

AMERICAN SURVIVOR

SURVIVAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEW AMERICAN

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IN THIS ISSUE: Fiftieth Annual Meeting Report, Camp Independence 2018 Report, Save Live Free USA, 50th Anniversary Luncheon?, Survival Group Organization, Survival Pack Weaponry, Survival Blankets and Shelters, More

Special Live Free USA Organization Issue

Providing our member/subscribers with useful survival and emergency preparedness information is usually the first priority for this publication, but this issue is primarily devoted to organizational issues and reports. If we cannot sustain the organization we will not be able to provide the information, publications and support for individual and family preparedness and self-reliance that has been our mission for over 50-years.

Live Free USA Fiftieth Annual Meeting Report

While we had planned to make this meeting a celebration of our fifty-years of leadership in survival and self-reliance, we just did not have the resources and the time to put an event together. We did have lots of photos and memorabilia on hand including photos of media helicopters landing at our original American Survival Education Center in Wisconsin. Jim Jones put together a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the evolution, history and achievements of the organization since 1968. Some time was devoted to a review that founding year and the chaotic and violent conditions that generated the survival and self-reliance movement. Most of the issues of that era remain today and continue to generate conflict. The presentation concluded with a list of unfinished or stalled projects that Live Free

still hopes to regenerate in the coming years. They are:

- **The American Survival Education Center:** We once had 40-acres of wooded land in Wisconsin developed as a survival education center, but were forced to sell it because of lack of support. We did this by member contributions and doing car-washes in the 1970s. We have far more members and supporters today. Surely we can get contributions and grants to acquire land and develop such a facility today?
- **The Certified Survival Instructors Program:** We established requirements, certified instructors and issued certificates and brassards in the 1980s, but just did not have enough help to keep the program going. Nowadays this would be a website and some records maintenance.
- **The Annual Life and Freedom Award:** We have issued this plaque and recognition periodically, but not annually.

Candidates need to be nominated, publicity needs to be generated and then a buzz needs to be generated in the survival/preparedness community. Nowadays the internet and social-media could be used to make this a major PR program for Live Free. Anyone?

- **Safety and Security Group:** Most organizations have a Sargent at Arms. Live Free once had a well-established and trained security group that provided security at our events, trained for camp and survival defense operations and provided training in self-defense, home-defense and related issues. This element of survival capacity has deteriorated and needs to be reestablished with a strong, well-lead core group.
- **Other issues: We have zero sponsors or advertisers!** As a 50 year-old, established, tax-deductible organization that's hard to understand, but someone should be working on that issue. The **Survival Medics Group** is functioning, but needs more support and participation. It should have its own website and/or do more with the page it has on our americansurvivor.org site. There is no doubt **that we could improve the newsletter**, but with just one very busy couple writing, producing, labeling and mailing it alone, we are just able to do what we do now. The current editor stated that anyone volunteering to take over the American Survivor must do so (including, mailing and posting) permanently as he will not take it back once it has been reformatted.

State of Live Free

Jim Jones reported that Live Free finished 2017 with a balance of \$8,837.41. This is a gain of \$486.31 from the previous year. He noted that only thirty-percent of our income

was from membership, while over fifty-percent was from book sales earned by just a few active members. **Total contribution was a paltry \$154.50.** Membership was down about ten-percent, but trending up at years-end. In 2017 Live Free did three major preparedness expositions, nine gun shows, and two survival seminar programs. We currently have two preparedness expositions and Camp Independence planned for 2018. We are scheduled to do seven gun shows at Crown Point Indiana, but have **free tables available to us throughout Illinois if we can find volunteers to man them.** We also hope to get help with the tables at South Bend shows.

Election of Officers for Three-Year Terms

Officers are elected for three-year, overlapping terms. This year the Vice President, Treasurer, and one Director were for election. The elected officers are:

- John Boch reelected as Vice President*
- Marie Jones reelected as Treasurer
- Michelle Augustyn newly elected as a Director

At the end of the meeting Jim Jones announced that he is resigning as President of Live Free USA effective January 1st 2019. He reminded all that he had accepted reelection in 2016 with the understanding that he would not complete the three year term. He further stated that he would not call the next annual meeting, file the reincorporating papers or complete the IRS tax filing next year, but will continue to do the newsletter, and speak at expos if requested by the directors. **He also offered to serve as a director if nominated, but will not accept nomination to President or Vice President in the future.** This leaves the organization with the task of reorganizing a bit in the next ten months.

