

The Cyberpunk Technical Journal

Issue #27



Setting the benchmark since 1990

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"A people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

"With respect to the words "general welfare," I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators."
- James Madison

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"No man can cut out new paths in company. He does that alone."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

"The creator lives for himself. He needs no other men. His primary goal is within himself"

- Ayn Rand, The Fountainhead

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The congressional baboon orgy is now over, and the 20% of the Federal Government that was "closed" is back open. It's just the usual political business here in Amerika, and all the actors played their respective parts very well indeed, including the ones who are purportedly on "our side." My sympathy to the congressional stenographer who lost it during the vote. Any normal person who had to work with that group for so long would also go mental.

Conspiracies? Or more of the usual same old bullshit?

I can remember New World Order and FEMA conspiracies going back over 20 years, so this latest nonsense over FEMA Region 3 is nothing new or surprising. Since the Grey Man Survivalist knows that the collapse is slowly occurring as we speak, he pays little attention to such murmurings. Instead, the Grey Man just simply proceeds as usual, his long-term plans remain intact and unaffected by rumors. Indeed, those who pay attention to these conspiracies are a bunch of pathetic losers who are only interested in drama, and have no interest in the nuts and bolts of survivalism. The New World Order is here. You can notice the effects with every law passed, every time a pundit or politician opens his or her mouth, and the every time that mediocrity causes some consequence.

So now that you know that yes, Virginia, things really do suck that bad and are going to get worse, you can put it all behind you and get on with the business of riding out the decay and eventual collapse of the system. If you are lucky, it will occur in your lifetime and you'll be able to witness the New American Renaissance that will happen after this country is purged of the liabilities that started the whole mess in the first place. Even if you happen to leave for the next great adventure before the reset, your survivalist lifestyle will at least ensure that at the worst your mortal time on this sphere sucks in the least amount possible.

It's time to go grey.

This issue of [The Dystonaut](#) is going to talk a lot about the Grey Man Survivalist. I didn't make the term up. Some other survivalist writer did. However after reading about various aspects and interpretations of the philosophy and methodology, I found that it made the most sense of any, especially in this current age of the so-called "doomsday preppers".

The Grey Man is not a member of the Oathkeepers, 9/12 Movement, Tea Party, or even the Mickey Mouse Rambo Rangers. I think those organizations are great for keeping people focused on working "within the system", and direct their attention away from the fact that the system is broken beyond repair. This hinders people from coming to the realization that what they need to do now is prepare for the eventual collapse, and use the system's slow decay to their advantage. I know what the current sociopolitical issues are in this country, how they affect me and mine, and how my local politicians vote on them. **I don't need any pundit telling me who I should vote for.** I can decide well enough on my own, fuck you very much. I dare say that anyone who can't think for themselves on this level won't be good for much when the shit finally does hit the fan.

Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees.

I'm going to start with basic news and information gathering. You need to know what's going on out there before you can figure out how it's going to affect you, and what you should do about it. There are three questions that have to be answered, and they are:

- Where does the grey man survivalist get his news and information from?
- How does he know it's accurate?
- What should he be looking for?



The "how" is the easy part. These are what the Grey Man uses to get news and information. The two receivers on the right are police scanners. The receiver on the left is a AM-FM-Shortwave receiver.

All three can be purchased from Radio Shack, or you can buy them used elsewhere for less.

The police scanners are used to keep an ear on local activity, and matters of immediate importance. They also serve as NOAA Weather Radio receivers. The AM-FM-Shortwave radio is for general news and current events information. Between the two, you can get a good idea of what's going on out there, what you have to worry about right away, and what is a matter for long-term concern. Best of all, they still work when this thing you call the Internet goes down. All of these units work on batteries, or off a "wall-wart" power supply. You can also get a DC power adapter that will convert 12V DC from a vehicle, marine battery, or gel-cell down to the proper voltage for the radios.

Accuracy of information is easier you think. A statement is either true, or it's not. If it is true,

then how relevant is it to your existence? How does that piece of information, combined with others, affect you? That is the hard part that most people have problems with.

