

The ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!”

Rich McWhorter

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Atlatl Flex: Irrelevant

By John Whittaker and Andrew Maginniss

The atlatl, or spear thrower was one of the first great advances in technology, one of the first complex machines used by humans. Basically a stick with a handle at one end, and a hook or socket at the other, an atlatl acts as a lever arm, allowing a light spear to be thrown much more forcefully than by hand alone. However, in spite of experiments and a sporting revival of atlatl use in recent years, some uncertainty remains about what exactly happens during a throw.

One of the most hotly argued issues in atlatl mechanics is the effect of flexing atlatls and darts on the throw. The inertia of the dart acting against the forward motion of the atlatl flexes both the dart and the atlatl shaft, unless the atlatl is totally rigid, as some are. Many atlatlists believe that the flex of the atlatl and the flex of the dart act as springs to store potential energy which is released as kinetic energy contributing to the force and velocity of the throw. It is even suggested that flexing atlatls led directly to the invention of the bow (Cushing 1895; Farmer 1994).

With Whittaker as the atlatlist and Maginniss as the physicist, we hoped to shed some light on this question. We are in the process of working this up for a detailed publication, but since the results are interesting to other atlatlists, we will summarize them here without the details of the physics, which in the end are not so important anyway.

Bob Perkins (1995, 2000, 2004) and Richard Baugh (1998, 2002, 2003) have both considered the physics of a “springy” flexible atlatl. Baugh modeled the flexible atlatl as a rigid rod with a spring at the end, and predicted gains in velocity of up to 11%. We modeled the atlatl as a cantilever, in other words, a beam fixed at one end and free to flex and move at the other. Our model gave results similar to Baugh’s: a flexible atlatl should add a reasonable amount to the velocity of the dart, around 10%.

As part of this project, we recorded throws with high speed photography. A modern digital video camera operates at 30 frames per second, but each frame is actually two overlaid images at 60 frames per second. Computer programs are available to separate these, and produce images that can be viewed at 60 frames per second. In these, some of our atlatls could be seen to flex against the inertia of the dart as the atlatl swung forward. However, the final flip of the atlatl and release of the dart takes place in less than 1/10 of a second, and we could not see exactly what was happening. We then used a digital camera with an open shutter and a strobe light in a dark room to photograph the final part of the throw at 120 images per second. For our experiments, we built three simple atlatls whose only

significant differences were in the amount of flex. In the photos, flex was analyzed by drawing in a straight line of appropriate length next to the flexed atlatl. Then a distance measurement was made connecting the two distal ends. Atlatl A had no visible signs of flex. Atlatl B had 4 to 5 cm of flex on average. Finally, the flexible atlatl C had on average 13 cm of flex prior to release.

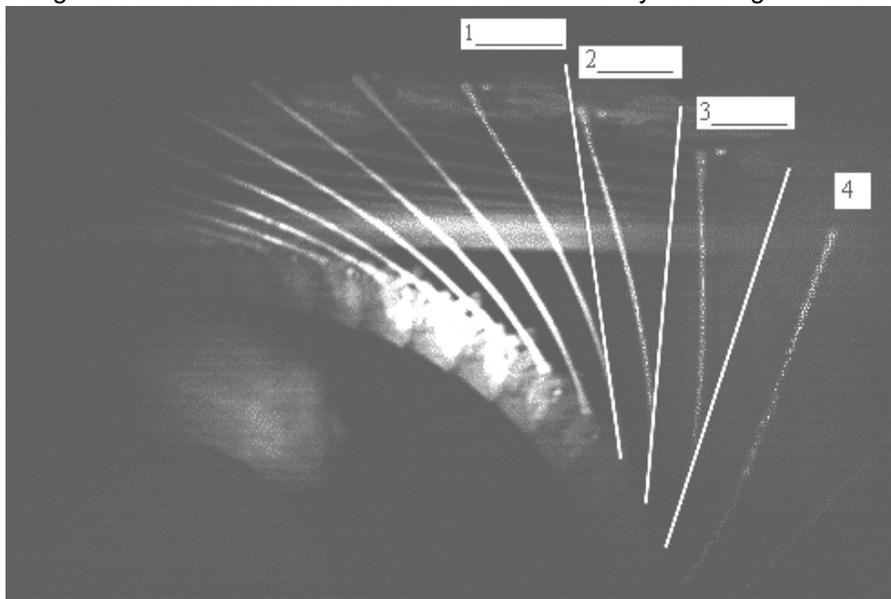
Experimental Results

In spite of our mathematical models, the results of our experiments forced us to the conclusion that atlatl flex has little or no effect on the velocity of the dart. Several lines of evidence proved this.

In our photographic record, velocities and accelerations were calculated using displacements and the 1/120 second gap between images. All three atlatl tips had a velocity of approximately 19m/s (43mi/hr) just prior to releasing the dart. There were no significant differences between the three atlatls. This suggested that atlatl flex does not have much noticeable impact upon the velocities and accelerations during the final rotation prior to release. The analysis also showed that the distal end of the atlatl accelerates dramatically after the dart is released. This could be for two reasons. First, once the dart has been released the inertia of the system decreases dramatically and makes it easier to accelerate the atlatl during the follow-through. The second reason could be that not all of the flex was released into the dart and the distal end is returning to the non-flexed position through a rapid oscillation. This is an important observation: the atlatl is springing back to its straight condition *after* the dart has left.

In fact, reexamining the physical model, we realized that it assumed that the flexed atlatl is given the opportunity to spring forward just prior to the release of the dart. This would mean that the atlatl has stopped rotational acceleration (in other words, there would be no follow-through) and the load flexing the atlatl back can then spring forward. In other words, the atlatl would have to stop or slow down enough that the flexed hook end could rebound and “catch up” to add spring force to the throw. One could imagine a throw with no follow through, and a jerky stop at the top of the throw, but this is not how good atlatlists use the tool.

In Figure 1 white lines have been added to the strobe photo to indicate how much the atlatl has flexed in three of the last four images. (The fourth of these, far right, is after the dart has left the camera’s view). Prior to release (2) the atlatl flex is at approximately 13cm and in the flash just after separation (3) the atlatl’s flex is approximately 11.5cm. Note that in (3) the white spot at the nock of the dart is above the hook of the atlatl, showing that it has been fully released. The time when the separation occurred prior to this flash of the strobe is most likely on the order of 1/1000th of a second. This photo is visual evidence that very little to none of the potential energy stored in the flex is transferred to kinetic energy of the dart. The 1.5 cm change in flex between image 2 and image 3 could have contributed to the dart’s velocity or perhaps simply occurred during the fraction of a second after release. Either way this image in and of itself shows that very little to none of the flex is



released prior to the release of the dart, so it cannot be applied to dart velocity.

