

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
Laura Robins, Treasurer / Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Ron Moses, Vice President
Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary
Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 17, Issue 7

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 18

10 am - 2 pm

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

FLINT KNAPPERS / DRUMMING CIRCLE at 9 am

S.A.L.T. SKILL# 18 TRAPS & SNARES

Make a Piute Deadfall with Tom Wax

S.A.L.T. Quarterly Board Meeting after Skills Classes

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday, August 15 SKILLS MEETING at SVM - S.A.L.T. SKILL #22
SLINGS, SPEARS, THROWING STICKS - Make a Sling with Luis Ahumada

Saturday, September 19 SKILLS MEETING at SVM - S.A.L.T. SKILL TBD

Saturday, October 17 INT'L ARCHAEOLOG DAY at SVM

S.A.L.T. Displays and Demos

S.A.L.T. Quarterly Board Meeting after Event

**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~



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.

It was part of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department since 1929, but is now Arts & Culture. It's the largest preserved archaeological site in Phoenix.

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



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

Steve Watts

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 18 - Sept 26

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

Get ready! S'edav Va'aki Museum is shifting into summer hours. Starting later this week on July 2, 2026, SVM will be open Thursday through Saturday and Monday from 9 AM to 2 PM, and closed Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays. Don't miss our traveling exhibit, "Parched: The Art of Water in the Southwest," on view through July 20. Our Museum Store will also be open during public museum hours, based on volunteer availability.

For any questions, please call us at 602-495-0901.

[#SedavVaaki](#) [#Museum](#) [#SummerHours](#)

S'edav Va'aki Museum

Summer hours

Monday	9AM - 2PM
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9AM - 2PM
Friday	9AM - 2PM
Saturday	9AM - 2PM
Sunday	Closed

July through August

S.A.L.T. STUDY of ANCIENT LIFEWAYS and TECHNOLOGIES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN ANCIENT SKILLS?
Everyone is welcome to join our S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETINGS at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on the third Saturday of every month for free instruction of ancient skill!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SKILLS: DIGGING, SIFTING, AND CLEANING
POTTERY: HAND-THROWN, COILED, AND SLIP-CAST
TEXTILES: SPINNING, WEAVING, AND DYEING
METALLURGY: SMELTING, CASTING, AND WORKING
LEATHERWORK: TANNING, CUTTING, AND SEWING
WOODWORK: CARVING, SHAPING, AND JOINERY
STONEWORK: CARVING, SHAPING, AND POLISHING
BASKETRY: WEAVING, PLAITING, AND STITCHING
FIBERWORK: SPINNING, WEAVING, AND DYEING
CRAFTS: CARVING, SHAPING, AND FINISHING
...AND MANY MORE

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

VM's garden volunteers are working hard making sure our summer crops are thriving as the temperature continues to rise!

Garden Update

Ki:kam Hu:n | Pima 60-Day Corn Planted in May

S-Chuuk Bavi | Black Tepary Beans Planted March 24th

Magdalena Big Cheese Squash Planted March 24th

"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

Pictured here are Pima 60-Day Corn (Ki:kam Hu:n), Black Tepary Beans (S-Chuuk Bavi), and Magdalena Big Cheese Squash.

[#SedavVaaki](#) [#Museum](#) [#OutdoorExhibits](#) [#SVMGarden](#) [#Garden Update](#) [#NewGrowth](#)



**DON'T MISS THE JULY 2026
S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING
SATURDAY, July 18 10 am - 2 pm**

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

S.A.L.T. Quarterly Board Meeting after Skills Class

S.A.L.T. SKILL #18 TRAPS & SNARES Make a Piute Deadfall with Tom Wax

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level Level II	Apprentice Level Level III
18. Traps / Snares	Take a class on Traps & Snares	Make a Piute Deadfall and two others on your own	Catch an animal or fish with a Trap or Snare that you made on your own

Please bring a **sharp knife** and large flat rock, 12" x 12" paver, or a 2" x 6" board about 12" long.
The string and sticks for the deadfall will be provided. - Tom

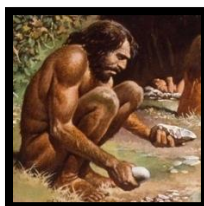


LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...

