

The

ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!” Rich McWhorter

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The Newsletter of the World Atlatl Association, Inc
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2008 ISAC Champions



Men's
Champion
Douglas Bassett
Score 96xxx



Women's Champion
Lori Majorsky
Score 91x



Youth Champion
Nate Miller age 14
Score 86

The Year's ISACs, 2008
John Whittaker

Events and scores are holding pretty steady, just slightly down from last year with 1748 scores recorded for 2008, thrown by 515 individuals, at 101 events, of which 15 were abroad. Of the throwers, 71 were women, 15 (21%) of whom were youths, and the rest men (including 73 youths or 16%). Seems to me we need to improve the gender balance with some more female atlatlists, although it seems a higher percent of the women are coming to us as youths. We need to convince all our young members to stick with us. We did get some good publicity this year that might help: first the Weapon Masters segment on the History Channel's Military line, which featured several prominent atlatlists and some dramatic demonstrations, and Tom Mills atlatl cameos. Then just the other day Archaeology Magazine (Jan/Feb 09) came out with an interview with a student atlatl team at Franklin Pierce University. They got a couple of facts wrong, but lots of readers will see atlatls as a fun "Paleolithic Pastime."

Scores, this year, were impressive: 19 atlatlists scored 90 or above, including our top woman Lori Majorsky. In all, 80 scores of 90 or above were recorded - and Doug Bassett was responsible for 36 of them. That's an extraordinary record of consistent accuracy! Champions this year are: Youth: Nate Miller (14) 86, Jared Ariel (15) 81X, and Jordan Ashley (10) 79. Women: Lori Majorsky 91X, Melissa Dildine 87, and Maren Peterson of Germany 84X. Men: Doug Bassett is Grand Champion with 96XXX. Gary Fogelman and Mike Waters both scored 95XXX, but Mike had 4 10s and Gary 3, so Mike comes out number two and Gary is our third place champ.

Many thanks to Sondi Burnell who does most of the real work of the scorekeeping, and to Doug Bassett who meticulously checks our work, figures out the tie-breaking, and maintains the Top 25 list.

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International Standard Accuracy Contest Scores for 2008

* denotes true tie

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MEN

1	96xxx	Douglas Bassett	NY
2 *	95xxx	Mike Waters	NY
3 *	95xxx	Gary Fogelman	PA
4 *	94xx	Ray Strischek	OH
5 *	94xx	Cyrille Huc	FRANCE
6	94	Doug Leeth	NC
7	93x	Mamerto Tindongan	OH
8	93	Mark Bracken	PA
9	92X	Tom Mills	CA
10 *	91x	Thomas Chauvaux	BELGIUM
11 *	91x	Jack Rowe	PA
12 *	91x	Greg Bessette	NY
13 *	91X	Doug Miller	WI
14	91	Scott Van Arsdale	NY
15	90x	Kevin Ashley	TN
16	90x	Mike Glenn	OH
17	90	Rodger Klindt	NY
18	90	Andy Majorsky	PA
19	89xxx	John Whittaker	IA
20	89xx	Ryan Grohsmeyer	MD
21	89x	Dennis Lantz	PA
22	89	Emmanuel Guerton	FRANCE

23	88x	Richard Lyons	IN
24	88	Bob Kitch	WA
25	87xx	Bob Bronish	NJ
26	87x	Steve Barnett	OH
27	87x	Leonard Riemersma	WI
28	86x	Boucreux Jordan	FRANCE
29	86	Cedric Claustre	FRANCE
30	86	Manuel Porcheron	FRANCE
31	86	Russell Richard	WY
32	85xx	David Santos	PA
33	85x	Jim Ray	MT
34	85	Eric Botte	FRANCE
35	85	Jim Gnapp	BC
36	85	Phillippe Guillonnet	FRANCE
37	85	Brian Manning	NY
38	85	Greg Maurer	VT
39	85	Rick Shepherd	OH
40	85	Allen Tindongan	OH
41	84X	Teddy Eyster	MI
42	84	Lawrence Ariel	TN
43	84	Pascal Boucreux	FRANCE
44	84	Pascal Chauvaux	BELGIUM
45	83	Mike Blakeman	NY
46	83	Jordan Boucreux	FRANCE
47	83	Tom Goble, Sr.	NY
48	83	Alexander Woods	IA
49	82x	Chris Oberg	MI
50	82x	Mike Segalla	PA
51	82	Jim Gilligan	MI
52	82	Steve House	OH
53	82	Frank Takoch	OH
54	81	Glen Oechsner	WI
55	80x	Doug Majorsky	CA
56	80	David Andre	FRANCE
57	80	Michael Frank	VA
58	80	Ray Madden	MO
59	80	Ron Mertz	MO
60	79	Bernard Bouffier	FRANCE
61	79	Troy Helmick	MT
62	78x	Kurt Mischler	FRANCE
63	78x	Wayne Wells	NY
64	78	Randy Black	GA
65	78	Ben Brauchler	NY
66	78	Tim Whaley	NC
67	77x	Terry Ashley	AL
68	77x	Jurgen Junkmanns	GERMANY
69	77x	Ismael Yahemdi	FRANCE
70	77	Bill Brundage	NY
71	76	Jerome Galetti	FRANCE

72	76	Jon Rowe	PA
73	75	Chad Wilson	OH
74	74x	Jim Hopkins	TN
75	74x	Charles Swanson	TN
76	74	Bob Hanselman	NC
77	74	Claude Terry	GA
78	73	Christian Carriere	FRANCE
79	73	Georges Levy	FRANCE
80	73	Stephane Madelaine	FRANCE
81	73	Gary Nolf	CT
82	73	Andy Wendt	WI
83	73	Ed Wills	MT
84	72	John Morris, Sr.	VT
85	72	Avi Pogel	WA
86	71x	Erich Zeh	NJ
87	71	Gary Dodson	WY
88	71	Ansgar Lukas	GERMANY
89	71	Gildas Neau	FRANCE
90	71	Chris Pappas	NY
91	71	Fabrice Toutin	FRANCE
92	70x	Niall Masson	ENGLAND

