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Promoting and protecting the Bill of Rights,
especially the Second Amendment





May 2022 – Volume 3, Issue 5

In Support of Freedom

Build Your Own “Power Wagon”...

Are you prepared for an extended power outage? Here in Florida, we are about to enter our annual hurricane season, and extended power outages are a thing if you end up in the path of a tropical cyclone. After living in Florida for almost 20 years, and being nailed by three hurricanes and several tropical storms, I finally decided to get prepared for the inevitable loss of power. First, I purchased a dual-fuel (gas/propane) portable generator, then I built a semi-portable solar powered emergency power system. Of course (Knock-on-wood!), we have not had any close calls with storms of any magnitude the last few years. However, storms are not the only cause of power outages; any number of incidents can shut off the power, and even a localized outage can go on for an extended period.

Most people are familiar with portable generators and have likely heard them motoring away during extended power outages, but in the last few years a new breed of so called “solar generators” have come on the scene. They are basically battery powered inverters, putting out 120 volts AC, and are recharged with solar panels. Dollar for dollar, solar generators power smaller loads as compared to gas/propane powered generators. Here are the prices on a few solar generators from Home Depot.

 <p>Best Seller</p>			
<p>Jackery 1800-Watt Continuous/3600W Peak Solar Generator SG1500 with 2 Solar Panels 100W Push Button Start for Outdoors</p> <p>Model# 2SG-1500</p> <p>★★★★★ (21)</p> <p>\$2029⁰⁰ /carton \$2299.00 Save \$270.00 (12%)</p> <p>Limit 5 per order</p>	<p>Jackery 1800-Watt Continuous/3600W Peak Solar Generator SG1500 with 4 Solar Panels 100W Push Button Start for Outdoors</p> <p>Model# SG1500</p> <p>★★★★★ (26)</p> <p>\$2899⁰⁰ /carton</p>	<p>Jackery Solar Generator SG880 with 2 Solar Panels 100-Watt Push Button Start Portable Power Station for Outdoors and Emergency</p> <p>Model# 2SG880_100</p> <p>★★★★★ (17)</p> <p>\$1309⁰⁰ /box \$1489.00 Save \$180.00 (12%)</p> <p>Limit 5 per order</p>	<p>NATURE'S GENERATOR 3600-Watt/5760W Peak Push Button Start Solar Powered Portable Generator with 4 Solar Panels, Power Pod and Wind Turbine</p> <p>Model# HKNGPTELW</p> <p>★★★★★ (6)</p> <p>\$3029⁹⁷</p>

