

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

Tom Wax, Vice President

Jennifer Ahumada, Secretary

Tamara Tadano, Treasurer

Laura Robins, Newsletter Editor / Webmaster

Donna Moses, Events / Bead Chairperson

Volume 16, Issue 2

S.A.L.T. e-NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

S.A.L.T. CALENDAR

NEXT S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

10 am – 2 pm

at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM

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

S.A.L.T. SKILL #24 DECORATION

Argillite Jewelry with Charlie & Tam

S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

WINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 16-22, 2025

**Monday, February 17th S.A.L.T. MEMBERS ONLY
FIELDTRIP TO WINTER COUNT FOR THE DAY**

MARCH IS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH:

SVM ANCIENT TECH DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 8th 8 am – 3 pm
S.A.L.T. Displays & Demos & Atlatl

Saturday, March 15th SKILLS MEETING at SVM
S.A.L.T. SKILL #

CRANE HERITAGE EVENT, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MARCH 15th & 16th ?

Saturday, April 19th SKILLS MEETING at SVM
S.A.L.T. SKILL #

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

*All Members make sure Tamara has your name
on the membership list for free entry into SVM!*

-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 17, 2025. 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 2026 for the entire week. For that you must register early! This one opened on 11/1/24 and was closed in four hours!

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**



Attention all SALT Members and prospective members!

**ANCIENT TECH DAY
at S'EDAV VA'AKI MUSEUM
Saturday, March 8, 2025, 9am - 3pm
(Set up at 8:00 am)**

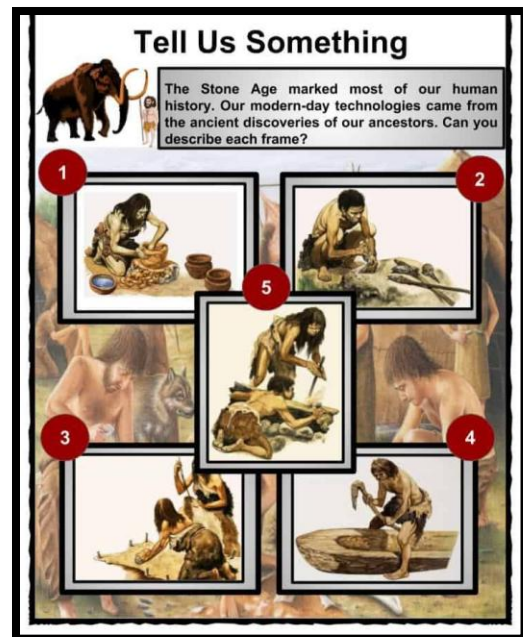


S.A.L.T. will be participating in S'EDAV VA'AKI Museum's Ancient Technology Day as we have been doing for many years. Please make every attempt you can to help us with the Atlatl Range and Skills Demos.

We need many hands to man the Atlatl Range as it is always a very popular activity. Mark the day on your calendar and make plans to be there. Call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 to sign up to help. Thank you!



**FESTIVAL QUESTIONS?
wuertzfarm@wuertzfarm.com**





DON'T MISS THE FEB. 2025 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING

Saturday, February 15th 10 am - 2 pm

(Remember to bring something for the Potluck Brunch!)

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS and the S.A.L.T. DRUMMING CIRCLE will meet at 9 am

S.A.L.T. SKILL #24 - DECORATION

Argillite Jewelry with Charlie & Tamara

S.A.L.T. QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING FOLLOWS

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
24. Decoration – Pigments, etc.	Make a personal S.A.L.T. Bead	Research 6 different kinds of decoration such as pigments, etc.	Display 3 different items that were decorated by you

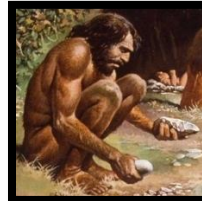


LEVEL I of SKILLS 1, 2 and 3 INSTRUCTION PROVIDED AT EVERY SKILL MEETING DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER...

