

Many Happy Returns

No. 40

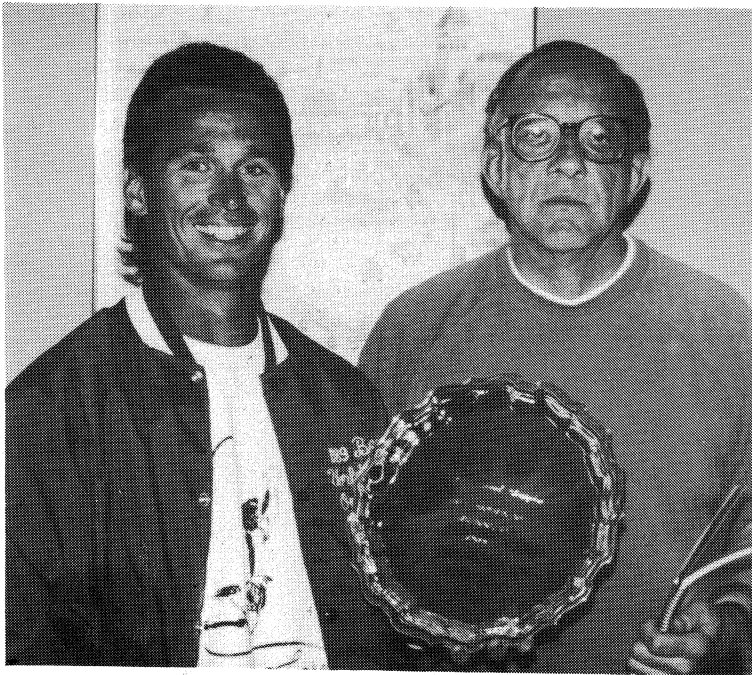
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An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Fall 1989

THE 1989 INTERNATIONAL TEAM CUP

Team White USA (upper right): Barnaby Ruhe (Captain); John Flynn; Jim Jordan; Dennis Joyce; John Koehler; and Rob Parkins wins the three match team competition. Chet Snouffer (lower left) wins the Ben Ruhe World Open. Rob Croll sets a world record mark of 765 Consecutive Catches. Jim Youngblood sets a world record mark of 134 metres in Long Distance. Good Times are had by all (lower right). Read all the details inside this issue.





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ITC Photographs by J. Flynn & C. Snouffer

BABY BOOMERS !!!

Congratulations are in order to Chet & Carmen Snouffer with the birth of their son: Cody Allen on May 6, 1989. Cody was 21" long & weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

Congratulations are also in order to John & Patty Koehler with the birth of their new daughter: Danielle Renee on July 8, 1989. Danielle weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

USBA GREETINGS

The USBA has survived (and thrived) yet another year. A new board of directors has been elected and procedural changes have been implemented. The new USBA President: Betsylew Miale has authorized the editor to glean some of the materials from early 1989/1990 board correspondence and share it with you, the membership, so that you will be aware of important 1989/1990 efforts & needs.

Changes have been made to the membership system. All membership related mail now goes thru the Delaware, Ohio USBA address. Page 19 has details.

If you have any ideas for promoting USBA, send them in to USBA headquarters. The board is more than willing to listen to you. After all, it's your organization and we need your help.

The USBA is initiating a membership drive to increase our ranks to eliminate the potential for future membership rate hikes. You can help by signing up a friend who is also interested in boomeranging. How about giving a membership for a Christmas present this year. Membership info is provided on page 19.

The USBA now has an official car rental agency to help defray the cost of renting a vehicle while at a tournament or on a pleasure trip. Info is given in the advertisement on page 16 of this issue.

The Rules Committee, for the most

part, will remain the same as it was last year. Fine tweaking of existing rules and team event rules are this year's topics.

The USBA is desperately in need of obtaining sponsorship for 1990 International Competition. A World Cup is scheduled to be held in Japan. Additional funding is needed for International Team Cup participation at a site not yet identified for 1990. If you have fund raising skills and can help in this effort, please contact USBA immediately.

