

Version: 8/14/2008

SUMMER 2008 **MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON**

(Run & Shoot)

**OPEN TO ALL BSA TROOP, VENTURING CREW, & EXPLORER POST
REGISTERED MEMBERS IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS DISTRICT**



2nd Annual
Celebration of the Armed Citizen Militias of the
American Revolution.

"Liberty or Death"

Date: August 30, 2008

Location: Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Range
(8 Miles East of Burney)

SPONSORED BY CREW 40 AND CREW 3006 OF NORTHERN RIVERS DISTRICT

“Exercising the American Bill of Rights”

Here’s your chance to compete with other Venturers and Scouts in the **2008 MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON**.

Test your skills as a marksman after running mountain terrain.

WHO: Registered Members of Venturing Crews, Explorer Posts and Boy Scout Troops registered in the Northern Rivers District.

WHEN: August 30, 2008.

TIME - Check in:
First Steps Course: 7:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M.

Biathlon Check in 12:00 Noon .

Plan to be EARLY. No Late Entries.

LOCATION: Hat Creek Rifle & Pistol Range - Just Above Burney, CA (Map attached).

UNIFORM: Venturing Field Uniform, Crew Activity Shirt, Crew Uniform, or Matching T-Shirts - (Your Choice); Boy Scouts wear Field Uniform, BSA Activity Shirt, Crew Uniform, or Matching T-Shirts - (Your Choice).

FOOD/WATER: Each Crew /BSA Troop is responsible for their own LUNCH & water. There is NO running water at the range.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

8:00 a.m. to Noon WITH \$10.00 Fee -

NRA Rifle First Steps course for those who need to qualify in order to shoot

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. (or until finished) WITH \$6.00 Fee

Mountain Run with Shooting Biathlon (Individual Race format competition)



Individual Race Format - Marksmanship - Biathlon Segment - Individual Shooters:

- *Run / prone shoot - 5 shots (50 Yards)
- *Run / standing shoot - 5 shots (50 Yards)
- *Run/ prone shoot - 5 shots (50 Yards)
- *Run standing shoot - 5 shots (50 Yards)
- *OPTIONAL BONUS SHOT - 100 YARDS



Course of Fire:

For the Summer Biathlon, the rifles will be left in the range and NOT carried during the run.

Fire a .22-caliber rifle at five targets at a range of 50 meters, from both the prone and standing — known as the "off-hand" — positions – AS FOLLOWS:.

-Each shooter will start in 30-second intervals on a designated course. After completing the ½ mile circuit, each shooter will fire five rounds from a prone position.

-After completing the ½ mile circuit a second time, the shooter fires from the off-hand position.

-After completing the ½ mile circuit a third time, the shooter fires from the prone position.

-After completing the ½ mile circuit a fourth time, the shooter fires from the off-hand position.

-BONUS SHOT - OPTIONAL: AFTER COMPLETING ABOVE, YOU MAY FIRE 1 SHOT AT THE 100 YARD TARGET. HIT WILL COUNT AS TWO (2) ADDITIONAL HITS FOR SCORING.

All Participants must participate in an NRA Rifle First Steps or NRA Basic Rifle Course.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you have already completed one of these two courses - you must provide a copy of your NRA Certificate. If you need to take the course, the NRA Rifle First Steps course will be provided at this event.

WHAT TO BRING:

You may bring your own .22 Rifle provided it meets the BSA Policy as Follows:

Boy Scouts - Any .22 Action (Bolt , Pump, Lever, Semi-Auto, etc.) PROVIDED scout can only load and fire only 1 round at a time (as per recent revision to Guide to Safe Scouting).

Venturing/Exploring Scouts - Any .22 Action (Bolt , Pump, Lever, Semi-Auto, etc.). There are a limited number of .22 Single Shot Bolt Action Rifles Available.

Scopes Optional.

.22 LR Ammo (100 Rounds + whatever you think you will shoot)

Tour Permit.

Parent Firearms Authorization Form - Required (attached).

Registration Form (Attached)-please register as a unit.

Personal Media Release & Waiver (Attached) - This form relates to use of web site and other advertising promotional coverage.

Bring a mat for use with Prone Position rifle shooting.

Eye and Ear Protection (Mandatory).

Canteen/Water bottle/container - one per person.

Camping style chair.



COST: See Reg Form - Due by August 28, 2007.

NO LATE ENTRIES. Registration and fees must be received by August 28, 2008 (5:00 P.M.), unless other arrangements have been made. Mail to P.O. Box 120, Shingletown, CA 96088 - Attention Crew 40. Please call Nathan Zelif 530-474-3267.