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discoidal Blade	Make flakes from three different rocks and refine the tools	Demonstrate a use or project with the tool
2. Cordage	Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage	Process three different fibers and make cordage	Demonstrate a use or project with the cordage
3. Friction Fire	Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting	Forage for materials, construct hand drill or bow drill and make fire	Make a complete Fire Kit to use and display

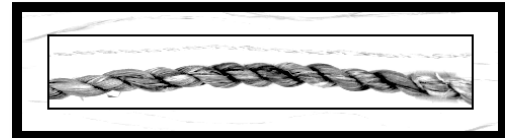
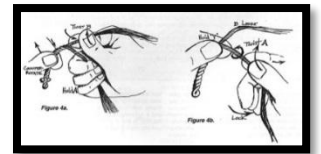
SKILL #1 CUTTING TOOL: Level I

Make a flake and discoidal blade.



SKILL #2 CORDAGE: Level I

Make a uniform 3-foot length of cordage.



SKILL #3 FRICTION FIRE: Level I

Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting.



(Beads will be given out to new members when Level I of all three of the above Membership Requirement Skills are completed, and dues are paid.)

Remember to bring your own primitive tools and materials to the Monthly Skill Meetings, if you have them. Materials for the Membership Requirement Skills are provided at each meeting for guests and new members.

Also, you are responsible to sign in at meetings and events to be included in the newsletters, etc. and note on the sign-in sheet each level of each skill you complete to be awarded your beads. You need to make a Personal Bead to receive the leather thong for your Skill Beads. Thanks!

JANUARY 2025 S.A.L.T. SKILLS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, January 18, 2025

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

Members in attendance: Luis & Noah Ahumada, Diane Wax, Bill Warner, Carlos Acuna, Linda Jolle, Billy & Reena Nickel, John Lavra, Tom Adkins, Mari & Dalen Townsend, Donald Raker, Sam Sargent, Dulce Shimkus, and Justin Sowden

Welcome New Members!: Travis Slusser and Sarah Carnes

Guests: Joel Paddock and Sarah Lei Spagnolo

S.A.L.T. FLINT KNAPPERS & DRUMMERS MEET BEFORE OUR SKILLS CLASS 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



THE 2025 S.A.L.T. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WAS HELD BEFORE THE 1/18/25 SKILLS MEETING

Motion to open meeting at 10:29 am by Charlie



S.A.L.T. BOARD ELECTIONS

Nominations for Vice President were open. Current VP Tom Wax nominated Ron and he accepted. All agreed. Ron Moses is our new VP for a two-year term. Tom Wax will remain a Board Member.



Nominations for Secretary were open. Laura nominated Jennifer and she accepted. All agreed. Jennifer Ahumada was voted in for another two-year term.

MEMBER INPUT ON SOME IDEAS FOR UPCOMING SKILLS CLASSES

- PINE NEEDLE BASKETS – Tom Wax & Jennifer Ahumada
- STONE TOOL MAKING – Charlie Tadano
- HAFTING STONE TOOLS – Charlie
- PINE PITCH MAKING - Charlie
- BRAIN TANNING RABBIT SKINS – Justin Sowden
- OSI KNIFE – Tom Wax
- HERBS, EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANTS
- ROCK HUNTS, KNAP-INS & MUSHROOMS – Bill Warner
- POTTERY as an additional 4-week class
- MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS & FLUTES
- NETTING – Jennifer Ahumada
- PRIMITIVE BOWS – Charlie

DISCUSSION ON THE MUSEUM BEING CLOSED MAY – AUGUST AND WHERE TO HOLD THE SKILLS MEETINGS:

Charlie & Tamara's house, or Tom & Diane Wax's house

FIELD TRIPS

- Winter Count Day Trip in February
- Heber/Overgaard in July for the 4th of July Parade
- San Tan Historical Society in November instead of April
- S.A.L.T. Camping Trip in August for mushroom foraging
- Signal Hill in Tucson to see petroglyphs

Motion to close meeting at 11:22 am by Charlie

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

Discoidal Blade, Cordage, Friction Fire

SKILL	Apprentice Level I	Apprentice Level II	Apprentice Level III
1. Cutting Tool	Make a flake and Discoidal Blade	Make flakes from three different rocks and refine the tools	Demonstrate a use or project with the tool
2. Cordage	Make a uniform 3 foot length of cordage	Process three different fibers and make cordage	Demonstrate a use or project with the cordage
3. Friction Fire	Demonstrate one method of primitive fire starting	Forage for materials, construct hand drill or bow drill and make fire	Make a complete Fire Kit to use and display



President Charlie Tadano opened the meeting



Discoidal Blade



Luis teaching discoidal blade to Dulce



Cordage



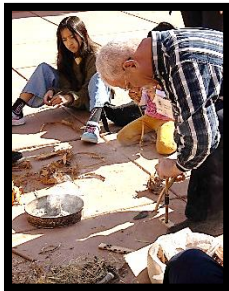
Laura taught cordage



Friction Fire



Tom taught friction fire



Thank you to everyone who brought delicious food!

