



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 Tom Wax, Vice President
Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary Tamara Tadano, Treasurer
Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 12, Issue 8

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

S.A.L.T. BOARD MEETING
Saturday, August 21st 10 am - noon

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPT. 18th
10 am - 2 pm

SKILLS DEMOS & DISPLAYS

at PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

(Please bring a dish to share for the potluck Brunch!)

UPCOMING 2019 MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Saturday, October 16th SKILLS MEETING at PGM
S.A.L.T. SKILL TBD

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

*All Members make sure Tamara has your name on the
membership list for free entry into PMG!*



PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

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



WE'RE BACK WITH SKILLS MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER !!!

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. Part of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department since 1929, it's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.

Purchase Native American gifts, art and jewelry at the Museum Store. Open 7 days a week Oct.-Apr.; Closed Sundays & Mondays May-Sep.

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





S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

LET'S MAKE AN AXEHEAD! Part V by Charlie Tadano

HAFTING

I am finally getting around to hafting my new axe head! Normally I use a hafting style that has been documented as a method used in the ancient Southwest Region by the discovery of hafted axe heads in cave dwellings in the Four Corners area. A single green flexible limb or a series of flexible thinner limbs were cut to size and wrapped around the axe head as tightly as possible and then secured by some sort of cordage right under the axe head and a few times along the handle. This made a very flexible tool that allowed the axe's bit edge to cut wood, and at the same time "rebound" a little to ease the stress on the cutting edge of the axe. Some axe artifacts have been found with a single much thicker "insert" of thicker wood placed in between the flexible limbs to add more strength and stability to the axe. I believe that there were many different ways of hafting axe heads, depending upon how they were going to be used, the materials available, the size of the axe head, etc.

I have always wanted to try a single heavier limb to see if this possible method might have been used and to see if there might be any additional benefits in doing so. Here is my attempt at trying this method.

The first thing to do is to select your limb or small tree to use. I selected Gambel Oak, obtained from land owned by a friend. I searched for the straightest section I could find, about 4 feet long averaging $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" in diameter. After securing that piece, I removed all of the secondary growth along the length, cutting the growth down as closely as possible to the main shaft. I did not let this shaft dry out. If is very difficult to work dry wood and I suggest always using a "green" piece of wood, it's much easier and faster. I am sure that the majority of axes were hafted with green wood versus dry wood simply from the fact that green wood can be easily worked with stone tools while dry wood is almost impossible to work with stone tools. It can be done, but the amount of time needed and how quickly the edge of stone tools is destroyed when you work dry wood just doesn't make sense to me. Why do anything the hard way?

I didn't use primitive tools (stone flakes) to work the green shaft down for this first attempt at hafting using a single shaft. I did use all modern hand tools, no power equipment was used. I do this to understand what needs to be done to have a finished tool. Once I understand how to do it with modern hand tools, then the next time around, I will replace

the modern tools with primitive tools and complete my project. While some may not agree with my approach, that is how I what I do and it works for me.



My first step was to hunt and find the "perfect shaft" for my axe handle. I looked for the straightest piece of Gambel Oak I could locate, about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" in diameter. I wanted a piece that had large, secondary limbs opposite each other along the shaft. Once located, I cut the shaft and removed all of the secondary growth along the length, except for one of the side secondary side branches. The length I selected is about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet. I did this to allow me to get a second axe handle for another completed axe head, if this hafting method worked.



This image shows the materials I used for hafting: cordage for initially securing the wrapped handle, a thin strip of rawhide and rawhide cordage. I cut the rawhide strip long enough to wrap over the axe head from one side to the other with enough length to reach about 2" below the hafted axe head. I do this to securely hold the axe head in place and to prevent debris from working its way underneath the wood wrapped over the top of the axe head.



My next step was to measure the length around the axe head using the cordage. I did this by wrapping the cordage around the axe head, and adding an extra 2" to the length. Do this to allow for the "gap" that will be underneath the axe head after wrapping the wood around the axe head. You will always have a gap with a $\frac{3}{4}$ grooved axe.



Once I knew the length, my next step was to measure the needed length of the wood that was going to be wrapped around the axe head. After this was completed, I worked the branch down to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original thickness. I do this to allow for flexible even bending of the wood without breaking, this can be done using green wood easily and almost impossible to do with dry seasoned wood without using extreme heat and some form of moisture. This image shows the side "branch", and how I topped off the section of the shaft that the axe head will rest on, and how much wood I removed to allow for the wood to become flexible without breaking. Leave the outside bark on. It is very tough and when dried out helps prevent the haft from breaking.