Youth NRA First Steps Rifle Course \$10.00 Check payable to "crew 3006"

Youth Biathlon Registration fee 6.00 Check payable to "Crew 40"

Adult Biathlon Registration fee 6.00 Check payable to "Crew 40"

No refunds unless event is cancelled.

Ribbons will be awarded to the highest scoring competitor in each category. Additional awards will be provided for each additional 5 competitors in a category up through 3rd place.

Each participant who completes the Minuteman Biathlon will receive:

- **Minuteman Cross Country Biathlon Pin Award; and**
- **Certificate suitable for framing.**

SUPERVISION: All Shooting activities are supervised by NRA Certified Instructors and Range Safety Officers as required by BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.

MORE INFO: Nathan Zelif, Associate Advisor (530-474-3267)



MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON

American Minuteman Pledge

*On my honor, as an American Minuteman, Venturer
/ Scout, I promise:*

To always follow the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting;

To seek to master those physical and mental factors essential to the firing of an accurate shot;

To treasure my American heritage, the Bill of Rights, and do all I can to protect and preserve the Unalienable Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment;

To recognize such individual right as being justly considered as the palladium of the liberties of our republic and deterrent to, and defense against, government tyranny and oppression.

** Pledge adapted from the Lassen Sharpshooter's Pledge (Green Mountain Boys - Crew 40 / Troop 40)

The Meaning of the American Minuteman Pledge

(Version: 8/14/2008)

Before you pledge yourself to any oath or promise, you must know what it means. The paragraphs that follow will help you understand the meaning of the American Minuteman Pledge.

On my honor, as an American Minuteman, Venturer / Scout, I promise:

By giving your word, you are promising to be guided by the ideals of the American Minuteman Pledge. You, as an American Citizen, are part of the militia as set forth in the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights (Note: 1).

To always follow the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting;

In your firearms safety course, you learned the rules of safe firearm handling and shooting. These rules must always be followed, and you should teach others to follow them both by your good example, and instruction.

To seek to master those physical and mental factors essential to the firing of an accurate shot;

Take care of your body so that it will serve you well for an entire lifetime. That means eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly to build strength and endurance. To remain in good health, and be a good shot, you must avoid harmful drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and anything else that can harm your health.

Develop your mind, and your power of focused concentration. These attributes will not only assist you in becoming a good marksman, but will further help you in school, work, and during your entire lifetime.

To treasure my American heritage, the Bill of Rights, and do all I can to protect and preserve the Unalienable Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment;

As an American Citizen we must learn about our American heritage and our rights. We recognize that those who are not educated about their rights and history, will not recognize when their rights and liberties are being threatened, or taken from them.

The Bill of rights sets forth human rights that predate the establishment of any government. These are your God given rights. As such, they were not given to you by any government, or public official. On the other hand, the Constitution grants limited powers to the government, for it is the government which is to be bound by the chains of the Constitution. The Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms is fundamental, and is your God given right of self defense, whether exercised against a criminal about to take your life, or a government which has become tyrannical and oppressive.

To recognize such individual right as being justly considered as the palladium of the liberties of our republic and deterrent to, and defense against, government tyranny and oppression.

Our American forefathers rose up in armed rebellion against their own government which was tyrannical and oppressive. It was a last resort. It was out of that armed revolution that our Constitutional Republic was formed. It was armed citizens that had the courage to take a stand against their own government's tyranny and oppression. The American Revolution was ignited on April 19, 1775 when government troops marched on Lexington and Concord to confiscate firearms and ammunition of its citizens. The Individual Right to keep and Bear Arms is the palladium (i.e., providing protection, safety, safeguard) of the liberties of our republic (Note: 2). The people have the right to alter or abolish tyrannical government (Note: 3).

Notes:

(1) "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials."
— George Mason, in Debates in Virginia Convention on Ratification of the Constitution.

"The militia, when properly formed, are in fact the people themselves, ... all men capable of bearing arms;..." — "Letters from the Federal Farmer to the Republic", 1788 (either Richard Henry Lee or Melancton Smith).

"Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? Is it feared, then, that we shall turn our arms each man against his own bosom? Congress shall have no power to disarm the militia. Their swords, and every other terrible implement of the soldier, are the birth-right of an American ... The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the People."— Tench Coxe, 1788.

(2) "The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them".[Quoted from Joseph Story Former Associate Justice of U.S. Supreme Court in, "Commentaries on the Constitution" (1833)].

(3) *Silveira v. Lockyer* - Dissent by Kozinski, states in part:

" ...a core value protected by the Second Amendment for "the people" was "the Right of the people to alter or abolish"48 tyrannical government, as they had done a decade before. ...

