



Hoarding Revisited: 365 Days Later

A Monday Morning Musing from Mickey the Mercenary Geologist

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"Libertarianism is the belief that the government should keep its nose out of our business and its hand out of our pocket." John Bryant.

*"Well all I want is to just be free,
Live my life the way I wanna be...
But you're pushin' too hard, pushin' too hard,
On me..."* The Seeds, 1966. Lyrics by Sky Saxon, born August 20, 1937 (?), died June 25, 2009.

My how time flies when you're having fun. It's been 365 days since I shocked and awed some of you with a rant on hoarding basic supplies and necessities, especially foodstuffs, and the reasons why it should be an integral part of every prepared American's agenda ([Mercenary Musing, July 14, 2008](#)). And though I write primarily to a North American audience, this advice is pertinent to all free individuals in the world.

Now it's time for an update: So much has changed...much less has stayed the same...

For example:

- The Banksters have taken more control of fewer and bigger banks with increasing financial manipulation of our ways, means, and lives.
- The US government is led by its first multi-ethnic President who, with negligible track record of political position, has instituted more and more and then some more socialistic and fascistic policies.
- Inflation is on sabbatical for 2009 and the world is in the throes of a deflationary depression.
- Petroleum prices are down with oil trading at less than 40% of its record spike a year ago and natural gas at 30%.

- Industrial metal commodities are trading at 50-75% of their July 2008 prices.
- The average Venture Exchange junior resource stock is selling at 43% of its value a year ago.
- 37 year old Lance Armstrong is eight seconds from wearing the *maillot jaune* after three years of retirement. With the big climbs of the Alps to come, will it be another Tour de Lance?

I can think of only three things that haven't changed in the last year:

- Our economic system is still teetering on the tot.
- Gold has retained its purchasing power and is trading in the same range as a year ago. Meanwhile, silver has lost nearly 30% of its value.
- The gold bugs keep preaching of (or praying for?) \$1500, \$2000, or even \$5000 an ounce by year's end. Did we not first hear that from the Original Gold Bug and the Aden Sisters in 1980?

But you all know the amazing story of the world's financial collapse during the past 12 months so I see little reason to keep this thread going.

In this hoarding update, I will tell you what I did, what I am doing, and a few tidbits that I learned in the past year of days.

I continue to store basic gastronomical groups and have added a few things to my list since July 2008. Some items that I overlooked or forgot to mention at the time include paper products, cleaning products, personal toiletries, soap (don't buy it, take the extra bar of hotel soap), bleach, and matches. It's not relevant for a follically-challenged man like me, but if you have hair, be smart and grab the shampoo from your \$250 room, too.

I'm replenishing my stores now versus accumulating them last year so it's three trips to the local Sam's Club per year.

One hundred lbs of pinto beans, although a staple of my diet, are way more than enough to last a year so I bartered 25 lbs with a friend for whatever he will offer in the future that I want or need. I decided storing 75 lbs of basmati rice is a bit much, too. Know anyone that needs a 25 lb bag? What do they have to offer in trade?

I drink a lot more espresso-grade coffee than realized. My stores are now up to 8-10 lbs, good for a 4-5 month morning buzz. Coffee doesn't stay fresh that long even in the freezer and the luxury of a cold metal and plastic box requires a functioning electrical system.

Nuts can get weevils after opening if stored in the plastic bags they come in. Transfer them to airtight plastic or metal containers.

I also learned that you better keep peanut butter, an essential foodstuff in the Mercenary Geo diet, in a cool place or it tastes really weird. A smart alternative is to grind your own peanuts. For the first time since grad school, I grow my own yoghurt.

The fruit trees on the farm got bit bad by another late freeze, so for the third year in a row there is no home-grown dried, canned, or frozen fruit. But no worries, dried fruit can still be bought at Sam's Club and rehydrated.

