

S.A.L.T. MISSION STATEMENT

S.A.L.T.'s primary goal is to understand, practice and share all life skills and arts of the ancient world. This is accomplished by regular Skills Meetings and informing the public through various Events.



www.saltskills.com

Charlie Tadano, President Ron Moses, Vice President
Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

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Volume 16, Issue 12

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

INDIAN MARKET at SVM Sat./Sun. Dec. 13 & 14

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

10 am - 2 pm

at SEDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS / DRUMMING CIRCLE 9am

S.A.L.T. SKILL #25 GAMES

Learn and Play Primitive Games

S.A.L.T.'S 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! S.A.L.T. Holiday Party, Turkey/Ham Potluck, White Mammoth Gift Exchange

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday, January 17 SKILLS MEETING at SVM S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3 Discoidal Blade, Cordage, Friction Fire S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING before skills class S.A.L.T. Quarterly Board Meeting follows skills class

Monday, February 16 S.A.L.T. Fieldtrip to WINTER COUNT

Saturday, February 21 SKILLS MEETING at SVM S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3 Discoidal Blade, Cordage, Friction Fire

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR S.A.L.T. SHIRTS
TO ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

"Unless there is CONTEXT, it's all arts and crafts."

Steve Watts

"SENDING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE"





S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM



in English it is "Central Platform Mound." Pronounced: SUE DOVE VE AWKEY

S'EDAV VA'AKI Museum (Pueblo Grande Museum) is an archaeological site once inhabited by the Hohokam culture,

just east of downtown Phoenix, next to Sky Harbor International Airport. It's a National Historic Landmark and Phoenix Point of Pride accessible by the Sky Train and the Light Rail. Now part of the City of Phoenix Arts & Culture Department, it's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.



4619 E. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (602) 495-0901

S.A.L.T. EXHIBIT at the Sun City Mineral Museum



Peter, Linda, Carlos, and Carol **December 2024**

Our dear friend, Peter Huegel, is retiring from S.A.L.T. at the end of 2025. He has been a member for 10 years and a S.A.L.T. Board Member for the last 3 years. We will sorely miss him and his many talents and expertise!

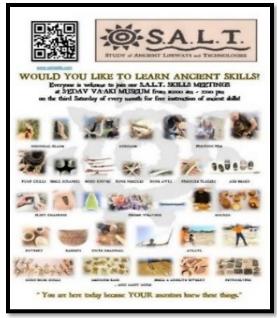
Peter has been the liaison between S.A.L.T. and the Mineral Museum since our exhibit was opened there in December 2024.

We are looking for a volunteer liaison that would only need to update the exhibit with new items created by S.A.L.T. members every 6 months or so and make sure the Rockhounds have S.A.L.T. Brochures to hand out to their visitors. Please call Charlie at 602-524-6910 if you are interested!









"Primitive (first) skills are our shared inheritance. It is the shared thread which links us to our prehistory and binds us together as human beings." Steve Watts



DON'T MISS THE DEC. 2025 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING SATURDAY, DEC. 20 10 am - 2 pm

S.A.L.T.'s 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am

SKILL	Apprentice	Apprentice	Apprentice
	Level I	Level II	Level III
25. Musical Instruments / Games	Take a class and make an instrument or game	Make and learn how to play 1 instrument and 1 game on your own	Demonstrate and display 3 instruments and 3 games

S.A.L.T. SKILL #25 GAMES

Learn and Play Primitive Games with Ron & Donna Moses





Corn Cob Darts, Dice Games, Ring & Pin and the Awl Game





ANNUAL S.A.L.T. HOLIDAY PARTY FOLLOWS THE SKILLS MEETING at 12:00 pm

We are doing a Smoked Turkey and Ham Potluck! Bring your favorite side dish or dessert!





Also, bring a primitive-related, homemade, if possible, wrapped gift for the White Mammoth Gift Exchange!

LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discoidal Blade	Make flakes from three different rocks and refine the tools	Demonstrate a use or project with the tool
2. Cordage	Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage	Process three different fibers and make cordage	Demonstrate a use or project with the cordage
3. Friction Fire	Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting	Forage for materials, construct hand drill or bow drill and make fire	Make a complete Fire Kit to use and display

SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

Make a flake and discoidal blade.

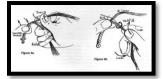


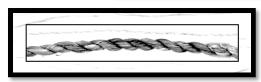


SKILL #2 CORDAGE: Level I

Make a uniform 3-foot length of cordage.







SKILL #3 FRICTION FIRE: Level I

Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting.







(Beads will be given out to new members when Level I of all three of the above Membership Requirement Skills are completed, and dues are paid.)

Remember to bring your own primitive tools and materials to the Monthly Skill Meetings, if you have them. Materials for the Membership Requirement Skills are provided at each meeting for guests and new members.

Also, you are responsible to sign in at meetings and events to be included in the newsletters, etc. and note on the sign-in sheet each level of each skill you complete to be awarded your beads. You need to make a Personal Bead to receive the leather thong for your Skill Beads. Thanks!

NOVEMBER 2025 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Board Members in attendance: Charlie Tadano, Ron & Donna Moses, Laura Robins, Bob & Carol Sizemore, Tom Wax, Jennifer Ahumada, Peter Huegel, Bill Warner, Don Raker, and Justin Sowden

Members in attendance: Jax, Arturo Ramirez, Noah Ahumada, Mari & Dalen Townsend, Billy & Reena Nickel, Linda Jolle, Carlos Acuna, Sam Sargent, John Lavra, and John Marshall

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!: Jesse Parra

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS & DRUMMERS MEET BEFORE OUR SKILLS CLASS at 9:00 am

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level
5. Flint Knapping	Demonstrate Core Reduction by Percussion	Use Percussion to produce Bi face Preform	Make primitive tools such as Southwestern Points





SKILL	Apprentice	Apprentice	Apprentice
	Level I	Level II	Level III
25. Musical Instruments / Games	Take a class and make an instrument or game	Make and learn how to play 1 instrument and 1 game on your own	Demonstrate and display 3 instruments and 3 games







S.A.L.T. President Charlie Tadano opened the meeting



SKILL	Apprentice Level	Apprentice	Apprentice Level
	Level I	Level II	Level III
4. Building Tools	Make a fire hardened Digging Stick, Shell Scraper, and Bone Needle	Make a Hoko Knife, Bone Awl and Pressure Flaker	Make a pecked and ground Stone Axe and a Pump Drill

S.A.L.T. SKILL #4 TOOLS

Bone Needles & Bone Awls with Ron Moses





This workshop explores the process of making basic "First Tools" from animal bones. Learn how to make bone needles and awls, like those used by ancient peoples for thousands of years. This is a hands-on opportunity covering:

- How bone needles and awls changed the ancient world
- · Sourcing and selecting bones for tool projects.
- · Methods for creating bone blanks
- Making the eye of the needle
- Bone shaping, polishing, and preserving.







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Some of the Bone Awls and Needles

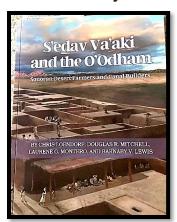




Thank you to everyone who brought food for the DELICIOUS POTLUCK BRUNCH!

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT / INFO GALLERY

BOOK RECOMENDATION by Mari Townsend



Several SALT members asked me about the book I purchased at the S'edav Va'aki gift shop. The book was co-authored by Chris Loendorf PhD. Chris is the advisor for the San Tan chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society.

The book is easy to read and understand. I recommend it for all our SALT members to gain more knowledge of the people that built the Pueblo we call S'edav Va'aki. The authors are from our community, our circle of friends. Chris Loendorf can be seen at the San Tan chapter of the AAS meetings occasionally. Laurene Mortero and Doug Mitchell are frequently spied at

the museum at S'edav Va'aki. Barnaby Lewis is more elusive, but I have seen him with Chris Loendorf at San Tan AAS meetings, on occasion. The book can be purchased at the S'edav Va'aki gift shop for \$29.00 and worth every penny for the knowledge you will glean.

