



# Many Happy Returns

No. 27

A Quarterly Newsletter of the U.S. Boomerang Association

Summer 1986

## Smashing Nationals

*by Ben Ruhe*

FRIDAY---Opening day at the Atlanta Falcons' football complex in suburban Suwanee. There is so much anticipation quite a few people have actually come a day early. Comfortable, affordable motel rooms, with nice sylvan views. A pool in the heart of the complex. Adjacent are three back-to-back football fields, with their manicured turf. For convenience and amenities, this matches, or possibly even tops, last year's wonderful Northridge in L.A. The dining is buffet-style, and players pile on second and thirds, under the approving eyes of waitresses used to the cavernous appetites of the resident football titans. (Several of these behemoth are in residence during this off season for football and their size staggers the imagination.) Seventy-two people register to throw as adepts, 18 as novices. A number of attendees are on hand for a good time and to observe. The host Atlanta gang has designed a T-shirt that is charming. The image on it is that of a boomerang flying around a peach, the state's famous symbol. At the traditional Friday night meeting, Brent Russell welcomes the group to the tournament on behalf of the sponsoring Atlanta Boomerang Society; Yves Simonson of Brussels tells about this being his third U.S. Nationals and how things have changed and grown; Doug DuFresne gives a report on his boomerang holiday to Australia; Barney Ruhe gives a funny account of trips he made to Tokyo and to Rome in the preceding six months to appear on TV; Eric Darnell discusses crafting natural wood elbow boomerangs; Professor Duwayne Hatchette mulls

the relationship of boomerangs and art; and Michael Girvin and his rowdy Team Gel gang from San Francisco present a poetry reading and fashion show that has the audience hooting with pleasure. Design competition results are announced. This popular annual event brings out by far the most entries yet and a quantum leap in their quality. There are upwards of 100 boomerangs entered in four categories--- best natural wood elbow, most unusual, best design, and best decorated. All awards given are first places with judging being done by Ben Ruhe and Katherine Russell, both art professionals. Winners in the elbow contest are Eric Darnell for models in wild cherry and other woods and Dan Jones for a stick made of hawthorne. Winners in the most unusual category are Bob Letson for his tennis racket "The McEnroe," Stuart Jones for a duplex house design, and H. L. Mayhew for pruning shears. Volker Behrens of Lubeck, Germany, scores in the best design category with a 65-layer laminated model; other winners are Neil Kalmonson and Don Kennedy, the latter for an interlocking pair. By far the biggest entry is in the best decorated category, with the following winners: the Mueller Brothers (wildflower design), Ron Tamblyn and Mike Forrester (color spectrum triblader), Ted Bailey (elaborate flags inlay), Neil Kalmanson (Siamese tie-dye and portraits of women), Sam Blight of Perth, Australia (Surfrang), Larry Ruhf (Aboriginal motifs), Red Whittington (flash colors), Kim Deustschmann of Natal, South Africa (Zulu patterns), Rod Jones of Brisbane, Australia (Aboriginal motifs) and Ron Tamblyn, Mike Forrester and Rob Nettleton (venerated trio). At the concluding auction of donated boomerangs and memorabilia, auctioneer Dave Schumm expertly



provokes the bidding upward and the sale of many dozens of choice items brings in close to \$2,000. Along with the registration fee, sale of T-shirts and other USBA material, and sale of many of the more than 200 Aussie 'rangs donated by Ali Fujino, the total take for the night approaches \$3,000, a needed refurbishing of USBA coffers. All and all, a rousing start to the weekend. Conversations on 'ranging continue in hotel rooms until the dawn hours, with Rusty Harding and Gary Broadbent among those holding forth indefatigably.

**SATURDAY**----At the annual meeting conducted by acting president Larry Ruhf, the 1986-87 slate is chosen (see story elsewhere in this issue) and tournament rules hashed over. Out on the field, the day is very hot and sultry----the pattern for the weekend. For much of the day, the breeze is strong and tricky. The turf on the field is so slick it reminds throwers of a putting green. Boomerangs coming down in a flat hover have a tendency to slide a dozen feet before coming to a stop. With the wind decidedly brisk, the traditional opening event, Consecutive Catch, quickly sorts out those who can handle breeze and those who can't. As the catches progress in difficulty, Chet Snouffer shows his usual mastery, besting Dennis Joyce with a foot grab to win. Four tie for third. Doubling, the next event, also goes to Snouffer as he tops his brother Greg, with no less than nine players sharing third place. In a drawn out third competition, MTA, the best throws fail to produce a required catch as Peter Ruhf twice puts one on the hill overlooking the football fields and Garry Lamothe twice drops efforts in the 40 second plus range. The winner is Gary Broadbent at 31.10 seconds, with Dennis Joyce taking second with 29.42. Although Ted Bailey isn't able to attend the tournament, his MTA technology is all over the place. Jim Scott, for example, acquires a Bailey mini and then promptly takes third place with it. As the fourth event, with the wind now dying, Position tests finesse rather than muscle, and the defending national champion Larry Ruhf takes his first comp with a winning score of 3.2 meters away from the center point,

with Barney Ruhe as runnerup at 3.42. Playing conservatively most of the weekend, Barney takes his one big risk here----catching his off course boomerang in mid-air and jumping some eight feet into the inner circle to greatly boost his score. Barney's uncle Ben, having major but temporary sight problems, manages to drop all three of his catch attempts, but still gets sixth place with a 8.19 count----Position is thus revealed to be one of the more forgiving tournament events. Accuracy is the final competition of the day, and the new bride Carmen Snouffer makes three almost perfect tosses, a 10 or bullseye, 9 and 8, to take first place, edging her husband Chet who scores 24. Carmen, according to Chet, can teach even the old master about gamesmanship. As Chet is throwing at another circle, Carmen approaches and innocently asks: "Is 27 a good score?" Chet promptly flubs his final fling. At the end of the day, Chet is in the lead with 29 points, closely trailed by Dennis Joyce with 28. Barney Ruhe, who later reveals he has decided to loose the battles but win the war by not going for firsts but rather playing it conservatively and scoring in every event if possible, trails with 26.5 points. A sit-down banquet, boomerang videos and spectacular night throw with illuminated sticks tops off the day.

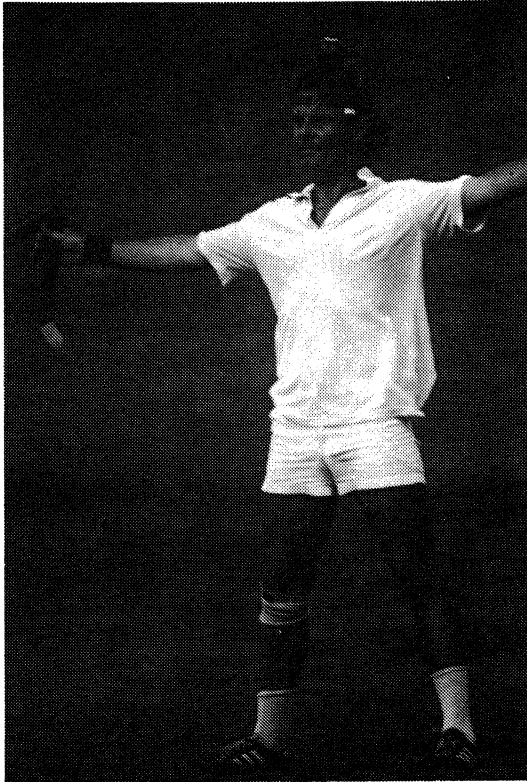
**SUNDAY**----The popular Fast-Catch event begins the day, which is windy, hot and sultry. Getting a brief period of calm as his first turn comes, Larry Ruhf fires a careful, conservative 29.91 for five catches and looks set for first. But world record-holder John Flynn, on his second try, and with difficult wind conditions prevailing, lets fly with abandon and scores a masterful 25.66 seconds to triumph. It is a gusty performance. Gary Broadbent takes third with an adept 31.34 but the most important score, a cautious 37.94, is racked up by Barney Ruhe for fourth, as leader Chet Snouffer takes chances and drops on both of his rounds to score zero. Ruhe picks up seven big points on Snouffer and on Joyce as well, who has also bombed out. In this event, Greg Snouffer gets

*Continued on Page 25*

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS** is published quarterly by the United States Boomerang Association Inc., P.O. Box 182, Delaware, Ohio 43015. Subscriptions are only available to members of the USBA. Annual dues: \$10. Foreign membership: \$20. (includes airmail delivery of the newsletter).

The newsletter seeks editorial material in the form of articles, black and white photographs and art work. Be sure to keep a copy of your material. Anything you want returned should be accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope. Submissions should be made to the Editor: Ben Ruhe, 1882 Columbia Road N. W., Washington, DC 20009.

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS** is produced by an unpaid all-volunteer effort.



BARNEY RUHE.....the new U.S. champion prepares to execute the William Tell apple trick.

*Photographed at the Nationals by Bob Poole*

---

## 'Defining What Fun Is'

How others see us is always instructive. Here under the headline "Boomerang Event Was Tossup Between Competition, Fun", an *Atlanta Journal* reporter takes a charming and insightful look at the '86 Nationals.

*by Bo Emerson*

It was catch as catch can this weekend when the Atlanta Falcons' training complex hosted the U.S. Boomerang Association's 1986 national championship.

Some 91 talented tossers from across the United States and visitors from Belgium, Wales and Ireland converged on Suwanee to throw the aboriginal toy with the magical ability to return.

Wearing T-shirts that read "Throw Sticks, Not Stones" and "Boomerangs, As American As Kangaroos," entrants competed in nine categories,

including maximum time aloft, distance, accuracy and juggling.

Participants agreed the three parallel football fields behind the Falcon Inn, where the grass is flat and thick as a pool table felt, were top quality throwing fields. "We've thrown in cow patches, and this is just glorious," said Ben "Guru" Ruhe, 48, the granddaddy of American boomeranging. Ruhe is a founding member of the U.S. Boomerang Association and organizer of annual boomerang festivals in Washington, D.C.

Ruhe and his colleagues threw boomerangs made of wood, plastic, aluminum, titanium and exotic composite materials with carbon fiber cores. Most flew their own creations because the average boomeranger is half engineer, half artist.

"It's something that you can do by yourself and you can do it from start to finish," said Chet Snouffer of Delaware, Ohio, winner of last year's world championship competition in Paris. "I mean, you can't go to your basement and carve a Frisbee out of plastic," he said.

Snouffer won this year's consecutive catch event by catching the boomerang with two hands, one hand, behind the back, under his leg and with his feet. The 29 year old gymnastics coach celebrated his early good fortune with a back flip.

High spirits and informality characterized the three day event, which, in addition to competition, included movies, a fashion show and poetry reading.

During a special demonstration the curious watched as Ben Ruhe's nephew, Barnaby Ruhe, attempted unsuccessfully the dangerous "William Tell trick," aiming at an apple on his own head. One competitor juggled five boomerangs at once, another ambidextrous athlete threw with both hands simultaneously, and Bob Letson of San Diego revealed the "John McEnroe Special."

Shaped like a tennis racket, complete with webbing on the handle and nylon strings, the boomeracket is just the thing for the tennis pro with a temper. Letson chucked it across the field, and watched nonchalantly for it to return to his hand.

Spectators were sparse, but dedicated. "It's fascinating that so many grown men would come so far to do this," said onlooker Naomi Fishel of Willoughby, Ohio, whose son-in-law was a competitor. Mrs. Fishel said she especially liked Friday night's poetry reading by Team Gel, a West Coast group representing the Banzai School of boomerang throwing.

Including Welshman Luckyn Phipps (who

## Bailey Chosen USBA Head

competed on crutches), the shaven-headed Mole Man (who would give no other name), and skateboarder and spiritual leader Michael Girvin, the team espoused the credo that winning is not as important as making flashy catches. You're a true Gel "as long as you go out there and give 150 percent and try, and you are trying so hard that you're *defining* what fun is," Girvin said. "It is fun and beauty and unabashed intelligence."

Holding down boomeranging's other philosophical wing was Richard Ruhe, Barnaby's brother. Richard, 23, a linguist and a saxophone player, said he plays in smoky crowded clubs for a living and therefore cherishes time alone on empty fields, tossing out boomerangs like prayers. "It's sending out messages to the god," he said. "It's a release, and you have got to have it."

Very few of the world-class boomerangers who competed Saturday and Sunday could be called professionals. There aren't many sponsors, endorsements or perks in this sport. Entry fees from the competitors paid for the considerable insurance the event required. The biggest prize of the day was for a chance to be picked for the American team that will compete against the Australians.

Even a champion like Snouffer finds himself throwing in some strange circumstances to earn traveling expenses.

