



APPLESEED NEWS

JANUARY 2011

LONG ISLAND EDITION

Welcome!

Hello All Calverton friends and family! We hope everybody has enjoyed their holidays and we should all be looking forward to an exciting new year.

This is the first official Appleseed Long Island Newsletter. Please feel free to pass it around.

We are also setting up a web-site at appleseedlongisland.org. We are looking for this forum to supplement the national forum (appleseedinfo.org/smf) specifically for Long Island Appleseeders. We'd also like to thank longislandfirearms.com for their continuing support and partnership in promoting the shooting sports on Long Island. Feel free to check out our new site but be aware that it's under construction. Soon there should be a forum and some blog spaces, places for shooters to post their thoughts and photos, Instructors to work out techniques, and history discussions. If someone knows of an event that may be relative to [Appleseed](#), they can let us all know directly. Our new site will be all Appleseed on Long Island and only Appleseed on Long Island. All the time! For us!



This does not mean we don't want you to participate on the National Forum or to travel to the mainland...

WE DOOO!

How else can you take the fundamental skills you learn at 25m and see how they translate to making coffee cup groups at 100m and trash can groups at 500m? Nothing is more encouraging than results. Nothing is more satisfying than knowing you can hit anything you can SEE!



What's the range? Dial it in.
Inches! Minutes! Clicks! "zip"
Build that position.
Calm. Confidence.
Lay into that sling. That's it.
Close your eyes.
Take a breath.
Relax.
Open your eyes.
Adjust your NPOA.

Do it again, and again; lock it in, and TRUST it, trust it
Breathe in and let it out one last time.
front sight front sight front sight...
and... gently gently
ssqueeeze... thuhh... triggerrrr...

Even if you have not shot the Rifleman Score yet, you will hit that target a good percentage of the time, and more often than most folks. If it happens to be a pumpkin on a fence post or a watermelon on a hillside, you can methodically take it apart. You know you can do it and that makes you walk taller.

We have been working at 25m for two years at Calverton, but if you've noticed that's a big parking lot out there around that monstrous hunk of rusted equipment across the fields of shredded tires. Anybody ever walked back to the comfort station and thought to themselves, "Dang, that's a long walk!" Well, you're right. It is a long walk. About 100m of a long walk. So, why don't we shoot from back there? Well, if we've got 42 shooters and 24 cars between the comfort station and the firing line, then we cannot. Sorry. Many of us either need, or we love, our cars. We didn't spend all that time collecting bumper stickers just to shoot them up did we?

Now let's say it's cold outside and not everybody is willing to come out. It's a January day and a Calverton Appleseed with dedicated shooters in warm clothes that are determined and serious enough about shooting and heritage to come out to the range on the last weekend of January on the 29th and 30th, sign up now! appleseedinfo.org. It's Sunday afternoon and everyone on the line is comfortable, confident, and curious about just what the drop is on a .22 caliber bullet from 25m to 100m, or the rise (that's right the "rise" - it's still going up!) of a .223 from an AR15. And after all, how many cars can there be in January? Can't we just move them? We can move the pop-ups too why not. Let's do it and set up a new firing line at 100m so we can take a couple hours to test that 4moa hypotheses! Trial and error, or perhaps "Dial and error". Let's shoot from 100m on Sunday January 30 at Calverton! Doesn't that sound like fun!

The first Long Island Appleseed of the new year, 2011
KD (known distance) at Calverton!
Are you gonna be there?
We will.

WINTERSEED

"It is vain to ruminare upon, or even reflect upon the authors of our present misfortunes. We should rather exert ourselves." - George Washington, December, 1776

Many of you may be wondering who would be crazy enough to come out in the dead of winter to shoot rifles. Is that fun? Is it necessary? Is it a good idea? What can come of it?

Well, we can think back to a time in the past, to the very beginning of the "American Experiment". Christmas, 1776. When the America we know did not even exist. One might say that the Continental Army was but a twinkle in George Washington's eye, and Washington had been forced to move without a complete, well-trained army. 1776 was a hard year for his young motley group of fighters, many of whom had failed to prove themselves in the terrible defeat at Brooklyn, the resulting loss of Long Island and soon after, in November, of New York City to Admiral Lord Howe and the British Army.

Washington and his defeated army retreated to Bristol, Pennsylvania, apparently to winter across from General Howe's army (Admiral Howe's brother). Washington spoke of some "brilliant stroke" to turn the tide. He met with his generals and corresponded with the Continental Congress. He knew better than anyone what state his army was in and could see looming on the horizon, the date of January 1, when most of his men would see their enlistments end, and they could go home. As for the British, it was commonly understood that eighteenth-century professional armies and their gentlemen commanders did not subject themselves to the miseries of winter campaigns. General Howe transported himself to more comfortable quarters in New York City. Washington sat in his frozen head-quarters across the Delaware River from a holding force of some 1,500 Hessians at Trenton, NJ. The Continental Army under his command amounted to about 7,500, but this number is deceiving. Hundreds were sick and suffering from the cold.

But Washington knew that the time for rest and recuperation had not arrived. He knew time was running out. He knew that if nothing were done right now, some "brilliant stroke", he would have no army to lead in the spring and this fledgling drive for independence would peter out. The British Army would be there in the spring, but his men would not. Thomas Paine wrote in "The American Crisis" in December of 1776, "These are the times that try men's souls."



