

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

saltskills@gmail.com

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 17, Issue 1

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17
10 am - 2 pm

at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

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

S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT & TREASURER

S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3

Discoidal Blade, Cordage, & Friction Fire

S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

WUERTZ GOULD FESTIVAL has been cancelled this year!

WINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

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

Saturday, February 21 SKILLS MEETING at SVM
S.A.L.T. SKILL #19 ATLATLS – Make an Atlatl with Stone
Tools with Bob, Charlie, & Bil

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

"SENDING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE"

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!



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.



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

Steve Watts

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



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

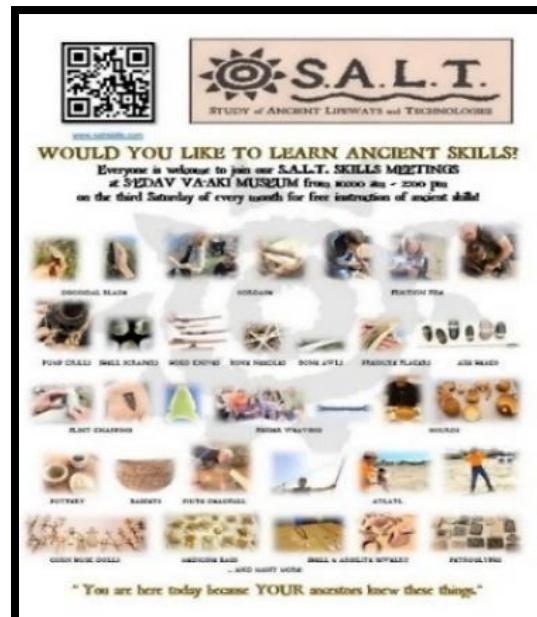
ATTENTION S.A.L.T. MEMBERS !!!

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVITED OUT TO WINTER COUNT FOR A FREE DAY, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16!
WE WILL ALL MEET UP IN FLORENCE AND DRIVE OUT TO THE BOULDERS TOGETHER.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT WINTER COUNT IS ALL ABOUT, PLEASE CALL CHARLIE AT 602-524-6910.

"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

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

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!





DON'T MISS THE JANUARY 2026 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING SATURDAY, JAN 17 10 am - 2 pm

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am

**S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT & TREASURER before the Skills Class**

S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS the Skills Class

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

S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3 Discoidal Blade, Cordage, & Friction Fire



DISCOIDAL BLADE



CORDAGE



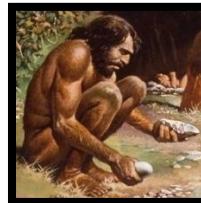
FRICITION FIRE

**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
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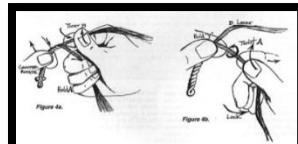
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

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!

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

Saturday, December 20, 2025

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

Members in attendance: Jax, Diane Wax, Arturo Ramirez, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Mari & Dalen Townsend, Billy & Reena Nickel, Linda Jolle, Carlos Acuna, Sam Sargent, and 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 III
5. Flint Knapping	Demonstrate Core Reduction by Percussion	Use Percussion to produce Bi face Preform	Make primitive tools such as Southwestern Points



Bill Warner's point



Luis's point



Ron and Donna brought a lot of awesome games to teach us to play!



PLAY TIME! Some of the Games...



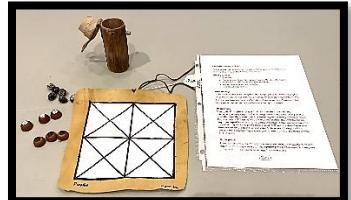
Reena and the Hoop Ring Toss



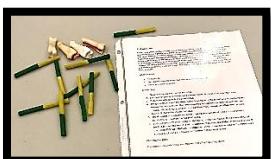
Donna and Sylvia playing Zohn Ahl



Noah and the Corn Cob Dart and Hoop Game



Dalen, Justin, and Billie play Picaria



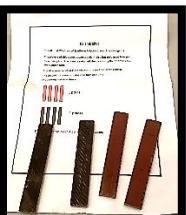
Carlos and Sam played Slahal



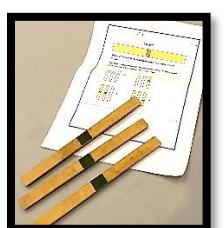
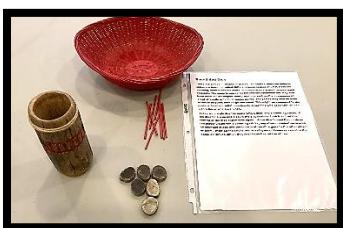
Jax, Noah, and Reena



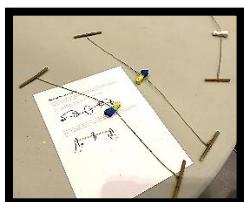
Bob, Justin, Arturo, and Dalen caught the ring!



Lots of Dice Games!



Game Winners get to choose prizes!



Bob and Carol and the Whirligig Buzzer!



Tamara, Ron, and Jax playing Mancala



MEGA POTLUCK FEAST!



Ham, Turkey, Stuffing, Sweet, Mashed, and Au Gratin Potatoes, Porcini Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Ceasar Salad, Tossed Asian Salad, Rolls & Butter, Cheese & Crackers, Fruit, Veggies, Sauerkraut, Olives, Pickles, Pumpkin, Apple, & Blueberry Pies, Cookies, Cup Cakes, Rice Pudding & Lingonberries, and Chocolate Cake



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious goodies!

