

The ATLATL

SUMMER, 1991

VOL. 4, NO. 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.
1390 SOUTH PARIS COURT, AURORA, COLORADO 80012, USA



THE WINNERS: BOB, TARA, ALLISON, PAUL, LENI, ROGER, CHEHI, DANIEL, & ZACH.

THE WORLD ATLATL OPEN 1991 June 22, 1991, Fort Caspar, Casper, Wyoming

Snow fell all day at Fort Caspar for the World Atlatl Open. The ground was white with the stuff by days end. The snow, the seed pods of the many large cottonwood trees, was the closest thing to bad weather to affect the annual

atlatl throw off. The wind was light and the sun beat down upon the park. A sort of carnival-like atmosphere pervaded the old forts grounds with numerous tents and tepees lining the walkway. Targets were set up for atlatl darts, spears, axes and knives. People in "mountain-man" costumes sold their wares and tried their luck in the various contests.

The Atlatl World Open

contest consisted of five casts for each contestant at each of two targets--one at 20 and one at 40 yards. First and second place winners of the three groups: men, women and kids, then had a shoot-off for the Grand Champion award. This was quite a change in procedures from earlier World Open events which were played like a round of golf. Possibly, the contest was shortened too much by this change in procedures. The winners would in all likelihood have been the same, however, in this writers opinion we lose a little something by not getting to walk around the "course" of several targets at various distances from the "tees."

The World Open winners:

MEN

First Bob Perkins
 Second Paul Leininger
 Third Roger Hicken

WOMEN

First Leni Clubb
 Second Cheri Hicken
 Third Allison Youngberg

YOUTHS

First Tara Bramel
 Second Daniel Hicken
 Third Zach Cabral

GRAND CHAMPION

Bob Perkins

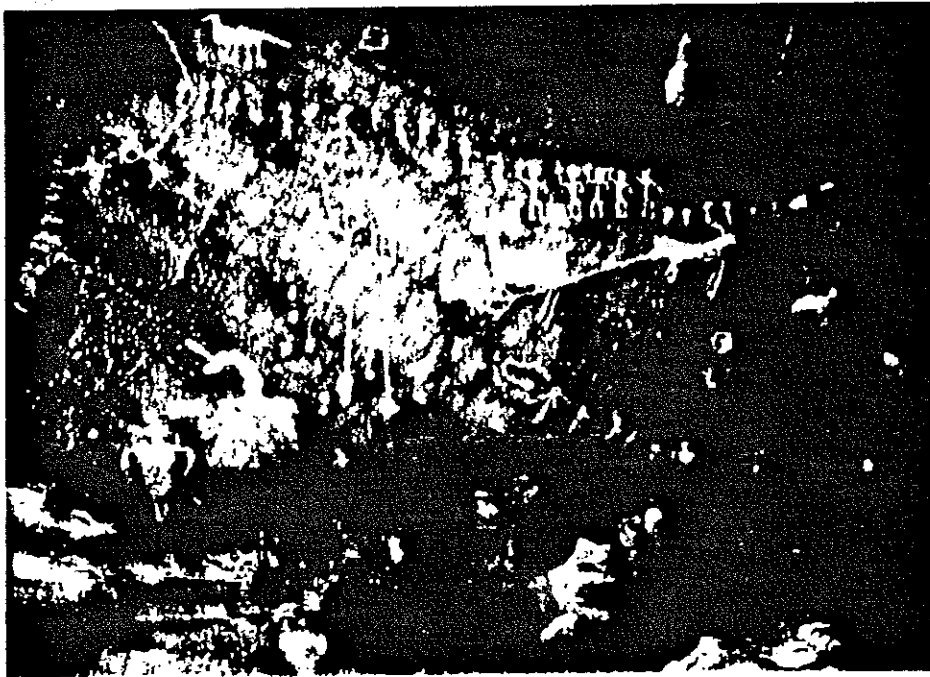


PHOTO COURTESY MARIE MAYER

This Southeastern Utah photograph is of rock art named the "Procession Panel" for the line of human figures depicted. Also shown are several atlatis, two vertical just left of center, and two horizontal from center toward the right, through the animals. We have been told that at some time in the distant past, there has been an alteration to the rock art. The light colored blobs at the atlatl ends and at the head, heart and feet of the animals has been superimposed on the original drawings. I suspect there was some hunting "magic" involved here.