I continue to hunt and fish, grow grass to feed my domesticated cattle and feral rabbits, and barter with neighbors and fellow great white hunters for other kinds of flesh. Here's one of my recent takes of king (or *spring* for my western Canadian readership) salmon off Vancouver Island:



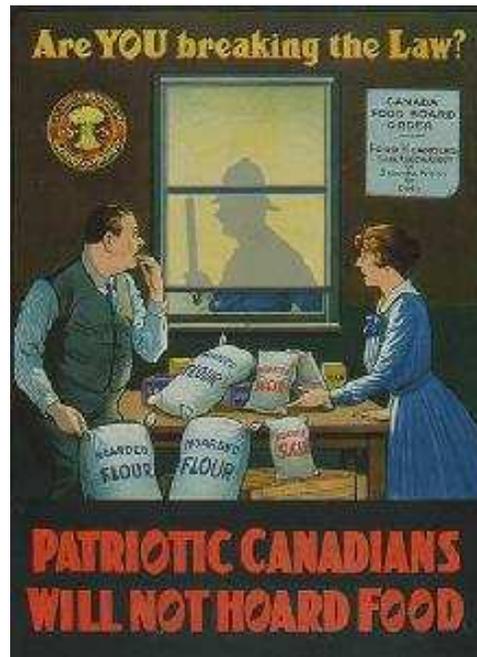
The biggest difference a year has made to the hoarding habits of freedom-loving Americans is the acute shortage of ammunition and the supplies to reload your own. When it became obvious that Obama would win, Patriots of the Heartland made a run on the local gun store. Supply and demand has caused prices to skyrocket; that is, if you still can find a box or two of your favorite load.

Currently it is difficult if not impossible to buy popular assault rifle and semi-auto hand gun ammo including .223, 7.62 mm, .380, 9 mm, and .45. Even a .22 bullet has soared in price, now at 7c for long rifles; target grade .223 is now 45c a round. American shooters who can't practice won't shoot straight. Is that what the black shirts are banking on?

In a brief preview of a Draconian future, on March 12, 2009 the Department of Defense issued a regulation that prohibited sale of used military brass cartridges in .223, 7.62 mm, and .50 calibers to commercial reloaders and suppliers unless the brass was shredded and rendered unusable. Public outcry was vociferous. Thanks go to Montana's two Democratic senators, Baucus and Tester, who sent a fax to DOD on March 17 requesting they rescind the order, and the policy was reversed a scant hour later. We the People won that round.

However, in this aborted episode we got an inkling of one way the government will try to impose gun control measures when the time has come: Cut off the supply of bullets. After all, a gun without ammo is merely a club. And methinks a baseball bat is a more effective club with which to defend oneself. Keep one stashed by the bedside.

Here's one for you Canuck fans: This is what your government threatened if you had a stash during World War II:



Did you know that hoarding rice in the Philippines is punishable by *life in prison*?

Here's perhaps another reason to follow the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared":

John Williams, esteemed publisher of *Shadow Government Statistics*, reports that on July 31, 2009 the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis *will revamp GDP history* going back to 1929.

In 1949 George Orwell wrote the prescient novel *1984*. In his terrifying book of totalitarianism, history was constantly revised by Big Brother to reflect the current world geopolitical situation.

Orwell wrote: "Who controls the past controls the future; who controls the present controls the past."

This is all scary stuff...very scary indeed.

On a lighter note, I tried the "Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern" frog sashimi routine. Here's the link from my website: [La Joya frogging, June 27, 2009.](#)

Happy Hunting and Hoarding, my friends!

And Live Strong. Arm Strong:



Ciao for now,

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The [Mercenary Geologist Michael S. "Mickey" Fulp](#) is a Certified Professional [Geologist](#) with a B.Sc. Earth Sciences with honor from the University of Tulsa, and M.Sc. Geology from the University of New Mexico. Mickey has 30 years experience as an exploration geologist searching for economic deposits of base and precious metals, industrial minerals, uranium, coal, oil and gas, and water in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Mickey has worked for junior explorers, major mining companies, private companies, and investors as a consulting economic geologist for the past 22 years, specializing in geological mapping, property evaluation, and business development. In addition to Mickey's professional credentials and experience,

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