In fact, there is nowhere near enough time for the atlatl to release the potential energy of the flex and convert it into additional dart velocity. For example, it would take atlatl C around 1/10th of a second to release all of its flex into the dart. This 1/10th of a second is calculated using the period of oscillation, the time it takes for a spring to go all the way up and then return to its original position. For an atlatl propelling a dart only the first quarter of the period is of interest. This is the time it takes for the atlatl to go from the flexed position to the equilibrium position with zero flex. However, the entire flick of the wrist and rotation of the atlatl takes only 1/10 second, during which time the atlatl is being flexed by the rotational acceleration of the atlatl working

against the inertia of the dart. For the flex to apply force to the dart, the atlatl would have to stop its rotational acceleration and spring forward in the very short interval between the end of the rotation and the departure of the dart. There is simply not enough time for this to happen. And as we have seen, in the images which show the atlatl and dart moments after release, the atlatl is still almost completely flexed *after* the dart has left, and therefore the flex could not have been converted into kinetic energy of the dart.

As a final test, the velocity and acceleration measurements taken from the strobe images, and velocity data from motion images of throws showed no significant differences between the three atlatls.

So What is the Role of Atlatl Flex?

Both theory and experimentation make it very clear that atlatl flex makes little or no contribution to the dart’s velocity. This contradicts much previous research and the intuition of most atlatlists. Most experiments and subjective observation

note the fact that the atlatl flexes like a spring. The atlatlists therefore assume that the flexed atlatl will transfer some of this stored energy into the dart, contributing to its forward motion. This assumption is wrong. It turns out that the atlatl does flex like a spring, but very little of this potential energy is transferred to the dart.

If atlatl flex doesn't contribute to the dart's final velocity, does it have any purpose at all? One possible function of atlatl flex is that it could help to reduce error from human induced irregularities in the throw. It might buffer some of the jerkiness of a throw, producing smoother, more regular acceleration. There have been some attempts to compare the accuracy of atlatls of differing flexibility. VanderHoek (1998) found no significant differences, but such tests are largely inconclusive because measuring the accuracy of a throw involving so much human error is fraught with difficulties. Perkins (1993, 2002; Perkins and Leininger 1989) argues that the flex of the atlatl not only stores energy, but times the separation of the springy dart from the atlatl. Since we have shown that the atlatl is still flexed after the dart has left, that cannot be the case either.

How About Dart Flex?

While we focused on atlatl flex, the role of dart flex is also hotly debated by atlatlists. The flex of the atlatl is often hard to see, but the flex of the dart is very visible. During the final flick of the wrist and rotation of the atlatl, the distal end of the atlatl forces the connecting proximal end of the dart up as the atlatl is raised while keeping the point of the dart on target. The dart bends by approximately half of the atlatl's length. Then upon release darts often oscillate on their flight towards the target. Questions similar to those regarding atlatl flex quickly arise. As in the case of atlatl flex, one might want to see if the dart's flex can significantly accelerate the dart and therefore increase the dart's final velocity, as Perkins (1993, 1995, 2000a, 2000b) believes. Perkins and Leininger (1989) explain that waves sent down the dart shaft reflect and provide a springing force, which increases the dart's velocity.

A simple experiment to give a sense for how insignificant this additional velocity would be can be performed by planting one end of a dart on a solid surface, compressing the other end, and then releasing the flexed dart to jump off of the surface. The dart does not hop off of the surface very quickly or very far, which shows that very little kinetic energy is transferred to the dart through its flex. Most of a dart's flex is perpendicular to the shaft and there is only a small distance of spring compression parallel to the shaft, which is in the direction of the dart's motion. This gives the dart very little distance to push off with during the time that the dart oscillates. The flex of the dart does store a certain amount of energy, but it is mostly released as latitudinal oscillations of the dart (Baugh 1998; Cundy 1989).

Dart flex should not significantly increase velocity, but it is necessary. We tried some casual experiments with rigid darts. These were made from plastic tomato stakes, of two sizes, 149 cm long, 1.1 cm diameter, weighing 120 gm, and 183 cm long, 1.5 cm diameter, weighing 254 grams. When thrown with the normal flipping motion of the atlatl, these rigid darts could not be kept on target. The proximal end (nock) was pulled down, while the tip rose, and the dart soared away uncontrollably, sometimes even tumbling end-over-end. Fletching and balancing these darts with weight well forward, improved performance only to the extent that after a period of wild flight they might stabilize and land point first. It was however possible to throw the heavy rigid dart accurately for short distances using a throw where the rotation was arrested, as suggested by Howard (1974). This is not the correct way to throw flexible darts, but we suspect that this is how rigid Arctic harpoons are thrown, although we have no practical experience with them.

Perhaps dart flex does help increase dart velocity, not through releasing its potential energy, but rather by its effects on the throwing motion. Our slow motion footage shows that for some of the more flexible darts filmed, the point of atlatl/dart release is further along in the rotation than with the less flexible darts. The less flexible wooden darts from Bob Berg, which were used in the atlatl flex experiments, would be released almost perfectly straight above the throwing hand or at 90 degrees of rotation. The more flexible cane darts that Whittaker normally throws were sometimes released as far as at 105 degrees of rotation. This extra 15 degrees might increase the velocity of the dart by adding to the time that the atlatl is actually accelerating the dart, and therefore the more flexible darts may be more efficient than the less flexible darts.

Conclusions

Experimental studies using modern recording technology, coupled with mechanical modeling using well-known physical principles, allow a better assessment of what actually happens during spear throwing with an atlatl. The motion is very comparable to any other overhand throw, the difference being that the atlatl lengthens the lever arm at the wrist. The rotation of the atlatl thus provides most of the velocity attained by the dart. Contrary to the intuition of most atlatlists, a flexible atlatl appears to provide little advantage over an inflexible one. While it is true that a flexible atlatl can be modeled as a spring, the springing action provides no addition to the velocity of the dart.

This tells us that the enormous range of variation through space and time in the form and materials of atlatls is not dictated by the advantages of flexibility, although it is certainly possible that ancient atlatlists, like those of today, believed that a flexible atlatl propelled a dart more effectively. The flex of an atlatl is not, however, a logical step on an evolutionary path toward the bow and arrow.

