

The ATLATL

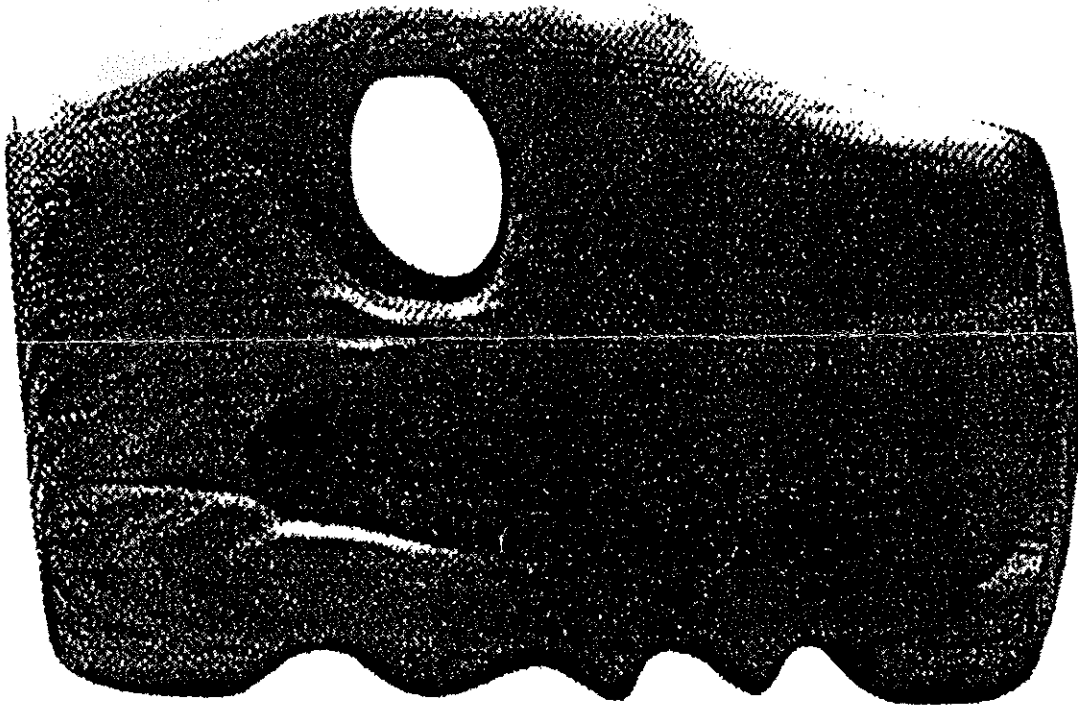
"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

July 1997

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

Vol. 10, No. 3



Scale 1:1 - Length 14.5 cm

THE SMALLEST SPEARTHROWER IN THE WORLD

By Pascal Chauvaux

I found this little piece of wood in a museum exhibit about the Eskimo in Boulogne, France. As you can see, the harpoon fits into the groove, while the fingers find their places in the different slots. Beneath the piece, was the following text:

Spearthrower (noksak)

The spearthrower, which is a very old weapon, is not well known. Native to Europe, it was used to the north of America from about 6000 years B.C. Aztec people gave it the name: "atl atl," but Eskimos named it "noksak". The spearthrower increases the speed of the spear with an extension of the length of the arm.

THREE NEW ATLATL CONTESTS IN
THE EAST
by Bob Berg

Stone Tool Technology Show, sponsored by Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition, Genesee Valley Flintknappers Association and the Mountain People Primitive Encampment will be held August 23 and 24, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Competition and primitive skills displays will be held at beautiful Letchworth State Park at Castile, NY. For more information, contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.

Mercyhurst-Northeast College is the site of another two day weekend event with atlatl competition on Saturday, Oct. 4th, and the primitive gathering continuing into Sunday. For program events, contact Cathy Pedler, (814) 824-2578, or write Mercyhurst--Northeast College, Rt. 89 at Division St., Northeast, PA 16428. For Contest information contact Bob Berg.

Sixth Annual Croton Point Knap-In is set for Oct. 11th and 12th, at Croton Point Park on the Hudson River in New York State. In addition to local and ISAC atlatl competitions the knap-in is the site of the "fire by friction" capital of the world. Travel and camping information can be obtained by contacting the Park at (914) 271-3293. Atlatl competition contact is Berry Keegan, (914) 592-8961.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

IN APPRECIATION!

Patti and Ray Thompson
Sandy, Utah

May 1, 1997

It is with great pleasure that I pass on to you this "no strings" anonymous gift of \$500.00. The donor who wishes to remain unknown, expressed the hope that you might use it for transportation and equipment to continue your atlatl-related educational efforts. The donor congratulates you on your past performance in this area, and hopes that you will continue to instruct the public on spearthrower history and provide them the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of throwing with an atlatl.

I know I speak for all members of the World Atlatl Association, when I say congratulations for a job well done! It is through people like you that the general public is able to learn about past lifeways and to experience first-hand, a glimpse of their heritage.

Continued good luck
Sincerely,
Bill Tate, Newsletter Editor.

The response...

Ray and I wish to thank our benefactor for their unselfish and generous contribution toward our project of educating the public about atlatls. We can assure you that this money is being used judiciously and that the WAA's goals are being promoted.

Sincerely,
Ray and Patti Thompson



Patti and Ray Thompson

Dear WAA

My husband and I attended our first atlatl event at the Valley of Fire park on April 19th--as observers only. We were very impressed with the prowess of the throwers. It made us realize how much practice we need! We enjoyed meeting the people there and picking up helpful tips on throwing.

I finally got to meet Jim Ray, with whom I had been corresponding. He donated a primitive type spear and atlatl to the John E. Conner Museum in Kingsville, Texas where I am a volunteer. The Museum staff is as thrilled with the gift as I am. On

May 12th, I showed it for the first time to a group of 8th graders who enjoyed my "spiel." I also demonstrated it to the Board members, most of whom had no idea what an atlal was. We all appreciate Jim's generosity and his interest in spreading the word about atlals.

I think the WAA is a great organization and I get a lot of information from the newsletter. It think it is very important that organizations like this "spread the word."

