

# The ATLATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

October 1998

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BILL TATE, EDITOR



The eight European adventurers, left to right, Russell Richard, Charlie Brown, Susie Brown, Jim Ray, Bill Tate, Marcia Tate, Pat Pine, and Lloyd Pine.

## FIRST CONTACT

by Bill Tate

In late July 1998, eight American members of the World Atlatl Association flew to France to research the spearthrower weapon system, and to attend and compete in two European spear throwing competitions. Our first atlatl experience was at Musee de l'Homme, (The Museum of Man) in Paris, where several spearthrower fragments are on display. After spending four days in Paris (Russell Richard excepted, who spent the time aboard a train visiting four other countries) the eight flew to Bordeaux, rented two vehicles and drove inland to the northern rim of the archaeological center of France, along the Dordogne River valley. We stayed two nights at the Cro-Magnon Hotel in the town of Les Eyzies. Two days were insufficient to see all the

region has to offer, but thanks to arrangements by Pascal Chauvaux through his friend, George Levy, administrator of prehistoric caves in the area, we managed to visit both Combarelles and Font de Gaume caves. Each cavern required half a mile walk in, but both were adorned with wonderful cave art. Combarelles contained primarily incised artwork, etched on the walls, and the second, Font de Gaume, had mostly painted art. We saw mammoths, woolly rhinoceros, horse, ibex, and an assortment of different animals. As we left the first cave one panel shown to us by our specially arranged for English speaking guide depicted a man casting a spear with an atlatl. It took a little imagination to see it, however.

In the town we visited the National Museum of Prehistory, situated in an old fortress high on a limestone cliff overlooking the town, where several more parts of spearthrowers are on display. On the main street we visited a shop run by a primitive technologist, flintknapper, and atlatlist, and on our hotel's property, the type site for Cro-Magnon. Displayed on the wall of this limestone rock shelter is a small plaque commemorating this historic archaeological excavation. Many of the artifacts from this site are on display at the hotel. Our hotel keeper even wore a neckless with an authentic laurel leaf point - beautifully made and translucent pale green in color. She said she wore it in our honor for our last evening at the hotel.

Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> saw us on the road before dawn, racing five hours to the town of Lourdes hoping to arrive before noon. This was to be the site of our first competition, and the afternoon prior to spearthrowing is the time of primitive bow shooting against the same targets that the atlatlists would be throwing at. WAA



President Charlie Brown, Jim Ray, and Russell Richard, all wanting to compete with the Europeans in archery, had brought along their bows and arrows. Marcia and I didn't attend that event, but spent the day sightseeing, picking our way through the thousands of pilgrims visiting the site of St. Bernadette's mid-nineteenth century religious vision. We heard about the extreme difficulty of the course, however, when we met Charlie and the others that afternoon at the campgrounds. They said it was spread over the side of a high mountain with at least a thousand feet of elevation involved along a mile and a half-long course.

Next morning saw us on the course in small groups. After reaching the first target high up the side of that mountain, I gave serious thoughts to giving up, but following a lengthy rest stop, found the power to proceed at least to the second of the ten targets. What should meet us there, but French TV Ch. 3. They actually did a short interview before I missed the target three times in a row. I couldn't let them see me falter, so along with our group of about five throwers, I continued on up the mountain.

After the sixth target, the climb got worse, and Charlie and others suggested that because of my advanced age and lack of condition, I skip the 7<sup>th</sup> target. That was good advice, too, as it was fully half a mile away and nearly straight up the mountain. I waited for the group in the shade of a small tree along a cliff overlooking the 8<sup>th</sup> target. Things went better after that—except for poor Charlie. On the downhill walk from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> target, our President slipped on the irregular rocky trail, breaking his ankle. As we helped him down the mountain, he insisted that we continue to throw, finishing the course's last two targets, even though his pain was severe. Susie obtained the help of an English-speaking Frenchman to take him to the hospital in town, and hours later he showed up back at the campsite on crutches and sporting a cast on his leg. It was too late for him to present the "Fellowship" award to Pascal Chauvaux however, this pleasure and honor having been passed on to your editor. As the light faded in the west, Richard Russell made the presentation of gifts from America. Many were made or obtained by members of the traveling American group, but many were donations from fellow WAA members who could not attend. The gifts included such things as an authentic bow, a rattlesnake skin, a lump of catlinite (pipestone), arrows, yucca fibers, the horn from a pronghorn, brain-tanned skin, and lithic tools—real treasures.

The next day saw us following Pascal on our way to Le Mas d'Azil, the site of a huge cavern where

many of the world's early spearthrower fragments have been recovered. We were given a wonderful English language tour through the cave which has been featured in earlier reports in this newsletter. Attending us was not only Pascal, but the town's Mayor, Norbert Forestier who is an athlete himself, and Andre Alteirac, the museum's curator. Our cave tour led us to excavated portions of the huge site and to areas where as late as World War II, munitions storage took place. The cave has a river and modern highway passing through it, but also contains many smaller side-chambers and passageways with exhibits and even a multi-projection show on the cave's history, with sound and light displays.

This tour done, we picked up our lame President, who had spent all this time sitting alone in the car, and drove back into town to see the small but wonderfully creative museum, where many of the spearthrower fragments are on display, including the one Pascal rightfully named *the most beautiful spearthrower in the world*. We then followed Mayor Forestier across the town square to a marvelous restaurant where we were treated to a five course meal. (Being entertained like royalty can be addictive.)



His Honor, The Mayor of Mas d'Azil, Norbert Forestier, our President Charlie Brown, Pascal Chauvaux, and Museum Curator Andre Alteirac.

