

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

[saltskills@gmail.com](mailto:saltskills@gmail.com)

Charlie Tadano, President

Tom Wax, Vice President

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 15, Issue 1

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



**S.A.L.T. CALENDAR**

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

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20<sup>th</sup>**

10 am – 2 pm

at **S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM**

**S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS / DRUMMING CIRCLE 9am**

**S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AND ELECTIONS FOR PRES. & TREAS.**

**S.A.L.T. SKILL # 24 Decoration**

Lecture / Make a Winter Count Skin with Peter Huegel

10 am – 2 pm

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

WUERTZ GOURD FESTIVAL, FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> **SKILLS MEETING at SVM**

S.A.L.T. SKILLS #1, 2, & 3 Blade, Cordage & Fire

**S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS**

WINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 18-24, 2024

**MARCH IS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH:**

ANCIENT TECH DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>

S.A.L.T. Displays & Demos & Atlatl

Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> **SKILLS MEETING at SVM**

S.A.L.T. SKILL # TBD

V BAR V EVENT, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

AZ ARCHAEOLOGY EXPO, SATURDAY, APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>

10 am – 2 pm SAN TAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, Queen Creek

**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 SVM!*



**S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM**

in English it is "Central Platform Mound."



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. 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



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

Pinal Fairgrounds & Event Center

# Wuertz Farm GOURD FESTIVAL

**February 2-3-4, 2024**

**FRI & SAT 9am-5pm**  
**SUN 10am-3pm**




Wuertz Annual Gourd Festival is coming February 2-4, 2024! Food, Musical performances throughout the day and numerous gourd art vendors. Gourd art exhibit and gourd art classes. Gourd entries from novice to Grand Masters are on display. **Arturo teaches gourd art classes and also displays as a Grand Master.** Held in Casa Grande AZ at the Pinal County Fairgrounds and Event Center. \$13 admission. Come out for a day filled with fun and of course gourds!



- 1 Gourd Artists & Crafters
- 2 Gourd Classes (Pre-Register Only)
- 3 AZGS Gourd Art Competition
- 4 Entertainment - Music, Dancers & More
- 5 Wide Variety of Food Vendors
- 6 1000's of Dried Gourds!
- 7 Demonstrations

Admission \$13  
Kids & Parking FREE

520-723-4432  
Pinal Fairgrounds & Event Center  
512 S Eleven Mile Corner Rd.,  
Casa Grande AZ  
www.wuertzfarm.com

Festival Questions? Email [wuertzfarm@wuertzfarm.com](mailto:wuertzfarm@wuertzfarm.com)

LOOK FOR OUR S.A.L.T. POSTER IN THE MUSEUM LOBBY!

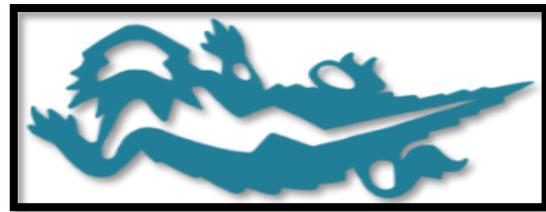


www.saltsite.com

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ANCIENT SKILLS?**  
Everyone is welcome to join our S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETINGS at SEDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on the third Saturday of every month for free instruction of ancient skills!



*"You are here today because YOUR ancestors knew these things."*



## WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR  
**FEBRUARY 18-24, 2024**

**REGISTRATION OPENED NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**AND CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> !**

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](mailto:WinterCountCamp@gmail.com)  
[www.WinterCountCamp.com](http://www.WinterCountCamp.com)

## ATTENTION S.A.L.T. MEMBERS !!!

**S.A.L.T. MEMBERS HAVE BEEN INVITED OUT TO WINTER COUNT FOR A FREE DAY, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>!**  
**WE WILL ALL MEET UP IN FLORENCE AND DRIVE OUT TO THE BOULDERS TOGETHER.**  
**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING WHAT WINTER COUNT IS ALL ABOUT, PLEASE CALL CHARLIE AT 602-524-6910.**

### Sending Their Ancestors Home



Exploring the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, thirty years later and still striving for healing.