WOMEN

1	91x	Lori Majorsky	PA
2	87	Melissa Dildine	PA
3	84x	Maren Petersen	GERMANY
4	84	Devin Johns	PA
5	82	Joanne Fogelman	PA
6	79	Sandra Riviere Saint	FRANCE
7	76	Margie Takoch	OH
8 *	73	Bonnie Sortore	NY
9 *	73	Linda Brundage	NY
10 *	73	Shannon Santos	PA
11	67	Mary Riemersma	WI
12	66x	Karen Finnemore	PA
13	65x	Anita Lukes	IN
14	65	Ursula Rass	SWITZERLAND
15	64	Francoise Agneray	FRANCE
16	63	Anu Kramer	IA
17	62	Karen Storcks	GERMANY
18	60	Regina Dodson	WY
19	60	Sue Mercer	NY
20	60	Mariah Sheppard	WY
21	59	Cynthia Tindongan	OH
22	57	Sherry Bracken	PA
23	57	Rhonda Dahlheimer	OH
24	56xx	Debbie Andrews	OH
25	54x	Conny Heinzelmann	SWITZERLAND
26	54	Courtney Birkett	VA

27	53	Emilie Huc	FRANCE
28	52	Cecile LaFaurie	FRANCE
29	50	Gayle Ashley	AL
30	50	Donna McCracken	FL

YOUTH

1	86	Nate Miller	WI	14
2	81x	Jared Ariel	TN	15
3	79	Jordan Ashley	TN	10
4	75x	Coby Hopkins	TN	12
5	68x	Keagan Gerber	PA	12
6	66	Harold Eyster	MI	15
7	62	Jeff Kingery	OH	15
8	61	Hunter Miller	PA	9
9	55	Levi Miller	PA	14
10 *	52	Chris Aldrich	MI	15
11 *	52	Torin Tindongan	OH	14
12	49	Henry Noakes	ENGLAND	14
13	47	Arnold Christophe	FRANCE	12
14	40	Zachary Garrett	MO	13

The Grand Slam of Atlatl

In the modern sport of atlatl no one person has ever held more than one (#1 ranking) at a concurrent moment in time in the four major contests that are held across the world. Indeed, in the first and oldest of these endeavors there is no central holding house of the attempts that are made by the various competitors in a given year. At best, there is only the occasional mention when an unusually long throw is made. And it is hoped that through the networking of the World Atlatl Association that a better chronicle can be made in the pursuit of long distance. Otherwise the other three are regularly reported and it appears that we have our first Grand Slam Winner in these modern days. The particulars of this Grand Slam Winner are noted below as it appears he has been the title holder of such a feat since April 26, 2008. Each contest or accomplishment is listed from the oldest to the most recent of origins.

#1 in Distance	737' (245.7yds or 224.6m) on 16 June 08 735' (245yds or 224m) on 19 May 08 707' (235.7yds or 215.4m) on 18 March 08 (third Personal Best (PB) this year - ranks 3rd in World) World Record is 848' by Dave Engvall in 1995 Perhaps a few dozen people have tried since the 1990's
This has been done through unknown eons of time	
#1 in the European Round	76.00 (30 hits, 114 points) on 9 August 08 74.67 (30 hits, 112 points) on 13 July 08 74.00 (30 hits, 111 points) on 18 May 08 67.33 (30 hits, 101 points) on 26 April 08 (PB of 76.00 this year ranks 2nd in World) World Record is 78.00* by Doug Miller in 2001 Many hundreds of people have tried since its inception in 1991
This was created in Europe as a prehistoric competition for atlatl and bow	
*Note: The official European recognition for their record goes to Thomas Hohn (72.67 – 30 hits, 109 points on 7 October 07) as only primitive equipment entered in a contest in Europe are tabulated towards their record books.	
#1 in the ISAC	96-XXX on 31 May 08 95-XXX on 20 April 08 94-X on 15 March 08 (ties PB of 96-XXX in 2006 which ranks 7th in World) World Record is 98-5X by Mark Bracken in 2003
This is the International Standard Accuracy Contest created by the	

World Atlatl Association
1996

Thousands of people have tried since its inception in

#1 in IASAC

101-XXX on 12 January 08

This is the International Atlatl

(PB of 102-XXX in 2007 ranks 3rd in World)

Society Accuracy Contest created

World Record is 109-X by Ray Strischek in 2005

by the International Atlatl Society

A few hundred people have tried since its inception in

2005

This is three shots each at 15m, 17m, 20m and 22m at the standard 122 cm colored archery target which has eleven scoring rings of an equal width of 6.1 cm and are scored 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10X.

In addition, the Grand Slam Winner also accomplished the following this season:

In pursuit of long distance he threw 1,100 throws this year testing his newly made equipment of 30 darts and four primitive atlatls and exceeded 200 yards (his first throw of that distance was in November 2007, having begun in March of 2006) with 13 different darts on 155 occasions. [Four of the darts are primitive, the farthest one reaching 225 yards.] Five of the modern material darts exceeded 700 feet on seven occasions.

In pursuit of the top ISAC score he scored 90 or more points on 36 occasions of the 66 attempts at the 27 events he attended in six states (averaged above 90 for 60 ISACs).

This is five shots from 15 meters and five shots from 20 meters at the World Atlatl Association's International Standard Accuracy Contest target. The six ring target measures 110cm, 80cm, 56cm, 40cm, 24cm and 10cm and is scored 6-7-8-9-10-10X. This can only be shot once a day at an advertised event in the company of three to five shooters with a score keeper and a detailed list of rules and procedures.

5) Set the Course Record for the Tyoga Atlatl Association's Mastodon Open [Created in 1999]

105 on 5 September 08

In the current format of the contest that requires five rounds of one shot at each distance with unlimited entries per day)

This is one shot each at three different distances (15m, 17.5m and 20m) repeated five times on a 4 ring target (measuring 82cm, 60cm, 21cm and 10cm in diameter and scoring 4-5-6-7, 5-6-7-8 and 6-7-8-10 at the respective distances).

6) Won the Ohio Standard Accuracy Contest [Created in 2005]

123 on 5 October 08

(PB of 124-XXX in 2007 is the Ohio record in the current format of the contest that allows only three entries in a given day)

This is three shots each at 15m, 17m, 20m, 22m, and 25m at the standard 122cm colored archery target.

7) Set the State Record for the New York Atlatl Association's Team Competition [Created in 2007]

213-X on 7 June 08

Douglas Bassett score 88-X

Greg Bessette score 62

Mike Waters score 63

This is two shots each from 15m, 18m, 20m, 22m, and 25m (for the handicap #4 level) at the standard 122cm colored archery target by each of three team members for a combined score of all three.

