



# 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](http://www.saltskills.com)

[saltskills@gmail.com](mailto: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 1

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## 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

## FAREWELL THOMAS, 'TIL WE MEET AGAIN...



**THOMAS FRANK ROBINS**

On December 8<sup>th</sup> Thomas passed away at 71. Another cornerstone of S.A.L.T. has left us in 2020, a year of loss and change...



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



**THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF S.A.L.T. 10/14/2000**  
Cano Ramirez, Jo Guill, Lenny Henderson, Bob Sizemore, Charlie Tadano, Carol Sizemore, Thomas Robins, Albert Abril and Terry Behm

Thomas was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1949. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ernest & Bertha Robins and his sister, Diane Robins and is survived by his wife of 48 years, Laura, his children, Brittany, Beau and Christian, and his grandchildren, Sedona, Sienna, Saige, Ryann and Jack.



He enlisted in the Air Force in 1968, the year he met Laura and got engaged. They married in 1972 and moved to Jackson, Wyoming. Thomas loved the wilderness, history and camping. He began his lifelong journey learning primitive survival skills.



We moved back to Illinois in 1976 and he worked for the Village of Skokie Water Dept. and later became the Division Chief for Water & Sewer in Evanston, Illinois. A job offer from the City of Phoenix Water Dept. brought us back out West in 1989.



He was fascinated with pre-1840 historical re-enactment and we joined an Arizona group called The Powderhorn Clan in 1992 and became the Booshway. He was sponsored into the AMM (American Mountain Men) by "Wulf" Schultz in 1994. He was a talented artist and began carving primitive flutes. In 1999 he became a founding member of The Arizona Flute Circle. In the late 90's he attended several Winter Count Primitive Skill Gatherings as a student and quickly became an Instructor for the Society of Primitive Technology.



He taught at both Winter Count and Rabbitstick over the years. In 2000 he became a founding member of S.A.L.T. (Study of Ancient Lifeways and Technologies) and was President for several years.



In 2004 he retired from the City of Phoenix Water & Sewer Depts. We traveled and enjoyed the freedom! In January of 2012 he was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and began a decline until a miracle double-lung transplant on June 8<sup>th</sup> gave us 8 ½ more years of life and love... He was a true survivor in so many ways. He will be dearly missed. He was a great friend and teacher. Much of his knowledge will live on through all of the students he taught in classes and at events over the years, but so much has been lost. Another light has gone out in the Primitive Skills world...





# S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

## STONE AGED KNIFE by Tom Wax

A stone edged knife can be just as useful and sharp as a modern day steel knife. However they are not as durable and will break easier than a modern steel knife.

**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!**



Here is a Stone knife that I had made and used to descale and clean a trout that I had caught. It only took a minute to clean the trout with the stone knife and ready for the frying pan.

## 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](http://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](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

We can include "How To" information in our newsletters and on the website.  
**THANK YOU!!!**



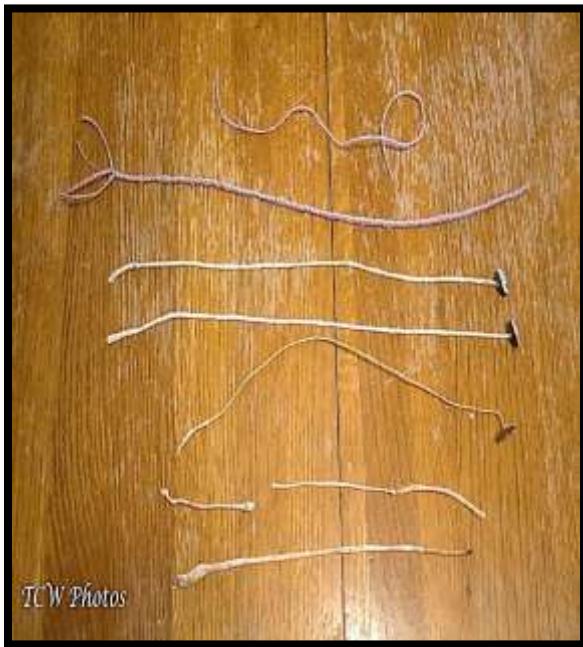
# CANDLE MAKING & FIRE STARTERS

by Tom Wax

I save up old candle wax from burned candles and re-melt the wax to make candles.



