



“If I would study any old, lost art, let us say, I must make myself the artisan of it...”

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The Atlatl? A Really Complex Weapon! — Part 4
What About the Shooter?
By Christian Lepers

Since 2013, Christian Lepers has been a member of the TraceoLab team at the University of Liège, Belgium, where he specializes in flint knapping and the experimental use of prehistoric weapons. Christian’s contributions directly support the PhD and postdoctoral research conducted within the team.

Beyond the academia, Christian has been dedicated to spear throwing since 1994 and is an active member of CETREP, a group of experimental archaeologists within the Research Society of Wallonia. Christian also participates in archery and spear throwing as part of the European Championship of Prehistoric Weapons, an event where he served as secretary from 1999 to 2022.

After talking about the general propulsion movement, the influence of the spear-thrower and the dart, now let’s talk about the user. He is the real motor of propulsion thanks to his muscular work. The choice of a gesture mobilizing all or part of the body can significantly modify the amount of energy transmitted to the dart.

The influence of the shooter’s gesture was studied by comparing analyses of slow-motion video sequences of short gesture compared with the usual long movement of experimenters (and presented in the first article)

The short movement limits physical work to the upper part of the body (chest, arms, forearms and wrist), while the long movement uses all the body by using a leg push and the rocking of the bust. Each movement shows the succession of the 2 phases (linear and elliptical) and the 4 typical characteristics of the propulsion phase (the Atlatl V38n2, spring 2025).

For the small movement tested, the shortening of the total propulsion distance is mainly caused by a smaller linear displacement, because the elliptical phase remains largely identical. The linear displacement represents only 25% of the total movement whereas it represented 34% for the long movement (fig. 1). The elliptic phase remains the same regardless of the movement. The angle between the hand trajectory and that of the hook increases compared to a long movement. This difference is mainly explained by the shortening of the propulsion distance, because for both movements the starting and final altitude of the hook (when the dart leaves the spear-thrower) are very close. This difference in propulsion angle also explains why the dart thrown to a shorter propulsion phase flies according to an accentuated parabola (for an identical distance shot).

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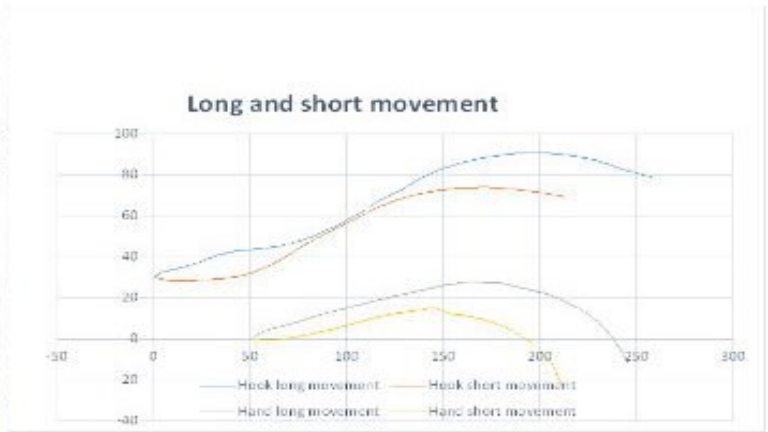
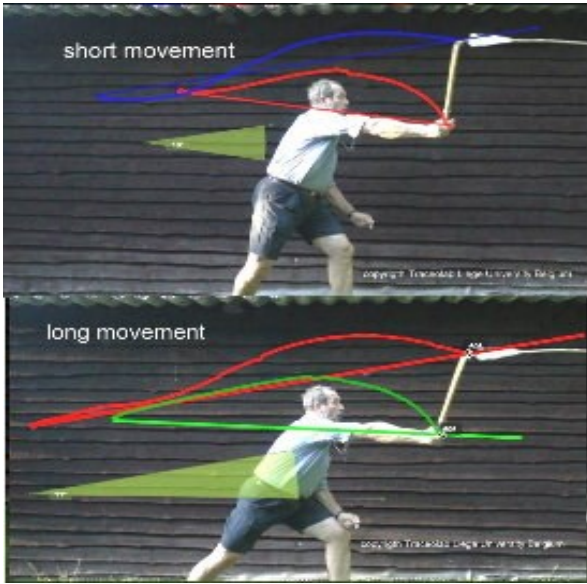


Fig. 1 Hook and hand movement curves for the same spear-thrower used with different propulsion gestures. For clarity, in the graph, the hook's displacement curves have been separated from those of the hand. In reality, different positions and gestures can cause variations in the initial altitude of the hand and hook (adapted from Lepers et al., 2024).

The duration of the propulsion phase is extended for the short movement. Several hypotheses can explain this observation: a lack of experience by the experimenters for this movement, the difficulty in setting the projectile in motion over a short distance, or the difficulty of initiating the rotation of the spear-thrower when the wrist does not have sufficient movement speed.

The same analysis method was used to analyse the propulsion phases of some regular shooters in the European Prehistoric Weapons Championship and to analyse propulsion phases illustrated in earlier publications. For the 3 shooters filmed, we find the four characteristics of the propulsion movement. The analysis was less precise for one of the shooters who develops his propulsion phase in an oblique plane (while the camera was filming a vertical plane). The film obtained shows a "flattened" (and therefore imprecise) movement with its two phases (linear and elliptical).

A more precise analysis of this oblique movement would require modifying the position and orientation of the camera so that it is perpendicular to the movement of the spear-thrower.

