

The ATLATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"
Rich McWhorter

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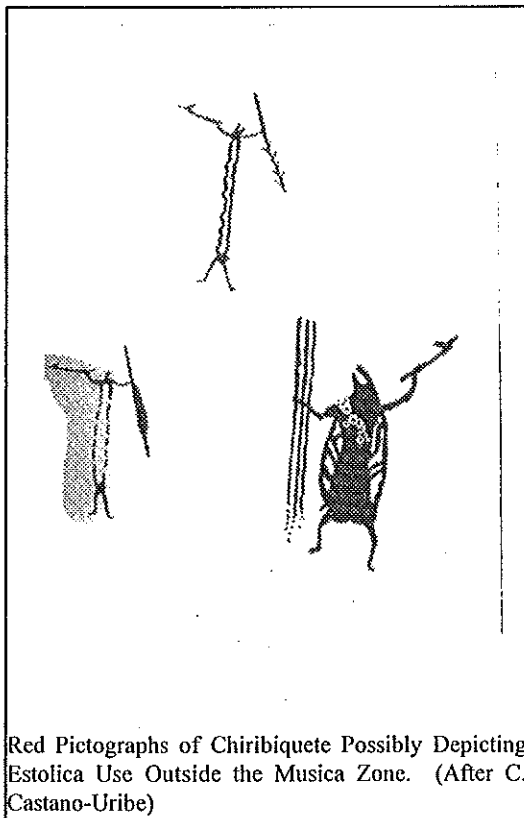
ESTOLICAS OF THE COLOMBIAN MUISCAS

by Harry A. Marriner

When Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada battled Muisca warriors during the Spanish Conquest of Colombia in 1538, he encountered masses of Indians armed with darts (cke) and dart throwers (also known as propulsores, tiraderas, quesque, quisques, ckechke, or estolicas). Estolicas were normally weapons of the common person, especially traders. Warriors rarely used estolicas in face

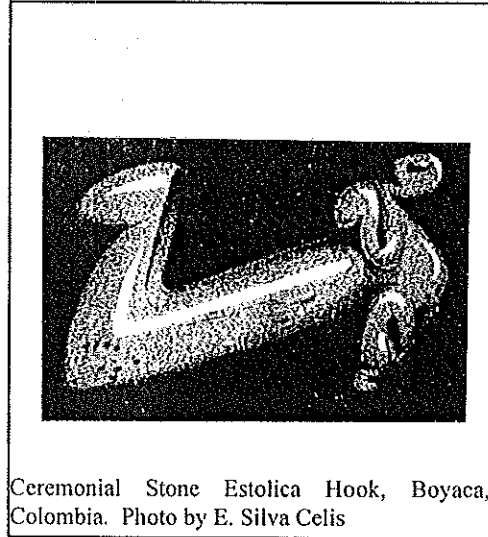
to face battle due to the fact that thin shields provided an easy defense from the darts. Indians later attacked Quesada's camp in Bacata with flaming darts attempting to burn down his straw huts. Bows and arrows were not used by the Muisca who inhabited the central highland plains area of Cundinamarca and Boyaca between 900-1450 A.D. The earliest date for a Colombian estolica is 715 B.C. (per Lorenz Bruechert) during the Herrera Period. However red pictographs, possibly depicting estolica use, may date back thousands of years in the Chiribiquete area.

Dart throwers were made from the heavy macana or palma de boba wood and measured from 42-60 cm (16 ½ - 23 inches) long. Darts, made of bamboo (cana brava), were three times the length (approximately 1.6 meters) of the dart throwers. Removable hardwood dart tips were serrated with jagged cuts. Poison may have been added on occasion, but was apparently not the norm. Two hooks made of bone or shell faced each other at opposing ends of the thrower and were fixed into place with fique or agave twine covered with tar or tree resin.



Red Pictographs of Chiribiquete Possibly Depicting Estolica Use Outside the Musica Zone. (After C. Castano-Uribe)

Ceremonial estolicas had elaborately carved stone hooks in the form of birds or monkeys. A light green-colored stone (possibly jadeite) was preferred for these ceremonial hooks.



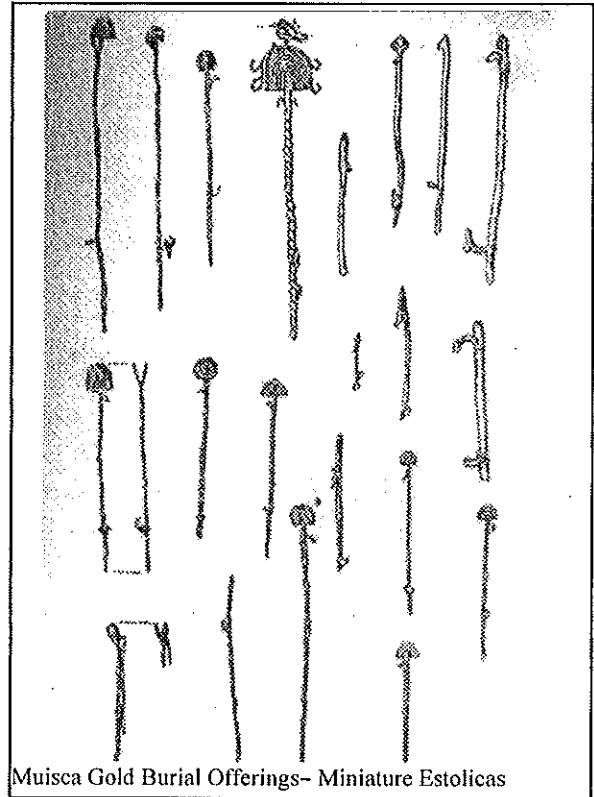
Ceremonial Stone Estolica Hook, Boyaca, Colombia. Photo by E. Silva Celis

Burial offerings of miniature gold estolicas show variations in the basic design and placement of the hooks. Gold offerings (tunjos) of chiefs are shown holding estolicas in their hands. Mummies of important chiefs found in caves in the cold Paramo regions held wooden estolicas for protection in their after-life.

