

# The ATL ATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

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BILL TATE, EDITOR

## Iceman Discovery in British Columbia, Canada

by  
Lorenz W. Bruechert

In mid-August, three teachers on a hunting trip in Tatshenshini-Alsek National Wilderness Park were crossing a glacier when they discovered the well preserved frozen body of an ancient man --first "Iceman" in North America.

The body had become partly exposed as the glacier melted, and was found dressed in a cloak made of pelts of small animals. Artifacts were scattered about the body due to the continuous shifting of the ice. The materials scattered around the iceman included a walking stick, wooden spear and bone knife, a leather pouch containing edible leaves and remains of fish, a broad brimmed hat, and a wooden dart-thrower (atlatl).

It is believed that the man was crossing the glacier when he fell through soft snow covering a crevasse, where he became wedged and died. Some archaeologists in British Columbia had estimated the date of the Iceman to be approximately 10,000 years old because of the types of artifacts found; however, after closer examination of these artifacts, a more recent age of 250 years to as much as 1000 years was estimated. Now, the results of radiocarbon dates have been made public. The age given is approximately A.D. 1445, some 550 years ago. This means that the remains date to a time 50 years before Columbus' voyage to the New World, and about 300 years before the first known European contact with aboriginals along the northwest coast.

The human remains and artifacts were recovered by a special team of experts that included an archaeologist, a forensic anthropologist, an artifact conservator, a glacier specialist, members of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and representatives of the British Columbia government. The human remains and artifacts were first transported to a laboratory in Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, then recently the human remains were moved to the laboratories at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, B.C. Elders of CAFN have named this man "Kwaday Dan Sinchi," or Long Ago Person Found.

Before Researchers and analysts can begin the long task of studying these human remains

and artifacts, a management team consisting of three members of CAFN and three members of the British Columbia Archaeology Branch will meet to discuss the research process and the various research committees that will be involved. The research committees will likely begin their work sometime in January 2000.

The significance of finding a dart-thrower with the iceman is of great importance to understanding how useful this weapon was for early hunters. The finding of the dart thrower is significant for a variety of reasons. First, this is only the second dart-thrower ever found in British Columbia and the first found at high elevation. The first such object was found at the bottom of a drained lake in southern B. C. (Keddie 1988). Second, it is the only dart-thrower to be found south of the Arctic Circle in Canada. Third, the Iceman's location is within a 300 mile distance of another important site where dart-thrower shaft fragments and dart blanks were recovered. Samples of the shaft fragments produced radiocarbon age estimates of  $4360 \pm 50$  B.P. (Before the Present) (Kuzyk et al. 1999:213) and  $6860 \pm 70$  B.P. Material associated with the dart blanks produced a radiocarbon age estimate of  $3830 \pm 50$  B.P. (Hare 1992:2). It was believed that early people were using the dart-thrower technology to hunt caribou in southwestern Yukon. The discovery of the Iceman with a dart-thrower will likely support the theory that interior aboriginal groups were indeed using the weapon to hunt caribou. The remains of a moose were found close by the Iceman and were well preserved in the glacier. The moose remains were also taken to determine if the animal died at the same time as the Iceman. Fourth, this dart thrower is a new type and is not similar to those used by Tlingit people of southern Alaska (Bruechert 1997).

Further updates on the Iceman or "Kwaday Dan Sinchi" will be made in forthcoming newsletters, especially as we learn more about the dart-thrower. For more information please check the Archaeology web site: [www.archaeology.org](http://www.archaeology.org).

#### Literature Cited

Bruechert, Lorenz W.

1997 The dart-thrower Along the West Coast of North America: Distribution and typology. Unpublished manuscript.

Hare, Greg

1999 In Pursuit of Prehistoric Caribou: Alpine Ice patch Research in Southwest Yukon. Yukon Historical and Museums Association, Spring/Summer 1999:1-2.

Keddie, Grant

1988 B.C.'s First Atlatl. The Midden, 22:3.

Kuzyk, Gerald W., Donald E. Russell, Richard S. Farnell, Ruth M Gotthardt, P. Gregory Hare, and Erik Blake

1999 In Pursuit of Prehistoric Caribou on Thandlat, Southern Yukon. Arctic, 52(2): 214-219.

Once again WAA has made national news. This time the nation is Canada. On Wednesday, September 15, 1999, reporter Mike Randolph of the *National Post* did a piece connecting the modern interest in the atlatl with the find reported on above by Lorenz Bruechert. Let's keep up the publicity. There are still a few people who do not know about us or the atlatl.

#### Native American Contemporary Art Show Winning Entry – An Atlatl by Anne and Amil Pedro

Weeks before the atlatl competition and WAA annual meeting, Cahokia sponsored the Native American Contemporary Art Show. This event featured 18 renowned artists from throughout the United States. There was stiff competition with jewelry, sculpture, wood carvings, pottery etc. Each artist competed on a point system against the others. Amil took first place, winning with an atlatl he had made. About 65 WAA brochures were passed out to visitors and others at the event. We hope you get some new members from this effort.

## Major Atlatl Bibliography Available Soon

Interested members may want to e-mail Lorenz W. Bruecher at [bruecher@sfu.ca](mailto:bruecher@sfu.ca) to order a copy of his long-awaited detailed, annotated bibliography. Many years in the making, this 1999 publication which is being privately printed by the author in Vancouver, Canada, is titled: *Old and New World Dart-throwers and Related Topics: An Annotated Bibliography*.

### ABSTRACT:

This annotated bibliography is designed as an information resource for archaeologists, anthropologists, ethnologists, and persons with a general interest in the dart-thrower technology. The geographical areas covered in this bibliography are the continents of North America, South America, Australia, and Europe, and the South Pacific Islands. The bibliography includes references to archaeological publications, site reports, books, monographs, theses, popular articles, conference papers and journal articles that date from the eighteenth century to the present time. The citations deal with discussions regarding ethnohistoric/ethnographic observations of aboriginal dart-thrower use, archaeological discoveries, dart-thrower weights, rock art, museum collections, darts, spears, dart points, spear points, films, and educational material. References include abstracts that pertain directly to the dart-thrower technology, where available. The bibliography consists of over 1000 citations, annotated in alphabetical order by the author's name within each category to which the citation was assigned.

