



Mike Parag, of Delaware, displays his tattoos that express his personal philosophy, at the Porcupine Freedom Festival 2009 on June 26 in Lancaster, N.H. (Cheryl Senter/AP)

'Free Staters' seek spot in the New Hampshire sun

Libertarian movement shuns big government

BY ADAM GELLER
AP national writer

LANCASTER, N.H. — He fled the "People's Republic of Massachusetts" to escape tyranny. Now he strides the campground in a plaid kilt and mirror shades, an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle across his torso, an immense Scottish sword sheathed between his shoulders.

Out here, though, the only signs of danger are the ones warning drivers to watch out for moose. Could it be he senses a threat we're not seeing?

"Not expecting," says the swordsman, who calls himself Doobie, grinning broadly. "Just ready?"

There's no escaping the long arm of big government — even here at the far edge of a state whose license plate decrees that without freedom from oppressive authority you might as well choose death. But for Doobie and 500 others, this tent colony on this particular weekend is about as close to Libertarian Nirvana as they're likely to get.

They've come for the Porcupine Freedom Festival, four days of beer, burgers and bonfires. But more importantly, they are here to carve out an enclave of less government and more freedom.

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The Grouch

I don't show anyone my tats.

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