This opens the door to younger members to step in and build a new organization on the resources and foundation of the most respected and well established survival/self-reliance advocacy organization in America.

Personal Note

I think it is for the good of the organization that I step back a bit and let others make Live Free their organization. I have plan "A" for my full support of a vibrant and growing Live Free USA run by active members and directors and I have a plan "B" to draw-down membership and activities over a two-year period if necessary. I have a few ideas about reorganization that I will present by this autumn, but the future of Live Free USA is (as it always has been) up to you, the members.

** John Boch resigned in order to leave the Vice President position open to other more able to devote time to the tasks at hand. John is a major administrator in the Guns Save Lives organization and is fully occupied with the issues of gun rights at this time. He continues to support Live Free USA as an active member.*

CAMP INDEPENDENCE 2.0

Camp Independence has been a signature-event for Live Free USA since the mid-1960s. Starting at Tippecanoe River State Park in Indiana with just a few members, the event expanded over the years to utilize the entire 38 building Group Camp facility with hundreds in attendance and even media helicopters dropping-in to interview Live Free officers and members. It is America's original preparedness and survival expo and training event. Unfortunately, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources elected to close the

Group Camp facilities in 2014. That facility was unique in that it offered plenty of family cabins, a big dining and meeting hall and multiple other building for conducting classes and even scenario-based training. While we were not able to find comparable facilities anywhere else, we were able to rent an entire Boy Scout camp near Michigan City Indiana for the weekend of May 18-20, 2018 and conduct a new version of the event. The rental cost was about double what we paid at Tippecanoe and the income sources (e.g. Cabin rentals) was severely limited. We lost a bit on the events admission charges, but made some money thanks to generous participation in the Survival Stuff Raffle. The weather was cool and wet and this also impacted participation. While we had five instructors drop out at the last-minute there was still plenty of classes and show and tell for all participants. In fact several instructors never got to do their classes before the time ran out. We were not able to take advantage of the available archery and BB-gun ranges due to the rain and instructor shortages. Many past participants came expecting to have meals available as we did at Tippecanoe, but we had no one to volunteer to do this. Some of the best things happened around the shelter and the campfire in the evenings where networking and rededications were made. Whether we are able to continue to do Camp Independence next year depends on several factors (1) if the facilities at Camp To-Pe-Ne-Bee are available to us (2) If we have more dependable support for managing the event and conducting classes and (3) if we have a reliable team to provide meals. We also may elect to do smaller camp events at other locations. Of course the biggest requirement is that we can build on this year's event to get two-or-three times as many participants. We hope to hear from

members and make a decision by this September. Stay tuned.



Brian Clay conducts a demonstration in the shelter on Saturday afternoon



Just a few of the survival related raffle prizes. Just about everyone won something



Vehicle lined up by the shelter where some of the classes were conducted. Note the tent in the foreground, part of the survival shelter exhibit



A class on survival-packs in the training center. This facility was well lit, comfortable and spacious.



Camp sites were free with admission. They were nice, wooded and convenient to the training areas. Firewood was provided.

SAVE LIVE FREE USA

Ordinarily we would have three open offices to fill each year, but with the President's resignation effective on January 1st 2019 and the Vice President having resigned last month we face the 2019 Annual Meeting in March with five open offices. **Failure to fill these offices with**

active, motivated candidates will leave the organization virtually leaderless and inactive. Members old and new need to step forward in advance and get involved. If we go into that meeting without predetermined and pre-committed candidates there will probably be no Live Free USA by the end of that year. **You can start networking with the existing officers and we offer a 200 word space in our newsletter and website postings for potential candidates to announce their candidacy and state their qualifications, visions and goals for the organization.** The five open offices to be filled in 2019 are:

