

# AMERICAN SURVIVOR

**SURVIVAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEW AMERICAN**

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**IN THIS ISSUE: Is America Headed for a Revolution?, Hunkering Down vs. Bugging Out, Prepping in the UK, Home Schooling, Stop the Bleed, Wildfire Safety Resources, Survival Handguns, Live Free Events for 2019, More**

## Is America Headed for Another Revolution?

**By James C. Jones**

### **Introduction**

It has been 243-years since the original American Revolution. The Civil War was a geopolitical split rather than a systemic revolution. There was certainly a lot of “revolutionary” activity during the late 1960s and early 1970s, but these movements were limited to a small segment of the population. During these decades the vast majority of the population still shared a set of common values in a stable economy. The “Greatest Generation” that had recently made America great and defeated brutal and dictatorial aggressors was the dominant and stable force in American society at that time. The radical communist and anarchist forces that seemed to define those decades literally and figuratively, burned themselves out. However, many of these extremists and their divisive ideologies infiltrated our institutions and society. A recent issue of Smithsonian magazine headlined 1968 “The Year That Shattered America” and contained a series of articles about the events and movements of those times. While those times may not have actually “shattered” America, they left a collection of

cracks that have grown and expanded to this day.



The United States Government is the oldest and most stable government in the world today. All of the governments of Europe, Asia, South America and the Middle-East have fallen and risen several times while the USA has stood and prospered. While many American attribute this to our values and the genius of our Constitution there are other factors that have historically contributed to our stability.

- America has maintained a relatively homogeneous population. While absorbing significant numbers of legal immigrants from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, America was still expanding in available land, jobs and resources. There were certainly

conflicts, paranoia and prejudices, but it did not truly divide the nation.

- America was generally isolated from foreign influences, religious extremists and political influences and threats. Ethnic and religious hatreds did not migrate into American society as dramatically as they do now.
- America maintained strong values of community, responsibility, self-reliance and patriotism regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. We were Americans first.
- While there were natural inequities in wealth distribution they were not nearly as extreme as they are today. A large, contented and socially responsible middle class still existed.
- America and Americans were not subject to the constant divisive and toxic effects of the internet and social media.

None of these stabilizing factors are true today. Multi-ethnic societies are inherently unstable. There is no longer an unlimited amount of real-estate, resources or jobs to absorb even internal population growth. We are involved with and influenced by divisive and confusing foreign involvements and intrigues. Today's American is more self-centered, dependency-oriented and less involved in community than any previous generation. The decades of centralized, big government have replaced responsibility with demanding, demonstrating and blame finding. The gap between the poor and the ultra-wealthy is disgraceful and growing. The internet now facilitates division rather than unity, conflict rather than discussion and even violence in place of the political process. Respect for the law and for American values has all but disappeared in many regions. These are harbingers of future revolutionary developments.

There is a growing number of religious, racial and political elements that are quietly preparing for such a catastrophe. There is a line in an old movie\* about South American revolutions. The General storms into the presidential palace proclaiming "El Presidente, the rebels are in the suburbs!" to which the dictator says "the rebels are always in the suburbs". We are becoming more like one of these "Banana Republics"

### **Effects of Revolutions**

With the notable exception of the American Revolution, very few revolutions have ever turned out the way the revolutionaries expected or hoped for. Ask the Cuban's or the Russians, or anyone from South America or the Middle East. While they may start out with high ideals, they usually are co-opted by the most ambitious and brutal participants to create a more corrupt and oppressive state than the one it replaced. There is an old joke that says that the first thing a successful revolutionary leader must do is kill all of the revolutionaries. If a revolution fails it justifies greater oppression and brutality by the state.

- Revolutions can also degenerate into civil wars that divide the State into warring regions. When this happens, the chances for restoring peace and unity are almost non-existent.
- Wide-spread demonstration can lead to the development of terrorism and even guerilla warfare that plagues the nation and destroys safety and security for generations. The Balkans and the Middle East are prime examples of permanently broken societies and civilizations
- Those who instigate a revolution usually anticipate a quick and clean overthrow. Usually the revolutions are long, divisive

and brutal, ruining the nation's economy and destroying homes, towns and cities.

- Foreign enemies and opportunists insert themselves into revolutions to provide weapons and even "volunteers" to various sides, increasing the level of death and destruction and prolonging the conflict. The longer and more devastating the fighting is, the more power and money they get.