As Blackstone describes the "natural right" of an Englishman to keep and bear arms, the arms are for personal defense as well as resistance to tyranny. The two are not always separable. After the Civil War, southern states began passing "Black Codes," designed to limit the freedom of blacks as much as possible . 50 The "Black Codes" often contained restrictions on firearm ownership and possession. 51 The codes sometimes made it a crime for whites even to loan guns to blacks. 52 A substantial part of the debate in Congress on the Fourteenth Amendment was its necessity to enable blacks to protect themselves from White terrorism and tyranny in the South. 53 Private terrorist organizations, such as the Ku Klux Klan, were abetted by southern state governments' refusal to protect black citizens, and the violence of such groups could only be realistically resisted with private firearms. When the state itself abets organized terrorism, the right of the people to keep and bear arms against a tyrant becomes inseparable from the right to self-defense....

the law establishes with the utmost clarity that the militia is precisely what the panel says it is not, an "amorphous body of the people as a whole."

Among the acts of the crown seen as oppressions to be prevented from ever happening again were the Militia Acts of 1757 through 1763 authorizing British officials "to seize and remove the arms" of colonial militias when they thought it necessary to the peace of the kingdom. 69 The American Revolution was triggered when General Gage ordered troops to march from Boston to Lexington and Concord to do just that. 70

...The one thing that is absolute is that the Second Amendment guarantees a personal and individual right to keep and bear arms, and prohibits government from disarming the people...."

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The Bill of Rights

(with explanation)

THE PREAMBLE TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

Amendment I - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Government can neither impose a state religion upon you nor punish you for exercising the religion of your choice. You may express your opinions, write and publish what you wish, gather peacefully with others, and formally ask government to correct injustices.

Amendment II - A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Individuals ("the people") have the right to own and use weapons without interference from the government.

Amendment III - No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

The government cannot force you to house its agents.

Amendment IV - The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath

or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

You may not be arrested or "detained" arbitrarily. No agency of government may inspect or seize your property or possessions without first obtaining a warrant. To obtain a warrant, they must show specific cause for the search or seizure and swear under oath that they are telling the truth about these reasons. Furthermore, the warrant itself must state specifically and in detail the place, things, or people it covers. Warrants that are too general or vague are not valid; searches or seizures that exceed the terms of the warrant are not valid.

Amendment V - No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

No one outside the military may be tried for a serious crime without first being indicted by a grand jury (of citizens). Once found not guilty, a person may not be tried again for the same deed. You can't be forced to be a witness or provide evidence against yourself in a criminal case. You can't be sent to prison or have your assets seized without due process. The government can't take your property without paying market value for it.

Amendment VI - In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Trials cannot be unreasonably postponed or held in secret. In any criminal case against you, you have a right to public trial by a jury of unbiased citizens (thus ensuring that the state can't use a "party-line" judge to railroad you). The trial must be held in the state or region where the crime was committed. You cannot be held without charges. You cannot be held on charges that are kept secret from you. You have a right to know who is making accusations against you and to confront those witnesses in court. You have the right to subpoena witnesses to testify in your favor and a right to the services of an attorney.

Amendment VII - In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

The right to trial by jury extends to civil, as well as criminal, cases. Once a jury has made its decision, no court can overturn or otherwise change that decision except via accepted legal processes (for instance, granting of a new trial when an appeals court determines that your rights were violated in the original proceeding).

Amendment VIII - Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Bail, fines, and punishments must all fit the crime and punishments must not be designed for cruelty.

Amendment IX - The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

You have more rights than are specifically listed in the Bill of Rights.

Amendment X - The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

The U.S. federal government has only those specific powers granted to it by the Constitution. All other powers belong either to the states or to individuals.

The Ninth and Tenth Amendments, taken together, mean that the federal government has only the authority granted to it, while the people are presumed to have any right or power not specifically forbidden to them. The Bill of Rights as a whole is dedicated to describing certain key rights of the people that the government is categorically forbidden to remove, abridge, or infringe. The Bill of Rights clearly places the people in charge of their own lives, and the government within strict limits - the very opposite of the situation we have allowed to develop today.