This summer, he and his equally talented wife, Carmen, will visit several American zoos to demonstrate the art of the boomerang. They have been hired by the zoos themselves to help publicize a touring koala bear exhibit, on loan from San Diego.

So there are a few bucks to be made, if you don't mind performing for the benefit of marsupials. ●



At the annual USBA meeting held in conjunction with the Nationals in Atlanta, Ted Bailey of Toledo was elected president of the association, succeeding John Mauro of Richmond.

Dr. Larry Ruhf of Belchertown, MA, a psychologist, was re-elected vice president, Bob Kley of Irvine, CA was named secretary and John Flynn was chosen treasurer. Kley is a businessman and Flynn an engineer.

Chosen as directors were Leni Barker of Sonora, CA, a woodworker and immediate past secretary; Callie Laurent of Newport News, VA, a housewife; and Chet Snouffer of Delaware, OH, a gymnastics teacher.

Former board members Ben Ruhe of Washington, D.C., and Dave Philpott of Alpharetta, GA, will serve in appointed posts, as editor of the USBA newsletter and membership chairman, respectively. Ray Rieser of Lower Burrell, PA, immediate past treasurer, will serve as co-publisher of the newsletter with Ashley Rieser.

The election gave the USBA excellent geographic representation. One officer is from the South, two from the East, two from the Midwest and two from the West.

Bailey, 35, the new president, is an immediate past USBA director. He is an aerospace engineer with Teledyne, specializing in the development of bearings, and is considered one of the foremost experts in the country in his field. Bailey is well known in boomerang circles for his development of maximum time aloft boomerangs of such innovative quality that they have revolutionized the MTA event. Bailey is married and the father of two.

At the meeting, tribute was paid to Mauro, the former president, and Rieser, the former treasurer, for yeoman work in 1985-86. Mauro was particularly cited for initiating and supervising an overhaul of competition rules, for promoting international boomerang relations, for initiating a player rating system, and for establishing a computer operations expense fund. Rieser was commended for serving as publisher of the USBA newsletter which he personally typeset, composed and mailed out; and for efficient, diplomatic dealings with the membership and the public over membership and information matters such as correspondence which reached a high of 30 letters a day at one point. He was cited for maintaining scrupulously accurate financial



records and for maintaining an up-to-date computerized mailing list. For these and other contributions, the two were given an ovation by the assembled USBA membership. •

## USBA President's Column

by Ted Bailey

I would like to thank all who gave me support at the 1986 USBA Nationals by electing me and a strong compatible board of directors. Thanks also goes to those who organized and ran the tournament; the volunteers who will do much of the USBA work over the next year; and those who contributed items for the auction and revenues through sales to give the USBA financial backing for its continued operation.

My platform, which was distributed as a handout at Atlanta stated that many changes were necessary to strengthen the USBA. No longer can a few individuals such as Ray Rieser, John Mauro, and Ben Ruhe do all the work for so many. Burnout has its price on those that donate dozens of hours a week of their personal time so that you can receive your newsletter and other services. I am not a superman; but I am an engineer gifted in the management of multivariate systems. The USBA system has been divided into several dependent subsystems. The USBA now has four addresses instead of one. They are printed on the back cover along with the addresses of the newly elected board of directors.

All contributions to the *Many Happy Returns* newsletter, except for advertisements and official USBA business should be sent to Ben Ruhe who is responsible for content as editor. New memberships, renewals, and address changes should be sent to the membership chairman, David Philpott, at the address on the back cover. Callie Laurent will operate the USBA Store. Chet Snouffer will be responsible for all other USBA mail through the new official USBA address in Delaware, Ohio. Do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the USBA board if a problem requires immediate attention.

The general membership is encouraged to participate in USBA affairs through USBA committee interaction. Several committees have been formed. Members wishing to participate should make contact with the appropriate

committee chairperson listed below. All committee chairpersons are USBA board members with their addresses published on the back cover, except for Doug DuFresne who can be contacted at 4235 S.W. Crestwood Dr., Portland, OR 97225. Doug has one of the most difficult tasks in coordinating the continued refinement of USBA rules, records, and rating systems. It is requested that all 1986 tournament directors and individuals who experience problems with the current set of rules contact Doug so that he can give full attention to correcting problems for the 1987 throwing season.

### 1986-87 USBA CHAIRPERSONS and COMMITTEES

DOUG DUFRESNE.....	RULES , RECORDS AND RATING SYSTEMS
LARRY RUHF.....	1987 ANNUAL MEETING (NATIONALS)
CALLIE LAURENT.....	BYLAW REVISIONS
BOB KLEY.....	LEGAL ISSUES & INSURANCE
BOB KLEY.....	ADS FOR NEWSLETTER
LENI BARKER.....	MAIL AUCTION AND TRADE COLUMN
CHET SNOUFFER.....	INFORMATION LISTING
CHET SNOUFFER.....	1988 WORLD CUP COORDINATOR

Larry Ruhf is the committee chairman for the 1987 Annual Meeting (formerly called the Nationals). If you have an ideal site for next year's biggest event and are willing to do the work to make it happen, then contact Larry immediately so that we can finalize the location and begin organizational efforts.

The USBA is interested in identifying backups for all USBA functional workers. This includes editor, publisher, storekeeper, membership chairperson, mail correspondent, etc. The purpose of this request is to identify alternatives if any of our most important people can no longer perform their tasks because of illness, job change, or other personal problems. This will insure that important services continue as smoothly as possible without interruption. Contact Ted Bailey if you would like to be considered as an alternative.

I have received many complaints about the length of time that was required to run the 1986 USBA Nationals. Many members complained that they did not do well because they waited for more than an hour before it was their time to throw and were not allowed to practice. My only reply is: You asked for

it! Members have sought a strict set of rules and a complementary rating system. USBA delivered such a system this spring. Strict rules require a time consuming format. At least five (mandatory) events must be completed with recommendations that an additional four individual events and team events also be run. Multiply these numbers by the number of competitors at the Nationals and a slow pace is understandable. Similar problems were encountered at other tournaments this year for similar reasons. Do you remember the question: 'What if they gave a war and nobody came?' Well I have another one for you: 'What if they gave a boomerang tournament and everybody came?' What do we do if 300 competitors show up next year?

What do USBA members want to do at boomerang gatherings? Does the future hold long lines so that everyone can see how he rates against all other throwers in all events? Does every boomerang gathering require that a winner hierarchy be established? Does everyone have high hopes of being on the four-man national team that may not even compete next year? Pecking orders are for the birds. Most members are interested in attending boomerang festivals to have fun. What is wrong with having a few individual events for rating purposes and devoting the remainder of the time to team events, demonstrations, and record-setting attempts?

Future seasons may benefit from an improved format to compensate for a larger membership. What if a large number of local tournaments were held in the spring and early summer with groups of 10 to 30 or more competitors. Smaller groups could easily run through several individual events for player rating purposes. Each region could also have larger boomerang gatherings with individual events, team events, demonstrations, and record-setting attempts. In the late summer, the largest boomerang festival of the year could be held with only the top rated players competing in individual events. This would go fast and be entertaining to watch. The remainder of the time could be spent with team events, record-setting attempts, demonstrations, parties, or whatever turns you on. The USBA can have its annual meeting in the evening to avoid devoting precious daylight hours to set down affairs. Members should provide feedback to myself and to Doug DuFresne on these issues because the USBA is currently working on a tournament director's handbook and it should reflect the member's interests.

The rules and the rating system were published by the USBA in the spring of 1986 will remain in effect for the remainder of the throwing season. Tournament directors should provide input to Doug DuFresne on problems encountered at tournaments or on unforeseen deficiencies in the rules. Tournament directors should mail a copy of the results to Ben Ruhe for newsletter use. Another copy of the results should be sent to Ted Bailey for rating players. USBA acknowledges that the rules for specific events must be occasionally modified to account for weather conditions, space restraints, or logistical/time problems. That's OK, have fun. Just make a notation on the results when you mail them to Ben and myself. Deviated rules will not be considered in the player rating system.

The USBA board of directors recently voted on the action items that were outlined in my platform handout at the Atlanta Nationals. This section deals with these issues.

\* A mail vote is now allowed as an option for the election of officers and for the membership to vote on important issues. All board members approved this change.

\* The bylaws will be modified to reflect the way the USBA currently does business. Callie Laurent will spearhead this effort. Any member with experience in this area or with legal background is encouraged to participate on this committee. All board members approved this change.

\* The fund raising attempt to purchase a USBA computer has been terminated. The funds raised to date will be dispensed for computer operating expenses. Thanks go to all contributors who gave monies to this fund. The logistics of moving such a piece of hardware and the required retraining effort with each new volunteer prohibits the practical application of such a program. The board approved this action item unanimously.

\* Because of liability considerations, the USBA will no longer endorse or sponsor tournaments. The USBA will simply function as an information service. All tournaments and gatherings will be sponsored by the organizing group. The USBA Nationals will still exist in function as the largest boomerang event in the U.S.A., the difference being that the USBA will control only the non-throwing activities such as the annual meeting, design competition, and the auction. All board members approved this change.

\* Record setting attempts outside of competition will be allowed. Many other organizations already permit this. The French recently claimed a world

record for distance after nearly three hours of throwing attempts. The previously held world record for distance was held by Peter Ruhf and was set in Australia in a non-competition format. The USBA must be notified in advance of these record setting exhibitions, just as in tournaments, in order to be given proper credit for the accomplishments. Records and exceptional performances in these record-setting attempts will not be allowed for tournament ratings. However, records in tournaments will influence the ratings in the record-setting attempt category. This action item was approved by all board members although one wanted some provision to avoid record-setting scores from influencing tournament ratings.

\* Allowing the distance event in competition using only wooden boomerangs was put to vote. Excluding myself, the vote was split 50/50 with concerns over the fact that some wooden boomerangs have poor visibility, are still potentially dangerous and separate sets of equipment will have to be developed for record-setting and tournament play. Therefore, the distance event remains in the category of suspended events for 1986 unless the rules committee and legal advice can convince the board otherwise. The USBA no longer sponsors tournaments and has no way of effectively enforcing the ban on distance throwing in tournament play. Players are asked to restrict distance to record-setting attempts without spectators, with full consideration given to safety, and with signed liability waivers by all individuals in the vicinity of the record-setting attempts.

\* Domestic annual dues (U.S., Canada) are \$10. per year for both new members and renewals. This was approved by the entire board of directors.

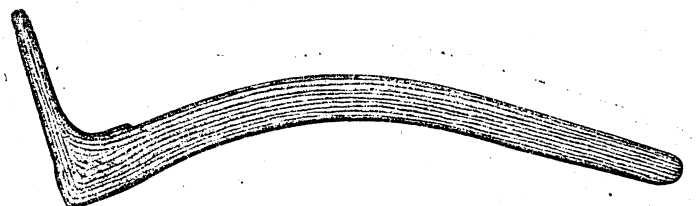
\* The use of gloves in competition is permitted. Gloves provide physical protection and allow controlled throwing in damp and cold conditions. There is one proviso. You are not allowed to put on or remove a glove while the boomerang is in flight. If you throw with a glove on, you must catch with the same glove on. If you throw without a glove on, you must catch without a glove on. Competitors must space themselves out (physically) in consecutive catch and other events for maximum safety. All board members were in favor of these provisions.

\* A definition of a legal boomerang, co-authored by Ted Bailey and Dennis Maxwell of the Boomerang Association of Australia, was approved by the board of directors. Only one board member was concerned

about the introduction of multi-bladers in competition. The definition will be in effect for a one year trial period and defines a boomerang by the method by which it returns instead of its shape. There has been friction in the past when someone shows up at a tournament with equipment he has been using for years and it is declared an illegal shape based on local restrictions. Without a backup, that person does not do as well in competition and bad feelings arise. Shape definitions totally ignore boomerang physics and record-keeping becomes meaningless without a standardized definition. Both the British Boomerang Society and the BAA have already proposed that they also use this definition for a one year trial period. The definition follows:

**BOOMERANG**- AN OBJECT THAT IS THROWN FROM THE HAND, UNAIDED BY ANY MECHANICAL MEANS, WITH A COMBINATION OF BOTH TRANSLATION AND ROTATION ABOUT ITS CENTER OF MASS SO THAT GYROSCOPIC PRECESSION (CAUSED BY DIFFERENTIAL LIFT OVER THE AIRFOIL SURFACES RELATIVE TO ITS ANGULAR ORIENTATION) AND AERODYNAMIC LIFT COMBINE TO PRODUCE A FLIGHT PATH THAT RETURNS THE BOOMERANG TO THE THROWER OR WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE FROM THE THROWER

\* Restrictions will be added to the legal catch. You may not grab a boomerang by a protruding rod or bolt that may pass through or near the center of rotation. You may not stick a finger, hand, foot, or other appendage through a hole that is located in the vicinity of the center of rotation. These boomerangs must be caught with a grab, clapping motion or body trap as allowed with previously defined legal shapes. Remember this rule is on trial for one year. If you set a record using a multi-blader and the definition of a legal boomerang is altered you run the risk of having your record voided. So use your judgment when competing in record-setting attempts. ●



Warramunga, Northern Territory,  
used for throwing or held in the hand for  
striking.

