

# The ATLATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

July 1998

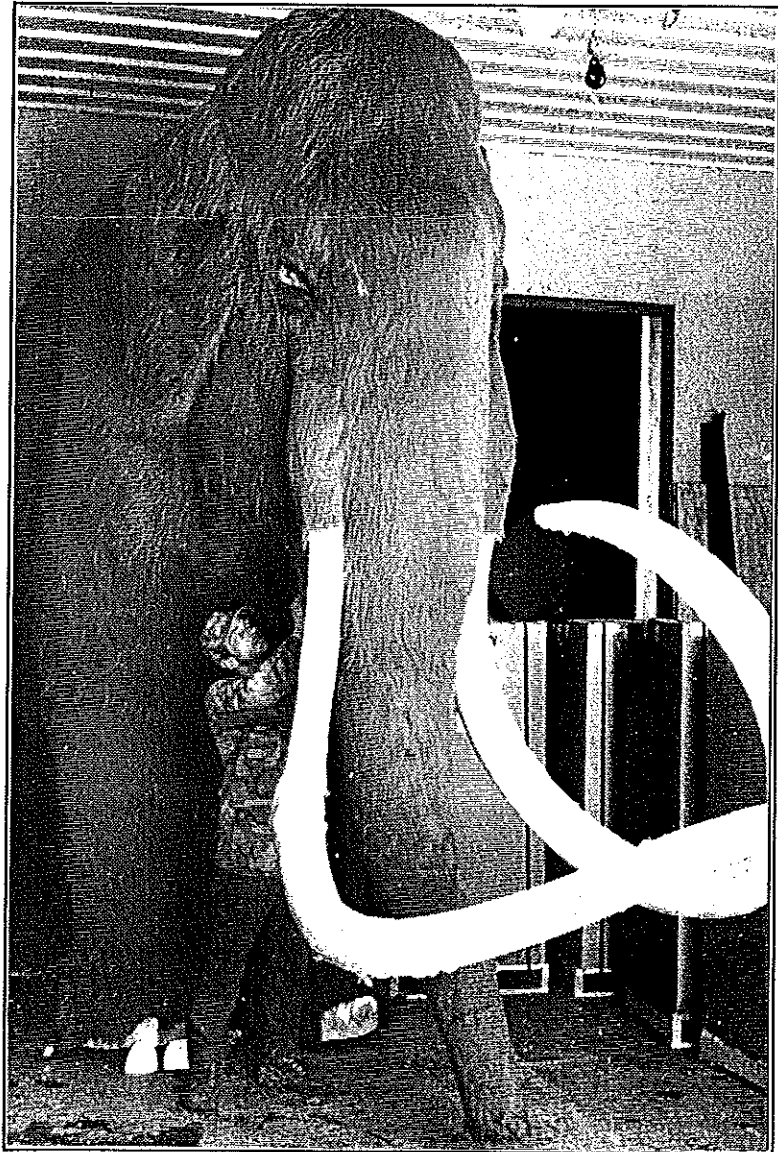
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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BILL TATE, EDITOR

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## LIFE-SIZE MAMMOTH FEATURED AT MINNESOTA EVENT

By Cheryl and Bob Berg

Atlatlists won't want to miss Ahlman's Shooters Round-Up August 22-23 two miles north of Morristown, Minnesota on County Road 16. In addition to blackpowder and other fire arms shooting, gun trading, tipi competition and brain tanning, atlatlists will be most interested in Jerry Schaefer's life-size mammoth to experience a true, ancient atlatl hunt! The life-size, 13-foot, 3-D, wooly mammoth features tusks 14 feet long. The mammoth will give modern day atlatlists a chance to "feel" the size of the animals ancient hunters stalked with the atlatl. Fortunately, modern day hunters need only feel the size and not the tusks! Schaefer leaves that experience to the imagination. This weekend event will include ISAC for each day. Contact Jerry Schaefer at (507) 243-3300 for additional details.



Jerry Schaefer putting finishing touches on his mammoth.

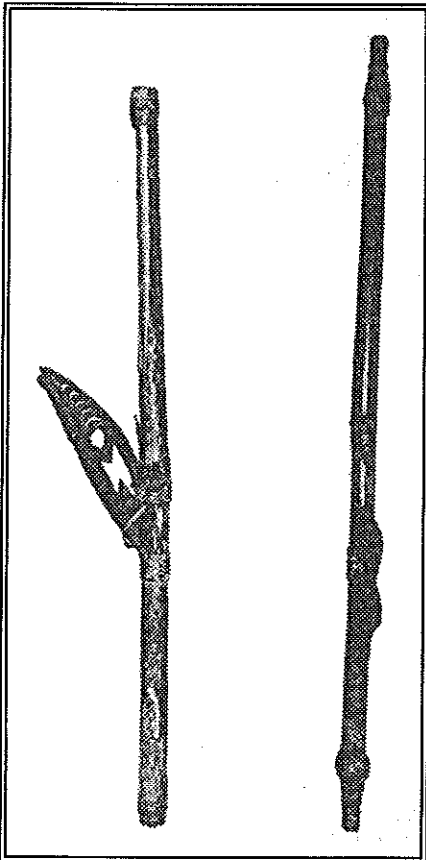
## PAPUAN SPEARTHROWERS

by

Matthew McDavitt

You may be interested to know that I just received a pair of bamboo spearthrowers from Papua New Guinea through an art collector who was recently in that country. They are from the Sepik River area in northwestern Papua. They are often 3 to 3 ½ feet (90 to 105cm) long. (I wonder why Papua and Australian spearthrowers are generally longer than those from other areas; is there any advantage?) In the Latmul language they are called "nau."

Just behind the grip, which may be a thumb loop only, but most have no loops, is set a carved wooden openwork spear guide or rest projecting from the top of the thrower. It is vertically oriented. The spear is held in place by pressing it against this guide with the thumb, much like the arrow rest of a self bow. The rest of the fingers grip the thrower's handle. The center of balance is just behind the ornate spear guide.



Papuan "atlatls" (Photo by author) Figure on left spear guide is a totemic shrimp. Length 28 inches. Right 31.5 inches long with an eagle head spear guide. Shafts of both are approximately 1 inch in diameter.

