

THE WASHINGTON ARMS COLLECTORS

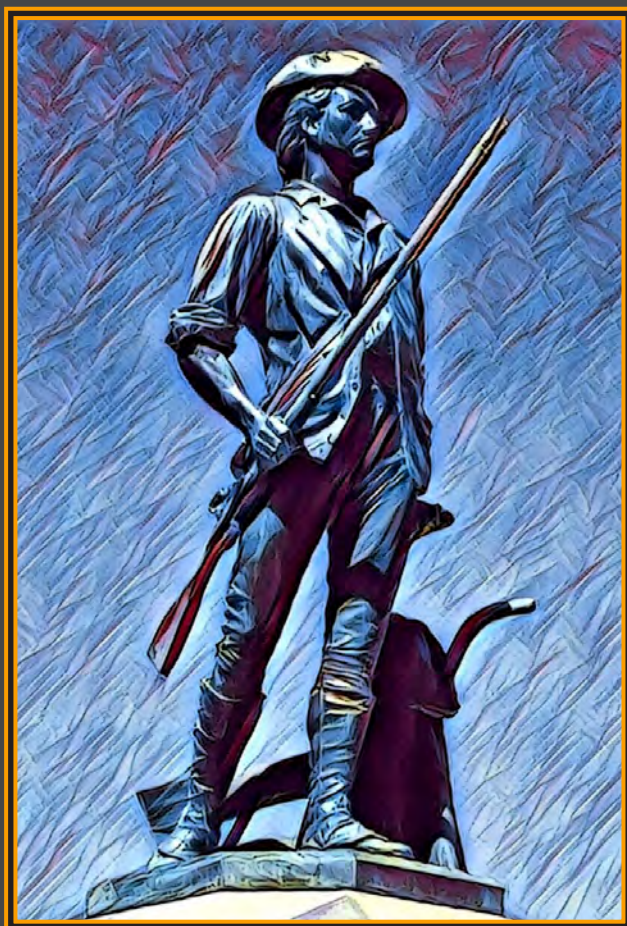


GUNNEWS

M A G A Z I N E

APRIL 2020

VOL. 29 - #04



★
The
Battle of
19 April
1775
★

Coronavirus Cancellations Likely - Check the website before traveling

APRIL 04 & 05	_____	PUYALLUP/PAV.
JUNE 27 & 28	_____	PUYALLUP/PAV.
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20	_____	MONROE

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The *GunNews* is the official monthly publication of the Washington Arms Collectors, an NRA-affiliated organization located at 1006 Fryar Ave, Bldg D, Sumner, WA 98390. Subscription is by membership only and \$15 per year of membership dues goes for subscription to the magazine.

Managing Editor—Philip Shave

Send editorial correspondence, Wanted Dead or Alive ads, or commercial advertising inquiries to:

gunnewseditor@comcast.net

7625 78th Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 866-8478

Assistant Editor—Bill Burris

Art Director/Covers—Bill Hunt

Copy Editors—Bob Brittle, Bill Burris, Forbes Freeburg, Woody Mathews

CONTACT THE BUSINESS OFFICE FOR:

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SEND OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE TO:

P.O. Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390

e-mail—office@washingtonarmscollectors.org

**Street Address: 1006 Fryar Ave, Bldg D,
Sumner WA 98390**

Website: www.washingtonarmscollectors.org

Operations

Show & Operations Manager—Emma Cleary (425) 255-8410
Office Manager/Bookkeeper—Marcy Hinckley (425) 255-8410

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Cover—Our cover Minuteman is the statue created by Daniel Chester French—it stands in Concord, MA.

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Have you not received a magazine for a couple of months? Your membership may have expired. We are sending this month's magazine as a one-time renewal reminder. We highly recommend that you go online to renew, that's easiest: **washingtonguncollectors.org**. Or use these forms or call the office. If you are a current member just ignore this reminder but do remember that all memberships are no longer of a calendar year.

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<p>I agree to be bound by the Bylaws and rules of the Washington Arms Collectors. I also agree to obey all applicable local, State and Federal laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to firearms, ammunition and accessories; and accept full responsibility for maintaining a current awareness of the legal restrictions, proscriptions, and penalties applicable to firearms, ammunition, and accessories.</p> <p>Additionally, I am a citizen of the United States of America or a legal resident. I authorize the Washington Arms Collectors to verify the accuracy of the statements and information I have provided on this confidential application for membership. I also waive any liability that might otherwise attach to those organizations and individuals who aid in the corroboration or refutation of the data on this application or the statements attested to by me. I authorize the release of all information whatsoever to the Washington Arms Collectors, and its presiding officers that will aid in judging the merits of this application.</p> <p>By signing this application I agree not to sue and to indemnify and hold harmless the Evergreen State Fairgrounds (in Monroe), The Washington State Fair (in Puyallup), the Washington Arms Collectors and all other venues, persons and organizations participating in W.A.C. events.</p> <p>My Dated Signature on this Application certifies that I am presently entitled to purchase and possess firearms as defined according to all Federal, State and local statutes, and I have read and understood the W.A.C. Rules of the Road.</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>	<p><u>Required When Sponsoring All Associate, Spousal and Junior Memberships.</u></p> <p>I verify the accuracy of the preceding statements and do hereby sponsor and endorse the applicant for Membership in the Washington Arms Collectors</p> <p>Sponsoring W.A.C. Member (Print Name) _____</p> <p>W.A.C. Member Number: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>

Coronavirus Covid-19 Cancels Shows

You must know by now—by proclamation of the Governor all public events with over 50 people attending have been banned to prevent the spread of the latest coronavirus. Immediately this means that the Monroe event on March 28-29 has been canceled by the Evergreen State Fair. The April 4-5 show at the Western Washington Fairgrounds is at risk but at press time the ban had not been extended to April.

Both Monroe and Puyallup venues will attempt to schedule future replacement dates but we don't have those now. While the containment efforts are uncomfortable, they certainly are sensible protective efforts for those over age 60. WAC administration does not want to place any member in jeopardy.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here's an alternative that may allow you to continue the hobby of buying, selling and collecting firearms—The **GunNews**. It's totally safe to email an ad. You and the prospective buyer/seller can agree on a meeting place of your choosing and under your control; in other words a safe space. Keep your distance, glove-up to handle and exchange firearms, use disinfectants to wipe surfaces that have been touched. None of this is medical advice; get that from your Department of Health. Intelligently manage exposures and stay safe through the duration of this crisis. **PLACE A GUNNEWS AD!**

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-GN-

Legislation & Politics



Joe Waldron

Legislative Chairman

OLYMPIA

It's over! As they say, timing is everything. And the 2020 regular (60 day) session ended two days before my *GunNews* deadline date. So, this is a final for 2020 (I think!). At this point it does not appear a special session will be necessary, but with the COVID-19 situation, it could happen. The important point to remember about a special session is that in a special session, the legislature is NOT limited to acting only on the reason for the call of the session – they can act on any bill previously introduced during the two year biennium, or introduce new bills. The old saying, “No man’s life, liberty or property are safe as long as the legislature is in session.” That is as true today as it was when first uttered in 1866!

There were more than three dozen new gun bills introduced in this session, mostly anti-gun. Plus an additional 40 or so were on-call from last year, but only two of those were called up, HB 1010 (WSP destruction of forfeited firearms) and SB 5434 (expansion of gun free zones to parks, libraries and day care centers). The good news is that of the 70+ bills available for action, only five made it all the way through to the governor’s desk. We dodged some really big ones. Mandatory training and “proficiency testing” for CPL (even upon renewal), repeal of state preemption, ammunition background checks, and ammunition excise tax, among others.

HB 1010 made it out of the House but died in the Senate. SB 5434 passed the Senate in amended form, and passed the House as well. It awaits the governor’s signature as I write this. The good news is that parks and libraries were deleted from the bill. The ban only extends to licensed day care centers, and it excludes CPL holders in possession while dropping off or picking up a child, firearms secured in a vehicle outside, or firearms at the center locked in a gun safe or secured with a

trigger lock when inside a locked room. Pretty broad exceptions.

Would you walk through a public park in downtown Seattle unarmed? As for deleting libraries, it was librarians that asked for that portion to be dropped. It seems they didn’t feel competent to enforce a library ban, and feared that if they called certain sheriffs’ deputies for assistance, it might fall under the policy by many county sheriffs to ignore unconstitutional laws. I personally doubt if that would happen at a library, but it’s nice to know that librarians are well aware of how many Washington sheriffs feel about unconstitutional gun laws.

The five bills on their way to the governor are HB 2467 (uniform centralized firearm background checks), HB 2555 (background checks for firearms classified as “other”), HB 2622 (establishes rules or surrender of firearms under court orders), SB 5434 (day care center gun free zone) and SB 6288 (creates program and Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention).

HB 2467 could be good or bad, a centralized background check, conducted by the Washington State Patrol, rather than by a direct phone call to NICS. 17 other states now conduct all or partial firearm background checks (some handgun only), and most seem to work smoothly (ATF calls them “point of contact” states). It also creates a “Background Check Advisory Board” to oversee the process, made up of law enforcement members, one FFL, and one member of the general public (don’t be surprised if that “one member” comes from some gun control advocacy group). The centralized system must be used by FFL’s within 30 days of the system’s availability. To my eye, the worst part is the section that allows the dealer to pass on to the WSP a fee of “up to eighteen dollars” to cover the costs of the program. \$18 per transfer seems excessive to me, and places a tax on a fundamental right (like CPL fees). Florida is a full “point of contact” state, and they manage to do it for \$5. I wonder how quickly that \$18 will go up?

HB 2555 essentially mimics existing federal law and requires a background check on unfinished firearm frames or receivers and requires processing like a handgun. This does not take effect until the WSP background check system is in place.

HB 2622 establishes additional procedures for court ordered surrender of firearms under “red flag”

or similar protective orders and creates a compliance hearing process in cases of contempt of the order(s).

SB 5434 is the licensed day care center “gun free zone” law I addressed above. It was a “pull” from last year’s bills (bills remain alive for the entire two year biennium, although “last year’s” bills rarely receive attention; all new bills in 2021).

SB 6288 is what my mother would have called a “doozy.” It claims to address “gun violence” by creation of a “Washington Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention.” It lays out a program for study by various elements of the community with expertise – law enforcement, criminal justice, social welfare, health care, and academia. There are several forms of “violence” in society today, only one of which might be “gun violence” (no gun pulls its own trigger). But if they focus on “gun” in place of “violence” they ignore the hard part of controlling people’s behavior. Essentially the program will provide grants (taxpayer dollars) to various “experts” to recommend solutions to this violence – e.g. new gun control laws for the most part.

