

The Free State Project

“Liberty in Our Lifetime”



The Quill

Tentative dates for the state vote have been set.

See pg. 4

New Hampshire Welcomes the Free State Project!

By George Reich and Michelle Dumas

Porcupines from 22 states and Canada took the road late June to discover for themselves the many advantages that New Hampshire has to offer the Free State Project (“FSP”). Held from June 21–29, the “Escape to New Hampshire” vacation took place in Lancaster, within the heart of the White Mountains, and was hosted by the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (“LPNH”).

Based on the attendees’s comments, the event was an overwhelming success. A

fun-filled week that included an informative conference, networking events, barbecues, trips around the state, and a meeting with New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson — every day brought something new and exciting. Without fail, every evening Porcupines staying at Rogers Campground and Motel gathered under the stars around the campfire to trade notes, ask questions, discuss New Hampshire politics, outline political strategies for FSP’s success, and form the foundation for future coalitions and political campaigns. Laughing and enjoying each other’s company, it was the exception rather than the rule that at least several Porcupines did not see the sky begin to brighten with the morning light before returning to their tents, cabins and motel rooms for a few hours’ sleep.

Starting the week off was a bonfire on Saturday evening and the crowd got larger in front of the FSP Welcome Cabin as more Porcupines joined us. From the laughter late into the evening, it was clear even from that first night that the week was going to be successful.

On Sunday morning the “New Hampshire Advantage Conference” began with LPNH Chairman John

Babiarz as the first speaker, telling the assembled Porcupines about the unique advantages New Hampshire offers to the FSP. He spoke of the small, informal elections for the New Hampshire House (one NH House member won election in 2002 with only 720 votes), the low cost of elections (around \$500 for most House races), and how Democratic and Republican incumbents in New Hampshire government respect the LPNH. One New Hampshire representative is a Porcupine and a number of others have stated that they hope the FSP will choose New Hampshire as its destination.

Next, FSP Vice President Elizabeth McKinstry gave a thought-provoking speech on “Liberty and the Human Potential.” The third speech of the day, titled “Self Government vs. The Headless Fourth Branch of Government,” was delivered by Diane Gilbert of the New Hampshire Center for Constitutional Studies. She was confident of FSP’s success if the Granite State is chosen as the Free State.

After lunch, FSP Director of Member Services Tim Condon gave a speech titled “New Hampshire for Porcupines.” In economic and liberty-related data, he pointed out, New Hampshire is in the top three states 10 out of 12 times, a feat that no other state can equal. He closed his talk by appealing for unity in the FSP, stating that “from sea to shining sea, [liberty] can be ours if we just hang together.”

The speaking portion of the day ended with short speeches from two of the Libertarian Party’s 2004 presidential candidates, Mike Badnarik and Gary Nolan. Mike joined the FSP about six weeks ago and has not opted out of any states. His prepared speech, “Lighting the Fires of Liberty One Heart at a Time” was quickly put aside as he praised New Hampshire and spoke of what a good choice the Granite State would be for the FSP. He talked of how New Hampshire scores very highly on gun freedom and has the lowest crime rate in the nation. He asked the assembled crowd and media “Does anyone not see the connection here?”

Continued on page 3

Welcome to the July edition of “The Quill,” the Free State Project’s monthly newsletter! “The Quill” will be published on the Web every month in PDF format, and you are encouraged to print out copies and distribute them in your local community! We welcome suggestions, articles and questions from readers; send these to us at: newsletter@freestateproject.org.

Mary Lou Seymour
The Quill Project Manager

Signed-Up Members
as of
June 27, 2003:
4,353



Classifieds:

Freelance Executive Assistant
Correspondence/Editing/
Travel Kristine Brooks
619-280-3410
kbrooks@boncer.com

Gold & Silver

The financial state of the FSP

By Debra Ricketts

We've got about \$8,000 in the Free State Project's ("FSP") coffers right now. In addition to a major print advertising push with recurring advertisements in *Reason*, *LP News*, *Forbes*

From The President

By Jason Sorens

How time flies! It seems as if only a few weeks ago we sent out a press release announcing that we'd reached 2,500 members, halfway to our intermediate goal. As of this writing, we are 4,353 strong, and it looks like we will reach 5,000 members within 45 days, if not sooner.

