



## 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)

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Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

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Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 11, Issue 9

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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



Pueblo Grande Museum is still closed until further notice.

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

**S.A.L.T. MEMBER,  
PETER HUEGEL AT PGM  
August 6, 2020**



Interesting day today. I spent several hours at Pueblo Grande Museum recording a video about ancient petroglyphs (aka Rock Art). The museum has not been open to the public for several months and God only knows when it will open again – literally only God knows.



Since school is about to start – not school as we used to know it but virtual home schooling – several school systems have asked the museum to produce educational videos about the ancient life here in the Phoenix area.

For some odd reason, the folks in charge of the museum think that because of my work with Native-American museums in the area for the past 11 years, and my being a Site Steward for ancient sites in the area, and my involvement with a few other groups dedicated to preserving the areas Native-American history, I might know enough to be featured in the video they are creating discussing ancient rock art of the area. I guess I have them fooled. 😊

So, this morning I made my way to the museum which is located right next to the Sky Harbor airport in downtown Phoenix.



There are a few boulders with petroglyphs outside the museum and they served as the backdrop for the video.

I only mention the airport because as we were recording departing flights from the airport were in their take off pattern going right over head!

The museum had two cameras set up, wired me for sound and turned me loose in front of the cameras. It was only 98 degrees with full sun shining directly in my face when we started. It got warmer very fast.

About mid-way through the recording – they had wanted 20+ minutes of presentation - I saw both people who were behind the cameras start to whisper to each other and point to their cameras. When I had finished, they grabbed their cameras off of the tripods and began to check what they had recorded.

Problem! BOTH cameras malfunctioned at the same time! They stopped recording and then miraculously started up again a few minutes later into my presentation. The cameras stopped when I began to speak of what kind of images were made by the ancient people. Spirits of the ancients playing tricks?

We went inside to cool off and they each checked their recordings. Both agreed that I needed to redo the same portion of my presentation. So, back out we went, got me wired up again, cameras on their respective tripods and off I went again.

The second take went well EXCEPT for one jet taking off from the airport that for some reason was VERY low. The noise was unreal. I stopped, waited till the jet was past, and then restarted that part of the presentation. The folks shooting the video just laughed and said "We'll edit that part out."

Now the museum video staff goes to work with the video we shot, and with copies of many of my personal photos taken of petroglyphs over the years, to try and make what we did this morning presentable enough to be broadcast to stay-at-home students in the local school districts. I hope I pleased the spirits with what I did.





SOME OF PETER'S PETROGLYPH PICTURES  
OVER THE YEARS...





# 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!!!

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

### PGM AXE RE-HAFTING by Charlie Tadano



On July 13<sup>th</sup> I received an email from Laura Andrew, Pueblo Grande Museum's Visitor's Services Supervisor, asking me if I would be interested in working with Lindsey Vogel-Teeter in restoring/re-hafting a large axe they had on display and were now using in their Education Program. If you have walked around in the Exhibit Rooms you have probably seen this axe on display. I know I have spent quite a bit of time looking at how it was hafted since making stone axes is a passion of mine. I was even more excited to undertake this project when Laura's email mentioned that Albert Abril was the original builder of this axe! With that knowledge, re-hafting this axe became a special project and helped me "honor" my friend, who I have a lot of fond memories of....too many to even mention in the 25+ years that I had the pleasure of calling Albert a "Blood Brother" and Mentor. I truly miss Albert every day and felt that this was a very special way to reconnect with him.



When I picked up the axe from Lindsay she told me what the Museum wanted done. Inspecting the axe, I noticed a few things that I wanted to "redo" when I re-hafted the axe. Let me start off by saying that there is not a "right way or wrong way" to haft an axe. All over the world, stone axes and hammers were a basic and

useful tool, used by every culture, for all kinds of purposes. Many cultures used different methods to secure their axes to the wooden handles and they all worked! Being in the Southwest, I have adopted the "Southwestern Hafting Method." This at times might be a "full wrap" hafting or in this case, since the artifact axe head was a  $\frac{3}{4}$  groove, it required what is considered the "standard" hafting method for  $\frac{3}{4}$  groove axe heads.