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EARLY ISAC RESULTS, 2006

By John Whittaker

As usual, the hardy Easterners are out early, with a few small events in New York, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. As of March 15, the following high scores are reported:

Men

92	Gary Fogelman
91X	Doug Bassett
85	Bob Bronish
85	Mike Waters
83X	Jack Rowe
83	Greg Bessette
78	Erich Zeh
77	Andy Majorsky
76	Terry Keefer

Women

80X	Joanne Fogelman
78	Lori Majorsky
77	Missy Dildine
70X	Linda Brundage

Youth

87	Teddy Eyster (15)
52	Harold Eyster (12)

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REMINDER:

With the start of this year's atlatl season remember the WAA has a NEW official Scorekeeper!

All score sheets must be sent to:

John Whittaker
 Dept. of Anthro., Grinnell College
 Box 805, Grinnell, IA 50112
 (641) 269-3447
whittake@grinnell.edu

Thanks so much John, for taking on this arduous task.

And Special thanks for the years of dedicated hard work from Lloyd Pine, inventor of the ISAC.

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The great successful men of the world have used their imagination...they think ahead and create their mental picture in all it details, filling in here, adding a little there, altering this a bit and that a bit, but steadily building--steadily building.--Robert Collier

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Nominations for President and Board Member

The Nominations Committee, appointed by the President, has nominated the following individuals to fill the positions of President and Board Member (1 position), beginning after the 2006 Annual Meeting.

President:

Scott Van Arsdale

Board of Directors:

Andy Majorsky

Ben Brauchler

Douglas Bassett

Additional nominees will be accepted from members until June 1, 2006. If you want to nominate someone, please send the name to Courtney Birkett, Executive Secretary (scratchblue@lycos). Include the person's name and contact information (phone number, email address, and mailing address). Also include a statement indicating that the proposed nominee has consented to the nomination. A final list of candidates prepared by the Nominations Committee, along with brief statements by the candidates, and the official ballot and procedures for voting will be in the July ATLATL.



Nominee Bio's

Scott Van Arsdale

Scott first tried an atlatl in 1993, when he saw an ad for a Bill Tate atlatl set and had to have it. Although he didn't get hooked at first, he was a regular attendee of flintknapping events that had atlatl activity. In 1997, he traded an obsidian knife for a Chris Pappas atlatl and Thunderbird darts, threw several ISACs, and fell in love with atlatling. Since then he has notched a couple of TOP TEN awards as well as Grand Champion and local victories. He attends as many atlatl events as a busy schedule will allow. In addition to the competition, Scott enjoys socializing with fellow atlatlists and other event attendees.

If elected President, Scott says his most important challenges will be to find ways to recruit new WAA members, keep veteran members in the fold, and promote the growth of atlatling. He

recognizes that this won't be easy, but with the quality of WAA people; members, the Board of Directors and officers, progress can and should happen. "I'm under no illusion that I can make a big difference working alone", Scott says. " I have every intention of listening to and working with the membership, as well as the WAA governing body, to serve the membership and the sport within the guidelines set by the WAA bylaws. I have received much benefit and enjoyment through the atlatling community, and would consider a term as President an opportunity to pay back some of the debt I owe atlatling by striving to be a positive influence".

Scott and his wife, Diane, live in Otego New York, not far from Cooperstown. He is a wildlife technician with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, specializing in eagles. Among his other interests are flintknapping, hunting and fishing, hiking, dogs, reading and traveling.

Andy Majorsky:

Andy has been throwing the ATLATL since 1999, becoming involved after his son began throwing. Since then he has attended many ATLATL events and promoted The ATLATL by doing demos. Currently he is the treasurer of The Pennsylvania ATLATL Association.

He would like to see the WAA develop a program to increase its membership. Also develop guidelines for a younger youth division and improve the WAA web Site.

Ben Brauchler

Ben has been throwing since, well he doesn't remember exactly, his daughter dragged him over to see this "cool thing" when they had stumbled onto the stone tool show in NY by accident, just camping in the park that weekend. We ended up taking home an atlatl and some darts from Bob Berg and setting up some hay in the back yard!

He loves the sport, and the people in it. The whole family always has a great time at events and have made a lot of friends going to them. He says he may not be the best thrower around, but there is always that next throw!

Douglas Bassett

Doug is an Environmental Educator, third generation resident of Warsaw, NY. B.S. degree from Cornell University in Life Science. He has served as park naturalist at Letchworth State Park since 1973. He is interested in all things that can be hand thrown. He has been throwing atlatl since 1996.



RESULTS OF THE 2006 FINGER FREEZING CONTEST
- Fogelman's, Turbotville, Pa. 1-7-06
by Gary L. Fogelman

Once again the weather cooperated with our opening competition of the year and the throwers from Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania responded. Eighteen were on hand, and I believe I speak for all in saying we enjoyed the day and the comraderie immensely!

Erich Zeh, Bob Bronish and Doug Bassett showed up Friday evening, as did Margie and Frank Takoch. After a great supper, we did some flintknapping and looked at some artifacts Erich had from his previous year of collecting. Bob Bronish knapped out a monster Scottsbluff point and I had fun producing, well, rubble. We also viewed the tape of The Daily Show with John Stewart that featured a segment on the atlatl.

Jack Rowe and I were featured in that segment, which resulted in a laugh-filled look at atlatl technology and poked some fun at the Humane Society, which has vowed to outlaw atlatl hunting across the U.S. We of course had no control whatsoever in how they handled the hours and hours of film they took the day they were here, and we actually fared well if one looks at the show format. At any rate, millions of people probably saw that and now know what an atlatl is and how it works. We also figured that most any exposure is good exposure.

Just weeks earlier Jack, Dennis, Angelo and I took part in another TV program, The Great Outdoors with Bob Ide. They presented a real nice program, which aired in northeastern Pennsylvania and probably into New York and New Jersey.

All this current interest was generated by a story out of Harrisburg that was initiated because of the push to legalize the atlatl for deer hunting in Pennsylvania. That story went Associated Press and newspapers picked it up far and wide, at least out to Arizona and New Mexico.

And by the way, a reporter from the Wall Street Journal, Mr. John Miller, spent the day with us at the Finger Freezing Contest and hopefully that will generate a positive article on our behalf.

Then, the following week, while preparing this report, the Penna. Game Commission issued a statement wherein it was noted that the Directors would recommend against legalizing the use of the atlatl for deer hunting in Pennsylvania. This illicit another round of calls. Channel 16 came out on Tuesday, Jan. 10 and did a short thing, which went on the 6 o'clock news. That afternoon 4 different newspapers called. The next day there was an article in the Sun Gazette. I talked with Jack, he experienced the same thing. Bob Berg fielded reporter queries as well, and Terry I believe had an interview lined up.

