Here's a nimble, lightweight craft that has it's roots in the arctic as a basic instrument of survival, yet is branching out as a modern outdoor sport on our own rivers and lakes.

To the Eskimo, a kayak is more than a boat. When he's laced into his whale-bone and

walrus-hide craft, he's ready for anything in the way of weather. To most of us, however, a kayak is pure adventure and fun. It's perfect for poking around uninhabited islands, exploring the bends of a lazy, winding river, or just breaking the peaceful surface of a placid lake at sunset.

Readily available plywood is used for construction of this kayak, rather than the Eskimo whale-bone and walrus-hide. The boat measures a little over 11 feet in length, and has a 30 inch beam and a gross weight of about 40 pounds. The "Plyak" is an excellent "one man" boat, with possibly one child as "crew".

Note that both ends of this boat are exactly alike except for the keel, so corresponding frames at both bow and stern are identical. Begin construction by cutting out 2 each of frames 1, 2 and 3 from 1/2" EXT-DFPA plywood. Type A-C is suitable. Make the number 4 frames from oak or other hardwood according to the plan, with 3/4" plywood gussets. The plans show 3/4" thickness for these frames, as this thickness is readily available; however 1/2" thickness is acceptable. Fasten gussets with glue and nails or screws. Be sure to use waterproof glue here, and on all other joints in this boat.

Select a good straight 12' 2X4 to use as a strongback on which to build the boat. Set this on edge on 2 sawhorses by nailing a scrap of 3/4" plywood as a cleat to the 2X4 at each place where it crosses the sawhorse. Then nail the cleats to the sawhorses.

Establish a datum line by drawing a line 1" down from the top of the 2X4, on each side. Make sure these lines are straight. Make a mark to locate one end of the boat near one end of the 2X4; mark the other end at 11'3" from the first mark. Lay out the frame stations, as shown on the plans, at 15" intervals. Lay out the stations, starting at each end and working toward the middle.

Cut out the keelson, stem and stern pieces.

Fasten the stem and stern pieces to the keelson with 2" flat head screws, and glue. Fasten the two #1 frames to these pieces, and to the keelson, with glue and screws.

Now attach the other frames to the 2X4 strongback as shown in the detailed drawing. On the two #4 frames, nail a temporary brace across the upper arms of the frame so that the upper edge of the brace is 1" below the datum line. Nail through the brace into the 2X4 to locate the frame.

When all frames (except the #1 frames) are fastened to the strongback, set the keelson assembly into place as shown in fig. 1. Make sure that all frames are located properly, and that all joints between keelson and frames fit snugly. Stem pieces should just touch the strongback.

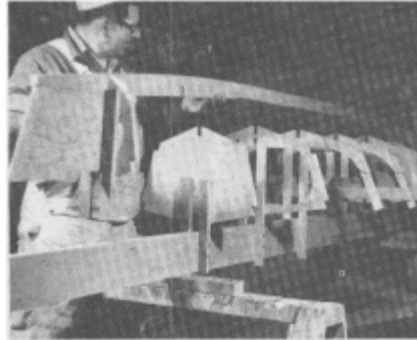


Fig. 1. All joints between keelson and frames should fit snugly. Remove keelson and daub glue in all frame joints. Replace keelson. Toe nail stem pieces to the center of the strongback.

Remove the keelson assembly and add glue at all frame joints. Replace the assembly, toe nail the stem and stern pieces to the center of the strongback, then screw the keelson to the frame (if the fit is good, the glue alone is good enough).

Next cut strips for chines and gunwales. Clamp a chine strip to the #4 frames, bend it around the other frames, and clamp it to the stem and stern pieces. Scraps of wood nailed across at an angle from the frames to the keelson will help keep these square with the

keelson. Mark the bevels that must be cut on the frame edges, then remove the chine strip and cut the bevels with a dove tail saw. Bend the strip in place again, check fit at all notches. When you have a good fit at all frames, mark and cut the ends of the strip, fitting it carefully so the strip just reaches the dotted line on the stem and stern pieces (see plan detail A-A). Fasten the chine strip with glue and 1 1/8" flat head screws. Put the screws a little below the center of the strip and countersink them well so when you bevel off the strip to match the angle of the frames, your cutting tools won't hit the screw heads.

Cut and fit the other chine strip and the gunwale (sheer clamp) strips in the same manner.

Bevel the chine and gunwale strips, the stern piece, the keelson, the stem piece, and the edges of the frames so the plywood planking will fit flush against all these members. Check your work as you go along by holding a straight edge against the keelson and chine strip (Fig. 2). The bevel on the keelson and chine should conform to the straight edge, and the straight edge should slide past the frames, just barely touching.



Fig. 2 Check as you go by holding straight edge against keelson, chine strip. Bevel on keelson, chine should conform to straight edge which should slide past frames, just touching.

Planking is 1/4" A-A grade exterior plywood, in 4'X12' or 4'X8' sheets. If you use the 4'X12' panels, no splices will be needed. If

splices are needed on the bottom, make one at each end where the hull is fairly narrow.

Install the bottom first. Lay a sheet of plywood on one side of the bottom so the edge is along the center line of the keelson. Clamp it in place in the middle and bend it over the bottom. Have someone hold it down while you mark along the chines and ends. See Fig. 3.



Fig. 3 Cut out bottom piece, leave extra material for trim. Because of curve in keelson, you'll have to trim edge of the planking to make it fit exactly.

Cut out the bottom piece, leaving a little extra material for trim. Clamp, mark and cut the second bottom panel in the same manner. Note that because of the curve of the bottom, some material will have to be trimmed from the keelson edge of each panel to get an exact fit. Fasten the panels in place with glue and 3/4" flat head screws, then plane the chine edges smooth with the chines.

If splices are necessary, cut a scrap of 1/2" plywood about 3" wide to fit between the keelson and chine strip at the place the splice will be. Fasten this strip to the inside of the planking with glue and screws. Leave half the strip exposed so the second section of the bottom panel can be butted to the first, and glued and screwed to the strip.

Add the side planking in the same manner as for the bottom. However, if splices are needed, put these in the middle of the boat, between the two #4 frames. The backing piece should be at least 4" wide, and it should be glued and screwed into place after all the side planking has been installed. The backing piece extends between the chine and the

gunwale strip.

Now cut the boat loose from the strongback and turn it over. Take off all the strips that held it to the strongback, and cut off the tops of the #4 frames flush with the gunwale strips (see Fig. 4). Cut out the gunwale fillers and cockpit corner knees as shown in the plans, and glue and screw these in place. Cut the deck stringers and fasten them, then bevel them and the edges of the gunwale strips and frames to take the decking.

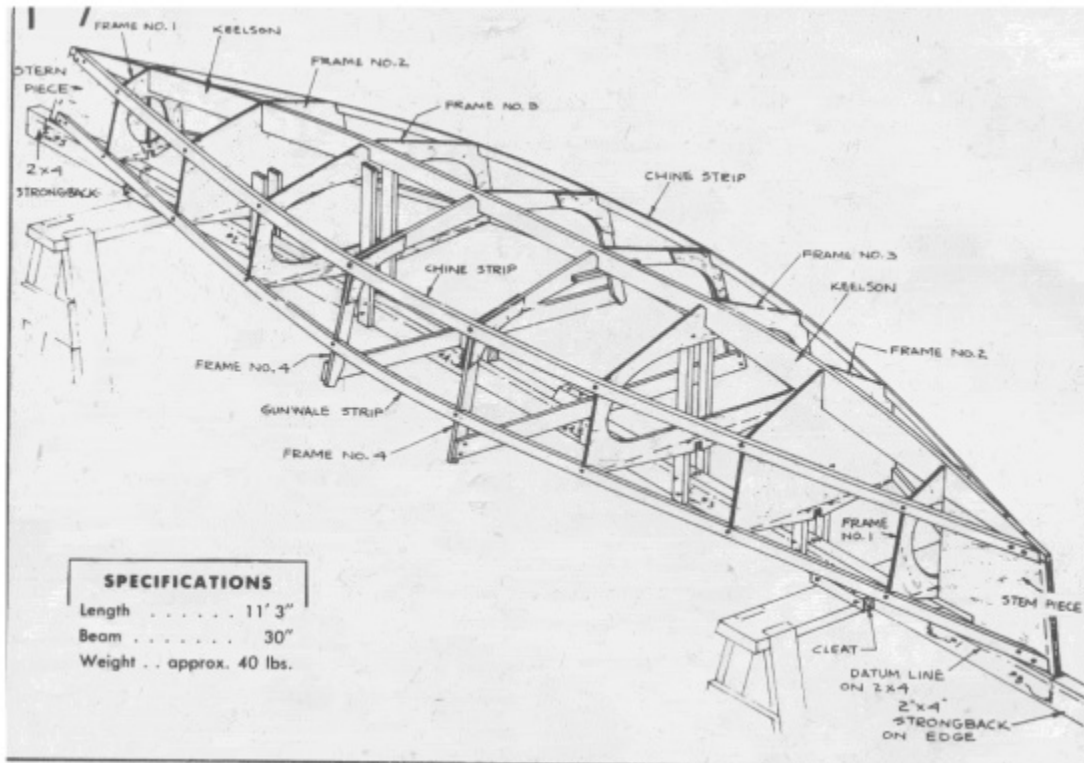


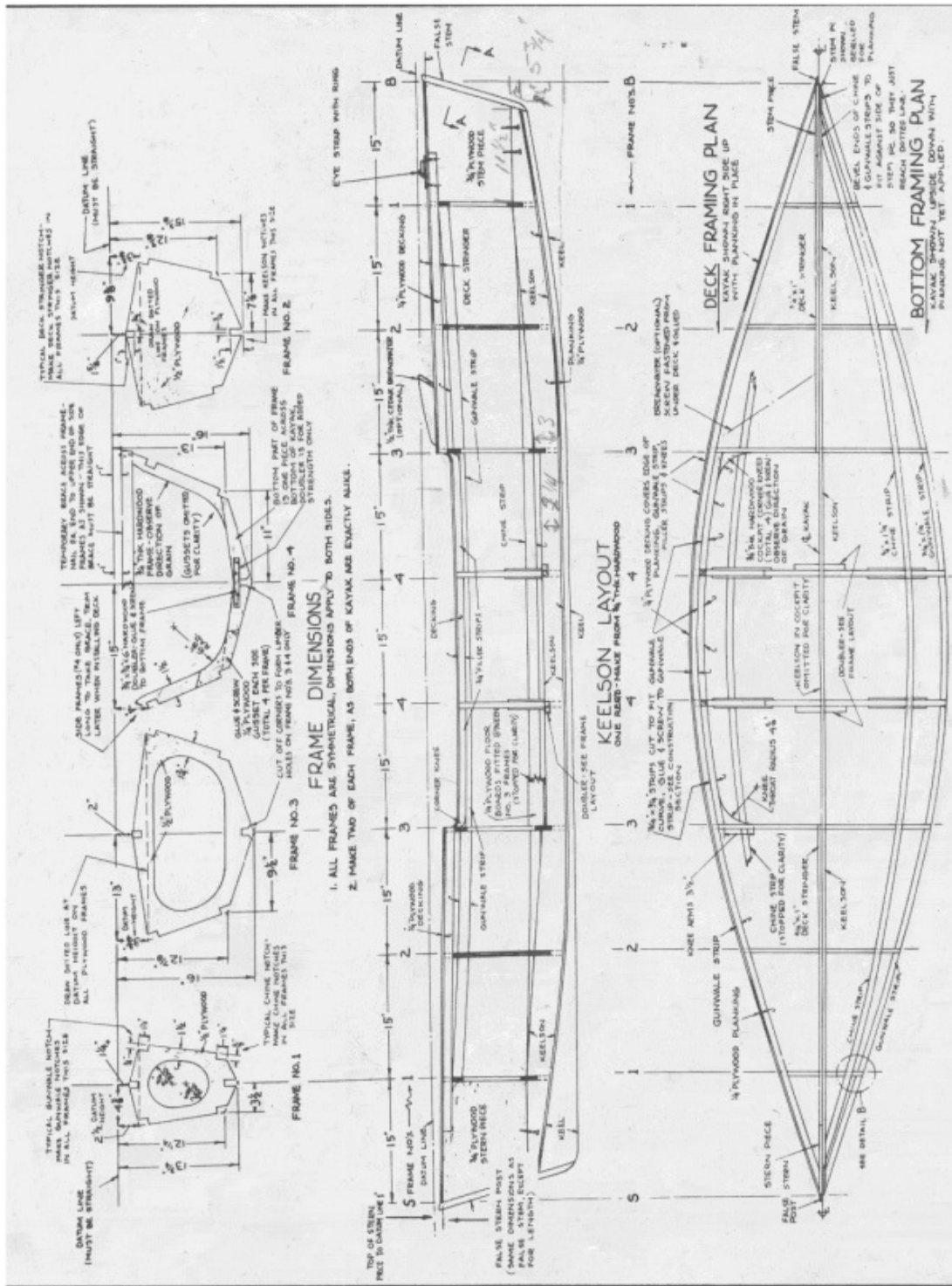
Fig. 4 Cut and screw on the gunwale fillers and cockpit corner knees, as shown in the plans, then glue and screw these in place. Cut deck stringers and fasten them, then bevel

them and edges of gunwale strips and frames to decking.

Before putting on the decking, you might want to fill the watertight compartments formed by the solid #2 frames with liquid foam. If you don't do this, give the whole interior two coats of wood sealer. Now put on the deck planking in the same manner as the bottom and side planking. It overlaps the side planking, and ends at the after edge of frame #3. Cut some strips to fit the narrow areas alongside the cockpit and glue and screw these in place. Use a length of 3/4" or 1/2" half round hardwood to make a rub rail that runs all along the outside of the boat at the gunwale.

To make your boat really waterproof and tough, you should lay fiberglass tape over all the joints in the planking. Put a strip down the centerline of the bottom and fasten the keel in place with long screws before the resin sets. If you have a router, you can rout out a channel along the edge of the keel that goes against the planking in order to make a better fit.





Cut out the floorboards and the back rest from leftover planking material. Make the double paddle as shown in the plans, with the blades set into slots cut in the ends of a 1 3/4" closet

pole. The overall length of the paddle should be about 9'. Just set the back rest in place on the floorboards so it leans against the afterdeck.

Finish your boat with a coat of sealer and two coats of a good marine enamel. A small eye fastened to the bow comes in handy for attaching a bow painter.

BILL OF MATERIALS		
Quan.	Size	Material & Use
1	3/4"x5 3/4"x10'9"	mahogany or oak, for keelson
4	3/4"x1 1/4"x12'	yellow cedar, for chine and gunwale strips
2	3/4"x1"x3'1"	yellow cedar, for deck stringers
2	3/4"x3 3/8"x40"	oak, for #4 frames
1	3/4"x3/4"x30"	false stem and stern posts
1 or 2	1/4"x4"x12' or 1/4"x4"x8'	EXT-DFPA-A fir plywood, for planking
1	1/2"x4"x4'	EXT-DFPA A-C fir plywood, for frames #1, 2, 3
2	3/4"x14 1/2"x10'	EXT-DFPA A-C fir plywood, for bow and stern pieces
1	1/4"x4"x8'	EXT-DFPA A-C fir plywood, for deck planking, floor boards, etc.
2	3/4" or 1/2"x12'	half round, for rub strips
1	1 1/4" Dia. x 7'	fir dowel, for paddle handle

The next plans are for a simple take-apart john boat. The detachable bow is made to stow gear and can carry survival, hunting, fishing or foraging equipment. This small craft can haul a bit more supplies than the plyak, but is slower under paddle power.

Break Apart Boat Stows Camp Gear



by Arthur Mikesell
designed by William Jackson
from Popular Mechanics 1968

Designed with camping in mind, this sturdy two-in-one john boat is actually a small fishing pram with a roomy detachable camp chest big enough for all of your camp supplies bolted to the bow.

WHY THE SPLIT PERSONALITY? Well, that bolt-on bow locker is actually a sturdy camp chest which can be packed at home, attached to the pram at the launch site, then removed again when you reach camp.

Double-galvanized, annular-ring boat nails are used throughout. These cost much less than comparable screws and also make the fabricating job easier without sacrificing strength. Assuming that you plan to fiberglass the boat, all joints are both glued and nailed. If not, use caulking compound at all through-hull fastenings and planking joints. In any case, be sure to use caulking when mounting the bottom battens since these would be attached after fiberglassing the hull.

Begin by assembling the transom. Cut and mount the inside framing on the plywood, glue-coating all contacting surfaces and spacing the 1 1/4 in. nails 3 in. apart. (The 1X4 framing on the art surface of the transom should be mounted after you have planked the bottom.) Once the glue has cured, bevel the bottom edge 15 degrees.

Next, make up the temporary building frame and the bulkhead frame which forms the bow of the pram. Since the latter must mate snugly with the rear bulkhead of the bow locker, we recommend that you build the two together. When completed, clamp them together, check the fit and then drill holes through the side frames for the two connecting plates.

The fairing operation is a little unusual since this boat isn't framed in the normal way. To determine the proper bevels for the transom and forward bulkhead, you'll have to assemble the hull temporarily, then take it apart and cut these bevels so that frames fit flush against planking.

Tack the two pieces of side planking to the transom and secure the temporary building frame 50 in. forward of this with two screws through each side. (After the seats have been installed, this frame will be removed and the screw holes sealed with wood putty backed by

1-in.-sq. plywood plates glued to the inner surface.) Bend the two side panels around the building frame and tack them in place.

Once you have marked the transom bevels, remove the transom and cut them slightly oversize. Then replace the transom, check the fit and sand the bevels until you have a perfect joint. Finally, coat all contacting surfaces with glue and attach the plywood with 1 1/4-in. nails.

The chine and sheer curves should run smoothly from the transom to the fore end of the bow locker, so before you fair the pram's bow bulkhead you'll have to frame the locker and clamp this framing to the pram. When you have marked the proper bevels, remove the clamps and fair the bow bulkhead and locker frame. After fairing, secure the side planking.

Since the locker forms a separate part of the boat, you might take time out here to finish it up before going ahead with the rest of the hull. In spite of its odd shape, the locker is simply a box with a center-hinged lift-off top. Make the handrails by cutting a 2 x 4 lengthwise; mount them by driving nails from inside.

Next, mount the chine battens with their edges extending slightly below the bottom edge of the side planking so that they may be faired to fit flush against the bottom planking. After fairing these battens, mount the bottom planking.

To complete the hull, make up the three seat frames and install them by driving nails from the outside through the planking. Once the stern knees have been installed, the hull will be adequately braced and you can remove the building frame. Install the 1/2-in. plywood seat tops with galvanized hinges, piano hinges give the best appearance, then shape the sheer moldings and mount them, using 1-in. nails.

Before painting or fiberglassing the hull, extend the connecting-plate holes in the

bulkhead side frame through the side planking and seal the bolts with epoxy.

Finally, mount the bottom battens by driving nails through the planking into the framing.