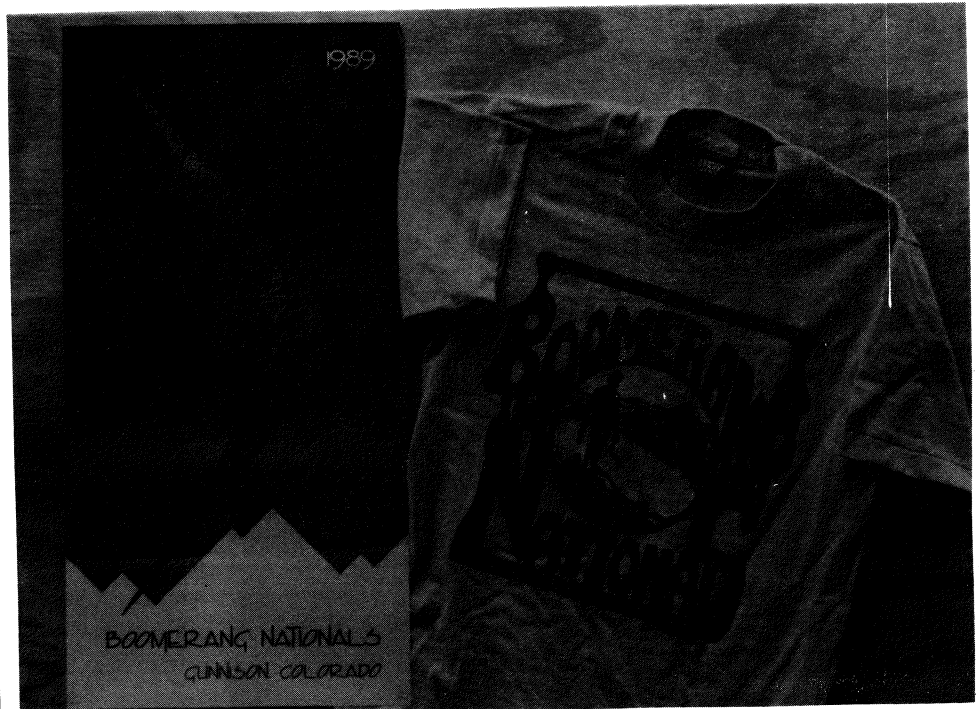
A site for the 1990 USBA Nationals needs to be identified as soon as possible.

If you think that you can pull it off, contact USBA as soon as possible.

The 1989 USBA Nationals were a smashing success, thanks to Jim Mayfield and his assistants. A limited supply of beautiful posters and T-shirts (pictured below) remain in stock and can be mail ordered through Jim at the address below. The listed prices have shipping costs already factored in. Don't forget to mention your shirt size.

Jim Mayfield
409 North Colorado
Gunnison, Co. 81230

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>OVERSEAS</u>
1 Poster	\$7	\$11
2 Posters	\$12	\$18
3 Posters	\$17	\$26
1 T-Shirt	\$11	\$16
2 T-Shirts	\$21	\$29
3 T-Shirts	\$32	\$41

