

# Event combines marksmanship with a lesson in American history

**THE APPLESEED PROJECT:** SHOOTING AFFAIR AIMS TO EDUCATE



MARK LEVY • HERALD/REVIEW

**Nathaniel Struse, 12, participates in Saturday's Appleseed shoot at the Sierra Vista Shooting Range.**

BY ADAM CURTIS  
HERALD/REVIEW

**SIERRA VISTA** — This weekend, a group of 35 southern Arizonans is getting a crash course in not only how to shoot a rifle but also the importance marksmanship has played in America's history.

As part of its Appleseed Project, the Revolutionary War Veterans Association is holding more than 100 shoots across the nation this weekend to commemorate April 19, 1775, the first day of the Revolutionary War, Local Lead Instructor Bill Buppert said. "The reason why we have this marriage

of marksmanship and history is to show people that if we hadn't been the marksman and had the gun culture we did at the time, we would still all be talking like John Cleese."

Buppert points out when you see British soldiers in revolutionary war movies they all line up and say "make ready," then they say, "fire," he said. "You never hear them say 'aim' because they can't."

In addition to remembering the efforts of the rifleman who fought the British, the shoot teaches people to use their rifles properly and accurately, Buppert

said. He has taught people ranging from age 8 to 80.

Participants in all the shoots across the nation also fired 13 rounds down range at the same time on Saturday, making it what the RWVA believes is the largest non-combative simultaneous shooting in American history, Buppert said.

Tucson resident Joe Chacon came to the Sierra Vista Range just for the shoot because he recently bought a rifle and wanted to learn more about shooting, he said. "I was just all over the place on the target before but now I'm getting those

little groupings, so it's helped greatly. I'm having a blast."

He really enjoyed the historical perspective of the event and the fact there was such a diverse group of people participating, Chacon said. "For me, being so new, I keep forgetting to do certain things, put the safety on, all that, so this is kind of helping me with that discipline."

This is the second year the veterans' group is hosting three shoots. There will be one in September and another in December, Buppert said. For more information, go to [appleseedinfo.org](http://appleseedinfo.org).