8) Set the State Record for the New York Atlatl Association's Individual Competition [Created in 2007]

130 on 9 August 08

This is three shots each at 10m, 12m, 15m, 18m, and 20m at the standard 122cm colored archery target.

9) Set the State Record for the New York Atlatl Association's Animal Round Competition [Created in 2007]

79 on 14 June 08

This is two shots each at five life-sized animal targets: Coyote (16m), Bobcat (15m), Raccoon (14m), Turkey (13m), and Fox (12m). Each target is scored 12 points for heart (yellow), 8 points for lung/liver/spleen (orange), 5 points for brain/spinal cord (red), 1 point for body hit (within an outer grey outline), minus 1 point for extremities – lower legs (limits noted by a dotted grey outline), minus 2 points for nose/jaws (noted by a dotted grey outline) or minus 3 points for entrails (within an inner dotted grey outline).

10) Set the State Record for the New York Atlatl Association's Distance Competition [Began in 2007]

202 meters (220 yards or 660 feet) on 31 May 08

Set the State Record for the New York Atlatl Association's European Round Competition [Began in 2008]

76.00 (30 hits, 114 points) on 9 Aug 08 (noted above in the Grand Slam)

This is one shot each at ten different targets repeated three times through. Each target is scored 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 points on progressively larger targets (the 5-point center measures 8-26 cm at two centimeter increments) which are shot at progressively farther distances (8-26m at two meter increments). [Each ring of the target is a regular increment larger starting with 4, 8, 16, 20 & 24 cm radii on the smallest target.]

11) Set the course record for the Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition for the 35m/50m ISAC

[Began in 2008]

48 (7 hits from 10 throws) on 24 August 08

This is shot in the same format as the regular ISAC except at 35 meters and 50 meters

This article is offered...to inspire more competition and promote better sharing of information in the pursuit of long distance throwing with the atlatl.

Thirteenth Annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship At Chimney Point, Vermont
 By Allison Gee, Chimney Point Site Interpreter

Addison, VT – The Chimney Point State Historic Site is pleased to announce the results of the *Thirteenth Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship* held on Saturday, September 13, 2008. The event is a highlight of Vermont Archaeology Month, is co-sponsored by the Vermont Archaeological Society, and was part of the *Festival of Nations* hosted by the Chimney Point, VT, and Crown Point, N.Y., State Historic Sites. Over 40 contestants of all ages from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts,



Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania participated in accuracy, distance, and International Standard Accuracy Competition competitions. Scores from the ISAC are compiled with other competitions that take place worldwide.

Douglas Bassett of Warsaw, NY, was crowned Grand Champion after an exciting shootout between the gold medallists in men's, women's, and boy's categories. There were no girl competitors this year. Other gold winners were Lori Majorsky of Derry, PA, and Sam Weaver of North Ferrisburgh, VT. Doug and Lori are one of the highest ranked atlatlists at the international level. Additional medallists in the Men's division included Dan Forrest of Brooklyn, CT, with silver and Andrew

Majorsky of Derry, PA, with bronze. In the women's division, local favorite Harmony Hescock Renninger, formerly of Shoreham and now of Mineville, NY, took the silver medal. Bronze medal winner was Rose Finlay, from Franklin Pierce University, NH. In the boy's division, North Ferrisburgh residents dominated, winning all medals and having a two-thirds majority of competitors. Congratulations to Sam Weaver winning gold, Ian Brennan the silver medal, and Dylan Weaver the bronze. Honorable mentions go to Theo and Neo Weaver, who rounded out the stiff local competition.

Events at Chimney Point also included a Friday afternoon atlatl and dart making and coaching workshop with

Bob Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl. Also

demonstrations of Native and primitive crafts and skills on Saturday, a weekend long flint-"knap in" organized by Charles Knight of the Vermont Archaeological Society, and a second ISAC contest Sunday



morning during a challenging wind and rain storm.

In 2009 the *Festival of Nations* and *Fourteenth Annual Northeastern Atlatl Competition and Flint Knap In* will take place September 18-20. It is a "Signature Event" for the Champlain Quadricentennial commemoration in both Vermont and New York. The Atlatl Competition has been chosen as a Top 10 Fall Event for 2009 by the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce.

For additional information on the 2009 event contact the Chimney Point State Historic Site at 802-759-2412 or chimneypoint@HistoricVermont.org

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 Photos:
 Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
 Women's winners. Lori Majorsky, Harmony Hescock
 Renninger, Rose Finlay
 The contestant is air-borne!

Returning Champion Keeps Lead At Candor Fall Festival

Jack Rowe kept his grip on the Grand Champion title for the second year in a row at the Candor, NY Fall Festival October 11 and 12.

The event was held for the third year at the Side Hill Acres Goat Farm. Jack edged out Doug Bassett by four points to retain his champion status!



The local contest included shots at assorted sizes of pumpkins - to maintain the Fall Festival theme - and a deer target. The final pumpkin shot measured how deeply the dart penetrated the largest pumpkin. Doug's dart penetrated 11 inches and Jack's 10 inches.

Young Atlatlist Marlin Bassett, 5 1/2 years,



impressed young and old with his accuracy during the competitions. Melissa Dildine won the Women's Division.

A number of atlatlists participated in the International Standard Accuracy competition and the International Atlatl Society competition during the weekend. Thanks to all who participated. A

special thanks goes out to Doug Bassett and Sue Mercer for their help with the competitions. Thanks also to Jack Rowe, Melissa Dildine, Gary and Jo Ann Fogelman and the Kellogg family for their help and support. Bob and Cheryl Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl sponsored the event.

Texas

There is a South Texas Atlatl coalition!
To order atlatl t-shirts,
Go to the web site:
<http://atlatl.boganstricator.com/>
And click on t-shirts!!!
Check it out!!!
-Roy

Darts and Atlatls for sale

Hello Everyone,

I would like to introduce you to my new web site.
www.customatlatlsanddarts.com

I have had this in the works for a couple years now. Also I plan to build another web site that will deal with hunting with atlatls. Watch for it. Thank you for looking.

