



# The Cyberpunk Technical Journal #26 Fall 2013



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

*"No man can cut out new paths in company. He  
does that alone."  
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.*

*"The creator lives for himself. He needs no  
other men. His primary goal is within himself"  
- Ayn Rand, The Fountainhead*

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## WILDFLOWER'S NOTES FALL 2013

### FIRST OFF

It is now reality just how the world has changed in the past few years. Those without any income are suffering the most from no work, homeless, or huge amounts of debt. It be any wonder by 2016 just how many be still alive or even sane. Damn good question there.

Meanwhile this is the year of when THE CYBERPUNK TECHNICAL JOURNAL turns 23 years old, an irregularly published newsletter magazine still worth reading, grab a printed copy so that when it becomes banned, they can pry the copy out of your dead stiff hands.

It is true, being prepared for the worst has given me a well stock library of books, a generous supply of hand tools, and decent amounts of supplies to make my life now easier. Along with a good trail bicycle, photovoltaic panels, and a home garden, am now one of the fortunate few that can still make do on less money or a restricted budget.. And despite the babble from WALL STREET or THE GOVERNMENT, am certain times be harder yet in an uncertain future.

But for those even on a budget can still buy used books low cost can foods, basic supplies and even fix up a spare bicycle to adapt to future devastating changes. if the economy totals out due to one disaster or another, those whom got something laid aside be far better off than those with nothing at all. Stuff that includes basic camping gear, a well stocked medical chest, basic tool assortment, and some barter-able goods be better off than defunct credit cards and gold coins.

### A BASIC GARDEN

Am able to raise peas, beans, squash, tomatoes, onions, and salad greens in basically what is called container gardening. Basically pots, tubs, and pails filled with

premixed soil can be utilized to grow a wealth of pesticide free produce for the table in scattered areas around a small yard or up on a porch.

Every year purchase discounted seeds, extra for next year. Also good to purchase are peat moss starter tabs, and extra MIRACLE GROW CRYSTALS fertilizer. Last year was able to purchase several large containers at discount prices for future needs.

## **SECOND HAND TRAIL BICYCLE**

Found three different bicycles last year thrown out at curbside. By combining parts was able to assemble a rebuilt frame into a working bicycle complete with saddle cage carriers. It doesn't look fancy, but as gas prices go up, or worse gets hard to obtain, at least got alternative transportation. Spare tubes, patching kit, and extra brake pads are good investments. Petroleum jelly makes a good hub bearing lubricant. Filtered used motor makes a great chain, hub, and cable lube. Lard or vegetable oil could be last substitute.

## **USED BOOKS**

From GOODWILL, used book outlets, curbside trash, and yard sales have a decent reference library of over 300 books on various subjects. As many of same books now unobtainable or out of print; have got a wealth of information more valuable than the sum of its total weight in gold.

Extra copies can be double bagged with a moth ball added than secured inside a waterproof container for long term storage. Moth balls deter insects and mice well.

## **STOCKING UP**

Consider at most supermarkets only stock a weeks worth of food on hand, fast food outlets only a few days supply, and less even at small convince stores. The average American is lucky to have a several day food supply on

average. In all truth, in a major fuckup, most of America be starving in a month

On the other hand there are those others whom keep in a rotational "use the oldest first, new stock last" ranging from as few months to years, be noted that such be well armed against "casual borrowing" or "mid-night shoppers" which means more fresh pet food or stew meat if put to the real. Be noted having heavy duty meat grinder, smokehouse, and pressure pot come in handy here.

Be it canned, dry, bagged, or freeze dried; a good food reserve is worth more than your stock of gold coins in any kind of emergency. Be damn surprise how starving people can behave on the onset of starvation willing to eat anything include siblings and pets.

Be good to note, cultivation of earthworms and mealworms can be done in a small room, yet when prepared can add protein to your garden harvested meal

## **STORING AWAY LEAD ACID AUTO BATTERIES**

Automobile batteries are the most common item used in storing home generated power systems. One can purchase such batteries at most auto suppliers ready for use, however to prevent deterioration over time must be periodically recharged. One can purchase such batteries with the electrolyte separate for future activation at some auto suppliers. These batteries could be stored for years on the shelf..

In a post aftermath, salvaged auto batteries can be drained into plastic or glass basins the electrolyte acid which can be stored in separate glass mason jars or clean glass wine jugs. The batteries stored dry can be activated by adding the drained electrolyte and then recharged before using.