The main reason for our steadily increasing growth is significant, ongoing media attention. The Grand Western Conference generated substantial television and print coverage, followed by quite a few radio interviews. Subsequently there were pieces in *Playboy* and *Mother Jones*. We've also put out a new wave of advertising in *Liberty*, *Reason* and *LP News*.

Because of this wonderful and fantastic growth, the Board decided on a time line for the upcoming state vote. Tentatively, we plan to send out the vote packets, which will include state reports and the Condorcet ballot, on July 15 to those members who are already signed up. Everyone who signs up by August 15 will be eligible to vote, even if we pass 5,000 before then. The deadline for returning the ballots will be September 8, and voters will be

able to verify on the Web site that their ballots were counted correctly. The result should be officially announced on September 15. We're working on getting an independent firm to count the votes for this all important election. A sample ballot will be available soon on the Web site for your viewing.

We have a lot of work to do over the next three weeks. We will be going through the member rolls and making sure everyone has a valid mailing address on record, as well as eliminating the duplicate sign-ups that we haven't caught yet. Groups are starting up right now to develop state reports. Each state will have its own sheet in the mailing making the strongest case for its being chosen. If you want to help develop the report for your favorite state, please join one of the state e-mail lists. You can find them by clicking on the "Dis-

Porcupine Profile — Amanda Phillips

By Tim Condon

This issue's Porcupine of the Month is the Free State Project ("FSP") activist Amanda Phillips. A virtual one woman outreach program for the FSP, she recently came up with a creative guerrilla marketing program where activists will insert surreptitiously FSP "business cards" into books with freedom oriented themes or libertarian authors. She's already designed the "Porcupine cards" that have the words "Got Freedom?", the FSP's name and the Web site's URL. She's already made at least one trip to the Boston Public Library to insert the cards in selected books.

A single mother with a 7-year-old daughter named Elaine Michelle, Phillips spent five years in the U.S. Air Force where she was an electronics technician and then later a special agent involved in criminal investigations, contractor fraud and counterintelligence. She now makes her living as an accounting manager handling multimillion dollar bank accounts and records for her employer. She's also a dedicated online blogger whose blogs in "Amanda's Journal" can be read at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/amanda42/>, and she's responsible for the Porcupine Haikus at <http://www.freestateproject.org/haiku.html/>.

Being one of only two members who attended the Grand Western Conference and the New Hampshire Getaway, Phillips has a busy schedule speaking on FSP's behalf. On July 3, 2003, she'll be speaking at the Objectivist Center's 2003 Summer Seminar in Waltham, Mass. where she'll talk about "Liberty in our Lifetime: Creating Galt's Gulch." She's also scheduled to speak on July 12, 2003 at the Connecticut Libertarian Party state convention, where the title of her speech is "Creating a Libertarian State." Then there's her scheduled appearance at Brown University in October, where she'll be speaking to a campus group, Students for Liberty.

How did Amanda come to the FSP? A boyfriend originally had told her about it but she didn't sign up at first. She read the entire Web site, thought about it for months, and finally, after about a year, decided to take the plunge. "I always saw myself as a person of action and a person of ideals, and this was an opportunity to put my ideals into action," she says. "I would be a lesser person if I didn't join up." Now she's so dedicated to the FSP that she recently removed all her opt-out states. "I just couldn't stand by and let it happen without me," she said.

In her spare time, when she's not being a mother, working at her job, helping the FSP grow, or training on a Massachusetts archery team — her daughter trains on the junior team — Amanda is a licensed private pilot working on her instrument rating.

Amanda is a wonderful example of what being a Porcupine is all about, and whose hard work and dedication will see the FSP through to liberty and freedom in our lifetimes. *Thanks for being a Porcupine, Amanda!*

and *Liberty*, we attended the Grand Western Conference and the Escape to New Hampshire events, and we also made appearances at the Libertarian parties of California, Ohio and Wyoming. These activities have put a considerable strain on our financial resources. In fact, 43.45% of our expenses went toward marketing — primarily the print ads — and another 29.60% toward travel and entertainment.

An unexpectedly large hit occurred when we got our taxes done for 2002. Since we were a brand-new company, getting our accounts set up properly took a lot of very *costly* CPA time — \$2,348.50 worth, to be exact. *Ouch!* Fortunately, we now have our accounts in the correct format and, better yet, a CPA has volunteered to help us in the future. Thank you, Malcolm!