Interestingly, Papuan atlatls are "female." They have a hollow to rest the spear butt into, rather than a projecting peg. The natives launch (I'm told) 7-foot river cane spears with highly barbed points. No fletching, but something more interesting is added to the spears. (I am attempting to get further details on this.) They apparently thread a duck vertebra behind the point. This vertebra has wing-like projections

which are said to act like airplane canard wings and also add point weight to the spear. (Editor's note: In my

collection is what was purported to be a pig vertebra used on these New Guinea spears as a "stop" to keep from penetrating too far into the prey. Seems as if we have a mystery here. Can anyone confirm either purpose?)

My collector states that the tribes there, such as the infamous Latmul, former headhunters, now renowned for their art, use these spearthrowers to hunt with, displaying great skill. She observed duck hunting, remarking on the great force, accuracy, and distances achieved.

There is remarkably little written on this area's atlatls, even though they are among the few groups still using them on a daily basis. The prospects of conversing with actual tribal atlatlists about their equipment, techniques, etc. should stir any atlatlist's blood. In addition to their Latmul language, they speak Tok Pisin, the unofficial language of Papua. Tok Pisin is a simplified form of English used throughout Papua. (Editor's note: You too may obtain similar spearthrowers for your collection from either of two sources supplied to me by the author: First is Leslie Martin of Pacific Artifacts in California, phone (760) 727-8511. Although she currently has no complete examples, she expects to visit the area in a few months and bring back more. The second source is WAA member Ron Perry and Carolyn Leigh's New Guinea Art, 4530 W. Speedway Tucson, AZ 85745 Ph. (520) 623-2205. They bring several back with each visit. You can look them up their web site [www.art-Pacific.com](http://www.art-Pacific.com) or e-mail them at: [art\\_pacific@earthlink.net](mailto:art_pacific@earthlink.net)

Post Script to the above report. Matthew McDavitt sent me a later e-mail which reads in part: "Leslie described to me how the Latmul use them (spearthrowers) now. They hunt ducks at a distance of about a football field. They scare the flock so that they fly up into the sky. The hunters then launch their approximately 9-foot, whippy, bamboo spears with a cut-sharpened end (no separate spear point) with the aforementioned vertebra attached about 6 to 8 inches down from the cut point. This provides front end stability, weight to keep the dart on course, and the wing-like bone processes providing lift and guidance like front end fletching. She says they launch with incredible force and are often successful."

### ISAC TARGETS AND MORE

No pain, no strain International Standard Accuracy Competitions is what is promised by Dana Klein. For a small fee, he will send you all you need to put on an event. For \$20.00 plus a shipping fee of \$6.95 Dana of English Pete Trading Company, PO Box 368, Belfast NY 14711 will ship you the following necessary items:

a. 3 quality printed ISAC targets, b. WAA Safety rules, c. Waiver sheets, d. Official score sheets, e. Pre-addressed envelopes for 30 day notice, and f. Pre-addressed envelopes for score sheets. Just about everything but the sore shoulder.

If you wish to speak to Dana by telephone, call (716) 365-8048 or e-mail at [Danakchert@aol.com](mailto:Danakchert@aol.com)

## PHYSICS AND THE ATLATL Part I

by  
Brian Peters and Glenn Sykora, Ph.D.

The feasibility of the atlatl as a teaching tool for certain topics in Physics, such as projectile motion and elasticity, was undertaken. This project was performed by Brian Peters for an honors integrated science course at St. Ignatius College prep school in Chicago, Illinois. The uniqueness and historical significance of the atlatl will hopefully attract teachers and students to use the device in the study of Physics and to have fun at the same time.

The first experiment dealt with the principles of projectile motion. A dart was thrown several times with a "type III" atlatl, and several times by hand. From the measured range, the speed imparted to the dart was estimated for each scenario ( $R_{max} = v^2/g$ , assuming the launch angle is  $45^\circ$ ). With the atlatl, the dart had a range of 60.1 meters and an initial speed of 24.2 m/sec. Without the atlatl, the range dropped to 16.9 meters which corresponds to an initial speed of 12.8 m/sec. Brian could not explain these results by simply assuming that the atlatl increases the throwers effective arm length. Something else was going on.

We postulated that the atlatl, being somewhat elastic, stores elastic energy, and imparts that energy to the dart, a process reminiscent of a bow imparting energy to an arrow. The first step in modeling this process was to determine a measure of the elasticity of the atlatl. Brian designed an experiment to measure the elastic response of a type III atlatl, and for comparison, a "type I" atlatl. Atlatls and darts were obtained from famous atlatlist Dean Pritchard. Our next installment will cover measurement of the atlatl's elastic properties, and an analogy to Hooke's Law. E-mail comments to [gsykora@ix.netcom.com](mailto:gsykora@ix.netcom.com)  
*(Editor's note: Although the above article is being edited by Dr. Sykora, it is being written by a 15 year old high school student who has an interest in both physics and atlatls.)*

## ATLATLS IN ARIZONA by ALBERT ABRIL

At the recent annual Arizona Archaeology Expo, local primitive skills craftspeople lent their expertise to do demonstrations and hands on activities with the visiting public. One of those recruited was WAA member Jo Guill. Jo stepped into the role of demonstrator/instructor with the atlatl.

At this year's Winter Count atlatl contest, Jo was photographed launching a dart. This photo appeared on the

front page of the local daily newspaper, *The Arizona Republic*. An organizer for this year's Archaeology Expo saw Jo's photograph and invited her to the Expo.



Jo Guill of Tucson at Winter Count '98,  
photo by Lisa Goettsche of The Arizona Republic

She did an excellent job of mentoring all the atlatl novices attending the event. All were impressed with her teaching and throwing skills. Jo was ably assisted by her mother, Regina Harrison, her sister, Cheryl Harrison, and Charlie Todano. In spite of the rain, Jo and her company cheerfully assisted a few hundred folk in the art of dart throwing. Fun was had by all. Keep it up, Jo!