Marilou and Wally Lynch
Kingsville, Texas

DART CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN

Part 2

by Ray Strischek

Readers will remember Part 1 was printed in the April 1997 issue of *The Atlal*. Back issues can be obtained from Secretary, Leni Clubb.

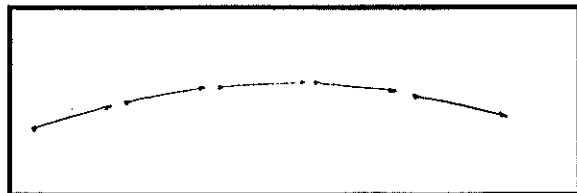
DART BALANCE POINT

The balance point of my darts is 3 to 6 inches forward of center, depending on the degree of kinetic flexibility inherent in the shaft. If the degree of kinetic flexibility is low, I can, through various tricks, move the balance point out to 6 or so inches forward of center. If the degree of kinetic flexibility is high, I place the balance point only about 3 inches forward of center.

Placing the balance point forward of center allows for the adjustment of the arc I can achieve. The balance point helps regulate the flex/re-flex bending of the dart in flight.

Keep in mind that with the atlal and dart, (unlike the bow and arrow) the leverage advantage of the atlal, the wrist flick at the end of the throwing motion, and the kinetic flexibility, all compress the dart. This compression produces flex/re-flex and arc depending on the distribution of weight and degree of kinetic flexibility along the length of the dart shaft.

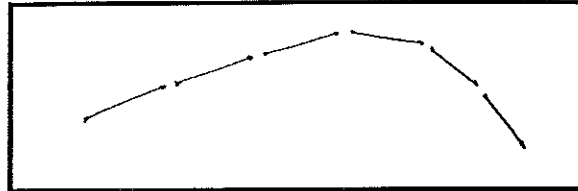
For the moment, let's assume that each dart has a certain optimum degree of kinetic flexibility for its particular length: If the balance point of the dart is correctly placed forward of center, thus making the dart correctly point end heavy, the flight pattern of the dart will be a gentle, shallow, low trajectory arc.



Example of a "correct" point end heavy dart's flight pattern

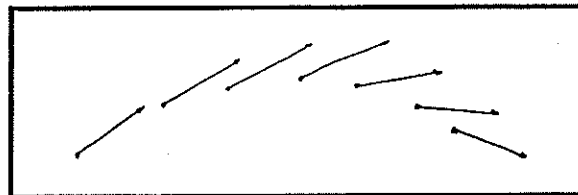
If the balance point of the dart is too far forward of center, the dart is then too point end heavy. It will lose

altitude too quickly. To make up for that loss of altitude, a higher trajectory and more force of throw must be applied.



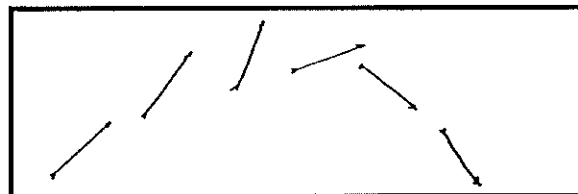
Example of point heavy dart's flight pattern.

If the balance point is too close to the center of the dart, the point end of the dart will rise at the beginning of the cast and stay up in the air as it travels toward the target. What brings the point end down eventually, is the drag of the fletching slowing the speed of travel.



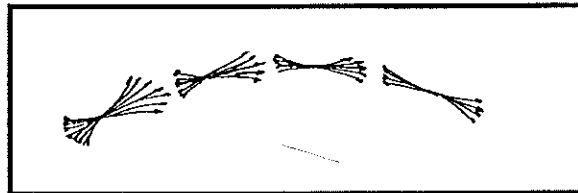
Example of a "center balanced" dart's flight pattern.

If the dart is too stiff for its length, regardless of whether it is long or short, the point end of the dart will rise very quickly at the beginning of the cast like a rearing stallion, and will then drop down quickly, depending on how far forward of center the balance point is.



Example of a "too stiff" dart's flight pattern

If the dart is too flexible for its length, the flexing/re-flexing action will decrease in duration too slowly and will adversely effect accuracy. A dart that is still flexing wildly after it hits the target is too flexible. Such a dart is good for long distance contests, but not for good accuracy shots for under 30 meters.



Example of a "too flexible" dart's flight pattern.

CHEAP TRICKS FOR FIXING FLEXIBILITY PROBLEMS

Let us take for example, a dart which is 6 feet long

including 8 inches of foreshaft and point, and a diameter at the front end of the dart's main shaft that is 5/8 inch while the butt end is 1/2 inch.

Dart number 1 = 6' X 5/8" : 1/2"

Despite the fact that there is a foreshaft and point up front, and that the front end of the main shaft is bigger in diameter than the rear end, it just so happens that the walls of the cane tubing are oddly formed and the mass and weight of the fletching is such that the balance point is only 2 inches forward of center. I cast this dart a few times and note that the point end rises at the start of the cast but does not start to drop until the very end of a 30 meter throw. It acts like a center balanced dart. I do not have a shallow arc. How do I fix this problem? A. I can use a heavier point, or B. I can use a longer foreshaft with or without a heavier point., or C. At a point 18 through 24 inches from the front of the main shaft, I can wrap the shaft with cotton string and cover with a couple of coats of Elmer's woodworking glue, or bee's wax or pine pitch.

Adding weight up front will actually increase kinetic flexibility during compression. On some of my darts, I have used a combination of two or more of the above "cheap tricks" to achieve the proper forward of center balance point that gives me the shallow trajectory arc I need for good estimation of elevation and distance.

Dart Number 2 = 6' X 5/8" : 3/8"

Note that this dart is thinner at the butt end than the previous dart. Assume that this difference gives the dart a natural forward of center balance point of 6 inches. After throwing the dart a few times I determine that although it has a good low trajectory arc, it is wobbly as hell in flight. It is too flexible. Try as I might, I cannot get it into the bulls eye to save my soul. How do I fix this problem? A. Shorten the dart by cutting 6 inches or so off the butt end and refletch it. This should stiffen it, reducing the kinetic flexibility of the dart. B. Shorten and thin the foreshaft and use a lighter point. This will lighten the front end which will have the effect of reducing the degree of kinetic flexibility. C. Use less force in casting the dart. This will certainly reduce the amount of flexing, but will it make it all the way to the target? As before, it may be necessary to use a combination of A, B, and C.