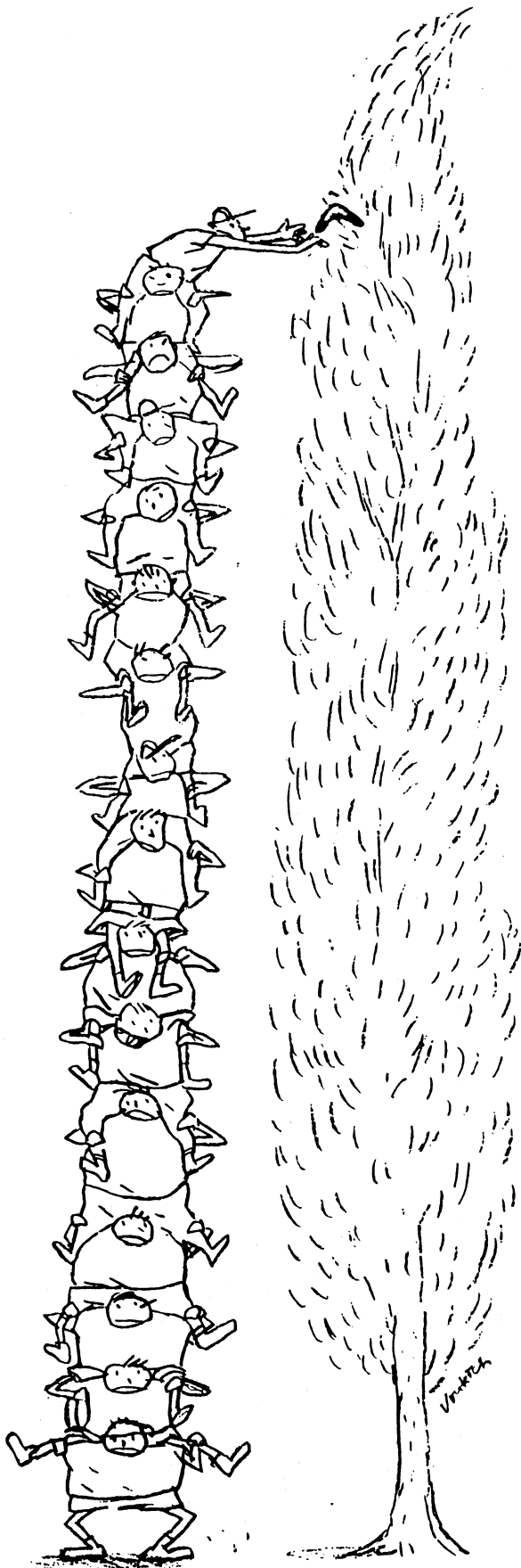


The Official 1989 USBA Nationals T-shirt & Poster

Many Happy Returns

Fall 1989

YOU TOO CAN DIDJERIDOO



TEAM WORK!

another cartoon by Olivier Voukchevitch



Ianto Thornber is the proprietor of a unique business - BOAB Didjeridoo manufacturing. Ianto learned to make didgeridoos the old fashioned way: from an aborigine named David Canari of Kakadu National Park, located in the Northern Territories of Australia. Ianto is currently manufacturing precision hardwood and bamboo didgeridoos tuned to specific musical notes. Carrying cases are optional. If you are interested in obtaining Ianto's fine products, you may write to the address below for a price listing. Ianto also markets aboriginal clapping sticks and an excellent instructional tape on how to play the didjeridoo. Ianto is also active in integrating the didjeridoo into contemporary music and maintains an archival system of didjeridoo music.

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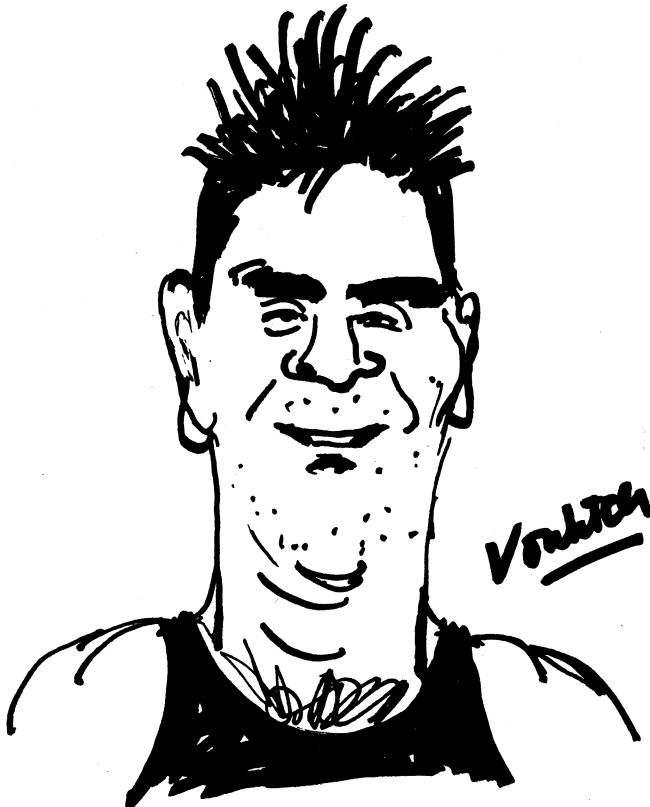
THE 1989 INTERNATIONAL TEAM CUP

