

The ATLATL

"TOO LONG HAVE I HUNTED MAMMOTH ALONE!"

RICH MCWHORTER

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Bill Tate Editor

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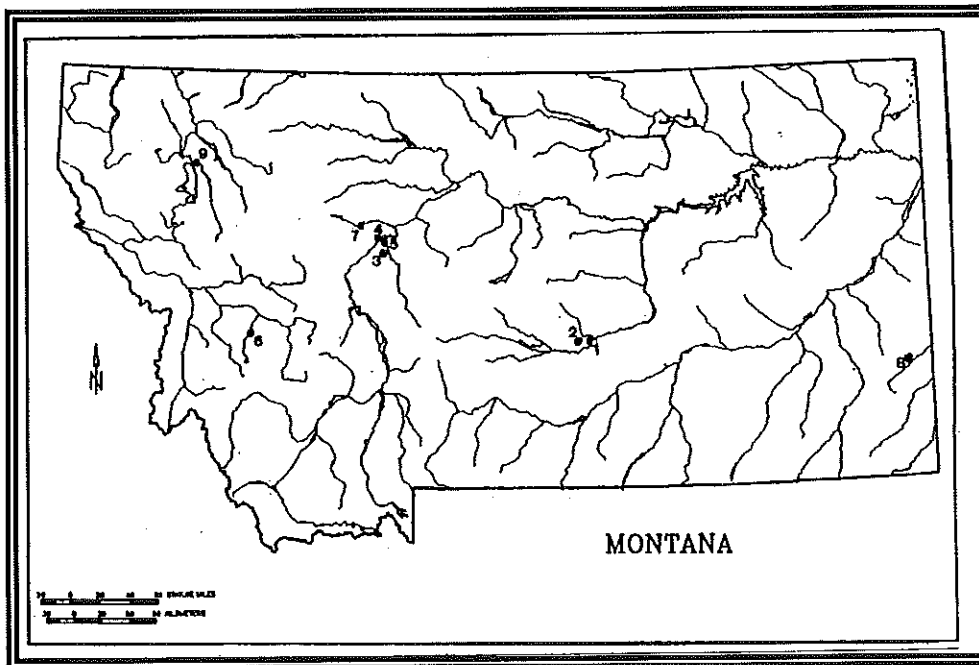
Atlatl Weights Found in Montana: An Atlatlist's Perspective

by Troy C. Helmick

Introduction

The compound weapon system (throwing board [launcher] and dart) called the atlatl has been used on nearly every continent. Archaeological evidence suggests that this system was in use more than 9000 years ago in North America and much earlier in Europe. While the advent of the bow and arrow effectively

replaced the atlatl, it is still used in Australia, Mexico, and the Arctic and areas in Asia. Despite the fact that the atlatl system was used for thousands of years in North America, few complete systems have been recovered. More common are the shaped, ground, grooved, drilled, of inscribed stone artifacts that may have been atlatl components. Due to uncertainty regarding the use of purpose of these



objects, they have generally been classified and described according to their shape or appearance. Terms such

as boatstone, birdstone, bannerstone, fetish, good luck charm, or problematical object have been used to describe these artifacts. Most are now commonly grouped under the general term "atlatl weight."

Montana Atlatl Weights

Forty years ago, B. Robert Butler and Douglas Osborne (1959) examined and described 104 whole and fragmentary probable atlatl weights from northwestern North America. They classified the stones on the basis of lashing grooves, notches, holes, or scars, into three types. While most of the weights came from the lower Columbia and lower Frazer River valleys, one specimen was found in Montana. It was collected by William Holm of Seattle on a gravel bar in the Musselshell River, 8 km. west of Roundup, Montana (Fig. 1-1, Table 1). The weight has a bulging, dome-like midsection and a wide longitudinal basal groove. The sides and top taper in toward the narrow upturned ends. Over the upper edge of each end is a series of short, whisker-like incised lines. A narrow three-quarter groove runs up the sides and over the top at midsection (Fig. 2-1). That type of atlatl weight had been reported no farther west than Montana and the authors thought it might have a more easterly distribution.

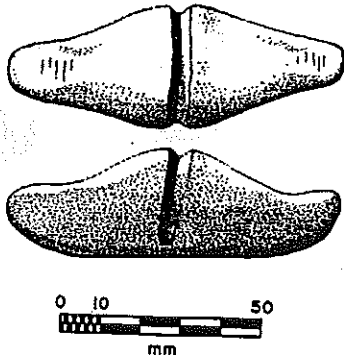


Figure 2. Dorsal and lateral views of artifact 1.

Artifact Number	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Weight (gr)	Elevation (m)	Material	Location (County)	Found by
1	83.0	30.0	26.0	79.0	975	Limestone	Musselshell	William Holm
2	52.0	---	60.0	---	1,025	Unknown	Musselshell	Joseph Cramer & Oscar Lewis
3	30.0	15.5	11.5	9.0	1,112	Catlinite	Cascade	Maynard Shumate
4	51.0	22.5	20.0	29.0	1,024	Soapstone	Cascade	Maynard Shumate
5	---	---	---	---	1,006	Soapstone	Cascade	Maynard Shumate
6	78.6	25.1	27.0	77.9	1,433	Black Shale	Granite	Frank Krieg
7	78.1	24.1	18.5	48.9	1,067	Concretion	Cascade	John Byrd
8	42.0	16.4	12.1	15.5	1,067	Concretion	Fallon	LeRoy Bergstrom
9	96.5	24.2	18.6	77.6	914	Argillite	Flathead	Fred Barker

Table 1. Montana Atlatl Weights.

Eight years later, Robert Neuman (1967) published data on 60 atlatl weights from 39 locations in the Plains region of Canada and the north-central United States. Neuman divided the 70 artifacts into four classes based primarily on shape and weight. He reported the same atlatl weight from Montana that had been previously listed by Butler and

Osborne and stated: "to my knowledge, only one atlatl weight has been reported from Montana." Neuman said the weight was almost an exact replica of one from the Boundary Mound site in North Dakota and placed it in his Class II. The age of Class II weights, based on radiocarbon dates from the North Dakota site, was estimated at A.D. 200. The range of dimensions for Neuman's Class II atlatl weights are: length 45-115 mm, width 15-30 mm, height 12-26 mm, and weight 12.7-93.3 gr. Unknown to Neuman at that time, at least one other possible atlatl weight had been found in Montana. In the 1950s, at a site 25 km west of Roundup, Montana, and north of the Musselshell River (Fig. 1-2), Joseph Cramer and Oscar Lewis recovered an artifact that may be an atlatl weight (Fig. 1-2) (Davis et al. 1997). Two holes had been drilled through his artifact, which appears to be more comparable to artifacts from the Dalles region of Washington and Oregon, as described by Butler and Osborne (1959).

A few atlatl weights have been found and reported in Montana since 1967, all of which fit most closely into Neuman's Class I. The dimensions for Neuman's Class I atlatl weights are: length 41-94 mm, width 14-33 mm, height 12-27 mm, and weight 11.3-79.2 gr. The age range of Class I artifacts, based on one radiocarbon date and associations with excavations that yielded diagnostic artifacts, is A.D. 500 to 2500 B.C.

In 1974, Maynard Shumate (1974) reported three atlatl weights from west-central Montana, found in a localized area between Cascade and Ulm (Figs. 1-3, 4, and 5). One of Shumate's weights was made of Catlinite from the quarries in Minnesota (Fig. 4.3); it is the smallest of the atlatl weights yet found in Montana and is also the most ornate, with incised lines that must be decorative rather than functional. Another atlatl weight reported by Shulmate was made of sandstone (Fig. 4-4) and the last, a fragmentary atlatl weight, was made of soapstone or steatite.

Thirteen years later, two more atlatl weights were reported in Montana (Sims 1987). One weight was found 4 km west of Fort Shaw by John Byrd of Canyon Ferry, Montana. The other was found west of the Continental Divide, 16 km north of Phillipsburg, by Frank "Bud" Krieg (Figs. 1-6 and 7). The Byrd artifact (Fig. 5-7) was found 20 km west of the Shumate sites. The Krieg artifact (Fig. 5-6) is the first atlatl weight reported west of the Continental Divide in Montana. It weighs 77.9 gr, 1.1 gr. less that the first reported Montana atlatl weight from the Musselshell River gravel bar.

Additional Montana Atlatl Weights

The area of known distribution of atlatl weights in Montana is now greatly expanded with the addition of two previously unreported artifacts found 775 km apart. One was found east of the Continental Divide in southeastern Montana and the other west of the Continental Divide in Northwestern Montana (Figs. 1-8 and 1-9). The atlatl weight from eastern Montana (Fig. 6.8) was found by LeRoy Bergstrom of Belgrade, Montana, more than 25 years ago. The artifact was found in Fallon County on the surface of a prominent hill, 5 km south of Baker, Montana (Fig. 1.8).