Tesha Keefer came home from school one day last week announcing that they have been studying archaeology and related material. Then, from her history book, she showed us a photo of an atlatl and another of some spears. She had been asked by her teacher if she could bring some additional information to school... Well, we sure obliged. In addition to sending off a video and an article on the subject, we are doing a live demonstration for the sixth graders on Monday. "Ain't" it great to know that the history books are advertising for us?

Terry and Shar Keefer

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I am desperately trying to figure out why Kamikaze pilots wore helmets.



## »»» ON TARGET

by Leni Clubb

First, I want to thank those of you who signed those gigantic cards of "Get-Well" wishes and "Happy Birthday." They really made my day. Such a nice thing to do! I really appreciated it.

*(Ed. comment: Many of you may not know that our Secretary and Treasurer, Leni Clubb experienced a heart attack recently and was hospitalized. This prevented her from attending our annual meeting held at Cahokia last month. Leni also just celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.)*

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If you have access to the Internet, be sure to look up the newest atlatl web site by a WAA member out on the Aleutian Chain in Unalaska. It has descriptions of "throwing boards" modified for hunting on the water from kayaks, plus construction of throwing boards and darts. See: [www.arctic.net/~dickson](http://www.arctic.net/~dickson).

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Speaking of the Internet, have you found our new web site by our President and his wife, Charlie and Susie Brown? You will really be proud of WAA as it certainly tells the story of our organization – past and present. It can be found at: [www.worldatlatl.org](http://www.worldatlatl.org).

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Even if you are not on the Internet, you can access our atlatl web sites at your nearest Kinkos (not an advertisement) for a nominal fee of about 20 cents a minute. There is a lot of information out there! In addition to those mentioned above, you should check out Dean Pritchard's site: [www.netnow.micron.net/~atlatl](http://www.netnow.micron.net/~atlatl)

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To organizers of year 2000 contests: This is a reminder that a World Atlatl Association 4½ by 3½ inch brass Grand Champion Award is available at no charge to your group. All you have to do is write me a note and request an application form. The plaque is to be given as an award to the top scorer in a contest between first place winners in the following three categories – Men, Women, Youth.

## **The World Open Atlatl Contest Contest Results**

by Richard L. Young

The World Open Atlatl Contest was held on June 26, 1999 on the grounds of Fort Caspar Museum. The event featured a full day of atlatl contests to include a "hunt" round, American Field round, WAA "golf" round and an ISAC round. In conjunction with the atlatl contests, the event featured primitive skills contests with spear, tomahawk, knife, and archery. During the weekend, visitors also enjoyed a craft fair, Native American dancers, Cowboy Action shoot-out, can-can dancers and numerous food booths.

The morning atlatl contest was the hunt round. This event was scored as part of the aggregate scores, combined with the other primitive skills events. Divided into three categories, a list of the winners follows.

### **Mens Division:**

Charlie Brown-25X

Bob Perkins-25

Russell Richard- 24X

### **Womens Division:**

Susie Brown-23X

Judy Pritchard-14/Playoff

Ann Kimball-14/Playoff

### **Juniors:**

Alex Pritchard-18

Sean Corrigan.

Following the hunt round, an American Field round competition was held. The two events were combined, with both scores used to determine this year's World Open Champion. With a combined score of 57-2X, the Champion this year is Charlie Brown. The second and third places each scored a 54X and required a playoff. Jim Ray took second place, with Bob Perkins finishing third overall.

The next event was the WAA golf round. Using the previous two events, then subtracting the golf scores, we held a shoot-off with the winners of each of the three categories. Jim Ray, Susie Brown, and Alex Pritchard competed for an Atlatl Champion plaque presented by Charlie Brown. The winner was Jim Ray.

## **Second Annual Saegertown Atlatl Tournament**

by Gary Fogelman

A large contingent was on hand for this July 24-25th event. Attendees came from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and ...Georgia! The event was held at Saegertown, Crawford County in northwestern

Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the long-running Artifact & Fossil Show sponsored by the French Creek Archaeological Society.

The local event was shooting a cardboard deer cutout, from distances of 5-10-15-20 meters. A heart shot scored 5, lungs 4, animal 2. Men, women, and youth all competed at the same distances, and trophies were awarded to the top three women and the top three men.

Contestants could do the local event as many times as they wanted; only their best score counted.

### **Womens Division:**

1<sup>st</sup>-Toni Roberts

2<sup>nd</sup>-Sharon Keefer

3<sup>rd</sup>-Margie Takoch

### **Mens Division:**

1<sup>st</sup>-Terry Keefer

2<sup>nd</sup>-Gary Fogelman

3<sup>rd</sup>-Doug Majorsky, 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Youth:**

1<sup>st</sup>-Charlie Bracken

2<sup>nd</sup>-Bryan Smith

3<sup>rd</sup>-Tasha Keefer.

For the two ISAC, the top scores of those throwing 55 and above are reported:

Doug Majorsky-92XX

Gary Fogelman-88X

Terry Keefer-85X

Mark Bracken-83X

Don Roberts-81

Charles Butorajac-80

Frank Takoch-75

Jack Rowe-73

Paul Marko-62

Paul Gleckl-62

Sharon Keefer-57

Margie Takoch-55

Doug Majorsky (15 years old) threw terrifically in the ISAC round on Saturday! This places him in a tie with Ray Strischek for 2<sup>nd</sup> this year.

Turnout was great, with 21 participants in the local contest and the ISACs. Besides the contests mentioned, participants also did some fun throws, such as closest to the pin, distance throw, and shooting through a flying foam frisbee. Everyone is looking forward to the event next year to be held the last weekend in July.

## Obituary

by Leni Clubb

Dr. Manuel White of East Helena, Montana, died July 22, 1999 at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and many family members. Manuel was born in the Philippines, attended the University of California at Berkeley, and the Chicago Medical School. He practiced as a thoracic and vascular surgeon at the Fort Harrison Veterans Administration Hospital and retired in 1991. Dr. White was a charter Member of the World Atlatl Association from 1988 and hosted a number of atlatl contests at his home where "The Mammoth Hunt" was born. On July 10, 1990, Manuel White set a world record atlatl dart distance throw of 476 feet 5 inches. This beat the then standing Guinness record, set in Australia, of 326 feet 6 inches by an amazing 150 feet. He participated in the Senior Olympics and Big Sky Games, where he was a world record holder in discus, shot-put, and hammer and vault. He will be missed by his friends and fellow atlatlists.

