

The ATLATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

JANUARY 1996

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.
1390 South Paris Court, Aurora, Colorado 80012, USA
BILL TATE, EDITOR

VOL 9, NO. 1

WILD BOAR HUNT AT COLD BROOK A STONE AGE ADVENTURE

By Robert S. Berg

The snow was a foot or so deep, crusty and crunching beneath our feet. Rainbow crystals of ice scintillated in the bright early March sunlight. Freezing rain a few days before had covered every branch of every tree in a thin icy glaze, lending an eerie "other-world" quality to the Cold Brook hunting preserve.

Guide, Timmy Contento introduced himself and his two assistants, Anthony Puzo and Mark Clark. With us were my friends, Jim Shuler, a wildlife biologist and forester, and Herb McDowell, bowhunting instructor for the State of New York. The guides, seasoned, veteran hunters looked skeptically at my equipment. There was an atlatl, made from walnut wood and bone, and a fist-full of six-foot long, flint-tipped hunting darts. The shafts were made of ash and fletched with red-dyed turkey feathers. Our guides were very patient as I described the limitations of my weapon. I stressed the necessity of getting in really close for a good shot.

I did not want to damage any of my hunting darts each of which were tipped with carefully knapped flint points just as the Indians had used centuries ago. Therefore, I demonstrated the weapon using a shorter flu-flu fletched dart that I happened to have with me. Flu-flus fly like one-winged ducks. This just added fuel to their skepticism. I'm sure they



Berg takes aim at the boar.

were wondering how someone could kill a big game animal with such a primitive and seemingly ineffective weapon. I explained that the atlatl is a short range weapon with a great deal of killing power, and that the spear-like projectiles, called darts, travel at about half the speed of arrows shot from a bow, but weigh four

to five times as much. The atlatl itself is a stick about the length of a person's arm with a hook at one end that adds propulsive force by extending the thrower's arm. The dart is pointed at the target and then propelled forward by swinging the arm and atlatl through an arc. The hook stays in contact with the nock of the dart through about 45 degrees, while the dart stays on course, accelerating almost like the action of cracking a whip. The word "atlatl" was derived from the Aztec language. It was in use at the time of contact with the conquistador, Cortez in what is now Mexico. Finally, I stated that it is easy to learn to use the atlatl, but it takes a lot of practice to become proficient enough to use it for hunting. I'm not sure what our guides were thinking by this time, but their jackets concealed pistols in shoulder holsters, since wild boars can be very dangerous, especially when they are wounded or cornered.

Timmy led me to an intersection of old logging roads high on a hillside near the crest of a row of hills separating the St. Lawrence and Susquehanna River systems near Homer, New York. I set up and waited for the other four of our party to drive the small herd of wild boars toward me.

Timmy alerted me that the boars were approaching. I noticed the herd consisting of three or four Russian Boars and several smaller feral pigs. The largest Russian bristled with blacks and bronzes, the hair standing straight up like a Mohawk hair cut, signaling alarm. He hesitated just out of range and tarried there for a time, while the smaller ones mingled nervously closer to me.

Eventually, I cast a dart over the top of the herd, hoping to move them. The dart landed noisily on the icy snow about a dozen yards past the furthest boar. This started them moving into the woods to my left. My quarry came into a small opening and quartered away at about thirteen yards. I cast hard. There was a clatter like smashing glass as my dart knocked hundreds of shards of ice off the thick brush and veered off course. Luckily, the dart did not hit the animal since most of its energy was spent crashing through ice-encrusted twigs, and it would have served only to wound the creature superficially. The boar lurched forward as I made another awkward cast through thick brush, with the same results as before.

The air of skepticism grew like ice fog and rained crystals of doubt among my guides, who were thinking they were in for a long cold day. I gathered my darts and my composure. I backed off and broke eye contact with the black and bronze boar I had singled out. This seemed to relieve the animal's anxiety enough for it to move into range, about thirty feet. Jim urged the line of hogs on. The large one came through first.

My heart pounded. I felt somehow connected to those ancient hunters who had come before me, maybe in

this very spot, perhaps two thousand years ago in a contest between man and nature.