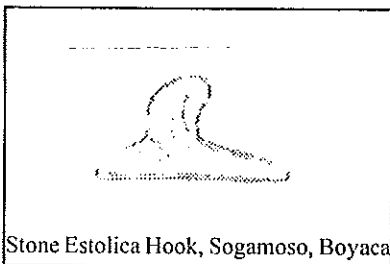
The legendary hero Bochica created the Tequendama

Falls by opening a passage at the south end of the inundated Bogota sabana with his golden estolica to drain a great lake formed by heavy rains. Another legend concerns Hunzahua, descendent of the sun, who threw a dart with his estolica. The dart's flight indicated the direction Hunzahua and his sister should take to flee from their mother, furious when she found out about their incestuous relationship and violation of a tribal taboo set down by the Muisca lawmaker Nemequene. The pair fled to the village of Susa, then to Bacata (Bogota) where they disappeared, changing into two rocks in the Funsa (Bogota) River.

The following observations made by the author after trying to duplicate a Muisca estolica and dart may help beginners who are interested in construction techniques: 1. Large feathers placed at a slight angle to the dart work better than small feathers. 2. The dart tip must be of a heavy wood so it doesn't break upon impact. It also helps to move the center of gravity toward the front of the dart. 3. Bamboo is OK for the dart, the tail section needs to be shaved down to taper toward the back so the dart; doesn't fly sideways. 4. A groove should be made in the top of the finger hook if it is placed opposite the back of the dart support hook. This allows the dart to rest on top of the finger hook without falling off. 5. Statistics: Opposing hooks made from 50 grams of cow femur bone. Distance from hook to hook equals 45 cm. Dart length equals 1.7 meters. Estolica length equals 58 cm.



Muisca Gold Burial Offerings- Miniature Estolicas



Stone Estolica Hook, Sogamoso, Boyaca

My thanks to Lorenz W. Bruechert for encouraging the author to investigate Colombian estolicas.

[Editor's Note, Harry Marriner lives in Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia.]

Winter Count - 2000

by Ken Wee

The Stats: Winter Count, February 12th Saturday, near Maricopa, Arizona, 70 degree plus weather, and winds gusting to over 40 mph. The event was sponsored by David and Paula Wescott of *Back Tracks*. Prizes provided by *Back Tracks*, The Society for Primitive Technology and Ken Wee included wood plaques, stone pendants, atlatl darts, boleodoras, rabbit sticks, and primitive arrows.

The atlatl competition consisted of 14 participants and was followed by an archery shoot. Wayne Brian demonstrated long distance throwing. Tyree and Teale Blankenship took first place in the 10-15, and 9 and under youth divisions. Jill Christensen, Robin Blankenship, and Jo Guill took 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the women's class. Ken Wee, David Wescott, and Brian James were the top three men finishers. Brian also won the men's archery shoot. The grand Champion award in the atlatl event went to WAA member Ken Wee.

LETTERS

Dear WAA

Please find enclosed my membership fees (late as usual). ...We are starting a home-based business making items that relate to the more primitive lifestyles of our hunter/gatherer ancestors. We made our usual trips to Minnesota, Fort Osage, and the annual Bois d'Arc rendezvous, and capped it off by going to Cahokia. Cahokia was spectacular. It was wonderful to meet all the excellent atlatlists that I had read about in the past.

...I have been a member in the WAA for a few years now and I would like to thank all the great people I have been privileged to meet. At the top of the list is Ray Madden. I don't think there is a single person in WAA who doesn't know Ray, but I am fortunate to live within about 30 miles of him and consider him a dear friend. He got me started in making atlatls and darts when I approached him as a total stranger. Since that time, He has always been available to give me a hand. Then there are also Charlie and Susie Brown, Ron Mertz, Ken Wee and all of the others we met at the Cahokia event. One couldn't meet nicer people.

As I said earlier, we have our own business starting up which we call "Walking on Old Ground." It may not be in keeping with WAA, but I would like to talk to people who can give me a hand with making a decent rabbitstick. I can be reached by e-mail at tuomala@excite.com or by telephone at (417) 346-8806.

Sincerely, Kris Tuomala and family,
Goodman Missouri

Dear Leni,

...You folks do a great job. My husband and I have gotten so much out of our atlatl "adventures" - not just the sport, but the fantastic people we've met. We especially enjoy reading about most of them in the newsletter.

Sincerely, Ella McLaughlin,
Elkins, WV

Jan 25th,

Hi Leni,

On-line at last, so greetings from the UK. My e-mail address is digby@stevenson48.freemove.co.uk Got the newsletter today, which had some interesting pieces in it. Have you an e-mail address for Wayne Brian who wrote about the ball and socket spurs in the newsletter? I

think Brian may be able to help me with the *Cestrophendone*. I was also interested in the amentum (reported on by Bruno Morucci). This is the name of the throwing thong, not the spear or javelin. The amentum has a long history and examples have been found from the early Iron Age in Denmark. It was used in many ancient societies including Spain and Gaul. It was used by the ancient Greeks for both warfare and in sport for throwing light javelins. There were two varieties, fixed and free. The Roman army seem to have adopted it from the Gauls in the 1st century A.D. It's use continued into the 4th century when it is mentioned by the historian Ammianus Marcellinus. The Spear shown in the photograph is far too long. The Romans never used a spear longer than 6 ft 9 in. This one seems to be nearer 10 ft - unless the legionary is a dwarf.

I have a source for mammoth ivory and a friend of mine is an ivory carver. He can make reproductions of stone age artifacts, atlatls, etc. If anybody is interested. It doesn't come cheap, of course.

Best Regards, Digby Stevenson

Dear Leni,

Would you believe that I've read almost every issue of the complete set of newsletters that arrived last Friday? I became interested in the atlatl as a kid in the 1950s. Growing up in eastern Colorado, I began searching for arrowheads and dart points in the sand hills and blowouts where the drought and winds of the mid 1950s scoured some of the tilled fields down to "hardpan." After getting a Ph.D. (biology) at the U. of Colorado, I moved to Socorro, New Mexico and resumed my avocational interest in Southwestern Archaeology. I built my first atlatl and, although I always intended to begin experimenting to solve its problems, I never solved the mysteries of throwing darts with accuracy and distance. I got pretty good for awhile. I (recently) got out the old atlatl and darts and looked on the internet. There was The World Atlatl Association! ...My interest was kindled in Colorado, and that state seems to have kindled the formation of the organization. Imagine my delight at finding that many of the mysteries of the atlatl and its darts have been solved! I was intrigued to read a little about you and other pioneers in the pages of the newsletter. Thanks for all you have done over the years. I seem to have fallen in with friends.

