

# The Free State Project

*“Liberty in Our Lifetime”*



*The Quill*

## THE GRAND WESTERN CONFERENCE

*By Ben F. Troin*

The most significant libertarian event of the year has just concluded in Missoula, Mont., and almost two hundred freedom seekers from around the nation and from Alberta, Canada, attended.

During Saturday and Sunday, the 24 and 25 of May,

J.J. Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Senator Jerry O’Neil, Jason Sorens, Vin Suprynowicz and Claire Wolfe gave fantastic presentations. All the presenters save Jason (he just had to be neutral . . .) agreed that liberty has the best chance surviving and expanding in the West.

A couple of the speakers indicated

that freedom as sought by the Free State Project (“FSP”) can only be procured in the West. A consistent point emphasized by the speakers was that liberty needs elbow room to expand, and that the tiny Seaboarnder states lack both the space and motiva-

tion for freedom to flourish. Jason seemed impressed by the freedom seekers’ attendance and enthusiasm.

*The Missoulian* and the *Missoula Independent* covered the event. The Montana Television Network and the television station KPVI from Pocatello, Idaho videotaped parts of the event and of the Montana Libertarian Party’s (“MTLP”) activities in their entirety.

State panel discussions were given by the representatives from Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming. In the final session on Sunday, the four Western state panels answered participants’ questions. To demonstrate and compare Instant Runoff Voting with the “Condorset’s Method” that will be used to select the Free State, all Porcupines were asked to gather

around the state’s table they desired to be the Free State. In the first round, South Dakota was eliminated, and its supporters were asked to select their second choice. In the second round, Wyoming ended up with the short stick. A third round was not done for had all of Wyoming’s supporters moved to the Idaho table, the Montana table would still have had the majority. Indeed, Montana almost had the majority in the first round. It was observed that all but

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*Indeed, Montana almost had the majority in the first round. It was observed that all but one of the presenters voted for Montana.*

Welcome to the June 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](mailto:newsletter@freestateproject.org).

*Mary Lou Seymour*  
The Quill Project Manager

Signed-Up Members  
as of  
May 31, 2003:  
**3,834**



## Escape to New Hampshire!

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (“LPNH”) Welcome to the Granite State Committee is pleased to announce a summer “Escape to New Hampshire” getaway vacation to promote the Free State Project (“FSP”) in New Hampshire.

The event will be open to everyone with a common interest in the FSP and an interest in learning more about the benefits and advantages of choosing New Hampshire as the Free State.

To be held June 21–29, 2003 at Roger’s Camping Resort and Motel in Lancaster, the getaway has been designed to be a week of fun, relaxation, information sharing and new friendships. Join us Saturday evening, June 21, for the Granite State Welcome and Porcupine

Kickoff Campfire. On Sunday, June 22, FSP board members Elizabeth McKinstry and Tim Condon, as well as LPNH chairman and gubernatorial candidate John Babiarz, will be speaking. There will also be a panel discussion on how to win elections in New Hampshire. Later that evening, a barbecue supper will be served by the Welcome to the Granite State Committee.

On Monday, June 23, through Thursday, June 26, several group activities have been planned. Information will also be available for those who wish to ex-

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*Volume I, Issue 3, June 2003*

## Gold & Silver

### The financial state of the FSP

By Debra Ricketts

Happy June, fellow Porcupines! As most of you have probably already heard through the announcement list, we haven't received a section 501(c)(3) status from the IRS, and we have decided that we will no longer attempt to pursue such status.

## From The President

By Jason Sorens

(The following is an excerpt from Jason Sorens' speech at the Great Western Conference that was held in Missoula, Mont., from 24-25 May 2003.)

Free State Project and the West

...

The premise behind the Free State Project ("FSP") is sound - concentrating our resources is necessary if we're going to have any chance at seeing true liberty in our lifetime - but the execution will be difficult. The majority of Americans now reject our moral geography: they no longer see freedom at the center. Instead, they see government as a tool they can use to control their neighbors, to punish those they don't like, to impose their ideal world with all their special preferences by force. They lack the courage to live and let live.