Female Porcupine Seeks Male Porcupine.
Me: 25, HWP, cute, fun, passionate, in Seattle, student, likes books, movies, science fiction, travel, seafood and healthy living.
You: 25-50, kind, intelligent, funny, generous, assertive. No smoke, children or religion. E-mail
mail@jacquelinepassey.com.

NH Welcomes

Continued from page 1

Gary Nolan, who signed on as a Porcupine during the Escape, spoke next. He talked of helping local candidates by using his extensive media contacts to drive people to candidates' Web sites, "and from there, it is up to you." He stated that if New Hampshire were chosen as the Free State, Maine and Vermont would quickly become Libertarian, and even Massachusetts would "have to follow, or be left behind, as its industries, manufacturing and businesses cross the border into New Hampshire." He told the New Hampshire supporters that he would move to any state for liberty, but if New Hampshire were chosen he would be in the state within a month.


The convention ended with a panel discussion featuring John Babiarz, Rich Tomasso, Don Gorman and James Maynard talking and answering questions about winning elections in New Hampshire. As the conference ended, the crowd participated in an example of instant run-off voting. The Porcupines voted for their state of choice by standing in certain sections of the room. To make the vote more interesting, New Hampshire was not included in the practice vote. Instead, just Alaska, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming were considered. The vote totals were close, but Montana was eliminated in the first round of voting. Next, Wyoming lost by a few votes, as the Alaska and Idaho supporters, with only one vote difference between them, started shouting out the benefits of their respective states as the Wyoming supporters walked to a corner of the room to state their preference; "We have jobs!" "We have coastline!" and so forth. In the end, Idaho pulled out a narrow win. The next day, all 10 states were compared using the Condorcet method. These ended up being ranked as follows: New Hampshire, Idaho, Alaska, Vermont, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Maine, Delaware and North Dakota. Sunday's last official event was a complimentary barbecue served by the LPNH's "Welcome to the Granite State Committee."

All kinds of recreational activities happened throughout the week, including swimming, hiking, card and board games, target practice, sight-seeing, and just relaxing at the campground. A few "lucky" Porcupines caught glimpses of a bear that made a habit of eating supper out of the campground's dumpsters every evening. Others photographed several moose in the Great North Woods Region of the state.

Large and small groups explored the Granite State every day. Private pilot Amanda Phillips rented a small airplane one afternoon and took several Porcupines on a sight-seeing tour of New Hampshire and part of Maine.

On Friday afternoon, LPNH Chairman John Babiarz took a group of Porcupines on a guided tour of the New Hampshire statehouse. At the end of the tour, the Porcupines met with New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson for about 30 minutes. When asked how he "would feel about 20,000 small-government activists moving to New Hampshire to work for smaller government," he answered "Come on up! We'd love to have you!" Those who were not able to meet the governor will have a second chance; he has agreed to speak at the LPNH's annual convention this fall.

Saturday was "New Hampshire Freedom Networking Day." A number of New Hampshire's freedom-oriented groups and vendors set up tables and informally interacted with the Porcupines who came and went throughout the day. LPNH Vice Chairman John Barnes hosted a barbecue that evening and treated the Porcupines to an extensive closing fireworks display afterward.

The event received extensive local and national press coverage and almost all of it was positive. Pictures of the event can be found at the "Escape" Web page at <http://www.lpnh.org/escape.htm/>. 

Gold & Silver


Continued from page 2



Tim Condon interviews Porcupine Amanda Phillips during "Escape to New Hampshire."

Donations have trickled down considerably; I know that a lot of us don't have bottomless pockets, so it's to be expected. We're now looking at purchasing donor lists from other freedom organizations as a source for direct mail fund-raising.


Finally, we're in the process of trademarking our logo and we need input from someone who's been through the process. Please send me an e-mail if you can assist in this matter.

As always, I'm open to ideas, suggestions, comments and criticisms. Feel free to e-mail me at dricketts@freestateproject.org with any of the above! 

From the President

Continued from page 2

cussions" link on our Web site.

If you'd like to help out in another way, please consider contributing toward the cost of the mailing by clicking on the "Donate" link on the Web site. It's going to be quite costly, because of its size, and hiring an independent election firm will be also a significant expense. However, I want to ensure that everything goes smoothly with the vote, so we're not going to cut corners, yet we also won't undertake any unnecessary expenditures. A total estimated cost for the whole vote will be available soon. 