Jack Rowe

www.customatlatlsanddarts.com

CHRONOLOGY OF ATLATL USE IN WYOMING



11,000+ YBP COLBY CLOVIS

2,000+ YBP BIG HORN MOUNTAINS ROCKSHELTER ATLATLS

1950's GEORGE FRISON HUNTS RABBITS WITH AN ATLATL

1981 WORLD ATLATL OPEN-SARATOGA, WYOMING
1985 GEORGE FRISON HUNTS ELEPHANTS IN AFRICA

1986 WORLD ATLATL OPEN-FORT CASPAR, WYOMING
1999 FIRST FOOTHILL-MOUNTAIN ATLATL OPEN
2001 EUROPEAN ATLATLISTS INVADE WYOMING

2008 WYOMING ATLATL AND SOCIAL CLUB

Every obstacle is an opportunity. Unknown

Montana Historical Society

On Oct. 10, 2008 the Montana Historical Society hosted its annual Archaeology Day. Schools from south central Montana were invited by education office Linda Wruck. Over 600 students from about 25 different classes attended the 5 hour event. Hot Springs at about 160 miles and Choteau from 100 miles were apparently the most distant attendees. Students participated in ten educational event stations which included throwing atlatl darts and eating bison roasts cooked by the stone boiling method. Station volunteers included: John Stoner, Troy Helmick, Amanda Trum Streeter, Stan Wilmoth- Atlatl, Patrick Rennie- stone boiling bison meat, Lance Foster- Indigenous use of plants, Steve Platt -flint knapping, Ellen Baumler - parflashes/art and Damon Murdo- stone and bone tool kits.



Photo credit: MHS/Archaeological Day
06 Sept 2007 J. M. Cooper Photographer



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Montana State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth (center) with WAA members, Troy Helmick and John Stoner preparing for Archaeology Day in Helena Montana in 2005. A throwing area was laid-out on the Capitol grounds in front of the Montana Historical Society Museum.

Photo credit : MHS/Archeology Day  
10-10-08  
J.M. Cooper, photographer

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Montana Archaeology Day, September 6, 2007. Introduction to the Atlatl and the opportunity to throw a dart has been a popular part of the annual activities sponsored by the Montana Archaeological Society Education office. The number of student participants has steadily increased. More than 600 students stepped to the line to throw a dart with an Atlatl in 2008. Stan Wilmoth and Amanda Turm handled Safety and Crowd Control while WAA members Troy Helmick and John Stoner assisted the young Atlatlist at the throwing line. Four hours of non-stop throwing gave each student the opportunity to cast one or more darts. Most of the students were first time throwers. It was the easy loading and easy launching Atlatls designed and constructed by Dean Pritchard that made it all possible. Thanks Deano!



Photo credit: Troy Helmick



WYOMING ATLATL & SOCIAL CLUB

Greetings once again from your atlatl friends in the wilds of Wyoming! Our hardy little band has now completed our first year of monthly throws

now as well equipped as our eastern brethren. The construction of new darts and atlatls has provided some of our people with almost as much entertainment as the throwing does. We also have increased our 3D targets to five (deer, pronghorn, bear, and coyote) which complement Little Jerry, the mammoth, quite well.

We will be following a similar schedule in 2009 and hope to increase the number of people who

qualify for ISAC ranking. So many of us came achingly close last year, I'm certain this New Year will provide us with several personal high scores.



with great success (no one was killed). We had a total of 26 scheduled opportunities in 2008 to score at the ISAC at 12 separate events held in Cheyenne, Laramie, and Casper, Wyoming. Amazingly enough, 42 people attended one or two events and another 20 obsessed individuals were there to throw at three or more events. The Saturday throws averaged 18 people, which for our thinly populated area is outstanding.

All of our gatherings were marked by a good sense of fun and friendly competition and several events also featured feasts. Some of the highlights included our 10th annual competition, which also generated a very fine article in the Casper Star-Tribune (www.trib.com/articles/2008/07/14/news/wyoming/elabc54df152c3ab87257484007c242f.txt). Our annual trek to the Game & Fish Expo where 1,000+ kids came through our throwing range. The selection of one of our members to serve on the board (Regina Dodson). And the several out of state visitors who dropped by to throw in the Wyoming weather extremes (snow to searing heat).

In March we received 130 pieces of cane from Arkansas (the miracle of eBay) and are perhaps

Although work and high gas prices kept us from traveling in 2008, several people have vowed to get out on the circuit in 2009. As always, we welcome any and all to come and test their skill in the Wyoming wind with us.

Best wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy atlatl year,
Russell Richard



An Historic Atlatl, or Phatamu, from Mesoamerica

By Byl Bryce

In the late 1950s Denny Salzman took some students to Michoacán, Mexico. One early spring day the group went boating on Lake Patzcuaro near the island of Janitzio. While the local boatman paddled the group around, Denny noticed a man hunting ducks with an atlatl and dart. The group rowed up and Denny engaged the hunter in conversation. Denny asked if the hunter would sell the atlatl and dart, offering the man \$1 (US). The hunter, ecstatic over the amount offered, accepted immediately. Denny had just purchased an atlatl in the traditional Tarascan style along with an 11' common reed dart. Stirling (1960) reports that Tarascans refer to the implement as phatamu rather than atlatl, which is the term adopted for the purposes of this paper.

The Phatamu

The form of the Salzman phatamu conforms to the Tarascan style. One piece of light, hard wood comprises the entire phatamu. The handle extends to a wide, flat area encompassing the grip. The grip contains two holes for the first and middle fingers. Above the finger holes the phatamu tapers down to a width approximate to the handle and extends to the tip of the (at the distal end). A groove extends from above the finger holes to approximately 2.5 cm below the tip of the distal end. The hook extends into the groove, flush with the shaft. This phatamu does not contain any decoration, conforming to the standard form seen in other Tarascan examples (see <http://imageevent.com/margieandfrank/smithsonianatlatls>) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Ventral surface, profile, and dorsal surface images of the Salzman atlatl

Tarascan phatamu contain some idiosyncratic characteristics I consider stylistic rather than functional

(those interested in style vs. function should consult Wobst 1977; Sackett 1977; Wiessner 1983;

Lechtman 2006). Tarascan-style grooves extend the length of the shaft, from the hook at the distal end to the area above the finger loops (Figure 1 top). In the case of the Salzman phatamu, the groove increases 2.5 times in depth from the proximal end above the finger loops to the distal end at the hook. Grooves in other atlatls, such as Basketmaker and Mesoamerican varieties, extend a short distance from the hook. Basketmaker style grooves extend enough to allow the hook to engage the dart without interfering with the dart/hook engagement, or the throw. The long Tarascan grooves do not serve a functional purpose in regards to guiding the engagement of the dart and hook, holding the dart in place, or providing balance. In addition to the extensive groove, Tarascan phatamu contain a conical projection, or second hook (Stirling 1960), extending from the dorsal surface, opposite the dart engaging hook. The second hook functions to recover darts floating on the water (Stirling 1960:267). The second hook on the Salzman phatamu exhibits the same width as the shaft, tapering 0.5 cm over the 1.7 cm length, ending with a rounded tip (Figure 1 middle).