Exhibit Opens June 22, 2023 through May 2024

**S'edav Va'aki Museum**  
Formerly Pueblo Grande Museum  
4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85034  
(602) 495-0901 | [www.pueblogrande.com](http://www.pueblogrande.com)  
[pueblogrande.museum.phoenix.gov](http://pueblogrande.museum.phoenix.gov)





**DON'T MISS THE DECEMBER 2023  
S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING  
Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am - 2 pm**

**(Remember to bring something for the Potluck Brunch!)**

**S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AND ELECTIONS FOR PRES. & TREAS.**

**S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T.  
DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am**

**S.A.L.T. SKILL #24 DECORATION  
Lecture and make a Winter Count  
History with Peter Huegel**

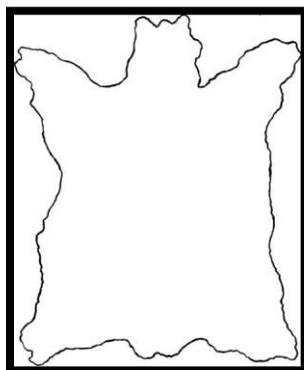
SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
24. Decoration – Pigments, etc.	Make a personal S.A.L.T. Bead	Research 6 different kinds of decoration such as pigments, etc.	Display 3 different items that were decorated by you

How did the Indigenous people pass along their history and beliefs for thousands of years before they had a written language?

We will be looking at several ways this was done, going in depth into how the O'odham did it, and how the people of the Great Plains area of North America did it. Their methods were very different and yet they shared some common aspects. Part of the presentation will include photos of what they used and will give details of exactly what the story was they were documenting.

At the end of the presentation everyone will get to begin recording their own history - without using writing - by making one of the items used by the Indigenous people to record their history.

See you there. Bring a friend. It is free!

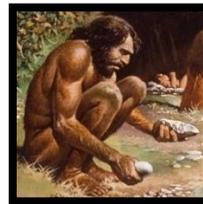


**LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3  
INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL  
MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...**

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

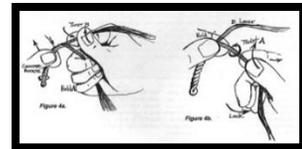
**SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I**

*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!*

# DECEMBER 2023 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, December 16, 2023

**Board Members in attendance:** Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Tom Wax, Laura Robins, Bob & Carol Sizemore, Ron & Donna Moses, Jennifer Ahumada, Peter Huegel, and Gary Alves

**Members in attendance:** Carlos Acuna, Bill Warner, Diane Wax, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Carol Schroeter, Russell, Jodee & Bingham Hortin, Linda Jolle, Susan Jeffay, Joyce Alves, Don Raker, Justin Sowden and Sylvia Lee

**Guests:** Carmen Leavitt, JoMarie & Caleb Olander, and John Lavra

## S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS MEET BEFORE OUR SKILLS CLASS at 9:00 am

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
5. Flint Knapping	Demonstrate Core Reduction by Percussion	Use Percussion to produce Bi face Preform	Make primitive tools such as Southwestern Points



## S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
25. Musical Instruments / Games	Take a class and make an instrument or game	Make and learn how to play 1 instrument and 1 game on your own	Demonstrate and display 3 instruments and 3 games



## S.A.L.T. SKILL # 24 DECORATION

Make a carved wooden ornament with Gary Alves

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
24. Decoration – Pigments, etc.	Make a personal S.A.L.T. Bead	Research 6 different kinds of decoration such as pigments, etc.	Display 3 different items that were decorated by you



Great class Gary!



The carvings were plain, painted, or covered with copper foil



**HOLIDAY CHICKEN CURRY!**



For our Christmas party dinner our President and his wife make a Curry dish and mounds of white rice to put it on. Then each member brings a different condiment to add on top of the rice and curry. We had LOTS, and LOTS of different toppings. The more different toppings you put on the better the dish becomes. It is true.



**UGLIEST CHICKEN CURRY PLATE CONTEST!**



Luis 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Justin 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Carol 3<sup>rd</sup> Place!



Tom had the Best Plate and an honorable mention to Charlie for the biggest!



We also had a table full of desserts. I made "Christmas Snowballs" which are my take on Russian Tea Balls - only a bit bigger. They are loaded with roasted walnuts and cinnamon then coated with powdered sugar with red and green sprinkles..

**MUSICAL WHITE MAMMOTH GIFT EXCHANGE!**



At the party we do a gift exchange where we play a game that determines what gift you are going to get of all the gifts brought in by the members. We all sit in a large circle. The wrapped gifts are passed round and round as music is playing. When the music stops, you open the gift that is then in your hand.

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



We like to have the gifts be something related to ancient technologies, etc. And preferably something you as a member of SALT actually had a hand in making.



I took a Damascus blade knife that I had customized the handle - made from a Ram horn - and customized the knife's guard. That took some major grinding and shaping. I also made and decorated the sheath. It was leather with burnt in Native American style designs. Honestly, when I was done with the knife, I was tempted to keep it. But I didn't. Diane Wax wound up with the knife and she was VERY happy.



