

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

saltskills@gmail.com

Charlie Tadano, President

Ron Moses, Vice President

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Laura Robins, Treasurer / Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 17, Issue 2

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

10 am - 2 pm

at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

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

S.A.L.T. SKILLS #19 ATLATLS

MAKE AN ATLATL WITH STONE TOOLS

with Bob, Charlie, and Bill

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

WUERTZ GOURD FESTIVAL has been cancelled this year!

WINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

Monday, February 16 S.A.L.T. Members Only Fieldtrip to WINTER COUNT

MARCH IS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH:

SVM ANCIENT TECH DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 14 8 am - 3 pm

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

Saturday, March 21 SKILLS MEETING at SVM

S.A.L.T. SKILL #19 ATLATLS & DARTS - Make an Atlatl Dart with Charlie Tadano

REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR S.A.L.T. SHIRTS TO ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

All S.A.L.T. Members make sure Laura has your name on the membership list for free entry into SVM!

-SENDING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE-



WINTER COUNT

FEB. 16-22, 2025

Registration is closed!

However, S.A.L.T. Members will be going for a whole day as a Group to visit Winter Count which is east of Florence, Arizona on Monday, February 16, 2026. We will be traveling as a group and meeting in Florence at the Burger King on Hwy287 at 10 am and then making the trip into the Winter Count site due to the limited parking available. If you have not attended Winter Count, it is a great venue! You will get to see and meet many talented Instructors, watch different classes, and get to shop for those hard-to-find items needed for your next skills projects! Attending is a very fun experience, and it may encourage you to attend the next Winter Count in 2027 for the entire week. For that you must register early! This one opened on 11/1/25 and was already closed before it began!

We need to provide the Winter Count staff with the names of the S.A.L.T. Members that will be attending for the day. Please call Charlie if you are interested as soon as possible in case the list becomes too long and you cannot be added. February 7th is the cutoff date, and we will be sending the list of S.A.L.T. Member attendees to the Winter Count staff. Please bring some snacks & water, cash, good walking shoes, a hat, and layer your clothes for the weather. We usually eat some breakfast at Burger King and then on our way back out, stop for dinner somewhere in Florence.

MEET IN FLORENCE, AZ at BURGER KING on HWY 287

AT 10:00 am. Call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 if you have questions and to get on the list!

S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

In English it is "Central Platform Mound."
Pronounced: **SUE DOVE VE AWKEY**



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



PARCHED: Speaker Series

Get ready for the next installment of our Thursday evening programming, **Parched: Speaker Series**!

Join us on February 5, 2026, at 6pm in the S'edav Va'aki Community Room for a very special guest lecture featuring Marie Gladue, the artist behind *The Healing Dance at Hooghan* that is on display at the museum.

Marie Gladue will be presenting virtually, in-person attendees are still welcomed.

In collaboration with Coconino Center for the Arts

#SedavVaaki #Museum #ThursdayEveningPrograms #ParchedLectureSeries #GuestLectures #FreeEvents #ContemporaryArt #FineArt

PARCHED: Speaker Series

Marie Gladue

The Healing Dance at Hooghan



The Parched speaker series showcases artists featured in the changing exhibit at SVM, which explores the role of water in the Southwest through an artistic lens.

Ya'at'eeh! Marie Gladue grew up a part of the Edgewater Clan in the beautiful homeland of Dził Yíjilín (Black Mesa) located in Northern Arizona. In working with Navajo communities, around environment, social, and healing justice issues, she reminds people our Natural Laws are our laws that call for taking care of land, water, and air.

FEB 5, 2026 | 6:00 PM

FREE LECTURE

SVM Community Room
4619 E Washington St, Phoenix, AZ



S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM INVITES YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

Interested in gaining professional development, fulfilling volunteer requirements, and building your resume within a museum setting? Do you want to have fun and help teach the public about the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People?

Ages 14-17

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Initiating informative artifact interactions with the public
- Assisting outdoor educational programs
- Leading indoor exhibit-based activities

4619 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602) 495-0901 |
www.phoenix.gov/svmuseum
SVMvolunteers@phoenix.gov

SCAN ME!

Apply Today
August 18th - Sept 20th

TEENS MUST COMMIT TO VOLUNTEERING 15 OR MORE HOURS FROM OCT-DEC

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."

MARCH 5 - Glory Tacheenie-Campoy
Yesterday we had a beautiful rain

APRIL 2 - Delisa Myles
Saurian Memory

MAY 7 - Debra Edgerton
Life Extended

"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



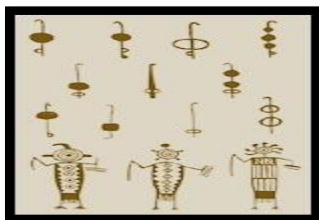
**DON'T MISS THE FEBRUARY 2026
S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING
SATURDAY, FEB 21 10 am - 2 pm**

**S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS, the S.A.L.T.
DRUMMING CIRCLE, & WIRE WRAPPERS
will meet at 9 am**

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
19. Atlatls / Darts	Successfully throw both a training and traditional atlatl	Make your own atlatl and dart and hit a target at least 3 out of 5 times	Make a primitive atlatl and dart with & out of primitive materials / hit target 3 out of 5 times

S.A.L.T. SKILL #19

**ATLATLS & DARTS – Make an Atlatl with
Stone Tools with Bob, Charlie, & Bill**

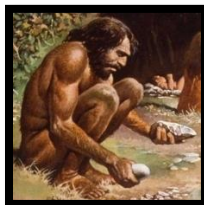


**LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3
INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL
MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...**

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discooidal 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

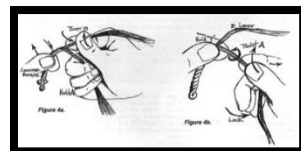
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

Make a flake and discooidal 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!