Next I will make a wick of some sort using various materials.



At the top I used a purple colored hemp and braided it with 4 strands. I also used some Raffia and twisted it from two strands which is the fourth one in photo. The second and third one is cotton string and at the bottom are commercial candle wicks.



Next, I used a number #10 tin can and melted all the wax down or I will melt the wax in a pan to make tea candles and fire starters.



I made a little bit of a mess on my kitchen stove. Next time I will not be so messy but, I am single and can do what I want in my Man Cave! LOL!



The next step is to dip the string into the wax and pulled it out and let it cool. Repeat this many, many times until it starts to form the shape of a candle.





These candles are called hand dipped candles for the method that is used. you continue dipping until you are done with the thickness of the candle you want.



I also made a candle using a soda can as a mold to make a candle.



I saved the tea candle tins that were used to make fire starters also and to make tea candles. To make fire starters you add sawdust, pieces of cardboard, paper, etc. You can also use cardboard egg cartons for the mold. Don't use Styrofoam egg cartons, they melt when pouring the hot wax in the egg carton.



These are the candles lit. The hand dipped candle on the left is the candle made with the Raffia. It is a very thin wick and it made the candle burn longer, but with a weak flame. The hand dipped candle on the right is the 4 stand braided wick that I made and it burns faster, but Brighter. The hand formed candle and tea candle is made with a commercial wick that was left over pieces of burned candles.

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

## CRATER LAKE HIKE 2016 by Tom Wax

Crater Lake National Park has the bluest of blues I have ever seen, it is intense! If you ever get the blues, go to Crater Lake and sing the blues, it will cheer you up.

I hiked up to the top of Garfield Peak to overlook Crater Lake with an awesome view in 2016. It is rated strenuous and is 3.5 miles round trip from the parking lot.







# 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 Novmeber 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](mailto:WinterCountCamp@gmail.com)

[www.WinterCountCamp.com](http://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](http://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 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

Happy New Year my Gathering family! In the past we have opened registration for Between the Rivers Gathering on January 1st. This year we are going to wait until March so we can know better what accommodations and adjustments we will need to make due to our pandemic. We are planning on holding BtR this year, but it will need to be a little different. At this point everyone will be doing their own food, and tuition prices will be reduced accordingly. Watch our e-mails and our website for updates, and if everything goes well we will see you all at the end of May. Winter well!

Sign up online!

[www.reevismountain.org/classes](http://www.reevismountain.org/classes)

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

[www.reevismountain.org/country-store](http://www.reevismountain.org/country-store)

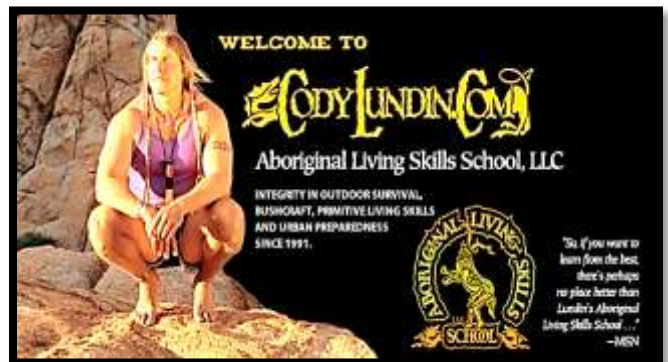
- Patrick

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://Betweentheriversgathering.com)



Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



### 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](mailto:kandiscreated@gmail.com)  
509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created  
(Instagram)

“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





## 34<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.rabbitstick.com)

[Register On-Line Today](#)  
[Share a Ride Bulletin Board](#)  
[Meet Our Staff](#)

Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | [backtracks905@gmail.com](mailto:backtracks905@gmail.com) | [societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com](mailto: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>

## 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](mailto: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**



## 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. 45<sup>th</sup> 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. 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**

## S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: [www.saltskills.com](http://www.saltskills.com)

e-mail address: [saltskills@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

For **EVENTS** and **BEAD** information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or [saltdonna1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)