

The ATLATL

“Too Long Have I Hunted Mammoth Alone!” Rick McWhorter

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Basketmaker Transitions

Devin Pettigrew, Justin Garnett, 07/24/2010



The atlatl form of the North American Southwest we now call Basketmaker has been said to follow a somewhat specific format. Though if we begin to look in-depth at the equipment scattered throughout that region, we might find differences large enough to

account for cultural or technological innovations and transitions within the type.

First off, it is important to understand how small differences in the Basketmaker (BM) atlatl equipment can effect fairly strong change. BM darts have proven to be smaller, particularly in length, than what most modern atlatlists prefer. Short darts are generally considered inaccurate, however close replications of whole systems can prove this a faulty conclusion. My own experiments have shown that true understandings of BM systems may only come from these replications of whole systems, where whole

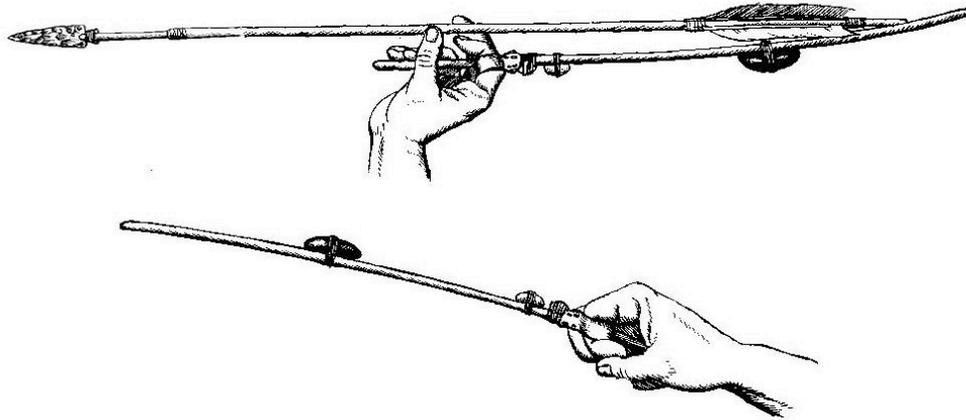


Fig. 1. Artistic reproduction of an atlatl inspired by Broken Roof Cave, but with a regular length handle. Gripping method the same as that used with White Dog Cave equipment. From Grant, et.al. (1969).

atlatls have been found with darts of known materials and dimensions (Pettigrew 2009). Slight discrepancies in the replications, concerning materials and dimensions, were enough to affect accuracy and control of the system. Darts of one system may also not function well with a

different BM atlatl, where dimensions of the respective darts varied only marginally. It is therefore felt that studies of the functionality's of BM systems should only follow experiments which pair atlatls with the darts they were meant to throw.

To consider functional variations in the BM type, characteristics in weight attachment and especially formation of the grip should be recognized. In the case of the larger number of whole BM atlatl artifacts, no weights or only small charm stones were attached near the handle. This form generally has a handle long enough to be gripped with the last two fingers. Perhaps the best example of this specific form within the BM type is Sand Dune Cave.

A variation on the above type exhibits the attachment of functional weights. In the cases of White Dog Cave (Guernsey and Kidder 1921) and Cave 1, Kayenta (Kidder and Guernsey 1919), significant weights were attached between the loops and mid-point, yet a long handle was retained. With Broken Roof Cave (Guernsey 1931) however, a variation on the

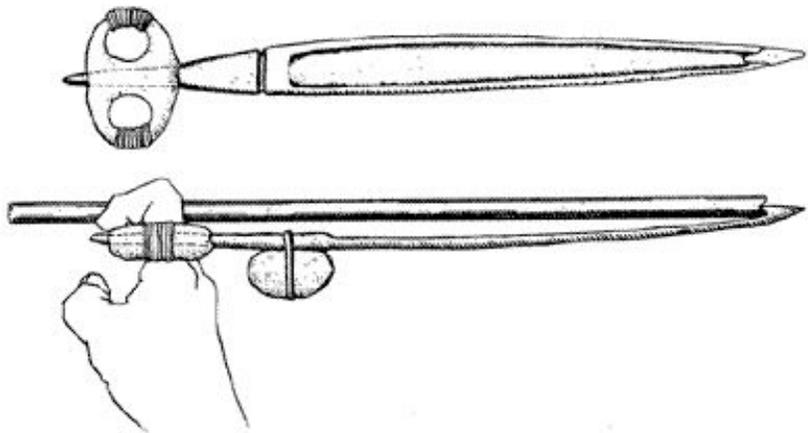


Fig. 2. Illustration of a McClure Atlatl, showing the manner of holding. (Butler 1966, Keddie 2007)

gripping method is apparent, as the lower handle is quite short, at only 1 ¾ inches in comparison with 3 ¼ inches for the handle of White Dog Cave. Loop width on whole BM atlatls in general suggests they were made to fit around the second phalanges of the fingers, which experiments have shown to work the best. Broken Roof Cave is no exception. It is not felt that this atlatl was made for a child, or a person with incredibly small hands, but rather that the lower handle was not utilized in the throw. Of interest in this regard is the large weight attached to the atlatl forward of center.

The construction of the loops on Broken Roof Cave should also be mentioned. These are floating loops, which are only attached at the upper lashing. Where the lower handle does not provide a platform for levering with the last two fingers, more pressure is placed on the loops as a small amount of levering takes place using the index and middle fingers. The loops in consideration are quite thick, however, and able to provide adequate resistance. The attached weight is also felt to provide not only balance in holding but centrifugal force in throwing, reducing this pressure on the loops and allowing the atlatlist to throw with a loose wrist. This seems to be the case with weight attachment in general. The initial perception that these variations in weight attachment and the gripping method were innovations that possibly improved BM atlatl functionality became the subject of our experiment, as described by Garnett.

As another example of such variations, the atlatl form of Spring Creek Cave in north central Wyoming should be recognized (Frison 1965, 2004). Frison mentions having experimented with the atlatl though doesn't elaborate. This atlatl was discovered in halves among other atlatl fragments, and loops and other attachments were missing. At first it seems quite odd, being very small and with a confusing handle form. Closer examination shows that lateral lugs preceded by slight indentations are points of attachment for the loops. These are located above a slender dowel no larger than a pencil. Reconstruction of the loops was made using Broken Roof Cave as a reference. Though the atlatl's mainshaft is also quite slender, it was constructed of skunk brush, which Frison says is quite hard and rigid. The darts for this system may be reconstructed from good descriptions of the foreshafts, and proximal and distal mainshaft fragments, which were also discovered in the cave. Mainshafts were likely constructed of willow (Frison 1989).

Pitch was generally utilized for weight attachment on BM atlatls. On the back of the Spring Creek Cave atlatl is an oval of pitch 1 ⅛ inches long. Just above this are two opposing pairs of edge notches. Due to the placement and intact quality of the pitch, it is not felt that these edge notches represent the points of attachment for a weight, but rather a charm or fetish. Two small worked crystals were discovered in Spring Creek Cave and suggested to be atlatl weights. Such a crystal was attached to the back of my replica at the location of the pitch, and was too light to add much functional significance.

It should be realized that a lower handle is completely missing from this atlatl. In throwing, the atlatl is remarkable for being inconspicuous. In other words, it is easy to forget one is using an atlatl, which leaves the throw feeling very natural. The dart however, flies perfectly fast and with surprising accuracy. It should be recognized that Garnett, coauthor of this article, has come to use a very similar system of stiff loops, no lower handle or weights, and light darts.

Lastly, though not of the BM type, the McClure atlatls should be mentioned (Fig. 3). These were fitted with stiff loops of sheep horn, and large weights attached just above the loops (Allely 1992). Neither artifact had lower handles. The Quiltanton Lake atlatl falls into this form as well (Keddie 2007). Ray Madden, the famous Missouri atlatlist, made an atlatl based on this design and told me it actually threw quite well as long as a large weight was attached. In fact he said the weight did all the work, and he guessed it was used with short, light darts. As just mentioned, atlatls without weights or lower handles have been used successfully, and this is no doubt another issue of specific tuning of the atlatl system. Whether the introduction of this type of atlatl had an effect on the artifacts already mentioned is difficult to say, though it seems likely in the case of Spring Creek Cave at least. The Great Basin is known for its wide array of atlatl forms which all seem to be conglomerations of different styles (Hester et al. 1974b).