The illustration of a propulsion phase presented by Cundy has been analyzed in the same way to visualize the movements of the hand and the hook. The reconstructed trajectories for the hand and the spear-thrower hook are close to the trajectories described by the new theoretical model

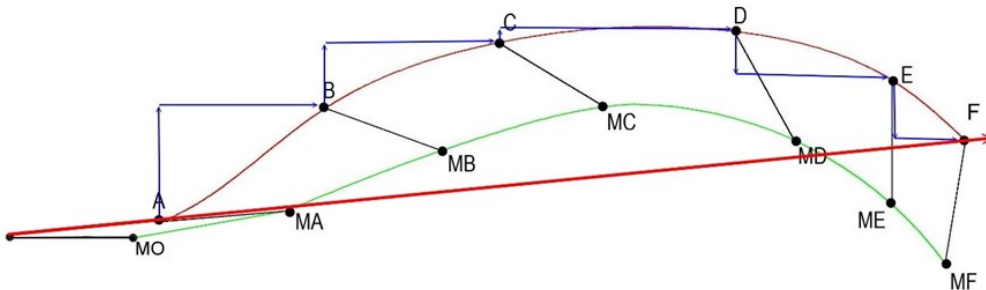


Fig. 3. Decomposition of the elliptical displacement of the hook into two vertical and horizontal components at various points along the trajectory of the hook and the heel of the dart. The hook's longer trajectory than that of the hand causes significant acceleration of the hook but also causes the dart to bend under the vertical component of the hook's elliptical movement. The red line indicates the desired "ideal" movement for the dart (adapted from Lepers et al., 2024).

el (Fig. 2) (after representation of the spear-thrower at its correct length on all superposed segments). I suppose that the dart leaves the hook when it makes an angle of about 90° with the spear-thrower.

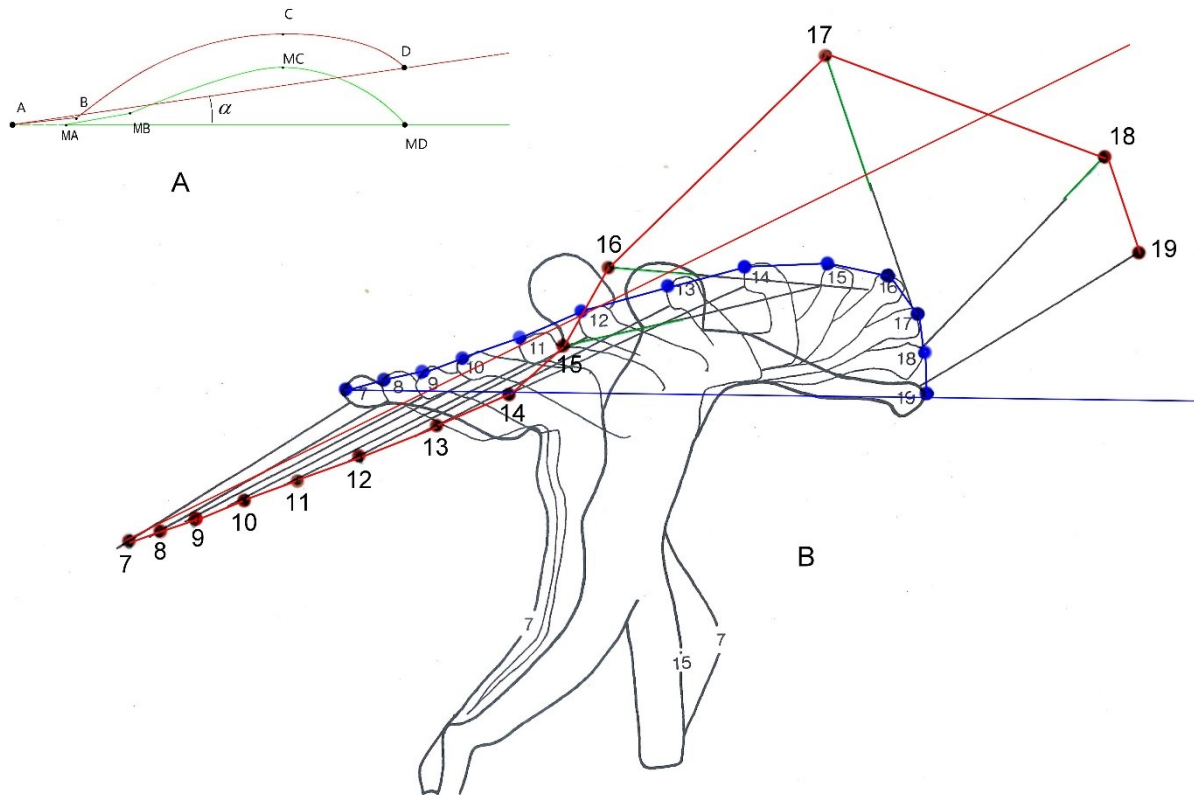


Fig. 2. A, theoretical displacement curves of the hand and the hook; B displacement curve of the hand and the hook for the propulsion movement described by Cundy (1989: 50, fig. 10). The original illustration has been reworked (representation of the correct length of the spear-thrower, and tracing of the trajectories followed by the hand and the hook of the spear-thrower) (adapted from Lepers et al., 2024). Note the angle of projection between the paths of the hand and the hook.

The low camera speed (24 frames/s) and the small number of available points explain the segmented aspect of the trajectories obtained. We notice for the hand and the hook a first linear phase followed by an elliptical phase. The propulsion filmed by Cundy is at a significant angle of elevation and the trajectories of the hook and hand intersect at the beginning of the elliptical phase, but this is undoubtedly a specificity related to the gestures of the shot filmed (or the choice of a longer distance shot (which requires a greater angle of elevation).