For those of you now wondering, Hollywood did call and had some suggestions for some TV shows and movie deals featuring the atlatl and moi, of course. I eagerly told them I wasn't interested. Ask Jack, that movie and TV making stuff is, well, boring. And I've got an atlatl life to live!

For example, had I been off making Atlatl Pirates of the Carribean or something, I wouldn't have been on

hand at the end of this fine day, standing around the fire, listening to Doug Bassett talking with the local screech owls. How they understood the New York accent, I don't know, but he brought one right in to the tree whose branches reached out over our heads.

The owl checked us out, then flew off and as he whirled above, our eyes were drawn to the northwestern sky and we beheld a not-often-seen sight: a 'shooting star' or meteor if you will, and not one of those quick little things. This one was visible for many seconds as a bright ball of flame, sputtering some, as it burned through the atmosphere on its descent. It was one of those that you might hear of hitting the earth and ending up in someone's living room.

We also batted around some ideas for the Penna. Atlatl Assoc. to think about and getting contests organized and etc.

Alas, the end did come and everyone left, with assurances we would do this again. And we will and once again I urge you to come and join us. Life is good.

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Osage Barn Toss
21st of January, 2006
by Douglas Bassett

We used a corrugated metal grain shed with a concrete floor at The Osage Farm, the home of David and Helen Swanson in Mt. Morris, New York. Some work lights illuminated a wall of hay and straw under the skylights at one end where the targets were filled with holes. We kept the sliding doors at the other end to a narrow crack in the otherwise fairly wind-free enclosure. None-the-less, all were chilled-through by the end of the day and folks departed without fanfare. Limited by our pile of bales we exchanged various targets throughout the day in order to shoot the ISAC and three parts of the local contest that included the IASAC. All chipped in for our spread of lunch and treats and drinks for the nine contestants and three spectators.

The local contest used the animal silhouettes that I created for the Cobblestone Contest last August, which again were shot at ten different distances proportional to the ten ring of the ISAC target. We scored them 1, 3, 5 & X as before but allowed to score the best two of three throws to reach 100. The Animal Round was set up twice and the contestant scored their best of two attempts. The State Round was shortened to 10, 13, 15, 17 and 20 meters and the best two of three darts were scored to reach 100. This was also set up twice and the contestant scored their best of two attempts. However this was made even more difficult than the IASAC target that we used in August, by using a split ISAC target. This is accomplished by: dividing the X into X and 10; dividing the 10 into 9 and 8; dividing the 9 into 7 and 6; dividing the 8 into 5 and 4; dividing the 7 into 3 and 2 and dividing the 6 into 1 and 0. Yes, it is even more difficult than the Ultra ISAC!

Osage Barn Toss
4th of February, 2006
 By Douglas Bassett

Seven contestants and three spectators repeated the setup that we did in January at The Osage Farm of the Swanson's in Mt. Morris, New York. Our comfort level was greatly increased by the addition of a portable heating unit with 150,000 BTUs (thanks Greg) that kept us in a blast of cozy warmth at ten feet away. This was provided for in our warming area by the refreshments that were supplied by all. Again the weather was relatively mild and calm outside our corrugated enclosure. Although I continue to experiment and improve with my new basket style atlatl, "Lady Luck" and graphite darts, I returned to my old stand-by equipment (a JJ stick and Waters' aluminums) to set the new course records. The local contest was repeated using the animal silhouettes and the shortened State Round on the split ISAC target scoring the best two of three darts and picking the better of two attempts at these contests. These two scores were added to the IASAC for each contestant to determine the local rankings for the day. The new course record on the animal round had at least one dart in the kill zone for all ten targets. As last time, the animals were shot in pairs as follows: coyote (17M) and bobcat (14M); chuck (11M) and turkey (16M); squirrel (7M) and rabbit (8M); grouse (9M) and pos'm (10M); fox (13M) and coon (12M).

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Osage Barn Toss
18th of March, 2006
 By Douglas Bassett

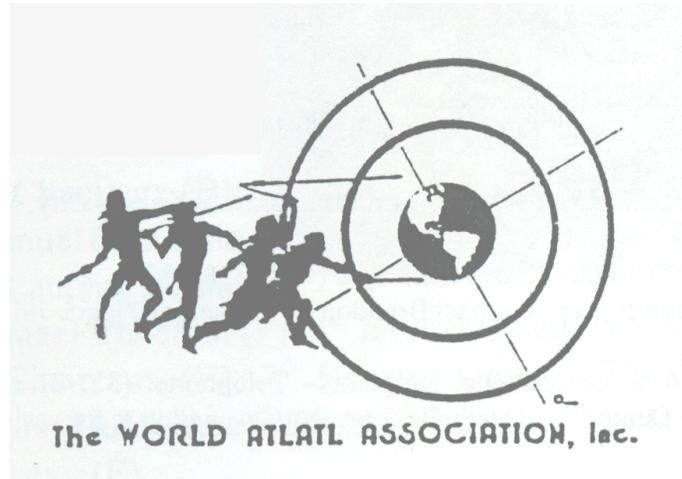
Nine contestants and four spectators repeated the setup that we did in January and February at the Osage Farm of the Swanson's in Mt. Morris, New York. We were all rather chilled, as our kerosene-heating source was quite modest in our slightly warmer area by the refreshments that were supplied by all. The weather was cold and windy (wind-chill in the teens) outside our corrugated enclosure.

The local contest was repeated using the animal silhouettes and the shortened State Round on the split ISAC target scoring the best two of three darts and picking the better of two attempts at these contests. These two scores were added to the IASAC for each contestant to determine the local rankings for the day.

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I have always looked at life as a voyage, mostly wonderful, sometimes frightening.
 In my family and friends I have discovered treasure more valuable than gold.—
 Jimmy Buffet ...*(A Pirate Looks At 50)*

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Shirt Sales

WAA T-shirts are still available. They are 50/50 cotton/polyester blend and come in tan, teal, & black colors with the WAA logo and the words "World Atlatl Association" on the front. They are available for \$12.50 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.

To order send a check or money order made out to the World Atlatl Association to
 Courtney Birkett, 1105 Springfield Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Sizes are limited. Here are the sizes available for each color shirt:

- Black: 2 small, 6 medium
- Tan: 6 medium, 2 XL, 3 XXL
- Teal: 4 medium, 4 XL, 2 XXL

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Baseball style caps with the WAA logo are now available. They come in gray, tan, navy, and black. Cost is \$12.50 plus \$3.50 postage and handling (\$16.00 total). Order by sending check or money order payable to The World Atlatl Association, to Richard B. Lyons (Treasurer), 5024 King Rd. Jeffersonville, IN 47130. Please specify color preference when ordering.