- President: To fill the remaining term of the resigning officer from 2019 until March 2020 when an election for a full three-year term will be held *
- Vice President: To fill the remaining two year term from 2019 until 2021
- Membership Secretary: Term from 2019 till 2022
- Director #1: Term from 2019 till 2022
- Director #2: Term from 2019 till 2022

**The current President has expressed intentions of becoming a Director*



50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER or LUNCHEON

Our organization is celebrating our 50th Year of support and advocacy for self-reliance and emergency preparedness. While some of our programs are doing well we just got too busy to put together an

appropriate event to celebrate this achievement. September is already booked for activities, but we could still do something in October or early November. Maybe a luncheon at a NW Indiana hotel or restaurant with enough space for some exhibits and presentations. A \$30.00 contribution for attendance? We would need to have at least 20-30 guaranteed attendance in order to put a deposit on a room. **WE MUST HEAR FROM THOSE WHO WOULD WANT TO ATTEND BEFORE AUGUST 1st** so we have time to set up the event up and to post it on the website and in the newsletter. Anyone with ideas on a location is welcome to make suggestions.

Survival Group Organization

By James C. Jones, EMT, CHCM, and founder of Live Free USA

It totally amazes me that most people and most groups just start out doing things without ever establishing a clear mission and vision about what they are trying to do. No wonder that people wind up in situations they don't understand or desire. No wonder that many survival groups start out well and then fracture or become moribund. You cannot expect to get "it" done unless you have established what exactly "it" is. You cannot succeed until you have a clear idea of what "success" will look like. Once that is established all of your goals, programs and decisions can be made based on the mission. The five mission statements below are examples of the variety of missions a typical survival group may have. In most cases a combination of several of these may define what the group is created to achieve. Such mission statements should be written and agreed to by all members.

- To mutually support each-others efforts to achieve greater levels of self-reliance and independence.
- To mutually support each-others effort to prepare for emergencies and disasters
- To cooperate in the acquisition of survival and self-reliance equipment, supplies and training.
- To develop mutually supporting emergency plans for all perceived disasters and threats.
- To participate in and support local and community emergency response and survival education programs.

An organization is a tool for a purpose. Once that mission is clearly established the tool must be created to best accomplish the mission. The following are a few examples of survival group organization types.

Multi-Level Survival Group Organization

A survival group is often challenged by the often conflicting levels of preparedness among members. The group may start out with a wide range of preparedness levels and goals. Better prepared members may be reluctant to share plans with less committed individuals and families. Others may find it difficult to meet advanced requirements for supplies and standardized equipment. Many people want to learn more about preparedness and work with others, but have no interest in being part of a combined survival, evacuation team. A group that moves everyone towards a fixed level of preparedness without continually providing out-reach activities and basic education to new recruits will eventually become internalized and dormant. One approach to developing a sustainable and dynamic survival group is the multi-level system. Of course the number of levels and requirements can vary greatly depending on the group's composition and mission statement. This is just one example.

Tier One (probationary)

There are no specific preparedness requirements at this level. These members may attend some training activities and meetings that do not reveal specific emergency plans or individual preparedness levels and gear.

Tier Two

At this level the member must have a fully-equipped Bugout-Bag, the handgun and rifle designated by the group, at least 250 rounds of ammunition for each of the designated weapons, three-month food supply per person, home water purification equipment, recommended medical supplies, recommended clothing and bedding, adequate winter survival gear, and be able to perform basic survival skills such as basic first aid, firearms use, and water purification.

Tier Three

At this level, the member is included in the group's emergency evacuation, action and rally location plans. The member must have all of the Tier Two supplies and skills plus additional requirements. They must have 1000 rounds of ammunition for each of their primary firearms at the designated emergency rally location along with a one-year food supply, clothing and bedding, personal hygiene supplies and seeds for establishing a sustainable food supply along with other equipage for sustainable survival. NBC survival gear may also be required at this level.

Tier Four

The member must have met all of the above requirements. A Tier Four member will have increased food, ammunition and other supplies and must have developed specialized skills such as advanced medical, communications, combat, repair, food preservation, food acquisition or other survival critical capabilities.