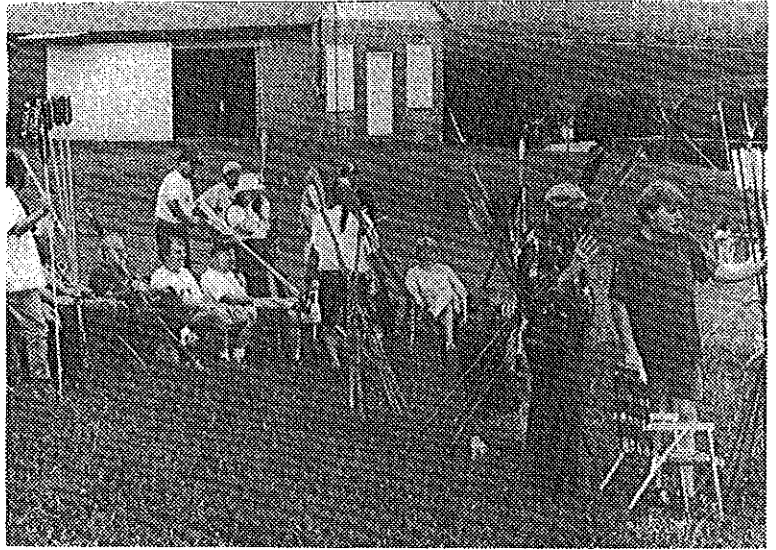
### Atlatls at the Keefer's, July 10-11, 1999

by Margie Takoch

The fun started Friday Night (June 10, 1999) at the Keefer's, with those who had a long drive coming in early. Even with a torrential downpour, it did not dampen anyone's spirit. Saturday morning, groups of three or more could throw a European round through the woods or enter a local contest throwing at hay bales. Throws were unlimited and the top score counted. Around noon people headed north to Fannettsburg Native American Weekend festival where the WAA ISAC was held. There was a crowd of spectators, making the adrenalin run when you were on the line.

From there it was back to the Keefer's for more European and local rounds. There was a very nice Blue Grass and playing for our enjoyment. At dusk, the Chief of the Secret Ear of Corn Society, Dana Klein handed out kernels of corn for everyone for the Ooga Booga ceremony to be held after dark. All new inductees were kept separate from the clan members.

With assistance from Tesha Keefer and Thunderbird Berg, each inductee was walked alone to the initiation.



And of course, you are sworn to secrecy, so I can say no more on this!

Sunday brought clear skies. After a practice session at the Keefer's, the group once again headed for Fanettsburg for the ISAC round.

### Top scores for the ISAC:

Ray Strischek-91  
Terry Keefer-84X  
Denny Bard-84  
Courtney Birkett-57X  
Melissa Dildine-50  
Doug Majorsky-74X  
Tommy Goble-52  
Bob Rowe-51.

### Top scores over 70 for the European/Local contests:

Doug Majorsky-176  
Terry Keefer-173  
Don Roberts-167  
Denny Bard-160  
Gary Fogelman-155

### Top scores under 70:

Missy Dildine-72  
Andy Majorsky-66  
Tom Goble-58

### Youth

1<sup>st</sup>-Bob Rowe  
2<sup>nd</sup>-Tommy Goble  
3<sup>rd</sup>-Scotty Morely

All in all, it was a fantastic weekend, Thank you Keefer's for a great competition!

## Fremont Indian State Park Contest

by Leni Clubb

Another outstanding event was held at Fremont Indian State Park in Sevier, Utah on June 19, 1999. Pete Weimer, Director of Program, had added three more "killer" target ranges to the already tough target courses up and down hill, through brush, and across ravines with distances from 15 to 2000 meters! The Rangers worked all spring repairing winter damaged trails and paths to make it pleasant for the atlatlists...and it was great even though one of the new target ranges meant that you had to throw over a rushing stream and if you missed...hard luck...and added points. All of the targets have names such as Long Haul, Lone Pine, Wet Arrow Alley, Muley Deep Point, etc. Forty-four throwers and their families came from ten states—Idaho, California, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, and Missouri. Top scores are as follows.

### Ten years and under:

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Sierra Waters
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Ryland Chord
- 3<sup>rd</sup>—Tiffany Weimer.

### Youth:

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Dalan Simmons
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Brooly Chord
- 3<sup>rd</sup>—Carol Rister

### Women:

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Tamara Cameron
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Susie Brown
- 3<sup>rd</sup>—Judy Pritchard

### Men:

- 1<sup>st</sup>—Robert Hamilton
- 2<sup>nd</sup>—Russell Richard
- 3<sup>rd</sup>—Jim Ray

Grand Champion was Robert Hamilton of Ogden, Utah (his third consecutive Grand Champion. win).

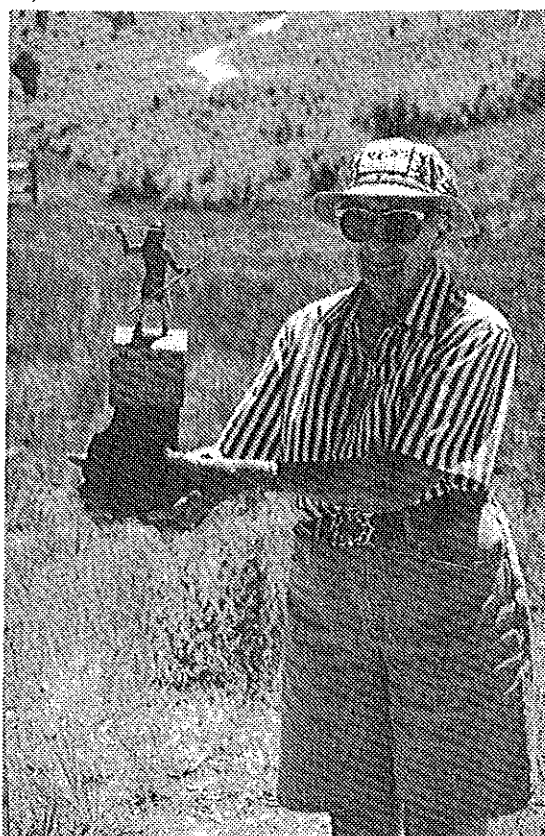


Photo by Charlie Brown

### Leni with the new Leni Clubb Award

The new "Leni Clubb Outstanding Member of WAA Award" was presented to Leni Clubb by Pete Weimer. The award is a sculptured Indian brave, hand carved in wood, standing with atlatl and dart poised for the throw and two darts held in the other hand. The atlatl is made of bone and the darts have obsidian chips for points. The 6 ½ inch figure was sculpted by Jay Henion of Monroe, Utah. Leni is to keep the award until she retires from WAA (hardly-likely), then it is to become a traveling award presented, not necessarily annually, to an outstanding member of the WAA. Charlie Brown or the current president of WAA will be responsible for making future awards.