I have a very responsible job that keeps me out of

a lot of fun. But I hope to retire in a year or two and pursue fun stuff. Gaining proficiency with an atlatl is at the top of the list. I found my old flintknapping materials in the attic yesterday. Our hunting lease in West Texas is overrun with feral hogs. Their lean pork is very tasty. Hmmm!

Best Wishes, Rollie Schafer

UPDATE
EUROPEAN LANDING FORCE

By Jim Ray

A contingent of the "European Landing Force," Pascal, Carine Chauvaux, and Andre and Marie-Jeanne Robert will be arriving in the United State earlier than previously expected. The four will attend Bob Berg's Fourth of July Atlatl Contest at Candor, New York, as well as Jim Gilligan's Chelsea Rod and Gun Club tournament on July 9th. Both of these competitions will be exciting events. At Candor, New York, the past four annual winners of the International Standard Accuracy Competition (ISAC) will be competing against each other. What will happen July 4th when Pascal Chauvaux of Belgium, Ray Strischek of Ohio, and Gary Fogelman and Terry Keefer of Pennsylvania all meet on the target range at the same time? Then on July 9th, in Chelsea, Michigan, a triple event of a 30-dart throw at 3-D targets, an ISAC, and a European style competition is scheduled. That should be diverse enough to challenge and please everyone.

While in the U.S., Pascal wishes to meet as many friends and WAA members as possible, so members in these areas should all make plans to attend these events.

Meanwhile, plans are getting firmed up on the western side of the country for the fourteen-member European Landing Force:

July 15-16 The Montana Mammoth Hunt at Montana City. Saturday following 9:00 a.m. registration, a Field Round Contest begins at 10:00 a.m., followed by awards presentation, raffle for donated prizes, ISAC, and a special treat of touring a nearby archaeological "dig," the latter conducted by Dr. Les Davis. Sunday's similar schedule includes a European style contest and ISAC. Group dinners will be held both days at local restaurants. Free primitive camping is available.

July 22-23 Foothills--Mountains contest at Curt Gowdy State Park in Wyoming. Primitive camping is available for a

small fee. Nine a.m. registration on Saturday, will be followed by a European style contest starting at 10:00. Following awards presentation, a group meal is planned. On Sunday, the atlatl contest will be replaced by a primitive bow contest. An afternoon ISAC is also scheduled. That evening, following the 130 mile drive south to Charlie and Susie Brown's home in Arvada, Colorado, a feast is planned.

July 24

The Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing at Delaney Farm in Aurora, Colorado begins Monday at 9:00 a.m. A morning ISAC, and a tentatively-scheduled demonstration by Dave Engvall of his Guinness Record-breaking long distance throw using specialized atlatl equipment is planned. If time permits, a local Field Round will be held in the afternoon. A late group lunch or early dinner will be held at the home of Bill and Marcia Tate.

July 29-30

The Great American West Atlatl Shootout at Fremont State Park, Utah. On Saturday, following the 8:00 a.m. registration, competition begins at 9:00 a.m. First the Field Round on the "toughest course in the West" and then an ISAC. An afternoon guided tour of Fremont petroglyphs within the park proceeds the group meal in Castle Rock campground. Sunday's contest schedule will mimic Saturday's and there will be an awards presentation prior to the evening group meal.

Fremont Park Ranger, Pete Weimer has informed me that a medium-sized Mountain Man Rendezvous will be included in this July weekend event. Mountain man programs, crafts, trading, and food will be available for all. He has made arrangements for media coverage of this event and asks that participants come well-rested, as he has some surprises and intends to keep everyone busy. Pete has reserved camping spaces No. 15, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 30 for WAA members.

Trust "The Old Mammoth Hunter" on this one. You won't want to miss these events.

"Coffee, chocolate, men . . . Some things are just better rich!"

Welcome To Fremont!

By Charlie Brown

I want to encourage all of you to attend the upcoming Fremont Indian State Park Atlatl Contest, June 16-18. Not only is Fremont one of the premier atlatl tournaments in the world, it is this year's site of the WAA's annual meeting. The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 17th after dinner. Important business will take place including a vote on the new bylaws, election of officers (President and Vice-President) and Directors (2), and the presentation of this year's President's Award. (And for many of you, it will be a time of celebration as you are getting rid of me as president.) And last but not least for those that come to compete in Pete Weimer's contest, I would like to share the following regarding the course:

FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK ATLATL CONTEST

The contest begins with a short little throw, (15-meter)
Then it's straight up the Five-finger Ridge that we go. (60-meter)

Across a large valley of rock, cactus and stick. (100-meter)
To a nasty ol' target that nobody hits. (40-meter)
We then climb to the top to begin the Long Haul. (Long Haul)

It's not very far, but the trees are between.

To the next one we trudge, by the name of Lone Pine.
(Lone Pine)

Stay out of the canyon and we'll probably do fine.

Out to the point, it's right down below. (Muley Deer Point)

Can anyone hit it with just one toss – no.

Then follow the path and on to the river. (Wet Arrow Alley)

I suggest we have more than one dart in our quiver.

Obviously, there is only one reason, I think,

Why ol' Pete placed the target right next to the drink.

If we make it this far, and some throwers do

With atlatl, spears and humility too,

This only ends the first part of Pete's test,

With still an accuracy throw to determine who's best.