I gripped my atlatl and pointed my dart at a spot just behind the shoulder blade, which on a boar of this size is like a piece of armor plate. I launched forward making certain to compensate for the animal's motion and drove the dart hard with a snap of my wrist. The dart penetrated deeply into the vital area.

Instantly, in a long practiced move, I nocked another dart and let it fly. It too, hit its mark just inches forward of the first hit. I knew I didn't have to nock another one. The 250-pound hog attempted to make a retreat through the thick underbrush, the two red-fletched darts oscillating, clattering, and dragging through the bushes. The notoriously hard-to-kill animal went 25 yards and dropped in the snow.

I heard a cheer from Herb, "I knew you could do it." The skepticism melted like snow on a hot griddle. Well, almost, at least until I produced my butchering tools. These consisted of several flint bifaces and spalls, a round creek pebble, a finely-knapped replica of a St. Charles point made from colorful Flint Ridge Chert, and several pieces of bone and antler used to resharpen the flint tools.

I knapped a flake about an inch long. I knew its edge tapered down to a single molecule. Timmy helped me roll the huge animal over. I heard a murmur of amazement as I made a three foot long cut in as many seconds down the belly. I used a biface spall and the St. Charles point for skinning. I had to resharpen the biface several times, as it dulled while separating the bones at the joints. Resharpening took only seconds using the little creek pebble as a hammerstone in a process called percussion flaking.

Now all skepticism dissolved. It had taken only half an hour to skin, quarter, and gut the animal. I wrapped the beautiful St. Charles point carefully and put it into my buttoned vest pocket. I gave each of my guides a flint biface as a memento of the hunt.

This hunt was not about the mere killing of an animal, but the culmination of years spent in my spare time learning how to knap flint, make atlatls, and build good darts. It required a great deal of practice to develop the skills needed to accomplish what I did.

The challenge was to test myself and the primitive equipment that I had created. I wanted to use only stone age weapons and tools in the process. I wanted to reach back in time to when our ancestors used only these basic materials and methods to achieve their survival. I wanted to experience the primal thrill.

Editors note: Robert Berg used his Wyalusing atlatl on this hunt, his favorite of the six models he makes. His atlatls are sold by Three Rivers Archery, Ashley, IN, AACE Recreation, Owego, NY and through mail order catalog, Thunderbird Atlatl, 112 Chestnut St., Owego, NY 13827.

CHUCK BUTORAJAC WINS WEST VIRGINIA STATE ATLATL CHAMPIONSHIP

By Dr. William B. Good

The splendor of fall color and a robin egg blue sky provided the backdrop for the 4th annual West Virginia State Atlatl Championship held Sep 30, 1995. This event has become firmly established as one of many contests which take place as part of the Mountain State Forest Festival.

This year eleven atlatlists showed up to vie for the coveted first place plaque.

Troy Helmick of Townsend, Montana, defending champion, was defeated by Chuck Butorajac of Ligoneer Pennsylvania. William Good of Elkins, West Virginia, captured third place after defeating Matt McDaniels of Buckhannon in a "sudden death" shoot. Lynn Helmick also of West Virginia, rounded out the top five.



L to R:

Lynn Helmick, 6th; sporting half a beard, Chuck Butorajac, 1st; William Good, 3rd; Troy Helmick, 2nd; Matt McDaniels, 4th; and Junior competitor for the past three years, Laura Maple who finished 5th.

The winners received plaques and a twelve pound turkey from Elkins Shop & Save. The contest was judged by Randolph County Circuit Judge John Henning.

The next contest will take place on September 28, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. on the lower campus of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia.

Anyone interested in attending or wanting information may contact The Mountain State Forest Festival office at 1 (303) 636-1824.



