

The

ATLATL

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

Rich McWhorter

July 2002

The Newsletter of the World Atlatl Association, Inc
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710 Fernwood Rd, Wintersville, OH 43953 USA
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Copper Tipped Darts

By Doug Miller

Not being much on the "in-the-know" of the atlatl design and construction theories, I thought I would share a bit of information about something that is a little more familiar to me. Recently, there have been some questions raised as to whether or not copper points were used in ancient times and should be allowed as "primitive" projectiles in our competitions. Personally, I have used fire-hardened wood, stone and copper and all have worked fine. The first two materials, wood and stone, performed well but didn't seem to hold up very well, especially when I first started out throwing and spent more time hitting areas near rather than on target. I tried flat copper points after studying Ray Strischek's darts and came up with a point that held up much better for competition. In fact, I have been reusing the same tips that I first made two years ago, even as my cane dart bodies became damaged and needed replacing.

Most of us who have become stricken with the atlatl bug also share an interest in prehistoric artifacts found here in North America, myself included. Surface hunting for artifacts has been a passion of mine for over 24 years. One of the more interesting types of artifacts to be found in the upper Midwest are tools from the "Old Copper Culture" era, 5000BC to 2000BC. Copper from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was discovered and utilized by these archaic people for tools such as knives, pikes, gouges, spear points, fish hooks, and especially projectile points. Although this raw material was used and traded throughout the Midwest by many later cultures, its heaviest use seems to be during the archaic period when the atlatl was the premier weapon. Stone-tipped darts were probably still used to the greatest extent due to flint or chert being found in great abundance, and was still the easiest material to procure. When these early inhabitants found copper, they soon found the material to be a great improvement over its stone counterpart. Not only could copper be honed to a keen edge, but like us throwers from a later date, it was found to be more resilient at impact and perhaps even more eye appealing over most chert materials found in the Upper Midwest.

Two projectile shapes or styles seem to have been used the most. The first, as in photo 1, are points made similar in shape to many stone projectiles of the same time period, 5000 to 2000 BC. These points would have worked just fine in comparison to their stone mates..

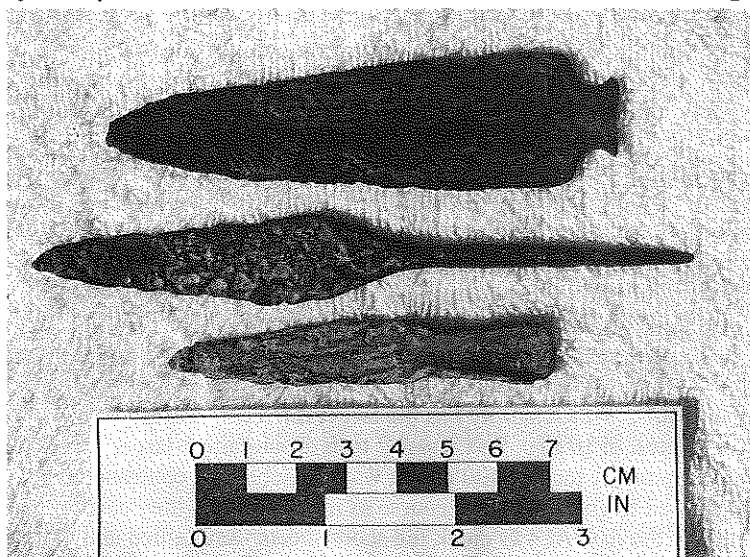


Photo 1: Table Rock style, Rat tail or Stemmed projectile, Socketed spear projectile

Valley of Fire State Park
By Leni Clubb & Jim Ray

Hey members! You really missed a great atlatl event if you didn't attend on April 12, 13, 14, 2002 in Overton, NV. Yes it was hot, hot, hot! But what a three days! Members and their families from California, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Montana, Nevada, Idaho, Missouri & Louisiana spent those days throwing, socializing, eating, swapping material and equipment, flintknapping,

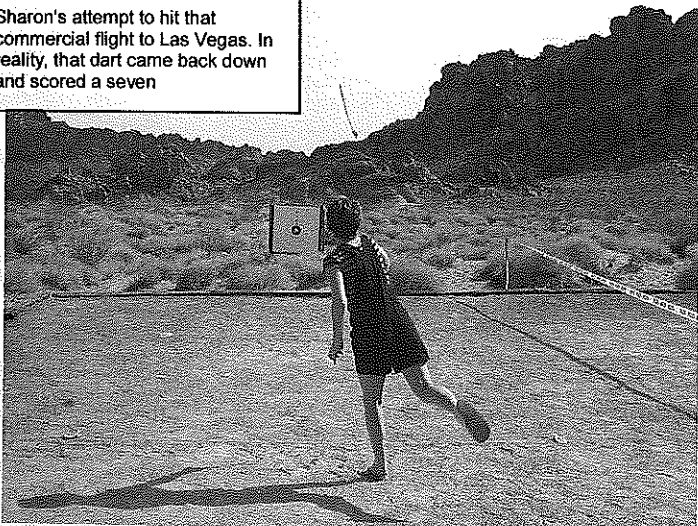
SHADE!



telling stories at the campfires, and in general had a wonderful time in such a beautiful place. Maybe you can join us next year as the staff at Valley of Fire are eager to make this particular atlatl event a huge success another year.

At the Saturday morning WAA Target Round, the winners were:
 Men: 1st Place Gary Fogelman, PA with a 12 (lowest score wins), 2nd Place Terry Keefer, PA -17 & Tom Mills, CA -17. Five men competed for 2nd and 3rd Place with a 1-7.
 Women: 1st Place Sharon Keefer -19, 2nd Place JoAnne Fogelman, PA -27, 3rd Place Susie Brown, CO -29.

Sharon's attempt to hit that commercial flight to Las Vegas. In reality, that dart came back down and scored a seven



Youth: 1st Place Nick Mertz, MO -22, 2nd Place Tiffany Weimer, UT -37, 3rd Place Sierra Waters, UT -40.

In the "shoot-off" for the WAA Grand Champion Award among the First Place Winners, Nick Mertz, MO (13 years old) took the award away from Gary and Sharon by 3 points.

The American Field Round in the afternoon had the following winners:

Men: 1st Place Tom Mills, CA -34XXX, 2nd Place Jim Ray, MT -33X 3rd Place Dean Pritchard, ID -32X

Women: 1st Place JoAnne Fogelman, PA -28X, 2nd Place Toni Roberts, OH -27, 3rd Place Sharon Keefer, PA -22.

Youth: Nick Mertz, MO -29, 2nd Place Cache Tucker, CA -15X, 3rd Place -No Entry.

Framed Certificates were presented at the PotLuck Dinner following the contest. Dean Pritchard, ID made the certificates. The certificate design included a photo of the Natural Arch near "Atlatl Rock", Valley of Fire State Park.

Highest score achieved in the three ISACs by Tom Mills, CA with a 91X for the Men, Women – Sharon Keefer, PA with a 70 and Youth – Nick Mertz, MO with an 83. Personal bests for both Tom and Nick.

From Jim: Thanks to Dean and Judy Pritchard, ID for conducting the ISAC all weekend. Thanks to Tim Boucher, CO, Lem Oehrman, MT and Jeff McGill, UT for their assistance in setting up the morning and afternoon contests. Thanks to everyone for making the PotLuck Dinner such a great success. WELL DONE!