The 1989 International Team Cup was held at the Gaithersburg Polo Field in Maryland, outside of Washington, D.C. The third annual event was quite successful with everyone having a great time. Unlike the previous two International Team Cups, the weather was not perfect. Yet scores remained at or above excellent levels.

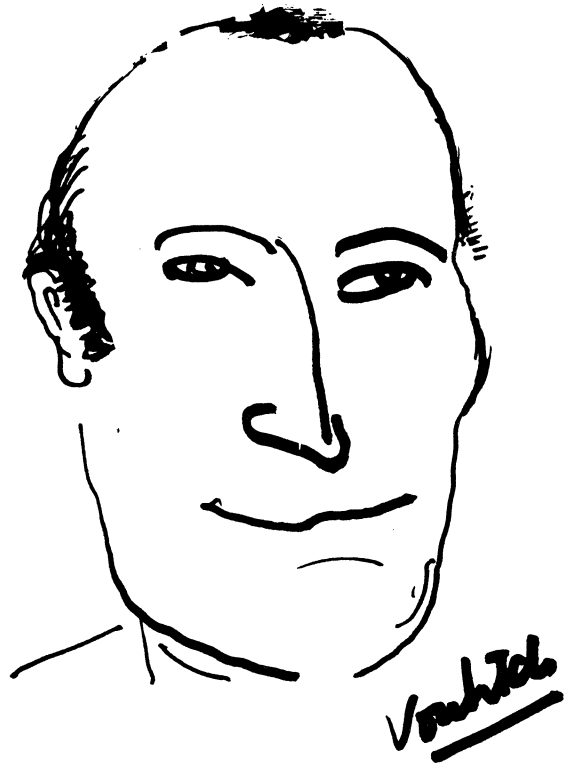
Team White (USA) won the team match with Team Germany coming in a close second place. Team White Captain, Barnaby Ruhe, wrote a brilliant dissertation (page 5) which captures the spirit of the match from the inside looking out. The essay provides a rare insight into the mind of successful strategist: Barnaby Ruhe.

Chet Snouffer (unbeatable in 1989) won the Ben Ruhe Open on the individual day. Rob Croll tied for second with Rob Parkins, the young dynamo lefty from Connecticut. Larry Ruhf provides the details in the summary which follows on page 6.

Two World Records were shattered on World Record Day. Jim Youngblood broke the Long Distance record with a throw of 134 meters. Ray Laurent almost topped that with 131 meters. Rob Croll and Dennis Joyce battled it out in Consecutive Catch until Dennis dropped in the 600's. Rob, who previously held the record with 653 catches, continued on to 765 at which point he just stopped, without a drop. Chet wrote an excellent essay, portrayed on page 7.



A Profile of Geoff Kennedy by Olivier Voukchevitch



A Profile of Rob Croll by Olivier Voukchevitch

A report on the glory of the competition almost always fails to give credit to the organizers who donate tons of time to insure that everything runs like clockwork. This space is dedicated to those who pursued these thankless tasks to make the 1989 International Team Cup a success. Larry Ruhf put time in every week for a year as an international coordinator. Jim Jordan and John Koehler pulled all the strings together in Gaithersburg to insure that a hotel, a field, and all the field essentials such as porta-potties and chalk were there when they were needed. Jim stayed on at the hotel as a coordinator for the entire team cup at his own personal expense, despite living only a few miles away. Special thanx is given to everyone else who pitched in to help; including the ladies such as Caroline Jordan and Diane DuFresne. Each of the throwers, especially the captains, put in lots of time in planning finances and coordinating travel. There were those who put in extra time chalking the fields and officiating. And don't forget the generous donations for the prizes and auction which helped to reduce overall operating expenses. There are rewards in doing unselfish acts for the benefit of others. This includes the simple knowledge that you've accomplished something grand. We can thank these organizers by pitching in and helping out at future boomerang tournaments.