With all of this a viable and inevitable question arises, as to whether the attachment of significant weights developed from the attachment of smaller charm stones, with those like White Dog Cave being part of a transitional phase, and leading to the neglected lower handle. Influence from outside sources seems a more likely culprit. The oldest atlatl discovered in North America, from site NV-Wa-197 (Hester 1974a), also had a weight, which proves that weight attachment was a far older development. To relate

the variation in BM atlatls to either regional, small group isolated development, or to some sort of wider technological evolution would require a much larger sample than is available (Whittaker, private conversation). The purpose of the experiment described by Garnett, however, was to assess the functional qualities of these variations in terms of accuracy. It was felt from the beginning that issues such as weight attachment and atlatl flexibility were individual and cultural, as opposed to technological innovations. This concept is supported by the necessity of fine tuning specific systems. The vast number of opinions on the functional qualities of atlatl weights by modern enthusiasts is also quite telling. To conclude without stretching the subject, the atlatl is a weapon the function of which is entirely reliant on the bodily movements of the thrower, which leaves open a tremendous space for individual and cultural innovations regarding form. With fine tuning no doubt both types could function equally well, and it is likely that if the owners of the Broken Roof and Sand Dune Cave throwers ever met in time, supposing they were of equal skill, both atlatlists could achieve the same goals.

Table: Variations of Basketmaker atlatls, considering specifically grip formation

No handle or Short Handle	Long Handle
<p><i>~Short lower handle, weight attached forward of center:</i></p> <p>-Broken Roof Cave ^ *</p> <p>-(?) "NC" ^</p> <p>-(?) Nine Mile Canyon #</p>	<p><i>~Long groove, no weights:</i></p> <p>-Ceremonial Cave ^ (Montgomery)</p> <p>-Taylor Site</p> <p>-Plush Cave ^ (Kramer)</p>
<p><i>~Narrow shaft, no lower handle, small weight attached behind center:</i></p> <p>-Spring Creek Cave # (Daughtery)</p>	<p><i>~Short, narrow groove, no weights or only small charm stones in or at handle:</i></p> <p>-Lukachukai * ^ (Atlatl Cave)</p> <p>-McEuen *</p> <p>-Sand Dune Cave ^ # (Handle frag., Hyde)</p> <p>-Hyde Atlatl *</p> <p>-Cave House Ruin *</p> <p>-Grand Gulch *</p>
	<p><i>~Short, narrow groove, weights between mid. and handle:</i></p> <p>-White Dog Cave ^ * (O-Block)</p> <p>-Cave I, Kayenta * (Tularosa a)</p>
	<p><i>~Long, parallel groove, weight at center:</i></p> <p>-Baylor Rockshelter # (Tularos b)</p>

Square end

* Triangular end

^ Hook raised above shaft

() Possible relation to fragmentary artifact

An Experiment into the function of “Atlatl weights” in the Basketmaker atlatl complex

Previous studies on the effect of atlatl weights have been largely focused on the stone serving to add power to the cast. These studies were typically small undertakings with very small rep sizes. The largest rep sizes I am aware of is a 3 rep weighted vs. unweighted distance test described in Raymond, 1986. This study consisted of 3 distinct reps of n=30 weighted and unweighted. Raymond reported an increase of 5 to 11% distance could be gained by addition of a 40g weight to his atlatls, which ranged in weight from 72 to 82g.

Although power is an important concern for projectile weapons, perhaps of greater importance is accuracy. This study has sought to determine the effect of atlatl weights on accuracy. In order to make a fair assessment of the inherent accuracy of weighted versus unweighted atlatls, both authors produced two Basketmaker style atlatls to their own specifications-one weighted and one unweighted, and used them over a period of a month, recording the

results of their throwing sessions. Dimensions and weights of the test atlatl pairs can be seen in (table #1). Each author used the same dart for both throwers in testing. Garnett used a dart weighing 78.1 grams, and Pettigrew used one weighing 87.3g.

Atlatls used by Garnett, specifications:

Unweighted

Length:	55.5cm
(Proximal to spur)	51.5cm
Working surface*	46.0cm
Total weight of atlatl:	83.1cm

Weighted

Length:	55.5cm
(Proximal to spur)	51.5cm
Working surface*	46.0cm
Total weight of atlatl:	124.55g
Weight of stone:	41.37g
Stone, % overall weight:	33.21%
Center of stone (from proximal):	34cm (61%)

Weight of dart: 78.1g

Atlatls used by Pettigrew, specifications:

Unweighted

Length:	61
(Proximal to spur)	49.85
Working surface*	44.77
Total weight of atlatl:	64.9g

Weighted

Length:	57.15
(Proximal to spur)	53.66
Working surface*	44.77
Total weight of atlatl:	92.3g
Weight of stone:	31.7g
Stone, % overall weight:	34.34%
Center of stone (from proximal):	33.02 (57.8%)

Weight of dart: 87.3

*Defined as length from proximal end of finger loop to spur

Table 1.

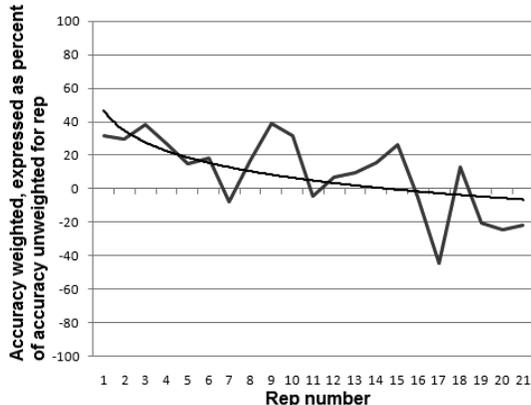
Experimental design:

Each author selected their range based on preference. Garnett threw from 13.7 meters, while Pettigrew threw from 15 meters. Each throwing session, the order in which atlatls were used was switched, in order to prevent "Warming up" or "Fatigue" from affecting the data collected. Each impact was recorded as "Distance from center" of the target, and measured in centimeters. Pettigrew threw in replicates of 5 throws each thrower (n=5), while Garnett threw in replicates of 10 throws each thrower (n=10). These distance-from-center measurements were averaged together to give a "Rep average". The rep average accuracy weighted is expressed as percent of rep average accuracy unweighted and plotted in a line graph (Figure 1). Actual data tables are quite large, and are not shown-This information will be made available upon request. Pettigrew threw a total of 29 reps (n=5) for a total of 145 throws with each thrower, while Garnett threw 21 reps (n=10) for a total of 210 throws with each thrower.

In the data Collected by Garnett, there was an initial improvement of accuracy from the addition of the weight. This improvement was initially ~30% greater accuracy than unweighted control, but as reps continued and more experience was gained with each thrower, this percent increase gradually decreased, finally turning negative by the end of the experiment. Trendlines clearly show the decrease in weighted accuracy relative to unweighted control. This relative decrease is not due to any absolute diminished accuracy, rather attributable entirely to increase in unweighted accuracy. Pettigrew, on the other hand shows a trend toward better accuracy with the weighted thrower relative to the unweighted, with a slight trend toward an improvement of weighted accuracy relative to unweighted over the course of the experiment. His first rep shows 64% greater accuracy weighted relative to unweighted, but this percent oscillates considerably over the course of the experiment, with the trendline showing ~10-20% better accuracy weighted. Had the experiment stopped with their first two reps, the conclusion of this study would have been that addition of a weight improves accuracy by an average of 47%-a statement which is clearly not supported by the final data timecourse.

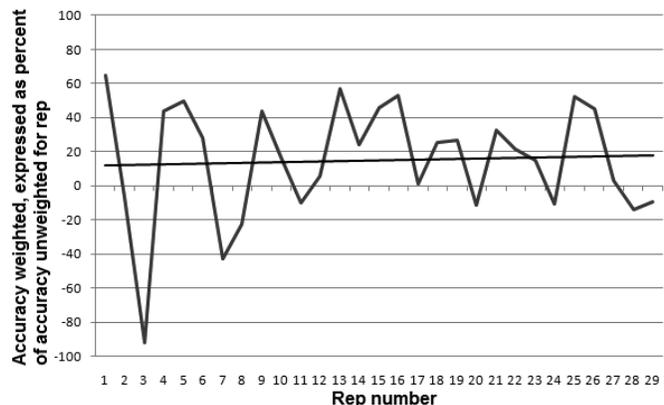
Thus it seems that if the artifacts come to be known as "Atlatl weights" were in fact lashed to the shafts to produce an accuracy increase, this was a technological innovation. But it also seems likely that since the stones do not seem to have the same effect on different people's throwing, their technological function was likely not to produce an increase for everyone (I.e. add stone = more accuracy), but rather to be used as a part of a complex "Customizable" toolkit. If so, this actually represents a higher degree of sophistication in the Basketmaker atlatl weight complex, since it takes into consideration individual user physiology (Joint function, musculature, bone structure) rather than relying on a single type to be used across the board. The fact that previous weight studies used inconsistent atlatl styles as well as very small rep numbers has led to a confusion on the function of these stones. A researcher throwing a small rep size gets a skewed sense of the potential accuracy of their weapon, instead recording

Accuracy weighted, expressed as percent of accuracy unweighted for rep - Garnett's Data



Data collected by Garnett. Data points represent reps, which are averages of 10 throws with each thrower (n=10), for a total of 21 reps (210 total throws with each thrower). Data is expressed as percent accuracy of the weighted thrower relative to unweighted. Positive numbers indicate greater accuracy weighted, lower indicated less, 0 would indicate no difference.