MATERIALS LIST

LUMBER (All clear fir)

1 Pc.	1 x 10 x 1'	Transom framing
2 pcs.	1 x 4 x 8'	Transom framing
1 Pc.	1 x 4 x 8'	Temporary building frame
1 Pc.	1 x 4 x 8'	Chines (cut lengthwise)
2 pcs.	1 x 4 x 8'	Seat framing (cut lengthwise)
1 Pc.	1 x 4 x 8'	Center bottom batten
2 pcs.	1 x 4 x 8'	Bottom battens (cut lengthwise)
1 pc.	1 x 4 x 8'	Sheer molding (cut lengthwise)
1 pc.	1 x 4 x 6'	Locker framing (cut lengthwise)
1 pc.	1 x 4 x 4'	Locker chines
1 pc.	1 x 4 x 4'	Bow framing (E)
1 pc.	2 x 4 x 8'	Locker framing (F&G)
1 pc.	2 x 4 x 6'	Locker handrails
1 Pc.	2 x 4 x 6'	Transom knee, locker slides
1 Pc.	2 x 6 x 6:	Bulkhead side frames

PLYWOOD

(Fir, exterior, grade AB or better)

3 pcs. 1/4" x 4' x 8' Hull planking, seat bulkheads

1 pc. 1/2" x 4' x 8' Seats, foredeck & transom

FASTENINGS

1/2 lb. 1 in. boat nails Plywood to chines, sheer and molding (#S2IIA)

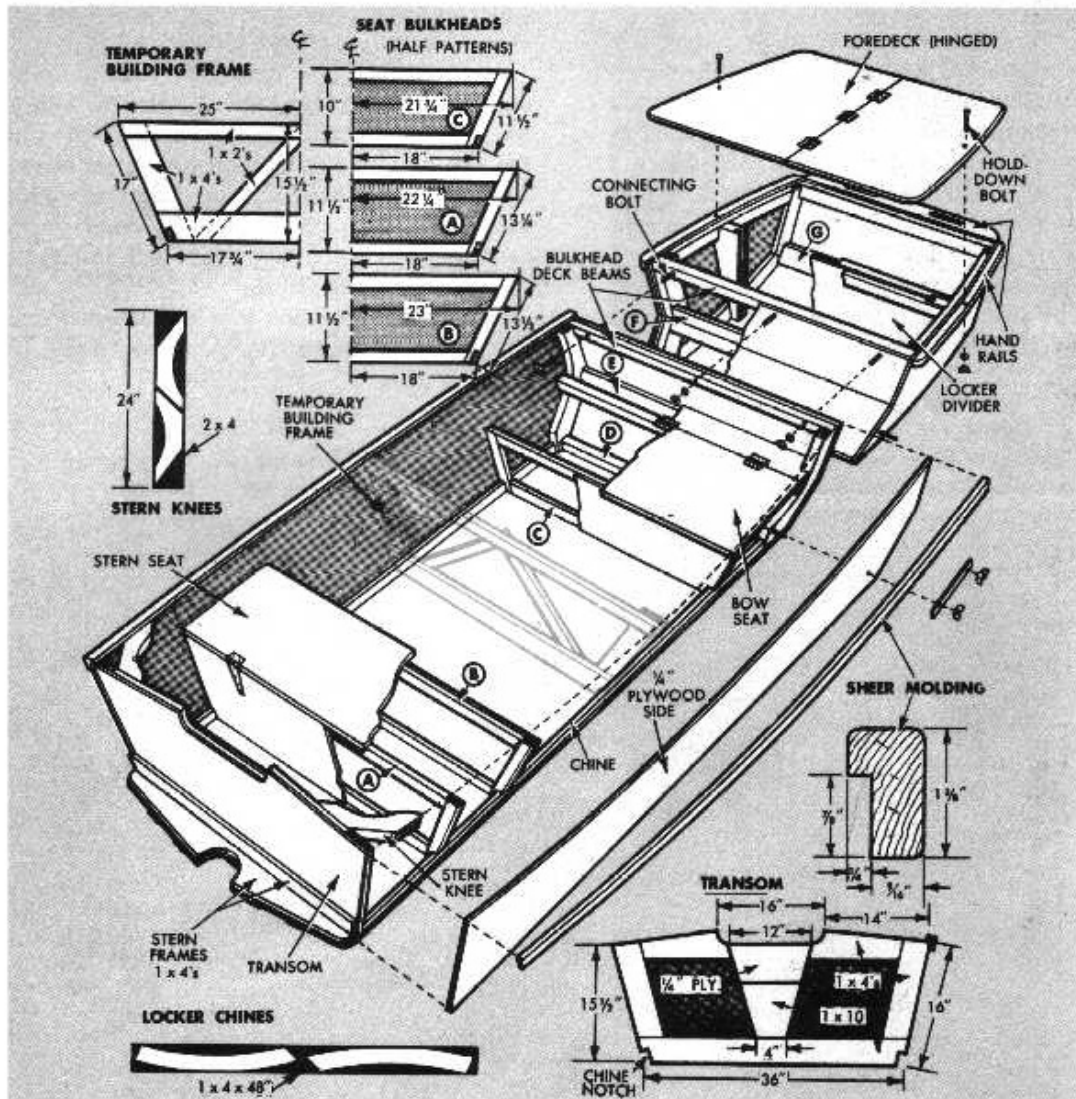
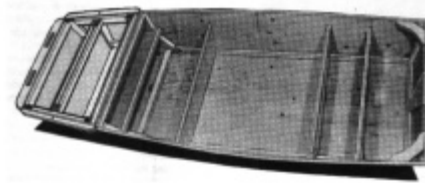
1/2 lb. 1 1/4 in. boat nails Plywood to chines, seat, transom and bulkhead (#S212A)

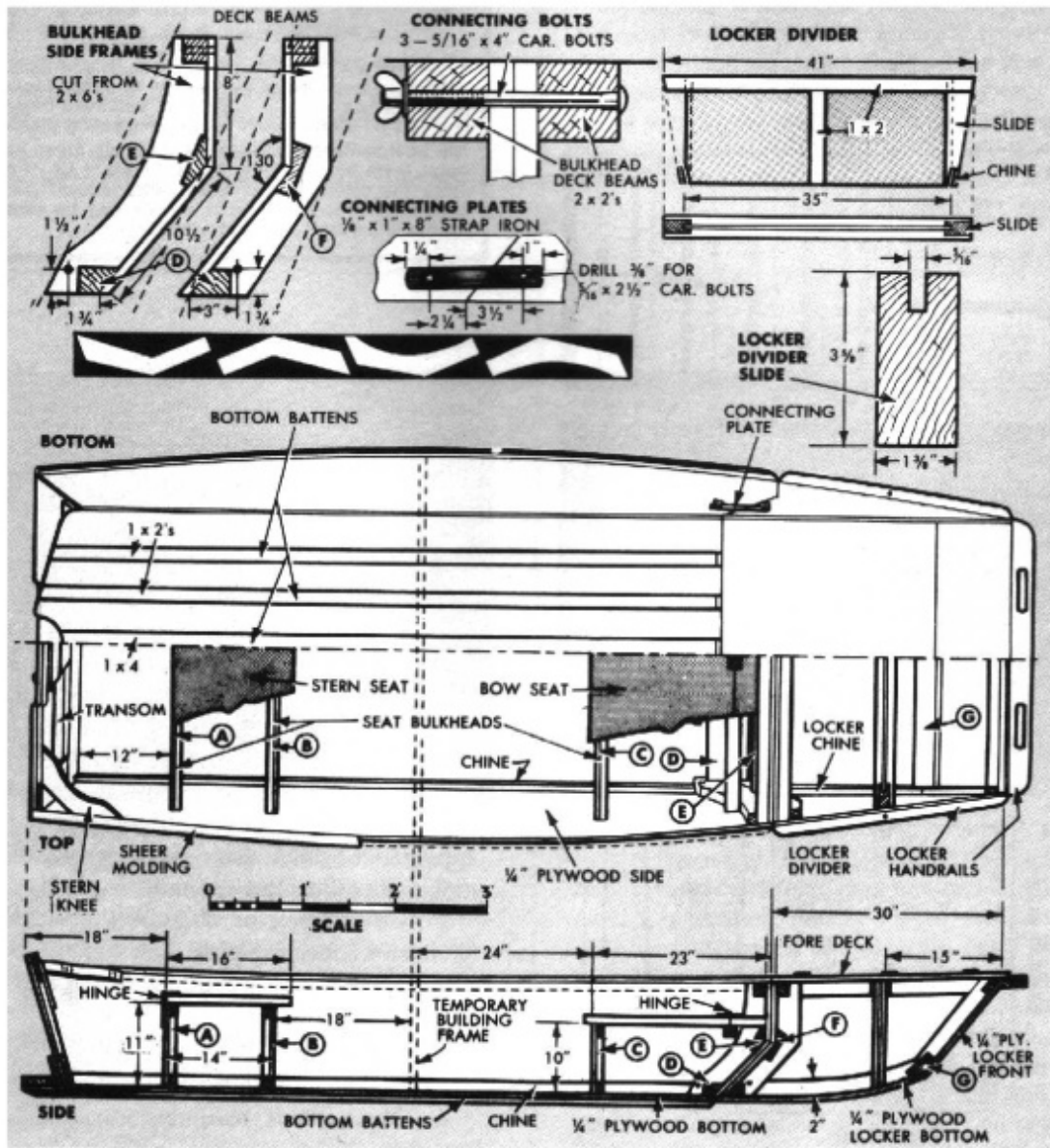
1/4 lb. 1 3/4 in. boat nails Bottom battens to seat, transom and bulkhead (#S214A)

2 doz. 2 1/2 In. boat nails Transom knees, 2 x 2 bulkhead and locker framing(#S217A)

3 5/16" x 4" mach. bolts Through bulkhead deck beams to attach locker

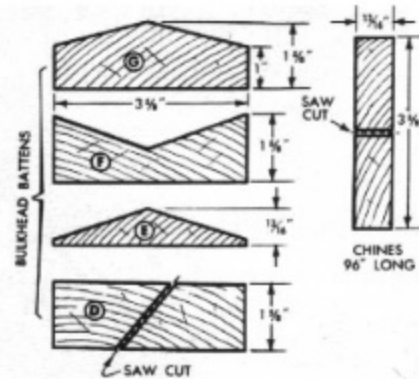
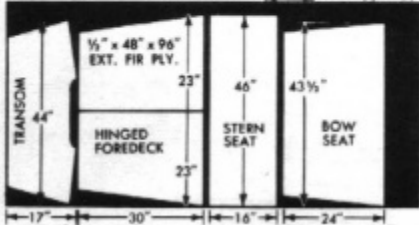
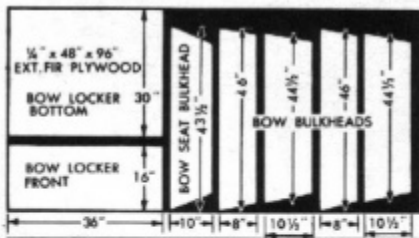
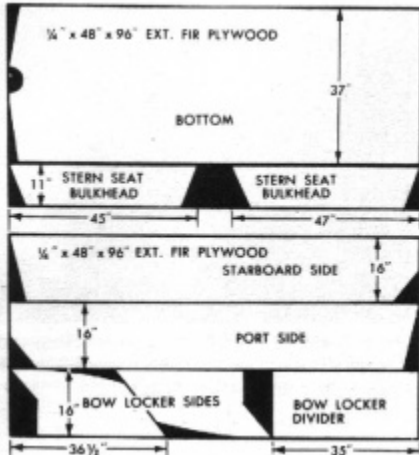
4 5/16" x 2 1/2" Car. bolts Through bulkhead framing and connecting plates





"On every question of construction [of the Constitution] let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or intended against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed."

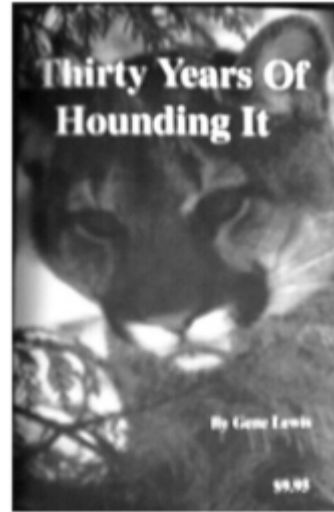
-Thomas Jefferson- (1743-1826), letter to Judge William Johnson, (from Monticello, June 12, 1823)



If you are handy and can manage a project that will allow you take advantage of the waterways, the above boat plans can help your preparations for survival immensely. These small craft can add to your ability to travel, forage, hunt and fish. Overall, either of these projects are well worth the effort.



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"Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. When it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it".

-JUSTICE LEARNED HAND-



Photos by Kyrole Green

Surviving On America's Waters

by Corceigh
Green



America has a vast resource accessible to most every Citizen of these sovereign States. That resource is water. Freely flowing streams, springs, rivers, ponds and lakes crisscross our countryside linking many of our lands and climates together. These waters were the main resources of our early country. They were the main routes of transportation, the source of drinking water, a source for food like fish. They were a source for watering gardens and livestock and grew lush, green vegetation for forage and wildlife and, unfortunately, were a convenient dumping ground for wastes.

Today, nothing much in this land runs free anymore. Even the water. Bureaucrats are beginning to stick flow meters even on private wells. Independent Americans are still able to make use of this valuable resource to survive and thrive in today's over-securitized homeland.

The mightiest of our flowing waterways all begin with the single raindrop. Rain soaking into the high country results in a rising of the water table. Underground water finds it's way through porous rock to the surface to become a spring.

Springs can flow year around or become dry in the summer months. They can be spotted as fountains of water bubbling from the ground or as tiny trickles barely wetting the mud hidden in the green grass around the moistened outlet.

Springs are valuable resources for wildlife and plants. As such, they are just as valuable to Independent Americans. Always make a note when you come across a spring. Note how much water is available, where it is located and what times of year it is flowing. Make note of the wildlife or tracks found around the spring.

Springs serve Independent Americans by providing water for drinking and watering livestock and gardens. They are also watering areas for game animals like deer, elk and smaller fur bearers. In this accord, they may also provide Independent Americans with meat for the table. Wild plants grow more prevalently around springs, as the plants have access to more water.

Water from a spring that does not soak back into the ground or evaporate runs downhill where it may combine with water from other

springs. When water from enough springs combine it forms a creek.

Creeks afford a nice drink of water. They are narrow versions of streams and can provide a habitat for aquatic wildlife like crayfish, several species of insects like periwinkles and nymphs as well as a host of water-born bugs and even parasites like leeches. Wildlife like crayfish can be gathered and eaten for food. Crayfish are delicious and are used in many Cajun recipes like gumbo. The insects and leeches make for excellent fish bait and can be gathered for fishing in larger waters.



A quick running creek can be used for obtaining drinking water, crayfish hunting and gathering fish bait.

Look into the slower moving and deeper portions of the creek to find crayfish, though they may be found anywhere in the creek. They may be plucked out of the water by hand. Pinch the crayfish's body where it's lobster-like tail joins it's upper body. It will not be able to reach your hand with it's claws this way. Place it in a bucket or coffee can filled with water. You may also use a coffee can to trap the crayfish. Because a crayfish swims backward like a lobster to escape a threat, place the coffee can behind it's tail and wave your free hand in front of the crayfish. The crayfish will swim backward away from your hand and into the coffee can. Quickly turn the coffee can upright and bring it out of the water. You have just trapped a crayfish.

Overturn rocks in the creek to expose nymph larvae, and periwinkles. These require running water and will die soon after removal, so gather them on your way to the fishing

hole. They can be placed on a small hook and fished like worms. Leeches will prefer more silty conditions and slow running creeks and streams. Catch these fresh and fish them like worms as well.

Plant life will be abundant along the banks of the creek. Grasses will be prevalent and will serve as graze or for gathering seed as wild rice or grain (see *The Independent American* May/June 2003 and November/December 2003 issues, About Plants column).

Low growing herbs with a heavy need for water should also be sought along creek, stream and river banks. These include the mints, such as peppermint, spearmint, pennyroyal and catnip. Watercress also grows here, though is growing more rarely these days. In the west, alder grows thickly along these banks as well as willows, cottonwood and red-twig dogwood. These brush and trees are favored habitat for deer and grouse. The young shoots and growth of alders, willow and dogwood make excellent craft material for making baskets and hatching for furniture.

As springs combine to form creeks, creeks flow together, emptying into streams. Streams are a bit bigger than creeks and can accommodate more aquatic wildlife. Larger game fish may abound. In the west, streams are quick running and much less turbid. This means that trout can be found even in the narrows of creeks.



Streams offer a great many resources including fish and waterfowl.

Streams will offer all of the resources of a creek plus will offer a greater volume of

water. This means more than just more water to drink or provide for the garden. Streams may overflow in the spring months to provide marshy habitat for waterfowl like ducks and geese. During hunting season when waterfowl begin preparing for their migration south, these areas should be scouted to provide avian meat for the table.

These areas are also abundant in wild rice. Grasses growing along the stream banks have adapted to the spring overflows and take advantage of the heavy waterings to develop high stalks and large seed kernels. While these grasses are not actually related to rice, other than also being a grass, they are excellent providers of food and are considered gourmet delights in many high class restaurants. Beside the highly nutritious wild rice, stream banks and meadows created by spring overflows are teeming with many varieties of edible plants. There are far too many to list here, but one that is most noteworthy is the cattail.

Cattails grow in wet areas and provide survivalists and foragers with food and craft material. The pollen produced on the corn-dog looking head is quite edible and makes excellent pancake batter. The shoots are edible and provides minerals to the diet. The long, broad leaves were gathered by Native Americans and woven into baskets, mats, hats and a variety of woven goods.

Some streams become wide and deep enough for the purpose of travel. Without the internal combustion engine, the fastest and easiest mode of travel is to make use of the waterways. You won't be able to float a barge down a stream, but you will get at least an inner tube to float. The inner tube could be fitted with a tarp and lead rope. Place whatever you find while foraging in the stream onto the inner tube's tarp and haul it with you while wading up or down stream.

Some streams contain enough volume of water to float a flat bottom boat like a john boat. These streams usually lead to rivers and

make excellent modes of travel and forage. On foot a survivalist might cover 20 miles a day. A survivalist could walk 5 miles to a site known to grow his/her favorite food, spend a few hours foraging, then trek the 5 miles back. This could conceivably take the entire day. However, 5 miles floating downstream takes much less time. Rowing or poling back is also not that difficult and more forage can be hauled.

Waterways may be used in the same manner where the survivalist knows that a town on a river contains a general store, trading post or even a hospital. The survivalist can travel much easier, faster and haul more supplies utilizing a john boat, canoe or kayak while using a convenient waterway. This allows the survivalist a mode of travel as yet unregulated by bureaucrats, a faster mode of conveyance than walking and an ability to haul a greater amount of supplies and trade goods. It allows the survivalist to travel greater distances and affords larger expanses of forage, hunting and fishing areas to utilize.

Streams empty into rivers. Rivers hold every resource that a stream does, but multiplied by it's size. A large river can be navigable. It can move barges filled with goods or refuse up and down it's flow. Rivers do not have to be anywhere near this size, however. There are really no written rules as to what defines a river from a stream and a stream from a creek, but most people think of a river as being able to float a private boat powered by an engine. This makes rivers an important travel resource for Independent Americans.

Travel is not the greatest resource, however, that is provided by America's rivers. Like streams, rivers will be the habitat of a good many fish. Rivers run deeper, wider and hold more silt on their bottom. This creates a habitat for wider varieties of fish. Trout will migrate through a river to it's mouth and into a lake. or in the case of steelhead, to the ocean and migrate it's way back to the upper river or stream to breed. Catfish will inhabit the slower running portion of the river with

the big ones making their homes closest to the river's mouth. White fish in the west may inhabit the length of the river. Bass and perch can be found near where a river empties into a lake. Salmon may swim miles upstream from the ocean to an upriver rocky shallow to breed. There are a great many fish to be found in the rivers.



Upriver of a typical western river. This river may provide an Independent American with resources to feed, clothe and shelter him/herself.



Downriver of the same river. This river is known to have salmon and steelhead runs. No, I'm not going to tell you where it is. It is my uncle's favorite fishing hole and he is a good shot!

Notice that the banks of the above river is lush and green with grasses, alder and fir trees. This river also gave water to raspberries and blackberries.

Rivers may form lakes along their course or empty into them. Lakes are a large source of food, water, wildlife, plants and tool and craft material. Lakes are absolutely teeming with fish, which a smart Independent American knows how to catch.



North Idaho's Benewah Lake is home to trout, bluegill, croppie, perch, bass, pike and kokonee salmon.

Lakes can cover just a few acres with water or be as expansive as America's great lakes on the Canadian border. Deep lakes can be home to some of America's best game fish. Schools of bluegill and bass love to stick close to weedy and shadowy shorelines to make their homes.

We may curse the weeds and water pads that choke the shore lines and snag our lures, but they also provide a breeding ground for insects and invertebrates that game fish like to eat. By fishing the edges of weeded areas or using weed resistant lures, these areas will provide fish for meals.