Note the title includes the words “firearm safety.” What a great opportunity for gun owners to apply for grants to conduct gun safety training statewide. After all, who are greater experts in gun safety than the hundreds of NRA-certified firearms safety instructors statewide? Notice their list of community members with “expertise” does NOT include firearm safety instructors. We’ll see.

I would suggest that if they truly want to address “behavior,” an element common to all forms of violence, they might start with the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR), a consolidation of all forms of crime committed annually. The critical element of the UCR is that it not only tells you WHAT is being committed annually, it also tells you WHO is doing it. After all, if we know WHO, especially if the WHO is narrow and stands out, we can focus our efforts there. That’s what true medical professionals do with diseases and other medical conditions: if it disproportionately affects one community, they focus on that community. Yet they refuse to do that.

Maybe this new office will get it right. Miracles happen.

SESSION SHENANIGANS

The session wasn’t without it’s fun and games. Clearly most anti-gun bills died a quick death (as

did all pro-gun bills). The governor and attorney general were pushing for a ban on the future sale and/or transfer of so-called “assault weapons” (effectively ALL semi-auto rifles, including rimfires) and a ban on sale and transfer of “high capacity magazines” (magazines that hold over ten rounds). The 10-round cap was quietly lifted to 15 rounds – I’d guess we have too many Democrats in the legislature who own firearms (mostly handguns) whose standard magazines hold that many rounds.

When the House version of the bill passed out of committee and came up for a floor vote, those tricky Republicans filed more than 120 floor amendments, which if heard on the House floor would have run the clock out. So the magazine ban died.

But Democrats can be even trickier. Early in the session the legislature adopts a “session calendar,” which sets dates by which bills have to clear certain hurdles – like passing out of policy committees, or fiscal committees, or the chamber (House or Senate floor). When it was clear the magazine ban bill had failed, Democrats threw a new one in—the same magazine ban but with a buyback provision attached. That means money had to be appropriated for the buyback (like the bump-stock buyback last year), making it a fiscal bill and thus not subject to the session calendar cut-offs. Sly.

The “new” bill, HB 2947, got a quick hearing in House Fiscal... but was never brought up for a vote. When the new bill was fields, e-mail and social media lists went ballistic, with thousands of calls and emails sent to legislators, demanding the bill die. Because of the cut-off exemption, it was alive right up until the session ended late on 12 March. But it did die. Games can be played by both sides, but games can also generate repercussions. I suspect House Democrats weren’t willing to gain a quick victory at the expense of payback in November.

AG “OPINION”

Reportedly when HB 2240 (magazine ban) died after Republican House members filed all those amendments, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson offered the opinion (not a formal “Attorney General Opinion” – an interpretation of existing law – but him just spouting off) that we could “blame the GOP when the next mass

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A Classic Collectible—The Hi Power

The World of Collecting By Tom Burke

There are all manner of “collectible” handguns around for those who like to accumulate things (like me): the P08 Luger; the Mauser P38; the Walther “Squeeze Cocker P07; the legendary (original) Sig P210 (although the new one is pretty nifty); FN’s 1922 take on John Browning 1910 design; Berettas; Stars; Astras; Manurhins; and a whole flock of Colt and Smith and Wesson revolvers.

But the two biggies, at least from my perspective, are the Colt 1911 and the Browning P35 (or Hi Power/HiPower/Hi-Power/HP/BHP/High-Power/GP). Both guns originated amongst the little gray cells of John Moses Browning; both guns have become icons; and both guns (and/or elements of their original design) are still very much current in today’s environment of polymer and MIM parts and micro-mini pocket pistols.

And as much as I’d like to deliver a thousand or so words on the .45 (is there really any other “45” than the 1911?) I’m going to devote this column to what Obi-Wan Kenobi might have said if he described the HP: “It’s an elegant weapon...for a more civilized age.”

A Bit of HP History

The design originated with the French (who brought us smokeless gunpowder) and their need to update their WWI sidearms, such as the Spanish-made “Ruby” pistols, (small .32 ACP’s made by small independent gunmakers in Northern Spain. Not necessarily remembered for their fit, finish, consistency of production, or quality of materials.)

The original specs called for a 15-round, locked breech 9mm, weighing not more than 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram).

Belgium’s Fabrique Nationale (FN) jumped on the opportunity to design (and sell) such a gun to the French army and their primo designer, John Browning, put his talents to the task. The result, in 1922, was a striker-fired, blowback pistol that missed the mark. It wasn’t what the French wanted but, nevertheless, a patent was issued for the gun.

Browning died in 1927 and the project was picked up by another mainstay of FN, designer Dieudonne I. Saive, who completed all the engineering,

modifications, and intermediate testing by 1935, presenting the French with a single-action, hammer-fired pistol with an innovative 13-round staggered-round magazine, integral barrel bushing, and a mag disconnect (that everybody who owns one today disengages). The French rejected it. Instead the Belgian military adopted it in 1935 (hence the name “P35”). The French referred to the design as “Grande Puissance,” which has been translated into “Hi Power” and instead adopted the French-designed Pistolet Automatique Modèle 1935A, another poor decision by the French military (can you say Maginot Line?) at least judging by the longevity of that model compared to the HP.

A Bit More History

As 1935 slid ungracefully into 1939 and WWII, the Germans rolled through Western Europe and overran Belgium and the FN factory. They knew a good thing when they conquered it; so when they occupied Belgium they simply kept the factory, the tooling, and the workers and cranked out Hi Powers (changing the name to “640b”) for the Wehrmacht.

But the Brits, as they muddled through the first stage of the war (now can you say Dunkirk?), saw this coming and helped smuggle out the plans and then forwarded them to Canada and the John Inglis Company in Toronto; which promptly began cranking them out for the British and Chinese Nationalists and some other folks, especially the WW II special ops types. These wartime Inglis HPs garner a premium above that normally garnered by HPs in general. The entire Browning and FN Hi Power family are not inexpensive guns and those interested in collecting them should liberally water their money trees. (There are lower-price alternatives for those who want to shoot or carry HPs or their clones; see the February 2020 GunNews.)

Anyway, the war ended, the world was eventually restored to its axis (no, not THE AXIS—that Axis lost the war) and by 1954 the Hi Power was being imported into the US by the Browning Arms Company.

Which HP is Which?

There have been a significant number of Hi Power models introduced over the years. Some are improvements/evolutions of previous models; some were a reaction to popular handgun trends. Let's take a quick look at how they evolved.

The first models were the "Ordinary" and a special model with adjustable rear sights and the slots/fixtures for a wooden shoulder stock. These were pre-war and WWII models.

Then came the post-war production:

Mark I: In '54 the first Mark I (P35) models were imported into the US. They were pretty much the original design with an internal extractor.

Some Notes: In 1962 the internal extractor was replaced with an external one strengthening that part. In 1964 the "T" 9mm product code preceded the serial number. In 1969 a two-digit date code was added. (So from '69 through 1975 you might see a serial number "69C1000" which meant it was made in 1969, was a 9mm HP (the C) and then the serial number. Later the HP code was changed to "2W5" for 40 S&W and "245" for 9mm. Then they changed it again and either "510" or "511" signified a 9mm Hi Power and "513" equaled a .40 cal. So my Mark III with serial number 511MN518XX means it is a 9mm HP (511), made in 2009 (MN) with the serial as it reads. (For those who like to know this stuff: the

current date codes are: Z=1, Y=2, X=3, W=4, V=5, T=6, R=7, P=8, N=9, M=0.)

Mark II: By the early 1980's there had been some improvements so a Mark II was introduced with larger sights and an ambidextrous safety.

Mark III: In 1988 a firing pin safety was added and the water drain hole in the frame was eliminated. (I sorta recollect that maybe Sig had a water drain hole in one of their models [P226 Navy?]. I could never



MK III—with matte blue slide and chrome frame, note larger ejection port.



MK II—improved sights and ambi safety.

decide whether there was an actual need for one or if it was simply a "tacti-cool" enhancement.) The MK III now—mostly—featured a ring hammer, the oval ejection port was enlarged and squared off (which is an easy way to ID a MK III).

Now, here's where I get confused. There are a bunch of variations of the Mark III, including:

- The Standard Mark III with walnut grips and gloss finish;
- The Capitan Mark III with a tangent rear sight;
- The Practical Mark III with a matte blue slide, silver chrome frame, ring hammer and forged slide to handle the .40 S&W chambering and the lanyard ring was eliminated. (I had one of these as well but

Continued on page 18

The Story of Battle Road, April 19, 1775

By Phil Shave, Editor

A re-telling of the event, based upon the book
Paul Revere's Ride by David Hackett Fischer

Listen my children and you shall hear...

So begins Longfellow's famous poem of Paul Revere's ride to alarm the countryside and counter the British raid on Concord. The story has become myth—the version taught to older recipients of a public education, heroic but incomplete.

Today's educators ignore the seminal events of American history so it is possible that younger readers will not even know the name Revere. The true history of the events surrounding the alarm and battles of April 19, 1775, is even more incredible than any fictional version. Historian David Hackett Fischer has written the definitive study of the events, preparation, characters and inspiration for that momentous day; Fischer titles his book Paul Revere's Ride but it covers so much more.

I'll tell you the story of Revere and the Battle Road here but you should read the book for all of the fascinating detail.

Paul Revere—Community Organizer

Paul Revere was a “mechanic,” a term used loosely to describe those who worked with their hands—engravers, silversmiths, gunsmiths, and blacksmiths. Revere functioned in a number of social circles and was able to gather and carry information within multiple groups. He worked with the elite, the American Whigs who were the core of resistance to British rule; people like Samuel Adams, John Hancock and Dr. Joseph Warren. As a Free Mason and participant in a number of other voluntary associations—small groups of like-minded men who would meet to share common interests—Revere moved freely at various levels of society allowing him to function as an intelligence agent, gathering opinion and information and carrying messages among the groups. Many of these associations were organized as isolated cells, secret societies with Revere as the common participant. Revere was not just a one-night rider.