CONTEST WINNER CHUCK BUTORAJAC TAKES AIM.

on target



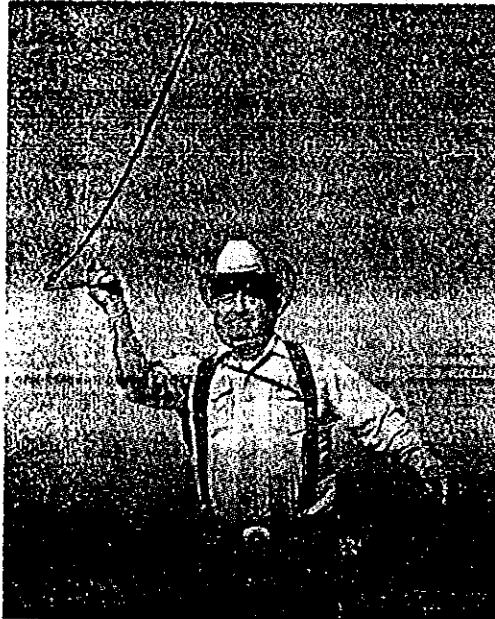
by LENI CLUBB

Have we gone into CYBERSPACE? We recently received an inquiry from a person who had found us on the INTERNET!! Do any of you know how to access?

- Along that line, one of our members has suggested publishing e-mail addresses in this newsletter, so that you can "talk" to your fellow WAA members. We will need permission from you to publish. Send the address to me if you wish to participate.
- An article in the Colorado History News, December 1995, has an ArchNet address through World Wide Web. You must have an Internet connection to access: <http://spirit.lib.unconn.edu/ArchNet/ArchNet.html> Perhaps some of you can find information about the atlatl or our organization. If you do, let me know.
- One of our members, Ray Strisciek, has written us with information on sources of bamboo. He also has lots of information and suggestions on the use of the bamboo for darts, how to straighten, drawings on how to attach the feathers, etc. I have made several copies that are available for \$1.00 copy costs for the 10 pages.
- If you or your group are planning an atlatl contest this year and wish to be able to award The World Atlatl Association Grand Championship plaque, let me know and I will send you the application and requirements.
- We have three new members who write material for classroom use relating to prehistoric man, including the atlatl. They are Rod Laird of Saratoga, WY; Richard Burrill in Sacramento, CA; Marjorie Cowley, Los Angeles, CA. I have copies of their brochures and/or price lists. Drop me a card if you are interested. If any others of you write and publish material for classroom use on prehistoric man and the atlatl, let me know, and I will mention it in this column.

As you read these pages remember what Kansas newspaperman William Allen White, beloved for his homespun wisdom, said. "There are three things that no one can do to the entire satisfaction of anyone else: Make love, poke a fire, and run a newspaper."

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC ran a December 1995 article headlined Fans Revive Ancient Tool about WAA members Ray Ferguson, Wayne Brian, and others by staff writer Paul Brinkley-Rogers. The bit was snapped up by other papers including the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Excerpts follow:



Gary R. Ulik/Staff photographer
"Rabbit ace" Ray Ferguson uses an "atlatl" to shoot a bamboo dart. It's more fun than a gun, he says.

Ray Ferguson rears back and with an overhand sweep of his arm uses his "atlatl" to send a yard-long bamboo dart flying after a rabbit, as an ancestor may have done thousands of years ago. The rabbit goes down 50 yards away in the Gila River dust on Ferguson's cotton farm near Pima, the dart quivering in its hide. Other Graham County hunters use guns or high-tech bows, but Ferguson as with a small but growing number of Americans, has opted for Neolithic technology.

"I guess you could call me a rabbit ace," says Ferguson, 67, who acknowledges he could make it easier on himself by using a weapon purchased at a store. "But it would not be half as much fun," he says, his big hands holding six darts and the stick-like atlatl, all of which he made himself. He says his friends can't see investing all that time in whittling and cutting bamboo, and binding stone spearpoints and feathers on the shafts with animal gut.

Man may be obsessed with computer technology, but lately a new rival is clamoring for attention--the Stone Age. In fact, interest in primitive technology has not been this intense since mammoths vanished.

Fans of antiquity are spending hundreds of dollars to attend camps, such as one scheduled for late January near Mesa, teaching cave birthing, the crafting of bone implements or how to use painting techniques perfected by ancient man. The most popular gatherings, however involve making and using Stone Age devices that maim and kill, such as the atlatl, a lost art no more since The World Atlatl Association was established and regular atlatl contests began in the United States and Europe...

