



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.

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Volume 11, Issue 12

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING...

**ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE STILL
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

at PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



**S.A.L.T. LOOKS FORWARD TO GETTING BACK
TO PGM
WITH SKILLS MEETINGS
ONE DAY IN THE FUTURE...
WATCH FOR E-MAIL UPDATES.**

MEANWHILE, STAY SAFE!

I wanted to let you know that Pueblo Grande Museum has opened its outdoor interpretive trails to the public! Guests can visit the interpretive trails free of charge Monday – Saturday from 9 am – 4:45 pm.

We have two trails - the portal loop trail near the grand canal and our main interpretive trail that includes the platform mound, Hohokam House replicas, and ballcourt. All indoor facilities including restrooms remain closed to the public at this time.

Just wanted to share the good news!

Check our website and follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PuebloGrandeMuseum>) and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/c/PuebloGrandeMuseumArchaeologicalPark/videos>).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Laura Andrew, Visitor Services Supervisor
City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation
Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park
Office: 602-495-0901



Luis, Noah and Jennifer Ahumada

At the last 2020 S.A.L.T. Meeting in February, before the Covid 19 Pandemic cancelled everything, we had a Baby Shower for Jennifer! Noah was born soon after on February 24th and look how much he has grown! We miss seeing you guys! Hope 2021 brings us back together!



S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

ANCESTRAL ARROW STRAIGHTENER *by Ron Moses 2020*

HOMEWORK

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

While you are looking for something to do at home... please go to our S.A.L.T. Website, www.saltskills.com

and scroll way down to the bottom beyond CONTACT US and open the S.A.L.T. SKILLS pdf under S.A.L.T. INFO. Look through all the skills and please e-mail us the ones you are interested in learning to

saltskills@gmail.com

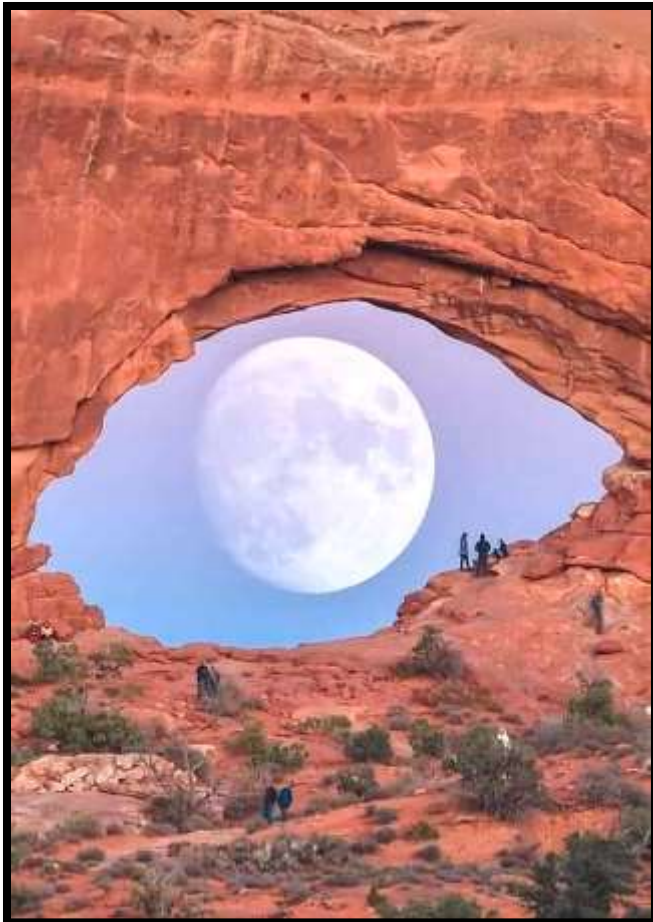
We can include "How To" information in our newsletters and on the website.

THANK YOU!!!

Just completed this replica ancestral arrow straightener made from a Mudstone cobble from the Oregon coast. When heated, the stone is used to temporarily soften a wooden arrow shaft so it can be straightened.



Mudstone, like Siltstone, and Argillite, is a softer non-fissile sedimentary rock that can be carved and shaped with abrasion. I used pieces of Rio Grande Red sandstone to cut the groove and shape/polish the cobble.



HE'S WATCHING!



[#keepingbusywithmoses](https://www.instagram.com/keepingbusywithmoses)

TWO-SIDED DEER ANTLER DICE GAME

by Ron Moses 2020

This SALT project is about constructing and playing a two-sided dice game. The information is an adaptation of information that appeared in an article written by Chuck Kritzen and was included in the

Spring 2008 Bulletin Of Primitive Technology No. 38.



6 two-sided antler section dice and agave dice shaker and lid

The dice used in his article were made of walnut shell halves. The dice featured in my project were made from sections of deer antler. The rest of the game, including the scoring, is based on Mr. Kritzen's excellent description of what would have been a typical game of ancestral Native California Culture.