The artifact (Fig. 6.8) is made of a dark brown concretion which naturally forms in the sandstone commonly found in southeastern Montana. It is 42 mm long, 16.4 mm wide, 12.1 mm high and weighs 15.5 gr. In plan view, it is rectangular with rounded ends and has been shaped by grinding on most surfaces. In cross section, it is planoconvex with a slight concavity

of the plane surface along the long axis. A narrow, shallow groove encircles the convex surface, perpendicular to the long axis near the midpoint. It is the second reported montana atlatl weight made from a concretion.

The western Montana atlatl weight (Fig. 6.9) was found 50 years ago by Fred Barker of Bigfork. It was the second atlatl weight reported from Montana west of the Continental Divide and is the only reported sub-surface recovery. The artifact was found in the root mass of a tree during the removal of stumps from a field 6 km northwest of Bigfork (Fig. 1-9). The artifact was made of maroon-colored Precambrian argillite which displays parallel bands of lighter and darker colors. It is 96.5 mm long, 24.2 mm wide, 18.6 mm high, and weighs 77.6 gr (only .3 gr less than

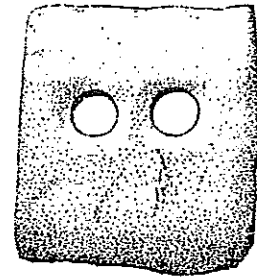


Figure 3. The perforated atlatl weight from the Stark Blason Kills Site (Davis et al. 1997). Artifact 2.



3



4



Figure 4. Dorsal and lateral views of artifacts 3 and 4.

the Krieg artifact). In plan view, it is rectangular with rounded ends and had been incised across the convex surface, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. The size, type, and material of the artifact may be more typical of atlatl weights reported in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (Butler and Osborne 1959; Butler 1965).

Table 1 and Figure 1 list the nine atlatl weights reportedly found in Montana. The two weights recently reported by LeRoy Bergstrom and Fred Barker expand the known area of distribution of atlatl weights west to east, from border to border in Montana. The limited number of artifacts provides interesting and informative data. The variation in materials and types of the Montana atlatl weights indicates the existence of migration and trade routes far outside the collection area during the time when atlatl weights were made and used.

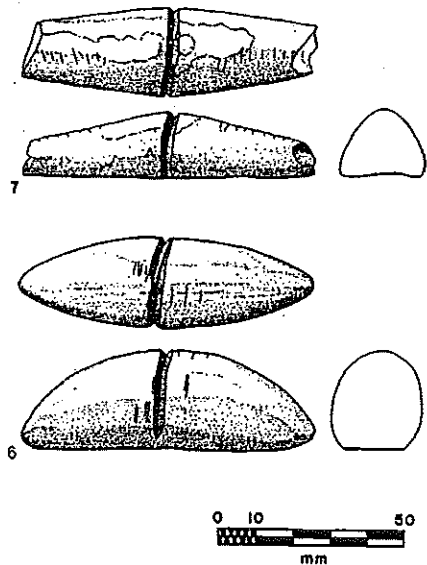


Figure 5. Dorsal and lateral views of artifacts 6 and 7.

The Function of the Atlatl and Atlatl Weight

As the weapon of choice for thousands of years, the atlatl system was and is used successfully in a wide variety of configurations. For example, the Eskimos use a rigid throwing board approximately 33 cm long to launch darts approximately 105 cm in length. In contrast, hunters in New Guinea and Australia are using rigid throwing boards as long as 120 cm to throw darts as long as 340 cm (Stodiek 1994). With the wide variety of atlatl configurations that have been found around the world, the flexible throwing stick and attached atlatl weight may be a uniquely North American adaptation (Tate 1986). The function of the atlatl weight has not been clearly determined. Proposed explanations for the function of atlatl weights include:

1. It serves as a counter-balance to allow hunters to hold the atlatl in the ready position for long periods of time without tiring.
2. The added weight increases the velocity and distance of the thrown dart.
3. It forces the shaft of the throwing stick to flex and store energy.
4. It decreases the speed of the throwing stick spur and reduces the compression of the flexible dart.
5. It synchronizes the flex of the throwing stick with the flex of the dart for a more efficient launch.
6. It is a silencer.
7. It is a fetish or good luck charm.
8. It contributes to a smoother, more controlled, and powerful launch and improves the accuracy of the system.

Several anthropologists and archaeologists have conducted research with the atlatl to determine the function and performance of the system, both with and without the "atlatl weight." Difficulties experienced by these researchers have included equipment replication problems and operator proficiency shortfalls. As a result, some of their findings have been confusing and contradictory.

A resurgence of interest in the atlatl has occurred in the past decade and a new culture of recreational and competitive atlatlists has developed, i.e., The World Atlatl Association. Members of the new culture are reinventing the atlatl and continuing the research in both scientific and practical contexts. The scientific context generally seeks answers in terms of mathematics, physics, and computer models (e.g., Perkins 1993; Engvall 1995). The practical research evaluates system design, weight effects, throwing technique, and a variety of other factors that might have been manipulated by prehistoric atlatlists (e.g. Raymond 1986; Strischek 1996). The distinction between scientific and practical research is not always clear. The data gathered in both contexts are often beneficial to other research.

Regardless of the context, a common thread links all atlatl research, in many cases, with confusing or contradictory results. Take the following case in point. Wayne Brian of Mesa, Arizona, designed an atlatl system for long-distance throwing and *The Guinness Book of World Records* reported his world record throw (Tate 1992, 1995). Brian used a very flexible throwing stick with a 15-gr weight to establish the world record and accomplish his longest

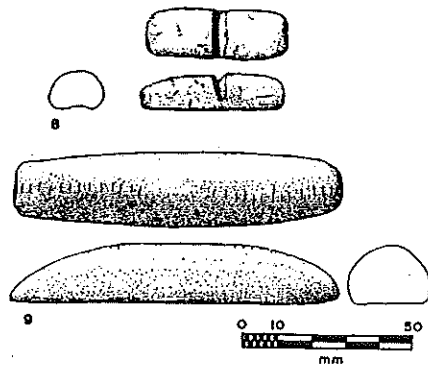


Figure 6. Dorsal and lateral views of artifacts 8 and 9.

throw of 221.6 m. He stated that the proper placement of the weight on his throwing stick significantly increased the distance he could throw a dart (Brian, personal communication 1997). The current world record distance for an atlatl-thrown dart is 258.6 m held by David Engvall of St. Joseph Missouri. Engvall used a computer program to design his high-tech atlatl for the record throw. (Engvall 1955; Forsberg 1996). He experimented with several configurations of atlatl weights, but due to inconsistent results, did not use a weight for his world record throw (Engvall, personal

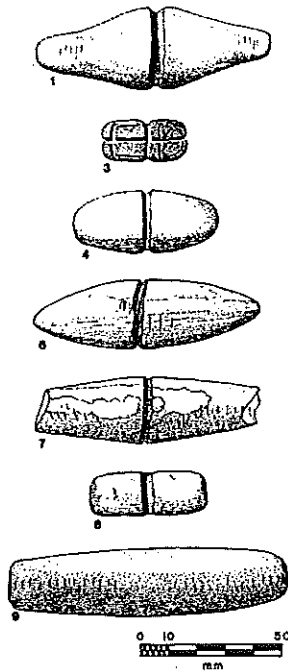


Figure 7. Comparative dorsal views of artifacts 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

communication, 1997). Similar conflicting findings have resulted from other research.

There is no conventional wisdom regarding the function of the atlatl weight. However, most researchers agree that a weight of the proper size, located properly on the throwing stick shaft, does stabilize the launch of the dart. When used as the primary hunting weapon, the maximum range that a dart can be thrown is of little concern. Of more concern is the ability to consistently hit a target within an effective range. If the addition of a weight to the shaft of the atlatl launcher improved the accuracy of the system, a hunter would be more successful and could reasonably consider the weight to be a good luck charm.

Conclusion

Jim Ray of Belt, Montana is the current Montana Atlatl Champion

and winner of multiple titles in contests in other states. Jim uses a rigid throwing stick with an atlatl weight attached and his assessment of the system may best define the purpose of the weight. Jim says that, "If the atlatl does not feel right, it will not work right." (Ray, personal communication, 1996).

The atlatl weight may, under various conditions perform or provide any or all of the proposed functions listed above—from a good luck charm to a flex-synchronizing device. Most important to the atlatlists, *a weight adds the right feel to the total atlatl system and improves throwing accuracy.*

Acknowledgments

The author is grateful to LeRoy Bergstrom and Fred Barker for making their personal atlatl weights available for study, to Richard Pettersen for his coordinating skills, and especially to Leslie B. Davis for his assistance and insistence during the development of this paper. My technical illustration of atlatl weights was supported by the Missile Systems of the Americas research project he directs for the Museum of the Rockies.