... "Too bad there are no mastodon to hunt or Spanish conquistadors to battle," said Ken Jennings, 70, of Flagstaff, who claims that darts flung with his atlatl can pierce a car door. "Foam silhouettes just don't cut it."

Atlatlists Wayne Brian of Mesa and Ferguson compete in meets organized around the country by The World Atlatl Association, founded in 1987. Brian, 65, got into the sport to see how far he could throw, and three years ago got himself into the *Guinness Book of World Records* with a 660 foot mark. The record of the retired General Motors project technician was eclipsed in July '95 when Missourian Dave Engvall flung a dart 848 feet, 6 5/8 inches.

As with many other atlatl fans, Brian has had a lifelong interest in archaeology. He has been making exact reproduction of old Southwestern pottery for years and does restorations of the real thing. "That got me interested in primitive things," he said. In 1990, he was demonstrating his potmaking skills at a St. George, Utah, convention and ran into Bill Tate, pioneer of the American atlatl revival. Tate was using an entirely homemade atlatl to hit targets 50 feet away, and Brian was hooked...

...Ferguson started making atlatls 15 years ago after reading about them being used in Jean Auel's novel, "The Mammoth Hunters." He tried to get his neighbors interested, he said, "But they prefer the bow and arrow, because they want accuracy and they want meat." He has driven as far as 550 miles to meets in Nevada's valley of Fire to show his skill winning several trophies. He has given demonstrations with Brian and another atlatl enthusiast, Phoenix firefighter Albert Abril...

...As with many atlatlists, he wonders about the past. How did Stone Age man figure out that the atlatl would enable a man to double his throwing power, effectively lengthening his arm by two feet? "Was it a little boy," he asks, "who had a slingshot and thought he could do the same with a spear?"

NO RAIN -- NO RAINBOWS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

As a member of The World Atlatl Association, I was pleased that your Oct. 24 front page article about the Aztec's "Nifty Spear Flinger" managed to avoid mention of the divisive controversy within the group.

Certain factions insist the word is pronounced "at-lattle," while others say, "attle-attle." Still others, hold out for "ate-l ate-l."

Then there are compromisers who suggest, "eight-l-attle," "attle-eight-l," and "eight-lattle."

I am reminded of this seventh grader's struggles with geography's "Popocatepetl" 50-something years ago. My Granddaughter tells me that is now correctly pronounced by putting the accent equally on all nine syllables.

Aggravating the Association's problem is an unofficial bumper sticker which tells readers to "Ask to See My Atlatl." As you may imagine, *that's* just not happening!

Meanwhile, here in Westford, we hope to have a 53-member atlatl-armed militia recruited, well-regulated, and in the field before Ms. Reno can say, "A... Ate... Eightl... Attle... Whatever!"

Sincerely,
Jim Timberlake

We were sorry to hear from Lloyd Pine of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that the Marksville Mounds atlatl event will not be held this year. Something to do with funding. Lloyd says he looking for another place and or sponsor, but so far he has not been able to find another suitable location to hold this event.

Beauty is in the eye of the beerholder.

NINETEEN THOUSAND YEARS OLD -- AN OVERNIGHT SUCCESS!

By Bill Tate

A little publicity goes a long way.

Last October, *The Wall Street Journal* printed a front page article about the atlatl. This internationally known and respected paper took our "cause" around the world. As a result, scores of contacts with members of WAA have been made by magazines, newspapers, television and radio.

Almost immediately upon reading the fine article by Bob Ortega, the BBC interviewed Ray Madden in Joplin, Missouri and Richard Vanderhoek in Urbana, Illinois, subjects of the piece. Ray has been deluged with calls and has faithfully answered all of them with a WAA application and a multi-page brochure on how to construct, hold, and throw with atlatl and dart.

This was followed by contacts from NBC News in San Francisco to Bill Tate and Leni Clubb, and soon Leni received a call from a newspaper in Mexico City. We hear that even Paul Harvey mentioned us, although in a somewhat negative way.

Historic Traveler Magazine, a glossy, bimonthly publication, printed by Cowles Magazines, Inc. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, interviewed Bill Tate and printed a great half-page article in their March 1996 issue, titled *Experimenting With History*.