This same salvaged electrolyte could be used later for other chemistry uses or for making new lead acid batteries. Store this in a cool dry dark location



strongly sealed with a plastic screw lid or waxed cork stopper.

## TOOLS FOR THE SHOP

In a simple workshop, one can repair, rebuild, or recycle all kinds of things. You are only limited by the tools and supplies you have about so having a good well stocked tool set goes along with a good supply of hardware, parts, and materials.

Multi-bit screwdrivers have a great number of interchangeable tips for all sorts of screws including security types. For a basic shop, two to three sets of such bits should be on hand. Security bit sets can be found at most tool outlets such as SEARS or HOME DEPOT. Other sources can be HARBOR FRIEGHT or AUTOZONE. There is noted that such bits are very short shanked, but at JAN ELECTRONICS in NEW LONDON of CT have purchased such useful bits three inches long, all stored in the screwdriver handle for about \$18.

Had just acquired another hand powered drill for my collection of hand powered tools. In the aftermath when AC power goes away, unless an alternative gets found, many shops be up shit creek. Have acquired three rotary wheel drills, a hand powered bench grinder, foot pumps for air and water, and as bit braced wood drill. Along with hand saws, wood chisels, anvil, and other old fashion tools, am sitting good

## OTHER TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL

AM/FM/SHORTWAVE receiver. In today's world, one in any emergency has to stay informed. The phones may go, the internet can get stuffed, and TV go dark. Being able to pickup any sort of commercial radio broadcast may give you valuable Intel in murky times. Should be powered by common "D" cells or 12 VDC adapter. During the O.J. Simpson trial, the BBC gave information out on what was going on elsewhere in America while our TV and radio

local was full of incredible coverage on this BOZO while local and national news was most cases ignored!.

CB and FRS in any age, communication over any area will be hard as the phones go salient and those trying to twitter go nuts. Unless you have your own local telegraph or phone service running, that old CB or even a handheld FM FRS will be your main voice contact beyond your home.

"TWO TON COME-A-LONG" a hand powered cable winch damn useful when your mule is dead or your good strong buddies have disappeared. Pull a stump, pull an auto out of a ditch, hook overheads to a strong beam and pull out an engine, or stretch chain fence. With appropriate extra cargo straps, chain, or strong nylon rope; worth buying two for your funny farm needs.

HURRICANE or PATIO KERO LANTERNS. Metal and glass lamps with a wire carry handle, sometimes sold at FAMILY DOLLAR for \$3 each, fueled with kerosene, lamp oil, vegetable oil, or charcoal lighter fluid. At least two minimum be worth having in a blackout or camping trip. Wicks can be purchased for a few dollars or substitutes can be strips of cotton shirt or towel. In a pinch, folded paper toweling would work too.