THE TEAM MATCHES

by Barnaby Ruhe

Awards Ceremony: Ruhe, as captain of Team White USA announces that White beat two perfect teams, three brilliant teams, and three learning teams. He further suggests that the one-point win means one catch, or one drop as you will, decided the outcome of the cup. "... and I will leave it to each of you to decide which drop that was".

Test 2: Team Red moves into position for Super Catch as a rain squall hits hard. Clockwork, they dog out fast catches in the deluge while Chet goes for an awesome MTA catch. He slips on the watery ground and drops, as the rain suddenly stops. As captain of Team White, I mutter to myself: "just our luck."

Test 1: The winds are nasty on a big field. Team White uses lots of slotted polys in safety cruise control (some may say "slime mold tactics") while other teams take a couple of chances and blow up under the pressure of the first day. White edges out Red and Team Germany on the first day, while aiming for second place through unremitting caution. That is, White is given the day, they don't exactly seize it.

Pre Test: Kirky notes John Flynn takes Ruhe's 7 page "Fundamentals of Team Play" to bed with him. The letter contains certain heretofore unrevealed secrets of team strategy, such as: "If you catch, you win."

Test 1: Dennis Joyce gets White MVP honors, fingering Chet as a target and keeping up with the monster of perfection. Torsten Fredrich's Ruhe-tuned paxolin boomerang cuts the wind in Aussie Round for Juice.

Volker Behren's "Windcutters" would see action in test 3. The exchange of new technology is brisk across the Atlantic. DuFresne Fast Catchers and slotted triples enjoy currency. And of course the ubiquitous American MTAs are another Lingus Franca. Most throwers immediately master whatever new stick is in their hands, the technology and the ability is awesome. Boomerang Parnassus was on earth in Gaithersburg in June 1989. Events are won by one point, by one catch, by 0.2 seconds, as five teams struggle in heaven in complete parity for most events.

Test 2: Ruhe, alerted to the utter parity of several teams, decides White has no

chance on the final test day: we must somehow take a sizable lead at the second test. We must start our sprint early, so to speak. Ruhe is frantic: A sense of emergency must be telegraphed to the teammates. Our end run is now. The sleeping giants will wake up on Saturday. White's platoon system works: all six throwers are basically in 4 events apiece, all hold up as MVP, and White takes Test 2 by a wide margin: 8 points, aided by Wednesday's mysterious self-destruction of Team Red (The "Red Wave" will be born on Saturday, with a vengeance).

Test 3: Team White is very good, no really, they just get clobbered by Red and Germany. The first event is Aussie Round, taken before by White, owned today by Germany, with Aussies and Frogs spoiling between us, putting White in 4th and wiping out White's supposedly unbeatable lead! White's Relay sucks, so we have to donate 4+ points to Red and Germany at this last event of the day. That leaves the middle four events to somehow eke back our lead: White ties with Blue for second in Count-up and we hold a victory celebration! Germany's 4th means we've gained a point, a safety point, with time slipping away for them. (The "Red Wave" win went unnoticed by statistician Ruhe, who foolishly wrote them off as too far behind. But no! Their astonishing comeback was only to be determined by the drops of Japan, Blue, Aussie, and Belgium in the Relay, which saved it for White) Of course the "Red Wave" wins MTA as well, with Blue a close second, but White celebrates nipping Germany in this hypercritical



MVP - Michael "Gel" Girvin

third event. Another point made up before we get to the predetermined Relay disaster of the final event. Fast Catch is blazed out by Volker's 21, Michael Siem's 25, Gunter's 26, and Fridolin's 28: to take first and stomp White for another 3 points. Gel Girvin's 20 steers Blue to second. Flynn's godlike 19 saves third for White. White is going into Super Catch with a meager 5 point lead over Germany, just the very sum we give up to them at each Relay, no room to breath. Red alert.