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Bumper stickers with the WAA logo are available also. Size is 2 3/4 in. by 5 in. Order by sending \$1.00 ea., plus \$.50 postage and handling to the above address. Order up to five bumper stickers and only pay postage and handling once.

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Proud Grandfather George Miller sends in this pic of his grandsons with their 2006 WAA Top Ten Awards!

Atlatl be the day Sports group could be spearheading safe way To hunt suburban deer

Thursday, February 09, 2006

By Dave Budinger, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

You can be forgiven if you don't know what an atlatl is. After all, they haven't been in heavy use around here for about 8,000 years. Nevertheless, if the Pennsylvania Game Commission cooperates, atlatls could be a solution to the suburban deer issue that plagues so many North communities.

An atlatl (pronounced AT-lad-ul) was a breakthrough Stone Age invention -- right up there with fire and the wheel -- that gave humans their first true weapons system and a real leg up in the daily quest for woolly mammoth steaks.

Basically, it's a flat stick, about as long as a man's forearm, with a notch at one end and a grip at the other. A spear or "dart" up to 8 feet long was inserted in the notch and laid along the stick. Throwers gripped the spear and atlatl in one hand and, using the principles of leverage, whipped the atlatl in an overhand throw that, some researchers say, launched the spear at speeds up to 80 mph and distances of 100 yards.

That's quite an improvement over merely chasing down large animals and heaving rocks and clubs at them.

Researchers believe the atlatl came into being about 20,000 years ago, spread through Europe, started showing up in North America about 12,000 years ago, and was in use in Pennsylvania about 8,000 years ago.

In another huge leap of technology, they were replaced with bows and arrows, which were more efficient and a heck of a lot easier to carry than a bundle of 8-foot spears. The name atlatl came from the Aztecs and means either "throwing board" or "water thrower," depending on whose research you're reading.

You would expect a few archaeologists and anthropologists would play around with an atlatl just to get a handle on how things worked back in the day. But who knew the atlatl would inspire a cult following of modern atlatl enthusiasts -- I'll call them atlatlists -- that appears to be taking hold?

There's even a World Atlatl Association, whose Web site identifies atlatl throwers in 34 states and a handful of countries, including Iraq, where a sergeant serving with a transportation company is an atlatl enthusiast. I was surprised to learn that the Meadowcroft Museum of Rural Life in Jefferson, Washington County, has been the site of the World Atlatl Association Competition. Our sports pages apparently missed this, but it draws upward of 25 contestants a year to compete for the world atlatl-throwing title. It's not an Olympic event yet, but there's hope.

The Web site lists fewer than 20 atlatlist hunters in Pennsylvania, but they apparently have tremendous lobbying clout. Last month, the state Game Commission gave preliminary approval to atlatl hunting in the commonwealth and will take a final vote in April. Atlatlists could be stalking deer by fall.

It's rather incredible that such a small interest group -- a mere fraction of the million or so licensed hunters in Pennsylvania -- can move a state agency not exactly known for alacrity into such groundbreaking action. Pennsylvania could

become only the second state in the country to allow spear hunters into its woods. Alabama saw the light some years ago.

But before we simply shrug, and say "hooray for the atlatlists": think about what this could mean for suburbanites who are tired of semi-tame deer munching their way through their shrubs, ornamentals and hollyhocks every year, or throwing themselves in front of their Mercedes and BMWs on the way to work in the morning.

Communities where nature clashes with civilization have been wrestling for decades on ways to control the deer that seem to be moving into suburbia as fast as the population. With some exceptions, like Fox Chapel, these communities don't particularly like the idea of people with guns wandering around their parks and green spaces. Even bowhunters aren't universally welcomed. Although they're not as visible and don't make as much noise as the gun-toters, residents are still concerned about errant arrows piercing person or property.

Enter the atlatlist.

While the success rate of atlatl hunting is unknown, it's perfect for in-close hunting around homes and businesses where the suburban whitetail hangs out. Municipalities could hire a few professional atlatlists or issue special atlatl permits or simply open the town to atlatl hunting and encourage Scouts to make atlatls and sell them door to door for general household use.

I'll bet when the Game Commission, its staff, consultants and game managers sat down to ponder the needs of the state's 20 or so atlatlist hunters, it never occurred to them this could be the solution to one of the most vexing problems suburban homeowners face.

I'll have to send them a thank-you card.



"I didn't actually catch anything, but I do feel I gained some valuable experience."

Sixth Annual Blackwater Draw Atlatl Throw

By David C. Batten

Eastern New Mexico University's Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology and Mu Alpha Nu Anthropology Club are pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Blackwater Draw Atlatl Throw. The competition will include a Target Round and an ISAC (International Standard Accuracy Contest). It will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the Blackwater Draw Site. The site is located along the road to Cannon Air Force Base (State Highway 467), about 6 miles north of Portales and 1 mile north of the turn to Oasis State Park. Registration and practice will start at 9:00 AM, with the Target Round beginning at 10:00. The ISAC round will take place in the afternoon.

There will be categories for men, women, and children, and prizes for the top finishers in each category. Don't worry if you haven't done it before. It's the process, not the prize. Bring atlatls and darts if you have them. There will be some available for loan and sharing if you don't. This competition is NOT restricted to primitive technology. Atlatls may be made of traditional or modern materials.

For more information, contact David C. Batten, Department of Anthropology and Applied Archaeology, Station 3, Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, NM 88130. Phone 505 562-2750. email david.batten@enmu.edu



Atlatl Pictograph in Oklahoma

By Bill Tate

A rare pictograph from Hughes County in east central Oklahoma is considered by many to show a man with an atlatl (some say it's a fish). It would appear that a dart is located just in front of the figure stretching upward from below his foot to his waist. What appears to be an object dangling from the other hand is staining from a mud-dauber's nest, and is not related to the pictograph. Called by locals, The Red Stick Man, it has been drawn on the ceiling of a sandstone enclosure which was partially man-made. It apparently was applied by using a chunk of hematite (an iron rich mineral with a red tint) directly onto the surface.