Thomas Chauvaux (12 years old)  
80 in ISAC

Photo by Pascal Chauvaux

### E-Mail address changes:

Pascal Chauvaux  
[pascalC@swing.be](mailto:pascalC@swing.be)

Robert & Cheryl Berg  
[courier@pronetisp.net](mailto:courier@pronetisp.net)

Jim Gilligan  
[atlatljr@ismi.net](mailto:atlatljr@ismi.net)

## Meadowcroft, Avella, Pennsylvania, June 17, 1999

by Margie Takoch

The weather was really hot (90°F) and muggy, but there was a good number (17-20) of atlatlists to compete. After everyone finished the ISAC, there was a local throw called the Meadowcroft Meadow-Loft.



Meadowcroft - 1999

This contest is thrown from five distances using three spears; the contestant's two highest scores are recorded. Men threw at 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 meters! Women threw from 5 m to 25 m. Everyone had a great time. The 17-year cicada locusts were a slight problem, but they were at the end of their cycle and not as bad as they had been. Everyone was excited to watch the tied world record holders throwing together. It was great to see Ray Strischek and Gary Fogelman throwing the ISAC together, along with Denny Bard, Chuck Butorajac, and Paul Gleckl.

## Correspondence

Howdy,

Hope this finds you well. Thanks again for the wonderful time [ed. note: The writer is referring to the Mammoth Hunt of July 17, 1999.] Can't remember when I had that much fun throwing sticks! Here is my \$10.00 to join up.

Deer Lodge, Montana

Hi Leni,

I am writing you from the Basque country, in the north of Spain. I learned the rudiments of the atlatl from an old French archaeologist and I got on [to] making my own atlatl and darts using bamboo and other materials. I am interested in your association. Is it still active? Are fees and prices as they can be found in your web site?

Best regards,  
Inigo Arizaga, Spain

## WAA Response:

*Yes, we are a very active organization with nearly 500 members world-wide. The membership fee is \$12.00 in U. S. currency. We have a 12 to 14 page newsletter, "The Atlatl" published quarterly (January, April, July, and October). We have members in England, France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, as well as The United States. The European group has been conducting spear throwing competitions for the past several years and has many scheduled this year. The newsletter has a calendar of all atlatl competitions in the current year.*

*I will be happy to send you information on our association, if you will e-mail me your mailing address.*

*Leni Clubb, Executive Secretary*

Dear Sir,

This letter may come as a surprise, coming as it does from the north of Scotland! But to explain, I am a 59 year old civil engineer, retired through ill health, who has had a long-lasting interest in "primitive" man and his ingenuity regarding use of local materials to make hunting weapons which extended his abilities to hunt, etc.

Because of this interest and the amount of time I have on my hands, I have several projects which I would like to accomplish in the time remaining to me—for instance creating a genuine "English Long bow" from local, Scottish yew.

However, having seen an article in *National Geographic*, which brought to my notice the fact that there existed an organization such as yours, I am now eager to find out more. I would, therefore, be most grateful to receive from you the following information:

- 1) Do you have a magazine which covers your activities, etc.?
- 2) Do you know of any books which cover your interest (American books probably)?
- 3) Do you know if there is a reciprocal organization in the United Kingdom?

If you find you can supply any of the above information, please write to me and advise me regarding the postal costs, etc., which I would be pleased to reimburse.

Yours sincerely,  
James Fraser, Scotland

Dear Bill,

Great issue of *The Atlatl* for July!!! I especially liked the article on stone/shell finger loops. It explains a lot about the petroglyphs we find here in Nevada.

Erik R. Batzloff - The No-Bear



Leni,

...Thanks for sending me the information and the membership applications. I will gather new members for The World Atlatl Association. I may even have the start of a California Atlatl Association (CAA -- hey, that kind of floats off the tongue... Caaaaaaaaa), who knows?

As I said before, I had a wonderful time at Valley of Fire. It was very nice meeting all of you...like finding my long lost family or something...

Until next time...

Tom Mills, California

Dear Sir:

Having read your article in the March issue of H.T. 1996, I would like more information on your association.

I am at present a docent at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum. Since the history of the Native Americans is their prime purpose, I have in my tour explained the history and use of the atlatl, never dreaming that there was an organization that covered its history so completely.

Please send me the information on joining your organization and your prices on the atlatl and other related items.

Robert M. Brinton  
Littlerock California

Never raise your hands to your children...  
It leaves your groin unprotected.

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## REPORT OF THE ISAC RULES COMMITTEE

by Lloyd Pine

The International Standard Accuracy Competition (ISAC) Rules Committee met at Cahokia in September. The main purpose was to try to get all of the issues involving possible rule changes on the table and to have a preliminary discussion. The year 2000 rules will be finalized in November 1999. We are concerned that there is some laxity in enforcing the present rules. With the top scores approaching 100, we have to be very careful to ensure that all of the contests are truly identical. There are several issues that both competitors and organizers need to be aware of now.

It has been observed that there are a lot of occasions where the thrower is stepping over the throwing line and that it is not being "called." Part of the problem is that often a single stake is being used to mark the throwing distance. Unless the thrower is standing directly behind the stake, it is difficult to

enforce this rule. The present rules infer, but do not directly state that the distance be marked with a line. The year 2000 rules will require a line and we would like to have organizers start using a line for the rest of this year and to enforce the rule on stepping over the line.

It has also been observed that dart diameter is not being rigorously checked. We do not believe that there are many over-sized darts being used, but this needs to be checked more closely.

It has also been observed that after throwing the five darts at the 15 meter distance, some groups have added a practice throw at 20 meters before throwing the five darts for record. This is the equivalent to giving a basketball player a practice throw before he makes his actual "free-throw." The whole purpose of the ISAC is to have a truly standardized contest so that any atlatl in the world can compare his skill level with any other without face to face competition. Such "local options" undermine the basic integrity of the contest and are way outside the intent of the rules. Just because there is not a rule against some action, does not mean that it is permitted. The more correct reasoning is that if an action is not specifically permitted in the rules, it is probably forbidden. If in doubt, check with the rules committee. (Ed. Comment: Note that Lloyd has a new address: Lloyd Pine, 1440 Ormandy Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, USA.)