Accuracy weighted, expressed as percent of accuracy unweighted for rep - Pettigrew's Data



Data collected by Pettigrew. Data points represent reps, which are averages of 5 throws with each thrower (n=5), for a total of 29 reps (145 total throws with each thrower). Data is expressed as percent accuracy of the weighted thrower relative to unweighted. Positive numbers indicate greater accuracy weighted, lower indicated less, 0 would indicate no difference.

their initial physiological preference to a type-and not developing adequate practice with both throwers to show if that difference were genuine or not.

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Quest for the ISAC Crowns as of Early July

By Douglas Bassett

To date, 384 people (238 men, 68 women and 78 youth) have made 1,030 entries at 73 venues around the world. The top 10 in each division (8% of all the competitors) account for more than 22% of those entries, so let's see how they are doing (* denotes a personal best).

The top 10 youth, dominated by the French, have made 39 entries and 49% of their scores are 55 or above. Six youth have all made 100%. Antoine Jamon (90-X*), is the seventh youth in history to score 90 or more and has made **100%** (4 out of 4 entries);

Score	Person	%	Ratio	Score	Person	%	Ratio
90-X	Antoine Jamon	100%	4/4	67	Jordan Ashley	100%	1/1
78	Marlin Bassett	25%	5/20	63	Austin Fisher	100%	2/2
71*	Christophe Arnold	100%	3/3	61*	Pricille Lacoste	50%	1/2
69-X	Fanny Jamon	40%	2/5	60*	Antoine Boulanger	100%	1/1
67-X*	Lucie Jamon	100%	3/3	55*	Virgil Bontempi	50%	1/2

The top 10 women have made 76 entries and 51% of their scores are 66 or above. Five women have all made 100%. JoAnne Fogelman has a personal best 89-2X* and has made 36% (5 out of 14 entries);

Score	Person	%	Ratio	Score	Person	%	Ratio
89-2X*	JoAnne Fogelman	36%	5/14	80	Bonnie Sortore	38%	3/8
85*	Emilie Huc-Claustre	100%	3/3	80*	Linda Brundage	20%	2/9
84-X	Lori Majorski	47%	7/15	72-X	Sue Mercer	20%	2/10
81	Sandra Rivière	100%	1/1	67	Devin Johns	100%	1/1
80-X	Melissa Dildine	100%	14/14	66	Ursula Räss	100%	1/1

The top 10 men have made 110 entries and 30% of their scores are 90-X or above. Four men have made a better percent of success as follows: Douglas Bassett (98-4X*), after sixteen years of competition, has become the 1st person in history to score two 98's in the same year and has made **42%** (17 out of 40 entries);

Score	Person	%	Ratio	Score	Person	%	Ratio
98-4X	Douglas Bassett	43%	17/40	93-3X*	Bob Kitch	7%	1/14
95-2X*	Kevin Ashley	50%	1/2	92-X	Jack Rowe	14%	2/14
94-2X	Gary Fogelman	25%	5/20	92	Mamerto Tindongan	25%	1/4
94-2X	Doug Majorsky	25%	1/4	91-2X	Mark Bracken	33%	1/3
93-3X	Mike Glenn	75%	3/4	91-X	Cédric Claustre	20%	1/5

Have you read it yet?

The highly anticipated sixth book of Jean Auel's Earth's Children® series, The Land of Painted Caves, is the culmination fans have been waiting for. Continuing the story of Ayla and Jondalar, Auel combines her brilliant narrative skills and appealing characters with a remarkable re-creation of the way life was lived more than 25,000 years ago.

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At the dawn of history, one woman's epic adventure reveals the story of mankind. These are the six epic novels in the Earth's Children® Series: The Clan of The Cave Bear, The Valley of

the Horses, The Mammoth Hunters, The Plains of Passage, The Shelters of Stone, and The Land of Painted Caves.

World Atlatl Day Success

L. Brundage

On June 4th, 2011, atlatlists around the world participated in the first of what some hope to become an annual event known as World Atlatl Day.

Total of known throwers reporting in was 210, in 11 states and 6 countries.

Total of Teams participating in the Team Competition that have reported to date: 38 teams sent in a breakdown of team members and scores, 3 countries and 3 states reported the number of throwers and/or top team score only (making a total of 44 Teams competing)

The breakdown of Team Competition:

(NY: New York, Pa: Pennsylvania; Conn: Connecticut;

Oh: Ohio; Tx: Texas; Wyo: Wyoming; Wis: Wisconsin; Mo: Missouri; Io: Iowa; UK: United Kingdom,; Mx: Pa & NY mixed team.)

State: Score:

Pa	225	Conn	109
NY	222XXX	Wis	97XX
Oh	205X	Conn	104
Mx	201XX	Wis	95
Pa	200XX	Conn	93
Oh	196XX	Wis	91
Oh	191X	Conn	81
Wyo	189	Conn	73
NY	187)	Wis	68
Mx	182	Wis	63
Oh	174XX	Tex	59
Oh	171X	Conn	48X
Wis	169X	Tex	32 (Misread rules and only threw once through)
Oh	160X		Roy blames the school system
Conn	157		
Mo	145		
Mx	145		
Teams:		All Youth	
Mx	143	NY	84X
Conn	137	Conn	62
UK	130	Conn	28
Io	110	Conn	12
Wis	110		

WEBSITE to Check out!

Charles Swanson sends this website for you to check out:
<http://www.nmai.si.edu/searchcollections/results.aspx?objtype=Hunting%2fFishing%2fWarfare&objid=Throwing+stick%2fAtlatl>

State/country challenges:

Wyoming/Texas –

Wyoming won with high team score of 189

Missouri/Iowa –

Missouri won with a high team score of 145

France/UK –

UK won with a high team score of 130

States reporting having throwers:

Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Ohio, Texas, Wyoming, West Virginia, Iowa, Missouri & Wisconsin.

Countries who reported as having throwers:

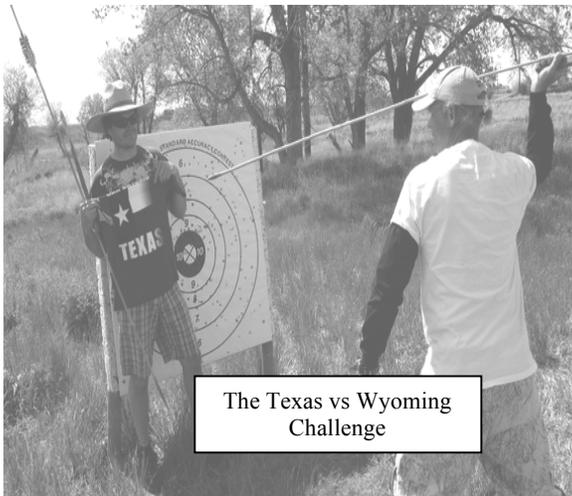
Canada, US, UK, Bulgaria, France, New Brunswick.



Team Bulgaria (Adriana Ilieva - 1st Atlatl champion of Bulgaria)



Teams from Wyoming enjoying the day



The Texas vs Wyoming Challenge

The darkest regions of East Sussex, UK

Congratulations to everyone who threw and enjoyed a wonderful day. It was a great turnout. I know 30 meters was a killer for some of us but it gave a challenge to even the best throwers. 10 meters gave some of the rest of us a little edge. In the end, it was not just about competing or scores. It was about friends getting together and having a good time and knowing that other people around the world with the same love for the sport was doing the same thing that we were doing – tossing sticks and laughing.



James Kennedy, an amateur collector, found this fossilized bone with a mammoth or mastodon engraving in Vero Beach, Fla. It has been identified as one of the oldest pieces of prehistoric art in the Western Hemisphere. For more info visit the website below.



<http://www.npr.org/2011/07/25/137549198/florida-fossil-hunter-gets-credit-for-big-find>

US Open Atlatl Championships – Valley of Fire, NV – 25-27 March 2011

The US Open Atlatl Championships is conducted under the same rules as the ISAC but the target is the standard 122cm long range colored archery target. The other difference is that the youth shoot at 10M and 15M. The idea is that the competition would move around the country to be conducted at one of the larger event venues and for now it coincides with the annual meeting of the World Atlatl Association. A small entrance fee is gathered to cover the cost of trophies and targets. So thinking ahead, plans are underway for Wisconsin in 2012.

This year, the top five qualifying scores from Friday and Saturday met for a sudden death throw-off on Saturday afternoon with trophies being awarded to the top three in each division. Thirty people (20 men, 7 women & 3 youth) from 14 states made 50 entries on 10 flights; the final results (each individual's qualifying score and home state in parentheses) are below. The record for each division is also noted from The New York Atlatl Association's inaugural year of statistics for this event in 2010 as well as the 2010 throw-off results.