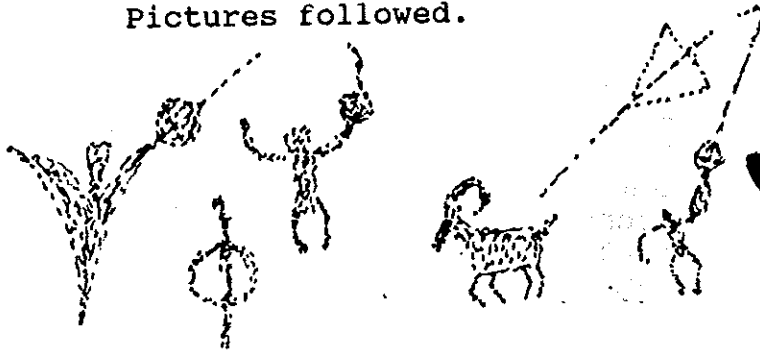
WAA NEWSLETTER "ATLATL" --
SUMMER, 1991

Letter received from George L.
Bird, PO Box 1623, Anthony, TX
88021

"I thought I was all
alone....making atlatls and
casting darts about; then an
archaeology friend sent me your
newsletter. Please sign me up
as a new member and let me know
costs; a check will follow."

"In this desert country
there are many outcroppings of
patinated rocks such as
sandstones and basalt, and pre
historic man left petroglyphs
by the thousands. What we
believe to be atlatl symbols
are very common. I know of a
canyon near Ft. Hancock, Texas
where virtually every boulder
carries atlatl symbols for over
a mile."

Pictures followed.



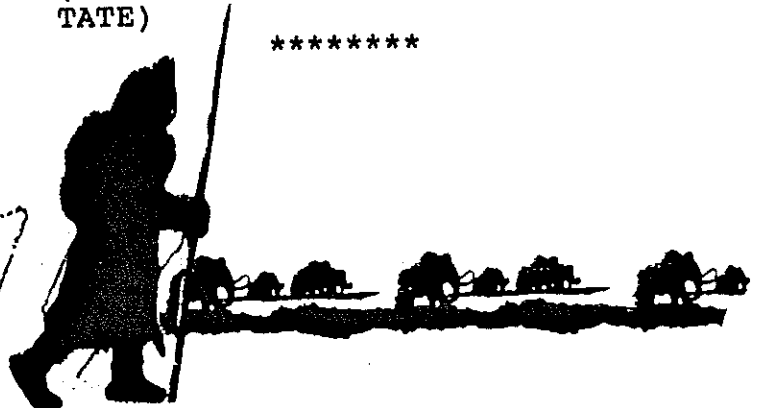
ATLATL WEIGHTS FROM WYOMING

The larger, incised weight was
found in the Beaver Rim, near
Jeffrey City, Wyoming a number
of years ago by Glenn Goss.
His son John, now an
archaeologist with the Forest
Service, Medicine Bow National
Forest and student at



LIFE SIZE

University of Wyoming found the
smaller weight in the vicinity
of Natural Bridge, near
Douglas, Wyoming. The green-
gray banded stone of the
incised weight has not been
identified, however the other
is made of black steatite.
(COURTESY, JOHN GOSS. PHOTO BY BILL
TATE)



SOVIET-AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM ON
UPPER PALEOLITHIC-PALEOINDIAN
ADAPTATIONS, June 13-15, 1991.

Over thirty eminent speakers,
including about ten from the
Soviet Union participated in a
three day symposium at the
Denver Museum of Natural
History to compare the
archaeology of Siberia with
that of the new world during
the last ice age. Among the
choice bits of information
gleaned from this conference is
the remarkable fact that
virtually no atlatls have been
found in eastern Siberia dating
to the time in question. As

far as that goes, the same applies to much of northwestern North America. Does that mean that paleo man in crossing the Bering land bridge did not have this weapon? Was it independently invented here? Not necessarily, but direct evidence is still missing. Dr. Dennis Stanford stated that the atlatl is "implied." I assume he means because of the presence of projectile points which probably augmented atlatl darts, and the need for such an implement to hunt the megafauna of the time, we can assume they possessed the atlatl.

Madam A. A. Krotova of the Stone age Sector, Institute of Archaeology, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Kiev showed slides of 15 to 20 thousand year old ivory "arrow points." If these prove to be from arrows and not atlatl darts, there may well be some changes in the history books. I believe this is much earlier than the bow and arrow are dated elsewhere in that part of the world.

Following the three day event, author, Jean Auel spoke before a packed house on "Turning the Facts Into Fiction." Her remarks were translated into Russian.

Back issues of the ATLATL available from WAA Secretary, Charley Lilly, 8800 State Hwy. 133, Carbondale, CO 81623. \$4.00 each.

Summer, 1988, Vol. 1, No. 1 -- Featured: 1988 Atlatl World Open, Discoveries at the Jurgens Site, Making an Atlatl Quiver, Atlatls in Aztec art as published by Peabody Museum,

Harvard University in 1891.