We believe that the best ones to protect the integrity of this contest are the contestants themselves. No one wants to throw a personal best high score in a contest that is in any way questionable. As an addendum to the year 2000 rules, we are going to publish a statement of intent. This document will discuss the reasoning behind the rules that led to the final wording. We hope that this will help people to better understand the rules and will also help keep the contests truly *standard*.

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## 1999 Standard Accuracy Contests

by Lloyd Pine

A more complete listing of 1999 ISAC scores will be presented in the next issue of The Atlatl, however some of the highlights of the year to date are listed below:

Top score at this writing is Terry Keefer's 97-2X accomplished on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Ray Strischek



and fifteen year old Doug Majorsky both hold scores of 92-2X. These exceptional scores are followed by:

Gary Fogleman	90
Denny Bard	90
Richard Lyons	89-X
Pascal Chauvaux	89
Doug Miller	89
John Whittaker	87-X
Chris Pappas	87
Chuck Butorajac	87
Jean Speckens	86-3X
Paul Gleckl	86
Jack Rowe	85-X
Scott Van Arsdale	85-X
Charlie Brown	85-X
Ray Madden	85

Among the top women scorers are Sharon Keefer's 71 and Susie Brown's 70-X.

Probably most notable showing in this years competitions are the high scores made by our youths. 15 year old Doug Majorsky's 92-2X is an outstanding example. Other top scoring youths are Gael Speckens (14) with 82, and Thomas Chauvaux (12) with 80, both from Belgium, and Bob Rowe age 15 scoring 78-2X.

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he becomes angry? But when you take him in a car, he sticks his head out of the window.

#### 500<sup>th</sup> Member

by Leni Clubb

Our 500<sup>th</sup> member is a family membership going to Jim and Patti Tucka of O'Fallon, Missouri. This was a gift membership awarded by Patti's Uncle, and past WAA President, Troy Helmick. Congratulations!

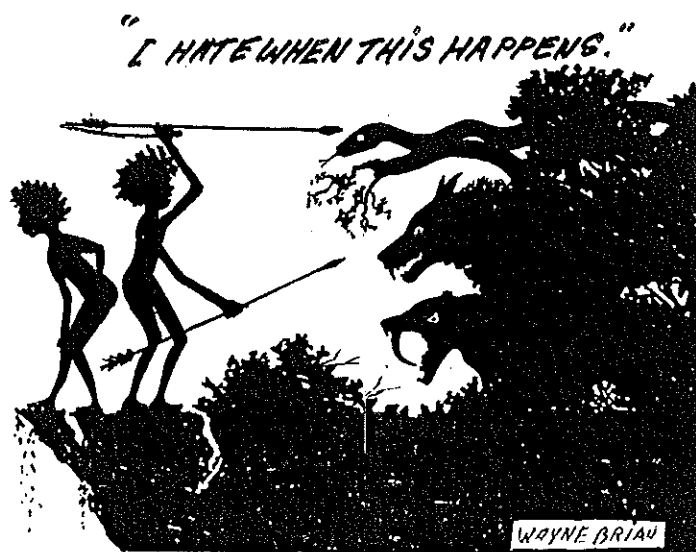
Ever wonder if illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?

[Ed. Comment: It is interesting to note that in Europe, as in the United States, the young throwers are making remarkable scores. See below how many top throwers are 15 years of age or younger. It is awesome! This second generation will soon take over.]

## Plan on Italy in year 2000

by Bill Tate

Our good friend, Bruno Morucci is hoping to have some American participants at the major July 8-9, 2000 European Competition to be held at Abruzzo National Park located approximately 100 miles from Rome and to attend the Roman Jubilee-- 2000. To help us along, he has obtained special low cost housing located only a mile from the Park for a group of from 5 to 6 people, at a rate of about \$16.00 a day per person. Additionally, he is offering a Bed & Breakfast rate of approximately \$27.00 a day near the historical center of Rome (only 300 meters from Vatican City). Bruno promises a FREE tourist guide (Bruno, himself, no doubt) at the park and in Rome. This seems like too much to pass by. I strongly advise any of you who can form such a group to do so immediately as there will be a major tourist invasion to Rome for the Jubilee. By all means, visit one of the most enthusiastic WAA members in Europe. Please keep your WAA President, Charlie Brown informed at (303) 421-0035 or [sazi@prodigy.net](mailto:sazi@prodigy.net) of your intentions to organize such a group. You may contact Bruno at [arca@fivenet.com](mailto:arca@fivenet.com).



(1331-1391). The contest was held around the fortified

## NEWS FROM EUROPE

### July 3-4 1999 European Championships at Abruzzo National Park in Italy:

by Bruno Morucci

A hundred people were present at the Ninth European Championship of Prehistoric Games. One day of primitive archery was followed by a day of atlatl. Meanwhile flint knapping, primitive fire making and other demonstrations were conducted. We offer a special thanks for the generous hospitality of the La Luna camping facilities, and the Abruzzo National Park for the pleasant surroundings for our technical meetings, cultural and sporting events—and for so much friendship.

Our highest scorers with the atlatl were:

Adults age 12 and over

PLACE	NAME	POINTS	HITS	SCORE
1	Pascal Chauvaux	69	26	39.87
2	Thomas Chauvaux	43	21	20.07
3	Dario Proia	39	15	13.00
4	Patrice Commenge	29	17	10.96
5	Claudio Sarti	28	14	8.71
6	Marcello Bacchi	27	11	6.60
7	Bruno Morucci	23	10	5.11
8	Jacques Trouillet	18	12	4.80
8 (tie)	Ginette Rouch	18	12	4.80
10	Michel Lourde	20	10	4.44
Under age 12				
1	Robin Morucci	18	7	2.80
2	Martin Chauvaux	6	3	0.40
3	Riccardo Veggiano	5	2	0.22

Top ISAC scores were for men, 82 by Pascal Chauvaux of Belgium, for youth (under 16), Thomas Chauvaux with a 43, and for the women, Italy's Patrizia Fabrizio with a score of 26.

