



MEMBERS UPDATE

April 2022

SURVIVING IN THE WOODS

Simple Home Gunsmithing Techniques and Hacks

Eating These Critters Just Might Kill You

EDC Knives for Slaying Bengal Tigers

NEXT ISSUE: History and Review of Past and Present guns

RAOS

OFFSET SIGHT



With its unique 45-degree offset, the **RAOS** allows shooters to quickly transition between a magnified optic to iron sights for close range shooting without breaking your cheek weld or repositioning your hands!

MYCRISISGEAR.COM/RAOS

CONTENT



02

EDC Knives for Slaying Bengal Tigers

The Gurkha warriors are so skilled in their art, that some of them were observed in the late 1870s hunting and successfully bringing down a Bengal tiger in a succession of lethal strikes and some fancy footwork. While there are no tigers roaming the streets, thankfully, there is certainly no shortage of humans that are so full of piss and vinegar that they start acting like one. So, for these types, we will be like the Gurkha and look at some sturdy, fearsome knives that you can carry every day that can put down these “tigers” quickly and permanently.



07

Simple Home Gunsmithing Techniques and Hacks

When the technology came to the European continent, the gunsmith had to be an expert in a variety of fields such as design, metallurgy, and woodworking, as readily made parts for firearms would still be a few hundred years down the road with Eli Whitney and his concept of interchangeable gun parts. Because of this, modern professional and amateur gunsmiths no longer need to toil for years to become an expert in their field or to change out broken or worn parts. We'll have a look at the tools and procedures necessary to help you with maintaining and improving your firearms.



12

Eating These Critters Just Might Kill You

When you're prepping for the worst, it's important to think about what foods you would eat if there was no grocery store. Bagging the occasional squirrel or deer to round out your protein choices may be fine but eating certain animals and their byproducts might not be such a great idea! We'll cover some of the wild animals that come with risks when eaten and some that should be avoided at all costs.



17

Surviving in the Woods

In this article, we're going to take a close look at how to survive in the woods. To make it even more interesting, we're going to compare and contrast survival tips with Showtime's hit show, *Yellowjackets*. Whether you've seen the show or not, this info can help save your life if you end up lost in the woods.

1 NEXT ISSUE: History and Review of Past and Present guns



EDC KNIVES FOR SLAYING BENGAL TIGERS

BY ERIC AUSTGEN

The Ghorkhali soldiers of Nepal are famous for carrying a rather severe looking knife that has become feared and respected by all who have gone against it and them in battle. The British were so impressed by the ferocity of their adversaries in the 2 year long Anglo-Nepalese War, that they gave them the handle we now refer to them and their knife as, the Gurkha. The knife is the Kukri and is a full tang angled blade that is the official fighting utility knife of the various Gurkha units used throughout Southeast Asia. The warriors are so skilled in their art, that some of them were observed in the late 1870s hunting and successfully bringing down a Bengal tiger in a succession of lethal strikes and some fancy footwork. While there are no tigers roaming the streets, thankfully, there is certainly no shortage of humans that are so full of piss and vinegar that they start acting like one. So, for these types, we will be like the Gurkha and look at some sturdy, fearsome knives that you can carry every day that can put down these “tigers” quickly and permanently.

THE POINT IS, YOU’LL BE ALIVE WHEN THEY ARE DOING THIS TO YOU

If you have seen “Jurassic Park”, you may recall the scene where our grumpy paleontologist protagonist describes how the Velociraptor used its claws to take down and prepare its meals, punctuating his lecture by menacingly waving around a fossil claw and terrifying his smart alecky pupil. Although the Karambit knife was conceived for farming purposes, it soon gained favor as an everyday carry knife for the denizens of Southeast Asia, either as a means of self defense or for daily utilitarian needs, including hunting. The knife is not dissimilar to the claws found on predatory animals, large flightless birds, and their antiquarian contemporaries, and have been engaged with lethal effect against predators and supper since it came to be in the 11th century. The knife is available in either fixed or folding blade and, depending on manufacturer, will have a blade true to the original style or a modified point/blade. Blade lengths vary between 2 and 7 inches, ranging from neck knives to belt mounts. The prices run the gambit from affordable to a king’s ransom in some cases, but that’s all dependent on manufacturer and materials used. The smooth dissection of muscle and tendon with this knife is a perfect selling point for EDC, as less is more when it comes to this blade. Opening up an opponent at vital points of the body will shut the situation down pretty darn quick; whether natures design was in mind when this knife was born, you can be assured



2

Gurkha Knives

that the razor sharp clip point and curved blade will inflict the most amount of damage with the slightest amount of effort on your part, just like the raptors of old and new.



Karambit Knife Made Of Eye Catching Damascus Steel

FORMIDABLE FOLDER FOR THE URBAN TIGER

The Boker Plus Reality Based Blade is a knife designed by Jim Wagner, a man with an extensive career in law enforcement and playing with some cool military toys, the creator behind the “Reality Based Personal Protection” program that has been put to use by the special forces of several countries. In addition to this program, the Reality Based Blade is a serious piece of self defense hardware that will live up to its name in the real world situations we may find ourselves in. Not only can it be used for cutting, but also for shattering glass should you need to extricate yourself or others, that is if your egress is blocked by some form of glass. The handle is ergonomic and conforms to the user’s hand and fingers with the help of indents and a textured grip material applied over the fiberglass reinforced plastic and stainless steel handle. The handle also gives you the option of pocket carry with the attached clip and lanyard carry with a hole in the end near the glass breaker tip. The 4” lockback blade is 440C steel, sports a spear point and serrations on the rear of the main edge of the blade. There are also ridges machined into the spine for a little extra damage. The steel content of this

3

blade is very desirable as it has, after heat treatment, the highest strength, hardness, and wear resistance of all the stainless alloys. When last checked, the price of this incredible blade was sitting in the neighborhood of around \$70-\$75.



Jim Wagner Designed “Reality Based Blade”

A PILLAR OF THE SELF DEFENSE COMMUNITY

The SOG Company has been the purveyor of fine outdoor, professional, and daily carry knives since their founding in 1986. The impetus of this company was the desire of the founder, Spencer Frazer, to recreate the combat knife carried by the MACV SOG special forces in Vietnam. A short 36 years and impressive collection of rugged wares later, SOG has an updated version of its Pillar Knife complete with a nifty FDE (Flat, Dark, Earth) handle and KYDEX® sheath. The handle is constructed from a textured canvas micarta material, offering a superior grip in wet and dry conditions. The full tang 5” cerakoted CPM S35VN steel blade is nothing to trifle with as it not only adds a level of toughness and edge retention not found on many knives, but also has the perk of higher resistance to edge wear and chipping, so that resharpening doesn’t become a dreaded chore. The CPM is nothing more than a process of metal amalgamation used by Crucible industries. The S35VN refers to the stainless, vanadium, and niobium blend; while the 35 differentiates it from S30V steel available from Crucible. This tactical beauty is available directly from SOG or other knife retailers online. SOG’s MSRP is currently at \$249.95 and well worth every penny for a consistently dependable EDC knife to help you overcome life’s many tough jams and unknowns.