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, friend Charlie Todano and I spent the day teaching approximately 500 people about the atlatl. The participants were executives and management personnel of an International corporation who were in the country for a convention. They wanted to sample some local southwest U. S. culture so camps were set up in the desert representing different aspects of Southwestern history. There were Western, Pioneer, Mexican, and Native American categories. The atlatl activity was part of the Mexican camp. Throughout the day we had 12 groups of 40 individuals. After a quick lesson on atlatl use, we pitted them against each other in friendly competition. In spite of the language barriers encountered by most of the participants, it seemed as if they enjoyed the experience.

I have been making and using hands-on demonstration darts that can be put together quickly and cheaply. On some demonstrations we end up with broken darts due to misfires, so it serves the pocketbook well to use darts that cost less than a dollar each. Anyone wanting more information on this should contact me at the address below. I would also like to hear from other folks who do demonstrations for all sizes and types of groups. Any sharing of information on how we run the programs, safety concerns, controlling of participants, target and range set ups, etc. would probably be of help to all of us, especially to those new to this aspect of atlatl fun. I will be more than glad to share what I know with anyone.

Contact Albert Abril at 2339 W. Mulberry Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85015, phone (602) 265-0177.

## COMPETITION REPORTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

### PENNSYLVANIA SPRING FLING

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Ligonier, PA

by Chuck Butorajac

It didn't rain, but with a temperature of 85 degrees and 80% humidity, after 3 or 4 throws you were just as wet as if it was raining. We had 3 women and 9 men throwing.

The competition for the women was 3 consecutive throws each at 8, 10, 12, 15, and 17 meters. First place Sharon Keefer with 122, Second place Tracy Rummel With 103, and third place went to Christa Eslary with a score of 92.

The mens competition consisted of 3 consecutive throws at 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 meters. First place went to Gary Fogelman with a 95 score. Second place to Chuck Butorajac at 91-X and third to Ray Strischek with 89-X.

The top ISAC results were: Ray Strischek 86, Terry Keefer 82, Paul Gleckel 78, Denny Bard 75, and Gary Fogelman with 72-2X.

### FORT OSAGE KNAP-IN AND ATLATL CONTEST

by Ken Wee

On the beautiful grounds of historic Fort Osage, Ron Mertz and Ray Madden of the Missouri Atlatl Association hosted a weekend of six (count them) six contests. Starting on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> both a European style round of 30 throws and an ISAC were held under extremely windy conditions. Saturday morning brought more favorable weather and improved scores for another European and ISAC combination. Four competitions didn't seem adequate, so after a catered Kansas City Strip Steak dinner, the American Field Round was held for the first time in Missouri. This 15 throw contest from ranges of 5 to 25 yards was won by John Whitaker of Iowa with a score of 32 out of a possible 45. Ken Wee ranked second with 25X and Ray Madden followed closely with 25.

On Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup>, another American Field Round was held with the top scorers being Ken Wee at 28, Ray Madden 23, and David Alkine 18.

Those interested in flintknapping had the opportunity to watch or practice the ancient - now modern art. The restored Fort and museum located near Sibley, Missouri provided other educational diversions. A special thanks goes to Ron and Ray for setting up and running this splendid, safe, and challenging tournament.

### PRIMITIVE SKILLS GET-TOGETHER

by Charlie Brown

Mike Foltmer hosted a primitive skills get-together May 9, 1998, in Greeley, Colorado. As a part of the gathering, an atlatl contest was held with donated prizes given to the winners. ISAC format was used resulting in the following score: First place Charlie Brown 80, Second Ken Wee 70, and third Michael O'Meagher 39. In addition to the atlatl contest, a primitive bow contest was conducted and the top three places also went to WAA members, Charlie Brown, Ann Kimball, and Ken Wee - a pretty versatile group. Other events included flintknapping, led by Colorado's own, Bob Patten, hide tanning, arrow making, plant identification, beadwork etc. Everyone had a great time.

### FIRST MEADOWCROFT COMPETITION

by Mark Kollecker

Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life located in Avella, Pennsylvania held its first annual atlatl competition on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Heavy morning thunderstorms did not deter participants from coming from around Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York to compete near one of the most ancient habitation sites known in North America. The rain "broke" at noon as everyone headed to the targets to practice. The ISAC was held at 1:00 p.m. with 15 competitors. Ray Strischek of Athens, Ohio took first place with a score of 92-2X. Second place went to Chuck Butorajac of Ligonier, PA with 80-X, and a score of 78 for Terry Keefer of Fort Loudon, PA earned him third place. Other high scores included Chris Pappas of Hancock, NY with 76, Gary Fogelman of Turbotville, PA with 75-X, and Bob Berg of Owego, NY with 74-X.

The rain returned as the last group of 5 competitors walked off the range. Wanting to stay dry and, as many of the throwers wanted to head for the Pow Wow at Franklin, PA, no one was available to compete in the Meadowcroft Accuracy Competition..

Numerous visitors watched the ISAC, and many tried their hand at throwing for the first time - even in the afternoon rain. Meadowcroft Museum would like to thank all who participated and we look forward to hosting the event again next year.

### FRONTIER DAYS FESTIVAL, FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA - JUNE 13 & 14.

Two ISAC competitions were held at the second Annual Frontier Days Festival at Venango County 4-H Fairgrounds over Flag-Day weekend. Top scorers were: June 13<sup>th</sup>

Bob Berg	Owego, NY	89
Terry Keefer	Ft. Loudon, PA	88

Gary Fogelman Turbotville, PA 77  
June 14<sup>th</sup>

Chris Pappas Hancock, NY 87  
Terry Keefer Ft. Loudon, PA 81  
Paul Gleckel Ligonier, PA 79  
Chuck Butorac Ligonier, PA 79

This weekend's competitions were the first tryouts for the new ISAC targets which Dana Klein of Belfast, NY had printed up. Everyone was favorably impressed with these targets which are printed on white cardboard. They held up well and have a satisfying "thwack" when the dart hits the target! The snow white background with black markings made the target easier to see.