[Ed. Comment: A note from Pascal Chauvaux states: WAA member and friend Bruno Morucci found a nice place in Abruzzo protected Park, a town called Alfedena in the central mountains to hold this ISAC, and to his knowledge, for the first time the contestants were invited to show their skill in a nighttime ISAC!!]

\*\*\*\*\*

### Other European Championship Competitions by Pascal Chauvaux

Following the above competition reported on by Bruno, the next contest was Mauvezin (Hautes Pyrenees, France) on July 17-18. Mauvezin is a well known town with a medieval Castle of Gaston Febus

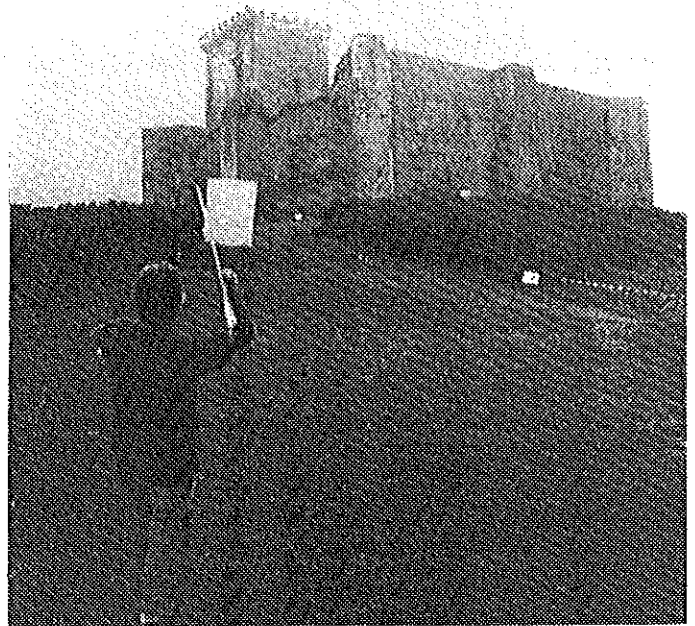


Photo by Pascal Chauvaux

### Jean Speckens of Belgium at Mauvezin

castle in the moat! It was a bit less mad than last year's Lourdes contest, but still difficult. [Ed. Comment. Older members will remember that at the Lourdes contest last year, our WAA President broke his ankle and others of us were totally exhausted by the difficulty of throwing that mountainous course.] Forty-six contestants braved the muggy mist at Mauvezin. The best were:

PLACE	NAME	COUNTRY	POINTS	HITS
1	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	82	28
2	Pascal Rouzo	France	72	22
3	Thomas Chauvaux	Belgium	59	22
4	Bernard Ginelli	France	60	21
5	Emmanuel Demoulin	France	54	20

Top ISAC scores went to Pascal Chauvaux with 80, and Ismael Yahemdi and Bernard Ginelli, both of France, with scores of 77 and 75, respectively.

After the competition, about 30 people were invited to visit Gargas Cave to see Paleolithic paintings of hands, horses, and bison. It was a great ending for the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

A week later, the next contest was in Tarascon-sur-Ariege (Ariege, France) on July 24-25. Forty-five throwers gathered in the big Prehistoric Art Park. We were lucky with the weather. (I don't know what the weather has been in the USA, but in Europe, it has been awful!) This year we had the opportunity to visit Niaux Cave with its Paleolithic paintings of bulls, deer, and bison. This was followed by a big bison



Florence Cavalin of France at the Tarascon contest.

grill with "prehistoric" food such as chestnuts, mushrooms and vegetables. Again, the Park made miracles.

Top throwers were:

1	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	85	26
2	Thomas Chauvaux	Belgium	63	24
3	Ismael Yahemdi	France	61	22
4	Bernard Ginelli	France	62	21
5	Steve Cabaraux	Belgium	52	23

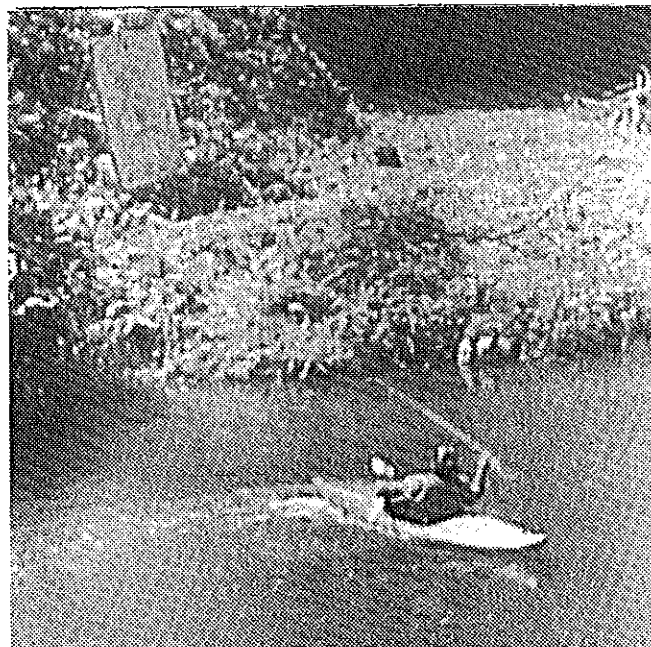
The best ISAC scores were Pascal Chauvaux with 86, Ismael Yahemdi 79, Emmanuel Demoulin 76, Steve Cabaraux 74, Gael Speckens (age 14) 73 and Bernard Ginelli with 71.

\*\*\*\*\*

A week later, Sunday Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> we were in front of the gigantic cave of Le Mas d'Azil. The sun was present, but it was not enough to recover our energy spent on the Saturday evening meal and dance party. (Who said we are crazy?) Top scores are listed below:

1	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	79	23
2	Bernard Bouffier	France	47	24
3	Frederic Gauthier	France	54	19
4	Thomas Chauvaux	Belgium	50	20
5	Daniel Marty	France	46	16

ISAC scores were Pascal Chauvaux 85, Jean Verge 75, Jehan Speckens 68, and Thomas Chauvaux 66. (The last two are both under 16 yr.)



Italian WAA member Marcello Bacchi at Mas d'Azil in southern France throwing from a kayak  
(photo by Bruno Morucci.)