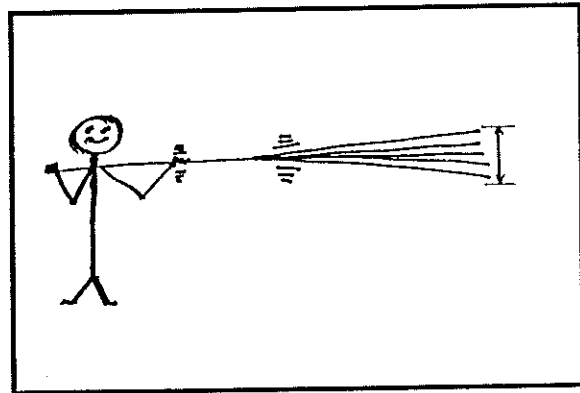
Dart Number 3 = 6' X 1/2" : 1/2"

The outward appearance of bamboo and river cane, front to rear diameter, weight and length, are not accurate determiners of kinetic flexibility. Because bamboo and river cane are natural, the density of the tube-like walls and outer shell, the distance between the nodes, and its age (how long it has dried), vary tremendously and thus, so does the degree of kinetic flexibility from one piece to another.

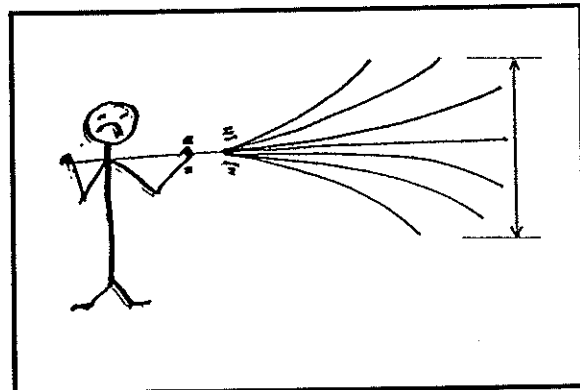
In order to more accurately gauge the degree of kinetic flexibility, I must first invest the time to straighten the shaft by holding it a half inch above my kitchen's electric stove turned to high, and then bending the cane with heavily gloved hands. This takes about 20 minutes per shaft.

TESTING FOR FLEXIBILITY

Hold the dart shaft horizontally about chest high, butt end in one hand, and grip the shaft about two feet from the end with the other hand. Then "scissor" the front end of the shaft up and down briskly. If the distance of the up and down wiggle or wobble is between 12 and 18 inches, I can assume that the amount of kinetic flexibility is nearly correct for that dart's particular length and that only minor adjustments in the length of the foreshaft, weight of the point, or placement of the balance point will be needed.



Example of a dart shaft with an acceptable 12-18 inches of flex. Less flex requires more point weight.



Example of a dart with too much flex (over 18 inches). If the dart is cut shorter, the flexing will decrease.

Note: Part 3 of Ray Striscsek's Dart Construction and Design will be included in the October 1997 The Atlant.

Dear WAA,

I learned of your organization years ago, and finally found you on the "web." I had the opportunity to try someone's atlal last year and was simply blown away by its performance. I've got to have one!! ...Thanks for your help. Now if only I could find the address of the *World Ballista Association*, my life would be complete -- well, almost.
Stanley S. Willis, Jr., 400 S Graham St., Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Dear WAA,

I've been looking for an association like this for a while. Lloyd Pine sent me an application. I've been throwing with the atlatl for a couple of years, but I enjoy it so much and I really like people's expressions when they see one for the first time. Enclosed are my dues.

Thank you

Michael Le Blanc, Independence, LA

(Ed. Note: Age and infirmity do not deter the adventurous spirit or intellectual curiosity of atlatl aficionados as the following letters demonstrate.)

Dear WAA,

When I saw that I was one of only 5 members in Canada, I had to renew my membership.

I don't know whether my atlatl is very good. It is the second one I made. The first I gave away to a young professional archaeologist. Apart from being an amateur archaeologist for a number of years, I have always been interested in this sort of thing.

I must say that I'm an old guy, 80 years in a couple of months. I have a very bad leg due to damage to my lumbar spine. At present, I have a cracked elbow from falling on the ice. (If this writing seems bad, its because I am writing this with my damaged right arm).

Besides the atlatl, I also have a bow and arrows. My son carved me a bow from white ash and I made a set of arrows without the use of metal tools. Some of my points were made for me by an archaeological friend who is an expert flint knapper. I made some myself, but not anywhere as good. The arrows were all put together with vegetable bindings, and glue made of spruce gum and animal fat. Cutting and trimming feathering with flint is quite a challenge. Furthermore, I also had a firemaking set with a bow, fireboard, and spindle with a stone hand grip. I have had one of these for years since I first learned to make a fire myself at age 17 in Boy Scouts.

It's interesting reading your publication. You can only grow.

Charles Nixon, PO Box 206, Ayr, Ont. N0B 1E0 Canada

Dear WAA,

Just received a bunch of info from Lou Becker on the atlatl including several pages from the WAA Newsletter. A serious auto accident broke some bones in my spine which after healing prevent me from throwing anything overhand, i.e., atlatl, or tossing a ball, etc. With difficulty, I can just draw a 45 lb. bow. Despite these minor difficulties, my interest in all kinds of primitive stuff is just as keen as ever. Please find enclosed my check for membership dues.

Thanks, Vern Parris, Selah, WA

When the government accepts responsibility for people, then people no longer take responsibility for themselves.

WE NOW HAVE MEMBERS IN AUSTRALIA!!