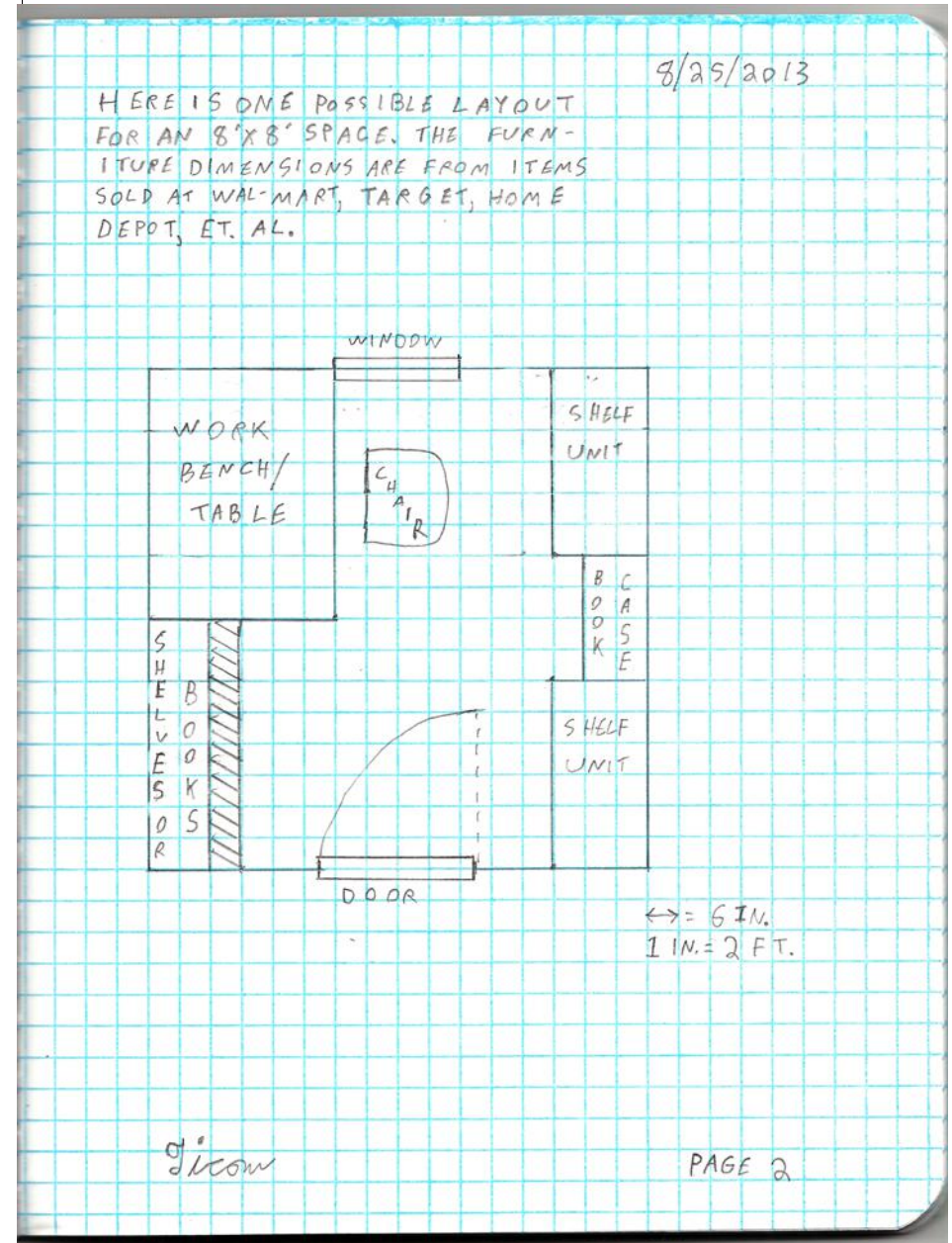
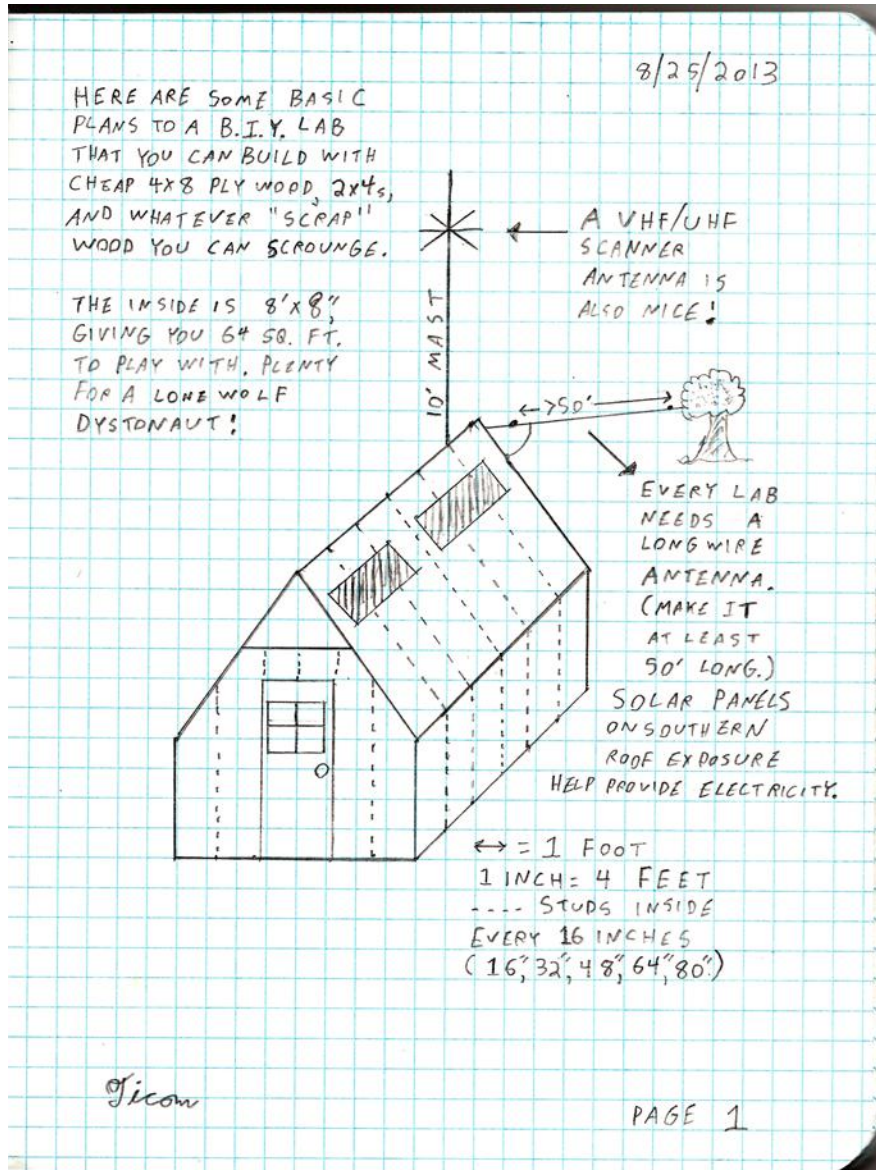
## LAST WORD