It wasn't long before another publication, *Outside Magazine*, contacted us for information and photographs of atlatlists. The March issue of this magazine will have a piece on atlatls and the new resurgence of interest.

Because Ortega did not include an address for The World Atlatl Association, in his WSJ article he has been plagued by callers interested in atlatls. Most, he gives Leni's or my phone number to for further information. Some, however are more enterprising. Richard Shilling of Pacific Palisades, California and Collin Allen of Denton Texas, looked up our address in the Encyclopedia of Associations at the library and made direct contact with Secretary Leni Clubb. Allen's letter to us appears elsewhere on this page.

Recently, we received a call from Greg Flakus, writer for The Voice Of America. His interest, too, was roused by *The Wall Street Journal* article, then spurred on by the bit in *Historic Traveler Magazine*. Greg states that his script will be featured on overseas radio and translated into as many as forty languages.

In mid-January, I received a call from Jay Bryant, researcher for the Saturday morning television

program, *Where on Earth Is Carmen Sandiego*. This animated, award-winning, educational children's show will feature the hero boy detective attempting to escape disaster by using an atlatl. That show is due to come out in early autumn this year. We will try to keep you informed as to when that bit may be seen.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WOMAN? The villain: Carmen Sandiego. From a storyboard furnished by Jay Bryant, DIC Entertainment, Burbank, California.

So after all of this, we wonder where it will end, or will it? We hope not. We wonder too, just where on earth is Carmen Sandiego?

✉ Letters ✉

Dear Atlatl People,

Recently, I read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* talking about this historic device that can hurl objects at tremendous speeds. Being a male, I was quite intrigued by the thought of atlatls.

So with a little more research, I looked up your association. I was wondering what you people do in this club. It sounds interesting, and I would like to see what information you could give me. How do you make an atlatl? Is it true that this is an ancient weapon? If so, how ancient?

I apologize for being such an inconvenience, however I do know something that might interest you. It is called the International Hurling Society. There is this guy in Texas who has made a trebuchet. It is a catapult device that has a counterweight as its source of energy. There is nothing quite like the sight of a toilet flying 200 yards through the air. If you watched Northern Exposure, they used one to toss a piano. Another reference is in Monty Python's Holy Grail with the cow scene.

Their next goal is to toss a '67 Buick 400 yards. It should be done in 1996. If you would like more information, just dial 1 800-hurl-r-us. They have an e-mail address also, HURLRUS@AOL.COM. If you despise the telephone and computer, pull out a pen and write to: P. O. Box 150945, Fort Worth, Texas 76108.

I would adore anything you could tell me about atlatls.

Thanks, Collin Allen, P. O. Box 10144, Denton TX 76203.

Cja0003@jove.acs.unt.edu

IN AMERICA, ANYONE CAN BECOME PRESIDENT.
THAT'S THE RISK YOU TAKE. *Adlai Stevenson*

PREHISTORIC WEAPON 'ATLATL' TO FLY ON PREHISTORY DAY

By Jack Fenton
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

SANDY -- Ray Thompson wants to go hunting with his atlatl.

No, it is not an exotic ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) or a dog that is easy to train. An atlatl is the stick and dart that was common 10,000 years ago, long before the bow and arrow. People used it for hunting, fighting, and sport, says Mr. Thompson, a Utah Department of Transportation worker who will demonstrate the ancient tool Saturday as part of Prehistory Day at the Utah Division of History, 300 Rio Grande in Salt Lake City.

The atlatl is like an extension to the arm, a long stick with a notch or tooth that holds a dart for hurling. Rock-art interpreters believe the weapon was represented by a circle with a vertical line.



Reintroducing the forebearer to the bow and arrow, Ray Thompson prepares to throw the atlatl, a hunting weapon common 10,000 years ago. He will demonstrate the ancient tool during Prehistory Day on Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Thompson's wife, Patricia, a consulting archaeologist and atlatl champion, said indigenous people began abandoning the weapon for a bow and arrow about 2,000 years ago.