About the book

S'edav Va'aki and the O'Odham: Sonoran Desert Farmers and Canal Builders is about the Ancestral O'Odham (previously called the Hohokam), people who built one of the largest and most sophisticated canal systems in the New World prior to the coming of Europeans. The book is written for the general public and describes how these desert farmers thrived for millennia in the Sonoran Desert of south-central Arizona.

S'edav Va'aki has long been an important and special place, home to many residential neighborhoods, communal areas, and public buildings constructed by the entire community. Over one hundred years of archaeological excavations at the village of S'edav Va'aki, a National Historic Landmark and museum, have led to fascinating discoveries that have shed new light on the past in the Southwest. This work has helped resolve many previous questions and we now know the O'Odham, Native Americans previously called the Papago and Pima, are descendants of the S'edav Va'aki residents. As shown here, by incorporating knowledge of the descendant O'Odham communities it is now possible to come to a much fuller and complete picture of prehistory and early history in the Phoenix Basin where S'edav Va'aki was located.

About the Authors

Dr. Chris Loendorf is the Senior Project Manager for the Gila River Indian Community Cultural Resource Management Program. He received his Doctorate from Arizona State University and has over 35 years of experience studying the Ancestral O'Odham.

Douglas R. Mitchell is a Research Associate at S'edav Va'aki Museum. He received his master's degree from Arizona State University. He has worked in England and northern Mexico but spent the majority of his 45-year career in Arizona archaeology.

Laurene G. Montero is a Research Associate at S'edav Va'aki Museum and former City of Phoenix Archaeologist. She received her master's degree from Arizona State University and has been a professional archaeologist in Arizona for the past 35 years.

Barnaby V. Lewis is the former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Gila River Indian Community. He is an Akimel O'Odham elder who learned the songs and oral history of the tribe while growing up in the community. Loendorf, Mitchell, and Montero are also adjunct faculty in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University.

About the Illustrator

Robert B. Ciaccio has over 35 years of archaeological experience in southern Arizona. He has worked for Desert Archaeology, Inc. for over two decades, and his illustrations of prehistoric life have been internationally published. His goal is to bring the past to life in order to foster a better understanding of our shared humanity. The images he created for this book include Native American descendants of the Ancestral 0'0dham.

BONE ARTIFACT by Mari Townsend



This is the bone artifact my mother found in our yard in rural Ohio in the 1950's. Our land was located at the top of a hill along the Ottawa River. This is one of several artifacts she found at this site.

Mom called this a bone needle. Chris Loendorf called many pieces in my collection Archaic, but this bone cannot be that old to have survived. What are your thoughts? Feedback welcome.

PARFLECHE by Ron Moses



I was fortunate to receive a beautiful Bo Earls obsidian and antler knife and have wanted to protect it while showing it off. I have been doing parfleche creations over the last couple years, and a while back there were some unused odd size rawhide pieces that got stored in the freezer. These were being saved for that future project that you don't yet know about. Well, when digging in the freezer, I came upon that forgotten cache of rawhide and immediately knew why it was put there. The result is this parfleche belt sheath.

#wanderingwithmoses



More Parfleche going on in the Old Ways Workshop. This is a pouch traditionally used to hold corn meal tributes for earth gifts.



Parfleche Box by Ron







S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

DESERT FIND NEAR PARKER Nov.2025 by Bill Warner



When we were on our AZ Knappers knap-in & rock trip to Lavic Siding (CA) last weekend, we stopped at a good chert spot near Parker on the way out, and I found this out in the desert...which reminded me of SALT!!!



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

REGISTRATION OPENED NOVEMBER 1, 2025 Registration closed before it began!



Winter Count, (started 1995), is part of a family of gatherings that strive to reconnect people with old ways of making fire, tanning hides, forming metal, weaving baskets, hunting, gathering and much more. We teach ancestral skills that were essential to the survival and well-being of all cultures, no matter what continent your ancestors came from. Through the understanding and mastery of these skills, people find that they can connect not only to a simpler way of living life but also to the roots of their heritage and to a pathway to interact more deeply with the natural world.