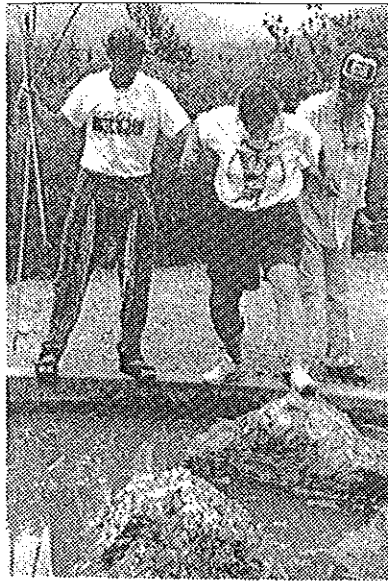
Once more in our vehicles, we followed Pascal southeastward through the small town of Foix where we would be spending the night, to the Prehistoric Art Park some 15 or 20 km beyond. This park, in my view, contains one of the finest museums that we visited during our thirteen day tour. It is designed to give the viewer a real sense of the past, with magnificent lighting and your own personal audio equipment with five language choices, which automatically changes as one travels from one display to another. Time did not permit the full park experience, as we had an appointment, again set up by Pascal Chauvaux, to view yet another cave—one whose

art was wonderfully simulated in the museum at the Prehistoric Art Park.

It was only a few miles drive to the Niaux Caves, and we had but a couple of minutes wait after arrival before we entered. At this cave, there was no prehistoric living area, but rather, this was a secret or sacred site where magnificent paintings were done--probably around 11,000 years B. C.--the peak of Magdalenian art. The main panels we were to see were in a large chamber, or cluster of chambers some 800 meters (½ mile) back inside the cave. This is a living cave with water percolating through the rock forming stalagmites and stalactites, and irregular, difficult to traverse floors, but it was awesome to visit. We all carried battery operated lanterns which must have weighed over 5 pounds (2 Kilograms). About half-way into the huge dark cave, we came across historical graffiti. The names of early visitors adorned one wall with dates ranging back into the early 1600s. Finally we got back to the far recesses of the cave and all of the lanterns but that carried by the guide were extinguished. We were then treated to the wonders of Magdalenian art. Most of the figures were bison, but there were other animals present, including ibex, all wonderfully rendered. Some of the animals had spears sticking into their bodies, some with splashes of red paint indicating blood. It really gave us a wonderful idea of the Western European hunting people's world at the end of the paleolithic age.

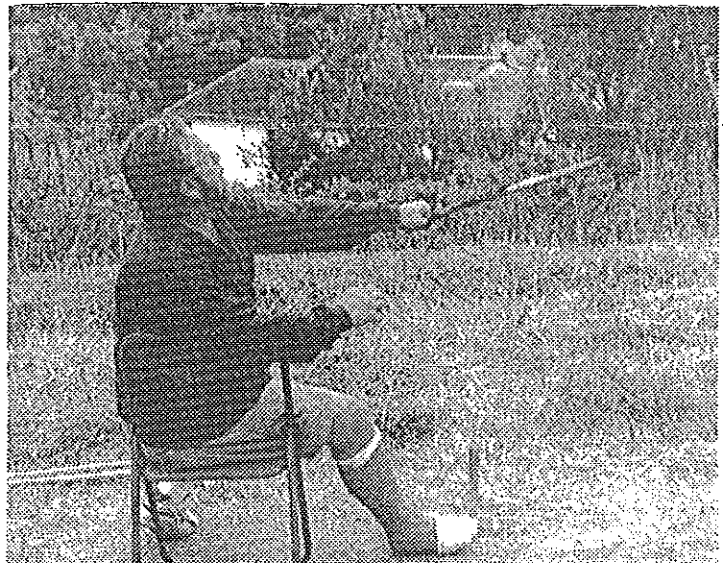
On the road early the next morning, our group split into two with the archers attending the first day's target shoot at Tautavel, while the rest of us drove to Carcassonne, the best preserved medieval city in France. This walled city sits on a prominence over the modern town and is a photographer's dream. We all got together in the evening at Tautavel for a wine-tasting party and a wonderful dinner featuring squid, a local specialty. Many of the same people attended this event that we had met at Lourdes, but some new faces also showed up.

The morning's spearthrowing competition was held against the same targets as the archers had used. It required three trips around a course that was probably half a mile in circumference with some little climbs, both up and down, but nothing remotely similar



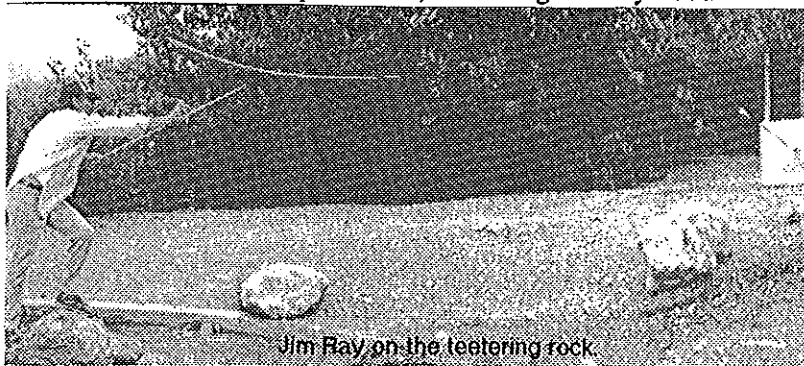
Susie nimbly stepping onto the teetering rock--with a little assistance from Jim and Russell.

to the difficulty of the Lourdes contest. At one target, the throwers were required to stand on a teetering rock in a small pond. (I suspect that more than one person got his feet wet that day.) I think the most serious problem was the extreme heat. For days, Europe was in the throes of a severe heat



Charlie Brown making the best of it.