The information you hear on the police scanner will be accurate. It will also be a statement of fact. There will be an accident or fire at such-and-such location. How it affects you will depend on the nature of the event. A railway accident with a HAZMAT spill upwind from you, or a nearby brush fire is something you'll want to pay immediate attention to, and plan a response for. A fender bender or dumpster fire on the other side of down is a different story. Encrypted radio traffic, especially if coming from nearby portable radios, is an indication that you want to maintain a heightened state of awareness towards your surroundings. In the last case, you may not know *what's* being said, but the simple fact that someone nearby is taking measures to protect their communications is telling enough.

Police department traffic on the main channel is frequent, mundane, and for the most part of no consequence to you. What you will want to listen to are the car-to-car, mobile, tactical, and surveillance frequencies. These communications will be nearby, and therefore of greater interest. Even if the traffic is encrypted, you'll still get an indication that something is up. You will also want to listen to the regional mutual-aid and interoperability frequencies. These frequencies are used when multiple jurisdictions are involved in an incident, and are a possible indicator of something widespread and interesting.

Fire Department channels are usually silent until a call happens, and they are first responders to any type of HAZMAT incident. The fire dispatch frequency will likely be where you will hear about something you have to worry about. If you are lucky, your county or region will have a combined dispatch center and single frequency for all the local jurisdictions.

Emergency Management Agency frequencies are generally silent unless there is either a drill or incident that requires the agency's activation. This is another frequency you'll want to keep an ear on.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) frequencies can get busy, and most medical calls are non-disaster related. Around here, the regional EMS dispatch frequency is one of the busiest frequencies on the airwaves, but the traffic is routine medical calls. This changes during a disaster. Keep this frequency locked out until something happens. Also keep in mind that your local EMS dispatch agency might have a specific alternate frequency set aside for disaster operations. That will be the one you'll want to monitor.

Public Works, Highway Departments, and Utility Company frequencies are similar in nature to EMS in that most of their traffic is routine and mundane until a disaster hits. They too might have specific frequencies set aside for disaster operations.

The primary online source for police scanner frequencies is Radio Reference website at: <http://www.radioreference.com/>. This site will assist you with finding the proper data to program into your scanner, and assist you with choosing a police scanner that will monitor the communications that interest you.

Commercial news sources are all biased, and selective in what they report. Their bias is based upon the owner's personal political belief system, the perception of the beliefs of their market/target audience, and how the latter affects station revenue. With that said, the news you receive will be mostly/generally accurate, albeit colored with the source's particular bias.

The commercial news sources you will encounter on the AM, FM, and Shortwave broadcast bands can be broken down into four broad categories. The categories are traditional right-wing, traditional left-wing,

international (shortwave), and finally domestic alternative (shortwave).

The first two sources are split down the traditional right-wing conservative Republican, and left-wing liberal Democrat political lines. On the "left" side are ABC, NBC, CBS, and NPR/PBS. On the "right" side is FOX. These are the traditional Amerikan corporate broadcasters, and each has their expected bias.

The third are the overseas broadcasters operating on Shortwave. I have found that they are better providers of news regarding international affairs than domestic sources in the U.S. They also lack domestic political bias when reporting news about this country.

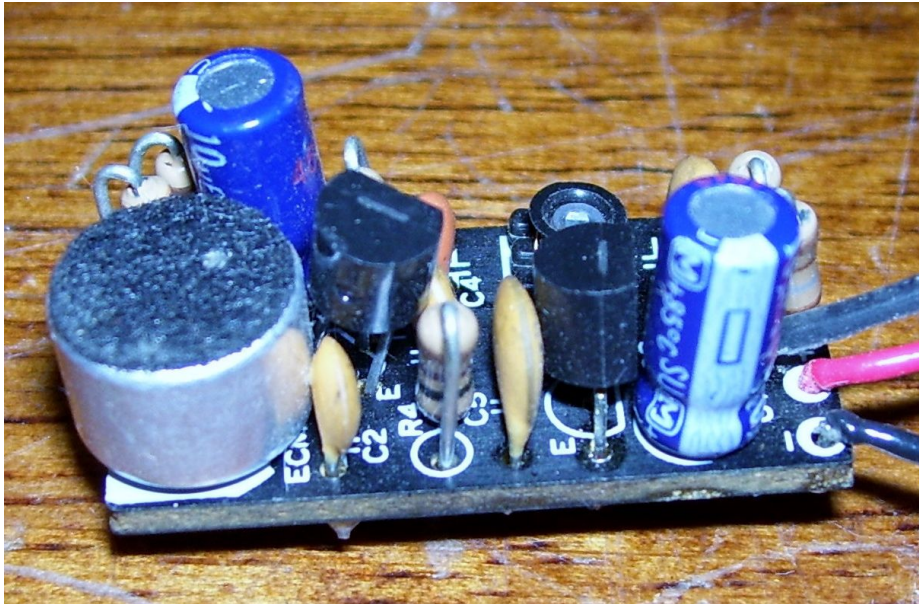
The final category are the domestic alternative sources found on US shortwave stations. Most of them are backed by some Christian religious sect. The quality of information varies, and fact checking of some of the sources is inconsistent. Be prepared to do a lot of sorting to find the diamonds in the shit pile.