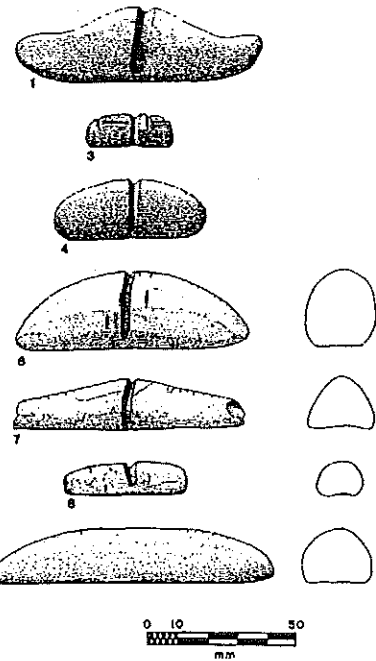


Figure 8. Comparative lateral view of artifacts 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

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Note: This paper was previously published in *Archaeology in Montana*, Vol. 37, No. 2, 1996. Persons may contact the author, Troy C. Helmick at 128 North Cherry, Box 303, Townsend, MT 59644. Troy is a past President of The World Atlatl Association.

News From The World Atlatl Association

By Jim Ray

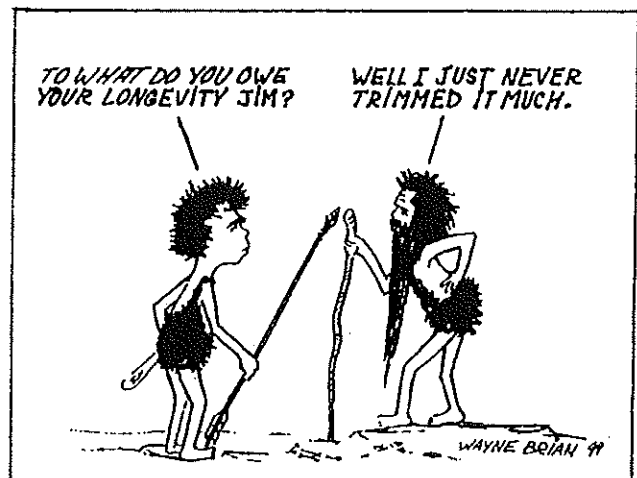
During our annual meeting at Flint Ridge, OH, 1-2 June, the Board of Directors voted to designate one of the current board member positions as a non-U.S. member position. Accompanying this designation would be a by-laws waiver of the current attendance requirement for this one position. These changes were initiated from concern by some members that without non-U.S. members on the Board, WAA might have the appearance of not truly being a world organization. The Board of Directors has always been open to any adult member regardless of resident country. In past years, the Board has had members from Belgium and Canada.

Also during our Annual Meeting, new Directors were elected and new meeting sites were selected. The new Board members are Margie Takoch of Ohio, Russell Richard of Wyoming, and Tom Mills of California. Well Done everyone! New Annual Meeting sites are Denver, CO for 2002, and Marshall, MI for 2003.

From past newsletter articles, every member should be aware that our beloved, longtime, original Newsletter Editor, Bill Tate will be retiring from the editor position not later than April, 2002. In my opinion, Bill's dedication to and work on behalf of the WAA has no equal! Even as we must close one chapter, another must begin.

As President, the task of finding an replacement editor falls on me. The search has been a challenge, but many recommendations have been received and considered. While at Flint Ridge, I made the choice for our replacement for Bill Tate. Our new Editor will be Margie Takoch of Ohio. As with anyone beginning a new challenge, Margie has expressed some reservations, but I have every confidence that she will do a fine job. I am requesting that we all show our support for Margie, both moral and material, and we can expect a fine tradition to continue. You have our best wishes, Margie!

This year's choice for the President's Award goes to the ISAC Committee Chairman and ISAC originator, Lloyd Pine. Lloyd received the first President's Award in 1997 for originating the ISAC, and this year's award was for the continued excellent management and administration of the ISAC program. Your work is noted and appreciated, Lloyd. Well Done!



Publication Confuses Early Old World Dart-thrower Use

by Lorenz Bruchert

I have some new information that should clear up misconceptions about the earliest use of the dart-thrower in Europe, etc. In 1994, Malcolm Farmer wrote a paper for the journal: *Current Anthropology* about the dart-thrower coming out of Africa into Europe and spreading through diffusion into the New World via Berengia. I investigated Farmer's references in his paper and had a problem with a key reference he used.

I contacted Farmer about his research and he wrote me an answer back that supported my suspicions about what was written. It turns out that the editor of *Current Anthropology* cut out a key piece of information from Farmer's paper that explained how he came up with this 30,000 to 40,000 year date for dart-thrower use coming out of Africa.

In a paper written by Ms. G. Caton-Thompson in 1947, it was mentioned that a stemmed type point was found in the late Paleolithic, which in northern Egypt is called the Aterian Period. The author felt that this stemmed point and other points found had to have been used with bow and arrow technology. Farmer identified and reinterpreted the authors findings as the earliest evidence of a dart-thrower technology based solely on the points. Further, the Aterian period was recently radiocarbon dated, not back to the late Paleolithic, but to the middle Paleolithic and so the dates of the points were corrected to the new period. However, all this information was based solely on circumstantial evidence that the dart-thrower existed at this time (i.e., stemmed points), and not on the actual recovery of a dart-thrower or other evidence of one being found in fragments.

So, in actual fact, the assumptions of various archaeologists and dart-thrower enthusiasts, that the dart-thrower came out of North Africa stand incorrect.

In a future paper called "The Misconceptions of the Dart-thrower Technology around the Globe", I will try to explain this further.

Plastic Amazons Kill with Atlatl Submitted by Bob Berg

A teddy bear was recently found murdered by a miniature atlatl dart presumably cast by a member of a tribe of small plastic women dressed in leather. Described by witnesses as long legged, full breasted, and blond, about a foot tall, and apparently not possessing a single brain cell, these half dressed babes have evidently gone totally berserk. The fight started according to witnesses who have asked to remain

anonymous, over a Hess truck parked under the bed of a five-year old Pennsylvania girl. Witnesses said that three teddy bears started the fracas by insisting on honking the horn and flashing the lights on the Hess truck until the batteries wore out. When one of the teddy bears showed up with a pack of fresh energizer batteries, the Barbies who were dressed in full cave girl regalia took the law into their own hands and attacked the teddies with miniature atlatls that they had made from toothpicks and bamboo shish kabob skewers. Police inspectors said that the miniature plastic Amazons must have planned the attack in advance, since the darts were fletched with feathers plucked from the neighbors parakeet. Four or five of the plastic tribe members remain at large despite their size.

The Fourth Annual Alaska Atlatl Competition

by Jim Dickson

The Fourth Annual Alaska Atlatl Competition was held in Unalaska on April 7th, 2000. Unalaska is located about 900 miles southwest of Anchorage, and 2000 miles due north of Hawaii. The National Park Service, the Museum of the Aleutians, and the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska sponsored this yearly contest.



This year's event began at the museum of the Aleutians with a lecture and slide presentation on spear thrower history given by the National Park Service's Richard VanderHoek. He discussed spear thrower use in the Upper Paleolithic and by Paleo-Indians and later North American atlatl use including Aleut throwing board hunting. Also addressed were what factors make an optimal modern dart.

The afternoon's weather was excellent by Aleutian standards with a temperature of 46 degrees f. (8 C.), wind from the southwest at 25 mph, and scattered sunlight. A large group of about 45 people showed up to learn about the atlatl and dart throwing. Everyone got a chance to try to hit targets set up around the old ball field during the "open throw" and demonstration period. With everyone having had a chance to practice the contest moved onto a best of three throws at targets that

were shaped like sea mammals. The top scorers in each division: men, women, and youth, received prizes provided by the sponsors. A hard-core group of 14 contestants moved on to an International Standard Accuracy Contest. The best men's score was 66 and women's best a 13 so our ISAC efforts are no threat to the national front runners, but everyone had a great time. The most outstanding thing about the day was the number of people who showed interest in the atlatl and had a chance to try it.

Early 2001 ISAC Results

By Lloyd Pine

The results from 51 contests have been received. Already there are seven scores of 90 or above, and an additional 14 men have thrown 80 or higher. I have heard that Doug Majorsky has thrown a 95X, but I don't tabulate any score for which I have not received a score sheet. The women are continuing the fast pace that they set last year with Sharon Keefer currently in the lead. I understand that Margie Takoch has thrown a 65 to join the six other women with scores of 60 or greater. Again, I have not received those official results. There are also more youth scores greater than 60 than there were this time last year.

