

Many Happy Returns

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An International Newsletter of the U.S. Boomerang Association

Fall 1987



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SHOUFFER CLINCHES

VICTORY AT 1987

USBA NATIONALS

Chet Snouffer takes first place overall at the 1987 USBA Nationals at the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, near Cleveland, Ohio. Record high temperatures and elevated humidity sapped the energy of all but the fittest as Chet racked up more than double the points of the nearest competitor.

Chet took firsts in Aussie Round, Endurance, Juggling and Doubling and placed in nearly every other event. His performance was phenomenal considering the comfort index and tricky winds. Eric Darnell took sec

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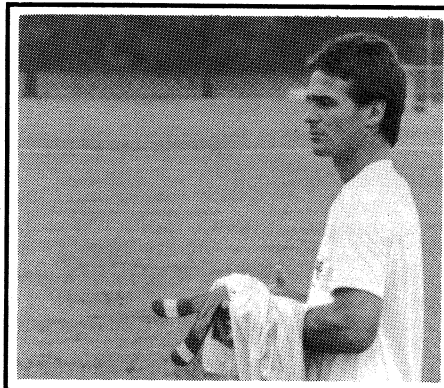


Photo by John Corlett



Photo by John Corlett

CARMEN SHOUFFER IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF USBA, 1987/1988

Carmen Snouffer was overwhelmingly elected as president of USBA for the 1987/1988 year of operation. Carmen plans to continue the organizational format that was initiated the previous year. A flow chart of the new Board of Directors is listed on page 3. A lot of ground was covered at the annual meeting which included the election of the Board and a Competition Committee. Major revisions were made to the bylaws. See page four for a detailed de-

(continued on page 2)

Continued from page 1

ond place overall. Barnaby Ruhe placed third overall. The top scores of the competition were: Eric Darnell with 12 catches in the Consecutive Catch event; Michael Girvin with 42 points in Accuracy; John Flynn with 21.08 seconds in Fast Catch; Jacques Sabrie with 46.27 seconds in MTA; and Chet Snouffer with 69 points in Australian Round, 6 catches in Doubling, 53 catches in Juggling, 33 catches in Endurance. Team "FLAKES" with Garry Knudson, Willy Gix, Betsy Miale, and Red Whittington took first place honors with 22 points; one more than the second place "Cleveland Boomerang School".

The USBA salutes the Cleveland Boomerang School and the U.S. Park Service for hosting the 1987 USBA Nationals. The tournament was well run and introduced many innovative new features such as a professionally published program and a sales room organized like a trade show. The Friday night show was a blast with Team Gel stealing the show with their annual fashion display. Several awards were passed out for creative designs, art, wood laminations and natural elbows. The USBA wishes to thank all of those who donated items to the auction at the Friday night gathering. Nearly \$1000 was generated for USBA programs in a single hour of bidding. Site of the 1988 USBA Nationals will be announced next issue.

A RUHE'S EYE VIEW OF THE NATIONALS

Barnaby Ruhe supplied this accounting of the MTA event at the 1987 Nationals:

Not noted for his MTA, Snouffer managed a 34 second, fourth placing among the stiffest competition in the tournament. Brisk winds, e.g. Cleveland, are pleasant for the MTA event, so Chet's advantage in wind savvy was rather negated here. Power throwers armed with new technology, teemed about the throwing area, scouted out by the Bailey himself: a low spot, where a high launch with tons of spin pop, an exquisite timing on the throw as the Big Wave came over the tree tops... to surf on that wave.... as Ted called out "NOW!" and B's hit the air, and some, like Flynn's, rose even higher on the puff, and driftedforever..... downwind.

As the event actually began, the great gusts became much less frequent, so few throwers scored as in practice.

As Jacques got one up on a great wave, I glanced back up the slope. Chet, lurking and poised like Michaelangelo's David, casual but intentful, was halfway up the incline. So he was 20 feet elevation above us all, and his spin pop, just as Jacques' boomerang floated by, rose to the exact height as Jacques', and hitched a ride on that great wave.....

(Continued from page 1)

scription of the competition committee. Tom Tuckerman and Betsy Miale are preparing a revised edition of the bylaws. Dennis Joyce has been charged with determining the site for the 1988 USBA Nationals. Look for improved USBA services this year with a well coordinated newsletter staff, an improved rating system and updated listings. New stock, including T shirts, will be available through the USBA Store. There are loads of great videotapes available through the video archives maintained by Garry Lamothe. See advertisements elsewhere in this issue.

USBA Membership only \$10.00 a year

A great inexpensive gift for a friend (or your mother) and you help USBA by boosting membership.

And you get a solid year of the best of boomeranging because your \$10.00 gets you FOUR issues of this newsletter. Filled with tips on how to make and throw 'rangs, great stories about people and places all over the world of boomerangs and ads for buying boomerangs.

Wherever and whenever there's a 'rang being tossed for fun or for sport you'll know about it here in Many Happy Returns. So don't waste any time. Turn to page 19 and fill out the membership coupon with all the right info. Tap into the largest boomerang organization in the world, the USBA, just by sending your \$10.00 check or money order to:

USBA Membership
c/o Tom Tuckerman
55 Barrett Rd. #333
Berea, OH 44017

(\$20.00 Overseas)

STNOUFFER WINS DELAWARE '87

by Chet Snouffer

The Free Thrower's Eighth Annual Fling saw sunny skies, 90 degrees, and light and variable winds for a super day of boomerang throwing in Delaware, Ohio Borrowing from the format established on the International Tour, we cranked out Consecutive Catch, followed by simultaneous running of Fast Catch, Aussie Round and Accuracy, with MTA wrapping up the five primary events. Doubling, Juggling, and Endurance concluded the day's events. The tourney started at 1 PM and was concluded by 6 PM., leaving time for socializing and free throwing.

Only 8 novices competed this year with Chicago Bob winning MTA. Columbus' Al Allen swept Aussie Round and tied for first with Sean Marquardt in Consecutive Catch. Sean came with team Thuba from Ft. Wayne and added a first in Fast Catch and second in MTA to win Novice Overall.

St. Louis' Tom Fitzgerald won Accuracy. Chicago Bob (he never left his last name) was second overall, with Albert Al-

len third. The novice events ran from 10 AM - Noon.

Advanced competition became a tough three way shootout for first overall as Gary Broadbent edged out Chet Snouffer in Consecutive Catch, with Ft. Wayne's Rick Szumski in third. Dave Saba won Accuracy with 37 points in really tricky winds. The venerable H.L. "Gel" Mayhew was second with an impressive 36. Broadbent was third with 35 points to move further into the lead.

In Fast Catch, Chet (the Jet) smoked five in at 22.36 seconds. Cleveland's Ken Reed was second at 25.69. Third went to Gregg Snouffer with 26.42.

At this point the heretofore silent Ted Bailey drew upon a fast catch to defeat the shifty winds and his opponents as he took Aussie Round with 64 points. Broadbent was second with 63, and Michigan's Jacques Sabrie was third with 59. Broadbent held the lead with Ted moving up.

Ted shredded in MTA with a super 47.42. Gregg Snouffer was second with 46.74, and

Chuck Smith was third with 29.96. Chet snuck in an important fifth to move up to Gary with Ted continuing his move up.

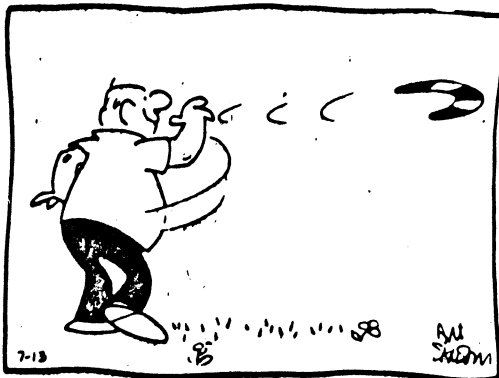
Realizing the possibility of a home court defeat, Snouffer popped 60 juggles and 48 in Endurance, along with 10 Doubling catches to sweep the final three events for first overall. Gary took second in Doubling and third in Endurance to win second overall. Gregg Snouffer took second in Endurance with 45, and second in Juggling with 13. Gregg placed fourth overall. Bailey finished third overall.

It was an exciting, relaxed day of boomerang throwing. Thanx to all the competitors who helped officiate, and keep things running smoothly. As in the past, advanced throwers officiated novice throwers and vice-versa. A nice way to get everyone involved and really let Novices learn the events. Thanx.

P.S. Who was that mysterious thrower who completed Super Catch at the conclusion of the day?

THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom



President's Column

Greetings from the President's desk!