Since you know everything is biased right from the start, you listen with a skeptical ear, choose a number of different sources, and aggregate them to get an idea of what's going on. I listen to a combination of NPR, AM broadcast "talk radio", overseas international shortwave broadcasters, and the occasional domestic shortwave broadcast to provide me with a wide enough variety of "news" to properly aggregate and analyze. The one mistake most people, especially "preppers", make is not have enough variety of sources to do a proper analysis. Alex Jones and Glen Beck are not enough. If you can't listen to an opposing view because you're afraid it's going to somehow "brainwash" you, then you won't be worth much in the long run.



Emitters Are Your Friend

by Joshua Tower



This picture is an assembled Radio Shack 28-4030 FM Wireless Microphone Kit. The kit was reviewed Issue #10 of [The Cyberpunk Technical Journal](#), and this particular model is a typical design. It operates in the low end of the FM Broadcast band, around 88-92 MHz., and has an advertised range of about 50 feet when run off a 1.5 Volt battery.

This model is discontinued, but similar units are available in both kit and assembled forms. As of late, you can buy them in the automotive sections of Wal-Mart. They are advertised for use with MP3 players so you can listen to your music over your car radio. Cost is usually under \$30.

Many of these FM emitters can be modified to increase their range up to one mile. One self-declared guerrilla pirate radio operator on the William Gibson Discussion Board managed to get a little over a mile with

a modified Scosche FMT4RA you can buy for \$12 at Wal-Mart. For some reason, micro-broadcasting is more popular on the left side of the political status-quo paradigm than it is on the right.



The advantages of the FM Broadcast band for these sorts of things are numerous. The equipment, both transmitters and receivers, are ubiquitous. You can buy them with cash at the local Wal-Mart and no one is any wiser. Everyone has an FM Radio somewhere. They're even built into Ipods! Having an Ipod, Car Stereo, or even a portable radio attracts no attention whatsoever.

In addition to the PSYOP and propaganda-type applications, FM BCB emitters can be used as a signaling device for various applications that I will leave to your imagination. They also have security uses. An alarm system sensor can activate a small FM wireless microphone and let you hear what is going on.

Tech Bookshelf

by Ticom

- **ARRL Handbook**

I swear I have too many of these things, but the older ones have good info in them on legacy tech such as vacuum tubes. For now buy a used one from the past 10 years or so at a hamfest.

- **The Boy Scientist**
- **The Boy Electrician**

Reprints of retro-tech hobbyist books from the early to mid 20th century. Lots of interesting info in these that you don't find anywhere else. Easy to Understand.

- **The Voice Of The Crystal**
- **Impoverished Radio Experimenter(six volume series)**

Doing retro-tech radio on the cheap. These two are some of my favorite RF books. Start with these.

- **Getting Started In Electronics**
- **Engineer's Mini-Notebook: Science and Communications Circuits and Projects**

- **Engineer's Mini-Notebook: Electronic Sensor Circuits & Projects**

All by Forrest Mims III. The first is an easy to understand course in basic electronics. The second two contain some interesting projects and schematics. More favorites of mine.