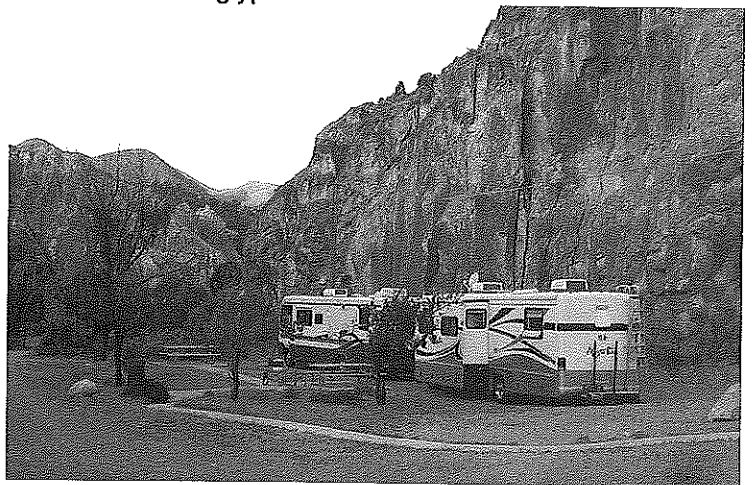


Fremont Contest
By Deano Pritchard

I wasn't able to get any photos of the remarkable field course this time as the wind and dust was too severe. I was afraid the dust would ruin my camera.

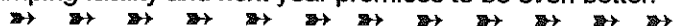
Fremont has first-class accommodations for all the atlatl participants including a large parking area; drinking water; indoor toilets; showers; electric power; shade trees; ample room for the ISAC course and best of all, the entire area is beautiful and just begs to be explored by hikers like yourselves.

I did manage to get a couple shots of the new group camping area. The photo is near the entrance to the camping facility. The rock wall to the right of the RVs has Petroglyphs.. It's interesting to sit down in the RV and look out the window to view the Petroglyphs.



Scheduled for next year are more shade trees; dedicated electric power for the RVs and grass.

Pete Weimer and crew have done a lot of work for the group camping facility and next year promises to be even better.

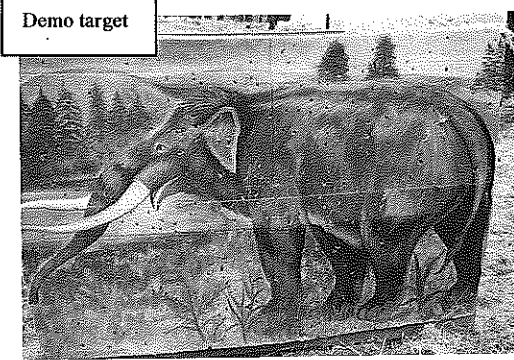


**Coconino Community College
Atlatl Event**

By Jerry Bacon, Anthropology

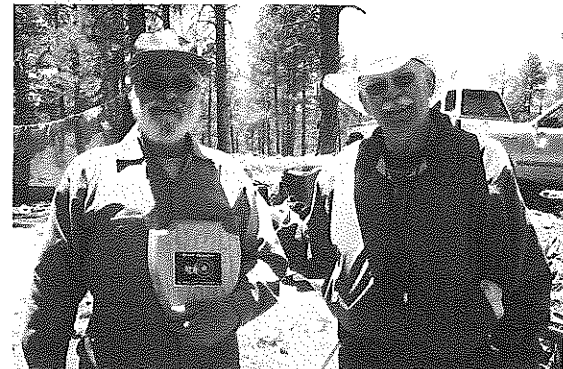
In the Ponderosa forest of northern Arizona on the new campus of Coconino Community College "The First Annual Atlatl Event" was held on 10 -11 May 2002. The event

included the ISAC, a field round with five targets nestled in the pines, (a jackalope, saber tooth squirrel, deer, javelin and a moving turkey!) There were demonstrations of



prehistoric technologies with the U.S. Forest Service people and personnel from Northern Arizona University. The demonstrations were: stone knapping (Phil Geib and Michael Robins), yucca sandal making (Gregg Bressani), fire starting with hand and bow (Tom Wax), traditional bow and arrow and blow guns (George Crawford), weaving (Albert Abril), atlatl demonstration and practice at a woolly mammoth target. We missed the pine needle basketry, but hopefully that will be part of our Fall 2002 event. Thirty people attended the first event, some from as far away as Idaho.

The organization S.A.L.T (Study of Aboriginal Lifeways and Technologies), out of Phoenix, Arizona, and headed by Robert Sizemore and Albert Abril were instrumental in guiding us through the first atlatl event in northern Arizona. The wind was up, with gusts from 25 -30- mph, which merely added a "real life" edge to the atlatl competition. The winner of the field round between youth, females and males, was



Dean Pritchard of Boise, Idaho. There was a best of 5 throws at the moving target to determine the over-all winner of the competition. Dean hit three

out of 5 attempts at the randomly moving "turkey" target provided by the S.A.L.T. group! Way to go, Deano! Judy Pritchard was the second place atlatlist in the competition.

My thanks to all who participated, Coconino community College for use of the facility, S.A.L.T. for the fantastic advice and support, Monica Baker (Math Chairperson at Coconino

Community college) for the hay bales for targets, and Dave Rudakuwitz, (Social Sciences Department Head for Anthropology) who supported the venture from the onset!



**Blackwater Draw,
Portales, New Mexico
By Robert Sizemore**

It's still a great place to throw spears! The Second Annual Blackwater Draw Atlatl competition was a lot of fun. David Batten and the Anthropology Department of Eastern New Mexico University did an

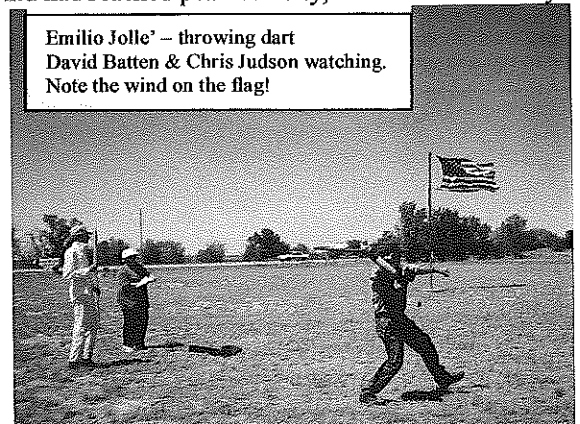
outstanding job. A field round, with life size ice age mammals, started the day. This was a golf style competition, the objective - to get a low score- make all the more challenging, as the wind increased in speed.



It's always fun to introduce new people to the atlatl, especially the news reporters. There was a three-way throw off for second place, and a final throw off for first. David had acquired a replica Clovis spear point done by a local knapper for the first place in each category, a unique prize.

An ISAC took place in front of the Blackwater Draw Museum. By then, the wind had reached peak velocity, which made for very interesting throwing.

However, it does give a real world feel to the atlatl. And the atmosphere at Blackwater Draw makes you aware of the long history of man's development, and the role that the atlatl had in bringing us all forward.



Emilio Jolle' - throwing dart
David Batten & Chris Judson watching.
Note the wind on the flag!

The following day, David conducted a special tour of Blackwater Draw excavation site. This is an amazing site to see.

I urge all of you to attend next year for a great atlatl competition, at a truly unique site.



Change is constant, progress is optional

Author Unknown.

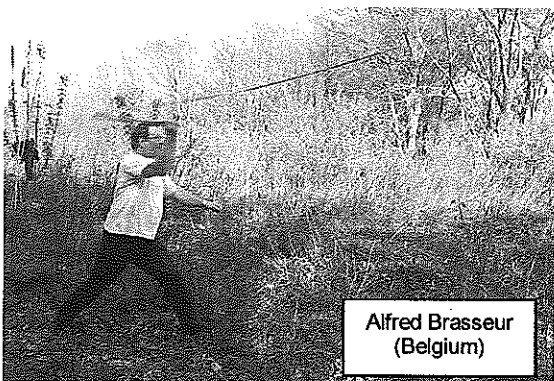
A Pleasant Spring Sensation in Ramioul.