A boat has significant use on lake. Especially if the lake is a large one. The ability to move from fishing to fishing hole will net Independent Americans much more meat for the table. As with rivers, lakes provide nesting and feeding grounds for waterfowl. A boat can be quite advantageous to the waterfowl hunter as well as to the fisherman and forager. Many lures look more natural to fish when moving from the shore line toward the deeper water. A boat is needed for this and as personal experience, I have caught much more fish on lures when I fished from a boat rather than from the shore.

For greatest versatility, your boat should be small, between a 1 and three man craft, light and should be able to be powered by mere oars and manpower. This will give you access to lakes, rivers, some streams and ponds. This

means you will have access to a greater range of fishing waters and hunting/foraging grounds. Aluminum boats are the lightest, but also the noisiest. The metal conducts sounds like a drum. Every time any part of the boat is bumped the sound will echo through the hull and water to alert every fish, duck, goose or human on the water. Fiberglass and wood aren't as noisy, but are much heavier. This may not be significant on the water, but if you must haul your boat and supplies across land to launch it into water, weight becomes significant.

You may be hauling your 16 foot fiberglass run about with 150 horsepower outboard motor down to the lake's boat launch now in your SUV, however, let's suppose the energy crisis really turns into a crunch or travel is further restricted after another "terrorist" attack. That boat is going to be too heavy to pull to the ramp without a vehicle. A small john boat or canoe can be carried or drug behind on a small wagon by a single person. For medium sized boats holding 3 or 4 people, a horse team and old fashioned buck board would be useful.

Ponds, beaver dams and backwaters All add to the waterway's environment. The more shallow backwaters will provide ample opportunities for hunting and foraging.



Backwaters and marshes along rivers and lakes provide for excellent hunting and foraging opportunities as this moose crossing a marsh bordering Harrison Lake confirms.

Thus far, all the water we have discussed is fresh water and drinkable after purifying through a good filtration system like an Aqua-Rain or Berkey filter. Water is a commodity

that the human body can not do without. Drinking water is one of the most important commodities offered by fresh water resources, however, bodies of fresh water are only a small fraction of water present on earth.

Many Americans live close to or on coastal regions bordering the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico. Though the oceans do not offer drinkable water, unless distilled, the oceans offer numerous varieties of animal life readily available as a food source for Independent Americans.

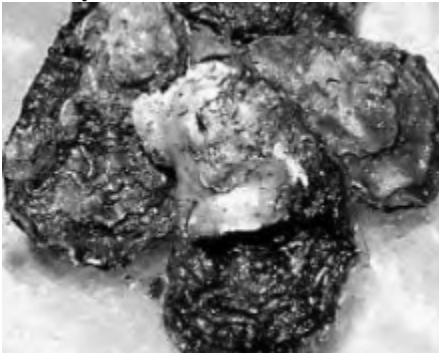
Shell fish include clams, oysters, mussels, abalone, scallops, crabs, lobsters and shrimp. Clams are dug at low and minus tides. Independent Americans may wade through the muck of the waterline at low and minus tides to look for small geysers of water being spit through the mud. Clams are just below the surface and are the source of the very tiny geysers. Use a shovel to dig up a deep section of muck and use your fingers to separate the muck. You'll find between 1 and several clams in this manner. Place the clams in a bucket of sea water, which will keep them alive and fresh while you bring them home. Allow them to set alive in the sea water for a couple of hours and they will spit out quite a lot of sand and sea mud, cleaning themselves and giving them a better flavor.



Clams are easily foraged sources of protein if you are near an ocean.

Steam the clams until they open, add butter, garlic and chives and eat them as is or remove from shells and fry or deep fry for clam fritters. Clams are also added to many recipes such as linguini.

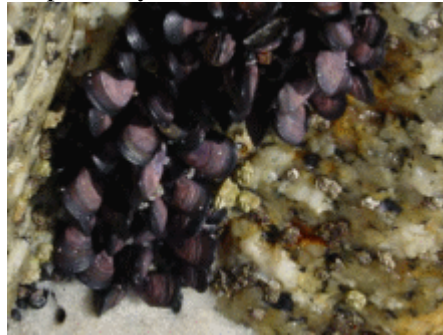
Oysters, like clams surround themselves in hard shells for protection against predation. This is where the similarities between clams and oysters end, however. Unlike clams, oysters do not have a foot to burrow into the soft ocean silt with. They attach themselves to rocks by means of a fibrous material secreted from the oyster extending through the shell, which acts as an extremely strong glue. Oysters may be found when the waterline is extremely low. Wade out to the waterline during a minus tide and look for the shells of oysters attached to rock outcroppings. You must use an oyster knife to pry open the shell and collect the oyster from the spot where you found it, leaving the shell. This is because oysters reproduce from within their shells. An oyster will grow a "button" beginning on the inside of its shell. The "button" develops into an oyster, shell and all, attached to the parent oyster. This oyster will mature and eventually split off from the parent oyster and begin the cycle again. Many shucked oyster shells may contain "buttons" that will develop into an oyster. For this reason, obey gathering regulations and leave the oysters' shells where you find them.



A cluster of oysters gathered during a Pacific Northwest minus tide.

Mussels also grow a hard shell and filter sea water for nutrients. They spit like clams, but grow higher on rocks, piers and artificial barriers at the shore line. They attach themselves in place by extremely strong fibrous material secreted from within their shells. These do not act as glue, but attach the muscles firmly to its anchor point like steel cable. To gather mussels, walk along rocky shorelines at low tide or wade or dive rocky

shorelines anytime. Use a knife to cut the muscles from their anchors. Place your muscles in a bucket of clean seawater. Prepare as you had the clams.



Pacific blue mussels attached to a rocky outcropping at low tide.

Only gather the above shell fish on months without an r in them. Organisms growing near oyster and clam beds begin to bloom at other times of the year causing a "red tide". These organisms produce toxic substances and contaminate shell fish rendering them harmful to humans.

Abalone and scallops must be dived for even at low tides. They prefer deeper waters just off the coast. Abalone encase themselves in a large rock-like shell surrounding the tops of their bodies, leaving their bottom half exposed. The exposed bottom half of the abalone is the "foot" of the animal, by which it propels itself very slowly across the ocean floor. As mentioned, abalone must be hunted by diving. Collect the animal, bringing it to the surface and scoop out the animal with a knife. Remove the solid, white muscular portion and discard the organs and non-muscular flesh. Carve the white muscular portion into steaks and steam or deep fry.

Scallops resemble the shell on the shell oil gas station signs. They will live in colonies on the ocean floor, off shore. They can propel themselves quickly by opening and closing their shells very fast, producing a jet of water when they sense danger. This action calls for an extremely strong and durable muscle. This is also the portion of the animal collected to be eaten. After collecting the scallops, pry

them open with an oyster knife, (this may be an very tough job) and cut the top portion of the circular muscle from the shell. Next cut the flesh away from the circular muscle and cut away from the bottom portion of the shell. Clean, steam or fry the scallop muscles for a delicious treat.

Crabs are numerous along costal regions. All are edible including the small sand crabs. Rock crab and dungenous crab offer the most meat and best treat. Wading along the shoreline with a bucket will provide a nice crab meal. I have inadvertently caught crabs on fishing lines as well. Grab the crab from behind with your fingers underneath the animal's abdomen and place it in the bucket. Garden rakes may also be used. Scoop the crab up from behind with the rake and place it in the bucket.



Rock crabs like the one above provide more meat than sand crabs and are more delicious. Dungenous crabs, however, are even better.

To prepare, throw the crab alive into a boiling pot of water. It will die instantly. Boil until completely red. Pull off the legs and claws and crack them open to get to the meat.

Lobsters, both rock and dungenous are gathered and prepared in the same manner as crab. Remove the mud vein growing along the entire length of the tail before eating. The tail and claws are edible and delicious. Serve lobster and crab with butter, chives and garlic.

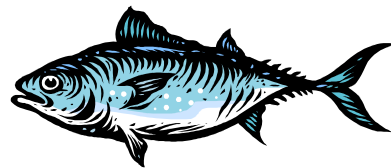
Shrimp is next on the menu. Along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and southern portions of America, large prawn and tiger shrimp grow to exceptional size. These make great

meals. To collect these shrimp, you need a boat and some shrimp traps. Sail, row or motor off shore to find a shrimp bed. This is where shrimp gather to feed or breed. You may need to dive to find them.

Shrimp traps are baskets with a one way entry guarded by a ring of inwardly pointing wires. These wires are stiff and oppose the exit of the shrimp. Bait like a hunk of fish is placed in the center of the trap, luring the shrimp in and trapping them. After some time, the trap is drawn up into the boat and the shrimp collected.

To prepare shrimp, boil like lobster or crab, then remove the tails. Remove the meat from the tails and remove the mud vein. Fry or deep fry. You may also add to any recipe from salads to gumbo.

Most Americans live on or near water of some kind. By knowing what a body of water may provide for you, you may provide a bounty for yourself and your family. You can survive on America's waters.



"We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion; the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission, which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force."

-Ayn Rand- The Nature of Government

A Guide To The Fish Species Of The Mountain West



Rainbow Trout



Cutthroat Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Bull Trout



Lake Trout



Bullhead



Steelhead



Kokanee Salmon



Chinook Salmon



Coho Salmon



Whitefish



Smallmouth Bass



Largemouth Bass



Croppie



Bluegill



Sturgeon



Yellow Perch



Northern Pike



Muskie



Walleye



Channel Catfish

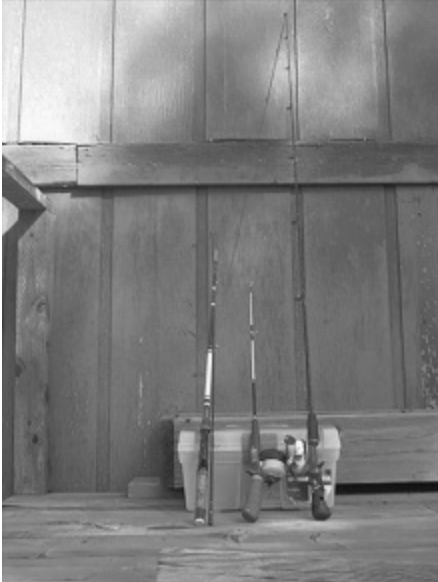


Carp

I am the willinger to justify the pleasant part of it, because though it is known I can be serious at seasonable times, yet the whole Discourse is, or rather was, a picture of my own disposition, especially in such days and times as I have laid aside business, and gone a-fishing with honest Nat. and R. Roe; but they are gone, and with them most of my pleasant hours, even as a shadow that passeth away and returns not.

~Izaak Walton~ The Complete Angler

Fishing Gear For Survivalists



by Corcceigh Green
photos by Kyrole Green

Millions of Americans take to the waterways each spring and summer. For many, the goal is recreation. Speeding through the waters on skis, boats and water skimming ski-jets, Americans enjoy the outdoors and time away from work.

For many other Americans, however, warm weather and water means fishing. Fishing is a much more relaxing recreation than the high speed boating that help some to blow off some of the stress of work. For the survivalist fishing can mean much more than recreation. It can mean, well, survival. It is a means of acquiring food. Meat for the table. Protein.

Survivalists know that where there is fish there is food. The knowledge of catching fish is a necessary skill that is acquired by most if not all in the survivalist movement. Since fishing is such a vital skill, it also stands that some kind of fishing gear should be carried

by the survivalist if not all of the time, then most of the time and such gear should be handy. If you are a survivalist looking into fishing as a source of food, read on for a list of gear and techniques that you will be interested in.



A catch of rainbow trout and croppie. Food for the table.

I am at home in the western United States and have fished between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, so I will concentrate on the gear I have used with success in these areas. However, the gear and techniques I describe should prove of value just about anywhere else as well.

First, the survivalist will need tackle that can catch fish in their environment and allow the user to bring them into his/her environment. This includes fishing poles, reels, line, bait, hooks, lures, nets, spears or traps.

At our present time in history, I heavily favor rods and reels as the means to do your fishing. Many methods of netting and spearing are illegal and building fish pens for traps in a river may bring unwanted attention from game wardens. At present, fishing is a widely accepted recreation and one which produces plentiful results. There is no reason to bring hardship on yourself by breaking the current game regulations in regards to equipment. Certainly, the Fish and Game bureaucrats, especially in the State of Idaho, have sabotaged game and fish seasons, but play it smart.

Pay attention to the rods you purchase. As a survivalist, fishing is more than recreation to

you. You are providing food for your family. Also, as a survivalist, you must consider that you may need to pack in your equipment. This means you will want your rod compact so not to catch on branches and outcroppings.

There are some very good rods on the market that can be easily carried in or on a pack or with other gear. The Ronco Pocket Fisherman offers a unique and extremely handy solution to carrying a fishing pole with your survival gear. This handy little gadget features the smallest fold up rod I've ever seen and a carry compartment for lures, tackle and line. It will fit on your belt or in your pack. You can find room for it easily and have it with you constantly. The Pocket Fisherman performs well and really works. Do not buy these used, but pick them up from the Ronco web site to be sure you get a working model. You can carry a Pocket Fisherman easily through grass, brush and rough terrain. A handy feature for a survivalist.



The Ronco Pocket Fisherman. This is a handy gadget for the survivalist.

Next is the telescoping rods. These are handy in that they are carried in one piece, but become shorter and handier for carry by telescoping the extending sections into one another. These are handy and will work as well. Personally, for handy carry, I prefer the next option. The telescoping rods are very useful, but they have many sections that sometimes become loose and slide into the preceding section too easily. This is preventable with proper care. Do not shove the sections into each other. Gently draw the sections closed and never force them. Generally these do serve and you may carry them just about anywhere.

The next option in portable rods is my favorite. They are the break apart rods that come with two sections. The forward section

fits into the bottom section when you are ready to fish. When traveling, the rod is taken apart and can easily be affixed to your pack or carried. Over time these can wear down and become loose in their joint. I have had one wear down on me and continually come apart when casting. It lasting for three decades, however, and served very well.



The 2 piece take apart rod is quite portable.

You can also opt to carry a single piece, short rod. These are actually meant for ice fishing. I have one of these for ice fishing *and* for ease of carrying. These are about the size of a single section of a break apart rod and are very portable. They fit on a pack quite well and are not in the way when traveling through brush and bramble.

The drawback to these short rods are that they do not cast too far. This can be a disadvantage in a larger body of water or when casting upstream and fishing for trout. Trout are very smart fish and can see a fisherman, so will not take the bait. In most streams, trout must be stalked, so that the fisherman is not seen. The ability to cast for a normal distance helps in this. Fortunately, if one is careful the survivalist may stalk well enough to close

well within casting range of these short rods.

Though, the casting distance is a bit limited with the short rod it is most handy when fishing grassy and brushy stream banks. Every fisherman has experienced the misfortune of drawing his/her rod back to cast and having the lure grasped by an alder branch or some such brush. I have been on banks with alder all about and sending branches out over the water. Casting with a regular sized rod was quite impossible, but not with the shorter ice fishing rod. The short rods are inexpensive and just too handy to have around not to purchase one.



The short ice fishing rod is handy and very portable.

And with the above uses, we have neglected it's intended use. These rods are intended to be used for ice fishing. If you live in a climate with winters cold enough to freeze a good portion of some lakes and ponds, you may continue to fish and provide your family with food through this period if you are able to ice fish. Ice fishing is not hard. It is not rocket science. Practice this form of fishing as well.

Ice fishing does not require casting, which is why the rod is short. You just drop the line into the ice hole and jig the bait to attract fish. Remembering this when crawling through brush to get to a stream's bank, you may opt to fish with worms, corn or power bait. This does not require great casting and the rod is well suited to the job.

So far we have discussed rods basically designed for spinning or bait casting. This is because such equipment is more versatile. Everything from worms and live bait to spoons and spinners to floating lures can be used. Fly rods should also be discussed, however.

Fly rods come in one piece and two piece take

apart units. They require a very simple method of operation and the reels required to work with the rod are just as simple and not as likely to malfunction. These rods can be evaluated for carry on the same standards as spinning casting and bait fishing rods. They do need to be longer, however. This is due to their method of casting lures. Being necessarily longer, fly rods are not as portable and may not be suitable in some stretches of streams crowded with shrubs and trees.

This brings us to reels. Stick with what works. The cheaply priced Zebco's And Johnson's work very well and is what I stick with. Even the cheap, mass produced reels from these companies last for a couple of decades or more. The next level, or higher grade reels from these two companies are even more impressive, yet moderately priced. I highly recommend any reel from either Zebco or Johnson.



The Zebco 404 is a cheaply priced, mass produced reel that serves fishermen and survivalists well.

Of course, you'll need line. Before synthetic materials, anglers used cotton twine. Fishing cotton twine is quite an experience. The twine must necessarily be thin enough to go unnoticed by the fish, yet strong enough not to break. The trick is to play the fish properly, so that the twine is not broken. Also cotton twine rots after a bit of use and will need to be replaced. Modern reel are too rough on the twine, as well, and will tear it. This should not preclude you from making expedient cotton fishing twine should this become necessary, however, if you are facing such an emergency, you may do better by building fish pens and making nets.

Modern lines are a synthetic material. This means they are made of material like nylon or rayon. Nylon and other synthetics stretch before reaching it's breaking point and is stronger than steel. This means line can be thinner, lighter and the synthetic material will not rot.

Synthetic line does degrade over time, however. Replace it between once a year and once every three years depending on use and exposure to the sun. Buy a change of line for each one of your reels at least twice a year. This way you'll have a fair stock of line to last a few years. If you are stocking back for a collapse you must realize that nothing lasts forever and the line will degrade just by aging. If a collapse does occur and it may be likely, forget recreational fishing and build pens and nets for fish. You must be able to feed your family and it is unlikely that under such circumstances you will be harassed by bureaucrats.

Lures are next. Knowing what to use, when and how is the key here. I'm going to lump bait into the same category as lures for simplification. You can pick up bait and/or lures anywhere along your route to your fishing hole. Worms are generally the most used bait for fish in America. This is because they generally work very well and catch fish when many lures will not. Worms are easy to gather. Water your lawn before dark. When the sun goes down go out with a coffee can and catch the worms that crawl up into the lawn and place them in the coffee can with a little dirt and grass clippings. Worms may also be dug from stream banks. Many survival manuals recommend digging for worms along the banks and eating them. I do not recommend this, however, as you will be expending more energy digging than the worms will provide. Use the worms for bait. Instead of digging for worms, you may also bring buckets of water from the stream above the bank and water an area where worms are present. Allow the sun to go down and collect the worms as you would in your yard.

Practically any insect works well as bait. Grasshoppers and crickets are fish magnets and work well when fished close to banks. Expect to catch loads of bluegill, croppie and bass with these.

Minnows are used as live bait. Live bait is illegal

in most western States, so be careful here. Check your laws and keep a close eye on approaching bureaucrats.

Artificial lures can catch you a great deal of fish if you know how to work them. They do not die or rot in your tackle box while hiking into your favorite fishing hole and can be stored in your survival gear for any length of time.



Artificial lures can be stored in a kit like this one and easily carried in your survival gear.

I carry a small metal kit in my gear that holds hooks, sinkers, swivels and a number of artificial lures. Among these lures I consider my spinners among the most important. Trout, croppie and bluegill all hit on spinners regularly and prolifically.

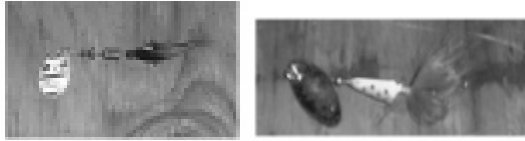
Spinners are incredibly effective and versatile in the west. I use a narrower bladed Roostertail for fishing streams and quick running rivers. Because fish face into a quick current, cast the spinner upstream far beyond the trout. You'll need to retrieve quickly to make the blade work and keep up with the current. The trout will see the spinner moving downstream with the current, which will look very realistic to them as this is how they catch most of their food. When passing by the school, one of the trout will hit your lure.