Winter, 1988, Vol. 1, No. 2 -- Notice of Rabbit Stick Rendezvous, Atlatl Dart Impact Studies, Notices of several atlatl contests, Desert Ground Drawings from Peru, "The Atlatl"--a poem by your Editor.

Spring 1989, Vol. 2, No. 1 -- Dr. George Frison, Univ. Wyoming, testing primitive tools and spears against African elephants, Unusual Spear throwers from Key Marco, Florida, Ramblings by your Editor, Bits and pieces from our members including: Survive Safely Anywhere, or how to build a really awkward atlatl, Magdalenian Spear throwers, plus Australian Abo weapons and implements.

Summer 1989, Vol. 2, No. 2 -- Part I, Weighted Atlatl and Dart: A Deceptively Complicated Mechanical System by Perkins and Leininger, a three part article, Lists of museums displaying atlatls, Results of Atlatls in the Quakers, Colorado Archaeological Societies annual contest and the First Montana Mammoth Hunt Contest.

Fall 1989, Vol. 2, No. 3 - - Part II Weighted Atlatl and Dart, Results of 1989 Atlatl World Open, Roster of Charter Members of WAA, Greetings from the New WAA President, Leni Clubb, Photos of Australian woomeras.

Winter 1990, Vol. 3, No. 1 -- Part III Weighted Atlatl and Dart, Atlatl workshop at Schiele Museum, Gastonia, NC, Prehistoric Arms games in Europe, Notes from the "Prez" and from here and there.

Summer 1990, Vol. 3, No. 2 -- Hul-Che, a Re-discovered American Sport. Atlatl contest winners from Colorado and Utah, Atlatl Takes on Subaru, Atlatl Weights, Strange Stone Objects from Virginia.

Fall 1990, Vol. 3, No. 3 -
- Second Annual Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Championships, Old and new World Atlatl Similarities--Nazca of South America and Papua of New Guinea, 10,240 year old atlatl spur from Florida's Mineral Spring, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, near Cortez, CO, Second Annual Montana Atlatl Mammoth Hunt.

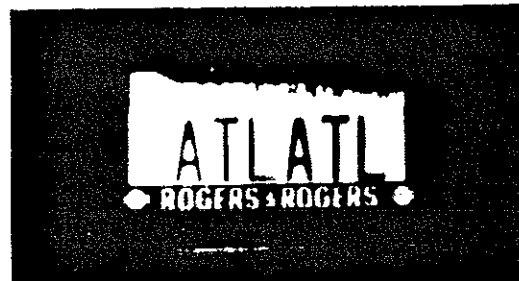
Spring 1991, Vol. 4, No.1
-- Valley of Fire State Park First Annual Atlatl Contest, Combination Atlatl and Saber from Key Marco, Notice of Summer events around the country, membership listing.

We are told by our President, Leni Clubb, that the first Australian space probe was named the "WOOMERA", the Australian name for the Atlatl. So far, we can count quite a number of names for this amazing weapon: ATLATL, WOOMERA, SPEAR THROWER, SPEAR SLING, THROWING BOARD, THROWING STICK, HUL-CHE, and our favorite French name, CROCHET.

A WIFE LASTS ONLY AS LONG AS THE MARRIAGE---AN EX-WIFE LASTS FOREVER!

ANNUAL MEETING OF WAA
Sat. July 6, 1991

1. Discussion of problem with Guinness World Book of Records. They seem not to understand that atlatl throwing is the same as Woomera throwing which is included in their book. Manuel White and Bill Tate have written them and Letter from Leni Clubb will follow shortly.
2. Lee Lacey recommended since we claim to be the "World" organization, that we should report in metric for distance throws. Passed. (All future reports should be in both meters and feet.)
3. WAA will again hold a contest at Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada in 1992. Future annual meets to be moved to other locations.
4. Treasurers report shows we are solvent with \$1135.11 in the bank.
5. New Officers:
President--Tim Boucher.
Vice President--Leni Clubb.
Board Member--Heidi Daetwyler.
Other Officers remain the same.



LENI CLUBB



BILL TATE

CAS ENCAMPMENT 1991

The sixth annual Colorado Archaeological Society Encampment was held in beautiful Ute Campground, San Juan National Forest in sight of famous Chimney Rock, July 5-7, 1991. Except for being bothered by those little nastys the Indians call no-seeums, everything was perfect. The air was filled with the odor of OFF and Muskol bug spray, but that didn't seem to affect the skills of the twenty-six contestants. The course was set out along a clover covered slope overlooking an old historic railroad grade. The wind was light and variable. The temperature high. So were the spirits of participants. When all was over, the following took home the honors:

INDIAN GAMES:

1st Ryan Arbogast
2nd "Buck" Fleet
3rd Kevin Arbogast

ATLATL COMPETITION:

Kids Under Ten
1st Rachel Doria
2nd Kevin Arbogast
3rd Ryan Arbogast

Kids Under Sixteen

1st Gabe Cosyleon
2nd Eva Cosyleon
3rd Laura Devai

Women

1st Heidi Daetwyler
2nd Fran Cosyleon
3rd Charlotte Bechtold

Men

1st Lee Lacey
2nd Boney Cosyleon
3rd Keith Abernathy

The Greatest Honor award went to Lee Lacey.