The Salzman phatamu conforms to a single horizontal plane (Figure 1 middle). The hook is parallel to the shaft of the phatamu and flush with the surface, rather than at an angle to the shaft, as seen in eastern atlatl styles such as Indian Knoll, or raised above the groove, as seen in some Basketmaker atlatls such as Lukachukai. In addition, the phatamu does not exhibit the curvature, or bowing, present in southwestern atlatls such as the Basketmaker style. The phatamu contains a half-moon form, with a curved dorsal surface and a flat ventral surface (see Figure 1 middle).

The Salzman phatamu is 66.3 cm in total length. The handle is round with the dorsal surface flattened through whittling. The grip begins at a 90° angle to the handle, 11

centimeters (cm) from the proximal end. The grip exhibits the greatest width, with a maximum of 6.5



centimeters (cm) from the proximal end. The grip exhibits the greatest width, with a maximum of 6.5

cm. The grip contains two carved finger holes, approximately 2 cm in diameter. The artisan carved the finger loops halfway between the beginning of the grip, at the handle, and the beginning of the taper into the shaft (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Carved finger holes and proximal end of groove. Centimeter scale



The distal end of the grip tapers from 6.5 cm to a shaft 2.8 cm wide. The groove begins before the grip taper and extends the length of the shaft, ending at the carved hook. The hook exhibits a mushroomed tip, where extensive use has compressed the end. The dorsal surface is rounded, formed through whittling. Ridges created during whittling are still present, along the entire length of the shaft (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Ridges present on dorsal surface created through whittling. Centimeter scale



The Salzmann phatamu exemplifies the Tarascan style exhibiting the long groove, second hook, and carved grip formed from one piece of wood. The initial form of the phatamu blank is unknown, e.g. a limb or mass produced piece of lumber. However, ridges present on the shaft, handle, and finger loops indicate the artisan(s) whittled portions of the phatamu. The presence of heavy usewear on the hook, discoloration on the handle, lack of polishing to remove ridges, and abrasions

present on the ends indicate the phatamu served a long use life. In addition, the lack of decoration indicates the phatamu was created as a utilitarian tool rather than for ritual use or as a souvenir.

The Dart

The hunter on Lake Patzcuaro used a compound dart measuring 340.4 cm (11.2 ft) long (Figure 4). The main shaft constitutes the majority of the dart. The foreshaft and dart head combined measure 16.4 cm, comprising a small portion of the distal end. The artisan used common reed for the mainshaft. The mainshaft contains 15 joints without any joint modification outside of leaf removal. No fletching is present. The hunter used the end exhibiting the smallest diameter as the proximal end, with a short portion of reed, approximately 1.7 cm long (from the proximal end to first joint/node), to serve as the nock. The distal end of the mainshaft is whittled, with short, wide shavings removing the smooth exterior of the reed. The distal end consists of a short hardwood foreshaft containing three separate metal prongs, conforming to a three prong harpoon head (Figure 5). A modified figure 8 wrapping of fine cordage attaches each metal prong to the foreshaft (Figure 6). The cordage is fine, well spun, and uniform, suggesting mass production. The metal prongs are long, curved, and squared at the medial portion. The squared cross section becomes less pronounced toward the cordage wrapping. In addition, each prong exhibits an excurvate barb.

The artisan utilized at least three strands of cordage in the binding. The cordage is tightly wrapped around the majority of the foreshaft and employed in a figure 8 wrap to attach the metal prongs to the foreshaft. The remainder of the cordage is looped over the figure 8 wrapping, extending down the length of the foreshaft to the mainshaft. The cordage is then bound tight at the whittled distal end of the mainshaft, looped over the most distal joint, back to the distal end binding, and tied with what looks like a

studding sail knot (Figure 6). A portion of the currently exposed foreshaft exhibits multiple cracks, weathered and rounded with age. In addition, the distal end of the mainshaft exhibits multiple weathered cracks from the whittled area to the most distal joint. The mainshaft cracks are similar to cracks created through engagement of a foreshaft too big to fit into a mainshaft. Due to the

weathered appearance of the foreshaft and mainshaft cracks, the extensive cordage wrapping likely occurs to strengthen the shafts and bind the cracks in addition to securing the foreshaft in the mainshaft.

Figure 4. Salzman atlatl and dart.



Figure 5. Mainshaft distal end, foreshaft, metal prongs and cordage binding



Figure 6. Figure 8 cordage wrap

The dart is long, heavy, and poorly balanced. The metal prongs concentrate the weight at the distal end of the dart. The exceptional length adds to the lack of balance. In addition, the lack of fletching suggests a stabilized accurate throw



was not the objective. As Stirling (1960) reports, when hunting in small groups, hunters approach a flock “with the canoe pointed toward the flock” (1960:266). When the birds become uneasy and take flight the hunters quickly stand up in the boat and throw their darts into the mass of birds (Stirling 1960). The hunters then wait for the birds to alight and repeat the process until either the birds become too uneasy to be approached or the hunters are satisfied with the number of kills. The second method of Tarascan water fowl hunting is a communal hunt where, “as many as a thousand canoes, each containing

several men” form two concentric circles with their canoes around a concentration of birds (Stirling 1960:66). The inner ring launches darts into the concentration, which disbands, commonly landing between the inner and outer rings of canoes. At which point the hunters in the outer ring throw their darts. Both methods of hunting indicate accuracy is not necessary,

since the hunters launch darts into a flock of waterfowl rather than singling out a specific target. Therefore, we have a method of hunting with the atlatl that relies on sheer numbers rather than skill in dart throwing.

Acknowledgements: I want to thank Denny Salzman for providing the opportunity to examine and record the Salzman phatamu. In addition, I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to Denny for taking the time and patiently waiting as I filled out pages of metric attributes and tons of pictures. I want to thank Chuck LaRue for his help and advice. In addition, many thanks to Josh Kleinman and John Whittaker, who reviewed the first drafts and provided feedback greatly improving the readability and comprehensiveness of the paper. All inconsistencies are the responsibility of the author.