Hi! My name is Carmen Snouffer and I'm your new United States boomerang Association president. I can hear you all saying, "Who is this woman and what is she doing at the helm? Well, I started B' ranging in 1980 and have been throwing for fun and in competition ever since. I placed 3rd in Accuracy at the 1983 Nationals. I also took first place in accuracy at the 1986 Nationals in Atlanta, Ga. Earlier this year I was a member of the victorious Team

Midwest, which swept the International Team Cup. I placed third highest for the team in Australian round (yes-I can catch too!!).

I had not planned to run for president this year-- although while at the nationals this year in Cleveland, I was presented with the idea and it sounded like an appealing challenge. Encouraged by the unanimous approval of those present I decided to accept the position.

On behalf of the USBA I extend my deepest thanks to Ted Bailey for his outstanding organizational job as president during his term. The structure he established will allow the USBA to function smoothly throughout the upcoming year. My goal is to maintain and

build upon that structure.

I would like to thank David Boehm, the members of the Cleveland boomerang School, and Gayle Hazelwood and the National Park Service, for their organizational work in hosting the USBA Nationals.

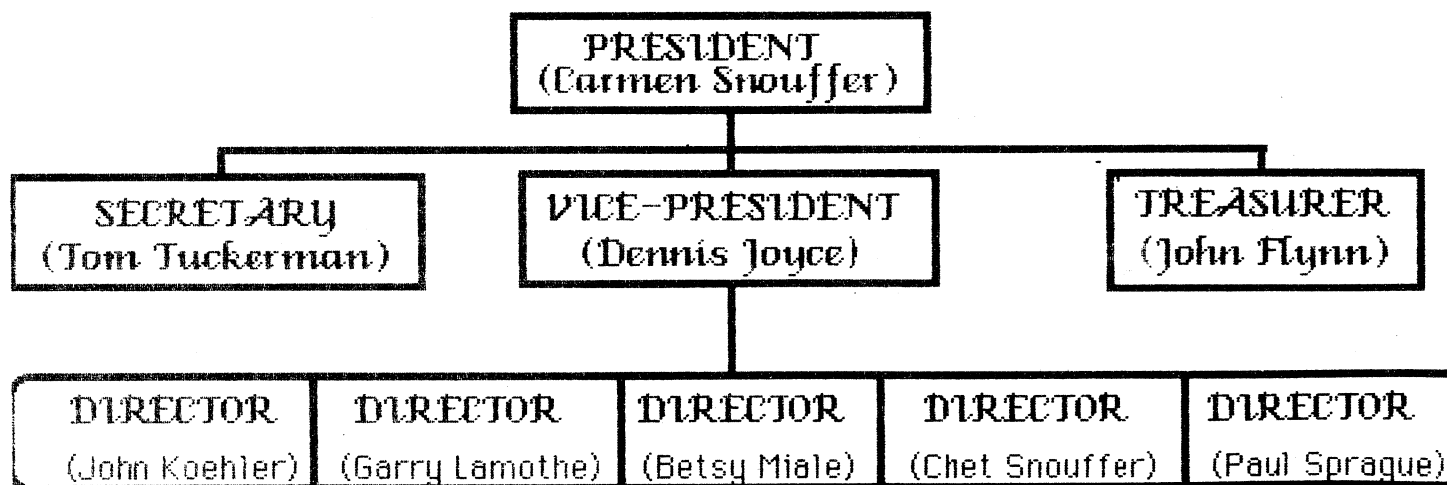
Speaking of the Nationals, my thanks to those who donated boomerangs and to those who participated in our annual auction.

My final words are that I would like to encourage each of you get involved. This is your organization and newsletter. We welcome your participation.

Thanks!

Carmen

USBA ORGANIZATION CHART 1987/1988



USBA COMPETITION COMMITTEE

A competition committee was formed at the 1987 USBA Nationals to continue the refinement of our competition regulations. The committee is chaired by Ron Tamblin and Chet Snouffer. A flow chart of the competition committee organization is shown below. This year's tasks go beyond that of last year's scope with records and discussions about the distance event added to the agenda. Tournament directors and competitors should review all the problems that they experienced with this year's rules and regulations and send your commentary to a member of the rules committee as soon as possible so that discussions can begin toward revisions for next year's season. The members of the competition committee include: Doug DuFresne, Eric Darnell, Gary Broadbent, Barnaby Ruhe, and Eddie Carrig.

rigg. Their addresses are listed below. The membership voted to review the distance event and see if anything could be done to safely bring back this highly popular event. Input is desperately needed for this task. The USBA will maintain a listing of records so that the super achievers can get credit due. A preliminary listing is being generated at this time. If you can provide documentation for scores that are potential records: please send to USBA; Box 182; Delaware, Oh. 43015.

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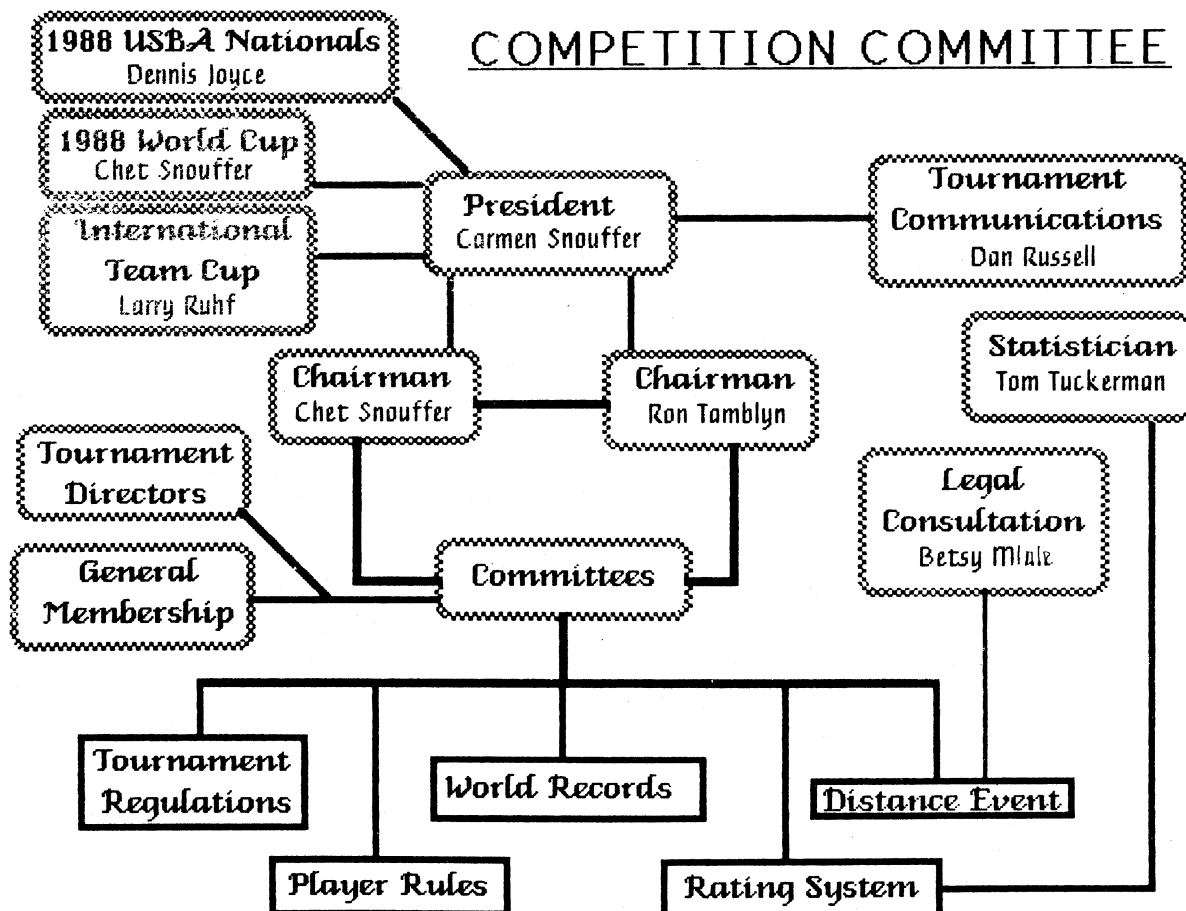
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COMPETITION COMMITTEE



International Team Cup

The first annual International boomerang team Cup was an immense success. Following is a play-by-play account of the Cup by Chet Snouffer from his newsletter The Leading Edge. Mixed in with Chet's play-by-play is some color (set in italics) by John Koehler.