By Leni Clubb

Our newest family membership is for Ian Finlay and Trish Sheppard of Palm Beach, north of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. They are TV personalities on the well known program "Beyond 2000," viewed on the Discovery Network. They are also authors of a number of books on their adventures over the world, both personal treks and while on assignment. We met them at a rock art camp in the outback of Queensland several years ago, and they joined after visiting us recently. As you might suspect, I took them to our throwing range in Ocotillo. No one escapes my recruiting zeal! They promised to sign up new members and even bought articles on how to make an atlatl so they could make their own and practice during their sojourn in Greece for the next six months.

In the April 1997 newsletter, we included a notation that Lorenz Bruechert, 3018 West 7th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6K1Z8 Canada needs approximately 50 bone atlatl hooks used for at least 25 casts, for a research project of his. When asked if antler hooks would work, Lorenz assured us that they would not do. His research concerns an archaeological excavation at the Namu Site near Bella Bella where archaeologists have recovered what may be bone atlatl hooks. Lorenz' job is to compare wear patterns with known examples. Please help if you can!!!

He who dies with the most toys, still dies.

An egotist is a person more interested in himself than me.

RECENT CONTEST RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA SPRING FLING WALK-ABOUT

By Chuck Butorajac

The May 3, 1997 Pennsylvania Spring Fling was attended by some very good throwers. We threw at a 3-D deer target from ten different positions, mostly between trees, at distances of 10 to 23 yards. Our efforts were hampered by heavy rain storms and 22 mile per hour winds. First place went to Gary Fogelman, second to Paul Gleckl, and third to Ray Strischek following a "throw-off" with Chris Pappas.

In the WAA ISAC which followed, results were:

Ray Strischek	80X	Paul Gleckl	74
Chuck Butorajac	73	Gary Fogelman	68
Chris Pappas	66	Bob Berg	58
Martin Strischek	55		

One good turn gets most of the blankets.

MAY 25, 1997
**FLINT RIDGE EVENT IS FIRST OHIO
 COMPETITION FOR 1997**

By Ray Striscek

It was like this: It rained, really hard, beginning at 10:00 p.m. the night before the competition and continued right up to 5 minutes before the event was to start. Fourteen contestants waded into knee-high, soaking wet grass with two inches of mud overlying a flint shard-covered landscape... But we did cast.

First was the Ohio Atlatl Association Standard Accuracy Competition with 3 casts from each of 5 distances (10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 meters) at a WAA ISAC target. The Distance/Accuracy qualification within the OAA SAC earned certificates of achievement for those scoring at least 15 of a possible 30 points at that particular distance. Ten meters earned the Clovis Certificate, 15 meters, the Folsom, 20 meters Plainview, 25, the Archaic and 30 meters, the Woodland. This was followed by the WAA ISAC.

Ohio Standard Accuracy top winners were:

Men

1st	Chuck Butorajac	101
2nd	Bob Berg	81
3rd	Paul Gleckl	80

Women

1st	Heather Schoenfeld	23
2nd	Cheryl Berg	15
3rd	Saima Scott	6

Youth

1st	Sara Berg	6
2nd	Clara Berg	0

10 meter "Clovis" Qualifiers:

Ray Striscek	Martin Striscek
Paul Gleckel	Chuck Butorajac
Jim Bowers	Bob Berg
Heather Schoenfeld	

15 meter "Folsom" Qualifiers:

Ray Striscek	Martin Striscek
Paul Gleckel	Chuck Butorajac
Jim Bowers	Bob Berg

20 meter "Plainview" Qualifiers:

Ray Striscek	Chuck Butorajac
Bob Berg	

25 meter "Archaic" Qualifiers:

Chuck Butorajac

30 meter "Woodland" Qualifiers:

Nobody!

The only ones obtaining a score of 70 or higher in the ISAC were Chuck Butorajac with an 82 and Ray Striscek with 72.

**FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK 5TH
 ANNUAL ATLATL COMPETITION JUNE
 14TH**

by Leni Clubb

The addition of three new target ranges, The Long Haul, Lone Pine Wash, and Wet Arrow Alley, to the usual four target distances created a spectacular atlatl course. The course was laid out on Five Finger Ridge, the site of an ancient Fremont Indian Village by Park Ranger Pete Weimer and other staff members. Contestants unanimously agreed that it was the best ever target course, but it's a "killer." Twenty-eight contestants came from California, Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Missouri, Montana, and Utah to brave the fierce rains which settled in for the night by the time the women were half way around the course. Although several male contestants rushed out with ponchos and umbrellas, the hardy women refused them and continued on with the contest.



Left to right above: Ray Madden, Russell Richards, Andrew Rogers, Quinn Pritchard, Tanner Weimer, Susie Brown, Tamara Cameron, Matthew Sheridan, and Judy Pritchard. Below: Sara LaRue, Danny Abramson, and Crystal Topham.



Awards went to:

AGE 10 & UNDER

First Place	Andrew Rogers
Second Place	Matthew Sheridan
Third Place	Tanner Weimer

YOUTH AGE 11-14

First Place	Crystal Topham
Second Place	Danny Abramson
Third Place	Sara LaRue

WOMEN

First Place Susie Brown
Second Place Tamara Cameron
Third Place Judy Pritchard

MEN

First Place Ray Madden
Second Place Russell Richards
Third Place Quinn Pritchard

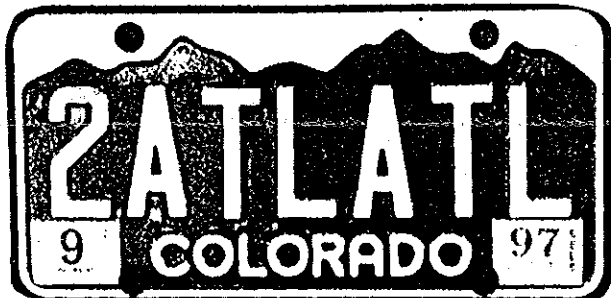
WAA GRAND CHAMPION

Primitive - Ray Madden
Modern - Quinn Pritchard

Top ISAC scores went to:

Jim Ray 77
Charlie Brown 71

A fine "Dutch Oven" dinner was prepared for the participants by Kaye Weimer and helpers following the competition. Ranger Pete Weimer and WAA President, Charlie Brown presented the awards at the dinner. Rain could not wash out the warm camaraderie and fellowship which made the whole day a huge success.



