

The ATLATL

“Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!”

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Discovery Channel Show By Scott Van Arsdale

In early June, members of the WAA Executive Committee received an e-mail from Alex Jouve, a Producer with Half Yard Productions planned episode on the atlatl for an Discovery Channel series called Weapons Master. Specifically, Alex was looking for one best atlatlists, and any suggestions, use for the program. I provided what and was in e-mail contact with Alex the next couple of months.

The main atlatl contact for this Montana atlatlist Bob Perkins, who the filming crew's schedule on schedule kept changing (this atlatl ten episodes being produced for the crew was busy elsewhere in the Eventually, the word was that the visit a northeast U.S. atlatl event, Green Flats Atlatl Rattle in Hancock NY, and later that changed to the Stone Tool Craftsman Show and WAA Annual Meeting at Letchworth State Park in western NY. About a week before the event Alex called and mentioned he would like to film a short interview with me, and he hoped I d be willing to fly out to Nevada the following weekend for more filming. My TV career to then consisted of a couple of short interviews on the local news, but I knew such a program could provide great exposure for the atlatl. Besides, it sounded like good fun, so I said **yes** immediately! The filming drew a large crowd.



regarding a upcoming Weapons Master. or two of our very which might be of information I could, occasionally over

program was gave us tidbits of PaleoPlanet. The episode is one of series, and the meantime). filming crew would initially the popular



My small role included introducing the four atlatlists who were to be filmed throwing; last year's men's champ Mike Waters, ISAC world record holder and multiple men's world champ Mark Bracken, multiple Top Ten finisher and atlatl maker Doug Leeth, and Mr. Atlatl himself, Bob Berg. These gents were charged with throwing darts with stone points at replica Spanish armor to see if they are capable of penetrating such, as in historical accounts of Aztec/conquistador interactions. You'll have to watch the show for the results, but all four atlatlists did a great job throwing and interacting with the host (weapon historian Mike Loades) on camera. I thank them for representing the atlatl community so well. After those four did their stuff, a young man named Ryan Grohsmeyer stepped forward and asked for a chance. He threw a mighty throw for the camera (the next day, I threw in an ISAC with Ryan and was very impressed with this teenager- we'll be hearing more about him in the future). Anyway, I expect the day's filming will result in entertaining television! Last year's Youth champ Devin Johns and up-and-coming Bob Bronish were standing by, but regrettably didn't get their chance in front of the camera.

The following weekend, I was off to Nevada for filming another segment of the program. It was my first experience with the desert in summer, and everything that happened occurred between gulps of water, as it was so hot, staying hydrated was a full time task. For details on the filming, you'll just have to tune in when the program airs. I will say I had lots of fun, and want to thank Alex and the rest of the Half Yard Productions crew for going out of their way to make sure I was well taken care of. I also met Bob Perkins for the first time. I enjoyed his company and thank him for his work on this one hour program, which will no doubt lead to new interest in the atlatl.

Tentatively, a November air date on the Discovery Channel is expected. When the listing is firm, it will be announced on PaleoPlanet (www.paleoplanet.net). Scroll down to the WAA atlatl discussions. If you miss the show, visit that web site, I m sure there will be some post air discussions. Don t forget, there will be other Weapons Master episodes dealing with other old to ancient weapons as well.

As for the pics, the fellow modeling the armor is Producer Alex Jouve. The gent being interviewed in front of the dummy/armor is Host Mike Loades. Mike is also looking on in the Bob Berg pics. The cameraman is Phil.