The First International Team Boomerang Cup Challenge came off practically without a hitch, thanks to the foresight and planning by Larry Ruhf, Cup Director and Coordinator. Teams from France, Germany, and 5 regions of the U.S. (note that Team Gel is now considered a "region of the U.S.") converged in Amherst, MA. for the start of the three city/three state tour in June. Many of the top throwers in the world were in attendance, with the notable exception of Robby Croll, Geoff Kennedy, Dennis Maxwell, and several other top Aussie throwers. Three world marks fell to the wayside during the course of events-- one at each venue. Speaking as one who has competed in every major international event in which the U.S. has sent a team, I can attest that competition was never keener, nor performance levels so high. Let's check it out, starting in Amherst.

I remember Ben Ruhe first suggesting the idea of inviting the Europeans over for a quick East Coast jog of tournaments. This was back in the summer of '86. I was estatic. The Europeans were so close and so agreeable to pursuing international boom meets other than the much vaunted -- but controversial and still a long way away-- World Cup Australia in '88.

Personally, I didn't care much about the Cup because I didn't expect to make a U.S. team of only three as layed out by the Aussies. Also, we seemed to be having trouble speaking English with the Aussies and relations were not exactly cordial. The Europeans on the other hand, spoke excellant English and loved dealing with us across the Atlantic, an ocean of much smaller size than the huge

Pacific.

Beno contacted the Europeans with the invitation and recieved enthusiastic replies. But it was too late for them to organise a trip. How about next year? (this year-1987).

Enter Larry Ruhf. Larry took over from Ben and organised and planned and worked at it through the fall and winter of '86-'87. Larry deserves the Boomerang worlds thanks for pulling off this exciting and successful Cup. Way to go Larry!!! Take it Chet.

The Open tournament started at 2:00 and was finished at 6:00 with 47 throwers, 80 degrees and cloudy skies. A light drizzle ended early. Light winds made it near perfect conditions. Peter Ruhf won overall, Chet Snouffer was 2nd, and John Flynn was 3rd. Winning scores were Michael Girvin and Olivier Voukchevitch with 45/50 in Accuracy. Eric Darnell began his reign of terror in Consecutive, snagging not one, but 2, or 3, or who knows how many foot catches until Peter and Gary Broadbent finally dropped. Chet the Jet scored 83/100 in Aussie Round for top honors; Jim Youngblood of Team Gel ripped MTA with 39 seconds in the calm. John Flynn smoked 19.1 in Fast Catch. You can see that this was HOT competi-

tion.

Jim Jordan and I drove up from Gaithersburg on Saturday, June 20. We saw Dustin Hoffman at a McDonalds in Conn. We arrived at Hampshire College ahead of the pack and waited around for the entourage to arrive from Larry Ruhf's. The Germans looked tired and serious. I recognised Volker Behrens and introduced myself in German. He was tall and skinny. Hard to believe that this was the "monster" who had heaved a rang over 140 meters.

The French team looked very cool in electric colored surfershorts. I spoke no French so I just hugged them and said Viva la France over and over.

Most of the teams staying at the College practiced that evening. I was amazed! Every thrower on that field was good if not great. Chet took his boys from Ohio over to the far field for practice. My team, Team South, was thought to be the team to beat but Chet had other ideas. The midwest tidal wave was starting to build and would surprise all of us.

Playing on a team is a lot of fun and I think produces better play from individuals. You go out to score for the team, not for yourself. All your team-

Breakthrough Indoor Boomerang

Remember those kid's hats with the big plastic lobsters on top? Ever wonder who designs such a thing?

Well, Bob Foulke is the guy, and now he's turned his inventive, off-beat mind to the boomerang, with surprising results.

A staff designer with a surfboard manufacturer in Oceanside, CA, Foulke, 33, came across a new plastic called Arcel, a blend of polystyrene and polyethylene, and thought: "Boomerang!" He had made 'rangs as a by, under the guidance of a pilot father, and grasped that Arcel was great for an indoor boomerang: light, yielding (so it wouldn't nick), durable, bendable for tuning, strong enough to withstand hard landings and fairly

rough treatment by kids.

He started experimenting, made hundreds of models and hit on an 18-inch four-blader as just right-- big and flashy. "I always thought four-bladers," he says. "They're such good performers and so easy to tool up."

Conveniently tuned in seconds because the material is so flexible, the Zoomerang, as the four blader was duly christened, can be thrown in a sitting room 10 by 10 feet, with low ceiling. Because the airfoil is symmetrical, the 'rang can be thrown either right- or left-handed-- a big plus.

Trick throwing is easy: doubling, juggling, catching on the fingertip or with the feet.

Outdoors, in dead air, the Zoomerang can be adjusted to fly about 30 feet, or climb high. An MTA flight of some 30 seconds has been

mates are pulling for you and helping you and encouraging you. A great spirit develops.

That evening, as I was resting in my room, I could hear Ben Ruhe speaking with someone down the hall. "Oh, he actually ate him!". Needless to say this piqued my interest a bit and I investigated.

Ben introduced me to Tony Dunlop of Australia, who happened to have some photos of a crocodile. The Croc was a maneater, at least it had eaten one poor bloke who slept too close to the river where the big Croc hung out.. A hole had been cut in the belly of the Croc and inside could be seen the severed head of a man, bloated and with distended tongue. Gross.

Tony was quite the good mate and stayed with us through the entire tour helping with scoring and timing and just being an all around fun guy.

He had a lot of trinkets and patches and other items from Australia. I asked him what was so special about some of the smaller items he had brought. He looked at me with surprise like maybe I was a nitwit to ask and then he told me, "They're Australian, Mate". He dearly loved his land. More on Tony later.

Sunday. Fast Catch. Last year the

best time was 25.66 by John Flynn. So you can imagine that when I got up and laid out a nice steady 23.31 second round I thought that I had it wrapped up.

Wrong!! THREE people bettered my score. First off a little guy named Stephan from France cleaned my clock with a 22.36. Stephan had a small boomerang that seemed to stay no more than 6 inches off the ground as it flew around to him. AWESOME !!! Chet the Jet beat me also with a 22.58 round.

And then God came into the throwing circle and things got real quiet out of respect for God A.K.A John Flynn. I was a spotter. I was close to God as he threw a tremendous round of 19.10, the 2nd fastest time ever clocked in competition. Lightning cracked and people threw themselves on the ground in awe. Thus was born another Team Gel phrase that we used a lot the rest of the tournament, "Godlike". John Flynn at his best is hard to believe and truly an act of God. Back to Chet.

Day 2 in Amherst began the Team Cup Competition. Again, cloudy skies and near perfect winds dazzled everyone. Rain hit late in the day during MTA and Team relay...the only mud

on a stupendous boom day. Team-wise, the midget boys from the Midwest, plus the ever-lovely Carmen Snouffer surprised everyone by sweeping 3 firsts, 2 seconds and a 3rd to leap out to a 6 point lead over Team Marvalous from the south. Team New England was 3rd, followed by Teams Atlantic, W. Germany, France, and Gel.

Midwest won Consecutive, Fast Catch and Aussie Round based on total points generated (ie, highest cumulative scores in the round; lowest total time in Fast Catch). Team Atlantic won Relay, New England took Endurance, and MA/VA won MTA.

While individual scores were not awarded, merely totalled for team points, I think some of the best scores are of interest as indicators of the calibre of competition. Dennis Joyce popped 1min. 31.77 in MTA (he was merely warming up, trust me). Flynn was 21.69 in Fast Catch. John Koehler set a new World mark of 60 in Endurance, with former record holder John Flynn equalling the old mark again at 59. Chet and "OH, you must be Chet's brother, Gregg" tied up at 84 in Aussie Round. It was top throwing all the way around.

I phoned Chet the week before the Cup and he told me that he had just come back from practice where he threw 58 in endurance. Practice Endurance? I had never done it before for some reason (John Flynn told me that he never practices it either!). The next day I took my best fast catch tri-blader that I had just made and went out back and did 60! WOW! I actually had a chance to set a world record.

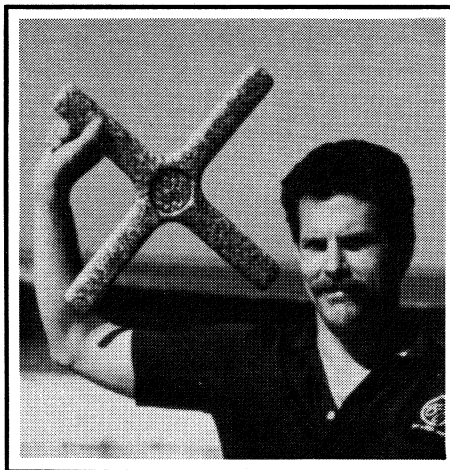
I guess I told a lot of people about my 60 in practice because when it came time to throw Endurance on the first day of the Team Cup Gary Lamothe asked me to stay close to Flynn so he could videotape both of us.