In short: revolution is not a good idea if it can be avoided.

### **Precursors of Revolution**

While conditions appear to be relatively stable as of this date, historically revolutions tend to erupt without much warning when a combination of long simmering disagreements and discontent are ignited. A few precursors that could set the stage for revolution-like developments include:

- Continued unchecked expansion of violent and non-violent crime leading to a loss in public confidence and trust in the police and further trends towards vigilantes and private security networks.
- Any pervasive economic down-turn generating large-scale unemployment.
- Significant reductions in welfare, social-security, and other benefits.
- Political assassination and violence between political organizations.
- Raids and thefts from armories and gun stores.
- Any extreme shift in government policies either left or right resulting in deprivations, confiscations, or oppressive measures.
- Contested and contentious elections marked by threats, demonstrations and violence.

It is difficult to predict what kind of events will transpire between now and the 2020 elections, but chaos and conflict seem

inevitable. It seems doubtful that either side will accept the results of an election without active resistance. It is highly possible that there will be more than two parties and that we could have a president and legislature elected without a majority mandate. Instead of complacent inaction, survivalists should be taking this opportunity to focus on preparing for the hazards of 2019 and 2020.

### **Surviving a Revolution**

Surviving during a revolution can be a tricky business. You have to cope with the effects of the violence on your basic safety and security while trying to stay on the right side or neutral in the conflict. Sustained revolutionary activities may result in a breakdown in law-and-order, sabotage or cessation of services such as running water, food deliveries, fire protection and medical care. The fundamental preparedness procedures that permit you to shelter in place or evacuate remain paramount, but defensive and even paramilitary equipment and preparations take on increased importance. The choices of survival tactics will depend on your political, economic and geographic environment at the time of any uprising. A few possibilities include:

- You may be able to adopt a neutral position of defensive non-involvement. You do not aggressively take sides but will defend your home and family against any attempted pillaging or violence.
- If your community is predominantly sympathetic to one side or is simply forced to resist threats from a particular element, then you may have no choice but to actively participate in revolutionary or resistance activities.
- If local, state or federal agencies are overthrown or find it expedient to suspend liberties, confiscate property or

initiate mass arrests citizens may have no choice except to resist or escape.

- History tells us that revolutions can generate high levels of violence and neighbor-against-neighbor animosity that must be avoided and survived by each person and family pragmatically.

Keeping your mouth shut, your eyes open and your powder dry is always a good maxim for surviving such turbulent times.

## Conclusion

While I still regard revolution or revolution-like development as unlikely and undesirable, I can no longer exclude them from the list of “potential” survival threats. My study of history and observation of recent past and current events suggests that our nation is much less stable than in past decades. If the current trends of divisiveness, violence and discontentment continue the specter of revolutionary activities and even the fall of our way of life must be recognized. Responsible citizens must resist the temptation to be guided and motivated by media and internet divisive rhetoric and exhortations. We must do all we can to support responsible law enforcement, and community based volunteer organizations. **But we must also plan and prepare to survive the effects of any kind of civil disorder, sabotage, crime and even revolution that may lie ahead.**

*The title of the movie is “The Adventurers”.*

**It’s not my imagination:** A month after I wrote the above article a poll conducted by Rasmussen Reports found that thirty-one percent of respondents thought that the United States would experience a civil war within the next five years. Thirty-seven percent of Democrats and thirty-two percent of Republicans anticipated a civil war in the

near future. A full fifty-nine percent were concerned that those who oppose to President Trumps policies will resort to violence. **Unfortunately interest in preparedness and organized readiness is suffering from rampant complacency and disinterest when responsible citizens should be organizing, educating and preparing for the probability of civil disorder and even civil war in 2020 or before.**

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## Hunkering Down Versus Bugging Out

By Rudi

[Terms used in this article: **BOL** = bug out location; **BOB** = bug out bag.]

A recent article that I read on this subject made me rethink some basic tenets of the survival movement. ‘Bugging out’ has always been the ‘Holy Grail’ and dozens of books and hundreds of articles have been written on this subject.