SOG Pillar FDE Knife

LIGHTWEIGHT AND LETHAL

The Benchmade 537 Bailout series is a fantastic knife for those of us who like to have everything

we need for the day in our pockets without the added weight. This 2.7 oz powerhouse has a 3.38" vanadium blade which folds into and quickly deploys from a thin but substantial aluminum handle fitted with a pocket clip at the end to facilitate a deeper, more concealed ride in the pocket. The blade is of a Tanto design with the option of plain edge or a plain/serrated combo. Single and double edged versions of this type of blade originated in Japan around the year 900 for the Samurai Warriors. It was made for piercing armor and for its devastating slashing abilities. Since there's no one running around in armor these days, it will be easier to employ the lethal design functions of this blade type. Benchmade has 14 other knives with this style of blade available, however some of these guys command a price from between the high 100's to the mid 300's with the highest priced knife at around \$700. The Samurai were known to carry blades that were from 6 to 12 inches in length, so if you prefer a blade that's a bit more faithful to these warriors and within the confines of local law, you might visit the various knife vendors peddling on the web and checkout what they have to offer. Many are reasonably priced, made in the good ole US of A, and can get you in the self defense game faster than waiting and saving your shekels for something in a brand name.



Benchmade 537 Baitout Knife With Olive Handle

YOU WON'T HEAR CRICKETS WITH THIS ONE

Since we're on the subject of Tanto blades, I figured I would save you the time and carpal tunnel from having to look up similar knife styles. Columbia River Knife and Tool out of Tualatin, Oregon has a phenomenal selection of gnarly EDC's in their M-16 product line. They offer an equal mix of Tanto and straight point blades designed by the late Vine Grove, Kentucky resident and retired Master Sergeant, Kit Carson. This series was designed with our warriors in Iraq and Afghanistan in mind, with some models designed for use by those in the public safety realm. Our focus will be on the lightweight

4 4 oz M-16 13DSFG built especially for special

forces use in desert combat conditions. The 3.5 inch razor sharp blade is constructed with Titanium Nitride coated 8Cr14 stainless steel, a high carbon and chromium martensitic steel that, after heat treatment, has a higher degree of hardness with excellent wear and corrosion resistance. It also has a plain edge with CRKT's patented and trademarked Teff serrated edge on the backend, and sports an automated liner safety. This safety is built into the handle and is engaged by setting a pin between the locking liner and frame, providing a backup safety so that the locking liner is less apt to slip when in use. The handles are made from lightweight Desert Tan G10 glass fiber composite which etches nicely to create a firm, aggressive grip to the user and superior insulation qualities in any climate in which it's carried. The frame is stainless steel with friction grooves. The handle has a 4-point carry configuration for belt and webbing carry, tip-up, down, left, and right, although tip-up carry in the pocket is not always advisable, especially if you have always wanted to pursue a career in hand modeling. To close the knife, one slides the red safety level back, the locking liner to the side, and the blade is ready to fold. Since this knife is an open frame build, CRKT was able to incorporate two Carson Flippers on the blade, giving this folder a true hilt, which aids wonderfully in one handed opening and closing, not to mention the extra hand safety supplied when used against an enemy or heavy utility work. Normally these retail at around \$89.99, but CRKT sometimes has them on sale for around \$51.99 which is practically a steal for this tried and true combat warrior.



CRKT M-16 13DSFG Desert Tan Special Forces Knife

FROM THE PLAINCLOTHES COP TO THE CIVILIAN MARKET

Spyderco's improvements on their Civilian model knife, originally designed for undercover narco cops, resulted in the Matriarch 2, a nasty looking hawk-billed serrated blade that will cause a greater amount of damage than a plain/serrated combo edge. Its 3.5 inch lock-back black Titanium carbonitride coated V10 stainless steel reverse "S" blade and lightweight black fiberglass reinforced nylon handle are perfect for cutting down on light reflection when used in higher risk areas where you don't wish to advertise your means of defense or position. The blade also has the patented Emerson opening feature with an added hook to it so the knife comes out of your pocket ready to rock and roll. This handle affords a two way carry option, either tip up or tip down, and the pocket clip can be attached to either side of the handle for ambidextrous use. Retail direct from the company is around \$194, however if you're not looking to spend a hefty amount, you can sometimes find this blade on other cutlery sites for less than \$150.



Spyderco Matriarch 2 FRN Emerson Opener Black Blade

AN EDC TO TRIM THE BAD FAT OF SOCIETY

Usually, when contemplating what kind of EDC you should carry, rarely does the idea of meat cleaver explode in your brain-pan. I will admit that they are big, unwieldy, and waving one around in public, while amusing to bystanders, would probably result in an ending reminiscent of the real Bonnie and Clyde. Gerber has taken the large version and condensed it into a light 2.7 oz folder that is every bit as capable of tackling the same jobs as its bigger brother and is less likely to get you shot by trigger happy personages. The Fastball Cleaver's 20CV (Carbon, Chromium, and Vanadium for excellent edge retention) blade is

deployed with a "light-switching" action, made possible by precision detenting, and held in place by an easily accessible liner lock built into the machined anodized aluminum backspacer. This knife comes with Gerbers patented B.O.S.S. technology to further assist in quick, smooth one handed opening. Simply put, Gerber incorporated caged stainless steel ball bearings into the hinge for a seamless operation every time it's called upon. The handle is currently available in either Urban Blue or Coyote Tan and has a pocket clip that can be used in 3 different carry positions or removed completely, whatever tips your fancy. This knife is perfect not only for use in an urban setting, but also will be right at home preparing your meals or game on your next adventure to the back forty. Depending on which color you decide on, this knife will run about \$150-\$155 on the manufacturers website and just about anywhere else fine U.S. made blades are sold.



Gerber Fastball Cleaver With Coyote Tan Handle

A BARE BONES BLADE FOR EFFECTIVE DEFENSE

As a society, we've become increasingly accustomed to on demand services, instant gratification, and absolute assurance that these goods and services won't be fraught with complication or undue stress. Self defense has always been an arena where those things are a must each and every time someone has had to fight for their very existence, an often daily occurrence going back thousands of years. Once again, Benchmade is on the self defense ball with their Adamas Family of knives. The knife is a full tang affair without traditional handle scales, instead grip points have ridges machined into the handle. There are also holes drilled into the handle for attaching a lanyard or rigging up your own handle with a couple feet of paracord. The blade is a drop point clip style, 4.2 inches in length, weighs in at 5.6 ounces, and is built of hardy CPM-CruWear 63-65 HRC (refers to hardness and edge retention). The OAL is 7.1 inches and coated in either a cobalt black or flat earth finish to resist corrosion and to increase the strength of the knife. It comes with a plastic injection molded sheath equipped with low profile

MALICE CLIPS that can be used on MOLLE gear or on a regular belt. The Adamas knives are currently trading for around 250 pieces of government issued wallpaper and are available from the manufacturer or other knife outlets camped out along the “super highway’s” many exits.