By Anne-Françoise Cabaraux

20 and 21 April 2001: 5 nationalities were present this year in Ramioul: Belgian, German, French, Italian and ... American people thanks to the presence of Russell, Regina, Gary, Keiko and Shane. 62 people took part to the bow contest on Saturday. The winner was Alain Helbert (F) like last year (30 arrows, 130 points). He has all the more merit this year because modern throwers participated in the contest too for the first time in Ramioul.

The day ended on a pleasant way with the prehistoric evening meal in the Neolithic house: a convivial meal, everybody sitting around little tables for 8 people with a barbecue in the middle of it.

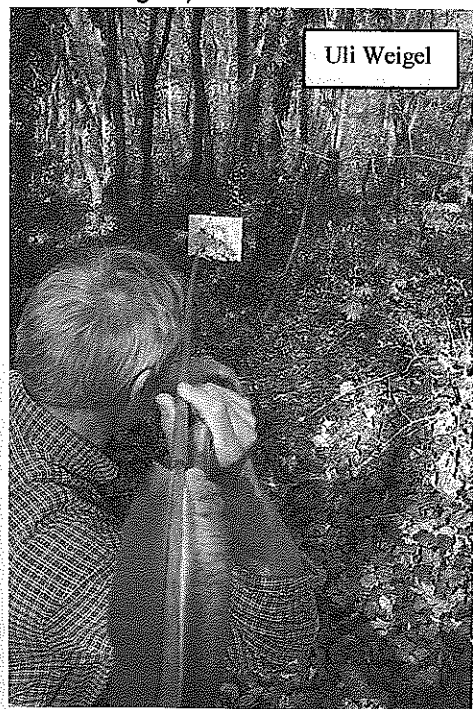
Sunday was the atlatl day: European contest in the morning, ISAC in the afternoon. The 44 throwers of the



Alfred Brasseur
(Belgium)

European contest climbed the hillock all around the museum up and down to throw their darts at 30 targets (20 different targets with one shot on

each of the 10 west hill targets and 2 turns of shots on the 10 east hill targets).



Uli Weigel

- Two young men showed their superiority to their parents:
- 1st: Thomas Chauvaux (B) (25 darts, 66 points)
 - 2nd: Max Weigel (D) (24 darts, 68 points)
 - 3rd: Uli Weigel (D) Max's father (23 darts, 60 points)
 - 4th: Steve Cabaraux (B) (22 darts, 57 points)
 - 5th: Emmanuel Demoulin (F) (21 darts, 59 points)
 - 6th: Pascal Chauvaux (B) Thomas's father (18 darts, 56 points).

The ISAC gave way to the youth with Max Weigel (D) as first (82 points 1X). Russell Richard (USA) defended the adult's presentations and took the second place (79 points), followed by Pascal Chauvaux (B) (77 points), Paul Weigel (D) (76 points), Jean

Spekens (B) (75 points), Uli Weigel (D) and Emmanuel Demoulin (F) (ex-aeco 73 points 1X)

The spring sun put a reward to everybody to improve life on an agreeable way. Relaxed discussions around a terrace table, with a glass of beer or wine was agreeable after the contest. Some people preferred soft drinks or Cola to wine on Sunday evening.

Thanks to Fernand Collin and the "chercheurs de Wallonie" for their organization of the Ramioul bow and atlatl meeting. Thanks for their help for the organization of an ISAC in Ramioul. Thanks to Dr Florence Goulesque and David Trucker for their perfect translation of the ISAC rules into French.



What Made 'em Do It

American version of Why do they Throw

Ray Strisczek, 54, Athens, OH

Ray and his Dad Martin and his son Cory went to New Mexico to Pecos Mt. On the way they stopped at Clovis Museum where there was an atlatl. They went to a campground and made one from a tree branch and the spear from a broomstick, paper plate and bayonet. Ray threw it and hit a tree dead center the first time.



After he was home he got a postcard from Jim Featherstone, Ontario, to all people visiting the museum that there was a demo on the atlatl at Flint Ridge. They went and tried it with Bob Berg equipment, then went home and made his own. He then came back to Flint Ridge the next year and won. The following year Ray did the organizing for the event. He has been a World Champion in the ISAC

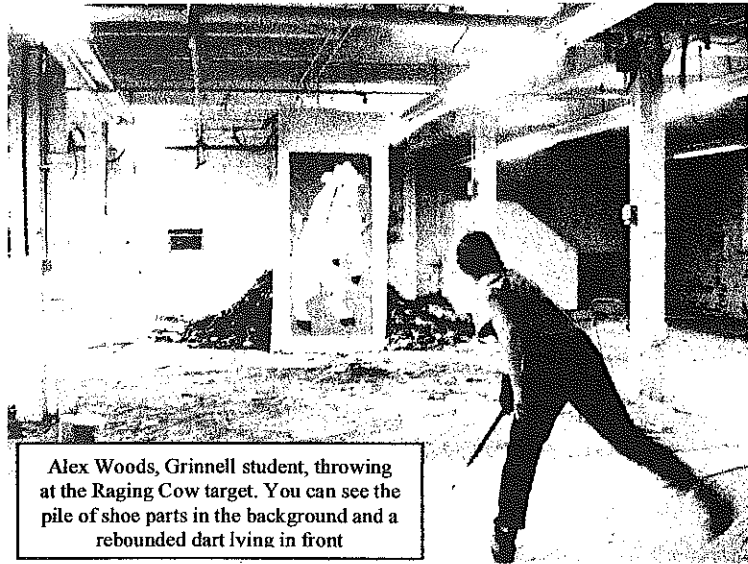


Group photo: Buthiers, France, May 4 and 5



**2nd Annual Raging Cow
By John Whittaker**

As the second annual Raging Cow Atlatl Meet began on Saturday April 27, it was windy, raining, and about 39 degrees. Nevertheless, a group of 36 truly dedicated or foolishly optimistic atlatlists showed up from as far away as northeast Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Virginia. A half-hour of setting up in an icy downpour showed us that hypothermia was going to be the only winner, so we regrouped indoors to dry off and drink cocoa. Byron Worley saved the day. He has a woodshop on the ground floor of the Spaulding Carriage



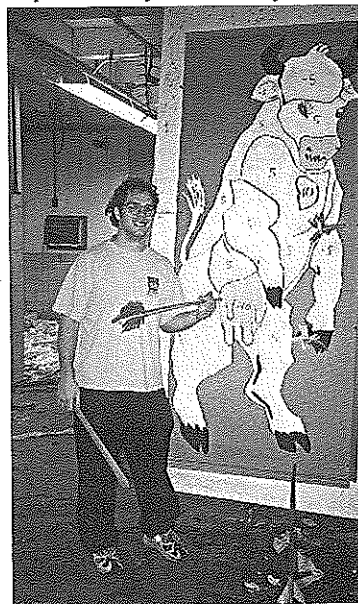
Alex Woods, Grinnell student, throwing at the Raging Cow target. You can see the pile of shoe parts in the background and a rebounded dart lying in front

Factory, a largely abandoned 19th century building with two empty upper floors. After kicking aside dead pigeons, sweeping up some dust and dung, and working around evil smelling black drips from the leaky roof, we had enough room to set up between pillars under a roof just high enough to allow 20 meter shots.