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

MASKS by Ron Moses



Working on some examples of traditional dance masks made from tree bark. These will be used in a class I will be teaching at Winter Count. Thank you to Gloria and Richard for providing the bark from the oak tree by the lake that had to be cut down – It lives on!



Don't worry, they said – his bark is worse than his bite. Ha, little did 'they' know he also had wooden teeth. Thank you, Richard Of The North, for the bark harvest and Minnesota Donna, for the design work.
[#wanderingwithmoses](https://www.instagram.com/wanderingwithmoses)

THE OLDEST INSTRUMENT IN THE WORLD
Info from Peter Huegel



It's considered the oldest known musical instrument in the world and it was probably made by a Neanderthal. Archaeologists unearthed the world's oldest known musical instrument in Slovenia – a flute crafted from the left thighbone of a young cave bear's femur bone, dating back 50,000-60,000 years. It is at least 10,000 years older than the earliest Aurignacian wind instruments discovered in German caves. This remarkable Neanderthal creation features four precisely pierced holes and can still produce notes in a diatonic scale similar to modern musical scales.

It was found near the remains of a Neanderthal fire pit and is therefore thought to have been made by Neanderthals. The size and position of the holes on the flute are not thought to be accidental but were intentionally made for musical expression. The flute was played two-handed, with the fourth perforation used to extend the air column.

The discovery of this ancient instrument revolutionized our understanding of Neanderthal capabilities, proving they possessed sophisticated artistic and cultural expression. The flute now resides in the National Museum of Slovenia.



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

SOUTH DAKOTA 2025
"HOHUKAZUNTA" - RIB SLED
Info from Ron Moses



Every part of the American Bison was used, nothing was wasted. The photo and description are from the Akt'a Lakota Museum in Chamberlain, South Dakota along the Missouri River. I recommend visiting the museum if you are ever traveling in the area.

A winter favorite for boys and girls. The hohukazunta is traditionally made of buffalo bone ribs. Half of the sled is made up of ribs from the left side and the half is made up of ribs from the right side of the buffalo. Elk rawhide is used to bind the ribs; chokecherry is used for the split sticks. A buffalo hide was placed on the sled before a child sat on it. Children liked to stand on the sled, hold onto the strap and slide downhill. Visit to learn more!" <https://bit.ly/3DR6UIP>

[#wanderingwithmoses](https://bit.ly/3DR6UIP)

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK HIKE 1/26/25
by Tom & Diane Wax

Here are a couple of pictures from our 3.6 miles hike that is only a 15-minute drive from our house in Tucson.



《 》 BETWEEN THE RIVERS GATHERING 《 》

May 26th – 31st, 2025

Registration opens April 1st for returning students and April 7th for first timers.



[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(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)



37TH RABBITSTICK

in Rexburg, Idaho

SEPTEMBER 14 – 20, 2025

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 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>



FALL CAMP for ANCESTRAL SKILLS October 9 - 12, 2025

Instructors:

Please check in with Patrick if you would like to teach.

[Email Patrick HERE](#)

[Fall Camp Website](#)



WINTER COUNT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

FEBRUARY 15-21, 2026

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN NOVEMBER 1, 2025

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

PRESCOTT PRIMITIVE LIVING SKILLS

Prescott, Arizona

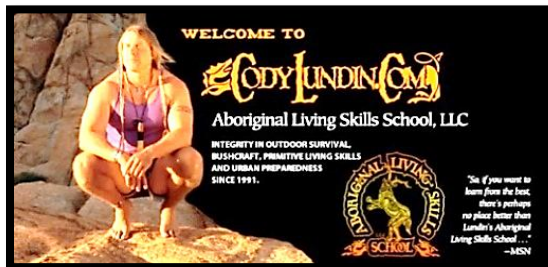
Check out Kiowa Sage on Facebook!