Combined influence of the different stakeholders

The experiments conducted by Traceolab (ULiège), show that the shooter and the spear-thrower have a great influence on the propulsion phase and that the characteristics of the dart influence its flight. The simple and rustic appearance of the spear-thrower and the dart is misleading! In reality a careful observation reveals all the complexity of the system. The flight of the projectile is the result of a more or less balanced compromise resulting from the influence of each elements in the trio 'shooter-spear-thrower-dart'.

A critical analysis approach to shots and equipment must take into account several elements:

The user through his physical force, and by his propulsion movement influences the amount of energy transmitted to the spear-thrower. The amount of energy transmitted to the projectile can increase considerably if the entire body is mobilized (or by using a more or less long elongation like athletes throwing a javelin). This important ability of the shooter to influence propulsion has been partially invisibilized by previous operating hypotheses focused on the spear-thrower. One can bring more energy to the sagaie by developing its strength (body-building), by choosing a broader movement that trains the work of more muscles, or by playing on these two parameters. A longer movement (which is my preference) allows for better distribution of physical efforts throughout the body. Conversely, a shorter movement requires distributing physical efforts over a limited number of muscles, which can be penalizing when launching heavy or long-distance projectiles. In this case, the use of lighter projectiles may be a solution. In many cases, the dart will have to be adapted to the amount of energy developed during the propulsion phase.

The size of the spear-thrower influences the length of the propulsion phase and the projection angle of the dart. For an unchanged movement, a longer (and/or heavier) spear-thrower gives a larger projection angle (which modifies the trajectory of the darts). It increases the amount of energy of the dart, but it requires more work from the wrist for its rotation. A shorter spear-thrower will produce an inverse effect.

Attention! change the propulsion gesture or the length of a spear-thrower modifies the aiming references.

Little taken into account in the first explanatory models, the dart by its own characteristics (mass, fletching surface, spine) and the energy received during the propulsion phase, influences flight and impact conditions. The dart's flexures, caused by the vertical movements of the hook, constitute a loss of energy that must be minimized. The difference between the energy received and that consumed during its flight (essentially the increased friction due to the dart's flex) determines the impact (apart from questions of precision). As with the arrow and the bow, proper adaptation of the dart to the firing conditions generated by the shooter and the spear-thrower is essential for effective shooting.

To modify your practice in a reasoned way, you need to work gradually by modifying only one element of the trio at a time (the gesture, the spear-thrower, the dart). Understanding the influence of a change in one of the system's parameters can only be done by keeping the characteristics identical for two other stakeholders. It is a job that requires good prior reflection, time and analytical thinking throughout the process. It is also necessary, to take the necessary adaptation time at each step, (otherwise, it becomes impossible to know who influences what (beware of crossed or chain influences!)).

During this adaptation work, you will undoubtedly notice a drop in your results and your usual level of precision. But the practice and taking into account the new shooting conditions created by the adaptation of the material or gesture, will bring you back to your initial level. The more experienced you are, the faster adaptation will be.

With the same spear-thrower, a short movement increases the propulsion angle and gives your dart a more curved trajectory, while a longer movement will allow for a smaller propulsion angle. The energy gained by increasing the propulsion distance will give your dart a flatter trajectory and greater speed.

More rigid darts accumulate propulsion energy better and give the darts a flatter trajectory (even if they are a little heavier), which allows for reducing the fletchings area (since they will have less work to straighten the dart) and should give your dart a little more speed ...

The experiments of Traceolab (ULiege) show that the "diabolical trio" (shooter-spear-thrower-dart) allows multiple combinations and that it is (almost) always possible to launch any dart (the range of possible combinations is gigantic). Judging the effectiveness of the device becomes essential! Achieving a ballistic optimum requires to manage the compromises born from the meeting of the 3 stakeholders. There is even a strong likelihood that several very different configurations of our "diabolical trio" give very similar results and therefore constitute very acceptable solutions for effective shooting.

One last psycho-philosophical remark to conclude this series of articles:

We are all convinced of having good equipment and a good shooting technique. Sure ! but

- Are we sure to form with our material a matching and effective trio?
- Is our material suitable for our practice or have we unconsciously adapted our practice to our material?

The advancement of knowledge of the spear-thrower is an endless work ... Do not hesitate to share your experiences, ideas and observations with me. As the proverb says: "there is more in 2 heads than in one".

Scouting America Approves Atlatl Program

From Wesley E. Romberger III, Greater Los Angeles Area Council

Scouting America has begun offering an Atlatl program. In conjunction with the World Atlatl Association (with a special thanks to the Wilkens family), Scouting America will offer training and events that utilize the foundations of skills developed through WAA. If you are near a local Scouting unit or Council, we encourage you to reach out and offer assistance and your knowledge/skills to get the youth and leaders involved with our sport.

WAA EVENT CALENDAR

DEADLINES FOR THE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

Spring 2026 Edition of the Newsletter — Wednesday April 1, 2026

Please Note: In these times of uncertainty (weather events, pandemic, etc.) events may be cancelled or rescheduled. If event changes occur, please keep Deb Andrews informed. Also check the website *Event List* for cancellations or changes. In addition, contact information for event leaders can be found to verify the event schedule.