This method calls for selecting a sapling or tree branch of the length needed to balance the stone axe head and a thickness about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the size you want the finished handle to be. The groove is measured from one end to the other end and laid out against the "middle" of the selected handle to be.



Then the area to be fitted in the axe's groove is thinned down to about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the original thickness while the handle is still moist and green. Working "green wood" is very easy compared to working dried seasoned wood.



The  $\frac{3}{4}$  groove axe was an improvement over the full wrap axe and much easier to "repair" in the field while working with your tool. All axes (even modern metal axes) will become loose and need to periodically be "adjusted" to secure the axe head. Unlike a modern metal axe head that becomes loose, a stone axe head if used while it is loose, will break. Usually, this is at the bit (the cutting edge) of the stone axe. When this happens, depending upon the break, may be the end of that tool, or may require investing an extensive amount of time re-pecking and grinding the bit to be serviceable again.

Unlike a full groove axe that needs to be completely taken apart and re-hafted (a two day project) a  $\frac{3}{4}$  groove axe just needs to have a "shim" pounded in underneath the base of the axe head if the hafting was properly designed. About 7 years ago, Allen Denoyer, from Archaeology Southwest, showed me this hafting method and I have been using this method in all my axe building classes. It's quick, simple, and when you examine axe head artifacts, you will notice a "groove" at the base of the axe heads. This is where the "shim" was driven to secure the axe head to the handle when it became loose....repair time....30 minutes on average!





This method of securing the stone axe head is done by inserting a third piece of wood in between the two sections of wood that come together underneath the axe head after the handle is "wrapped" around the stone. There will always be a gap between the two sections and the wooden insert is shaped (thinned down) to fit between the two sections while still retaining enough mass at the top to become a base for the inserted shim. I go a step further and work the inside section of each handle section so that when brought together, the handle will not "roll" and loosen the hafting sooner than it normally would be after extensive use.

During actual assembly, the wooden handle is heated to make the wood pliable enough to withstand the bending around the stone. Don't place the handle in direct flame or the wood will start to burn, instead hold it high enough over an open flame to heat it to the correct temperature or bury it underneath the soil under coals to reach the correct temperature. You will know when the right temperature is reached when the wood becomes very flexible and you can easily bend it without breaking. Be very careful during this step...the wood is superhot and I quickly learned that really hot wood quickly burns a person. I am positive our Ancestors, like me, didn't like blisters!



The next step is to wrap the handles and the wooden insert all together using cordage, or in this case, rawhide to secure everything together.



Many times, a quickly made axe would be made using green wood and secured and tied with peeled bark from the same tree the handle came from. When the job was completed, the axe was taken apart and the axe head was safely stored. When needed again, it was quickly put together. In this case, I wanted a long lasting haft so I selected rawhide, which when dried it shrinks and makes the hafting unbelievably secure and strong.



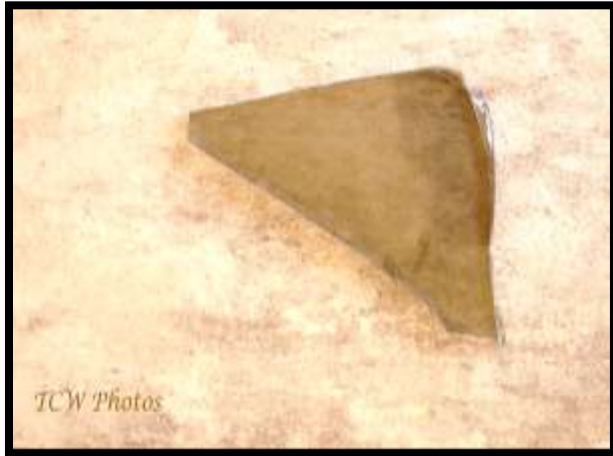
I suspect that this was a "two man job" since I couldn't figure out how to secure the handle sections together securely enough to hold the axe head tightly and still be able to wrap the cordage/rawhide around the handle. In this re-hafting, I didn't have another set of hands available so I decided to bring in modern C clamps to help me. I bet that if this tool was available to our Ancestors, it would be very appreciated!