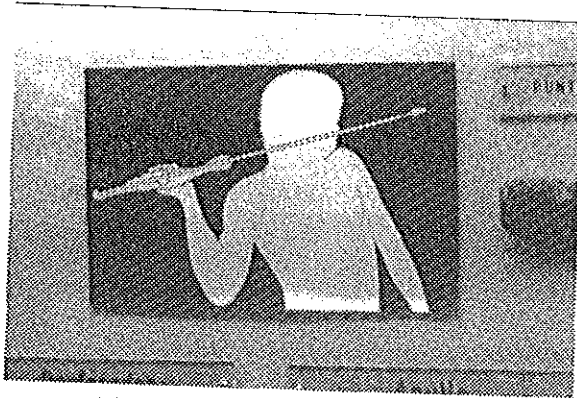
wave and it took its toll as we worked our way around the course. The course was set around the Tautavel museum, and of course our visit included a tour of that splendid facility. Had there been time, we would have had a visit to the nearby rock shelter where 450,000 year old Homo Erectus--Tautavel Man was recovered. In the afternoon, following a delicious meal, prizes were awarded, with at least something going to each participant. All in all, this was a wonderful experience. We ended the day with a goodbye drink at a local café, and with heartfelt thanks to a wonderful group of



Jim Ray on the teetering rock.

people, we made our way back to our hotel.

We spent the following two days to the south in Barcelona, each doing his or her "thing", resting, visiting more museums, and sightseeing around this city in northeastern Spain. Jim Ray, Marcia and I visited the archaeology museum, and continued our study of European spearthrowers. I took this



Display at the *Museu Arqueologic, Barcelona*

photograph at the spearthrower display in that institution. Looks to me as if the artist needs a bit of instruction on the proper way of holding the implement.

After thirteen wonderful days, eight totally exhausted travelers boarded a plane for the trip back to Paris and our long flight home. I am sure that we all came away having differing memories about the trip, but all have agreed that without a doubt, the people we met and competed with, and with whom we shared drinks and meals, were the best part of our experience.

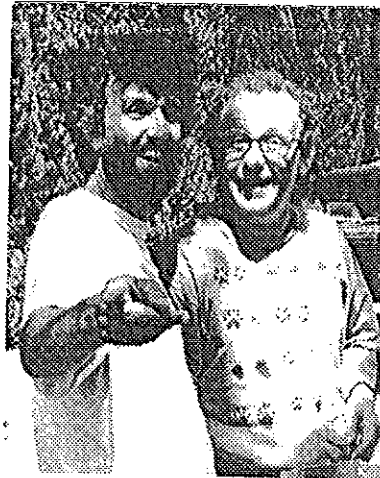
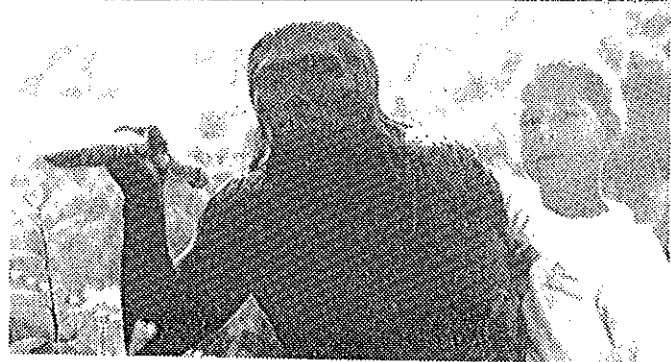
The best of the 49 Lourdes competitors were:

Place	Name	*Country	Score
1	Pascal Chauvaux	B	38.89
2	Patrick Bidart	F	36.80
3	Bernard Ginelli	F	36.80
4	Jean Speckens	B	31.29
5	Daniel Marty	F	20.89
6	Russell Richard	USA	20.44
7	Dominique Cousyn	F	18.00
8	Thomas Chauvaux	B	17.38
9	Jim Ray	USA	16.62
10	J. Jacques Durancet	F	15.60

At Tautavel, once again, top honors went to Pascal Chauvaux and Patrick Bidart, but one of the Americans moved into third. Of the 63 competing, the top ten were:

Place	Name	*Country	Score
1	Pascal Chauvaux	B	43.91
2	Patrick Bidart	F	22.38
3	Jim Ray	USA	22.00
4	Stephane Madelaine	F	20.27
5	Ismael Yahemdi	F	19.64
6	Jean Speckens	B	17.31
7	Russell Richard	USA	16.00
8	Georges Levy	F	15.60
9	Patriste Commenge	F	14.67
10	Gael Speckens	B	13.67

\*B = Belgium F = France USA = United States



Above: Martin Chauvaux and Friend (450,000 Year old Tautavel Man)  
Left: Jaques Pernaud-Orlaic, Tautavel Museum Director Awarding Pascal Chauvaux his Prize.  
Below: Breakfast in Tautavel before the big event.



Stone Tool Technology Show  
Letchworth State Park, New York  
Features Atlatl Events

by  
Cheryll Berg and Lou Hillman

The Stone Tool Technology Show is now in its ninth year and growing bigger each year. We were blessed with good weather, wonderful knappers and many other fine craftspeople, and excellent atlatlists. All of the people who participated in the atlatl events, including those who were trying them for the first time, seemed to enjoy themselves. As part of the show, we conducted an International Standard Accuracy Competition (ISAC) both days, with 17 competing on Saturday and 14 on Sunday. ISAC highlights include Mark Bracken's 84X on Saturday and ten year old Tesha Keefer's 43 on Sunday.

Thirty people participated in our "open" competition, called The Eastern States Atlatl contest, which consisted of ten animal targets at varying ranges. Each contestant could enter up to twice, paying a nominal fee each time. Each entry entitled the contestant to two times through the course. The money was used to buy awards which were purchased from vendors at the show.

Tom Keefer won the Grand Champion Award with a score of 62, followed by Gary Fogelman's 60. Third place went to Denny Bard. In the women's category, Sharon Keefer came in with 33 points. Among the youth, ages 12 to 15, Peter Berg took first place with 25 points. Second was a tie between first time thrower Stephen Fintel and Miranda Wallace. Among the children age 11 and under, the winners were Christian Lappulaunen with 34 points followed by Peter Bruno, 17 and Clay Lechleiter with 13.

Next year's Stone Tool Technology Show will be on the weekend prior to Labor Day, August 28 and 29. Mark your calendars now and join us in beautiful upstate New York for wonderful scenery, friendly people and a great event.

Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament - 1998  
by Rodger Klindt

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament was held on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The weather was sunny and warm, quite different from last year, and the deer flies were just a distant memory. It just doesn't get any better than this for tournament day.