NORTH AMERICA

DATE/STATE	EVENT
2026 Jan 24 Sat Montana United States	<u>Crafted Wild ISAC #1</u> -WHEN: 2026 Jan 24 Sat from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM -WHERE: 1427 Burr Ridge Rd, Victor Montana 59875 United States -WHO: Danielle Gundlach-Cassley 406-369-3514 hello@craftedwildmt.com Join us for an ISAC each moth. Junior, youth and Adult entries are welcome as well as curious spectators. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. Event is free but donations are appreciated. Register to attend an event below! At each event we carve out the first hour to teach new throwers and share a bit of atlatl history. Visit our website for up to date information on each event.
2026 Jan 24 Sat New York United States	<u>Indoor Shoot 1/24/26</u> -WHEN: 2026 Jan 24 Sat from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST -WHERE: 455 S. Cascade Dr., Springville New York United States -WHO: Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111 dglsbassett@gmail.com ISAC and locals. Range Fee \$10. Fri: 2 pm to 3 pm or so; Sat: 10 am to 11 am or so. 455 S. Cascade Dr south of the Springville Exit off the 219. Contact: RSVP to Douglas Bassett (585) 313-7111; dglsbassett@gmail.com
2026 Feb 07 Sat Missouri United States	<u>Take a Chance Throw</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 07 Sat from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM central -WHERE: 15350 S CLINKENBEARD RD, ASHLAND Missouri 65010 United States -WHO: David Patterson 5736579408 stikflinger@gmail.com Will it be 70? Or 7? Take a chance and limber up your arm.
2026 Feb 07 Sat New York United States	<u>Indoor Shoot 2/7/26</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 07 Sat from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST -WHERE: 455 S. Cascade Dr, Springville New York United States -WHO: Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111 dglsbassett@gmail.com South of the Springville exit off the 219. Contact: RSVP to Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111; dglsbassett@gmail.com
2026 Feb 14 Sat – 2026 Feb 21 Sat Arizona United States	<u>Winter Count primitive skills gathering</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 14 Sat – 2026 Feb 21 Sat from 9:00 AM-4:30 PM SMT -WHERE: , Near Florence Arizona United States -WHO: Gary Steele 406-544-2725 gettinprimitive@gmail.com
2026 Feb 21 Sat – 2026 Feb 22 Sun Florida United States	<u>Silver Springs Knap-In and Prehistoric Arts Festival</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 21 Sat – 2026 Feb 22 Sun from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM EST -WHERE: 144 North 58th Ave., Ocala Florida 34470 United States -WHO: Daniel Hemken 850-572-7823 9mileroadtree@gmail.com The Silver River Knap-In and Prehistoric Arts Festival is the largest event of its kind in the southeast and takes place on the third weekend of each February. The next Knap-in is scheduled for February 21st and 22nd, 2026. The atlatl competition has been added to the festival for Sunday 4-5pm.
2026 Feb 21 Sat New York United States	<u>Indoor Shoot 2/21/26</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 21 Sat from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST -WHERE: 455 S. Cascade Dr, Springville New York United States -WHO: Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111 dglsbassett@gmail.com South of the Springville exit off the 219. Contact: RSVP to Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111; dglsbassett@gmail.com
2026 Feb 28 Sat Montana United States	<u>Crafted Wild Throws an ISAC #2</u> -WHEN: 2026 Feb 28 Sat from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM -WHERE: 1427 Burr Ridge Rd, Victor Montana 59875 United States -WHO: Danielle Gundlach-Cassley 406-369-3514 hello@craftedwildmt.com Join us for an International Standard Atlatl Competition (ISAC) each month. Junior, Youth and Adult entries are welcome as well as curious spectators. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. Event is free but donations are appreciated. Register to attend an event below! At each event we carve out the first hour to teach new throwers and share a bit of atlatl history. Visit our website for up to date information on each event.
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DATE/STATE	EVENT
2026 Mar 07 Sat New York United States	<u>Indoor Shoot 3/7/26</u> -WHEN: 2026 Mar 07 Sat from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST -WHERE: 455 S. Cascade Dr, Springville New York United States -WHO: Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111 dglsbassett@gmail.com South of the Springville exit off the 219. Contact: RSVP to Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111; dglsbassett@gmail.com
2026 Mar 20 Fri 2026 Mar 21 Sat New York United States	<u>Indoor Shoot 3/20-21/26</u> -WHEN: 2026 Mar 20 Fri - 2026 Mar 21 Sat from 2:00 PM-3:00 PM EST -WHERE: 455 S. Cascade Dr, Springville New York United States -WHO: Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111 dglsbassett@gmail.com South of the Springville exit off the 219. Contact: RSVP to Douglas Bassett 585-313-7111; dglsbassett@gmail.com
2026 Mar 28 Sat Montana United States	<u>Crafted Wild Throws an ISAC #3</u> -WHEN: 2026 Mar 28 Sat from 12:00 PM-4:00 PM -WHERE: 1427 Burr Ridge Rd, Victor Montana 59875 United States -WHO: Danielle Gundlach-Cassley 4063693514 hello@craftedwildmt.com Join us for an International Standard Atlatl Competition (ISAC) each month. Junior, Youth and Adult entries are welcome as well as curious spectators. Parking is limited so please carpool if possible. Event is free but donations are appreciated. Register to attend an event below! At each event we carve out the first hour to teach new throwers and share a bit of atlatl history. Visit our website for up to date information on each event.
2026 Mar 28 Sat 2026 Mar 29 Sun Steiermark Austria	<u>Prehistoric Pentathlon</u> -WHEN: 2026 Mar 28 Sat - 2026 Mar 29 Sun -WHERE: Elz 67, Puch bei Weiz Steiermark 8182 Austria -WHO: Gerhard Wiesler +43 6608188610 gerhard@meinbogen.at The first prehistoric pentathlon on 28 and 29 March 2026 will crown a worthy winner: someone who is in top physical condition, skilled with a bow and spear thrower, strong as an ox and adept with a fire drill. If you don't want to push yourself to your physical and mental limits, you'd better stay at home In this unique competition, we simulate a prehistoric hunt as it might have been 10,000 years ago with five individual events over one weekend. ISAC on Friday evening. For more information on rules and scoring visit Prehistoric Pentathlon March 28th and 29th 2026 – 1594881573s Website! www.atlatl.at

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2026

The following positions are open for the 2026 election with terms starting January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2029.