- **Solid State Design For The Radio Amateur**
- **Experimental Methods In RF Design**

These are more advanced books, but are very useful if you want to roll your own radio gear. Lots of good info in them for the experimenter. The first one has been discontinued for quite a while, and has a reputation of being almost unobtainium. I found mine at a local ham club picnic swap'n'sell for \$5.

There are other good books out there, but these are the basic ones I keep on the closest shelf to the desk, and usually reach for first.



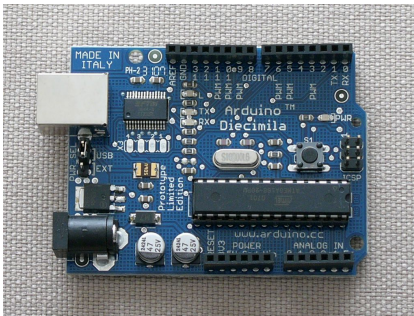
Back cover from one of the **Impoverished Radio Experimenter** series. Available at: <http://www.youoldtimebookstore.com/>

Arduino

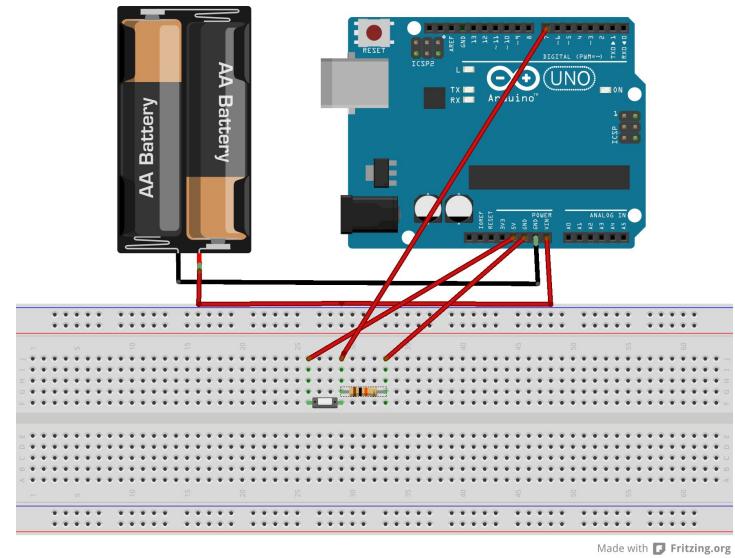
Back in issue #6 of The Dystonaut, we talked about "John," and his Galt's Gulch in the Berkshire region of Western Massachusetts. One of the techie items John experimented with while staying in his cabin was a small inexpensive single-board computer (SBC) called the Raspberry Pi. The Pi is one of the latest in a number of small, inexpensive open-source computer systems that are a powerful tool for many applications. We are currently in the process of recruiting guerrilla programmers to work on a series of software tools and interesting apps for the Pi, but for the moment we will discuss the SBC that started it all: the Arduino.

I wish there was something as powerful and inexpensive back in the old hacking days as the Arduino. We would have had an interesting time with it. To quote from the webpage, *"It's intended for artists, designers, hobbyists and anyone interested in creating interactive objects or environments."* If some hipster liberal-arts major can make it work, then any Grey Man Survivalist should be able to as well. Imagine the possibilities...

This is an Arduino:

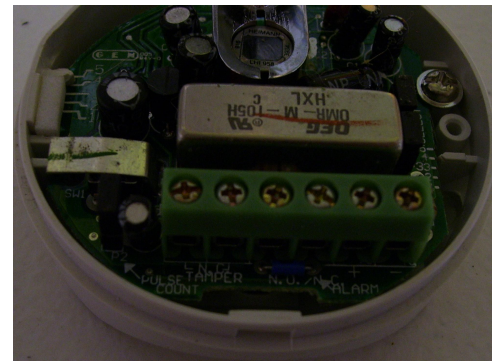


It's programmed via a USB connection, can run on batteries, and has a number of digital and analog I/O lines that let you hook up any number of sensors or other devices. Hopefully by now you can think of a few ideas for this.



What we have here is a diagram of a simple sensor switch hook-up with an Arduino. You can program it to detect a change in the switch's state, so this works with both Normally Open (NO) and Normally closed (NC) switches.