Susie and Charlie Brown have joined the club!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WORLD

ATLATL OPEN

June 21 & 22, 1997

By
Charley Brown

The World Atlatl Open in Casper, Wyoming, held annually at Fort Caspar, had two days of beautiful weather for this year's event. Many WAA members really sparkled this year. WAA Secretary, Leni Clubb wowed everyone with beautiful straight throws to finish with a second and a first place prize in the women's division. She alternated with Susie Brown who also came in with a first and second place. Susie threw her personal best of 37 in the ISAC, too. I'm very proud of her! Jim Ray from Montana blew everyone away in the Atlatl Golf contest. He threw a seven (7), hitting the 75, 40 and 15 meter targets with his first throws netting zero points on those "holes." His score was 2 after the target round! Other personal bests include Ken Wee scoring 70 in the ISAC, and my 84 in the same contest.

Ray Madden had his normal atlatl and dart classes for anyone that wanted to learn. As usual, he passed out atlatls and darts free to anyone that wanted to throw and in fact, contributed to the wealth of prizes given out. Additionally, he and Jim Ray gave away a large quantity of raw materials, particularly willow shafts for darts. It seems that they found a "world class" patch of willows and spent days cutting and stripping them on their way up to Wyoming from Fremont Indian State Park in Utah.

And the winners were:

ATLATL HUNT (highest score wins)

MEN

1st	Ray Madden	26
2nd	Jim Ray	22
3rd	Charlie Brown	21

WOMEN

1st	Susie Brown	13
2nd	Leni Clubb	12
3rd	Stephanie Ross	8

JUNIORS

1st	Mike Duke	11
2nd	Tyler Ridley	9
3rd	Ashlie Van Antwerp	9

CHAMPIONSHIP (A throw-off between the first place winners in each of the above.)

1st	Ray Madden	9
2nd	Susie Brown	5
3rd	Mike Duke	2

ATLATL GOLF CONTEST (Lowest score wins)

MEN

1st	Jim Ray	7
2nd	Ray Madden	9
3rd	Charlie Brown	11

WOMEN

1st	Leni Clubb	18
2nd	Susie Brown	19
3rd	Stephanie Ross	21

JUNIORS

1st	Tyler Ridley	23
2nd	Ashlie Van Antwerp	25
3rd	Mike Duke	26

TOP SCORES IN THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ACCURACY COMPETITION (ISAC)

Charlie Brown, Arvada, Colorado	84
Jim Ray, Belt Montana	73X
Barry Kimball, Westminster, Colorado	73
Ken Wee, Lafayette., Colorado	70

**CAHOKIA MOUNDS
TOURNAMENT, OCTOBER 11 & 12**
By Ron Mertz.

Atlatlists will have one more chance to show their skills in competition before Winter arrives. In addition, you will be participating in a tournament at the largest and one of the most significant American Indian sites in North America. Besides holding an open international accuracy contest each day, we plan to hold a vegetarian hunt, and a "European style" event similar to the one held in Marshall, Michigan this Spring. We may also try one or two novelty events.

Although there is no camping at the State Historic Site, camping is available at Horseshoe Lake State Park for about \$6.00 a night (no electricity or showers). Information can be obtained by phone (618) 931-0270. Best Western Heritage has parking areas for RVs with a dump station, electricity, and use of motel restrooms. For further information call (618) 354-5660. Non-campers can find an assortment of area motels from which to choose.

Cahokia Mounds is located just off Interstates 55-70 about 10 miles east of the Arch in St. Louis. If you have not visited this area before, you might want to schedule time to visit the Arch and other sites, such as the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis and Mastodon State Park, located a few miles south of the city.

Further information can be obtained from Ron Mertz, 11829 Claychester, Des Peres, MO 63131, E-mail 103210.2044@Compuserve.com or phone (314) 822-2514.

**SEVENTH VALLEY OF FIRE STATE
PARK ATLATL COMPETITION**
April 19, 1997

by Leni Clubb

We had perfect weather for this, the seventh annual atlatl competition at beautiful Valley of Fire State Park. Fifty contestants from 13 states, 30 men, 13 women, and 7 children and youth were cheered on by a great crowd of spectators. Ranger Thompson had done a magnificent job of arranging for the group camping, directional signs, placards for competitors cars, and setting up power and VCR equipment to show a video.

Winners of the atlatl competition were:

Age 10 and under:

1st	Tanner Weimer	Monroe, UT
2nd	Miles Luneau,	San Diego, CA
3rd	Tiffany Weimer	Monroe, UT

Youth age 11-14

1st	Paige Luneau	San Diego, CA
2nd	Michelle Luneau	San Diego, CA
3rd	Josef Hatzenbuehler	Las Vegas, NV

Women:

1st	Tamara Cameron	Boise, ID
2nd	Susie Brown	Arvada, CO
3rd	Judi Pritchard	Boise, ID

Men:

1st	Troy Helmick	Townsend, MT
2nd	Ron Mertz	Des Peres, MO
3rd	Russell Richards	Laramie, WY

Grand Champion Awards went to:

Modern equipment	Troy Helmick
Primitive equipment	Russell Richards

Only one competitor in the ISAC managed to get into the 70s, Russell Richard with a score of 73.

FORT OSAGE ATLATL TOURNAMENT
RESULTS MAY 17, 1997
by Charlie Brown, and Ken Wee

Adults:

1st place	Jim Ray	64
2nd place	Ken Wee	60
3rd place	John Whittaker	56

Kids:

1st place	Nick Mertz	16
2nd place	Daniel Ipock	14
3rd place	Kyle Van Maele	5

Grand Champion:

Jim Ray

The top ISAC scores were:

Ray Madden	82X
Charlie Brown	81
Jim Ray	73



John Whitaker, Ken Wee, and Jim Ray

ISAC -- 1997

By Lloyd Pine

Below is a listing of those throwing 70 or higher so far this year. (*Ed. Note: Elsewhere in this newsletter, we have noted other scores of 70 and above. At the time of printing they had not all passed through appropriate channels and have not been authenticated. We believe, however that they are true and will be listed in future listings of ISAC scores.*) The most obvious comment is that scores are up. There are exactly twice as many people scoring at this level as there were last year at this time. Skill levels have improved, particularly in the United States, and participation is up as there are more competitions. Sonja Souvenir has totally eclipsed all previous scores thrown by a woman. I find this gratifying, as I have always felt that these distances (15 and 20 meters) were short enough so that scores would depend on skill rather than strength.