I want to thank all of the WAA members that are checking addition and score sheet completeness when you sign confirming the scores. Mathematical errors have almost disappeared and this has been a great help both to me and to Katy Clark who does the data entry for our permanent records.

Score: Name and Address: Contest Date: Contest:
Men

94 X	Doug Majorsky (Penna)	4/21	Waverly, NY
94 X	Mark Bracken (Georgia)	5/19	Ft. Osage, MO
93 X	Doug Miller (Illinois)	4/29	Grinnell, IA
92	Terry Keefer (Penna)	4/22	Waverly, NY
91	Bob Berg (New York)	4/8	NGA Knap-in
90 XX	John Whitaker (Iowa)	5/20	Ft. Osage, MO
90 X	Charlie Brown (Colo.)	5/27	Buford, WY

Women

74 XX	Sharon Keefer (Penna)	4/21	Waverly, NY
69	Melissa Dildine (Penna)	4/21	Waverly, NY
64	Lori Majorsky (Penna)	4/4	NGA Knap-in
64	Sherry Bracken (GA)	4/4	NGA Knap-in
60	Susie Brown (Colorado)	5/27	Buford, WY
60	Joanne Fogelman	4/11	Tarascan, Fr

Youth

78	Tho. Chauvaux (14) Belg.	4/29	Treignes Belg
77	Jehan Speckens (15) Belg.	1/7	Les Angles, Fr
74	Charlie Bracken (13) GA	4/7	NGA Knap-in
74	Gael Speckens (15) Belg.	4/15	Montaner, Fr

67	Nick Mertz (12) Illinois	4/8	St Louis, MO
61 XX	Jon Rowe (15) Penna.	4/21	Waverly, NY
60	Tommy Goble (14) NY	4/22	Waverly, NY

Blackwater Draw Throw - April 28-29

By Bob and Carol Sizemore

with comments by Chris Judson

What a great place to throw spears, with Blackwater Draw as a backdrop. Blackwater Draw is the premier Paleolithic site in the country, located just north of Portales, New Mexico. Eastern New Mexico University's Assistant Professor of Anthropology, David Batten, and the Anthropology Club did a great job of setting up the competition. Torie Meyers painted life-size megafauna targets for the fieldround. An atlatl made by George Crawford was given to the top novice. A plaque was given for the top score overall and tee-shirts were given to top places in each division. The afternoon ISAC produced no good scores - too windy. (The scores ranged from 6 to 54). We had a good laugh at the group of women. Three were sharing the same atlatl and one was carrying a baby who got handed from person to person so everybody could take a turn to throw.

Hard working members of the Anthropology Club that made that day possible included Melissa Braunguhweig, Jack Finner, Luke Erickson, David Moffatt, and Lala Comulada. (I may have missed a name or two, so KUDOS to all of you for your effort).

The museum and the Blackwater Draw site are well worth the trip to Portales, and I think this will become one of the best events in the country. So put it on your calendar and we'll see you there next year.

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Dear Bill,

I recently bought an atlatl and have been playing with it as time and weather permits. I intend to do an article on the history and current sporting status of the atlatl for *New Jersey Sportsmen's News*. Do you know if the atlatl is legal for hunting anywhere in the US, and do you have any pictures of someone really good throwing an atlatl that I might be able to use?

Sincerely, Joe Bilby

2705 Buchanan St., Wall Township, NJ 07719

JGBilby44@aol.com

I referred him to our web site. Others might want to contact him.

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall?

"Dam!"

Dear Friends,

This message is from Benoit Debals from France, who came to meet you last summer in the "Wild West" of the USA! I am working in the Institut



Universitaire de Formation des Maitres (teacher education), and my job consists mainly in networking and information. But, I proposed to a professor, teaching students that are going to become professors, to include in his lessons teaching about the atlatl!!!



And, he accepted! He teaches mechanics, and I suggested that he talk about the atlatl as a lever and then, I made a speech about the history, excuse me, the prehistory of the atlatl. Following the talk, we all went out to practice!

I was happy to succeed in convincing the professor and to succeed in my talk to the students who will soon become professors themselves and maybe they will teach about the atlatl to their students. As you can see by the following pictures the enjoyment of everybody practicing!!!

Regards, Ben

Notice! Notice! Notice!

Dean Pritchard informs us that as of July his old e-mail address is changing. You may contact him at:

atlatl1@earthlink.net

(That third letter "L" is really the number one). His server has been bought out and he may be changing. This change will effect his web page as well.



On Target

By Leni Clubb

In spite of the two days of rain, mud and the tornado siren, we had a wonderful time at Flint Ridge, Ohio for the Annual Meeting. Seeing so many of you that I only have known through e-mail, snail mail and telephone made the 2300 mile trip (one way) and the five days travel each way worth every hour and mile of it. I was so happy to meet so many of the eastern "gang" that I have only known by reading about you in the various newsletters over the years. Now I can put a face to the names I know so well.

By now, most of you know that WAA has had new tee-shirts made. These are available in khaki or jade with the WAA logo across the chest area. They are available for \$12.00, plus \$3.50 priority mail postage. They come in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL. If more than one shirt is ordered, please contact me for the exact postage cost.

As the number of atlatl events published in the newsletter grows, it is important that you check the listings to find a contest within a reasonable (or even unreasonable) distance from where you live. So many events are now scheduled that it is sometimes hard to decide which ones you just have to attend. It is becoming difficult to avoid conflicts in scheduling, so be sure to plan far ahead and notify me of your dates and a brief description of your event in order to get it on the "official list" and in the newsletter calendar, as well as on the web site. I will work with you as best I can to avoid date conflicts within the same geographic area.

ADVANCE NOTICE: In year 2002, the **Fifteenth Annual Meeting** will be held in the Denver, Colorado area. it was decided at the meeting of the Board of Directors June 1st, that a tradition of holding the Annual Meeting in the Denver area every five years would be observed as it has been in the past. Colorado is where WAA was "born," and it is appropriate to meet in that area. For the year 2003, the **Sixteenth Annual Meeting** will be held in Marshall, Michigan. More details on these two important WAA events will be published in future newsletters.

See you at a contest somewhere, someday...

Leni LENIWAA@prodigy.net

Everyone is encouraged to join **Community Zero Atlatl interactive web site**. Click onto: <http://www.communityzero.com/atlatl/index.cfm?key=604-DHE>

Seventh Annual Atlatl Contest at Fremont - June 15-17

by Leni Clubb

Pete Weimer, Assistant Director of Fremont Indian State Park, Sevier, UT did it again!! He put on a very successful atlatl event on the exciting and strenuous atlatl course over "Five Finger Ridge," an archaeological site in the park. Everything went smoothly, the weather cooperated—no rain, sunny days, and not too hot. A great time was had by all. Winners of the June 16th contest were:

Kids to age 11:

1st -- Tiffany Weimer, Monroe, UT; 2nd-- Darien Norcross, Richfield, UT.

Youth age 12-15:

1st- Tanner Weimer, Monroe, UT; 2nd- Jarod Alroyd, Linden, UT; 3rd- Tiffany Brown, Salt Lake City, UT.

Women:

1st - Trena Pikyavit, Teasdale, UT; 2nd - Judy Pritchard, Boise, ID; 3rd - Susie Brown, Arvada, CO.

Men:

1st - Dean Pritchard, Boise, ID; 2nd - Ray Madden, Joplin, MO; 3rd - Ray Thompson, Sandy, UT.

The WAA Grand Champion Award went to Dean Pritchard. ISAC high scores were Tom Mills of Pasadena, CA with an 83, and Dean Pritchard with 85.

Saturday night we all enjoyed a delicious Dutch oven dinner prepared by Kaye Weimer. This has become a looked forward to tradition at Fremont.

Atlatls for Archaeology Week in Vermont

By Bob and Cheryl Berg

The State of Vermont has a great Archaeology Week each fall. This year's program is in September, and the atlatl part of the program will take place Friday and Saturday, Sep. 21 and 22 at Chimney Point State Historic Site at Addison, VT, just across the Lake Champlain Bridge from New York. The Vermont program is part of a statewide event commemorating the states archaeological resources.

Included in the Chimney Point program will be atlatl building class (\$50 cost) on Friday the 21st noon to 6:00 p.m. Participants will end up with an atlatl and three darts. All materials are included. Advance registration is required. On the following day, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is the Northeastern Open Atlatl Championships. This is a well organized contest and is well attended by the Rutland, VT high School students who study the atlatl in John Peterson's class. Contest Registration is \$5. for all ages which includes your entrance fee. Non participating visitors pay a \$2.00 entrance fee waved for those age 14 and under. We highly recommend a visit to this site known for its history and prehistory!