B. A. L. Cranstone



CHRISTIAN JABET....with record-setting 'rang

## New Long Distance Record

Christian Jabet, 37, a slim wind-surfing expert with an expert sense of aerodynamics, broke the world's long-distance record with a throw of 121 meters on an airfield outside of Lyon, France, last spring. The record-setting throw was organized by Jacques Thomas, father of boomeranging in France and organizer of the La Perouse Boomerang club, of which Jabet is a member. The high school teacher's mark far surpasses the former record of 114 meters by Peter Ruhf of the U.S. established four years ago in Sydney.

With Thomas and seven other judges establishing a measuring orientation to strict world standards, Jabet started his record attempt at 3:15 p.m. on April 27 and finally at 6:23 p.m. made his titanic heave. The wind was at four meters a second, variable from east-northeast, the atmospheric pressure 987 millibars, the clouds at 8/8 altocumulus, and the temperature at a chilly 9 degrees celsius. Jabet used a boomerang he made himself from a metal alloy trademarked Zircal and obtained from the aircraft manufacturer Dassault. The 'rang measured 44 cm., had a weight of 135 grams, and was just 3 mm thick. Jabet brought an anvil and small hammer right out onto the field to make periodic adjustments to it.

The successful launch followed many disheartening attempts which went awry either because the boomerang did not return accurately, or was blown off course by a wind shift, or was incorrectly launched.

Although Jabet tired near the end, Thomas kept him going with encouragement since he detected better wind conditions coming. The alignment of the baseline and the measuring poles set up far out on the field was laboriously changed three times during the course of the afternoon, as the wind shifted direction. Jabet helped himself judge the breeze by posting a self designed measuring device 130 meters outward from the throwing point.

Thomas documents the record setting moment: "The control system being set up, the flights started up again and at 6:23 p.m. after a splendid launch and a superb flight, the boomerang flew well over the farther poles aligned and returned perfectly over the baseline to land behind it. The distance was immediately measured as being 121 meters and 20 centimeters. There was a outburst of enthusiasm with judges and family rushing to congratulate the new world record holder. It was an exhausting afternoon during which everyone gave the best of himself to help Christian succeed. High competence of the thrower, but also a collective work."

Cheers to Christian Jabet and group! ●

## News From Australia

In celebration of its nation's Bicentennial in 1988, the Boomerang Association of Australia plans a three-match series between three-person teams from the U.S., France, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Holland and Japan, with the Aussies serving as hosts. The matches are to be held in Alice Springs, in the center of the Down Under continent, over a 10 day period. Teams will be required to furnish their own transportation, but will be accommodated at the Alice by the Australian Bicentennial Authority. Details to come...With Australian, Aboriginal and U.S. flags flapping, the last in honor of American competitors Doug DuFresne and George Reitbauer, the '86 Aussie Nationals at Elizabeth, South Australia, got off to an emotional start as a mouth organ rendered *The Stars and Stripes*. "The two Yanks promptly stood up, so it must have been a fair rendition,"

commented Barrie Forsyth. Throwing well all weekend, writer Paul Bryden took firsts in Accuracy and Fast-Catch to take first over-all, with Rob Croll as runnerup. Bryden's New South Wales group won the state team championship. Aussie Round, the big event in Antipodean tournaments, went to Dennis Maxwell, who thus won the perpetual trophy donated by Brother Brian Thomas in honor of Maxwell's parents, who died within a month of each other last year. A fitting victory. Leanne Loveland, Bunny Read's daughter, scored the best single five-throw total in Aussie Round, proving again she could handle any male opposition around. In the tag team relay, Victoria beat the "Allsorts," a composite four-state team, to get first place. DuFresne won himself a first with a 37.66 maximum time aloft clocking and Rod Jones took distance with a throw of 91 meters. Hunting stick accuracy went to Bunny Read. In the novice category, Jarrod Byham, son of BAA president Peter Byham, cleaned up as usual. Reitbauer, the American exchange teacher spending the year in Melbourne, provided the major off-field drama when he fell out of bed Sunday morning. Reitbauer reported it was a habit he picked up when first married!...Because of parental illness, Brother Brian Thomas has switched his teaching activities to St. Kevin's College in Toorak, Victoria. The Aussie national coach comments: "There are several ovals here, so I have a little space for boomerang throwing still." ... Everyone wants to go to Australia, right? Well Doug DuFresne and his wife Diane of Portland did so last spring, and Doug's notes hint at the flavor of this strange continent: "Met Ralph Sinclair, threw an oval behind house---Dennis Maxwell, Rob Croll, Mark Shafer...Introduction to emu egg carving...To Phillip Island---penguin parade...Paddock throw, chased off field by bull...Kangaroos on golf course...Throw with Bunny Read and Lovelands, eat day and night...Make, test 'rangs, including laminated spotted blue gum...Victorian championships---win hunting stick accuracy...Clelland Reserve---hold koala...To Brisbane--see Bob Burwell, meet Rod Jones, visit Boomerang Farm...Day trips to Green Island and two outer barrier reefs---snorkeling." Get the picture? •



## Impressions of a Trip to the U.S.

Dr. Lorin Hawes, the expatriate American boomerang maker from Queensland, paid one of his infrequent visits to the land of his birth some months back and sought out 'rang fanciers in California and Ohio as part of the visit. Following are his excerpted impressions:

\*\*\*\*\*

"I had the distinct pleasure of meeting people with whom I'd corresponded for a long time and of thus finally associating a face with the letters. I met others whose names I'd seen in print or whom I'd heard about from time to time, plus the refreshing experience of meeting many others for the first time. Friendships seem hard to come by in these impersonal times and my trip was rewarded by acquiring many.

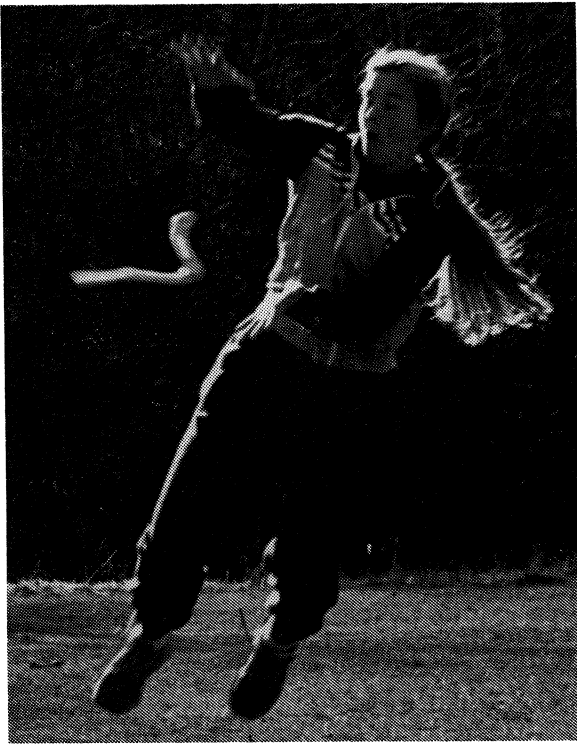
"It is especially educational to see and throw new and novel shaped boomerangs from the extensive (and expensive!) collections of Bob Kley, Dan Russell, and Gary Broadbent. Hiding away in the backwater in Queensland and not throwing competitively for 23 years I was struck (figuratively) by the variety of shapes being thrown, and how few of them look like boomerangs in the sense that I know them. I'd go broke trying to sell these things Down Under.

"Other memories? One of the strongest of these would be the irrational enthusiasm by Cleveland throwers who throw in the most appalling cold weather conditions this side of Scott Base in the Antarctic. Unbelievable! Hats off to David Boehm who through his Cleveland Boomerang School has done so much to whip up enthusiasm for this, the noblest of all sports.

"Probably the most vivid memory though would be that of Ted Bailey throwing an MTA device and then chasing it over hill, dale and through a semi-frozen stream, to catch it 1 minute 42 seconds later. This MTA stuff is all new to me. It seems vaguely related to boomerang-throwing except that the onus is on the thrower to return to his stick rather than vice-versa. I guess I'd be a lot fitter if I took it up." •







JILL JACOBSON ....in action

## The Circuit

*So many workshops and tournaments are going on around the country now, big and little ones, well organized and rather casual tosses, that it is impossible, even if desired, to give detailed reports on them. What follows are highlights from selected recent corroborees, with the amount of detail provided often reflecting directly whether the editor of this publication attended or whether his correspondents across the nation were faithful in their reporting duties:*

## Duluth

The first-ever intercollegiate boomerang throw was held during the spring at a most unlikely site----northern Minnesota. Why there? The reason is two enthusiasts, Jill Jacobson of the

University of Minnesota at Duluth, who learned her 'ranging during a visit to Australia, and Paul Sprague, founder of the University of Illinois boomerang club, who has been an enthusiast since youth and ranks as the country's top expert with six-bladed boomerangs, which he can catch spinning on his head. Held in a pouring rain, the throw survived on enthusiasm as the 'rang gangs slipped and slid on a muddy university baseball field. When an MTA boomerang landed in an infield pool, one competitor claimed a maximum time afloat award. Other 'rangs disappeared over a brick wall bordering the outfield and their throwers wanted a maximum lost citation. Despite the weather, Sprague put on a commendable exhibition, scoring a respectable 29 seconds in Fast Catch and 27 catches in 3-minute Endurance. Aussie Scramble, with team elimination rounds, was the day's favorite event. Sprague took first over-all and led his team to the intercollegiate victory, with teammate Mike Tlusty in runnerup spot. Peter Olson, Jacobson, and Gary Irons took third through fifth positions for Duluth. Although the schools are a half a day's drive apart, Duluth pledged a visit to Illinois this autumn. A tradition, it appears, has been born.

## Washington

For those throwers a bit bored with the sometimes slow paced tournaments run under the USBA's often cumbersome rules, this second annual night tournament--a fling with visual poetry--on the National Mall was a welcome antidote: no scoring lines, few officials, lots of throwing, no wasting time. Nine events were clicked off in less than two hours for the 16 competitors and everyone had his fill of throwing. How was all this achieved? The answer: multiple-launch throwing, simplified scoring, and no nit-picking over distance. Players were told they could challenge if they thought another competitor's boomerang was not making the mandatory 20-meter distance (for those events requiring a minimum distance); there were no challenges. Jim Jordan took the over-all championship, followed by Mike Forrester and Ron Tamblin. Highlights were a 34.1 MTA time by Jordan with a borrowed 'rang; 34 catches in 5-minute Endurance by Forrester; and a foot catching victory by Tamblin in Consecutive Catch. Because of advance publicity, a crowd of spectators showed up for the tourney. Feats of throwing and



catching were greeted out of the darkness by cheers and applause---eerie! Beer and pizza in Georgetown afterward wrapped up the corroboree.

## Atlanta

Gearing up for the Nationals, the Atlanta Boomerang Society held a spring throw that drew 15 players, some from as far away as Newport News and Jacksonville, on a warm day marked however by tricky winds. John Derden of the host group took first over-all with a first in MTA, second in Accuracy, and thirds in Fast Catch and Consecutive Catch. Runnerup was Ray Laurent, followed by Brent Russell, Dennis Joyce, Phil West, Gordon Ebert, and Callie Laurent. In addition to Derden's MTA win, other firsts went to Russell (Accuracy), Dave Schumm and Dave Philpott (Aussie Round), Joyce (Fast Catch), and Joyce and Ray Laurent (Consecutive Catch). "Not a huge event, but a pleasant one," noted Atlanta Boomerang Society member Phil West.

## Richland

When Evergreen State College in Washington state enrolled Michael Girvin as a student, a boomerang tournament sprouted there as naturally as grass grows. Under the over-all umbrella of Girvin's rowdy Team Gel, of San Francisco fame----Team Gel is more a state of mind than physical entity----the "boomtest, cool to the max, because it was unabashedly wild and rad," according to Girvin, had team, novice, and individual events. Team Gel-Bean took first over-all in the opening competitions, with other entries being Team Gel-E, Team Gel-O, Team Gelatin, and Team Gelato. Leslie May and Betty Maile took first and second novice. Then after a lunch break, individual events were contested, as rain blasted from the clouds. "The storm helped us to turn the contest into an event," said Girvin. "We slipped and slid and knocked the raindrops around with our booms. We were stoked to have fun in the rain." Girvin took first over-all, followed by "smoother than silk" Willie Gix, Pat Deshaye, Lukyn Phillips, whose catching style "reeks of casualness," and Jen Robbins. Concludes Girvin: "We ate hippie food at Evergreen's very own sprouts and tofu restaurant. It was grubb'n. Everyone went home with rad-cool prizes. Truly this boomtest was a success."