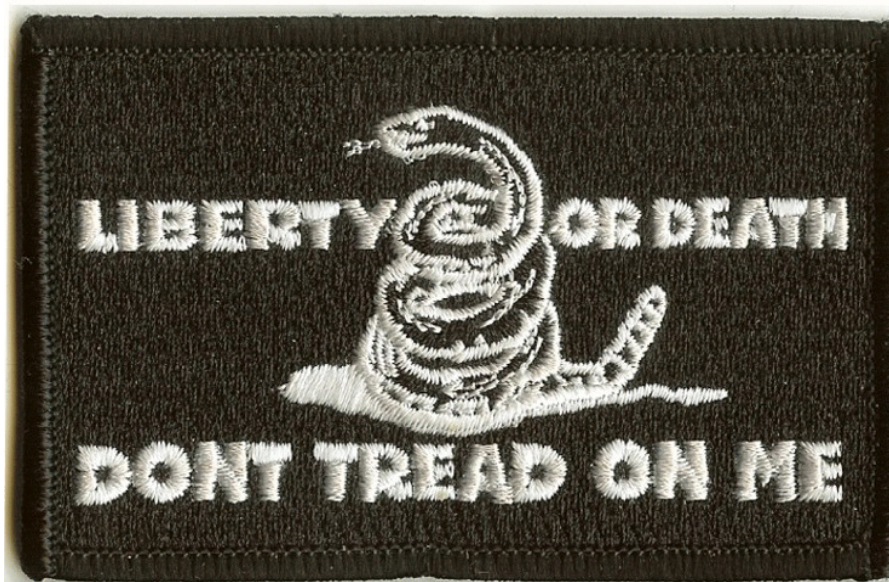
Source of above: JPFO

American Patriot Sharpshooter Award Series

- Summer - Minuteman Cross Country Biathlon <<< -- **AWARD FOR THIS EVENT**
- Minuteman Winter Mountain Patrol - Snowshoe (Biathlon)
- The Green River Rifles Mountain Sharpshooters Award (Battle of Cowpens)
- Saratoga Rifleman Award (Sure Shot Tim)
- Minuteman Muster Call Award
- Minuteman / Militia Patch Award - "Dont Tread on Me"



Above pictured: **Summer - Minuteman Cross Country Biathlon Award**; The Green River Rifles Mountain Sharpshooters Award (Battle of Cowpens); and Saratoga Rifleman Award (Sure Shot Tim). Pictured below: Minuteman / Militia Patch Award.



SUMMER 2008 MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON
Parental / Legal Guardian Firearm Authorization Form
(For Youth under 18 years Old)

Youth Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number (H) _____ (W) _____

As the Parent of, or Legal Guardian of, the above name Youth, I hereby give my written consent and permission for said Youth, while he/she is attending the 2008 Minuteman Cross Country Biathlon on August 30, 2008, and under the supervision of the Event Advisor, Crew Advisor, Scoutmaster, NRA Instructor(s), Range Safety Officer(s), and/or Consultant(s) to:

1. use firearms (including, but not limited to: rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, handguns, pistols, and revolvers), including those provided by the Event Advisor, Crew Advisor, NRA Instructor(s), Range Safety Officer(s), and /or Consultant(s); and to
2. possess live ammunition.