Benchmade 375BK-1 Adamas Knife With and Without Paracord

These are but a humble offering of the diverse amount of blades out there that can be tactically deployed to temporarily or permanently put down even the biggest of thugs playing the role of a human tiger. Hopefully, the choices presented here will be of use to you as you go about your business or they will be a good starting point for you to find your perfect self defense blade. As always, please take a moment to acquaint yourself with local and state ordinances concerning the legality of the knives you choose, better to be on the safe side, under the radar rather than under arrest So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let’s be careful out there.



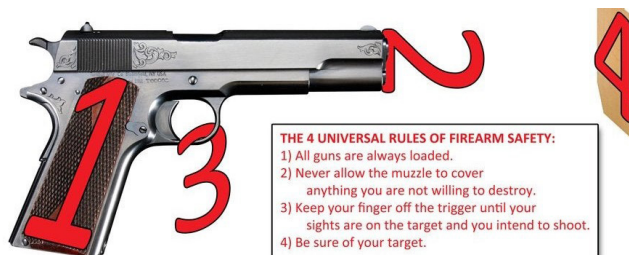
SIMPLE HOME GUNSMITHING TECHNIQUES AND HACKS FOR REVOLVERS

BY ERIC AUSTGEN



Gunsmithing is an art that goes back to when the first firearms hit the scene in China, sometime in the 1200's. When the technology came to the European continent, Italian craftsmen were known for turning out the first barrels available in that corner of the world. At that time, a single firearm took, on average, about 400 hours to construct. This was due to the fact that the gunsmith had to be an expert in a variety of fields such as design, metallurgy, and woodworking, as readily made parts for firearms would still be a few hundred years down the road with Eli Whitney and his brilliant concept of interchangeable gun parts. Because of this, modern professional and amateur gunsmiths no longer need to toil for years to become an expert in their field or to change out broken or worn parts. We'll have a look at the tools and procedures necessary to help you with maintaining and improving your firearms.

7



THE 4 UNIVERSAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY:
1) All guns are always loaded.
2) Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
3) Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you intend to shoot.
4) Be sure of your target.

Wise Rules To Live By

SAFETY MEETING

As we're dealing with firearms once again, it's always a good idea to touch on the importance of gun safety, even if the firearm to be worked on is in pieces. My dad was always fond of saying "I don't care if the damn thing is parted out on the table, it's still loaded". So with that in mind, please observe all rules pertaining to the safe handling of firearms and review the manufacturers recommendations

for your particular weapon. Ammo should always be stored separately from your irons, unless you're at the range or carry daily, as it's not relevant to gunsmithing. I would also recommend purchasing firearm books that have exploded views and breakdown procedures of the gun or guns you own and work on.



An Example Of A "Master" Gunsmithing Tool Kit

GETTING STARTED

The first thing you'll need to do in order to work on your firearms is to gather some tools. You may have some of these residing in your workbench already or you may be starting from square one. For those jumping into it for the first time, there are a number of quality gunsmithing tool sets that can be purchased for a decent price without heavily impacting your wallet. There are also specialty sets for weapons like the AR-15 that may run you a higher price due to the tools designed specifically for that weapon. A basic set is all you'll need for doing the work we'll be discussing. The tools you'll want to have include: hollow-ground screwdrivers, nylon/brass pin punches and hammer, cleaning brush, pliers, file/rasp, and mainspring vise. There will be times where you'll need to get creative and make a speciality tool for the job at hand. The type of screwdrivers are very important when it comes to working on firearms as a marred screw head is rather unsightly and indicative of poor workmanship. The blade should fit snugly length and width wise so that the torque is transmitted to the slot bottom where the screw is stronger. This is why double wedge screwdrivers aren't ideal for

this work as they're narrow at the tip and will back out of the screw slot easier, placing the torque at the screw top, and causing the dreaded scoring or even breaking a piece off the head. Many firearms will have pins used in place of screws and will require pin punches to remove them. A starter punch should always be used to get the pin moving and then removed with a longer punch. The nylon tipped types are perfect for removing pins without screwing up the guns bluing or marking up a finish like case hardening. Dual headed hammers of nylon and brass are used for the same reason as the dual punches, to prevent unnecessary surface marking. Brass is desirable because of the aforementioned fact and also because it will not spark when hitting a metal of different composition. Pliers will be used not as a twisting tool, but rather as a grip/holding device when a bench vise is not needed or when doing delicate work. The mainspring vise should be used when dealing with the V-shaped mainspring of some current handguns, antique shotguns, flintlock, percussion, and early cartridge rifles and carbines, like the Springfield, that used lock-plate technology. Files and rasps will come in different shapes and sizes to accomplish a variety of tasks such as metal removal and stock/grip checkering.



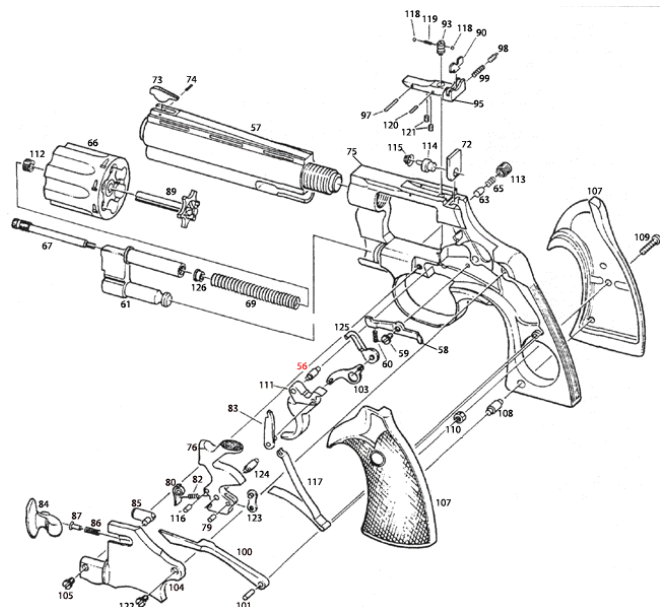
One Of Many Bench Ideas

WHERE TO SET UP SHOP

The location of your work area will be dependent on the space that you have available in your domicile of choice and how in-depth you're going to get with gunsmithing. The basic work we'll be discussing here doesn't require much more than a hard surface to work on. This could be a kitchen counter, coffee, dining, or picnic table. Those who are interested