Been a call for investing in silver or gold coins. My metal investments have been in tools, tool-bits, ZIPPO lighters, wind powered clocks, ammo, and scrap yard metals and hardware. Gold and silver depends on a printed currency to have any tradeable value. But in the long view, a box of 22 ammo or batteries will get better barter value than a coin that many will think is counterfeit. And fleeing with gold and silver coins could lead to robbery by others or be seized under government emergency acts.

And for bribery, fine watches, jewelry, and booze works better with officials and border guards.

In the real truth, the silver and gold dealers are running a fear scam. If these metals be so good to buy for a survival investment why should they be such pals selling you any? Think about it please.

## Ticom's Notebook: B.I.Y. Lab







## Adventures in Lock Hacking

By Joshua Tower

Back at my old job, I used to service a lot of remote sites. You would typically get access to them by way of a locked gate with a bunch of those 4-wheel combination padlocks daisy-chained together. Sometimes each tenant had their own lock. Sometimes the site management company would have a single lock on the gate, and gave out the combination to all the tenants at the site. Either way, both the site management company and the tenants often own or rent multiple sites, and would use the same lock combination for all of them. As a bonus, the combinations were often easy to remember. I've seen combinations in use such as 5000, 2500, and 4300. Another popular combination was the last four digits of the tenant's or management company's main phone number. Sometimes that phone number is listed right on the sign attached to the fence. Other places used the site number as part of the combination. At one location with two-digit site numbers, the combination was NUSS where NU was always the same two digits, and SS was the site number.

Many of the buildings were equipped with Simplex locks, and 2/3rds of the time the combination was not changed from the default of (24)3 where you push 2&4 at the same time, and then 3. When the combination was changed, it was something easy to remember and the same across all the sites. Zipcodes and variations on the zip code were very popular at many locations that used a five digit code. There was this one ISP who had key safes mounted next to the door at their POP locations. The safe combination, I kid you not, was "NET". Another company liked to hide the keys to their equipment huts in outdoor electrical junction boxes. You unscrewed the panel to the junction box, got the key, and replaced it when you were done. After a while, you could see the wear of frequent use on the box's screws which would attract your attention if you were of a certain mindset. To add insult to injury one of the sites was at a Boy Scout camp, and

## 303 Con

By IronFeather

**PHUN: Hacker + Cyberpunk Conference  
in Denver Colorado  
May 3rd, 2014**

Ok it is a go! The IronFeather Journal launched in 1987 inspired by 2600 magazine and networking on mainframes and pre-internet BBS networks worldwide. After attending hacker conferences such as DEFCON, PhreakNic, InterzOne, RootFest, Rubi-Con and a bunch of zines fests around the country we knew Colorado is ready for such an event. Organization is started, you are invited to be part of this!

<http://303con.com>

Drop me mail direct: [IRONFEATHERBOOKS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IRONFEATHERBOOKS@GMAIL.COM)

Include the word **subscribe** in title or body of your email and I will keep you informed of all 303CON news.

thus within the reach of thousands of bored troublemakers. When I worked at Scout Camp, many of us carried a "break into anything kit", and it was a point of pride to see what stuff you could get into with it.

