

Dystonaut #7



If you are a real survivalist type, you are into old tools. Stuff that works without electricity. Stuff that your grandkids will use long after you've gone on to the



Next Great Adventure. Stuff that you can build and fix things with.



If you are into old tools, you must visit the Sloane-Stanley Museum in Kent, Connecticut. It contains the antique early-American tool collection of author and artist Eric Sloane. Those of you who have read "Going Galt In The Berkshires" in **Dystonaut #6** will recognize the name. Eric Sloane's books grace the shelf of every serious survivalist and Basement Techie type.

Of particular interest in the museum is the exhibit showing how



they did wells for water back in the days with wooden pumps and pipes. Anyone who doesn't think that information would be useful when the balloon goes up does not deserve the title of survivalist.



In the days where most everyone thinks technology is too complicated to understand now, and too complicated for use after The Great TEOTWAWKI Zombie WROL Apocalypse®, a visit to this museum will either wake them up or act as a filter.

If you just happen to like old tools and old-school craftsmanship, then this museum will be right up your alley. I suspect that if you live in Connecticut, and are of this bent, then you've probably already

visited it numerous times and have a library that's well-stocked with Sloane's books.



If you will be visiting Southern New England sometime soon, then try to get up to Kent, CT in order to visit the museum. You will not be disappointed. The admission to the museum is cheap, and it's a great educational experience for the kids. My daughter was fascinated by the place. Make sure you bring a little extra cash so you can fill out your collection of Sloane's books. The



museum store is well-stocked with them, and the prices are very reasonable.



Dog Solitude. Dig deep enough and you'll find anything there, the novel says. Solitude is a thing of beauty when you're working on finding the shape. People can be a distraction. You want a location foreboding and out of the way enough so that anyone who visits you passes the filter check to qualify as "really interesting." The ones that usually visit you when you are more accessible are generally a waste of time.

Space is essential. You want to store enough parts and tools to be able to work unfettered. Space is also relative. You can pack away a lifetime supply of surface-mount components in a shoe box. Robotics on the other hand might require a garage or maybe the corner of an old warehouse. My current Dog Solitude is a 9x12 room with a sloped ceiling. Plenty of space for the lab, and everything that goes with it. Even for robotics of the Lego variety. When I moved here, there was plenty of space, and not many people. Now there are too many people. Time to find a new place that's desolate, beautiful, and preferably cold as Hell. Vox clamantis in deserto. When a voice speaks out in the wilderness, people may not hear it, yet it still speaks.

Ayn, despite her issues, had it right when her protagonist set up shop in an abandoned subway tunnel to become a gomi no sensi and rediscover the power of Zeus and Thor. He called himself Prometheus, and went to control the very elements themselves as those had done before him, and before the Dark Ages. Deus ex machina forged in his own likeness. A certain truth carried on the waves of the aether. It is by these truths we discern The system of the world, and grow into the realm of the invisible.





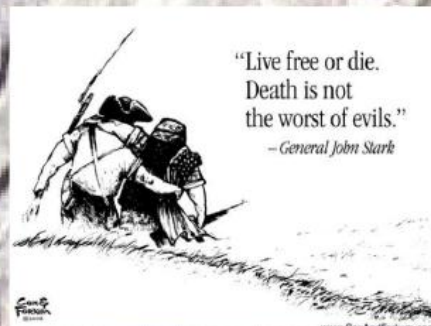
A few years ago, a group of people got together and came up with a great idea. They researched and found the ten freest states in America. Their aim was to get as many freedom-minded people to move to a single state so they can work on liberty in their lifetime. They called themselves **The Free State Project**, and I have been a member since 2001. We voted, and the Live Free Or Die state of New Hampshire was picked. You can visit their website at <http://freestateproject.org/> for more information.

I'm not here to talk about the FSP however, other than to say that I endorse them wholeheartedly. I'm here to address all the naysayers, and I have all of two words to say to them:

Fuck off.



You complain that New Hampshire has high property taxes. Fuck off. Go live in Connecticut, Massachusetts, or New York. You complain that the liberals are going to invade from Massachusetts and take over the state. Fuck off. Enough of us move to New Hampshire, and they'll be moving back to their slave state. You think that out West is better. Fuck off. Go move to a state where the majority of the land is owned by the BLM and most of the people work for the government. When their status quo is threatened, you know who they will side with. If you want a chance at liberty in your lifetime, then you know where you need to go.