Informal “Survival or Preparedness Club”

Survivalists are highly individualistic and have a wide range of preparedness goals and capabilities. Many folks do want to share knowledge, exchange ideas and participate in educational activities, but prefer to make individual and family preparedness plans on their own. These are reasonable citizens and strong families that can work together to improve everyone’s safety without the requirements of meeting rigid expectations. Such organizations can attend survival education events together, camp together, and even organize picnics and other semi-social activities. They may also make group purchases to get discounts on survival supplies. Depending on the community, some preparedness clubs may even sponsor preparedness seminars or fairs. There certainly may be more closed survival groups within the club that share more detailed emergency plans.

Embedded or Affiliated Survival/Preparedness Team

Many existing organizations have taken an interest in emergency preparedness and survival. Fraternal organizations, business groups, religious groups, community groups and even sporting organizations have begun to explore ways to help their members be safer and better prepared for immediate and long-term emergencies. The organization of a safety and preparedness “team” or “committee” within an existing group would be much simpler than creating an outside group. As always: the mission must be clearly established and be compatible with sponsoring organization. In this case, the team’s primary task would be to improve the safety of the organizations members. This goal might be achieved through sponsoring educational activities

such as CPR, first aid, food preservation preparedness and self-defense classes. The team could also make arrangements to provide evacuation-packs, survival food, and other survival related items. Considering the increasing incidents of violence and crime, the team could also designate and train members to provide security and defense at meetings and activities. Networking and affiliating with national preparedness organizations such as Live Free USA could greatly enhance the effectiveness of such teams.

Public Service Preparedness Advocacy and Education Group

A “survival group” may just be organized to help their friends and community become better prepared and more self-reliant and leave the more intensive and specific emergency planning and organizing to others. This is a highly responsible and beneficial mission. Building stronger and safer communities is an effective method for assuring one’s own safety. A variety of other kinds of survival/preparedness groups can be developed from these activities while continuing to provide a valuable and accepted public service. This mode allows for more active advocacy and even political and philosophical activism while providing valuable education and support for individuals and families in their efforts to achieve greater levels of preparedness and self-reliance.

Conclusion

I must recommend that you read my article “Organizing a Survival Team” that includes the many lessons that Live Free USA has learned over the past fifty years and specifies the dos and don’ts of survival group operations. Whatever organizational model you are using or chose to use for your group, you must be active, forward thinking

and have at least some element of outreach and networking. While privacy and security are a necessity, becoming obsessively internalized and paranoid is sure to lead to decline and ineffectiveness. In fact, those with paranoid tendencies and extreme views are a poor fit for a responsible survival/preparedness organization and should be avoided and discouraged from membership regardless of their potential skills and equipment contributions. Be proud of yourself and your associations in whatever you do.

Survival-Pack Weaponry

Regardless of the anticipated situation that would necessitate the use of a so-called bugout-bag, or survival-pack, that pack should include some form of weaponry. This component of the pack can range from minimal self-protection to paramilitary combat capability. The weapons in your pack may be supplemented with holstered handguns and/or long-guns as needed, but some weaponry should be contained within the pack itself. The recommended FEMA evacuation pack list definitely does not include firearms as the government always seeks to have exclusive responsibility for your protection, even when they can't actually provide that protection. For those situations where just a short-term evacuation for a temporary emergency is anticipated the small pack may be adequate, your concealed-carry weapon and a few extra magazines should be enough. However, if you're going to be on your own and truly need a complete survival pack for an extended or permanent evacuation, a more robust and versatile weapons suite will be required.

Internal Pack Weapons

The majority of the space and weight of your pack must be devoted to shelter, warmth, food, water, medical aid and other survival essentials, but there are some devices that can significantly improve your defensive and food gathering options without adding much weight or taking up much room.

In most cases we can assume that the survivor will keep a full-size hand-gun and/or long-gun right next to the pack to gun-up as part of the evacuation process. Depending on the situation, it may be prudent to keep these weapons cased and concealed until needed. In other situations you may elect to holster the side-arm, carry the long-gun and have a vest or pockets full of extra magazines. If your access to firearms is limited, you should at least have a reliable medium caliber (38 cal., 9 mm, 45 cal., etc.) handgun and extra ammunition stored inside pack with a holster. If you have children in the house, the gun should be stored empty and/or locked and the ammunition should be at the bottom of the pack not next to the weapon.