Remember Tony the Australian bloke with the Croc photos? Tony had given me a Bull Roarer, an aboriginal religious item made of wood. When hung by a length of string and spun around in circles the thing would produce an errie booming sound. Anyway, just before the endurance

recorded. Sentinel Corp. of Hyannis, MA is slowly putting the boomerang on the market now, but plans a push next February. Sentinel is a big packaging company that owns BZ Pro Boards, the surfboard outfit that employs Foulke.

What's ahead for this breakthrough indoor boomerang? Foulke and co-workers are working on making the boomerang even stronger than it is. They hope to put out a lighted version for night throwing. And they are working on a launching device. Games such as Zoomerang golf and Zoomerang water polo are under study.

Meanwhile, many of the guys at the BZ plant happily twirl Zoomerangs during work breaks. This reflects Foulkes' philosophy of life: "if you can't have some fun, what good is it?"



Bob Foulkes
...with Zoomerang

round began I pulled out the Bull Roarer and made it wail. Then I went and set a world record. Kind of interesting coincidence eh?

Flynn threw in the first round while I counted for Barnaby Ruhe. Flynn's rang is definitely faster than mine but I think mine is a bit easier to catch.

Flynn dropped about 4 or 5 and he still got 59. I dropped one and got 60.

Barnaby counted 61 while Jim Jordan, from a distance, counted me at 60.

No worries. Lamothe had it all on videotape. We watched it that night and confirmed the 60. I felt great! I was told afterwards that Flynn had 3 words to say before he congratulated me, "Not for long". I don't doubt him. 65 is possible and Chet, John or myself could set it very soon.

By the way, in order to get a 60 in endurance you must throw a rang every 5 seconds which amounts to a continuous round of 25 second Fast Catches. Take it Chet.

The action then moved on to near Bethlehem, PA. On Open Tourney Day, Barnaby Ruhe won Overall, followed by Chet Snouffer. Sunshine and light winds again made for spectacular throwing. Eric Darnell won Consecutive, again. Dennis Joyce surfed the perfect wave en route to a new World Record 2:59 in MTA!! While his timers chased Dennis across the field, Gregg Snouffer thought, "Why waste the moment?", and heaved one 2:46 just for the satisfaction, since it didn't count. It served to show the transience of those perfect conditions, as only two other throwers broke a minute on the day.

The second Team Cup Match featured the same hot, sticky, sunny, 90 degree temperatures as did the Open day in Bethlehem. Team Atlantic with Peter Ruhf, Stuart Jones, Ray DiCecco, Barnaby Ruhe, Doug Dufresne, and Adam Lewis started to hit stride, taking first in Consecutive Catch, with Team Marvelous 2nd, Midwest 3rd. Atlantic kept the surge going with first place in Fast Catch, Team Marvelous 2nd. With Midwest 4th, the comeback was on.

South kept shredding with first

Knocking Himself Out

Under the headline "He's a Disgrace to the Aborigine Race!" an Australian national newspaper ran the following funny story, reprinted in its entirety: The accompanying cartoon was drawn by Olivier Voukchevitch.

A busload of Japanese tourists sped away in a huff after the Aborigine boomerang thrower they traveled 17 miles to see knocked himself out with his first toss!

"It was the most ridiculous exhibition I have ever seen," Kato Watanabe, a computer technician from Akita, Japan, told reporters in Perth, Australia.

"The man was billed as professional who could slice the lit tip of a cigarette off from a hundred yards away. When he walked on out on his throwing turf he looked like he had been born with a boomerang in his hand.

"He even looked good throwing it. But when the thing started to come back around he squinted and craned his neck like he couldn't see. At the last minute he threw up his hand to catch it.

"But he missed and it clobbered him in the head. The guy's own boomerang knocked him out cold!"

The tribesman was treated for a cut and concussion but was otherwise okay, said newspapers.

Tourist Murase Fukushi said: "The whole trip to Australia was miserable but the boomerang toss was the pits!"



place in Endurance, Midwest 2nd, Atlantic 3rd. With things looking grim for Gary Broadbent, the three Snouffers, and two rookies from Michigan, it was time for Midwest to unveil the secret weapon...Chuck Smith. While his score this day was low, the MTA's he and partner Jacques Sabrie launched into the stratosphere kept everyone wondering, "Who ARE those guys?!". (Rumor has it that Chuck Smith is in fact Chet's cousin and has been in training since the age of twelve. Doesn't Smith sound a bit too corny? More likely it is Chuck Snouffer!) Midwest won MTA, Aussie Round, and

ripped in Relay with perfect throws in terrible winds to edge 2nd place France by more than a minute. After two matches, South (Marvelous) had remained in 2nd, by a three point margin on day two, with Atlantic leaping into 3rd, and New England dropping to 4th overall. Team Midwest was now 9 points in the lead, however.

Dennis Joyce was given a new nickname after the World Record in MTA. "Juice". Let it be written that Juice was awesome that day in Pennsylvania where the licence plates say "you have a friend". Juice knew that rang was a goner soon after throwing it.

He yelled back at all of us, "see you later", and began to run after that rang. He drew a crowd from the rest of us throwers who joined him and yelled encouragement. Many of us blew up into the air to create updraft, a Gel trick.

So about thirty guys followed a piece of wood as it slowly descended down to Juice. We stopped traffic for Dennis and his funny piece of wood that looked like a hockey stick. It was a copy of a Ted Bailey midi made by Mike Forrester. I called Ted Bailey that night (I woke him up) and congratulated him for his fine boomerang design. Ted wasn't surprised by the record. How long will it be before we have MTA throws of 5 or 10 minutes?

And as to the folks out there in the world who think that MTA unlimited is not a TRUE boomerang event or that an MTA rang is not a TRUE boomerang because it doesn't come back.....You guys are WRONG. The main emphasis behind the MTA event can be found in the name MTA, which stands for Maximum Time Aloft. Keeping a boomerang aloft for the longest period of time. It doesn't say make it land within a certain area.

Now I understand that some folks want to do away with MTA unlimited and replace it with MTA LIMITED where you must throw and catch within a 100 meter diameter circle. Who are these people? Why the emphasis on accuracy? Dennis Joyce's World Record throw was beautiful to behold. His boomerang defied gravity for almost 3 minutes!! He threw a BOOMERANG for heaven's sake; leading and trailing edges, gyroscopic procession, etc., etc. Anybody who says it wasn't a boomerang is wrong. Maximum Time Aloft should be left alone as an event. I personally am against the MTA 100 event. OK OK back to the team Cup. take it away Chet.

The entourage now moved to Gaithersburg, MD, and a whopping thunderstorm which cancelled the Open Tournament after the completion of just one event. Eric Darnell and Michael "Gel" Girvin tied for first in Consec. and consequently won the tournament. Rain came and went, while throwers took advantage of the rest to

How Many Tons in a Boomerang?

The author of the following is a noted boomerang maker and thrower from Sussex, England:

By Herb Smith

Having nothing better to think about whilst making one of my Marathon boomerangs, I decided to count up the number of arm movements used in production.

Now, you may think this was a waste of time. I do. . .and it was!

However, I surprised myself when I finally reached a count of 1,500. This was not counting the other arm movements used, during the decorating.

I was even more surprised to discover the amount of energy used.

Estimating the arm and hand pressure at 3 lb. per movement (it may be more?) and multiplying this by the number of movements with rasp, file and sandpaper, it worked out to approximately 2-1/4 tons!

So, I can safely say, that a Marathon boomerang (and any other boomerang for that matter) uses up an awful lot of energy. . .even before you start to throw it.

talk, eat, and get stoked for the final fling the next day.

The third match started out tough as South and Midwest battled to a tie for first in Consecutive Catch. Gel took 3rd by a point out of first! Team Atlantic won MTA, with Doug DuFresne setting a new MTA 100 Mark of 49.39 seconds. The 3rd World record to fall, along with Koehler's 60 in Endurance, and Dennis' 2:59 in MTA Unlimited.

Fast Catch went to Midwest, as did Aussie Round... an event the team swept all three matches. Endurance went to South, with great throwing by Koehler, Ron Tamblyn, Mike Forrester, Jim Jordan, and Dennis Joyce who comprised the team. In Aussie Round, two guys boomed banzai, with Barnaby Ruhe hitting 4 throws at 50 meters, bullseye, with the catch!! Only a foot on the line for a 9 had him sitting on a 79 going into his final throw. A fifth consecutive bullseye and 99 was his. Instead, the boom laid out a little, only cruised 40 meters, then blew in and up, over the center circle and out of the accuracy points! Ruhe caught it for 8 points total... still an excellent 87 of 100!! Later he thought back, "Don't tell me, I don't want to know, BUT, did that 5th throw swoop down right over the bulleye

and I had backed up...". True. Incredible throwing, but we weren't finished yet.