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Just a few of these T's left!
 Tan in medium and XXL,
 black in medium

Contact Courtney:
scratchblue@lycos.com

North American Atlatl Competition Events for 2009

Jan 10 OR 17 th	Fogelman's, Turbotville, Pennsylvania (17 th if 10 th is snowed out) ISAC, IASAC, local. , Contact Gary - 570-437-3698 or iam@indian-artifacts.net
Jan. 11	Wenmohs Ranch, Cypress Mill, Texas , ISAC Sunday 11 AM, Contact roywenmo2000@yahoo.com
Feb. 7	2nd Annual Archeolympics, Seminole Canyon State Park, Texas Contests include the atlatl and rabbit stick, plus a friction fire starting race. Contact Jack Johnson at jjohnson@shumla.org or (432) 292-4848.
Feb. 15	Texas Atlatl Championship Tournament, at Emma Long Park in Austin, Texas Hosted by the Austin Archery Club. Thirty 3-D targets in the Hill Country, contest fee = \$12. 8:30 AM - 1 PM. More information available on-line: http://www.austinarcheryclub.com
Feb. 15-21	Wintercount – Arizona There will be an ISAC each day of Wintercount starting on Sunday, Feb. 15th and every day thru Saturday the 21st. Times will be 8:00 am to noon daily.. In addition, there will be a Field Round on Thursday the 19th starting at 8:00 am and ending at 4:00 pm. There will also be a Distance Throw. It will be your best throw of the week. You DO NOT have to be enrolled in Wintercount to participate in the contests. For information and directions please contact: Bob Sizemore bobandcarolathome@yahoo.com . Home phone: 520-466-6104
March 14	Cypress Mill Stone Age Skills Convention, Wenmohs Ranch, Cypress Mill, Texas ISAC, rabbitstick, flintknapping, etc.. Contact rawevey@yahoo.com
March 15	Texas Atlatl Tournament at Emma Long Park in Austin, Texas Hosted by the Austin Archery Club. Thirty 3-D targets in the Hill Country, contest fee = \$12. 8:30 AM - 1 PM. More information available on-line: http://www.austinarcheryclub.com
March 22	Glen Oechsner's Spring Fling, Campbellsport, Wisconsin . Noon to 5 o'clock, local contests and ISAC..Contact: Glen Oechsner at (920) 533-5039 or Lenny Riemersma at (920) 528-7454 lenmaryr@dotnet.com
March 27- 29	Valley of Fire, Overton, Nevada ISAC competitions Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. , 3-D atlatl contest Saturday., Group Dinner Saturday night, with campfire activities to follow. Group camping at the Beehive Campground from Friday through Sunday.Contact Tom Mills, paleoaleo@yahoo.com
April 5	Spring Knap-In & Paleo Thing Spring Fling. Chelsea Rod & Gun, Chelsea, Michigan , 3-D, ISAC, Noon - 4 p.m., \$10 range fee For updated information check www.michiganatlatl.org For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
April 18	Raging Cow, Grinnell College campus, Grinnell, Iowa ISAC, Cow, and other events. Additional ISAC Friday evening and Sunday morning. Contact John Whittaker, whittake@grinnell.edu
April 19	Texas Atlatl Tournament at Emma Long Park in Austin, Texas Hosted by the Austin Archery Club, Thirty 3-D targets in the Hill Country,contest fee = \$12. 8:30 AM - 1 PM. More information available on-line: http://www.austinarcheryclub.com
May 2-3	Horicon Marsh Archeology Weekend, Horicon, Wisconsin Demonstrations and local contests, ISAC both days.. Contact: Glen Oechsner at 920 533-5039
May 2-3	Wausau School Forest, Mosinee, Wisconsin Demonstration and ISAC on Saturday. ISAC only on Sunday. Contact Lenny Riemersma at 920 528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com
May 3	Cinco de Mayo, Klimowicz residence, Fenton, Michigan 3-D, ISAC, 12 - 5 p.m., Potlatch For updated information check www.michiganatlatl.org For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
June 14	Henschals Artifact Museum, Wisconsin 9a.m. until 3p.m. Demonstratations, local contests, ISAC. Contact Lenny Riemersma at 920528-7454 or lenmaryr@dotnet.com

June 19-21	Annual Meadowcroft Atlatl Event, Avella, Pennsylvania Local contests and ISACs all 3 days. Friday starts after 12 noon, 10:00 to 5:00 Sat, 10:00 to 3:30 Sunday. Contact Margie theatlatl@1st.net or (740) 264-1755
July 10-12	2009 Annual Meeting of the World Atlatl Association & State Atlatl Championship. Chelsea Rod & Gun, Chelsea, Michigan European, 3-D, ISAC, Popinjay, ISAC Only Friday Evening, all contests Saturday and Sunday \$10 range fee www.michiganatlatl.org/2009_world_atlatl_association_annual_meeting For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
August 13-17	GLP Summer Gathering, Bois Blanc Island, Michigan European, ISAC. All day each of the four days during the annual primitive skills gathering. For updated information check www.michiganatlatl.org . For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
August 14	That Dam ISAC Albany, Ohio Friday evening on pond dam at Steve's House near Albany, OH, ISAC and IASAC Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com 740-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com 740-593-2365
August 15-16	Tenth Annual Albany Ohio Atlatl Contest's Albany Riding Club, corner of Ohio State Route's 32 and 681. ISAC, IASAC and Ohio Atlatl Association local events. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com 740-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com 740-593-2365
August 28-30	Stone Tool Craftsman Show (Aug 29 & 30 10:00 am to 5:00 pm), Highbanks Recreation Area, north end of Letchworth State Park - Castile, New York 21st Annual Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition (State Round, Closest-to-Pin, Distance) Aug 28 & 29. ISAC, IASAC, Hoop Toss, Throw Over the Gorge Qualifiers & wooded Animal Round all four days. Handicapped Mammoth Hunt (Saturday) and Long Distance Accuracy and Atlatl Battle (Sunday). New York Atlatl Association, Inc. insured event. Stone Tool Show contact: Dana & Kay Klein 585-365-8048. Atlatl Competition contact: Douglas Bassett 585-493-3625.
Sept. 4-6	Flint Ridge Lithic Society Knap-in . Flint Ridge State Park near Brownsville, Ohio ISAC, IASAC and Ohio Atlatl Association local events. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com 740-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com 740-593-2365
Sept. 18-20	Eleventh Annual Ohio Pawpaw Festival Lake Snowden, St. Rt 32, Albany, Ohio www.pawpawfest.com ISAC, IASAC and Ohio Atlatl Association local events. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com 740-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com 740-593-2365
Oct. 17	Tannu Tuva Memorial Fall Fling, Gilligan residence, Brighton, Michigan 3-D, ISAC. 12 - 5 p.m., Potlatch. For updated information check www.michiganatlatl.org For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
Oct. 30-31	Zaleski State Forest, Lake Hope Park Ohio ROAR days ISAC, IASAC and Ohio Atlatl Association local events. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com 740-698-6553 or Ray Strischek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com 740-593-2365