## New Haven

A turnout in the hundreds, eight nationally rated throwers to give a classy demonstration, perfect hot, sunny and calm weather----that was the successful fourth annual Peabody Museum field day in New Haven. While many of the more than 100 people who got lessons in throwing and had the thrill of having the pitch come home for the catch thought that was the thrill of the day, Yale's Peabody director Leo Hickey thought the highlight was a handicap team competition between the U.S. boomerang team members and the Physics Club of West Haven High, run by imaginative teacher Rocky Tremblay. The high schoolers, evenly divided between boys and girls, had challenged the American team and made a terrific showing in the demonstration competition, winning in Accuracy after losing in the opening Consecutive Catch (with U.S. team players obliged to make more difficult catches by the rules of play). In the deciding Aussie Shambles, the energetic students got so enthusiastic and competitive they wanted to keep going even after the competition ended as Barney Ruhe and teammates for the U.S. team showed winning expertise. Hickey, the Peabody director, said later this demonstration by students of the value of boomerang making and throwing in the practical study of physics was one of the most interesting developments of the Yale fling to date. "It's something I'm going to tell my board of directors about," he said. Shelley Geballe, legal counsel to the USBA, and husband Gordon were hosts at a swordfish steak cookout at their lovely Long Island Sound home to top off the nice day.

## Hampton Roads

This second annual south Virginia throw, on the first day of summer, drew 28 competitors all the way from Ohio, Connecticut and Pennsylvania who were greeted by a predictably hot, windy peninsular day and some fierce competition to go with it. Peter Ruhf bested cousin Barney Ruhe for over-all championship in the six events run before darkness by taking first in long distance (a respectable 102.9 meters), MTA and Aussie Round. Dennis Joyce of the host Newport News area gang took third, tournament organizer Ray Laurent fourth, and Ron Tamblyn, John Koehler, and Mike Forrester from the Washington, D.C. area, fifth

through seventh, respectively. Koehler, a newcomer to the sport, was seen by many as potential championship material, as is his throwing mate Jim Jordan. MTA, in practice and competition, was the highlight event of the day, with Dennis Joyce getting an over-the-fence time of 55 seconds to count the most dramatic throw of the competition, although the barrier barred him from making a scoring catch. In practice, Callie Laurent, Bob Baals (on his third MTA throw ever) and Mike Forrester counted throws in the one minute vicinity as perfect 3-5 mph wind conditions prevailed. Ben Ruhe, not noted for his titanic arm, showed the worth of Ted Bailey's MTA 'rangs when he scored a timed 50 second flight and then almost immediately afterward a 1 minute 20 second flight, both with catches, but not by him. On the second throw, the boomerang spun in a stationary spot in the air for some 30 seconds before rising upward abruptly and then tracking downwind. A pleasant sit-down dinner capped the day's excellent throw. ●

## Correspondence

"I have this paranoia about boomerangs hitting the ground on the throw. If any of the ones I make hit the ground, they usually bounce in two different directions." Klaus Wisskirchen, Ramsey, NJ.... "Other than boomerang-throwing, my only other vice in this world is fly fishing. It seems to me there is a parallel between the delicate presentation of a dry fly and the graceful arc of a boomerang," Joseph Pichler, chief executive officer of Dillon Companies Inc., Hutchinson, KS.... "Use my letter any way you see fit---- shape it into a 'rang and fly it. But don't wrap fish!" Dr. David Silver, Morris, CT.... "I have just finished reading issue No. 26 (Spring '86) of *Many Happy Returns*. It is the best issue published, with many pages, nice pictures, and a good layout. I feel it is a splendid link between America, Europe, and Australia. We members of the world boomerang family need friendly links among us. We are not so many, after all." Jacques Thomas, Lyon, France.... "I gave a July 4th demonstration at the Monadnock festival in Peterborough, NH. After a couple of warm-up tosses with a Darnell Wizard, I felt compelled to begin the demo with MTA. I told the spectators that 20 seconds was a decent time. The first throw was

35 seconds. The second throw caught a thermal, then a crosswind, and drifted across a 100-yard field, a line of trees, U.S. Route 202, another large field, and settled into a stand of large trees. The flight was in excess of 2.5 minutes. A 5-minute search failed to recover the boomerang, a 7-ply, 2mm Bailey-Ruhf hybrid. What intrigues me is what was going through people's minds as they were watching the fourth or fifth boomerang throw of their lives sail up, up, and away. They probably think it happens all the time!" John Flynn, New London, NH.... "We had the German frisbee-championships in Hamburg and I had the chance to do a few shows in between. On two days it was really stormy, so all I managed was at least to catch what I threw away (I used a weighted wishbone-copy, great wind-boomerang!), but on Sunday I really pulled it off: except for the foot catch, I managed everything, including a one-hand, behind the back grab, which I hardly ever practice- it was a lot of fun and satisfaction! A short juggle was okay too; 12 times is my best so far. I think it's like in "normal" juggling which I used to do. It has a lot to do with constant breathing and meta-concentration, i.e. not concentrating on the matter but on the act of concentration. I learned a bit about this through archery also, which I still do sometimes. In a way it resembles boomeranging a bit when you consider the task of of putting yourself in harmony with your surroundings and the conditions and the determination of your movements--all this without making noises, beautiful! And furthermore the Japanese philosophy of archery gets to some points very close to boomeranging as well: submission to the universal process as the supreme condition with the result, in this case, of being ready to become the target yourself whenever the time comes--there you go." Volker Behrens, Lubeck, Germany. ●



## Briefs

Michael Hanson of Scotland, who several years ago did an interesting study on boomerangs used to set key world records, such as long distance, is now putting together an article that promises to be just as fascinating. His theme is this: How did boomerang enthusiasts get interested in the sport in the first place? If you are a fan of the 'rang and want to respond to him about your own fascination with the magic stick and what triggered it exactly, write your comments and send them to him. His address is: School House, Sinclairston, Ochiltree, Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland....More on MTA throwing: Add Dr. Ernst Duda of Vienna to the list of those who have gotten flights topping one minute. "A kind breeze decided to lift my boomerang and hang it up in the air exactly 96 seconds," writes the Austrian veterinarian. "After a 20-meter jog, I stood gazing upward at it for so long I was actually relieved when it decided to descend to earth. A really easy catch. But I just watched and forgot."....Meanwhile, Wilhelm Bretfeld in Norderstedt, Germany, the man who got the whole MTA craze going with his hockey-stick design, predicts some MTA 'rang lofted by thermals might fly for hours. "As a glider pilot, I saw at a height of 4,500 feet leaves and butterflies thrown up by the thermals." Bretfeld also recalls: "In 1936, my glider model flew a world record of three hours and 14 minutes. It went from Hamburg to Sieverdost, a distance of 97 kilometers (some 60 miles), where a young boy saw it when it landed and noted the time on his watch. The thermals of a thunderstorm had taken it there." ....Which leads to a final word on MTA boomerangs. Ted Bailey is now advising throwers to put their names and addresses and a reward offer on them so a lost boomerang has a fighting chance to return home if found by someone nice.... *Wood* magazine for June featured a four-page color article, with plan, on boomerangs, with world champ Chet Snouffer as focal point. The article presumably occasioned the making of many thousands of boomerangs across the country by craftsmen... George Satko of Pottstown, PA not only makes his own 'rangs but decorates them in a novel way. Using a magnifying glass, he concentrates the rays of the sun sufficiently so as to burn decorative patterns into the wood...Upcoming events (in addition to those announced in the last issue of this newsletter): Three-day Labor Day Weekend corroboree at the 65-acre Bond Street Theater

site near Albany; information from Ben Ruhe at 202-234-9208. Fifth annual competition at Todd Field in Willoughby, OH Sept. 6-7; information from Dave Boehm at 216-442-6024. Eastern Pennsylvania Open at Emmaus Sept. 28; information from Peter Ruhf at 215-967-3683....The Boomerang Club of Geneva has scheduled an international tournament Aug 30-31 in Geneva and solicits U.S. participation. Information from Kaspar Kramis, Case Postale 23, 1225 Geneva, Switzerland....Following is some curious speculation from Henry Thompson of Norwich, England: "I have read classic articles on the boomerang in *Scientific American* and since I was playing with solar cells I was thinking about a boomerang with a solar-powered paddle/counterweight that would rotate in the opposite direction to the direction of spin, thus increasing spin. The cells would be set into the wings, the motor set at the center of gravity and the paddles/propellers/fan blades--whatever--set on top and bottom of the boomerang."....Eric Darnell and John Flynn had a field day demonstrating boomerangs, teaching people to throw and selling them at the annual Quechee Balloon Festival near Woodstock, VT in early summer. As Eric points out, air festivals like these attract thousands of people who are fascinated by things aerodynamic and such events are typically scheduled for a time of the year when the winds are light so balloons can be safely launched; this is coincidentally perfect for 'rang throwing. Moreover, there is a lot of dead time between events such as parachute jumping, ultralight flying, and ballooning, and boomerang throwing nicely fills this void. ●

## The Reason Why

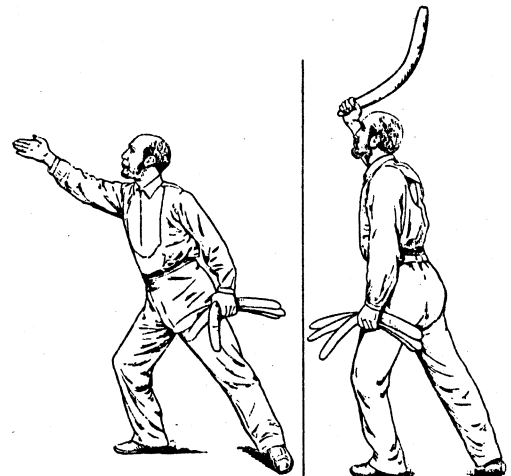
by Chet Snouffer

Remember the old red plastic Wham-O boomerang when you were a kid? Sure you do. Ted Bailey recently found one of the oldest, a pre-Lorin Hawes model, at a garage sale for a buck. Check out these directions, reprinted word for word from the back of the boomerang: "It returns! Hold like a scythe with the flat side down. Throw side arm and overhand. Experiment!" That explains why the 10 most oft heard words as I travel are; "I had a boomerang as a kid. It didn't work." ●

## Around and About

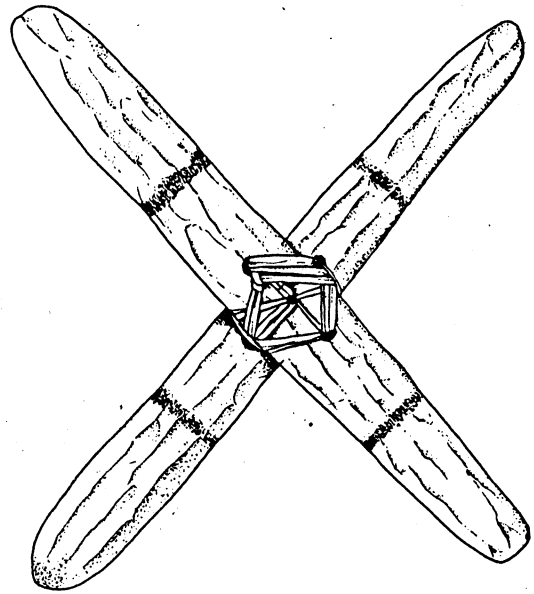
Bob Kley of Irvine, CA may have found the all-time great boomerang-throwing site: a blimp hanger. Owned by the U.S. Marines, the Tustin structure is so large it can house six Goodyear blimps. Built of wood, the structure is now used for helicopter repairs. Kley tried throwing MTA boomerangs inside and got a better hang time than out doors, perhaps a function of beneficial air currents. The 100- by 400-yard structure has a ceiling 60 yards high. Irvine plans a tournament in it next winter. Details forthcoming....Expert thrower Richard Ruhe has won himself a fellowship to study for 18 months at Chengchow University in Honan Province 500 miles southwest of Peking. He'll be the only Westerner at the school and intends to introduce 'rang throwing to fellow students. With his \$5,000 grant, Ruhe learned he will be paid more than the chancellor of the university.... Boomerangs are more and more being seen in advertisements as 'rang-consciousness hits the U.S. via TV and other mediums. A Fremont, CA high tech firm recently used an illustration of a boomerang with elaborate electronic circuitry inserted in it to convey this message: "No 'boomerang effect' at Tred Circuits. Less than 1 per cent of our prototype boards ever come back for revision."....Despite a severe case of high-altitude sickness, Dr. Paul Okunieff of Boston, a radiation specialist, threw a boomerang, as he earlier vowed he would, in the crater atop Mount Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet. With the air exceptionally thin and the wind whipping, Okunieff's Windcheater whizzed past on return and crashed on a rock, where it broke. "I wished I had a net," says Okunieff.... Dr. Cliff Furukawa, a Seattle asthma specialist, is a dedicated boomerang thrower who buys Boomerang Fevers by the dozens to give away. His procedure is charming. He throws and when the 'rang comes back, waiting kids have a go at catching it. The successful one gets to keep the boomerang....The house organ of Roseburg Plywood Co. recently published an article on boomerang making and throwing. "Think of the impact this may make," comments USBA member Charles Schroeder of Oregon, OH, "since the publication is received by more than 8,000 lumber dealers across the country." The article, entitled "Flying Plywood," has this inviting start: "The slender, curved stick leaves your hand at 45 to 60 miles per hour. It spins at 10 revolutions per second and soars like a