GOOD LUCK By Charlie Brown

Y2K Elections

by Bill Tate

Election time is fast approaching. The WAA Annual Meeting will be held at Fremont Indian State Park, June 17th, with election of new officers scheduled. President Charlie Brown asked me to work with an "Easterner", Sharon Keefer and a "Mid-Westerner," Jim Gilligan to select

a slate of nominees from which to choose these new officers. In various telephone and e-mail meetings we came up with the following:

Jim Ray of Belt, Montana for President

Ray Strischek of Athens, Ohio for Vice President

At least two, possibly four Director positions will be vacated at this election time and we have nominated the following to serve in those positions. Note that Dean Pritchard and Chris Judson are currently Directors whose terms are expiring, but both have expressed a willingness to continue in that capacity :

Ron Mertz of Des Peres, Illinois

Margie Takoch, Winterville, Ohio

Dean Pritchard, Boise, Idaho

Anita Lukes, Indianapolis, Indiana

Chris Judson, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Susie Brown, Arvada, Colorado

Of course, there may be nominations from the floor as well; however, these WAA members have all agreed to run for the offices listed. To better acquaint you with them, so that you may make your best choices, the following brief biographical sketches are offered:

Jim Ray Presidential Nominee: Born and raised on an Alabama farm, Jim enlisted in the U.S. Air Force upon finishing high school and retired after 21 years service. His principal duties while in the military were as an Aircraft Weapons Specialist, Precision Photo Reconnaissance Processor, and a Minuteman III Missile Specialist and Field Supervisor. In 1981, with the able assistance of his wife, he designed and built their home in the Little Belt Mountains of Montana. Jim is a self-taught atlatl maker and user, and says, "I joined the WAA in 1989, recruited by who else – Leni Clubb." He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1997, and served as Vice President for the past year. WAA duties have included: Nominating Committee Chairman, and Bylaws Committee Chairman. When asked about his interests, Jim claimed, "Native American culture, including beadworking, clothing, weapons, tools, lodges, mountain man and fur trade culture, and last, but not least The World Atlatl Association."

Ray Strischek Vice Presidential Nominee: Currently, Ray is the President of the Ohio Atlatl Association and writes the, 3-times a year, newsletter for that organization. Ray is a Native Ohioan, an ex-Marine who spent over two years in Vietnam and is President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Department of Ohio. He became interested in

atlatls in 1994 while visiting The Black Water Draw Clovis Site Museum, although he had read much about them previously. Two weeks after signing the museum's visitor's register he received a postcard announcing the atlatl contest at Flint Ridge, Ohio. As Ray says, "Went there, met Bob Berg, got hooked, became obsessed, and the rest is history."

Ron Mertz for Director: I would be pleased to serve on the World Atlatl Association's Board of Directors. Although I first became interested in the atlatl nearly 30 years ago while teaching anthropology, it wasn't until my first visit to a WAA event at Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada in 1996 that I really became a dedicated "atlatlist." This expanded interest led to forming the Missouri Atlatl Association (MAA) with Ray Madden and John Whittaker, and sponsoring contests at Cahokia, Fort Osage, and several other locations in or near Missouri. While a number of state and regional organizations have been formed, the WAA continues to play a key role in promoting and setting standards for this emerging sport. I believe my dedication to the sport, experiences gained with the MAA, and strong respect for the integrity of the WAA would allow me to contribute to its continued growth and success.

Margie Takoch for Director: I am honored to be nominated to the Board of Directors. I began atlatling in March 1999, after watching and photographing my husband, Frank, competing from June of '98. One of my favorite things about the WAA is the number of wonderful people that we have met. I would like to see the organization get more publicity in the future so that more people who are interested can find out about it and "give it a try."

Dean Pritchard for Director (incumbent): I am retired from many years working in a mechanical design office which is almost guaranteed to turn anyone towards a more simple and relaxing lifestyle. It didn't take me long to discover the atlatl, as I have always had a fascination with archaeology. I have been a member of the WAA for about five years and compete in about six events a year. Currently I am managing an internet web site which lists the WAA calendar of events and ISAC scores.

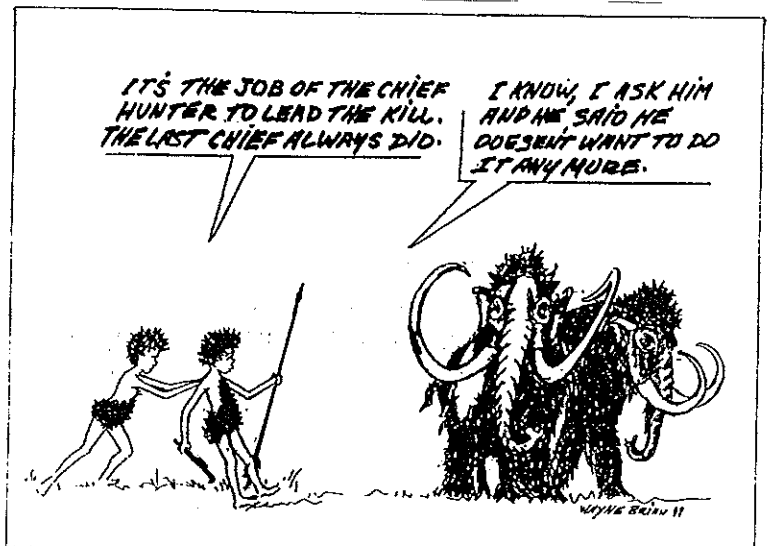
Anita Lukes for Director: At 8:30 a.m. one crisp February morning in Ocotillo, California, Roger and Leba who were visiting took my husband and me across the street to Duane and Oveda's and introduced us to the atlatl. Oveda loaned me darts and an atlatl and I was taught the "art." Leni and Red were there offering tips and encouragement and Leni scored my first try at ISAC-type distances and targets. I was hooked—big time! Before another month passed, I had an atlatl, darts, and targets on straw bales in my yard. I am a clinical pharmacist in Indiana and found myself taking long weekends to Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois contests.

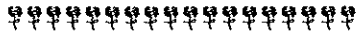
I have been so impressed with the competitiveness, but always a willingness to teach and help others improve. I'd like to see WAA continue to help local contest sites adhere to ISAC standards and also to continue to encourage women and youth to participate.

Chris Judson for Director (incumbent): Besides competing and score keeping in atlatl meets and doing hands-on demonstrations for hundreds of people over the years, I've been an active member of WAA since its early days. I've been on the board much of that time, with the objective of helping to keep WAA a credible organization and worthwhile to its members and the sport. This past year I made a detailed scrutiny of the bylaws and was on the committee that worked out the needed changes and clarifications. I would very much like to continue to be on the Board, to see what service I can provide during the upcoming years. I am a park ranger at Bandelier national Monument in New Mexico.

Susie Brown for Director: Probably about the only person who has been to as many atlatl contests as Susie is her husband and current WAA President, Charlie Brown. When asked just what she would like members to know about her, her reply was, "I've been involved with WAA since 1995. WAA is an incredible organization. I have enjoyed traveling all over the country, getting to know the wonderful people that participate in this sport. As a former teacher, I love it when kids (of all ages) learn to throw with an atlatl. The future of WAA is dependent upon the continuation of our integrity and our safety record."