The blade and body configuration of this

Roostertail spinner makes it perfect for stream fishing.

For ponds, lakes and slow running river mouths, I use a sonic Roostertail or a Meps in the spinner department. The blade on a Meps is broader and will work at slow retrieval, medium retrieval and fast retrieval. The blades on the sonic Roostertails are broader and positioned on the stem so that they have no choice but to work properly at any speed of retrieval.



The Meps and sonic Roostertail.

The secret to fishing spinners on lakes is watching the weather and the hatch. Number one; use a spinner of the same color as the insects you see on the water. During a Mayfly hatch, use white or light blue. Did you see a green dragonfly? Use a green spinner. Number two; in windy or rough weather, fish are not going to hit on the surface. Slow down your retrieve and allow the spinner to sink deeper. This is why you want a spinner with a blade configuration that works no matter how slow you retrieve. I have caught trout, bluegill and croppie by using spinners as a jig. These lures are truly versatile! When the weather calms down speed up your retrieve and fish closer to the surface. Anytime you see fish hitting on the surface, fish on the surface. With experience, you'll catch the hang of this. This works for me very well.

Spoons are also necessary. They are quite good for trolling and casting. Their action looks like the swimming pattern of a wounded minnow. In low current they can be fished similar to the banjo lure. Do not allow as much slack time. Fish will fall for this often and bass love it in rough weather.

You may also encounter pike and walleye. These are delicious fish and are worth the catch! These fish have teeth and can chew through fishing line. Include some wire leader in your kit for them. I use the kind with a swivel on one end and a loop on the other for

convenience.



Last in the way of tackle is a floating lure. An artificial minnow works well for this and is quite a versatile lure. I recommend a Rapala. Smaller is better as it will accommodate small pan sized fish as well as the lunkers. The floating minnow can be fished on the surface similar to a hula popper or jitter bug or can be retrieved normally as a minnow as well as fished in the style of a banjo lure. The floating minnow works very well in the capacity of a banjo style lure as it will float when allowed to go slack. I highly recommend you have at least one floating minnow in your lure kit.

Since I've mentioned banjo lures why not put some in your lure kit? When heated they will melt. In the summer and when in the wilds, this can be a problem. Also I haven't had great luck with them. They never stay on the hooks provided with them and you end up casting your money away. The floating minnow will serve survivalists better.

All of the above lures, hooks, sinkers and wire leaders will fit into an incredibly small area. The metal kit that I carry is extremely thin, a bit long and not too wide, but fits into my jeans pocket without trouble. This is an old hinged, thin box made for carrying flies. For my purpose it works great.



A small metal box made for carrying flies works perfectly as a lure kit stored with survival gear.

You will also need to keep your catch while angling for enough fish to take home. A stringer will work well for this. So will a fish keeper. A fish keeper is basically a wire basket made like a chain link fence. It has a spring loaded lid so that fish can be put in, but cannot swim out. The fish keeper is tied to a tree or a pier and kept in the water to keep fish fresh until taken home.



Trout being kept in a fish keeper.

The last piece of equipment is optional, but certainly handy. That is a boat. I recommend a small, light boat that can be easily handled. Fish find lures that move from the bank toward the middle of a body of water more realistic. This requires wading or, where water is too deep, a boat or raft.

Boats are handy for using waterways for traveling or foraging as well. Boats can be expensive, but many can afford a jet ski or some exorbitant luxury. By scanning the classifieds, you are sure to find something in your price range. Many people are willing to trade, so don't overlook this option.

I once traded a 16 foot fiberglass runabout for a C-band satellite dish. I got a good deal. I wanted my boat to be useful for survival. The 16 footer was too large for local waterways and had to be powered by an outboard motor. The 12 foot aluminum boat I have now is far lighter, easy to row and is frequently powered by a quiet electric

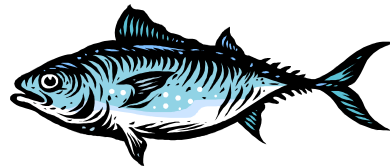
motor. This is more of a survivalist's boat of choice.



A light, easily handled survivalist's boat.

Before ending, a thought about the famous DuPont spinner. They work, but are noisy and may call quite a bit of attention to yourself. Until the day comes when you have to use one, DON'T! One of the points I make in this article is that you can be quite successful at catching fish for food using current "legal" equipment. It is true that current fishing regulations are too politically motivated and seasons are being sabotaged by bureaucrats who poison out waterways each year to restock with what they want available to us and not a fish more. If you feel it necessary to catch more than the "legal" limit, I certainly can't fault you. Just be careful, watch your back and don't do anything dangerous.

As you can see with the equipment available to you now and the right know-how, you can work within the regulations to feed your family with the fish you catch.



"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public... Nothing but the truth should be spoken about him or any one else. But it is even more important to tell the truth, pleasant or unpleasant, about him than about any one else." ~Teddy Roosevelt, May 7, 1918

About Plants



Noteworthy Plants That Grow around The Waterways

by Corceigh Green
photos by Kyrole Green

Water is a precious commodity to survivalists and Independent Americans. A human being cannot live for more than a few days without drinking water. We need water to keep our gardens and orchards alive. Freely running bodies of water are necessary for our natural environment, which Independent Americans may use to supplement food and natural projects materials supplied by the homestead.

Plant life contributes greatly as a source of food and craft materials. Plants growing naturally and collected responsibly (taking only what you need and not depleting the supply) will supply Independent Americans with supplies for which no extra energy or resources were used to grow. They grow wild and freely and are collected as such.

There are several varieties of plant life that provide Independent Americans with sources of food and crafts that grow near water. There are far too many varieties to include in this column, but there are several that do stand out and should be familiar to readers of this magazine. We will cover some of these in this column.

Our first and possibly greatest plant source for both food and crafts is the cattail.



Cattails are a great plant source of food and craft material. They like marshy, wet conditions and can be found growing in ponds and lakes close to shore.

Cattails provide high energy carbohydrates as a food source. The tubular, brown flower heads produce fluffy white pollen, which is collected and pounded to make a flour or pancake batter. Pound the pollen until it is a fine powder, add about half as much powdered milk, then enough water to make a semi-solid batter. Add some butter to a skillet, melt it over a fire and when the skillet is hot, pour the batter in to begin making pancakes.

The tubers are also edible and contain a lot of carbohydrates. They may be baked as potatoes, but are better put to use as flour like the pollen. Dry the tubers in the sun, then pound into flour. The dry tubers may also be stored over the winter in a root cellar or via bucket, mylar bag and CO2 method. Make pancakes with tuber flour in the same manner as with the pollen. The flour can also be added to wheat flour to extend the amount of flour when making biscuits, cakes or other recipes calling for wheat flour. Add berries or other fruit for flavor.

The shoots, or the young stalks are also edible. They are collected in the spring just as they are poking through the soil. Cut these off right at the soil and bring them home or back to camp. To prepare them, peel the tough outer layers away from the tender core. The core is tender, flexible and pale green. Cut

these to bite sized length and fry them with butter, garlic, salt, pepper and a squirt of lemon.

The tall, broad leaves of the cattail were used in many Native American cultures for useful crafts. Mats, hats and baskets were woven from the leaves and stalks as well.

The next plant on our list are the rushes; flowering rush and bulrush. Rushes are very interesting plants that can help survivalists and Independent Americans in many ways.



The darker green, smaller grassy looking plants with the fuzzy flower heads to the bottom and right of the photo are bulrushes. These remarkable plants serve survivalist and Independent Americans in many ways.

Flowering rushes are distinguishable from bulrushes by their flower heads, which branch out at the end of their stalk to form multiple flower stalks. They are also distinguished in that they grow in clumps, forming root bulbs just under the surface of the water. The bulbs are anchored near the shore by roots that find the mud or silt. The bulbs form a kind of anchor for the plant as silt builds up on top of the bulbs.

The flower heads are pollinated by insects. They form seeds, which fall from the stalk when ripe and are caught on the mass of silt and debris deposited on top of the bulb mass. The seeds grow into plants adding to the mass. In rough weather, these mats sometimes break up, float off and form more mats, which

help to propagate the species. Flowering rush is an introduced species considered an invasive species in some areas. They can be found growing around the Great Lakes States.

The useful portions of the flowering rush is the seeds, which are ground and used in flour, gravy and gruel. The bulbs are dried and pounded into flour or roasted or boiled and eaten in stews or soups. They add needed starches and carbohydrates to the diet.

Like flowering rushes, bulrushes also provide edible seeds. They do not grow on bulbs, however. They propagate very heavily by rhizomes running underneath the surface of the water or sometimes ground, as they also grow in seasonally marshy areas. The rhizomes are easy to collect when the weather is wet or when the plant is growing in the water. After a marsh dries in the summer months, however, the rhizomes are tougher to pull up through the dry, cement like soil.

Wash and dry the rhizomes, then pound into flour. Use in pancakes, gravy and to thicken stews and to extend wheat flour. Bulrushes produce fuzzy flower heads that are somewhat akin to tiny cattail flower heads. They grow from nodes on the stalk with about three to four flower heads per node. These are edible when young. Pluck them from the plant and peel the outer husk or membrane from the inner 'blossom'. These can be fried like dandelion blossoms or added to soups and stews like okra.

The flower heads produce seeds which are also edible and utilized by various cultures world wide as a source of food. Like other grass and rush seeds, these are thrashed and ground for flour and batter.

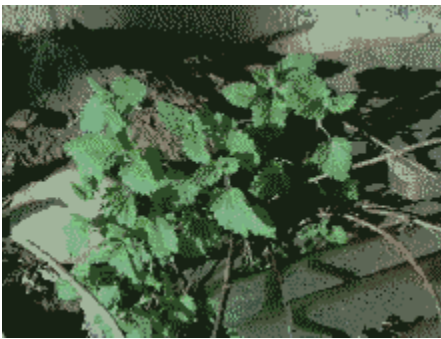
Edibility is not the only useful quality of rushes. Rushes are excellent sources of material to make expedient rope and twine. The thin, triangular stalks are very strong, yet flexible and easy to twist into twine. This is quite helpful when building expedient shelters, pack frames, travois and varieties of

camping utensils and tools, including fishing nets. Rushes have helped ancient civilizations to develop world wide. Recognizing and knowing how to utilize these plants will help Independent Americans to survive every day life to dire emergencies.

Mints are our next plants of interest. Mints like peppermint, spearmint, pennyroyal and catnip all grow along river and creek banks as well as lake shores. All are used in herbal medicines and confections.



Mint on the left, Pennyroyal on the right. Both are used in herbal medicines and confections. Spearmints and peppermints are also used in flavorings.



Catnip is also used in herbal medicine. Catnip can be found close to water and on fresh water shores and banks.

Spearmint and peppermint love river banks and pebbly or sandy soil. They grow among grasses, rushes and under bushes or trees like alder for protection against frost. The leaves are the portion used. They are gathered and dried for storage or used fresh. They can be brewed into a tea for hot or iced drinks and are used to flavor other medicinal teas that are not as palatable.

Medicinally, peppermint and spearmint are

used as carminatives. They help relieve discomfort caused by gas. This can be important to those surviving on a wild diet who have not done so before.

Oil is extracted from the leaves of mint which is quite flavorful and pleasant tasting. This oil is used in the confectionary industry and as flavoring.

Pennyroyal is much like spearmint and peppermint in their use. Pennyroyal is not as pleasant tasting, but is used medicinally in the same manner as a carminative. Pennyroyal is also used as an emmenagogue and insect repellent. The crushed leaves can be rubbed on the skin to repel some insects and this works, but I've also seen places so full of mosquitoes that even DDT couldn't clear up the problem. Use pennyroyal for minor insect problems and some relief. If mosquitoes outnumber the plants in your area (and I've seen such areas) forage somewhere else.

Catnip also grows next to the water. It is not a flavorful herb, but is a member of the mint family. Catnip is used in herbal medicine for its calming effect on human beings. It is also used by countless cat lovers for its opposite effect on felines.

The herbs of the mint family are not loaded with macronutrients such as protein, carbohydrates and fats, so they will not keep you alive in and of themselves, but they will certainly make your meal more palatable, help with digestion and help keep insects away. This makes them important herbs to be aware of close to the waters.

Next on the noteworthy plants list is watercress. Watercress grows directly from the banks of creeks, trickles and small streams. Their stem-like main rhizome extends from the bank into the water where it branches out with each branch producing other branches and leaves which grow directly in the water. The leaves fan out from each side of a stem to form a somewhat heart shape which can be flat toward the heart's

top. Flowers are white and cluster in flower heads toward the end of plant stems.



Watercress grows from a root system extending from the bank of a waterway, but its leafy upper growth always grows in the water.

Watercress is best noted for its tender, tasty leaves. Related to the mustard family, the leaves of watercress are somewhat spicy and pungent. Their flavor is a bit like mild parsley. They are best used in sandwiches and salads where their flavor adds greatly to the dishes.

Watercress is high in vitamin C and minerals and should be sought out by Independent Americans to maintain a healthy diet. Watercress is used in herbal medicine to prevent or treat scurvy and to stimulate appetite. Watercress helps the digestive tract to produce digestive juices and better digest meals. It is also used as a specific in some herbal tuberculosis treatments. For herbal preparations, collect the plant's leaves when the plant is in flower. Collect the leaves when young before the plant flowers for best eating.

Wild rice is basically any grass growing along marshy areas and river banks that experience spring flooding and grow large seed kernels. Almost every area in America has its own native variety of wild rice.



The lush, green grass growing along this inlet to Chatcolet Lake is St. Maries wild rice. A variety distinctive to this area and highly prized in restaurants.

Wild rice is an excellent source of grain that should not be overlooked. The best way to collect wild rice is from the water. Wade or row along the banks and thrash the seeds directly into a small boat. Scoop the seeds into a bucket or two and haul them home. Use in any rice dish as you would commercially bought rice. (see *The Independent American* November/December 2003 for details on harvesting grasses like wild rice)

Wild rice is usually distinguished by its tall size, having stalks as tall as a man and in some instances taller. Its leaves grow alternating on the stalk and there will be between two and four leaves for this plant. Wild rice needs marshy or wet conditions in the spring, but can grow in drier ground in the summer and fall.

Willows are trees that can attain great height. They offer practically nothing in the way of food, but serve Independent Americans greatly in what they offer as material for tools and herbal medicine.

The inner bark of willows, especially white willow, is high in salicin, a substance related to acetylsalicylic acid. This is the substance that aspirin is synthesized from. Willow bark also contains tannins which act as an astringent. Astringents dilate blood vessels and control bleeding. This makes willow bark important in treating pain, rheumatism, fever, chills and digestive disorders.

Willow bark acts in the same manner as aspirin, but due to the tannin content will not cause bleeding in the stomach. A tea brewed from the bark is excellent for treating cuts and abrasions. Applied topically a wash with the tea helps to stop bleeding and disinfect the wounds.



A willow sapling just the right size for cutting for use for weaving material.

The herbal applications of willow is enough to make camp surrounded by these water loving trees, but there is more to them than this. Willows are quite flexible when green and are sought out to weave baskets, make waddle and daub style shelters, any type of wicker furniture, back packs and even expedient fishing poles. A very handy item to have near water.

Collect young saplings of willow by cutting them near the ground when they grow to stand between half as tall as yourself or as tall. These saplings are quite flexible and of the correct diameter for weaving or making cane poles for fishing.

Collect the inner bark by peeling the bark from mature trees. The leave will also contain some salicin and are useful as well, but the inner bark has the highest concentrations. Pound the bark to separate the inner bark from the outer bark. When separated wash the inner bark lightly, allow to dry and store in jars in a cool, dark area.

As mentioned, these are not the only plants that should be taken note of that grow around water sources, but they are among some of the

most useful for Independent Americans. Be on the look out for these plants and they will serve you well.



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Projects For Home And Life



Make Your Own Fishing Plugs by Corcceigh Green

Fishing lures are cheap and not scarce, but have you ever wondered what goes into making one? There are many ways for a survivalist to catch fish. One of those ways is with a fishing plug. By learning how and gaining the skill to make your own plugs, you will have gained another option in acquiring food for your family.

I learned how to make these plugs from my father who made them as a youth. They are quite simple and quite effective. I still have one that my father made and it still catches fish.

To make a fishing plug for yourself, you'll need two eye screws and one treble hook per plug. For the body of several plugs, a single pine wood broom handle will serve. To make the plug more attractive to fish have some model aircraft paint on hand. If you want to make a diving plug, a thin strip of metal cut from a vegetable can, tuna can or from metal bands will be needed.

For a floating lure, use the wood from a small diameter broom handle. Saw a short length of about two inches of the broom handle from the top.

Carve your 2 inch length of broom handle in a conical fashion. Use the photo at the top of the page for a guide.

Next, using a round wood rasp, carve a 45 degree angle lip in the top of the lure on the side opposite

the tapered side. Leave a ridge on either side of the lip. This area can be seen painted in red on the photo at the top of the page.

Attach the treble hook to one of the eye screws. On the side of the lure opposite the side with the lip, measure $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way to the conical end and screw the eye screw/treble hook into the plug. Check the photo for this again.

Into the center of the lip, screw the other eye screw. Paint your plug in a manner to attract the fish in your area.

This plug will float and can be fished as a hula popper or jitter bug.

To make a diving plug, carve the body as you had for the above plug, but place the eye screw with the treble hook on the same side as the lip. Check the photo below.

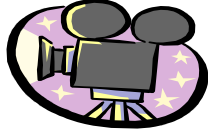


Bend your band of metal $\frac{2}{3}$ of the length in a 40 to 45 degree angle and screw in place with a regular wood screw.

Leave the plugs out for a few days to degrade the smell of the paint. To help counter this smell, use a fish scent available at sporting goods stores.

These plugs will give you pleasure in many ways. First in making them. Second in catching fish. Third in passing the skills along to your children. Have fun with these simple and effective plugs.





BOOKS AND MEDIA REVIEWS

by Douglas Paul Bell

Books On WACO!

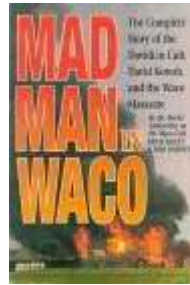
written by Douglas P. Bell

Since April is approaching and April is the anniversary of the mass murders of the Mt. Carmel Church members at Waco, Tx, I thought it would be a good time to review some material about the incident.

No matter which side you take in the Waco, Texas murder of 93 men, women and children, by the US Government, the fact still remains that it has never been explained or investigated by the CONgress (note: The CONgressional hatchet job prompted by the documentary, Waco: The Rules Of Engagement...OOPS!...I MEAN investigation has done it's usual white water.. er white WASH of the Waco murders in late July, 1995). A plane wreck, no matter how minor the case may be, is investigated by the government, as are dozens of other things, right down to the most minute detail, but let a herd of murderous thugs attack a religious group of men, women and children, none of which have been charged with a single crime, much less convicted of one, and the CONgress and the government overseers remain silent. The question remains, why?

This is not to say that books haven't been written about the Waco massacre, they have, but two of them read the same, slanderous claims, vilification of all involved, casting of aspersions, in short they are nothing but muckraking with no proof or verification needed, after all, almost everyone involved who could sue had been murdered and the few remaining survivors are in prison. These two books read like a cross between "Natural Born killers" and "Pulp Fiction" cast from the day time "talk" shows. A third book is an

"expanded" copy of the trial and is totally factual and has been carefully and fully documented and verified.



The first book, "MAD MAN IN WACO — the complete story of the Davidian cult, David Koresh, and the Waco massacre - by the world authorities on the Waco cult Brad Bailey & Bob Darden" (WRS Group, 761 N. New Road, Waco, TX 76716, 1993, 6 1/8" x 9 1/8", 288 pages) is a good overview of who and what went on before David koresh (or as the book prefers, Vernon Howell, which was his name before he had it legally changed) took over the Mt. Carmel compound, and nothing but invention, distortion and rumor mongering after that. The name of the book comes from a recording put out by David koresh called "Mad Man in Waco".