Following the Primitive equipment only contest, a free for all contest was held using any equipment and Boney Cosyleon came in first.

Long Distance Throw, Any equipment (best of two throws):

Men: Boney Cosyleon using modern equipment threw 130.3 meters (427 feet 5 inches).

Women: Heide Daetwyler (primitive equipment) 47 meters (154 feet, 2 inches).

Kids Under 16: Gabe Cosyleon (modern equipment) 106 meters (347 feet 9 inches).



THE WINNERS! L to R -- Heidi Daetwyler, Keith Abernathy, Charlotte Bechtold, Eva Cosyleon, Fran Cosyleon, Gabe Cosyleon, Boney Cosyleon, Lee Lacey, Laura Devai.



Then WAA President, Leni Clubb presents Greatest Honor award to Lee Lacey.



WAA member, Troy Helmick assisting Broadwater Co. Highschool history class students with the atlatl and dart.

**TOWNSEND, MONTANA ATLATL
DEMONSTRATIONS**

Troy and Charmon Helmick

World Atlatl Association members, Charmon and Troy Helmick, presented a hands-on demonstration of the atlatl and dart weapon system at Broadwater County High School in Townsend, Montana in May 1991. History teacher Terry Nugent eagerly accepted the offer by Charmon and Troy to conduct the program for each of his two history classes.

A brief show and tell session was held in the classroom. Then Troy explained the atlatl system and Charmon demonstrated how to use the system. A question and answer period followed. The class then moved outside to the football field where everyone got to throw darts with the atlatl.

The first class of thirty students and teacher Terry Nugent all seemed to enjoy the opportunity to see and use the atlatl.



Charmon Helmick 2nd from left, teacher, Terry Nugent, 3rd from right with history class at atlatl demonstration.

A second group of twenty-five students was joined during the outdoor portion of the demonstration by the high school band instructor with about twenty band students, and then a Physical Education instructor with another twenty to twenty-five students. Other teachers and the High School

custodian also joined the activities. Everyone appeared to enjoy the experience.



P.E. instructor, Kevin St. John shows his skill under the critical eye of former student and WAA member Charmon Helmick.

A total of nearly 100 people had the opportunity to see and try the ancient atlatl and dart weapon system.

(Photos by the Townsend Star.)
Ed. note: It sure is nice to be furnished screened prints, ready for the newsletter.

ATLATL ON DISPLAY AT CANYON DE CHELLY IN NORTHEAST ARIZONA

The Visitor's center at Canyon de Chelly National Park is located at the mouth of the canyon. In one display case is an atlatl just over two feet long that was found in Big Cave (CDM 155) in Canyon del Muerto, the north branch of Canyon de Chelly. The Navajo word for Big Cave is tse-a-ha-tso, or tse-ya-tso and is pronounced TSAY-YA-HOT-SO. Big Cave contained early dated materials and tree ring dates ranging

from A.D. 331 to 835. This included early Basket Maker, the first known inhabitants of the canyon, to Developmental Pueblo peoples. The entire National Park is on and owned by the Navajo Nation which controls lands larger than the state of West Virginia. The chief weapons of the early Basket Makers were described in the booklet, Canyon de Chelly, The Story Behind The Scenery, as "...darts propelled with great force by an atlatl -- a throwing stick approximately two feet long. The bow-and-arrow was a weapon not yet known."

Contributed by Charley Lilly

ADVERTISEMENT

10% DISCOUNT

WAA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES OF ATLATLS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FROM THE FOLLOWING FIRMS:

BPS Engineering, Box 797, Manhattan, Montana 59741, phone (406) 284-3307. BPS Engineering is the maker of the "Mammoth Hunter" and "Warrior" atlatl systems. Call or write for details.

Contact Bill Tate of Tate Enterprises Unlimited, Inc., P. O. Box 440003, Aurora, CO 80044-0003, phone (303) 755-3591. for information on the SpearChucker atlatl kits and primitive skills books.

A new advertiser is Bob Beane of Bowwoods Five, 1821 Redwing St., San Marcos, California 92069, phone (619) 744-9797. Bob makes the Sand Dune Cave Atlatl Set. Call or write for information.

Other WAA members making atlatls or related equipment are encouraged to place their short advertisements in this newsletter on a space available basis at no cost. All we ask is that you offer a 10% discount to other WAA members.