A number of years ago, when we had first organized WAA, I looked up the word *atlatl* on one of the major search engines on the net -- there were no pages to be found. Last evening I checked again, and found over 2100 references. Ed.





Leland E. "Lew" Wilkinson

Dec. 28, 1934 – Nov. 19, 1999

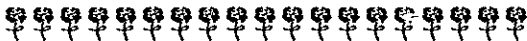
By Jim Ray

It is with sadness and regret that I must announce a thinning of our ranks. Former WAA member and atlatl maker, thrower, instructor, Lew Wilkinson passed away of a sudden illness Nov. 19, 1999.

It is hardly possible to sum up a person's life in a few short words on a printed page, and I will certainly not attempt to do so here. I will list a few noteworthy items. Lew served a period of time in the U.S. Air Force, but his primary occupation was as a Metals Technologist for NASA. As Project Manager, he designed and built an astronaut mobility system for shuttle flights. Lew enjoyed all aspects of outdoor life, from deep sea diving to climbing the highest peaks. While living in Virginia, his diving club was praised for helping reclaim important fish habitat in Chesapeake Bay. Lew was an avid reader, photographer and bird watcher. Following retirement in 1993, Lew was active in the Audubon Bird Clubs in St. George and Provo, Utah. He worked as a volunteer for the National Forest Service on birding projects dealing with migratory, endangered, and sensitive bird species.

Most of us knew Lew as an atlatl competitor and volunteer worker at Fremont Indian State Park near Sevier, Utah. Living in nearby Monroe, Lew participated in the atlatl workshops and served as an instructor at the Park. Lew made and donated most of the fifty or more atlatls that are being used for demonstration and as loaners at the park. For several years, he brought groups of Utah youths to participate in the atlatl contests at nearby Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada.

I became acquainted with Lew in 1993 at the first atlatl contest at Fremont. The man I knew enjoyed life and was a person easy to like. The loss of a friend always leaves a hole in our lives. Lew will be missed by all who knew him.



Bundle Up and Throw

Musings by Sharon and Terry Keefer

We went to Ligonier, Pennsylvania yesterday (Jan. 22nd) for our first competition of 2000. Brrrr! But it was fun. A big part of it is just getting to see some of the friends we've made through atlatling. That's probably why 14 crazy atlatlists ventured out to play. The temperature was 1 degree with a chill factor of 11 below zero when we left home. [Ed. note: That 1 degree translates to -17 Celsius and -11 is -24 Celsius--for our European friends.] There certainly wasn't any mud at Ligonier! Many darts were broken in the extreme cold temperature.

ON TARGET

By Leni Clubb



Several newsletters have been returned due to incorrect addresses. Be sure to send me your new address including zip code to insure that you receive each issue of *The Atlatl*. Additionally, if your telephone area code changes (and they seem to all the time), please let us know.

We have just received a brand new shipment of WAA patches. Do you need another one for your hat, jacket, or whatever? The cost is \$2.50 each plus 50 cents shipping.

Back issues of *The Atlatl* are available at \$1.50 each, plus 50 cents postage. If ordering more than 10, priority mail postage is \$3.20 or \$4.30, depending on weight. If you don't know which ones you need, we have an index, with titles of articles, that can be sent to you.

Please check the upper right hand corner of the mailing label on your newsletter for your expiration date. You may then avoid my sending you a "Dues are Due" notice. We are sure you don't want to let your membership lapse. There is so much good stuff in those newsletters!!

Oops! I neglected to include Toni Roberts of Wintersville, OH on the list of winners of Grand Champion awards for 1999. (See list in *The Atlatl*, Jan. 2000 issue.) She received one in the Modern category at Valley of Fire State Park, NV in April 1999. My sincere apology Toni.

The book by Marjorie Cowley, *Dar and the Spearthrower*, a story of a Cro-Magnon youth, mentioned in the last issue, is available at amazon.com or Borders.

Since I was unable to get to the last WAA Annual Meeting at Cahokia, I hope to meet many of you at the **June 17, 2000 Annual Meeting at Fremont Indian State Park, Utah**. I also plan to attend all of the Western U. S. special contests where the "European Landing Force" is competing. What a time it will be!! See you there, I hope.

Finally, I have a new e-mail address: You can reach me at LENIWAA@prodigy.net

ATLATL WORLD OPEN – FORT CASPAR

June 24, 2000

This years Casper, Wyoming contest will be held in conjunction with the Fort Caspar Rendezvous and Primitive Skills Contest, which features spear, tomahawk, knife and archery as well as the atlatl. Atlatl competition consists of an Atlatl Hunt Round, American Field Round, WAA Golf Round, and a chance for two ISACs. Also, there will be food booths, demonstrations, and Indian dancers.

Place In The Sun

by Charlie Brown

For many of us, the first atlatl contest of the new millennium was in the Southern California desert town of Ocotillo. The gathering was held to honor the Grand Nabob of atlatls, our own Leni Clubb. Atlatlists came from far and wide - from Missouri, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, etc.-just to throw with Leni and her gang of Ocotillo buddies.



Hallie Cash and Leni Clubb

And as usual, Hallie and Leni were the perfect hostesses, having prepared a beautiful desert course, great food, and an archeological tour of the local prehistory of the Imperial Valley conducted by Jay ?. It was two great days of sun, fun, and atlatling with Leni and all the great folks in Ocotillo. Results of the contest were:

Women	1 st Judy Pritchard;	2 nd Susie Brown;
	3 rd Jeanne Rodgers;	4 th Leni Clubb
Men	1 st Charlie Brown;	2 nd Jim Ray
	3 rd Ray Madden	4 th Dean Pritchard

Jim Ray and Bill Tate made their personal best scores in the ISAC with 86 and 70XX respectively.

Archaeology Expo 2000 – March 18-19, 2000

by Leni Clubb

The first WAA atlatl contest sponsored by the Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona, was a huge success. The weather was perfect and 74 people including a four year old, and a man in an electric wheelchair signed liability statements entitling them to go out on the

course to compete or learn to throw. WAA President, Charlie Brown, Susie Brown, Leni Clubb, Albert Abril, Alan Denoyer, Jo Guill and ISAC developer, Lloyd Pine worked tirelessly explaining the “mysteries” of the atlatl, its history, and the WAA story to the hundreds of people attending the Archaeo/Expo 2000.