JANUARY 2026 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Board Members in attendance: Charlie Tadano, Ron & Donna Moses, Laura Robins, Bob Sizemore, Tom Wax, Jennifer Ahumada, Bill Warner, and Don Raker

Members in attendance: Jax, Luis & Noah Ahumada, Mari & Dalen Townsend, Billy & Reena Nickel, Linda Jolle, Carlos Acuna, Sam Sargent, John Lavra, Dulce Shimkus, Katie Shields, Susan Jeffay, Saron Newman Matt, Sylvia Lee, and Tom Adkins

Welcome New Members: Dan & Lisa Anderson, Eva Liu, Jasmine Peng, Sandy Qadanami and Tracy Wiederanders

Guest: Margo Hoppmann

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS, DRUMMERS, and WIRE WRAPPERS MEET 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



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



Bob Sizemore is a very talented Wire Wrapper and will be teaching before the Skills Meeting each month.

THE 2026 S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WAS HELD BEFORE THE 1/17/26 SKILLS MEETING

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am by Charlie



S.A.L.T. BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations for President were open. Current President Charlie Tadano was nominated and he accepted. All agreed. Charlie was voted in as our President for another two-year term.



Charlie



Laura

Nominations for Treasurer were open. Laura Robins was nominated and she accepted. All agreed. Laura was voted in for a two-year term.

RADIFICATION OF THE S.A.L.T. BYLAWS

The S.A.L.T. BYLAWS REVISION was emailed out to the S.A.L.T. Membership on 12/18/25.

Motion to accept the Revision by Bill Warner, Second by Ron Moses, Discussion: none, Vote: unanimous, motion carries

MEMBER INPUT ON SOME IDEAS FOR UPCOMING SKILLS CLASSES

BRAIN TANNING was discussed, but it takes too long
HERBS, EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANTS
WIRE WRAPPING

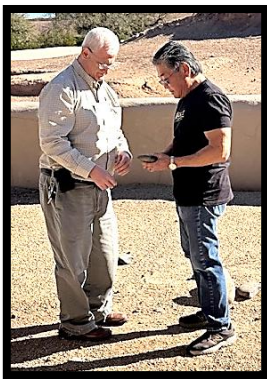
Meeting adjourned at 10:44 am by Charlie

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

Discoidal Blade, Cordage, & Friction Fire

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level Level II	Apprentice Level 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

DISCOIDAL BLADE



Charlie teaching Discoidal Blade



CORDAGE



Jennifer, Laura, and Ron taught Cordage



Susan, Ron, and Katie



FRICITION FIRE



Tom teaching Friction Fire with a Bow Drill

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

CHERT & JASPER POINTS 1/23/26
by Bill Warner

Picked up some mostly finely grainy grey chert that beds very near the Devonian stratum that holds "Perkinsville Jasper" in central AZ. After heat treating smoother grades seem to be a fairly decent knappables, though not as good as Georgetown chert or hornstone, both that can be similar looking in color. The grainy stuff still flakes, though not as well as the smoother stuff, of course.



Jasmine and Eva both made fire the first time!



Thank you to everyone who brought goodies for the Potluck!



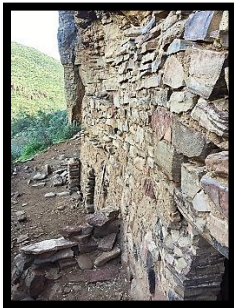
Dueling jaspers: Lavic Siding (CA) on the left and Perkinsville jasper (AZ) on the right.

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

JANUARY 2026 OUTING IN THE SIERRA ANCHA MOUNTAINS by Mari & Dalen Townsend



A few weeks ago, Dalen and I embarked on a jeep adventure in the Sierra Ancha Mountain Range. The jeep trip was easy, but the climb was difficult. Dalen coached me up the narrow shelf that ascends a cliff face to a shallow alcove above Coon Creek. The rewards were great on this one - a multi-room cliff dwelling built high up a canyon wall. This dwelling was built by the Salado Culture approximately 700 years ago. This cliff dwelling has been named Hematite House from the red and yellow hematite iron oxide mineral that adorns the ruin in a vivid band. The Salado inhabited the area from 950 CE through the 15th century. There are other Salado Culture ruins in the Tonto Basin, Roosevelt Lake, and Salt River area including Tonto National Monument (a popular cliff dwelling maintained by the Forest Service), Cline Terrace (a platform mound), and Copper Mountain Indian Cave which we have visited many times.