hawk, whirling high, wide, and handsome against the sky. In a graceful ellipse, it heads back toward you like a guided missile. Gradually it slows into revolving passage, then, right in front of you, it floats downward obediently, to be grasped between outstretched palms. This remarkable, delightful, improbable flyer is a boomerang at its best. And you can make one yourself from plywood."....Using as his theme the contemporary emotions about the boomerang in Australia both of the Aborigines and the white Aussies, Michael Girvin recently wrote a well-received paper for his university, Evergreen State. Among sources quoted in the bibliography were the USBA newsletter and telephone interviews with Ray Rieser and others. Girvin concludes his paper: "The boomerang as it paints circles in the air, is magic to watch, both the Aborigines and the Australians are awed by the beautiful flight patterns the piece of wood displays as it graces the open sky.".... H.L. Mayhew of Columbus, OH years ago swapped a tired 1975 Vega for a fresher 1981 Mercury Lynx. The buyer received a copy of Mayhew's volume *The Big Book About Boomerangs* for \$750---- "with the Vega thrown in for an extra." This great triumph has the Ohioan scheming. "Current project," he says, "is peddling the Lynx (now 72,000 miles) to help pay for a '78 Chevy van (40,000 miles, stereo cassette player, Michelin tires, etc.) Deal: Buyer gets free boomerang throwing lesson from the USBA record-holding champion for least number of catches in the 5-minute Endurance contest at the '86 Nationals. Final tally: 1 catch. Actually, my goal was to survive the contest and live to tell about it, using the walk-don't-run strategy for missed 'rangs. My off-the-record score is 5 catches in 1 minute (extrapolatable to 25 catches in 5 minutes-but not on a blistering hot day in Georgia)." ●

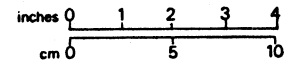


## What They Had to Say

"If you've never seen a boomerang, one could describe it as an un-usable wooden coat hanger. That is, minus the metal hook. But it is, of course, eminently usable---you can hang your spirits out to soar on it." Richard Loffler, Little Neck, NY...."My last kangaroo-shaped boomerang was 26 inches across with an incorporated whistle. This was the fastest, most frightening large boomerang I ever saw. Trees have been known to move when threatened by this boomerang." Pat McCormick, Bellingham, VA...."The Australian boomerang community has selected the kangaroo as its mascot. The image appears on association T-shirts, etc. I thought of one for the U.S.----the wood chuck." Ray Rieser, Lower Burrell, PA...."MY most memorable boomerang toss was atop Maui's Mt. Haleakala at 11,000 feet in Hawaii where my little Oregon Hat flew a good 50 meters before biting sufficiently into the thin air for a return arc. Missed returns were particularly harsh in the razor sharp landscape so for my 'rang's sake I curtailed my fun." Jerzy Serafin, Dallas, TX.... " I recently joined the USBA and my first issue of *Many Happy Returns* so hypnotized me I missed my stop on the train. I happily accepted this mishap. It gave me "MTA" on the train back to read my issue again, cover to cover." Gary Meitrott, Brooklyn...."A funny thing happened on the way home from school. I go to Bates College in Maine and live in Texas. After finals at school, I packed everything to go home. I put my 'rangs in my hanging bag which I usually carry on to the plane. Well, the flight was unusually crowded so the airline made me check my hanging bag. I was worried about the safety of my 'rangs. Arriving at the Dallas Airport, I got all my baggage except the hanging bag. I nearly panicked until a voice called over the loudspeaker for me to go to the baggage claim area. I went there and talked to the man in charge. It seemed that I had no identification on my hanging bag because I had planned on carrying it on the plane. The man apologized and told me he had opened up the bag to look for identification. The only place he had found it was on the 'rangs themselves. So sure enough the boomerangs returned safe and sound to my hands. I had put my name on them in case anyone found a stray one on the field, but I never thought that I would need it to identify luggage." David Coleman, Dallas...."The group here enjoys the technical articles in *Many*



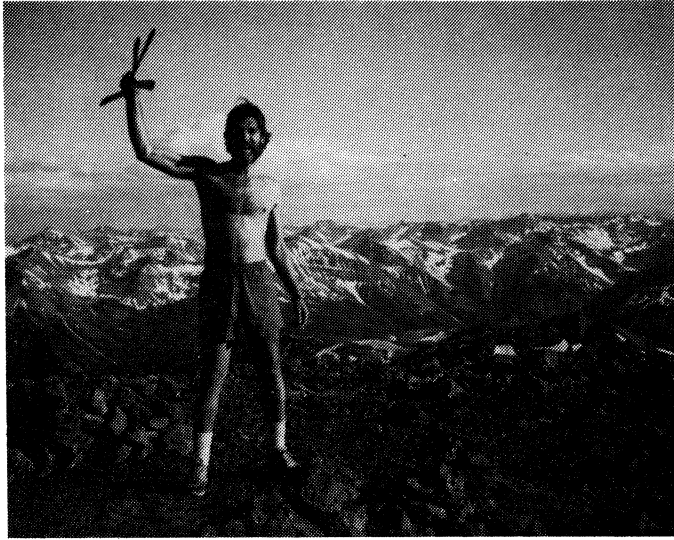
B. A. L. Cranstone



Cross boomerang, used for practice by boys; Cairns district, Queensland.

*Happy Returns*, since they are useful in constructing 'rangs for specialized events. We have been following Ted Bailey's advice on MTA's and the other afternoon I was able to uncork a 45-second flight. That gave me the best boomerang high I've had since I caught my first boomerang." John Derden, Swainsboro, GA...."I once convinced a gang of Pathan laborers that my 'rang was a magic stick that only returned (with vengeance) if one shouted obscenities at it in heavy glaswegian. The next few days saw frantic activity in the workshop as a dozen half-man, half-goat Afghans produced bent sticks to fling around the compound. My bemused boss never figured it out: but there are now some pretty heavy Mujahedin armed with boomerangs up there in the Pamir mountains....I'm not competitive myself; my specialty is the retrieve: Murky lakes, direst bogs, passing trucks, rotten trees, gangrenous water towers, ferocious dogs, occupied bus shelters, electrified rails, treacherous currents and Harpenden back gardens (not so funny---they're all lawyers and psychiatrists there)." Henry Thompson, Norwich, England. ●





JIM MAYFIELD.....atop Uncompahgre Peak

## High-Altitude Boomeranging

What's it like to throw boomerangs at 14,000-plus feet. A 35-year-old Gunnison, Colorado ski shop operator and self-styled 'rang "obsessive" decided to find out. Here's his account.

*By Jim Mayfield*

An expedition into the mountains of Colorado requires preparation because winter can strike anytime, even in July. The morning of July 1, I called Jim Nigro, locally famous mountaineer and big wall climber, and said "Hey, let's go throw." Jim said "OK, where?" I replied Uncompahgre Peak, elevation 14,309 feet. Fifteen minutes later we were in my truck heading into the mountains, planning thrown to the wind. Uncompahgre is the eighth highest peak in the continental U.S. Heading up the four-wheel drive road in my two-wheel drive 1967 pick-up, I said "Hey, let's spent the night on top." Nigro replied "No problem." So with summer bags and no tent we decided to bivouac at 14,309 feet. Our gourmet cuisine consisted of 1 1/2 gallons of water, a bag of bagels, a tube of peanut butter, a box of raisins and some homemade chocolate chip cookies.

After just barely crossing two raging streams and maneuvering several harrowing switchbacks we finally parked the truck at 11,500 feet. We strapped on our packs and headed up with Uncompahgre looming overhead the whole way.

After a little while in the high altitude sun we realized we had left the sun screen on the kitchen table. Oh well.

I expected minimal throwing time because of high winds but the conditions were perfect the two days we were there. We brought only my boomerangs, Colorado Boomerangs (which fly wonderfully at sea level), except for the Binghi Eagle III and Michael Girvin's Beer Rang. The Beer Rang performed flawlessly. The Binghi, being a high wind and low flyer, didn't get the testing it deserved, or the results. I've found that almost all boomerangs work well at altitude; however, they do require a different throw. You must throw harder and with more snap. At over 13,500 feet, I was laying the 'rangs over more and was throwing consistantly close to 90° off the wind. With a perfectly vertical release you really have to let it go hard with a maximum amount of snap. Incidentally, at this altitude the boomerang doesn't hover, it just comes in fast and hard. The big difference came with distance, I was getting consistantly 7 to 10 yards more above 13,500 than at 8,000 feet where I live. Between sea level and 8,000 feet there seems to be about 10 to 12% distance loss at sea level. Remember, temperature and humidity can produce just as much variation as altitude.

For night throwing I took Eric Darnell's night 'rang and it was just too much fun. Thanks Eric. Speaking of night, the stars at over 14,000 feet were truly unbelievable.

After breakfast of bagels and peanut butter, we started down. Wetterhorn Peak next door to Uncompahgre kept calling to us, so I said "Lets do it". Nigro said "No problem." At the base of the talus fields I opted to back off and throw some more in the high altitude meadows while Nigro blasted up and back. The drive out was terrifying after I lost most of my brakes, but we made it, in the spirit of Team Gel. Live to boom! Boom to live! ●





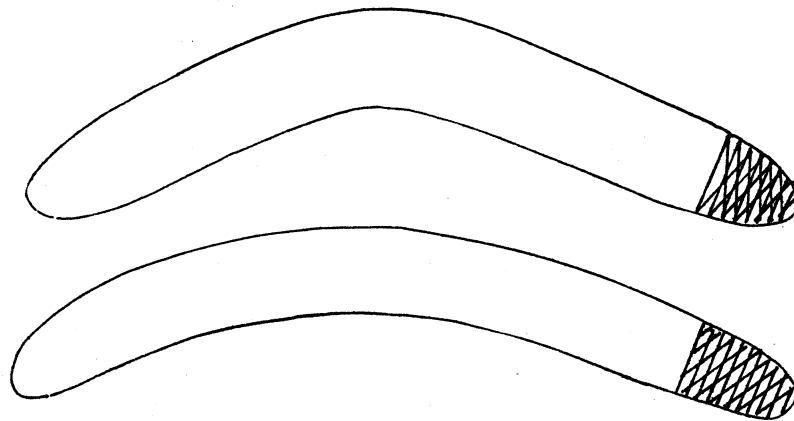
## Talisman Boomerangs

Ray Rieser of Lower Burrell, PA who may well have the best collection of old Aboriginal killer and return boomerangs in private hands in the U.S., has just added two exceptional items to his trove----miniature non-return 'rangas of bone. Yellowed with age, the miniatures were fashioned from straight sections of bone, as an examination of their grain shows, and not a curved, boomerang-shaped piece, and appear to have been made by the same artisan. Like their much larger wooden cousins, they have a lenticular cross-section. Each has carved crosshatching on both the top and bottom grips. The more angular one has positive dihedral in the lifting arm and negative dihedral on the dingle arm, which appears to have been purposely carved into it.

The boomerangs came out of a foreign ethnographic collection and are believed to have been talismans or to have a ceremonial function. Rieser points out their similarity to whaler's scrimshaw. Anyone having knowledge of or useful theories about these apparently unique museum specimens is forthwith invited to contact Rieser at 2900 Edgecliff Rd., Lower Burrell, PA 15068. ●



AWARD WINNER----John Alpeter, 13, of Dundee, IL, won an "outstanding" award for his boomerang project at the Junior Academy of Science Expo at the University of Illinois last spring. He titled his study "Boomerangs: Aerodynamics and Motion." Alpeter's project qualified for the state event by taking honors first in his own school district and then at the regional level. Weighting, angle design, airfoils, and surface roughness were among the aspects of the boomerang Alpeter explored. Writes his mother: "A special thank you to Ray Rieser, treasurer of the USBA, for sending John helpful technical publications." ●



The bone boomerangs (actual size)

## Patented Breakthroughs

In connection with his continuing research into the history of the boomerang, engineer Ray Rieser of Lower Burrell, PA delved into patent records and what he discovered surprised him, as he explains in the following article:

+++++

We tend to think that until the late 1960s that sporting boomerangs were clunky objects, little different from their ancestors of the Australian plains. Then suddenly boomerangs underwent a technological revolution. New shapes and airfoils were developed, they became lighter through the use of materials such as plastics and metal alloys, and they were weighted to increase their range. Many of these developments have been attributed to well known boomerang makers.

