



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 11

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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



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

**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!

PGM is looking for...

photos or videos on CORN OR GRAIN GRINDING for their remote learning videos.

If you have anything to share, please call:
Lindsey Vogel-Teeter, Pueblo Grande
Museum Curator at 602-534-1572



HOMWORK

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!!!

PROJECT GALLERY

MAKING A BONE AWL WITH STONE TOOLS

by Susan Labiste, Primitive Ways

A bone awl can be manufactured with stone tools within an hour and a half of assembling your basic materials. The same technique can be used for creating pressure flakers, knives, spear tips, arrow points, sewing needles, and hook barbs made from long bones.



1. Basic materials:

In this case the basic materials include a hind leg bone from a deer carcass. This was a tibia, but the cannon bone also works well. A piece of low grade chert was used, but any semi-knappable stone will do. You will also need a substantial hammer stone. Some smaller hammer stones come in handy later in the process as well as an abrasive surface like sandstone.



2. Crushing bone ends: (4 minutes)

The first problem is how to fracture the bone in a way that gives you a long fragment for use as an awl. Grooving a bone creates a weakness for a crack to follow. However, I have had the experience more than once when bone ends were just too massive to respond to grooving. Or I should say, too massive to groove adequately within a time frame I consider reasonable. If the bone has sufficient length, you can reduce the time needed to create an awl by crushing both bone ends before grooving.



3. Create a stone burin: (2 minutes)

Use the hammer stone to strike off a few spauls from the chert or other silica rich stone you've found. Basalt can work too. Obsidian tends to dull quickly and to fracture in use, so a tougher stone works better. The tip of a burin spaul has an angled, chisel-like tip. Chances are, even the unpracticed hand will crack off a piece of rock with such a tip. Of course, if you are practiced in this skill, and have high quality knappable stone, you will have a far more attractive tool . . . one you may want to save. This photo just goes to show it doesn't take much.



4. Creating a groove for a crack to follow: (50 minutes)

Use the burin edge to create a groove along the bone on both sides. It needs to go at least half way through the bone before you begin the split. Watch to see if the stone tool you are using is producing long shavings of bone (green, fresh bone) or substantial bone powder (cured bone). If not, change the angle of your stone tool, or choose another fragment to try. To keep the groove straight, start with a short section and extend the line as a groove forms. Once you have a track to follow, you can run the burin in longer strokes. Use a little muscle. This is by far the most time consuming and tiring part of the process. If you are strong and working with fresh bone, it may take you considerably less time.





Close up of stone wedge ready to be tapped with hammer stone.

5. Use a wedge to start the crack: (1 minute)

Now select a flat section of stone to use as a wedge. Carefully tap it into the end of the bone. Stop tapping as soon as you note any cracking.



6. Extending the crack: (2 minutes)

Lay the bone down and begin using the wedge to gently extend the crack down the sides of the bone. Go slowly, turning the bone over to work the opposite side as soon as you see the crack elongate.



7. Completing the fracture: (1 minute)

Completed fracture should leave you with two long sections of bone.



8. Rough-shaping awl point: (3 minutes)

Using a smaller stone as a hammer stone, the edge on the bone may be carefully crushed. Be sure to strike only the edge, nibbling away at it little by little. The bone must be well supported beneath the spot you are hitting. If the bone is not supported, the blow is likely to snap your awl in two.



9. Grinding and shaping the awl: (10 minutes)

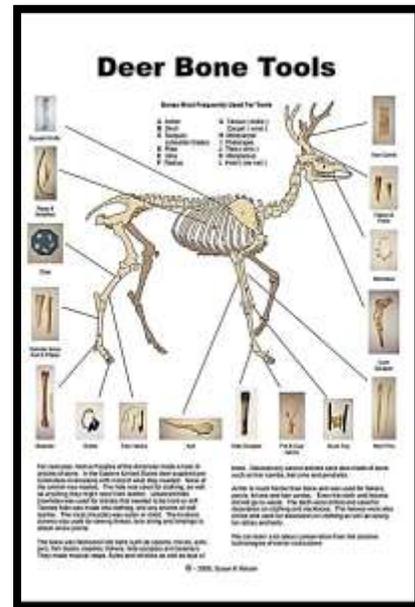
Rub the awl sides and tip against an abrasive surface like sandstone. Shape it so the point is strong enough and fine enough for its intended use. A leather punch requires more point and less mass than an awl used to pack down the weft of a pack basket. An awl used for a coiled basket must be quite fine and delicate.