The project consists of three elements: 6 two-sided dice, 12 scoring sticks, and an agave dice shaker, which also doubles as a game storage container.

The six antler section dice are plain on one side and have a painted black dot painted on the second side. The black paint was made from powdered charcoal mixed with egg white. The twelve scoring sticks were made from small twigs from a desert fern tree that had the bark scraped away to reveal the green inner surface.



Desert fern tree wood being made into 12 scoring keeping sticks

The container used as a dice shaker and also as a game storage box was made from a dried and hollow section of agave flower stalk. The inside walls were scraped down to the hard outer layer of the stalk. Leather was used to cover the opening at the bottom. A snug fitting lid was constructed from cedar and leather with a leather and antler pull.



Section of agave flower stalk



Stalk walls scraped down and a dot painted on one side of each dice



Finished dice shaker with game storage lid in place



Leather attached to close off bottom of shaker



Cedar shaped and attached to leather disk for lid

The object of the game is for one player to collect all 12 scoring sticks by throwing combinations of winning dice. Traditionally the dice were shaken and then cast into a basket or on to a blanket.

Winning dice combinations:

3 dice showing plain and 3 dice showing the black dot = 1 point (1 stick) and same player rolls again

6 dice all showing plain or all showing the black dot = 2 points (2 sticks) and same player rolls again

All other dice combinations = 0 points (0 sticks) and play moves to next player

The game starts with all the sticks in a center pile. Once the center pile is gone, a player with a winning roll takes sticks from another player's sticks.

A player's turn continues as long as each roll is a winning combination. After a non-winning roll, play passes to the next player. This continues between players until one player wins the game by collecting all 12 sticks.

Winning a game of chance was considered by some cultures to be a sign of having a powerful force. Such games may have been used both as entertainment and as a way to settle disagreements, similar to our flipping of a coin.

I hope you enjoy learning about the project as much as I did.

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

DUTCH OVEN COOKING by Tom Wax

Tips and How To:

Last Thanksgiving I made Cherry Cobbler in a Dutch Oven. You can cook almost anything in a Dutch Oven! I have killed a one eyed chicken and cooked it in my Dutch Oven that was tough as rubber (LOL) to Pineapple Upside Down cake. I have made Beef Stew, biscuits, a frozen pecan pie, fried fish, pancakes and eggs to mention some of the things that I have made in a Dutch Oven.

You can use the lid turned upside down as a griddle to make pancakes, eggs, etc. on a bed of coals..



Always cook with coals when using a Dutch Oven, never on a fire.



When buying a Dutch Oven, make sure it has legs on the bottom and lip on the top. The lip on the top hold the coals on the lid and the legs on the bottom help keep the coals from touching the bottom. Most of the time the coals will touch the bottom anyway.



I use aluminum foil for easy clean up inside the Dutch Oven as a liner. I used a yellow cake mix and cherry pie filling to make this cherry cobbler. If you can find a cherry chip cake mix, it would make it even better. I have also used Biquick, but it is not as tasty as a cake mix.



This photo shows the ending results of a delicious dessert.

When cooking over coals, use hardwood trees for long lasting coals. Pine really doesn't cut it for cooking with coals, they don't last long. There was one time at Mount Rainier National Park that I had to buy firewood because you were not allowed to collect wood and the flames would die out as soon as you quit adding wood and not make a coal. Fortunately, I had brought along some charcoal to make biscuits.

FANTASTIC FIND!



The engraved images of two giraffes, estimated to be some seven to nine thousand years old, have been found atop a 50-foot-high sandstone outcrop in the Sahara Desert of northeastern Niger.

Recorded last November by documentary photographer David Coulson of the Trust for African Rock Art (TARA) and French archaeologist Jean Clottes, president of the Paris-based International Committee of Rock Art, the carvings, one of which is more than 20 feet in height, are among the finest examples of African rock art found to date; the larger of the two images may well be the largest-known single prehistoric work of art in the world.

Surrounded by hundreds of smaller engravings, the giraffes are carved in the so-called Bubalus style of the Large Wild Fauna period (ca. 9,000-6500 B.C.), typified by naturalistic renderings of the giant long-horned buffalo *Bubalus antiquus* (for which the period takes its name), rhinoceros, elephants, hippopotamus, giraffes, ostriches, lions, aurochs, and crocodile. Like many images from this period, the Niger petroglyphs are deep cut and polished. According to Clottes, the giraffes are among the finest images he has ever

seen. "The technique is perfect," he said. "If you put this in the Louvre, it would look just fine."

The giraffe and its companion each have a long line emanating from their nose that terminates in the image of a small man. "We believe that this has important significance, perhaps representing shamanic association or symbolism," said Coulson. "We simply do not know. What is certain, however, is that the giraffe was of vital importance to early African populations, possibly being associated with the bringing of rain."