Super Catch, Test 3: Ruhe chooses Flynn, Koehler, Juice, and Jordan to contest this final desperate toss up. Flynn ferociously won't be turned away from any event. Ruhe ferociously takes himself out of Super Catch, despite his 32 in MTA and 25 in Fast Catch earlier in the day: daring his team mates to earn his place. Jordan lost a coin toss to Ruhe when they were equal at Fast Catch practice. So he gets a Super Catch spot, and his 19 catches registered during his MTA toss is a high point for him and for us and for the day. Juice's 18 score follows suit, and we edge Germany for third, gaining 1.5 on them for a significant 6.5 overall lead going into the relay!!! (Again, the "Red Wave's" first is a big-foot comeback ignored by Ruhe until the Relay when we see they had a shot within striking distance.)

The Relay is a count-down, as Germany predictably wins it, aided by Tosten's clever running start technique. But it is just a matter of placing 5th for White. No easy mark!! But a couple gift drops by other teams aid us in our quest. Thanks!

MVP for Team White goes to Juice for Ti, Flynn as the Motor of Desire, Koehler for his steady lustre, Jordan for his clincher Super Catch, Parkins for his svelte Endurance, and Ruhe for his underbelly neo pseudo fascistic confused and rabid coaching style which his brilliant team endures in good humor.

The MVP of the week is voted on by all, going to Gel Girvin (left), who empowers all throwers with his attitude.

Post Test: Flynn confesses to Ruhe that he departed from White's "Slime Mold" strategy: he used his fast Fast Catch for both rounds in Test 3. His 24 with a pop-up first round allowed him to go for broke in the second. Had he not gotten the 19.80, Team White would not have come away with the Cup. Ruhe overlooks the infraction of discipline, this once.

THE BEN RUHE WORLD OPEN COMPETITION

Chet Snouffer Reigns as World Individual Champion at the Ben Ruhe World Open.
by Larry Ruhf

The first ever Ben Ruhe World Individual Championship was contested during the International Team Boomerang Cup week in June at the Potomac Polo Fields in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Chet Snouffer, fresh from a major let down two days before in the team cup match, came out blazing and produced one of those Chet type dominated days where he grabbed a first place in MTA₁₀₀, 3 second places in Fast Catch, Consecutive Catch and Doubling and a fourth place in Australian Round to wrap up the World Title by a huge margin and once again reign as the King of Boomerangs. Chet's main expected challenger: Rob Croll from Australia, indeed was formidable gaining second place overall with a first in Consecutive Catch, second in Australian Round, and places in the other events. Also tied for second overall was the young upstart Rob Parkins, a southpaw who starred on USA Team White. Parkins grabbed second places in Consecutive Catch and Doubling and finished strong in Fast Catch and Australian Round to hold second overall with Rob Croll.

This special day was dominated by strong variable winds and occasional rain showers producing many difficulties for throwers to adjust to. Particularly, MTA₁₀₀ was contested in the most difficult of conditions with many 'rangs coasting over the 100 meter line and lots of competitors struggling to find the right boomerang or using weights and flaps to contend with the wind. The main surprise was Chet's consistency in scoring well on each throw. MTA was al-

ways considered Chet's weak point, but this day healed the beginning of: Chet has no holes anymore in his game by dominating this event.

Other highlights: Moleman, using a Volker Behrens wishbone paxolin, won Australian Round with a super solid 80 points. Gelly Girvin pulled out of his sack a tremendous Fast Catch boomerang that he had tailored from German design ideas and won Fast Catch with a 22.49 round in very difficult wind conditions. John Flynn, who

finished 4th overall in the Championship, pulled in 10 catches out of a possible 12 during an off and on rain storm to win the doubling event.

During the prize ceremonies, the Guru himself, Ben Ruhe, presented some beautiful and coveted awards to the winners of the events and the overall champions. The first Ben Ruhe World Individual Championship was thusly deemed a rousing success by all the international competitors.