10. Polishing and honing the awl: (10 minutes)

Using a section of the plant called equisetum, the bone can be polished to a nice luster, and the tip may be honed to a fine point. This step isn't just for looks, it actually helps the awl do its job better. A smoother tip means less resistance as it is used, and that can help avoid chipping the tip during use. Remember though, bone awls are not for prying with any force. They make holes. Once they are well into a hole, they can be used to apply lateral force, but the tip can break easily if it is used as a lever. The photo shows both the awl and the section of equisetum used to sand/polish it.

An awl like this is a handy all-purpose tool for making large holes in anything less resilient than bone. It can function as an alternative to antler if you need a pressure flaker for knapping stone points or knives. An awl can loosen dirt, split off small sections of wood from a larger piece, or pack the weft during construction of a pack basket. It could also function as a formidable weapon, or modify it with barbs to become the working end of a fishing spear.



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

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM
by Tom Wax

When visiting the University of Alaska Museum there are many different things to see. Here is three of them with preceding explanations Chilkat Coat, Woolly Mammoth and Kayaks. I had to take photos through glass on some of the items and you may see some glare reflections.

J.C.W. Photos



EFFIE
Woolly Mammoth
Mammuth primigenius
Features: Wool
Lender: American Museum of Natural History

The Discovery
In August of 1946, an unusual fossil was washed out of the mud at a gold mine located on Fairbanks Creek, north of Fairbanks. It was the head, foreleg, and shoulder of a very young Pleistocene mammoth. It was nicknamed "Effie" after the Fairbanks Exploration (FE) branch of the United States Smelting, Refining, & Mining company. A carbon 14 date from Effie's skin indicated that it died approximately 21,000 years ago.

Scientific Importance
The preservation of the skin, muscles, and connective tissue makes Effie the best preserved mammoth to be found in North America. These remains have furnished comparable material for the identification of blood stains on Alaskan stone artifacts that were used to kill and/or butcher mammoths. In addition, DNA analysis (1998) Effie's tissue will help us understand to what extent the breeding lines of mammoth have diverged from a common ancestor.

Preservation
Effie was in several parts when discovered. The remains were then carefully embedded, and the parts attached together by University of Alaska scientists. The finding was probably due to scavenging before burial. Effie would have been eaten almost entirely because the bones of such a young animal are soft and poorly ossified. The tip of the trunk was missing because it was eaten off. It is difficult to estimate the season of death because Effie lacked teeth, hair, and internal organs. Burial would have taken place during spring when snow was melting or possibly after a late summer. Furthermore, it would have taken very little effort to bury this mammoth because it was so young. The skull and the rest of the skin were probably dugged away and not covered by soil, or the miners did not recognize the remains as they were washed away.

Age and the Circumstances of Death
Effie's size is the only clue to its age. An elephant in its first year averages about a meter at the shoulder, and based on size, Effie probably measured 1.5 to 2.0 meters. Elephants lose about half of their young during the first couple of years, and this probably held true for mammoths as well. For elephant calves are often killed by predators as the mother is too good a protector. However, since the female has to nurse the calf through its first winter, her condition is critical. Any female who produces well that requires attention and quality of milk is likely to lose her young. In this case, the young would be more likely to catch some disease, have an accident, or simply starve.

In conclusion, Effie was probably not killed by a predator, but died from malnutrition or an accident. The carcass would have been protected by ice sheets for a few days, then discovered. Scavengers and a pack of wolves, or humans as they discovered. Scavengers and a pack of wolves.



J.C.W. Photos

Chilkat Robe *Nur-kheen*
Mountain goat wool, commercial wool, cedar bark, pigment
Tlingit
mid/late-1800s
Donor: Richard S. Zahniser
UA2002.062.0001

Chilkat robes were the best-known ceremonial garment used by the Indians living along the northwest coast of North America. They originated with the Tsimshian, but the Chilkat, a division of the Tlingit, became the best-known producers.

The robes were made of mountain goat wool and twisted strands of the inner cedar bark were added for strength. The finished woven sections were sewn together with caribou or whale sinew. Black, yellow, and blue-green dyes were made from regional minerals and plants.

Men obtained the goat hides and made the loom frames. They also designed the pattern boards to represent figures used in family crests. It often took a woman a year to weave a single robe that might contain wool from three goats.



J.C.W. Photos

Alaskan Kayaks
Kayaks were built in many different shapes and were unique to each region. Designs were determined by local construction techniques, behavior of the animals hunted, the weather and sea conditions. Six kayaks are shown in silhouette form.