The behind the scenes goings on before David ever came on the scene would make a soap opera buff blush with shame as to why they were wasting their time on a TV show. It all started with a group calling themselves the "Millerites" after William Miller, an end of the world preacher in the 1820's through the 1840's. When none of the end of the world predictions came true, the group splintered, one of which became the Seventh-day Adventists which still regularly predict the end of the world and regularly are wrong, which doesn't slow the bunch conned into it down at all.

Victor Houteff (HOT-if) joined the SDA and soon was setting up SDA churches around the country and was one of their VIP's. The truth finally sunk in when Vic got sick and went to a SDA hospital, but was not allowed in unless he could fork over a cash deposit, which Vic didn't have. They were kind enough to let him

sit in the waiting room, near death and with no food or medical care, for almost a week while waiting for the money to come in however.

After seeing the truth, he broke away from the SDA and formed the Davidian SDA. They set up a Mt. Carmel church at Waco, Texas, a long time haunt for fools, nuts, and others of similar ilk since it was first settled. The list of fools, nuts and charlatans that took over after Vic kicked off makes great reading too.

Ben Roden formed the Branch Davidians and turned it over to his son George Roden, who tried to shoot David koresh after he kicked Dave out of the group. After murdering a man, George was sent away to the state hospital for an indeterminate stay.

Those are the facts and foot noted in the book, but when Dave takes over, the book suddenly doesn't foot note, verify or otherwise in any way try to prove that the slanderous claims they level at the dead Dave are in any way true. Obviously biased, the rest of the book is all hyperbole and caricature.



“Massacre At Waco, Texas” by Clifford Linedecker (St. Martin’s Paperbacks, 175 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 16616, 1993, 4 1/4” x 6 3/4”, 254 pages) reads much the same as “Mad Man” does, except it takes up when Dave took over and doesn’t even attempt to verify any of what it claims. It’s all “Dave is evil, Dave is bad, Dave and his followers, including 23 children, got what they deserved”.



“The Waco Whitewash” by Jack Devault (Rescue Press, 8648 Midcrown, #11, San Antonio, TX 78218, 1994, 6 1/2” x 8 1/2”, 333 pages,) is a breath of fresh air after the miasma of the other two books. This book is completely documented, footnoted and accurate.

The book is, as was mentioned before, an “expanded” copy of the trial. Expanded with interviews of all concerned, or at least those not murdered by jack booted thugs, and lists all the various players and who and what they are and what part they played in the massacre. Unlike the other two books, this one presents the facts, just the facts and doesn’t try to bend everything to fit the authors’ view of the New World Order. Well worth room in your library.

From the books on the massacre of innocent Americans at Waco, we’ll move on to a book that can help educate you on how to take actions that may save your life in the face of real crime and government atrocities.



“Citizen Soldier-A Manual Of Community Based Defense- how to protect your home, family & freedom when the government can’t” by Robert Bradley (Doug Lucas, POB 7402, Charlottesville, VA 22906, 1994, 5 1/4 X 8 1/4, 192 pages) is an excellent book that packs a lot of information in a little room. While I don’t always agree with everything in the book (I rarely do), there is very little that

will get you into harms way and a whole bunch that will save your bacon if you are put on harms way!

The book is broken down into twelve main parts: Defining and Meeting the Threat, Resistance, Organization and Buildup of the Resistance Movement, Combat Employment, Interdiction of Target Systems, Intelligence, Defensive Operations, Psychological Operations, The Law of Land Warfare, Equipment, Information, Basic Rifle Marksmanship.

One thing you might have noticed when going through the list above is there is no chapter on what guns you should have. Either you have a gun now or you will kill one of the enemy troops and take their guns. Either way you will just live off the enemy as far as weapons, ammunition, resupply, etc. is concerned.

OK, what did I disagree with? Well, Robert said to keep it legal, which is good advice,, but that doesn't always work. He said if a neighbor is getting beat up, everyone turns out and holds the criminal for police. The police come (he seemed serious here, so don't laugh), take the scum bag away and the criminal gets a fair trial. OK, laugh if you have to, I did. Robert goes on to say that you should not beat the living crap out of the sleazer and under no circumstances should you string the slime up. That's illegal.

OK, let's take the above and see what happens in real life, and I mean the following actually happened. The drunken neighborhood drug dealer drives up and down the road at 70 miles per hour in the middle of the day. The cops wait until the car runs out of gas before doing anything, meaning they give him a warning.

Fights break out at all hours of the day and night in the house and on the street. Cars drive up and down the street to buy drugs, etc., the cops are called, but of course, do nothing. The dooper then threatens all the neighbors if they are seen talking to the cops

and threatens to burn out anyone who turns him in. One neighbor, worried about his two small children, calls the cops and after a couple donuts and cups of coffee, they finally turn up.

They ask the dooper to leave the bar so they can talk because they are afraid to go in to drag the dooper out. They asked the dooper if he said what the said he said. "Yeah", the dooper sneers, "and so what are you cops going to do about it?" Well, next time, they bluff, they are going to arrest the dooper dealer and how does a night in the drunk tank sound? Since the dooper normally wakes up on the floor covered in his own vomit, this isn't much of a threat.

They go back to the neighbor, in front of the dooper, and tell him to call if there is more trouble. The dooper turns up with a molotov cocktail and threatens the neighbor. The cops are called, they finally show up and tell the dooper to stop it, they are tired of coming out which is interrupting their donut breaks. The dooper stands in the middle of the street screaming threats to burn the neighbor out as soon as the cops leave. The cops say they have to go, they can't stay forever.

The man figures losing his investment in his house is better than losing his life or that of his children and moves, which is what the cops recommend, after all they can't, won't and don't intend to do anything even if they could. That is real life in our cities today.

OK, aside from that, what do I think of this book? I think that every reader of this publication should buy this book and read it. Except for the patently stupid things like not hanging the scum from the nearest light pole (depending on where you live of course, maybe you really do have police service try that first and maybe there are no light poles handy, so improvise) there is no reason why this book won't save your life and help keep you free, provided you buy it, read it and use it, naturally.



Grand Theft Auto

by Hari Heath

In the last century probably nothing has changed American culture more than the car. Our lives and nearly every major infrastructure in our society revolve around it. Many homes have an additional house just for the auto. The roadways we have built for our cultural icon, the car, dissect the urban and rural topography. Many people, consciously or otherwise, manifest their identity and self esteem through owning the car of their dreams. In short, the automobile has become one of the pseudo-gods in our techno-industrial culture.

With such worshipful attention placed upon our national idol, no wonder car theft is such a big business. Chop shops steal and dismember choice autos for great profit. Small time hoods can remove car stereos or bypass ignition locks in seconds. Armed car-jacking has been elevated to the status of a federal crime. But, what is the most insidious grand theft auto scheme of all time? The theft of all the cars in America, before they are

sold, through a hideous administrative scheme. Your car is not your car and here's why.

In an honest world, when you buy something it's yours. The Idaho Constitution, written before there were cars and administrative agencies of government, recognized this property ownership as an inalienable right. That most ignored part of our state Constitution declares in its primal first paragraph the inalienable rights of man:

"All men are by nature free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property; pursuing happiness and securing safety."

Given a sufficient personal economy, can we acquire and possess a new car?

We should be living under a system of government where such things are possible but, unfortunately, constitutional government has been relegated to either history or theater. History, because it is no longer adhered to; theater because of the parliamentary, executive and judicial theatrics that are used to maintain an illusion of legitimate, constitutional government.

What has been replacing our original constitutional form of government is the administrative regime. For every regulatable area of life an agency has been commissioned to regulate it. Agencies are those collections of people who have assumed the authority to be all and do all in the name of government. Without the constitutional restraints of the separate branches of government, these unelected bureaucrats can make and enforce their own regulations. Promulgating rules by proposing them, publishing them and then declaring them as law, the kleptocrats of the administrative realms have left few stones unturned (see "Kleptocracy, our government of thieves," The Idaho Observer, July 2000). By these rules, your car is stolen before you can buy it.

How It Works

The Idaho Transportation Department begins to own your car by promulgating administrative rules (IDAPA) which license its maker: "The Department shall issue a manufacturer or distributor license to firms that own the finished vehicle... " (IDAPA 39.02.01.100.01). Then the agency requires the licensing of car dealers: "A dealer license is required in the following situations: Selling or exchanging, or soliciting the sale of five (5) or more vehicles or vessels in any one (1) calendar year even though titled in seller's name; or displaying for sale or exchange, five (5) or more vehicles or vessels at any one (1) time even though titled in the displayer's name; or displaying vehicles or vessels for sale, exchange or consign on property not legally controlled by the owner of the vehicle or vessel" (IDAPA 39.02.02.100).

Not content with licensing the maker and dealer of the new car, the administrators have added another layer of control: "Dealers shall not allow a person to act as a salesperson in their behalf unless such person holds a valid salesperson license containing a current photograph of the salesperson, and the date of expiration of the salesperson's license" (IDAPA 39.02.02.101).

Then, without any act of the legislature, the administrators command that: "Any person who violates this rule is subject to a license suspension or the non-issuance of a license for a period of not less than thirty (30) days and no more than six (6) months" (IDAPA 39.02.02.400.01) and, "Any unlicensed person who violates this rule is subject to penalty under Chapter 16, Title 49, Idaho Code" (IDAPA 39.02.02.400.03).

Now that the kleptocrats in the transportation agency have managed to control the maker, distributor, dealer and the man on the lot with a license, they can now move in for the completion of their grand theft auto scheme: "New vehicles sold in Idaho being titled for

the first time must have the title application endorsed by an Idaho-licensed, franchised new vehicle dealer" (IDAPA 39.02.09.100.01) and, "Title applications must be accompanied by a manufacturer's certificate of origin" (IDAPA 39.02.09.100.02).

Cars are made not born. As a thing of commercial value they are given a "title" to evidence the chain of ownership after they are manufactured. Idaho's administrative rules (IDAPA) require every new car sold in the state to have a Manufacturer's Certificate of Origin or Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MCO/MSO): "Licensed Manufacturers may franchise any Idaho dealer; shall display the make, name and chassis identification number approved by the Society of Automotive Engineers on each vehicle; and shall furnish an MCO/MSO for each completed vehicle to dealers" (IDAPA 39.02.01.100.02).

This "MCO" is not just a note from your mom explaining how you got here. The MCO content requirements must include: "Date; Invoice number and document serial numbers; Name of distributor or dealer; Issuing location - city and state; Manufacturer's name and signature of authorized manufacturer's representative; Manufacturer statement - 'I, the undersigned authorized representative of the company, firm or corporation named below, hereby certify that the new vehicle described above is the property of the said company, firm or corporation and is transferred on the above date and under the Invoice Number indicated to the following distributor or dealer'; Year, make, body type, series or model; Vehicle identification number, approved by the American Society of Automotive Engineers; Shipping weight, horsepower (SAE), number of cylinders, Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR); and Certification attesting to the first transfer in ordinary trade or commerce: 'It is further certified that this is the first transfer of such new vehicle in ordinary trade and commerce'" (IDAPA 39.02.09.200.01.a-j).

In order to ensure that the title to the vehicles they are about to own is bona fide, the Idaho Transportation Department rulemakers also require security features on the title document: "All "Certificates of Origin" should contain the following nine (9) security features: Paper: Sensitized Security Paper - paper that is reactive to chemicals commonly used to alter documents; Non-Optical Brightener Paper - paper without added optical brighteners which will not fluoresce under ultraviolet light; Engraved Border - a border produced from engraved art work which shall appear on the front of the document; Prismatic - rainbow printing which is used as a deterrent to color copying; and/or Copy Void Pantograph - the word "void" appears when the document is copied; Complex Colors - colors which are developed by using a mixture of two (2) or more of the primary colors (red, yellow or blue) and black if required; Erasable Fluorescent Background Inks - fluoresces under ultraviolet light and reacts to any attempt to erase in such a manner as to be immediately detectable; Background Security Design - a repetitious design consisting of a pattern which hinders counterfeiting efforts; Microline - a line of small alpha characters in capitol letters which requires a magnifying glass to read; Consecutively Numbered - documents that contain a number which is consecutively numbered for control purposes; Security Thread - with or without watermark; and/or Intaglio Print - with or without latent image" (IDAPA 39.02.09.201.01).

Hopefully you have made it through all that administrative mumbo jumbo and are ready for the next two important questions: What is really going on here and why would this agency require such a complex document if it is only going to be transferred from the manufacturer to the dealer to them? First, the Transportation Department kleptocrats do not issue any "title," they steal it.

How?

"The Department shall issue a Certificate of

Title on any motor vehicle if the applicant can show proper documentation of ownership..." (IDAPA 39.02.12.100) and, "Title applications must be accompanied by a manufacturer's certificate of origin" (IDAPA 39.02.09.100.02).

That complex document with all the content requirements and security features, the MCO, is THE title. These administrative rules require the licensed dealer to send in THE title with the "title application." The real title, The MCO, is then "held" by the kleptocrats, never to be seen again.

The kleptocrats then issue a "Certificate of Title"-key word: "Certificate." The Certificate of Title merely certifies that there was a title. Most people mistakenly think that the Certificate of Title issued by the state is the title.

Using a scheme that is common across our nation, the licensed, enfranchised car dealers are compelled to surrender the real title or MCO to the state. Why? In the language of commercial code, the MCO is an "instrument" of title "issued" by the "maker" (the car manufacturer) and "negotiated" (through the licensed, enfranchised dealer) to the "holder" (the one who ends up with the "instrument" which conveys "possessory rights" to the car and its "proceeds"-in this case, the state). Under commercial code, before the "instrument" issued by the "maker," can convey rights to the Transportation Department as a "holder in due course," the instrument must "not bear such apparent evidence of forgery or alteration" or "an unauthorized signature..." (Idaho Code 28-3-302(1).

That is why the kleptocrats want the MCO to be such a detailed security instrument-it conveys the legal and commercial "rights" to "your" car-before you can "own" it.

(For a really confusing read that exemplifies why lawyers should never be allowed anywhere near the legislature, see all of Idaho

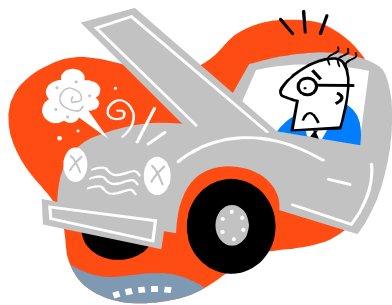
Code, Title 28).

"Certificate of Title?"

A Certificate of Title conveys the equitable use of the car. You may even transfer that use to another person by signing over the Certificate of Title to them, but only relative to your equity interest.

You could think of it as a conditional use permit, which compels your compliance with license, registration, insurance and all other laws governing the use of the now state owned property. That's why state employed officers can pull you over for any "infraction," seemingly in violation of your constitutional rights. The license plates evidence the state as "holder in due course" of the car-the owner-and the officer is the owner's agent regulating the use of the owner's property. No one in this country is allowed to own a vehicle and travel freely anymore. We must first obtain permission to use state-owned property.

That is how administrative government uses commercial process to steal the rights to "your" car and control your use of it through compelled registration and licensure schemes. It's a crime, also known as Grand Theft Auto.



"Some writers have so confounded society with government, as to leave little or no distinction between them; whereas they are not only different, but have different origins ... Society is in every state a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."

-THOMAS PAINE-

ADVERTISEMENT



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The following opinions and findings are the opinions and findings of the author only and not necessarily the opinions and findings of The Independent American, it's staff, editors or writers.

Nyaa nyaa nyaa naa naa!

The Kiss-Off Commentaries



by Pug Mahone (on a good day)

What Makes A Hate Crime? When Is It Racially Motivated?

A 26 year old white male was buying a soft drink in a Darlington County, Alabama store. When he walked out, two black men walked up to him and demanded money. When refused the men beat their victim and forced him into his truck and drove him to an empty field. There they forced him to strip and changed his legs to the truck's bumper. They beat him again while yelling racial slurs at him, then piled back into the truck and began dragging the victim.

Fortunately, the man was able to free himself and run to safety. The victim was hospitalized, but expected to make a full recovery.

When asked, sheriff deputy, Robin Bryant of the Darlington County sheriff's office, said that no charges of racial intimidation or hate crime charges would be brought against the two black men. Bryant stated that he was sure some "mean words" were used, but added, "I think in a situation like this, the first thing you look at is the first thing that happened and the first thing that happened here involved money and robbery, not race."

I generally view the added term "hate crime" as complete non-sense, so wouldn't mind if anyone were never charged with this artificial category which elevates the trivial into grave political offenses with severe penalties. Assault, attempted murder and robbery are sufficient crimes to charge these maladjusted criminals with. The law should also be applied equally if equality is what is intended.

But let's look at just how racial thought "crimes" are being applied. Flash back to October 28, 2000. Council, Idaho. Home team fans were attending a football game featuring their children playing for their school. The game was soured severely by the officiating. Officials threw flag after flag, more than is seemly, and most directed at the home team. This manner of officiating cost the team the game and the officials were booed and heckled.

Being a photo journalist and capturing images of the game, Kimberley Rae shot some photos of the referees post game. As the officiating was turning out to be a controversy, photos of the officials were relevant in documenting the circumstances. The officials didn't like the controversy and told Mrs. Rae to stop in a most hostile manner. Mrs. Rae stopped immediately and began to walk away.

This was not enough for Kenneth Manley,

a 6' 3", 240 pound black man and referee in the controversial game. Manley thought himself man enough to handle Kimberley Rae. Manley attacked Mrs. Rae from behind as she was walking away. The object of his assault was to steal the camera away from it's owner, apparently due to the photos that had been taken of the officials.

Mrs. Rae's husband, Lonny Rae, heard his wife screaming for help and looked to see the large man grappling with his wife, trying to rip her camera from her body by it's strap. The assault left abrasions and bruising on Kimberley Rae's neck and shoulders.

Upon seeing his wife assaulted, Lonny Rae, rushed to the scene. Manley, at 6' 3", 240 pounds and finding himself man enough to attack a woman, decided he was not man enough to face another man, though not nearly as massive as himself. Upon seeing the approach of a real man, Manley made a hasty retreat behind locked locker room doors inside the school.

After checking the injuries to his wife, Lonny Rae, being understandably incensed, followed the route Manley took to hide behind locked doors from what should be the natural results of his cowardly attack on a woman. Finding the official cowering behind those doors, Lonny Rae committed his thought crime. Still understandably incensed, Lonny yelled into the locked doors, "Tell that nigger to get out here, 'cause I'm a' gonna kick his butt."

After waiting some time at the locked doors no one emerged and Mr. Rae elected to have his wife checked out at the hospital. The Raes also called 9-1-1. Nothing came of the incident for a month and a half, when finally the policy enforcement officers contacted Mr. Rae, asking him to come down to the station.

Thinking that justice might be accomplished against his wife's attacker, Mr. Rae complied and met Police at the station. Unfortunately, justice has no place in America's criminal system today. (You may read 'criminal system' any way you wish.) Mr. Rae was surprised to find himself being arrested for the charge of "malicious harassment" for using the term "nigger". These charges were upgraded by the District Word Twister, (the actual meaning of the term attorney) to a felony "hate crime". Lonny Rae's thought crime may be punishable by a 5 year prison term and/or a \$5,000 fine.

No charges were brought by Police or the DWT against Kenneth Manley who assaulted and attempted to mug Mrs. Rae. Equality under corporate regulations? Hmm.

In one example, "mean names", as deputy sheriff Robin Bryant put it, is not enough to warrant a charge of "hate crime" even though the crimes of robbery, assault and attempted murder were perpetrated. In the other example, the crime of assault was committed, but no charge was brought against the assailant. The charge of "hate crime" was brought against the party coming to the defense of his wife for the use of a "mean name".

Last issue, I commented on the persecution of Michael Marcarvage and Christians from the Repent America Ministries. If you'll remember, Michael and 11 Christians were arrested for reading from the Bible during a gay prance parade in Philadelphia. Though, Michael and the rest of the Christians were compliant with Police orders, they were arrested for their speech. "Hate

speech” and “fighting words”, as their speech was called by judge William Austin Meehan and persecutor Charles Ehrlich.