New England's Gary Lamothe came up and going 40 meters, hit bullseye, 9, bullseye, and an 8 in accuracy to be sitting on a 69 going into his 5th throw. "What do I need?" he asked the scorekeeper. "A bullseye", she responded. "No problem". That's what he said. Lamothe lined up, tossed it 40 meters, it swung around, he stood motionless in the center as it dropped right down in his arms. "CRACK", the boomerang... a maple Stickaround.. exploded in his arms as he crushed it in two making the catch!! 87 points for the big man from Mass!! More incredible throwing. "I wanted to make sure I caught it", he said when asked about the neatly snapped boom!

The final event was team relay. Midwest, having clinched the title, wanted to finish with a flair and clean up in "their event". We're the fastest team here guys", shouted Gary Brodbent. "We're young, we're tough, we're Praying Mantis!! The strategy was to be perfect...no drops, run tough, win.

And the boys were tough...no drops, ran fast, came in 2nd... Team New England-- the old guys-- Larry Ruhf,

Eric Darnell, Lamothe, and a couple of other big names in a slightly younger bracket, like Paul Sprague and John Flynn-- they had the same idea. Throwing a little better, running a little faster, Flynn crossed the finish line 3/10 of a second ahead of the young bucks and in so doing took 2nd overall on the day and regained 3rd overall in the standings. Team South finished 3rd for the day, 2nd overall.

The Team finals then were Midwest, South, New England, Atlantic, W. Germany, France and Gel. Members of the remaining teams were, from Germany: World Distance Champion Volker Behrens, Uli Konzelmann (a tremendous fast catch and MTA thrower), Thomas Hartmann, Thomas Munch, and Michael Siems. If anything affected the Germans it was the heat and humidity. They showed very strong in MTA and also had to adapt to the "body traps" allowed in U.S. competition. In Germany, clean catches are the name of the game.

The French had super-hot fast

catch man Stephan Marguerite...low 20's all the time. Low 20's. Olivier Vouktchevitch, Jerome Quin, Jacques Roudeau. These Parisians are very tough throwers and personable to boot. Look for more from these guys in the future.

Team Gel, led by Michael and the Mole Man, also featured Jim Youngblood, Colorado's Jim Mayfield, Rob Greer, and the inimitable HL Mayhew; a defector from Columbus, OH.

Plans are tentatively underway to host the 2nd International Team Cup in France and Germany next July or August. It will be great to see some more European throwers and perhaps lure the Aussies across the globe for a truly international affair. More on that as it develops. Volker and Olivier definitely made one note after this tour and that was to allow ample time for socializing and relaxing. The 6 tournaments in 7 days format this year was a grind and left little time to chat. Other than that , all was marvelous! (or was it Midwest??!)

As to Team Midwest winning the Team Cup, all I can say is they earned it. They played smoothly together and came through with the big scores when they needed them. They beat us all. Period.

A few notes about Team Gel. Most of you have heard various things about the zany antics and wild boom ideas of Team Gel. Lot's of times anything or anyone that zany would have only minor effect on a given movement such as the fine art of throwing boomerangs. Here today, gone yesterday. A fad. Short lived. Team Who?

Well, Team Gel is for real. They are deliriously serious about having FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Everyone is a winner if you all have fun. By the end of the week this "Have fun at all costs" approach to rangs began to have a profound effect on "the rest of us" normal types.

Uli from the German team changed from a very uptight type after making mistakes, to a guy who would laugh as his boomerang sailed over his

What They Had To Say

"(Boomerangs) spin as they fly, so they look like disks, but the wings appear as spokes--as if the Statue of Liberty's crown were whirling and flying. Their orbits can be circular or elliptical, and they can go fast or slow--or hover, like UFOs piloted by indecisive aliens. And they make noises: depending on the throw, the wind, and differences in the boomerang's design, they twitter or whisper or make a sound like wind rushing through leaves. Chirping, inscribing circles in the air, and returning to their throwers, the boomerangs looked and sounded like a mysterious cross between toys and pets." --Naomi Blevin, The New Yorker.

"I made a boomerang in the shape of a lady and she is ever faithful to me--she always comes back."--Dr. Randolph Spitzberg, Baltimore.

"Haven't done any computer work in boomerangs in a while so nothing to report on there. Mostly I've been riding my bicycle and playing my bassoon. Bicycles, boomerangs and bassoons--that's my life."--Michael Cerda, Austin.

"See you guys later."--Dennis Joyce of Newport News, VA after he lofted his boomerang high in the air in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and began the long trot downfield which ended in his making a world tournament record maxi-

mum time aloft catch, 2 minutes 59.94 seconds later.

"My favorite place to throw is a wide, flat beach at the mouth of the Little River just south of Trinidad on the north coast of California. If I pick my time correctly, there is a 3 to 5 know offshore breeze, dead steady in velocity. If one had the patience and stamina, it's a perfect place to set a consecutive catch record."--P.J. Peacock, Arcata, CA.

"I've thrown and caught every boomerang in my collection, and I'm still amazed at how they perform, how they return. It's kind of like working in a darkroom--it's astonishing to see a picture come up off a blank piece of paper."--Tom Miller, Coldwater, MI.

"It's a little known fact that the real reason boomerangs are curved is so they fit better into Christmas stockings."--University of Illinois Boomerang Club newsletter.

"One of the lesser known methods of hunting waterfowl was to throw the boomerang across the top of the water, just as children of today skip stones over water. This is one explanation for the convection of both sides of some boomerangs which still come in from some Aboriginal communities to this day. No doubt about, the boomerang was an unusual weapon."--Duncan MacLennan, Sydney Boomerang School.

head in a round of fast catch. He was relaxed and having a good time.

After Micheal Girvin showed us the fine art of catching MTA booms behind the back (during competition!!!) many folks stared doing likewise. I personally caught three behind the back catches during Fast Catch at the final meet in Gaithersburg. I still have a "fun" scar on my hip to prove my audacity!

Anyway, it is good and refreshing to have The Gel around to keep us loose and remind us what having fun can be like. Thanks Dudes!

The First International Team Cup was a raging, belly-laughing, bull-roaring, head-pounding, muscle-aching, finger-bleeding, heart-throbbing success. It was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my life. I, and many other boomers, sure hope we can go over and throw with our European brothers in 1988 for the Second International Team Cup.

I can hardly wait!

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A Flight of Fancy Come to Life

A writer who previously reported in this newsletter on boomerang-throwing in China here takes up the sport closer to home. His charming column is reprinted from the June 1987 Friends magazine.

By John Caldarazzo

While I jealously watch, Chet Snouffer stands in a grassy field in Delaware, Ohio, and practices his 15,000-year-old art. He picks up a delicate-looking, delta-shaped stick, reaches back and throws. . . .

With a soft *whir*, the stick flies end over end for about 40 yards, then curves left, left, flattens out and begins to glide. It swoops above the tree line, flashes in the sun and rides the breeze back in. It slows to an almost gentle hover over Chet's outstretched hands, and drops.

Yes, a boomerang really *does* come back. And beautifully, too, like a flight of fancy come to life.

In all, Chet's boomerang has curved farther than a football field, and he's walked only five steps to meet it. It's not good enough, though, if he wants to keep his reputation as one of the most skilled throwers in the world.

"Wind's a little stiff today," he says, smiling. "A steady two to five miles per hour is best." Chet should know. He holds the world's "best" in boomerang juggling, an event in which a thrower tries to keep one flying stick aloft while rapidly catching and tossing another. He's juggled 200 in a row.

More impressive, Chet was the high scorer on that historic day in 1981 when a U.S. team upset the Australians in their own tournament. ("SHAME!" cried one of the local papers.)

Chet pulls a stick from a canvas bag, from which boomerangs protrude like so many loaves of French bread. *Whir*. While the boomerang arcs over the field, he coaxes it home with whispers and odd whistles. "Flies better that way," he says quickly, then catch-

es it without taking a step.

Talking to a stick flying over an Ohio cow pasture might seem odd to some people, but among Chet's friends, that's conservative behavior. Two of his toughest competitors on the boomerang circuit believe that good karma (plus a merciful wind) will guide their boomerangs home. One of them throws a model bearing Buddha, which he calls a "Buddharang."

Then there's someone else Chet knows -- Barney Ruhe, from the outback of Brooklyn, N.Y.--who's been known to wear a cape and feathered headdress to perform the William Tell in reverse. First, Barney slices an apple in half and pins it back together with toothpicks on top of his cap. He fires his boomerang, then positions himself under its return flight so that--*thwack!*--it cracks the apple in two.

