

# AMERICAN SURVIVOR

**SURVIVAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEW AMERICAN**

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**IN THIS ISSUE: Hobo Stoves, Emergency Binder (pt. 2), Practicing Your Escape Plan, Esbit Stoves, Nuclear War Is Back In Play, Free HAM Radio Course, Camp Independence 2020, Medics Class, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

## Hobo Stoves

By James C. Jones

Hobo Stoves are a primitive form of rocket stove commonly fashioned from a large tin can. Hobo's were itinerants who traveled by riding on freight cars across the country, living off the land and by scavenging and occasionally stealing what they needed. They had a whole "off the grid" society and methodology that relates well to potential survival situations. My own experiences with Hobo Stove and other tin can survival devices dates back to my youth and Boy Scout days. There is an illustration of a Hobo Stove, and improvised/tin can cooking pots and pans in my 1952 Boy Scout Manual. Yes, I still have it. The reader will find plenty of variations on how to make Hobo Stoves on the internet and scores of commercially made and surplus Rocket Stove on the market. I have made and field tested many of these over the years. While a fire is often perceived as the embodiment of survival capacity, a big open campfire is often unnecessary and inefficient at best. Rocket stoves are far more effective method of heating food and beverages to warm the survivor from the inside. In the

absence of a ready-made stove, the Hobo Stove can be fashioned from any available large metal can, using a survival knife or multi-tool.

### **Advantages of Rocket and Hobo Stoves over Using an Open Fires**

- Stoves make much more efficient use of available fuel. All of the heat generated is contained and reflected back into the fuel to assure complete utilization.
- Stoves are more effective at heating the body than open fires. The heat from an open fire is blown away and carried upward. Most of the radiated heat goes away from the survivor. You can get closer to a stove and ingesting heated food and water heats the body's core far more effectively than radiated heat from a fire.
- Stoves reduce smoke and light emission that may attract unwanted attention.
- Stoves facilitate a fire under rainy and windy conditions that would be prohibitive for an open fire.
- Stoves concentrate heat for cooking and boiling far better than an open fire.

- Stoves are much safer than an open fire that creates flying sparks and embers that can ignite or damage clothing, shelters and surrounding grass and trees.
- Stove require smaller fuel and less of it. No need to gather large amounts of bulky branches. No need for chopping or sawing.

### Making the Hobo Stove

You can use a knife, metal cutters or a multi-tool for construction, but be very careful to avoid cutting yourself on the blades and/or the edges of the cut can.

1. Select a clean number-ten can, coffee can or other suitable container



2. Cut a large "X" into the upper side of the can, leaving the rim in place



3. Bend the resulting points into the can and flatten to provide smooth edges.

Note: you can just cut a rectangular openings, but this leaves sharp edges.



4. Cut 4 to 6 large vent holes in the opposite side of the can on the closed end



5. Cut a series of "burner" openings on the bottom (top of the stove) of the can to facilitate cooking.



Completed stove with multi-tool used to construct it. The blade, awl, file and pliers were all useful

### Constructing the improvised frying pan

Over the years I have made a lot of improvised cookware out of tin cans. Simply installing a wire handle on various sizes of can to create cooking pots was most common. The frying pan is a bit more complicated and one must be careful to avoid being cut. The last thing you need under survival conditions is a serious injury.



1. The can is cut around the base leaving 2 ½ inch wide section for the handle.



2. The upward cuts are 2 ½ inches apart. The lower cuts stop leaving a ¼ wide strip at the can's seam.



3. The top edge has been removed and the handle sides are folded inward and closed



4. The handle is now folded out so that the lower edges of the handle are against the pan for support.

Note: All the edges will be sharp and the handle will get hot very fast when used, so have something to hold it with.



Hobo kitchen: An empty can with a bailing wire handle (right) is handy for heating tea, soup or stews. The stove (center) is best placed on a firm non-flammable surface. The frying pan (right) is usable for one egg or other small items.



The stove can effectively burn small twigs, bark, branches and debris.