It turns out that credit for these technological breakthroughs does not lie in our generation but rather with our grandfathers, because all these developments were patented prior to 1910.

I have been looking through the records of the U.S. Patent Office and have made a number of discoveries which I believe you may find of interest.

The earliest patent that I found related to boomerangs was for a boomerang launcher. In 1890 a M. Cummins patented a device which threw a boomerang with precision and force and yet did not require any skill in use. His device imparted to the boomerang both a forward and a rotational motion through a series of springs.

Actually the Cummings patent was the first of many for boomerang throwers. I found as many patents for boomerang throwers, or boomerang guns as they were sometimes called, as I did for boomerangs themselves. Most were to be used with lightweight toy boomerangs, but some were highly sophisticated devices and one was the size and shape of a crossbow.

The first actual boomerang I came across in the patent office records was invented by Charles H. Emerson in 1892. This boomerang had a shape based on a cycloidal curve, a kind of a semicircular shape. He stated that his experiments proved this shape was superior to both the parabolic and angular outlines. His boomerang had flared tips and could be chamfered to make it right or left-handed.

In that same year a Calvin Stevens patented a

boomerang of more conventional shape that could be constructed of celluloid, rubber or metal. This was the first plastic boomerang. He also patented a hollow boomerang and the use of holes in a boomerang to produce a musical sound. He must have been musically inclined for he also patented the use of metal clips attached to the boomerang and wires strung between the tips also to produce pleasing sounds.

In 1893 Charles Renear patented a boomerang that had a twist to its arms, roughened faces and rounded edges. Although he was not the first to patent a metal boomerang, he was the first inventor to mention making his boomerang out of aluminum.

Of interest to distance throwers, in 1895 Frank Faxon patented a boomerang in which he inserted one or more plugs "preferably of lead" in order to increase the inertia of the boomerang so that it could travel a greater distance. And for you fast-catch aficionados, he also patented hollowing out the underside of the boomerang to make it concave--the latest thing in fast-catch technology.

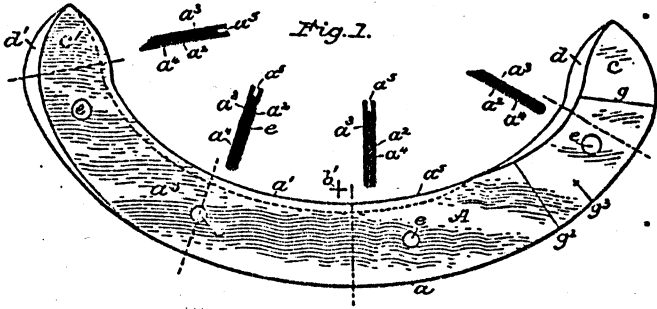
In 1902 Samuel Bristlow patented a boomerang which he called the Brist. It had everything: it could be weighted; it had flared tips; it was undercut; it had a concave bottom surface and it had three or more blades. This was also the first folding boomerang.

I have recently been reading about the use of lead or stainless steel tape to create wind spoilers. In 1908 C.L. and E.M. Dawes patented a semicircular boomerang and a series of angular boomerangs that were made of a bendable material so that the edges or corners could be bent up as rudders or fins to provide a "substantially circular course."

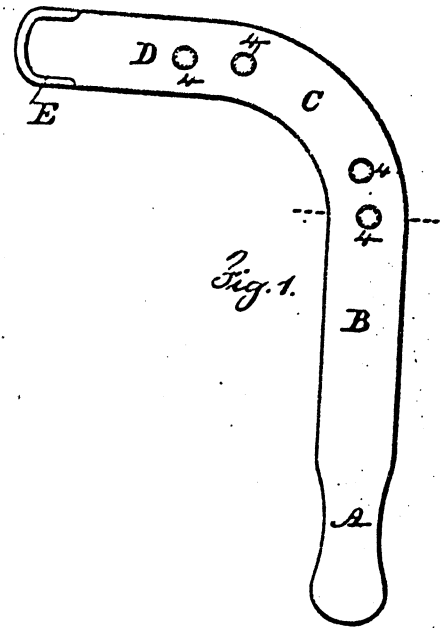
In 1909 Alfred Bartlett of England patented a boomerang having two or more superimposed layers of wood having their grains running in opposite directions: the first plywood boomerang.

In 1922 Gerald Browne of England patented beveling the front and rear edges of the bottom surface of a conventionally shaped boomerang.

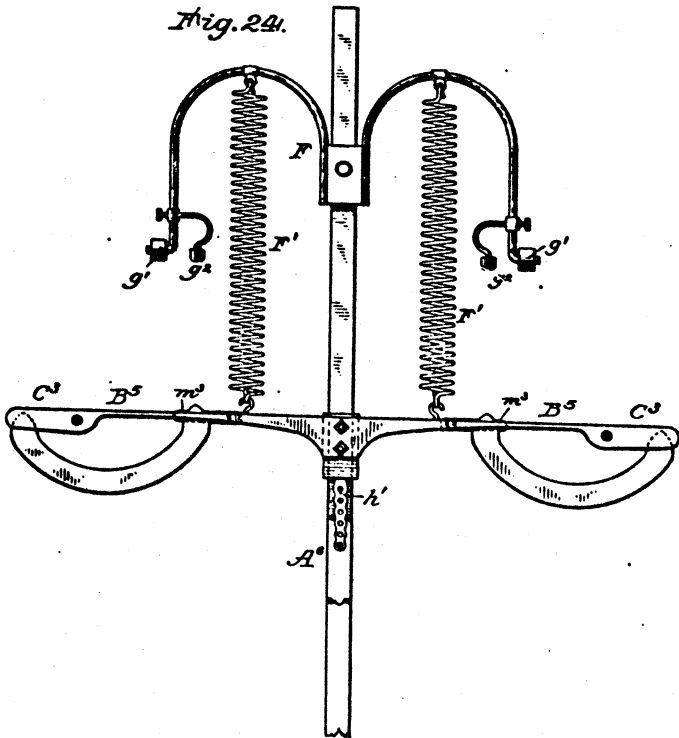
In 1928 in the interest of economy D. Tantlinger patented a boomerang with two arms constructed separately. One arm was laid over the other and joined at the elbow. This is a design still used by a number of makers. ●



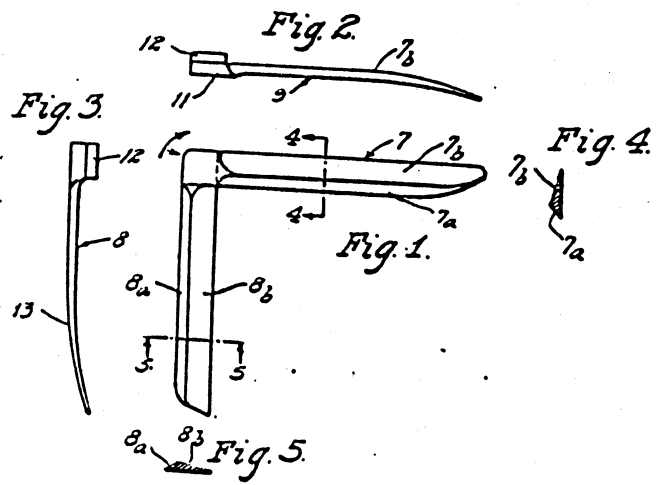
Emerson's 1892 reversible



The Faxon weighted boomerang



Launcher for the Emerson boomerang



The Tantlinger "economy" design

## Aboriginals and Boomerangs

This newsletter periodically reproduces old articles on Australian Aboriginals as a bow to the amateur anthropologists among us. Following is an excerpt from notes on the Ngemba Tribe of the Central Darling River area, written by Mr. G. K. Dunbar for *Mankind*, December 1943. It was unearthed by Ray Rieser in the University of Pittsburgh library:

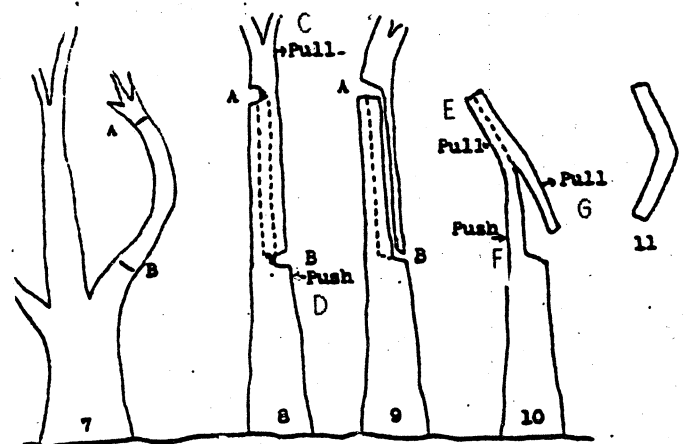
+++++

Boomerangs, *pulka*, were made in various shapes, from almost straight to a right-angled elbow, flat on one side, convex on the other, and almost invariably made from mulga or gidgee wood. A suitable tree being selected for shape and grain, the bark was removed between A and B (Fig. 7). A deep notch was then cut at A, and a shallow notch at B, and the long edge of the boomerang marked out by cutting a groove into the sapwood on each side. Then by pulling at C and pushing with a foot at D, the limb of the tree would in most cases split off as shown in Fig. 9. Another groove was now cut on each side parallel to the more or less straight side, approximately the width of the rough wood required, and the notch B deepened. Then by pulling at E and pushing with a foot at F, the wood would split as shown in Fig. 10, and by pulling at G it split off; if the wood would not split, the portion required was removed with an axe, and it was then reduced to rough dimensions with the latter tool. The rough shape was then taken either to camp or any desired spot, and there finished while green and full of sap. The maker squatted over it on the ground, it being laid beneath his thigh and held firmly with one foot. An adze-flake handled like a chisel, and held in both hands, removed the wood in pieces, really bruising it off rather than cutting; when all the sapwood was removed and the weapon was taking shape, the stone scraper and the chisel-adze were used alternately until the maker was satisfied with the finish and form of the weapon. The ornamentation was done with a stone made of "black basalt," as it is known locally, having an edge chipped to a point, bound with string and gum so that it could be held firmly, and so that the end could be struck with the palm of the hand without injury to the user. It was kept sharp by knocking small chips off its edge with another stone when necessary. Quartz was also used as a carving

tool. The boomerang was toughened in hot ashes, greased and rubbed with ashes; coloured pigments were rubbed into the incised design, thus bringing out the pattern very clearly.

Later in history a broken shear blade inserted in a cleft stick, bound and gummed, took the place of the hand adze-flake and was used in the same way. Many hours of grinding on a flat stone were necessary to prepare its edge.

All boomerangs were tested for straight or return flight on a level piece of ground, and those for fighting and hunting did not return to the thrower. The pitch to the returning type was achieved in two ways: (1) by shaping the ends during its manufacture; (2) by heating the weapon in the ashes, placing it flat on the ground, and holding it down with one foot and twisting the ends to the required pitch. One type of boomerang bore an axe-shaped bladed projection at one end, and it could not be so easily turned aside as the plain ones. The purpose of this projection was to catch the edge of a shield or a bunch of spears held by the man at whom it was thrown, while the other end struck him as it whipped round. The weapon could also be used as a club in the hand, and it was in common use. The returning boomerang was a plaything, and was used mainly to throw so as to cause ducks to fly low over the water and so into nets set for them. The cross-boomerang, consisting of two flat sticks bound together at right angles and thrown on the horizontal plane, were used for the same purpose. I have made and used these weapons.



## "A Formidable Weapon"

Never one to agree with what others think if a delightful argument may be forthcoming, Duncan MacLennan, proprietor of a famous old boomerang shop in Sydney's King's Cross section, argues that the returning boomerang was basically used in a very different manner than other Australian experts state----that it was launched sidearm so that it would whiz upward into flocks of birds, thereby knocking fowl out of the sky. The return function, he argues, was of trivial interest to the Aborigines. You can believe this or not. Here is Duncan's argument, as reprinted from the sheet he includes with his black wattle elbow boomerangs:

\*\*\*\*\*

"The migration of ducks and waterfowl in large numbers from north Australia to the swamps and wetlands of southern Australia, via the east coast, was recorded by early settlers, and had obviously gone on before their arrival. The ducks and fowl represented a great source of food for the native Australian- and were hunted with great skill with the aid of the boomerang.

