



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 12

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, DEC. 18th

10 am – 1 pm

S.A.L.T. SKILL #18 Traps and Snares

Level I - PIUTE DEADFALLS with Tom Wax

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

at PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM

...and later that day

S.A.L.T. HOLIDAY PARTY!!!

on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th at 6:00 pm

at Charlie & Tamara's House

12840 N. 45th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85304 602-524-6910

Please call Tamara to RSVP and to find out what to bring to add to the delicious CHICKEN CURRY DINNER!

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

UPCOMING 2022 MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Saturday, January 15th SKILLS MEETING at PGM
S.A.L.T. SKILL #24 Decoration – SHELL ETCHING with Peter Huegel
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and Elections

Thursday, January 27th Legacy School Event
S.A.L.T. SKILLS DEMOS Call Tamara to help out at 602-920-8228

Saturday, February 19th SKILLS MEETING at PGM
S.A.L.T. SKILL #4 TOOLS – Bone Awls with Ron Moses
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS

February 20th – 26th WINTER COUNT

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!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



SAT/SUN, DECEMBER 11th & 12th PUEBLO GRANDE MUSEUM INDIAN MARKET

Mark your calendar! Pueblo Grande Indian Market is back and bigger than ever! Artists, vendors and performers from throughout the country have committed to making the Indian Market's 2021 return a memorable event! Also S.A.L.T. member Arturo Ramirez will again demonstrate and educate on gourds.

Arturo has worked exclusively with gourds for over 35 years and is a Arizona Gourd Society Grand Master Artist. Arturo will also again be an invited instructor at the Wuertz Gourd Festival held February 11th, 12th and 13th, in Casa Grande Arizona. For information on either event contact Arturo at 505-980-1427.

S.A.L.T. President Charlie Tadano will be running the Atlatl Demo at the Indian Market. If you would like to help out, please call him at 602-524-6910.



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.

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



**DON'T MISS THE DECEMBER 2021
S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING!**
Saturday, December 18th 10 am - 1 pm



SKILL #18 Traps & Snares
Level I - PIUTE DEADFALLS with Tom Wax

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
18. Traps / Snares	Take a class on Traps & Snares	Make a Piute Deadfall and two others on your own	Catch an animal or fish with a Trap or Snare that you made on your own

Tom suggests that we should each bring a slab of stone to work with.



Piute Deadfalls



Tom, Bob and Charlie Sept. 2018

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

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice 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

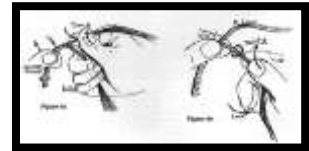
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

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!

**“Unless there is CONTEXT,
it’s all arts and crafts.” Steve Watts**

NOVEMBER 2021 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, November 20, 2021
Pueblo Grande Museum

Board Members in attendance were: Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Laura Robins, Bob & Carol Sizemore, Tom Wax, Jennifer Ahumada, Ron & Donna Moses

Members in attendance: Carlos Acuna, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Linda & Emilio Jolle, Diane Anderson, Peter Huegel, Josh Reeder, Donald Raker, Tom Adkins, Mark & Helen Stafford and Andrew Burchill

Welcome NEW Member Susan Roxburgh

S.A.L.T. SKILL #22 Primitive Hunting Level III

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
22. Slings/ Spears Throwing Sticks	Take a class and make a Sling, Spear and Throwing Stick	Make your own Sling, Spear and Throwing Stick	Demonstrate how to use the Sling, Spear and Throwing Stick proficiently



Fun Saturday at the Pueblo Grande Museum
– Peter Huegel

S.A.L.T. (Study of Ancient Lifeways and Technologies) was at the museum to demonstrate for the guests primitive hunting weapons which included Bow and Arrow, Atlatls, Slings, Blowguns, Boomerangs, and Throwing Sticks, with Bow and Arrow and Atlatls being the primary weapons.