What words did they use to warrant the charge of “hate crime”, which can carry a prison term of 47 years and various fines, ransoms and extortions? To be slapped in a prison for many decades of their lives, surely the words they used *must* have been the most fearful and hateful of racial, religious and political epitaphs! Those words were read from the mouths of the accused Christians directly from the Bible.

Let me quote some “hate speech” directly from the Constitution. “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.” - Article 1- The Bill Of Rights

For exercising the above enumerated Natural Right, and teaching in public that God considers homosexuality an abomination, Christians are being charged with “hate crimes” and “ethnic intimidation“. Never mind that queers come in all colors and beliefs. The criminal system has legally recognized anyone engaging in this unnatural behavior as an “ethnic group”.

Can you see where “hate crimes” are leading? Groups designated as politically correct will be protected and privileged to exercise certain of their rights, while those not a recognized member of a designated protected group will have their Rights denied them.

Why would government protect a privileged class and deny Natural Rights to other classes? Don’t swallow that line. That is not what government is doing. By legislating

“hate crime” regulations, government is denying Natural Rights to ALL! Government recognized privileged groups have no Right to prance in public and not hear what others think. Government recognized privileged races have no Right to assault non-protected races and not hear “mean names”. Government recognized privileged races *should be* lawfully charged with assault and attempted murder when trying to drag another person to death while chained to a truck. “Hate crimes” are completely unnecessary to deal with criminals and makes political criminals out of those who have broken no law or violated anyone’s Natural Rights. Government has NO authority to legislate such regulations. By the means of “hate crimes”, government will have eliminated the Rights of individuals and replaced them with regulated privileges. This is why government is protecting privileged classes and denying the Natural Rights of others.

Michael Marcarvage was arrested for reading from the Bible. Such speech will soon become inaccessible to most Americans if those fostering “hate crimes” on Americans have their way. I am printing the passages that was attempted to be spoken at Philadelphia’s outfest just before Michael was arrested. It is being printed in the interest of freedom and as an outlet for politically incorrect thought among freedom minded individuals. The passages are from the Book of Romans 1st chapter.

Chapter 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which were not convenient;

Americans have just as much Right to quote scripture as they have to prance about on a public street and act in lewd and stupid manners. Americans should have no need to fear the angered words they speak when defending their wives and Americans should expect equal treatment under the law when attacked by criminals. It's time to recognize "hate crimes" for what they are. "Hate crimes" are an assault on our Natural Rights. It's time to trash them and begin to restore our true law in this land!

Pugisms

To better understand the dialog in this column, perhaps I'd better include a small glossary.

Attorney: A French term meaning word twister

Authority: The duties and functions delegated to government to act by the Constitution. Any action taken by government that is not specified in the Constitution lacks authority.

Corporate government: The USA or government acting in it's capacity to contract with other corporate entities. It assumes that all individuals are acting in their "straw man" or corporate entity capacity and has laid aside their Natural Rights to act in such a capacity.

Corporate regulations: Rules on the books that are treated as law, though they are in conflict with the Constitution which happens to be our highest law. UCC Code

Criminal system: Exactly what it sounds like. A system that is criminal in it's intent and behavior. No longer interested in justice or American law, this system exists to suck the

life and revenue from the people. Guilt, innocence or justice has no bearing in this system.

District Word Twister: District Attorney. A dishonest DA using his office to further a political agenda.

DWT: District Word Twister.

Natural Rights: Those Rights endowed upon men by their Creator. The lawful ability of men to act in their own behalf that is inalienable by government.

Peace officer: A constitutional officer of the law, sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. Sometimes mistakenly misapplied to PolicE.

PolicE: Policy Enforcement Agents.

Policy enforcement officer: Not actually an officer as they hold no constitutional office. They are agents which enforce the policy of the corporate government through the UCC Code. Sometimes mistaken as peace officers.

Privileges: Government regulated allowances to act in certain manners. NOT the same as Rights.

Regulation: Corporate government rules pretending to be laws, but lacking authority.

Rights. Natural Rights or those Natural Rights enumerated within The Declaration Of Independence or Bill Of Rights.

rights. Privileges misapplied as Rights.



How to Read the Shotgun News

Written by Douglas P. Bell

In case you were wondering, the "Shotgun News" or as it will be known through out the rest of this article, the "SGN" (POB 56266, Boulder, CO 80323-6266), is THE trade paper for guns, weapons, gear, surplus, and the like or as they like to say "the world's largest gun sales publication". This is just a big (11" x 13") newsprint listing of ads, like the classifieds in your local paper. It comes out three times a month for a total of 36 issues.

Somewhere in the publication, it used to be in the first couple of pages, they list the NRA firearms condition descriptions; NEW - not previously sold at retail, current factory condition. NEW/DISCONTINUED - same as NEW but discontinued. PERFECT - as new. EXCELLENT - new condition, no noticeable marring of wood or metal. VERY GOOD - in perfect working condition, no appreciable wear, no corrosion or pitting, minor surface dents or scratches. GOOD - safe working order, minor wear, no broken parts. FAIR - safe working condition, well worn, may require replacement of minor parts. POOR - may not be working, parts may be broken or require replacement, heavy marring of wood or metal, heavy corrosion or rust. As you can see, these are pretty self explanatory, either it is or isn't, but like many things, it just doesn't work like that in real life.

First off, you need a little experience with many of the importers, wholesalers, sellers, and so on in the SGN, but that can be expensive, and let's face it, either no one wants to tell you the truth, they had to learn the hard way so you can too, or they don't know, or flat out lie. That's where I come in. I've been there, did it, done it. The first thing to remember is that for most companies and items, you down grade the listing at least one and in some cases two grades from what is listed, "good" might be the good you hope

for, but expect fair and hope it isn't poor!

To read the ads, you need to keep a few things in mind, first these people are out to sell guns and while the majority of them, say 50.1%, are sort of, maybe, kind of honest, most would make a used car salesman blush with envy. The following is my experience with what the ads REALLY say.

If the ad states "may", it does, such as in "may have minor pitting", expect pot holes and moon craters. "Minor" - major, as in "may have minor crack in the stock" which means the stock is broken in two. "Flaw" or "blemish" means it was "minor" until it was repaired, such as "stock flaw or blemish" meaning it was broken in two and repaired and/or the stock is covered with wood patches.

A "dark but strong bore" means that you can (generally) see that the gun once had rifling. "Dark and rough bore" means the barrel was once used as a sewer pipe and had to be replaced as it became too corroded. "Clean" means most of the loose dirt and rust has been knocked off, as in "good clean rifles".

"Well worn" means important parts may fall off if the gun is shaken, the screws are stripped, minor stock cracks, blemishes, or flaws, bore dark and rough, the only thing holding the gun together is the heavy layers of congealed oil, grease and assorted crud. "Fair", a lesser grade of "well worn". "Poor", a gun shaped object or lump of rust found with several other items that were positively identified as guns.

As to my experience, Century International Arms (POB 714, St. Albans, VT 05478) ranks their guns very accurately. I've bought alot of guns from them and the guns have been either as claimed or better. Century also has a condition standards that they list in their catalog, all conditions are complete and working. "Excellent" is 80%-90% blue remaining, very little to no marring of wood. "VG" is 50%-80% blue, minor dings, bores

clean without pitting. "Good" is 25%-50% blue, dinged stocks, bores worn or dark. "Poor to fair" is no blue, rough bores, rust, pitting, wood heavily marred.

If Century lists a gun as "good", it WILL have some blueing left, the bores may or may not be "dark" (worn or pitted), but the gun is complete and working, etc. Often my experience is the gun will be in slightly better than listed shape, "good" will have at least half of the blueing left, the bores are slightly worn but not pitted, etc, VG is actually very good! Call to check to see if they have the ammo you want first however.

Navy Arms (689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgfield, NJ 07657) is pretty good about grading their guns, although I've never seen a grading list from them. However not all is peace and light here. Back in the early 1990's I ordered a gun and it never came, and never came, and never came. I was given the run around every time I called for a couple months until I threatened to file mail fraud. The gun had no problem getting to me then! Some of the "drop-in" kits don't, or at least not without a little (or in some cases, alot) of work or fitting, but with all the various makers and models of even the same basic gun, it's a wonder the kits work as well as they do. To give Navy their due, the last few years when I've called they were very up front about things and quite helpful. Orders went out quickly with no problems and the guns were as listed.

Southern Ohio Gun or SOG (100 S. Mechanic St., POB 590, Lebanon, OH 45036-0590) gets most of their surplus guns from Century or Navy and grades them fairly and honestly. Any problems I've had with them, parts that didn't work, orders that didn't show up has been cleared up quickly and fairly. So far they have kept me very happy. [junior editor's note: I have personally had a very bad experience with SOG and no longer deal with them. If you decide to deal with them, pay with a credit card and cancel payment through your card company at the slightest sign of a problem.]

Sarco (323 Union St., Stirling, NJ 07980) is good but you need to check your order closely as I've had several orders that were missing small parts, pins, screws, springs, etc., but when I called them they sent the missing parts right out with no problem. Other people have had some less than great dealings with them though, so be careful.

Paragon Sales (POB 2022, Joliet, IL 60434) is a company that I USED to order from constantly and USED to recommend highly. However, this is a company that tends (or at least tended) to be extremely free with their grading of guns, and the last few ammunition orders I've gotten from them had to be returned as the ammunition was not as listed. This was especially true if there were several grades, I would order (and pay well for) grade one and get a lesser grade, such as grade three. To be fair, they did take the ammo back (but NOT the guns) and either replaced it or refunded my money.

Many of the other companies in the SGN have been completely honest and a pleasure to deal with as well, but keep the grading lists above, both the NRA and the REAL listing, in mind and if you aren't sure about something, call the company to ask about things. While this isn't totally fool-proof, it does give you a slight edge, but be sure to get the name of who you talked to! Then when the order turns out to be not as advertised or not to your liking, you can call to complain and say "So-&So said..." which might or might not be of any help.

Always send a Postal Money Order, which you buy at the Post Office, to buy any guns or other items. Then when the company jerks you around, you can say "I sent a Postal Money Order, either I get what I ordered or I'll file mail fraud charges!" This has an amazing effect on these companies! It suddenly goes from "Yeah?! So what are you going to do about it!?" to "Oh. I'm sorry, how can we correct the problem to your satisfaction?"

Don't complain just to hear yourself yell, and make sure it wasn't something you did. Things like list the wrong part number or you were going to get two but changed your mind and then scratched out the "2" with a circle and wrote a "1" in front of it and got 10 instead is not the companies fault. If it's your fault, the company has every right to bill you a restocking fee and /or make you pay shipping both ways to return it and get what you wanted. If the item is a heavy item, such as ammunition and you ordered grade 1 (like new, sure fire, in sealed boxes) and got grade 3 (rusty, corroded junk, packed loose), then you should expect the company to pay return shipping and replace or refund your money.

One last word here. In the front of the SGN there is a blip about if you have a problem with a company who advertises in the SGN, that you can write the SGN telling them exactly what went wrong and the SGN will "advise" both parties. This is a sick joke, as every time I've written the SGN about a rip off or crooked company, the only reply I've gotten was, "So? They paid us for the ad up front, so we don't care!"

While the SGN can't, and I don't expect them to, check the honesty of every advertiser, quite a few frauds have been run through the SGN with the first word I've heard being a letter from the mail fraud division or other federal investigative group saying they advised the SGN several months ago about this or that being a hoax, but since no ads were dropped or warnings published, they were advising everyone who wrote to the fraud ad as to what was going on. When buying anything from ads in the SGN, it is strictly buyer beware.



Humor

Two Louisiana alligators were sitting at the side of the swamp.

The smaller one turned to the bigger one and said, "I can't understand how you can be so much bigger 'n me. We're the same age, we was the same size as kids ... I just don't get it."

"Well, " said the big 'gator, "what you been eatin' boy?"

"Democrats, same as you," replied the small 'gator.

"Hmm. Well, where do ya catch 'em?"

"Down at 'tother side of the swamp near the parkin' lot by Boudreaux's."

"Same here. Hmm. How do you catch 'em?"

"Well, I crawls up under one of them Lexus SUV's and waits fer someone to unlock the door. Then I jumps out, grabs 'em on the leg, shake the crap out of 'em, and eats 'em!"

"Ah!" says the big alligator, "I think I see your problem. You ain't gettin' any real nourishment. See, by the time you get done shakin' the crap out of a Democrat, there ain't nothin' left but lips and a briefcase!

The Legal Papers

From The Revelation Law And Procedure Group

by Christopher Dilts

Understanding The Fair Debt Practice Act And The Fair Collections Reporting Act Part III

We pick up the narrative on the Fair Debt Practice Act and the Fair Collections Reporting Act where we left off last issue.

Brief explanation of The Fair Collections Reporting Act

The Fair Collections Reporting Act is a remedy, in which all of us have to help us clean up our credit, fight abusive practices of the collections agencies, eliminate any marks on credit reports that cannot be verified and get a free credit report. It is a powerful tool and used in the right method can be very effective in helping to restore someone's credit.

Important Parts of The Fair Collections Reporting Act Credit Reporting Agencies — Accuracy and Fairness of Reporting

Layman's definition: This section of the act deals with the reason behind making the law. Its importance is in that the only ones able to use this act are individuals not corporations.

Legal Definition:

UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED
TITLE 15. COMMERCE AND TRADE
CHAPTER 41--CONSUMER CREDIT
PROTECTION SUBCHAPTER III--CREDIT
REPORTING AGENCIES

Current through P.L. 105-4, approved 3-3-97

§ 1681. Congressional findings and statement of purpose

(a) Accuracy and fairness of credit reporting

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The banking system is dependent upon fair and accurate credit reporting. Inaccurate credit reports directly impair the efficiency of the banking system, and unfair credit reporting methods undermine the public confidence which is essential to the continued functioning of the banking system.

(2) An elaborate mechanism has been developed for investigating and evaluating the credit worthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, and general reputation of consumers.

(3) Consumer reporting agencies have assumed a vital role in assembling and evaluating consumer credit and other information on consumers.

(4) There is a need to insure that consumer reporting agencies exercise their grave responsibilities with fairness, impartiality, and a respect for the consumer's right to privacy.

(b) Reasonable procedures

It is the purpose of this subchapter to require that consumer reporting agencies adopt reasonable procedures for meeting the needs of commerce for consumer credit, personnel, insurance, and other information in a manner which is fair and equitable to the consumer, with regard to the confidentiality, accuracy, relevancy, and proper utilization of such information in accordance with the requirements of this subchapter.

Credit Reporting Agencies — Procedure in Case of Disputed Accuracy

Layman's definition: This section of the Act gives you the ability to request reverification of the debt and add a statement why the debt is disputed. The agency is only allowed 30 days to verify the account or they have to take

account of the credit report and give you notice that the account has been deleted.

Legal definition:

UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED
TITLE 15. COMMERCE AND TRADE
CHAPTER 41--CONSUMER CREDIT PROTECTION
SUBCHAPTER III--CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES

Current through P.L. 105-4, approved 3-3-97

§ 168 ii. Procedure in case of disputed accuracy

(a) Dispute; reinvestigation

If the completeness or accuracy of any item of information contained in his file is disputed by a consumer, and such dispute is directly conveyed to the consumer reporting agency by the consumer, the consumer reporting agency shall within a reasonable period of time reinvestigate and record the current status of that information unless it has reasonable grounds to believe that the dispute by the consumer is frivolous or irrelevant. If after such reinvestigation such information is found to be inaccurate or can no longer be verified, the consumer reporting agency shall promptly delete such information. The presence of contradictory information in the consumers ~ file does not in and of itself constitute reasonable grounds for believing the dispute is frivolous or irrelevant.

(b) Statement of dispute

If the reinvestigation does not resolve the dispute, the consumer may file a brief statement setting forth the nature of the dispute. The consumer reporting agency may limit such statements to not more than one hundred words if it provides the consumer with assistance in writing a clear summary of the dispute.

(c) Notification of consumer dispute in

subsequent consumer reports

Whenever a statement of a dispute is filed, unless there is reasonable grounds to believe that it is frivolous or irrelevant, the consumer reporting agency shall, in any subsequent consumer report containing the information in question, clearly note that it is disputed by the consumer and provide either the consumer's statement or a clear and accurate codification or summary thereof.

(d) Notification of deletion of disputed information

Following any deletion of information which is found to be inaccurate or whose accuracy can no longer be verified or any notation as to disputed information, the consumer reporting agency shall, at the request of the consumer, furnish notification that the item has been deleted or the statement, codification or summary pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section to any person specifically designated by the consumer who has within two years prior thereto received a consumer report for employment purposes, or within six months prior thereto received a consumer report for any other purpose, which contained the deleted or disputed information. The consumer reporting agency shall clearly and conspicuously disclose to the consumer his rights to make such a request. Such disclosure shall be made at or prior to the time the information is deleted or the consumer's statement regarding the disputed information is received.

Credit Reporting Agencies — Procedure in Case of Disputed Accuracy

Layman's definition: This section of the Act deals with giving an individual a free credit

report when denied credit and after the 30 day reverification.

Legal definition:

UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED
TITLE 15. COMMERCE AND TRADE
CHAPTER 41 --CONSUMER CREDIT
PROTECTION

SUBCHAPTER 111--CREDIT REPORTING
AGENCIES

Current through P.L. 105-4, approved 3-3-97

§ 168 lj. Charges for disclosures

A consumer reporting agency shall make all disclosures pursuant to section 1681 g of this title and furnish all consumer reports pursuant to section 1681 i(d) of this title without charge to the consumer if, within thirty days after receipt by such consumer of a notification pursuant to section 1681m of this title or notification from a debt collection agency affiliated with such consumer reporting agency stating that the consumer's credit rating may be or has been adversely affected, the consumer makes a request under section 1681g or 1681i(d) of this title. Otherwise, the consumer reporting agency may impose a reasonable charge on the consumer for making disclosure to such consumer pursuant to section 1681g of this title, the charge for which shall be indicated to the consumer prior to making disclosure; and for furnishing notifications, statements, summaries, or codifications to person designated by the consumer pursuant to section 168 li(d) of this title, the charge for which shall be indicated to the consumer prior to furnishing such information and shall not exceed the charge that the consumer reporting agency would impose on each designated recipient for a consumer report except that no charge may be made for notifying such

persons of the deletion of information which is found to be inaccurate or which can no longer be verified.

We will continue with The Fair Debt Practice Act and the discharge of debt with Debt Collection Practices-Relation to State Laws in the next Issue of *The Independent American*.



"You seem... to consider the judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions; a very dangerous doctrine indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy... The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal."

-Thomas Jefferson-

The Revelation Law And Procedure Group has a work shop available to the people of Iowa for the purpose of defending yourself in court. By knowledge of pre-trial procedures, the group believes cases are won or lost before the trial begins.

For Information on the Revelation Law And Procedure Group, Contact:

**Douglas Paul Bell
C/O The Independent American
P.O. Box 1894
Iowa City, Iowa
52244**

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY! The making of any explosive or primary initiator is a dangerous undertaking!

DO NOT attempt to make or use any of the compounds detailed in the following text without formal training! Injury or loss of life is possible should accidents occur! The Independent American, it's staff and/or writers are NOT responsible for the actions of others!

Necessary Components To Obtain Before Manufacturing Smokeless Powders.

by Corcceigh Green

If you have been following this series of articles you know that the largest danger Americans face today is that of being disarmed by our own traitorous legislature. There is no possibility that an emerging police state will be able to round up much of the firearms now in private ownership. That has led anti-Americans in Congress and the executive branch to attempt to bring about unlawful regulations under the color of law to ban or excessively tax ammunition. This could severely limit the effectiveness of an armed populous to preserve their freedom and sovereignty.