Archaeology Show

&

Atlatl Competition

Saturday

September 30, 2006

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Holiday Inn
Exit 62, Interstate 80
Clarion Pennsylvania

Prehistoric and Historic Indian Artifact Displays
Programs on Pennsylvania Archaeology
Artifact Identification
Flint Knapping
Door Prizes

Open Atlatl Competition and Demonstrations
under the auspices of
World Atlatl Association

Admission
Adults - \$3.00
Children under 12 - Free

Sponsored by
North Fork Chapter 29
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology



Annual Fremont Indian State Park Atlatl and ISAC competition Annual Mountain Man Rendezvous

The weekend of May 5th-7th will be the annual Fremont Indian State Park Atlatl and ISAC competition. This year we are hosting the Annual Mountain Man Rendezvous on the same weekend. We feel these two events are compliments to each other and will encourage more participation. There will be adequate space for camping. There will be no charge for camping in the designated dry camp area of the venue. Camping is also available at Castle Rock campground with water and flush toilets and the rate is \$12 per night. This campground is a couple miles from the venue. Atlatl registration will be Saturday morning at 8:30 and competition will begin at 10:00. Our meandering and challenging course through the natural terrain has been a favorite among competitors. ISAC will be held Saturday and Sunday. We need an RSVP for those who will be attending the dinner Saturday night, which will be provided by local participant and Park volunteer Trena Pikyavit, there will be a charge for the dinner. Contact David Wagner - Fremont Indian State Park 435-527-4631 or Trena Pikyavit 435-425-3749

World Atlatl Association Schedule of Events 2006

US Competition Events events

April 2	Spring Knap-in,Chelsea Rod & Gun, Chelsea, Michigan 3-D, ISAC, IASC, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$9 range fee for 3-D only For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
April 7, 8, 9	5 th Annual Atlatl Contest, Valley of Fire State Park , Overton, Nevada ISAC all three days and field round on Saturday. Camping in reserved group campground all three days. Contact Ron Mertz - Ph. (314)628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
April 8	Osage Contest Moves to Buffalo (10:00 am - Noon), West Seneca, New York We have 2 hours only to ourselves in the Bison Archery Range - \$5 range fee. The Bison Archery Range, 2459 Seneca Street, is less than one mile west of the NY Thruway (Interstate 90). Take the 400/Seneca Exit and head west on Seneca St. (Rte. 16), the range is 3/4 mile west of St Rte. 240 at the corner of Wildwood, on the left just before Texas Hots.. ISAC, IASAC and locals. Contact Douglas Bassett (585) 493-3625
April 18	Indoor Atlatl Contest, 4 Seasons Archery, Ann Arbor, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 7-8:30 p.m., \$7 range fee For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
April 21-23	Eighth Annual Earth Day Gathering, EMC Club Rt. 34, Waverly, New York Contact Jack at (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com
April 21-23	Raging Cow Atlatl Meet at Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa (Saturday) with ISAC and local events, ISACs Friday evening and Sunday morning. John Whittaker (642) 269-3447 office 236-6775 home whittake@Grinnell.edu
April 22	Wooster College Archeology Days, Wooster Ohio College Commons ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
April 29	Sixth Annual Blackwater Draw Atlatl Throw, Blackwater Draw Site, New Mexico Registration at 9:00, Target Round at 10:00 and ISAC in the afternoon Contact David C. Batten (505) 562-2750 or david.batten@enmu.edu
May 5, 6, 7	Spring Knap-In & ISAC, Old Stone Fort, Manchester, Tennessee Contact Keith Wimberley at Keith.Wimberley@state.tn.us
May 6	Cinco de Mayo, Klimowicz residence, Fenton, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 12-5 p.m., Potlatch For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
May 7	Wausau School Forest, Wisconsin From South,: Hwy.51 N., Exit Hwy. 153 W. into Mosinee, Wi., Stay on Main st. to Cty. B turn right on Cty.B, Cty.B to Cty.KK turn right on cty.KK., Wausau School Forest approximately 7miles north of S, Mosinee. Wausau School Forest is on east or right side of road. From North,, Hwy.51 S. to Wausau Wis. Exit Cty.N south to, Cty.KK (Approx. 2 miles).turn left on Cty.KK Wausau School Forest approximately 6miles south of Wausau. Wausau School Forest is on east or left side of road. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
May 11-14	Fourth Annual Kentucky Primitive Arts Festival and Knap-In, Pioneer Playhouse, Danville, Kentucky IAS contests held Thursday-Saturday, On-site camping available. Auction of donated vendor items beginning at 1:00 Saturday Contact Ronnie Hazlett II at (606) 346-3651 or knapper23@earthlink.net
May 19, 20, 21	Atlatl competition in conjunction with the Osage Knap-in near Booneville, Missouri Hy 70, East of Booneville exit 111,ISAC all three days; modified European and other contests on Saturday. Contact Ron Mertz (314)628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
May 26, 27, 28	N.C. State Traditional Archery Championship, Catawba Valley Wildlife Club:Hickory, North Carolina 40 3-D Animal targets on two ranges, also practice range,novelty shoots,coon shoots,seminars,blanket swap,childrens activities,traditional crafts,Atlatl contest.- I.A.S. and I.S.A.C. competitions all three days,church

	<p>service Sunday morning, Vendors are welcome! Come join the fun! Contact Information & Directions: For archery shoot and vendor set-up-Dennis Allman:828-438-2890, Tony Lail:704-462-1070 or Tommy Blackburn:336-903-1322. For Atlatl Competition-Doug Leeth:704-538-0541</p>
May 26, 27, 28	<p>Renegade Atlatl Tournament, West Almond Vigil, West Almond, New York ISACs and local contests each day Contact Bill Brundage at webrundage@infoblvd.net</p>
May 27-28	<p>Atlatl Marathon, Wilder Creek C.C., Marshall, Michigan During the Primitive Archery Rendezvous, 3-D, ISAC, IASC, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881</p>
June 2-4	<p>Atlatl-in-Action, EMC Club Rt. 34, Waverly, New York Contact Jack at (570) 888-8258 or fieldwalker@stny.rr.com</p>
June 9, 10, 11	<p>The 9th Annual Genesee Valley Living History and New York State Atlatl Championship Weekend, Island Park, Wellsville, New York ISACs all three days. Free camping Atlatlists contact Linda Brundage at (585) 973-2507 or linda@novocon.net (please put "atlatl" in subject line) Flintknappers contact Dana Klein at (585) 365-8048 or danakchert@aol.com</p>
June 11	<p>Henschels Artifact Museum, Wisconsin Directions from Milwaukee, Hwy 43n to Green Bay, Hwy 57n Left exit #97 towards Plymouth, Left on County Rd. J. Turn Right on Hwy. 67, Turn Left onto County Rd. A. Straight onto County Rd. J, Turn Left on Sexton rd, Turn Left on Holstein rd. Follow road to parking area which will be along the left side of the road. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com</p>
June 17 & 18	<p>Meadowcroft, Avella, Pennsylvania ISAC and local contests Contact Margie Takoch theatl@1st.net or 740 264-1755</p>
June 20	<p>Indoor Atlatl Contest, 4 Seasons Archery, Ann Arbor, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 7-8:30 p.m., \$7 range fee For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881</p>
June 22-25	<p>Bald Eagle Knap-in, Stone Tool & Crafts & Atlatl Tournament, Mountz Memorial Park, Smith Mills, Penna. ISAC all four days. Local two days. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698 or jam@chilitech.net</p>
June 23 & 24	<p>Sun Circle Celebration at The Falls of the Ohio State Park, Clarksville, Indiana. ISAC and Indiana State Championship Contests each day. Grand Champion Award on Saturday. Richard B. Lyons (812)246-9987 atlal@theremc.com</p>
June 23, 24, 25	<p>Deerastic Park , five miles east of Cambridge, Ohio I-77 to Rt. 22, ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365</p>
July 1	<p>Southwest Ohio Atlatl Open Chad Wilsons mom's farm Contact chadwilson@gmail.com</p>
July 7, 8, 9	<p>Foothill-Mountain Atlatl Competition IIIV, Thermopolis, Wyoming ISAC-3 days, competition with atlatl, bow, spear, hawk, and knife. Contact for location and information: Russell Richard 307-772-0550 coyoteclow@aol.com or Gary & Regina Dodson 307-632-0766 wyo winds@aol.com</p>
July 7, 8, 9	<p>18th Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt, Ulm Pishkun State Park, Ulm, Montana Euro-Field Round and Moving Targets on Saturday and Sunday ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 735-5274</p>
July 14, 15, 16	<p>Flint Ridge State Park near Brownsville, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365</p>
July 15-16	<p>The 10th & Final Alder Acres Atlatl Tournament and Morning After ISAC, Lorraine, New York Contact: Rodger Klindt mammut@juno.com, or 315-639-6293. Send correspondence to : Rodger Klindt,25325</p>