in pursuing a career in gunsmithing or as a hobby, I believe it would be worth a moment to explore potential workspaces and workbench options. Unfortunately, apartment, townhome, and condo dwellers will be at a disadvantage when it comes to space, but not all is lost. Most of these types of structures, built within the last twenty to thirty years, are usually furnished with a fairly good sized walk-in closet. With a little bit of imagination, one could easily convert part of the closet into a workspace. In order to keep neighbors happy in that communal living situation, I would recommend putting some soundproofing in the closet to dampen the noise of projects that have the potential to become louder than you expected, this also covers loud cursing as well. Unused or guest rooms in larger floor plans can also afford a wonderful alternative to a cramped closet, even better if the room has a window and admits a good amount of natural light. Homeowners will likely have a better choice of free space to use. Basements and garage spaces are great as they are away from living areas and will give you the advantage of working at all hours of the day without annoying the rest of the family. These areas may need to be modified in order to create a comfortable work atmosphere. If your basement is unfinished and looks like a concrete Soviet era dungeon, you might want to consider building a room from a section of the basement that will be big enough for your needs. This room will need to be insulated from cold and also from moisture so as to prevent rust. If the basement is prone to flooding, then some exterior water mitigation will be in order, like grading and keeping the rain gutters and downspouts in good shape. Garages may only need to have insulation installed, if it's not already, and very little else done to the work area, unless a specific conversion is needed by the home gunsmith. Attics are not advisable for setting up shop, the climate is terrible, many are too small, any noise you make will carry through the house, and it's a real pain in the keister to transport equipment and supplies up and down the stairs. If this is your only option, then you can do the same modifications as the basement and garage. For my fellow rural friends, barns and other outbuildings are excellent places to work, you are away from the main house and therefore won't be likely to offend anyone with the sounds and smells that typically emanate from areas where tools are being used. When looking

at what kind of workbench to put in your shop, it would be a good idea to have a bench that has as much space to offer as possible. In a perfect world, a two and one half to three foot wide, five to six feet long top will give you a generous amount of space to store your tools and projects. Adding storage space underneath or building a shelving wall on the backend of the bench will free up top space considerably. Pre-made benches can be purchased from any big box store, but make sure it will deliver more on space than storage, as you can build additional storage space if needed. A wall mounted fold down top and shelving unit may be a good idea for smaller, tight fitting areas, like one car garages or the last resort attic space.

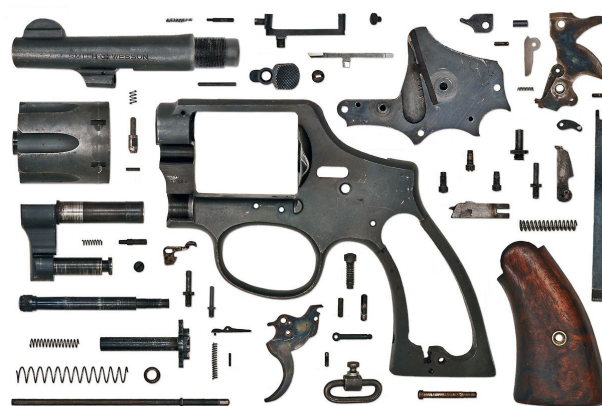


Exploded View Of The Colt Python .357 Magnum

SPRUCING UP COLONEL COLT'S REVOLVERS

It really doesn't matter if you're carrying a firearm daily or just keep one in reserve for home defense, you want to have the satisfaction of knowing that your mahoska will perform beautifully every time you pull leather. Whether it's your first hand cannon or an inherited piece, it would be wise to do an inspection to make sure it's in good working order, even if the gun is fresh from the factory. To illustrate this point, a friend recently bought a brand spanking new Smith and Wesson semi-auto pistol that proceeded to shuck its trigger pin after only a few rounds at the range. To say he was righteously ticked would be a gross understatement. A firearm purchase can be a large expense for some people and should be treated the same as buying a

car. A few of the malfunctions you may encounter with Colt revolvers will come from parts that are associated with the cocking and firing of the gun. The rebound lever and the cylinder bolt will wear out quickly and should be replaced with brand new or gently used parts to ensure that the cylinder cycles smoothly. New parts will need to be hand fitted first, so that any filing or polishing for a perfect fit can be done before permanent mounting. The cylinder bolt should fit the contours of the bolt leads notched on the cylinder. Routine inspection will show if the bolt head has become worn to the point of rescue or replacement. Check the latch and the latch pin for any excessive play as these are also points that see heavy use during reloading operations. The crane, which “swings” the cylinder out, and frame may become bent due to the irresponsible replication of Hollyweirdo’s flipping the cylinder back into the frame after loading. Just don’t do it, it will jack your gun up and you will end up either paying a pretty penny for a professional to undo such carelessness or scrapping the gun altogether. Rapid double action firing will result in the cylinder bolt spring wearing out and causing the cylinder to skip chambers. Firing pins that are short or have worn out should be replaced. If you’re experiencing misfires or poor rebound, this may be an indication of a weak mainspring. A few modern Colt revolvers use a V mainspring and can be stiffened by bending the upper arm from the middle of the spring. If you find that you’ve done too good a job of stiffening, the spring can be loosened by inserting a punch between the arms of the spring and cocking the gun. Loose trigger and hammer pins should be replaced with drive-fit pins when possible, although if you get caught in a situation where replacements aren’t readily available, you can get by with reversing the pins in their respective holes. While we’re on the subject, there are kits on the market that allow you to switch out factory trigger and hammer springs to lighten single and double action shooting, getting rid of trigger jerk and improving accuracy.



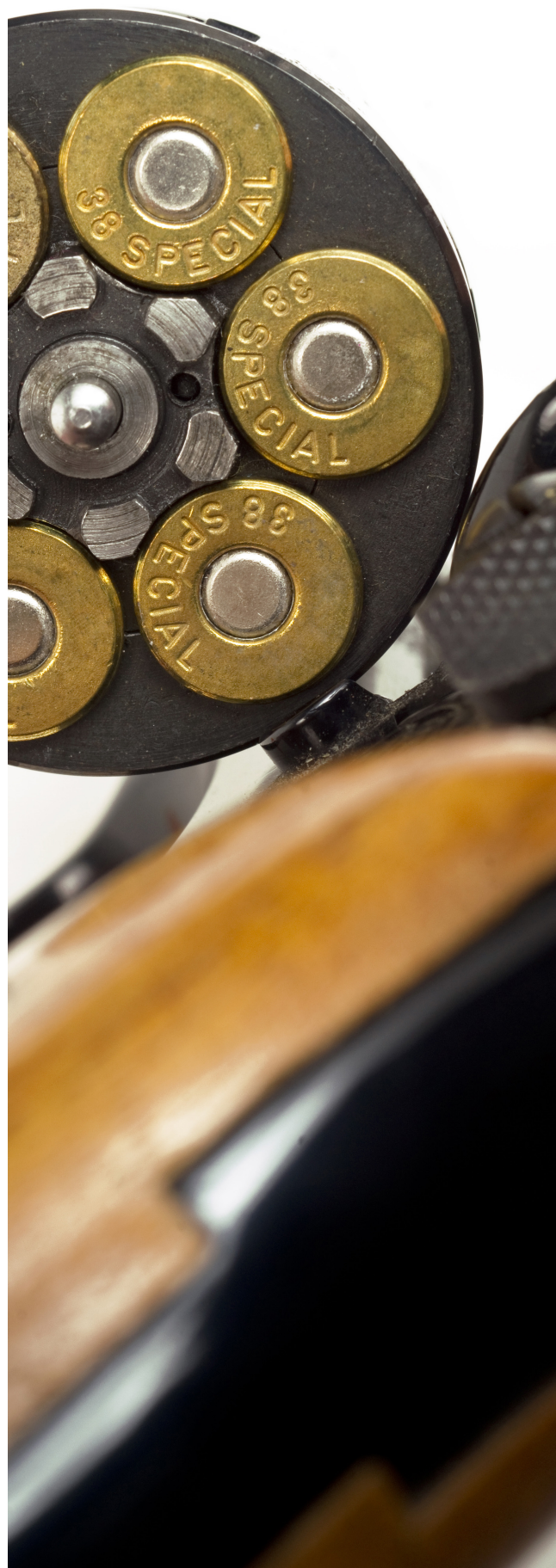
Smith & Wesson .38 Caliber WW2 Victory Revolver Parted Out