Twenty participants braved the 10 station field course which consisted of both cardboard and 3-D archery targets. The life-size mammoth target was well

received once again—even though it cannot quite compare to the 12 footer out in Minnesota!

Winners were determined by the total of their best field course score (100 points maximum) plus their mammoth hunt score (120 points maximum). The field course was set up to mimic realistic hunting situations and proved to be very challenging. Mammoth hunting also proved difficult at the 35 meter distance.

Top honors went to the Keefer family from Fort Loudon, PA. Obviously they set up lights in the yard so they can practice well into the night. The longest distance traveled to participate "award" goes to Harry Young who took a "red-eye" flight from San Diego so he wouldn't miss a thing.

You'll notice that ISAC scores from this tournament seem to be lacking in this report. I was threatened with bodily injury if I revealed the really poor performance of our competitors—myself included. Let's just say that a full day in the sun and a 10 mph cross wind doesn't make for good ISAC scores and leave it at that. One honorable mention does come from the ISAC round, though. Mike Sicley of Lorraine, NY threw and outstanding 51 under the adverse conditions. Mike is only 15 years old, and hasn't been tossing darts all that long. Watch out Ray and Pascal, he's got his eye on you.

MEN

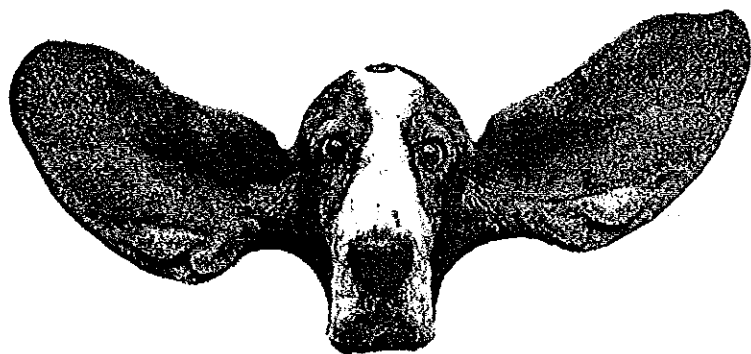
1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Keefer	PA	111
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Chris Pappas	NY	87
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rodger Klindt	NY	75

Women

1 <sup>st</sup>	Sharon Keefer	PA	67
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sandy Klindt	NY	59
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Janice Young	NY	37

Juniors

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tesha Keefer	PA	59
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Justin Hinman	NY	37



Basset Bannerstone Atlatl Weight

Contributed by Dean Pritchard



## ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD - 1998-99

- 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 Mastodon State Historic Site, Imperial, Missouri, ISAC about 2:00 p.m. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514.
- Sep. 12-13 Neanderthal, Germany. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Sep. 12-13 Flintknapper's Fling, Ostrowski Farm, North Muskegon, MI. Contact Tony Ostrowski (616) 744-9638.
- Sep. 13 Tenth Annual Michigan Novice Tournament, 2:00 p.m. Contact Norm Kern, [kernn@gateway.net](mailto:kernn@gateway.net)
- Sep. 13-19 Rabbistick, 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. 19-20 Fort Osage Knap-in and Atlatl Competition, Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, Missouri, Contact Bob Hunt (816) 228-5051.
- Sep. 26 Big Island Pow Wow, Tioga Park, Rt. 17, Nichols, New York. Atlatl demonstrations. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Sep. 26 West Virginia State Championship Atlatl Competition at Mountain State Forest Festival, 2:00 p.m., Contact William Good (304)636-6901.
- Sep. 26 Annual NE Oregon Atlatl Challenge, Umatilla, OR. Contact Dean Pritchard (208) 323-0293.
- 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, atl atl demonstrations and much more, including ISAC. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Oct. 3-4 Coire, Switzerland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Oct. 3-4 Mercyhurst College, Northeast, PA, Primitive Technology Weekend. Atlatl demonstrations, ISAC, and flintknapping. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Oct. 31 All Hallows Eve Atlatl Throw. Five scheduled contests plus ISAC and pot-luck lunch, starts at 9:30 am at the home of Charlie and Susie Brown, 14560 W. 58<sup>th</sup> Place, Arvada, CO,. Contact Charlie Brown (303) 421-0035.
- Nov. 7 1998 Michigan Atlatl Championship, Chelsea rod and Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314.
- Nov. 7 Icicle ISAC at Tioga Park, Rt. 17, Nichols, NY. Primitive technology and atl atl demonstrations, plus the ISAC to be held indoors. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.
- Dec. 5-6 Plate Taille, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux.
- Feb. '99 7 A.R.C.A. ISAC Competition Rome (Center City), Rome, Italy. Contact Bruno Morucci at [arca@fivenet.com](mailto:arca@fivenet.com) or Pascal Chauvaux.
- Jun. '99 26-27 European Championship plus ISAC, Lago della montagna spaccata (Broken Mountains Lake) Abruzzo National Park, Italy, Contact Bruno Morucci at [arca@fivenet.com](mailto:arca@fivenet.com) or Pascal Chauvaux.
- Aug. '99 28-29 Stone Tool Technology Show, Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-4064.

\*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 or better yet use e-mail [atlatl@skynet.be](mailto:atlatl@skynet.be).

**Please send us dates of atl atl 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)**

We regret any errors in the listing for Events Around The World, but occasionally we receive wrong or confusing information or just plain make mistakes. Please help out your poor old editor, and proof-read submissions. Make sure that the event's date coincides with the days indicated, that you name the competition or event and include the location where people can find you. Give a good phone number and the event's contact person's name. If what you are submitting is a correction, please so state. Everyone will be happier if you follow these instructions. It is time now to begin submitting dates for 1999.

Congratulations go to Mr. And Mrs. Victor Ahearne of Michigan on the birth of their first child, Gavin Vernon Ahearne on August 10, 1998. Victor states that he has high expectations of him becoming the next ISAC record holder and offers a special thanks to Charlie and Susie Brown, and Jim and Lori Gilligan for their great assistance and advice during the long pregnancy.