Although the contest was designed to be a stand alone competition, I believe that last year all of the contests were restricted to the top throwers from an earlier competition on the same day. Similar trends apply to this year's events.

I have only two appeals to those organizing and scoring ISAC: First, please make score sheets complete and legible and send them to me promptly, following the form of the standard score sheet. This keeps all of the information on a single page which saves me time and reduces the cost of data entry into our permanent records. Second, contest organizers should read the 1997 rules. This could save you a phone call as most of the questions I receive are covered in the rules. Note, that among other things, squad size is strictly limited to a maximum of five and a minimum of three contestants.

87X	P	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	4/27
84	P	Laurent Bernat	France	5/31
82X	P	Ray Madden	MO USA	5/17
82	P	Chuck Butorajac	PA USA	5/25
81	P	Charlie Brown	CO USA	5/17
81	P	Alain Maxence	Belgium	4/27
80X	P	Ray Strischek	OH USA	5/3 *
77	M	Jim Ray	MT USA	6/14
77	M	Chris Oberg	MI USA	5/3
77	M	Lou Becker	MI USA	5/3
77	P	Jean Speckens	Belgium	1/26
75	P	Steve Cabaraux	Belgium	5/18
75	P	Patrick Bidart	France	4/27
74X	M	Bob Perkins	MT USA	2/15
74	P	Paul Gleckl	PA USA	5/3 *
73	P	Alain Sellekaerts	Belgium	5/18
73	P	Russell Richard	WY USA	4/19
72	P	Sonja Souvenir	Belgium	4/27
71	M	Jim Gilligan	MI USA	5/24
71	P	Didier Cocchi	Belgium	4/27
70X	P	Pierre Matheus	Belgium	4/13
70	M	Ron Mertz	MO USA	5/24

ISAC locations by date are as follows:
 1/26 Prapoutel, France
 2/15 Maricopa, Arizona

4/13	LeMas d'Azil, France
4/19	Valley of Fire, Nevada
4/27	Ramioul, Belgium
5/3	Brighton, Michigan
5/3 *	Fort Osage, Missouri
5/18	Samara, France
5/24	Marshall, Michigan
5/25	Flint Ridge, Ohio
5/31	Crepy-en-Valois, France
6/14	Fremont State Park, Utah

*We are the WAA. Resistance is futile.
 You will be assimilated.*

A closed mouth gathers no feet!

EUROPEAN SPEARTHROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Pascal Chauvaux

April 26 and 27 at the Musee des Chercheurs de la Wallonie, in Ramioul, Belgium, normally the first meet of the year. This year it was the third, due to the increase in the number of contests. Forty-five throwers from France, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium took part in the general contest held in typical Belgium Spring weather--grayish, changing to sunny, a small shower, then gray again. Our friend and local organizer, Jean Speckens, who last year asked to have 30 different targets instead of our usual 10 with three throws at each, decided to add even more difficulties to this course through rocks and trees. One target was placed 20 meters below the throwers, requiring them to cast their spears almost vertically, and further it was placed in a corridor of branches. We are afraid of what Jean will impose next year--Will he require us to throw blindfolded, or with our legs strapped together?

Again, the WAA Award went to Alain Maxence. The ISAC had two throwers with scores above 80. Remember, that last year 87 was the highest. (*Ed. Note: Pascal Chauvaux scored the 87 last year and is currently in first place world-wide with the same score.*)

TOP THROWERS GENERAL CONTEST:

MAXENCE, Alain (B)	21.78
BIDART, Patrick (F)	21.51
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	19.56
STREET, Martin (GB)	18.40
SELLEKAERTS, Alain (B)	17.60
SPECKENS, Jean (B)	15.87
TOP ISAC THROWERS:	
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	87X 10 hits
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	81 10 hits
BIDART, Patrick (F)	75 10 hits
SOUVENIR, Sonja (B)	72 9 hits
COCCHI, Didier (B)	71 9 hits
STODIEK, Ulrich (D)	66 8 hits

The Second contest of the 13 scheduled for Europe was April 12, and 13 at Le Mas d'Azil at Lariège, France. The name of Le Mas d'Azil village is well known because of the Azilian Culture noted for colored pebbles and flat harpoons of Mesolithic times, and for 16 fragments or complete Magdalenian spearthrowers dating to about 13,500 years BP found in a gigantic cave.

Three months before, nobody knew that a contest would be organized there! Norbert Forestier, Mayor of the municipality, had been interested in spearthrower contests for years, but hesitated to contact me. A shared friend established the link, thanks to the internet, and a date was reserved quickly.

Overseas atlantists should consider this competition if they plan on visiting Europe. Targets were scattered in the rocks and meadows around the monumental mouth of the 60 meter high cave. One target was INSIDE the cave! You cannot imagine the pleasure we had in our 3 rounds of 10 targets in that environment--the same as it was thousands of years ago. In the distance, snowy summits of the Pyrenees Mountains, sunshine and pleasant temperature, and a nice white wine at the end of the competition. What more could anyone ask? Each contestant received a free ticket to the museum where the most beautiful spearthrower in the world is displayed--the famous "Young Ibex with Birds", see above right.

Fifty-two throwers from Canada, France and Belgium were on hand, and again, Alain Maxence pocketed the WAA award. At the end of the second day strong winds caused problems for the 28 persons attempting the ISAC.