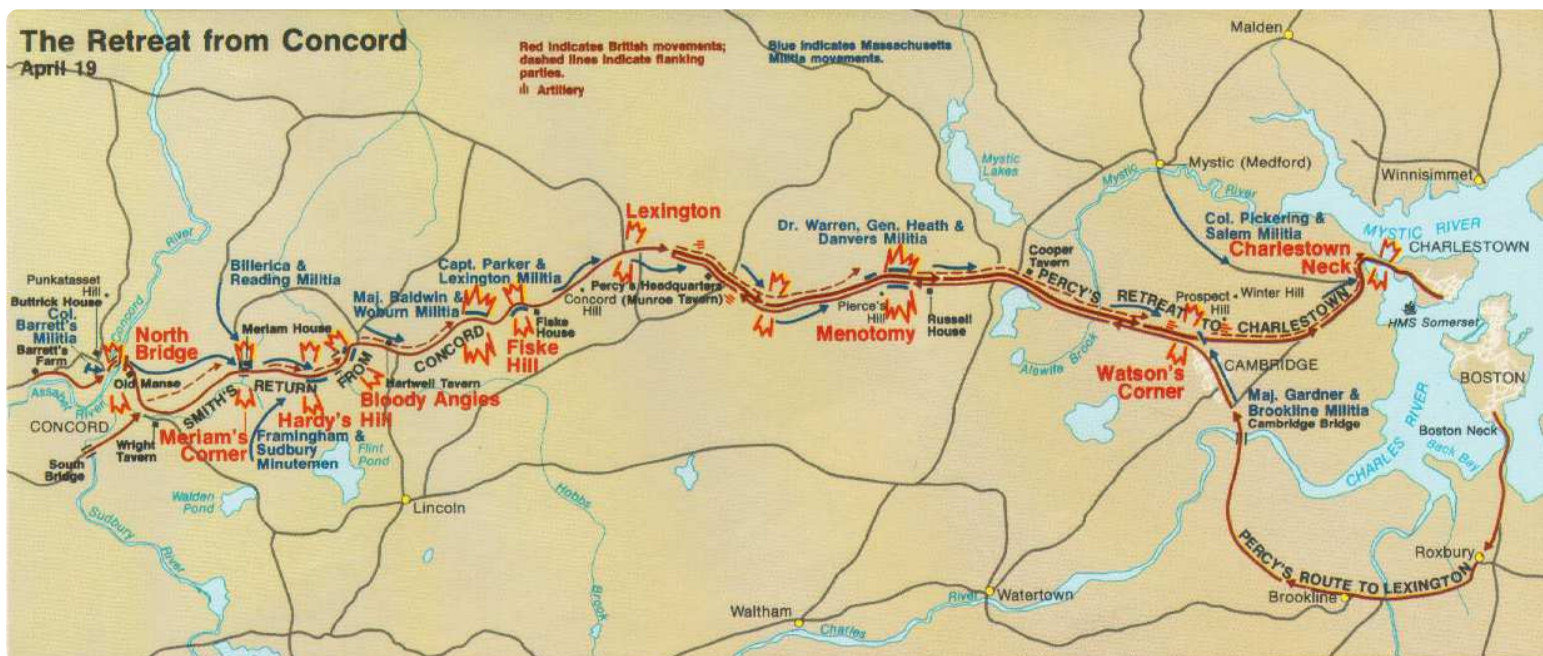
A Conservative Rebellion

Revolutions are often the result of one disenfranchised or impoverished group rising up against the establishment. Not so in the colonies. Americans still thought of themselves as British subjects. The offenses they felt so strongly were the loss of long-held liberties



Above—This famous statue is located in Lexington on the common. The sculpture is by Henry Hudson Kitson. Although intended as a generic Colonial militiaman, it has come to represent John Parker. The sculpture portrays strength and readiness. We know that this is not a true likeness of Captain Parker who was a tubercular older man. Wikimedia 2013 image by permission of the author, Bostonian13.

and the imposition of laws and taxes that were offensive to their sense of self-government. Rather than demanding change, the Whigs (A party name derived from the British Whigs) were hoping to preserve historical rights, precedents that had empowered very local, participatory government and both collective and individual liberties. The Crown imposed a number of measures that restricted free association and speech, impacted free trade and allowed the Navy to seize



Above—The map is from the US Park Service and highlights the locations of engagements during the British retreat from Concord. Concord is at the left, West, and Charleston at the right. As British troops marched East returning from Concord, the first ambush was at Meriam's corner. As you read the text, follow along the map.

colonists to serve as seamen; these heavy-handed acts violated the colonists' sense of self-determination. The "rebels" were conservatives, not radicals. In fact, the most cautious of the Whigs hoped for reconciliation with England.

Jury Nullification, Riots and Resistance

As British attitudes stiffened and troops were brought to the Colonies, Americans became increasingly antagonistic. The billeting of troops in Boston inevitably led to confrontations. Bostonians freely expressed their hatred of the troops, insulting and assaulting them. On March 5, 1770, soldiers fired on a crowd, killing six in the "Bloody Massacre." British leadership found themselves unable to control the troops against these provocations.

The first instances of jury nullification in America began during this period; juries refused to render guilty

verdicts in maritime cases brought by the Crown, even when facts and the law supported a guilty finding. Jury nullification was also used to demonstrate opposition to British restraint of free speech and imposition of taxes. Colonists began to refuse to serve on juries, thus rendering the law impotent on many issues. Following the Shakespearean edict, "...first...let's kill all the lawyers"—but in a more civil manner—colonists posted warnings on the doors of loyalist lawyers to further impede legal processes and drive Tory lawyers from Boston.

Among other activities, Revere engraved political cartoons that were printed, distributed and posted, creating a loathing of the British occupiers. His Whig propaganda broadened support for resistance. The Governor, General Gage, was well aware of his activities but at this stage was unwilling to impose martial law which would have allowed him to shut down printing presses and arrest conspirators.



Above—This photo is of an original Brown Bess musket. The caliber is .75"—smoothbore and designed for rapid reloading, not accuracy. Basically the same firearm was used by the British for 30 years.

The Alarms—Firearm and Powder Confiscation

Governments in fear of losing power always search out and seize firearms. In the 18th century the most efficient method of “gun control” was control of the gunpowder itself. Americans had been fighting for survival for so long that firearms were common, making confiscation very difficult. However there were cannon, powder and stores of muskets held in regional magazines and colonists had begun to hoard additional supplies that were more dispersed. General Gage realized that it would be prudent to seize control of all munitions and his Tory spies provided up-to-date intelligence on nearly every location. Gage launched a series of not-so-secret raids, some by land and some by sea. Gage failed—the network of rebel spies and messengers was too efficient and powder and guns were usually moved before the troops arrived. Paul Revere was central to spreading the Powder Alarms.

Revere Rides to Portsmouth

The famous midnight ride was not Revere’s first. On Thanksgiving Day, 1774, Massachusetts experienced a severe snow storm and the heavy snow fall and subsequent thaw and freeze left the roads rutted and iced, nearly impassible. Receiving intelligence of a planned raid on Portsmouth, New Hampshire, he set out on horseback, December 13, to raise the alarm. In spite of the impossible conditions Revere arrived in Portsmouth and the alarm roused 400 local militia who stormed Fort William and Mary where the powder was held. It wasn’t exactly a fair fight; only six invalid soldiers defended the fort—they fought but were overwhelmed with no fatalities. The British attack by sea was late due to weather and a Yankee pilot who grounded the British sloop *Canceaux* carrying the Marines. The Colonists removed powder, cannon and muskets from the fort. The attack on Fort William and Mary was an overt act of war but there was no British retaliation and discontent simmered.

General Gage prepared to strike at the leaders of the rebellious Whigs, and sent spies to chart the roads to Concord, deciding on the Lexington Road route. Loyalists provided detailed information on the location of rebel leaders, powder, cannons and stored arms. They chose this road as providing fewer ambush opportunities. By the time the British troops marched, their targets were determined, they knew where their loyalist friends were and which homes harbored rebels. The colonists were also aware of British preparations and Committees of Safety had been meeting and discussing an impending action, not knowing quite where it would be—now they knew.

False Alarms—Paul Revere Rides to Concord

Revere rode the alarm to Concord on three separate dates. On April 8, 1775, alerted by British ships dropping



Above—Another view of Daniel Chester French's Minuteman. Everyone knows the statue of Lincoln seated at the Lincoln Memorial in D.C. The same sculptor, French, was the creator of our best-known portrayal of the Minuteman. The town of Concord asked French to create a statue for the 1875 commemoration of the fight 100 years previous. The Minuteman sculpture shows an American farmer, one hand resting on his plow, a musket in his right hand, ready to respond to the alarm.

longboats into the water, he rode to Concord, warning that it would be the destination for British troops. Armaments were quickly dispersed and hidden and the Provincial congress which had been meeting, left town—the alarm was premature. Of course Revere was known and watched and his rides were reported to Gage. Then on Sunday, April 16, Revere took the unusual step of violating the Sabbath by riding to Concord again to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams that the British grenadiers and light infantry were ready to march—another false alarm based on increasing apprehension about Gage’s preparations. (Gage’s plans were often

known. Historians suspect that his American wife, Margaret Kemble Gage, sympathized with her fellow-Americans and shared secrets. Supporting this is the fact that immediately after the Concord battle, Gage shipped her to England.)

Fear that alarm riders might be trapped within Boston led Revere and his fellow conspirators to create a warning system, later described by Revere: "...if the British went out by water, we would shew two lanthorns in the North Church steeple, and if by land, one, as a signal."

The Midnight Ride

Paul Revere was not the only alarm rider on April 18, 1775. Historian Fischer emphasizes that the alarms were a collective effort involving many people. Initially Revere and William Dawes were the two riders from Boston. The British closed the Boston Neck but Dawes may have known the Sergeant of the guard and talked his way through sentries. Revere went by boat to Charleston with the help of those who rowed him across directly beneath the 70-gun ship Somerset, while others met him at the landing. John Larkin lent him his best mare, Brown Beauty, and Revere headed off on the road to Lexington.

Almost immediately Revere was intercepted by British riders. Gage had sent about 30 British officers out to patrol the roads and intercept alarm riders. Two of these officers spotted and chased Revere, diverting him onto the Mystic road, a long detour. Revere outran his pursuers—a frightening beginning to a truly heroic ride. These British advance riders themselves served to alarm the countryside and one of them struck the first blows that night. Farmer Josiah Nelson, awakened by hoof beats, came out of his house. An officer slashed at him with his sword striking him in the head then making him a prisoner. Eventually he was released with a warning that his house would be burned if he spread the word. After his wife tended his wound, "...Josiah Nelson collected his weapons, saddled his horse and rode off to warn his neighbors." Meanwhile, Revere skirted Cambridge and finally at Menotomy entered onto the King's Road toward Lexington.