Stew gets boiling faster than hanging over an open fire. Note the pouring spout bent into the rim.



Frying an egg on the Hobo Stove. You'll need a glove or rag to grip the hot handle.



## EMERGENCY BINDER WEEK BY WEEK (Part two)

M. Augustyn

If you read our last issue, you have a good start to creating your Emergency Binder. With the New Year upon us and another year behind us, it's a good time to head into the next section of your binder.

Adding a few water proof pouches to your binder or vacuum sealing your flash drives can keep your goods safe and secure. Speaking of secure, have you decided where you are going to safely store your information? If you choose to keep your binder on a shelf consider all the important information you now have in the binder. Your personal and financial information is now a risk and you need to find a safe

hiding place. Preferably a safe, which everyone should have.

If you keep everything on a flash drive, creating a small footprint, then you need to have a way to access the drive. If you have a tablet for example, make sure you have the accessories to connect your media; therefore you might want to include them with the preferred storage media. You may still have access if the event is only in your community, so again make sure you have a way to access your information with accessories.

Keeping a copy in a safety deposit box is another option as a general backup or at someone else's house - with a password protection flash drive for more sensitive items. Update the drive annually. The cloud is another option though nothing is hacker-proof.

Dividing your binder into two sections is also a consideration with one section of basic information which can stay on the shelf, while a complete version goes in the safe. You may also want to name your binder something else to make it less obvious.

It seems like a lot of information, but in an emergency it can be priceless and make life less stressful.

**Week 9-** Copy/Scan your most recent bank statements and safety deposit information, and add to binder.

Create a simplified list including names, phone numbers, contacts, and account numbers.

**Week 10-** Copy/Scan four years of tax returns or copy tax files to a CD and store the tax software with the tax files, and add to binder.

**Week 11-** Copy/Scan recent investment statements for each account including

401K, company benefits statements and pensions, and add to binder.

Create a simplified list including names, phone numbers, contacts, and account numbers.

**Week 12-** Download any financial management programs such as Quicken or Microsoft Money, copy data files to CD and put CD for software program, and add to binder.

**Week 13-** Copy/Scan Social Security statement and voter cards (front and back), add Cash, and add to binder.

Start working on an outline for a Family Evacuation Plan. Even if you are single, in an event we tend to forget things. Include check lists for events. Don't forget to add "Take Emergency Binder" or whatever you've named it.

**Week 14-** Copy/Scan credit card statements and all credit cards (copy front and back), and add to binder. Request a copy of your credit report. Create a simplified list including names, phone numbers, contacts, and account numbers.

**Week 15-** Copy/Scan loan payoff papers (don't forget school loans and have a signed copy of any personal loans/debts with family and friends), and add to binder.

Create a simplified list including names, phone numbers, contacts, and account numbers.

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## Attention NW Indiana and Chicago Area Members

Live Free USA sells survival books and has Live Free literature at a table at every gun show held at the Lake County Fair

Grounds in Crown Point **Indiana**. This provides an excellent opportunity to meet other Live Free members and network between other Live Free meetings and events. We also welcome volunteers to man tables for four-hour shifts. These shows are a major source of members and funds for our organization. The shows run from 9:00 AM till 5:00 PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM on Sunday. The schedule for 2020 shows at Crown Point is as follows: February 8/9, March 28/29, May 16/17, July 11/12, September 12/13, October 24/25, December 12/13. See you all there in 2020



## Practicing Your Escape Plan

By Old Namvet

Just about every survivalist has prepared, at least mentally, how to escape their current area when things fall completely apart. They'll even go so far as laying out escape routes using maps. And that's all good, but incomplete. Incomplete until they actually test those plans by actually driving, biking or walking the routes.