#### ANNUAL IDAHO STATE OPEN ATLATL COMPETITION

by Dean Pritchard

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Idaho Open event was held at Celebration Park, Melba, Idaho on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the weather was perfect. The contest was held in conjunction with "Idaho Archaeology Week" and was sponsored by Canyon County Parks and Recreation and Stoneage Creations. The course was located next to the mighty Snake River in the "Birds of Prey National Conservation Area" in southwestern Idaho. A Paleo-Indian campsite is encompassed by the park and it is common to see chips and other debitage while retrieving your darts. Other events taking place at the same time as the contest were: primitive technology demonstrations and guided field trips to nearby petroglyph sites.

The main atlatl contest consisted of a 15-meter accuracy throw involving a total of 12 darts each cast. The score keeper deletes the two lowest scoring darts from each participant, hence, the total score is based on the ten best dart scores. This contest was designed as a fun event for the purposed of introducing the novice to the atlatl. A total of 63 people competed in the main event and 16 in the ISAC which was held at a nearby location on the same day.

The winners were: MEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Ray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dean Pritchard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quinn Pritchard. WOMEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Tina Mengon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tamara Cameron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nicole Beaudin. YOUTH: 1<sup>st</sup> Zack Christensen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis Ponce, 3<sup>rd</sup> Zac Carr.

Jim Ray, the men's champ was the only out-of-stater competing. He was also the featured artisan for the primitive technology demonstrations. On Monday he was treated to a river boat tour of Wees Bar Petroglyph Site and Historic Swan Falls Dam located some 12 miles upriver from the park.

#### A VALLEY OF FIRE FIRST

By Jim Ray

On April 17, 1998, after five years as a single contest event, then two years as a two-contest event, Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada held its first three-contest event. In addition to the ISAC and the usual WAA competition, held on Saturday, a European style contest was conducted on Friday.

At 3:00p.m., 30 would be "prehistoric" hunters armed themselves with atlats and darts - Oops! Since this was to be a European contest, I must use the correct terminology. Spearthrowers and spears. They proceeded to launch an all out assault on moose (26 m.), elk (24 m.), mule deer (22 m.), lion (20 m.), saber-toothed tiger (18 m.), kangaroo (16 m.), canada goose (14 m.), javelina (12 m.), red fox (10 m.), and a kangaroo rat (8 m.).

For those of you unfamiliar with the European style contest, a brief explanation is in order. The contest consists of 10 concentric circle targets superimposed over hand-drawn black-on-white animal figures. The throwing distances range from 8 to 26 meters in two meter increments. Each target is thrown at once per person per round for three rounds - a total of 30 throws. That may sound a little complicated but it really isn't. All you really need to know is that it is a lot of throwing and a lot of fun.

The target animals were drawn by an old obscure cave painter sometimes referred to as "The Old Mammoth Hunter" and he received several compliments on the drawings.

Top scorers in this event were:

Jim Ray	42.64	Ray Madden	17.01
Jim Gilligan	31.3	Jeff McGill	16.4
Robert Hamilton	26.23	Roger Lewis	15.6
Ray Thompson	21.44	Charlie Brown	14.74
Dean Pritchard	17.1	William Hobbs	13.0

No awards were presented for this "introductory" event, but everyone seemed to have a fine time and responded favorably when asked if we should continue with the "Euro-style" contest.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the faithful volunteers that helped me set up and score the contest. 'Way to go guys and gals. You did a great job! And, I would like to offer a special thanks to our European counterparts for originating a very enjoyable contest!

*(Editor's comment. I would like to thank "The Old Mammoth Hunter" for writing up this event.)*

#### EARTH KNACK GATHERING

Glacier View Camp,

Jamestown, Colorado - June 12<sup>th</sup>

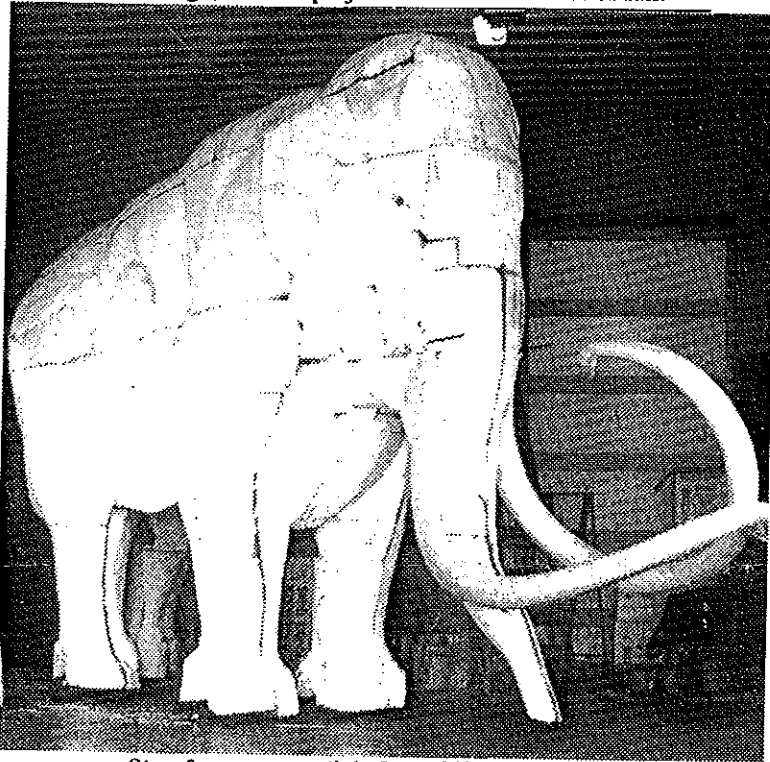
By Ken Wee

After a half-day class on making atlats and darts, students at the 1998 Earth Knack Gathering had the

## BUILDING A LIFE-SIZE MAMMOTH

by Jerry Schaefer

Having just completed construction of a life-sized mammoth 3-D target, I would like to share some of my experiences with anyone who is contemplating such a project. I am not going to say that this is the right way to do it, nor if you should go to the extremes I did to try to make it authentic looking. I will say though, that the project sure has been a lot of fun.