Officers: President and Executive Secretary

Board of Directors: Three positions including at least one non-US member.

Note: Due to changes in the Bylaws approved in 2025, the following are in effect beginning with the 2026 election:

- 1) All elected persons, including the President and Vice President will serve three-years, and
- 2) At least one, but not more than four Board of Director positions, can be held by non-US members.

If you wish to nominate an individual, do the following:

Contact that person to see if he/she would be interested in serving and would commit to attending at least one Annual Meeting during their 3-year term. (Non-US members may attend virtually.)

If the individual is interested in being nominated, ask him/her to send you a brief bio (about 100 words) in which they introduce themselves, review their interest in the atlatl, past participation in atlatl activities, and explain why they feel they could contribute to the WAA as a Board member or Officer.

Note: Members may self-nominate

By May 15, submit the individual's bio, contact information, and a statement from you indicating your nominee's commitment to attending at least one annual meeting during their term of office to:
Executive Secretary Debbie Andrews at deb.andrews@frontier.com.

Nominations Committee

International Standard Accuracy Contest (ISAC) Scores

2025 ISAC Results for Men (Scores of 70 and Above)

PLAC E	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME		CITY OF	STATE/ COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST
1		97xx	Kevin	Ashley	Estill Springs	TN	6/7/2025	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, TN
2		97	Marlin	Bassett	Warsaw	NY	9/6/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
3		96xxxx	Ben	Struzynski	Hortonville	WI	10/26/2025	Helvetia Haven, Ogdensburg, WI
4		94xxx	Douglas	Bassett	Warsaw	NY	8/24/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
5		93xxx	Matthieu	Lacoste	Le Mas d'Azil	FRANCE	8/10/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
6		92xxx	Mike	Glenn	Lucasville	OH	7/18/2025	Steve's House, Pomeroy, OH
7		92xx	Ray	Strischek	Athens	OH	10/11/2025	Debbie's House, Albany, OH
8		92x	Cyrille	Huc	Le Mas d'Azil	FRANCE	8/24/2025	Bougon, FRANCE
9		90	Ryan	Grohsmeyer	Addison	NY	5/10/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
10		89x	Gerhard	Wiesler	Puch bei Weiz	AUSTRIA	8/17/2025	Puch bei Weiz, AUSTRIA
11		89	Jordan	Ashley	Winchester	TN	10/4/2025	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, TN
12		89	Luis Angel	Breton Fernandez	Valganon	SPAIN	5/3/2025	Valganon, SPAIN
13		89	Antonio	Aguilera	Benahadux	SPAIN	9/28/2025	Benahadux, SPAIN
14		88xx	Ken	Faucher	Dover	NH	7/18/2025	Moultonborough, NH
15		88x	Ciprian	Paul Co-anta	Molledo	SPAIN	8/30/2025	Puente Viesgo, SPAIN
16		88	Laurent	Bernat	Fleurac	FRANCE	10/19/2025	Brassempouy, FRANCE
17		88	Ansgar	Lukas	Munich	GERMANY	6/1/2025	Gleisdorf, AUSTRIA
18		88	Greg	Maurer	Vergennes	VT	2/16/2025	Silver Springs, FL
19		88	Owen	Wilkins	Orange	CA	9/6/2025	Orange, CA
20		87xx	James	Turner	Spokane	WA	9/14/2025	Rabbit Stick, Rexburg, ID
21		87x	Carter	Ashley	Estill Springs	TN	6/6/2025	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, TN
22		87	Cedric	Claustre	Escalquens	FRANCE	5/17/2025	Loudenvielle, FRANCE
23		87	Jim	Fisher	Grand Island	NY	5/11/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
24		87	Jurgen	Junkmanns	Erfstadt	GERMANY	4/20/2025	Vassieux-en-Vercors, FRANCE
25		86x	Steve	Barnett	Pomeroy	OH	6/14/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
26		86	Steve	Hall	Louisville	KY	9/28/2025	Tim's House, Indianapolis, IN
27		86	Pete	Piraino	Nunda	NY	9/26/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
28		85xx	Gary	Fogelman	Turbotville	PA	8/22/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
29		84xx	Randy	Whaley Lopez	Leon	WV	10/4/2025	The Plains, OH, Mound Fest
30		84x	Asier	DeAlda	Murua	SPAIN	8/9/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
31		84	Eric	Botté	Druelle	FRANCE	10/19/2025	Brassempouy, FRANCE
32		83xx	Jim	Gnapp	Ladysmith	BC	5/29/2025	Between the Rivers, Valley, WA
33		83x	Joachim	Martz	Engen	GERMANY	8/17/2025	Puch bei Weiz, AUSTRIA
34		83	Charles	Swanson	Knoxville	TN	10/4/2025	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, TN
35		82xx	Barnes	Barnes	Florence	MT	9/15/2025	Rabbit Stick, Rexburg, ID
36		82x	Dave	Patterson	Ashland	MO	6/7/2025	Graham Cave State Park, MO
37		82	Andrew	Donovan	Avella	PA	6/15/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
38		82	Juan	Guirado Garcia	Benahadux	SPAIN	9/28/2025	Benahadux, SPAIN
39		82	Tim	Hall	Indianapolis	IN	6/15/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
40		81	Andy	Majorsky	Derry	PA	9/18/2025	Chimney Point, Addison, VT
41		80x	Valentin	Ducrot	Arignac	FRANCE	9/13/2025	Tarascon sur Ariege, FRANCE