To make the haft even stronger, I use cordage to completely wrap the hafting shaft from end to end. I have noticed on my past projects that wrapping the hafting area helps secure the axe head tightly and prevents the wood from splitting. It will need to be replaced at some time and I feel this was done at least by some axe makers. I have noticed in looking at a few axe artifacts on display at various museums, that there appears to be cordage and on one axe rawhide around the hafting strip. Keep in mind that this is just my interpretation, but in practice, it seems to hold the axe head more securely for a longer period of time.



The next step is to remove material along the main shaft of the axe handle to allow for the hafting strip to "mate" with the main shaft. After completing this step, I cut a strip of the flat rawhide that will be used to cover the hafting strip and to secure the hafting strip to the main handle. Soak this in water for about 1 hour to make sure the rawhide is completely saturated and flexible.



Then very carefully, take the wrapped hafting section and wrap it as tightly as possible around the axe head. I didn't have anyone to hold the pieces together so I used a clamp to help hold the hafting section to the main shaft. Use a section of cordage to tightly hold the two sections together as shown.



My next step is to place the rawhide flat strip around the head of the axe head and down both sides of the main shaft. I use another section of cordage to securely hold the rawhide strip around the axe head to the main shaft. Stretch the strip as much as possible, it will stretch a little and hold the axe head very tightly when it's dried. I then take the wet rawhide strip and wrap it as tightly as possible to secure the hafting strip to the main shaft. Set it aside for 1 day to make sure all of the rawhide is completely dried out. You will be surprised at how tightly and securely the dried rawhide holds everything together.

The final step is to work another piece of flat wood into a "shim" to drive underneath the space between the bottom of the axe head and the main shaft to hold the axe head even tighter. If the axe head becomes loose, drive out the existing shim and recurve another shim that will hold the axe head tightly.

I am very pleased with the results of this experiment and while I am sure it will need to be tweaked, the axe head is secure and I am happy with the balance of the finished tool.



MAKING A GOURD SPICE CONTAINER

by Mountain Moses July 2021



Many years ago, a much younger version of myself came across an issue of the *Bulletin of Primitive Technology* published by the former *Society of Primitive Technology*. The concepts of experimental and experiential archaeology immediately captured my attention. Pursuit of a hobby in avocational archaeology was both interesting but also very frustrating. The ground rules of conventional archaeology, for a non-academic person, such as myself, were often defined by dimly lit museums, sealed glass cases, **do not touch** signs, missing descriptive signage, signage that just did not seem plausible, and most of all, little or no information on how an artifact was made and how it was used.. Inquiring minds wanted to know!

Now let me say that I fully understand why artifacts need to be preserved and curated. And I not only support but also actively work through other volunteer activities to protect cultural and historic sites and artifacts. Experiential archaeology offers me an alternative. Where it is within my technical ability, I try to figure out how to recreate an artifact of interest as a replica. I am then able to pick up the replica and figure out how it might, or might not, have been used. Along the way, I learn a little bit more of what life may have been like in prehistoric cultures. I believe that prehistoric peoples experienced the same kinds of emotions, thought processes, ambitions, frustrations, and joys as we do today.. Certainly in my view, there was a need to organize and store stuff like we do today. Accompanying that need was also a fascination with storage containers. The basic concept of Tupperware is not a new idea, This project, Making A Gourd Spice Container, is an adaptive experiment of: how one might do this with what was readily available as far as materials and tools. In this case, the container is not based on an existing artifact but I have seen each of the features used in various real artifacts. This is my guess of how the problem of spice storage might have been solved by someone like me, 800 or so years ago.



14 cm Gourd, Yucca Stalk, Leather Lace



Cut gourd, shaped stopper, holes for lace



Yucca stopper is recessed to fit opening



Cut off gourd end repurposed to hold stopper



Finished container ready for contents

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT ON THE TRAIL

GILLESPIE DAM PETROGLYPH SITE ON THE GILA RIVER by Dennis Eaglestone

Driving trip to Gillespie dam petroglyph sites is about 55 miles from Phoenix. Route is: WEST along I10 to Route 85. South on US85 5 miles and turn right onto Hazen Road. Follow Hazen Road west 2 miles and turn south onto Wilson Road. Follow Wilson south half a mile to Old Highway 80. Turn right and follow Old US 80 for 14 miles to the bridge.