Our "hunting" targets for the day were rabbits (orange traffic cones), a Jaguar and a Saber-tooth Tiger (large paper targets).

S.A.L.T. shares because we believe, as was once said, that "Primitive skills are our shared inheritance. It is the shared thread which links us to our prehistory and binds us together as human beings."

And therefore:

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

If you are in the Greater Phoenix area come join us some day. We meet once a month at Pueblo Grande Museum. We don't sell anything, we just share ancient knowledge and techniques.

PRIMITIVE BOW & ARROW



Peter Huegel and Tom Wax



Tamara Tadano

ATLATL



Diane and Tom

RABBITSTICK



Donna Moses

SLING



Bob Sizemore



Carlos Acuna

We also had Josh Roederer who talked about using "wild plastic" (discarded plastic junk) in the primitive skills realm as a renewable resource and possible survival resource.



Josh Roederer



After the skill training and demonstrations, as usual, we had our Pot Luck lunch. I took "Pancho Via Enchilada Meatballs". Not to brag but one of the members said they were "addictive".



YUM!



For the meeting in January, I have been asked to teach how the Huhugam (people of the Hohokam culture of the SW) used an acid etching technique to make shell jewelry (I have included a photo of a piece I made a couple years ago).



The Huhugam figured out how to acid etch items nearly 1,000 years before a similar technique was discovered in Europe.

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

HAND-DRILL TIPS AND IDEAS by Tom Wax

Have you ever used the hearth of the Hand-Drill so many times that there is no longer space to make another fire? Here is an idea that you can make a few more embers. In the first photo shows both sides of the hearth used up.



Notice that each drill hole is in between the drill holes on the opposite side. In the second Photo; If the hearth is wide enough you can split down one side and use it again.



See another drill hole in the bottom of the second picture. You can also use the ends of the hearth, See the Drill hole in the top of the Heart in the second photo. I have 22 drill holes in the hearth before splinting the hearth down the length. I now have the potential of making another 10 embers using the ends and the new side edge for a total of 32 embers.

PRIMITIVE CONTAINERS by Tom Wax

Containers can be made from almost anything to carry or hold items. They are literally what holds the world together. Here are a few containers that you can learn the skills to make from natural materials.



Pine Needles to make baskets, Gourds to make canteens, bowls, etc. Pottery from clay, Agave Stocks to make quivers and to carry other items. I use them to carry my Hand-Drill sets to make fire. Willow made into pack baskets.



Leather bags to carry all sorts of things, wood boxes and horns to carry items.



At our S.A.L.T. Meetings, these skills are taught on how to make containers when classes are available.

S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT THE VERDE SALT MINES by Mountain Moses 2021



Salt and gypsum layers



Ledge of rock salt

Southwest of present day Camp Verde, Arizona is the site of the ancient Verde River halite deposits. The mineral halite is more commonly known as sodium chloride or rock salt which can be crushed into table salt. Ancient artifacts found at the site indicate that these salt deposits have been mined for thousands of years.

The halite or salt was originally concentrated and deposited in the bottom of a large lake that at one time filled the area of the modern day Verde River valley. When the lake drained, layers of halite (salt) and selenite (gypsum) were left behind on the lake bottom. The Verde River eroded down through the deposits leaving them exposed today, along the west side of the valley.



Close up of the deposit

A certain amount of salt needs to be consumed to sustain life, so it is a critical resource for both ancient and modern peoples. Evidence at the site indicates that the Sinagua culture mined and traded, salt from this location, for close to 2,000 years. The existence of the ancient mines is also mentioned by Spanish explorers in 1583. More recently, some of the deposits were mined commercially in the early 1900's.



My replica stone pick

We took trip to the site in the spring of this year. Much of the location has timber remnants left over from the commercial mines in 1900's. The brilliant white layers of salt and gypsum clearly identify the ancient deposits. Using a replica stone blade pick, chunks of halite (salt) crystals were easily chopped free from the exposed layers.