	NYS Rte. 180, Dexter, NY 13634
July 22-23	Smoky Hollow Rendezvous, Wisconsin Directions to get to our grounds: from Milwaukee, take Hwy.43n to Hwy.57n to Hwy.28 (the town of Waldo) turn left on Hwy.28 continue thru the town of Cascade to county. Rd. F. Turn right on county rd. F to Highview rd.(approximately one mile). Turn right on Highview to Parnell rd. Turn left on Parnell rd. The club grounds are on the right hand side 1/2 mile from Highview Rd. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
July 22-23	Saegertown/French Creek Artifact/Fossil Show & Atlatl Contest , American Legion, Saegertown, Pennsylvania ISACs and local. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman - (570) 437-3698
August 10-13	GLP Summer Gathering, Bois Blanc Island, Michigan European, ISAC, IASC, All day, during the annual primitive skills gathering For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
August 12	ISAC, Demonstrations, and Local Events at Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa Saturday, August 12 - 12-4 PM , Effigy Mounds National Monument Teacher's Workshop 2006 . Advance registration required for free admittance to the park, otherwise \$5. Field Trips, Guest speakers, and Programs starting at 8:00 AM For updated Information visit http://anthro.luther.edu/Atlatl.htm or contact Chad Landsman landch01@luther.edu
August 18	'That Dam ISAC' , Friday evening on dam of one acre pond near Albany, Ohio ISAC and IASAC Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)698-6553
August 19, 20	Seventh Annual Albany Ohio Atlatl contests, Albany Riding Club on State Rt. 32 ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
August 24	Osage Farm Contest (11:00 am - 6:00 pm), Mt. Morris, New York ISAC, IASAC, locals and Grand Champion Throw-off. Just four miles south of Letchworth State Park Take the 390 Expressway to exit 7 for the park, turn west on State Route 408, 2.2 miles to the light in Mt. Morris, turn left on State Route 36, go 1.1 miles south to BeGole Road, turn left onto Swanson Rd after 1.5 miles on BeGole Rd (from St Rte 36). We are at the end of the road (.4 mi) on the right. Contact: Douglas Bassett (585) 493-3625.
August 25, 26, 27	4 th Annual Wakhpa-Chu'gn Buffalo Jump Atlatl Contest, Haure, Montana Euro-Field Round Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 735-5274
August 25, 26, 27	Letchworth Stone Tool Fair and Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Contest, Letchworth State Park, New York ISACs, local, Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698.
Sept. 1, 2, 3	Flint Ridge Lithic Society Knap-in, Flint Ridge State Park near Brownsville, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events, www.ohiohistory.org/paces/flint Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Sept. 1, 2, 3	Pennsylvania State Championships, Fogelman's, Turbotville, Pennsylvania ISAC, plus all Divisions involved, many games to be competed and State Championships awarded. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698.
Sept. 8, 9, 10	The 19th Annual Meeting of the World Atlatl Association, Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site, Collinsville, Illinois Contact Ron Mertz (314) 628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 15-17	Chimney Point State Historic Site, Addison, Vermont 7305 VT Route 125 , Addison, VT 05491 ,(802) 759-2412 , chimneypoint@state.vt.us , www.HistoricVermont.org/sites Sept. 15 Atlatl Workshop – Atlatl experts Bob and Cheryl Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl will teach you how to make and use your own atlatl. \$65 fee includes instruction and all materials. Pre-registration required. Vermont Archaeology Month program. Noon – 5:00 PM.