At the time the engravings were made the Sahara was a far more hospitable place. Rather than the parched landscape it is today, it was covered with trees, grasses, rivers, and lakes. The Sahara began drying some 3,000 years ago, reaching its current state around 2,500 years ago. "This art depicts another world," says Coulson, "one in which diverse cultures flourished alongside herds of game."

TARA, a non-profit research institution of which Coulson is chairman, was established in 1995 to document and where possible undertake measures to preserve the entire corpus of African rock art, which by Coulson's estimates, is carved or painted at what may be well over a half million sites. Despite the remoteness of many sites this art is subject to serious threats such as vandalism, graffiti, target practice, and mass tourism. "In the face of such threats," says Coulson, "TARA is endeavoring to create an awareness of the richness and value of the art. It is not only Africa's heritage but the world's heritage, whose significance is only now being recognized."

Photo and caption courtesy of Leiren Patterson





WINTER COUNT

**February 14 - 20, 2021
AT THE BOULDERS!**

About 1/2 hour east of Florence, AZ on the East Florence-Kelvin Highway which is just south of Florence off Hwy. 79.

Registration for Winter Count 2021 will open November 1, 2020. [Join our email list](#) to stay up-to-date on news of the event.

Don't have access to credit cards or prefer to mail us a certified money order or cashier's check, click on the "Download Mail In Registration Form" button below.

Prices:

Adult Early Registration **\$345** (17 and up) (November 1, 2020-January 15, 2021)

Adult Regular Registration- **\$435** (Starting January 16, 2021)

Teen Registration- **\$175** (13-16)

Youth Registration- **\$150** (Ages 9-12)

Kids Registration- **\$50** (Ages 4-8)

Wee Ones (ages 1 to 3) **FREE**

Day Passes will be available starting November 1, 2020 until we sell out. Adults \$95/day, Teen (13-16) \$45/day, Youth (9-12) \$40/day, Kids (4-8) \$15/day, Wee Ones Still free!
[Sign up for day passes!](#)

Work trade applications will be available starting November 1, 2020

Refund and Discount Policy: \$25 of each tuition is a non-refundable deposit for Rollovers or \$50 for

Refunds. Refunds can be obtained by contacting the office 30 days prior to the start of the event. After that date, arrangements can be made to Rollover the tuition to the gathering you registered for or transfer it to another participant.

For a Rollover or refund, you must contact us before the beginning of the event.

No refunds or transfers after the event begins.

Extreme weather conditions are becoming more of a concern. If catastrophic conditions require us to close the camp during an event, refunds will not be available. There are trip insurance options available through brokers that provide a policy to cover such an occurrence.

We maintain a small financial aid fund generated through raffles and donations from a few of our instructors.

[Requests may be made for access to that fund.](#)

People trying to register using Internet Explorer as their browser may have trouble. Please use Chrome, Safari or Firefox.

[Download Mail-In Registration Form](#)

[To Register Online Register Below...](#)

Winter Count

2119 Calle Tecolote

Santa Fe, NM 87505

Winter Count 505-570-9484 WinterCountCamp@gmail.com
www.WinterCountCamp.com

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 other classes are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage



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



Between the Rivers Gathering, May 31st – June 5th, 2021

Yes, we are planning for next spring already.

Yes, we may still be dealing with COVID.

Unless we are in a lockdown making our event illegal we will still be gathering in the spring. We will adapt and do what we need to do. Please join us at our new location, our very own 40 acre campus in Valley, WA. Please see our website for details, and watch for registration to open in the spring.

[Betweentheriversgathering.com](http://www.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)

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](http://www.reevismountain.org) to enroll and to get more information

Sign up online!

www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

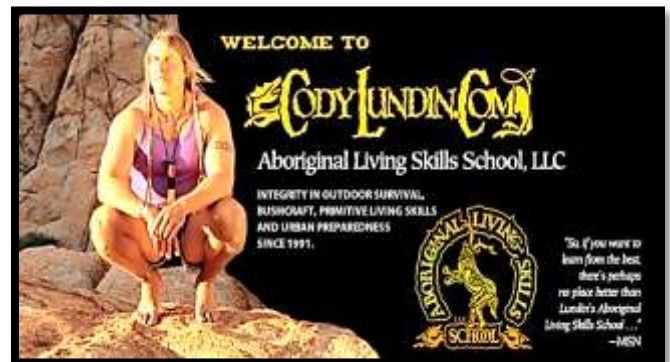
www.reevismountain.org/country-store



Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



Our camp at **FALL CAMP** 10/8-11/20



“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



34TH 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

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. 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>

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 in January!

SINGLE \$12.00 & FAMILY \$24.00

(New memberships are pro-rated throughout the year)

Please bring it to the next Skills Meeting or 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