\*\*\*\*\*

A week later, August 7-8, (without monotony) 54 people got back to Tautavel for this annual meet. It is probably not necessary to remind you that Tautavel is not only the place with the cave from which the remains of one of the oldest Europeans (450,000 BC) were found, but an area with fabulous wines – both red and white. The welcome was as great as last year's – meals, wine, museum, the cave. Please note that Jean Speckens was back in the top five. (Is there Viagra for atlatlists?)

1	Jean Speckens	Belgium	71	21
2	Jerome Galetti	France	63	22
3	Emmanuel Demoulin	France	58	20
4	Ismael Yahemdi	France	54	20
5	Bruno Morucci	Italy	52	19

Best ISACs were Gael Speckens of Belgium (under 16 years) with 82, Ismael Yahemdi with 77, and Daniel Marty of France with 71X.

\*\*\*\*\*

One week later (not a joke), August 14-15, we were 25 atlatlists present in the smaller Swiss Canton of Zug. A twenty-sixth participant was not invited, but present (the rain). Yet, it was a big fair (called Sport and Fun for Children), with an enormous amount of joy, good mood, fun... Fortunately, the rain stopped falling during the contest (but not for the ISAC).

The contest was held on the mountain of Zug, the Zugerberg. The best way to go to the throwing zone was a rack train. Each contestant received a pass for that. And a pass too, for the museum. Their museum is a marvel. They show a lot of prehistoric material from

a multitude of Neolithic sites (stone axes, flint arrowpoints, preserved wooden tools).

Place	Name	Country	Points	Hits
1	Pascal Chauvaux	Belgium	80	27
2	Thomas Chauvaux (12)	Belgium	42	20
3	Alexander Von Burg	Switzerland	41	17
4	Christian Foppa	Switzerland	40	17
5	Thomas Ruthardt	Germany	34	17

Best ISAC was Pascal Chauvaux 70 (We found that the weapons were not waterproof).

\*\*\*\*\*

Another week later, on August 22, a competition was held in Beaune. The contest was the first sunny contest in a long time. Beaune is a major city in the east of France, in the Burgundy wine area. There were 49 contestants. Best ISACs were Pascal Chauvaux 84, Thomas Chauvaux (age 12) with 80, and Eric Braconnier with 70.

\*\*\*\*\*

For the first time in five years, the rain was somewhere outside Germany for the September 4-5 competition in Oerlinghausen, Germany. Forty-six throwers had a great time on the 10-target course. The top four places were taken by two Father and Son "teams."

1	Pascal Chauvaux	78	26
2	Uli Weigel	68	23
3	Thomas Chavaux (age 12)	59	23
4	Paul Weigle (age 13)	56	20
5	Klaus Schulze	55	20
6	Sven Gilster	49	20
7	Gerhard Kalden	52	18
8	Mario Hulsmann	47	19
9	Johann Tinnes	46	16

Best ISAC scores were Pascal Chauvaux 77, Alain Sellekaerts 76, Uli Weigel 75, Thomas Chauvaux 69, and Paul Weigle with 56.

#### Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament, July 17, 1999

by Rodger Klindt

Once again the Alder Acres tournament took place in the beautiful Tug Hill Region of northern New York. A hot, humid day greeted our 16 contestants. Also present was the worst infestation of deer flies since the tournament's inception.

As usual a 10 station field course and mammoth hunt were the tournament scoring events. Each contestant was required to donate a half pint of blood to the deer flies each time he or she went through the course. Yes there were some pretty shriveled folks by the end of the day!

Added this year, just for fun, was the "Buffalo

Biathlon." The intent of the biathlon was to simulate a rigorous hunting situation. Each contestant placed one dart at each of three stations (3 darts total). They proceeded to run to each dart, throw at a life-size target, and race across a finish line. A combination of time and target score gave the contestants place.

WOW!! This competition was the fiercest I've ever seen. The biathlon was a tremendous success and I would like to thank all those who kept coming back to do it again and again. With the temperature near 90° F and humidity you could cut with a knife, it was a wonder nobody dropped.

#### Winning Scores:

Juniors:	1	Justin Hinman	15
Women:	1	Kay Klein	46
	2	Sue Sabik	20
	3	Sandy Klindt	19
Men:	1	Gary Fogelman	105
	2	Rodger Klindt	97
	3	Mike Hinman	73

Top ISAC scores were Gary Fogelman 85, Rodger Klindt 75X, and Mike Hinman 53.

If you have not seen the New York State Atlatl Association web site, check it out. You can find it on the Amazing Atlatl page or directly at [www.northnet.org/nyatlatl](http://www.northnet.org/nyatlatl).

#### Ohio Atlatl Association

#### Flint Ridge Competitions, Sept. 4-5, 1999

by Ray Strischek

The weather was sunny and hot, a wisp of wind, a gentle breeze, and an occasional lacy cloud. Jim Kingery and Hapi Cummons (Flint Ridge Preservation Site officials) and their friend Eve Dawes did a lot of promotion (front page of the Columbus Dispatch on 9/3/99, full spread in the Leisure section on 9/4/99). TV crews were there, as were a lot of tourists. OAA owes a lot to Jim and Hapi, who annually set up our big round hay bails, buy our official ISAC targets, provide tables and chairs, have Boy Scouts on hand to run breakfast, lunch, and dinner concessions and direct traffic. Contestants included WAA president Charlie and Susie Brown.

This year the Flint Ridge Lithic Society, Roy Miller honcho, showed up in force, with flint knappers galore, gem people, river cane sellers, leather workers, and atlatl and dart makers. It was quite a show and at times, pretty much standing room only.

The Ohio Atlatl Association Standard Accuracy Competition is based on three darts cast from five distances based on class, with a maximum score of 150 with 10Xs. This contest was held on both days and included three rounds for Masters, Ringer Novices, and Pure Novices, and one round for Under Four Feet Tall. Ringers are those who have scored 70 or better on an ISAC and Pure Novices are those who have not scored 70 or better. In addition to five place awards for each round, the ultimate award is made to the King and Queen of the Meat Rack, determined by combining the best three scores of the OAA Standard Accuracy Contest and the scores from each of the two ISACs held. The Queen was Sharon Keefer with a score of 379 (with stiff competition from Susie Brown with 370 and Toni Roberts with 340). The King was 15 year old Doug Majorsky with a score of 573-6X (his nearest competitor was Gary Fogelman with 572-2X). The top three Four Feet and Under in the OAA Standard Accuracy round were Clark Newbold with 106, Manuel Granados with 74, and Ricardo Granados with 69.