You can visit the Historic Vermont website at www.historicvermont.org, or call the Chimney Point

Museum at 1-(802) 759-2412 or e-mail them at elgilbertson@dca.state.vt.us.

Atlatl Rough Fish Hunting Equipment

by Lou Becker

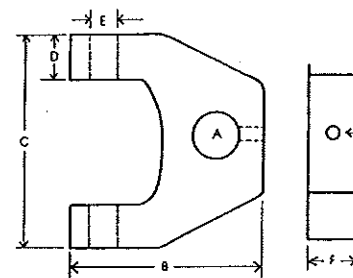
Adapting the atlatl for harvesting rough fish is quite simple. You can use the same atlatl you use for target and or regular hunting. The only real equipment change would be in the darts. Although I prefer wood darts over any other material, I have found that if you do a lot of fish hunting, darts made of fiberglass tubing work and last a lot longer. Wood darts tend to warp if they are constantly immersed in water. Also, Fiberglass darts penetrate the water better than wood darts.

Another equipment change would be replacing the target or hunting head with a good quality fishing head, like the "Sting-A-Ree" or "Aqua-Killer" points. These are quality fish hunting heads that work well. I have also had good luck with a heavy duty three-prong fishing head.

Rigging a reel for your dart is also quite simple. Unlike bowfishing, where the reel is attached to the bow, when using the atlatl, I use a specially made reel which is held in my left hand while the dart is thrown using my right. The line is attached to the end of the six-foot harpoon dart. I've also found that if I am hunting rough fish in shallow water, a reel is not necessary as the six-foot darts are easy to retrieve as long as you are wearing waders.

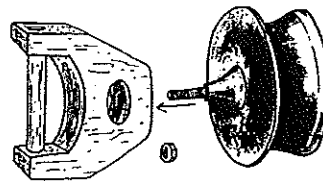
How to Make Your Atlatl Fishing Reel

The reel handle can be made from hardwood or good marine grade plywood. If you want, you can glue up two thinner pieces of wood to get the 1.5 inch thickness that is required. Dimensions: A = 1 inch diameter. B = 4.25 in. C = 6.75 in. D = 1 in. E = .75 in. F = 1.5 in.



This hole is drilled to a diameter that will match the bolt on the reel.

The measurement at D can be reduced by .25 inches on each extension to make more room for larger hands. A 3/4 inch dowel serves as the handle and is glued into the corresponding holes as shown. The bolt on the reel is put into the small hole at the front. It is secured with the nut. A wrench can be put on the nut by way of the 1 inch access hole in the side of the handle which will allow things to be properly



tightened. Check archery stores for bowfishing reels. Some have been made from empty two-liter soda bottles.

Use a file to round over all of the edges and sand until smooth. Color it with stain if you wish and then finish with a couple of coats of varnish. *****

Practice, Perseverance, Patience, Provides Pork An Atlatl Hunting Experience

by Len Riemersma



I've been throwing darts at various targets for over five years. I am not an excellent thrower by any means. To be quite honest, I wasn't positive that I had reached the level of expertise necessary to successfully hunt with the atlatl.

The scheduled date for the hunt was the last weekend in March. In Wisconsin, the months prior to this are not quite favorable to warming up the throwing arm outside. Fortunately, the sportsman club I belong to allowed me to practice indoors.

The darts I used for the hunt were made of bamboo and needed to be straightened for optimal flight. The ends where I insert the points were reinforced so they wouldn't split upon impact, lessening the penetration of the point. The points I decided to use were made of steel. One was a home made point measuring 1 1/2 inches wide and 2 1/2 long. The other inserted point was a commercial Zwicky four blade point that I purchased. Both proved very effective.

The atlatl I chose to use was made by Victor Ahern of Michigan, and is a very flexible thrower made of purple heart wood. But, he makes different styles and sizes of atlatl.

In Wisconsin, the atlatl is not yet recognized as an effective hunting tool, so I was limited to hunting on a game farm owned by Jeff Kiehnau in Door County. He stocks Russian Boar Hogs and other exotic game animals.

The morning was blustery and cold. The temperature had dropped into the low teens and stayed there all day. As I stepped into the woods, I thought back on my archery hunting experience and how I was going to find an area clear enough of branches to cast my dart at the target. If I found such a spot, the animal wasn't just going to walk up and present itself for an easy shot like the paper targets I had practiced on. Locating the Russian boar hog was easy, finding an open area to throw from proved to be more difficult. Finally the moment arrived. I had pursued the animal for an hour through the woods into an open field and back into

the pine trees. I was standing alongside the edge of the pines when into a small clearing the animal appeared. I made my throw. The dart on its way found a branch and glanced upward and behind my target about 20 yards. My heart sank. I had missed. The animal seemed to smile at me and wander off into the pines. The Russian boar again presented itself a few minutes later. I had one dart in hand and the other sticking in the ground 40 yards away. My stepbrother Chris, who was filming the hunt, volunteered to retrieve the dart I had thrown earlier. I wondered if this was why early man "group hunted."

The dart was cast and made a good solid hit. The pig turned and started to stagger and run. The dart sticking into him crashing alongside trees worked itself loose. The point was still deeply embedded inside the animal. Having the second dart returned, I made a second throw. This dart, too, found its mark and entered deep into the target. The Russian Boar Hog staggered and dropped. The dart had entered and traveled 20 plus inches through the rib cage and into the lungs. A good kill shot. I had done what my ancestors before me had done to survive. Hunting with the atlatl was a rewarding experience. I felt a sense of accomplishment.

Why Do They Throw...?

By Anne Francoise and Steve Cabaraux

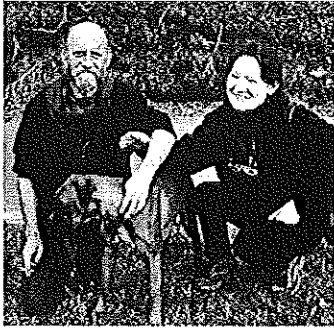
Marie-Jeanne Robert and Andre Robert.

Marie-Jeanne is a 52 year-old English teacher while 60 year-old Andre teaches French and History. He is also the President of the association: les amis de l'homme de Spy. They live in Jemeppe sur Sambre, Belgium.



Why do they throw?

In 1997, the township of Spy invited some animators from Ramioul for an atlatl demonstration. Jean Speckens and Pascal Chauvaux went there and interested Andre so much that he decided to follow them to Kipsiljarvi in Finland for an atlatl contest. He made his own materials and participated in other contests, some even in America! Marie-Jeanne, like a faithful spouse, follows Andre when it is possible. They especially like the atmosphere of the contests. Such weekends are opportunities to meet people and to live agreeable (happy) moments.



Jean Paul Rebatte, 51, a Commercial Director in Paris and Nogent, France along with 44 year-old Genevieve Meunier, an Editor's Assistant in Paris and Nogent, shown here with 5 year-old Olga, the kind hearted dog. **Why do they throw?**

Jean-Paul used to go on holiday to Les Eysies de Tayac in Dordogne France. There he met Bernard Ginelli who makes prehistoric arms reproductions. Jean-Paul, already an archer using a modern bow, was enticed by Bernard to try a "prehistoric" primitive bow during contests on his holidays. He met a very old friend again and met so many sympathetic people that he decided to attend all of the contests it was possible to go to! Genevieve followed him with pleasure - and Olga too!



Pictured here, left to right are Ulrich Stodieck, 44, from the Prehistorical Museum in Neanderthal Germany, Johan Timmes, 46, a

prehistorian also from Germany, Hike Lubosch-Stodieck, who at 41 is a nurse for handicapped people in Germany, and Museum Director Martin Schmidt from Oerlinghausen, Germany. **Why do they Throw?**

Ulrich organized the first European atlatl contest in Germany in 1987. He, with six prehistorical students threw 10 darts at a target while at a barbecue. Ulrich studied the atlatl use for his major work and wanted to see how prehistoric people adapted their throwing materials to improve their performance. Johan Timmes was present at this first contest. When Hike met Ulrich, she naturally tried to throw too. They were recently married. Martin is a good friend. Ulrich confessed that his present purpose is no longer scientific research, but just to have the pleasure of meeting friends in an agreeable setting.



A l f r e d Brasseur, 52 year-old technician in the Belgian Air Force, with his wife, Claire Brasseur a 53 year-old bank worker

from Namur, Belgium. To their right is their daughter, France Brasseur-Casseyas, 28, a prehistorian and her prehistorian husband, Christian Casseyas of Ramioul, Belgium. (Jos and Josiane Casseyas were nearby, but missed my photograph.) They live not far from Gent, Belgium and speak Flemish. **Why do they throw?**

Flemish speaking Christian studied archaeology in Leuven, Belgium. He took part in archaeological animations in Ramioul and was engaged there because they needed a trilingual animator. France is working in archaeology too. She began work in Ramioul, and fell in love with Christian at first sight. Today she is pregnant and by the time this newsletter is out, a little girl will be born. Atlatl throw is so much fun that the family gathers at the contest in Ramioul. For them it is like a family meeting. Men hunting, women helping the organization. They take pleasure meeting others with similar interests at the atlatl contests.