We started with an abbreviated European-type round, followed by our notorious Raging Cow target. It is theoretically possible to score 100 if you hit the small "heart" 10 times running at ranges from 6 to 20 m, but a hairsbreadth separates a scoring shot to the chest from an embarrassing negative hit to the udder. Top Cow Slayers were Byll Bryce and John Whittaker, who managed to score 30; Adam Sawyer, Mike Longhurst, and Don Jay who achieved 25, and Steve Owens and Blair Cox-Townsend who shot 20. Grant McCall and Jeremy Lahaie were "Most Trampled" with -15.

Colin Betts brought a team of 13 Luther College anthropology students to compete against the Grinnell College team using a target inspired by atlatl-bearing Toltec warriors carved on the pillars at Chichen Itza. Grinnell narrowly won the match, to retain the prestigious trophy (a plastic cow with broken dart and atlatl) for this year.

No records were set in the ISAC, which followed. Top scores were

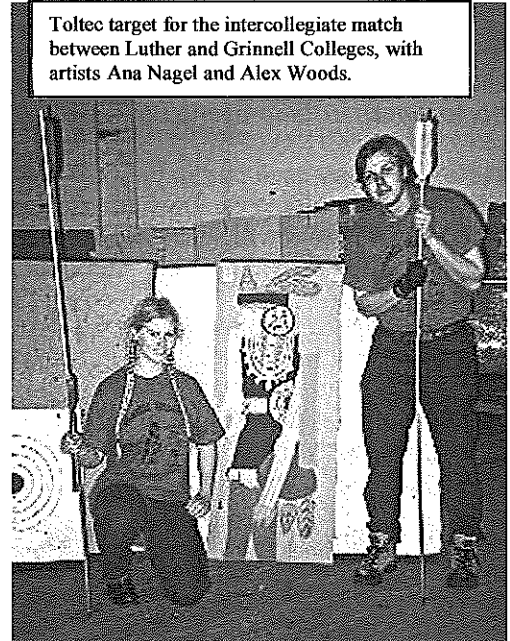


Grant McCall (Grinnell) on his way to the "Most Trampled" award in the Raging Cow with a -10 hit to the udder.

John Whittaker (80), Don Jay (65) and Ron Mertz (64). We blame the distorted perspective caused by shooting down a corridor of square pillars and low ceilings lit by unreliable florescent bulbs, not to mention the pervasive odor of pigeon colonies. Sunday's ISAC was almost too humiliating to report. It was outside, no longer raining but with a gusty wind and finger-numbing temperatures. Suffice it to say that no one hit the target all 10 shots.

We like to think the Spaulding building is one of the more unusual sites for a competition, especially for the archaeologically minded. A large pile of rubber and leather scrap left by a shoemaker thirty years ago made a nice backstop for the Raging Cow. Sheets of moldering cardboard and bags of Styrofoam packing only partly protected darts from the brick walls elsewhere. Darts slithered along the splintery wooden floors, dropped dead from ceiling beams, and sprang back shattered from the walls. The mortality rate was high. Of 30 Bob Berg darts used by the Grinnell team, 16 were damaged: one snapped short, 4 dropped their points, and 11 broke off at the point. A stone tip used by one student was reduced to crumbs.

In spite of adverse conditions, we count the event a success. As we hope for better weather next year, we are also seeking a wider field of intercollegiate competition, and a rich donor who will convince the college to build us a new, clean indoor facility, for much less than the cost of a swimming pool or football field. Many thanks to Ron Mertz who traveled from Missouri with targets and organizational genius, to Byron Worley for emergency shelter, and to all those who came to participate.



Toltec target for the intercollegiate match between Luther and Grinnell Colleges, with artists Ana Nagel and Alex Woods.



Ana Nagel, Grinnell student, taking aim at the Raging Cow.



HOW TO AVOID ROTATOR CUFF INJURIES

By Leni Clubb & Judy Pritchard

Some of you have experienced this malady, but even if you haven't as yet, here are a couple of exercises to avoid the painful effect of throwing a dart with the atlatl too often, practicing too long or not "warming up" before a practice or contest.

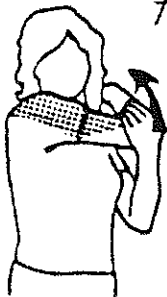
This short article was published in the Parade Magazine section of the San Diego Sunday paper and was written by a Ph.D Michael O'Shea, who is a fellow at the American College of Sports Medicine. The Rotator Cuff stretch was written for golfers, but could be used by atlatlers, so I have used the word "atlatl" instead of "golf club".

"Hold the atlatl vertically behind your back with your right hand over your right shoulder and grab the shaft with your top hand until you feel the stretch in the shoulder of your lower arm, which should stay relaxed. Hold for 20 seconds and pull the atlatl downward with your bottom hand until you feel the stretch. Reverse position and repeat." Judy sent these exercise stretches & sketches. She says # 1 and # 2 are most important. # 3 and #4 are good but if time is short, leave them out.



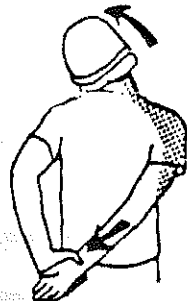
#1

1 – Grasp your elbow with the opposite hand and pull with gentle to moderate strength. Hold for 30 seconds and release. Reverse hands and repeat. See sketch.



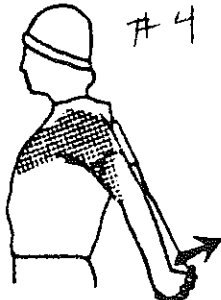
#2

#2 – Use the same principal as in # 1, grasping your elbow as shown in sketch and pulling with gentle to moderate strength. Hold for 30 seconds and release. Repeat 3 times. Reverse hands and repeat. See sketch



#3

#3 – With your arms behind you and your hands clasped, gently pull your arm to the opposite side while tilting your head in that direction. Reverse and repeat. See sketch.



#4

#4 – Grasp your hands together behind your body and pull them away from your body. DO NOT thrust your head forward. Try to keep it upright on your shoulders. See sketch.

It's not About the Atlatl

By Ken Wee

It's not about the Atlatl.

It's not about the dart.

Or ISAC's or European or American Field rounds.

Or other contests.

It's about people—

It's about friends, families, strangers

Travelling to contests and meets

Often traversing towns, states, national and international boundaries.

It's about camaraderie and memories.

It's about traditions, both old and new.

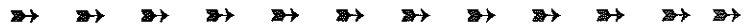
Of vacations planned around renewing old acquaintances and forming new friendships

It's about bonds that transcend time and space.

It's about friendly rivalries, practical jokes, unforgettable long shots and near misses and ugly necklaces and novelty prizes and imaginative targets and potluck dinners and banquets and sharing of knowledge, history, techniques, equipment and raw materials.

It's not about the atlatl.

But that's a good place to start.



YOU ALL COME TO LOUISIANA

by John Polk

During Archaeology Week, on October the 4th and the 5th of this year, the St. Charles Historical Foundation and the Delta Chapter of Louisiana Archaeological Society are sponsoring an atlatl contest. Members from the World Atlatl Association are especially invited to attend what we hope will be an annual affair. Flint knappers are also invited to share their art with us.

The event will be held in the recreation area that is located under the west bank side of the Hale Boggs Bridge in St. Charles Parish. (Only 20 miles from the French Quarter in New Orleans) Some primitive camping (on a first come first served basis) will be allowed on site. They are five motels within four miles of the site.

For farther information or to pre register, call Lloyd Pine at 225-926-5785 (e-mail ATLATL@prodigy.net) or John Polk at 985-785-2281 (e-mail archaeog@aol.com)

WE are looking forward to passing a good time with you all. You all come now



A man can't do what he thinks is beyond him.