At midnight Revere entered Lexington, turning toward Jonas Clarke's home where Sam Adams and John Hancock were staying. Sgt. Munroe and the militia were guarding the home and challenged Revere, who responded, "You'll have noise enough before long! The Regulars are coming out!" (Americans referred to the troops as Regulars or Redcoats—they still thought of themselves as British.) 30 minutes after Revere, Dawes rode in. Revere warned Adams and Hancock that they were at risk of arrest but the number of troops being sent also supported the idea that powder and arms were the target.

The Regulars March

The British set out for Lexington late at night on April 18. Poor planning cursed the expedition from the beginning. The boats offloaded an estimated 800 soldiers and marines into the Cambridge marshes; after wading ashore, shivering with cold, they struggled through mud and stream crossings that soaked them to the waist. The infantry square-toed boots, neither left nor right-footed, were full of water; they would be marching and fighting in these boots for 40 miles and 21 hours.

As the troops marched by, homeowners along the route awakened and went out to spread the word to their neighbors. Most armed themselves. At one lighted home an officer knocked on the door while they were, "...melting their pewter dishes into bullets." Col. Francis Smith drove the troops hard—nearly four miles an hour. At Menotomy he split his force, sending Marine Major John Pitcairn to take the light infantry on to seize the bridges, keeping his heavier grenadiers moving at a slower pace (the grenadiers were big men—shock troops—selected for size and strength). It was the light infantry who would first enter Lexington.

Revere Rides into Ambush

William Dawes and Paul Revere mounted again, leaving Lexington on horseback headed West for Concord. At about 1:00 a.m. of the 19th they met Dr. Samuel Prescott who had been courting his fiancé that evening; he became another voluntary night alarm rider. The alarm plan changed as they decided to spread the alarm to all—they leapfrogged from farm to farm beating on doors. Near Nelson farms four mounted Regulars ambushed the party. Prescott knew the country well and he jumped his horse over a wall to escape into the woods. Revere also ran but was headed off by six more mounted officers and captured at gun point. Dawes escaped but was thrown from his horse and limped back to Lexington on foot.

One might think that Revere had more than done his duty. Surrounded by his captors, along with other prisoners, he did his best to create fear in his captors, warning them that the militia was already forming at Lexington and the British expedition was in jeopardy. About a half mile from Lexington gunshots were heard and the town bell was ringing. In a panic, the British officers released all their prisoners after cutting bridles and girths but seizing Revere's borrowed horse, Brown Beauty (she did not survive the day).

Unhorsed but unstoppable, Revere walked back to Lexington. Dr. Prescott rode home but not to rest. He woke his father, the elder Dr. Prescott and his brother, Dr. Abel Prescott—the two brothers rode off to spread the alarm west into Acton and south to Framingham. Throughout the night and morning the alarm went from

town to town, eventually back east to Salem on the coast. The minutemen armed, formed companies and marched toward Concord and the Lexington road.

The Lexington Militia Surprised

Captain John Parker formed his militia on the common. Parker was, like all Colonial leaders, chosen by his neighbors to lead them even though at age 46 he was suffering from advanced pulmonary tuberculosis (which would kill him in five months). He had seen more war than most of the Regulars, serving at the siege of Louisbourg and the battle for Quebec. It was said that he served with Robert Roger's Rangers. The men formed up not to take orders but in the New England fashion, to discuss. Their decision, despite Revere's earlier warning, was to send scouts out to determine the truth of it. One scout returned with word that there were no Regulars marching to Lexington—Parker dismissed his men but told them to stay near. The second scout galloped in with the urgent warning that British troops were only a half mile from the Green. Thus the Lexington militia was surprised in spite of earlier warnings. The colonial drummer beat the call to arms.

Revere's Work Continues

Paul Revere, knowing well the tendency for Adams and Hancock to endlessly discuss rather than act, headed back on foot to Lexington to ensure that they had left—no, they were still debating. Finally convinced by Revere's urging that they were of more value to the cause free than captured, Hancock and Adams left Lexington by coach. Revere was approached by John Lowell and told of a large, heavy chest of important Whig documents that should not fall into British hands. These papers were on the second floor of Buckman Tavern on the Common. Revere agreed to help hide the chest.

Lexington

At first light the Regulars noticed that, "...the distant fields were alive with armed men, half walking, half running to the west..." parallel to the column. Major Pitcairn stopped the troops and ordered them to load. For many Regulars this was the first knowledge that the march was not just another exercise to impress the locals; they had not expected to fight. As the column marched into Lexington they could now see Parker's unprepared militia forming into two ranks, perhaps 60 men. Col. Smith was at the column rear with the Grenadiers and Major Pitcairn was also not at the front—the fateful decision at the fork in the road was left to Marine Lieutenant Jesse Adair—stay on the road to Concord or turn off to meet the militia forming on the Green. Adair, aggressive and decisive, headed to the Green with two companies and formed from column into line of battle. Pitcairn led the rest of his troops left at

the fork and then rode over to the British lines, ordering the Lexington men to disperse. Captain John Parker then ordered his militia to disperse; some did and some did not but all kept their firearms.

Directly behind the formed militia another drama was taking place involving—you guessed it—Paul Revere. Revere and Lowell were dragging the 4 foot long chest of secret Whig papers to hide it in the woods. They would be ducking flying lead ball when the fight began.)

A single shot was fired. Some Americans believed that Pitcairn himself fired his pistol but he denied it and, "...insisted that he told his troops not to fire." The British claimed that a Colonial behind a nearby stone wall fired at them. The British infantry then began, without orders, a scattered fire then a ripping volley. Some troops turned to fire at onlookers. Author Fischer notes that British firearm drill did not include "take aim" and that firing became continual as muskets were reloaded, "presented" and fired. Two militia fired back, Ebenezer Munroe and John Munroe, the rest were dispersing as ordered. Two Lexington men were immediately killed on the line, others as they dispersed and one as he came out of the Meeting House. A total of seven men were killed and nine wounded. There were, "...eight pairs of fathers and sons...mustered on the Common. Five of those eight were shattered by death." Almost every Lexington family lost kin—fathers, sons, uncles or cousins; this odd little skirmish destroyed this community. The Regulars had one man wounded.

From the first shot British officers had been commanding a cease fire but the troops, "...were so wild they could hear no orders" and did not hold their line; they pursued the dispersing Colonials, loading and firing. Finally Col. Smith rode up and ordered the drummer to "beat to arms" recovering control of his troops. Smith called his officers together, then ordered "...a heavy volley of 800 muskets" to discharge loads, followed by three cheers and the column set off for Concord about six miles away.

Concord

At the Wright Tavern, Concord men discussed—of course—and decided to defend the town. The more aggressive young men marched a mile east to meet the British; overawed by the long red line of Regulars streaming toward them, they retreated into town where debate continued. Outnumbered, the militia retreated across the North Bridge and waited. The Grenadiers searched the town, "...spoiled some flour, knocked the trunnions off three iron guns, burned a heap of wooden spoons and trenchers, and cut down a liberty pole." Some lead bullets were thrown in the pond (only to be, "salvaged the next day"). The gun carriages were burned which served mainly to convince the militia at the North Bridge that the town itself was being burned.

By this time about 500 Minutemen from Acton, Bedford, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Groton, Littleton, Stow and Westford were assembled under the leadership of Colonel Barrett. As the British troops began to tear planks from the bridge, Barrett ordered an advance toward the North Bridge where three light infantry companies were positioned. The British retreated and formed for “street firing.” Without orders, a Regular fired, followed by a British volley. The Americans marched to within 50 yards and were ordered to fire—“The Americans aimed carefully and fired low.” While the British were often lumped under the title “Redcoats,” uniform differences made the officers obvious targets; troops had cheaply dyed coats that faded almost to pink while the officers wore scarlet coats dyed with cochineal (an insect-derived red dye). Four of the eight Infantry officers at North Bridge were hit in the first American fire. “The British light infantry fled pell-mell back toward Concord center, defying their officers and abandoning their wounded...” Colonel Smith came up to reinforce the retreating infantry but halted as about 200 militia had formed above the road behind a stone wall in a strong position. Although battle had been joined, the Americans were still cautious and allowed the British troops returning from the raid on Barrett’s Mill to re-cross the North Bridge and join the troops in Concord. By noon the British had formed into column, seized vehicles to carry the wounded officers and began to march; the wounded struggled along or if unable to walk, were left in the road. Flankers defended the column from following Americans in the hills and the British marched east unmolested for about one mile.

The Weapons

If you hold in your mind a picture of rebels with long rifles capable of sniping the British at long range, let’s dispel that now—most Colonial firearms were smoothbores. There were likely only a few rifles present on April 19. Rifles made their appearance later; they were mostly made in the South and used there and on the frontier. Daniel Morgan marched his famous riflemen to Boston in August 1775 and Dickert (a gunsmith) later made long rifles for the Continental Army.

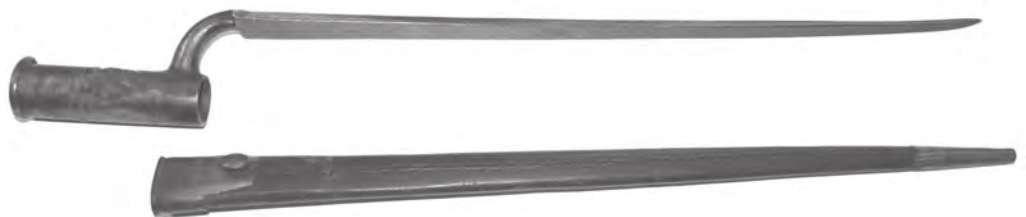
Clearly, the value of the rifle was quickly recognized but the farmers of the Northeast colonies possessed mostly old smooth bores left over from the French and Indian wars and long barreled fowling pieces. Few guns were manufactured in New England and almost all firearms were imports. Powder was also imported and

one of the first items restricted by the British. The Americans were capable shots because they used their firearms for hunting, with both shot and ball. Once the Minute Companies were organized many militia began to practice firing and loading drills. Most rural folk cast their own lead ball and this may have increased the accuracy of smooth bores. The Colonial firearms were a poor choice for combat—bayonets could not be mounted on most and without bayonets Americans were unable to stand up to a British volley and bayonet charge. According to historian Fischer, at the North Bridge in Concord, Colonel Barrett put the Acton Company in front because the Acton gunsmith, Isaac Davis had prepared them well with bayonets on their muskets and cartridge boxes. Capt. Isaac Davis not only equipped his men but also built his own firing range to train them; he led his men to the front and was killed at the North Bridge. The Americans had no advantage in firearms except that they were practiced in aiming. Yet, it has been calculated that the Americans fired more than 75,000 rounds on that one day; some estimate the hit ratio at 1/300 (it depends on whose casualty estimates one believes).