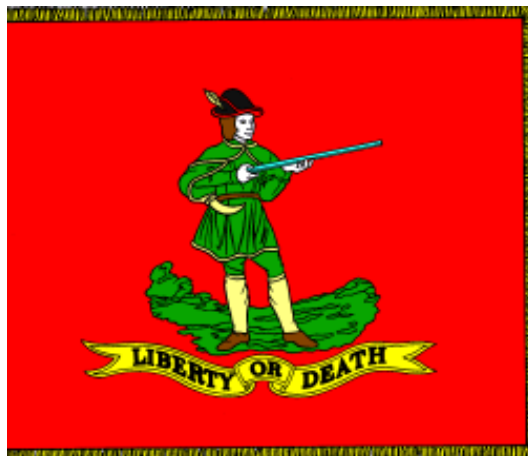
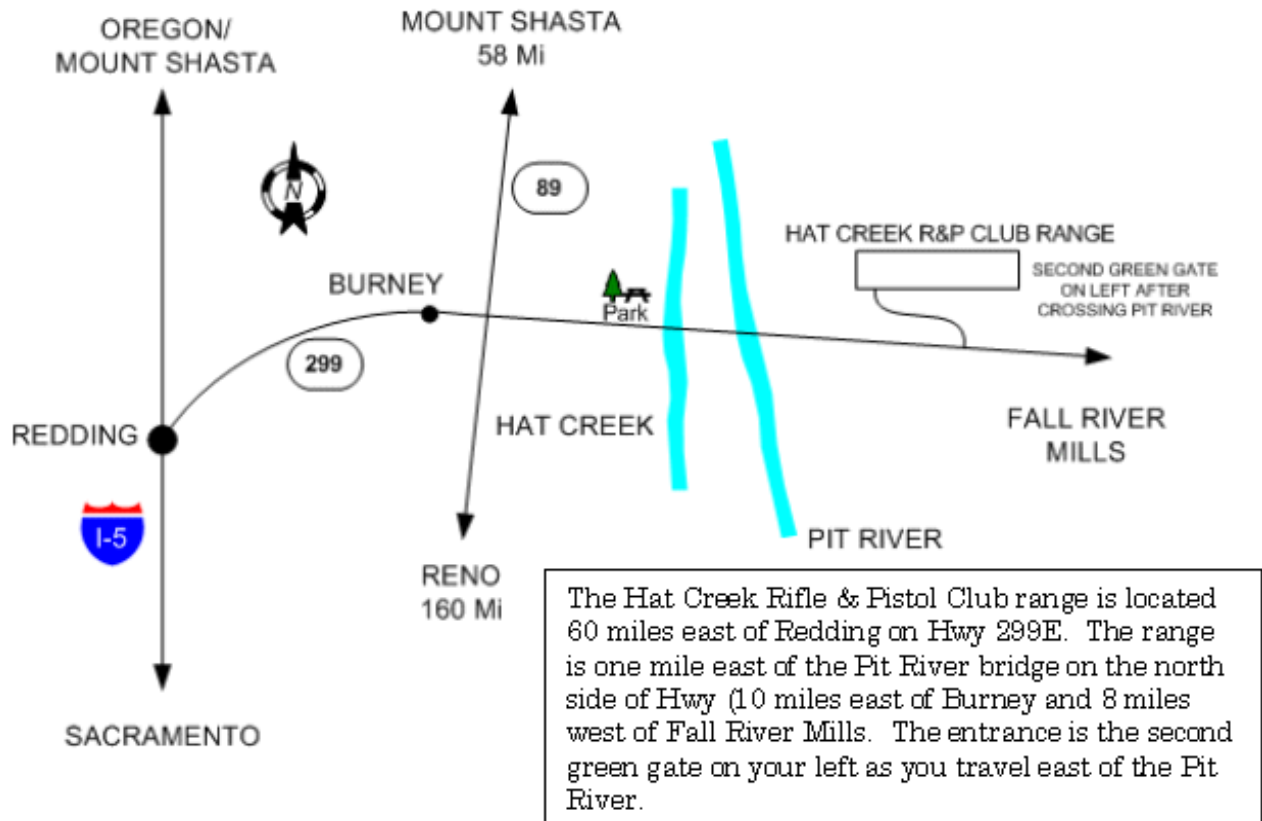
I further agree that the above named Youth is to comply with the following rules concerning transportation of firearms to and from authorized shooting activities; check in procedures; check out procedures; and removal of firearms from containers while at such shooting activities:

1. Firearms must be unloaded while being transported.
2. Rifles, shotguns and muzzleloaders must be transported to and from shooting activities in a gun case, and must be secured by a lock within the gun case in the event such case is not capable of being locked from the outside.
3. Handguns, pistols, and revolvers must be transported to and from shooting activities in a locked container.
4. Ammunition must be transported in a separate container from the firearm.
5. Upon arrival at a shooting activity, any youth bringing a firearm, must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult who is over the age of 18, and both must check in with the NRA Instructor or Range Safety Officer upon arrival. Upon leaving a shooting activity with a firearm brought by the youth, any youth must first check out with the NRA Instructor or Range Safety Officer, and must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult over the age of 18 before leaving with any firearm.
6. No firearms are to be removed from their cases and/or locked containers without prior instruction from the NRA Instructor or Range Safety Officer.

7.
Parent / Legal Guardian
Name _____
(Please print)
Signature _____
Date _____
Version: 8/14/08

Youth Crew Member / Troop Member
Name _____
(Please print)
Signature _____
Date _____

LOCATION: Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Range



Sponsored by Crew 40 and Crew 3006 Northern Rivers District

August 30, 2008 (VENTURING / BSA)

MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON - REGISTRATION FORM

Instructions: Complete all Information Requested / Return Registration Form with Fees to address below / Each Unit Must File a Local Tour Permit

Crew # / Troop # _____ Name of Unit Contact Person _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: (w) _____ (h) _____
Unit Position: _____

Sponsor: _____ Email Address: _____

List Names of All Participants. . Make a Duplicate Copy for Unit's Records Registration. Fees are Non-refundable, but are Transferable within the Unit.

Table with 6 columns: Youth Names, Age, Gender, Youth Names, Age, Gender. Rows 1-4 for youth registration.

LIST ADDITIONAL NAMES ON REVERSE SIDE OR USE EXTRA SHEET

ADULTS: BSA National Health & Safety Standards require a minimum of two adults to be present at all Times.

Table with 3 columns: Adult Names, Day Telephone #, Gender (M - F). Rows 1-2 for adult registration.

