

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

Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

saltskills@gmail.com Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Charlie Tadano, President

Tom Wax, Vice President

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 14, Issue 7

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023

S. A. L. T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 15th

10 am - 2 pm

S.A.L.T. SKILL #14 BASKETS

Make a small Pine Needle Basket with **Tom Wax and Jennifer Ahumada**

at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

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

UPCOMING 2023 MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Saturday, August 19th SKILLS MEETING at SVM S.A.L.T. SKILL # 24 DECORATION - Lecture and Make a Winter Count Skin with Peter Huegel

Saturday, September 16th SKILLS MEETING at SVM S.A.L.T. SKILL # 22 - WEAPONS - Make a Blow Gun / Darts with Bob Sizemore

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!

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

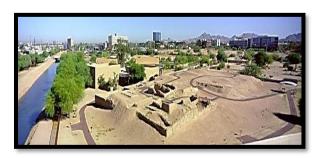


SEDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

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.



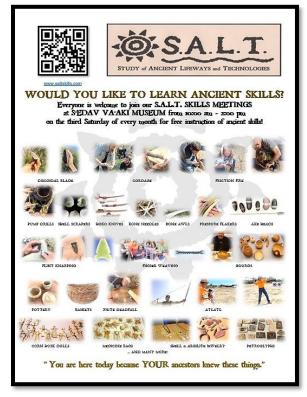
4619 E. Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85034 (602) 495-0901







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



S.A.L.T. WORLD ATLATL DAY at SVM

Saturday, June 3, 2023 9 am - Noon











Channel 12 News interviewed Bob Sizemore











Charlie and Peter teaching on the Range













Tom demoing Friction Fire







Bob teaching about Atlatls



Tamara and Carol





Amy & Thaddeus

Amy and her childhood Atlatl





DON'T MISS THE JULY 2023 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING! Saturday, July 15th 10 am - 2 pm

(Don't forget a dish to share for the potluck brunch!)

S.A.L.T. SKILL #14 BASKETS Make a small Pine Needle Basket with Tom Wax & Jennifer Ahumada

| SKILL | Apprentice | Apprentice | Apprentice |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| | Level I | Level II | Level III |
| 14. Baskets | Take a class and make a simple basket | Take a class and make a large basket or pack basket | Forage for materials and make a basket on your own |





Tom Wax

Jennifer Ahumada







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

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

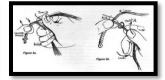
Make a flake and discoidal blade.





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!

JUNE 2023 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, June 17, 2023

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

Members in attendance: Diane Wax, Carlos Acuna, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Jax O'Conner, Joyce Alves, Bill Warner, Arturo Ramirez, Phyllis Huegel, Barb Huegel, Susan Jeffay, Sam Sargent, Teresa McCoy, and Russell, Jodee, Calvin, Wesley & Bingham Hortin

Guests: Mari & Dalen Townsend, Michael Harris, Karilyn Kober, BriAnne & Jeff Turpin, Christine Bowy, and Laura Olivas

S.A.L.T. SKILL #23 Tracking - DESERT ANIMALS with Peter Huegel

| SKILL | Apprentice | Apprentice | Apprentice |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Level I | Level II | Level III |
| 23. Tracking / Animals | Take a class and be able to identify at least 12 tracks | Take a class and learn how to follow a track | Demonstrate how to track an animal or man proficiently |



Great presentation by Peter about various animals of the Sonoran Desert and the facts, myths, legends surrounding them as well as the various types of effigies made of them by the ancients.











Cutting the clay

Paints and tools for the clay























Some of the effigies







Some of the effigies got prizes!





Delicious Potluck Brunch! Thank you everyone who brought goodies!



S.A.L.T. MEMBERS PROJECT GALLERY

NEANDERTHAL ANCESTRY by Peter Huegel

Since my DNA testing shows I have a chunk of Neanderthal in me, I found this interesting.

Neanderthals And Homo Sapiens Invented Different Fire Techniques Evolution Of Human Cognition

June 1, 2023, | Archaeology, Evolution, Human Beginnings, News Written by Jan Bartek - AncientPages.com Staff Writer

The Neanderthals and Homo sapiens were both innovative and often devised similar surviving techniques independently. Recently, scientists demonstrated Neanderthals invented or developed birch tar making technique independently from Homo sapiens.

In a new study, researchers explored cognitive aspects of early fire-making and the possible inventors of fire-making kits. It is well-known the Neanderthals understood the benefits of fire-making, but what do we known about the cognitive aspects involved in this ancient process?

"Most researchers have focused on the cognition of fire use, but few have explored the cognition of fire making. With this contribution we analyze aspects of the two main hunter-gatherer fire making techniques—the strike-a-light and the manual fire-drill—in terms of causal, social, and prospective reasoning.

Based on geographic distribution, archaeological and ethnographic information, as well as our cognitive interpretation of strike-a-light fire making, we suggest that this technique may well have been invented by Neanderthal populations in Eurasia. Fire-drills, on the other hand, represent a rudimentary form of a symbiotic technology, which requires more elaborate prospective and causal reasoning skills.

