S.A.L.T.

STUDY of ANCIENT LIFEWAYS and TECHNOLOGIES

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 saltskills@gmail.com

Charlie Tadano, President Ron Moses, Vice President Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary
Laura Robins, Treasurer / Newsletter Editor / Webmaster Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 17, Issue 11 S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10 am – 2 pm

at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

S.A.L.T. SKILL #3 FRICTION FIRE

with Tom Wax

and Displays & Demos for PORTAL FEST

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13 INDIAN MARKET at SVM

Saturday, December 19 SKILLS MEETING at SVM –
S.A.L.T. SKILL #12 GOURDS – Decorate small gourd ornaments
with Mari Townsend
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY / MEXICAN POTLUCK
WHITE MAMMOTH GIFT EXCHANGE!

Saturday, January 16 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 class
Elections for Vice President and Secretary
S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING after class

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

All S.A.L.T. Members, make sure Laura has your name on the membership list for free entry into SVM!

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

"SENDING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE"







Portal Fest at SVM

November 21, 2026, 10 am – 2pm

S.A.L.T. SKILL #3 FIRE and DISPLAYS & DEMOS

All S.A.L.T. Members are invited to bring their examples of Skills completed or that are works in progress to display and talk about. Please come around 9 am to set up on the back patio.

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. It was part of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department since 1929 but is now Arts & Culture. It's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.

4619 E. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (602) 495-0901
svmuseum@phoenix.gov



SVM UPCOMING SVM EVENTS

- 11/5/26: Art in the Evening: Hands-On Workshop, Drumming with Phoenix Conservatory of Music 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 11/7/26: SVM @ Local First Arizona's Fall Festival, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 11/7/26: Phoenix Chapter of AZ Archaeological Society 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- 11/11/26: Veterans Day Gourd Dance with Arizona Territory Gourd Society 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 11/12/26: Indigenous Identities Speaker Series: Nicole Pete, in-person and virtual, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Register here for the virtual program
- 11/19/26: Gourd Decorating with Southwest Gourd Association 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- 11/21/26: Portal Festival, Cultural Coalition SALT Skills 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- 12/3/26: Indigenous Identities Speaker Series: Ruth Hallows, in-person and virtual, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Register here for the virtual program
- 12/5/26: Phoenix Chapter of AZ Archaeological Society 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- 12/12/26 – 12/13/2026: 49th Annual Indian Market 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (both days)
- 12/17/26: Art in the Evening: Hands-On Workshop, Multimedia Workshop with Phoenix Center for the Arts, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- 12/19/26: SALT Skills 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Holiday Party/Potluck – Gourd Ornaments







"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 NOV. 2026 S.A.L.T. SKILLS DEMOS

AT PORTAL FEST!

SATURDAY, November 21 10 - 3 pm

S.A.L.T. SKILL #3 - FRICTION FIRE with Tom Wax

DISPLAYS & DEMOS for PORTAL FEST

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
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





Tom teaching Friction Fire







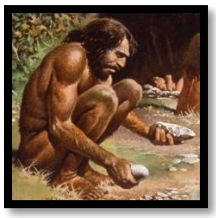


Demos and Displays

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

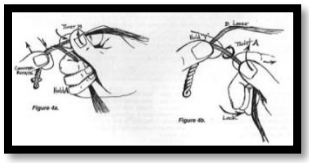
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I
Make a flake and discoidal blade.





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!

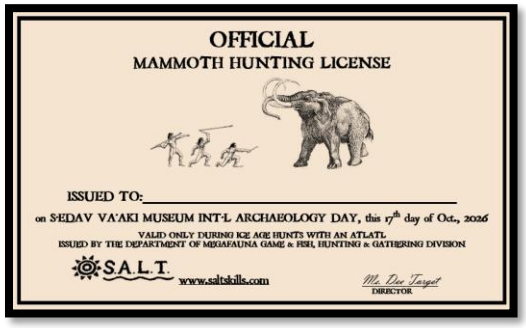
OCTOBER 2026 S.A.L.T. ATLATL/DEMOS/DISPLAYS at

INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY!