All Participants must participate in an NRA Rifle First Steps or NRA Basic Rifle Course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If you have already completed one of these two courses - you must provide a copy of your NRA Certificate. If you need to take the course, the NRA Rifle First Steps course will be provided at this event.

Registration fee table with columns for Youth and Adult registration, NRA First Steps Rifle Course, and Biathlon fees. Includes a Total Payment row.

TIME: First Steps Course Check in 7:00 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. No refunds unless event is cancelled. Biathlon Check in 12:00 Noon . No refunds unless event is cancelled

Registration and fees must be received by August 28, 2008 (5:00 P.M.), unless other arrangements have been made. Drop off Registration and payment: Mail to P.O. Box 120, Shingletown, CA 96088- Attention Crew 40.

*Adults will shoot only if space is available. Priority is given to youth participants.

Registration must be received by August 28, 2007

Make checks payable to: Crew 40.

Please call Nathan Zelif 530-474-3267.

Media Release and Waiver

I. I hereby consent to being photographed/videotaped while taking part in or being present at the 2008 Minuteman Cross Country Biathlon and all related events, and grant BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters the right to use, publish, distribute, exhibit, advertise and copyright my name, picture, portrait, likeness, voice, on and off camera interviews, and any other material provided by me in all audio and/or visual media, now known or hereafter devised, throughout the universe in perpetuity, concerning my participation in the Summer 2008 Minuteman Cross Country Run and related events taking place on August 30, 2008.

I am appearing at no charge, and agree that BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters and subcontractors are under no obligation to compensate me in any way for my appearance. I represent and warrant that any statements made by me while being photographed/videotaped are true and to the best of my knowledge.

II. I agree that no material need be submitted to me for any further approval and BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters shall be without liability or obligation whatsoever to me for any creative use of the publication or exhibition of my picture, voice, statements, portrait or likeness.

III. I warrant and represent that this license does not in any way conflict with any existing commitment on my part.

IV. Nothing herein will constitute any obligation on BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters to make any use of any of the rights set forth herein.

This consent and grant of rights is irrevocable so that BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters may proceed in reliance thereon.

Name

Address

Phone

City, State, Zip

Location

CONSENT OF PARENT OF GUARDIAN

I, the undersigned, hereby warrant that I am the _____ of _____ a minor, and have full authority to authorize the above Release which I have read and approved. I hereby release and agree to indemnify BSA Troop 40, Venturing Crew 40, and Lassen Sharpshooters from and against any and all liability arising out to the exercise of the rights granted by the above Release.

Signature

Name (Print)

The Individual Right to Keep and Bear Arms

"A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed". **Amendment II - U.S. Constitution.**

On the subject of - what is the militia?

"I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials."
— George Mason, in *Debates in Virginia Convention on Ratification of the Constitution*

§ 1890. The importance of this article will scarcely be doubted by any persons, who have duly reflected upon the subject. The militia is the natural defence of a free country against sudden foreign invasions, domestic insurrections, and domestic usurpations of power by rulers. It is against sound policy for a free people to keep up large military establishments and standing armies in time of peace, both from the enormous expenses, with which they are attended, and the facile means, which they afford to ambitious and unprincipled rulers, to subvert the government, or trample upon the rights of the people. The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them.² And yet, though this truth would seem so clear, and the importance of a well regulated militia would seem so undeniable, it cannot be disguised, that among the American people there is a growing indifference to any system of militia discipline, and a strong disposition, from a sense of its burthens, to be rid. (COMMENTARIES ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES; WITH A PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE COLONIES AND STATES, BEFORE THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION. BY JOSEPH STORY, LL. D., DANE PROFESSOR OF LAW IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.)

Examples of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in Action

April 19, 1775 - Patriot's Day

The Battle of Athens, Tennessee (1946)





IN THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOT'S DAY

The Shot Heard Around the World

APRIL 19, 1775

Remember, that as wayward children of King George, we (as British subjects), were commanded by our government (at that time) to surrender our guns and powder.

The actual British order to seize and destroy the American's guns and supplies, for that day, reads as follows:

"Having received Intelligence, that a Quantity of Ammunition, Provision, Artillery, Tents and small Arms, have been collected at Concord, for the Avowed Purpose of raising and supporting a Rebellion against His Majesty, you will March with the Corps of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, put under your Command, with utmost expedition and Secrecy to Concord, where you will seize and destroy all Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, Small Arms, and all Military Stores whatever ..." (Per Order of General Gage to Lt. Colonel F. Smith, of the Kings Troops. The Minute Men The First Fight: Myths and Realities of the American Revolution, by John R. Galvin, at page 100).