Nov. 27	Turkey Toss, Klimowicz residence, Fenton, Michigan 3-D, ISAC, 12 - 5 p.m., Potlatch. For updated information check www.michiganatlatl.org For more information contact Jim Gilligan: primitive1@chartermi.net or (810) 599-6881
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UK Events for 2009

Feb. 1	Chilly chuck-about, Oast Farm, Sussex . ISAC Contact Niall Masson at akaisugi@yahoo.co.uk
Feb. 8-14	Flag Fen Bronze Age Site, Peterborough, Suffolk A week-long primitive event including ISACs on the 8 th and 14 th , possibly a European field round, and certainly lots of good primitive skills, food and beer. Attendees can stay in the roundhouses or tough guys can camp. Contact David Sinfield at bows@customarchery.net
June 20-21	Hands on History Event, Bentley Wildfowl and Motor Museum, Sussex Contact Niall Masson at akaisugi@yahoo.co.uk or visit the website http://www.bentley.org.uk/

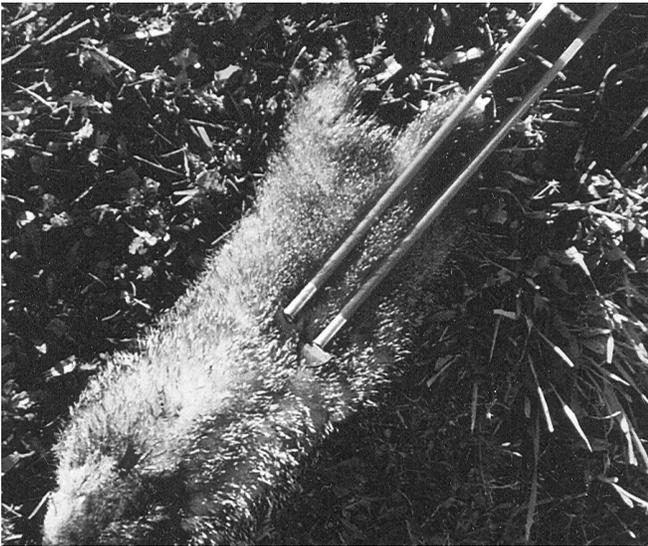
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Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened.
Happiness never decreases by being shared.

--Unknown

Chucking Darts at Woodchucks: by Lou Becker

The hunter armed with the ancient weapon had crawled to the rim of the shallow hollow and raised his binoculars and looked slowly across the opposite hillside. The hunter wore camouflage and held an Atlatl in his right hand, and three atlatl darts tipped with broadheads in his left hand. When the stalking hunter reached a screen of phragmites he put the end of an atlatl dart into the hook of his atlatl. He raised the atlatl loaded with a hunting dart only to lower it without throwing. He eased closer to his quarry, stopped behind a twin popular, and waited until his target put its head down to feed. Then he slammed home a broadhead dart from a distance of 15 yards. The spine-shattered animal flipped over onto its back.



The temperature was in the low 80's and the time was mid-September. I was rounding out a summer of chuck hunting using my atlatl and darts. Most years I've hunted woodchucks with my hickory self-bow and cedar arrows, however since I've harvested wild hogs, deer, rought fish and other small game with my atlatl and hunting darts, I decided to concentrate on woodchuck during this summer.

The woodchuck averages much less than 1/10th the weight of a deer. Usually he's not nearly so wary as a deer, though when heavily hunted he gains certain cunning. Then, he'll scurry underground the moment he sights or scents a man. He may even change his routine, feeding habits. Thought the chuck likes to feed on the ground and live underground, he won't hesitate to take a swim when necessary. He'll also climb a tree to escape an adversary or to get at fruit.

A woodchuck den is usually, but not always, a series of holes in the ground. Sometimes this rodent excavates smack in the middle of an open meadow, or he may locate in a wooded strip adjacent to a clover field, grain field or a vegetable garden. On the other hand, he may live in a stone fence, a rocky ledge, or even in a hollow log. Before the white man and agricultural development-came to this country, the woodchuck lived in forests. But when orchards, stands of grain, hayfields, and garden patches began replacing the forest, the chuck moved into more open territory.

The woodchuck, also known as the groundhog, whistlepig, and pasture pup, is a member of the squirrel family and is found throughout most of the Eastern half of the United States, except in the Deep South. In the Western half of the country, you'll find his close relatives-marmots and ground squirrels.

Some of the backwoods skills I've learned about hunting woodchucks with primitive weapons are: Try to find areas closer to town, -where firearms are not allowed, but primitive hunting weapons are allowed. These areas are seldom hunted, and the game is a lot less wary and more plentiful. Also, it's a lot easier to get close to your query.

Once you've staked out your chuck-hunting area, scout it thoroughly so that you'll know the location of every cluster of den holes. A 50-acre track may have as many as 6 separate colonies.

It's not a bad idea to put up a crude blind within dart-casting range of a big concentration of chuck holes. You don't need anything more elaborate than a few tree branches and a pile of brush taken from the area around the holes. Use just enough material to conceal you from one side. Always wear camouflage in order to blend in to your surroundings.

The first couple of times you visit your woodchuck preserve, you can approach by the same route. But after you learn the location of all dens, it is smart to change routes every time you walk your beat.

Take your time when you approach a colony of chucks. If one spots you and ducks into his hideaway, quickly and quietly make a wide circle and advance to the hole by another route, which should be determined by wind direction.

If you take a throw at a woodchuck and miss, and the chuck ducks into his hole, you figure he'll be back out shortly, so you decide to wait. First change your position and go to the opposite side of

the hole. If he shows, he'll be looking for you where he saw you last.

