



Project Appleseed in Minnesota

☆ Liberty ☆ Heritage ☆ Marksmanship ☆

August, 2011 Newsletter

Find more information at appleseedusa.org.

100th Rifleman in Minnesota — It Could be YOU!

Right now in Minnesota we have 96 riflemen. There's a good possibility that number 100 will be at our next Appleseed event! Who wouldn't want to be number 100? Sign up for our August 13-14 event at Hinckley and give it a try!

Check out our complete list of Minnesota riflemen on the Project Appleseed forum:

<http://appleseedinfo.org/smf/index.php?topic=7383.0>

Upcoming Appleseeds in Minnesota

- Hinckley, MN - August 13-14, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Winona, MN - September 3-4, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Marshall, MN - September 10-11, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Hinckley, MN - September 17-18, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Wells, MN - September 17-18, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Duluth, MN - September 24-25, 2011
Pending: details to be announced [here](#)
- Rochester, MN - October 1-2, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Hinckley, MN - October 8-9, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)
- Hinckley, MN - November 26-27, 2011
[Information](#) or [Register](#)

The complete, national schedule is available at <http://www.appleseedusa.org/search-states.html>. Check there often since new events are added throughout the year.

2nd Annual Project Appleseed in Minnesota Picnic

Project Appleseed in Minnesota is hosting its 2nd Annual Friends and Family Picnic. All Appleseeders welcome! Bring your friends and family!

Sunday, August 7th [Rain Date August 21st]
1pm to 5pm

at Brookview Park in Golden Valley

In a grassy, shaded space near the playground
<http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/index.php>

Come out and enjoy food, fun and camaraderie with your fellow Appleseeders! Bring your friends, your family and your kids. There is a large playground, a big grassy area with some shade, plus lots of space for camp chairs. We will have fun stuff for kids, hear about Appleseed, upcoming events, and the new AppleCore and LibertySeed programs, sing an Early American song or two, dance a simple Early American dance (or watch), and play some yard games.

We will eat lunch about 1:30pm. If you plan to grill at the park, please bring a grill in case one isn't available, and arrive early. Puma Mami's family will arrive early to get us a good spot.

Please RSVP to PumaMami@rocketmail.com or directly on the Appleseed forum at: <http://appleseedinfo.org/smf/index.php?topic=24031.0>. Let us know what you plan to bring to share :)

We also have a Facebook event page at "Minnesota-Land of 10,000 Appleseeds!" -- <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=222621561112802>. You can invite your Facebook friends directly from that page, just click on "Select Guests to Invite."

After Action Report: Hinckley, July 16-17, 2011

While 90 degree temperatures with near 80% humidity may be commonplace to our southern Appleseed family, it is NOT commonplace in the Frozen North, and I must commend all that persevered through this weekend's Appleseed Shoot in Hinckley, MN! I knew we were in for an interesting weekend after driving north through torrential rains that produced up to nearly a foot of flash flooding between Rochester and, err, Minneapolis/St Paul.

On arrival at the Hinckley Conservation Club, MN's Senior Instructor and a veteran Orange Hat were found putting up the target line and flagpoles off in a grey haze...

OF MOSQUITOES!!! Minnesota's State Bird was out in full force, and lent an entirely new meaning to a "SWAT TEAM." It was so humid that the mosquitoes could simply lay eggs in the air and the larvae would hatch and develop there before buzzing off in search of their prey (us!).

Luckily, most of our shooters were well prepared for the diametrically opposed elements of the weekend: water and fire. All had a REMARKABLE teachable attitude and maintained it through a weekend of oppressive heat and humidity, bereft of anything more than the merest tease of a breeze. Five intrepid shooters were confronted by the "evil mom4rmhell" in Shoot Boss's clothing. They were doused time and again with the firehose of Appleseed knowledge, were sent to the mats and got right back up to check their targets. Down to the mat with a flurry of slings ringing in their heads (Hasty! Hasty-hasty and knocked for a Loop!), down to the mat with the 6 steady hold factors, down to the mat with the 6 steps of firing the shot, down to the mat after Inches-Minutes-Clicks, and down to mat again with NPOA. You'd have thought they were descendants of Rhode Island's Major General Nathaniel Greene who wrote, "We fight, get

beat, rise and fight again." Soon their groups began to shrink with each course of fire. Steamed near to having meat fall from their bones, it was soon time for lunch, and some history! A replica Brown Bess made an appearance, along with her fearsome 16 inch bayonet. Instructor AdamT shared the story of April 19th and Paul Revere's ride, with fife and drum playing in the background to help set the mood. We heard about the events leading up to this fateful night, and how well-prepared colonial Patriots mustered 14,000 men willing to risk all to defend their Liberty, and that of our Present Generation.