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Board Members in attendance: Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Laura Robins, Jennifer Ahumada, Ron & Donna Moses, and Justin Sowden

Members in attendance: Luis & Noah Ahumada, Jax O'Connor, Carlos Acuna, Carol Schroeder, Jesse Parra, Tom Adkins, and Kirt Manning







Laura and Jennifer with the Safety Advisory Sheets and Official Mammoth Hunting Licenses





The wind blew the music away!





Donna, Jennifer, and Tamara



Tamara



Jax and Noah with a Bow & Arrow



Charlie, Carol, & Justin teaching the Atlatl















Luis teaching and throwing the Sling





Ron & Donna teaching the Rabbitstick













Carol explaining the displays





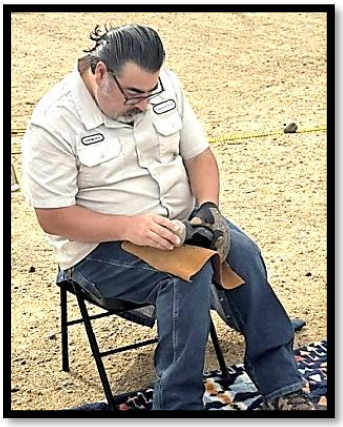






Kirt and Tom





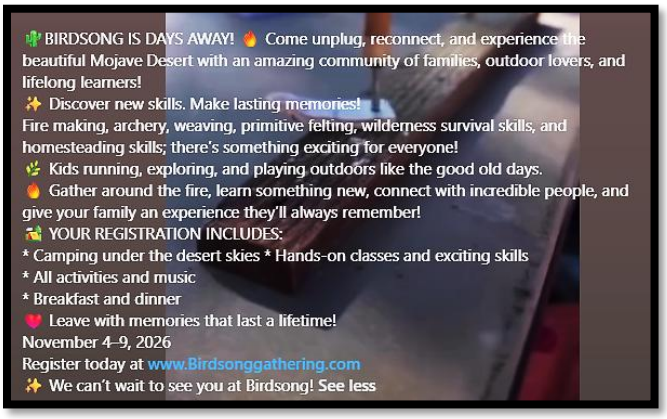
Jesse demoing Flint Knapping



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

BIRDSONG in NOVEMBER
by Ron Moses

Going to this event to meet friends, both old and new, and to learn things I don't yet know that I need to know.



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

FLINT KNAPPING
by Luis Ahumada

So what do you guys do if you're compelled to go to work for a social event, but you're not required to participate with any of the uninteresting activities?

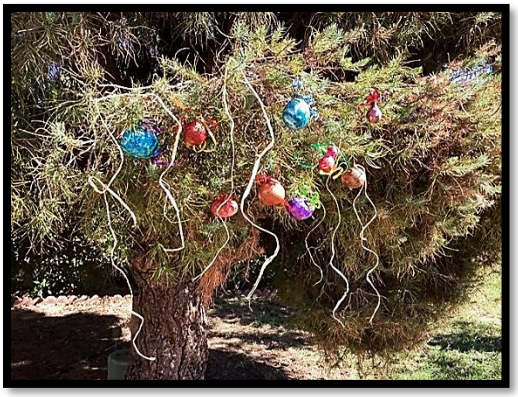




You know my answer!
Thanks for the material, Bill! You helped keep me busy today.

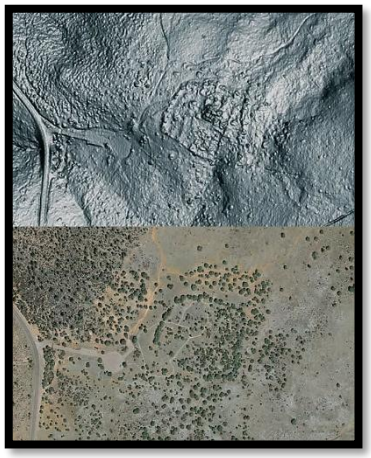
GOURD DECORATING
by Mari Townsend

Amazing what you can do with gourds! Be sure to come to the December S.A.L.T. Skills Meeting and have fun!