My pack content includes three alternative weapons that occupy just a small corner of my pack as shown below.



1. The brake-down .22 caliber AR-7 survival rifle (top center) has an 8 round detachable magazine and weighs just 2

lbs., 4 oz. It is made by Henry Repeating Arms and sells for \$290.00. It comes with a rather bulky floating stock that I replaced that with the after-market folding stock from AR-7.com for just \$50.95 to make it an ultra-compact survival rifle that is ideal for small game and last-ditch self-defense. 50 to 100 rounds of 22 long-rifle ammunition is not too heavy. An alternative would be the Chappa Arms "Little Badger" single shot .22 cal. Rifle at just \$180.00.

2. The 5-piece, take-down, Nomad™ survival bow (bottom center) can be assembled in seconds and has a 45-lb draw. It comes in a nylon case (right) with 4 take-down arrows for just \$107.00. Its space and weight are negligible. The alternative folding SAS Tactical Survival Bow™ sell for \$219.95 and folds to just 21 inches. I consider a survival bow as a must-have addition to the pack.
3. Way back when I didn't have much money for a bow or a firearm, I had a slingshot in my pack. These devices are silent, cheap, use improvised ammunition and can be lethal when necessary. Some versions of "survival slingshots come with adapters for shooting arrows". Slingshots come in a wide variety of designs and sizes from small \$5.00 hand-held to rather large wrist-rocket™ types selling for up to \$60.00. I recommend a medium size with a folding wrist extension. These provide enough power to take down small-game without taking up much room in the pack. The slingshot shown here (right) represent the high end of the weight/size/power spectrum. Slingshot power is dependent on the strength of the bands, the length of the pull, and the weight and aerodynamics of the ammunition. Steel ball-bearings are the

preferred projectile, but small rounded stones will do. As with any weapon, practice make for accuracy and you can practice a lot with a slingshot.

External Survival Pack Weapons

I advocate keeping your boots, knife, firearms and other survival related items right next to your survival pack at all times. Keeping them all together in a tote-bin ready to load-and-go on a minutes notice makes sense. Evacuation and escape should be a one-step process. Depending on your budget and anticipated situations you may elect to go with a large-capacity hand-gun or a "defense-capable" long-gun, or both.

Concealed carry, crime defense handguns are usually smaller size, smaller-caliber and smaller magazine capacity weapons. These are ideal for every-day carry and may be adequate for some survival situations, but in cases where civil-disorder and long-term chaos develops you need to have a reliable, full-size, semi-automatic pistol with at least a 17-round and preferably 20-round magazine along with at least four extra magazines in 9-milimeter, 40-caliber or larger.

While a hunting or target rifle may be better than nothing under survival conditions their extra weight, slow rate of fire and limited magazine capacities are not ideal for defending your life and the lives of those you care about. What you need is a "defense-capable" long-gun such as those based on the military AR-15 design. These feature light-weight, durable polymer stocks, and 30-round magazines, firing 5.56 NATO, 306 Winchester or 223 Remington ammunition. Some of these come with rails for mounting scopes, optic-sites and other accessories. Those who anticipate evacuation through urban environments may want to consider carbine models that have folding or

collapsing stocks. Of course a minimum of four, full magazines is a must.



The “defense capable” rifle above has a folding stock and a tactical reflex sight mounted

A shotgun can be an effective survival weapon in many situations. A pump or semi-automatic shotgun in 12 gauge firing buckshot can be superior to any handgun or long-gun in close-range encounters. They are excellent for hunting game and versatile. Shotgun slugs, incendiary rounds, exploding rounds and other specialized ammunition gives the shooter considerable fire-power against hard-targets. The ammunition is bulky and the range is limited, but it is still a good option. If the survivor is part of a family or group, then one parson should have a shotgun while others carry “defense-capable” rifles.



This 12-gauge, pump shotgun is equipped with an after-market folding stock and shell-holder. Note the variety of special-purpose ammunition. Combined with a full-size

handgun, this can be a potent defense combination.