As of late, I'm working in a large office building complex. My employer rents space there. The first day on my way to the office, I notice that the door to the phone closet has a push-button lock on it. I note the brand, and also see that the janitorial and electrical closets have the same lock. After a quick search on the Internet, I find a copy of the manual. The lock in question ships with a unique "default" combination for each lock. The company prints out a sticker and places it in the manual. There is no way the management company is going to have 20 different combinations for the utility closets in their building. They probably changed them all to the same combo. Something easy for the maintenance staff to remember. The building's address is 2621 Cube Farm Rd. Could it be that easy? I leave the office that evening. No one is in the hallway. I walk to the door, take a look around, and enter "2621". The lock beeps, flashes green, and I hear the solenoid retract. Yes, it was that easy.

Even in the age of security concerns, people still like convenience, and don't think they have to be too worried about things of that nature. I won't even get into the company that set up a card access system for their parts cage, and had the REX<sup>1</sup> arranged so that someone could reach through the cage bars from outside the cage to activate it. If it's easy for them to remember, then it's easy enough for someone who does their research to figure it out. In some ways, hacking hasn't changed from the old days of POTS dial-up modem access.

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<sup>1</sup> REX - Request to Exit - Usually a button or motion sensor that is activated to unlock a door when someone wants to leave an area. High-security places have people use their access card to unlock the door exit, or use the REX button to alert a security guard who then unlocks the door.

## The Day After

By The Omega Man

For those of you who are new to The Cyberpunk Technical Journal, I'm The Omega Man. It's my CB handle, and those of you who used to hang out on Channel 14 in upstate NY during the 1974 Oil Crisis might remember me. I started writing a column, "The Day After", for Thomas Icom's 'zine Cybertek in the 1990 after having read his book Secret & Survival Radio, published by Consumertronics.

I've been into survivalist stuff since I got out of the Army in the 1970s and came across this really great newsletter called The Survivor that this guy named Kurt Saxon used to put out. Saxon printed a lot of good stuff, shitloads better than what some of the "preppers" are doing today.

So what's a survivalist? It's a guy, or gal who does things in the course of their day to day life to make sure they are prepared just in case those surprise things happen that make life difficult for a while. We make sure we have a little extra food on hand, have some tools to keep things working, maybe own some guns to hunt and protect ourselves with, and learn things that might come in handy. Most of us live in rural areas as that's the best place to be if something happens. Most of us think that some interesting times are ahead. Some of us think the interesting times are already here. Other than that we go about our business like any other person, and unless you knew us, you probably wouldn't think we're survivalists. A lot of us think all these Domsday Preppers running around advertising themselves and buying thousands of dollars of "survival gear" are a bunch of fools. In my future articles for this magazine, I'm gonna tell you about how my friends and I do the survivalist thing. None of us have a lot of money, and none of us are into that modern prepper thing. It should be fun, and I hope you learn something.

## Storing Food

I ate C-Rations in the Army, and while not horrible they weren't anything to write home about. One of younger guys who hangs out at the local gun store is in the National Guard, and he brought in some of those MREs once. I thought they tasted like shit. The gun store used to sell those dehydrated meals in a pouch that they market to backpackers. They were expensive, and the C-Rats tasted better. I see Wal-Mart has those camping meals now.

My survivalist buddies and I don't buy any of that survival or camping food. We don't have the money to buy something that tastes like cardboard and sit on it for 20 years waiting for a disaster so we can eat it. We all keep a garden of some sort, and hunt. That means canning produce and making a lot of venison jerky. Every now and then one of us goes out west on an Elk hunt and brings back plenty of meat. One family has chickens. Another has a couple of goats. Guy down the road has a farm with cows. We're not gonna starve with stuff like that.

The other thing we do is when we go grocery shopping we pick up an extra can or two of something to put in the pantry. Keep doing this, and soon enough you'll have a one year store of canned goods to keep you fed during lean times. If you have a few extra

bucks at the time, you can even make a food investment and buy a case of something. A lot of survivalists I know do their grocery shopping at places like Sams and Costco so they can get a good price on cases of canned food. Around here, ShopRite has their Can-Can Sale where you can get a good deal and stock up. I remember my parents driving the hour to the nearest ShopRite so they could take advantage of the sale. They were gone from this area for a long time, but now I can drive down to Niskayuna when they have their sale to take advantage of it.