Thank you to Mari and Tom for taking pictures!

Please call Charlie if you want to order a S.A.L.T. 25th Anniversary T-shirt for \$18.50 at 602-524-6910.



WHITE MAMMOTH GIFT EXCHANGE DICE GAME!



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

JASPER POINTS 12/26/25

by Bill Warner

Another Lavic Jasper point for today; love the colors in this stuff!



I decided to try to finish a few more before it started raining: two more from Lavic Siding jasper, and one from some TX chert I collected near Brady...and apparently either overheated or installed some internal cracks in it when I spalled the chunk. It started out fine but finished "crackley" in the middle. That said, the point is sharp as heck, and I wouldn't want to see it flying towards me on the end of a 7-foot atlatl dart!



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

SVM INDIAN MARKET 12/13-14/25

by Laura Robins



Laura wearing a different hat with the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol



Arturo at his Gourd Booth



Sylvia



Thank you, Aurora, for the pictures!

《人》BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING 《人》

May 25th – 30th, 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 nature.

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(c)(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 cell .@kandis created
(Instagram)



FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS
October 8- 11, 2026

[Fall Camp Website](#)



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](#)

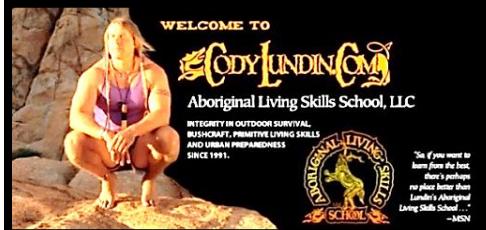
Rabbitstick | (208) 359-
2400 | backtracks905@gmail.com
societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com



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>

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



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EARTH KNACK

Courses, Classes, and Programs

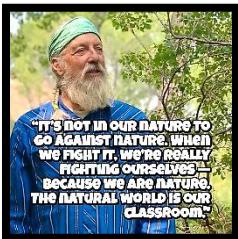


Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever! Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever! Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever! Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990! Rob Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth 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 719 256 4909
earthknackschool@gmail.com <http://www.earthknack.com/>

Primitive wilderness survival



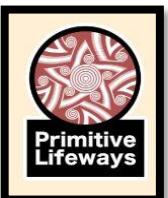
"It's not in our nature to go against nature. When we fight it, we're really fighting ourselves — because we are nature. The natural world is our classroom. We're part of the pattern, the organizers of our own experience. We recognize beauty in every sense because it's woven into who we are." – Holladay

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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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

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



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.

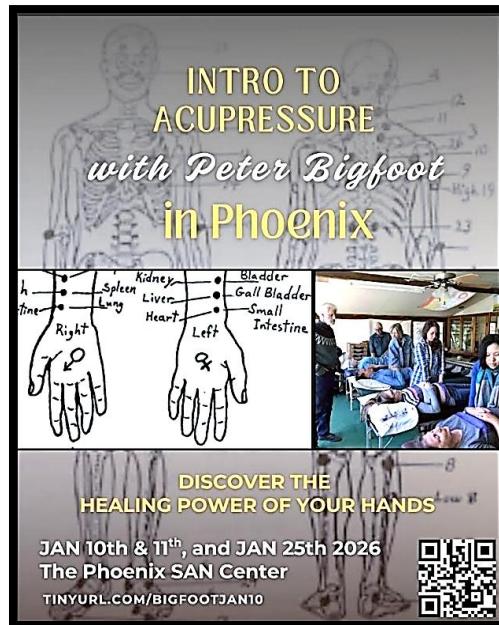
Please see our [website](#) to enroll and to get more information
 Sign up online!

www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

www.reevismountain.org/country-store

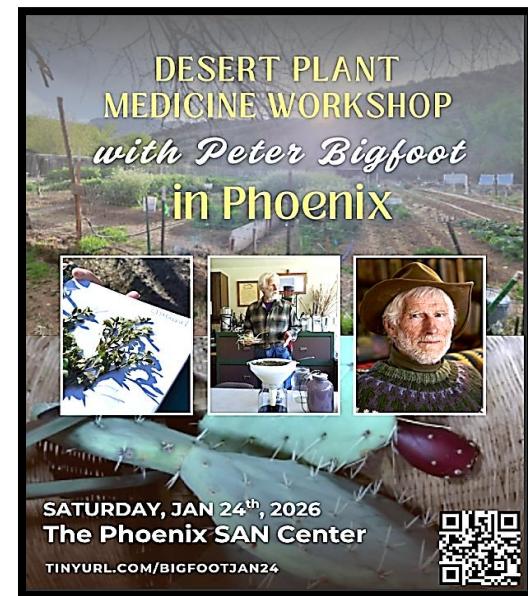
Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



DISCOVER THE
 HEALING POWER OF YOUR HANDS

JAN 10th & 11th, and JAN 25th 2026
 The Phoenix SAN Center

TINYURL.COM/BIGFOOTJAN10





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 growing!

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 up.

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; but 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

noepotsrdS56628l5i6fu58t2ml01g3amm ftu1c9gmhtgutymqJ0t1u1a3



IMAGINE US IN THE STONE AGE



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

Please send 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

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

are due this month!

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