But let's not blame them too much. After all, this is a system in which we've all grown up. The government is there to get things done that you couldn't otherwise do, through legitimate methods. So if you like traditional values, you vote Republican and want the government to subsidize farms, businesses and promote Christianity. If you hate rich people, you vote Democrat and want the government to subsidize

poverty. If you don't like drugs you want the government to fight a war on nonviolent drug users. If you don't like guns you want the government to fight a war on nonviolent gun owners. Most people don't see anything wrong with that because they separate government from the rest of society. They assume government operates by its own rules. They think, "Of course it would be wrong for me to break into a person's home and kidnap that person at gunpoint because I thought that person was smoking a joint. But if an individual with a badge does it, that's 'The Law.'" I thought this way once, and I'm sure most of us did too at one time or another.

So we've got a long road ahead of us. What we

### Volunteer of the Month — Kevin Kalen

One of the most important features of any movement is its ability to get members "out and around, on the ground." As every political activist will confirm, the most committed activists are those who will turn out to meet people in public and pass out literature. Florida Porcupine Kevin Kalen is one such activist for the Free State Project ("FSP").

FSP member services director Tim Condon was arrested on the last day of the National Rifle Association's annual convention in late April, after passing out FSP literature for the previous two days. On those two previous days he hadn't been alone; Kevin Kalen was there on both days, Friday and Saturday, helping pass out thousands of FSP brochures and fliers to NRA conventioners.

Had Kalen been present the next day, Sunday, he probably would have been arrested too. However, as luck would have it, he had already left that morning with his wife and children, to return to their Ft. Lauderdale home in south Florida.

"Handing out fliers at the NRA convention was a great way to gain experience in talking to people about the FSP," says Kevin, who is 31 years old and has two children with Sarah, Korynne, 3 years old, and Kyler, almost 2 years old.

"My first instructor for libertarian ideas was Neal Boortz," Kevin relates. "I lived in Atlanta for two years, and I learned quite a bit from his radio show and his daily show notes on the Internet. I also read Walter Williams's column in September 2000 titled 'It's Time to Part Company,' which was similar to the column he wrote almost a year later in which he endorsed the FSP. That first column got me thinking about the ever-increasing lack of liberty we have in this nation."

Kevin later discovered the FSP "some time last year in *The Federalist*, an e-journal I receive through e-mail. To me, the FSP seemed like the solution to counteract the attacks on liberty that Dr. Williams wrote about in his column."

His newfound insights into the decreasing liberties in America led Kevin Kalen to get active in the FSP. He has attended both of the statewide FSP meetings in Florida, driving several hours each way to attend, not to mention working with Condon for two days passing out literature at the NRA convention.

Says Kalen, "My hope for the Free State is for it to be a place where the government is pared down to the functions set forth in the Constitution of the United States, and be an example for the other states."

That sounds like a sentiment that every Porcupine could echo! Thanks for all the activism and help, Kevin! See you next year in the Free State!

The straw that broke the camel's back was the IRS's latest missive to us, after months of deafening silence, indicating that we would need to alter our Articles of Incorporation in order to meet their standards. While it can be done, the deadline was less than two weeks from the time we received their letter. Since altering the Articles of Incorporation involves the Nevada Secretary of State's office with all its attendant bureaucracy, it simply wasn't feasible for us to do so in the time allotted.

There's been mixed reaction to our decision not to pursue tax-exempt status. For every person who feels

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# From The President

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are proposing may seem radical and untested to ordinary people. The status quo, despite all its imperfections, is comfortable for most people. The tiny minority of Americans who suffer from the random outbreaks of government brutality or incompetence, those who get flung aside and stomped by the system, are still a tiny, disorganized, powerless minority.