Hello friends! It's Kiowa Sage! I started a local meetup group to teach courses on primitive living skills, nature awareness and outdoor survival skills - all of which I've been training in for many years. All classes ranging from two hour workshops, day long classes and multiple day immersion courses. Skills and knowledge bases such as making fire with sticks, edible and medicinal plants, animal trapping and tracking, fiber arts and weaving, basic outdoor survival skills and how to do more with less in the outdoors. Right now I only have a couple classes listed until I acquire more traffic. Check out some of the listings that are available!

www.meetup.com

Watch for new listings of classes that are offered, and there will be more to come!
-Kiowa Sage

THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS YOU NEED



www.codylundin.com abodude@codylundin.com

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/>



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

All classes held at Reevis Mountain School include hearty meals fresh from the homestead, class supplies, hot showers, and campsite. Camping is free, or stay in a yurpee (\$10 per night per person), single cabin (\$25 per night, sleeps 1), or double cabin (\$50 per night, sleeps 1-2+), availability permitting. We provide complimentary shuttle service from Roosevelt, AZ, or caravan in your own 4X4. Shuttle pickup is at 4 p.m., first day of class.

Please see our [website](#) to enroll and to get more information

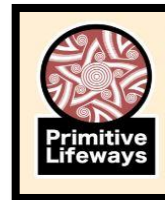
Sign up online!

www.reevismountain.org/classes

Order all your favorite Reevis Mountain Remedies online!

www.reevismountain.org/country-store

Blessings, Peter Bigfoot & the RMS Interns



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

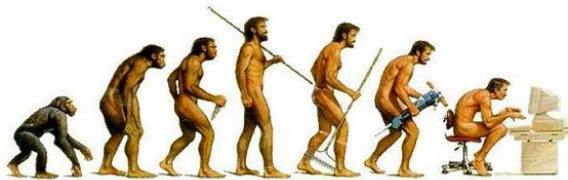
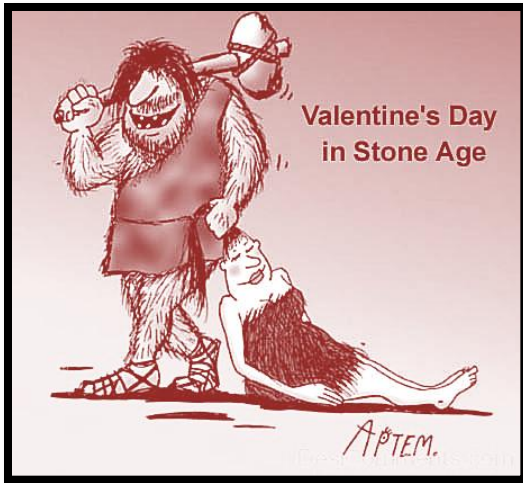
Volunteers Needed for City of Phoenix Park Steward Program



The City of Phoenix Park Steward Program is looking for volunteers to help maintain, clean, and preserve our trails. Help make a difference in your community!

Visit volunteer.phoenix.gov to apply or

reach out to 602-495-5458 for more information on how to get involved!



“Knowledge is not complete
until it is passed on.”
Steve Watts

**2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES
ARE NOW DUE!**
SINGLE \$20.00 or FAMILY \$40.00
*Please pay at a 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
Or Zelle Tamara at 602-920-8228

S.A.L.T. MEMBERSHIP ITEMS
The Tan “Fishing Shirt” Style S.A.L.T. Membership Shirts are available by pre-order. Please contact Charlie Tadano to order your Shirt at 602-524-6910

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




And NEW LEATHER S.A.L.T. PATCHES are available!
*(Special pricing for members) S.A.L.T. PATCHES \$5.00
(Memberships receive one free)*

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

Please send in pictures and articles for this newsletter! Send in information on projects you are working on, information you have found on primitive skills, pictures from trips to archaeological sites, etc.
Send it to saltskills@gmail.com




STONE AGE TECHNOLOGY FROM PRIMITIVE WAYS
ALSO, THINK ABOUT TEACHING ONE OF OUR SKILLS CLASSES!
Contact Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910

S.A.L.T. CONTACT INFORMATION:
Website: www.saltskills.com
e-mail address: saltskills@gmail.com

For MEMBERSHIP information call Charlie Tadano at 602-524-6910 or Bob Sizemore at 520-705-9780 or e-mail saltskills@gmail.com

For EVENTS and BEAD information contact Donna Moses at 602-384-1359 or saltdonna1@gmail.com

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