A trick my son Adam and I use is to have one hunter act as decoy. When a woodchuck is spotted, one hunter moves close enough to spook him. Meanwhile the other hunter stalks the chuck from the rear.



When a woodchuck spooks and makes a run for his den, you can sometimes stop him by giving a shrill whistle. If he's extremely alarmed this may not work; otherwise, he may not hesitate long enough for you to cast a hunting dart.

When a lot of chucks are out, you can make one round of visits during a period of an hour or two, then go back and get some shots at those you missed on the first round. To make this pay off, you should know where all the holes are. Each den has three, four or more exits and entrances. The easiest to find are those holes with a mound of earth at the opening. As a rule, this is the main hole. The other holes in the den are smaller and more difficult to locate. After finding these holes, I mark them by driving in stakes. The stakes are visible from a long distance, and the hunter, using binoculars, can check out the chucks from afar.

As the old saying states: "Practice makes perfect." For hunting smaller game like woodchucks, I spend time throwing darts at plastic water jugs. I take throws from 10 to 25 yards away with darts tipped with broadheads, the same weight and style that I use on a real hunt.

As for the equipment I use for woodchuck hunting: It is the same Atlatl equipment I use for

big game hunting, when using the Atlatl. My thrower is a hardwood, 25" handcrafted Atlatl with a hook made out of a deer antler. As for the darts, I favor darts made of wood and river cane. This material has been used for thousands of years. Ancient "Paleo" Indians were using the same material for their darts 13,000 years ago. It works as well today, as it did eons ago. I fletch these darts with three 7" to 8" turkey feathers, and tip them with flint or steelheads. I have found that the steel broadheads are a lot more durable than flint, especially when you miss a throw and hit a rock. My favorite for use on Atlatl darts is the Zwickey "Delta" and the new Zwickey "No Mercy" Broadhead. These broadheads are top Quality, and fly and kill very well.

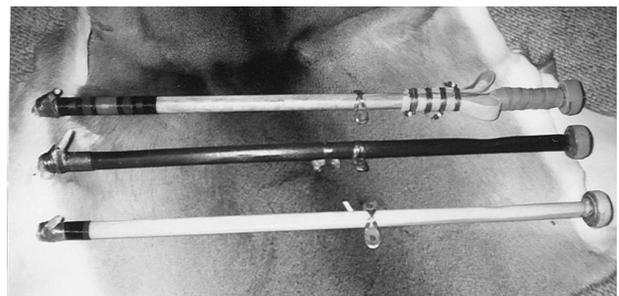
I really enjoy giving game animals a sporting chance. I guess that's why I do most of my hunting with primitive weapons. In using the Atlatl and hunting darts, I know that I'm using a weapon that pre-dates the bow and arrow by at least 10 thousand years. This not only gives me a chance to be different, in a good way; but to get more enjoyable adventures in the place I love, The Great Outdoors.

Field Dressing Woodchucks:

Make sure you have a SHARP knife. Cut the skin entirely around the waist, making sure you do not disturb the glands or kernels in the small of the back. Grab the top part of the skin in one hand and the bottom in the other and pull off to the neck and the feet. Cut off the head, feet and tail. You may need a meat saw or axe for this as the joints and bones are extremely thick. Make sure to remove the kernels or nodules from under the front legs and in the small of the back, without cutting into them.

Cleaning:

As stated above, the most important thing to remember is to remove the kernels or glands. Then, slit him from the vent to the neck and remove the guts. Wash out all clots and singe and wash away remaining hair. Woodchuck is a semi-dark meat, but sweet and fine textured. As with any game meat, the animal must be properly cared for in the field, dressed as soon as possible and the meat kept cool. Chucks can range from just a half-dozen pounds to almost 20 pounds, depending on locale and species. Make sure you wear gloves when dressing woodchucks.



Woodchuck recipe:

Woodchuck pie:

1 woodchuck
 1 1/2 quarts water
 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/1 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 cup chopped onions
 Herbs (bay leaf, thyme, Italian seasoning as desired)
 Put the carcass into a pot with the ingredients listed above. Bring to a boil and barely simmer, covered, for 1 1/2 hours, until tender, skimming occasionally. Let cool. Remove the bones and gristle and dice the meat. Add to the diced meat:
 1 to 2 cups of diced potatoes
 1 to 2 cups of mixed vegetables (canned, frozen or fresh)
 Boil down the liquid in the pot to about 1 1/2 cups and add the vegetables and meat. Simmer gently for 15 minutes.
 Mix 1 1/2 tablespoons of flour with 1/4 cup water until smooth. Add to the simmering mixture and cook another 5 minutes. Pour this into a deep baking dish. Pre-heat this into a deep baking dish. Pre-heat oven to 425 or 450.
 Mix together:
 1 1/3 cups flour
 1 teaspoon salt

Pour into one measuring cup:

1/3 cup cooking oil

1 tablespoons cold milk

Pour all at once into flour. Stir until mixed. Roll it in a ball and put it between 2 pieces of waxed paper and roll it out to fit over your baking dish. Remove the one side of the waxed paper, put the dough over the dish, remove the other piece of waxed paper, flute the sides of the dough and put into the oven for 8 to 10 minutes, until nicely browned.

Anyone interested in casting darts and learning more about the Atlatl contact:

Lou Becker, c/o Bowsport Archery, 4146 King Road, China Twp., Mi 48054

Or call: 1-810-326-0279

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'The time has come,' the Walrus said, 'to talk of many things: Of shoes-and ships-and sealing wax-Of cabbages-and kings-And why the sea is boiling hot-And whether pigs have wing.

Lewis Carroll-Through the Looking-Glass

Rick Shepard of Ohio has a unique way of carrying his darts and atlatl to competitions in the summer. On his suzuki!



From PaleoPlanet:

Contest in Engen/Germany close to Lake Constance

Here are some pics from the "International Championship for Prehistoric Weapons" in Engen/Germany.

It took place at an archeological site called "Petersfels". It's a narrow in a valley, where 15.000 Years ago, our ancestors hurled spears on reindeers which they chased through the valley. So it's a perfect place for an atlatl event

Submitted by Lucky Luke



Spur Types from a thread on paleoplanet: <http://paleoplanet69529.yuku.com/topic/20860/t/Spur-Styles-Photo-Thread.html>



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First Class Mail



World Atlatl Association Web Site:
www.worldatlatl.org