We parked near the bridge over the Gila River, next to Gillespie Dam. From here you can see sharp bluff escarpments running both north and south of the bridge. Huge cliff sections have collapsed down steep slopes to the river.

We walked north less than a mile before spotting petroglyphs:



This scene appears to be dancers, perhaps celebrating a successful hunt because the right-most figure is using a bow and arrow. This helps to date the petroglyph as post 400 AD when bow and arrow was developed here.



A nice 4-foot high grid



Lots of circles, concentric circles and spirals in this area. Many figures overlay older petroglyphs. Comparative age is given from the repatination



Some square spirals for Shelley



A very nicely chipped sun symbol.....and that's me for size comparison



Some networks, parallel meanders, and another great big sun symbol



Here are several more of the best petroglyphs we found: The "houglass" figure on the right I about 3 ft high. Figures on both rocks are heavily elaborated with peck marks.

I really like this big one, below.



Enjoy, Dennis

HOW TO STAY CLEAN IN THE WOODS WITH NO TOILET PAPER OR SOAP

by Tom Wax



Back in primitive times, there was no toilet paper. So, how did they stay clean? I will tell a story about myself when I was on a 5 day backpacking trip in Olympic National Park and Yes, I forgot toilet paper. I thought it was packed in my backpack until it was time to do what a bear does in the woods. So what did I do? Since I was backpacking in the Hoh Rainforest, I had plenty of soft moss and lichen to use as toilet paper. It worked quite nicely until I found an outhouse with paper towels. Then I used the paper towels wadded up to soften the paper towels. Kind of like the old Sears & Roebuck catalog thing back in the day. You can also use green leaves from trees if you are back east. Just don't pick Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, Stinging Nettle, etc.

But what if you are in a desert? Now things get a little tougher, you may not find something to use as a toilet paper substitute. In ancient times you may have used a piece of soft leather and if backpacking you can use a bandana (wash it out when your done or find enough water) or something like that in your backpack. It is better than nothing.



Photo of me hiking in Death Valley N.P., not much there for toilet paper in the wild) You can use sand, but it is a little gritty.



For soap, the roots of the Soap Tree Yucca crushed up with a little water makes soapy suds to clean up with. Other plants that are used to stay clean and smell better are Lavender, Mint, Wild Rose Petals and White Sage.



Sage also is used in ceremonial purposes in sweat lodges and I have used it as a bug repellent rubbed on my arms and legs.

When water is scarce in the desert and you're backpacking as I was on the Az. Trail, you use the water that you have have for drinking and cooking. If I had little bit extra I would use it for washing my hands first, my face next and then my privates in that order. All you really need is a trickle of water and a little soap to keep your hands and face clean. I always made sure I had extra water for that. Clean hygiene is important on the trail as it is at home. To make my clothes feel cleaner and fresher after nine days of hiking or so, I would rotate my one set of clothes and hang them out in the sun every few days. Funny story when hiking the Az. Trail about hygiene. I was on one of the sections of the trail that I had been hiking for 86 miles with no water except what I cached. I walked into a RV / Tent campground at the Grand Canyon and was checking in with the lady at the desk wearing my big backpack. There was a lady standing about 8 ft. behind me as I was checking in. I told the lady at the desk I wanted to get a shower and wash my clothes and asked if they had towels for sale at the camp store.



She yes and I then went to my campsite and started setting up my tent and camp. The lady that was standing behind me when I checked in came to my camp and said towels are expensive, here is a towel, washcloth and a bar of soap. The lady then said to me as she handed the items; You can return the towel and washcloth when your done at my camp, BUT YOU CAN KEEP THE BAR OF SOAP!

I guess she thought I was homeless or something. This is my camp after washing my clothes at the RV / Tent campground. Mama always said; "Make sure you have clean underwear on in case you get into an Accident"



33RD RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021

*"Rabbitstick is the Mother Church
of Primitive Technology"*

-Steve Watts, Past President of the Society of Primitive Technology

**As of July 1, Backtracks has decided to open
registrations for
Rabbitstick 33 - September 12-18, 2021 at a
discounted price.**

We have determined that conditions across the country, although still fluid, point to trends that will allow us to convene Rabbitstick 33 without many changes. However, we have decided to limit our food service to 1 meal each day - Dinner at 6pm. This means you will need to plan on providing your own meals for breakfast and lunch. Fire bans may be in effect, so bring a stove if you want to cook. You may also create mini-coops with others to prep meals and share gear. If you have concerns about our washing facilities at dinner, bring paper products, but you are responsible for your own trash.