LiDAR INFO
Shared by Ron & Donna Moses

Shoofly Village Ruins — Payson, Arizona
34°17′26.51″N 111°16′54.30″W



This village wasn't built all at once. It grew when several separate communities, each with their own building style, gradually merged into one.
Known as Shoofly Village, this archaeological site sits within the Tonto National Forest, just below Arizona's Mogollon Rim, north of Payson. Today, much of the settlement has been reduced to low stone foundations and collapsed walls, but LiDAR reveals the remarkable extent of the village's surviving archaeological landscape.
Shoofly was established around AD 1000 and remained occupied until roughly AD 1300, during a period of significant population growth and settlement development across central Arizona. The village is associated with the prehistoric cultural traditions of the Payson region, sometimes discussed in connection with the broader Salado cultural sphere.
One description of Shoofly identifies a massive platform mound that once supported more than 80 rooms, though archaeological research more specifically describes a substantial central complex of contiguous masonry rooms surrounded by smaller residential compounds. The settlement was far more than a collection of isolated structures. It represented a large, organized community whose inhabitants lived, worked, and took part in a network of neighboring settlements.
During the 1980s, Arizona State University launched the Payson Archaeological Research Expedition to investigate prehistoric settlement patterns in the region. Beginning in 1984, researchers conducted four seasons of fieldwork at Shoofly in cooperation with the Tonto National Forest, and their investigations revealed it was the largest of four major villages identified in the surrounding area. Archaeologist Charles L. Redman later documented this research in his book People of the Tonto Rim: Archaeological Discovery in Prehistoric Arizona.
That merger of communities is one of the most interesting findings from that work. Rather than developing as a single, uniformly planned settlement, Shoofly appears to have grown from several distinct residential compounds gradually brought together into a larger community. Researchers identified differences in building materials and construction techniques, including substantial masonry room blocks alongside smaller structures incorporating cobbles, low walls, and jacal construction. Redman proposed these architectural differences might reflect formerly separate social groups coming together to form a larger village, though some differences could also reflect successive periods of construction. Archaeological evidence suggests the settlement developed through four major building phases, with the central masonry room block built later than some of the surrounding compounds.
Shoofly's location was significant too. Positioned near the Mogollon Rim, the village had access to resources from different environmental zones and sat close to routes connecting the lower elevations around Payson with the higher country to the north. The surrounding landscape also contained smaller household settlements, agricultural fields, and roasting pits, pointing to a much broader pattern of land use beyond the central village itself.
The LiDAR imagery offers a fascinating perspective on what remains today. In the aerial photograph, the site appears as an irregular concentration of juniper trees, open ground, and faint pathways. The bare-earth LiDAR relief reveals a much more complicated landscape, numerous low, rectangular and irregularly shaped features visible throughout the central settlement area, along with subtle changes in elevation that may correspond to collapsed masonry walls, room blocks, and other archaeological remains. The most concentrated structural remains appear near the center of the image, where a dense arrangement of raised and depressed features stands out against the surrounding terrain. LiDAR can't independently determine the function or age of every feature, but it helps illustrate just how extensive this ancient settlement once was.
What appears today to be an ordinary patch of Arizona high desert was once home to a substantial Indigenous community nearly a thousand years ago. Shoofly Village offers an extraordinary glimpse into the development of prehistoric communities along the Mogollon Rim and the changing social relationships that shaped settlement patterns across central Arizona.
#LiDAR #Arizona #NativeAmericanHistory #paysonaz #payson

WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

FEBRUARY 14-20, 2027

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2026

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.