John D. Rockefeller

**YEAR 2002 OFFICIAL LIST OF ATLATL EVENTS
THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION**

- July 3, 4 Brookway PA 4th of July Celebration Knap-in & Atlatl Contest + ISAC Recreation Park 7th Ave., Teener League Field, Brockway, PA
George Miller (814) 265-0435 lmiller@greatlite.com
- July 6, 7 Monteneuf, France Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
July 7 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI 3-D course with PRACTICE ISAC at noon Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
July 5, 6, 7 2nd Annual Atlatl Contests & ISACs. Ft. Loudon Site, Ft. Loudon, PA
Terry Keefer tk1003534@cyn.net (717) 349-226
- July 5, 6, 7 - Foothill/Mountain Atlatl/Bow Invitational IV, Crystal Lake Road, C.R.210, No. of Buford, WY, Exit 335 on I-80
Contact: Russell Richard, (307) 772-0550 covotecdown@aol.com or Regina Dodson (307) 632-0766 wvowind@aol.com
- July 13, 14 ISAC, Saint Broladre, France Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
July 12, 13, 14 The Mammoth Hunt, Atlatl contests and ISAC all days, Rattlesnake Butte, Montana City, MT Troy Helmick (406) 266-3398 Jim Ray (406) 736-5274
July 16 Ann Arbor Atlatl League target range At 7 pm with PRACTICE ISAC to follow
Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- July 19, 20, 21 Smoky Hollow Rendevous, ISAC Friday At 6 pm. Wisconsin Challenge Atlatl Contest at 11 am & ISAC at 3 on Saturday, Sunday ISAC at 10 am.
Cascade, WI Len Riemersma (414)528-7454 lenmary@dotnet.com
- July 21 Bracken's ISAC Throw - One Day Event Sunday at Canton, Georgia Contact: Mark Bracken - Phone (770) 345-7305 e-mail: crackinbracken@juno.com
July 20, 21 European Atlatl Contest Plus ISAC (July 21) in Errenteria, Spain
Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
- July 20, 21 ISAC, Saint-Remy-sur-Creuse, France
Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
- July 20 & 21 Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament, Lorraine, N. Y
Rodger Klindt (315) 639-6293 mammoth@northnet.org
- July 26, 27, 28 Museum of San Rafael, Castle Dale, UT ISAC all three days with American Field Round on Saturday, July 27th. Three days of Festival, Fair, Art Show,
Rodeo & Pageant in Castle Dale, UT. Janet Peterson or Dixon Peacock (435) 381-5252
- July 27 Eiteljorg Museum Atlatl Demonstration, Indianapolis, IN Don Fisher (317) 475-9770 atlatlguy@yahoo.com or Leon Jett (317) 636-9378 X119
July 27, 28 Annual French Creek Artifact Show and Atlatl Contests & ISACs each day Saegertown American Legion, Saegertown PA Gary Fogelman iam@uplink.net
(570) 437-3698 or John (814)398-4814
- August 1, 2, 3, 4 Green Flats Atlatl Rattle, Hancock, NY. Local contests and ISACs each day.
Contact: Chris Pappas (607) 637-2585
- August 3, 4 Summer Festival, Flint Ridge State Memorial, Flint Ridge, OH. ISACs & Ohio Atlatl Assn. Contests
Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553 barnz@juno.com or Moundbuilders@cgate.net
- August 3, 4 Le Mas d'Azil, France Cyrille Huc cyrille-huc@wanadoo.fr
August 4 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI 3-D course plus PRACTICE ISAC at noon
Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- August 5, 6, 7 Illinois State Championship, ISAC & European Competitions, Chaplin Grove State Historic Site, Franklin Grove, IL Don Asp (815) 456-2305
August 8 - 12 Great Lakes Primitive Summer Gathering On Bois Blanc Island. MI. Three-day Primitive skills school. Atlatl tournaments With ISAC each day with
stand-alone ISAC At 6 pm on Wed. the 8th and at 9 am on Sunday the 12th. (Five ISACs over five days) Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314
primitive1@chartermi.net
- August 9 - 11 Local Atlatl Contests and ISACs all three Days, On 8/9 enter not before 5 pm Camp Gross (former Boy Scout Camp), Cassadaga, NY
Ben Brauchler (716) 679-7145 ben@netsync.net
- August 10, 11 ISAC, Boario Terme, Italy Christian Foppa Christian.foppa@freesurf.ch
August 16 " That Dam ISAC" at Steve's Pond near Albany, Ohio
Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553 barnz@juno.com
- August 17, 18 Third Annual Ohio State Accuracy Competition at Albany Riding Club, Albany, Ohio
Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553 barnz@juno.com or Ray Strischek (740) 592-346 db8947@dragonbbs.com
- August 17 Atlatl Workshop, Grand Mound History Center, 17 miles west of International Falls, Minnesota Catherine Crawford grandmound@mnhs.org (218)
285-3332
- August 17 Ulm Pishkum State Park, Ulm, MT Atlatl & Dart Building Workshop & Throwing Demo. Fee and Sign-up Required prior to Workshop date
Connie Jacobs (406) 866-2219 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274
- August 20 Ann Arbor Indoor Atlatl League target Range at 7 pm with PRACTICE ISAC to follow
Jim Gilligan (810) 2312314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- August 23, 24, 25 Stone Tool Show & Atlatl Contest & ISACs all three days, Letchworth State Park, Castile, NY Bob Berg 1-800-836-4520 contact@thunderbirdatlatl.com
or Lou Hillman (716) 442-1342 lhdnp@rit.edu
- August 24 Ulm Pishkum State Park, Ulm, MT Atlatl & Dart Building Workshop and Throwing Demo. Fee and Sign-up-Required prior to Workshop date
Connie Jacobs (406) 866-2219 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274
- August 24, 25 ISAC, Tarascon-sur-Ariege, France Emmanuel Domoulin emmanuel.domoulin@wanadoo.fr
August 31 Ulm Pishkum State Park, Ulm, MT Atlatl & Dart Building Workshop & Throwing Demo. Fee and Sign-up Required prior to Workshop date
Connie Jacobs (406) 866-2219 or Jim Ray (406) 736-5274
- Aug 31 + Sept. 1 Flint Knap-In, Flint Ridge State Memorial, Flint Ridge, OH. Ohio Atlatl Association Contests & ISACs Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553 barnz@juno.com
or Hapi Cummings Moundbuilders@cgate.net
- August 31 Atlatl Championship, Demo, ISAC, Grand Mound History Center, 17 miles West of International Falls, MN Catherine Crawford (218) 285-3332
grandmound@mnhs.org
- September 7 First Annual River Road Atlatl Contest - Demonstrations, Grand Champion Award plus ISAC, Carmel, IN Don Fisher (317) 475-9770 or
atlatlguy@yahoo.com
- September 8 Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI 3-D course plus PRACTICE ISAC at noon Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
September 7-8 Contests + ISACs at Mariemont, Belgique Contact: Christian Lepers e-mail: christian.lepers@swde.be
Sept 13, 14, 15 Cahokia 2002, European, East-West, ISAC and other atlatl contests at Cahokia World Heritage Site, Collinsville IL. Possible ISAC Friday afternoon.
Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 ronald.mertz@slps.org
- Sept 13, 14, 15 2nd Annual Tioga Shoot Out Atlatl Tournament, Waverly, NY Jack Rowe, (570) 888-8258 fieldwalker@stny.rr.com Or Dennis Lantz (570) 358-3000
September 14 Seventh Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship & ISAC, Chimney Point Historic Site, 7305 VT Route 125 Addison, VT, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm
Admission fee and competition registration fee.
Casey Carmolli (802) 759-2412 or elgilbertson@dca.state.vt.us
- September 14 Fourth Annual Pawpaw Festival, Ohio Local Atlatl contests & ISAC, Albany, OH Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com (740) 698-6553