At Concord, house to house searches were conducted by the British to carry out the above order. Remember, the possession of powder, cannon, and other supplies of war might have meant arrest for revolutionary activities. The supplies of arms were substantial:

"Within the town, scattered through the cellars and attics and outbuildings of at least twenty-five houses, the provincials had concealed ten tons of musket balls and cartridges, thirty-five half barrels of powder, 350 tents, fourteen medicine chests, eighty barrels of beef, eight and a half tons of salt fish, seventeen and a half tons of rye, 318 barrels of flour, 100 barrels of salt, ... hundreds of axes, canteens, reams of cartridge paper ... and ... a substantial number of cannon and gun carriages of varying sizes... ." (emphasis added). The Minute Men the First Fight: Myths and Realities of the American Revolution, by John R. Galvin, at page 140).

On April 19, 1775, the Americans were prepared to, and did, fight for their liberty and freedom. What would you have done?



The Gadsden Flag · Est. 1775

The Battle of Athens, Tennessee

As Recently As 1946, American Citizens Were Forced To Take Up Arms As A Last Resort Against Corrupt Government Officials.

Published in Guns & Ammo October 1995, pp. 50-51

On August 1-2, 1946, some Americans, brutalized by their county government, used armed force as a last resort to overturn it. These Americans wanted honest open elections. For years they had asked for state or federal election monitors to prevent vote fraud (forged ballots, secret ballot counts and intimidation by armed sheriff's deputies) by the local political boss. They got no help.

These Americans' absolute refusal to knuckle under had been hardened by service in World War II. Having fought to free other countries from murderous regimes, they rejected vicious abuse by their county government.

These Americans had a choice. Their state's Constitution -- Article 1, Section 26 -- recorded their right to keep and bear arms for the common defense. Few "gun control" laws had been enacted.

These Americans were residents of McMinn County, which is located between Chattanooga and Knoxville in Eastern Tennessee. The two main towns were Athens and Etowah. McMinn County residents had long been independent political thinkers. For a long time they also had: accepted bribe-taking by politicians and/or the sheriff to overlook illicit whiskey-making and gambling; financed the sheriff's department from fines-usually for speeding or public drunkenness which promoted false arrests; and put up with voting fraud by both Democrats and Republicans.

The wealthy Cantrell family, of Etowah, backed Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1932 election, hoping New Deal programs would revive the local economy and help Democrats to replace Republicans in the county government. So it proved.

Paul Cantrell was elected sheriff in the 1936, 1938 and 1940 elections, but by slim margins. The sheriff was the key county official. Cantrell was elected to the state senate in 1942 and 1944; his chief deputy, Pat Mansfield, was elected sheriff. In 1946 Paul Cantrell again sought the sheriff's office.

At the end of 1945, some 3,000 battle-hardened veterans returned to McMinn County; the GIs held Cantrell politically responsible for Mansfield's doings. Early in 1946, some newly returned ex-GIs decided to challenge Cantrell politically by offering an all-ex-GI, non-partisan ticket. They promised a fraud-free election, stating in ads and speeches that there would be an honest ballot count and reform of county government.

At a rally, a GI speaker said, "The principles that we fought for in this past war do not exist in McMinn County. We fought for democracy because we believe in democracy but not the form we live under in this county" (Daily Post-Athenian, 17 June 1946, p.1). At the end of July 1946, 159 McMinn County GIs petitioned the FBI to send election monitors. There was no response. The Department of Justice had not responded to McMinn County residents' complaints of election fraud in 1940, 1942 and 1944.

FROM BALLOTS TO BULLETS

The primary election was held on August 1. To intimidate voters, Mansfield brought in some 200 armed "deputies." GI poll-watchers were beaten almost at once. At about 3 p.m., Tom Gillespie, an African-American voter was told by a sheriff's deputy that he could not vote. Despite being beaten, Gillespie persisted. The enraged deputy shot him. The gunshot drew a crowd. Rumors spread that Gillespie had been shot in the back; he later recovered (C. Stephen Byrum, *The Battle of Athens*, Paidia Productions, Chattanooga, TN, 1987; pp. 155-57).

Other deputies detained ex-GI poll-watchers in a polling place, as that made the ballot counting "Public" A crowd gathered. Sheriff Mansfield told his deputies to disperse the crowd. When the two ex-GIs smashed a big window and escaped, the crowd surged forward. The deputies, with guns drawn, formed a tight half-circle around the front of the polling place. One deputy, "his gun raised high...shouted: 'If you sons of bitches cross this street I'll kill you!'" (Byrum, p.165).

Mansfield took the ballot boxes to the jail for counting. The deputies seemed to fear immediate attack by the "people who had just liberated Europe and the South Pacific from two of the most powerful war machines in human history" (Byrum, pp. 168-69).

