

PrepperCon 2016: Why To Attend?

PrepperCon 2016 promises the celebrity speakers, classes, vendors and attractions that one might expect from one of the nation's (which means the world's) largest survival expo's, but with creative and competitive twists.

This year's PrepperCon features a number of competitions to hone survival skills and keep emergency preparedness fun. Events such as a Fear Factor-style competitive eating of taboo survival food sources, a knife fighting tournament, a prepper chef cook-off and archery tag.

I attended PrepperCon 2015, which [I reviewed for Survivopedia readers](#). I learned (while being interviewed on a live and archived PrepperCon Radio show) that PrepperCon's CEO read my review of the 2015 Expo and took some feedback into consideration for this show.

When I review something, I have to do so critically and honestly. Even if that something is great, like the 2015 show was, know that I will still let you know what could have been better. I will keep that in mind as I critique the 2016 show.

Celebrities

This year's celebs are:

- **Kyle Bell** and his son **Ben** from the survival TV Show "Mountain Men"
- **David Holladay** has trained many of the primitive survival reality TV stars you likely watch now has his own show, "No Man's Land" on the History Channel. I never thought I'd see him on a show because he has never been one to seek fame, is wise and has no doubt heard his students' war stories of producers pressuring them

to do things no one in their right mind would do, but the History Channel seems to be a very different channel from NatGeo and I can't imagine R. Lee Ermey taking any crap from them, so I guess I can see that. David is one of the granddaddies of the primitive survival movement and one of the "Three Musketeers" who founded the Boulder Outdoor Survival School. The man is a world class primitive skills instructor who really lives the life.

- **Doomsday Preppers: Tim Ralston, Braxton Southwick and Becky Brown** – Last year, Becky commented on how NatGeo tried to cast her as a "crazy prepper." Tim has come up with some notable inventions and innovations including the Crovel tool and the very cool survival model Motoped. Braxton has authored two books on survival and has been working the morning radio show circuit.
- **America 2016 Julie Elizabeth Harman**, the official PrepperCon spokesmodel

Attractions

Last year's event was creative with a survival fashion show, and costume events that you would expect to see at ComicCon, the comic industry event that helped inspire PrepperCon.

PrepperCon 2016 promises to be no less creative, with attractions I have not yet seen at other survival shows so I'll give them high marks for originality. Now we will have to see how well they are able to execute these ideas and how they are accepted by the preppers who attend.