Top scores:

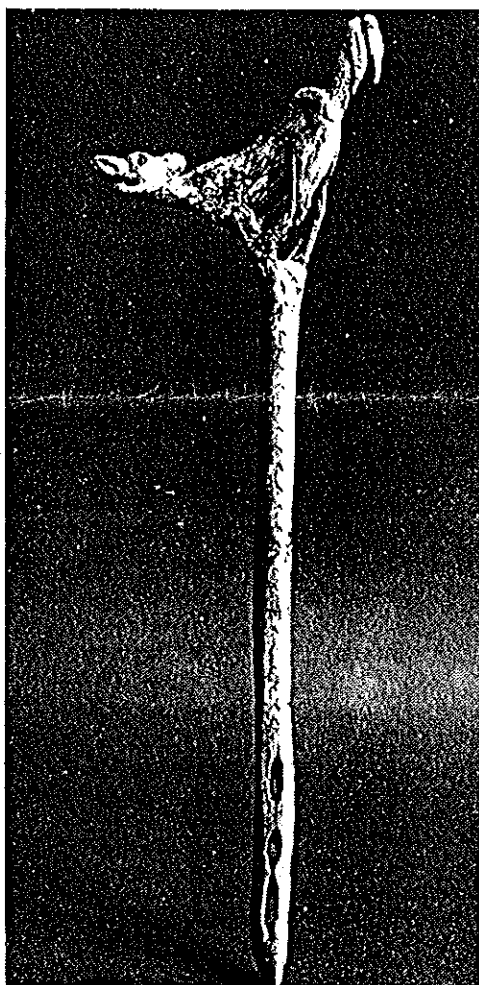
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	24.49
ROUZO, Pascal (F)	24.27
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	24.07
VIGIER, Serge (F)	17.00
BERNAT, Laurent (F)	14.67
MATHEUS, Pierre (B)	12.44

Top ISAC throwers:

CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	77
MATHEUS, Pierre (B)	70
COCCHI, Didier (B)	67
BERNAT, Laurent (F)	67
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	62



The winner, ALAIN MAXENCE



"It is the most beautiful spearthrower in the World," they say. I think they are right! You cannot imagine the magic having at least a part of the competition inside the cave where this spearthrower was found. Excavated in 1940 by S. J. Pequard, it is dated to about 12,000 BC, about the middle of the Magdalenian Culture. It is made of reindeer antler.

The 4th European Spearthrowing Championship --4th of 13 contests, was May 18th at Samara, Somme, France. Samara is a prehistoric park situated in the North of France near the city of Amiens. The setting was splendid with the Somme River, and marshes with typical flora and fauna. What a night concert the big frogs made and when theirs ended, the bird's concert began.

We were amazed that so many people knew what a spearthrower was, but thanks to TV and magazines, we had many informed onlookers.

I experienced my best ever score and took the WAA award. A windy conditions caused some difficulty with the ISAC, but in general it was a beautiful day for us all.

Top Scores of 30 throwers:

CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	46.80
SELLEKAERTS, Alain (B)	43.20
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	33.07
COCCHI, Didier (B)	23.80
MATHEUS, Pierre (B)	22.40
BAUMANS, Louis (B)	21.33

Top ISAC scorers of 13:

CABARAUX, Steve (B)	75
SELLEKAERTS, Alain (B)	73
SPECKENS, Jean (B)	71
JUNKMANN, Jurgen (D)	67
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	60

The 5th European contest was held at Crepy-en-Valois in Oise, France on May 31st. Crepy-en-Valois is the city of archery. Our contest was held as last year under the eyes of Saint Sebastien, patron saint of archers. The 10 targets were scattered inside the municipal park, and of course local organizers received help and supervision from the city police. Although the sun was present, and willows were in flower, it snowed, believe it or not! As last year, the winner of the bow contest also won the spearthrower competition and scored best in the ISAC as well. His name is Laurent Bernat. I think we will see his name often in future competitions.

The best of the 36 throwers:

BERNAT, Laurent (F)	42.22
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	28.84
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	25.33
CABARAUX, Steve (B)	24.73
COCCHI, Didier (B)	20.40

Top ISAC throwers:

BERNAT, Laurent (F)	84X
CHAUVAUX, Pascal (B)	81X
MAXENCE, Alain (B)	75X
SPECKENS, Jean (B)	70
ROUZO, Pascal (F)	68

on target

by LENI CLUBB



At the April 18, 1997 Annual Meeting of The World Atlatl Association, it was decided that membership lists should be made available, but to WAA members only. Those not wishing their name included on such a list should contact me before the end of the year. If the list is circulated, there will be a charge for postage and copying, as the list now runs to seven pages.

There are quite a number of our WAA members now sporting a nice watch with our logo. It comes with a white face and black logo or black face with gold logo, and is available in both men's and woman's sizes. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 P&H. Checks should be made out to WAA and sent to me with the order. Your order may be delayed as I am "on the circuit" this summer, but I will process it as soon as possible.

Are you recruiting new members every chance you get? The best time to do this is at contests. It is easy to get new throwers "hooked" then. Let me know if you would like to receive some of our new membership application brochures. You can help make our membership grow!

Don't forget to check the mailing label on this newsletter. If the date is overlaid in red, you are dangerously PAST DUE. If the overlay is in yellow, dues are due NOW. Don't let your membership lapse. We appreciate your support and besides, should you fail to renew in time, you'll miss all the good stuff Bill Tate jams into each issue of *The Atlatl*.

ON JOINING AA

by Bill Tate

I stood before the solemn group of men and women, some of whom had spoken before me, and searched my mind for the proper words to use in admitting my addiction. A clammy feeling spread over my body and a lump appeared in my throat. "Why had I chosen to go this route? What pressures force me to admit my frailties? Why would anyone go to such lengths in self-embarrassment?" I wondered to myself.

Memories of my failures spread over my mind as I looked at these nameless people. Failure to perform my job satisfactorily because of that one single need, ever-present in my mind. My lack of attention to my spouse and to my family. Often being gone for days on end, unshaven and in wrinkled clothing, trying to satisfy this unnatural urge.

Standing before these people caused a sinking

feeling in the pit of my stomach. My mouth was dry. I sipped from the tumbler on the table before me, and cleared my throat. Then looking at the small AA sign over the door, I began as the others had: "Hello. My name is Bill, and I am an atlattist..."