We provide a camp with some of the best instructors in their fields, teaching what they have learned through experience, experimentation and through source materials. Some of the instructors have spent many years perfecting their crafts. Some have managed archeological sites while others have lived deeply among the wild places, hunting, raising their own food and making their own clothing and tools from the most basic elements. We are a diverse group of people from many experiences, opinions, and family backgrounds, who come together to share what it is that makes us excited about life.

Winter Count is a drug, alcohol, and firearm free event.

Winter Count 505-570-9484 369 Montezuma Avenue, #326, Santa Fe, NM 87501

> WinterCountCamp@gmail.com www.WinterCountCamp.com

Primitive wilderness survival



"It's not in our nature to go against nature. When we fight it, we're really fighting ourselves — because we are nature. The natural world is our classroom. We're part of the pattern, the organizers of our own experience. We recognize beauty in every sense because it's woven into who we are."-Holladave

Talked to Holladay and we've decided to open up a few more spots to the sold out "Echoes of the ancestors" class this February!

We have a massive venue and both of us are teaching so we're going to allow 4 more students in!

Message me to snag your spot or check out the link in my bio. - Dave Wescott

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May $25^{th} - 30^{th}$, 2026





Email Mullein HERE with any further questions

Between the Rivers Gathering is a week-long educational workshop for learning skills that originated in the stone-age all the way up to modern homesteading. We are an annual event located in Washington State about an hour north of Spokane. We will have a multitude of instructors offering a broad-range of classes all week long. Included will be wilderness survival skills of all kind, basic and homespun living, preparedness and skills of a practical and archeological

We offer hands-on classes in ancestral living and survival, and we also focus on the skills of self-sufficiency and sustainable living to minimize our impact on this planet we all share. Come join our community and experience for yourself what an ancestral skills gathering is all about!

Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency Sponsored by Bridges to the Past 501(3) Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

> Other Skills Gatherings BtR T-Shirt

Burning questions that can't wait? Contact us: patrickf@bridgestothepast.org

Betweentheriversgathering.com

Hi folks, I'll be renting furnished and unfurnished Yurts and Bell tents again this year. Included is a community Kitchen yurt or shade cloud to store your cooler and will also include cooking tables, stoves & pans etc.

See between the river's website for more info.

Prices for the whole week are \$300 unfurnished, \$400 furnished. Call or email CampingYurts.com

BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!



Kandis Larson is making Between the Rivers Gathering Logo Hats and making them available to you! Each hat has a leather patch branded with our BTR logo that we have all grown to love, no two are alike, and have a primitive touch to them.

kandiscreated@gmail.com 509-994-0585 . @kandis cell (Instagram)

created



38TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho **SEPTEMBER 13 – 19, 2026**

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held the 3rd week of September in ID, is the premier Backtracks event. Rabbitstick is the oldest of all of the modern primitive skills events and has been the model for most of the events currently running worldwide. Each year we host nearly 150 instructional and support staff who provide a camp with hands-on classes that run 9am-5pm for 5 days for about 400 registered participants. This is an unparalleled opportunity to learn skills and get to know teachers that you can trust. Visit our new website -5- for complete event and registration details.

Backtracks has assembled one of the largest and most complete rosters of primitive skills teachers and practitioners available anywhere. Backtracks is your source for the best instructional staff you'll find at any event. Join us next year!

www.rabbitstick.com

Register On-Line Today Share a Ride Bulletin Board Meet Our Staff

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | backtracks905@gmail.com | societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com





Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at primitive.org. Order back issues, download a complete index of topics and titles, or view the entire first issue and newsletters for free. Don't miss out on this amazing collection of information. It's up and running and ready to take your orders now.

https://www.facebook.com/Backtracks-Keeping-Traditions-Alive-213565755397099/?fref=Nf



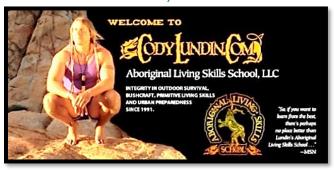
FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS October 8-11, 2026

Fall Camp Website

"Knowledge is not complete until it is passed on." Steve Watts



THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



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Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever! Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever! Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever!

Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990! Robin Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth Knack School Author: How To Play In The

Woods (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

Earth Knack: Stone Age Skills for the 21st Century (Peregrine Books - Gibbs Smith 1996)

P.O.#508 Crestone Colorado 81131 earthknackschool@gmail.com http://www.earthknack.com/

719 256 4909



Dear RMS family & friends, ~ Live What You Love ~

All classes held at Reevis Mountain School include hearty meals fresh from the homestead, class supplies, hot showers, and campsite. Camping is free, or stay in a yurpee (\$10 per night per person), single cabin (\$25 per night, sleeps 1), or double cabin (\$50 per night, sleeps 1-2+), availability permitting. We provide complimentary shuttle service from Roosevelt, AZ, or caravan in your own 4X4. Shuttle pickup is at 4 p.m., first day of class.

Please see our website to enroll and to get more information Sign up online!

www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online! www.reevismountain.org/country-store

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



Visit the Primitive Lifeways Store!

The Primitive Lifeways store is up and running. This month we are featuring new merchandise including beautifully crafted prehistoric replica pottery and jewelry. We are still selling stickers for less than a cup of coffee at Starbucks. By purchasing our new merchandise, you are helping us educate the public on archaeological preservation and the sharing of free information.

Click Here to visit our store.

Jeff Martin

Jeff@primitivelifeways.com



Wuertz Gourd Farm

2026 Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival Update

Dear Valued Customers,

For 22 years the Wuertz family has put on the very popular Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival. You (our Gourding family) have been witness to our relationship growing, our business growing and even better our family

With our kids' schedules growing and the realization of how quickly time is passing us by, we have made the very difficult decision to not have a gourd festival in 2026.

What does this mean for the future of the Wuertz Farm Gourd Festival? We aren't sure! Right now, we see all the things we keep wanting to do that end up on the back burner because of how much time festival planning takes

Since expanding our gourd shopping area, we have wanted to beautify the area and give it a little bit of the whimsical festival feel. We have also been wanting to expand our products, freshen up our store and expand our finished gourds for sale. The ideas are abundant; the time however has been hard to find.

We also must figure out where to store all the gourds that this year's crop is producing! It's the most acreage we have ever planted, and the gourds are looking amazing!

Thank you all for making our festival so successful that it has made stepping away (even if only for a year) extremely difficult.

Waylon & Leah Wuertz

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ATTENTION

S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!

Please send in pictures and articles for this newsletter! Send in information on projects you are working on, information you have found on primitive skills, pictures from trips to archaeological sites, etc.

Send it to saltskills@gmail.com





STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS

ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES!

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

MEMBERSHIP DUES

SINGLE \$20.00 or FAMILY \$40.00

Please pay at a Skills Meeting or mail them to Acting S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

LAURA ROBINS

1922 W. Kristal Way, Phoenix, AZ 85027

Please make the check out to Laura Robins

OR Zelle Laura Robins at 623-533-0847

S.A.L.T. MEMBERSHIP ITEMS

The Tan "Fishing Shirt" Style S.A.L.T. Membership Shirts are available by pre-order. Please contact Charlie Tadano to order your Shirt at 602-524-6910

BLACK S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS, LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS, HOODIES



And LEATHER S.A.L.T. PATCHES are available!

(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00 (Memberships receive one free)

S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.saltskills.com

e-mail address:

saltskills@gmail.com

For MEMBERSHIP information call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail saltskills@gmail.com

For EVENTS and BEAD information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or saltdonna1@gmail.com

For S.A.L.T. e-Newsletter or Website info contact Laura Robins, Editor at 623-533-0847 or e-mail saltskills@gmail.com