Styrofoam mammoth before adding the finishing touches

It all started last Summer with my growing interest in atlatls. As "Head Guru" of the rendezvous portion of Ahlman's Annual Shooter's Roundup" in Morristown, MN, some of the buckskinners asked me when we're going to get into atlatls. I said I'd get a target put together and we'd give it a try in '98. By coincidence, I have access to a nearly unlimited supply of large styrofoam blocks. My first thoughts were to glue a bunch of blocks together and whittle them out with a chainsaw to resemble a mammoth. Being a taxidermist by trade, doing something in miniature or not to scale just doesn't seem right, so, I decided to build it full scale. I had the good fortune of working on the Siberian Exhibit at the Mall of America couple of years ago. Most of my research was already complete, plus I have a couple of casts of the 14 foot mammoth tusks in my garage. From my notes on this project, I was able to sketch a diagram of an average mammoth. This turned out to be 12 feet tall at the shoulders and 12 1/2 feet at the crown of the head.

The sheer size of this created the most problems. Styrofoam wouldn't have the strength in the legs to support the target in a heavy wind and certainly wouldn't be able to support the heavy tusks. So my first step was constructing a sub-structure of wood with iron pockets to support the tusks and metal anchors to the feet for wind resistance. After building this basic support which resembled a Trojan horse, I glued the large styrofoam blocks into the wood. The gaps between blocks were filled with liquid foam. The next step was making a slide from my sketches and projecting it onto the form. Having done this, I went to work with an electric chain saw. This was the fun part of the project, but oh, what a mess it makes. The chainsaw grinds the styrofoam into a virtual snowstorm of white dust. At times, the chips were over a foot deep on the floor and it felt as though you were walking through a snow drift. Unlike sawing on wood, the material "moves" really fast and easy. If you make a slip-up, simply grab one of the scraps off the floor, glue it back on, and continue. Projecting of the image is the most important thing. When working close up on something this big, you lose perspective and must rely on the projected image, kind of like working on Mount Rushmore.

When the sculpturing was complete, I hung the tusks and eyes on and WOW!!! Standing next to this giant gives one a whole new perspective on the animal. I believe I have renewed appreciation for the courage it must have taken our ancestors to try and feed their families by confronting a monster this big, armed only with an atlatl.

My next task was to glue on the simulated hair. The hair helps hide the replaceable target core and will add realism.

If any of you readers are within driving distance of southern Minnesota and are interested in participating in this unique atlatl competition I'd sure like to hear from you. Maybe you would help run the contest as atlatl competitions are kind of new to us. Remember the rendezvous dates are August 22 and 23. (Editor's note: Jerry's phone number is (507) 243-3300.)



World Atlatl Association

WAA Tee Shirts are now available. The WAA logo is in black on quality, white 100% preshrunk cotton Hanes "Heavyweight" shirts in black, with the word ATLATL in brilliant red. \$12.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. Adult sizes M, L, XL and 2XL only.

opportunity to practice and compete with their new creations. The opportunity came on the American Field Round for atlatls. This contest consists of 15 throws at 5 different targets from 5 to 25 yards, and developed independently of the European Round. On top of a high forested mountain within view of a beautiful glacier, fourteen atlatlists cast their darts on a beautiful calm Friday afternoon. Several first-time throwers caught on very quickly and their excitement was inspiring. Mike Fottmer of Greeley, Colorado led off by hitting a bulls eye on his first throw. He later became our newest WAA member.

Competition results were: **YOUTH** – Jeremiah Forest from Massachusetts First, Tyree Blankenship Second, and Teale Blankenship Third. **WOMEN** – Susie Brown First, and Constance Lederer Second. **MEN** – Charlie Brown First, Ken Wee Second, and Jerry La Velle Third.

Jerry LaVelle of Littleton, CO, who placed Third in the mens division, used the atlatl and dart he made in the morning class, scoring a 24 out of a possible 45. Once again, the throwing family from Arvada, CO, Charlie and Susie Brown, took top honors in the men's and women's categories. A special thanks goes out to them for helping set up the range, working with the beginners, and for lending their equipment. A real Champion couple.

#### APRIL FOOLS ATLATL THROW - APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

by Charlie Brown

Beautiful conditions—sunny with just a little breeze – typical Colorado weather, provided the setting for this competition held at WAA President's home in Arvada. Twenty-three participants attended to try Ken Wee's American Field Round Atlatl Contest. This consists of 3 throws at 5 targets ranging in distance from 5 to 25 yards in 5 yard increments. Progressively larger targets are used as the distance increases. A maximum score of 45 is possible. Results: **YOUTH** – 1st Brenton Hutson 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jarrin Mumby 4, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Chelsea Hutson 2. **WOMEN** – 1<sup>st</sup> Susie Brown 19, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Kimball 11, 3<sup>rd</sup> Angile Hendrix 9. **MEN** – 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Brown 30X, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Kimball 26, 3<sup>rd</sup> Russell Richard 21X.

In a "throw-off" Barry Kimball won two tickets to a Colorado Rockies baseball game. It is important to note that Angie Hendrix who attended with Russell Richard, not only threw in a tournament for the first time, but threw from a wheelchair and took Third Place! She's really a neat gal, and I think she's "Hooked" on atlatls. I'm sure we'll see more of her in the future.



Women's third place thrower, Angie Hendrix pitches one

After the tournament we enjoyed a wonderful potluck lunch with chili, barbequed beef, fried chicken and sweet potato pie (Ken Wee's winning recipe) with bear lard crust. An ISAC competition was held after lunch and presentation of prizes. Top scorers were Charlie Brown 73X and Barry Kimball 70.

#### OHIO ATLATL ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS

by Ray Strischek

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998, the Ohio Atlatl Association held both the Ohio Standard Accuracy and an International Standard Accuracy contest (ISAC) at Flint Ridge Memorial Park north of Brownsville, Ohio.

The Keefer family, Terry and Sharon were new to the atlatl just last year. Over the winter months, Terry and Sharon secluded themselves in their dusky basement laboratory and like two mad scientists, gathered all the atlatl information they could find, re-designed their atlatls, crafted many fine cane darts and honed their skills at a secret atlatl range until they were ready to make fools of us all.