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF WAA

At the Annual Meeting of WAA held April 18, 1997, new officers and directors were elected as necessary to replace outgoing office holders. The Board wishes to thank outgoing members for an excellent job over the past year. The entire Board of Directors and Officers as of July 1, 1997 are as follows:

OFFICE	NAME	TERM OF OFFICE
President	Charlie Brown	1999
Vice President	Bony Cosyleon	1999
Exec. Secretary	Leni Clubb	Indefinite
Exec. Treasurer	Heidi Daetwyler	Indefinite
Exec. Director	Bill Tate	1999
Exec. Director	Tim Boucher	1998
Exec. Director	Jim Gilligan	1998
Exec. Director	Kenneth Gramstad	1999
Exec. Director	Robert Hamilton	1999
Exec. Director	Jeff McGill	1998
Exec. Director	Christine Judson	2000
Exec. Director	Jim Ray	2000

Honorary Directors:

Keith Abernathy	Dr. William Good
Lou Becker	Troy Helmick
Susie Brown	Scott Leslie
Wayne Brian	Charlie Lilly
Lorenz Bruechert	Lloyd Pine

Pascal Chauvaux

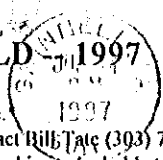
New Book on Atlats

"ALL ABOUT THE ATLATL" is the title of a new book by Gary Fogelman and is available from Fogelman Publishing Co., RD#1, Box 240, Turbotville, PA 17772-9599. The cost is just \$6.00 post paid, and is well worth the money.

Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence.

Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.

ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



- Jul. 5,6 European Spearthrowing Championships, Le Grand-Pressigny, Indre et Loir, France.
- Jul. 12 Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing, Aurora, Colorado, (Aurora History Museum) Contact Bill Tate (303) 755-5591.
- Jul. 19 Ninth Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt, Sponsored in part by the Museum of the Rockies to be held at Blacktail Ranch, Montana. Contact Troy Helmick, (406) 266-3398.
- Jul. 19 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament, Lorraine, New York. Contact Roger Klindt (315) 639-6293.
- Jul. 19,20 European Spearthrowing Championships, Gletterens, Switzerland.*
- Jul. 26,27 European Spearthrowing Championships, Beaune, Cote d'Or, France.*
- Jul. 26,27 Platte River Primitive Skills Rendezvous, Douglas, WY. Contact Diane O'Meagher (307) 358-0155.
- Jul. 26,27 Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous (ETAA) with atlatl contest and ISAC, Coudersport, PA. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Aug. 1-3 Bluestone Atlatl Tournament & ISAC, Hancock, NY. Contact Chris Pappas (607) 637-2585.
- Aug. 9 Rocky Mountain College Rendezvous, Colo. State Muzzle Loading Association, Aug 3-9, Pike National Forest at Lost Park near Jefferson, Colorado. Contact Pat Pennington (303) 255-2923, or Ken Wee (303) 665-1329.
- Aug. 9,10 European Spearthrowing Championships, Renteria, Spain. *
- Aug. 9-11 Eastern Canadian Atlatl Association contest at Orillia, Ontario, Canada. Contact Louis Rebello (519) 745-5930.
- Aug. 16-17 European Spearthrowing Championships, Tautavel, Pyrenees Orientales, France.*
- Aug. 20-24 Great Lakes Primitive Gathering on Bois Blanc Island, MI. Michigan Atlatl Tournament Fri. 22nd, and WAA Contest Sat. 23rd. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314.
- Aug. 22-24 Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition & ISAC, Letchfield State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Aug. 30,31 Ohio Atlatl Association Standard Competition, Accuracy/Distance, and ISAC, Flint Ridge Memorial Museum and Park. Contact Ray Strischek (614) 592-1217.
- Sep. 7 European Spearthrowing Championships, Oerlinghausen, Germany.*
- Sep. 20 10th Annual Rabbitstick Primitive Skills Conference atlatl contest. Rabbitstick dates are: Sep. 14-20, Rexburg, Idaho. Contact BOSS (208)359-2400.
- Sep. 20 Pennsylvania State Atlatl Championship, Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (412) 238-6878.
- Sep. 20 Chimney Point State Historical Site at Addison, VT. To be conducted in association with Vermont Archaeological Week. Contact Audrey Porsche (802) 759-2412
- Sep. 21 European Spearthrowing Championship, Nemours, France*
- Sep. 27 Sixth Annual West Virginia State Atlatl Championships, 1:15 p.m., Lower Campus, Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, WV. Contact Mountain State Forest Festival (304) 636-182, or William Good, (304) 636-5003.
- Oct. 4,5 Mercyhurst-Northeast College Primitive Gathering. Atlatl contest will be on Saturday the 4th. Contact Cathy Pedler (814) 824-2578.
- Oct. 11,12 Sixth Annual Croton Point Knap-In featuring a local and ISAC atlatl competition. Contact Berry Keegan (914) 592-8961.
- Oct. 11,12 Missouri Atlatl Association/ Cahokia Mounds Tournament, at Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis, MO. Contact Ron Mertz, (314) 822-2514.

*Note, our contact for all European Spearthrowing Championship contests is Pascal Chauvaux, Rue Au dela de l'Eau, 3 B-5630, Gerfontaine, Belgium -- Telephone: (32) 71 64 34 16.

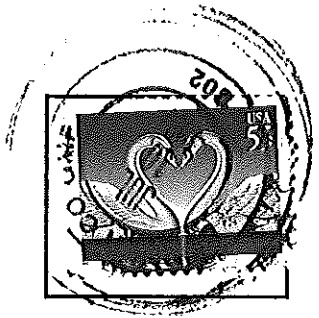
KEEP SUBMITTING YOUR REPORTS, CARTOONS, AND SUGGESTIONS TO US. YOUR EDITOR CAN NOW BE REACHED BY FAX AT (303) 755-5591 OR E-MAIL: atlatl@mho.net

MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION IS JUST \$10.00 PER YEAR, FAMILY: \$15.00. CANADIAN AND FOREIGN MEMBERSHIPS: \$12.00. SEND ALL INQUIRIES AND DUES TO WAA SECRETARY.

LENI CLUBB
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OCOTILLO, CA 92259 USA



The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc.



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