Conclusion

Carrying a full pack of survival supplies through the masses of irresponsible, desperate and potentially violent people without being fully capable of effective armed-defense is virtually suicidal. An unarmed survivalist (or prepper) is just saving supplies for other, less deserving and less responsible individuals. This will only get you and your family victimized or killed. Having a reasonable capacity to defend yourself when no-one-else can must be part of a balanced survival pack and accessories package.

NOTE: The anti-gun establishment has for too long been permitted to establish definitions and terms for the media. Their establishment of terms such as “assault-weapon” and “assault-rifle” has created negative definitions. We must start using and emphasizing positive wording and catch phrases such as “defense-capable”, “life-saving”, “home protective” and “all freedoms matter” in our public forums and articles

When Disaster Strikes and When Technology Fails

Twin Book Reviews by James C. Jones

I met Matthew Stein the author, of these two books at a recent preparedness exposition. Our booths were adjoining and we exchanged ideas on survival and on publishing. While he is writing for a living, I do it just to get the information and ideas out to the public. We swapped books on the promise that I would do a review. In many ways his two books are similar to my two (Live Free Book of Total Survival, and Beyond Survival) publications in content and layout. His two books are a bit larger

than mine with a few more details and thus more expensive, but the basic information's and philosophies are much alike. Their content overlaps so much that doing a combined review seems more appropriate. Both volumes include outdoor survival, first aid, water purification, rescue, shelter building, edible plants, fire starting and other essential survival subjects, but the larger *When Technology Fails (WTF)* includes a lot more technical data and covers more long-term self-reliance subjects such as tanning, weaving, candle making, alternative energy, and metal casting. Both are well illustrated with clear drawings and photographs and are well written and organized. *When Disaster Strikes* is 9 x 6", paperback, 357 pages at \$25.00, and *When Technology Fails* is 11 x 8 ½" paperback, 470 pages for \$35.00. Both are from Chelsea Green Publishing, White River Junction VT. At www.chelseagreen.com Mr. Stein has done an excellent job in creating these two volumes for the prepared American

Survival Blankets and Tents

There are many so-called "survival" blankets on the market today. These are designed for temporary and emergency use only. They are made of thin, aluminized/reflective, and plastic. They are not very durable, but can provide protection from wind and rain while retaining most of your radiated body heat. They do not offer insulation from heat-loss due to conduction or convection. Depending on the terrain and conditions, these devices can last from a few days to a week or more before coming apart. The chief advantage is that they are light-weight and small enough to be carried in the pockets, survival kit, vest, glove compartment or other handy location. In addition to offering protection, they can be used for emergency signaling. It is important

to be aware that they cannot be used in conjunction with or near to a fire or stove, as they melt and catch fire easily. Obviously a real blanket, sleeping bag and tent are preferable for long-term survival situations, but where carrying weight and availability are issues, these devices are far better than nothing. Considering their low cost and low weight it makes sense to have them with you whenever possible.



The "Emergency Blanket" (top left) is 84 x 52 inches and retains 90% of radiated heat while keeping water and wind out. The package is just 4 x 4 x ½ inches thick and sells for \$1.00 to \$2.00

The "Space Bag/Emergency Bag" (lower left) is a bit bulkier but more effective at 36 x 84 inches (bag) and 4 x 2 ½ x 1 ¼ inches packaged for about \$3.00

The "Survival Reflective Tent" (upper right) is bulkier than the blankets or bags at 4 ½ x 6 ½ x 1 inch package. But it provides a 36' wide by 96' long by 36 high tent with a 14 foot set-up cord for just \$10.00. This fits one person and some gear or two people.

The low-cost survival blanket (lower right) is 84 x 52 inches and cost just .99 cents. .

Any one of the above items could be a life saver if caught outdoors in cold or wet weather. The tent combined with the bag

would provide serious protection for very little cost or weight.

SURVIVAL MEDICS CLASS YES or NO?

We will do one more survival medic's class, only if we have sufficient interest and help. The course runs four, four-hour sessions with lecture and hands-on training.

Advanced registrations will be \$50.00 and late registrations will be \$100.00. Anyone interested must contact survivorjj@aol.com before August 1st. If we do not have at least 15 potential participants we will not do this class again.

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