Short of firearms and ammunition, the GIs scoured the county to find them. By borrowing keys to the National Guard and State Guard armories, they got three M-1 rifles, five .45 semi-automatic pistols and 24 British Enfield rifles. The armories were nearly empty after the war's end. By 8 p.m. a group of GIs and "local boys" headed for the jail but left the back door unguarded to give the jail's defenders an easy way out.

Three GIs alerting passersby to danger were fired on from the jail. Two GIs were wounded. Other GIs returned fire.

Firing subsided after 30 minutes; ammunition ran low and night had fallen. Thick brick walls shielded those inside the jail. Absent radios, the GIs' rifle fire was uncoordinated. "From the hillside fire rose and fell in disorganized cascades. More than anything else, people were simply shooting at the jail" (Byrum, p.189).

Several who ventured into the street in front of the jail were wounded. One man inside the jail was badly hurt; he recovered. Most sheriff's deputies wanted to hunker down and await rescue. Governor McCord mobilized the State Guard, perhaps to scare the GIs into withdrawing. The State Guard never went to Athens. McCord may have feared that Guard units filled with ex-GIs might not fire on other ex-GIs.

At about 2 a.m. on August 2, the GIs forced the issue. Men from Meigs County threw dynamite sticks and damaged the jail's porch. The panicked deputies surrendered. GIs quickly secured the building. Paul Cantrell faded into the night, having almost been shot by a GI who knew him, but whose .45 pistol had jammed. Mansfield's deputies were kept overnight in jail for their own safety. Calm soon returned. The GIs posted guards. The rifles borrowed from the armory were cleaned and returned before sunup.

THE AFTERMATH: RESTORING DEMOCRACY

In five precincts free of vote fraud, the GI candidate for sheriff, Knox Henry, won 1,168 votes to Cantrell's 789. Other GI candidates won by similar margins.

The GI's did not hate Cantrell. They only wanted honest government. On August 2, a town meeting set up a three-man governing committee. The regular police having fled, six men were chosen to police Etowah. In addition, "Individual citizens were called upon to form patrols or guard groups, often led by a GI... To their credit, however, there is not a single mention of an abuse of power on their behalf" (Byrum, p. 220).

Once the GI candidates' victory had been certified, they cleaned up county government, the jail was fixed, newly elected officials accepted a \$5,000 pay limit and Mansfield supporters who resigned were replaced.

The general election on November 5 passed quietly. McMinn County residents, having restored the rule of law, returned to their daily lives. Pat Mansfield moved back to Georgia. Paul Cantrell set up an auto dealership in Etowah. "Almost everyone who knew Cantrell in the years after the Battle' agree that he was not bitter about what had happened" (Byrum pp. 232-33; see also New York Times, 9 August 1946, p. 8).

The 79th Congress adjourned on August 2, 1946, when the Battle of Athens ended. However, Representative John Jennings Jr. from Tennessee decried McMinn County's sorry situation under Cantrell and Mansfield and the Justice Department's repeated failures to help the McMinn County residents. Jennings was delighted that "...at long last, decency and honesty, liberty and law have returned to the fine county of McMinn.. " (Congressional Record, House; U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1946; Appendix, Volume 92, Part 13, p. A4870).

THE LESSONS OF ATHENS

Those who took up arms in Athens, Tennessee, wanted honest elections, a cornerstone of our constitutional order. They had repeatedly tried to get federal or state election monitors and had used armed force so as to minimize harm to the law-breakers, showing little malice to the defeated law-breakers. They restored lawful government.

The Battle of Athens clearly shows how Americans can and should lawfully use armed force and also shows why the rule of law requires unrestricted access to firearms and how civilians with military-type firearms can beat the forces of government gone bad.

Dictators believe that public order is more important than the rule of law. However, Americans reject this idea. Brutal political repression is lethal to many. An individual criminal can harm a handful of people. Governments alone can brutalize thousands, or millions.

Law-abiding McMinn County residents won the Battle of Athens because they were not hamstrung by "gun control " They showed us when citizens can and should use armed force to support the rule of law.

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**The Minute Battalion of
Culpeper County, Virginia
1775 - 1776**



[Source of the following \(below\) is: http://gen.culpepper.com/archives/va/culpeper/minutemen.htm](http://gen.culpepper.com/archives/va/culpeper/minutemen.htm)

[Left to Right: Private Man, Officer in Captain Taliaferro's Company, Private Man, Officer in Captain Wm. Pickett's Company](#)

[Military Uniforms in America Plate No. 259](#)

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MINUTEMAN CROSS COUNTRY BIATHLON



"LIBERTY
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