The first US Open Atlatl Championships were held as the "Nationals" at Letchworth State Park 26-29 August 2010. It was filmed by a Japanese crew to be aired on their public television in 2012. In 2010, forty-four people (26 men, 12 women & 6 youth) from 13 states made 72 entries on 16 flights.

The idea of a national competition was brought forward by Ken Faucher (NH) in 2009 and forged by Scott VanArsdale (NY), WAA president at the time, and implemented by Douglas Basset (NY) in 2010. The three of them remain as the steering body with Douglas off and running.

Youth record is 73 Marlin Bassett Letchworth State Park, NY 18 Sept 10
2011 2010

1	Wolf Sweikert (age 9, NV)		1	Marlin Bassett (44, age 7, NY)	65
2	Nicolas Guymon (age 11, CA)		2	Austin Fisher (24, age 13, NY)	58-X
3	Anushka Guymon (age 9, CA)		3	Amihan Tindongan (35, age 13, OH)	36
	[Wolf's two sisters, who both got plaques in the 3-D Round, declined to enter so as to assure their brother a trophy win in the U.S. Open]		4	Dakota Chaffee (14, age 13, NY)	30
			5	Malaya Tindongan (15, age 9, OH)	15
				[Hunter Miller (58, age 11, PA) - could not stay for finals]	

Women record is 73-X Melissa Dildine Letchworth State Park, NY 26 Aug 10
2011 2010

1	JoAnne Fogelman (55, PA)	52	1	Melissa Dildine (73X, PA)	69
2	Lori Majorsky (62, PA)	49	2	Bonnie Sortore (66, NY)	61
3	Margie Takoch (49, OH)	42	3	JoAnne Fogelman (57, PA)	52
4	Mary Riemersma (31, WI)	18	4	Debbie Andrews (39, OH)	42
	[Carey McCormack (33) did not throw in finals]		5	Sue Mercer (39, NY)	21

Men record is 90-4X Douglas Bassett Bald Eagle, PA 25 June 10
2011 2010

1	Douglas Bassett (72, NY)	81	1	Douglas Bassett (77, NY)	88-X
2	Doug Majorsky (71, CA)	79	2	Mamerto Tindongan (84, OH)	74
3	Bob Kitch (67, WA)	73	3	Jack Rowe (80, PA)	63
4	Tom Mills (70, CA)	67	4	Ryan Grohsmeyer (81, MD)	62
5	Gary Fogelman (68, PA)	54	5	Greg Maurer (75, VT)	61

FROM THE EDITOR...

Folks,

I am happy and sad to say this is my final issue of *The Atlatl*. I have enjoyed my last 9 years being the editor for an organization that I believe in. Editing the newsletter has been a wonderful experience. With a health problem that seems minor compared to so many others, I have had to give this up. Hypothyroidism has made me fuzzy brained!! I will miss emailing with all of you and hope that we can still keep in touch!

Thanks to all of you who have sent me letters, articles, info, pics, and everything else! The newsletter could not happen without your input! Keep sending!

A great guy from New Hampshire has stepped up and offered to take over! The email address theatlatl@gmail.com will remain the same for newsletter articles. Ken Fauch can be reached at 206 Green Street, Somersworth, NH 03878.

Thanks again for allowing me this great opportunity. I will miss it.

Margie

Rebuttal

to article entitled '**Dart Flex**' by Richard B. Lyons in the volume 24, number 2 issue of the 'Atlatl'.

By Chris Henry/Paleoarts
Carlsbad, CA

With the possible exception of banner stones, there has probably never been a more discussed or debated topic about atlatls than that of dart flex and its theoretical benefits to flight. In his article Mr. Lyons proposes two such, one new and one that has been a long standing and often-expected view. The first and newer theory is that the side to side motion of a fletched darts tail acts in the same way a fish tail does and helps propel the dart, however marginally, through the air. Although a novel idea, I have to disagree. Fish do not simply wave their tails back and forth through the water. The motion is more akin to that of a wave oscillation, in effect rolling water down the length of the body and pushing off against it at the end, something that an atlatl dart could never reproduce. In fact I would wager that the simple side to side motion of fletchings actually hinders the flight of the dart somewhat by creating lateral drag, in other words exposing more surface area to the onrushing air than that of a straight path. The second notion that Mr. Lyons suggests is the long standing theory that the stored energy of a dart in flex is released as spring energy at the moment it leaves the atlatl spur and thus aids in its acceleration. I'll admit that I myself found this to be a plausible and sound explanation for many years, that is until I started filming and watching multiple slow motion videos of atlatls and atlatlists in action. After reviewing these videos over and over it became apparent to me that the vast majority of darts remained in full flex even after they had left the spurs. Incidentally, the release point in the vast majority of cases seems to be about 80 degrees or the 11 o'clock position. Not a very good case for the 'spring action' theory in my book. No, to me there are really only two simple things going on that make a dart behave the way it does. Both have to do with flex, but not in the way described above. First, when the thrower begins his forward motion he is applying pressure to the rear of the dart. By its very nature the front of said dart wants to resist this motion. In a completely rigid dart this wouldn't be possible and the front would begin to move immediately. As we all know the path that the end of the atlatl (the spur) takes isn't in a straight line, it then follows that a rigid dart's tip wouldn't continue in a straight line either. Anyone who has tried throwing a rigid dart will know that it flies either tail up or tail down. In a flexible dart system, however, the distal and proximal ends are allowed to stay in line with each other by the bending of the shaft, thus allowing for arc of the atlatl itself. The energy created by the atlatlists moving muscles is stalled, so to speak, in a compressed system behind the tip. The system stays compressed until shortly after pressure is no

longer applied to the rear (the spur leaves the knock), then begins to decompress in the undulations that we all recognize, but by this time the darts straight path is already established. The second thing that flex does is even simpler. It allows the spur to remain in contact with the rear of the dart for a longer amount of time. If a dart is rigid then pressure applied to the rear will travel up the shaft and back resulting in a wave of energy that has no where to go. As a result the tip will travel to whatever the path of least resistance happens to be at the moment and most likely not on target. With flex, that wave gets stored until the moment of release and the throwers full motion is complete. So, yes, some 'spring energy' is stored in the dart but, no, it doesn't add any power to the cast. What it does allow is for the thrower to utilize his or hers full potential while keeping the missile on target. I don't believe there is any mystery to the atlatl system or that anything other than the human arm, eye, and brain are needed to make it perform the way it does. It's beautiful enough just the way it is!

Chimney Point Historic Site Event 2011

The Chimney Point State Historic Site in Vermont is going to be closed again for most of this 2011 season because of the big bridge construction project right next to us. So the Annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship will be held again this year at the Mount Independence State Historic Site.

Here's the information:

September 16-18: 16th Annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship Weekend Moved for a second year to Mount Independence from Chimney Point due to the construction of the Lake Champlain Bridge.
September 16: Atlatl Workshop Atlatl experts Bob and Cheryl Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl teach modern and traditional techniques of atlatl and dart construction, flint knapping, hafting stone points, and cordage making. Enjoy atlatl lore and coaching on the use of your new atlatl. Bob has taught primitive skills and the atlatl for many years—his 16th with us. \$65 fee includes instruction and all materials. Pre-registration required. Vermont Archaeology Month program. Noon – 5:00 PM
September 17: 16th Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship & Festival of Nations Participate in or watch this annual championship. Demonstrations and workshops on flint knapping, and Native American life and crafts. Co-sponsored by Vermont Archaeological Society. Vermont Archeology Month program. \$5.00 competitors registration fee. 10:30 – 4:30 PM
September 18: ISAC Atlatl Championship Second day of atlatl International Standard Accuracy Competition. After ISAC, master class/coaching for boys and girls. \$5.00 competitor registration fee. 10:00 AM

Elsa Gilbertson Regional Historic Site Administrator VT Division for
 Historic Preservation Chimney Point, Mount Independence,
 Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Sites 8149 VT Route
 17W Addison, VT 05491 (802) 759-2412 Fax: (802) 759-2547
 Vermont State Historic Sites: History Where It Happened
www.HistoricVermont.org/sites

Marlin Bassett was the only youth so captured first in the Youth Division. Melissa Dildine carded the best score for the Women and Douglas Bassett prevailed among the Men. Douglas also prevailed in the Grand Champion throw-off.

There was also time for yakking, walking in the woods, some archery, and it seems I remember laughing a lot over the weekend. Oh, and food! We had some great dishes show up and thanks to all who brought something, no one went hungry. Sunday morning Jo prepared a blueberry/French toast casserole that was really good with maple syrup.

Local Results:

Youth: 1st - Marlin Bassett - 189

Women: 1st - Melissa Dildine - 234-3x; 2nd - Lori M. - 227-3x; 3rd - Jo F. - 206.

Men: 1st Douglas B. - 380-5x; 2nd - Gary F. - 354-10x; 3rd - Andy M. - 292-4x (beat Jack Rowe by 2x.)