SMITH & WESSON? PARTY OF COOL!

The revolvers produced by Smith & Wesson in the last 80 years will have the same mechanical functions, including the reissues of classic revolvers such as the 36 and 10 models. The only differences I have seen in their revolvers is the tendency of the company to tinker with lighter weight but stronger metal alloys and their caving to “Bubba’s” Administration to install internal gun locks. The ejector rod head can sometimes loosen with consistent firing, which will lengthen the head, and bind the cylinder to the point where it can not be rotated or opened. The head can be screwed back in by a pair of soft-jawed pliers until the cylinder swings out and then further tightened to prevent it from coming loose. If you’re so inclined, a little dab of Loc-Tite can be applied to the thread before tightening of the head. Worn out and over-filed stop catches should be replaced with new parts since there will be little chance of rescuing a nub and you will need this part to show up consistently for smooth cylinder rotation. Sometimes a condition called “push-off” may happen which will need to be corrected immediately. To check for this problem, cock the hammer back and then push forward with normal pressure to the back of it with your thumb. If it slips and slams forward, you will need to inspect the hammer for a chipped or broken cocking notch. The bevel on the trigger might also be broken or not sharp enough to engage the hammer. It should be noted that any work done for this malfunction needs to be made on the trigger only, and if the part is non-salvageable, it needs to be replaced. Rough cylinder opening and closing may be attributed to a loose, bent, or crooked rod, the yoke (crane on Colt’s) is

out of line, a sticky, short, or long center pin on the rod's knurled end, or it could be something simple, such as a leaded breech. The cylinder may experience stop problems which can be remedied by checking whether the stop is sticking in the cylinder notches or in the frame. The point of the stop could also be too long which will cause it to travel far below the frame. In this case, the bevel and point of the stop on the trigger should be filed. While diagnosing stop problems, you should check to see if the cylinder can be lifted off the ball of the stop. If it doesn't, then everything is kosher, however, if it does, you will need to file the top of the stop. I should point out that this problem may occur on only one cylinder notch, but check all of them just to be sure. If you find it difficult to use the extractor, check the internal parts of the cylinder and also look for any extractor pins that may be missing or loose. These pins should be replaced through the top of the extractor. Shaving lead is another problem that may lead to creating more difficulties with other parts of your roscoe. Troubleshoot this by examining the space between the barrel and cylinder, checking for lead accumulation in the cone, yoke alignment, and for a loose locking bolt or cylinder stop. As with the Colt revolvers, there are some spring kits available on the market that will help give your Smith & Wesson a nice crisp action every time.

The troubleshooting and repair methods presented here are by no means a complete list of what you may run into with your five or six shooters. I wanted to showcase the common problems found with these revolvers and the fixes that may be applied to the parts most commonly associated with failure or tinkering by those who didn't have a clue as to what they're doing. I could have filled a few more pages with info, however, I fear my editor may have had me drawn and quartered, so, in the future, we may be able to go back and touch on items that didn't make the cut this time. So, until next time, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.





EATING THESE CRITTERS JUST MIGHT KILL YOU

When you're prepping for the worst, it's important to think about what foods you would eat if there was no grocery store. While most people might think of things like eggs and oatmeal, others may not be so picky. Bagging the occasional squirrel or deer to round out your protein choices may be fine but eating certain animals and their byproducts might not be such a great idea!

We'll cover some of the wild animals that come with risks when eaten and some that should be avoided at all costs. So, let's dig in and find out what we shouldn't dig into, shall we?

RABBITS

While many people might think of rabbits as cute, cuddly pets, the fact is that these little creatures can provide a hearty meal. The downside to eating rabbit, especially in the wintertime, is that it's incredibly lean. In fact, subsisting on just rabbits in the cold months can put you at risk for what's known as "rabbit starvation." It isn't the only wild animal that gets that way, and it happens to caribou, deer, and other animals that have to survive the cold months without a thick layer of fat.

12 In fact, they're so lean that if you eat too much of their meat over a short period of time, you can get

severe malnutrition or even die even if you have a bellyful of meat. So, if you're ever in this situation, be sure to eat enough fat and carbohydrates to keep you healthy. Throwing some nutritious canned vegetables and fruits or an MRE or two during the day in with the low-fat fare can help if you have them too.

TOXIC BIRDS

As a rule of thumb, most birds are edible, and pheasants, ptarmigans, quail, duck, wild turkey and even swan in a pinch are known to be good eating. However, are there some birds that are poisonous? You probably know that it isn't a good idea to eat scavenging birds like buzzards or crows, but there are some species of fowl in different countries that have toxic traits, including the North American ruffed grouse that is commonly found in the Appalachians and Alaska.

PORCUPINES AND ARMADILLOS

If you're in a situation with no antibiotics, even a splinter can kill you. Many people get infections from simple injuries like that, and it's possible that you will too unless you can find some antibiotics.

Getting an infection or cutting yourself while foraging isn't the only threat though; eating certain

animals might be more trouble than they're worth! Armadillos and porcupines are killed by using a club but be careful that the spiny fellow is dead because their fishhook-like quills can be hard to remove. Also, armadillos are the only animal besides humans that carry leprosy, so there's that.

WILD GAME ORGANS

When you're hunting wild game, don't eat the organs if you don't want to get sick after a while. Chemicals and heavy metals used in manufacturing and industry can get into the environment where these animals live and can build up in their offal. As such, they contain higher amounts of these substances than you should have in your diet, and that can cause you to become ill.

What follows are some of the chemicals and metals that can build up to dangerous levels in wild game organs.

- Cadmium
- Lead
- Mercury
- Dioxins
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS)
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

If someone in your group eats heavy metals, you can treat it with a chelating agent like N-acetylcysteine, but let's try not to let it come to that.