With bodies reduced to merely parboiled and hearts rekindled by the bravery and sacrifices of our Forefathers, the brave band of two Reawakened American couples (Erica/Reuben, Abby/Joel) and a determined young Dalton marched back to the fray along with their supply wagons. Instructors illustrated the seated position which soon made all appreciate how much more heat-induced fatigue affected their accuracy. Any gust wind of wind would have been welcome, but the little air movement that appeared was but a tease along the treetops. They learned to "embrace their wobble" in the standing position as heat sapped their strength, and how to time their shots with wet, labored breathing!

Returning from the target line, they were met by one of the Acton Minutemen that had trained and fought at Concord's North Bridge under their beloved Captain Isaac Davis, and had later borne his body home to his grieving wife Hannah and their children. Thus inspired, our persevering shooters fought off hordes of green zombies while learning transitions and reviewing the morning's lessons. As the day came to a close, the stories of Meriam's Corner, Parker's Revenge, Lord Percy's cannon, General Heath's "Moving Ring of Fire," and Colonel Pickering's hesitation framed our final redcoat for the day.

Sunday's steamy morning offered up two returning shooters: "Iron-Will" Kelli and "back for more" Dwight (norseman1), and **a new shooter Dalton's sister, Dakotah**. The Sunday morning Redcoat target was followed by a few squares to zero in some new equipment. As the AQT Festival unfolded, Dwight (returning for his delayed second day of Appleseed, interrupted by Father's Day) reeled off RM score after RM score with remarkable consistency. Others saw their scores climb in synchrony with the day's heat index. As the group "cooled off" near the trees with temps only in the upper 80's, AFTERMATH told of Hezekiah Wyman's marksmanship and illustrated how the choices and actions of a single person (even someone "past their prime") can affect history and the course of a Nation. Taylor spoke about David Lamson and his "old fool" companions that stopped Percy's resupply train and drove six desperate Grenadiers to surrender to Old Mrs. Batherick. To drive home the lesson of the value of teamwork, the afternoon began with a "mad minute" team contest against the **dreaded TV target**. Despite being pitted against all comers, Erica and Reuben blew competition **and** the television away and were rewarded with a copy of PAUL REVERE'S RIDE to help further their appreciation of our heritage as

well as **to recognize their quick uptake of marksmanship skills**.

As the day steamed away, some shooters faltered, but Joel's scores slowly but steadily climbed. **Uninformed by the Evil Shoot Boss that he had already earned a Rifleman's score of 212, she drove him mercilessly forward to his true abilities and a score of 220! Rather than the traditional final Redcoat, our determined shooters requested two extra AQT's.**

After our other Jungleseed participants had decided that unbearable body odors would soon render them ineffective (or at least unlovable) and retired from the field, **one remarkable woman stayed on**. Determined to improve, "Iron-Will" Kelli chose to remain and shoot AQT's for nearly two hours more until her scores peaked on the verge of Rifleman, and the tremulousness of utter fatigue led her to the wise decision of rest, dryfiring and another Appleseed event in her quest for her Rifleman's patch.

*If it had been in my power to award her a patch for one of most determined efforts I have ever witnessed, I would have done so. Well beyond anything I have ever witnessed before, **this woman possesses the SOUL of a Rifleman**. Kelli, I salute you!*

Everyone, keep dry firing at home, **come to another 'seed soon so you don't forget the skills you learned, and bring your friends!** Remember how easy it is to double our program if everyone comes back, and brings just one friend.

Thank you all again for making Hinckley's JUNGLESEED Shoot a success!!

Cooper

Heroes of Early America: The Minuteman

In Concord, Massachusetts, at Minuteman National Historic Park, there is a statue of a Minuteman near the North Bridge. The statue shows him leaving his plow, with musket in hand, ready to go at a moment's notice wherever he is called to defend his community.

A Concord man named Daniel Chester French won a contest to create the statue for the 100th anniversary of the April 19, 1775 battle. While it represents a typical minuteman of 1775, the artist did make sketches of the descendants of Isaac Davis of Acton, who was killed at the North Bridge. The bronze for the statue came from recycled Civil War cannons.

The Minutemen were an elite 25% of the colonial militia, hand-picked by their commanding officers and generally under 25 years old. They were highly mobile, enthusiastic, reliable, and physically strong. They would be the first to respond to any muster call. At the time of April 19, 1775, Minutemen in one form or another had been a part of colonial defense in Massachusetts for well over one hundred years! These were men who knew very well what they were about.



Photo: Wikipedia Commons,

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Minute_Man.JPG

Photo: Jennifer Burns

The Minutemen, and the militia in general, achieved a great success in creating a moving circle of fire around the Redcoats as they retreated to Boston. In a time without any electronic communications or even good roads, it was an amazing achievement to quickly muster and coordinate the actions of about 4,000 militia troops, including about 1,000 Minutemen. The moving circle of fire is still studied at military schools today.

Ironically, in the running battle chasing the Redcoats back to Boston along Battle Road, the Minutemen would provide their last service as Minutemen. As the American Revolution began in earnest, they became a part of the army of this great, new nation.

Come to Appleseed and hear more about the day marksmanship met history and the heritage began!

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