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MAY EVENT AT FOGELMAN'S, TURBOTVILLE, PA, May 5-6-7, 2011

We were favored with good weather, and good friends, for the weekend event this year. Almost all had been here before except Wayne Wells from New York who made the trip this year. Gary and Linda Nolf traveled from Connecticut to join us again this year. Margie and Frank Takoch from just over into Ohio, and Andy and Lori Majorsky from Derry in western Pennsylvania were on hand. Brian Manning from New York came on Friday and left on Saturday, while Erich and Nancy Zeh from New Jersey and Jack Rowe and Melissa Dildine from Sayre, Pa., all came for the day on Saturday. Douglas and Marlin Bassett were here all three days, and Michael Frank from Virginia came on Sunday as the final arrival.

There was no lack of throwing to do. Besides the ISAC, the local had four parts and Douglas brought targets for many of the New York Association contests. The local contest for the Grand Champion Award made available by the WAA consisted of 70 throws over four events: Tiny Target, State Round, European Round, Bear Shoot. New York or other events were: Animal Round, National, International, Team, Individual, and Opposite Hand.

Top three finishers in each category will be listed, but there were some notable throws during the ISACs. There were a couple of personal bests or otherwise good scores. First, on Friday, JoAnne threw an 82x, her personal best of the year and I believe that moved her to the top of the ladies leader board. But wait, she wasn't finished. On Saturday, after 8 throws she stood needing two 10s for a 90, so she had a good one going. Her ninth throw was 9, but she came back with a 10 to finish with an 89xx, her best ever. Brian Manning joined the ranks of 90s throwers with his personal best ever of 90, and Andy Majorsky, in the same flight, also threw a 90, not his first but they're rare for him so it was good to see. There were others who had opportunities to improve, but those opportunities were not capitalized on.

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First Ontario ISAC Event

Each year a group of friends who share a passion for history and re-enacting meet at Ameliasberg, Ontario, Canada for a rendezvous.

The site is on the grounds of a Loyalist museum and



the re-enactors camp in period tents and engage in friendly competitions such as tomahawk throwing, archery and other games. This year, however, saw a new contest - the 1st atlatl competition - and



for many of the group it was the first time they had ever seen an atlatl.

After about an hour of practice, 13 brave participants entered the challenge. While the scores certainly indicate a lack of experience, there was no shortage of enthusiasm



and each dart that scored in the rings got a great ovation from other competitors and from the many spectators who came to watch this new event.

Top scores went to Mike Procter of Sharbot Lake, Bill Newberry of Trenton and Michael Hill of Whitby. Judging from the response of those who were present, the atlatl event will be a permanent part of the re-enacting activities every year from now on.

**Report from Missouri
By Ron Mertz**

To date, the Missouri Atlatl Association has had a productive year. Early in the year, we decided to have a logo which Justin Garnett, with input from others, created. Since MAA members have worked over the last decade to have the atlatl and dart legalized for hunting and fishing, we decided it was appropriate to include a deer and fish in the logo.

In May, we had several events, including two on the same weekend in May primarily aimed at introducing the atlatl to the public. On May 13, Ray Madden, Justin Garnett, and Curtis Waggoner provided an opportunity for more than 400 youths to try using the atlatl at Montauk State Park near Salem, MO. That same weekend, I introduced the atlatl to visitors during a special event at Powder Valley Nature Center near St. Louis. The following weekend we had our annual spring

event in conjunction with the Osage knap-in near Booneville, MO. Top throwers during the Saturday competitions were Justin Garnett, Jon Wood, and John Whittaker (shown with their awards).

While we did not hold a separate event for the June 4th World Atlatl Day, Jon Wood, Curtis Waggoner, and Scott Rorebeck represented Missouri at the throw sponsored by our neighbors in Iowa.

Perhaps, the most important event for MAA took place at the Missouri Department of Conservation Commissioner's meeting on May 27 where the Commissioners voted to approve the atlatl for hunting during the archery deer season, beginning Fall 2012. As many WAA members know, they approved the atlatl for small game beginning in 2007 and then approved it for deer during the 2010 firearms season. We hope their decision will assist others as they work for changing laws in their own states.



Curtis Waggoner and his family, at their property in Southeast Missouri, hosted our most recent event on the weekend of June 11. While we threw a modified European round and the ISAC, the most interesting was a 10-target 3-D round.

We are looking forward to additional meets in July and September and hope that some of you will join us then. This year, our annual event at Cahokia will include



an evening presentation by Justin Garnett regarding his research on the Basketmaker Atlatl.

**The Art of the Atlatl, the Science of Frog Hunting
By Bruce Sassmann**

We often wonder why we challenge ourselves, but this is what life is about. Following the internal urge to do something different and quench the “hunter and gatherer” instinct which exist in our body.

Taking this thought process, let’s set our sights on harvesting a legal limit of bull frogs with an atlatl. Several years ago I gave my friend, Chip McGeehan, an atlatl and an assortment of darts. We had unsuccessfully attempted to harvest rabbits with the finest beagles at our side, but the rabbits still live to tell their story how two guys throwing darts through briars and wood lots never touched a hair/hare!

In 2010, Missouri allowed the atlatl as a method to hunt bullfrogs. On the first evening of frog season Chip, with the assistance of two ranch hands, Guy Zuck and Heath Linders, set out to harvest eight bull frogs. Guy with a video camera and Heath with a light, the trio headed to a farm pond near Marshfield, Missouri.

With six foot aluminum darts and whitetail hunting points, the challenge was on. With a video, I can verify and document this sequence of events. There is authenticity when one has video to go with the story. I can tell you the shots ranged from three to fifteen feet. The first frog was harvested after about sixty attempts and with much fun, laughter and excitement the video verifies ninety minutes had passed. I would like to tell you the first hour and a half brought additional skill and refined technique for Chip, but truthfully, the darker it got the easier it became to take the next seven frogs. So in two hours on a hot muggy night, a trio of friends, fulfilled the internal urges to “hunt and gather” the first legal limit of Missouri bull frogs with an atlatl.

There is some irony to this saga, as Chip completed his adventure, Heath ask to try his hand at the sport. He traded the light for Chip’s atlatl. Heath’s first attempt yielded a frog. Heath turned to Chip and said “There’s nothing to this”. The trio laughed, but the video tells the rest of the story. The video reveals Heath had a pure streak of luck on his first attempt. He never hit another one!



"I think if I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected, fight for them, and let them fight for you. Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together. Powerful stuff."
— Jon Katz

**Down in the catacombs at Casa Malpais
By Wayne Brian**

I am writing about an experience I had and like to share. Location, Springerville Arizona. One of the small towns threatened by forest fires. There is an ancient pueblo site north of Springerville. More than a thousand years old. Called by archaeologists, Casa Malpais (house of the bad lands). The uniqueness of this Pueblo was/is that there are catacombs under the ruins. The people who built and occupied the pueblo placed their dead in the baskets and placed them down in the catacombs. Then back in the forty's a pot hunter found them, took them out and sold them. My experience there started when Dr Miles Gilbert archaeologist and author who was in charge of the ruins and the museum agreed to guide myself and a friend and artist Buck McCain (oils & bronzes) down into a section of the catacombs. So after a short hike up this face of a cliff we came upon a small hole in the rocks and started our 50 ft drop almost straight down. Having only protruding rocks for foot holds. The only light we had was on Miles's helmet. I have always been somewhat claustrophobic and I was proving it with every step. Finally we reached a small room with paintings on the walls. A figure with a full feathered headdress and some snakes like the ones that could be all around us in the cracks. All I could think of was that small shrinking hole 50 ft up that was the only way out. We did get out alive that day. It wasn't my idea of a fun time, but to combine the overall experience something was going on in my head. I have had this happen before the whole experience had been recorded in the dusty recesses of my mind. It wanted to come out and it did. Mostly very rapidly. Thank you for listening.

God bless you all, Wayne Brian

Ps I was up there to place atlatls for sale in casa Malpais museum and Ravin site ruins museum located 12 miles north of Springerville. So you see there was a connection with atlatls.

Down in the catacombs at Casa Melpais
Where the spirits of the Shaman yet weep.

Where are the old ones, where are the bones
That slept in the crevasses deep.

Down in the Kiva in silver moonlight
There's chanting and tinkling bells.

The line of ghost dancers, no shadows they cast
As they serpentine under a spell.

The wind in the bushes, the voice of the night
Speaks softly and cry's of a crime.