In order to combat this threat to Americans and their livelihoods, *The Independent American* has been publishing this series of articles detailing how a community or communities of like-minded, freedom loving people can pull together to manufacture their own ammunition for their own defense or for hunting and food gathering abilities.

In this entry of the series, this article will focus on some necessary components you will need to gather before a finished smokeless

powder product can be manufactured. Many of these components are used in other industries and are available for purchase. Some may be manufactured and others will have substitutes available. We will detail which ones are available, where to obtain them and which ones may be manufactured or substituted. You should endeavor to obtain all of them for a uniform and superior end product.

Nitrocellulose

This was covered in our last issue as guncotton. Without this ingredient you will not make smokeless powder. Guncotton or nitrocellulose cannot be substituted and is absolutely essential to any smokeless powder formula. It is not likely that you will be able to buy this component on any market, so the only way you will obtain it is through manufacture. The manufacture of guncotton is detailed in *The Independent American* January/February 2005.

Nitroglycerin

Nitroglycerin is an extremely unstable component! And that is an understatement! Fortunately, it is not absolutely necessary for all smokeless powder formulae. It is possible for you to work up a formula without this component and that would be the safest option to consider. Smokeless powder formulae that do not utilize nitroglycerin as a component are called "single based powders". Those formulae that utilize nitroglycerin are called "double based powders". This is due to the formulae's use of both nitrocellulose and nitroglycerin as nitrogen sources.

Double based powders are popular because they are better suited for use in handgun and shotgun cartridges. That doesn't mean double based powders aren't used in rifle cartridges. They are, and to a great extent. This makes double based powders extremely versatile and you will want to know about their manufacture.

Nitroglycerin is also a plasticizer of nitrocellulose and helps to suspend the guncotton in colloid which is necessary to control it's explosive force.

With the manufacturing knowledge of double based powders comes the knowledge of nitroglycerin and it's manufacture. **SERIOUSLY!!!** If you find yourself in need of manufacturing smokeless powder, unless you have someone or someones in your group with expertise in handling nitroglycerin, **DON'T SCREW WITH THIS STUFF!!!** Work up a formula for your group utilizing a single based powder. The manufacture of single based powders are still dangerous, but not nearly so dangerous as the manufacture of nitroglycerin!!!

If you do find yourself with some trained personnel, the manufacture of nitroglycerin is detailed in *The Independent American* November/December 2004. You will not find this component on any market that would be interested in selling to you. Asking about it is only going to send up red flags. You will need to manufacture this component with your group under trained guidance.

Potassium Nitrate

Potassium nitrate was utilized in older smokeless powder formulae, especially those made for military small arms, to help to create uniform burning of the powder. This also helps to cause the smokeless powder to burn more coolly, extending the life of the firearm.

Potassium nitrate is used in many industries in America and around the world including the fertilizer, explosives and health industries. Independent Americans should have no problem obtaining potassium nitrate, however, the purchase of potassium nitrate in quantity will probably raise some flags. Details on manufacturing potassium nitrate can be found in *The Independent American* July/August 2003 issue.

Sodium nitrate can be substituted for potassium nitrate in a pinch, BUT, sodium nitrate is MUCH more hydrophilic than potassium nitrate. This means that your powder can not be stored for long as the sodium nitrate will absorb water right out of the air severely degrading your powder. Firearms which have had cartridges utilizing powder with sodium nitrate as an ingredient **MUST** be cleaned **IMMEDIATELY!** Or it is likely that rust will develop in a very short amount of time. Clean your firearm as you would for corrosive ammo. With hot, soapy water. Rinse well with hot, clean water. Dry immediately and run an oily patch through the bore.

Barium Nitrate

Barium Nitrate is actually a barium salt that is chemically bonded to nitrogen atoms forming a molecular acid so that it forms a crystalline structure. The crystals are white in color and should not be handled. Barium nitrate is used in smokeless powder as an oxidizer and to control the burn rate of the powder. It must be used only when potassium nitrate is also used.

Barium nitrate is a commonly available compound that is used in the explosives, fireworks, vacuum tube and photography industries. A search of barium nitrate on the web will yield many outlets. If you are asked about why you are seeking to purchase the compound, give the questioning person a song and dance about building an old fashioned vacuum tube receiver.

Barium nitrate is not an absolutely essential component. If you can not find a source for this compound, you may still manufacture a smokeless powder without it.

Barium nitrate is a carcinogen and an irritant. It is acidic and will burn the skin, lungs, mucous membranes and eyes. If ingested, it will cause internal bleeding of the intestines and kidneys, and cause kidney failure. If you feel you are competent enough to work up

smokeless powder formulae, you are quite probably competent enough to work up formulae without the utilization of barium nitrate.

Diphenylamine

Diphenylamine is added to many smokeless powders as a stabilizer. Stabilizers are needed in smokeless powder formulae to keep the powder from decomposing. As smokeless powder ages, it can release small amounts of acid which will cause the powder to decompose and become useless. Diphenylamine neutralizes acid keeping the powder stable.

Diphenylamine is used in the plastics, explosives, photography, pesticide and rocket fuel industries. Diphenylamine is available through chemical suppliers. It can be substituted with ethyl centralite or methyl centralite.

If you are a chemist with industrial equipment or have a well equipped laboratory and training, you may be able to manufacture diphenylamine. It is not, however, for the novice. As it is now readily available, purchase this component if you intend on using it.

Ethyl Centralite and Methyl Centralite

As mentioned above, ethyl centralite and methyl centralite are stabilizers utilized in some smokeless powder formulae. They can be substituted with diphenylamine. Beside working as a stabilizer, ethyl and methyl centralite is also used in smokeless powders as a plasticizer.

Plasticizers help the solvents to bring the nitrocellulose into colloid. This just means that the solid guncotton is dissolved into a gelatinous mess when a solvent is added. Some plasticizers are volatile. Ethyl centralite and methyl centralite are not. Their use in the role of plasticizers reduces the amount of the more volatile solvents like ether and alcohol

needed.

Gun cotton's explosive volatility can only be controlled when suspended as a colloid. Without suspending in colloid, guncotton is an explosive and can not be used as a propellant.

Ethyl and methyl centralite are widely used as a pesticide in the agricultural industry. Independent Americans should have no problem obtaining the components for use as a drench, dip or spray for apple and pear fruits around harvest time. This makes ethyl and methyl centralite a preferred substitute for diphenylamine as a stabilizer in smokeless powder formulae for Independent Americans.

Dinitrotoluene

OK, you guys out there that know how to make things go boom know that asking about DNT (or dinitrotoluene) is not going to send up flags. It's going to send up flares! It is not likely that you are going to be able to obtain this substance without being probed by bureaucrats.

Dinitrotoluene is used in smokeless powder formulae as a deterrent. Deterrents coat the exterior of the grains of smokeless powder to control the burn rate. This actually slows down the rate at which the powder burns and reduces the temperature of the burn. This saves barrel and throat wear on the firearm.

Substitutes for dinitrotoluene are; **dibutyl phthalate**, **dioctyl phthalate**, ethyl centralite, methyl centralite, **herkote**, and **vinsol resin**. The oldest powders like cordite utilized **petroleum jelly**. Errantly thinking that it would lubricate the throat and barrel, manufacturers of cordite discovered that the petroleum jelly did not work as expected, but did add value to the formula as a deterrent.

Dibutyl and dioctyl phthalate are very similar in composition as are all phthalates. Phthalates are used in the vinyl and plastics

industries. They are added to vinyl and pvc to keep them flexible. **Diethyl phthalate** is also similar to the other phthalates. It, too, is utilized to make vinyl flexible. Diethyl phthalate is also used to denature alcohol and is readily available to anyone through the natural health, herbal and homeopathy industries. As a deterrent, diethyl phthalate is probably the most easily obtainable and easiest to work with for Independent Americans.

Vinsol resin is another deterrent that is easily obtained by Independent Americans. Vinsol resin is actually this component's commercial name. It is more commonly known to all as pine resin. That's right, sap from the pine tree. Commercial vinsol resins are much more purified and highly processed. Pine resin is soluble in acetone, alcohol and ether or ether-alcohol. When dissolved in a solvent, pine resin is filtered of impurities by pouring the solution through cloth or paper filters.

Vinsol resin is used in the health industry, plastic industries and in asphalt. It is not regulated and readily available to Independent Americans. It can be manufactured expediently in the above mentioned method. It differs in its manner of deterrence to the other mentioned deterrents in that it coats the surface of smokeless powder grains. The other mentioned deterrents coat the grains as well as penetrates the grains. The penetrating action of the other deterrents helps to ensure that a grain's entire surface is more easily coated, whereas care must be taken with the vinsol resin to ensure that the grains are completely and evenly coated.

Graphite

Graphite is used in most smokeless powder formulae. Its use is to coat the powder for two purposes. Purpose one is to help the powder flow easily through reloading components and machinery in the factory loadings. Purpose two is to stop static electricity from building up on the powder

and discharging, igniting the powder.

Graphite is so easy to come by and readily available that substitution is unnecessary. Graphite works the best in its role in the manufacture of smokeless powder than any other substance. Graphite can be purchased at hardware stores, auto repair shops, and can be finely ground from pencils in a pinch.

When manufacturing smokeless powder, there is no excuse not to have graphite on hand. It is a necessary component and important for the safety of your final product.

Potassium Sulfate

Potassium sulfate is sometimes added to smokeless powder formulae to reduce muzzle flash. This may be important for your group in the future as well. It is worth consideration for its stealth quality.

Potassium sulfate is available through chemistry labs and the health industry. It is commonly available.

Ether

Ether is used in the manufacture of smokeless powder in combination with alcohol as a solvent. The combination is called **ether-alcohol**. Generally, this combination is necessary to dissolve the nitrocellulose or guncotton into a colloid suspension which will look like a gelatinous mass. If the guncotton is not dissolved in this manner, it will remain an explosive and be unsuitable for use as a propellant.

Ether is regulated by State and federal laws and will be difficult to obtain, though it can be done. Be prepared for a thorough bureaucratic probing if you decide to purchase ether, however. This is because ether is heavily used in the illegal drug trade. Ether is also used in the health industry, cleaning industry, explosives industry and smokeless powder industry, as well as any

industry where solvents are used. Ether is very widely used in our modern society for a great many purposes. It is possible to obtain ether through other methods than purchasing the laboratory compound.

You will have to obtain ether if you are to manufacture smokeless powder. One method is to manufacture ether. To do this, you will need alcohol, sulfuric acid (see *The Independent American* September/October 2004 issue), potassium nitrate (see *The Independent American* July/August 2003 issue), a distiller beaker, collector beaker, laboratory beaker with solid stopper, hot plate, ice, water, 2 ceramic pans, a glass tube to connect distiller and collector beakers, hot pad, sand, glass rod, candy thermometer, distilled water, 2 rubber beaker stoppers with hole to accept glass tubing, one rubber stopper without hole, syringe and specific gravity scales.

Place some sand in one of the ceramic pans to about half full. Place one of the distiller beaker on the pan resting on the sand.

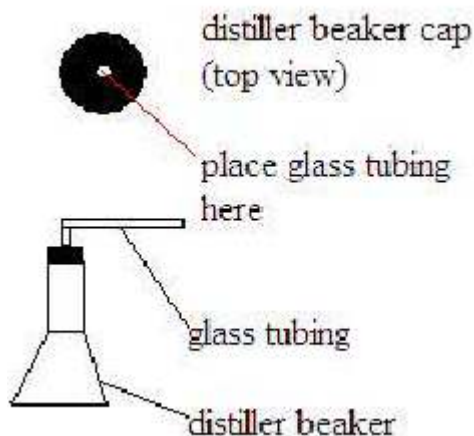
In the other ceramic pan, place an ice bath and the collector beaker.

In the distiller beaker pour 1 pint of alcohol. Slowly add 7 ounces of sulfuric acid, carefully and slowly stirring with the glass rod.

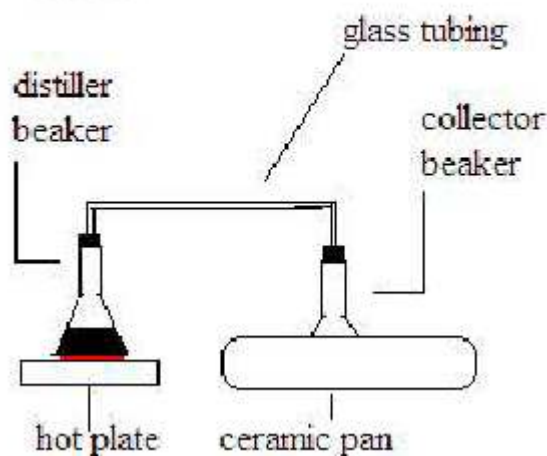
Place the ceramic pan containing the distiller beaker with the acid/alcohol solution on the cool hot plate. Place a stopper with hole on the beaker.

Place the ceramic pan with the ice bath and collector beaker close enough to the distiller beaker to connect the two with the glass tubing.

Place a stopper with hole on the collector beaker and connect the two beakers by placing the glass tubing in the hole of each beaker stopper.



connect beakers in the following manner



Turn the hotplate on and monitor the temperature of the sand nearest the distiller beaker with the candy thermometer. Bring the temperature up to 300 degrees.

Allow the contents to be brought to a low boil. Monitor the collector beaker carefully. When approximately a pint to 1 1/4 pints have condensed in the collector distiller turn off the hotplate and remove the distiller beaker from the sand and while still connected to the collector beaker, place on a work place on a hot pad. The collector beaker must remain in the ice bath.

Allow the distiller beaker to cool to the touch.

When cool to the touch, remove glass tubing and stoppers from beakers. Use an eye dropper to add the contents of the distiller beaker to the contents of the collector beaker.

Stir the contents with glass rod, mixing thoroughly. Keep the collector beaker in the ice bath through these procedures.

Add 1/16 ounce potassium nitrate and 1 1/2 ounce distilled water to the collector beaker's contents, stirring well with the glass rod.

Place rubber stopper without hole on the collector beaker. Store for 24 hours in the ice bath, gently shaking the contents of the beaker every few minutes. (Work in shifts for this.)

After 23 hours of storage, stop shaking the contents of the beaker.

After 24 hours of storage, remove the stopper from the beaker and remove the transparent liquid floating on the top of the contents with a syringe.

Wash out the distiller beaker and pour the contents of the collector beaker into the distiller beaker.

Wash out the collector beaker and arrange the distiller and collector beakers with stoppers and glass tubing with ices bath and hot plate as before.

Turn on the hot plate and distill the solution in the distiller beaker at low heat. You should be able to condense approximately 1 pint in the collector beaker.

Disassemble the distillation assembly as before, keeping the collector beaker in the ice bath and replacing the stopper with hole and glass tubing with the solid stopper.

At this point the solution is ether, but is too impure for use as a solvent. The ether's specific gravity at this point will be around

7.5. The specific gravity for ether useable as a solvent for nitrocellulose must be 7.3 or lower. A specific gravity of 7.13 indicates that the ether is as pure as it can be.

To obtain a specific gravity of 7.3 or lower, obtain some quicklime and calcium chloride. Heat the quicklime over a bunston burner and place over a flannel cloth. Mix evenly with calcium chloride and place the cloth over a glass jar. Pour the ether over the quicklime/calcium chloride, wringing the cloth into the jar.

Measure a portion of the ether in the jar in the specific gravity scales. Repeat the purification procedures until the specific gravity reads 7.3 or lower.

Store your ether in a clean glass jar with a solid stopper. Storage area should be a cool dark area. This ether will evaporate at 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ether is HIGHLY flammable!!! Keep away from flames or die! Always work with ether during cool weather. Ether is also an anesthetic (it makes you go to sleep), so work in a well ventilated, cool room.

Alcohol

Alcohol is a necessary component in the manufacture of smokeless powder. It is combined with ether to form ether-alcohol. When ether-alcohol is added to nitrocellulose, it dissolves the nitrocellulose and suspends it within the mixture as a colloid. This is the only method by which guncotton is made safe to use as a component in propellants.

Alcohol is easy to come by. What you'll need is ethyl alcohol of a high proof rate. 190-200 proof is readily available. Every survivalist has some knowledge of the distillation of alcohol. If you do not have the equipment, it will be easy to come by or you will easily make contact with someone already in possession of the necessary equipment and skills. Ethyl alcohol is available for purchase

as ethanol in the agricultural industry and through educational institutions.

Throughout the series of articles on the manufacture of smokeless powder, always assume that ethyl alcohol of the above high proof rate is the alcohol called for when alcohol is mentioned.

In many cases, commercial grade ethyl alcohol may be substituted with distilled vodka. When combined with ether to make ether-alcohol solvent, distilled vodka will work quite well. To distill vodka, set up a distiller beaker and collector beaker connected with glass tubing as for ether distillation. The ceramic pans with the sand and ice bath are not necessary.

Pour the vodka into the distiller beaker and place over a votive candle.

Connect with glass tubing to the collector beaker.

Allow 1/2 of the content of the distiller beaker to evaporate.

Disconnect the collector beaker and place solid stopper on the beaker. Store in a refrigerated or cool area in dark glass.

The alcohol in the collector beaker will be of a higher proof and suitable for ether-alcohol manufacture.

Ether-Alcohol

Ether-alcohol is just what it sounds like. It is a combination of ether of the above mentioned specific gravity and ethyl alcohol (or expediently distilled vodka).

To prepare ether-alcohol, place 1/2 pint of alcohol in a beaker. Into the alcohol, slowly add while stirring 1/2 pint of ether. When completely intermixed, place a solid stopper on the beaker.

Because ether and alcohol have low

evaporation points, prepare ether and ether-alcohol only shortly before you are ready to begin manufacturing smokeless powder.

Ether-alcohol is necessary for single based powders and there is no substitute for this component.

Acetone

Acetone may be used as a plasticizer in some single based and double based powders. It is also used as a solvent for vinsol resin, as mentioned.

The addition of acetone to double based powders may reduce the amount of ether-alcohol solvent necessary to colloid the guncotton.

There are claims that the first smokeless powders (cordite) had it's guncotton colloid by means of acetone only. I don't know if this is true, but ether-alcohol will work better. If you have some extra guncotton to spare, experiment with acetone to see how much of the guncotton is dissolved. Ether-alcohol will work better for you, though the addition of acetone will decrease the amount of ether-alcohol necessary.

These are the components you will need to be familiar with and will work with when manufacturing smokeless powder. Next issue, we will begin discussing formulae and procedures to actually produce smokeless powders.



Info-Line



Information On Alternative Health Care

by Pug Mahone and Corceigh Green

Most of you will have heard at this time of Florida's judicial system decision to execute Terri Schiavo by starving her to death. Terri Schiavo is the lady brought in to a Pinellas County, Florida hospital in 1990 with severe injuries leading some to think that Terri was assaulted. Terry's condition soon degraded and doctors declared her to be in a vegetative state.

Terri Schiavo's husband claimed that Mrs. Schiavo once stated that she would not want to live in a vegetative state. From that time Michael Schiavo, Terri's fair weather husband, had directed hospital administrators to remove the feeding tube from Terri and withhold food.

This has brought about a great legal battle that has culminated in the judicial system usurping the power of life and death. In fact, Terri Schiavo is not in a vegetative state and can respond to questions with eye blinking and sounds, yet, Michael Schiavo and some of the heartless doctors and court officials working for him insist on killing her. The motivation behind this has been covered in the *Kiss-Off Commentaries* in the January/February 2004 issue of *The*

Independent American.

Any American may find him or herself in Terri Schiavo's condition and unable to defend him/herself from a corrupt judiciary and medical community.

At the same time, the European Union is implementing a scheme called the Alimenterius Codex. This scheme outlaws the sale of all health products including vitamins, minerals and herbs without a doctor's prescription. In America, traitorous politicians are planning to subvert American sovereignty by merging the United States into a "Pan-American Union". One of this unlawful body's first order of business is an Alimenterius Codex for the Americas. This piece of tyranny is going to be based on Europe's tyranny.