An old friend once told me to have a Plan A, but also have a Plan B because Plan A probably won't work. That goes for planning escape routes, but you won't know for sure until you test them. Drive/bike/walk your primary escape route to check its viability. See where there will

be bottlenecks or obstacles that won't allow you to use the route during a crisis. Look for bridges that can be closed or damaged so you can't use them to cross a river. Check out if there are any prisons that may release criminals when you need the route to be clear. Same with things like military or national guard bases that will be active. Locate areas you can use to safely rest or as rally points for others in the group to join you. Are there any resources along your route? Plan on Plan A being a bust and how to then go to Plan B. Can you easily/safely transition from A to B (or even a Plan C if necessary). Test your routes often as roads can change quickly, road or bridge repairs can start before you notice. I'd suggest you run your routes, for all you planes at least every 3 months so you have an idea of how well the routes will work in any season; rain, snow or sun shine. Run them at night to, trouble doesn't always happen when the sun is shining.

Finally, make sure that every member of your group also runs the routes. Each member should be able to get to your BOL on their own if necessary. But practice convoying so everyone is comfortable with meeting up at a rally point and going to the BOL together. It will give you the opportunity to practice your short range communications while driving.



Now, once you have everyone comfortable with the various routes, run a practice bug out. Complete with preplanned events that could happen in real life and that could stall or stop the trip if you're not ready for it. The group leader/convoy commander selects some events, but doesn't not share them with the rest of the group. Have these events written down and sealed in envelopes that are opened at selected times/mileage during the trip. Some conditions we've used in the past are at 45 minutes into the trip one of the cars (preselected) blows an oil line and can't be driven. Do you have a spare oil line or the ability to repair the blown one and more engine oil? On another trip we had a vehicle run out of gas at mile 60, did anyone in the group bring extra gas? If not the vehicle will have to be abandoned. You don't actually abandon the car, but you move all its contents and passengers (except the driver) into other vehicles and continue the trip. Another event we've used was a bridge was down and blocking out route during Plan B, how can we get to Plan C from there. The events are only limited by your imagination and should be changed with each practice bug out. Another thing we do is to change the convoy commander and lead vehicle each time. That gives everyone the experience to plan the routes, select the events and guide the rest to the BOL safely and as quickly as possible.

Planning on how to bug out during a crisis is an essential job, especially if you have to travel any distance. Practicing your routes is just as essential and something that every member of the group should take part in. It can also be a fun exercise to practice as the group goes to the BOL for training or general

maintenance on the BOL. We make it a quarterly exercise and I suggest you all do the same.

A final suggestion; once you're at the point of being comfortable and capable with your plans and your ability to handle them, do a surprise bug out alert. By that I mean that the group leader sends out an alert and has everyone meet at a selected location, not the BOL or a rally point, and see who shows up within the allotted time. When everyone arrives, do a quick inspection of what they brought with them. Food, water, vehicle maintenance items, clothes, weapons, etc. should be checked to be sure they are ready to bug out. The gear should be enough to cover up to 3 days, more if possible. This is not a pass/fail test. Just so everyone can see what the others have thought of and how they can improve their own preparations. This is NOT an emergency run to the BOL, just an exercise to see how well prepared the members are on very short notice.

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## **Nuclear War is Back in Play**

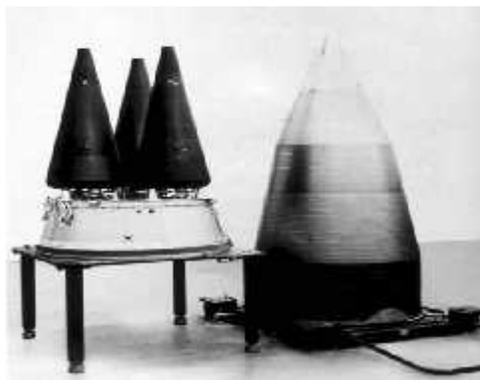
By James C. Jones, EMT/CHCM

The driving concern that initiated the survival/self-reliance movement in the late 1960's was the fear of a nuclear war. While this scenario motivated interest in survival and drove membership in the organization, Live Free was, and is motivated by the positive philosophy that preparedness and self-reliance are just duties of good citizenship and the only way to guarantee continued safety and freedom, regardless of external or internal threats. At the end of the so-called Cold War concern about nuclear war receded as a threat matrix of new and more insidious dangers emerged. We now have to consider, extreme weather, resource