Curiously, the Devils Chasm ruins above Cherry Creek are not Salado, but are from the Anchan people. This trip is worth the effort to explore the cliff dwelling and walk in the footprints of the ancients. I hope you enjoy the photos. If there is interest, Dalen and I could lead a field trip to this location above Roosevelt Lake.

SVM INDIAN MARKET VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER 1/16/26 by Laura Robins



Katie Shields, Indian Market Chairperson



Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol VOLUNTEERS: Rick, Dave, Judy, Candice and Arianna



Ed, Rick, Candice and Laura



Sylvia Lee



Yummy Panda Express Dinner

《 》 BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING 《 》

May 25th – 30th, 2026



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 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

betweentheiversgathering.com

Hi folks, I'll be renting furnished and unfurnished Yurts and Bell tents again this year. Included is a community Kitchen yurt or shade cloud to store your cooler and will also include cooking tables, stoves & pans etc.

See between the river's website for more info.

Prices for the whole week are \$300 unfurnished, \$400 furnished. Call or email CampingYurts.com

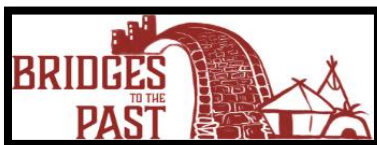
BTR LOGO HATS ARE AVAILABLE!



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)



FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS
October 8- 11, 2026

[Fall Camp Website](#)



38TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 13 – 19, 2026

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 -5- 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

[Register On-Line Today](#)

[Share a Ride Bulletin Board](#)

[Meet Our Staff](#)

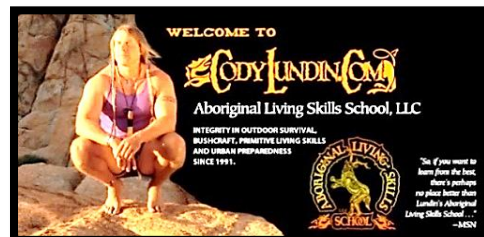
Rabbitstick | (208) 359-2400 | backtracks905@gmail.com | societyofprimitivetech@gmail.com



Bulletin of Primitive Technology website at - 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>

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



www.codylundin.com abodude@codylundin.com

EARTH KNACK

Courses, Classes, and Programs



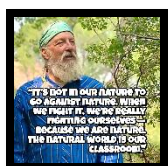
Woods (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

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 <http://www.earthknack.com/>

Primitive wilderness survival

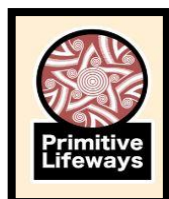


"It's not in our nature to go against nature. When we fight it, we're really fighting ourselves — because we are nature. The natural world is our classroom. We're part of the pattern, the organizers of our own experience. We recognize beauty in every sense because it's woven into who we are." -Holladay
Talked to Holladay and we've decided to open up a few more spots to the sold out "Echoes of the ancestors" class this February!

We have a massive venue and both of us are teaching so we're going to allow 4 more students in!

Message me to snag your spot or check out the link in my bio. – Dave Wescott

[oSedptsnor3M8I92: 4hA5145uf227m5a0ca56I96tc7oNmamcb1f i7eer0v](https://www.facebook.com/earthknack/)



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



7448 S. J-B Ranch Rd.
Roosevelt, AZ 85545

www.reevismountain.org

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

All classes held at Reeves 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 Reeves Mountain Remedies online!

www.reevismountain.org/country-store

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

FEBRUARY 14-22, 2027

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1, 2026

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

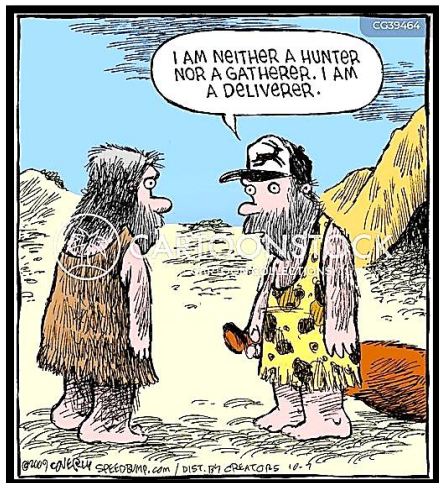
WinterCountCamp@gmail.com

www.WinterCountCamp.com

Please call Charlie if you want to order a S.A.L.T. 25th
Anniversary T-shirt for \$18.50 at 602-524-6910.



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



ATTENTION S.A.L.T. Members and Associates!

Please send 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

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

are due!

SINGLE \$20.00 or FAMILY \$40.00

Please pay at a Skills Meeting or mail them to
S.A.L.T. Treasurer,

LAURA ROBINS

1922 W. Kristal Way, Phoenix, AZ 85027

Please make the check out to Laura Robins

or Zelle Laura Robins at 623-533-0847

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

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



And LEATHER S.A.L.T. PATCHES are available!

(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00
(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

For **S.A.L.T. e-Newsletter** or **Website info** contact Laura Robins, Editor at 623-533-0847 or e-mail saltskills@gmail.com