"When thrown flat or parallel to the ground, the returning boomerang will rise sharply to the height of 150 feet or more, traveling at 60 mph and spinning at 600 rpm. When given these two forms of motion the rather lightweight boomerang becomes a formidable weapon- as the speed and spin will knock the duck from the sky when struck. Because of the large numbers of birds in the flocks, the boomerang was thrown at the flock not an individual bird. As the birds fell, so did the boomerang, both being retrieved at the same time.

"When thrown in an upright manner and sometimes reasonably well slanted to a 45 degree angle from vertical-the boomerang will go forward, turn in a circular manner and return to the thrower.

"The Aborigine knew and understood the return of the boomerang completely, but had little or no use for it as a toy or a plaything, until after the coming of the whites.

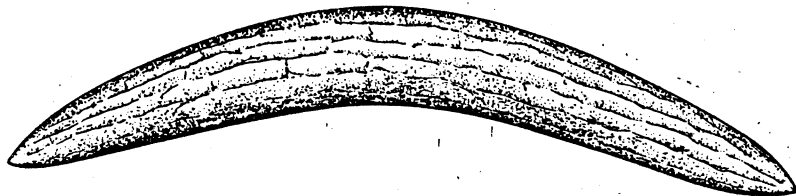
"It is not logical to think that the Aborigine set out to develop a return boomerang as such. It is reasonable to think that it was invented for one purpose, such as described above, and that when thrown in a different manner it did the second thing, for which it is famous: it came back to the

thrower.

"The non-return boomerang was the one first observed by the founders and early settlers of Australia-it was called boomerang- this name first recorded by Capt. Philip Parker King in 1820. It was not called throw stick, hunting stick, non-return boomerang or any of the assorted names in use today, it was simply called boomerang and this name covered all the weapons of this nature, whether they returned or not. In other areas of Australia, the boomerang is known by many different names such as kylie, garli, etc., which are Aborigine names, which are now giving way to boomerang for ease of identification.

"Non-return boomerangs were used for hunting ground-based quarry, kangaroos, emus, wallabies, goannas, human beings, etc. As most of the animals in Australia are of the two-legged variety, and can run at speeds up to 40 mph and the hunter could reach a speed of maybe 10 mph, it is logical that a stick was thrown at the legs of the animal to stop it from running, enabling the hunter to move in with a spear or club, and to complete the kill

"How was a satisfactory stick such as a boomerang developed? Simply by trial and error-pick up any stick, throw it in the air, you will notice it visibly stop as its lack of streamlining shortens its range as it strikes the atmosphere. Although rounded, the average stick is not sufficiently streamlined to cut through the air for any appreciable distance. This became obvious to the Aborigine, who rectified this situation by making streamlined sticks of very dense hardwood, with many thousands of variations of curves and shapes, and what is seen today in sports stores and souvenir shops is but a small fraction of what was available to the early Australians" ●



West Kimberley district, Western Australia. Boomerangs of this shape are sometimes made to return.

B. A. L. Cranstone  
 inches 0 1 2 3 4  
 cm 0 6 10

## Using Tape to Add Stripes

by Ted Bailey

I am not an artist, but I have received many favorable comments on my boomerang decorations. Many of my models are decorated with stripes. I frequently use lightning stripes as a border between adjacent colors. The technique is simple. Place two pieces of masking tape on the boomerang with edges parallel and with a small separation between them. Firmly press the edges of the masking tape to the boomerang surface. Brush a liberal amount of paint between the tape edges. Stroke parallel to the tape edge. Immediately after brushing, lift the tape slowly off of the surface. A neat straight line will appear. If the tape is pulled off too quickly, then the paint may splatter and leave a rough edge.

Use a pair of pinking shears to add lightning stripes or diamond stripes to the boomerang. Simply cut the masking tape lengthwise with the pinking shears and repeat the above procedures. The lightning pattern will appear if the zig-zag pattern is separated a small distance. The diamond pattern results from a separation and offset of the tape so that the peaks of the zig-zag pattern are in contact.

Pinking shears can also be used to join thin veneers. Simply cut the edges of the two veneer surfaces and join together.

Use a hole punch to decorate your boomerang with circles and other patterns. Stationery stores usually carry hole punches with a variety of shapes and hole sizes.

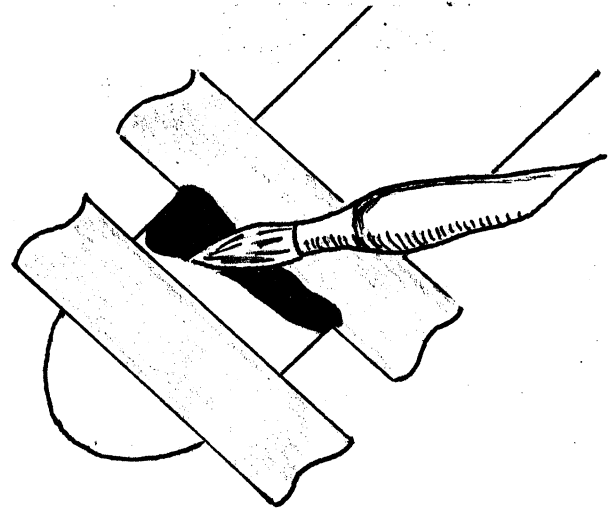


Figure 1 - Press tape firmly. Brush parallel to edge with a generous amount of paint.

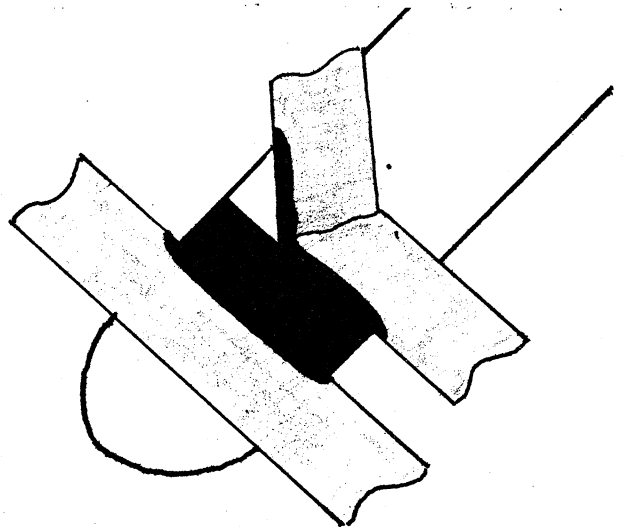


Figure 2 - Immediately after brushing, slowly lift the tape off the surface.

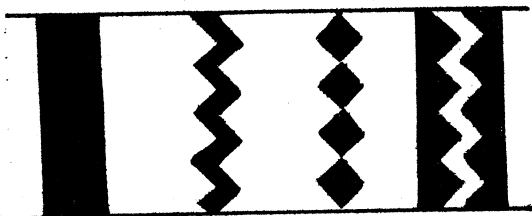


Figure 3 - Assorted stripe patterns made with tape. L to R: straight, lightning, diamond, complex patterns.

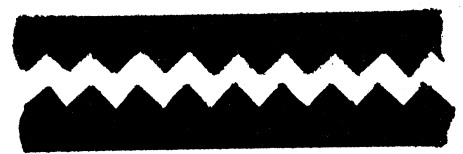


Figure 4 - A piece of masking tape (colored for visibility) cut lengthwise with pinking shears.



## Painting Your 'Rang

In the following article from his newsletter the *Leading Edge*, champ thrower and expert boomerang maker Chet Snouffer discussed the all important final step in making a stick---painting it so it looks great, flies well, and bucks the damp.

\*\*\*\*\*

"We talked with PPG Paint Co. experts about their products and potential applications for hobbyist boomerang makers wanting to get a durable, protective finish on their 'rangs, while avoiding some common errors with paint incompatibility.

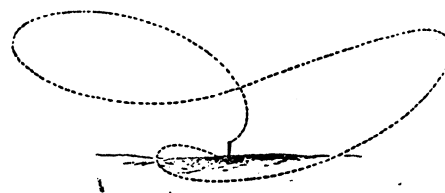
"PPG offers three systems in its automotive finishes line: Lacquers with clear coat, a urethane system, and a polyurethane system. While the recommendation is to stay within a system for best results, there are several key rules to working with finishes regardless of the product line you are using.

"1. Lacquers only over lacquers! Fast drying and with a jewel-like finish, lacquers will lift right off if applied over enamels or polyurethanes.

"2. Enamels over lacquers may be okay but this is not the best. Generally, if you seal your boomerang with a polyurethane base sealer, stick to the same product line and a polyurethane clear coat. Urethanes and polyurethanes provide durable, weather-resistant finishes and will be compatible over enamel or acrylic paint, if you're using those for pretty color on your boomerang.

"Here's one example of a PPG finish combination that will produce excellent results on boomerangs: Del Star DAR acrylic enamel mixed with DXR 80 Delthane hardener provides a tough color coat; a clear topcoat DAU 82 or DAU 75 finishes things off with durable, weather-resistant gloss for a sharp appearance.

"With any product line, the experts recommend allowing adequate drying time between coats, and following manufacturer's instructions for best results. PPG finishes are available throughout the U.S. and Canada through local automotive jobbers. Clerks will be able to help you at your local paint center." ●



## Adding Weights to Boomerangs

Many boomerang manufacturers inlay heavy materials into their 'rangs to increase the moment of inertia/weight, and to offset the center of mass/rotation. The effects include: extending range; increasing steady state spin rate; and storing energy. Eric Darnell usually circumvents the requirements for inlaying weights into his sticks by flaring out the tips (and other sections) in his innovative style. Hats off to Eric for providing an important new material source for other manufacturers who choose to inlay lead for these effects. Experienced throwers should take note of the very reasonable prices for lead tape with adhesive backing which can be used for quick field adjustments to their competition sticks. Manufacturers will benefit with lead wire of various diameters. Lead wire eliminates the need to make a mold and the expense and handling requirements of working with molten metals. Buying wire saves both time and dollars.

Division Lead Corp. 7742 W. 61st Pl, Summit, IL 60501 (phone: (312)-735-8600) has lead tape with adhesive and lead wire of various diameters available at dynamite prices. Contact Frieda Ray in the sales office for current pricing.

In May 1986 selected items sold for the following prices:

Lead tape 3/8" X 600" with adhesive backing - \$18  
 Lead tape 1/4" X 600" with adhesive backing - \$18  
 Lead wire 25 lb. spool 1/16" dia. - 92¢/lb.  
 Lead wire 25 lb. spool 1/8" dia. - 78-1/2¢/lb.  
 Lead Wire 25 lb. spool 1/4" dia. - 64¢/lb.

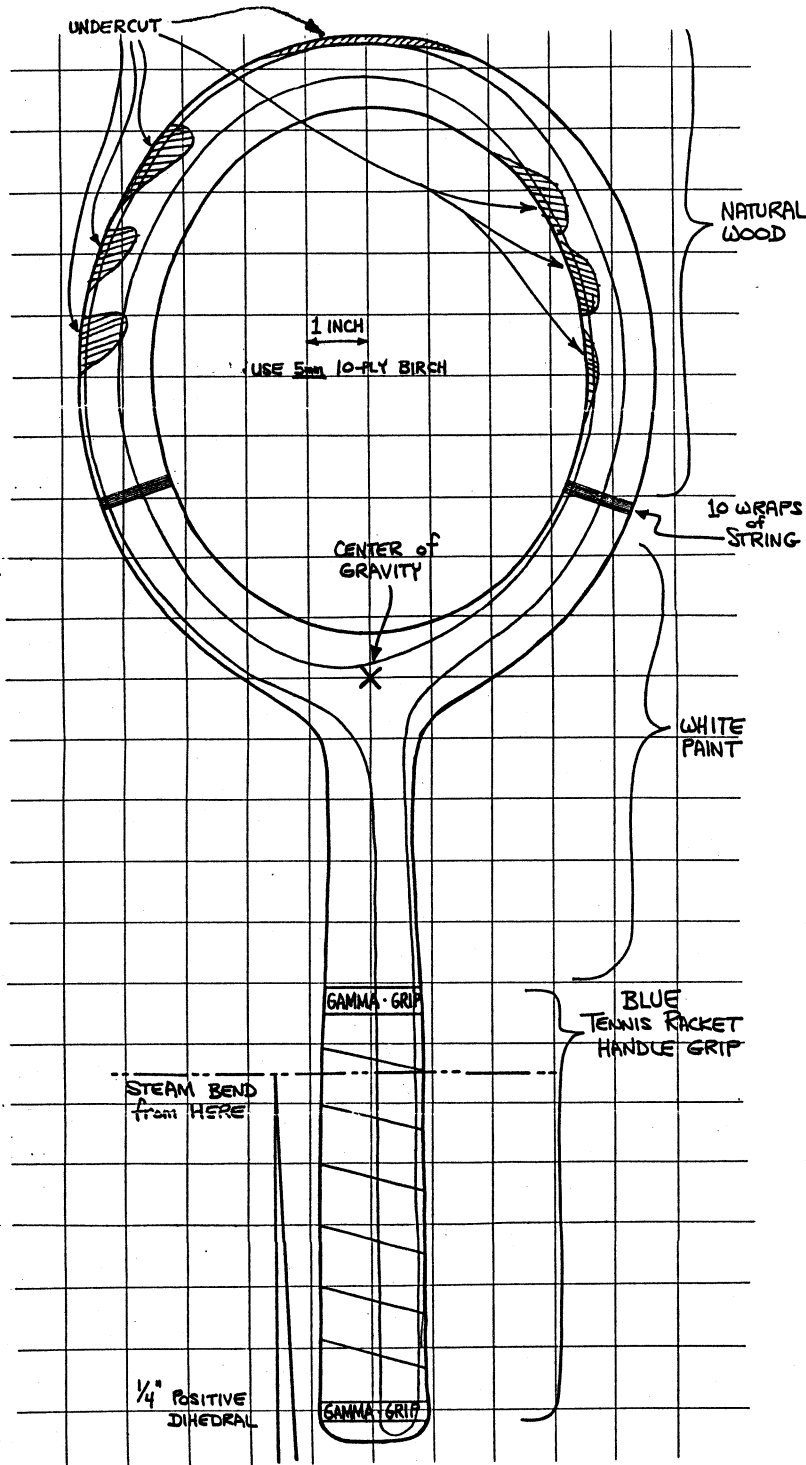
There is no minimum order for lead tape except that fractional rolls are not sold. The minimum order for lead wire is 50 lb. per each diameter. Wire rolls come in 10 lb., 25 lb., and 50 lb. rolls. Shipping costs via UPS are \$7.43 (to Toledo) for a 50 lb. order. ●