We know that the old ones who's spirits abide
Will charge for the theft of their time



Subject: Organizing an Atlatl Wild Boar Hunt

To: World Atlatl Association
From: Curtis Waggoner (MAA, NYAA, and WAA member)
Four Corners Archery Club, LLC, Rt. 2 Box 2335,
Sedgewickville, MO 63781 ph. (573) 866-0046
email: fourcornersarchery@hotmail.com
Dear WAA:

I would like to post an announcement on your website and in the, "ATLATL" concerning the following activity. Being a member of the WAA, I read the "ATLATL" newsletter almost as soon as it comes in. However, I noticed that most of the articles are about competitions or scientific studies; which I thoroughly enjoy. But it made me start thinking. I know there are many of you, individually, that use your atlatl for hunting and spearfishing; but I would like to propose an organized wild boar hunt using just atlatls. Four Corners Archery Club utilizes a ranch in northeast Texas for our pig hunts. It's called the Texas-S Bowhunting Ranch and we have a good working relationship with them. We have been down there several times and produced a hunting video (entitled, "Pig Wars") from our last hunt. We will be going down again the weekend of October 8-9 for another hunt and production of another hunting video. Normally, the hunt is for 2 days and you get to shoot 2 pigs. However, we are on the ground running and chasing these pigs all weekend to get our 2 pigs with bows. I called Rex, owner of the ranch, and convinced him to allow an atlatl hunt for 2 days but getting one pig each, for a discounted price. He agreed as long as we have a minimum of 10 hunters. Understand that by doing this he is taking less money on a weekend than he could have if he had booked it at the regular price. This ranch is booked all the time and reservations are normally made almost a year in advance. He said he would do this for us just because we have such a good relationship and he would be fascinated at having an atlatl only hunt, especially on videotape.

What I am proposing is that we have an Atlatl Wild Boar Hunt: the active pursuit of wild game, hunting as a team (on Oct 8-9, 2011). Make no mistake, hunting wild boar can be down right dangerous, but hunting as a group, as a team, it would be a lot of fun and very exciting. When we hunt pigs, we first split up into teams. Everybody has a two-way radio and we keep in contact with each other. When one of the teams spots a group of pigs, we set one team up as an ambush and the other teams start driving the pigs towards them. It really is an exciting hunt and it would allow fellow atlatlists to work together towards a common goal: everybody gets a pig!

Here's a little background information. The Texas S Bowhunting Ranch is for bowhunting only; no firearms are allowed. It is owned by Rex Bannister (cell ph.(231) 675-8234f; home ph. (231) 549-3031; E-MAIL:

rexannister@wildblue.net). The ranch consists of 100 acres fenced with lots of pigs running loose. Most of the pigs are about 60-150 lbs., but there are some over 200 lbs. If you go to www.youtube.com and search Four Corners Archery Club Pig Wars, you will see about a 5 minute clip of our pig hunt video which will give you an idea of the area and the pigs. The ranch is located in Northeast Texas close to the town of Clarksville. It is just across the Arkansas state line from Texarcana. The terrain is fairly level, no steep, rocky hills to run up and down. There are areas of field, oak woods, pines, swamp, 2 lakes and a couple of ponds. There isn't much thick brush, due to the pigs and I haven't seen any snakes (pigs eat them). There are some other exotic games as well; fallow deer, whitetail deer, Corsican rams, but they are pretty docile. They have a cabin with a bunk area for sleeping. The cabin has a full kitchen for preparing meals, a bathroom with shower, and a living area. It also has AC and heat. There is an area outside for building a fire, picnic tables, a cleaning area if you want to skin your own pig, a walk-in reefer for storing meat and grills for outdoor cooking. For more information on the ranch you can visit their website at www.texas-sbowhunting.com.

We normally leave from Southeast Missouri very early on a Friday morning and arrive there late Friday afternoon. We then pick out our bunks and get our gear unloaded and ready. After that, we usually go out into the compound and do a little recon and then do a little practice. I will be bringing a 3-d pig target that we can practice on. That evening we have a good meal (which we prepare ourselves; the hunt does not include meals we bring our own food) and tell tall tales around a campfire. Saturday morning we start hunting at dawn and hunt until 5pm. They don't want anybody shooting a pig after 5pm because they don't want to try and track any wounded pigs after dark. That evening same thing, except everybody is usually pretty worn out!

Sunday morning we start hunting at dawn again, but we are supposed to be out of there by 5pm on Sunday. We then drive back that night and get back to Southeast Missouri in the early morning hours (1am - 4am), depending on when we get on the road. For hunters coming out from farther distances they are welcome to get at my house on Thursday evening and spend the night with us, and stay Monday and get some sleep before heading home. For hunters that live closer to Northeast Texas they can meet us at the ranch. Everybody would need to bring a bedroll, food, drinks, a large cooler (for their pig meat), hunting clothes, towel and personal hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrush, soap, etc.) and I would suggest bringing 2-3 atlatls and 5-10 darts fitted with broadheads or very sharp flint tips. Make no mistake, there will be broken and/or lost darts. And you don't want to be out of darts before you get your pig! It would not be likely that a pig will be taken down with one dart! You also want to

bring as many blades as you can carry. I usually carry a large bowie knife on my leg, a WWI bayonet on my side and another large knife on my other side and, sometimes, a tomahawk. I will also be bringing a short, stout spear. For the food, we could all bring a dish that would feed 10 people for two nights, or I could set up a menu, do the shopping, and have everyone split the cost. I can coordinate this should we do the hunt and supply everyone with a list of what to bring.

Normally, Rex charges \$350.00 for a two day hunt where you get to take two pigs. However, since hunting with the atlatl is more difficult, I was able to talk him into allowing us a two day hunt taking one pig per hunter. This will allow us plenty of time for everybody to get one pig each. He gave us a good price of \$175.00 per hunter. We also have to get a temporary Texas hunting tag which is \$45.00 and if you want them to skin and quarter your pig it's \$25.00 per pig (which is well worth it). Total cost is about \$245.00 per hunter plus travel and food. The only possible additional charge would be if you kill a pig that weighs over 170 lbs. they tack on a \$100.00 trophy fee. We need to have a minimum of 10 hunters to do this. If anybody wants to accompany us, but not hunt, it's free. I can coordinate and make all the arrangements for this hunt. There is a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit per hunter to book the dates. I was thinking probably a spring hunt (Feb-May) of 2012, too. We don't want to go down any later than about early-mid May or the heat will be unbearable. I will also make arrangements for two camera guys to come with us to videotape the hunt. The video footage will be brought back, edited, and an atlatl hunting DVD will be produced. Each hunter can receive a copy of the DVD at cost. I have available a hunting dvd from our last archery hunt there for \$10.00 (which includes shipping) if anyone wants to see what the ranch, pigs, terrain, etc. is like down there.

I think this is a good deal, not too expensive. It would allow atlatlist to get together for a weekend of fun and excitement, bond together as hunters, and use their atlatls for a real hunting experience. A hunt like this brings people together in a way that no other activity can.

If you have any other questions or need additional information, please contact me at the info at the start of this letter.

Thank you for considering my proposal and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, Curtis Waggoner, President
Four Corners Archery Club, LLC

Hello Friends of the Atlatl,

The dart flingers of Wyoming and Colorado have had a busy spring here in the mountain west and are embarked on an equally intense summer of hunting the high score and chasing the cheap laughs. For those who were unable to be with us in Saratoga, let me assure you it was an unqualified success (no one was killed!). The weather was grim, we endured rain and cold throughout the week but everyone there displayed their sunniest dispositions and that made it possible to ignore the conditions and have a good time anyway. There were folks who traveled from the east and west coasts and the middle of the country, as well as England, to be with us. We were deeply honored by the attendance of so many fine people, among who were the first and current WAA presidents (Bill Tate and Lenny Riemersa), a former ISAC world champion (Gary Fogelman), and the European board member (Neal Matheson).

We served a lot of kids on Friday and gave them a taste of primitive technology; all had great fun. The contest on Saturday was lightly attended (see the reference to the weather) but those who braved the wind and light rain had a great time hunting our 15 animal course. The kids all enjoyed it and threw the course several times. We now have four new WAA members (winners of the Kids, Youth, and amateur adult divisions) and several who have been enfolded into the WA&SC as well. Our new mammoth, Little Eric(a) was a real champ, he (she) took many hits without complaint. (I was also informed that a call was placed to the Saratoga Police to report an elephant was spotted at Saratoga Lake so we know he (she) looked pretty darned real.) The symposium was an enlightening event, highlighted by Dr. Danny Walker's presentation on Atlatl Weights of Wyoming and Rod Laird's tale of the kids who changed the world. I still am planning to collect the presentations into a form accessible by the atlatl community (possibly on our new website). Thanks to all those who generously donated items and bid so fiercely the social hour and silent auction raised \$363 for the Saratoga Museum.

The awards banquet also went well, a few tears were shed as we honored the pioneers of our sport and the folks who worked so hard to make it all happen. **On behalf of the WAA, Lenny presented special plaques proclaiming Rod Laird as the Grandfather and Leni Clubb as the Grandmother and Saratoga as the birthplace of the modern atlatl.** The event was capped by the live performance of our new theme song "Throwing in the wind", written by Marcia Peterson and Cody Castle, you must hear it to believe just how good it is. The museum and community center directors did everything possible to help us provide as fine an experience as one could hope to have and will be well remembered.