Now here is a can of one of my favorite soups that I just pulled off the shelf of the local supermarket. The "best by" date is a year and a half in the future. Other Campbell's soups had similar dates on them. I might add that the stuff inside the can is still good for some time past that date. As long as the can isn't bulging, and it doesn't smell bad when you open it, you're good to go.

I like all flavors of baked beans, but the Missus likes the Vegetarian ones the best so we get those. Like the soup, I just pulled this off the shelf of the local supermarket, and we can see that the "best by" date on this can is 2016. That's almost three years into the future! I don't know anyone who doesn't like baked beans, although I have heard some heated arguments over what flavor is best.

Those were just two examples of a whole bunch of common foods that most people like, and just about everyone will tolerate that have a pretty decent storage life. Best of





all they're familiar to everyone, and don't taste like shit or cardboard like those survival foods. That's important because in a disaster people aren't going to eat strange foods, or they'll get the runs if they do.

When you combine some stockpiled canned goods along with the stuff you get out of the garden and hunt, you don't have to worry about starving, even if times get lean. And since food prices are always going up, buying extra ahead of time is always a good investment. Now let's say you get laid off. I would hope you find some work sooner than later, but if you have a year's worth of food put up you don't have to worry about going hungry for the next year. At the very least you wouldn't have to buy as much food while you're collecting unemployment or working a part-time temp job.

## Guns

Most of us up here hunt. White-tail deer is the big game of choice up here, and between deer and small game if you're decent at hunting you don't have to buy much meat at the supermarket. While we do have a lot of bow-hunters most of us use a rifle or shotgun. A few of us even hunt with handguns.

Although things are pretty mellow up here for the most part, we also have guns for self-defense. Every once in a while we get some asshole downstater who comes up this way and gets stupid. That's a bad idea because at least half the county has a pistol permit and is packing.

I carried an M16 in the Army, and thought it was a piece of junk. Can't own one in this state now anyway. The .45 pistol was a different story. Liked it ever since I first picked one up and shot it. Liked it so much that at my first duty station I bought the civilian version, a Colt Mk. IV Series 70. Still have it to this day. My other handgun is a Colt Trooper in .357 Magnum that I bought used when the police departments were switching to automatics.

Around here, the two rifle calibers that see the most use around here are the .30-06 and .30-30 Winchester. A lot of people use .30-30 lever guns for hunting. My favorite rifle is an M1 Garand that I got from Uncle Sam's Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP). I usually hunt with a Winchester .30-30 that I bought at Barkers after I got out of the Army. Lot of people around here bought those SKSes in the Early 1990s. They were cheap, the ammo was cheap, and they are like a poor man's .30-30 Winchester. Now a lot of the poor hunters are buying those Mosin Nagant rifles and sporterizing them like they did with the Mausers from World War 2. That 7.62x54R Russian round is like a .30-06.

This is rifle country for big-game hunting, but there's also a lot of shotgun hunting for small game and birds. Most people I know like the Remington 870 or the Mossberg 500. If they can't afford that, they get one of those single shot NEF shotguns. For a while you could buy the Mossberg with two barrels. A long one with a choke for bird hunting, and a shorter one with sights for using slugs when deer hunting. Downstate you can only use shotguns for hunting, so they are more popular down there. The deer hunters use these scoped rifled barrels and sabot slugs for better accuracy. The shotgun is also what most folks around here use for home protection.

Everyone, and I mean everyone has a .22 rifle. I'd say the popularity contest is between the Ruger 10/22 and the Marlin Model 60. I've got an old Mossberg .22 bolt gun that's a family heirloom of sorts. Until the politicians started with the latest gun control stuff, you could buy bricks of .22 ammo anywhere real cheap. Even Wal-Mart sold 50 round boxes for a little more than a dollar apiece.

NY State just passed an assault weapons law. A few of the younger prepper types who I don't think ever served a day of their life in the military complained how they couldn't own their AR-15s any more. None of us like any gun control laws, but also none of us owned anything that was made illegal by it. A few of us own SKSes and

Garands, but those have fixed magazines so they're fine. This county is still well armed so if the Taliban or the North Koreans ever invade they're gonna have a lot of pissed-off citizens taking pot-shots at them with things that shoot bigger bullets than an M-16.