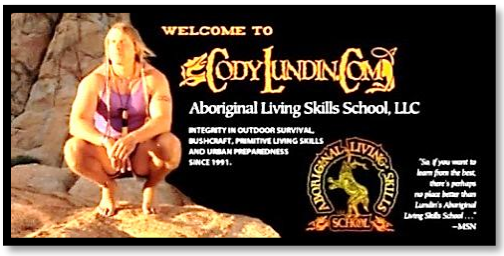
We provide a camp with some of the best instructors in their fields, teaching what they have learned through experience, experimentation and through source materials. Some of the instructors have spent many years perfecting their crafts. Some have managed archeological sites while others have lived deeply 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

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



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earthknackschool@gmail.com http://www.earthknack.com/

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

BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING

May 31 – June 5, 2027





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 501C3
Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

Other Skills Gatherings BtR T-Shirt
Burning questions? Contact us: patrickf@bridgestothepast.org

Betweentheriversgathering.com
To register click **here**.

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) @kandiscreated (Instagram)

BRIDGES TO THE PAST

FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS
October 7- 10, 2027
Fall Camp Website

Rabbitstick

Keeping Traditions Alive!

38TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 12 – 18, 2027

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held in 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 -***HERE***– for complete event and registration details.

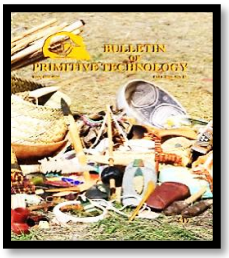
Backtracks has assembled one of the largest and most complete rosters of primitive skills teachers and practitioners available anywhere. Backtracks is your source for the best instructional staff you'll find at any event.

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

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

oSedptsnor3M8l92:_4hA5145uf227m5a0ca56l96tc7oNmacmb1f i7eer0v ·

Reevis Mountain School of Self Reliance

7448 S. J-B Ranch Rd.
Roosevelt, AZ 85545

www.reevismountain.org

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

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

BLASTS FROM THE PAST!

From the S.A.L.T Archives! Skill #3 FRICTION FIRE

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
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





FEB 2014 Winter Count Tom Wax taught every which way to make fire.






JAN 2015 Greta Somers Tom Hamilton & Jessica Hamilton





Sedona Sutton tries a Hand Drill… tries a Bow Drill… Success!





NOV 2015 at DVPP Tom and Bob Aiden Duffy MAR 2016





MAY 2016 Thomas Robins teaches Flint & Steel fire making





OCT 2016 Olalla Carlin, Lynn Marks and Jewel Hawthorne make fire





MAR 2018 Ancient Tech Day at PGM Al Cornell and Tom Wax

\





NOV 2018 Tom Lynn made a Bow Drill Fire!





MAR 2019 Tom demoed 21 Hand Drill Fires SEP 2021 Rabbitstick






NOV 2022 Tom teaching his grandson, Noah Carlos






JAN 2023 Beau did a Hand Drill Fire. His Dad would be proud!





Bob taught Bow Drill Fire FEB 2024 Laura taught Flint & Steel Justin



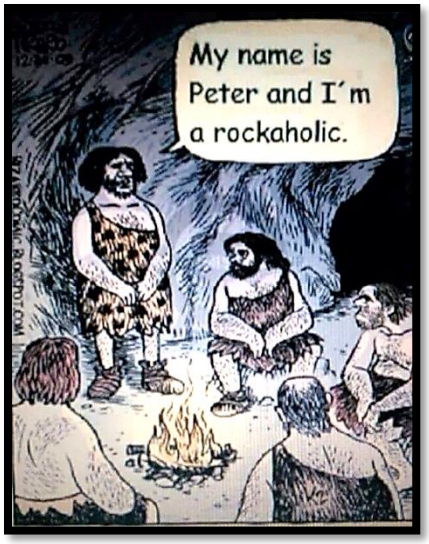
Bow Drill with Mari & Dalen Townsend Tom Wax at Winter Count

JAN 2025 Tom taught friction fire Reena John

JAN 2026 Jasmine and Eva both made fire the first time!







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

SINGLE $20.00 or FAMILY $40.00

Please pay at a Skills Meeting or mail them to

LAURA ROBINS, S.A.L.T. Treasurer

1922 W. Kristal Way, Phoenix, AZ 85027

Please make the checks payable 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:

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e-mail address:
saltskills@gmail.com

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

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