Point Hope - Point Barrow Area
Seward Peninsula
Seward Peninsula
Norton Sound
Nurik Island Area
Kodiak Island

Point Hope
Keel: Reared walrus, wood, walrus, ivory
Sides: Seal
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus

Point Barrow
Keel: Reared walrus, walrus, walrus
Sides: Seal
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus

Kayak Point
Keel: Seal
Sides: Seal
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus
Mast: Seal, walrus

In the past, kayaks or qajaqs were used by coastal Eskimos for hunting seals. These light one-man boats had wooden frames and were covered with seal hides. They were quiet, fast, and easy to maneuver. A hunter's waterproof gut garba was fed around the boat's opening to keep splashing water out. Each region developed its own boat design to meet local water and ice conditions. Today, qajaqs are still used in some areas to hunt seals. Recently-made qajaqs are often covered with canvas and painted with marine animals.

Reference: Woodard, David, *Alaskan Eskimos*



PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS

Prescott, Arizona

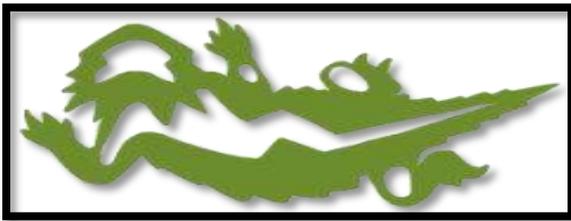
Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!



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



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.

Winter Count:

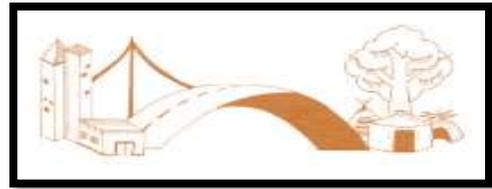
People have been asking us if we're planning to host Winter Count, February 14-20, 2021. The answer is YES! It is our full intention at this point to host this wonderful and life sustaining gathering in the saguaros of Arizona. So put it on your calendar and we will plan to see you there!

We look forward to seeing you in the desert,

Joshua, Kirsten, Kiyota and Tomoki

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 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



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)



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



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



September 12, 2020

Well, I've heard the phrase "What if you gave a party and nobody came?", but this is crazy. So we went out and had a picnic just for old times sake. It was very strange. Missing you all today!

Paula & Dave Wescott

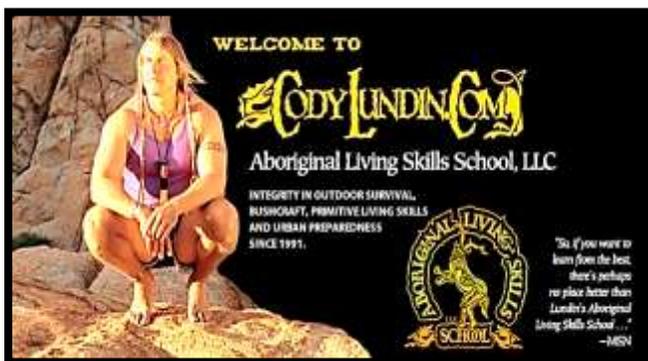



34TH RABBITSTICK
in Rexburg, Idaho
SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021
"Rabbitstick is the Mother Church of Primitive Technology"
-Steve Watts, Past President of the Society of Primitive Technology

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 | societyofprimitivetechnology@gmail.com



“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



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



STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS



ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES WHEN WE GET BACK TO PGM!

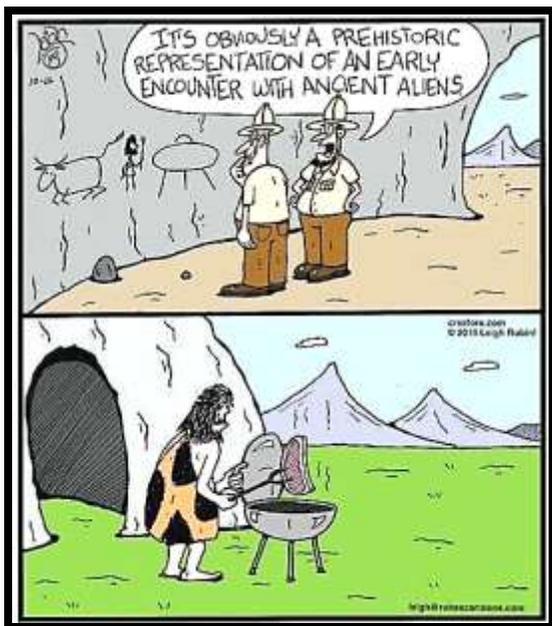
Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

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



"Okay! I'll talk! I'll talk! ... Take two sticks of approximately equal size and weight — rub them together at opposing angles using short, brisk strokes ..."





2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

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. 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. 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

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For MEMBERSHIP information call Charlie Tadano at
602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail
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For EVENTS and BEAD information contact Donna
Moses at 602-384-1359 or saltdonna1@gmail.com

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saltskills@gmail.com