While Chet keeps cranking out the throws--missing a behind-the-back catch, but then nabbing a boomerang after coming out of a spectacular backflip--I pick up one of his home-made models. Each wing of its L-shape is about a foot long, flat on one side and curved on the other to provide lift. Thinner than a pencil, it's made from seven layers of Finnish birch, pressed and glued together, then balanced, sanded and laminated. "Resilient," says Chet, "and stronger than hardwood."

It turns out that boomerangs come in a huge variety of shapes: pinwheels, tripod propellers, Omegas (called "Mind Benders"), and all the letters of the alphabet except B, D, I, O, P and Q. Some of the more advanced models are designed by windmill experts and aerospace engineers. This makes sense when you consider that the simple-looking sticks fly according to complicated aerodynamic laws, as well as gyroscopic precession and Bernoulli's Principle. Someone once wrote a 550-page Ph.D. dissertation on the topic.

But you don't have to be a math genius to make a perfectly good boomerang in your own home, Chet says. He started when he was 10 with quarter-inch paneling from his parent's rec room.

Chet says that the elegant, delicate-looking boomerang is often confused with its older cousin, the larger, heavier and more lethal aboriginal hunting stick, which does not curve at all. No one's sure about the real origin of the boomerang, but the subject is debated in many books.

Australians claim the aborigines have used it for 15 centuries. However, others report that a crescent-shaped stick from the Iron Age has been unearthed in Europe, and an illustration of a throwing stick was discovered in King Tut's tomb.

Obviously, boomerangs require lots of room. That's one of the sport's strongest appeals. After all, watching a boomerang sail out over a line of trees and bank against the sun before it comes whispering back in can make you forget for a moment about the less graceful contours of the real world. Besides that, it's just plain fun-- I know from experience. Because now at last Chet walks over and hands me a boomerang. I check the breeze like a pro, stretch and crank back to throw. . . .

The Definition of a Legal Boomerang for Competition

Back to the subject of defining a legal boomerang. Two submissions follow. The first is a short essay by Dennis Maxwell from BAA Bulletin No. 47 (April, 1986). The second is excerpts from correspondence from John Jordan (BBS), to Ted Bailey (USBA), Spring 1987.

Submitted by Dennis Maxwell, B.A.A.

This is a review of the submission by Ted Bailey USBA; to define a boomerang.

I consider that Ted's method contains good logic and approaches the ultimate definition. Attempts at a definition have endeavoured to quantify each boomerang about its centre of gravity. Each of these all have some merit but are subject to argument.

Bailey's definition certainly recognizes the true definition of the word "boomerang" which is 'come back'.

The only area which is subjective is the description of the flight path of the returning missile. The intension of this part, as I see it, is to eliminate the frisbee, which, if thrown inclined into the wind will return. I would interpret Bailey's definition to include the frisbee along with distance boomerangs, some of which have a similar flight path.

Ornithopters, as I understand are the helicopters type blades propelled by a mechanical means. If the definition stated, "thrown from the hand unaided by any mechanical means", then this would eliminate this item.

Gliders do not qualify because they do not rotate about their centre of mass and do not have the property of gyroscopic precession.

I propose that the BAA adopt the following definition of a boomerang for a one year trial period April 1986 to April 1987.

My amended definition would read as follows:

Boomerang: An object that is thrown

from the hand, un-aided by any mechanical means, with a combination of both translation and rotation about its centre of mass so the gyroscopic precession (caused by differential lift over the airfoil surfaces relative to its angular orientation) and aerodynamic lift combine to produce a flight path which returns the object to the thrower or to within a reasonable distance from the thrower.

By John Jordan

Regarding the "legal" B question, perhaps I'd better try to clear up some points I didn't mention in the news sheet and amplify my ideas on the adjustable template. I don't want to go on about it for ever, but the B world really needs to sort things out pretty soon if misunderstandings and difficulties are to be avoided.

I conceived the template idea some years ago and looking back through some old letters recently I found I mentioned it to John Mauro in 1985. It was my *suggestion* to help solve the problem of SHAPE.

I fully agree with your B definition-- gyroscopic precession, etc. and of course, "mechanical" Bs would not be allowed by anyone.

It's not that I (or the BBS) want to make things complicated! Indeed, we are happy to go along with the 2 year trial period that you suggested to "throw any shape". At our International Tournament at York 30/31 May that rule will apply. (It also applies at the "Horniman Museum events").

You see Ted, even though I founded the BBS over 6 years ago and have been running it until a week ago, I'VE NEVER DISCOVERED WHAT IT IS THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO DO WHEN THEY MAKE RESTRICTIONS ON THE SHAPES OF BOOMERANGS. I *guess* it has something to do with ease of catching, but I've never heard anyone say so specifically.

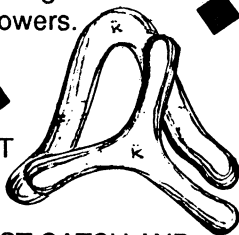
So assuming that shape (not weight or position of CG) was the difficult problem, I thought up the template

Continued on page 14

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Nine Videocassettes Available

By Ben Ruhe

To spread the word about the sport of boomeranging and to raise funds for organizational purposes, the USBA is now offering for sale nine videocassettes on various aspects of the sport. The tapes typically run two hours and cost \$30, with the exception of one cassette that costs \$40 and runs six hours.

Subjects covered include anthropology (Australian Aboriginals making boomerangs with stone tools), research (computer-generated images by Dr. Felix Hess and a mechanical boomerang launcher in action in Eng-

land), collections (Ted Bailey's trove and others), U.S. and foreign television clips ("That's Incredible", NBCE News, "The Today Show", "To Tell the Truth"), tournaments (Atlanta, the International Team Cup, etc.), and luminaries (Baby Ben Loveland, Bunny Read, Bob Burwell, Col. John Gerrish, Rusty Harding, et al). Plus world's records and feats (the first Supercatch ever, by Ted Bailey; Dennis Joyce pulling off an MTA throw of 2:59; John Koehler making 60 catches in Endurance; John Flynn doing Fast-Catch; Chet Snouffer catching while doing a back flip, etc.).

Archivist for the collection is Gary Lamothe of Easthampton, MA, a leading thrower and filmmaker.

The videocassettes for the first time permit enthusiasts to gain visual ac-

cess to the whole range of boomeranging. They are unique resource for both entertainment and instruction. Their uses for scholarship are unlimited.

Buyers of the tapes are instructed that purchase does not imply consent to copy or market the contents, which in some cases are covered by U.S. copyright laws. The fee charged by the USBA for each videocassette is levied only for copying and distribution costs and as a contribution to the non-profit USBA.

For a detailed list of available cassettes, available in either VHS or Beta format, send a self-addressed, stamped, legal-sized (No. 10) envelope to Gary Lamothe, 18 St. James Ave., Easthampton, MA 01027. Or telephone him at 413-527-9956.

Book Review

By John B. Mauro

Mayhew, H. L., Jr., The 1987 Boomerang Grab Bag. Souvenir Edition. How to Enjoy and Survive Boomerang Contests and Official Boomerang Competition Rules. Columbus: Comeback Press, 1987, 24 pp., legal-size. \$5.00 with rights to reproduce.

This book does two things: It introduces boomeranging to the public in general and reviews current boomerang competition from the perspective of the novice or the person who has just been introduced to boomerang competitive events, and provides precise rules as published by the United States Boomerang Association for the expert to study.

H. L. Mayhew, Jr., who is an expert boomerang thrower and has many boomerang publications to his credit, deftly translates the rules of each event so that even a person who never has thrown a boomerang can understand. He then includes a listing of players ranked according to their competitive ratings.

All this is done with a not-too-serious look at the sport and with the kind of humor that those of us who have read Mayhew's work before have come to enjoy so much. You'll want to read it whether you are a novice or an expert.

Copies may be purchased directly from the publisher, P.O. Box 13647, Columbus, OH 43213.

USBA Tee Shirt

We are still waiting to receive designs for a new USBA T-shirt. We are looking for a design that best exemplifies the true sport or flight of boomerangs. All interested members please...

Send your designs to:

USBA Store
PO Box 2996
Newport News, VA 23602

The member that sends in the best design will receive a yet to be determined prize and of course a T-shirt with their design (if it is used)

USBA Mascot? You Decide.

OK folks, what is the first animal you think of relating to boomerangs? A Kangaroo, right? Everyone loves a kangaroo with their pockets and long tails, etc. etc.

The only problem is they are Australian. So while kangaroos work great as a mascot for Australian Boomeranging they don't quite measure up as a purely American mascot, that is an animal indigenous to the US.