Rudyard Kipling, chronicler of the British soldier, called the British musket a whore, an “outspoken, flinty-lipped, brazen-faced jade.” Nicknamed Brown Bess by the troops, the 11 lb. smooth bore was more formally the long land pattern musket. Bess was a firearm of variable quality, firing imperfect ball, she was not made for accuracy but rather for ease of reloading and volley fire. Constant drilling in both rapid reloading and the evolutions of volley fire made the British troops the most feared of the 18th century. While most colonists reloaded from powder horns, the British carried cartridge boxes. Of course, Brown Bess was made for the bayonet and the British would use their bayonets often on the retreat to Boston.

There were some very good reasons for the reliance on un-rifled muskets and loosely fitted ball. With black powder, the muskets fouled so badly that they became difficult to load after a dozen rounds. On April 19, with no time to clean the bores and only a ramrod to knock out the worst of the fouling, the rate of fire quickly

Here is the bayonet that was fitted to Brown Bess. Truly a formidable weapon in the age of muzzle loading firearms.



diminished. While each trooper carried 36 cartridges, loading and firing this many rounds would have been very difficult and instead of four to five rounds per minute it may have taken a minute or more to reload later in the day.

Rifled firearms became important quickly and later there would be rifle companies and 200 yard capable snipers among the Americans. The British hired Hessian mercenaries and some were rifle-equipped Jaegers, and some of the Jagerkorps were mounted and extremely dangerous in their ability to move quickly and engage at distance.

Retreat from Concord—Battle Road

In the time it took the British to march the mile east to Meriam's Corner, over 1000 Americans had assembled and they now outnumbered the British. Taking positions behind walls and buildings at Meriam's Corner, the militia fired, killing at least two, wounding an officer and many more soldiers. The Americans took no casualties. Meriam's corner was a brutal introduction to the day's march; the British column kept moving, leaving their dead and wounded, as they would all day. As terrain allowed, the British flankers successfully fended off harassing fire. (You might wish to refer to the map on p.9 as I describe the retreat from Concord.)

Author Fischer's research dispels our folk myth of individual Americans engaging along the road. He documents a series of planned engagements at strategic points in a moving "circle of fire." Lord Percy (who later that day rescued Colonel Smith's column) notes that, "We retired for 15 miles under an incessant fire, which like a moving circle surrounded and followed us wherever we went." American militias were commanded by their officers and coordinated many of their movements and ambush locations. Terrain often worked against the British. While much of it was open fields, there were swamps, drainage ditches, and piled granite walls topped with logs, some woodland, rising ground and narrow bridges over streams. Locals could move easily through terrain that was impassible to flankers.

At Brooks Hill, American officers coordinated an ambush from high ground and the fighting continued on to Brooks Tavern. The British fought through to disengage and descend into the valley of Tanner's Brook where a fresh regiment of 200 Woburn men took positions behind trees and walls to the south of Lincoln Bridge. Other Americans formed on the north. "The Regulars were caught in a deadly crossfire and suffered grievously." Nearly every infantry officer was killed or wounded and the sergeants took command, leading troops out into the brush in counter attacks. Moving only 500 yards further on the road they met another ambush at a sharp corner that would become known as Bloody Curve. Successful use of cover by the Americans

at Bloody Curve kept their casualties to four while the British suffered 30 killed and wounded. The British column went on the run through Bloody Curve and the militia out in the fields could not keep contact. Behind the British column there were now 2000 Americans but in disarray due to the large numbers.

Aggressive Colonials occupied barns at Hartwell farm close to the road, firing into the column but suffering greatly when flanked by bayonet-wielding Grenadiers—this was close combat. As the Regulars approached Lincoln they were met by fire from behind ditches and rocks. Captain John Parker's company from Lexington, anxious for payback, found cover on a granite-bouldered hillside alongside the Lincoln Company; they held fire until Colonel Smith was within view. Officers were again the targets and Col. Smith fell from his horse wounded, along with the last unwounded infantry officer. Major Pitcairn ordered a successful charge to clear the hill, killing some Lexington men. But there were more dead and wounded Regulars left on the hill now named Parker's Revenge. This was just the first brutal hill—next the Marines fought up the Bluff, then Fiske's Hill where a Cambridge company waited patiently until they could deliver an aimed fire. Pitcairn was knocked from his horse, wounded; his horse bolted. An estimated five Regulars died on Fiske's Hill, the wounded were numerous.

Saved by Lord Percy

At this point the British column could have been destroyed. Thousands of Americans had caught up to the rear guard, almost all ammunition was gone (I estimate that the Regulars had fired over 25,000 rounds between Concord and Lexington), the majority of the remaining troops were wounded and they had marched and fought until they could hardly stand. As the column disintegrated, some British sat down in the road, some surrendered, the wounded were left, those who could ran toward Lexington while their officers tried to stem the panic. "Some of the officers were thinking of surrender." Then as they finally staggered into Lexington, they saw Lord Percy's rescue force that had marched from Boston—Royal Marines and Infantry in line of battle. Percy fired a cannon shot through the Lexington meeting house, dispersing the pursuit. There was a lull as the British reorganized and treated the wounded. Skirmishers kept the Americans at bay and the British burned three homes while they planned their retreat. Each fresh trooper had only 36 cartridges while Col. Smith's remaining soldiers had almost none. Those 36 cartridges would be much less than needed to cover 15 miles back to Boston while under constant attack.

Lord Percy arrayed his troops in a formation that would allow him to move and fight in any direction. Strong flanking parties on each side and a fresh rear

guard protected the retreat while a relatively small band of 50 troops led the way. He kept Marines as a reserve interior line that could be moved to meet attacks from any direction.

The Ring of Fire

Chaos among the Americans collecting at Lexington was brought under control by Brigadier General William Heath, a military scholar with zero field experience—his martial expertise was all from books and training days. Highly intelligent, he had researched the tactics of skirmish—perfectly suited to the American personality and terrain. Something that our mythology doesn't recognize is that between Concord and Lexington, the Americans "stood against the British force in large formations at least eight times." This was a dangerous strategy for poorly equipped, unseasoned militia. General Heath would not do this—the reinforced British now numbered close to 2,000 and they had artillery and easier terrain to cover. Heath's approach was to create, "...a moving ring of American skirmishers, 'dispersed tho' adhering." Even students of the Revolution seldom recognize the amazing achievement of command and control that Heath implemented that chaotic day. Using couriers to relay commands and positions he was able to forge his circle of fire. General Heath was always near the center of the fighting, coordinating the Americans as best he could and alongside him was the fighting doctor Joseph Warren of Boston (a leader of the rebellion, soon to die at Bunker Hill).

As the British marched, the attack was fiercest at the rear where the Royal Welch Fusiliers fought marching backwards; their Colonel was shot along with 36 out of 218 men. Later they would be relieved by the Marines who would suffer 70 casualties.

Some Americans fought as mounted skirmishers, riding ahead to find a position, firing, remounting to ride ahead of the British column and engaging multiple times. Hezekiah Wyman was one such fighter—too old to fight at 55, long gray hair streaming, riding a white horse, he was a marksman who killed each time he dismounted and fired. "The British infantry...grew to dread the sight of him...death on a pale horse."

As the retreat approached Menotomy the fighting intensified as incautious Americans attacked from positions too close to the road. The British fought from house to house, using bayonets effectively. British records and diaries document that they accepted no surrender: "...for all that were found in the houses were put to death." Enraged Americans fought from their own homes or yards and died there. British officers totally lost control of the troops in Menotomy where they began to loot homes and churches, destroying what could not be taken, killing livestock and burning homes.

Many soldiers became drunk from plundered taverns. 25 Americans were killed and only nine wounded in Menotomy—the ratio is evidence that the wounded were killed; 40 Regulars were killed and 80 wounded. But more hard fighting was ahead in Cambridge where the last artillery rounds were fired to save the column and flanking parties staved off close attacks.

The bridge to Boston over the Charles River was stripped of planks and guarded by a large group of militia, cutting off the British. Lord Percy's troops were nearly out of ammunition, there were two artillery rounds remaining, they were outnumbered and surrounded. Percy turned off the main road and was able to temporarily disengage from the Americans. Once again the British situation was hopeless—only a decision by a militia commander to let the British pass saved the British from total destruction.

Read the Book

Post-Vietnam, popular writers and newspapers such as the Boston Globe and the Washington Post published articles re-writing history, condemning the Founders and heroes of the Revolution; all part of a cynical effort to destroy faith in our country. The "fake news" included slander that Revere worked for pay, was a drunk and coward, betrayed his country and failed in his attempt to spread the alarm; serious historians have tracked every hour of his famous ride, and documented that Revere's commitment to the cause and his revolutionary role was even greater than the myth.

In the preceding story the quotes are all from Fischer's book unless otherwise noted. The facts are well documented in the many pages of the appendix, listing diverse sources that are both Colonial and British. I cross-checked many of them against a new history, [The British Are Coming](#), by Rick Atkinson, and some older references including [Lexington and Concord](#) by Arthur B. Tourtellot and Bruce Lancaster's [From Lexington to Liberty](#).

My summary of the events is incomplete. David Hackett Fischer uses letters, reports, depositions and interviews and decent maps to give us a thoroughly documented, vivid picture of the action on April 18-19, 1775. The events and decisions leading up to the Revolution are explained with clarity I'd not known. Paul Revere's extraordinary commitment to the cause is detailed—he surely has not received the credit he deserves. If you are a student of history or just want an exciting read, [Paul Revere's Ride](#) is a book worth owning.

References & Lessons From History on the next two pages

The Book

Paul Revere's Ride, by David Hackett Fischer, Oxford University Press, 1994

Other Sources

The British Are Coming, by Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt and Company, NY, 2019,

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Above is the emblem of the Air National Guard. The modern Minutemen—reserves able to respond in an instant—are the airmen of the Air National Guard. The standing figure is indeed the Daniel French statue of the Concord Minuteman.