Inland cultures, including the Anasazi in what is now the American Southwest, may have used it 1,000 years longer than those in coastal areas where game was plentiful and hunting was easy. The Anasazi were among the last to abandon the atlatl. That was sometime between 400 and 600 A.D., Ms. Thompson said. It had been traditional to their culture. She said Australian aborigines still use the atlatl.

Leni Clubb, of the World Atlatl Association, at Ocotillo, Calif.,

says she gets calls daily about preserving what she describes as the "sport and art form of atlatl."

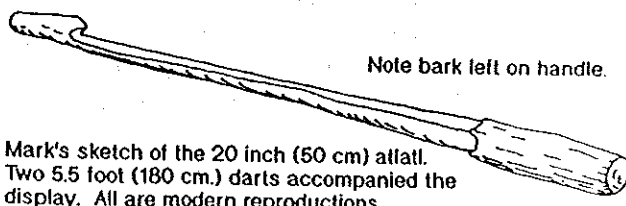
Editor's comments: Ray and Patti Thompson are not only avid atlatlists, but active enthusiastic promoters of the sport. Ray builds and sells atlatls and darts from his home at 1104 East Turquoise Way, Sandy, UT 84094. Patti and Ray recently presented a beautiful magnetic sign to your Editor to "wear" on his brand new bright red Nissan pickup truck. See Below.



Bill Tate placing new sign on his vehicle.

MUSEUM DISPLAY IN TEXAS

WAA member, Mark Beadle of Nederland, Texas writes that the Museum of the Gulf Coast, at 700 Procter Street in port Arthur, Texas 77640, phone (409) 982-7000 has a nice atlatl and dart display as well as a wall mural depicting Paleoindians from the Texas Gulf Coast area hunting mammoth using the atlatl. Port Arthur is located in extreme southeastern Texas next to the Louisiana line.



Mark's sketch of the 20 inch (50 cm) atlatl. Two 5.5 foot (180 cm.) darts accompanied the display. All are modern reproductions.

EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN!

Eight years ago when we decided to form this organization and publish a newsletter, we had no idea that the name *THE ATLATL* had already been used for such a publication. Years later we found that there was indeed another organization using that title, the Native American Arts Service in Phoenix, Arizona. We reported on that in the Spring of 1991. Now, we find that twenty years ago, Rod Laird published a newsletter named *THE ATLATL* for the Wyoming School for the Deaf in Casper. Rod writes to us, jokingly, that he is seeing his lawyer about our choice of title. You were joking, weren't you, Rod?Rod?



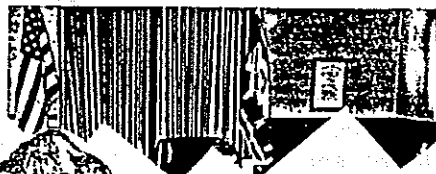
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

MAY 25, 1976

DENVER TRIP IS GRAND SUCCESS!

ANOTHER STORY ABOUT HEIDI

MY MOM PUT ON A SWIMMING SUIT. SHE WENT OUTSIDE TO SUNBATHE. MY DOG, HEIDI, WENT OUT TO SUNBATHE TOO. MY LAY ON THE 'NID 'E. HEI 'LAY 'SIDE' WA 'ON 'W



MRS. FORT TO ATTEN PR' GRAM

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RST



ANNOUNCING

The 8th Annual MONTANA MAMMOTH ATLATL HUNT

The 1996 hunt competition will be convened at the Blacktail Ranch, north of Helena and west of Wolf Creek, Montana at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday July 20th. This WAA listed, public event, sponsored by the Museum of the Rockies, and held in cooperation with Tag Rittel and Sandra Renner of the Blacktail Ranch, Inc.

Registration and entry fee is \$5.00 for youths and \$10.00 for adults. The fee pays for a sack lunch and covers cost of trophies. Awards will be presented to First, Second, and Third place winners in three divisions: Men, Women, and Youths under 16.

The event will be held in conjunction with the Museum of the Rockies' "Prehistoric Missile Systems of the Americas" Research project directed by Les Davis, Curator of Archaeology and Ethnology. The Museum's excavations in progress at Blacktail Cave will be toured in the afternoon following the competition.