## Storing Stuff

A lot of us cache items on our property and in nearby public lands this way in case something happens to our house we have something left. We find all sorts of containers that work pretty well, or make our own out of PVC pipe.



I was at the local pet supply store, and saw this airtight container for pet food. It was on the expensive side, but stuff like this goes on sale when it doesn't sell. You can sometimes then get it for a decent price. I thought it might be good for a small cache if the price went down some. One guy I know has been experimenting with those large cat litter buckets that hold 40 pounds of litter. You can get them for free, and a lot of us use them for storage at home. He's been sealing the lids with different types of tape and seeing how well they stand up to being buried. I'm sure once he figures out what works best he'll tell me, and I'll pass the word along to you.

## Keeping In Touch

We all have CB Radios in our cars and houses. I don't get on as much as I used to in the 1970s, but if you're in upstate NY you can always send out a break for The Omega Man on Channel 14 - AM mode. We mostly use the CB for talking during storms when the phone and

electricity is out. Our local Sheriff's Office monitors Channel 9 during these times.

My buddies and I have upgraded to SSB CB radios. Most of us like the Cobra 148, and picked them up when there was still a nearby CB shop. Now you have to drive down to the TA in Fultonville to get good CB stuff. I found an old President Grant at a flea market. The guy had already did the mod to give it the extra uppers and lowers, but I stick to the legal CB channels for now.

A couple guys around here have their ham radio license, and got the big stations that talk around the world. I never had any interest in that, but they have emergency power for their radios. If I need to send a message far away, I can talk to them on the CB and they'll relay it, or just go visit them. Every survival group should have one guy or gal who is into radio, and electronics, and all that geeky stuff. We have a few.

A few guys tried to use those FRS handheld radios for hunting, and found out they don't work good in the mountains up here. They mail-ordered a few of those MURS radios, and they worked a lot better.

We all own battery-operated shortwave radios we bought from Radio Shack. Many of us strung up longwire antennas for better reception. I like the Grundig radio with the hand crank. With it, I can listen to AM broadcasts from across the Great Lakes, into New England, and down South, and listen to shortwave broadcasts from around the world. It's great for keeping up with what's going on.

That's all I'm gonna say for now. In the next issue I'll write a little more about how us survivalists up in the Adirondacks do things. If you want to write me, and I'd like to hear from you, you can do so in care of the magazine, either with email or with old-fashioned Post Office mail.

## Thoughts From The Interzone

When I wrote By An Order Of The Magnitude, and started Cybertek: The Cyberpunk Technical Journal, one of the main ideas about the magazine was to hack and re-purpose common off-the-shelf technology for special applications. As in "the street finds its own use for things". The other main idea was get people into the right place so they can have a relatively safe and peaceful life in the dystopia America was becoming 23 years ago.

Since then, I've seen a lot of things develop in the techie/DIY sector that were really neat, like the Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Funcube Dongle SDR, and 3D printing. Hobbyists have a lot of neat stuff to play with, build things, and create an awesome future. To the modern hackers of today, I salute you!

Since then, I've seen this country slide even further into decline and decay. Cities like Detroit have turned into post-industrial wastelands worthy of a William Gibson novel. A few religious nutcases from the Middle East manage to crash a couple planes in the old World Trade Center, and give our politicians an excuse to gut our civil liberties even more than they've done previously. Some other nutcases go shoot up theaters and schools which makes the politicians want to take away the guns from all the law abiding citizens. New York City cops hit nine innocent bystanders trying to shoot one guy, and the same politicians are quiet about that.

Over the past 20 years this country has become more dystopian, and I don't think you or I are going to stop it. Too many people are invested in the status quo for it to change. I don't know when the collapse will happen, or even if it will happen in our lifetime. The best we can do is live the best we can in the meantime, and that's what The Cyberpunk Technical Journal is here to help you accomplish.

## The Cyberpunk Technical Journal #26 - Fall, 2013

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### Printing by:

Magcloud - <http://www.magcloud.com/>

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

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

- James Madison





"A lot of our 'quests' usually ended late on a Saturday night, leaving us with no choice but to hit a fast food place or diner for dinner. The fast food places were more fun as there was plenty for a phreak to get in trouble with at them."

-Anonymous Bosch,  
My Adventures With The Men From Mongo