I placed strips of rawhide at various points along the handle to help hold everything together. Since all materials used are natural and quickly decompose (or in the case of rawhide-eaten by rodents), I don't know if this method was a preferred hafting method in Ancient Times, but it sure works for my replicas.



Currently, the finished re-hafted axe is drying in the August sun. I wish I could show it to Albert. I know he would give me his great smile, a big hug, and I hope tell me he was pleased with the end results

## TABLE GLASS KNIFE BLADE by Tom Wax



It has been awhile since I made a point of some kind and decided to do something about it. I am a little rusty, but I still was able to make a knife blade.

I used an Ishi Stick as my pressure flaker and a piece of table glass.



Table glass is easy to work with for beginners and is easy to obtain. It can also have beautiful colors and even look like Obsidian.

I used sandstone to rough up the edges so that my Ishi Stick can grab the edge as I pressure flaked the glass.

I then went down along each edge about 1/4 of an inch and flaked off a little of the edge making flakes.



I continued around it each time between the flaked edges making its shape and sharp edge.



My completed knapped blade and edge.



It may not look pretty, but the edge is sharp enough to cut leather and all I have to do now is put a handle on the blade. It is very functional as it is.

This is not a tutorial on flintknapping. There are many videos out there to watch.

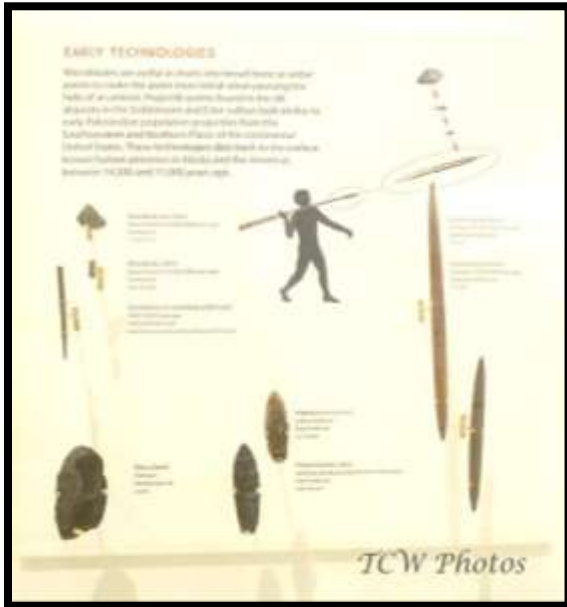


## S.A.L.T. MEMBERS OUT ON THE TRAIL

# JULY 2020 ALASKAN ADVENTURE

by Tom Wax

While visiting University of Alaska Museum, I found lots of artifacts on display. Here is a small part of those artifacts that are related to Atlatl.



In the third photo is an Ivory winged object. They do not know what it is for. I think it might be a banner stone for an Atlatl. It has a hole is like it is made for a banner stone but it does not go all the way through it to the end of it with a complete opening. What do you think?



## Fish Traps on display at the University of Alaska Museum



Looking at the fish traps photos and making one is pretty much self explanatory. These were very big and hanging from the ceiling. Think how long it would take to make a big fish trap this size and the materials needed.



## 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)

The first week of September I will be teaching a three day primitive living skills immersion course. For the price, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn and experience some very real lessons in true primitive living skills.



**Friday, September 4, 2020, 6:30  
AM to Sunday, September 6, 2020, 12:00 PM**

This immersive 3 day course will be comprehensive in basic and advanced primitive living skills and bushcraft. Spend three days as a tribe in the beautiful Northern Verde River wilderness with minimal gear, learning the fundamentals and reality of living with the land.

Details: Carrying minimal gear, the class will travel crosscountry to a base camp we will call home for the duration of the course. Learning foundational primitive living skills, like shelter building, how to flintknape stone knives and tools, and howto make fire with sticks. Learn how to procure meat bybasic and advanced trapping techniques, gathering wild edible plants, as well as "low-calorie expenditure"

gathering techniques for insects and river critters.