- September 14 Atlatl Demonstrations & Public Throw at Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, IN
Don Fisher atlatlguy@yahoo.com (317) 475-9770
- Sept 14, 15 ISAC, Emgen, Germany Christian Lepers Christian.lepers@swde.be
- September 17 Ann Arbor Indoor Atlatl League target Range at 7 pm with PRACTICE ISAC to follow Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 . primitive1@chartermi.net
- Sept 20, 21, 22 Smoky Hollow Rendezvous, ISAC Friday 6 pm, Wisconsin Challenge Atlatl contest 11 pm Saturday, ISAC at 3 pm, Sunday ISAC 10 am, Cascade, WI
Len Riemersma (414)528-7454 lenmary@dotnet.com
- September 21 Atlatl Demonstrations & Public Throw, Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, IN
Don Fisher atlatlguy@yahoo.com (317) 475-9770 or Barbara Cummings (765) 597-2654
- Sept 21, 22 ISAC, Zonhoven, Belgium Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
- Sept 21, 22 Ft. Osage Fall Atlatl Event, Fall Atlatl Competition, Ft. Osage, MO Ray Madden (417) 781-0962 rhmadden@hotmail.com or Ron Mertz
ronald.mertz@slps.org (314) 822-2514
- Sept 21, 22 Pennsylvania State Atlatl Championship and ISACs, Ligonier, PA
Chuck Butorjac (724) 238-6878
- Sept 20, 21, 22 Second Annual Ulm Pishkun State Park at Ulm, MT. Atlatl contests and ISACs all days
Connie Jacobs pishkun@imitco.net (406) 866-2219
- September 22 Michigan State Atlatl Championship at Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, Chelsea, MI At 8:00am. Four tournaments including ISAC. Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- Sept 27, 28 Coconino Community College, Flagstaff, AZ, ISAC 2-5 pm Friday; Field Round & Open competition plus Demos & exhibits & ISAC on Saturday.
Jerry Bacon (520) 286-1313 Gerald.Bacon@NAU.EDU
- September 28 Open Atlatl Contest & ISAC at Old Stone Fort State Park – Manchester, Tennessee
Contact: Keith Wimberley - Phone (931) 723-5073 e-mail: keith.wimberley@state.tn.us
- September 28 Graham Cave Atlatl Event, Demonstrations, Possible atlatl contests and ISAC, 2 miles West of Danville, MO, in a Missouri State Park Ron Mertz (314) 822-2514 ronald.mertz@slps.org Or Ray Madden (417) 781-0962 rhmadden@hotmail.com
- Sept 28, 29 Second Annual Burnt Hollow Fall Hunt at Deerlodge, MT Atlatl contests and ISACs both days. Lem Oehrman (406) 846-1004
- October 4, 5 Atlatl contests at Luling, LA. ISAC only October 4, full day of throwing plus ISAC October 5 .
Lloyd Pine ATLAtl@prodigy.net or John Polk (985) 785-2281
- October 5, 6 ISAC, Bougon, France Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
- October 12 Holliday Park Atlatl Contest & Demos Local Contest and ISAC, Indianapolis, IN
Don Fisher atlatlguy@yahoo.com (317) 475-9770
- October 12, 13 Fallow Hollow Throw & ISAC, Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Williams Rd., Candor New York Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 courier@pronetisp.net or Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- October 12, 13 European Atlatl Contest plus ISACs Both days in Argenton-sur-Creuse, France
Emmanuel Demoulian Emmanuel.Demoulian@wanadoo.fr
- October 15 Ann Arbor Indoor Atlatl League target Range at 7 pm with PRACTICE ISAC to follow
Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- October 26 Rural Ohio Appalachia Revisited (ROAR) Local contest & ISAC at Lake Hope, Zaleski State Forest near Zaleski, OH Steve Barnett (740) 698-6553
barnz@juno.com
- November 2, 3 Icicle Shoot & ISACs, Tioga Park, River Road, Nichols, NY
Bob Berg (607) 659-5967 courier@pronetisp.net or Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
- November 2, 3 ISAC, Berck-sur-Mer, France Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
- November 9 Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington Phoenix, AZ Field Round & ISAC.
Albert Abril aabril@home.com (602) 265-0177 or Bob Sizemore (520) 466-6104 bobandcarolathome@yahoo.com
- November 19 Ann Arbor Indoor Atlatl League target Range at 7 pm with PRACTICE ISAC to follow. Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net
- November 29 Turkey Toss and Last Gasp ISAC at Brighton Recreation Area at 10 am Day of novelty throws plus an ISAC Kylie (Rabbit Stick) tournaments also!
Jim Gilligan (810) 231-2314 primitive1@chartermi.net



Future WAA Annual Meetings

2003: Wilder Creek, Michigan, tentatively 2nd weekend in September, , ISACs Friday, Saturday and Sunday. European course, 3-D course and novelty shoots on Saturday and Sunday. Annual Atlatl Marathon and Meeting on Saturday.

2004: Meadowcroft, Avella, PA, tentatively 3rd weekend in June, ISAC's Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Local contests, lecture and tour of the Meadowcroft Rockshelter by Dr. James Adovasio, dinner and meeting on Saturday. (This world-renowned archaeological site is the oldest and longest continually used human site in North America, with evidence dating back 16,000 years)

2005: Montana, July, in conjunction with the Anniversary Celebration of Lewis and Clark



"I can give you a six-word formula for success: think things through— then follow through."

Eddie Rickenbacker



The ISAC Shakes
By Dennis Lantz & Reg Tully

I see it on the darkest night
In a dream so full of fright –
9 straight 10's in this round,
Number 10 stuck in the ground!

I stand - my mind in disbelief
None can really share my grief,
A voice inside knows what to do –
I snap that last damn dart in two!

The cracking sound is nice to hear
Madness now replaced my fear,
A crowd surrounds with their concerns –
I laugh as my atlatl burns!

"It's just a dream!" I shout aloud
But this does not disperse the crowd –
It dawns on me amidst the pain...
The ISAC"S driven me insane!

"Another chance, God... please!" I pray
"It's just a game." I heard Him say.
"A game?" It must be something more –
That's what I have my backups for!

"You choked... you got the ISAC shakes,
So get a grip for goodness sakes –
It does not matter that you pray...
You'll have to wait another day!"



Primitive or Not Primitive
By Wayne Brian

There is room in the world for those who make atlatls with stone tools, those who use steel tools, and those who use power tools. We don't need a litmus test for primitive purity. There are limits for most of us I am sure. Some may think too narrow, others would think too broad. We are very liberal in this respect, compared to bowers. We need to continue to do as we wish and not worry about how others view us. That way you are bound to have a good time. Using your own rules instead of some arbitrary rules established by someone else.



JUST A WEIGHTED THOUGHT

By Terry Keefer

I enjoyed reading the article by Bob Perkins, 1993, reprinted in the April 2002 ATLATL newsletter, about the function of atlatl weights.

After experimenting with weights to improve my ISAC scores I discovered the closer to the hook the weight is placed the higher the darts would hit the target, and exactly in reverse when the weight is moved toward the handle or grip. This placement of weight for me will produce a slight arc, clockwise from about seven o'clock to one o'clock. I found that I could make an atlatl to throw darts accurately at the fifteen meters by the weight placement, but at twenty meters to throw accurately without elevating the dart tip, the weight (site) has to be moved further forward toward the hook. The ideal design would be a system allowing the weight to be moved forward when the score keeper yells, "back at 20 meters" during a competition. (Check international standard accuracy rules before making one folks.)