Looking at the inside of this PIR sensor, you see connections for both NO and NC switching. Most alarm sensors use NC to prevent an intruder from clipping the wires and rendering the sensor useless. The professionals use supervised switch inputs. You can do switch supervision with an Arduino, and we'll get into that a little later.

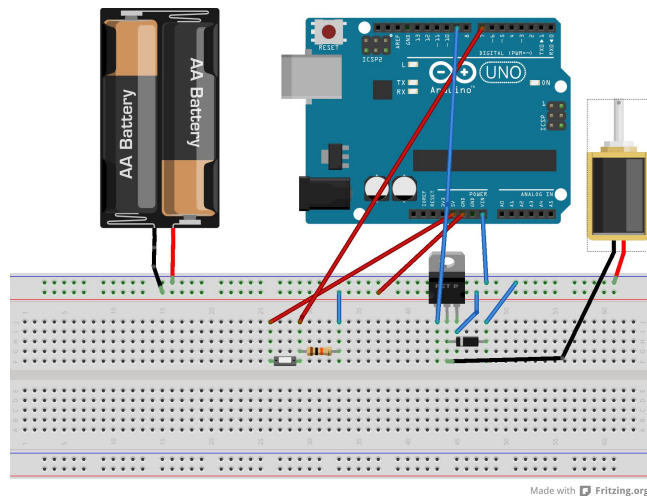


What I've detailed so far is the input end to an Arduino- based intrusion system. This information is right in Chapter 4 of Massimo Banzi's book Getting Started With Arduino, and also available on the the Arduino website at:

<http://www.arduino.cc/>

In fact, the source code for detecting an input and activating an output line is pretty stock code for this platform. Most everything on an Arduino is based on inputs causing an output. That's what it's designed for!

Now let's say you want to turn on a heavy current load when an input sensor detects something. Your schematic would then look something like this:



The schematic is the same as the previous one, but now we have a solenoid being driven by a MOSFET when activated by the Arduino. Again, this is straight out of Banzi's book.

By now I hope the wheels are spinning in your brain as to some of the things this might be useful for. In a future issue, we will detail some specific dystonaut-type applications for this arrangement. For now, get yourself and Arduino and familiarize yourself with its operation.

The Day After: Winter's Arrival & Prepping in Amerika

By The Omega Man

Had the first snow of the season not too long ago. When that happens, it's time to go through your kit and swap out the warm weather gear for something more appropriate to the weather. Boonie hats get swapped out for watch caps. Gloves and a scarf get added along with a set of over-whites get for camouflage when snow is one the ground. Lightweight jackets get replaced with something heavier. The usual.



My primary winter jacket these days is a Maine Game Wardens Parka from LL Bean. It's \$300 worth of jacket, but it was worth it. This one will keep you warm no matter what. Around here, the usual winter attire is mostly a combination of Carhartt in the usual workingman's earth tone colors and Army surplus M65 field jackets. I used to have an M65, but gave it away after I "outgrew" it. At that time finding a replacement was a pain in the ass because Clinton was destroying all the military surplus, and I didn't want to spend \$100 on a new commercial one from Alpha Industries. (They make the real deal.) There were other brands of M65 jackets, but they were all made in Asia and the quality sucked. There was a lot of cheap European military surplus coming into the country. Some of it, like the stuff from West Germany and England, was pretty good quality. I wound up replacing my old M65 with a British DPM Windproof Smock (that's what

they called their field jackets) and a Wolly Pully sweater. The Brits do cold wet very well, and I found that I liked the combo better than my old M65.



The DPM Camo works pretty good around here, and you can still find surplus DPM Smocks at local Army/Navy stores for \$20 or so. If you find one in your size, snap it up. Wolly Pully sweaters seem to be a little heard to come by as surplus, despite the fact that the U.S. Marine Corps still wears them. I did see one at a Goodwill store a while back. It was a little small for me, but I spent the Five Bucks on it anyway figuring one of the smaller guys in my survival ground could use it.

The Brits and Germans did these Winter Camo overgarments that were white with dark green/brown splotches. There were also some that were plain white. If you couldn't find any cheap at a surplus store, you could sew some up yourself out of white bed sheets, and use a little flat green and brown Krylon to spray splotches on them. These work really well in snowy woods for hiding yourself, especially when they start getting dirty with the local terrain. Don't bleach them! You want that dirt to grind into the cloth and help color your winter camo for the area you're working in.