Our plan is to monitor changes and/or improvements as the weeks pass prior to our event. Cross your fingers that things continue to improve as we gather on the banks of the Snake River again this fall.

Creating this event and making it work for an amazingly diverse group of supporters has always been a balancing act. Unfortunately the world is full of polarizing viewpoints, while, of course, the majority of us are caught somewhere in the middle. The problem is that all of us are being negatively affected in some way or another, and we want you to know that we don't take any of it lightly and we wish the best for everyone. We are well aware of how wildly trends are being interpreted, but it's not our call to just ignore them. Our intent is to create create a unified camp.

That said, we are staying positive and looking forward to this fall. We will provide anyone who pre-registered last year a full carryover of your registration fees plus credit for our new early price. We are 1+ months out, so we still have lots of time to see how things will progress. If we do need to modify any part of the event, we will immediately let you know about any decisions we make. Anyone who has to make airline plans, you may want to purchase an inexpensive trip cancellation policy just in case things "go south" at the last minute.

To our dedicated staff – It's time for a Roll-Call - Rabbitstick has always been an "Instructor's event" – a homecoming - if you will, and we're looking forward to getting together with everyone we have missed this past year. Paula and I have stayed busy with all the free time and have spoken to many of you over the phone or seen

others of you at events. We have carefully weighed all the options and we are aware that many people are still hurting financially and/or medically and that many of our older teachers still may not be able to attend. We don't not want to leave them out...I guess we're part of that group as well. We have been polling people to get feedback about everyone's feelings, and many of you have offered your support for whatever we decide to do. Many of you have made the pilgrimage to Idaho for over 30 years and we hope that habit will continue after this brief interruption.

We encourage everyone to keep the spirit of Rabbitstick alive by continuing to share photos and comments on social media, and letting us know how you're doing. We're looking forward to our roll-call at the start of our annual staff meeting. Stay in touch, and stay healthy. Tomorrow will hopefully be a "4 Rabbit" day (Callie upped the anti from Woniya's 2 original Rabbit Day).

David and Paula and the Backtracks Staff

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 - rabbitstick.com - 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!

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](http://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>



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
FEB. 20-26, 2022!

Winter Count
2119 Calle Tecolote
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Winter Count 505-570-9484 WinterCountCamp@gmail.com
www.WinterCountCamp.com



Between the Rivers Gathering May 20th- June 4th, 2022

Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency
Sponsored by Bridges to the Past 501(c)(3)

Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering

Between the Rivers Gathering is a week-long workshop for learning skills that originate 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!

Warning: *Attending Between the Rivers Gathering may change your life!*

Other [Skills Gatherings](#)

[BtR T-Shirt](#)

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

Betweentheriversgathering.com

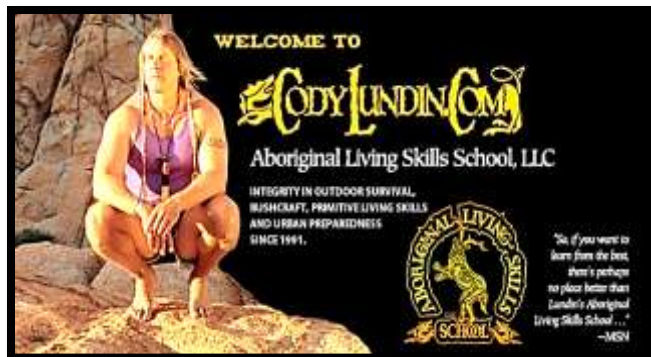
BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!



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)



PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS

Prescott, Arizona

Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!