This was our biggest event ever and it was time and money well spent. We honored Saratoga, Rod, and Leni

There are no shortcuts in evolution.
There is nothing we like to see so much as the gleam of pleasure in a person's eye when he feels that we have sympathized with him, understood him. At these moments something fine and spiritual passes between two friends. These are the moments worth living.

- Don Marquis

for their place in atlatl history, we conducted the first-ever atlatl symposium, we had a challenging contest, we ate several fine feasts, and we all got to share each other's company for a few days. There were no real negatives, even the 10x20 ft tent that blew into the middle of the lake was recovered without damage (thanks to my right arm, Rose, and Rob, who wandered by and wound up staying for three days). There are so many, both past and present, who gave money, time, and blood to keep the darts flying there at Saratoga, I am amazed and greatly humbled by it all and can only say thank you to everyone involved for giving me an

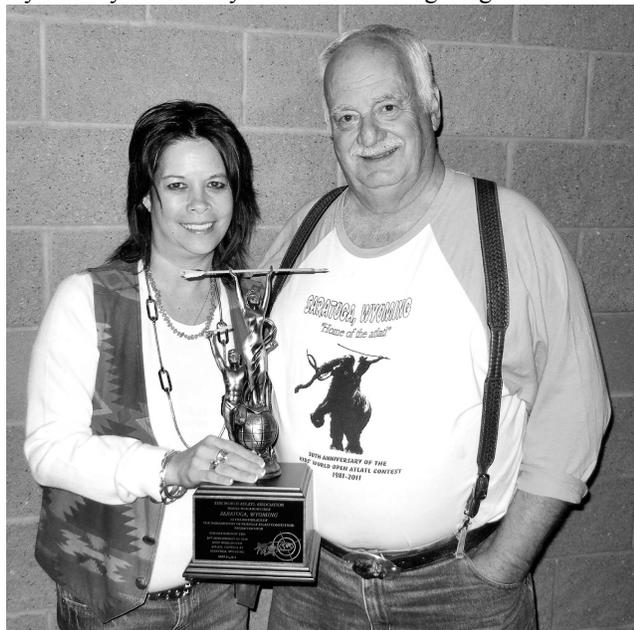


and at the first-ever President's Invitational near Central City, Colorado (July 30-31). The Colorado Saber-toothed Clan is bringing the atlatl back to the WAA home country, we wish them well and will gladly show up to eat their food.

Lastly, due to the generosity of Wanda Manley, the Wyoming Atlatl & Social Club now has a website. Visit us at wyasc.com. I haven't had time to update it yet but it promises to be a great opportunity to share the Wyoming atlatling experience. Comments and suggestions are welcomed.

With warm regards from the flingers of Wyoming and Colorado,
Russell Richard
Photos: Bill Tate presenting Leni

Clubb w her award, Yvonne Johnson presenting Rod Laird w his Saratoga award.



unforgettable experience. My last thank you is for Rod Laird, the humble teacher who opened the door for us all.

So, on to atlatling in the winds of Wyoming (and Colorado!): On June 4th, the first World Atlatl Day event was held in Cheyenne, where 14 of us thoroughly trounced Texas (due in part to the outstanding educational system in Wyoming). It was an atlatl fight and Texas showed up packing a rabbitstick. Our future events include hunting our little mammoth at the Hell Gap site (June 17-19), the Foothill-Mountain contest (July 1-3),

CHRONOLOGY OF HISTORICAL ATLATL USE IN WYOMING

1950's GEORGE FRISON HUNTS RABBITS WITH AN ATLATL

1981-93 KIDS' WORLD ATLATL OPEN-SARATOGA, WYOMING



1985 GEORGE FRISON HUNTS ELEPHANTS IN AFRICA

1988-2000 WORLD ATLATL OPEN-FORT CASPAR, WYOMING



1993-94 UW FIELD SCHOOL, PINE BLUFFS, WYOMING

1997-99 DOUGLAS PRIMITIVE FAIR



1999-2011 FOOTHILL-MOUNTAIN ATLATL OPEN

2000-2011 GAME & FISH EXPO, CASPER, WYOMING



2001 EUROPEAN ATLATLISTS INVADE WYOMING

2008 WYOMING ATLATL AND SOCIAL CLUB FORMED

2011 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIDS' WORLD ATLATL OPEN

WAA Schedule of Events

USA

Aug. 12	That Dam ISAC, Albany Ohio Friday evening on pond dam at Steve's house near Albany. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com (740) 698-6553 or Ray Striscech ohioatlatl@hotmail.com (740) 331-4351
Aug. 13-14	12th Annual Albany Ohio Atlatl Contests, 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 Striscech ohioatlatl@hotmail.com (740) 331-4351
Aug. 13	Ancient Ways at Sugarloaf Preserve, Walnut Creek, California Atlatl competition comes to Sugarloaf. Our third year of ISAC contests. Atlatl field rounds will also be scheduled. Other happenings: rabbitstick toss, hoop and spear, make and spin an acorn top, tule crafts, displays, flintknapping, stick dice. Make a wooden necklace using only primitive tools, and more. Contact Ranger Bruce Weidman at (925) 943-5899 ext 2665.
Aug. 13	ISAC and other MAA atlatl contests at Discover Archery Day, Columbia Missouri Sponsored by the Columbia Area Archers. 9am - 3pm, American Legion Park in Columbia. Contact: Jon Wood at (573) 881-6622 or jswood429@gmail.com
Aug. 13	San Marcos, California ISAC Contact Chris Henry at (760) 535-9235 or paleoarts@hotmail.com
August 13-14	Hot Blanket atlatl throw & ISAC. Cheyenne, Wyoming Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Sponsored by the Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307) 632-0766 or Russell Richard coyoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550 for location and time.
Aug. 14	Austin Archery Club Tournament in Austin, Texas Target-tips only, contest fee = \$12. Following the tournament there will be an ISAC. More information available on-line: http://www.austinarcheryclub.com Or contact Bobcat Smith: martybobcat@yahoo.com
August 18-20	Bois Blanc Island, Michigan ISAC at 7 p.m. each day Great Lakes Primitives Traditional Arts Gathering Contact Jim Gilligan, wildernessjimgilligan@gmail.com (810) 599-6881
Aug. 25-28	Stone Tool Craftsman Show (Aug 27 & 28 10:00 am to 5:00 pm) Highbanks Recreation Area, north end of Letchworth State Park - Castile, New York 23rd Annual Eastern Seaboard Atlatl Competition (State Round, Closest-to-Pin, Distance) Aug 25, 26 & 27. ISAC, Hoop Toss, New York Atlatl Association Contests (National & International), Throw Over the Gorge Qualifiers & wooded Animal Round all four days. Handicapped Mammoth Hunt (Saturday); Long Distance Accuracy and Atlatl Battle (Sunday). New York Atlatl Association, Inc. insured event. Stone Tool Show contact: Dana & Kay Klein (585) 968-1577. Atlatl Competition contact: Douglas Bassett (585) 493-3625.
Sept. 2-4	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 Striscech ohioatlatl@hotmail.com (740) 331-4351
Sept. 2-4	Mattoon Rendezvous, Mattoon, Wisconsin Various competitions, ISAC Contact Lenny Riemersma at lenmaryr@excel.net (920) 528-7454
Sept. 2-5	23 rd Annual Montana Mammoth Hunt ISAC all four days Field rounds on Sat., Sun., Mon. Info: (406) 736-5274
Sept. 3	Atlatl event and Antique Firearm & Indian Artifact Show Jefferson County Fair Grounds, Brookville, Pennsylvania Interstate 80, Exit 81, 1/4 mile north of the exit. 9:00 to 4:00 PM Contact George Miller (814) 590-6462 or gmmiller@brockwaytv.com
Sept. 8-10	Game & Fish Expo atlatl hunt and ISAC. Casper, Wyoming A major outdoor education exposition, a great family event. Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307) 632-0766 or Russell Richard coyoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550.
Sept. 8 (evening)-11	In conjunction with the Maine Primitive Gathering, Broad-winged Farm, Wells, Maine ISAC (4 days), atlatl games, primitive skills workshops. Registration for Maine Primitive Gathering \$20/day, or \$50 for weekend, free camping, insured. Contact Ken Faucher kfauch@comcast.net , http://maineprimitivegathering.blogspot.com/
Sept. 9-11	389 Simkin Road Elmira, New York Tyoga Atlatl Association event. ISAC, Mastodon Open and NYAA. (Team, Individual, Hunter, Distance and European) New York Atlatl Association, Inc. sponsored and Insured. Contact: Jack Rowe (570) 888-8258 rjrowe93@gmail.com or Tom Goble; (607)215-9405
Sept. 9-11	Cahokia Mounds, Atlatl event at Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site, Collinsville, Illinois ISAC all 3 days w/European and other contests on Saturday Contact Jon Wood (573) 881-6622 jswood@mcmsys.com or Ron Mertz (314) 628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 11	Austin Archery Club Tournament in Austin, Texas Target-tips only, contest fee = \$12. Following the tournament there will be an ISAC. More information available on-line: http://www.austinarcheryclub.com Or contact Bobcat Smith: martybobcat@yahoo.com
Sept. 16-17	Fall Osage Knap-In Boonville, Missouri I-70 exit 111, ISAC both days. Contact Jon Wood (573) 881-6622 jswood@mcmsys.com or Ron Mertz (314) 628-9376 devoemertz@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 16-18	13th 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 Striscech ohioatlatl@hotmail.com (740) 331-4351
Sept. 16-18	Letchworth State Park - Castile, New York ISAC (Fri 4pm-Sun 4pm) and local events except during Heritage Day noted below. NYAA fully insured event. "Native American Heritage Day" 10am - 4pm on Sat, Sept 18, with Native American Dance, Crafts and Food. Nearby camping, cabins and lodging available. Call Douglas Bassett (585) 493-3625 for information.
Sept. 16-18	11 th Annual First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park Atlatl Contest, Montana ISAC all three days Field rounds on Sat., Sun. Info: (406) 736-5274
Sept. 16-18	16th Annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship Weekend, Vermont Moved for a second year to Mount Independence from Chimney Point due to the construction of the Lake Champlain Bridge. September 16: Atlatl Workshop Atlatl experts Bob and Cheryl Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl teach modern and traditional techniques of atlatl and dart construction, flint knapping, hafting stone points, and cordage making. Enjoy atlatl lore and coaching on the use of your new atlatl. Bob has taught primitive skills and the atlatl for many years—his 16 th with us. \$65 fee includes instruction and all materials. Pre-registration required. Vermont Archaeology Month program. Noon – 5:00 PM. September 17: 16th Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship & Festival of Nations Participate in or watch this annual championship. Demonstrations and workshops on flint knapping, and Native American life and crafts. Co-sponsored by Vermont Archaeological Society. Vermont Archeology Month program. \$5.00 competitors registration fee. 10:30 – 4:30 PM September 18: ISAC Atlatl Championship Second day of atlatl International Standard Accuracy Competition. After ISAC, master class/coaching for boys and girls. \$5.00 competitors registration fee. 10:00 AM Contact Elsa Gilbertson at (802) 759-2412
Sept. 23-24	Atlatl demonstrations and competitions, including ISAC in conjunction With Bois D'Arc Primitive Skills Camp and Knap-In, Hulston Mill Historic Park near Greenfield, Missouri Contact: Ray Madden – rhadden@hotmail.com ; (417) 781-0962 or Bo Brown (417) 840-1615 or boisdarc.info
Sept. 23-25	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, Tennessee Fall Knap-In, ISAC each day Contact Keith Wimberley (931)723-5073 or Keith.Wimberley@tn.gov
Sept. 24-25	Cool Blanket atlatl throw & ISAC. Cheyenne, Wyoming Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Sponsored by the Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307)

