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Welcome to the Appleseed Newsletter by TheGuy

Hello, and welcome to the first issue of the Appleseed Newsletter.

In an effort to keep all Appleseeders in the know, we decided that a newsletter would be the best way, as most of you rarely have time to visit the forum to keep up to date. We do not want to see you once; we want to see you all again, and hear stories of how you have been getting new shooters involved, and how you are participating in the "Soft War"

We want to know how we affected your life. Do you fire every shot by the 6 steps? Remember the 4 safety rules? Use your sling? Find your Natural Point Of Aim? Finally hit that elusive Rifleman score?

This first newsletter has a special focus: Boot camps and Instructors. They are intertwined, as Boot camp is one of the two ways an Appleseed Instructor is made. The typical Boot camp is a week long experience in shooting, and more importantly,

learning how to teach others to shoot. Learning what a vertical string means in your pattern. Knowing why that first shot is over here, and the other four over there. Being able to understand IMC (inches, minutes, clicks) and know, with as little as one shot, how to be precisely where you want to be.

Most importantly, how to pass it all along to others

I wasn't born with a rifle in my hand. I wasn't born with an Instructors patch on my shooting jacket either. Believe it or not, I came as naked as you. But I did something I will never regret.

I attended a Rifleman Boot camp, RBC2 to be exact, and my teachers were fantastic. They took us and in one week, made Riflemen out of us. More importantly they made Instructors out of us. And they taught us something I feel most of us lacked before coming to Boot Camp.

They taught us to give back to the program by teaching others.

For example, I remember the first Rifleman score I turned in. But it was no where as fun as working with Scott and his son Lucas (age 7) at the Appleseed that weekend, or when I got that kid in Kentucky from not even on paper to a 2 inch group in less than a day. Or seeing others experience the joy of shooting well, really well, for the first time. When my fellow Instructors talk of a success, I can see it in their eyes also.

The pure joys of helping others shoot and the pure joys of teaching are like watching your kids at Christmas; the joy is all in the giving.

Now, I told you all of that to tell you this.

You can become one of the lucky ones. You can become an Instructor. You can travel the roads of this country with us, spreading the Appleseed program. You can help us save America.

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Boot Camp - a great time to make lifelong friends.

2007 Boot Camp Schedule

- Ramseur, NC – May 27 – June 3
- Ramseur, NC – Aug 26 – Sept 2
- Kemmerer, WY – Sept 16 – Sept 23
- Texarkana, TX – Sept 30 – Oct 7
- Osage Beach, MO – Oct 7 – Oct 14
- Evansville, IN – Oct 22 – Oct 28
- Davilla, TX – Nov 4 – Nov 11

You can now register online for all Appleseed and Boot Camp events. Go to RWVA.org for more info.

Tips for Appleseeders

If you find it tough to get a good sitting position, have you tried wearing looser clothes? Sweat pants and a loose fitting t-shirt can make it easier to get those elbows down where they need to be.

Why I Attended Rifleman's Boot Camp by MIA4ME

I'd already been to one Appleseed. I didn't shoot as well as I'd expected I would and I wanted to learn more and practice more of the things we'd done at the Appleseed. An Appleseed is two days long and our Appleseed had about 24 people with 3 instructors. A boot camp is 6 days long with an Appleseed tacked on the back end.

I signed up for the February 2007 BC at Ramseur. I'd been to Ramseur, NC before for a couple of 1 day shooting events and liked the range and the people so it sounded like a good deal to me. I finally got my vacation time squared away, got signed up and started preparing (food, clothes, equipment, rifles, ammo) by making a list of what I wanted to take with me.

The BC had 12 attendees, 3 full time instructors and about 5 part time instructors who stopped by as they had time during the week. Most of us camped there at the range for the entire week. Remember now, the instructors are all volunteers using their vacation time and their money to teach you so you know up front they are dedicated and happy to be there with you. The first part of the week is spent

learning how to shoot your rifle well. The last day of the BC and the two days of the Appleseed that follows it are to start you on the road to teaching others to shoot rifles (the primary reason for the BC but you have to learn to shoot a rifle first).

You do many of the same things done at an Appleseed but you do them more, you do them with a larger and more varied instructor group prodding, pushing and shoving you to recognize and eliminate the bad habits that are keeping you from shooting those rifleman scores. At Ramseur you also get the opportunity to shoot the full distance AQT and the fun of the pop up targets as a kind of reward for good performance during the other stages of training.

What I learned:

1. I thought I understood NPOA and how to get it. I was wrong prior to the BC. What a difference it makes.
2. What it feels like towards the end of the week when it all starts to come together and you find out what "A rifleman fires every shot rapid fire" really feels like. When it happens you'll know it.

3. I learned that it's not just the Ramseur folks that I liked. RWVA folks in general are nice and they want to help you learn to shoot your rifle better. They want you to develop an appreciation for what our ancestors sacrificed to get us the rights we have today. They want you to wake up and get involved in your local, state and federal politics in order to insure we keep the rights our ancestors sacrificed their lives for starting on April 19th, 1775.
4. I learned that while I went down to the BC to get in "some shooting" and get better at it I was also needed to help teach others and I volunteered to be an instructor as well.



What is a Rifleman Boot Camp by M1A4ME



Words from Fred



Welcome.

