

## Report on Spring 2009 Appleseed at Reade Range By Ami Virden

It was an awesome and I even dare to say "life changing" weekend!

A lot of shooters camped at the range and even more went to Altoona for rooms. I would stay at Sleepy Valley again when we attend the next Appleseed. Its like camping but with a roof and fridge and toilet. It was clean. However I would not recommend it to someone with a mold/mildew allergy. It is basically a place to lay your head before going to the range. I will say the owner of the hotel was very nice and quick to correct the absence of hot water.

We did get lost on our way to the range on day one. We missed the sign by Phil's General Store. Once we got that cleared up it was no problem.

Anyone you know who has an interest in shooting should attend the next Appleseed in September. The personal hands on instruction is priceless. My son who is 7 was hesitant and nervous about laying on the line with a .22. He is more of a BB gun kinda kid. However he did awesome and is very comfortable now. He even pushed through the first day which was 12 hours of shooting his single shot bolt action. We were all sore Saturday night and sunburned.

On day #2 the group was a little smaller. Some people couldn't take it I guess. I thought I knew how to hold a rifle but I was doing it all wrong. I didn't make Marksman by Sunday but my shot improved greatly and I have the knowledge to improve it even more. 9 people did make it to Marksman including one woman. There were many women and a about 10 kids under 18.

The Appleseed Project also taught us some great lessons about history. If the "ca-ca" hits the fan how many people can you call on? Those first Americans gathered 14,000 without the use of phones, computers, or blackberries to defend our nation.

The next Appleseed is in September. Be sure you register early.