	632-0766 or Russell Richard covoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550 for location and time.
Sept. 24-25	Smoky Hollow Rendezvous. Cascade, Wisconsin Sept. 24 – Demo, ISAC, Hunter’s Round Sept. 25 – ISAC only For more information contact: Lenny Riemersma at lenmaryr@excel.net (920) 528-7454
Oct. 1-2	New England Atlatl Day, Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison Connecticut Co-Sponsored by the Fiends Of Hammonasset and the Ct State Museum of Natural History/Ct Archaeology Center. ISAC, Woolly Mammoth Hunt and Native American Festival. Saturday and Sunday. 10:00-3:00 Contact Gary Nolf 860-575-4263 gnolf@comcast.net
Oct. 7-9	Hocking Hills PowWow (aka Chief Logan PowWow) at Hocking Hills Hocking Hills Farmer’s Market, US 33 & SR 374, Rockbridge, Ohio 43149. OAA will provide instruction and conduct atlatl accuracy contests. IASAC, ISAC, and Ohio locals. Lots of booths, crafts, food and information. Contact Ray Striscechek for more information, (ohioatlatl@hotmail.com) (740) 331-4351
Oct. 8-9	Falling Blanket atlatl throw & ISAC. Cheyenne, Wyoming Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Sponsored by the Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307) 632-0766 or Russell Richard covoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550 for location and time.
Oct. 8-9	Annual Candor Fall Festival Atlatl Contests and Demonstrations at Side Hill Acres Goat Farm, Route 96, Candor, New York 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. ISAC and local contests and demonstrations. For further information contact Bob or Cheryl Berg at 1-800-836-4520 or Thunderbirdatlatl@gmail.com
Oct. 8-9	Atlatl Wild Boar Hunt Texas-S Bowhunting Ranch, Texas See longer description in the July issue of The Atlatl Contact Curtis Waggoner at (573) 866-0046 or fourcornersarchery@hotmail.com
Oct. 22	Sportsman’s Club, Dundee, Wisconsin ISAC, Hunter’s Round, 3-D Targets For more information contact; Lenny Riemersma at lenmaryr@excel.net (920) 528-7454
Oct. 28-29	Zaleski State Forest, Lake Hope State Park ROAR days. Ohio ISAC, IASAC and Ohio Atlatl Association local events. Contact Steve Barnett barnz@juno.com (740) 698-6553 or Ray Striscechek ohioatlatl@hotmail.com (740) 331-4351
Oct. 29	The Great Pumpkin Atlatl Throw, 10 am – 4 pm Wickiup Hills Outdoor Learning Center, Toddsville, Iowa (just north of Cedar Rapids, IA). For more information please contact Mark L. Anderson at (319) 384-0998 or mark-l-anderson@uiowa.edu
Nov. 5-6	Frosty Blanket atlatl throw & ISAC. Cheyenne, Wyoming Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Sponsored by the Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307) 632-0766 or Russell Richard covoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550 for location and time.
Nov. 26-27	Last Chance throw. Cheyenne, Wyoming Open to all, equipment and instruction cheerfully provided. Sponsored by the Wyoming Atlatl and Social Club. Contact: Gary/Regina Dodson wvowinds@aol.com (307) 632-0766 or Russell Richard covoteclown@aol.com (307) 772-0550 for location and time.

Championnat d'Europe de tir aux armes préhistoriques 2011

Date	épreuve	pays	Département	E-mail	ISAC	responsable ISAC
06-07 août	Mas d'Azil (F)	Ariège (09)	France	claus.sauer@wanadoo.fr	ISAC Saturday & Sunday	mere.terre@wanadoo.fr
13-14 août	Bruniquel (F)	Tarn et Garonne (82)	France	mere.terre@wanadoo.fr	ISAC Saturday & Sunday	mere.terre@wanadoo.fr
20-21 août	Historial de Vendée (F)	Vendée	France	Arcbillebaude@aol.com	ISAC Saturday & Sunday	mere.terre@wanadoo.fr
20-21 août	Teverga (E)		Espagne	parquedelaprehistoria@recrea.asturias.es		
10-11 septembre	Gletterens (CH)	Fribourg	Suisse	daeberhard@village-lacustre.ch		
17-18 septembre	Zonhoven (B)	Limburg	Belgique	guido.pirotte@zonhoven.be	ISAC Sunday	christian.lepers@swde.be
17-18 septembre	Bad Buchau (D)		Allemagne	christian.foppa@tele2.ch	ISAC Sunday	christian.foppa@tele2.ch
17-18 septembre	Ibeas de Juarros (E)	Burgos	Espagne	eduardo@visitasatpuerca.com		
24-25 septembre	Marpent (F)	Nord	France	jeanpierreguerlus@hotmail.com	ISAC Sunday	christian.lepers@swde.be
08-09 octobre	Pinar (E)	Granada	Espagne	celemartinez68@hotmail.com		
29-30 octobre	Neuilley sur Marne (F)	Seine-St-Denis	France	dlaporal@cg93.fr		
03-04 décembre	Auneau (F)	Eur et Loire	France	fabrice.brutus@wanadoo.fr ; fabrice.brutus@inrap.fr		

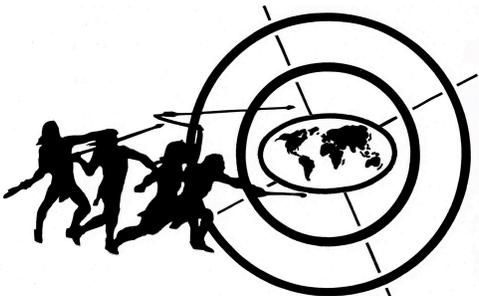
Sorry about the small print folks, had to keep the newsletter to 20 pages!

A little hunter and Little Eric(a) from Saratoga, WY.



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