depletion, overpopulation, cyber-attacks, electro-magnetic pulses, pandemics, terrorist attacks, civil-disorder, criminal cartels, and other threats to civilization, along with a variety of nuclear scenarios. The most probable hazards posed by nuclear detonation has been from a limited exchange of warheads between regional adversaries such as India and Pakistan, or Israel and Iran. Another concern has been the potential of a few nukes being brought into the United States by terrorists. Rogue nations such as Iran or North Korea could be suicidal enough to employ a few weapons that (if they got through) could devastate a few American cities. All of these scenarios are in-play and would certainly damage the world economy and spread radioactive fallout over a wide region, but would not devastate the world.

While the public and the survival/preparedness community has been focused on other threats, the potential for total, globally devastating nuclear war has risen again. In fact the potential for deliberate or accidental nuclear war between major powers has increased significantly above what it was during the Cold War. Technology and the multiplicity of access to the technology to build, initiate and launch a nuclear exchange is far more dispersed than it was a few decades ago. Additionally, the actual number of nuclear weapons and delivery systems has increased. The idea that we have somehow established a defense against a nuclear attack is simply ludicrous. China is now a major nuclear power joining Russia and the United States. While maintaining the balance between two forces (the USSR and the USA) was manageable, a three-sided balance with several wild-card players is much less stable.

The nuclear weapons of the early Cold War were single-warhead, big-yield bombs in the ten-to-twenty megaton range. The USSR even tested a one-hundred megaton “doomsday” device. Today’s missiles carry multiple smaller warheads in the three-hundred kiloton to three megaton range. Multiple warheads are far more difficult to intercept and far more devastating to the target area. A twenty megaton bomb will make a bigger hole where it hits, but only do about twice as much damage as five megaton bomb, whereas six or eight, one megaton warheads scattered over an urban area will devastate a far greater area than a single twenty megaton device. It’s the difference between one area of destruction radiating out from a central target with the outlying areas less and less affected versus, a totally devastated urban region with overlapping blast effects and fire. A single submarine carries twenty-four missiles, each with as many as ten warheads. You do the math.



Three small warheads vs one larger one. Current missiles carry as many as ten warheads

The new Chinese Dong-feng 41 missile is reported to be capable of moving at 25 times the speed of sound and has a range of 9,400 miles carrying ten warheads. It can come from multiple directions and hit

targets in the USA in just thirty minutes. Russia is reported to have similar missiles deployed or near deployment. China has 280 nuclear warheads and growing, while the US has 6,450 and Russia has 6,850. Of course it only takes one-or-two to go off to set off all the others. While Cold-War scenarios involved the destruction of the centers of all major urban centers, today's scenario with multiple warheads would result in the total elimination of every major city and its suburban regions. Multiple small warheads also means that outlying smaller cities and towns that weren't worth a multi-megaton bomb can now be targeted with a kiloton-range bomb. Only small, and remote towns and rural areas would be completely safe from direct hits, but of course the effects of fallout, grid collapse, and civil disorder would be catastrophic.

While we face multiple-threats to our lives and our freedoms that are here and now, we must also remember that the ultimate disaster for all of us not only remains real, but has increased in possibility and compounded devastation. Early and distant evacuation or relocation, radiation detection and protection and long-long term survival capability are the only effective ways to cope with such an event. Those who are well prepared will always have an advantage, but luck and determination will play a major role in surviving such an appalling development. Anything can happen. The "unthinkable" does happen.

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## **Esbit Stoves**

In my survival stuff collection, I have stoves that burn, alcohol, Butane, kerosene, gasoline, Sterno™, and even twigs, but one of the simplest and most effective survival stoves is the German

Army Esbit™ brand stove that burns a variety of fuel tablets. While these stoves are too small to cook-up a big meal, they are ideal for heating coffee, tea, soup and other hot beverages. The original design as used by the German Army in World War Two is only about two inches square and one-half inch thick, actually pocket sized and is sold at most camping equipment outlets. Esbit™ sells packets of a dozen "1300 Degree"™ fuel tablets for ten dollars, but there are several other brands sold at sporting-goods stores. You can carry the stove and several dozen tablets in even the most lite-weight survival pack or kit. A metal cup or US Army canteen cup can be set on top of the stove. Actually: you can fit the stove, some fuel tablets and a spoon into a canteen cup for a compact cooking kit.