	Sept. 16 Eleventh Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship – Participate in or watch this annual championship. The growing sport of atlatl throwing is based on the ancient hunting technique of using the atlatl or spear thrower. Flint knapping and other Native American life and craft demonstrations. Co-sponsored by Vermont Archaeological Society. Vermont Archeology Month program. 10:30 – 3:30 PM. Sept. 17 ISAC Atlatl Championship – Test your accuracy in a second day of atlatl competition. 10:00 AM.
Sept. 15, 16, 17	6 th Annual Fall Hunt Atlatl Contest at the Old Prison, Deer Lodge, Montana Euro-Field Round on Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Lem Oehrtman at (406) 846-1004
Sept. 15, 16, 17	Eighth Annual Pawpaw Festival, Lake Snowden, Albany, Ohio on State Rt. 32 ISAC, IASAC & OAA events, www.ohiopawpaw.org Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Sept. 22, 23, 24	6 th Annual Ulm Pishkun State Park Atlatl Contest, Ulm, Montana Euro-Round Saturday and Sunday, ISAC all 3 days Contact Jim Ray at (406) 736-5274
Sept. 23-24	Smoky Hollow Rendezvous, Wisconsin Directions to get to our grounds: from Milwaukee, take Hwy.43n to Hwy.57n to Hwy.28 (the town of Waldo) turn left on Hwy.28 continue thru the town of Cascade to county Rd. F. Turn right on county rd. F to Highview Rd.(approximately one mile). Turn right on Highview to Parnell rd. Turn left on Parnell Rd. The club grounds are on the right hand side 1/2 mile from Highview Rd. Contact Len and Mary Riemersma at (920)528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
Sept. 23, 24	4 th Anl MA Atlatl Field Day and ISAC, Rebecca Nurse Homestead, 149 Pine Street, Danvers, Massachusetts Contact Glenn Mairo (978) 580-9437 gmairo@hotmail.com
Sept. 24	State Championship, Chelsea Rod & Gun, Chelsea, Michigan 3-D, ISAC, IASC, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$9 range fee, for 3-D only For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
Sept. 29 - Oct. 1	Fall Knap-In & ISAC, Old Stone Fort, Manchester, Tennessee Contact Keith Wimberley at Keith.Wimberley@state.tn.us
Sept. 30	Archaeology Show & Atlatl Competition, Holiday Inn, Exit 62, Interstate 80, Clarion, Pennsylvania ISAC and IAS, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact George Miller gmliller@brockwaytv.com
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1	Pennsylvania State Championships, Fogelman's, Turbotville, Pennsylvania ISAC, plus all Divisions involved, many games to be competed and State Championships awarded. Grand Champion Award. Contact Gary Fogelman at (570) 437-3698.
Oct. 6, 7, 8	Lake Atwood, eight miles east of New Philadelphia/Dover, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Oct. 7-8	Atlatl Contests & Hunt, Fallow Hollow Deer Farm, Williams Road, Candor, New York Featuring ISAC both days, 3-D course, and hunt(\$). Pot Luck Dinner Saturday Day. Contact Bob or Cheryl Berg, Thunderbird Atlatl, 1-800-836-4520 or Thunderbirdatlatl@gmail.com
Oct. 17	Indoor Atlatl Contest, 4 Seasons Archery, Ann Arbor, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 7-8:30 p.m. \$7 range fee For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
Oct. 27, 28	Zaleski State Forest ROAR days. At Hope Schoolhouse in Zaleski Forest at Lake Hope, Zaleski, Ohio ISAC, IASAC & OAA events Contact Steve R. Barnett barnz@juno.com or (740)-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com or (740)-592-2365
Nov. 24	Turkey Toss, Klimowicz residence, Fenton, Michigan ISAC, IASC, 12 - 5 p.m., Potlatch For updated information check www.smartgroups.com/groups/michiganatlatl For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881

European Atlatl Competition Events for 2006

*-=ISAC

dates	site	département	pays	contact
22-23 avril	Ramioul*	Liège	Belgique	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
29-30 avril	Sergeac	Périgord	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
06-07 mai	Crépy en Valois*	Oise-Picardie	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
20-21 mai	Tautavel*	Pyrénées orient.	France	j.pernaud@wanadoo.fr
03-04 juin	Rio Vero	Huesca	Espana	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
10-11 juin	Benassay	Vienne	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
24-25 juin	St Césaire*	Charente	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
01-02 juillet	Asnapio	Nord	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
08-09 juillet	Lejre*	Sjaelland	Denmark	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
08-09 juillet	Moneneuf*	Morbihan	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
15-16 juillet	Errentaria	Guipozkoa	Espana	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
22-23 juillet	Schwerte	Nordrhein-Westfalen	Deutschland	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
29-30 juillet	Les Fieux*	Lot	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
05-06 août	Boario	Trentino	Italia	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
12-13 août	Le Mas d'Azil (à confirmer)	Ariège	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
19-20 août	Gletterens	Fribourg	Conf. Hélivétique	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
26-27 août	Hoz de Anero*	Cantabria	Espana	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
02-03 septembre	Pescheray	Sarthe	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
16-17 septembre	Engen	Baden-Wurttemberg	Deutschland	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
16-17 septembre	Zonhoven*	Limburg	Belgique	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
23-24 septembre	Puycelsi/Bruniquel *	Tarn et Garonne	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
07-08 octobre	Eguzon	Indre	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be
14-15 octobre	Bougon*	Deux-Sèvres	France	Rodolphe Aubugeau Rodolphe.aubugeau@cg79.fr
28-29 octobre	Berck s Mer	Pas de Calais	France	Christian Lepers christian.lepers@swde.be

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

First email meeting: In January, I mentioned that the Board had adopted procedures for conducting email meetings. Since then, we successfully conducted our first Board meeting via e-mail. The meeting was conducted to approve steps needed to qualify for and use non-profit mailing rates for our newsletter. Minutes of the meeting will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Nominations: I also mentioned in January that we are initiating changes in procedures for nominating and electing WAA officers and Board members including voting by mail. This year, elections will take place for President and one Board Member. A slate of candidates nominated by the Nominations Committee is provided elsewhere in this newsletter along with procedures for nominating additional candidates. The final slate and voting procedures will be in the July newsletter.

Planning for Cahokia: While it might seem a little early to make travel plans for our Annual Meeting at Cahokia Mounds State Historic site this September 8, 9, & 10, I thought I would give you a few notes regarding lodging and sites you might want to visit if you have time. Cahokia is located in Collinsville, IL which is less than 10 miles east of St. Louis, MO. If you are planning to stay in a motel, there is a wide variety in Collinsville and the best approach would be to do a search on the web. There is no public camping at the site. However, some participants stay at Horseshoe Lake State Park which is several miles from Cahokia Mounds. For information on the campground, go to www.dnr.state.il.us.

If you have time before or after our event at Cahokia, you might want to visit some nearby sites. My personal favorites are the Arch and the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis. By the way, you can see the arch from the top of Monks Mound. St. Louis also has a very good zoo and art museum, both of which are in Forest Park, and both have free admission. About 20 miles south of St. Louis there is Mastodon State Park, a paleo-site where spear points were found with a Mastodon skeleton.

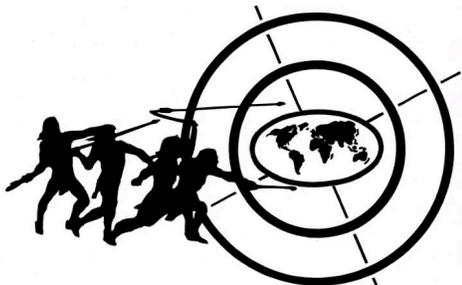
There will be more details about the event in the next ATLATL. Until then, have an enjoyable atlatl season.

Ron Mertz

Richard Lyons, Treasurer
5024 King Road
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

phone: (812) 246-9987 or email: atlatlin@theremc.com

First Class Mail



The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

World Atlatl Association Web Site:
www.worldatlatl.org