POND SCUM CRITTERS

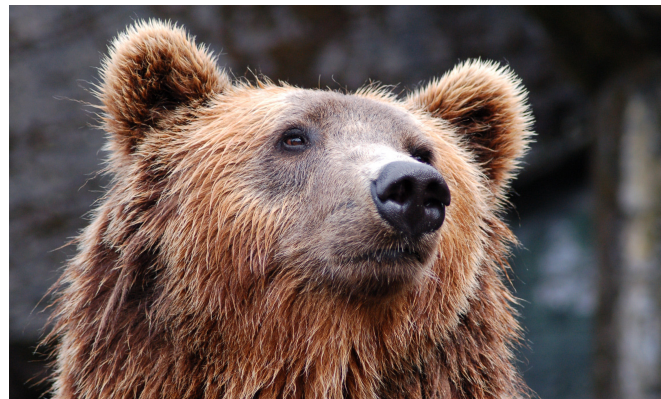
Amoebas, protozoans and other microscopic organisms in water can cause intestinal distress, leading to nausea or diarrhea. Also, if you're on a limited supply of safe drinking water (remember that distilling your own won't remove these pathogens), it's best not to drink from any standing pools of water. Also, swimming in lakes and ponds during warm weather can expose you to brain-eating amoebas. The amoebas enter through your sinuses, and from there they go to town on your brain. The result is almost fatal, but as some consolation, it's rare that you would ever encounter them in the first place.

ALLIGATOR

Alligator meat, which is popular in the United States, is surprisingly lean and good for you. Alligator hunters usually use a hook and line that is secured to a tree. The hook is baited with fish or chicken, and the gator will take the bait. The hunter draws the animal in and dispatches it with a weapon.

As you've probably guessed, it's not the alligator meat that will kill you, but the hulking 500-pound gator that will. Even seasoned alligator hunters lose arms or receive very severe injuries when they wrangle alligators for dinner, so maybe it's best to leave this one to the pros.

BEAR



Eating bear just might kill you, but like with alligators, it doesn't have anything to do with their meat (which can actually taste quite good when prepared correctly). Instead, it has to do with their ferociousness and size when they're threatened. Therefore, it's a good idea to avoid eating bear in all but extreme circumstances when you don't have any other food choices.

Even then, you need to know what you're doing and familiarize yourself with the best practices for hunting something that can tear you limb from limb. If you do master the sport, the meat has lots of healthy nutrients, and it can taste fantastic with the right spices.

POLAR BEAR

Inuit people eat polar bear meat because they need these fats for their survival in such a cold climate at high latitudes. On the other hand, polar bear livers can kill you graveyard dead! Therefore, it's best to avoid it at all costs.

Polar bear liver is toxic because it's high in Vitamin A, causing a poisoning known as acute hypervitaminosis A. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and weakness. If you are stranded in Alaska or the Arctic, you can eat some of the liver of other animals that live there but avoid polar bear liver like the plague.

SAFE ORGAN MEATS

If you really enjoy liver, gizzards, kidneys etc. it's best to raise livestock, so you can control what they eat. Still, organ meat is not the healthiest meat in an animal. They are nutritious, you could argue, but they can also contain a lot of bad cholesterol that's unhealthy for your heart and liver.

While it is best to avoid organ meats whenever possible, there are some that can be consumed in small amounts. For example, the pancreas of pigs and cows contains little fat but can provide you with beneficial nutrients like pancreatic lipase which helps break down fats for digestion.

The kidneys are probably the safest organ meat out there because they contain very little fat. The heart is the second safest because of its low levels of fat and nutrient content.

HOGS

Feral hogs can be extremely dangerous, and even a pen of domesticated hogs can be unpredictable and dangerous. They are 700-lb omnivores that will eat anything. It's a fact too: Pigs will eat people. And there are cases all over the world where this has been documented. That's why it's very important not to feed these critters alone and to keep a close watch on small children that could wander into their enclosure.

INSECTS

Yes, we went there. Insects like ants, crickets, termites, grubs, cicadas and grasshoppers are typically edible but be careful to stay away from arthropods like spiders, centipedes and millipedes. Also, stay away from freshwater clams, snails and slugs. They have some really nasty parasites known as flukes that may not cook out all the way.

Strangely enough, you can safely eat scorpions. You simply cut off the venomous tail, put the body on a stick and roast it over a fire. Still, that's a very risky option with some breeds of scorpions. One mishap, and you can get stung and be in pain for a while.

Toasted cicadas and crickets are supposed to taste nutty, and some species of ants are supposed to taste like lemon, which might taste like heaven if you've been starving for a few days.

SMALL AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



While you can eat bullfrog legs, there are some frogs that are very poisonous like the pickerel frog. Heck, even most mammals and snakes won't mess with them because they're so toxic.

You can also eat any type of snake, but the most popular snake that people most often choose to eat in the wild is the rattlesnake. Of course, you can see the issue with hunting rattlesnakes and other poisonous snakes: One slip up, and their venomous strike will hit you lightning-fast.

If you don't want to chance it, non-poisonous snakes like garter snakes and rat snakes will do. However, snake meat should always be cooked over an open flame because you don't want any parasites or bacteria in them that could make you sick for a few days at least.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The Florida man is going to have plenty of protein choices during the apocalypse, as chicken of the trees (green iguanas), monkey meat and python are on the menu, thanks to hurricanes and careless

pet owners unleashing several invasive species to proliferate across the state. Unfortunately, encephalitis, deadly bone-crushing constriction and poisonous snakebite, not to mention herpes from the monkeys, are also on the menu if you venture out into parts unknown to nab some of these critters for dinner.

And if you think a little cream or medicine will help if you get herpes from a monkey, think again. A drop of the virus from a monkey killed a researcher in six weeks in the late 1990s. She was infected when the critter flung a tiny drop of fluid, perhaps feces or urine into her eye.

And complications from herpes B that's common in primates is deadly around 70% of the time when it infects humans.

There's good news about easily harvesting one invasive species though. The green iguanas are overrunning the cities, so you may be able to collect some of them for a soup or stew if you're lucky.

Meanwhile, these scaly critters may kill you because the locals have been known to poison them as pests. Hopefully, if a SHTF scenario happens, people will stop doing this.

If you like saltwater fishing in Florida, the invasive lionfish can be found year-round in Florida. They make a good meal, and you typically spear them or catch them in a net vs. a hook and line. The catch (get it?) is that their spines deliver a venomous sting that can cause excruciating pain and last for days.

The critter's venom is known as a neurotoxin and it can cause respiratory issues, sweating and sometimes paralysis. Also, bear in mind that lionfish will sting you even after they are dead, and its toxin stays active even after it's stored on ice.

HOW TO PREPARE LIONFISH

You can eat these dangerous fish, but you must be careful when preparing them. If you put the creature on its side, you can hold it by its soft pectoral fins or gill plates without being jabbed by its venomous spines.