Highest scores at the two ISACs were Terry Keefer with 82 and 92X, Ray Strischek with 89-2X and 80, Gary Fogelman with 85-2X and 83, Denny Bard with 86X and 79, Richard Lyons with 82X and 80, Doug Majorski (age 15) with 82 and 75, Charlie Brown with 84X and 67, Jeremy Bard with 70 and 80, Susie Brown with 52X and 62, and Sharon Keefer with 39 and 71.

### World's First Formal Atlatl League

by Dale R. J. La Pointe

I believe that this is the world's first formal atlatl league. It started in mid-May and lasted eleven weeks. It was held at Mulletlakes Conservation Association in Walled Lake Michigan. We had a rather small turnout with only four participants, but it was fun and is starting to stir up some interest in the atlatl. On some evenings we had as many as a dozen people stop by for instruction on the use of the "throwing stick." The league is planned again for next year beginning in mid-May to run 11 or 12 weeks. If interest warrants, an ISAC may be held once or twice a month as well. For more information, contact Dale at (248) 669-0407 or via e-mail at [dart90@hotmail.com](mailto:dart90@hotmail.com).

### Why the World Needs WAA

by John Whittaker

Most of us feel that we have learned something about prehistory by using atlatls, and we often spend time trying to educate others with explanations,

demonstrations, and opportunities to "try one yourself." But we haven't reached everyone we ought to yet.

*The Lightning Stick: Arrows, Wounds, and Indian Legends* by H. Henrietta Stockel, University of Nevada press, 1995, is a set of pleasantly written bits of popular anthropology, a group of essays focused around the medical and symbolic aspects of arrows and related Indian lore. Stockel does a fairly good job of compiling and making accessible some medical and anthropological information from obscure reports. However, she is a bit vague and irrelevant at times, and when she tries to describe things she doesn't know much about she gets into trouble. Atlatlists will be jarred by the comment on page 16:

"The Comanches and Pawnees, who were very skilled bowmen, carried lances that resembled the atlatls of old - tips of swords inserted into wooden handles."

And again, on page 41:

"The atlatl dart fit snugly, attached to a foreshaft, into a spear's mainshaft. Often these dart throwers were as much as fourteen feet long, especially in the Southwest, where the Spanish influence was strong..."

It is obvious that Stockel does not really know what an atlatl is, or comprehend the difference between the spear and the spear thrower. Stockel's knowledge of how bows are made and used is also rather weak. A little bit of practical experience, or even observation, goes a long way toward improving a writer's understanding, and experimenters and primitive sport revivalists like the members of WAA make this practical experience available.

[Ed. Comment: John Whittaker teaches Anthropology at Grinnell College in Iowa and is a formidable atlatlist and long time member of WAA.]

### ROBIN HOOD ISAC

by Jack Rowe II

During practice for the June 19<sup>th</sup> ISAC at Glimmerglass State Park in New York, Brandon Anderson of Waverly, NY, "Robin Hooded" Denny Bard's dart. Note that Denny's dart is in the 10-ring and Brandon's dart is in the nock of Denny's dart. This occurrence has resulted in a rule change consideration for the year 2000.

In Rowe's photo, Brandon Anderson is on the left, and Denny Bard is on the right.



## ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD - 1999

- Oct. 2 Forest Festival at Elkins, WV Atlatl Competition at 2:00 p.m. Contact [www.forestfestival.com/calendar.htm](http://www.forestfestival.com/calendar.htm)
- Oct. 2-3 Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, AK. atl atl contest in Kayaks (Weather permitting) Alternate Dates Oct. 9-10. Contact Emil Berikoff [unfa@arctic.net](mailto:unfa@arctic.net)
- Oct. 3-4 Mercyhurst Flintknapping and Atlatl Contest, Mercyhurst College, NE Pennsylvania. Contact Bob Berg (607)687-4064
- Oct. 9-10 Local Atlatl Contest with ISAC at Candor, NY. Contact Bob Berg at (607) 687-4064 or 1-800 836-4520.
- Oct. 9-10 Alternate date for Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, AK if weather prevents Kayak Atlatl Contest on 2-3 Oct. Contact Emil Berikoff [unfa@arctic.net](mailto:unfa@arctic.net)
- Oct. 16-17 European Championships at Mariemont, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at [pascalC@swing.be](mailto:pascalC@swing.be)
- Oct. 23 All Hallow's Eve Atlatl Throw at Susie and Charlie Brown's home in Arvada, CO. Contact Charlie or Susie at (303) 421-0035 or [sazi@prodigy.net](mailto:sazi@prodigy.net) or [ssazzi@earthlink.net](mailto:ssazzi@earthlink.net)
- Oct. 23-24 European Championships at Bougon, Deux-Sevres, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux [pascalC@swing.be](mailto:pascalC@swing.be)
- Nov. 6 Second Annual Indoor Icicle ISAC and local contest at Tioga Park, Nichols, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 687-9065 or 1-800-836-4520
- Nov. 6 1999 Michigan Atlatl Championship at Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. This will include an intensive one day collection of contests open to everyone: 3-D course with 30 throws, European Tournament with 30 throws, MAA Tournament with 12 throws, and ISAC with 10 throws. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or [atlattlr@ismi.net](mailto:atlattlr@ismi.net)

## 2000

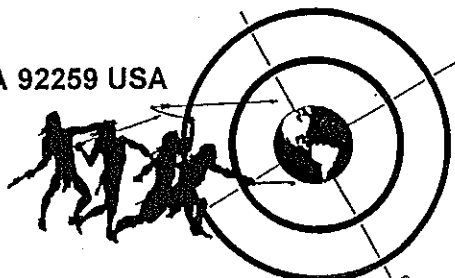
Jul 8-9 European Championships at Abruzzo National Park. Contact, Bruno Morucci [area@fivenet.com](mailto:area@fivenet.com)

\*Note, the new Secretary for European Championships is Pierre Matheus, Rue Haie Delle Praye, 15, B4671, Saive, Belgium. Telephone (32) 43 62 14 14. Our previous contact, Pascal Chauvaux, Rue Au dela de l'Eau, 3 B-5630, Cerfontaine, Belgium - Telephone: (32) 71 64 34 16 or [pascalC@swing.be](mailto:pascalC@swing.be) can still be contacted for assistance, as well.

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: [atlattl@mho.net](mailto:atlattl@mho.net)

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