While Chuck Butorajac and Jim Bowers ran the Ohio Standard Accuracy competition, Ray Strischek instructed 30 Boy Scouts and their Scout Masters plus a couple of dozen innocent passersby in the construction and use of the atlatl and dart. Jim Kingery and Hapi Cummons of the Ohio Historical Society did all of the planning and promoting of the event and deserve our thanks for making Flint Ridge available.

Top scorers were:

WAA ISAC

Ray Strischek	93
Mike Glenn	79



Chuck Butorajac	78
Terry Keefer	78
Richard Lyons	76
Tom McLaughlin	73
Sharon Keefer	43

**OHIO ATLATL ASSOCIATION CONTEST**

**MEN**

Terry Keefer	91
Chuck Butorajac	90
Paul Gleckl	89

**WOMEN**

Sharon Keefer	93
Ella McLaughlin	55
Eve Dawes	44

*(Editors note: Nice going, Sharon and Terry Keefer. The family that throws together, grows together.)*

**RESULTS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GREAT BASIN CLASSIC ATLATL CONTEST**

Forty-three throwers competed for honors at this first Great Basin event held May 2-3 at Honeyville, Utah. The top scorers in the European style contest were:

<b>MEN</b>	Jeff McGill	34.08
	Robert Hamilton	32.17
	Charlie Brown	27.57
	Troy Helmick	19.20
	Russell Richard	11.00
	Ken Gramstad	10.68
<b>WOMEN</b>	Susie Brown	1.73
	Val Gailey	0.53
	Teresa Woodruff	0.35
<b>YOUTH</b>	David Borgeson	1.24
	Mike Bupp	1.06
	Daniel Fritz	0.61

**14 STATES REPRESENTED AT ONE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST ATLATL EVENTS - VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK, NEVADA**

by Leni Clubb

The Eighth Annual Contest at Valley of Fire State Park near Las Vegas, Nevada was outstanding. Forty-six people; 6 kids 10 and under, 3 youth, 14 women, and 23 men registered for the various individual contests, which included European style; regular contests using 3-dimensional targets set around a course with an accuracy round; and of course, ISAC. States represented include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington. There were a lot of spectators including a bus-load of touring Nevada State legislators. There were visitors from Germany and

France as well.

Awards presented by the Valley of Fire State Park were: (Lowest score wins)

**TEN AND UNDER**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tyler Helmick	21
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Myles Luneau	22
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tanner Weimer	29

**YOUTH**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Michelle Luneau	33
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joe Hatzenbuehler	36
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Paige Luneau	37

**WOMEN**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Anita Lukes	21
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Judy Pritchard	26
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jo Guill	26

**MEN**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Ray Thompson	17
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Troy Helmick	19
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Roger Lewis	19

**GRAND CHAMPION AWARD GIVEN BY WAA**

Primitive	Ray Thompson
Modern	Anita Lukes

**TOP ISAC SCORES WERE:**

Jim Gilligan	79
Robert Hamilton	69XX
Roger Lewis	67



The winners. (Photo by Charlie Brown)

Following the Saturday competition, WAA presented a beautifully hand-crafted replica of a Winnemucca style atlatl and dart to Gary Rimby, director of the Valley of Fire State Park for display in the Visitor's Center. Both are authentic reproductions crafted by WAA member, Jim Ray of Montana. The materials used in the reproductions are all natural materials available in Nevada, including the slate atlatl weight.



Some Late Michigan News  
by Jim Gilligan

The Michigan Atlatl Association was treated to the hospitality of Phil and Diane Klimowicz on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> for a pot luck lunch and a European style atlatl tournament. The course was laid out over several acres of rolling hills and mature hardwood forest complete with snow-plowed paths and target areas. This was a "professional" job of setting up, and everyone was impressed, thoroughly enjoying themselves. Seventeen men, women and children competed on the course. Due to the slippery and uneven terrain as well as the challenge of participating in winter clothing the course was more difficult than it appeared. (Anyway, that is my excuse, and I'm sticking to it.) The scores were:

MEN	Victor Ahearn	23.80
	Jim Gilligan	21.52
	Chris Oberg	19.00

WOMEN	Jeannie Ahearn	1.54
	Diane Klimowicz	0.46
	Candice Michols	0.08

KIDS	Jonathon McFtridge	0.53
	Warren Nichols	0.08
	Jimi Gilligan	0.04

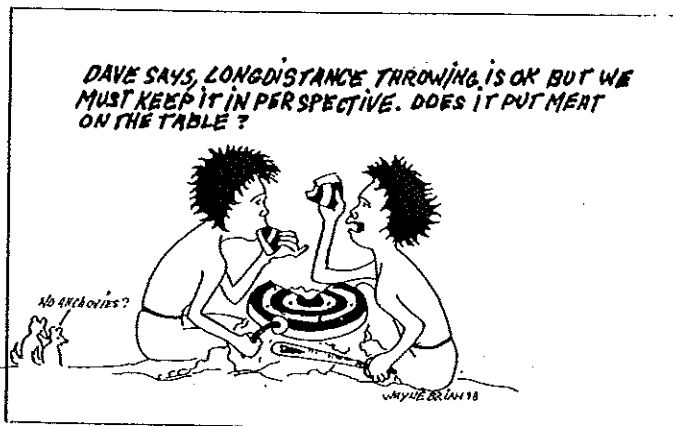
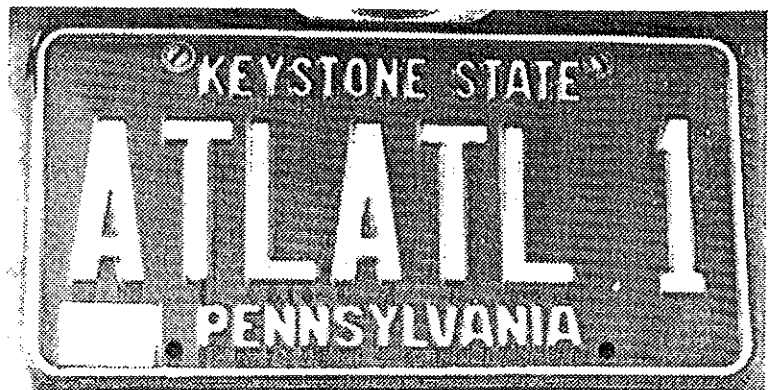
Back in the house to warm-up, we feasted on a wide variety of dishes brought to the pot luck lunch. This was followed by an ISAC set up by Phil. Lou Becker came in first with a 72. Victor Ahearne took second with 53, followed by Jim Gilligan with 52. Thanks again to Phil and Diane for opening their home and private atlatl range to MAA members.