PLACE	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE	STATE/COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST
42		80x	Tom Tobin	Moultonborough	NH	10/17/2025	Moultonborough, NH
43		80	Ryan Moore	Sandpoint	ID	2/21/2025	Wintercount, Florence, AZ
44		80	Mike Waters	Greenwood	NY	8/24/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
45		79xxx	Jerry Nevins	Jefferson City	MO	9/20/2025	Graham Cave, MO
46		79xx	Mike Caldwell	Cleveland	OH	9/14/2025	Pawpaw Fest, Albany, OH
47		79xx	John Whittaker	Grinnell	IA	9/28/2025	Bois d'Arc, Danville, MO
48		79x	Chris Dawson	St Sauvan	FRANCE	8/30/2025	Puente Viesgo, SPAIN
49		78x	Christian Carrière	Montauban	FRANCE	8/2/2025	La Chapelle aux Saints, FRANCE
50		78	Flavien Beauquel	Fagnieres	FRANCE	9/21/2025	Zonhover, BELGIUM
51		78	Mike Goot	Colville	WA	5/25/2025	Between the Rivers, Valley, WA
52		76x	Antoine Boulanger	Unknown	FRANCE	8/10/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
53		76	Claude Castan	Toulouse	FRANCE	8/9/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
54		76	Steve Gatesy Navarro	Millbury	MA	9/20/2025	Chimney Point, Addison, VT
55		76	Juan Luis Perez	Benahadux	SPAIN	9/28/2025	Benahadux, SPAIN
56		75	Alain Lacoste	Toulouse	FRANCE	8/9/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
57		74x	Glenn Fretwell	Jordan Valley	OR	8/30/2025	Jordan Valley, OR
58		74x	Scott Van Arsdale	Otego	NY	8/22/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
59		74	Pierre Fenie	Montauban	FRANCE	9/13/2025	Tarascon sur Ariege, FRANCE
60		73x	Kevin Verhulst	Ottumwa	IA	5/16/2025	Osage Knap-in, Columbia, MO
61		73	Julian Saenz-Lopez	Gamellan	SPAIN	9/13/2025	Tarascon sur Ariege, FRANCE
62		72x	Fritz Mischler	unknown	SWITZ	9/29/2025	Val Senales, ITALY
63		72	Don Roberts	Toronto	OH	6/14/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
64		71	Jacques Bohere	Tarascon	FRANCE	8/9/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
65		71	Emmanuel Demoulin	Foix	FRANCE	9/14/2025	Tarascon sur Ariege, FRANCE
66		70	Austin Fisher	Grand Island	NY	8/22/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY

2025 ISAC Results for Women (Scores of 50 and Above)

PLACE	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE	STATE/COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST
1		82x	Sue Mercer	Attica	NY	5/11/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
2		81x	Martha Blair	Nunda	NY	8/16/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
3		80	Dawn Kneib	St Charles	MO	6/7/2025	Graham Cave State Park, MO
4		77	Vicky McConnel	Jordan Valley	OR	8/31/2025	Jordan Valley, OR
5		75	Ludivine Franceschi	Quinson	FRANCE	8/2/2025	La Chapelle aux Saints, FRANCE
6		73	Sandra Riviere	Tautavel	FRANCE	10/18/2025	Brassempouy, FRANCE
7		72	Ursula Rass	unknown	SWITZ	9/29/2025	Val Senales, ITALY
8	*	69	Sue Piraino	Nunda	NY	5/23/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
9	*	69	Maren Petersen	Erfstadt	GERM	8/9/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
10	*	65	Lori Majorsky	Derry	PA	8/29/2025	Coshocton, OH
11	*	65	Nisa Holbrook	Charleston	WV	10/4/2025	The Plains, OH, Mound Fest