Send notice of participation and check made out to The Museum of the Rockies to hunt organizer, and WAA President Troy Helmick, Box 303, Townsend, MT 59644 (404) 266-3398. Your advance registration will be acknowledged and you will receive a map to the mammoth hunting grounds.

Bits and Pieces from Here and There.

HOW OLD IS THE OR SPEAR THROWER?

To my knowledge, the oldest spearthrower discovered to this day, is the hook portion made of reindeer antler discovered in Combe-Sauniere Dordogne, France. It is dated at more or less, 19,000 years.

Pierre Cattelain, General Manager
Centre d' Etudes et de
Documentation Archaeologiques,
Treignes, Belgium

Len Davis of Great Falls, Montana writes that he has the Montana "ATLATL" license plate for his vehicle. To truly be a bona fide member of our license plate club he must submit photo documentation.

Note from Ray Strischek of Athens Ohio.
You folks printed (July '95) a letter I sent in about my efforts in trying to kill myself with atlatl weights. That happened in April 1995. It is now November, and although the \$1500.00 MRI cat scan-like test showed no ripped up rotator cuff, my arm still does not function as in days of yore. It is constantly sore, with pain from knuckles to elbow. Ah, so what? I still throw. No pain, no gain!

A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Pascal CHAUVAUX
rue au delà de l'Eau, 3
B-8630 CERFONTAINE
Belgium



Letterhead used by Pascal in recent correspondence.

FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK SEVIER UTAH

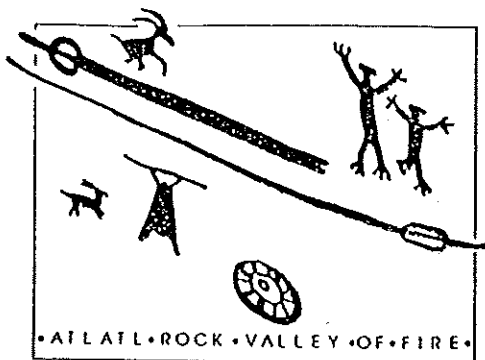
By Leni Clubb

It is that time again...Fremont Indian State Park will hold its Fourth Annual Atlatl contest conducted by The World Atlatl Association on June 14, 15, and 16, 1996. Those of you who participated last year will remember that great target course which started at a 45 degree angle right up a mountain!

The Park has planned several activities including a workshop on atlatl construction on Friday afternoon and a "Dutch-Oven Dinner" on Saturday evening. The atlatl contest starts at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, the 15th. Full particulars will be published in the April newsletter with a registration form.



Cartoon sent in by Pascall Chauvaux,
Cerfontaine, Belgium



Valley of Fire State Park, Overton, Nevada
Sixth Annual Atlatl Contest
Conducted by The World Atlatl Association
April 19 and 20, 1996 at Atlatl Rock

Schedule of events:

Friday, April 19 – 7:00 p.m. Campfire talks and slide presentations at Group Site No. 1.

1. Staff of Lost City Museum of Overton – Lifeways of the Native Americans of the Valley of Fire area.

2. Vicki Hill – Rock Art of the Southwest.

3. Bill Tate – The History of the Atlatl.

Saturday, April 20th

9:00 a.m. Registration for the Atlatl Contests in parking lot at Atlatl Rock.

10:00 a.m. Atlatl contest at Atlatl Rock. We will begin the contest promptly.

Awards Presentation in the parking lot at Atlatl Rock

Afternoon – World-Wide Standard Accuracy Contest.

Afternoon following the contest – Semi-annual meeting of The World Atlatl Association. (All members welcome.)

Members of The World Atlatl Association will enjoy free entrance and camping for the two nights (19th & 20th) in Group Campsite No. 3, courtesy of our hosts. You must have a permit placard on your windshield, however. See Leni Clubb or other WAA officer at Group Campsite No. 3 for the permit and post it in your windshield as soon as possible. Check at the entrance kiosk for changes, identifying yourself as a WAA member.

Non-campers may seek motel accommodations in Overton 18 miles away, or select one of the many Las Vegas motels, approximately 55 mile distant.