Also, know that the toxins in the glandular tissue in the grooves and base of their spines are still present. You can wear puncture-resistant gloves or simply cut off the spines prior to filleting for some extra protection. Then, you filet lionfish the same way as you would a grouper or snapper.

Once you get the hang of processing a lionfish without harming yourself, you can fry, BBQ or even prepare them in ceviches. The meat is supposed to be mild, moist, buttery and extremely tender.

PARASITES

Parasites are other critters that just might kill you if you let them linger long enough. Our food is sanitized, irradiated and pasteurized, so we don't typically have problems with parasites if we cook our food all the way. In the case of societal collapse, all bets are off though. Although the risk of parasitic infection goes up when food isn't processed in this manner, the stomach acid in a healthy gut tends to combat parasites fairly well.

To keep your stomach chugging along, avoid coffee, sugar, alcohol and refined grains (basically all the tasty stuff) that can interfere with stomach acid production. Beta-carotene-rich foods like squash, carrots and sweet potatoes can help keep some parasites like helminths away too. Probiotics can help stave off parasites as well.

GI upset (bloating, diarrhea, etc) are telltale signs of parasitic infection. If you have that or notice some critters that shouldn't be in your number 2, there are natural remedies you can take.

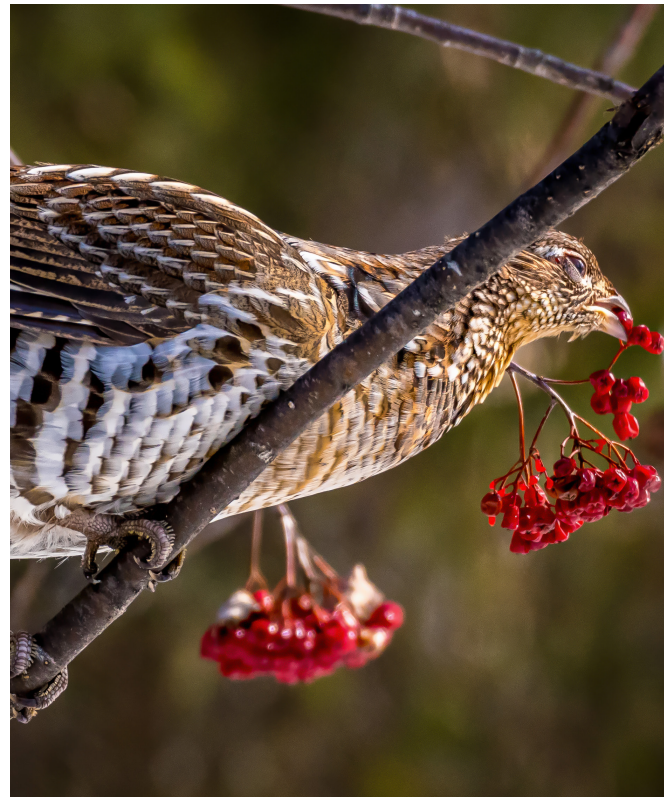
Papaya may be in short supply when the SHTF, but their seeds are supposed to work well at taking out gut bugs. You can also supplement with psyllium (it's found in Metamucil), beetroot and flaxseeds to get rid of parasites. Pumpkin seeds and wormwood are also supposed to have anti-parasitic properties.

If you have a prepper cabinet, it's probably good to get ahold of anti-parasitic drugs like vermicides or vermifuges. The broad-spectrum Praziquantel kills tapeworms. Stocking up on some lice shampoos or combs wouldn't hurt either. Never underestimate

the power of topical ivermectin, as it can be used on anything from livestock to human scabies breakouts on the skin.

THE TAKEAWAYS

There you go, some of the critters that just might kill you if you're not careful. Remember these dangers and take appropriate precautions when handling or consuming them. As a survivalist, it's important to know about the potential risks associated with eating certain types of food and how to protect yourself from harm. And a prepper's motto is to always be ready, so don't wait until the last minute to know about these things.





SURVIVING IN THE WOODS

If the image above looks idyllic to you, imagine what you would think if you were stranded there with little hope of rescue. In this article, we're going to take a close look at how to survive in the woods.

To make it even more interesting, we're going to compare and contrast survival tips with Showtime's hit show, *Yellowjackets*. Whether you've seen the show or not, the following info can help save your life if you end up lost in the woods.

For the uninitiated, *Yellowjackets* tells the story of a girls soccer team that crash lands in the middle of nowhere. Only one adult survives the crash — Coach Ben — and it takes 19 months for the team to be rescued. As you can imagine, this is basically a worst case scenario. None of the high school girls are prepared for life in the woods, and they don't even have the luxury of having a bug out bag with them.

When they first crash, they have less than a week's worth of water, and that requires them to heavily ration it. As far as food goes, they also run out of that in less than a week, and they really should have

run out within a day (spoiler alert = severe rationing is utilized, to say the least).

So, what would you do if you had been on that plane? Remember, this is not an SHTF scenario for anyone outside the group. They didn't bring anything special with them to help them survive, and we're going to assume that you didn't, either. All you've got is knowledge and the items you can scavenge from the plane.

FIRST-AID IS CRITICAL



The first thing you should do after exiting the plane is determine who needs first aid. There may or may

not be a first aid kit handy, so you'll have to use clothing and other items you can find in everyone's suitcases.

Sterilizing wounds is extremely important. On *Yellowjackets*, the plane didn't even have alcohol, so they ended up using a cleanser. If you're lucky, however, you'd be able to retrieve some alcohol to pour some of it on each wound, especially the deeper ones. This will hurt, but it'll be a lot better than getting a wound infected. Wrap up any wounds with bandages or torn apart clothing.

SHOULD YOU CAUTERIZE A WOUND?

Every survival show inevitably showcases someone with a wound that gets cauterized, including *Yellowjackets*. The truth, though, is that you should only cauterize an injury if you have no other choice.

Yes, it'll stop the bleeding, but you could also damage healthy tissue, along with causing scarring and burns. It's even possible to end up doing more damage than was already done, which could cause the unlucky person to get really sick and even die.

Of course, you may end up in a situation where you have to choose between cauterization and death. After all, what are the odds you'll have skin glue, staples, and stitches with you? Plus, if it's anything like what happens on *Yellowjackets*, these other options may not work.

If you must cauterize a wound, make sure it has been disinfected first. Then, be sure to have someone hold the person down, as cauterization really, really hurts. Finally, take something you can burn such as metal, and heat it up until it glows. Hold it to the afflicted area for a few seconds.

This should stop the bleeding and, if you're fortunate, it will also start the healing process. Be sure to wrap the area well and keep changing the bandages as needed. Needless to say, this would be a good time for some antibiotics.

BE CAREFUL WITH MUSHROOMS AND BERRIES

One of the worst things you can do in the woods is to eat poisonous mushrooms or berries. If you're not certain, then it's better to skip it.