2025 ISAC Results for Women (Scores of 50 and Above)

PLACE	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE	STATE/COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST
12	62x	Alex	Grohsmeier	Addison	NY	8/22/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
13	62x	Emilie	Huc-Claustre	Escalquens	FRANCE	9/13/2025	Tarascon sur Ariege, FRANCE
14	62	Mary	Riemersma	Cascade	WI	10/19/2025	Dundee Sportsman Club, Dundee, WI
15	61	JoAnne	Fogelman	Turbotville	PA	8/23/2025	Eastern Seaboard, Letchworth, NY
16	61	Anita	Lukes Gundlach-	West Lafayette	OH	9/27/2025	Tim's House, Indianapolis, IN
17	58	Danielle	Casley	Victor	MT	10/18/2025	Crafted Wild, Victor, MT
18	58	Maria	Villotti	Dormont	PA	6/14/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
19	57	Maria Isabel	Avila Parra	Benahadux	SPAIN	9/28/2025	Benahadux, SPAIN
20	56	Kerry	Opel	York	PA	6/14/2025	Meadowcroft, Avella, PA
21	55	Annie	Bernauer	Victor	MT	6/21/2025	Crafted Wild, Victor, MT
22	55	Marlen	Mischler	Tauffelen	SWITZ	8/3/2025	Archeopark Boario Terme, ITALY
23	54x	Debbie	Andrews	Albany	OH	10/25/2025	ROAR Zalesky State Park, OH
24	54	Chris	Cox	Hunt	NY	7/12/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
25	54	Jennie	Flint	Dalton	NY	4/20/2025	Among the Hills, Nunda, NY
26	54	Karen	Storks	Viersen	GERM	9/21/2025	Zonhover, BELGIUM
27	53	Kandis	Larson	Colbert	WA	9/13/2025	Rabbit Stick, Rexburg, ID
28	53	Margie	Takoch	Wintersville	OH	8/29/2025	Coshocton, OH
29	52x	Dayna	Turner	Spokane	WA	9/14/2025	Rabbit Stick, Rexburg, ID
30	52	Ambre	De Juan	Chaniers	FRANCE	8/24/2025	Bougon, FRANCE
31	52	Amandine	Devie	Fagnieres	FRANCE	9/21/2025	Zonhover, BELGIUM
32	50	France	Fenie	Montauban	FRANCE	8/10/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE
33	50	Rosie	Homer	Alexandria	NH	9/20/2025	Chimney Point, Addison, VT
34	50	Jahana	Uchtman	Marshfield	MO	9/27/2025	Bois d'Arc, Danville, MO

2025 ISAC Results for Youth (Scores of 40 and Above)

PLACE	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME	CITY OF RESIDENCE	STATE/COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST	AGE
1		70	Zuhaitz	Larranaga Murua	SPAIN	10/19/2025	Brassempouy, FRANCE	9 M
2	61x	Talon	Ashley	Estill Springs	TN	6/7/2025	Old Stone Fort, Manchester, TN	14 M
3	60	Tom	Lukas	Munich	GERMANY	9/29/2025	Val Senales, ITALY	14 M
4	54	Ada	Bernauer	Victor	MT	11/15/2025	Crafted Wild, Victor, MT	14 F
5	47	Avery	Kempfer	Mayville	WI	5/17/2025	New London, WI	13 M
6	42	Diego	Fernandez	San Felice de Buelan	SPAIN	7/12/2025	Essenteria, SPAIN	13 M
7	41	Lexuri	Larranaga	Murua	SPAIN	8/10/2025	Le Mas d'Azil, FRANCE	12 F

2025 ISAC Results for Junior Short Range (10yr old or younger 10/15m) (Scores of 30 and Above)

PLACE	TIE PLACE MENT	SCORE	NAME		CITY OF RESIDENCE	STATE/ COUNTRY	DATE OF THROW	CONTEST	AGE
1		89x	Zuhaitz	Larranaga	Cigoitia	SPAIN	6/12/2025	Essenteria, SPAIN Sawtooth Gathering,	8 M
2		58	John	Marc	Auburn	AL	6/30/2025	Grandjean, ID	9 M
3		53	Augustine	Duvall	Sandpoint	ID	5/30/2025	Valley, WA	9 M
4		51	Bela	Bernauer	Victor	MT	11/15/2025	Victor, MT	10 M
5		45	Elijah	Huse	Victor	MT	4/9/2025	Victor, MT	10 M
6		35	Tikuani	Marley	Heber	UT	5/30/2025	Valley, WA	8 M

2025 ISAC Champions

Sue Mercer, Women's Champion



Kevin Ashley, Men's Champion



Zuhaitz Larrañaga, Youth Champion



The 2025 Champions

445 people (39 youth, 122 women and 284 men) made 1,819 entries in the ISAC which is about a 20% increase in participation over last year. [Participants represented nine countries as follows: North America – United States (32 states; those with 10 or more participants were MO-32, NY-29, WI-24, MT-24, OH-19, PA-16, CA-16, TN-12, VT-10, IA-10 & WA-10) & Canada; Europe – France (75), Spain (41), Germany (14), Switzerland, Belgium, Austria & Italy. Of note are the significant high participations from France, Spain, MO & NY. Also of note, there were five other Youth, age 10 or younger that scored 30 or more on the Short Range Course at 10&15M] In the following list of top ten people in each division, each person is followed by their highlights of the year. The number in parentheses is their top-five aggregate (youth 40, women 50, men 70) for those who qualify.

Youth

- 1 - 70 Zuhaitz Larranaga (age 9) - Spain (61.60) First time World Champion (youngest ever). Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of one "Board Year".
- 2 - 61X Talon Ashley (age 14) - TN (threw four times) Personal record and third time in the Top 10 of three "Board Years".
- 3 - 60 Tom Lukas (age 14) - Germany (threw three times) Fifth time in the Top 10 of five "Board Years".
- 4 - 54 Ada Bernauer (age 14) - MT (40.40) Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of one "Board Year".
- 5 - 47 Avery Kempler (age 13) - WI (threw four times) Second time in the Top 10 of two "Board Years".
- 6 - 42 Diego Fernandez (age 13) - Spain (only threw once) Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of one "Board Year".
- 7 - 41 Lexuri Larranaga (age 12) - Spain (threw six times) Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of one "Board Year".