SKILL	Apprentice Level Level I	Apprentice Level 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

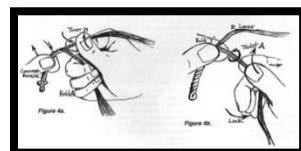
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

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

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Board Members in attendance: Charlie & Tamara Tadano, Laura Robins, Ron & Donna Moses, Jennifer Ahumada, and Justin Sowden

Members in attendance: Luis & Noah Ahumada, Jack Read, Mari & Dalen Townsend, Reena Nickel, Carlos Acuna, Linda Jolle, Dan Alexander, Sharon Newman Matt, Carol Schroeter, and Sam Sargent

Guest: Kurt Manning, Richard Montague, Cathi Black, and Chris Zapata

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and DRUMMERS meet at 9 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



Luis and Jack



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

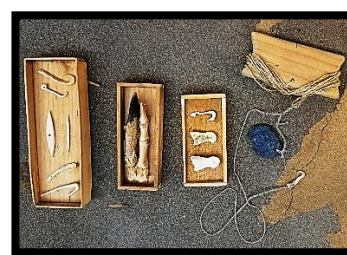
NO DRUMMING...



S.A.L.T. President Charlie Tadano opened the class.

S.A.L.T. SKILL #21 FISHHOOKS & TOOLS Make a Bone Fishhook with Ron Moses

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
21. Fishhooks & Tools	Take a class and make a Gorge Hook and Fishing Line	Take a class and make a Fish Trap	Demonstrate how to catch fish by primitive means

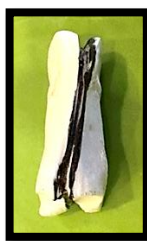


Great Class on Bone Fishhooks by Ron Moses!



We learned how to make a replica of an ancient style fishing hook from deer toe bones. There was an opportunity to experience using traditional stone-based tools and/or modern metal-based tools to create our hooks. There were also materials available to create a handline fishing set to pair with our bone hook.





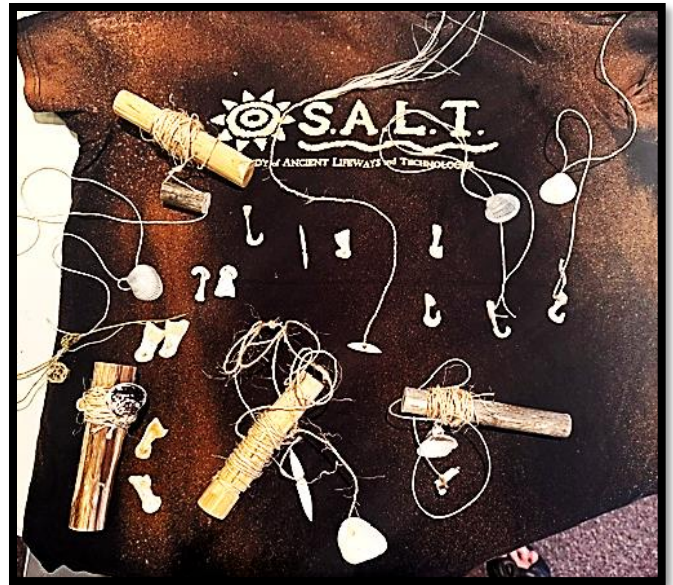
Showing where to split the deer toe bone



Richard



Cathi



Some of the finished hooks



Laura's fishing kit



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious goodies for our Pottluck!

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

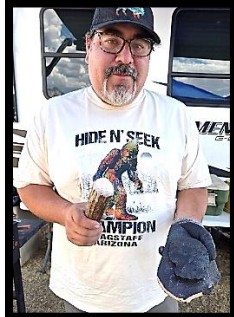
TAOS PUEBLO KNAP-IN June 2026
by Bill Warner



Had an absolute blast at the first annual Taos Pueblo Knap-in over the weekend. Festivities started a day early when I "blind-led" a group up to San Antonio Mountain to look for dacite. ("Blind" because all I had was a couple scientific references and had never been there before.) It turns out that the whole 10,000' high stratovolcano is covered with (mostly) knappable dacite that is aphyric (i.e. crystal grains so small they are essentially not visible to the naked eye) and is essentially devoid of phenocrysts (larger crystal inclusions).



The stuff knaps a little differently from our AZ subvitreous rhyolite (Ash fork area) and dacite (Payson area), but once one gets used to it, it makes nice looking points and larger implements.