In the cold darkness of the middle of the night on Christmas Eve, 1776, Washington's plan was set in motion. The Continentals were to cross the Delaware in three places, meet up just north of the city of Trenton, and descend under the protection of General Knox's artillery pieces set up at the end of the long avenues leading straight down into the city and the heart of the Hessian position.

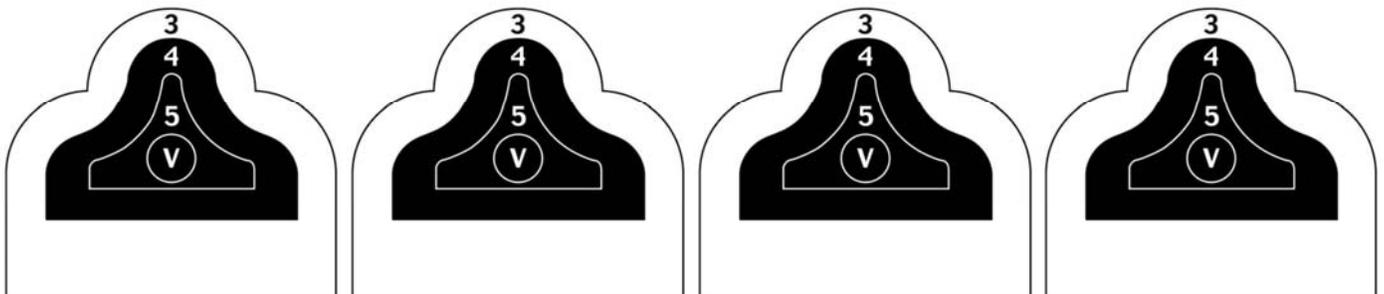
In the famous painting by Emmanuel Leutze, we see our General standing proudly in the front of a flatboat, bravely pushing forth against both the weather and tyranny. We can call this symbolic, and admit that Washington was just as cold and discomforted as the rest of his men, perhaps even hunkered under a woolen blanket. The chunks of ice and the obvious difficulty of the crossing are

well expressed in the painting and two of the three planned crossings failed. A group of men under the leadership of General Cadwalader, and another under the direction of General Ewing were turned back by the weather - the cold and the ice. Running 3 hours late and with only 2,400 men, hardly the overwhelming manpower he had hoped for, Washington split his forces and descended upon the suddenly awakened city. The main American force under Washington entered Trenton from the North-West, while General Sullivan led a march around the town and attacked from the South. The remainder took a position to the North East cutting off the Hessians' retreat. The forty-five minute battle included much vicious block to block and house to house fighting and resulted in a most unexpected American victory which awoke the spirits of the Whig cause and was happy news to European countries waiting to see what a motivated American force was capable of. The Americans had taken approximately 900 Hessian Prisoners. They did not hold Trenton for very long, but the point was made.

We can look at this historic battle as a turning point in the War for American Independence, as it is widely acknowledged to be, but we can also look at what Washington was able to do with his army after this victory. On the last day of 1776, December 31, Washington appealed to his men "in the most affectionate manner", those willing to re-enlist, to step forward. At first not one did so. He wheeled his horse about and continued, "If you will consent to stay one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you can probably never do under any other circumstance." Men began stepping forward and the cause was continued into another year.

We see the cause of Applesseed as a wake-up call to the sleeping American, and we should thank each other for being a part of it. Can anyone think of anything better than Applesseed to "render that service to the cause of liberty"? Will there ever be another circumstance in which your presence could be more helpful, more meaningful than Applesseed? We are talking and we are doing. We are awake, active and getting to know each other. Many would ask what the actions of those men and women involved in the American Revolution have to do with us. Well, not only are these stories great, but they are ours. This is where we started. The instincts, the perseverance, and the vision of these first Americans existed before the war and has been carried in our culture for over two hundred years! It is the culmination of millennia of civilization and philosophy, the pinnacle of individual responsibility and collective liberty. Where do we go if we lose what we have? We should not take these moments, this history for granted. Preparation, determination and perseverance are the hallmarks of an Appleseder, and getting out there in the middle of the winter is not only fun, but it is necessary and it is a good idea - none better. What can come of it? A stronger program in the spring. A stronger Long Island. A more awakened nation. Hope to see you there, if not in January, then in February; if not in February, then in March. And we all know where we'll be in April.

Thank you all for being on the Appleseed trail. We need every one of you, plus your friends, family and neighbors. We've got work to do.



LADYSEED



Some of you may have heard that we are planning a "Ladies Only" Applesseed Event for the spring. Well, it's in the works! The weekend of June 25th and 26th, at Calverton Shooting Range, RWVA and Applesseed will present an event for only Lady Shooters. This is a very special event with female instructors that fly in from around the country to teach a group of all women the Applesseed way. This will happen and all we need to do is make sure we can get women to come to the line. However, another thing we should do is provide this travelling corps of female instructors with some local talent. So far we have only one female Instructor in Training on Long Island. We'd like to think that by June, we can have a couple more. What do you say, Ladies?



REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



MARKSMANSHIP

HERITAGE

LIBERTY