This fire making technology may have been invented by different Homo sapiens groups roaming the African savanna before populating the rest of the globe, where fire-drills remain the most-used hunter-gatherer fire making technique," the researchers write in the study Minds on Fire: Cognitive Aspects of Early Fire making and the Possible Inventors of Fire making Kits published in Cambridge Archaeological Journal.

The focus on Stone Age archaeology, along with the investigation of cognitive implications of early fire-making techniques led scientists to propose ancient humans invented different fire techniques separately.

The two basic techniques of hunter-gatherer fire-making: Strike-a-light and fire drill.

Hunter-gatherers produced fire by striking two stones to create a spark, often involving a nodule of flint or other appropriate rock struck on iron pyrite. According to scientists, recent and current hunter-gatherers use the manual fire-drill technique. "In southern Africa, this method is still in use by the San and their descendants (own observation), and in earlier times it seems to have varied little among the different hunter-gatherer, herder, and farmer groups of the region," the study informs.

The science team suggests Neanderthal populations in Eurasia invented the strike-a-light fore technique. The fire-drill kit technique can be traced to Africa and could, according to the researchers, only have been invented by modern humans. "The distribution maps for strike-a-light versus fire-drill fire making techniques support a hypothesis wherein the strike-a-light method may have been more successful in high-latitude regions, and fire-drills best suited for drier, warmer areas," scientists say.

Some cognitive aspects of fire making "Because it is tool-set dependent, our hypothesis is that fire making requires more complex cognitive processes compared to the ability to use natural fire or to control and maintain it. It is a prime example of prospective cognition since it involves planning in several stages for the future goal of a fire. First, it requires a tool set for ignition. Secondly, burning materials of the right types must be collected. Finally, the fire is ignited, built and maintained with foresight on how it will be used or contained. Each of these phases involves different forms of causal thinking," the scientists explain. "We have hypothesized about some aspects of the cognition of early fire making based on ethnographic and archaeological observations. We have also demonstrated that the distribution maps for strikealight versus fire-drill fire making techniques support a hypothesis wherein the strikea-light method may have been more successful in high-latitude regions, and fire-drills best suited for drier, warmer areas. The distribution could further link to the seeming rarity of pyrite outcrops in Africa, which remains to be investigated.

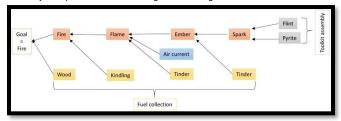
We focused on only two fire making techniques, but exploring others, such as fire-ploughs and different configurations of thong-driven techniques, could add nuance to our interpretation. We limited our cognitive testing of fire making to our models of causal and social (teaching) cognition, integrating it with aspects of prospective cognition and rehearsal.

Our main take-away is two-fold. First, from a cognitive perspective, it is likely that Neanderthal groups independently discovered expedient strike-a-light fire making. Because of probable shared levels of intentional teaching in Homo

sapiens and Neanderthals such as demonstrating and communicating concepts, we may speculate about teaching and learning as well as cultural exchange between the populations when they encountered each other—perhaps also exchanging skills and knowledge about fire making technologies and where to locate the necessary materials.

Secondly, the fire-drill technique that requires extended causal, social and prospective understanding, compared to the strike-a-light technique, may have been invented by Homo sapiens in Africa where populations show early signs of such cognition before spreading across the globe," the scientists conclude in their paper.

The study was published in Cambridge Archaeological Journal.





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

PETRIFIED FOREST NAT'L PARK with Steven Hall

My folks were up to visit so we took a little trip back to Petrified Forest NP. This is one of the places I would have really loved to explore before it became a park. Fossils, ruins, rock art, amazing artifacts and the colors of the landscape are just incredible!







2023 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!



Intern Dates & Focus Topics for 2023

JULY 1-31 AUGUST 8-24

High Altitude Food & Fruit Growing, Horse & Buggy Transport, Tipi Living, Natural Water Catchment, Plasters & Pigments, Home Butchering, Fire Making, Traditional Hide Tanning, Preserving Meat & Eggs, Adobe Horno Baking

Classes for 2023

JULY 7 - 10 Fibers Fantastic! Felting - Spinning –
Weaving - Dyes- and Leather Strap Braiding
with Val Herenchak & Mike Foltmer

JULY 15
Survival, Edible & Medicinal Rocky Mountain
Plants with Cattail Bob Seebeck

JULY 21-24 Primitive Arrows with Ken Wee

JULY 28-31 AtlAtl and Darts with Ken Wee

AUG. 12-13 Fire! Fiber! Flint! Survival Basics with Ivan
Lakish

OCT. (dba) Homestead, Blacksmith & Butcher Tools
Repair and Maintenance with Papa Dean Smith

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)

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Earth Knack operates as an LLC



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



35TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho SEPTEMBER 10 - 16, 2023

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 | <u>backtracks905@gmail.com</u>| societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com





Bulletin of Primitive Technology website atprimitive.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







FALL CAMP October 12-15, 2023

Ancestral Skills for Self-Sufficiency









Email Mullein HERE with any further questions

May 27th - June 1st, 2024

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

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 501(c)(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

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)



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

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 -Kiowa Sage



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY 18-24, 2024 **REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2023!**

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 www.WinterCountCamp.com

NEED YOUR HELP!



www.americanveteransranch.org

Jax and the Veterans

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:

"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!

Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

2023 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

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)

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

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