Don't pretend to have more knowledge about berries and mushrooms than you actually do. This is not a situation where you want to bluff yourself into possibly injuring or killing a lot of people.

Although they are a food source, mushrooms and berries simply aren't safe unless you know for certain what types they are. As a side note, it might be fun to consider tripping on magic mushrooms to take away some of the pain, but when you're starving, it's really not a good idea.

EXPLORE THE NEARBY WILDERNESS

One of the things that made life easier for the *Yellowjackets* was finding a lake which was located approximately 5 miles from where they landed.

Initially, the team had a disagreement about whether to leave the scene of the plane crash. But when one of them spotted a lake, it didn't take a brain surgeon to recognize that they needed to go to it. Once they arrived, they had a source of water for drinking, bathing, and cleaning.

While they enjoyed the lake, one of them noticed a shape in the woods. It turned out to be an old cabin, complete with at least 10 years' worth of dust and cobwebs, along with a very funky smell. Of course, when you're lost in the wilderness, a cabin like the one described can become a source of much comfort and hope.

UTILIZE ANY WEAPONS YOU FIND

The very lucky thing about the cabin is that it also contained an old gun and thousands of bullets. This provided the team with the ability to hunt. In a perfect world, you'll find the same thing. If not, don't give up hope! There are several other items you may be able to rig into traps to help you catch some food. For example, sticks, wires, rocks and rope can be used to create a snare and/or deadfall.

SKINNING AN ANIMAL



After you've killed an animal, you'll need to bleed it dry. This can be accomplished by slitting the throat and waiting for a bit. Ideally, you'll have hung it upside down before beginning this process.

The easiest way to skin a deer is to make cuts around their knees, the interior of their legs, and their belly. Next, separate the skin from the muscle around their rear legs/hams.

Once you've done this, you should be able to pull on the animal's fur to remove a large portion of it in one movement. It should move pretty easily down to their shoulders. Then, use your knife to continue separating the hide from the various joints. Do this process all the way to the deer's throat.

Finally, cut off the deer's head and completely remove the rest of the hide. This will leave you with venison to cook over a fire.

HOW LONG WILL A DEER REMAIN GOOD TO EAT?

After you've killed a deer, you only have about 8 to 12 hours to bleed it, skin it, and cook it. Otherwise, the blood will damage the meat. Additionally, if it's not cooked by then, the meat will begin to spoil. The only time you get an extension is if it's really cold out, in which case, you may have up to 24 hours to process the deer.

The meat will stay good for about 3 to 4 days, but only if it's below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. In other words, unless you happen to have the ability to smoke or cure the meat — or unless you happen to have a refrigerator or freezer — you're going to want to cook and eat your meat pretty quickly.

Let's say it's 30 degrees outside. This will act as a refrigerator, which will provide you with a 3 to 4-day window. On the other hand, if it's 50 degrees outside, you've probably only got about a day to eat as much of the meat as you can.

FISHING WITH NETS

In *Yellowjackets*, the team had brought some nets filled with soccer balls with them. These nets were turned into a resource for fishing. They didn't have any fishing poles, but they put the nets into the water and tied them in place.

This is actually a pretty good idea, as some fish will inevitably end up inside your nets. Once you've skinned them, they won't go very far, but it's still better to try than to give up on the idea altogether. Eating a small fish will give you a bit of energy back, which could help you land a deer.

HAVE SOME FUN

After surviving for about a month or so, the *Yellowjackets* needed to do something for their mental health. Therefore, they decided to make a mock homecoming dance, which they named *doomcoming*.

If you've seen the show, then you know that things got turned on their head very quickly. However, the same thing doesn't have to happen to you. Give yourself permission to have some fun and stop worrying about your situation for just one evening. It could turn out to become a nice way to get away from it all for a few hours, and this is very important when you're stuck in a negative situation.

TAKE TURNS WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

If you must sleep in the woods, you will need to have someone who watches over everyone else. Do this in a fair pattern to ensure everyone gets some sleep. For instance, if there's five of you, each person could be the lookout for 90 minutes.

If it's your turn to keep watch and you start to drift off, you must make yourself wake up. Alternatively,

you could wake up the next person a bit early. The last thing you want to do is fall asleep with the rest of the group. Doing so could easily attract animals, including a wolf pack.



Wolves will attack and eat humans, so don't ever let them catch you off your guard. This is especially true if you've splintered off from the main group and only have a few people with you.

It's also wise not to push yourself too hard if you've decided to go look for help. Although you'll want to walk for 12+ hours per day, this is going to cause you to get very hungry. It will also likely cause blisters on your feet and any number of other issues.

Instead of basically killing yourself to get where you're going, pace yourself a bit. This will help ensure you actually make it far enough away to find help.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

The thing that most people don't want to think or talk about might be the only way to survive. In Yellowjackets, the animals migrate south before the winter, leaving the team to starve. What do they do? If early signs are any indication, they resort to cannibalism to stay alive.

There are a few real-life stories about cannibalism being used as a last resort in survival situations. Whether you're lost in the Andes or are a part of the doomed Donner Party, there are times where you have to suck it up and do anything to survive.

Eating humans isn't a good choice, but neither is starving to death. If you must give in to this option, then make sure you approach humans much in the same way you approached deer. You don't have very

long to bleed the person, followed by preparing and eating them.

We could talk about the moral issues involved, but if you're truly stranded in the middle of nowhere with no other options, it becomes eat humans or die yourself. Therefore, can we suggest that you at least don't resort to hunting each other? Instead, as people give in to their starvation and die, quickly begin harvesting their bodies for food. At least if you do it this way, you won't have to carry around the additional mental baggage of actually killing and eating them.

Another thing to remember is that you should never, ever eat the brain. This is the quickest way to get kuru, which is a rare version of encephalopathy that eventually kills pretty much anyone who catches it. Although it can remain dormant for 5 to 10 years before it claims you, it would definitely be a kick in the teeth to eat a human to survive, only to end up dying anyway.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The trauma of crashing in the woods is big enough, but to add physical injuries and the threat of starvation into the mix is enough to severely tax any person. Be patient with yourself and others, and try not to blow up if someone gets snappy with you.

The best thing you can do is to remain as calm and rational as possible. When you feel like you can't take it anymore, go off into the woods to blow off some steam. This will help you keep the group together, although you don't want to allow someone to ride on everyone else's coattails.

If you find that someone is trying to do just that, take them away from the group before you confront them about it. That way, they can save face and you won't have to worry about getting everyone else riled up.

Remember: when it comes to survival, it's not only about keeping yourself fed and sheltered. You also have to keep your head on straight to avoid dealing with a major mess down the line. Hopefully, you don't ever have to survive in the woods, but if you do - we hope this helps!



**CHECKOUT OUR NEW STORE ONLINE
FOR ALL OF YOUR TACTICAL NEEDS**

MYCRISISGEAR.COM





INSRA
Liberty Independence Patriotism