William S. Webb, (*The Development of The Spearthrower*, 1957,) suggests that the atlatl weights studied at the Green River Kentucky Site were slowly moved toward the spur end of the atlatl during the archaic period. Until near the end of archaic times some of the weights actually had the hook carved on the weight.

Was this only an advancement of technology or were these people, after a long occupation at the same site, adjusting their weights for more accuracy at greater distances because some of the wildlife they were hunting had become less plentiful?

What do you think?



Hocus Pocus....Focus!!!

Imagine taking your knowledge, your experience, your attention, your skills, your energy, and your passion and pointing them all in the same direction toward a common objective. That's what it means to be focused. Without such focus, you end up working against yourself.

In fact, focus is nothing more than taking all the energy you have and pointing it in the same direction. There are no magic tricks, no secret incantations necessary.

Focus yourself.



OOPS!

I missed one of the Community sites in my listing last month! Here it is! (Sorry Rick!)

Southern Massachusetts Paleolithic Society.:

www.communityzero.com/smps

Please check it out!

Margie

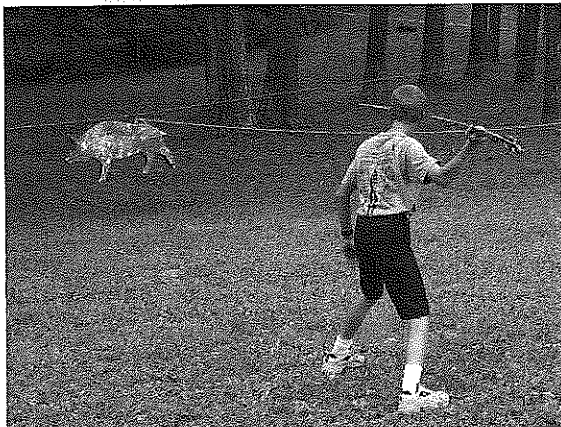


The 6th Annual North Georgia Knap-in By Mark Bracken

This year's knap-in boasted beautiful weather from start to finish. This was the sixth year for the event. The knap-in is located on lake Allatoona just west of Cartersville Ga. The fresh new leaves on the trees were so lush and green and the cool breeze off the lake was welcome in the warm spring sun. The setting of the park is just perfect, a nice open field surrounded by a ring of vendors peddling their finely crafted wares. There was a food service



available thanks to Richard, Evelyn Allen and Dan Allen. Lunches were served hot and fresh every day! Thanks for your wonderful effort! On Saturday evening, 60 pizzas were delivered hot and fresh complements of the vendor donations from last year's auction. Each evening we feasted on the southern delicacy biled peanuts. If you haven't had them, you haven't lived!



We had a wonderful showing of the world's top Atlatlist. Names like Terry Keefer, Gary Fogelman, Ray Strischek,

Doug Majorsky and many more! The atlatlist were greeted by the soon to be famous running pig target engineered by Bob Berg and Mark Bracken. The pig traveled down a cable on a gentle slope while "chuckers" tested their instinctive skills at a real moving target. Many atlatlists found themselves surprised how well they did on such a challenging target. Folks had a great time

playing atlatl tic-tac-toe. The rules were when you hit the square it became yours. It was really fun to watch some one go for a blocking shot and miss then



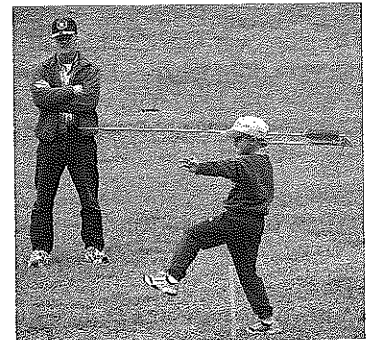
have to sweat it out to see if there opponent would prevail. Then finally after three in a row the game was won! Some games only took a total of five darts to complete, that's fine shooting!

The grand champion awards were as follows... men, Gary Fogelman. 1st. Doug Majorsky 2rd. Mark Bracken 3th The top three women were... Lori Majorsky 1st , Margie Takoch 2nd, Sherry Bracken 3rd. The top 3 youth... Charlie Bracken 1st, Carole Bracken 2nd, Percilla Ross 3rd.

Gary Fogelman was the Mega champion taking home the highly coveted "grand champion" plaque! Way to go Gary!

Top flintknappers from all over the country displayed their handy work like Don Roberts, Carl Smith Craig Ratzat (with three tons of nice obsidian!)

Earl Bird , Doug Leeth and many more. Lots of rock, tools, books and hands on instruction was available for the stone hungry knappers who came out in droves.



Knap-in's are the absolute best place for the beginning knapper. There's no better place to polish your skills or pick up a new technique to try. Eric Morris from Indiana showed up with some super nice Texas Perdinalas river nodules. James Parker from North Carolina had some of the finest rhyolite there is. Erwin Osborne came all the way from Pa. to offer his homemade display cases.

The event was capped off by a powerful super secret Ooga Booga ceremony Saturday night. Lots of new folks were welcomed

into this sacred knappers right of passage. Great fun for the whole family!



Our special thanks to all that helped us in putting on this event! Thanks for coming! See you next year!



"What's important is that one strives to achieve a goal."

Ronald Reagan

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi Folks!

I just have to tell you a little about the atlatl vacation Frank and I had! We had a great time!

It started at Flint Ridge on Friday. It was a little swampy in places, but nothing like last years annual meeting. We were just finishing our ISAC's and the sky had really darkened. We went into the van, the others went for the picnic shelter. The rain was a deluge, with lightening near by the museum... what a crack! Then it was all over and the sun came out along with the Majorsky's! They went out to throw their ISAC's and it was a bit muddier then!

Saturday was a nice day, and the swampy areas slowly dried out over the next 2 days. Throwing all day and talking to friends, what better can you ask for! The Ohio SAC, the Master's ISAC (just like an ISAC only 25 M and 30M) and ISAC occupied our day. In the evening, after showers in the new shower, Steve broke out the Chimay and we toasted the Europeans and the Brown's for introducing us to it.

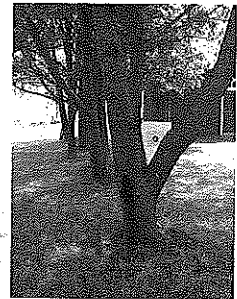


Sunday we finished up early and had all targets torn down by 1:00 when Hapi and Dale came to throw... Sorry! We then went back home to unpack and re-pack for the rest of the vacation.

We then headed west to the Chaplin Creek, Franklin Grove, Illinois atlatl competition. The weather was perfect... cool at night and warm during the day. We had just missed a rainfall of 8-inches in one day, but it was not muddy where we were. We had forgot the time change driving west and were a little early. They were waiting for the arrival of Doug Miller to set up the Illinois Hunter's Challenge... he obviously has the most devious mind as evidenced during the course!

We had an ISAC that evening where myself, Doug and his wife, Mary Kluz, all improved our scores. They all headed back to homes and we stayed there camping. It was a beautiful evening.

Saturday morning we relaxed while waiting for the group to come. Then practice for a while then we broke into two groups and tackled the Hunter's Challenge. This course was a REAL challenge and LOADS of fun!! You had two shots at a one-foot target, usually out of site of where you needed to stand. There were trees in the way, balanced rocks to stand on, hills to climb, a creek to throw over, under low branches and through high grass. Then back to ISAC's and European round. The top woman, man and youth threw off on the European course for Grand Champion, which Doug won.



From there we went to Jack and Carol Kelley's home where we had a Pool/Pizza party and prizes were awarded. The cool pool water felt good after being out in the hot sun all day.

We went back to Chaplin Creek and this time we had another camper with us..Len R from Wisconsin. A short while after we got back there came Don and Lynn Asp, Jack and Carol Kelley and they sang and played music for us for a very relaxing end to a great day.