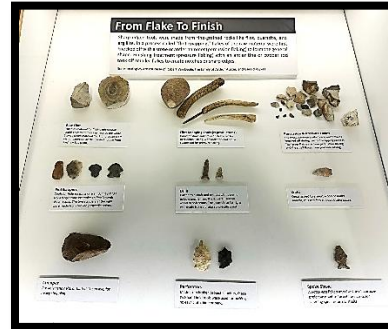


[Jesse Daniel Parra](#) amazingly had a hoe, and axe, and a beautiful desert delta point whipped out of it in about 90 minutes after we got back to Taos! NOTE: this is "real" dacite in the geological sense, NOT the opaque obsidian called "Day Site" for a location near Glass Buttes; those similar sounds of those two names has screwed up the knapping rock nomenclature for years. It is also not "fine grained basalt" incorrectly used by many archaeologists and knappers alike, mainly because of the dark color.

The fine-grained black igneous toolstone used prehistorically generally turns out to be either subvitreous (i.e. "almost glass") rhyolite or dacite; basalt does not knap well because it lacks the quartz content that makes up a fair % of dacite, even more so with rhyolite (obsidian is just a glass of rhyolite or dacite).

RIVER RAISIN NAT'L BATTLEFIELD June 2026 by Tom Wax

While at River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Michigan; I saw some interesting Native American artifacts that was on display there. Notice the antler copper tip pressure flaker in the one photo. Apparently they used copper tips for flint knapping since this is a reproduction.



Stone Tool Technology

The story of any individual stone tool is revealed by discovering what it was made of and how it was made. Interpreting how it was used (function), who made it, and when it was made adds to the tale.

Enduring Stories in Stone

Stone tools are the most common and enduring artifacts of the past. Unlike tools made from wood, bone, shell, or copper, stone does not decay over time. This remarkable durability means that stone tools, also known as lithics, can offer a detailed look into Native life over the last 12,000 years.

Every artifact you see here was part of a larger tool kit, made for specific tasks like cutting, scraping, or pounding. Archaeologists often use these tools as time markers because certain designs were only made during specific periods, and can piece together a story of changing technologies, daily activities, and trade networks.

Reading the Clues

The story these tools tell is often incomplete. The stone artifacts we find are usually missing their original handles made of wood or bone, and many are broken. To make things even more complicated, many tools were repurposed. For example, a broken spearhead might be reshaped into a knife, a scraper, or a drill before it was finally discarded.

While we can sometimes interpret the use of prehistoric tools based on their historic native counterparts, this link isn't always clear. Native communities largely abandoned their ancient technologies hundreds of years ago with the arrival of European trade goods.

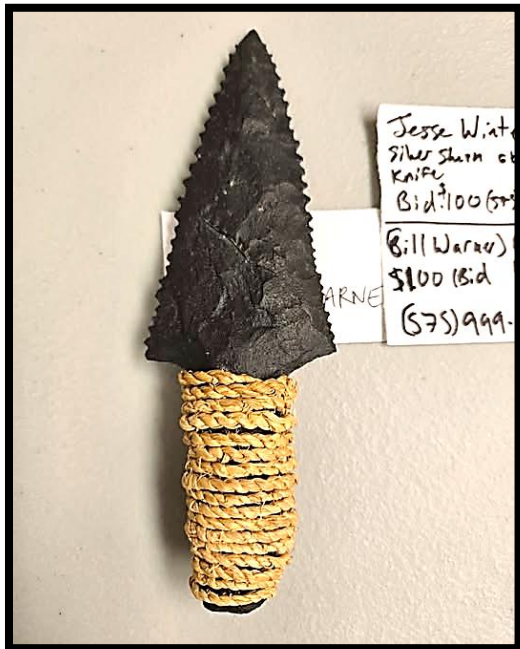
Great Lakes Area Archaeology Timeline



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

RHYOLITE DAGGER

by Bill Warner



A spikey subvitreous rhyolite dagger I made for the charity auction at the Taos Pueblo's Butterfly Healing Center. The center was the site of the first annual Taos Pueblo Knap-in this weekend--loads of fun helping teach native Puebloans how to knap, seeing friends and meeting many of the NM knapping community!

ARGILLITE PENDANT

by Sharon Newman Matt



Sharon finished this beautiful pendant and cord that was started at last month's Skills Class! She said it is sort of a Star Trek theme!