From the desk of Dean Pritchard.

I recently ran across an old photo (1967) of some Australian Aborigine fishermen and thought it might be of interest. Do you think the dart has enough flex?



Below are new members of our unofficial Atlatl License Plate Club. With the Arizona plates on her Toyota 4Runner is Jo Ann Guill, and the new Pennsylvania atlatl plate belongs to Chuck Butorajac.



## ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD – 1998

- Jun. 19-21 Kilpisjarvi, Finland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Jun. 19-21 Eastern Frontier Days Festival at Penn's Cave, PA. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064
- Jun. 19-21 Fremont Indian State Park, UT. Contact Pete Weimer (801) 527-4631.
- Jun. 27-28 World Open Atlatl Contest, Fort Caspar Museum, Casper, WY. Contact Rick Young (307) 235-8462.
- Jul. 4-5 Mariemont, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Jul. 10 Annual Meeting, World Atlatl Association, 7:30 p.m., 14560 W. 58<sup>th</sup> Pl., Arvada, CO. Contact President Charlie Brown (303) 421-0035.
- Jul. 10-11 Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing, Aurora, CO. Contact Bill Tate (303) 755-5591
- Jul. 11-12 Sare, Pyrenees Atlantiques, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Jul. 13-18 Sundog Primitive Skills Workshop and Atlatl Contest, Bow Valley Park, Kananaskis County, Alberta, Canada. Contact Rick Woolcott, Jr. Forest Warden, (403) 297-8851.
- Jul. 18 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament, Lorraine, NY. Contact Roger Klindt (315) 639-6293.
- Jul. 18-19 Tarascon, Ariège, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Jul. 18 Tenth Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt. Contact Troy Helmick (406) 266-3398.
- Jul. 19 Caveman Lou's Third Annual Sabertooth Barbeque and Potluck. MAA tournament at noon with ISAC to follow. Contact Lou Becker (810) 326-0279.
- Jul. 25-26 French Creek Archaeological Society Artifact Show and Atlatl Competitions. Contact John Sites (814) 398-4814.
- Jul. 25-26 Northern Plains Indian Culture Fest, Stanton, ND. Contact (701) 745-3309.
- Jul. 25-26 Beaune, Cote d'Or, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Aug. 1-2 Le Mas d'Azil, Ariège, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Aug. 1-2 Franklin Grove Summer Harvest Festival, Franklin Grove, IL. (Euro-style and ISAC). Contact Roger Taylor (815) 626-1123 or Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514.
- Aug. 5-6 Lourdes, Hautes-Pyrenees, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Aug. 8 Primitive Archery Shoot & Atlatl Tournament, Lapeer, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-214
- Aug. 8-9 Tautavel, Pyrenees Orientales, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Aug. 20-22 Great Lakes primitives Summer Gathering, Bois Blanc Island, MI. Contact Bob Love (810)231-1474 or Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314.
- Aug. 22-23 Ahlman's Shooters Round-up and Atlatl Competition., Morristown, MN. Contact Jerry Schaefer (507) 243-3300.
- Aug. 28-31 Ohio Atlatl Standard Accuracy and WAA ISAC, Sat. & Sun. Contact Ray Strisczek (740) 592-1217 (nights).
- Aug. 28-30 Stonetool Technology Show featuring Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition (ESAC), Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Sep. 5-6 Oerlinghausen, Germany. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Sep. 5-6 Ohio Atlatl Association Competition, Flint Ridge Memorial Museum & Park, Ohio. Contact Ray Streischek (740) 592-1217.
- Sep. 6 Oerlinghausen, Germany. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Sep. 6 Primitive George's Knap-in and Atlatl Tournament. Durand, MI - noon. Contact George Hedgepeth, (517) 288-0168.
- Sep. 12-13 Neanderthal, Germany. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Sep. 13-19 Rabbitstick, Idaho. Contact Dave Wescott (208) 359-2400.
- Sep. 19 Pennsylvania State Atlatl Championship, Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Sep. 19 Vermont State Atlatl Contest, Chimney Point State Park, Vergennes, VT. Flintknapping, canoe building and other skills featured. Contact Rodney Griffin (802) 759-2412
- Sep. 19-20 Samara, Somme, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Sep. 19-20 Pennsylvania State Atlatl championship, Ligonier, PA. Continual competitions including 2 ISACs. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Sep. 26 Big island Pow Wow, Tioga Park, Rt. 17, Nichols, New York. Atlatl Demonstrations. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Sep. 26-27 Nemours, Seine et Marne, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Oct. 3-4 Cahokia Mounds Atlatl Competition, E. St. Louis, IL. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514.
- Oct. 3-4 Annual Croton-On-Hudson primitive Technology Show. Croton Point, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, primitive fire making techniques, atlatl demonstrations and much more including ISAC. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Oct. 3-4 Coire, Switzerland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Oct. 10-11 Mercyhurst College, Northeast, PA, Primitive Technology Weekend. Atlatl demonstrations, ISAC and flintknapping. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Nov. 7 Icicle ISAC at Tioga Park, Rt. 17, Nichols, NY. Primitive technology and atlatl demonstrations, plus the ISAC to be held indoors. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Dec. 5-6 Plate Taille, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.

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

**Please send us dates of atlatl events for inclusion here, and keep submitting your reports, cartoons, and suggestions to us. Your editor can be reached by FAX at (303) 755-1145, or mail at 1390 S. Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012, phone (303) 755-5591, or by e-mail: [atlatl@mho.net](mailto:atlatl@mho.net)**

# ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC

by Lloyd Pine

As of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1998, ISAC results for the first 23 contests are listed below. Although the top scores are higher, the number of men throwing 70 or better is about the same as last year. So far, the women are doing better than they were at this time a year ago. I really appreciate that the contest organizers are getting the results to me promptly and that the score sheets are legible. This makes my job and that of our data entry people much easier. It also helps minimize the chance of errors. We had 51 contests world-wide in 1997. I expect 60 to 70 this year, so participation should also be up over last year.