**\*\*Each student will carry two gallons of water. An additional one gallon will be drunk prior to our hike out\* We will share a communal cookpot, and a meal will be provided for the first night. The rest of the time will be used to hunt and gather as a group.**

**\*Gear list: Two wool blankets, a knife, a sandwich bag of trailmix.**

Taught a plant walk in the Granite Mountain Wilderness on Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.



We covered many useful, medicinal, and edible plants of the High-Desert.



I appreciate all who showed up and hiked on a hot day in the name of learning! @ Prescott, Arizona



Watch for new listings of other classes are offered, and there will be more to come!

-Kiowa Sage





# 33<sup>RD</sup> RABBITSTICK

9/13-19/2020 in Rexburg, Idaho  
**HAS BEEN CANCELED UNTIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 12 - 18, 2021**

**DUE TO COVID-19**

**"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>

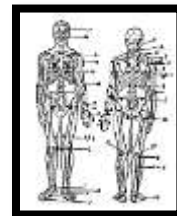


Dear RMS family & friends,  
~ Live What You Love ~

## Upcoming 2020 Workshops:



**Herbal Pharmacology** Fri - Sun, October 2nd-4<sup>th</sup>  
Make your own medicine using wild and cultivated plants.



**Oriental Acupressure** Thurs-Sun, October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>  
Hands-on healing workshop. Learn how to heal yourself and others.



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](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

# SKYEARTH PRIMITIVE SKILLS GATHERING



JOIN US OCTOBER 8-14, 2020  
FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL  
SKYEARTH  
IN VENUS, TEXAS!

## SkyEarth:

With all that is going on, we feel it is best to hand off the baton of hosting this gathering to Scott Ezzell and his crew.



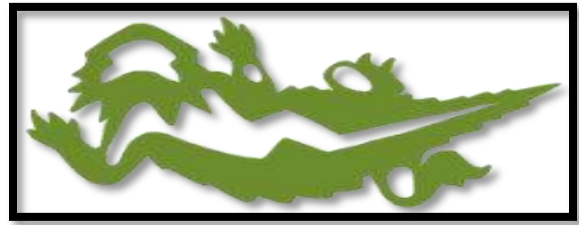
Scott and his family are the owners of the land, Prairie Haven, where SkyEarth takes place. They are excited at the prospects of running this vital gathering.

Please do what you can to get the word out and support Scott. You can start by going to his [Facebook page](#) and "liking" it.

You will find some of the particulars of the gathering there.

To be in touch with Scott directly regarding the gathering, you can call or text him at (817) 994-7735.

Joshua, Kirsten, Kiyota and Tomoki



# 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.

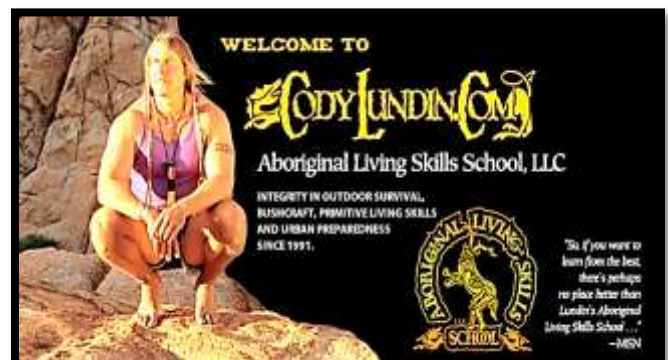
## Winter Count:

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







## This has been a long time coming and we are excited to share this news!

First, Bridges to the Past has secured 40 acres of land in Valley, WA for use as a permanent campus and gathering site. We have long wished for a piece of ground to call our own, and this spring we were able to make it happen. The photo is of the meadow which will be the heart of our primitive camp. The location of this new campus is about 4 miles northwest of the previous gathering site, and Between the Rivers Gathering will be moved to this site this coming Spring, AND...(drum roll please)...



We would like to announce **Fall Camp Gathering** to take place this **October 8-11th!** This is a shortened format running Thursday through Sunday, with classes starting Thursday morning and running through Saturday evening. Camp will break after a morning get-together on Sunday. Please see [www.fallcamp.net](http://www.fallcamp.net) for details, differences from other events, and how to register.

There will be a few differences in format from other gatherings and from BtR due to current world events as noted on the website. We will be following CDC guidelines and local laws for the current pandemic during Fall Camp.