If you are reading this, you are one of the select in this country. Either you registered on the RWVA website, or you've attended an Appleseed (or both!)

Appleseed is about volunteer Americans teaching other volunteer Americans how to shoot a rifle.

We sometimes call it - Appleseed - a refreshing dip in the marksmanship pool - but for most newbie's to the program, it's a real challenge - to learn in a weekend what it ordinarily takes years.

To learn, in just one

Its a small group of volunteer instructors who believe in the program so much that they take a week or more off from their jobs and travel to Ramseur (or elsewhere) to instruct a bunch of new guys in both rifle marksmanship basics and in instructing others to start down that same path, for no pay, other than the personal satisfaction from doing what they know is right.

It's a somewhat larger group of folks who believe in the program enough to take a week or more off from their jobs and travel to Ramseur (or elsewhere) to improve their rifle marksmanship skills and to begin learning how to teach those skills to others, again for no pay except that same satisfaction from doing what they know to be right.

During that week plus of

weekend, to hit a target at 500 yards with a standard rifle

Most of the training is done at 25m (82 ft) because it's an easy distance - far enough away that the small targets are challenging, close enough that half the day is not killed simply in walking or driving downrange to the targets. We'd like you to be part of this program. No, not doing it, many of you have done it.

No sir, we want you to be teaching it.

time they spend together, the instructors and the students will get to know each other and develop lifelong friendships.

The training consists of class room instruction, range safety instruction, shooting at 25 yards, shooting at longer ranges, shooting at pop ups (if available), helping each other work out individual problems discovered during the short range work. The type of target will be variable during the 25 yd. work, the pop ups are pop ups and the full distance AQT targets are standard military D targets.

The training focuses on the basics at the 25 yard range first to uncover and correct any problems the students have before moving on to the longer ranges. Once the students demonstrate their newly learned

abilities at 25 yards consistently, (you can fall off the wagon so you do it over and over to make sure its real), that's when the longer distance instruction starts. Then the students learn that all that repetition at 25 yards really does translate into hits on the targets at 100, 200, 300 and 400 yards.

The last day of the boot camp the students get more practice at running a firing line and instructing their fellow students in preparation for the Appleseed that weekend when they get to repeat that line calling, range safety officer work and instruction in basic rifle marksmanship techniques to the Appleseeders.

And lastly, if you go to a boot camp and don't have one of the best times of your life something is wrong with you and you need professional help.

fortunate American.

If you want to save money and ammo, bring your .22 rimfire to shoot the short-range stuff - about two bricks will do it - and the centerfire and 200 rounds for the long-range stuff. Because a Boot Camp is about shooting at long-range - out to 500 yards maximum.

The tuition for BC is only \$200 and I guarantee it will be the best, the most productive money you ever spend.

Listen to those who have been there...

For me, Boot Camp was the realization of a dream that started for me last April at the Evansville, IN Appleseed.

I had no idea at the time, but the "seed" had been planted. A few weeks after that first dip in the "pool of marksmanship", I started thinking. That's right, THINKING. Not just about the Second Amendment, but about life, liberty and all the other things that make America great.

As the seed took root and began to grow, I realized that all the things I cared for meant nothing unless I was willing to step up and do my part. As Fred said, "were all on the Titanic, so we might as well start bailing".

I practiced the six steps of firing the shot until I finally shot Rifleman at the Morehead, KY Appleseed in September. Though shooting rifleman was a milestone for me, it was not the finish line, no, not even close.

Upon hearing that there was going to be a BC in February, I immediately set about rescheduling my life around that week. As luck would have it, I was able to attend.

Even after reading the reports from the first boot

The Realization of a Dream by Damon

camp, I wasn't sure what to expect. Needless to say, I was not disappointed.

The level of instruction was superb. Not only did the instructors patiently spend their days drilling us in the finer points of marksmanship, but they also relaxed with us around the campfire in the evenings. This strengthened the growing sense of camaraderie and helped build bonds of friendship. Within just a few days, as another attendee pointed out, the group dynamic formed and friendships began to grow.

There were both highs and lows for me during the week. Several times self-doubt and frustration crept into my "Rifleman's bubble". When I started to get down, all I had to do was take a look down the firing line. It wasn't the other shooters I was looking to for strength. It was the instructors, working with other shooters to help them improve. Giving a little of himself for the cause. That is why I was there.

Saturday's Appleseed finally came. The weather was perfect and there was a larger than expected

turnout. With the unexpected numbers came the usual glitches and delays. As the time to begin approached, my fear of calling the line for the first time crept in. After a few awkward moments, the fear evaporated as I found my "Instructor's voice".

Calling the line was great, but helping individual shooters was the best. Being able to impart a little of what I'd learned to others energized and kept me going both Saturday and Sunday. I will never forget the smiles and expressions of gratitude from the Appleseed attendees. I'm sure the other RBC graduates felt the same magic. Sunday evening was bittersweet. Though I missed my family and home, I didn't want the experience to end. I'm sure we all felt the same way.

It was a long, silent drive home. As I reflected upon the experiences of the previous nine days, my thoughts drifted back to that cold, rainy day in Evansville. Though it's only been a mere eleven months, it seems like a lifetime since the seed was first planted.



Revolutionary War Veterans Association

P.O. Box 756, Ramseur, NC 27316
RWVA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit Organization

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Email questions or comments on this publication to cs@rwva.org