When I grew up in the 1950’s and 1960’s, rural areas and small towns were still flourishing, and many of us had relatives who lived there; thus, even though I lived in a suburb of a major Midwestern city, bugging out to a less populated area was always an viable option, because family members could take us in. But over the last 50+ years, the U.S. population has become increasingly urbanized. While you may be able to “escape” to a rural area by vehicle, where are you going to stay and **thrive**?

Many articles on bugging out have photos of a healthy young man, with a heavy backpack, tromping through thick woods, carrying an AR-15, and building a shelter out of tree branches. But the reality is that America is an aging population. Besides

elders, many families have small children and/or disabled persons; thus, bugging out may be difficult if not impossible.

**A note on roads, maps, and GPS:** Interstates and major highways can become death traps in a disaster; thus, please obtain detailed county maps from your state highway department, and have a compass in your vehicle. In the recent California wildfires, people died in their vehicles when fleeing the fires.

**Affordability of bugging out:** It makes sense to me if two or more families would combine their resources to buy/build a vacation home/cabin for a BOL. This could be a condo on a secluded lake, or even a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer in a campground. State parks and national forests should not be ruled out.

Some typical disasters:

1. **Hurricanes:** Fortunately, these are predictable, and the length of time out of your residence may be minimal depending upon the severity of the storm. BOL could include motels, Air B&Bs, friends/relatives, or government-run shelters.
2. **Wildfires:** These can be very unpredictable and the importance of having a BOB cannot be over emphasized, along with protective breathing gear. Hunkering down and fighting the fire is another option if 1) your house is made of the right materials, and 2) you have commercial-grade fire-fighting equipment. (Per my previous article, Google Firewise USA.)
3. **Tornadoes:** These are often unpredictable, but weather-radar apps can help. If your home is not directly hit, the major problems will probably be closed roads, looters, and power outages.

4. **Urban riots:** Due to the era in which I grew up, I observed on TV the large-scale destruction caused by 'race riots' and anti-war protests. Studying these and analyzing where you live are key to survival. A few years ago, there were major riots in Ferguson MO, only 3 miles from my house; yet, there was no need to bug out. But increasing my security was a priority.

5. **Earthquakes:** Again, know the risk for your area. Unlike hurricanes, earthquakes are not yet predictable. But homes can be made earthquake resistant and much has been written about how to do this.

6. **Power outages:** This is the most common 'disaster' and I see no reason to bug out.

**Step #1:** Analyze your specific geographic for possible threats using a longitudinal, historical perspective. Make a list of threats and their frequency. Remember, threat levels can change over time due to a variety of factors, including climate change. Prioritize these threats and your preparations that are needed.

**Step #2:** Do a realistic assessment of each family member's physical and psychological fitness, and note any special needs.

**Step #3:** If you are going to bug out, please buy/read these two books, both by Creek Stewart and available on Amazon: 1) *Building a Bug Out Vehicle*, and *Building a Bug Out Bag*.

**Step #4:** Getting in a vehicle and just driving out of the city to nowhere is not a plan. If you have friends/relatives in rural areas, talk to them **NOW** about your concerns and what might cause you to bug out. Brainstorm on other options as previously mentioned. Team up with like-

minded people. Even if they are not preppers, they might like to share the cost of a vacation cabin.

**Step #5:** For hunkering down after a limited disaster, plan on how you are going to harden your house and protect your family. Two recommended books 1) *The Secure Home* by Joel Skousen ([www.joelskousen.com](http://www.joelskousen.com)) and 2) *Patriots* by James Wesley Rawles. These books are vastly different but complementary nonetheless. Some other topics to explore: solar lighting, concertina wire, battery-operated warning systems, and camouflage. Your house can become a castle without looking like one.

**Summary:** I would like to see more “first-person” articles from readers who have hunkered-down after a disaster, how they did it, and what were their successes/failures.



## Home schooling and why it's necessary for the prepper

By Old Nam Vet

One of the least discussed skills every prepper family should have is the ability to continuing the education of their kids after TEOTWAWKI when it's actually one of the more important skills. Without maintaining the education, at least in the very basic education areas such as reading, writing and math, we'd be looking at a return to

hiding in fear of the “thunder gods” every time it rains within 3 or 4 generations.