Should the USBA have it's own mascot? You decide. Let us know what you think would be the perfect animal to become THE USBA MASCOT! Send your choice (written please, not the actual animal!) to the USBA Store address listed above. We will publish your suggestions in a later issue.

Continued from page 12

idea. Initially, a fixed template was considered, but later I considered a "movable" template would be a definite improvement.

Regarding the shape of the arms of the template, I reasoned that they would need to be fairly wide so that the outline of curved boomerangs, e.g. Omegas, would fit inside the out line of the template. Thus they would be "legal". There is no point at all, as far as I can see, in restricting the possible *length* of the arms. After all, if a thrower thinks he can win a fast-catch competition using a 'rang with 1 metre arms, good luck to him!

All well and good so far, I hope. Now we come to the exact size of the template and, as you rightly say, there could be debate about that.

I would WELCOME debate about that! You recall I said above that it was my *suggestion* to help solve the shape problem. All I'll say is, make a cardboard (or plywood) template and experiment a little. I'll be very surprised if you don't find a lot of merit in the idea.

If you actually try the template you'll find that most (hopefully all) of the supposedly illegal shapes are excluded. Examples are, Booma-Rings, Wham-o-Rangs, multi-bladers and "three-arm" Bs of normal size. These seem to be the shapes that folk regard as "not proper boomerangs." I know you and I both say they *are* OK, but some folk just don't regard them as being allowable in competitions.

As I mentioned in my last letter I think, I suggest the minimum angle between the arms should be restricted to 75 degrees. Given that and the width of the arms as 9 cm, I'm convinced the device could go a long way in helping to sort out the admittedly difficult problem of shapes.

Let me make it quite clear though, I'd accept ANY shape. As Peter Harding, one of our BBS members has said, "If someone produces a superior boomerang with 9-1/2 arms, we'll all soon make one! I'll happily agree with him on that.

Boomerang Finishing

by Gene Arnow

Getting a fine finish on your homemade boomerang can be a rewarding experience, but a time consuming one. You can have a slightly glossy finish, a very glossy finish, or an almost mirrorlike glaze by following certain steps in finishing.

I am making the assumption that you have already made your boomerang from some sort of blank, that you have sanded it to some slight degree of smoothness, have field-tested and fine-tuned it.

You now have the boomerang back in your workshop and are ready to begin. Take the sanding through the normal sanding process, course sandpaper, medium sandpaper, fine and extra-fine, until the boomerang is as smooth as a baby's behind.

I use a polyurethane spray for my finishes. You will find many different types of this on the market, but I favor Sears High Gloss. It has the advantage of being inexpensive, readily available, and puts out the spray pattern that I favor. Some brands of spray put out a spray that is a thin line that can be adjusted to horizontal or vertical, but is so wide that a lot of spray goes to waste.

I lay the boomerangs out on a table that I have covered with newspaper. I hold the spray can about ten inches from the surface of the boomerang and spray at an angle so that the spray is hitting the front edge of the boomerang. I spray from tip to tip along the front edge and then do the same for each boomerang that I have set out.

I then go around to the other side of the table and do the same thing to the other edge of the boomerang. At the time that I am doing the other edge of the boomerang I also spray the top, making sure to cover any areas that were not covered when I sprayed the edge. When the first side has dried thoroughly, turn the boomerang over and repeat the process.

When you have sprayed all the boomerangs you should carefully pick them up by the edges while they are wet and move them to an area of total-

ly dry newspaper. Spread fresh newspaper over the area where you sprayed the boomerangs originally and then place them back where they were originally sliding them onto the paper so as to remove any run over spray from the boomerang. In about twenty minutes you should lightly touch the edges of the boomerangs moving them from side to side so that they do not stick to the paper.

It is so much fun to sign and date your very own handmade boomerang that I make sure that I can get a good clear signature without the ink running. As I apply coats of finish I make the first two coats extremely heavy, literally soaking the boomerang with spray. At this point I go over my boomerangs with 0000 or 000 wood-working steel wool until they are very smooth, removing even more finish at some location on the back of the boomerang where I want to sign it. The finish keeps the wood sealed and prevents the ink from running.

At this point you could put one more coat of finish on the boomerang and you would have a finish that would be as good as most of the finished used on commercially made boomerangs.

If you were to continue the process of adding coats of finish you would eventually end up with a mirror-glaze finish.

As you put on the final coats of finish that will bring it up to a super gloss, if that is indeed your desire, you will need to go over the boomerangs with steel wool on approximately every other coat. To truly achieve the kind of finish that I like my boomerangs to have will take between eight and ten coats of finish. Good luck on beautiful boomerangs.



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More Fairy Tales Come True!

by Ted Bailey

The "Super-Catch" honor role now stands at a lucky seven as more throwers get their MTA scores up and their fast catch times down. The list includes:

Ted Bailey
John Flynn
Mike Forrester
Thomas Hartmann
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Chet Snouffer

MTA solo times are on the move as three world record marks are set in the USA this spring. Dennis Joyce set a new world record mark in MTA unlimited at 2 minutes, 59.94 seconds. Doug DuFresne set a new record mark of 49.39 seconds in MTA 100, beating the time of 42.41 seconds held by Tom Williams. Tom and Dennis were both using MTA sticks made by Mike Forrester! No one has been able to touch the record mark of 39.16 seconds for the MTA 50 event which has been held by Geoff Kennedy (Australia) since 1985.

Thomas Hartmann of West Germany writes

In May, I lost an MTA 'rang after more than 4 minutes. It was more than 100 meters high and over 1 km away from my launching point. Last Thursday (under the same perfect conditions), I set a new personal record with a 1 minute, 24.57 second throw. One hour later, using a copy of a Bailey

mini-MTA that I made myself, I scored a throw of 4 minutes, 5 seconds. It was still high after 3'55" but came crashing down in the final seconds. It took 5 minutes just to find it, but it was recovered.

Larry Ruhf who recently held the world record at MTA unlimited (2'31.02") writes of his recent experiences

I popped a copy of a Bailey mini-MTA made by Gary Friedman into the air. It stabilized and gradually began to climb. After watching for about 30 seconds, I started my timer. The boomerang just rose and rose to an incredible height without drifting at all. I laid on my back for over a minute watching as everyone screamed "It's gone, it's gone". I gave my timer to Peter when it had a time of three minutes. The boomerang began to descend. I reached out for an easy catch with the timer at 3 minutes, 37 seconds (plus

about 30 seconds), and dropped the easiest catch in my life. The rang was within 50 metres of the throwing point. Four spectators estimated the peak height at 300-500 ft.

I have to ask Larry why he didn't pull out a fast catch and attempt the supercatch. Do you get any extra credit for doing a round of endurance under a MTA?

Jens Behrmann of West Germany writes

On April 26, I had the pleasure to give my midsize Bailey MTA a tremendous lift-off. The stick stayed in the air for just over three minutes. Unfortunately, I missed the catch because of a large thorny bush which got in the way of fulfilling my greatest fantasy.

Roger Perry of Western Australia experienced the following

I got the large MTA you sent up for 30+ every throw. I made left handed rangs out of all the

USBA NATIONALS

We are waiting for offers, from groups or areas willing to hold the 1988 USBA National Tournament. We have been traditionally switching from the Eastern, Central and Western United States every year. This year the first choice falls to the Western United States, but if we don't receive any positive response TOUGH LUCK!

The field is open anywhere. But seriously folks, if you decide that you would like to make an offer to hold the Nationals, there are a few major things you might want to think about:

- a. Do you have a large enough field?
- b. Can you reserve that field?
- c. Do you have people to assist with the event?
- d. Have you ever held a tournament before?

There are a few other things to think about besides those I mentioned, but this will get you thinking about the responsibilities that go along with having the nationals.

A Tournament Director's Packet is available from the USBA Store and includes a rulebook, scoring sheet, waiver sheet, rating system results sheet and suggestions for the Tournament Director. For 1988 National Tournament offers or Tournament Director's Packet write to:

Dennis Joyce c/o USBA Store PO box #2996 Newport News, VA 23602

blanks you sent and went to a demonstration in Kalgoorlie. I had two flights in a row that exceeded one minute. On the third throw the wind came up out of nowhere and I chased it for three minutes until I lost it in the sun.. Oh well, back to the drawing board. Please, send more blanks!!

John Jordan writes to say . . .