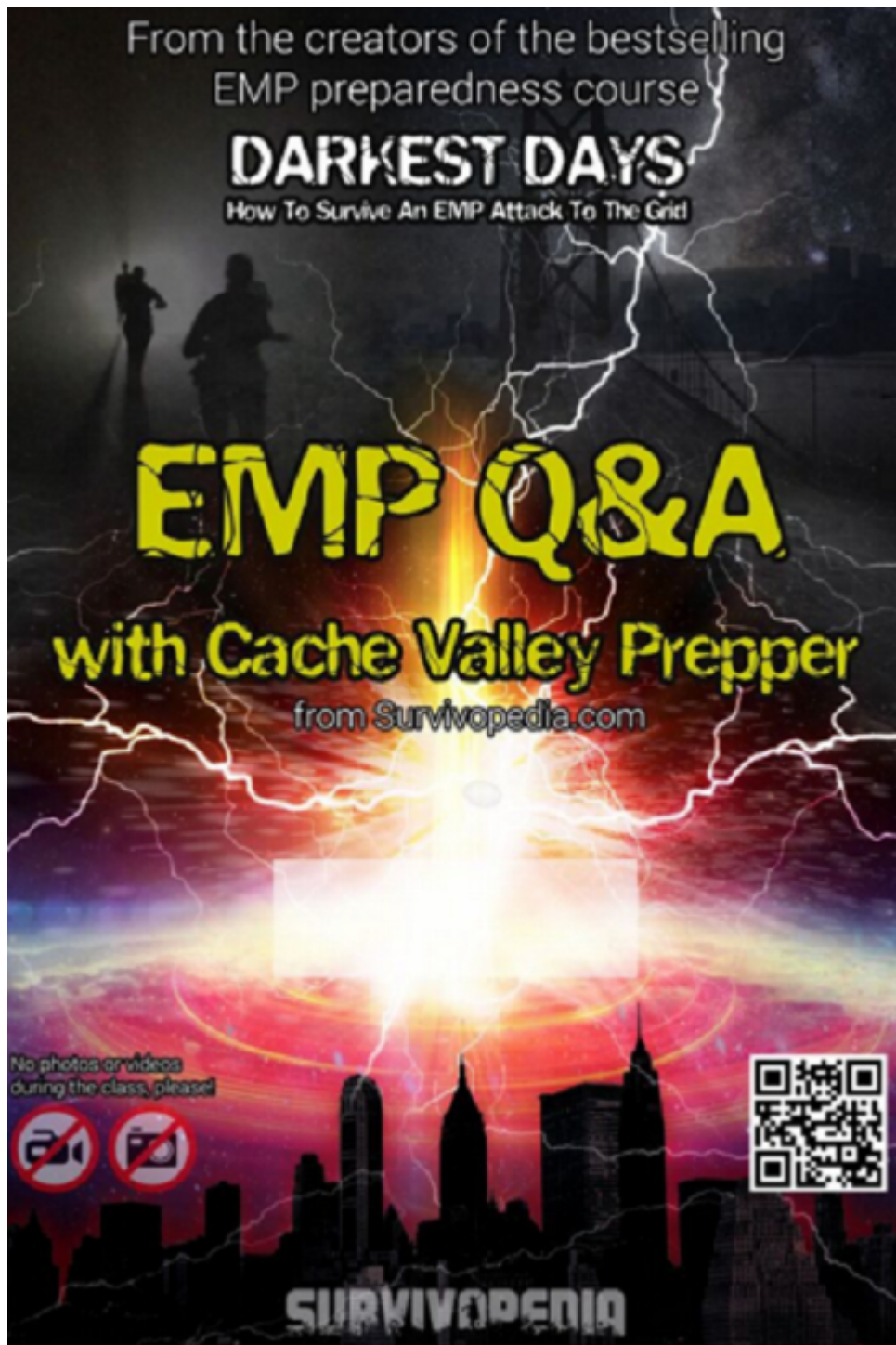
Attractions are slated to include:

- Home Invasion Training House
- Prepper's Choice Survival Food Tasting Table
- National Guard Rock Wall
- Children's Tsunami tank where kids can see how earthquakes generate waves

- Hurricane simulator where you can experience category 3 winds

Education

Classes will cover some 35 survival and emergency preparedness subjects, covering a surprising spectrum topics. I will be among them, in an EMP Survival Q&A where a crowd will batter me questions about EMP survival for an hour beginning at 2:00pm on Friday. If you can't come or miss my class, email at editor@survivopedia.com and I would be happy to answer your EMP survival questions too.



Attendees have to buy a ticket to get in, but once they do, most of the classes are free ... mine included. Check the website for other classes though because some classes, such as concealed firearm permit courses, have to charge fees and limit the number of students.

Competitions

The spirit of competition is apparently alive and well in

Utah, because several of the events are competitive in nature. There is nothing wrong with getting the blood pumping at an expo. I am curious to see how these work out and what the participation level is.

- Taboo survival food eating competition with David Holladay
- Knife Fighting Tournament
- Archery Tag Shooting Range
- Prepper Chef Cook-off

Vendors

Vendors fill the balance of any exposition and far more registered this year than last year.

I am glad to hear that because the vendors provide a lot of value for attendees and it is a sign that both the survival/self-reliance movement and the market that it drives are health and growing. Many businesses provide deep discounts and giveaways at survival expos so they are an important draw.

As the survival industry grows, who knows ... maybe YOU too can “fire your boss and give yourself a raise” and work at something you are passionate about. It is a risk to turn your hobby into a business, but it is enabling many preppers to realize dreams of relocation into a simpler and better life.

**An easy, dirt-cheap way to withstand not just an EMP,
but any type of disaster**

WATCH VIDEO



*This article has been written by **Cache Valley Prepper** for [Survivopedia](#).*