Esbit™ has recently come out with a slightly improved model that nests the round stove into a small, lidded cooking pot. A really nice unit for an evacuation pack.



The original unfolded Esbit™ stove on the left and the new Esbit™ stove and pot on the right. The basic, compact stove costs less than twelve dollars.



The Esbit™ pot and lid with the handles folded. The stove is kept inside the pot when not in use. The basic set costs about thirty dollars. You can also get the “cooking set” with an extra burner and pan for about fifty dollars.

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### **Register Now for Survival Medics Course**

A few members have signed up for a *potential* Survival Medics course at the Hammond Indiana Cabela's this autumn. The course fee is \$100.00 per person and includes a suturing practice kit and instruments, and extensive handout materials. The course consists of two four-hour lecture demonstrations and two four-hour hands-on training sessions. Participants will receive a Survival Medics certificate upon completion of all four classes and two tests.



**We need at least ten firm commitments, before we schedule this class.** If we have sufficient pre-registrations by September 1<sup>st</sup> we will notify participants and require the \$100.00 registration fee by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will be on Saturday or Sunday from noon till 4:00 PM.

NOTE: We would welcome help from anyone with medical qualifications. This will be the last Survival Medics class unless we are able to organize a Survival Medics Team to continue these programs.

**If interested, contact [survivorjj@aol.com](mailto:survivorjj@aol.com), or signup on forms at gun shows and Live Free Meetings**

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## **CAMP INDEPENDENCE 2020** **SATURDAY MAY 30<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.



## Get your HAM License Today.

**Dates:** Every Wednesday from January 15<sup>th</sup> through February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Time:** 6:30 to 8:30 PM

**Location:** Tri-Town Safety Village, 1350 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville IN, This spectacular training facility is located behind the Menards off US 41 and just north of the AMC Showplace 12 Theater.

**Instructor:** Tim McGillen/N9CA, The president of Lake County Armature Radio Club

**Sponsors:** Lake County Armature Radio Club, Tri-Town Safety Village, and Live Free USA.

**Costs:** This is a free program, but there may be some charges for study material and a \$15.00 charge for the test.

Wednesday Nights at 6:30PM  
to 8:30PM

January 15th., 2020  
January 22nd. 2020  
January 29th., 2020  
February 5th., 2020  
February 12th., 2020  
February 19th., 2020

And the Test is on February  
26th., 2020

**The Technician License opens the door to a hobby allowing communication with other ham radio operators nearby and around the world plus building experimental radios. This license allows communication through over 100 Amateur Radio space satellites, the International Space Station, Amateur TV, bounce signals off Earth's atmosphere and Moon, plus the option to assist in local emergency radio communications. Join 800,000 US and 3,000,000 licensed amateurs around the world.**

RSVP by contacting Tim McGillen/N9CA at 219-769-0673  
or [tim2020@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tim2020@sbcglobal.net)



[AmericanSurvivor.org](http://AmericanSurvivor.org)

The class will follow the ARRL "Ham Radio License Manual 4th Edition" Level 1. Available at; [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org), Amazon, and [DXengineering.com](http://DXengineering.com). On-line study is also possible at; [ARRL.org](http://ARRL.org), [HamExam.org](http://HamExam.org), and [HamRadiolicenseExam.org](http://HamRadiolicenseExam.org).

# LIVE FREE USA FIFTYSECOND ANNUAL MEETING

CABELA'S Sporting Goods Store, Second Floor Conference Center, 7700 Cabela Drive, Hammond IN, Just South of I-80 at the Indianapolis Blvd. Exit

**SATURDAY APRIL 4th, 2020, 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.

#### Staff

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**Membership: \$20.00 per year, \$50.00 for 3 years**