My group has decided to add to our stockpile materials for us to be able to continue our kids, current and future, education. So besides teaching them to make soap, build a fire or can the produce from the garden, we've also stockpiled basic materials for home schooling them after the collapse. Reams of note book paper, hundreds of pencils and erasers, chalk for the blackboard and books. Lots of books. We get the books from yard sales, resale shops, library book sales and several online sellers of home schooling materials. We also have a digital copy of a 1920 encyclopedia that we'll hopefully be able to access when the time comes. All are important, but the older school books, pre common core, are the most valuable. We've also decided on which of our members would be the best teachers and in which subjects. That gives each of us time to brush up so we'll be better conveyors of information when the time comes.

I could go into a much more detailed reasoning for why each individual or group should be making similar plans, but the final reason is that when we're surviving the collapse we'll also have a responsibility to help as best we can to keep civilization alive and well. Consider what happened after the Roman Empire fell and we entered the “Dark Ages”. So much knowledge was lost and it took society hundreds of years to recover. I'm not going to allow my great grand kids to hide in fear when they hear the thunder.

Several online sources we're using for books, curriculums, etc. are:

[www.aop.com/homeschool/sale](http://www.aop.com/homeschool/sale)      Alpha and Omega

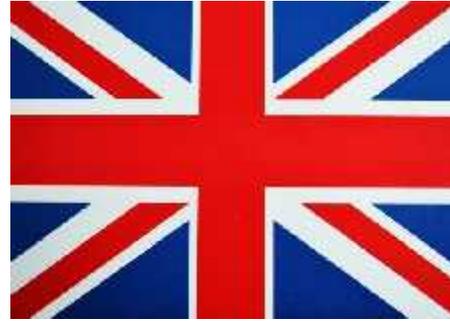
We also have found some older school text books at library book sales, resale shops, used book stores (although these are getting harder to find themselves), flea markets, etc. Yard/garage sales will sometimes yield some decent, usable books as well. So when/if you go sallying, keep your eyes open for bargains.

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## Prepping in the UK

The following article is reprinted with permission from The Real Survivalists at <https://therealsurvivalists.com> A British survivalist website. Be aware that survivalism is now and always has been an international movement. After all, what can be more universal than the need to protect one's self and one's family from harm? Live Free USA operated as Live Free International for a while back in the late 1980's. We had members in Britain, France, Australia, Belgium and a few other countries. Back then we were united by the universal concern of nuclear Armageddon. In the post-Cold War era there was a period of denial and confusion that decimated the survivalist movement for a decade. The concerns for survival and freedom today are different, but no less serious, and survivalism is again a world-wide movement facilitated by the internet. While Live Free "USA" focusses on those concerns that are unique to us, we need to reach out and network beyond our borders as well. Perhaps there is a place for a new Live Free International or International Survivalist Union in the future?

## Prepping in the UK



Prepping in the UK is becoming more of a common occurrence. With all of the goings on in the world, it is probably not much of a surprise that more and more people are becoming involved in Prepping in the UK.

Prepping in the UK can be a controversial subject. Many people will see prepping as something only paranoid people do. This is not a fair summary. Most UK Preppers have regular full time jobs, are everyday people who just want the best for their family. They see prepping as an insurance policy against whatever may come their way.

### What is Prepping in the UK?

Prepping is a term used to describe preparing to survive multiple forms of life changing events. These events could be a very personal emergency such as job loss, house fire etc. or they could be world changing events such as weather phenomena, illness epidemic and similar. The level to which you prepare is based on how likely you think the event is to happen. Prepping in the UK involves creating a supply of everything you need to sustain life should one of these events occur. This usually means storing enough food and water to keep you alive for a set period of time and enough equipment to top up your supply once your initial one runs out. It is not just about physical supplies either. Many UK Preppers have a vast knowledge of basic survival skills such as fire lighting, shelter building, hunting etc. First aid and medical skills tend to be key skills that UK Preppers are proficient at.

## Why do people prep?

This is a tough question to answer as all Preppers have their own individual reasons for starting to prepare for the worst. Some will start prepping as a result of all of the negative stories in the media surrounding terrorism, nuclear weapons etc. Others will start because of personal concerns about their local area regarding safety and preparedness. And other Preppers begin as a natural progression from their interest in survival and bushcraft.

Each person who has started Prepping in the UK will have their own reasons for prepping. Whatever the reason, this is certainly an interest that is growing.