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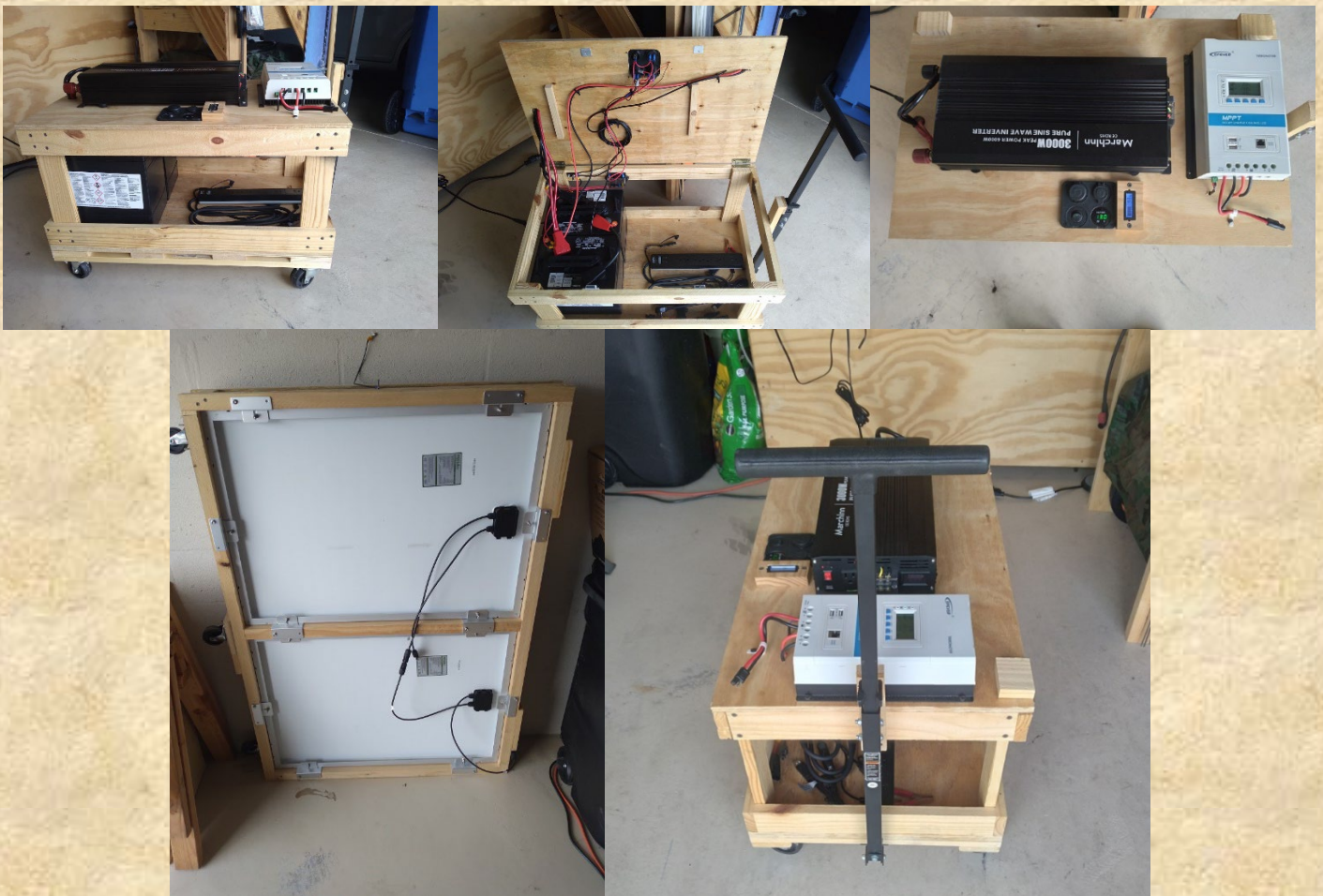
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Given the abundance of sunshine here in Florida, and to conserve precious fuel during an extended power outage, I researched solar emergency power system options. Due to the cost of commercially available solar generators, I ended up building my own 3000-watt, semi-portable solar powered emergency power system. I traded cost savings and increased wattage for reduced portability, but the system can be moved around locally or put in a truck and hauled somewhere else. In a pinch, the inverter can be hooked to a vehicle to provide power.

I based my design heavily on [Desert Prep's video](#), "High-Capacity Off-Grid Solar Generator," which is complete with parts list, wiring diagram, and engineering worksheet. I also watched a lot of videos from [DIY Solar Power with Will Prowse](#). Here are a few photos of the system I built, which cost less than \$2K to build in 2019.



System Basics: 3000W/6000W peak Pure Sine Wave Inverter | 4 x 100W, HQST Solar Panels
EPEVER MPPT Solar Charge Controller | 2 x 6V/230AH Deep Cycle Golf Cart Batteries

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Fight for Constitutional Carry in Florida Going National...

In an interesting turn of events, GOA and YouTube's "[Guns & Gadgets](#)" are recommending that out of state "tourists" contact Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis' office at (850) 717-9337 to let him know the fact Florida has not passed a constitutional carry law yet, will weigh heavily on where they decide to spend their tourism dollars. Also, they will remember his inability (or inaction) to get constitutional carry passed in Florida when it comes time to vote in Presidential primaries and elections. We all know DeSantis has his eye on the Presidency, so this issue could be an albatross around his neck should he run up against other Republican governors in the primaries who have passed constitutional carry like Greg Abbott (TX) and/or Brian Kemp (GA).

The Republican Party of Florida is dominated by anti-Second Amendment RINOs at the state and federal levels. DeSantis has not done one solid thing for the Second Amendment, and just plays lip service to the issues that need to be corrected. Fully half the nation has passed constitutional carry, but unfortunately, DeSantis and the RPOF RINOs are leading from behind. If you're from out of state and value the Second Amendment, and you spend time & money here, call DeSantis and let him know you will spend your money in states like Alabama, Georgia, and Texas. The Disney Corp has gone bat-shit woke, and does not align with the 2nd Amendment anyway, so take your kids to a truly "Free State."

Twitterly-dee, Twitterly-dum...

After short stints on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, Im4Rights ditched those anti-1st Amendment platforms in favor of platforms more supportive of free speech. We even ditched Patreon in favor of Locals. As I've previously written, Im4Rights never made any headway on the "Big Tech" platforms; hell, Facebook wouldn't even let us buy ads. But truth be told, we haven't made any headway on the current crop of platforms either. Mostly, due to a lack of time and effort on our part – after all, I do have a "day job."