When I see these yahoos on "Doomsday Preppers", I have to resist the the urge to put a .357 round through

the TV screen. By now I hope that my readers understand that the majority of guests on that show are a bunch of narcissists with more money than common sense. The reality is that most of us real survivalist-types live in less than ideal locales and consider ourselves lucky if we have two Nickels to rub together for our survivalist fund after we pay the bills, and we're not interested in showing all of TV land our stuff. When you meet a fellow survivalist, you can tell a lot about them if you keep quiet and listen to what they say (or don't say). I have found that there are three categories of survivalist types.

What I call the Category One survivalist is actually more of a conspiracy theorist. They don't have much in the way of preps, bounce around with the fanciest excuses, and are usually more interested in talking about the conspiracy theory of the month whether it's FEMA, New World Order, GMOs, or raw milk. These people are useless, and you should avoid them.

The Category Two survivalist is what many people call the Yuppie Survivalist. They usually have more money than common sense or skill set, and think they can buy their way to preparedness. Many of the guests on "Doomsday Preppers" fit this category. This is the guy who shows up to survivalist meetups with a high-end military-style semi-auto rifle, Glock pistol in a tactical holster, and a sparkling new commercial MOLLE rig that has never seen any field use. Now I'm not faulting anyone for being able to afford the good stuff, but unless they've get skills to back up the gear, they too will be useless once the shit hits the fan except for maybe resupply.

Then you have a Category Three survivalist. If you do not know this person closely, they will come across as either boring, totally batshit crazy, or one of the scariest people you've ever met. Most of the time they keep to themselves, and if you do come across an actual CAT3 survivalist, they will be either be a "friend of a friend," or someone you meet in a slightly related venue.

These people are "Grey Man" Survivalists, and they are the people you want to emulate.

Since the release of "Going Galt In the Berkshires," we have heard from similar Grey Man survivalists who have similar experiences and arrangements. Not surprisingly, many are living in the Northeast United States, or areas other than the well-publicized "America Redoubts."

Establishing a food reserve has been one of the easiest tasks, according to our grey readers. All who have written in use a rotating first-in-first-out system with common minimal preparation foods they already eat. They also use local sources, pay cash, and take advantage of odd-lot and dollar stores.



Guns are a popular topic, and our more established readers are going with the usual rural working guns they already hunt with. Among the newer gun owners, inexpensive milsurp weapons such as the Mosin-Nagants and Makarovs are the selections of choice. Readers who have been at it a while use older common sporting arms of American manufacture. Marlin or Winchester .30-30 Carbines and Ruger Mini-14s are very popular with .30-06 and .308 bolt guns coming in a close second. The Mosin-Nagant rifles are a popular back-up rifle among many readers, although the prices continue to go up.