## Prepping in the UK vs Prepping in America

A lot of people will see shows like Doomsday Preppers which is filmed in America and think that all Preppers are the same. American Prepping can be very different to Prepping in the UK. For example, quite a few American Preppers will have a selection of firearms and thousands of rounds of ammunition. They believe they need this to protect themselves should the worst happen. Other American Preppers have vast supplies in underground bunkers and are almost excited at the prospect of the Apocalypse. While this isn't the case for all American Preppers, it tends to be this persona that is shown on this type of TV show. Prepping in the UK tends to be a bit more reserved.

UK Preppers tend to have food and water supplies, first aid and medical gear and a selection of useful survival tools. Weapons are harder to own in the UK so maybe that is why Preppers here do not usually store too many. However it could be that the attitude towards weapons is very different in the UK. Guns and knives are mostly seen as tools here opposed to weapons so we have

a different outlook on them when it comes to Prepping

## How do I start Prepping?

Prepping is a very personal thing. A huge supply of tools is not needed before you can call yourself one. You could argue that having a life insurance policy makes you a Prepper. You are making sure your family is looked after should the worst happen to you. This is effectively prepping.

Being a Prepper is all about doing a realistic assessment of the events that could happen to you. Once you have a list of possible events and consequences, you can then start preparing for each one. You do not need to spend huge amounts of money on the latest survival kits and equipment wither. Prepping is about being adaptable and creative with the tools you have available so you can start prepping today if you feel the need to!

Go to <https://therealsurvivalists.com> the site has a lot of good information and a bit of a different perspective.

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## A Resource for Wildfire Safety

By Rudi

Whether you believe in climate change or not, the fact is that wildfires are increasing in intensity and frequency. And many survivalists live in wooded areas. The *National Fire Protection Association* has developed a unique website with many tools: **FirewiseUSA® - Residents Reducing Wildfire Risks** - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>. This website includes a webinar, an e-learning course, brochures, wildfire training and certification, how to prepare your home for wildfires, and much more. "The *Firewise USA®* program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior,

and the National Association of State Foresters.” This is an extremely valuable resource!

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## Stop the Bleed: A New Program

By Rudi

For those of you who participated in Boy Scouts and took a first aid class, the use of a tourniquet is nothing new; I learned this in the 1950's! While many employers require the mandatory CPR/AED/Adult First Aid class, the use of a tourniquet has been neglected. The standard techniques taught by the Red Cross is 1) “Raise the affected limb”, and 2) “Apply pressure to the wound”. But with the increasing number of mass shootings, there is a new emphasis on saving lives by stopping bleeding. Also, think about how many people ‘bleed out’ in car crashes and work-related accidents, both of which are more common than mass shootings. (The definition of a mass shooting is one that involves four or more victims.)

The military has long recognized the value of tourniquets, and the most modern version is the *Combat Application Tourniquet* (C.A.T.) which can be worn loosely on the arm or leg, the unprotected areas of the body that are most likely to have an arterial bleed. Along with the CAT, the development of CELOX impregnated gauze was a major game-changer. One website states that this gauze will stop an arterial bleed within 60 seconds of application/compression.

A group has started a **nationwide program** called ‘Stop the Bleed’; in St. Louis MO the website is <http://www.stopthebleedstl.org/> . Since March of 2018 they have trained 1400 lay persons.

If you are a gun owner I urge you to consider taking this class and/or having the necessary components on hand to stop the bleed!

## Survival Handguns

It may be argued that all handguns are “survival handguns”, but the kind of handgun that would be the most needed in survival situation such as civil disorder, criminal assaults, evacuations, and desperate circumstances must go beyond the requirements of street protection, home protection or outdoor sports shooting. In a severe emergency you may just have time to grab your survival-pack and run. You may or may not be able to access an appropriate long-gun and bandoliers of ammunition. In such cases, you want to have the biggest and most potent handgun in that pack. That one gun needs to be reliable, rugged, and of a common caliber. A long-barrel and a high capacity magazine will also be most desirable here. Concealed carry is no longer an issue under survival circumstances. You want accuracy, reliability and fire-power. Bigger is better.



The handgun shown above has a 5.2 inch long barrel, is 8.27 long overall, weighs about 2 ½ pounds loaded and has a twenty-round magazine. It comes with a good iron sight, but has been fitted with a high-quality optic sight. It fires the commonly available 9 millimeter ammunition, but one should have no-less than four full magazines along under survival conditions.