Now, that Elon Musk is in the process of buying Twitter, taking it private, and making it a "free speech" platform, I wonder what effect that might have on the other big tech outfits. Will there be a shift back to internet neutrality where all opinions are given equal treatment rather than those not matching the preferred narrative being relegated to obscurity or outright censored? If this happens, will those of us who have flocked to alternative platforms return to the big tech platforms? Would such a shift put "small tech" out of business? I would argue that Rumble is on the verge of big tech status having gobbled up Locals and partnered with Truth Social, and is probably big enough to survive, especially if it ups its game with respect to ease of use. In the end, Im4Rights is going to stay where we are at unless our platforms fold or turn against free speech. YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and even a Musk-owned Twitter can go pound sand for their current and prior actions.

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Back to Preps (part 2)...

In the January newsletter, I said I would take a deeper dive into my top five areas for preparations; Food, Shelter, Water, Mobility, and Defense. We covered food in March, so this month we will discuss Shelter. Shelter is something that covers or affords protection from weather, danger, or attack. The optimal shelter needed is dependent on the weather, dangers, and types of attacks faced in the area where you live.

For example, say you live/near a large metropolitan area in the upper Midwest. An optimal shelter would need to protect you from the elements (sun, wind, rain, snow, heat, and cold). Furthermore, depending on your location, it may need to protect you from other dangers like tornado's, fires, and large animals (think bears & wolves). Finally, while you may not need a fortress to protect against the revolting masses, you will need at least a minimum of security (locks, lighting, alarms, dogs, etc.) to help protect you from burglary or physical attack. In that case, your typical suburban home or apartment should do just fine.

However, what if your optimal shelter becomes sub-optimal, unsafe, or untenable due to natural or man-made events? What if the power goes out for an extended period? Most people understand that homes burn down every day, but few have a plan for where to go if it happens to their home. Substitute "fire" with earthquake, tornado, hurricane, civil unrest, economic collapse, etc., etc., and you can see why you should have a plan to live in your shelter should it become sub-optimal, or relocate to another shelter (optimal or sub-optimal) in the event your current shelter becomes unusable.

In planning for these contingencies, you need to understand that if you stay in your current sub-optimal shelter, conditions may deteriorate, forcing you to relocate to a new shelter. Even after relocating, conditions may change there as well. Once a shelter decision has been made, options for the future should be planned. If possible, your plans should ensure you don't relocate into a problem area. For example, if your alternate location is also in the path of a hurricane, you will not want to head there. Of course, hurricane paths change, and you could still have picked the wrong spot to relocate (been there, done that, and bought that t-shirt).

If your current shelter becomes less than optimal, but you do not feel the need to leave, do you have the other necessities (food, water, mobility, defense) covered? Are you able to store/prepare food, heat/cool the shelter, maintain your ability to leave, and defend yourself, your family, and your property if need be? If your current shelter becomes unusable, you will need to decide whether you need to leave or whether you can make do with a temporary shelter where you're at. Obviously, the situation will determine your actions. If the area is unsafe due to rioting and or looting, you may choose to leave. If your home is damaged, but you want to stay to protect what contents may be left, perhaps you can "camp out" there. In this case, an RV, camper, or tent might serve well enough,

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again depending on the situation. As always, make sure you have the other necessities covered.

In the event you have decided to relocate, then more decisions need to be made. Do you have an alternate residence or property? Do you plan to stay with friends or family? Do they know, and are they okay with you and your family, including any pets staying there? For how long? As my dad used to say, "After three days, fish and company stink," so be mindful of the imposition, especially if it is not a generalized SHTF situation. When you relocate, you must remember that you may need to do so again, continuing to cover the necessities.

You cannot plan for every possible scenario, but a basic plan is a good start and can be modified as needed. Anticipate the likely scenarios that could cause a disruption to your life, and use decision logic or a flow chart for each type of scenario. Ask, "What if this occurs, or what if that occurs?" To get you started, here is a sample outline.

Hurricane Plan

1. Hurricane coming
2. How strong? When will it arrive?
Answer: _____
3. Do I need/want to leave? Yes: goto 4 No: goto 9
4. Is there time to leave? Yes: goto 5 No: goto 9
5. Go where?
Answer: _____
6. Prep current location, Pack, Depart
7. Arrive destination
8. Is it safe to stay? Yes: goto 9 No: goto 4
9. Are adequate supplies on hand? Yes: goto 12 No: goto 10
10. Can you obtain adequate supplies? Yes: goto 11 No: goto 12
11. Obtain supplies.
12. Prepare to the extent needed/possible.
13. Storm over.
14. Is it safe to travel? Yes: goto 15 No: Wait until safe to travel.
15. Arrive home – is it safe to stay? Yes: goto 16 No: Implement **Alternate Site Plan**
16. Clean up the mess.

Alternate Site Plan

1. Develop your own plan.

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