The Tyoga Point, newsletter of the Tyoga Atlatl Association came out this spring. A beautiful issue full of nifty material and beautifully presented. Our congratulations to President Dennis Lantz for such a nice bulletin. Non-members might want to contact Tyoga Atlatl Association, 110 Layton St., Sayre, PA 18840-1722 for membership information..

CORRECTION

Last Issue's article by Lou Becker: *Hunting Rough Fish with the Ancient Atlatl* contained an error in Lou's mailing address. The correct address is Lou Becker, 4146 King Road, China, Michigan 48054.

Pascal's Corner

by Pascal Chauvaux of Belgium

Like Last year, 22 young boys and girls (between 7 and 13 years old) took advantage of Easter



vacations taking part in an atlatl class. We had a great time when making wooden atlatls with stone tools. We also had training during the two days, and a contest at the

end of the stay. As usual with the Musee de la nature staff, the same miracle occurred: Everybody was equally placed and won books as prizes.



Atlatl contest in Ramioul, Belgium April 22nd

No rain, no wind, but a lot of difficulties on the field and in the woods. Only 36 throwers (4 from France, 12 from Germany, and 20 from home -- Belgium) attended. Ulrich Stodiek, the "father" of the atlatl use in Europe took part in our meeting. If you are new in this business, you may not know that Ulrich wrote and published one of the best books about atlatls in the world - I think it is the best! No ISAC, but a new kind of contest was held - a javelin throw.

Some of the results were: 1 --

Ulli Weigel (D) 43.73; 2 - Pascal Chauvaux (B) 30.55; 3 -- Max Weigel (D) 28.26; 4 - Christian Casseeyas (B) 19.60; 5 - Jerome Haletti (F) 17.60; 6 - Ulrich Stodiek (D) 12.09; 7 - Johann Tinnes (D) 11.50; 8 - Fernand Collin (B) 11.20; 9 - Simon Bukssmann (D) 10.89; 10 - Steve Cabaraux (B) 10.69; 11 - Thomas Chauvaux (B) 8.40; 12 - Martin Schmidt (D) 7.58; 13 - Thomas Ruthardt (D) 7.51; 14 - Frank Reusen (B) 6.93; 14 - Andre Robert (B) 6.93.

The World Atlatl Association Board of Directors, Effective June 2, 2001

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Gary Fogelman, 245 Fairview Rd., Turbotville, PA 17772. Phone (717) 437-3698, e-mail iam@mail.csrlink.net

Ray Madden, 1256 S. Silver Leaf Road, Joplin, MO 64801. Phone (417) 781-0962, e-mail rmadden@janics.com

Ron Mertz, 11829 Claychester, Des Peres, MO 63131. Phone (314) 822-2514, e-mail 103210.2044@compuserve.com

Tom Mills, 1880 Loma Vista St. Pasadena, CA 91104. Phone (626) 794-9158, e-mail PaleoAleo@aol.com

Dean Pritchard, 3974 Lena Ave., Boise, ID 83713. Phone (208) 323-0293, e-mail atlatl1@earthlink.net

Ray Strischek, 10810 Peach Ridge Rd., Athens, OH 45701. Phone (740) 592-1217, e-mail db8947@dragonbbs.com

Russell Richard, PO Box 37, Buford, WY 82052. Phone (307) 772-0550, e-mail coyoteclown@aol.com

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Troy Helmick, Helena, MT

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Who in the World is Harry Marriner?

By Bill Tate

Over the past couple of months, I have heard the above question several times. First of all, he is the author of last issue's front page article: *Dart-thrower Use in Colombia and its Representation in Colombian Rock Art*. He also made our front page in April 2000 with his report on: *Estolicas of the Colombian Muisca*.

Harry was introduced to us by Canadian and long-time WAA member Lorenz Bruchert. As near as I can figure it out, Harry is some sort of "Soldier of Fortune" doing all sorts of interesting things in Colombia. Among them is as Principal Investigator for Western Cundinamarca, Colombia for GIPRO (Indian Rock Art Investigation Group) He is a writer with published articles on: Archaeology, Treasure hunting, Archoastronomy, and Indian Rock Art, and is the author

of the following books: *The History of Colombian Andean Village*; *Weather Prediction in the year 1513* (translation from Spanish); *Ainsuca - A shaman's Solar Calendar?*; *Escape to Mexico*; *The La Pradera Skeleton - A Possible case of Death by Trauma*.

Harry was a Lt. in the U. S. Coast Guard, has spent two decades as a dairy farm owner and manager, is a ham radio operator, and Amazon and Orinoco river explorer and guide. His hobbies include scuba diving on Spanish galleons, treasure hunting, metal detecting, cave exploring, photography, sailing, and genealogy research.

Platte River Primitive Skills Day - Evans, Colorado - May 19th,

By Key Wee

An official ISAC throw preceded the world premiere of the "Square ISAC". The diameters of the ISAC scoring rings became the lengths of the sides of the Square scoring zones on this eco-friendly target. In addition, a 5-point scoring area was added. Five throws each were made from 15 and 20 meters. Participants donated prizes to a prize blanket. Windy and rainy conditions persisted throughout both contests. Michael Foltmer, event host, had a busy slate of activities including flint knapping, soap making demonstrations, edible plant walks, barbecues, and primitive archery contests. A round-robin trade blanket, where many atlatls, darts and raw materials were bartered, concluded the fun and educational event.

Square ISAC Results

- 1st Charlie Brown of Arvada, CO
- 2nd Ken Wee, Boulder, CO
- 3rd Doug Dahl, Thornton, CO
- 4th Mike Marsh, Denver, CO

With a score of 86X, Charlie Brown was presented the "Grand Champion plaque in the inaugural "Square ISAC" and chose a fine Dennis Carder-crafted purple heart flute from the prize blanket.

10th Annual Valley of Fire Contest

by Leni Clubb

It was an absolutely perfect day for the tenth Annual Atlatl Contests at Valley of Fire State Park near Overton, Nevada. March 31st 2001 was in the low 80s with no wind and under bright sunlight. Forth-nine throwers and lots of enthusiastic spectators from a dozen states were represented. In addition to the WAA Target Round held on Saturday afternoon at the foot of Atlatl Rock, an American Field Round was held, and of course, ISACs on Friday and Saturday and early Sunday

morning. We had a "first" on Saturday night with the ISAC continuing until after dark and completed with the aid of headlights from vehicles!! Those dedicated (translate "avid") throwers wouldn't even stop for the wonderful food at the potluck!

Jim Hammond, Supervisor of the Park, and his crew, Steve and Heidi, made arrangements for posters, direction signs, new accuracy targets, and also assembled and helped place the targets, directed traffic at Atlatl Rock, and in general made it possible for WAA to have another successful event.

Jim Hammond presented awards to contest winners:

Youth: 1st Miles Luneau (CA); 2nd Nathan Potter, (CO); 3rd Tanner Weimer (UT); **Women:** 1st Regina Dodson (WY); 2nd Judy Pritchard (ID); 3rd Dixie Coe (NY); **Men:** 1st Jim Ray (MT); 2nd Ray Thompson (UT); 3rd Dean Pritchard (ID). For the **under 11** age group, Jim Ray handed out the awards to: 1st Shane Ryker (WY); 2nd Sierra Waters (UT); 3rd Tiffany Weimer (UT). **Grand Champion Awards** went to Jim Ray for Primitive equipment, and Dean Pritchard for modern.

In the American Field Round, awards went to: **Youth:** 1st Nathan Potter (CO); 2nd Keiko Long (WY); 3rd Shane Ryker (WY). **Women:** 1st Regina Dodson (WY); 2nd Judy Pritchard (ID); 3rd Alex Pritchard (ID); **Men:** 1st Tom Mills (CA); 2nd Jim Ray (MT); 3rd Dean Pritchard (ID).

During the three days, Tom Mills, WAA member along with Benson Ng, both of California, filmed and interviewed many of the participants for a documentary on atlatl and the WAA. They hope to sell the film to the Discovery Channel. We wish them lots of success in the endeavor.

First Asian Members

Joanne Park and her husband are our first Asian members. Ms Park states in an e-mail, after reading Leni Clubb's paper: *The Resurgence of the Atlatl and Dart*, "Guess you are so passionate person and a kind of pioneer. We hope we can be one of pioneers like you in our country." (Korea). In her initial contact with Leni, She states that she learned of the atlatl via the internet, and was impressed. She is planning to open an outdoor event this



Joanne Park with husband Michael Sheen, Seoul, Korea

summer which can help her people experience primitive culture. She hopes to form a Korean atlatl association.