*NOTE: the current push to outlaw so-called "high-capacity" magazines is deceitfully represented as applying only to so-called "assault-rifles" but in fact it would effectively outlaw the majority of modern rifles*

*and auto-pistol regardless of their normal magazine size. This is their true objective.*

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### **THREE BOOKS by James C. Jones NOW ON SALE!**

Books by James C. Jones now on sale. Three books by the editor of American Survivor and the founder of Live Free USA are now on sale from Skyhorse Publishing.

**Advanced Survival:** I wanted to provide usable and practical methods of replacing each life-critical service that is provided by society and the grid under normal circumstances. There are chapters on what to do when the water stops flowing, what to do when the grocery store is gone, what to do when the fire department isn't responding, etc. I illustrated each chapter and provided some background in how these needs were addressed a few generations ago. I also supplied an imperative "Storm Warning" chapter to validate the necessity of preparedness and self-reliance. **208 pages, 5 ½ x 8 ¼, paperback for \$16.99 from Skyhorse Publishing at [www.skyhorsepublishing](http://www.skyhorsepublishing)**

**Total Survival:** This book is more emergency or disaster related. I cover ten ways to do survival related tasks such as "Ten Ways to Start and Maintain a Fire", "Ten Critical First Aid Skills", "Ten Self-Defense Techniques", "Ten Ways to Acquire and Preserve Food", etc. The book is fully illustrated and should give the reader a lot of usable skills and techniques. I cover urban, outdoors and general disaster issues based on using my Ten Principles of Survival. **Paperback for \$16.99 from Skyhorse Publishing at [www.skyhorsepublishing](http://www.skyhorsepublishing) , shipping January 2019.**

**150 Survival Secrets.** The format is question and answer as in "How can I survive an earthquake?", or "What can I do to survive a civil disorder?" One-hundred and fifty subjects is a lot to cover. I touch on a lot of controversial topics. Some items are covered in a paragraph or two while others may run to ten or more pages with illustrations. While I covered the traditional outdoors, self-reliance and disaster survival subjects, I addressed ethical and philosophical issues as well. There are some detailed sections on the organizational aspects of preparedness groups and even some paramilitary information. This is probably the closest thing to a true survivalist manifesto or manual ever written. In fact, I was a bit surprised that it is getting published. Being that this is a new book from the publishers, they are planning a promotional campaign. **Paperback for \$16.99 from Skyhorse Publishing at [www.skyhorsepublishing](http://www.skyhorsepublishing) , shipping February 2019.**

**These three books together constitute a total survival library including, not only the answers and techniques for virtually every survival situation and self-reliance technique, but also the philosophical foundations of the survival/self-reliance movement and Live Free USA. I created these so that Live Free USA and its members would have a foundation for the future.**

## SPRING IS COMING!

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CABELA'S Sporting Goods Store, Second Floor Conference Center, 7700 Cabela Drive,  
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This class will be conducted by an experienced Master Gardener. Lecture, demonstration and handouts will provide the participant with the knowledge to create a productive food garden in limited space. Grow your own food to save money, stay healthy and be more self-reliant in hard times.



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## LIVE FREE USA FIFTYFIRST ANNUAL MEETING

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**SATURDAY MARCH 30th, 2019, at 1:00 PM till 3:00 PM**



Be part of America's oldest and best survival and self-reliance organization as it establishes leadership and programs for the challenges of the coming decades. Proposals for new educational events, camps, expos, and fund raising will be introduced. New officers will be elected and reports about Live Free's ongoing publications and projects will be presented. Get involved! Live Free USA's programs to support and promote family self-reliance, survival education, and emergency preparedness are needed now more than ever.

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## CAMP INDEPENDENCE 2019

**SATURDAY JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM till 6:00 PM**

**TIPPECANOE RIVER STATE PARK INDIANA, TEPICON HALL**

**This is the original field survival training event since 1968!**

Cabins\* and camp-sites are available through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources website. Participants are encouraged to arrive Friday afternoon and depart Sunday morning. Park entry fee required. The fee for participation, details on registration, and the classes to be included will be available soon.

\* There are only 11 cabins available at \$40.00 per-night, they are very nice and accommodate 4 people so a family or group can reserve one. Live Free USA does not control these cabins so they will be gone very early in the year if not reserved early.

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