Of course, elections are just one small piece of the puzzle. We can't expect to win elections unless we win the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens. We'll need think tanks, we'll need media, and most of all, we will need to create voluntary associations and programs that will take care of social problems better than the government does, thereby helping make our communities stronger and demonstrating that our ideas really do work. After all, freedom is not an excuse for laziness or indifference; quite the opposite, state co-option of voluntary, ground-up solutions is what's responsible for community deterioration and rising indifference.

Where should we go? What should we do once we get there? People will have different opinions, but when an historic opportunity is this close at hand, I think we'll all focus, and the best solutions will rise to the top. In the FSP's history, that's the way things have always worked, and that's the reason I'm so proud of how far all of you have taken this little idea already.



## The GWC

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one of the presenters voted for Montana.

It was difficult to get many conferees motel/hotel rooms; however, most finally got accommodations. Nearly a dozen Porcupines camped out, and most of them camped out on Gary Marbut's ranch just a few miles north of Missoula. Gary was nice enough to provide free lodging for Jason. Both Gary and I supplied transportation for Jason, and during a brief lull in the conference's proceedings my younger son and I took the advantage and dragged Jason away from Missoula to see the National Bison Range and a panoramic view of the Mission Mountains and Flathead Valley.

A surprise at the Great Western Conference ("GWC") was the six or seven Canadians from Alberta who drove down to attend the GWC. Jim Turnbull explained in informal gatherings of Alberta's plan for

## Classifieds

Free! Strategy Sheet to build coalitions for political change in your current or future state. Barry Klein: bjklein@swbell.net

Software for Palm and Pocket PC Catamount Software catamount.com

Awesome MASSAGE THERAPY Porcupines print this ad for Half Off: Reflections Studio Rochester, MI 248 652-9008

independence and liberty. It seemed most that the Albertans' political philosophy was compatible with most Porcupines. Toward the end of the GWC three young Albertans told the Montana table that they intended to move to Montana regardless of what state becomes the Free State and whether or not Alberta gains independence.

It took the work and effort of many people to make the GWC the libertarian event of the year. Special appreciation should be given to MTLT Chairman Mike Fellows, Gary Marbut, Andy Lochridge and Mykl Meagher. Numerous others, too many to list, contributed heavily to the success of the GWC.

See you at the next GWC, and to liberty in our lifetimes! 

## Escape to NH!


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*...freedom is not an excuse for laziness or indifference;*

plore the Granite State on their own.

A tour of the historic New Hampshire Statehouse and a visit with New Hampshire Governor Craig Benson have been scheduled for Friday, June 27.


Saturday, June 28, will be "New Hampshire Freedom Networking Day" where our guests can meet with representatives from freedom-oriented groups from around the state. That evening, Welcome to the Granite State Committee Chairman John Barnes will host a barbecue, a closing party, and a fireworks display at the special "Hospitality House" in Jefferson.

Don't miss out on this fun-filled event! For more information, visit <http://www.lpnh.org/escape.htm/>. Then visit [www.RogersCampground.com](http://www.RogersCampground.com) or call (603) 788-4885 for reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the FSP group. We will be there to host the entire nine days, but come for as many days as you'd like. If you have any questions, please e-mail the Welcome to the Granite State Committee at [fsp-nh@lpnh.org/](mailto:fsp-nh@lpnh.org/). 

## Gold & Silver

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that we will lose donors because their donations will not be tax deductible, there is another person who feels that the section 501(c)(3) would have burdened us with too much federal involvement in our affairs. There is also the hot debate over whether section 501(c)(3) constitutes "keeping your own money" or "receiving federal subsidies," which is now a moot point.

On another subject, last month I asked for ideas regarding premiums and whether a wider variety was a good idea. One of the better suggestions I got indicated that we should consider visibility as a factor in choosing premiums. While plush porcupines or mouse pads are cute, a baseball cap, a jacket or a T-shirt can be seen by others and can be used as an outreach tool. To me, this is a fairly good justification for these products, and helps assuage my concerns about tying up funds in inventory. Anybody want a baseball cap? 