We wish Joanne all the success in the world. Ed. comment.

First Annual Raging Cow Atlatl Meet April 28-29

by John Whittaker

The Grinnell College Atlatl Team hosted the First Annual Raging Cow Atlatl Meet on April 28-29 on the college track in Grinnell, Iowa. Over 40 people participated, including a contingent of seven from Luther College led by Professor Colin Betts, making this the first ever "intercollegiate" atlatl competition, as well as the first atlatl competition we know of in Iowa for a couple of thousand years.



Grinnell College "Raging Cow" with artist Gary Oppenheim

Another dozen throwers came from Missouri, Illinois, and nearby towns in Iowa.

Events included ISACs on Saturday and Sunday, and the European Atlatl Accuracy Contest on Saturday. Our signature event was the Raging Cow, a spectacular target created by Gary Oppenheim, and modeled after the Missouri Atlatl Association's "Hunter's Challenge" where "killing" hits scored positive points, but

"wounds" were negative.

Doug Miller of Illinois was the Grand Champion, sweeping all events despite a plague of broken darts.

High ISAC scores from both days were: MEN: Doug Miller 93XX, Ray Madden 86X, John Whittaker 86, and Grant McCall 70. WOMEN: Anne Feltovich 38 and Courtney Birkett 35. YOUTH: Nick Mertz 62.

Confronting the Raging Cow, Doug Miller was "First Cow Slayer," with 50 points, and Ray Madden and John Whittaker tied, with 45 points. Scores ranged downward from there, with a heavily-trampled Mike Longhurst (-15) at the bottom. In the European event, the top scorers were Doug Miller (58.6), Ron Mertz (40.6), and Ray Madden (37.8).

Some Pennsylvania Reports

by Chuck Butorajac

Ligonier, Pennsylvania, March 3rd 2001. No mud and 40 degree temperatures brought 15 throwers to the ISAC and local competition. Denny Bard made a new set of 7 1/2 foot

river cane spears that weigh in at 3 3/4 ounces each. With his hard throw it was scary to see the flex and how flat they flew at 20 meters. It was a long wait from last September to today, to enjoy Margie Takoch's world famous chocolate chip cookies. Thanks Margie.

Top ISAC scores were: Doug Majorsky's 89 and Terry Keefer's 85. Sharron Keefer threw a 68. In the local competition Terry Keefer took 1st; Jack Rowe 2nd, and Chuck Butorajac came in 3rd for the men and Milissa Dildine was top scorer for the women, with Toni Roberts 2nd and Sharon Keefer 3rd.

Note, that there is a change of location for the September 22-23 Pennsylvania Championship. This competition will be held at Naugles Game Farm on PA Rt. 30, 1 mile east of PA Rt. 218. Clyde will barbecue a pig for the enjoyment of all.



Top "dogs," Terry Keefer and Melissa Dildene at our first Ligonier, Pennsylvania throw of the year - Jan 20th.



Twenty-five degree temperatures and 3 inches of new snow greeted our contestants on Feb. 3rd. But the competition was hot!



By Duane Spangler

Atlatl Events Around the World – 2001

- Jun 23-24 World Open Atlatl Contest June 23rd with ISACs both days & Primitive Skills Contests (tomahawk, knife, spear and archery) at Fort Caspar Museum and Historic Site, Casper, WY. Contact Rick Young (307) 235-8462
- Jun 24 Local contest, ISAC, and demonstration at Meadowcroft, Avella, PA, Contact Margie Takoch (740) 264-1755 or margieandfrank@hotmail.com
- Jun 24 Atlatl demonstration 9a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by various atlatl competitions including ISAC at Henshels Indian Artifact Museum, 8661 Holstein road, Eikhart Lake, WI. Contact Lenny Riemersma (920) 528-7454 or enmary@dotnet.com
- Jun 29-Jul 1 Tyrone Elks Park Knap-in and atlatl contests including ISAC at Tyrone, PA. Contact Tim Jackson (814) 684-0402 or PaTeePee@aol.com or Terry Keefer (717) 349-2262 or tkeefe@cvn.net
- Jun 30-Jul 1 Atlatls in Action, contests and ISAC at EMC Clubgrounds, Waverly, NY. Contact Brandon Anderson (607) 565-7901 or contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- Jul 1 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Jul 4 Candor July 4th Atlatl Contest and ISAC at Moyer Park, Candor, New York. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Jul 4 Atlatl and Spear Throwing Demonstration at Brockway, PA, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Contact George Miller (814) 265-0435 or lmiller@lindbergcomputer.com
- Jul 7-8 European Championships with ISACs both days at Tarascon, France. Contact Emmanuel Demoulin at Emmanuel.Demoulin@wanadoo.fr
- Jul 7-8 Montana Mammoth Hunt with ISACs at Montana City, MT. Contact Troy Helmick (406) 266-3398 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274.
- Jul 13-14 Aurora Spear Sling Fling Thing (set up and ISAC only on 13th p.m.) at Aurora History Museum's Delaney Farms, Aurora, Colorado. Contact Bill Tate (303) 75-5591 or atlatl@mho.net
- Jul 13-15 Ft Loudon Pennsylvania local competition and ISACs, at the site of historic Fort Loudon. Contact Terry Keefer (717) 349-2262 or tkeefe@cvn.net
- Jul 14-15 European championships at Erreterria, Spain. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jul 14-15 European Championships at Guer, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jul 17 ISAC at Tautavel Museum, Tautavel, France. Contact Jacques Pernaud Jacques.Pernaud@wanadoo.fr
- Jul 17 European Round & ISAC, Ann Arbor Atlatl League, Wilderness Archery, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net
- Jul 18-22 Native American Encampment, Atlatl contest with ISAC on Saturday and Demonstrations all days at York, MT. Contact Jim Ray (404) 736-5274.
- Jul 21-22 European Championships at Le Grand-Pressigny, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Jul 21-22 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament with Local contests and ISACs at Lorraine, NY. Contact Rodger Klindt (315) 639-6293 mammoth@northnet.org
- Jul 21-22 Battle Pass Fur Fair with atlatl competition. Contact Ron Hamilton (931) 528-6061.
- Jul 27-29 Local Contests and ISACs (ISAC only 29th) Museum of San Rafael, Castle Dale, UT. Contact Janet Petersen (435) 381-5252.
- Jul 28-29 12th Annual French Creek Archaeological Society Artifact Show and Atlatl Tournaments with ISACs at Saegertown American Legion, Saegertown, PA. Contact Gary Fogelman (570) 437-3698 or orjam@csrlink.net
- Jul 29 Michigan Flint Knapper's Knap-in with atlatl demonstrations and knapping "pit." Contact Robert Love (810) 231-1474.
- Aug 3-5 Illinois State Championship including European Competition and ISAC (ISAC only, Friday) at Chaplin Creek Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL. Contact Don Asp (815) 456-2305.
- Aug 5 European Competition with ISAC at Mas d'Azil, France. Contact Bruno Morucci at arca@fivenet.it
- Aug 5 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D Course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Aug 5-8 Green Flats Atlatl Rattle with local contests and ISACs all days at Green Flats, Hancock, NY. Contact Chris Pappas (607) 637-2585.
- Aug 7 ISAC at Tautavel Museum, Tautavel, France. Contact Jaques Pernaud Jacques.Pernaud@wanadoo.fr
- Aug 9-11 6th Annual Bois Blanc Island Primitive Skills Gathering. Three days of primitive skills instruction and atlatl tournaments and three ISACs in a gorgeous setting in northern Lake Huron. \$85.00 Additional info: www.msu.edu/~oberg/boisblanc.html
Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Aug 11-12 European contests at Boario Terme, Italy. Contact Bruno Morucci at arch@fivenet.it
- Aug 17-19 State Accuracy Competitions and ISACs, (with special Fading Light Floating ISAC at Steve's Pond on Friday) at Albany Ohio Riding Club (Fairgrounds), Albany, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553, or Ray Strisczek (740) 592-3465 (nights).
- Aug 21 European Round and ISAC at 7:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Atlatl League, Wilderness Archery, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan at (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net
- Aug 24-26 Stone Tool Show and Atlatl Contests with ISAC each day at Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY. Contact Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 or courier@spectra.net or contact Lou Hillman LBHNDP@ritvax.isc.rit.edu. Also check out the following web page: <http://eccentrix.com/business/hazmat/stonetool/index.html>
- Aug 24-26 Ahlman's Shooters Roundup Atlatl Competitions. Featuring European & ISAC, World Open plus an atlatl workshop at Ahlman's, 3 miles north of Morristown, MN Contact Dale Torma (218) 865-7049.
- Aug 31-Sep 2 State Competition and ISACs with a special Candle Light ISAC on Friday at Flint Ridge Ohio. Contact Ray Strisczek (740-592-3465 (nights).
- Sep 1 ISAC at Old Ball Park in Unalaska, AK. Contact Jim Dickson (907) 581-1845 or dickson@arcfic.net
- Sep 1-2 Contests at Bienne, Switzerland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Sep 8-9 Cahokia 2001 featuring European Round, ISAC, East vs West, and more. Cahokia World Heritage Site, Collinsville, IL. Contact Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 or rmertz@dttd1.slps.k12.mo.us
- Sep 9 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club 3-D Course and ISAC, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ismi.net.
- Sep 13 European Championships at Bienne, Switzerland. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be