Chunk of salt crystals

The mineral at this site is only 92% pure so the normally clear crystals are somewhat discolored due to other minerals. The lack of purity and the associated additional processing cost was one of the reasons the commercial mines closed in 1938.



Lava mortar & pestle crusher

Returning back to Phoenix with the rock salt samples, I wanted to continue to replicate the ancient technology. A lava stone mortar and pestle was just the right tool to break the chunks of salt crystals into smaller pieces that were about 1/8 inch in size. This was still pretty coarse so another step was needed to get to something that would be usable as table salt. I had seen some museum artifacts over the years that had the functional appearance of small hand held grinders, kind of a miniature mortar and pestal.



Salt grinder in action

It was time to create my own interpretation of an ancient salt mill. A trip to my backyard rock cache yielded a small lava stone and a piece of softer mud stone. Several hours aggressively working the knuckle size piece of lava stone, along with some sand grit, against the fist size mud stone, produced a nice representation of an ancient hand held grinder. Now it was time to see if I could grind up some useable table salt



. Finished table salt

A little twisting/grinding action with the small, and now rounded, lava stone, against pieces of salt crystal in the formed depression in the mud stone, resulted in a product that both looked like and tasted like modern table salt.



. Filling gourd salt cellar

The gourd spice container, that was in an earlier newsletter this year, would make an excellent salt cellar. Clearly it was time to bring out venison steaks and yucca root chips to be flavored with some "homemade" Verde River table salt.

Wuertz Farm's 19th Annual "RUNNING OF THE GOURDS" Gourd Festival

February 11-12-13 2022 <small>at the Pinal Fairgrounds Casa Grande, Arizona</small>	STILL RUNNING! 	Admission- \$10 Kids FREE Rain or Shine (Many indoor activities)
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- *Amazing Gourd Artists
- *Tools & Supplies
- *Judged Gourd Competition (Hosted by AZGS)
- *4 Days of Reserved Classes(Registration opens December 9th)
- *Gourd Honey
- *Kindergourden
- *Sonoran Desert in Gourds
- *Flash Gourdon
- *Gourd Games
- *Mini Gourdster Races (Saturday)
- *Non-Stop Live Musical Entertainment
- *Wide Variety of Food Trucks
- *RV Parking (Reservations - 520-723-7881)
- *Thousands of Dried Gourds for Sale!

For more festival information call Kathy at 520-723-4432
For Class information and gourd orders call 520-424-7337

Festival News

Vendors- Are you interested in being a vendor at our 2022 Festival? Please contact Kathy Wuertz at kathywuertz@wuertzfarm.com.

TEACHERS- Are you interested in teaching gourd art at our 2023 festival? Or, Do you know an instructor who you want to take a class from? I am currently looking for teachers for our 2023 Gourd Festival. Please email Leah Wuertz at Leahwuertz@gmail.com



Interested in Entering Gourd Art in a Competition?

Click this Link or the AZGS Logo to direct you to the AZGS Homepage.
There you will find Rules, Regulations and Registration Forms!



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
FEB. 20-26, 2022

Registration for Winter Count 2022 will begin November 1, 2021.

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, 2021 - January 15, 2022)

Adult Regular Registration- \$435 (Starting January 16, 2022)

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 Pass registration has been pushed back and will be available starting Jan 16th, 2022 unless full week registration fills up, in which case day passes will not be available. Adults \$95/day, Teen (13-16) \$45/day, Youth (9-12) \$40/day, Kids (4-8) \$15/day, Wee Ones Still free!

[Work trade applications](#) will be available starting November 1, 2021.

Refund and Discount Policy: **If we need to cancel due to Covid, we will issue either full refunds or Rollovers without and administration fee.** Otherwise, \$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 starting Nov. 1.](#)

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

[Download Mail-In Registration Form](#)

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)



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



34TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 11 - 17, 2022

"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>

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](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

"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



2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY !

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