### NOTICE

There comes a time during each newsletter when your Editor must decide when to cut it off and get it printed so it can be sent out. Sometimes this requires delaying or eliminating reports and articles

which in a perfect world would be printed. If your report is omitted, I offer my apology, and hope you can be understanding. There are only so many pages and so much time.

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Some e-mail addresses and other items of interest:  
 Jim Gilligan [atlatl@tir.com](mailto:atlatl@tir.com) Ray Strischek  
[atlatlray@juno.com](mailto:atlatlray@juno.com) Remember that ISAC kits  
 including targets, forms and rules are for sale from Dana  
 Klein, (716) 365-8038 or [danakchert@aol.com](mailto:danakchert@aol.com)

## PLATTE RIVER PRIMITIVE SKILLS RENDEZVOUS - July 25 and 26

by Dean Pritchard

Ken Wee organized another great atlatl competition event this year. The contest was held in conjunction with the Wyoming Pioneer Museum Primitive Skills Rendezvous in Douglas, Wyoming. The weather was less than perfect, but a flexible competition schedule allowed everyone to compete between rain showers.

The Douglas State Fair Grounds provided an excellent area for the event. Easy access from the freeway, friendly people, acres of mowed grass, shade trees, clean restrooms, free showers, food vendors, museum and rodeo all contributed to a pleasant experience.

The American Field Round (AFR) and "mock" ISAC was held on Saturday with the Grand Champion selected from the total combined scores of the two events. Another mock ISAC was held on Sunday morning.

AFR winners in the men's division were:

1<sup>st</sup> Dean Pritchard      2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Richard  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ken Wee

AFR winners in the women's division were:

1<sup>st</sup> Judy Pritchard      2<sup>nd</sup> Regina Dodson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Angie Hendrix

AFR winners in the Youth division were:

1<sup>st</sup> Casey Pebbles      2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Pritchard  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tyler Pebbles

In the ten and under division both Colby Davis and Keeko Dodson had identical scores, tying for 1<sup>st</sup>.

A special thanks go to Arlene Earnst, Michael and Diane O'Meagher, and Ken Wee for an outstanding weekend.



Bruno Morucci

### NEW COMPETITIONS IN ITALY

From Italy comes a new atlatl enthusiast, Bruno Morucci. Bruno, shown here at the campgrounds at the recent Lourdes tournament, wishes to invite the next group of American spear throwers to attend one of the events he is scheduling in his country. They are, an International Standard Accuracy

Competition on February 7, 1999 in Rome, and the European Championship plus ISAC on June 26-27, 1999.

## ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC ISAC

by Lloyd Pine

The top results from over 70 ISAC contests are given below. Of particular note is that two juniors have broken into the top scoring ranks. Thomas Chauveaux with a 73X joins the men, and Alex Pritchard with a 53 joins the highest scoring women.

I want to remind everyone that the results of all November contests need to be received by me no later than the first week in December. This is necessary in order to get all of the results entered, sorted, and verified in time to declare the top ten in January's *The Atlatl*. I am still receiving a few score sheets that are not completely filled out. You may know what town Joe Doe is from, and whether he is under 16 or not, but I don't, and neither does our data entry person. We are also still receiving a few non-official score sheets. I know it sounds "picky," but we are handling hundreds of sheets now, and it makes data entry much faster



Thomas Chauveaux of Belgium

and less prone to error if all of the results are in the same form. It looks like the number of contests will approach one hundred in 1998 compared to 51 in 1997.

Top scorers in the 1998 International Standard Accuracy Competition are:

Score	Equip.	Name	From
93	P	Ray Strischek	Ohio, USA
92-3X	P	Pascal Chauveaux	Belgium
90-X	P	Charlie Brown	Colorado, USA
89	O	Bob Berg	New York USA
88	O	Terry Keefer	Penna., USA
87-X	P	Chris Pappas	New York USA
87-X	P	William Hobbs	Utah, USA
87	P	Jean Speckens	Belgium
86-X	O	Gary Fogelman	Penna., USA
85-X	O	Jim Gilligan	Michigan, USA
84-2X	P	Jeff McGill	Utah, USA
84-X	P	Mark Bracken	Georgia, USA
84	P	Denny Bard	Penna., USA

84	P	Ray Madden	Missouri, USA
82	P	Mike Glenn	Ohio, USA
81-2X	O	Chris Oberg	Michigan, USA
81	P	Patrick Bidart	France
80-X	P	Chuck Butorajac	Penna., USA
80	O	Ron Mertz	Missouri, USA
80	O	Rodger Klindt	New York, USA
79-3X	P	Paul Gleckl	Penna., USA
78	P	Jim Ray	Montana, USA
78	O	Lou Becker	Michigan, USA
78	P	Pascal Rouzo	France
77	P	Bernard Ginelli	France
77	O	Victor Ahearne	Michigan, USA
76-2X	P	Dean Pritchard	Idaho, USA
76	P	Alain Sellekaerts	Belgium
76	O	Richard Lyons	Indiana, USA
76	O	John Whittaker	Iowa, USA
75	P	Robert Hamilton	Utah, USA
75	P	Serge Vigier	France
74-X	O	Martin Strischek	Ohio, USA
74	P	Laurent Bernat	France
74	P	Alain Grospron	France
73-X	P	*Thomas Chauvaux	Belgium
73	O	Tom McLaughlin	W. Virginia USA
73	P	Ken Wee	Colorado, USA
72-X	?	Tony Ostronski	Michigan, USA
71	P	Pascal Rouzo	France
70	P	Jean-Francois Peres	France
70	P	Steve Cabaraux	Belgium