Above—The Minuteman statue shown on p. 8 is by Henry Hudson Kitson; here's another John Parker...the official logo of the United States Army Reserve. The Reserve refers to this logo or patch as the "John Parker."

A Revolutionary Sidebar —Lessons from History—

We often choose to forget that which is not convenient to our established beliefs. History's lessons are easily disregarded. Here we have a story of free people who resisted the loss of freedoms. First lesson—people fight hardest when a "right" they've been accustomed to is taken away. It's much more motivating to hang onto freedoms already exercised than to fight for some imagined future outcome. Conservatives, those with a fondness for the traditional, may not be the most innovative but they often have the clearest vision of what might be lost through ill-conceived change.

Jury Nullification & Sanctuary Areas

As laws became more unreasonable in early America, jury nullification was a predictable result—people who don't respect a law won't enforce it. It was effective then and will always be an option as long as guilt is determined by a jury of one's peers. Today we've already seen responsible people in authority positions publicly state that some recent laws should not and will not be enforced. Yes, county councils, city councils and sheriffs have taken a stand against unreasonable and unconstitutional laws, creating virtual sanctuary areas. The Second Amendment Sanctuary movement was discussed as a viable grass roots movement in the Wall Street Journal, America's most moderate mainstream newspaper (Jan. 22, 2020). Eerily similar to the years leading up to 1775.

Local Government vs. Central Planning

And then there's the longing for local control that was the engine of Colonial government and the militia. "The Crown knows best" might have been the Loyalist's motto—an argument for a remote, centralized government that was to be trusted with all major decisions. The majority of colonists didn't believe this and the outcome was a Constitution that guaranteed not only individual but also collective State's rights. And eventually an Electoral College that ensures that we don't fatally split again. Yet today the frightened and the power-hungry still long for top-down, central planning government—might as well have left the King of England in charge.

The 21st Century Powder Alarms

Gun control, ah, there's a subject. The British overreacted by attempting to confiscate powder and arms; this threatened Americans and escalated the conflict. The Powder Alarms, in hindsight, served mainly to arouse indignation and stimulate the hoarding of

firearms and powder—the opposite of the intended effect. The Powder Alarms dispersed control of powder and decentralized the location of armaments. Imagine a more informed British response that trusted the longstanding links between the mother country and the American colonies. Such behavior could easily have resulted in the States continuing as part of a Commonwealth.

One can't help but note the American response to the eight years of "Powder Alarms" during the Obama Presidency—households bought multiple semiauto rifles and stored thousands of rounds of ammunition. The large capacity magazines are beyond counting. Estimates now are that close to 10 million AR-type rifles are privately owned (this is just a subset of the nearly 400 million firearms owned by U.S. Citizens). The numbers are probably larger than media reports—industry experts believe that as many as 2 million AR-type rifles have been made and sold in each recent year. Then add in the many other types of semiauto rifles—FN, AK, HK, etc. Gun control fanatics have created a shockingly well-armed citizenry through their 21st century Powder Alarms—the initiatives, laws, taxes, restrictions and confiscations. Here in Washington State we have the Powder Alarms of 2020: Bills that would tax ammunition, require background checks to buy ammunition, ban many rifle and pistol magazines, ban ordinary semiauto rifles and more. Do they know what they do?

Politicians Promise Firearm Seizures

The American rebels fought for and at their own homes. Outrage was fueled by troops seen as invaders who brought the fight into the Americans' own villages, neighborhoods and homes. We remember this lesson even if others don't. This year politicians at the National level talk openly about seizures of private firearms under the euphemism of "mandatory gun buybacks"...as if the government can buy back something it never owned from someone who does not want to sell. These pols must imagine a populace of poorly educated, dependent, enslaved, cowardly urban hipsters.

The New Media Can Change Minds

The Colonial media quickly propagandized accounts of British atrocities during the retreat—homes destroyed, surrendering Americans executed, churches sacked—ensuring that public sentiment turned against the British. While today's mainstream media is complicit in the effort to diminish personal freedoms and may cheer oppressive firearm laws, the real modern media—internet forums, alternate news sources, blogs—hosts other opinions and can quickly

inform and arouse public opinion. So far, the media has primarily been used by anti-2nd Amendment forces to spread fear of firearms; the new media could quickly counter all this propaganda.

The story of 1775 remains vibrant and motivating.

By Phil Shave, Editor

The sculptor, Daniel Chester French captured the dual role of the American militiaman of 1775—male, of nearly any age if able, wedded to the land and owning his own firearm. French did another Minuteman for the American Revolutionary War Memorial, Vermilion County, Illinois.

The principles of personal readiness, competence with contemporary firearms and willingness to defend the country survive today in many citizens.

-GN-



Collecting the Hi Power

Continued from page 7

couldn't justify a 4th HP so it got traded for...something. Should'a kept it.);

- There was a BDA model to satisfy the American desire for Double Action/Single Action configuration;
- A BDAO for Double Action Only (NYC police ala some of their S&W models in DAO?);
- And the BDM (which I had for a while but found no earthly use for so I traded it, but it was a great "collector" piece). The BDM had a switch on the slide, just forward and above the safety that would change the action from a revolver-type Double Action only to a DA/SA action. Marketing lore says it was designed for police departments nervous about giving officers a DA/SA gun to replace their revolvers and so offered them the ability to start off with a pistol in DAO ala their revolvers (anyone needing a surplus S&W Model 10 at the time could'a picked them up for a song) to get used to the new configuration and then segue into pistol-mode DA/SA. It wasn't a big hit as it was a solution to a problem that didn't exist;

The "odd" switchable BDM



- There was also a "Detective" model with a shorter barrel.
- Some are fortunate to have purchased yet another variation—the "GP Competition" model built by FN, Belgium, with an extended 6" barrel, barrel mounted weight, low mount adjustable sights, a unique ambi safety and revised trigger pivot in the slide for a 3-4 lb. trigger.

Here's a fancied-up HP with non-stock grips and more.



So who used it?

In a word, everybody. I would say it was a lot more popular, internationally, than the 1911, although its caliber, 9mm, was the world standard as the .45 ACP never was.

Basically, it was adopted by 50 armies in 83 countries and favored by both WWII and post-war special ops groups. The British Special Air Service (SAS) and FBI hostage rescue team used it, although it was dropped by the FBI in favor of .45 ACP after the Miami shootout where the 9mm didn't seem to have enough stopping power.

Is there anything "wrong" with it? In another word, "No."

Some people complain about the HP's hammer bite. But the solution recommended by the late Stephen A. Camp (more about him in a minute) is to simply Dremel off a bit of the hammer and, bingo, no bite. I took his advice (but had it done by a pro, prior to refinishing the whole gun) and it's good advice. The ring hammer also bites many shooters; both can be modified.

The other knock is the mag safety. Like most older S&W pistols—no mag, no bang. Disabling it on the earlier models is something the most ham-fisted Bubba could do; on some of the later models you might want to have your 'smith make it go away. Once gone the trigger improves amazingly (and yes, a gritty trigger is one of the gun's negatives), the mag drops

cleanly, and the gun fires like any other gun without a mag safety. (And no, I'm not going to engage in the argument of the whether a mag safety makes the gun actually safer for the owner.)

Author's note: For me, as compact as the HP is, especially for an 85-year old design, I don't carry it. First, who wants an \$800 or \$900+ gun in some evidence locker if, god forbid, I ever had to use it. Next, I don't like carrying a cocked & locked pistol without a grip safety (and I'm not a big fan of cocked & locked with a grip safety; my regular carry guns are a Smith & Wesson CS9, Beretta PX4compact, and S&W 4513. I just got an HK USP .40 compact that may go into the rotation.)

Lower Priced HP's?

So, can one find a pistol with many (all?) of the virtues of the actual Browning or FN Hi Power without shelling out the dough for an actual Browning or FN Hi Power?

In a third word, "Yes." Via clones, copies, and surplus.

In a previous column (February 2020) I discussed clones and copies and I referenced Hi Powers. FEG made a very credible clone (their earlier ones, the later ones looked like HP on the outside but were S&W model 59s on the inside.)

The Trick: Real Hi Powers have an oval cross bolt "footprint" on the right side just above the trigger. If looking at an FEG and it ain't there, it ain't an HP clone but one of the S&W 59 types.

There were licensed copies made as well. Arcus in Bulgaria, FM in Argentina, and Kareem in Israel all made them (FM later made unlicensed copies). And one can find surplus (and semi-beat-up) HP's on Gunbroker. One good source has always been DWJ Imports: <https://www.gunbroker.com/Guns-firearms/search?Sort=13&IncludeSellers=4167750&PageSize=48>.

(And if you are in the market for an M2HB/ M3HB FN Browning Semi-Auto .50 BMG, Gunbroker is the place to look. I just saw one listed for auction starting at \$9,800. Just in case. You want a semi Ma Deuce. At home. For when SHTF?)

I got my first Browning HP after a couple of FEG's back a bunch of years ago for \$350-ish and put more money into it via CaR Firearms when they were in Tukwila. I now have a super-slick Mark II with a 3 lb. trigger, world-class Cerakote job, and G10 grips.

Another note: My other HP, the one made in '09 is one of those marked, "Assembled in Portugal." It doesn't mean the gun is any less worthy than any other HP; it just means the European Common market helped FN keep costs down when they did all

the manufacturing in Belgium and then shipped the parts to Portugal for assembly where labor is cheaper.

A Tribute to Stephan A. Camp

There are no shortages of places for information about HPs in the library (mine and the public ones) or on line. But the fella who was the Hi-Power's greatest champion, knew so very, very much about them, and literally wrote THE book (The Shooter's Guide to the Browning Hi Power) was Stephen A. Camp. He was a retired law enforcement officer who started a website "High Powers & Handguns," (<https://hipowersandhandguns.com/>) and was a generous contributor to many forums, especially about HP's. He died suddenly, at age 59, a few years ago and is still missed by many in the community.

I owe a lot of my understanding about the HP, other guns, and some of the stuff in this piece, to him. You ought to take a look at his website, there's still a ton of good material available about all sorts of things (like the Star BM which is now flooding the market at very attractive prices). Take a few minutes and take a look at it.

To Conclude

They stopped making the Hi Power in 2017. How sad.

I don't think the tacti-cool crowd or mall ninjas much noticed but many who value firearms history or the beauty of a finely crafted pistol lament the gun's "passing." And while I keep my Mark III pretty much in the safe, it's almost too purty to shoot, my reconditioned Mark II gets regular exercise and every time I shoot it I wonder why I don't carry it (and then remember I don't like cocked and locked).