Contest scores for both days were compiled and the winners were:

Novice Class

Men:	Robert Sizemore Ray Ferguson Terry Behm
Women:	Jo Guill Cheryl Harrison
Youth:	Daniel Whitfield Rachael McMasters William McMasters

Master's Class

Men:	Charlie Brown Lloyd Pine Richard Lewis
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Women: Susie Brown

WAA Grand Champion – Charlie Brown

Atlatls of sotol wood, for first place winners in the Novice Class, and finely knapped projectile points for 2nd and 3rd place winners were made and donated by Alan Denoyer.

At my age, I've seen it all, done it all, heard it all – I just can't remember it all.

Pascal's Corner

We know nothing about spear thrower contests in Australia. I found this picture in an encyclopedia. The legend says: Spearthrower competition in Yuendumu, Northern Territories, 1979. Furnished by Pascal Chauvaux.



EARLY 2000 ISAC RESULTS

by Lloyd Pine

Jim Ray is currently in the lead with a score of 86. This is a personal best for Jim. Missy Dildene and Robin Morucci are the early leaders in the women and youth divisions. There are already more than 60 contests scheduled for the year 2000, so it should be a good year of competition. Getting a complete schedule out as early as possible in the year should help people better plan their time so as to take part in more events. Results through February 22, 2000:

MEN:

86	Jim Ray	Montana	P
84	Gary Fogelman	Pennsylvania	P
83	Charlie Brown	Colorado	P
82	Terry Keefer	Pennsylvania	P
80	Ray Madden	Missouri	P
79X	Doug Majorsky	Pennsylvania	O
75	Russell Richard	Wyoming	P
75	Frank Takoch	Ohio	O
74X	Dean Pritchard	Idaho	O
73	Chuck Butorajac	Pennsylvania	O
70XX	Bill Tate	Colorado	O
70	Jack Rowe	Pennsylvania	P

WOMEN:

58	Missy Dildene	Pennsylvania	P
50	Sharon Keefer	Pennsylvania	P

YOUTH:

55	Robin Morucci (age 10)	Italy	P
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Robin Morucci, of Italy proudly displays his Youth top 10 Award for 1999. His score of 61 was truly exceptional for a then 9 year old - the youngest of the top finishers last year.

ATLATLS IN ACTION

by Brandon Anderson

WAA has approved one of the newest atlatl competitions in New York state. It is being held June 3 and 4, in Waverly, NY on the border with Pennsylvania where the Chemung and Susquehanna rivers meet. The ISAC and local contest will be at The Valley Bowling Center on North Chemung Street, north of exit #61 from Highway 17. We will have everything an atlatlist could ask for, lots of shooting room, snack bar, restrooms, bowling, a lounge, and air conditioning. (Bowling not required.)

My friend and neighbor, Tom Goble and I are opening our yards for camping, where we also have atlatl practice targets, campfire pits, horseshoes, and lots of room. We will also hold a night shoot-with lights. For further information call Tom Goble at (607) 565-7564 or me, Brandon Anderson at (607) 565-7901. I truly hope to see you all if you can make it, and remember: *aim like our ancestors.*

Endangered Event

by Ella McLaughlin

The West Virginia Atlatl Competition is in danger of extinction. For the past 7 years, the Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins, WV has held an atlatl competition. Note that this is the only such competition in the state, and provides the West Virginia State Champion. Most years, because of lack of direction and lack of promotion, participation has been sparse, however in 1997, the event was listed in *The Atlatl* early in the year and produced over 20 competitors from several states, resulting in a great event. In the last couple of years, notification of the contest in the newsletter was received late and participation dropped. Amid threats by the festival's director of dropping the competition completely, I need help to keep it going. We really need ideas for different types of contest that would add excitement and interest for participants and spectators. In order to get some young people started, instructions for making a simple atlatl and dart that a scout or 4H member could follow would be good. If there is ANYTHING you can offer, please contact me at (304) 636-4095 (days) or (304) 636-4697 (nights). Write to me at Rt. 3, Box 216, Elkins, WV 26241. The 2000 competition will be held Sept. 30, 2:00 p.m at Camp Pioneer. Anyone who might possibly make it to the event to assist or just support us, please let us know. [Ed. Comment. *Come on you Easterners, let's support this event!*]

I used to be schizophrenic, but we're OK now.