Sunday was a short review of Saturday's events and things broke up early and we headed out driving west. It was a grand weekend!

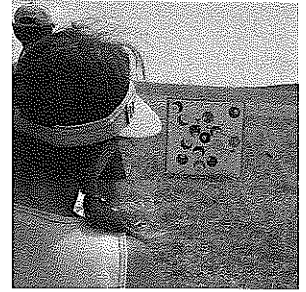
After a leisurely trip to Colorado, listening to the doomsday news on the fires, we drove through Rocky Mountain National Park and saw much wildlife, about 100 elk, 3 moose, and 20 mule deer. We spent some time in Estes Park and Idaho Springs, enjoying elk and buffalo burgers..a treat for us 'easterners'!

We arrived at Charlie and Susie Brown's home on Thursday in time to help the get some things together for the contests and the meetings.

Friday, we went in the afternoon to the Plains Conservation Center in Aurora (Denver) and set up the target for the ISAC in the prairie/cow pasture. After the ISAC's, most of us there went to the Board of Directors meeting at Bill and Marcia

Tate's home. Frank went back to Brown's with Charlie. After my first Board of director meeting we went home and to bed!

Saturday we found that the cows had tripped over the target holders and broken one of them... but of course... there's always duct tape! There was a small attendance because of the news on the fires, but they were not even in site nor were there clouds of smoke over all of Denver, just a slight haze over the mountains. We played two games of atlatl pool; a new game made up by Bill Tate. LOTS of Fun! The second game was with partners and I partnered with Charlie and we became the Atlatl Pool Shark Champions! We then did an American Field round, pretty quick and fun. The wind was always present and during the ISAC's it became VERY strong... it even blew my earrings out of my ears! Frank was hot with his first 6 out of 7 throws a 10! Then a strong wind came up and so much for a great score! Charlie kept waiting on his last shot at 20 and finally said the heck with it and threw... a 10! After the ISAC's it was too windy to try to eat outside so the PCC people let us into a building with tables to have out dinner and meeting. There was a very small turnout for an annual meeting.. mostly due to cancellations from the news of the fires. But it didn't stop us from having a rewarding meeting. Our niece Beth and her son Jon from Colorado Springs came up for the day and watched our competitions and got to throw a few darts before the wind got too strong. It was good, as we hadn't seen them since last year.



Back to Brown's and the thought of leaving the next day was disheartening. Susie and I sat up talking late cause we knew it was all over the next day. The Browns were so hospitable to us we felt like a King and Queen!

Sunday, back out early to the Plains Conservation Center. There were only 6 of us who hadn't left for home to compete. We did 2 ISAC groups, which went fast! No one was ready to end it, so we played teams for atlatl pool. We picked teams by drawing names and we had a lot of fun with it! After my team of Susie Brown, Frank and I had won three games and Frank had 'given' the other team of Bill Tate, Russell Richard, and Charlie Brown three games by hitting the eight ball... we had a play off game where they won... and claimed they won the universe! After that, still reluctant to leave our friends, we went to lunch at the Tate's and had fun rehashing the weekend. Finally about 1:30 pm, we headed east for home.

President's Award to Bill Tate by Jim Ray for Bill's 15 yrs as Editor of The Atlatl



We got home and found the grass high and the mower broken. And then had to set up our contest at Meadowcroft. Sunday we had a good group of throwers show up... we are like a family now with these 'regulars'. It was so hot and humid, though, that most of us did more shade finding than throwing! On the ISAC's, Terry Keefer had an 87x with one throw to go where he could tie his own world record... when Ray Striscek walked behind him and tripped and broke Terry's dart!! Terry ran and got a new dart, but then was only able to throw a 7. No one was able to get the moose this time... though Lori and Ted tried really hard! There were not very many spectators and no new throwers... I think the heat kept everyone in air conditioning



Monday had us out buying a new mower and Frank went back to work. What a great atlatl vacation!

Thanks to all of you who showed us such a great time..You know who you are!



The Atlatl and Dart: Primitive Weapons System

By Bob Perkins of BPS Engineering

The atlatl is a very ancient weapon dating back over 20,000 years in Europe and 12,000 years in North America. In fact it is the first true weapons system invented by humans. A weapons system has more than one part to it, for example: A rock or a stick can be a weapon but not a weapons system because they have no other parts. If you fashion the stick into an arrow or put the rock into a catapult then they become part of a weapons system. The atlatl has been commonly called a "spear thrower" but recent research has shown it to be nothing of the sort. Although the projectile it launches, properly referred to as a dart, is long like a spear it is not heavy and stiff like a spear. A dart is light and flexible. When thrown with the atlatl the dart uses its flexibility to store energy like a spring and push itself away from the atlatl at launch. The flexible dart launched from the atlatl is capable of speeds of 100 miles per hour and distances over 100 yards.

Scientists have speculated that the invention of the atlatl dramatically changed the way humans lived. Before the atlatl was invented humans were more scavengers than hunters, finding and taking the kills of other predators for their food more often than actually killing it themselves. The atlatl allowed humans to kill animals at a great distance making us the most successful predator on earth. Interesting speculation suggests that the atlatl is the "natural" weapon of the human race. Consider the natural attributes of other predators, lions and tigers and bears. Their ability to run fast and kill with sharp teeth and claws makes them successful predators. We humans do not have sharp teeth or claws and we do not really run very fast compared to other animals. Most people believe that it is our big brain that makes us the most successful predator and yes this is true to a certain point. But what really puts us at the "top of the food chain" is our natural ability to throw something at an animal. No other animal on the planet has this ability. The atlatl and dart is the supreme expression of our natural ability to throw something at an animal and kill it.

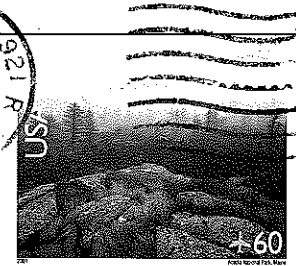
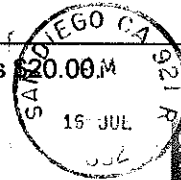
On every continent that humans have occupied atlatls have been found to be the weapon of choice used by the primitive people there. The earliest examples come from Europe but it is not known where or by whom the atlatl was first invented.

It is also not known if the atlatl was spread throughout the world from one place or if it was independently invented many times wherever people lived. It is known that the greatest users of the atlatl and dart system were our own Native Americans. The level of engineering skill that Native Americans put into their atlatl systems is second to none in the world and impressive even by today's standards.

A high level of mathematics and physics helps to appreciate the level of sophistication achieved by Native Americans. These primitive people may not have had the understanding of physics and math that we have today but they were smart and their technology reflects an intimate understanding of the physical world that they lived in. There is the myth that primitive people were backward thinking and not as smart as we are today. Do not confuse intelligence with education. Indeed the word "primitive" has been misused to mean crude or misshapen but actually means FIRST. Primitive people were the FIRST people and primitive technology was the FIRST technology. Understand that physics is just the scientific study of nature, the natural processes of things, like throwing a ball into the air, or how light reflects off water. And math is easy, it always adds up.

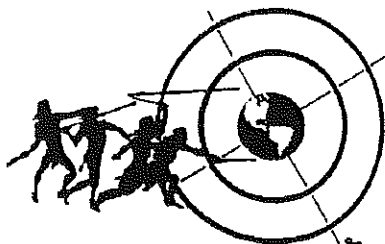
Membership in the World Atlatl Association is \$15.00 per year; family membership is \$20.00.
Send all inquiries and dues to WAA Secretary:

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The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

World Atlatl Association Web Site:
www.worldatlatl.org