Now while I don't say everyone should have a BHP in the safe or range bag, I do think everyone ought to at least have an outing with one. It may or may not have been John Browning's "best" design (and as mentioned, it was mostly Dieudonne Saive's creation) but it is one of the two longest-lasting designs in the world of firearms.

And it is indeed an "elegant" weapon, especially compared to the clunkiness of a Glock or HK. Its graceful looking, fits most folks like a glove, and has a history unmatched by almost any other handgun in history. (Except, maybe, possibly, kinda, sorta, the....dare I say it, 1911 Colt .45.)

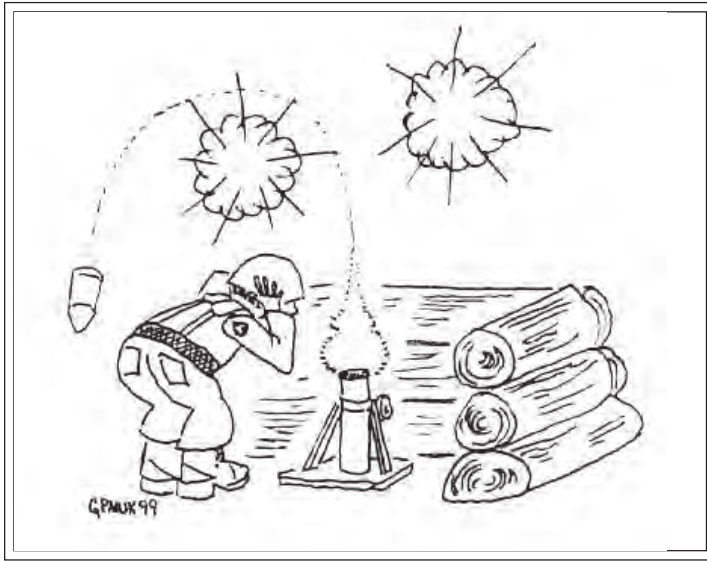
Stay safe.

Don't hesitate to email Tom with your questions and suggestions on column topics:

t.burke.column@gmail.com

-GN-

SHORT ROUNDS



Viral Changes at the WAC

If you read the minutes this month you'll see that your Board has taken some action to reduce costs and adapt to our changing political and legal environment.

The Executive Director Position Eliminated

The current show schedule is reduced from past years and the venues are smaller in most cases. Office staff have proven that they are able to handle the workload. Effective immediately, Wayne Rankin is no longer employed with the WAC.

Personnel and Office Staffing

The office is now staffed by Emma Cleary, Operations Manager, and Marcy Hinckley, Bookkeeper. Plus on some days we do have extra part-time help with the phones to do member renewals and handle inquiries

Office Hours--No Walk-in Traffic

You may not have noticed but the office hours are reduced to Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ***The office is open to phone and internet communication during the coronavirus crisis but is closed to walk-in traffic.*** All personnel work on Fridays before each show but not in the office; these are long days and long hours for each show as there is a lot to load, transport and set up at the show locations.

The New Sumner Office

The new location is working very well. The WAC-owned building is providing a regular income stream to help support our operation. In case you missed recent announcements the office is at 1006 Fryar Ave, Bldg. D, Sumner 98390.

WAC Badge Changes

Yes, we know--there is no expiration date on the new photo badges. So, a member may not know when his membership expires! That's a problem for some of you; many still have an expiration date of December 31 and expect to renew at that time.

So, the staff are writing expiration dates on each badge they issue and they can do this for you. If you are unsure of when your membership expires then stop by the membership desk at a show and we'll verify and update your badge. We will soon have month and year stickers to apply so that there is a visual you can reference. ***This one issue of the magazine is being mailed to recently expired members as a renewal notice. If you think that your membership expired, call to check.***

The security staff at the gate and our membership folk just scan the barcode to verify your membership so that part of the badge is working well. But members should know when membership is about to expire!

One easy answer is for you to request automatic renewal so that you never have to wait in lines or worry about missing an election. You can do this with a phone call or at a show, with a credit card.

Email is important. If you give us your email we'll send you show reminders, virus cancellations, as well as renewal notices.

Grays Harbor Show & More Shows

Right now we are looking at adding some small 200 table events in locations in/around Pierce County. This will permit easier firearm transfers for pistols and semiauto rifles.

Plans are underway for a Grays Harbor Fairgrounds show--call if you wish to reserve tables. This is yet to be mapped but will be around 150 tables. Local FFL's will be recruited and we will incorporate some kind of membership drive as a benefit to non-members who pay at the gate.

Editor

Coronavirus/Covid-19 Event Cancellations

You need to know that the WAC has not canceled any events...but the Governor has. The decision to close the Monroe Evergreen State Fairgrounds show was mandated by the Governor and the WAC was told that the event was canceled by the Fairgrounds.

This magazine still lists the April show dates. That may be a problem as the show is early April and it is possible that the closure of public events with over 50 people will extend and continue through April. **WAC members must check the website for closure notices.** If we have your email we will do an email notification directly to you. If there is no cancellation by the Western Washington Fair then the WAC will hold the event; we will not unilaterally cancel our events even if only a small attendance is expected. *Editor*

Firearm Collecting Continues

One of the neatest benefits of being a WAC member is the ability to post classified ads in our "Wanted, Dead or Alive" section. These are free ads for members only. This helps keep out the undesirable element--those who cannot legally possess a firearm; all WAC members have either passed a WSP background check or an even more comprehensive law enforcement Concealed Pistol License background.

Did I mention that these ads are free? I'm not sure why more members don't take advantage. Are we afraid to answer the phone? Don't check your emails?

Those with a Curio & Relic federal license can acquire and dispose of personal collection firearms that are C&R eligible. Eligible means over 50 years of age. The best firearms ever made are--mostly--over age 50. Today is March 17, 2020; if I do the math right that means that a firearm built before March 17, 1970 is C&R eligible. Great S&W's, Colts, Brownings, AR's, Garands and a bunch of wonderful bolt and lever guns. A C&R licensee is a federal licensee and has been backgrounded so that he can transfer firearms in/out of his "book" with no need to visit a regular FFL.

So, even with show cancellations, continue to collect here in the pages of the GunNews. Email to: gunnewseditor@comcast.net. *Editor*

Castle Rock Cartridge Show

March 21 & 22, 2020

Location: Castle Rock Elementary School Cafeteria, 700 Huntington Ave South, Castle Rock, WA.

Show hours: Saturday, March 21--10 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Sunday March 22--8 A.M. to 1 P.M.

FREE Admission to the Public

No Guns--only cartridges and related items

Six (6) foot trade tables are \$30.00 each

Tom Quigley, Show Chairman

Kid's Day at the Range--2020

Renton Fish & Game & Pinto's Guns

Teaching new shooters to be safe and shoot straight

When--Sundays 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

May 17, June 28, July 19, Aug 23, Sept 20, Dec 13

Where--Renton Fish & Game, 17205 SE 144th St, Renton

425-226-1563, www.rfgc.org

NRA trained range officers on hand, parental involvement and supervision required. Bring your own .22LR firearm or use one of ours. Members FREE, non-members \$5 or \$10/family. Good eats too--lunches \$5.

ANNUAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

RFGC & Pinto's Guns will be donating a new 22 rimfire rifle to one lucky kid, drawing on Sept. 30

High Power Matches

Wildlife Committee of WA

Kenmore Range, 1031 228th SW, Bothell, WA

Dec 8 -- CMP Game Course A or B

More information can be found for the event on the club's calendar: www.wcwi.org/calendar/

Central Whidbey Sportsmen's

Pistol, rifle and charity matches, firearm safety, women's firearms, and hunter ed are all available. Join us at: cwsaonline.org

Women's Pistol Classes--2020,

Black Diamond

The Black Diamond Gun Club presents their schedule of popular basic pistol classes for women only. Any (or no) experience is fine for these 8 hour classes. This is a fun, relaxed, comprehensive class limited to eight students. Everything is provided for \$125. More info at: BlackDiamondGunClub.org

Most classes have filled, reserve now for July 19, September 20, October 18, November 15

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MISSION
OUTDOORS

HOPE GROWS OUTDOORS ANNUAL CHARITY GALA

You are cordially invited to Mission Outdoors 3rd annual Charity Gala and Auction. Spend an evening with spectacular views in the beautiful Columbia Tower Club in Seattle.

April 25th, 6:00pm



Cost:

\$100 Per Ticket

General admission seating.

\$1,200 for Reserved Table

Seating for 12.

\$2,500 for Reserved Corporate

- Seating for 12.
- 2 Bottles of wine provided included on all our marketing material.
- Table upfront.

\$3,000-\$5,000 Starting Bid

Private VIP rooms overlooking space needle and downtown Seattle. Will include full time host/hostess, wine tasting, appetizers, meet and greet with Kyle Lamb with signed books for you and guests.



Guest Speaker:

Kyle E. Lamb

SGM (R) Kyle E. Lamb served 21 years in the United States Army, the vast majority spent in leadership positions in the Special Operations Community. RET SGM Kyle Lamb was chosen to fill key leadership positions with Special Operations Units during wartime operations across the operational continuum. Lamb operated in positions of elevated responsibility throughout a successful military career, to include Assault Team Leader, Sniper Team Leader, Troop Sergeant Major, Combat Development Sergeant Major, and Task Force Sergeant Major.

Get your tickets at: MissionOutdoors.org/HopeGrowsOutdoors

Legislation & Politics

Continued from page 5

shooting occurred.” I hope AG Ferguson is just as quick to give credit to armed citizens who save lives and stop criminals with tools like the AR-15 and “high capacity magazines.” Like the neighbor in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Two years ago who grabbed HIS AR-15 and stopped the man shooting up the church next door, or the pregnant woman in Florida a few months ago who came out of her bedroom, AR-15 in hand, and shot one of the home invaders trying to kill her husband. Guns save lives more frequently than they take them.

PRESIDENT 2020

A few quick words about the presidential primaries. That train is moving fast.

First there were 12 (or possibly more, I ran out of fingers to count on)...then there were two. Well, two serious contenders plus one more also ran. The Democrat presidential wannabe field quickly trimmed to two (plus never-say-die Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii, who is sticking in with less than 1% of the overall primary vote) after Super Tuesday immediately followed by six more presidential primaries a week later.

Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders it is, for the Democrats (actually, Bernie is a registered Independent, NOT a Democrat, but they can run who they want). Sanders, an avowed socialist who keeps praising Fidel Castro and communist Cuba – but what would you expect of a guy who took his new bride to then-Soviet Moscow for their honeymoon. Groping Joe has a few skeletons in his closet as well, besides the fact that he can’t keep his hands off women – especially younger women (I hope he can resist that urge during these corona virus days). I don’t think that’s what people mean when they say they want a hands-on leader. Back in the 80’s he was caught plagiarizing speeches from then British Labour leader Neal Kinnock. He claimed to have been #1 on his law school class but the record shows he was #76 out of 85. I won’t get into the Biden-Ukrainian crime cartel here.

Sanders and his loud and overt socialism scare the heck out of the Democrat establishment, so Joe it has to be. The safe one.

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Membership Page

Membership in the WAC is for 12 months from the initial date of joining. That means that your membership may expire at some date that is NOT at the end of the year. Visit the membership desk at any WAC event and ask that they verify your membership term and apply month and year stickers to your badge. At the same time you might request that your membership be converted to an automatic renewal to avoid lapses in membership that might cause you to miss a magazine or have difficulty entering a show.

The simplest way to join or renew is by visiting our website at:
washingtonarmscollectors.org

- Only members may rent tables
- Only members may sell firearms
- Members receive the monthly magazine
- Members may place FREE classified ads in our magazine
- Members have FREE access to WAC events
- Regular members—\$50/yr.
- Spousal & Family members—\$15
- Associate members age 18-21—\$30/yr.
- Life members—\$600
- Senior Life members—\$350

 Gun Show Table Reservation Form NO TABLES HELD WITHOUT PAYMENT!			
Table Rent Fees - Displays Are Free!		\$60/50-table	Sunday Only Tables \$25.00
Name:		Member #	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone #.			
Show Dates:			
Sat & Sun Tables Reserved	Sat Only Tables Reserved	Sunday Only Reserved	Total Amount Paid
Qty:	Qty:	Qty:	\$
* Pay By: Visa / Mastercard / AMX / Check / Cash / Money Order *			
Card #.		Exp: / /	
Signature:			
Mail Completed Form With Payment To - W.A.C. P.O. Box 389 Renton, WA 98057-0389			

W.A.C. - Membership Application					
Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.:	Mem#:
Mailing Address:		City:	State:	Zip:	Phone#
E-Mail:		DL# Drivers License#		Exp. Date:	
Birth Date: (Month)		CPL# Compacted Pistol License		Exp. Date:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg. \$50/Yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$600	Enter Amount Due:		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse \$15/Yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Life \$350			
Credit Card# (Leave Blank If Applying In Person)		Exp Date:		Zip:	CVV Code:

Rules of the Road

1. There will be no loaded firearms, magazines, or speedloaders in the building, either on the tables or on one's person, with the exception of law enforcement officers with valid agency credentials, and officers under contract with WAC.
 2. There will be no bulk gunpowder or explosive bullets in the building. There will be no loose cartridges or loaded clips of any description near the firearms for which they are intended. Chemicals used to make explosives and irritant sprays such as O.C. or Mace are prohibited.
 3. All firearms will have their actions tied open. Where that is impractical due to design considerations the arm will have its action tied to make it inoperable. All detachable magazines, including rimfire tubular feeding devices, will be removed from a firearm. Flintlock, wheel lock and matchlock arms need not be tied. Percussion or cartridge firearms for display only contained in a separate secured display case may remain untied.
 4. Fully automatic firearms other than those displayed by law enforcement or military organizations, or parts to convert semiautomatic arms to fully-automatic are prohibited. Dummy or replica firearms must be accompanied by a sign stating that the item in question is not a machinegun.
 5. Any extended bayonets attached to firearms shall be scabbarded. If a bayonet on a firearm has no scabbard, it shall either be folded against the stock or removed from the firearm. This applies to arms being carried as well as to arms that are on tables. Exceptions for displays may be granted by the Event Manager.
 6. Firearm sales to – or purchases from – persons prohibited by law from firearms ownership/possession are totally forbidden. Violation will lead to expulsion from the event, and possible further disciplinary action. Firearms transactions in the parking lot are prohibited.
 7. Members may not loan their badges to anyone, whether a member or not. Membership badges will be worn above the waist with the name clearly visible. The alteration of WAC membership badges in any manner is strictly prohibited; the display at WAC gatherings of altered WAC badges or of badges purporting to be insignia of current WAC membership other than those issued by the WAC shall be cause for immediate expulsion from the gathering and may subject the bearer, if a member, to further discipline by the WAC Board of Directors.
 8. There shall be no promotion of, or soliciting for, commercial gun shows on WAC leased premises, including the parking lot. Any other solicitations, display or distribution of non-arms related material at WAC shows must have prior approval of the Event Manager.
 9. There will be no parking on the Puyallup Fairgrounds except for those individuals with approved parking permits. All others will be towed at owner's expense.
 10. No smoking is allowed on the event premises, except in those areas outside the building specifically designated for smoking.
 11. Taking of photographs, video or audio taping is prohibited without permission from either the Board of Directors, Executive Director or the Event Manager.
 12. The sale of literature on the unlawful manufacture of explosive devices, full automatic firearms, booby-traps, and/or illegal terrorist tactics, etc. is prohibited. All anti-Semitic, racist and hate literature is prohibited. The sale of targets depicting the likeness of American Politicians is prohibited. If any of the above or other material deemed offensive, the Event Manager shall ask that the material be removed immediately.
 13. In the event of disciplinary action taken against a member or members which leads to the revocation, cancellation, or suspension of membership in the Washington Arms Collectors, all monetary balances and credits with the Club shall be forfeited to the Washington Arms Collectors.
 14. No person under 18 years of age will be admitted to WAC shows unless accompanied and supervised by an adult, parent or guardian or unless such person is a member of a group authorized by the Board or Event Manager such as Scouts, Civil Air Patrol Cadets, etc.
 15. Any member who becomes disqualified from membership must immediately report the disqualification and the circumstances thereof to any Director, Officer or the WAC Office and must surrender his or her badge to the WAC.
 16. Any member who learns that another member has become disqualified from membership must report the circumstances to any Director, Officer or the WAC Office. Failure to report such knowledge may be cause for disciplinary action.
 17. Any member who is required to conduct a NICS background check on a sale of a firearm to a member at a gathering of members and who receives a denial, must IMMEDIATELY report said denial and the identity of the prospective purchaser to the Event Manager or his designee. Failure to report such information may be cause for disciplinary action.
 18. Any member whose attempted purchase of a firearm at a gathering of members is denied by NICS is immediately suspended and must surrender his or her badge forthwith. The suspension of such member shall terminate upon reversal of the NICS denial.
 19. Failure to appear before the WAC Board of Directors upon issuance of a written notification signed by the President or his designee may be cause for disciplinary action. Members may be disciplined by the BoD for misconduct or persistent trouble making. The Event Manager, Director of Operations or a majority of the Board present may expel a member or guest from a gathering for violating these Rules of the Road, WAC Bylaws, or other published Board-approved policies and procedures. The Event Manager, Executive Director or a majority of the Board present may, at their discretion, refuse the entry or continued presence of a guest at a gathering.
 20. Any person using loud or abusive or obscene language towards another member, attendee or WAC employee may be removed from any WAC activity. Any person engaging in such conduct may be removed immediately from any WAC activity and, if a member, shall be subject to a WAC disciplinary hearing.
 21. Additional rules and related policies apply to all members and table holders. Copies may be obtained from the Event Manager.
 22. The sale or trade of items known to be stolen, counterfeit or falsely represented is prohibited.
-
- The Washington Arms Collectors (WAC) requires compliance with all applicable Federal, State and Municipal firearm laws within its events. The WAC disclaims any liability for any of the acts of its members, guests or visitors. It is the responsibility of each member to maintain personal liability insurance and be familiar with all laws applicable to firearms and ammunition and to abide by them at meetings of the WAC.



GunNews

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

• VERIFY ALL DATES BEFORE TRAVELING •

W.A.C.
P.O. Box 400
Sumner, WA 98390

PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
SEATTLE WA

Coronavirus cancelations are possible—verify all dates before traveling

- Mar 21-22—Castle Rock Cartridge Collectors FREE cartridge show, **CANCELED**
- **MAR 28-29—Monroe, WA, EVERGREEN STATE FAIRGROUNDS, WAC CANCELED**
- **APR 4-5—Puyallup, WA West. WA Fairgrounds, WAC Possible cancellation, verify**
- Apr 19—Portland, OR, 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd, Oregon Arms Collectors
- May 24—Portland, OR, 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd, Oregon Arms Collectors
- **JUN 27-28—Puyallup, WA West. WA Fairgrounds, WAC**
- Jun 28—Portland, OR, 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd, Oregon Arms Collectors

• **WAC Shows not on the annual schedule**—As new shows are added in 2020 they will be posted on the website and in the magazine.

Washington Arms Collectors



2020

Gun Show
Schedule

www.WashingtonArmsCollectors.org

OFFICE: (425) 255-8410

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Jan.	11 & 12	Monroe
Feb.	01 & 02	Puy. Pav.
Mar.	28 & 29	Monroe
Apr.	04 & 05	Puy. Pav.
June	27 & 28	Puy. Pav.
Sept.	19 & 20	Monroe
Oct. - Nov.	31 & 01	Puy. Pav.
Dec.	05 & 06	Monroe
Dec.	12 & 13	Puyallup

SHOW LOCATIONS

Monroe Show - Evergreen State Fairgrounds

Puyallup Show - WA State Fair & Events Center

Show Times: Saturday 9AM-5PM & Sunday 9AM-3PM

VERIFY ALL SHOW DATES BEFORE TRAVELING

Membership in WAC gives you free entrance to events, free ads in the GunNews, the monthly magazine either mailed to you or online and the ability to rent tables at WAC events.

Tables—Call the office to reserve, Saturday only, Sat/Sun or Sunday only. Puyallup—\$60; Monroe—\$50. Discounts for multiple tables. Members only.

Membership—Keep your membership current by renewing online or calling the office—\$50/yr. Spouse and Associate members at reduced rates.

Committees—Check the website for committee members and to volunteer for a committee.

GunNews—Missing a copy?—call the **office** for replacement and to verify your address.

GunNews Free Ads—Email to gunnewseditor@comcast.net or mail USPS.

Office: 425-255-8410
washingtonarmscollectors.org