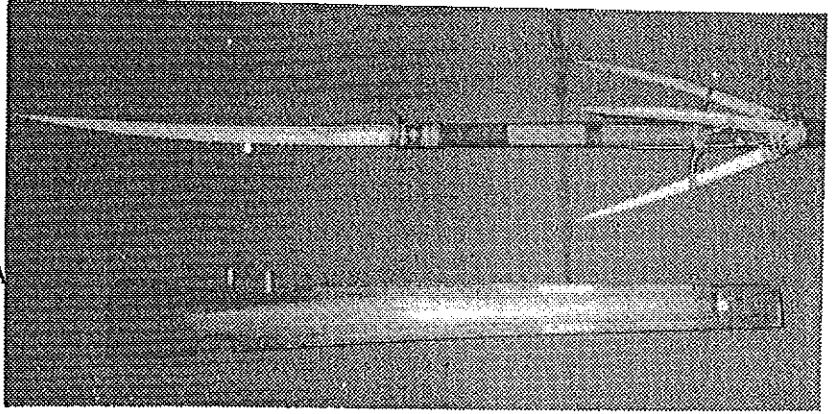
#### Women's Scores

63	P	Aude Labarge	France
54	P	Florence Cavalin	France
53	P	*Alex Pritchard	Idaho, USA
52	P	Catherine Cretin	France
52	P	Susie Brown	Colorado, USA
52	O	Kay Inman	New York, USA
52	P	*Tessa Keefer	Penna., USA
52	O	Kerri Meldron	Michigan, USA
51	P	Sharon Keefer	Penna., USA

\* Under 16 years of age.      P = Primitive    O = Open

### Atlatl Update From Duane Spangler

Duane Spangler's "Atlatl Weekend" at the Spangler Farm on Whidbey Island, Washington, brought in Scout leaders and other curious people. Assisted by WAA member, Walter Dietrick, they spent all day Sunday of that weekend making an atlatl and primitive darts from salmonberry, elderberry and oceanspray. Visitors took home WAA membership forms as well as a new understanding of this wonderful weapon system.



Ted Bailey reported in the April, 1998 issue of *The Atlatl*, that he had acquired this beautiful Eskimo spearthrower and spear.  
Wow! Nifty stuff!

### The Broken Atlatl

by Duane Spangler

Last month I was working on shaping an experimental atlatl. I should have known better, but there was a small knot just ahead of the hook. Of course it snapped on the first throw. It split around the knot to a nice hinge-type curve. It looked like another

elbow, so I said to myself, (I talk to myself a lot) I wonder if I can increase the force of my atlatl by hinging the two pieces together. In the primitive fashion, I used a piece of leather as a hinge and tied both sides down with rawhide. (For those of you who have a hard time finding rawhide, make your own from "doggy bones." Put these rawhide tied bones



into a jar of water to soften. Untie them and you have usable sheets for cutting into lacings or other things. I keep my supply in the freezer for immediate use as needed.) The hinge seemed to work great just dry-firing it without the dart, so I was anticipating a dart with increased velocity. However, after noting no advantage when actually throwing a dart, I discovered that the dart left the atlatl before the hinge came forward. I tried putting weight on the hinge, but that didn't make any difference. I then made another atlatl and put the hinge closer to the handle, but then I had to watch out to prevent my hand



from getting smashed as the hinge came crashing forward. Results? Hinging doesn't seem to work, but I still have a couple of experiments to try with this idea. I'll pass future results on. Please let me know of any successes you all might have had experimenting with this idea.

Duane Spangler, 3500 E. Quade Rd., Clinton, WA 98236,  
e-mail: [landguru@whidbey.com](mailto:landguru@whidbey.com)

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Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation. *Henry Kissinger*

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Official WAA patches may be ordered from the Secretary for \$2.50 plus 50 cents postage. Get one for your cap or jacket.

## LETTERS    Letters    LETTERS

Dear Bill,

I'm working on a major exhibition of Australian Aboriginal material culture here in Adelaide, and we are aiming to include a section dealing with the technological aspects of the spearthrower, in its diverse forms across the country. We hold more than 2000 examples, mostly collected during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I am hoping to discuss the Australian spearthrower within an international historical context and so began surfing the net in search of atlatl references. I found your web-site (WAA web-site) and wondered whether you would be interested in directing me to any relevant literature. I recently published a book on the aboriginal boomerang: *Boomerang: Behind an Australian Icon*, 1996 which you may know of.

Best Wishes, Philip Jones [pjones@ozemail.com.au](mailto:pjones@ozemail.com.au)

In my reply, I suggested that he obtain Ulrich Stodiek's thesis which I hope is still available from Tublingen, Germany; Richard Vanderhoek's thesis from him in Alaska; and contact Lorenz Bruechert of Vancouver, Canada for his bibliography. Further, I noted that many reports have been written up in this newsletter over the years, and that he should avail himself of early copies. I also suggested, naturally, that he should promptly join our organization.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello,

*I am an Aleut, born and raised in the Aleutian Chain. I am also a member of WAA. My sister-in-law's neighbor knows Leni Clubb, and thought we might be interested in working with Aleuts, Alaska natives that are reviving the use of the atlatl and most importantly, the making of traditional tools. It has been a great project, and we are just starting to teach the carving in school. My brother, sister-in-law, their son and my best friend accompanied me to the first annual atlatl contest in Anchorage earlier this year. We loved it!!! We hope to start a group here in Unalaska soon.*

*O. Patricia Lekanoff-Gregory, P.O. Box 156, Unalaska, AK 99685.*



"Half-Beard," Chuck Butorajac sighting in with his secret weapon.

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## ON TARGET

It's hard to believe how fast WAA is growing... Sixty new members this quarter! Fifteen of them are due to the recruiting efforts of Bob Berg, Owego, NY through his new Thunderbird Atlatl catalog. Many thanks, Bob! Additionally, we recently acquired new members from Italy, Switzerland, Australia, and soon will have one from Brazil. The internet is a wonderful medium for attracting new members.

When you organizers start planning your 1999 events, remember that a brass WAA Grand Champion Award is available upon request from me. An application must be made in writing and WAA safety standards must be followed at your event. Write for information.

At the 1998 WAA Annual Meeting, amended by-laws were approved. Also new is a restated Release from Liability Statement and a new WAA Policy Statement. All are available to members along with a copy of the meeting's minutes for a \$3.00 fee to cover the cost of copying and postage.