*...
Gordon Shuttleworth has been practicing with MTA and Distance and now has best scores of 1 minute 24 seconds and 112 yards respectively.*

Gordon is the editor of the BBS newsletter and has a new address at:

47 Highbury Terrace
Leeds LS6 4ET
United Kingdom

Geoff Kennedy, the editor of

the BAA Bulletin (or is it the ABA Bulletin) had the most incredible throw of all during the 1987 BAA National Championships. Using a specially laminated Rod Jones MTA, he launched it clean out of the park. After chasing it for 10 minutes over a 2 kilometer distance, he lost sight of the stick and returned to a sad and disappointed audience.

Barnaby Ruhe and Chet Snouffer have both juggled over 200 during practice!

And in Fast Catch the 19 second barrier has been broken by three people recently during practice. Michael Girvin and Doug Dufresne (18.2) and John Flynn (18.36). Look for a possible new world record next year in Fast Catch.

So ends the fairy tales for this issue. Write in and let us know about your unusual throwing experiences. And remember to write your name and address on your MTA sticks just in case. Happy throwing!

Who is Geoff Kennedy?

Geoff Kennedy may not be a household word in the USA boomerang movement yet, but he is in Australia. Several months ago, I initiated contact with the editor of the BAA Bulletin and asked what his throwing experiences were. He replied the following . . .

I am a senior Draftsman with the city of Melbourne Electricity Supply. I am 28 years old, married with 2 daughters.

I began throwing back in 1970 at the ripe old age of 11 when I met Ralph Sinclair after school one evening. After a few quick lessons, I found myself obsessed with the new found sport. Ralph took me under his wing and I tagged along to the local competitions, of which I won the Junior Championships at my first comp. and for the next four years I won nearly all the junior events that I entered and even took off a senior event at the 1974 Nationals with a first in fast catch and a runner-up in Aussie Round. I was the National Junior Champion that year.

Continued next page

MODERN SOUTH AMERICAN KILLER-STICK

Dr. Leziro Silva, of Sao Paulo, Brazil writes to tell us of a new South American terror stick under development by the Brazilian Commandos. The small (30 cm.) "boomerang" is fibreglass, hollow and filled with explosive aluminized gelatine. The charge is fired by an impact or a delayed fuse. The same device filled with cyalume is used for nighttime fire practice. Those that read the Frank Donellan article in the summer issue of MHR will remember that Frank Donellan proposed a similar device for fighting the Japanese Army in WW II. Dr Silva is interested in marketing natural elbow boomerangs made out of Brazilian woods. For those interested in purchasing Brazilian boomerangs, he can be contacted at:

Rua Sansao A. Santos, 237
Ap. 143 - Ed. Costa Brava
Bairro Brooklyn Novo
04.571 Sao Paulo, SP
Brasil

In 1975, I underwent surgery to my right shoulder, and due to the long recovery period, dropped right out of the boomerang scene.

Purely by accident, I stumbled upon a local boomerang tournament in 1985 and, to my surprise, all the same old faces were still involved. This rekindled my old interest to get back into it and I bought a couple of rangs and made heaps more.

Now two years later, I have either won or placed second or third in over 30 events; of

these, 14 have been MTA. I am the current MTA 50 record holder in competition with a time of 39.16 seconds. My personal best is 1 minute, 30 seconds for a throw from the bullseye and a catch within the 50 meter radius circle.

The MTA I am using is one I made from a tracing of a Rod Jones' "SKY GYPSY" and it was my first attempt at making an MTA 'rang. I've tried making many more, but cannot reproduce one like this first one, and unfortunately it has been glued together many times and is ready for retirement.

I missed our Nationals in 1986 due to the arrival of our second daughter on the first day of competition, so I am hoping to prove that I am up there with the best of them this year.

Editor's note: Geoff took a first in Distance and MTA 100 and a second in consecutive catch at the BAA Championships for a **first place** overall finish. This sleeping giant is the one to watch at the World Cup in Alice Springs next year.

The Atlanta Boomerang Society will probably hold a tournament this fall, so that will provide the next gathering of enthusiasts in that part of the country. The South Georgia Boomerang Club will hold a tournament in April of 1988. Call John Derden at (919) 237-7207 for more info.

SPECIAL BOOMERANG CLINIC TO BE HELD IN CLEVELAND ON NOV. 7

The Cleveland Boomerang School and the Cuyahoga Valley Recreational Area will hold a clinic for the art of competing with special boomerangs on November 7, 1987 from 1PM-4PM. For further information, you can contact David Boehm at (216)-442-6024 or Gayle Hazlewood at (216)-650-4636.



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USBA Auction Block

Quality Boomerangs from Germany. Pictured are two terrific boomerangs that have recently come out of Germany.

The beautiful strip laminated hook was made by Gerhard Bertling of Berlin, West Germany. The triangle boomerang

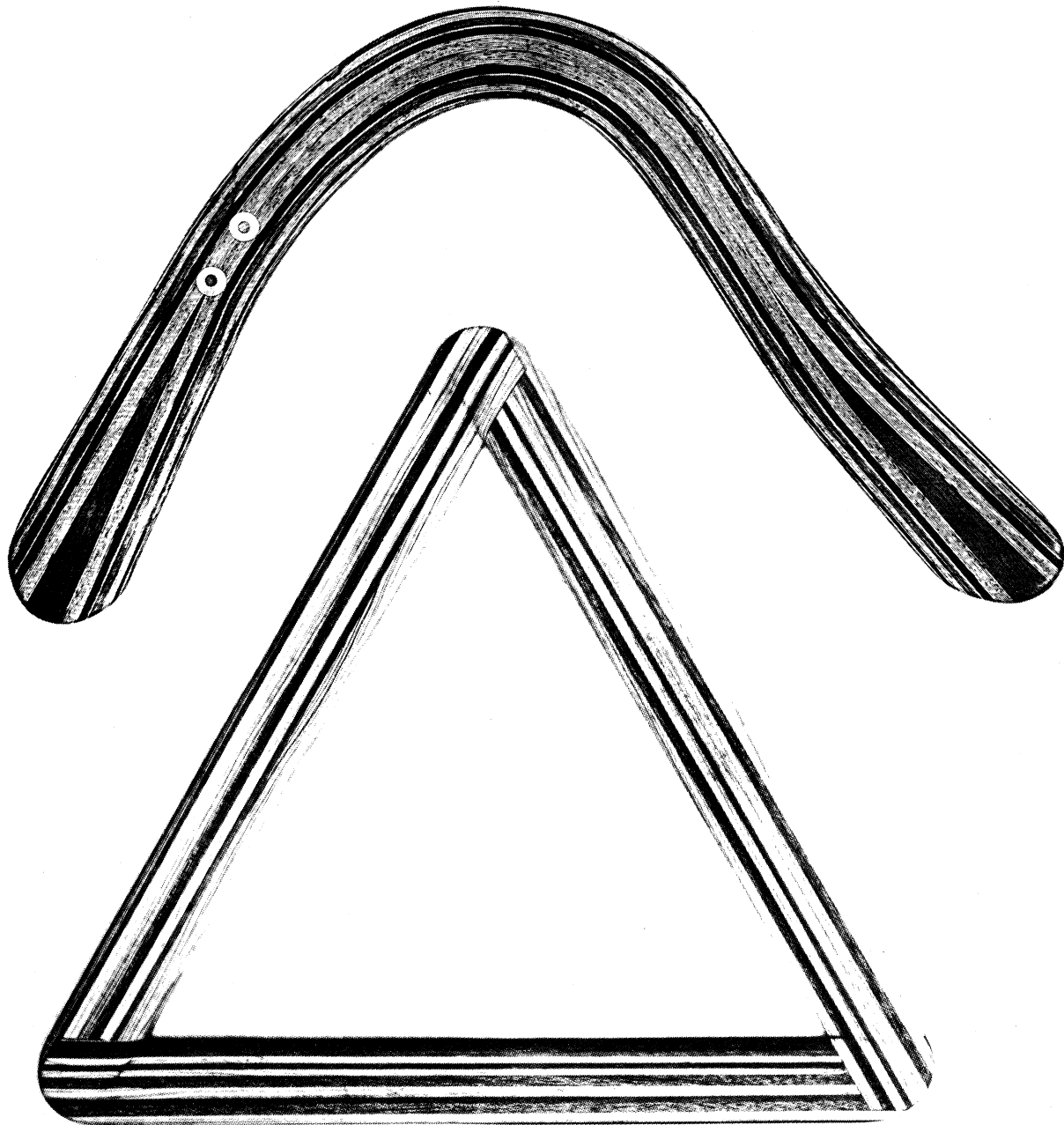
was made by Thomas Hartmann of Selze. The strip laminated hook is being auctioned through the USBA by mail bid.

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marked no later than December 20, 1987. Your lowest bid that exceeds any one else's bid will win this fabulous "Gerhard Hook". The boomerang will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

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