We are excited to be offering this first annual event, and we look forward to hearing from you! We plan to have a Fall & coming Winter focus for Fall Camp including food preservation, shelters, warm clothing, fire making and use, primitive cooking, hides & such, felting, metalwork, and of course lithic technology and weapons & hunting (and more!). If you are unsure please don't hesitate to ask! **Registration will open August 1st.**

<https://www.fallcamp.net/register.html>

Follow us on social media through our Bridges to the Past Facebook page, and on Instagram @fallcamp\_gathering. We will also be updating our Between the Rivers Facebook Group with the new name of BtR, FallCamp & Bridges Group to reflect our recent changes.

We hope to see you this Fall! Patrick and the BtR Crew



Please plan to join us for Between the Rivers Gathering in 2021, May 31st - June 5th. We will look forward to a joyful reunion with our dear community of friends and family! Until then, please stay well and take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,  
Patrick and the BtR Crew

Contact us: [patrickf@bridgestothepast.org](mailto:patrickf@bridgestothepast.org)

## 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)

# 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)



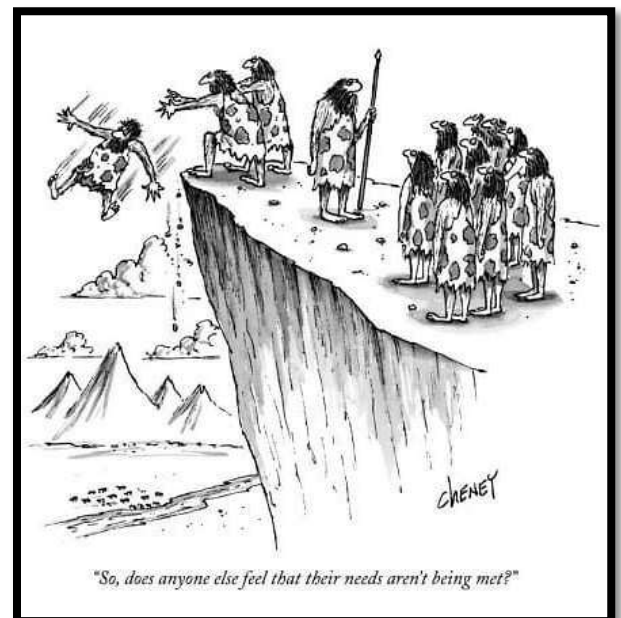
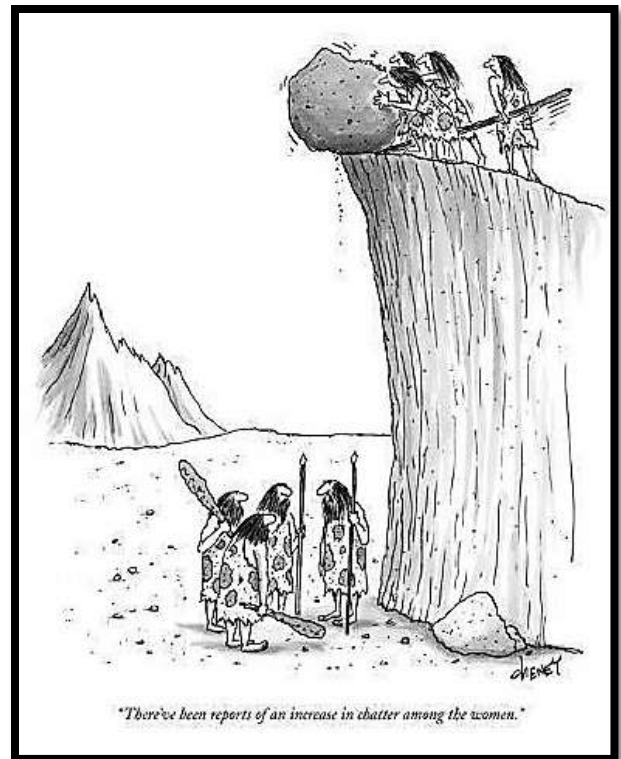
STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS



**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**





## 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

"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

## 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. 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. 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)

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