FSP Board of Directors

Jason Sorens,
President

Elizabeth McKinstry,
Vice President

Debra Ricketts,
Treasurer

Tim Condon,
Member Services

Matt Cheselka,
Technology

Organizers

Stephen Cobb,
Secretary

Amanda Maxwell,
Organization/Publicity

Mary Lou Seymour,
Publicity/Analysis

Contact Us:

On the Web-
freestateproject.org

E-mail-
info@freestateproject.org

Phone (toll free)-
888-532-4604

Snail mail-
565 College Drive
Suite #C-160
Henderson, NV 89015

The Quill

Volume I
Issue 4
July 2003

Our Staff:

Mary Lou Seymour,
Project Manager

Devera Morgan,
Design & Layout

Ivan Santana,
Copyeditor

Amanda Maxwell,
Events Calendar

Voting Information

If membership growth continues as expected, the Free State Project will reach 5000 in early August. Thus, state ballots will be sent out to existing members on July 15, and **August 15** is the tentative deadline to sign up in order to participate in the vote.

For more information see the Web site:
freestateproject.org



FREE STATE PROJECT EVENTS

July 3, 2003 — At 3:45 p.m., Amanda Phillips will be giving a participant sponsored session titled, "Liberty in Our Lifetime: Creating Galt's Gulch," at the Objectivist Center's 2003 Summer Seminar in Waltham, Mass. See details at <http://www.objectivistcenter.org/events/sem2003/seminars/sem03.asp/>.

July 9, 2003 — Phil Boncer will be speaking about the Free State Project ("FSP") at the monthly meeting of the Libertarian Party of Pasadena, Calif.

July 12, 2003 — At 4:30 p.m., Amanda Phillips will be addressing the Libertarian Party of Connecticut's 2003 convention in New Haven at The Colony, 1157 Chapel Street, New Haven, Conn. Her talk is titled, "Creating a Libertarian State." Details are available at <http://www.lpct.org/2003Convention/Convention.html/>.

August 29–31, 2003 — A conference in Pierre, South Dakota is in the works for these days. For more information see <http://www.freestatesd.org/>.

LOCAL PORCUPINE GROUPS

Kansas City Metropolitan Area Porcupines.

When/Where: To be announced

Topic: Planning meeting to promote the FSP in our area?

Contact at Richard Johnson at (816) 741-8089 or e-mail him at richj@northcs.com/.

July 16, 2003 — New York City and the Tri-State area
Please check Meetup.com at <http://fsp.meetup.com/members/321/> or send an e-mail to TriState_FSP_subscribe@yahoo.com or to Thomas Ruks at TRuksLP@yahoo.com/.

July 18, 2003 — Houston, Texas
7:30 p.m. at David Wood's house. Directions posted closer to this date. Contact Eddie Bradford at eddie_g_bradford@hotmail.com/.

July 19, 2003 — Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
DFW local meeting, third Saturday of the month.
For time and place information please contact Aaron Holding at kesthesculptor@bbnow.net/.

July 19, 2003 — Central California
I am pleased to announce the start of the new Central California Porcupines Local Group! My name is Adam J. Bernay and I want to invite all Porcupines from Stockton to Bakersfield, from the Nevada border to the Pacific Ocean, and anyone else who wishes to come, to our FIRST gathering to be held at the HomeTown Buffet, 458 W. Shaw Ave. (near Peach Ave.), Clovis, CA 93612, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. This will be an informal session — meet and greet, talk about ideas, and so forth — which will last a very short period of time, and then for the rest of the time, socializing will be the order of the day. In fact, the 1 p.m. finish is just a suggestion; when you leave is up to you. Thanks for your time, and I'll see you on the 19th!

For more information, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at adamjbernay@attbi.com, by telephone at (559) 906-6297, or by snail mail at 525 E. Clinton Ave., Fresno, CA 93704.

August 15–17, 2003

Libertarian Party of Louisiana, Sheraton Baton Rouge Hotel, 102 France St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

A presentation on the FSP will be given on Sunday, 3–3:30 p.m. by Monica Granger, a Porcupine from Houston, Tex.

August 16, 2003 — Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
DFW local meeting, third Saturday of the month.
For time and place information contact Aaron Holding at kesthesculptor@bbnow.net/.

The Free State Project

"Liberty in Our Lifetime"

**565 College Drive, Suite #C-160
Henderson, NV 89015**