If the stupid sheep and cows of Europe accept this horse crap that is their own business and fault. Americans don't have to swallow this garbage. We can think for ourselves. After all, with the example of Terri Schiavo, we are smart enough to determine where the direction of the corrupt judiciary and medical businesses are heading and we don't want to be a part of it. Americans will have to provide for their own health and defy the system if necessary.

To do this, Americans will need knowledge and training. Now is the time to begin learning about herbal medicines, plants and cultivation. It is unlikely, given the above information, that Americans will continue to enjoy their freedoms of choice when it comes to the types of health care available. Let's examine what knowledge exists and where you may find it available.

Books are excellent choices for learning about alternative health care. You may check them out at your local library and buy the ones you find most helpful. Below are a sample of the books I own and find helpful. You may find others still on your search.

One of the most useful books I've run across is *Using Plants For Healing* by Nelson Coon. Coon gets much of his information from Culpepper, one of the renaissance's physicians and studier of medicinal plants. Coon's study and information on medicinal plants goes beyond Culpepper, however. Coon gives a fair account of the histories of using plants for healing around the world and the preparation of plants into remedies. Dosages and parts of plants useful are described as well as the plants environment and where to find them. This is an excellent book for beginners and experts.

Earl Mindell's Herb Bible by Earl Mindell should be read by all beginners and anyone buying herbs from health food stores or apothecaries. A list of the 100 herbs most in demand and useful are given and what ailments they are remedies for. Further lists of Chinese, Ayurvedic, Native American and South American herbs are also included. Herbal remedies for varying conditions for men and women are included as well. This book is quite handy for ordering health products from supplement retailers who are forbidden by bureaucracies from telling you what these herbs are good for.

Reader's Digest Magic and Medicine of Plants is a fine source of medicinal herbal information. This hard bound book contains information on making herbal preparations and a history of medicinal herbs. Most importantly for this book, there are very good color photos and information on where these herbs grow, where to find them, what parts are used and the properties they contain. The plants are easily identified through the photos. Combined with locations of where the plants grow and what time of year to gather the herb, the descriptions in the book make collecting in the wild easy for the beginner. This book also contains information provided by the FDA which must be taken with a grain of salt. The FDA is not exactly a credible organization. They are known to put the collection of revenue above the discovery of

remedies useful to the common people. Some of the information provided by the FDA can be followed, but research what is claimed by the FDA very well.

Mitton's Practical Modern Herbal by F. and V. Mitton is provides a quick reference for those already familiar with working with herbs. It has a quick encyclopedia with a minimum of information on medicinal plants while the first half of the book is a compilation of case histories. Useful, but not too useful for the beginner.

There are many other titles as well, so research and read a lot at the library. Add to your own library as well when you come across titles that are useful for you.

On the web, there is www.herbalhealer.com. Herbal healer has a newsletter called *Herbal Healer News*. It can be received by signing up on the web site or ordering at; Herbal Healer, 127 McCain Dr., Mt View, AR 72560 or calling 870-269-4177. This site offers courses in herbal and naturopathic training. Highly recommended.

For products check out www.vitaminshoppe.com. Send for their catalog at The Vitamin Shoppe, 2101 91st Street, North Bergen, New Jersey 07047. The Vitamin Shoppe sells packaged herbal remedies, supplements, vitamins and minerals. Their products are quite good and they have the best prices available. They also sell books. Check these books out at the library. If they are useful to you, buy them and add them to your library.

With threats to our health care freedoms presenting themselves as they are, Americans will need to learn how to care for themselves. Now is the time to learn.



Firearms And Survival

by Glenn Boman

There has long been debate concerning the various types, makes, calibers, and other pertinent features related to the “best” handgun for survival purposes or for all-around use. Which caliber do I personally recommend? Why? What about action types? We’ll delve into those questions now just to let you know that there is plenty of room for debate on the subject.

Fact number one is this, one must choose his/her handgun with its end use in mind. In addition, other critical factors should also be taken into consideration. For example, how would the handgun chosen for self-defense do as a hunting handgun in an emergency situation? (And, vice versa?) A good case can be made for specialization in handgun choices based upon perceived need/use(s). And, in reality, this is probably the bottom-line truth. It is my personally held belief that in most any situation one would find himself/herself where a handgun could be of life saving use, any handgun would be better than none. And, it is also my personal belief that there are two major categories within which most handguns fall with a distant third category. It is with this third category that I will deal first.

My “third” category of handguns are those that make the user/carrier feel more secure, but in actuality, they are little more than distant hope and semi-false security. These are the tiny little pocket pistols in .25 ACP and .22 caliber rimfire. These tiny handguns are fun plinkers, easily concealed, and can do chores in self defense that are seemingly beyond their scope of ability in properly trained hands. The terrible truth is, there are multiplied thousands of these tiny guns in pockets and purses all across our land and many of them have never even been fired by those who “feel secure” just knowing that they are there. They might be better than

nothing and sometimes do serve the owner well in dire times. We have all read about little old grandmothers who took out the housebreaker with her dead husband’s little pocket Colt .25 ACP that she had kept in the nightstand drawer for decades. Such success stories are few, however. If you or anyone you know trusts these little, usually semiautomatic handguns for your ultimate life-saving defense, you’d better be highly trained and skilled in their use. Alas, it is my fear that they are generally used to sooth the mind rather than having their carry based upon hard cold facts. With that said, I will now go on to the two “main” categories of handguns as I see them.

The first category is that of the self-defense pistol. I suspect that more handguns are now being sold for this reason than all others put together even with the growth of handgun shooting games like IPSC and Cowboy Shooting, both of which are growing rapidly. The growth of handgun hunting is leveling off after its surge in recent years as well. There are two action types of handguns that I consider adequate for self-defense: the revolver and the semi-automatic. This will no doubt be disputed by many people, but the calibers for self-defense should be at least .38 Special in the revolver and the 9MM in the semi-automatic handguns. I would not feel under-gunned with a suitable .38 Special revolver even in the short “snub-nosed” design which usually has a barrel of only two to three inches. With that caliber, I’d prefer the +P (higher pressure) 158 grain hollowpoint plain lead bullet that is sometimes referred to as the “FBI Load” due to its having been at one time the choice of the FBI in their revolvers. I want the plain lead bullet due to the possibility that it will expand without having to overcome the non-expansion qualities of a copper jacketed bullet. The weight, being 158 grains, would also ensure that there would be penetration in the adversary. Remember, I consider this to be a personal minimum in any revolver that I’d carry for self-defense in a hostile situation.

As for the 9MM cartridge, my personal preference is now the 124 grain jacketed hollowpoint round in most any reliably functioning semi-automatic pistol. Again, my personal preference is in any pistol that has at least seven to eight round capability up to the fifteen round magazine capacity handguns. Don't forget that I am talking "minimum" here. I consider the 9MM to be the minimum caliber upon which to defend my existence. The personal choice that is usually with me is the Colt .45 ACP Commander semi-automatic handgun. The 9MM and the .45 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) rounds are my personal choices in this arena. In the 9MM, I simply don't favor the 147 grain bullets since they are too slow for adequate expansion of the hollowpoint bullets with any degree of reliability..., again, my personal opinion. Even some of the governmental agencies that once favored this heavier bullet design have now backed off in favor of the lighter, more easily expandable 124 grain load.

A well-trained individual who stays proficient through diligent practice with his/her handgun as per the above recommendations will be a formidable foe to any adversary bent on harm. With that stated, I'll now continue with the second category of handguns that the prepared person will perhaps need to consider... the hunting handgun/wilderness protection handgun.

Most of us will never have a reason to confront dangerous game animals like the larger bears or a rut-crazed moose. But, there may be times when we do have occasion(s) to put our safety into the efficient use of a "hunting handgun", so to speak. Hunting/wilderness protection handguns should be of sufficient caliber to humanely take our intended game and provide us with reasonable expectations of security in the hinterlands where some of us venture from time to time. With the thought that I have begun with "minimum" requirements in mind, let me continue in this category as well. The minimum handgun for wilderness treks would

be a good .357 magnum revolver loaded with at least a 158 grain bullet of the jacketed hollowpoint design of at least factory level "magnum" loading and performance. The .357 will dispatch large game animals like white tailed deer and even some of the smaller eastern black bears should that situation arise. The .357 in practiced hands would be a powerful small game getter in the raccoon, coyote/fox, and similar sized game range. For even smaller game like rabbits and squirrels, one could use the target .38 or .357 wadcutter ammunition that is lower powered and very effective in the accuracy and performance areas for such tasks while at the same time reserving the last three shots in the gun's cylinder for the full-house .357 magnum loads in case there was an encounter with larger game unexpectedly. My personal carry revolver for backwoods hunting of deer and general carry is a Ruger Redhawk revolver in .44 magnum caliber. Why then the .357? Remember that is the starting minimum as I've stated before.! The .44 magnum can do anything that a handgun of this type can do even to the taking of the largest big game on our continent... in skilled hands with proper shooting techniques and proper bullet loads. The .357 is easier to handle and its recoil is not as severe as the .44 magnum, so it is easier to master in my opinion. Anyone equipped with a .357 who has taken the time to become proficient in its use will seldom if ever have a need for anything more powerful. It is easier to carry due to its weighing less and the bulk of the ammunition is not as great as with the .44 magnum. Still, for guaranteed optimum carry capabilities, go with the .44 magnum in a suitable firearm. By "suitable", I mean one with, again my opinion, a barrel length of at least six inches so that the power of the .44 magnum can be more effectively utilized. The shorter the barrel length, the less velocity the bullet has. Some of the so-called "mountain revolvers" by S&W with their three inch barrels are terribly hard to control and under-utilize the potential of this caliber, but they are handier to carry due to less bulk and barrel length.

A good compromise for wilderness carry would be the .45 Colt caliber sometimes called the “.45 Long Colt”. This is the cartridge that helped win the west back in the last century and its recoil is most manageable while throwing a very heavy 250 to 255 grain bullet out the barrel. If you are recoil sensitive, and yet want to chunk big lead bullets at your intended target, you might want to give this old caliber a try! If you reload your own ammunition, you can even perk up the round’s effectiveness a bit with careful up-loading so that the bullet comes out the barrel at about 1,000 feet per second or more in your quality handgun like the Ruger Blackhawk. Any more up-loading, and the question I’d ask you is, “Why not just go with the .44 magnum?”

I have not even begun to scratch the surface of this debate found almost monthly in the gun magazines. It would literally take a book to deal in depth with the subject, but maybe this has given you some ideas of my personal beliefs about handguns and how they should be and can be used effectively in the various scenarios into which one puts a handgun. Think on these ideas and let me know your thoughts. Hey, its even okay to be neutral since you own only shotguns or rifles or no guns at all.



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What's In The News

Court Grants We The People Foundation Sur-Reply In Suit Against Government

DOJ Faces Tall Constitutional Hurdles
On Its Motion To Dismiss

Last week, the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC granted We The People the final word in the now months-long battle over the government's Motion to Dismiss the People's landmark Right-to-Petition lawsuit.

The court, in a relatively infrequent move, granted WTP's motion for permission to file a "Sur-Reply" to counter new arguments raised in the government's Reply to WTP's opposition to the government's motion to dismiss the complaint.

The government had expected its Reply would be the final pleading on its motion to dismiss, and then opposed WTP's motion for permission to file a Sur-Reply.

In its Reply, the Department of Justice did not rebut the formidable arguments put forth by WTP in opposition to the Government's claim of "sovereign immunity" as a bar to being sued.

Read about the law suit at
www.givemeliberty.org

Criminal Charges Against Philadelphia Christians Dropped

AFA Will Continue To Pursue Civil Action Against The City And District Attorney

Great news! A judge has dismissed all criminal charges against the Philly 4. As you know, they were arrested and charged with crimes that could have sent them to prison for up to 47 years with fines of \$90,000.

However, simply because the criminal

charges have been dismissed, including charges against a minor, doesn't mean the case has ended. In fact, our attorneys are continuing with civil action to see why such outrageous charges were ever filed in the first place.

These individuals were doing nothing more than exercising their First Amendment rights.

AFA has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of all 11 Christians (the number of all those originally charged) against the City of Philadelphia and the District Attorney's office.

The lawsuit seeks to hold responsible the government, officials and individuals who were involved in the arrest, charging, and prosecution of these Christians. The lawsuit alleges that the City and District Attorney's office retaliated against the Christians for exercising their First Amendment rights.

If we don't pursue this, similar actions can and will occur against Christians in Philadelphia and other cities.

To help understand the background and seriousness of this case, we have prepared a 25-minute video/DVD. It deals with what happened and helps the viewer understand the need to proceed with the civil lawsuit.

In the video/DVD two AFA attorneys discuss the case in detail. Included in the video/DVD is actual footage of the event.

This case is far from over. We must not let it go unchallenged.

With your tax-deductible gift of \$15, we will send your choice of either the video or DVD. Watch the video/DVD. Share it with your Sunday School class and church. This video/DVD should be shown in every church in America.

Thanks for caring enough to get involved. We must not allow this to happen again!

Sincerely,

Don

Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman
American Family Association

Judge Set To Starve Terri Schiavo To Death

Terri Schiavo's life hangs in the balance. Your actions could help prevent her from being starved to death.

Sixth Judicial Circuit Judge George Greer has put a temporary stay on his order to pull the tube on Terri and let her die a slow, agonizing death by starvation. Here is the short version of what's happening.

In 1990, Terri suffered a serious brain injury. In a 2000 trial Terri's husband asked for the feeding tube to be removed. He had abandoned their marriage long ago by living with another woman and having two children with her. He has claimed hundreds of thousands of dollars from disability insurance.

According to Tony Perkins at Family Research Council, her husband pocketed the money and let Terri live without the medical attention he had promised to provide.

Terri's parents want to take care of her, but her husband wants her to die. The court has sided with the husband. Terri's parents have renounced any settlement claims and are willing to care for their daughter at their own expense. The judge has refused to grant their request.

In Florida, starving an animal is a criminal offense but starving a disabled woman is not.

Please ask Judge Greer not to punish an innocent, disabled woman by starving her to death.

TAKE ACTION

Please send the e-mail to Judge Greer asking him not to kill Terri.

Sincerely,

Don

Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman
American Family Association

HBO's Bill Maher Says Christians Have Neurological Disorder, Are Crazy

Bill Maher, host of HBO's Real Time With Bill Maher, says that all Christians are crazy and are unenlightened because of their faith. Maher made the comments on MSNBC's Scarborough Country.

Maher said: "We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion...I think that religion stops people from thinking. I think it justifies crazies. I think that flying planes in a building was a faith-based initiative. I think religion is a neurological disorder. If you look at it logically, it's something that was drilled into your head when you were a small child."

"When you look at belief in such things--as do you go to heaven, is there a devil--we have more in common with (Muslin countries) Turkey and Iran and Syria than we do with European nations and Canada and nations that, yes, I would consider more enlightened than us."

Maher said he wasn't speaking only of evangelicals, but included all religious people. He said he agreed with Jesse Ventura "who had that quote about religion is a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers."

Because of their neurological disorder, he said Christians "do not believe in science and rationality." He went on to say the future does not belong to religion. One recalls the famous

quote from the Beatles in the 60's that they "were more popular than Jesus."

According to Maher, the Bible is a book of fairy tales, calling the account of Jonah a fairy tale the same as Jack in the Beanstalk.

Had Maher said such things about homosexuals, he would have been immediately fired. But because he was speaking of Christians, his bigotry was acceptable to HBO, owned by Time Warner Inc.

TAKE ACTION

Send Mr. Maher an email saying you regret he has such a low view of Christians, and will pray that he be "enlightened" as to the true nature of Christianity. Explain to him that Christians appreciate the good science does and most Christians are rational individuals.

Sincerely,

Don

Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman American Family Association

Clinton says wife, Hillary, would make excellent first U.S. female president

Former president Bill Clinton said Sunday his wife, Hillary, would be an excellent choice as the first female leader of the world's most powerful nation.

In an interview with Japan's TV Asahi, Clinton said that he did not know whether his wife had any plans to one day run for the U.S. presidency, which has been held by 43 men but no women. "I don't know if she'll run or not," he told the network, but added, "She would make an excellent president, and I would always try to help her."

Hillary Rodham Clinton has said she plans to run for re-election as senator of New York state in 2006. Speculation has periodically

surfaced, however, that the 57-year-old former first lady may have her sights set for the presidency in 2008.

Results from a U.S. poll released last week showed that six in 10 American voters believe the United States is ready for a female president.

Fifty-three percent thought Hillary Clinton should try for the job, according to the survey by the Siena College Research Institute and sponsored by Hearst Newspapers.

"If she did run and she was able to win, she'd make a very, very good president," Clinton said Sunday.

When asked which of the two was more talented, Clinton was not as direct.

"I was in it more so for a long time I was better. But I think now she's at least as good as I was," he replied.

Clinton was in Japan on a three-day visit to attend an international forum organized by the Asahi newspaper and to promote a Japanese-language edition of his best-selling memoir "My Life."

And I thought Hillary already *was* the first female U.S. President!



Notes From All Over

by Doug and Cathy Joury

Writing has always been an important part of my life. I took journalism my senior year in high school. I was allowed to take two classes back to back, beginning and advanced journalism, and worked on page layout. Later, at a junior college in Boise, Idaho I was sports editor on the Boise Bronco. I played third base on the baseball team and wrote articles for the newspaper. I also selected the pictures that appeared in the sports page. That's how I learned to become my own press agent.

At the end of my second year at Boise I signed a pro baseball contract with the Phillies, probably at least partially because of all the publicity that I received in the Bronco.

My career as a sports writer came to an end with a short stint at the Idaho Daily Statesman. After working there for a week I asked one of the veteran reporters on the staff what kind of salary he made. It wasn't enough to pay for my college tuition, so I gave up my aspirations for a career in journalism. A year later baseball gave up on me, and for several very good reasons I joined the army.

But I learned to promote myself. That was the important thing. Years later, when my wife and I decided to self publish books on rodeo, promotion seemed to come natural to me. After you've written and published a book, you have to sell it, and that spells p.r.o.m.o.t.i.o.n. That's where most self published authors have trouble. Writing is a solitary business, something you do by yourself. People can give you advice, suggest, encourage, but they can't do the writing for you. But if you're persistent and have even a little talent, it will get done. Then you're faced with selling what you've written.

Many writers are weak on the basics of spelling, grammar and punctuation. Thomas Wolfe wrote in long hand on yellow notebook paper, three words per line, three or four lines per page. He didn't number his pages, just tossed them on the floor and his secretary gathered them up and put them together into a book. Somebody else usually does the spell-checking, grammar corrections and punctuation. That has always been the job of the publisher. You don't have that help today.

The publishing world recently underwent a transformation. An agent explained to my wife and I how for several years established publishers have over published and most of them went broke. They're taking fewer chances after watching their compatriots go under, and they're sitting on their hands, afraid to commit themselves to projects that a few years ago they had jumped at; so, instead of sending a manuscript in to have it read by a publisher and possibly having it published, as in the past, you're on your own. The rules have changed. It's up to the author to do everything. According to a recent newspaper article, forty percent of the books published in the state of Oregon are self published.

In 1996, my wife and I started conducting interviews for an oral history book on rodeo. We tape record conversations with interesting people who knew something about the early history of rodeo. We enjoy talking to people and the interviews are unbelievably interesting. A writer has a single perspective, but fifty interviews represent fifty different points of view.

The interviews have taken us all over the Northwest and to the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. The surprising thing has been the willingness of people to talk to us. They have taken us seriously from the beginning, even when we had nothing to show but good faith.

After the introductions are written and the interviews are completed, we do the editing, spell-checking, lay-out, and then we double check everything before sending it off to our printer. The printer then turns the manuscript into a book. The proofs are returned to us for any changes and revisions. Then we once again return them to the printer. When the printing is completed, we're notified and we drive over to Bend to pick up the books. We back the van up to the double-doors in the rear of the building and they help us load. That's the end of our relationship.

The next phase is promotion, something self publishers are forced into because of the failure of the publishing world. We'll discuss our experiences in self publishing and promoting in more detail in future issues of Independent American.