ATLATL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD – 2000

- Mar 25-26 Pueblo Museum Traditional Technology Weekend Fun Contests and ISAC in Phoenix, AZ. Contact Albert Abril (602) 265-0177 or ajabril@uswest.net
- Apr 1 The National Park Service's Third Annual Alaska Atlatl Competition on the U. of Alaska campus as part of Alaska Archaeology Month. Contact Richard VanderHoek
- Apr 1-2 April Fool's Atlatl Throw & ISAC at Charlie Brown's residence in Arvada, CO. Contact Susie or Charlie Brown at (303) 421-0035 or sazi@prodigy.net
- Apr *8-9 Samara, France. European Championships
- Apr 9 Michigan Flintknappers Tournament with ISAC, Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Apr 6-9 North Georgia Knap-in and Atlatl Contest, Contact Mark Bracken (770) 345-7305 or Bob Berg (607) 687-3854 or courier@pronetisp.net
- Apr 8 Rain or Shine ISAC and Local in Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Apr 15-16 Les Eyzies, France. European Championships. Includes Atlatl contest
- Apr 16 Atlatl and Dart Advanced Workshop, noon to 4:30 p.m., Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix, AZ. Advance registration & fee required. Contact Albert Abril (602) 265-0177 or ajabril@uswest.net
- Apr 21-22 Earthday Gathering and Mastodon Open, EMC Club, Waverly, NY. Contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 or Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- Apr 29 Open Competition and ISAC at Celebration Park, Melba, ID. Contact Tom Bicak (208) 495-2745 or Dean Pritchard atlatl@micron.net
- Apr 29 Archaeology Day Atlatl Competition with ISAC at Silver Mound Historic Site near Hixton, WI. Contact Walter Riddle (608) 245-9970 or wriddle@chorus.net
- Apr *29-30 Ramioul, Belgium. European Championships.
- May 5-6 Indian Creek Rendezvous with European style contest and ISAC plus primitive archery near Pawhuska, OK. Contact Ray Madden at (417)781-0962 or rmadden@janics.com
- May 6-8 Tautavel, France. European Championships there will be an atlatl competition with ISAC on the 8th
- May 7-8 Keefer's Place Atlatl Tournament, 8315 Sweetwater Rd., Ft. Loudon, PA. Contact Terry Keefer (717) 349-2262 or keefer@cvn.net
- May 13-14 Tentative! Local contest and ISAC at Spring Festivals in Candor and Nichols, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- May 20-21 Fort Osage Atlatl Competition and Spring Knap-in. European style contest and ISAC each day, plus local competitions. Fort Osage is located about 20 miles east of Kansas City. Contact Ray Madden (417)781-0962 or rmadden@janics.com
- May 27 Spring Fling ISAC and Local in Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- May *27-28 Crepy en Valois, France. European Championships
- May 27-29 Memorial Day Weekend – Three day Atlatl Extravaganza with ISACs. Wilder Creek Conservation Club, Marshall, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Jun 2-4 Knap-in and Fun Atlatl Contest, with ISAC on Sat. and Sun. at Indian Springs Ranch near Wrightwood, CA, Contact Tom Mills (626) 794-9158 or paleoaleo@aol.com
- Jun 3-4 Teyjat, France. European Championships. Includes Atlatl Contest
- Jun 3-4 Paleo-Indian Spear Factory Day and ISAC at Mastodon State Historic Site, Imperial, MO. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or 13210.4022@compuserve.com
- Jun 3-4 Atlatl In Action - Competition and ISAC at The Valley Bowling Center, Waverly, NY. Contact Tom Goble (607) 565-7564 or Brandon Anderson (607) 565-7901.
- Jun 3-4 Ohio Accuracy and ISAC at Flint Ridge, OH. Contact Ray Strischek (740) 592-3465 nights, or db8947@dragonbbs.com
- Jun 9-11 Illinois Atlatl Association Contest, European and ISAC, at Chaplin Creek Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL. Contact Don Asp (815) 456-2305.
- Jun *10-11 Breteuil, France. European Championships
- Jun 10-12 Heritage Days at Col. Heg Park in Wind Lake, WI. Sponsored by the Norway Historical Society. Atlatl contest on June 12th at 1:00 p.m. Contact George Schubert GPSchub@aol.com
- Jun 16-17 World Atlatl Association Annual Meeting and Fremont Indian State Park Annual Contest with ISAC, Sevier, UT. Contact Pete Weimer (435) 527-4631.
- Jun 16-17 Primitive Art Festival and Knap-in with ISAC and Fun Contest in Old Leavenworth, IN. Contact Wendell Adams, Sr. (502)448-7842 or Wmadamsr@aol.com
- Jun 16-18 Allegany County Festival Atlatl Competition with ISAC, at the fair grounds in Angelica, NY. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg at (607) 659-5967 or courier@pronetisp.net or Dana or Kay Klein at (716) 365-8048 or danakehert@aol.com
- Jun *17-18 Solutre, France. European Championships
- Jun 24 World Open Atlatl Contest, Fort Caspar Museum and Historic Site, Casper, WY. Contact Fort Caspar Museum (307) 235-8462.
- Jun *24-25 Tarascon, France. European Championships
- Jun 25 Meadowcroft Meadowloft and ISAC, Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Avella, PA. Contact Frank Takoch (740) 264-1755 or margieandfrank@hotmail.com
- Jun 25 CSAS Artifact Show with atlatl Skills Course and ISAC at Elkhart Lake, WI. Contact Walter Riddle (608) 245-9970 or wriddle@chorus.net
- Jul 4 The Fourth of July Atlatl Contest and ISAC at Candor, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- Jul 8-9 European Championships and ISAC Palo Laziale, Rome Italy. Contact, Bruno Morucci arca@fivenet.com
- Jul 9 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club Tournament, 8 a.m. Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Jul 15-16 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament and Morning After ISAC. Lorraine, NY. Contact Roger Klindt (315) 639-6293, or mammothdoc@juno.com
- Jul *15-16 Errenteria, Spain. European Championships
- Jul 15-16 Montana Mammoth Hunt and ISAC, Montana City. Contact Troy Helmick (406) 266-3398 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274.
- Jul 22-23 Foothills/Mountains Atlatl contest with ISAC at Curt Gowdy State Park, Wyoming. Contact Russell Richard (307) 347-4360.
- Jul *22-23 Monteneuf Guer, France. European Championships
- Jul 24 Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing with ISAC in association with the Aurora Colorado History Museum at Delaney Farm. Contact Bill Tate (303) 755-5591 or atlatl@mho.net