I got a necklace and earrings made by one of our talented SALT members. I was in awe when I opened the box. A necklace, and pierced earrings that each featured a hand-made projectile point of pink stone! The workmanship was incredible! I knew as soon as I opened the box, I was giving them to Barb. She loves pink.



Some of the other gifts going around the circle included hand-made atlatis, pump drills, pottery, baskets, stone knife blades and spear points...Yes, we are that kind of group and proud of it. - Peter

## HAFTING and KNAPPING with Bill Warner

Why I've really begun to appreciate the "rat-tail" hafting for hollow core wood handles, or in this case, a turkey bone handle to be. The right end of the bone will be cut off so the rat tail is captured into the handle, then hafted with pitch glue. The rat tail provides an anchor for "bottom of the point tip upward pressure" during cutting and exponentially strengthens the hafting. Also, really love the "confetti-in-blue-chalcedony" look of this rock--those lighter blotches are cross-sections of fossil Equisetum stem bases ("horse tail"--looks kind of like asparagus) at the edge of an early Miocene lake bed in central AZ.



It seems like knapping pretty rock is mostly disappointing as beautiful patterns disappear or diminish as the piece gets smaller during reduction from biface to preform to finished blade. The Martin Formation piece on the left shrunk to half and lost most of the bullseye rings because of a "crunchy" area during thinning, the other Martin biface on the right will likely lose its stripes in thinning, and the middle piece snapped in half because of my screw up...."it was so gorgeous and big!"... 😞. But finding that middle rock (from my new central AZ spot) knaps well means I have an excuse to go back for more...so, "win!"



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

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

S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM VOLUNTEER  
LUNCHEON 12/14/23



What a wonderful event! It celebrated all the volunteers at SVM, including honoring Laura Andrew on 30 years of service!



Delicious food!



Delicious desserts!



Fun Ornament Craft with GLITTER!



《 》 BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING 《 》

May 27<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024



Email Mullein [HERE](#) with any further questions

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 5011(3)  
**Northeastern Washington State Ancestral Skills & Self-Sufficiency Gathering**

Other [Skills Gatherings](#)  
[BtR T-Shirt](#)

Burning questions that can't wait? Contact us: [patrickf@bridgestothepast.org](mailto:patrickf@bridgestothepast.org)

[betweentheiversgathering.com](http://betweentheiversgathering.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](mailto:kandiscreated@gmail.com)

509-994-0585 cell . @kandis created (Instagram)



## 36<sup>TH</sup> RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 15 – 21, 2024

Registration opens in February 2024

Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Gathering, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 next year!**

[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) | [societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com](mailto:societyofprimitivetechnology@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>

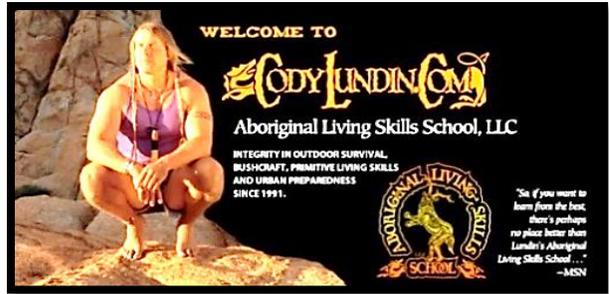
## PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS

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 classes that are offered, and there will be more to come!  
-Kiowa Sage



### Earth Knack Courses, Classes, and Programs

Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever  
Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever  
Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever  
Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990!



Robin Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth Knack School  
Author: [How To Play In The Woods](#) (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

[Earth Knack: Stone Age Skills for the 21st Century](#) (Peregrine Books - Gibbs Smith 1996)

P.O.#508 Crestone Colorado 81131 719  
256 4909 [earthknackschool@gmail.com](mailto:earthknackschool@gmail.com)  
<http://www.earthknack.com/>



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

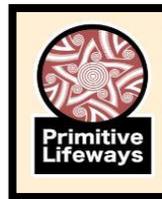
Sign up online!

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

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

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

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



### 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](mailto:Jeff@primitivelifeways.com)



### NEED YOUR HELP!

Jax's Project has been growing by leaps and bounds! He has had the opportunity to touch the lives of 185 Veterans who are transitioning from homeless to healing. If you would like to help, put bags together, supply items, or donate money for supplies, you can partner with Jax in honoring these Veterans.

Please call Tamara if you can help at 602-920-8228. The website is:

[www.americanveteransranch.org](http://www.americanveteransranch.org)



## 2024 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

**NEW BLACK S.A.L.T. T-SHIRTS,  
LONG SLEEVED SHIRTS, HOODIES**



**and S.A.L.T. PATCHES  
are available!**

*(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00  
each  
(Memberships receive one free)*

## 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!**

**Contact Charlie Tadano at 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)