Lloyd Pine tells me that the ISAC scores are being mailed to him in good order and within the time limit, and states that he appreciates it very much. He says that there will be about 90 to 100 ISAC contests in 1998. Good work, ISAC organizers!

A few of the new WAA tee shirts are still available on a first ordered, first served basis. These white, with black and red design, quality shirts can be ordered from me for \$12.00 plus \$3.00 Priority Mail shipping. (Quantities and sizes available at this time are: 1 Large, 8 Xlarge, and 4 XXLarge.)

Your Secretary, Leni Clubb, can be reached at PO Box 56, Ocotillo, CA or e-mail at: [leniwaa@inreach.com](mailto:leniwaa@inreach.com)

### CHECK THIS OUT

An interesting sounding paper, titled "Atlatl Dynamics" was recently published in the journal, *Lithic Technology*, Vol. 23, No. 1. It is a summary of some experimental and theoretical work. According to the author they used a high speed digitizing camera to take stop action pictures of someone throwing a dart with an atlatl. From this data, plus the known masses and moments of inertia of the dart, atlatl, and throwing hand, they were able to derive the force and wrist torque which was applied by the thrower. Then the model for applied force and torque was used in a computer model to calculate the dart velocity and other arbitrary atlatl dimensions and dart mass. The paper is available from the author for a charge of \$2.00. Contact Dick Baugh, 490 Gary Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306. \*\*\*\*\*

### IN THE MILL

Ray Strischek, noted atlatl researcher and champion thrower is working on a new report you will be seeing in a future issue of *The Atlatl*. This study is on atlatl grips and spur design as it relates to increased accuracy and decreased misfires. I, for one, am looking forward to it. \*\*\*\*\*

### MORE COMPETITION NEWS

The World Atlatl Open was held on a windy June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Fort Caspar Rendezvous and Primitive Skills contest in Casper, Wyoming. High scorers in the World Atlatl Open were:

#### Juniors

1<sup>st</sup> Alex Pritchard 25X, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff Petterson 13X, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Duke 13.

#### Women

1<sup>st</sup> Susie Brown 21X, Leni Clubb 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> Judy Pritchard 18X.

#### Men

1<sup>st</sup> Ken Wee 28XX, 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Richard 27, 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlie Brown 26 (after a sudden death playoff with Jim Ray).

This contest was followed by The American Field Round with the following outcome:

#### Juniors

Jeff Petterson 20, Alex Pritchard 13, Mike Duke 11.

#### Women

Susie Brown 16, Stephanie Ross 15, Leni Clubb 12.

#### Men

Ken Wee 27X, Dean Pritchard 25, Russell Richard 25.

Note, a sudden death playoff was necessary to determine 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place between Dean Pritchard and Russell Richard. The World Champion for 1998 was Ken Wee.

Two ISAC events and an "Atlatl Golf" tournament rounded out the weekend's competition. The above was furnished by Ranger Rick Young at Fort Caspar. \*\*\*\*\*

### A CLEAN SWEEP FOR THE KEEFER CLAN

by Chuck Butorajac

The Pennsylvania State Atlatl Championship was firmly decided when the entire Keefer family showed the rest of the 18 throwers "how it is done". This September 19th competition consisted of two throws each from 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 meters at both a standard ISAC-sized target and a 3-D deer target. Slightly shorter distances were used for women and youth.

The results were:

MEN		WOMEN	
Terry Keefer	120	Sharon Keefer	85X
Gary Fogelman	115	Toni Roberts	75
Denny Bard	110	Kay Inman	65XX

In the Youth division, Tesha Keefer took first with 45.

Top ISAC scores were Ray Strischek with 89X, Denny Bard 79, Gary Fogelman 78, and Martin Strischek's best ever 77X.

Several fun throws were included in the day's events, including throwing at helium filled balloons suspended 15-20 feet in the air. Dana Klein, Terry Keefer, and Chuck Butorajac brought them to earth in record time. Another "just for fun" throw involved casting darts from 15 to 20 yards at a deer-sized moving target. Believe me, if it had been a live deer on the run, with 3 to 8 hits each run, we would have had meat on the table every time. The final throw was after dark at the faint glow of an ISAC target.

Conrad Grove, a feature writer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* spent two days with us and was totally impressed. His lengthy report was published in the Sunday Sports section of his paper September 27th.

### EATERS OF THE DEAD - AN UPDATE

In last year's October issue of *The Atlatl*, our front page report by Wyoming archaeologist and WAA member Russell Richard told us all about the Disney film *Eaters of the Dead*, and reported on his assistance in teaching the film makers how to make and use atlatls. We had expected to see this film in the theaters last winter or at the latest, in the Spring. We find out now that it has been delayed because of a back injury received by the star, Antonio Banderas, and also because of the studio's desire to reshoot some scenes. Additionally, there is a rumor that it has been delayed so as not to compete with Banderas' current adventure hit, *The Mask of Zorro*. Don't look for the film under the Michael Crichton book's title, *Eaters of the Dead*. It has been renamed *The 13<sup>th</sup> Warrior*.

**IT'S SNOW OFFICIAL.** There is now a Pennsylvania State Atlatl Association. Election of officers will be held at the 1999 PA State Championships. Eve Dawson, their media consultant has wonderful ideas on how to promote our sport.

**Lighting for Musee Le Mas d'Azil,  
Ariege Pyrenees  
A special request  
from Charlie Brown, WAA President**

In an old building in a small town in southern France resides one of the finest collections of prehistoric artifacts in the world, including many fine examples of beautifully carved bone, antler and ivory items from the Magdalenian period—some 14,000 years ago. In addition to sculptures, beads, batons, etc, are the most beautiful examples of spearthrowers (propulseurs) to be found anywhere. Many of these artifacts were found in the Grotte de Mas d'Azil, a gigantic cave near the edge of town.