-- Ted Bailey

# Tennis Racket BOOMERANG

©1986 ROBERT A. LETSON  
4369 HAMILTON ST. #4  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92104

*This racket may be copied for personal use only.  
Copies of this racket in part or in whole may not be  
sold for profit without written permission from the  
author by Robert A. Letson*



- MATERIAL — 5mm 10-PLY BIRCH
- WEIGHT — 4 OUNCES
- RANGE — 70 YARDS
- FLIGHT PATH — OUT/BACK (NARROW ELIPSE)
- THROW — CROSSWIND REQUIRED
- 30° ELEVATION (ABOVE HORIZONTAL)
- 30° TILT (FROM ZENITH)
- 50°-90°
- STRINGS — HOLES CAN BE DRILLED, AND 6" FISHING LINE STRUNG. THIS CAUSES RESISTANCE WHICH IS DESIRABLE FOR WINDY DAYS.



## Nationals

*Continued from Page 2*

only ninth place, but two of his leaping catches of his wind-blown 'rang are so amazing his colleagues applaud and shake their heads in awe. In Endurance, with the wind really fierce, Chet Snouffer shows how Ohio gales have trained him by racking up an amazing 37 catches in five minutes for first place; Barney Ruhe, his shadow, gets only 31 but gets second and loses just a single ranking point in the battle that has now developed between them. Dennis Joyce just about bows out at this point when he fails to place in the top ten scorers. In the weekend's eighth competition, Juggling, Chet Snouffer does it again, getting his fourth individual first, with 30 consecutive catches. The shadow is there, however: Barney Ruhe scoring 23 catches to edge Peter Ruhf's 22 for second place. No one to hide his light under a barrel, Peter by the way, earlier had come up with one of the great quotes of the tournament. Asked at some point to help out with the beginners' tournament being conducted on a corner of the field, he declined flatly. "I don't want to coach novices; it screws up your concentration if you're a master," he said. With Aussie Round coming up as the day's final event, Ruhe has taken the lead and Snouffer needs a big score. Throwing early, Chet registers a weak (for him) 39 points and as other players top his total, the unimaginable happens. Snouffer with four firsts and a second has been defeated for the over-all championship by Barney Ruhe. Bob Letson, Peter Ruhf, and Dennis Joyce take first through third in the event, respectively, and Barney, by tying for seventh, simply ices the cake. His winning total score is 53.5 points, followed by Chet's 49. Although Snouffer has scored at the top four times and been runnerup once in the individual events, he has also taken four big goose eggs. Meanwhile, Ruhe has placed in eight of the nine events, taking three seconds, two thirds, two fourths and that gratuitous seventh. It is the tortoise and the hare all over again. (Incidentally, Barney missed out only in Accuracy, when a sudden wind shift on his second toss blew the boomerang 30 degrees off course. "I could have spotted that change coming if I had looked at distant trees," he said later, "but of course I forgot to." Notice how the adepts do it, or in this case forget to do it.) Far back in third is Dennis Joyce with 36.5. Trailing

are Greg Snouffer, 36.11; Gary Broadbent, 35; Larry Ruhf, 26.1; John Flynn, 25.1; Peter Ruhf, 21; Stuart Jones, 20.5; and Ray Laurent, 18, to round out the top ten. The next 10 places counting a tie go to Gordon Ebert, Doug DuFresne, Bob Letson, Eric Darnell, Carmen Snouffer, Mike Forrester, Brian Stay, Jim Scott, Richard Ruhe, Eddie Carrigg, and Lucklyn Phipps. Team Del (the three Snouffers and Rick Tilford) from Delaware, Ohio, is the victor in the team competition--individual points totaled as team points--with a total of 101.86, followed by the North Stars (Flynn, Darnell, Broadbent, Larry Ruhf) with 97.2 points and Team Ruhe (three Ruhes plus Peter Ruhf), widely known as "Team Scum," with 87 points. At a demonstration for the few diehard spectators who have stuck it out through this second long day of throwing, Doug DuFresne stars with a demonstration of the new Australian hunting stick accuracy competition, Bob Letson shows off his amazing returning tennis racket, Red Whittington pulls off some spectacular leaping catches from the world of frisbee, and Greg and Chet Snouffer catch boomerangs in mid-air while executing backflips. Spectacular! Because rain has twice interrupted throwing during the day and because the new USBA rules had proved so ponderous in practice that the tournament has run at a virtual crawl, team events----that is, teams competing directly against other teams, as had been scheduled ---is canceled. With an early awards ceremony at a country club summoning, most players retire to the Falcons complex to shower and change. But not the diehards. Pretty soon an unofficial five-team competition has erupted and the players who compete have more fun in the hour this runs than at any time during the weekend. Two Team Gels show the way in spirit, and H.L. Mayhew is the star of the winning squad with his pinpoint throwing. Mayhew's hero-for-the-day enshrinement is one clear highlight of the weekend. At the awards ceremony hosted by Sharon and Dave Schumm at their club, the party roars, as is appropriate. Winners are applauded, many give speeches, the Atlanta Boomerang Society is lauded again and again for its excellent job. Plaudits go in particular to president Brent Russell and wife Katherine, Dave Philpott, Phil West, Bob Poole, the Schumms, and the hard-working Jim Hooker who fights a battle with his computer and eventually wins out with full scoring statistics. ●



## Collector's Corner

With this issue, the USBA newsletter initiates a "Collector's Corner"---an effort to facilitate swapping and in some cases to benefit the association's treasury.

Members wishing to trade collector's boomerangs, that is to say, 'rangs of unusual quality because of their craftsmanship, uniqueness, high tech interest, or historical interest, are advised to contact board member Leni Barker at Box 3037, Sonora, CA 95370, who will coordinate exchanges.

Members wishing to donate boomerangs of exceptional interest to benefit the USBA should send details on their gift or gifts to Ben Ruhe, Editor, Many Happy Returns, 1882 Columbia Rd. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. Illustrations are solicited.

To kick off the fund-raising aspect of Collector's Corner, USBA president Ted Bailey has donated a horizontally lapped omega inlaid with more than 80 pieces of domestic and foreign hard woods. Flags of the U.S., Australia, England, and France are reproduced at the tips in natural wood colors, with the stars being painted on the American and Aussie pennants. The elbow and underside are constructed of rich crimson padouk wood. The estimated value of this 'rang is \$200 plus.

Members wishing to bid on it should mail three bids----low, medium, high---to Barker by Oct. 1. The lowest of the three bids that tops everyone else's highest bid will be the winner.

## FREE CATALOG!

10th ANNIVERSARY  
1976-1986



## BOOMERANG MAN

1806 North Third Street Ste. RM  
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201-4222



SMITH PAXOLIN; ROD JONES AUSSIE; BRET FELD HI-TECH ALCOBOND;  
55 METRE FRENCH GRAPHITE; REX SYMETRICAL WING 40 METER;  
KALMANSON SIAMESE; BARKER LAMINATED & INLAY; DUTCH FLOATERS HARTMANN;  
Binghi, Wycheproof, Urban, Hawes, Blackhawk, Darnell, Snouffer, Dehner, Tejas,  
Rangs, Baals Epoxyfinished; Oscar, Kimo Zulu, Stick Around Gerhards 60 yd.;  
Barnaby's Dead Ducks by Rex; Mayfield 8000' Series; Team Gel Rad Shirts!

ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW & EXCITING!

**MOOMBAI**

**Many Happy Returns**

**Circulation  
1,000 Worldwide**

*Published by the*

United States  
Boomerang  
Association  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, OH 43015

*Editor*

Ben Ruhe

*Production*

Ray Rieser  
Ashley Rieser

*Advertising*

Bob Kley

*Mechanical Measurements:*

Image area: 8¼" deep by 6½" wide; 3 columns to a page; width of column: 2⅛".

*Advertising Rates:*

Full page ..... \$200  
2 columns ..... 150  
1/2 page ..... 115  
1 column ..... 80  
Per col. inch ..... 10

10% discount for 4 consecutive issues. Camera-ready copy preferred. Composition billed at \$10 per hour. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason.



**BOOMERANG WORLD**  
by RUS-ART  
P.O. Box 187  
Agawam, Mass. 01001

HANDCRAFTED  
FLIGHT TESTED

COMPETITION  
RECREATION

featuring: FLYING EAGLE™  
EXEC-U-RANG™  
BIRD OF PREY™  
BOOMERANGS.

Send \$1.00 for Illustrated Catalog



**BOOMERANGS**

For fun and competition

Wood Products Ltd.  
Box 84895  
San Diego, CA 92138

Send for a free catalog!

206-532-6536

**FINELY CRAFTED BOOMERANGS**

P.O. Box 3037  
SONORA, CA.  
95370

FREE CATALOGUE

**OWL BOOMERANGS**  
1435 BURNLEY SQ. N.  
COLUMBUS, OH 43229  
614-436-0219

Makers and Distributors of-

FINE BOOMERANGS  
WIND INDICATORS  
WOOD MATERIALS  
BOOKS

Call or write for your  
FREE CATALOG

**'RANGS WEST**  
BOB KLEY  
5200 Irvine Blvd. -294  
Irvine, CA 92720

handcrafted by  
**JIM MAYFIELD**

**Performance Boomerangs  
For Sport & Competition**

SEVERAL STYLES  
HANDCRAFTED W/HAND FILES  
BAL TIC BIRCH OR MAHOGANY  
ENDORSED BY TEAM GEL  
- SEND FOR FREE PRICE LIST -

204 North Main  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
(303) 641-3539

**FOR THE LATEST IN  
PUBLICATIONS  
T SHIRTS  
ETC.  
SEND  
FOR  
FREE  
LISTING  
USBA STORE  
P. O. BOX 2996  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA  
23602**



P.O. BOX 182  
DELAWARE, OH. 43015  
(614) 363-8332

USBA MEMBERSHIP  
P.O. BOX 767933  
ROSWELL, GA. 30076-7933

USBA STORE  
P.O. BOX 2996  
NEWPORT NEWS, VA. 23602

MHR EDITOR — BEN RUHE  
1882 COLUMBIA RD, N.W. #37  
WASHINGTON D.C. 20009



*President*

TED BAILEY  
2967 Gracewood Road  
Toledo, OH. 43613

*Vice President*

LARRY RUHF  
31 Jackson Road  
Belchertown, MA. 01007

*Treasurer*

JOHN FLYNN  
Box 527  
New London, N.H. 03257

*Secretary*

Bob Kley  
5200 Irvine Blvd. — 294  
Irvine, CA. 92720

*Directors*

LENI BARKER  
Box 3037  
Sonora, CA. 95370

CALLIE LAURENT  
8 Redbud Lane  
Newport News, VA. 23602

CHET SNOUFFER  
51 Troy Road  
Delaware, OH. 43015