Women

- 1 - 82X Sue Mercer - NY (81.42) Second time World Champion. Thirteen times in the Top 10 of seventeen "Board Years".
- 2 - 81X Martha Blair - NY (77.06) Fifth time in the Top 10 of six "Board Years".
- 3 - 80 Dawn Kneib - MO (threw four times) Ten times in the Top 10 of eleven "Board Years".
- 4 - 77 Vicki McConnell - OR (threw four times) Sixth time in the Top 10 of seven "Board Years".

- 5 - 75 Ludivine Franceschi - France (threw three times) Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of one "Board Year".
- 6 - 73 Sandra Riviere - France (threw four times) Eighth time in the Top 10 of ten "Board Years".
- 7 - 72 Ursula Räss - Switzerland (only threw once) Thirteen times in the Top 10 of eighteen "Board Years".
- 8 - 69 Sue Piraino - NY (59.82) First time in the Top 10 of three "Board Years".
- 9 - 69 Maren Petersen - Germany (57.42) Eighth time in the Top 10 of eighteen "Board Years".
- 10 - 65 Lori Majorski - PA (63.22) **Twenty-fifth time** in the Top 10 of Twenty-six "Board Years".

Men

- 1 - 97XX Kevin Ashley - TN (threw 4 times) First time World Champion, Personal record, twelfth time in the Top 10 of twenty-one "Board Years".
- 2 - 97 Marlin Bassett - NY (94.50) Personal record and sixth time in the Top 10 of six "Board Years".
- 3 - 96XXXX Ben Struzynski - WI (94.18) Seventh time in Top 10 of nine "Board Years".
- 4 - 94XXX Douglas Bassett - NY (93.10) Twenty-second time in the Top 10 of twenty-four "Board Years".
- 5 - 93XXX Matthieu Lacoste - France (87.30) Fifth time in the Top 10 of sixteen "Board Years".
- 6 - 92XXX Mike Glenn - OH (86.34) Twelfth time in the Top 10 of eight "Board Years".
- 7 - 92XX Ray Strischek - OH (89.12) Twenty-fourth time in the Top 10 of **thirty** "Board Years".
- 8 - 92X Cyrille Huc - France (86.66) Tenth time in the Top 10 of twenty-four "Board Years".
- 9 - 90 Ryan Grohsmeyer - NY (threw four times) Twelfth time in the Top 10 of nineteen "Board Years".
- 10 - 89X Gerhard Wiesler - Austria (threw three times) Personal record and first time in the Top 10 of 3"Board Years".

Co-Treasurers' Duties

I'm very pleased that Mande Burke-Nichols has agreed to serve as a co-treasurer this year and gradually assume the WAA Executive Treasurer role. The WAA Bylaws allow for 2 individuals to share several of the WAA offices including the Treasurer's office. Devin Pettigrew, WAA President, appointed us to serve as co-treasurers this year.

To begin learning the Treasurer's duties, Mande will soon start to process the memberships purchased through the store/ credit card/PayPal route. I will continue to process the mailed in memberships. So if you are writing a check, cash, or money-order for your dues, continue to send those membership applications to me:

Anita Lukes 3809 Broadview Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906

My address will continue to be on the paper application in last year's newsletters as well as this newsletter and on the application that can be downloaded and printed from the website.

As the year progresses Mande will gradually take over the maintenance of the roster, creation of the financial reports, submitting annual reports to the IRS and the Colorado Secretary of State annual filing (WAA is incorporated in CO) and other duties. Please welcome Mande with me! Anita Lukes

Meet Mande, the new WAA Co-Treasurer

I live just outside of St. Louis, MO, with my wonderful husband, Rocky, and our five amazing, adopted sons - currently 14, 15, 16, 21, and 25. About three years ago, I discovered the atlatl and was instantly hooked! What began as a fun pastime of throwing darts at a target quickly grew into a celebration of history and an opportunity to build lasting friendships, allowing me to spend meaningful time with the wonderful people I've met along the way.

Over the past decade, I have built my career in Human Resources, specializing in financial stewardship and strategic planning. As a Strategic Business Partner at a large multi-state hospital system, I leverage these skills to drive organizational success and ensure long-term stability. My academic background includes a Bachelor's Degree from Lindenwood University and an MBA from Maryville University, both in St. Louis.

I am honored to join the board of the World Atlatl Association as co-treasurer alongside the inspiring Anita Lukes. As I learn from Anita's expertise, I look forward to transitioning into the role of treasurer in the future and contributing to the organization's continued success. I am committed to advancing the association's mission, supporting our members, and fostering a vibrant, welcoming community. The atlatl community is a remarkable group of people brought together by our shared interest and passion in this ancient skill, and I am proud to be a part of it. *May your darts always fly true for that perfect throw!*
Mande Burke-Nichols

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION!



THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc Membership Application Form

*You can also join
and pay online
via:*

Yearly Dues: \$20 US/Euros or equivalent (individual or family)

worldatlatl.org

Supporting: \$40 _____ Contributing \$80 _____

Date: _____

NAME* _____

Please check:

New Member? _____

ADDRESS _____

Birth Year? _____

CITY _____

Send newsletter by mail? _____

STATE/REGION _____

I would like a User Name and Password to access

POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

WAA website Member

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Only areas _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS: Please list name, year of birth, e-mail, phone if different from above on the back of this form or another sheet of paper (Birth year used to determine eligibility for Youth awards and voting in elections)

Make check payable to **The World Atlatl Association** and mail with this form to the WAA Treasurer:

Anita Lukes, Treasurer, 3809 Broadview Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906, USA

Annie Bernauer

P.O. Box 614

Victor, Montana 59875

Email: theatlatl@gmail.com



The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, Inc.

The date that your membership expires follows your name in the address above.