Contest rules and safety rules will be available at time of registration, or you may secure them in advance by contacting WAA Secretary Leni Clubb, P. O. Box 56, Ocotillo, CA 92259, (619) 358-7835. Note: Safety Rules are strictly enforced at all WAA atlatl events.

We will have a limited amount of atlatl equipment available to loan for the contest. Categories are: Men, Women, and Youth (16 and under). A grand Champion Award will be presented by WAA in both Primitive and Modern Equipment categories.

VALLEY OF FIRE ATLATL CONTEST PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Camping? _____ Category Entering: MEN _____ WOMEN _____ YOUTH _____

Mail completed registration form to WAA Secretary Leni Clubb, POBox 56, Ocotillo, CA 92259 - For further information contact Leni at 1 (619) 358-7835

ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD - 1996

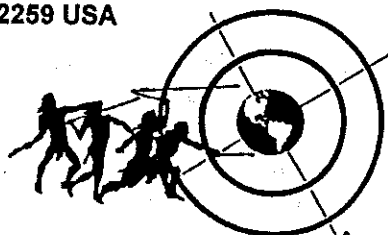
MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO "RIDE" THE CIRCUIT

- | | | |
|------|-------|---|
| Feb. | 10-11 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Vassieux-en-Vercors. Drome in the mountains of Southern France |
| Apr. | 19-21 | Valley of Fire State Park--WAA Atlatl Contest, VolSP, Overton, Nevada. Contact: Leni Clubb (619) 358-7835 |
| | 27 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Ramioul, Belgium |
| May | 12 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Samara Somme, France |
| | 25 | Michigan Atlatl Assn. Contest, Wilder Creek Conservation club, Marshall Michigan 2:00 p.m. Contact Lou Becker, (810) 326-0279 or Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314. |
| | 27 | Michigan Atlatl Assn. Contest, Hartland, Michigan 2:00 p.m. location pending. Contact Lou Becker (810) 326-0279, or Jim Giligan (810) 231-2314. |
| Jun. | 1 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Crepy-en-Valois, Oise, France |
| | 14-16 | 4th Annual Fremont Indian State Park WAA Atlatl Contest, Sevier, Utah. Contact Leni Clubb (619) 358-7835 |
| | 15-16 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac Dordogne, France |
| | 22-23 | Atlatl World Open, Fort Caspar, Casper, Wyoming. Contact Rick Young, (307) 235-8462 |
| Jul. | 4-7 | Colorado Archaeological Society Encampment, Radium, Colorado Contact, Bob Mutaw, (303) 666-0437 |
| | 6-7 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Le Grand-Pressigny Indre-et-Loire, France |
| | 13 | Aurora Atlatl Contest, Aurora, Colorado (Aurora History Museum) Contact Bill Tate (303) 755-5591 |
| | 20 | 8th Annual Montana Mammoth Atlatl Hunt, Blacktail Ranch, Montana. Contact: Troy Helmick (404) 266-3398 |
| Aug. | 11 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Oerlinghausen, Germany |
| Sep. | 6-8 | Fifth International Prehistoric Weapons Games at Neandertal Museum, Mettmann Germany |
| | 22 | European Spear Throwing Championships, Treignes, Belgium |
| | 27-30 | Michigan Atlatl Association Atlatl Contest, Bois Blanc Island Near Cheboygan, Michigan in Lake Huron, Contact: Lou Becker (810) 326-0279 or Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 |
| | 28 | 5th Annual West Virginia State Atlatl Championship, Lower Campus Davis & Elkins College Elkins, West Virginia, Contact Mountain State Forest Festival (304) 636-1824 |

Note: Our contact for all European atlatl contests is Pascal Chauvaux, rue Au dela de l'Eau, 3 B-5630, Cerfontaine, Belgium. (Telephone: 32 60 34 68 58)

MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION IS STILL JUST \$10.00 PER YEAR. FOR CANADA AND FOREIGN MEMBERSHIPS THERE IS A SUPPLEMENTARY POSTAGE FEE OF \$2.00. SEND ALL INQUIRIES AND DUES TO WAA SECRETARY:

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