- Sep 15 Paw Paw Festival with demonstrations for the public and ISAC at Lake Snowden, Albany, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553.
- Sep 15 Heritage Day with atlatl demonstrations and ISAC in the Jamboree area, Greenwood, NY – 1/4 mile south of Junction 248 & 417. Contact Michael Waters (607) 225-4922 or Dana Klein-danakchert@aol.com
- Sep 15-16 Belgium Contest with ISAC at Mariemont, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Sep 15-16 Fort Osage Atlatl Competition and Fall Knap-in. Local and ISAC Competitions. Fort Osage east of Kansas City, MO. Contact Ray Madden at (417) 781-0962 or rmadden@janics.com
- Sep 18 European Round and ISAC at 7:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Atlatl League, Wilderness Archery, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan at (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Sep 21-22 Vermont Archaeology Week at Chimney point State Historic Site. Atlatl construction and competition at Chimney Point Museum near Addison, VT. Contact the Museum at (802) 759-2412 or eigilbertson@dca.state.vt.us
- Sep 22 Nokomis Center Heritage Festival with atlatl demonstrations all day. Contact Chris Oberg (517) 339-1808 or oberg@msu.edu.
- Sep 22-23 Pennsylvania State Championship and ISAC Ligonier, PA. Contact Chuck Butorajac (724) 238-6878.
- Sep 22-23 Atlatl Contests and ISAC at Zonhoven, Belgium.. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Sep 22-23 American Field Round and ISAC at Ulm Pishkum (Buffalo Jump) State Park, Ulm, MT about 10 mi. SW of Great Falls just off I-15. Contact Connie Jacobs (406) 866-2219 or pishkum@initco.net
- Sep 29-30 Local atlatl contests with ISACs at EMC Campgrounds, Waverly, NY. Contact Brandon Anderson (607) 565-7901 or contact Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- Sep 29-30 Local atlatl contests and ISACs at Deer Lodge, MT. Contact Lem Oehrtman (406) 846-1004.
- Sep 30 Michigan Atlatl Association 2001 Championship with four tournaments including ISAC at Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net.
- Oct 6-7 Candor Fall Festival Atlatl Contest and Hunt with ISACs at Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Candor, NY. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Oct 7-8 European Championships at Bougon, France. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Oct 12-14 Atlatl events, Flintknapping , Primitive Archery with ISAC all days at Wrightwood, CA. Contact Tom Mills at (626) 794-9158 or PaleoAlco@aol.com
- Oct 16 European Round and ISAC at 7:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Atlatl League, Wilderness Archery, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan at (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Oct 27 ROAR Event with atlatl demonstration and ISAC only, at Zaleski State Forest south of New Plymouth, OH. Contact Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553.
- Nov 3-4 Icicle Atlatl Contest with ISACs at Tioga Park, Nichols, NY. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg 1 800 836-4520, (607) 659-5967 or bob@thunderbirdatlatl.com
- Nov 10 ISAC and other atlatl events in the Phoenix, AZ area organized by the SALT group. Contact Albert Abril (620) 265-0177 or aabril1@home.com or contact Robert Sizemore (520) 466-6104.
- Nov 17-18 European Championships at Bruyls-de-Pesche, Belgium. Contact Pascal Chauvaux at pascalC@swing.be
- Nov 20 European Round and ISAC at 7:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Atlatl League, Wilderness Archery, Ann Arbor, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan at (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net
- Nov 23 Turkey Toss and Last Gasp ISAC. Atlatls and Kylies (rabbit sticks) at Brighton Recreation Area Organization Camp, Brighton, MI. Contact Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 or atlatl@ism.net.

Please send dates of atlatl events for the newsletter's calendar to the WAA Secretary, Ms. Leni Clubb. Include dates, location, name of event, and contact information. See address on back cover. This will insure that your event is recognized by WAA, which is absolutely required for ISAC registration.

Submit reports, cartoons, and miscellaneous atlatl related material to us. Your Editor can be reached by FAX at (303) 755-1145, or mail at 1390 S. Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012, phone (303) 755-5591, or by e-mail:atlatl@mho.net

The Propulseur

By Pierre Cattelain

The propulseur (atlatl) was intended for use in hunting, fishing and combat. It is made up of a stick or rigid board with a hook, or gutter (with or without a spur) on, or in which, the projectile, a javalin, harpoon or long arrow fits. The propulseur permits an increase in the initial speed of the projectile and therefore its efficiency.

The propulseur is attributed to the Solutrean period (between 17,000 and 15,000 B.C.) through the Upper Magdalenien (near 10,500 B.C.), in the southwest of France, in Spain, Switzerland, and eastern Germany.

The elements recovered (in archaeological sites) consist of reindeer antler, bone or ivory and are only the distal ends of the propulseur, as the wooden shafts were not preserved. These portions show properties (i.e., bevels and scratches) which under microscopic



Magdalenien propulseur of mammoth ivory from the Madelaine (Dordogne) in the form of a hyena.

examination match traces of use in ethnographic specimens. (Cattelain, 1986) The first prehistoric propulseur example was discovered in 1862 in Laugerie-Basse (Dordogne) by E. Lartet and H. Christy and were later identified by comparing them with reports and sketches brought back by explorers (ethnologists) from their journey to Australia.

The propulseur was used until the middle of the 20th century in Oceania, in the Arctic zone and in a large part of America.

[Editor's comment: We used computer translation software to change this article from the French into English. As we had noted earlier, such translations usually include errors and may not report exactly what the author intended. An example in paragraph three above where it states: "...wooden shafts were not preserved." came out "...sleeves in wood were not canned foods." It is our hope that the remainder of the article was more or less true to the original and we offer our apologies for any errors introduced.]

We are in receipt of several flyers from The Genesee Valley Flint Knappers Association advertising their August 25th- 26th event at Letchworth State Park, Trailside Lodge at Castile, New York. There will be a fur trade and civil war era encampment, flintknapping demonstrations and sales, and a multi-station atlatl course and ISACs. Included with the Letchworth State Park brochure was a listing of more than 20 knap-ins and primitive skills gatherings over the country. You knappers might be interested in joining their group. Membership is just \$5.00 (\$3.00 student rate). Contact them at GVFKA, PO Box 527, Belfast, NY 14711-0527.

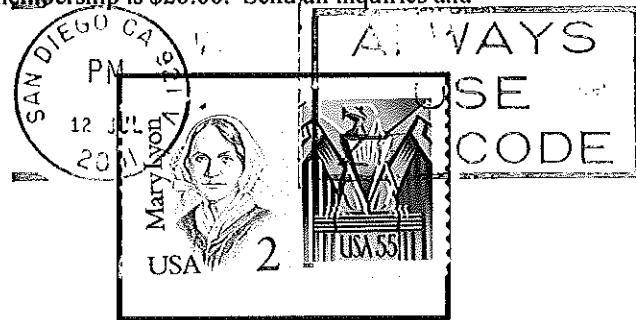
New Group in Arizona

by Albert Abril

Here in Central Arizona we have started a primitive skills group not limited to strictly atlatl. We've been meeting for several months now and cover different topics. Usually we end up by going out and tossing darts for a while. The name of our group is SALT which stands for "Study of Aboriginal Lifeways and Technology. Beginning with eight people we now have about 30. As a group we have done demonstrations—especially atlatl demonstrations, all around central Arizona. We participated in Archaeology Day at Sedona, AZ in March and later that month did a two day event at the annual Archaeology Expo in Globe, AZ. All the kids received mammoth and mastodon hunting licenses. Later we worked Technology Day at the Pueblo Grande Museum. We had at least 300 people attend.

Membership in the World Atlatl Association is \$15.00 per year; family membership is \$20.00. Send all inquiries and dues to WAA Secretary:

LENI CLUBB
P. O. BOX 56
OCOTILLO, CA 92259 USA



JOHN WHITTAKER (9/01)
DEPT OF ANTHRO, GRINNELL COL.
P.O. BOX 805
GRINNELL, IA 50112-0806

WORLD ATLATL
ASSOCIATION
WEB SITE:
www.worldatlatl.org