- Jul 29-30 Fremont Indian State Park Special European Throw with ISAC, Sevier, UT, Contact Pete Weimer (435) 527-4631.
- Jul 29-30 Saegerstown Indian Artifact Show and Atlatl Tournament (local and ISAC) in Saegerstown, PA. Contact Gary Fogelman (570) 437-3698 (for artifact show info. contact John (814) 398-9814.
- Jul *29-30 Hitzackersee, Germany. European Championships
- Aug 3-6 Green Flats Atlatl Contest in Hancock, NY. Contact Chris Pappas (607) 637-2585.
- Aug 4-6 Illinois Atlatl Association Contest, European and ISAC, at Franklin Creek Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL. Contact Don Asp (815) 456-2305.
- Aug *5-6 Mas d'Azil, France. European Championships
- Aug 11-13 Shupp's Grove Weekend at Amsterdam, PA. Friday evening ISAC, Saturday and Sunday local contest and ISAC. Contact Gary Fogelman (570) 437-3698 or jam@csrlink.net
- Aug *12-13 Boario Treme, Italy. European Championships
- Aug 18-19 Great Lakes Primitive's Summer Gathering, Bois Blanc Island, MI European and ISAC, 2:00 p.m. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net
- Aug 19-20 Ohio Accuracy and ISAC at Albany Ohio. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553 or barnz@juno.com or Ray Strischek (740) 592-3465 or db8947@dragonbbs.com
- Aug 25-27 Stone Tool Technology Show and Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Contests with three ISACs at Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- Sep *2-3 Neanderthal, Germany. European Championships
- Sep 2-3 Ohio Accuracy and ISAC at Flint Ridge, OH. Contact Ray Strischek (740) 592-3465 or ordb8947@dragonbbs.com
- Sep 9-10 Cahokia 2000 with ISAC. Cahokia World Heritage Site, Collinsville, IL Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or 103210.2044@compuserve.com
- Sep *9-10 Petersfeldstage, Germany. European Championships
- Sep 10 Michigan State Atlatl Championship and ISAC, 9:00 a.m. Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net
- Sep 16 Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship at Chimney Point State Historic Site, Addison, VT. Contact Audrey Porsche (802) 7592412 or aporsche@dca.state.vt.us
- Sep 16 Stand alone ISAC in a.m. and teach PAW PAW Festival crowd the sport of atlatling in Albany, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-8553 barnz@juno.com or Ray Strischek (740) 592-3465 db8947@dragonbbs.com
- Sep 16-17 Fort Osage Atlatl Competition and Fall Knap-in at Fort Osage east of Kansas City, MO. Contact Ray Madden at (417) 781-0962 or rhadden@janics.com
- Sep 23-24 Third Annual Bois D'arc Rendezvous at Spirit Springs 12 miles south of Neosho, MO. Contact Ray Madden at (417) 781-0962 or rhadden@janics.com
- Sep 30 Mountain State Forest Festival Atlatl competition at Camp Pioneer near Elkins, WV. Contact Ella McLaughlin (304) 636-4697 or Cathy Leombruno (304) 636-4095.
- Sep * 30, Oct 1 Mariemont Belgium. European Championships
- Sep 30, Oct 1 Pennsylvania State Championship and ISAC, Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Oct *7-8 Bougon, France. European Championships
- Oct 14-15 Candor Fall Festival Atlatl Contest and ISAC, Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Candor, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- Oct 22 Wisconsin State Atlatl Championship & ISAC at Monticello, WI. Contact Walter Riddle (608) 245-9970 wriddle@chorus.net
- Oct 28-29 All Hallow's Eve Atlatl Throw & ISAC at Charlie Brown's residence in Arvada, CO. Contact Susie or Charlie Brown at (303) 421-0035 or sazi@prodigy.net
- Nov 4 Icicle Contest with ISAC and Primitive Apparel Fashion Show, Tioga Park, Nichols, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net
- Nov 26 Last Gasp Atlatl Tournament with ISAC--starts at noon, Brighton, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 omatlatl@ismi.net

*Note. The information I received on the European Championships indicated that possibly some of their scheduled events might not include atlatl competition. A few stated that they definitely would hold such competition. I do not have the name of the individual who sent the schedule, but it came from the following e-mail address: nus.nat.prehist.evzies@wanadoo.fr. I would suggest interested parties contact that address for further details. You can also contact Pascal Chauvaux, Rue Au dela de l'Eau, 3 B-5630, Cerfontaine, Belgium - Telephone: (32) 71 64 34 16 or pascalC@swing.be for assistance, as well.

Please send dates of atlatl events for inclusion here to the WAA Secretary, Ms. Leni Clubb, See address on back cover. 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@mhq.net

NEXT ISSUE

We regret any errors in the listing for Events Around The World, but occasionally we receive wrong or confusing information and sometimes we 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.

We will feature an article in the July issue titled *Atlatl and Dart Do It Tips for the New Season* by Ray Strischek. We will also show photographs furnished by Pascal Chauvaux of a stone spearthrower or atlatl. Also featured will be photographs of a New Zealand spearthrower furnished by boomeranger, Ted Bailey.

Wisconsin Organizes Atlatl Association

Wisconsin atlatlists held their first atlatl competition with the assistance of members of the Illinois Atlatl Association at the Archaeological Society show in Monticello, WI last October. According to the Illinois Atlatl Association's January 2000 newsletter, a Wisconsin club has been organized by Walter Riddle of Madison, Wisconsin. For more information we suggest you contact Walter at (608) 245-9970. We wish them good luck!

The Fourth of July Battle of the Champions

See the Olympics of Atlatl Contests in Candor, New York, July 4th. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity where four world champions compete in one ISAC.

Pascal Chauvaux, 1996 World Champion

Ray Strischek, 1997 World Champion

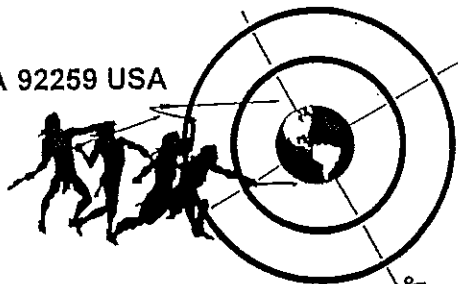
Gary Fogelman, 1998 World Champion

Terry Keefer, 1999 World Champion

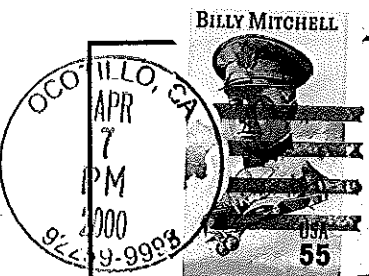
Contact Bob & Cheryl Berg (800)836-4530,
(607)659-3854, or (607) 659-5967.

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

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GRINNELL, IA 50112-0806

WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION WEB SITE: www.worldatlatl.org

In Other News...

Nevada atlatlist Erik R. Batzloff, "The No-Bear," is acting as guide for the European Landing Force during their brief stay in the Las Vegas area this summer. He will show them some of the local area petroglyphs in and around Valley of Fire State Park before they board their airplane for their return trip to Europe.

In June, Erik is leading a group of historical trekkers - following the original route of Joseph Walker from Nevada into California. Their gear will be authentic; only those things available to mountain men in 1833 will be used. Next year he is joining a climbing group on Mt. Kilimanjaro in Kenya.

From the *Cowboy's Guide to Life* by Texas Bix Bender:

A smart ass just don't fit in a saddle.
Always drink upstream from the herd.
Don't squat with yer spurs on!

No Valley of Fire Contest for 2000

Arrangements just could not be coordinated in time to schedule a Valley of Fire Contest this year. We look forward to a renewal of this traditional throw in the shadow of Atlatl Rock in 2001.