While the "gang of eight," the American contingent, reported on elsewhere in this newsletter, was touring the museum, Mayor Forestier and Museum Curator Alteirac told us that although proud of their museum, the exhibits could be much better presented if they had a better lighting system. At this time, however, they have no money to accomplish this improvement.

Well, we decided to set up a "Museum Lighting Fund" to aid our friends in Mas d'Azil. To that end, we have already collected in excess of \$550.00. I leave it to you to come up with ways of collecting Lighting Fund money. In addition to individual donations, a possible way to raise money might be to have a small event participation fee, a dollar or two, or maybe a raffle for a donated atlatl and spears. I know that we can get creative. We ask those of you who wish to help to please send collected or individual donations to: **Museum Lighting Fund, WAA Treasurer, Heidi Daetwyler, PO Box 1633, Dillon, Colorado 80435.**

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**The Role of WAA**

There has been confusion expressed by some of the members' and outside organizations' understanding of the role of The World Atlatl Association, Inc. (WAA) It is important to note that the WAA does not "sponsor" or "sanction" any atlatl tournament or contest. It was necessary for this organization to take this position due to the potential liability associated with such events. This decision was duly passed by the membership present at the 1994 Annual Meeting held in Radium, Colorado.

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 as an incentive to adhere to a

strict set of safety rules, a WAA plaque to be presented to top throwers at competitions.

The greatest asset in the WAA organization is the membership. It is your love of the atlatl and the 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.

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**WAA AWARDS - 1998**

Superimposed over a beautiful photograph of Ray Madden in the act of casting a dart are the words:

*World Atlatl Association  
President's Award  
Presented to  
Ray Madden*

*Many a time an atlatl has been drawn from Ray's "bucket of atlatls" and along with his favorite dart put into the hands of a first-time user. Then with Ray's expert guidance and infinite patience, this new user with wonderment and excitement becomes one of us. Thanks Ray!*

*Charles A. Brown - President of the World Atlatl Association*

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For the fourth time only, the World Atlatl Association, Inc. Fellowship Award was given out. Although the presentation was to be made by the President, that honor went to Bill Tate, as Charlie was having his broken ankle treated. The recipient was none other than our Belgian friend, Pascal Chauvaux. Wording on the award, printed in English and French, was as follows:

This certificate is given in recognition of many years of outstanding and valued service to The World Atlatl Association for the organizational, educational, and leadership skills he has displayed, his indispensable assistance in organizing and holding spear throwing events throughout Europe, and keeping records for publication in the organization's newsletter, *The Atlatl*. The WAA acknowledges by this proclamation

**Pascal Chauvaux**

as a FELLOW of The World Atlatl Association, Inc., and grants him all of the entitlements and rights of this organization.

**FELLOWSHIP**

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We congratulate both outstanding individuals. Well Done!

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**EXCITING NEW COMPETITIONS SCHEDULED**

All Hallows Eve Atlatl Throw, Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> - Halloween. Our President, Charlie Brown is holding the first Halloween competition at his home at 14560 W. 58<sup>th</sup> Place, Arvada, Colorado. He and Susie are planning a full-fledged event with "very creative" contests beginning at 9:30 a.m. Costumes are optional. Plan on a pot-luck lunch as well.

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The 1998 Michigan Atlatl Championship to be held Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> in Chelsea, Michigan looks mighty interesting too. An intensive one-day collection of contests is planned and is open to everyone. On tap is a 3-D course of 30 throws, A European style tournament also with 30 throws, A Michigan Atlatl Association tournament which involves 17 throws, and an ISAC with its 10 throws. Eighty-seven casts in total. The thrower making the highest combined score will be proclaimed the Michigan State Champion.

Ron Mertz who heads up The Missouri Atlatl Association, tells us that Ray Strischek obtained a phenomenal score of 56.7 on the European Style Competition August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Summer Harvest Festival in

Franklin Grove, Illinois. He had 92 points and 28 hits for anyone who might want to check Ron's math. This may be the American record for the Euro-style contest.

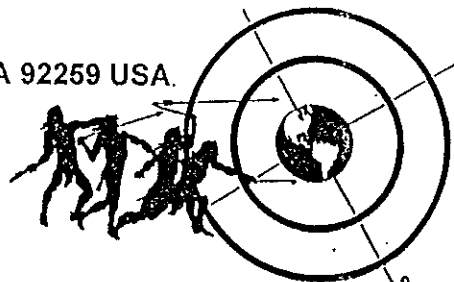
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**PUBLICITY PUBLICITY PUBLICITY**  
by Bill Tate

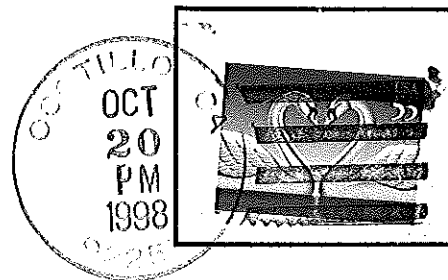
Atlatls are growing in popularity and rapidly gaining the public's eye through the many wonderful newspaper and TV reports. Among the best reports is the article mentioned above in Chuck Butorajac's piece on The Pennsylvania State Championships, but also we have made news through a story by Nevada's Keith Rogers with photos by Jim Lauri in the April 18<sup>th</sup> *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and *Las Vegas Sun*, and Lori Rittel's feature article featured the Montana Mammoth Hunt in the *Big Sky Weekly* from Montana. From the San Diego, California *Union Tribune* comes another fine piece by John Wilkens, featuring our Secretary, Leni Clubb. Ron Mertz was immortalized on the pages of *The St. Louis Post Dispatch* last May. Of course Jerry Schaefer's life-size mammoth didn't fail to attract the attention of the St. Paul, Minnesota *Pioneer Press* or *The Grand Forks Herald* from North Dakota. Robert Hamilton's May competition at Crystal Springs, Utah spurred atlatl articles in several area and regional papers. These and many other reports are calling attention to our sport. I would say we are doing our job of promoting the atlatl. Keep up the good work!

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. (U. S. Funds Only)

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