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 -[HERE](#)- 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.

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/?ref=Nf>



FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS
October 8- 11, 2026

[Fall Camp Website](#)



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



May 31 – June 5, 2027



[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 501C3
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

To register click [here](#).

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

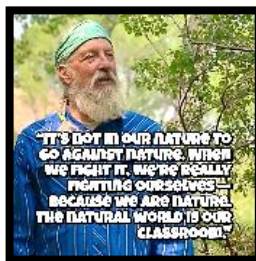
509-994-0585 (cell)

@kandiscreated (Instagram)

SOMETIMES THE OLD LEGENDS SAY IT BEST...

"We do not go to the green woods and crystal waters to rough it, we go to smooth it. We get it rough enough at home; in towns and cities; in shops, offices, stores, banks—anywhere that we may be placed—with the necessity always present of being on time and up to our work; of providing for the dependent ones; of keeping up, catching up, or getting left. "Alas for the life-long battle, whose bravest slogan is bread." I am talking ... to those of the world's workers who go, or would like to go, every summer to the woods. And to these I would say, don't rough it; make it as smooth, as restful and pleasurable as you can." - Nessmuk

Primitive wilderness survival



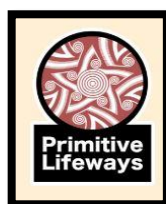
"It's not in our nature to go against nature. When we fight it, we're really fighting ourselves — because we are nature. The natural world is our classroom. We're part of the pattern, the organizers of our own experience. We recognize beauty in every sense because it's woven into who we are."-Holladay

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

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Visit the Primitive Lifeways Store!

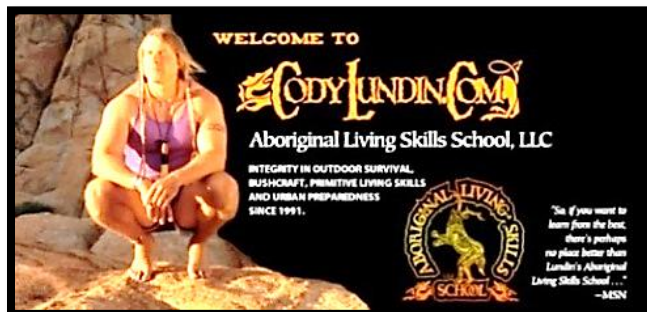
The Primitive Lifeways store is up and running. This month we are featuring new merchandise including beautifully crafted prehistoric replica pottery and jewelry. We are still selling stickers for less than a cup of coffee at Starbucks. By purchasing our new merchandise, you are helping us educate the public on archaeological preservation and the sharing of free information.

[Click Here to visit our store.](#)

Jeff Martin

Jeff@primitivelifeways.com

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



www.codylundin.com abodude@codylundin.com



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

EARTH KNACK

Courses, Classes, and Programs



Independent Living Skills ... More Important Now Than Ever! Hands-On, In-Person Instruction ... More Important Now Than Ever! Lighthearted Positive Teachings ... More Important Now Than Ever! Top Quality Instruction ... Our Specialty Since 1990! Robin Blankenship, Founder, Owner and Instructor of Earth Knack School Author: [How To Play In The](#)

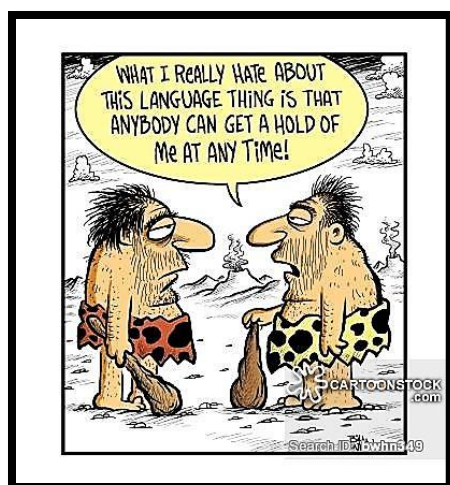
Woods (Gibbs Smith, Publisher 2016)

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

P.O.#508 Crestone Colorado 81131 719 256 4909

earthknackschool@gmail.com <http://www.earthknack.com/>

**"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

LAURA ROBINS, S.A.L.T. Treasurer

1922 W. Kristal Way, Phoenix, AZ 85027

Please make the checks payable 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, 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