I received an email from a an individual who is heavily involved in the "unorganized militia" movement. If I mentioned his name, you would likely recognize him as a net control station for one of the amateur radio "patriot" nets. In this email, he was alerting members of his list about something of great importance in the realm of things to be butt-hurt about: A new movie came out, and an aging actress in her 70s has a supporting role in it. Said actress was heavily involved in the Vietnam War protest movement in the 1970s. You may have seen a picture of her posed on a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft gun.

The email was alerting recipients of the movie's existence, repeating incorrect accusations about said actress (the very victims allegedly involved have discredited the accusations), and of course called for a boycott of said movie. As if any of us have Fifty bucks to go blow on a movie. Things must be pretty desperately quiet on the militia front if the control station for one of their radio networks has to resort to warning members of his list about a movie some old war-protester has a minor role in.

If you want to go watch a good movie, go over to your local Wal-Mart's \$5 DVD bin and dig through it for the following:

- **The Fountainhead**
- **Citizen Kane**
- **Tron**
- **Casablanca**

For less than the cost of going to a theater and dealing with all the hassle it involves, you can cheaply watch some good classics at home.

Radio Communications Stuff, Pt. 1

In my previous article series, "Ham Radio on The Cheap", I talked about inexpensive amateur radio solutions for survivalists. This article series is a follow-up to that series, and is aimed more at dystonaut types who are looking to learn about communications electronics and stay in touch with like-minded individuals.

The advertising on those bubble pack radios at Wal-Mart claiming 36 mile range is mostly bullshit. You might get 36 miles talking from one mountaintop to another, but most of the time you will get at most a mile or two range. That's still not bad for a small group who wants to talk to one another while hunting or on a small farm. The UHF frequency range however is not the best for your typical rural terrain. Regardless, battery-operated handheld radios with tiny 6 inch antennas and consistent 30+ miles range don't exist.

If you want to get into radio at any level above the turn-key FRS handhelds, and that includes CB, do yourself (and everyone else) a favor and get a somewhat recent copy of the ARRL Handbook. Any edition within the past 15 years or so will suffice. That book is considered the must-have essential among radio types, and every radio professional that knows their stuff has a couple editions on the reference shelf. I have around 20 editions from 2013 going back to 1947, and continue adding to the collection when I find needed editions for a few bucks apiece at hamfests. If you're strapped for cash, go that route. Every 'fester I've been to has had older ARRL Handbooks for under \$10 apiece. At one hamfest I attended, I found a 1990s vintage hardcover edition for \$1!

The current (2013) edition is \$60 in hardcover, or \$50 softcover. It's 1320 pages long! Since few hams actually build their own gear these days, you might get lucky and win one for a door prize at a hamfest. If you can afford it however, the sixty bucks is worth it just for the incredible education you'll get from reading it.

The big three American radio companies in the ham scene are Elecraft, Ten-Tec, and Flexradio. All are excellent. SGC is another excellent American brand, but they no longer produce radios. You will have to find SGC rigs via used equipment sources. There are also other smaller American manufacturers who build a good product. Oak Hills Research and Downeast Microwave are two such companies. Then there are the big three Japanese companies: Icom, Kenwood, and Yaesu. I'm partial towards Yaesu and Icom rigs. As of late, we have HTs coming in from China: Puxing, Woxun, Tyt, and Baofeng. Finally there is the homebrew option. That avenue is very popular with the QRP and weak signal segments of the hobby.



The best rig I've found for my purposes is the Yaesu FT-817. It covers all the HF bands, 6 Meters, 2 Meters, and 70 Centimeters. That's all the common ham bands. It's portable, multi-mode (CW, SSB, AM, FM), has an internal battery pack, and can run off 12 volts. The current version is the FT-817ND. There are a ton of accessories for it. You can use it as a QRP HF rig, VHF/UHF weak signal rig, or as a local FM repeater rig. One ham created a mod that let's you use it with a FunCube Dongle SDR for an IF panadapter. There is also a 222 MHz. transverter kit designed specifically for this radio. This rig pretty much does it all, and can fit in a MOLLE radio pouch with an automatic antenna tuner, and maybe some accessories and a dipole antenna. There might be newer QRP rigs on the market, but none of them come close to the versatility of the FT-817. While the new Elecraft KX-3 is eclipsing the FT-817 as the QRP rig of choice among some, its \$1000 price tag makes it unaffordable by many. You can find an FT-817 for a little more than half that, and used ones for even less.

To be continued...