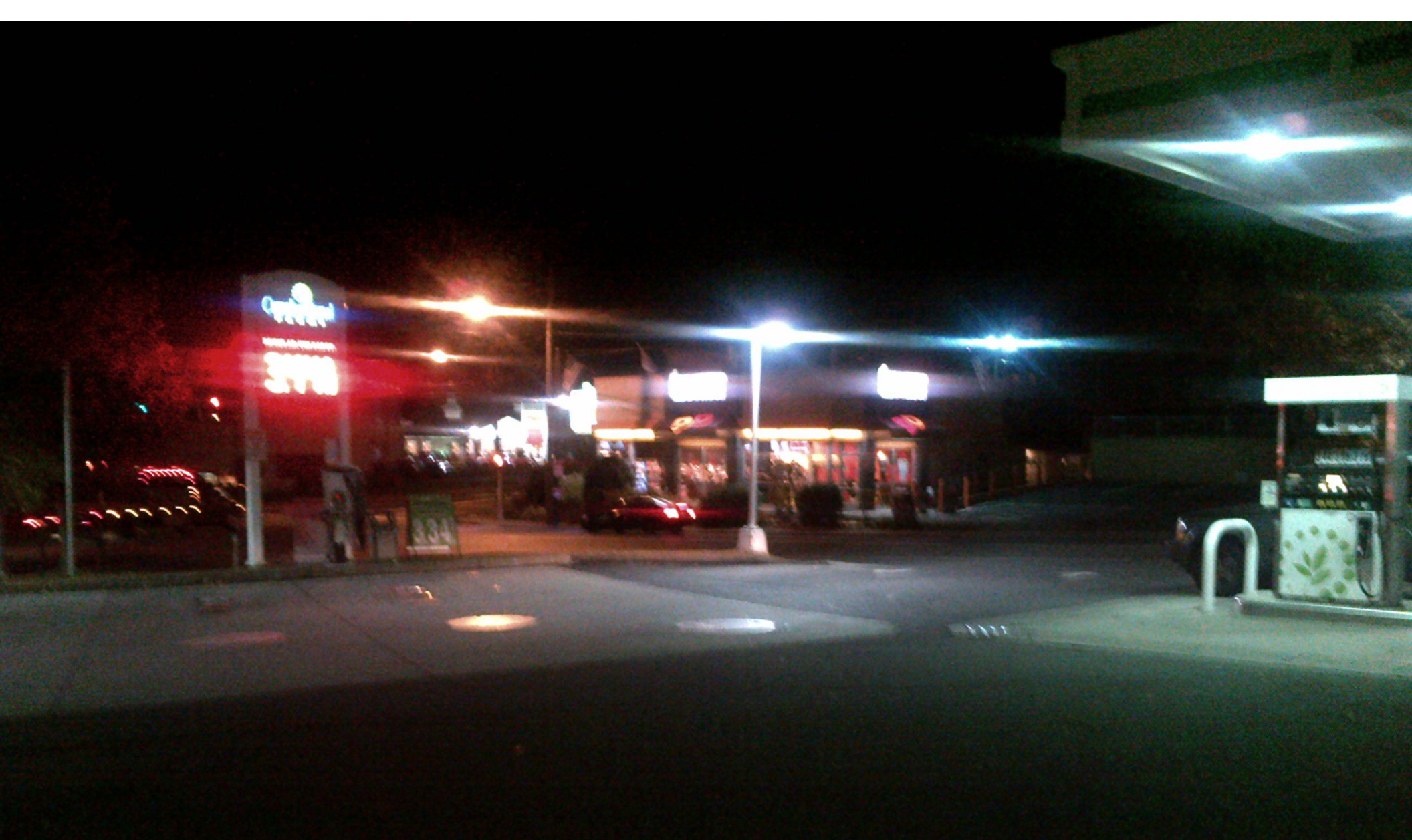
When the subject of precious metals was discussed, we found that some readers have put aside a few dollars in face value of pre-1964 silver quarters, dimes, half-dollars, and dollar coins. Overall however, readers said that whatever extra money they had past their emergency cash fund went into tangibles such as food, tools, ammo, spare parts, etc.

All of our readers maintained a well-stocked workshop, and tried to fix and maintain things as best as they can on their own. To help this, they put together reference libraries and attempted to assist like-minded tradesmen when possible to get a grounding in a particular subject.

The point of all this was that the letters and emails we received were from real people who are probably no better or worse off than you are, and yet are still doing pretty well in the self-reliance and preparedness department. In short, they were accomplished real-world survivalists.

Many novice survivalists read stuff like Rawles' book **Patriots**, watch **Doomsday Preppers**, and get overwhelmed when they see these super-duper survivalist types with six-seven figures worth of preps and expensive whacked-out ideas. **All of that shit is fake, people!** You don't require a lot of money to get yourself together. Just work on stuff one thing at a time, pick up a few survivalist-related hobbies, keep a discreet profile, and you'll be OK.

*"The Best Way to approach self-reliance in everyday life seems to be slightly less serious, more easygoing: the hobbyist's approach. You can indulge it longer without tiring of it, so you tend to learn more. You also don't worry your friends so much; I mean of course, those improvident right-hearted, wrong-headed friends who think your personal pilot-light has gone out because you intend to affect your own destiny. When you approach self-reliance as a hobby, somehow it worries the dimwits less-while teaching you more." - Dean Ing, **The Chernobyl Syndrome***



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