Score	*Equip.	Name	Address	Date	Location of Competition
92-3X	P	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	4/11	Les Eyzies, France
90 -X	P	Charlie Brown	Colorado, USA	5/2	Honeyville, Utah
87-X	P	Chris Pappas	New York, USA	4/18	Turbotville, Pennsylvania
87	P	Jean Speckens	Belgium	2/1	Laragne, France
86	P	Ray Strischek	Ohio, USA	5/30	Pennsylvania Spring Fling
84-2X	P	Jeff McGill	Utah, USA	5/3	Honeyville, Utah
79	O	Jim Gilligan	Michigan, USA	4/18	Valley of Fire, Nevada
78	P	Paul Gleckl	Pennsylvania, USA	5/30	Pennsylvania Spring Fling
78	O	Lou Becker	Michigan, USA	4/5	Chelsea, Michigan
77	P	Gary Fogelman	Pennsylvania, USA	4/18	Turbotville, Pennsylvania
76	P	Alain Sellekaerts	Belgium, USA	4/25	Ramouil, Belgium
76	P	Robert Hamilton	Utah, USA	5/2	Honeyville, Utah
76	O	Chris Oberg	Michigan, USA	4/5	Chelsea, Michigan
75	P	Denny Bard	Pennsylvania, USA	5/30	Pennsylvania Spring Fling
74	O	Alain Grospron	France	5/30	Crepy-en-Valois, France
72	O	Victor Ahearne	Michigan, USA	4/5	Chelsea, Michigan
71-X	P	Jim Ray	Montana, USA	5/2	Idaho open, Melba, ID
70	P	Laurent Bernat	France	2/1	Laragne, France
70	P	Jean-Francois Peres	France	4/11	Les Eyzies, France
70	P	Ken Wee	Colorado, USA	5/9	Greeley, Colorado

### Top Women's Scores

61	P	Aude Labarge	France	5/23	Solutre, France
54	P	Florence Cavalin	France	4/11	Les Eyzies, France
52	P	Catherine Cretin	France	2/1	Laragne, France

\*Equipment type P = Primitive O = Open

## ON TARGET

by Secretary Leni Clubb



On May 24, 1993, a membership list was published with 165 members. On May 24<sup>th</sup> 1998 - five years later - WAA has 417 members!! This is a gain of 252. Of those original 165, 75 are still with us and number among the 417 and we continue to grow.

Attention ISAC organizers. It is important that you make sure that everyone follows Rule 2.2b under Equipment. "The maximum diameter of the dart, including the point, but excluding the fletching, must not exceed 19.0 mm (0.748 inches). The unfletched dart must be able to pass through a ring having a 19.0 mm inside diameter." This is a firm rule and must be followed to insure fair competition among throwers.

Are you helping to promote WAA at the contests you attend or help organize? We have a supply of WAA brochures available on request. We also have Brass finish Grand Champion Award plates available to organizers on request at no cost. They are 3 3/8 X 4 7/8 inches in size, have the WAA logo, and the words: "presented by WAA" engraved. The plates can be mounted on a wood plaque and make a nice addition to your awards.

I will be traveling the "atlatl circuit" again this summer. If any of you want to get in touch with me via e-mail my address is [waa\\_leni@hotmail.com](mailto:waa_leni@hotmail.com). Snail mail eventually reaches me wherever I may be as well. I hope to meet some of you on the circuit, at the annual meeting in Arvada, Colorado at President Charlie Brown's house on July 10<sup>th</sup> or at the Spear Sling Fling Thing in Aurora, Colorado that same weekend.

Congratulations go to Honorary WAA member Dr. George Frison newly elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors given American scientists. The academy is a private organization chartered by Congress in 1863 and has a membership of some 1800 scientists and researchers. Frison is the first Wyoming citizen ever to be elected to the Academy. Frison, whose career spans 30 years, is internationally known for his study of Early Man in North America. He recently retired from the University of Wyoming's Anthropology Department.

## THE ROLE OF WAA

There has been confusion expressed by some of the members and outside organizations regarding the role of The World Atlatl Association, Inc. (WAA) at the various atlatl tournaments across the country. It is important to note that the WAA does not "sponsor" or "sanction" any atlatl tournament or contest. It was necessary for the organization to take this position due to the potential liability associated

with such events. This decision was duly passed by the membership present at an annual meeting in Radium, Colorado on July 3, 1994.

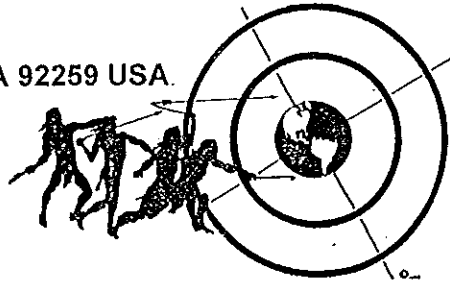
### What the WAA does provide is:

- A forum through *The Atlatl*, our newsletter, to advertise contests or events and to report on their results.
- Advice and help to organizers/sponsors of contests, if requested, to set up courses, keep scores, monitor safety, etc.
- Materials such as contest rules, safety rules, score sheets and liability statements, and a WAA plaque to be presented to the top thrower in a contest. This award is given as incentive to organizers/sponsors who use and adhere to a strict set of safety rules.

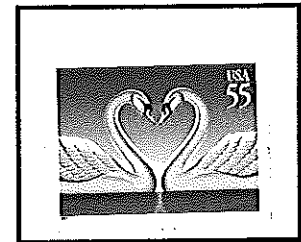
The greatest asset in the WAA organization is the membership. It is your love of the atlatl and desire to share knowledge that provides the mission for the organization. We want to preserve this. As we all participate in these organized competitions, keep in mind the roll of the WAA and be safe.

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.

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(9/98)

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