## 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

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# The Quill

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June 2003

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Events Calendar

## FREE STATE PROJECT EVENTS

June 7–15, 2003  
New Hampshire

Motorcycle Week in Laconia.

Volunteers needed for FSP outreach at the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire ("LPNH") booth.

June 21–29, 2003

The LPNH's "Welcome to the Granite State Committee" and Northern New England Porcupines are sponsoring an "Escape to New Hampshire" getaway vacation in Lancaster. Elizabeth McKinstry and John Babiarz will be speaking on the 22 of June. For detailed information see below.

Hosted by the "Welcome to the Granite State Committee," which was formed to promote New Hampshire as the best choice for the FSP, "Escape to New Hampshire" will be a getaway week of fun, relaxation, information sharing and new friendships. All are welcome whether you plan to join us for a single day, a weekend or the entire week.

The event will be held at Roger's Resort and Campground in Lancaster from June 21–29. Motel rooms, cabins and camping sites are filling fast, so we encourage you to make your reservations *today*. To do so, call 1-603-788-4885 or e-mail rogers@ncia.net. Make certain to tell them you are with the FSP group.

For frequent updates on the event, visit <http://www.lpnh.org/escape.htm> or [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Escape\\_Announce/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Escape_Announce/). We look forward to meeting everyone!

## LOCAL PORCUPINE GROUPS

Saturday, June 21 and July 19

Dallas/Fort Worth monthly meetings

Meetings are at Bailamos Mexican Restaurant and Bar, 1922 W. Irving Boulevard, Irving, telephone: 1-972-254-2577; from 3 p.m. til we break it up.

A casual social event, where you can come and have a few drinks with fellow FSP members. No agenda as of yet, but the floor is always open to bring up new discussions.

June 21, 2003 (Saturday)

The Southern Nevada Porcupines will be meeting at 2 p.m. at the P.T.'s Pub, 2280 S. Nellis Las Vegas, telephone: 1-702-434-3348 (near the corner of East Sahara Ave. and South Nellis Blvd.).

We also have a Web site: <http://www.snporcupines.org/>

There's a video of excerpts from Debra Ricketts' speech to the Libertarian Party of Clark County on the Web site. It's a large download but well worth it.

If anyone would like an unedited CD of her entire speech, I can be contacted by e-mail at [johnstargel@earthlink.net](mailto:johnstargel@earthlink.net), by phone at 1-702-207-0174 or 1-702-218-1180, or by snail mail at John Stargel, P.O. Box 621938, Las Vegas, NV 89162 1938.

June 28, 2003 (Saturday)

FSP President Jason Sorens will be addressing the Libertarian Party of Texas Convention in San Antonio. The convention takes place at the Menger Hotel, 204 Alamo Plaza, telephone: 1-210-223-4361, fax: 1-210-228-0022. For reservations call the 24-hour desk at 1-800-345-9285.

July 12, 2003 (Saturday)

The Wyoming Libertarian Party invites Porcupines to its annual "Enjoy Your Second Amendment Rights While You Got 'Em" Shooting Party.

Lunch, from 12 noon to 1 p.m., will be at Jackalope Square (3rd & Center Streets), in Douglas. There will be a barbecue, where meat will be provided; everything else will be potluck. The organizers have invited the Douglas Chamber of Commerce to be there for the FSP members' benefit.

After lunch, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we will adjourn to a rifle or paintball range, or both, as folks desire.

Please bring one or more firearms or paintball guns you would like to share with other folks, eye and ear protection, and other safety gear. Bring some liquid refreshment with you. Should you bring a culturally deprived guest, a certified firearms' instructor will be on hand.

These have always been lots of fun!

For last-minute information, please consult the Wyoming Libertarian Party's Web page, at <http://www.wyolp.org/>.

Kansas City Metropolitan Area Porcupines.

When/Where: To be announced

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

Contact Richard Johnson at 1-816-741-8089 or e-mail him at [richj@northcs.com/](mailto:richj@northcs.com/).

## The Free State Project

*"Liberty in Our Lifetime"*

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