Hello friends! It's Kiowa Sage! I started a local meetup group to teach courses on primitive living skills, nature awareness and outdoor survival skills - all of which I've been training in for many years. All classes ranging from two hour workshops, day long classes and multiple day immersion courses. Skills and knowledge bases such as making fire with sticks, edible and medicinal plants, animal trapping and tracking, fiber arts and weaving, basic outdoor survival skills and how to do more with less in the outdoors. Right now I only have a couple classes listed until I acquire more traffic. Check out some of the listings that are available!
www.meetup.com

Watch for new listings of classes that are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage



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

"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

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



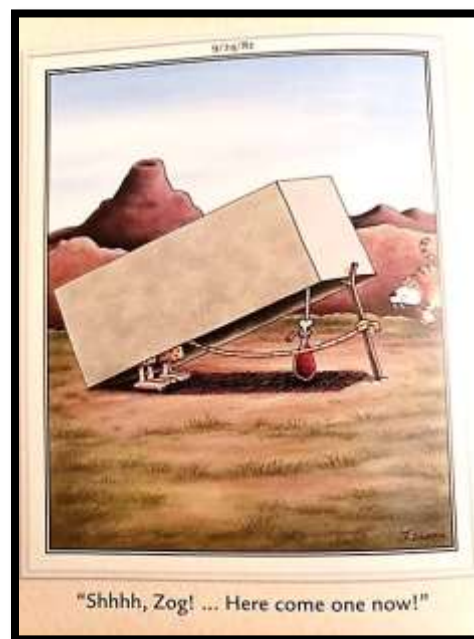
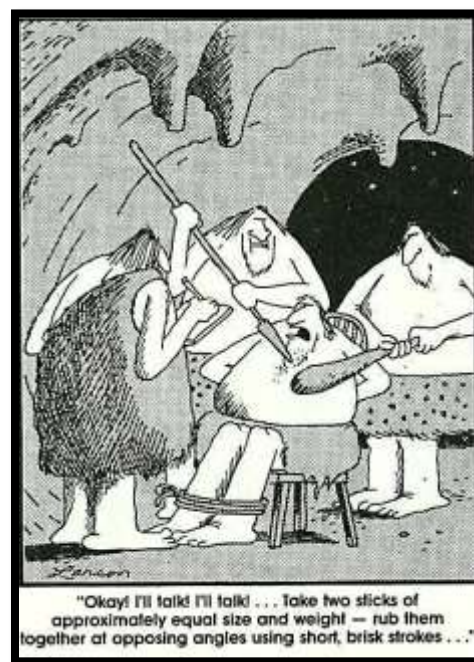
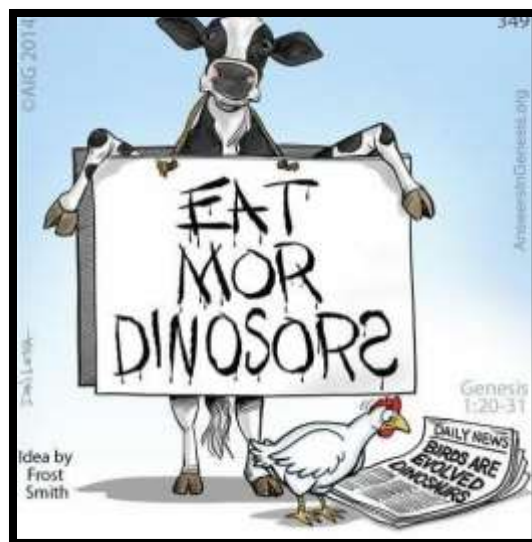
STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS



ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES WHEN WE GET BACK TO PGM!

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

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



S.A.L.T. STORE

T-SHIRTS & PATCHES will be available at all S.A.L.T. Skill Meetings



S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS are available in all sizes at \$20.00 each
(Special pricing for Members)



S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00 each
(Memberships receive one free)



Have a place to store and carry all of your S.A.L.T. Projects and Tools! \$15.00 each
(Special price for members)
Call Charlie for availability on Totes
602-524-6910

2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE !

SINGLE \$12.00 & FAMILY \$24.00
(New memberships are pro-rated throughout the year)

Please mail them to S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

TAMARA TADANO

12840 N. 45th Drive

Glendale, AZ 85304

Please make the check out to
Tamara Tadano

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

**S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS
and S.A.L.T. PATCHES
are still available!**

There may be some Tote Bags, too.

The S.A.L.T. "Sonoran Desert, Sorting out the Weak" T-SHIRT is available to anyone interested for \$15.00 each. They will be available at most S.A.L.T. Monthly Skill Meetings and Events until they are gone. (Only a few left!)



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