TOP SCORES OF THE DAY

Consecutive Catch

1	Austr.	Rob Croll	12 catches
2	USA	Michael Girvin	11 catches
2	USA	Casey Larrance	11 catches
2	USA	Rob Parkins	11 catches
2	Austr.	Roger Perry	11 catches
2	USA	Chet Snouffer	11 catches
2	USA	Greg Snouffer	11 catches

MTA₁₀₀

1	USA	Chet Snouffer	26.10 sec.
2	France	O. Vouktchevitch	24.44 sec.
3	Belgium	Patrick Mestdag	23.72 sec.

Australian Round

1	USA	Mole Man	80 points
2	Austr.	Rob Croll	77 points
3	W. Ger.	Volker Behrens	75 points

Doubling

1	USA	John Flynn	10 catches
2	USA	Eric Darnell	9 catches
2	USA	Rob Parkins	9 catches
2	USA	Barnaby Ruhe	9 catches
2	W. Ger.	Michael Siems	9 catches
2	USA	Chet Snouffer	9 catches
2	USA	Gregg Snouffer	9 catches

Fast Catch

1	USA	Michael Girvin	22.49 sec.
2	USA	Chet Snouffer	23.89 sec.
3	USA	John Flynn	24.39 sec.

Overall

1	USA	Chet Snouffer	40 points
2	Austr.	Rob Croll	24 points
2	USA	Rob Parkins	24 points
4	USA	John Flynn	19 points
5	USA	Gregg Snouffer	18 points

WORLD RECORD DAY

by Chet Snouffer

It was a cloudy, hot and humid day. About 30 throwers attempted world records in three events in a competition format. Distance was won by Jim Youngblood with 134 metres. Ray Laurent was second with 131 metres. Mole Man was third with 108 metres. Interestingly, after all throwers had taken their five competition throws to qualify for the final round (The top ten would advance and receive 5 additional throws. The best mark of their ten attempts would be counted), Youngblood did not want to continue, but was talked into throwing by Ray Laurent! His 134 metres broke all previous competition records for the long distance event. *Editor's note: previous records of: 120 metres by Christian Jabet; 135 metres by Frank Donellon; and 145 metres by Volker Behrens are now considered to be feats as they were accurately measured, but under non-tournament conditions.*

Juggling was next and each thrower had one chance, exactly according to USBA rules. You had the option of one restart prior to your third catch. Robbie Croll of Australia won with 59, just 10 shy of the standing record of 69 by Bob Burwell (1982). Roger Perry was second with 21 and Chet Snouffer was third with 18.

In Consecutive Catch, the attempt was made to break Rob Croll's 653 set several years ago. This was straight two hand catching . . . not increasing difficulty. Michael Girvin, Dennis Joyce, and Robbie Croll held in there until one by one, Girvin, and Joyce dropped out. Dennis was in the 600's when he dropped. Four and a half hours from the start, Rob Croll stopped at 765 because he liked the number. He did not drop!! A new world record in this peculiar event which no longer exists in International competition.

Two world records in one day made for a successful outing. Credit was given to Volker Behrens for his technological contributions to the Distance event as the majority of the top ten finalists (if not all) were using Behrens' boomerangs.



Jim Youngblood sets a record in Long Distance



Robbie Croll sets a record in Consecutive Catch

1989 TRAVEMUNDE BOOMERANG CUP

by Volker Behrens

This was supposedly the first real beach-tournament in boomerang history. Right on the beach of the Baltic Sea, outside the city of Lubeck; organized by Eckhard Mawick, president of the DBC, and Volker Behrens; sponsored by the city of Lubeck and a big German Optician chain, we all were curious if the winds would be friendly. Throwers came from all over Germany plus Sweden and Olivier Vouktchevitch from Paris and Eric Darnell from the USA, who both came by invitation to make sure the field would be of high and international quality.

Besides the field, there was another first: a six event tournament had never been held before in Germany and Europe, except for the Masters' in '85 in Paris. And the first juggling competition too. The other events were: Doubling, Consecutive Catch, Fast Catch, Endurance and Style Outback.

Saturday started with Consec. in gusty winds of 4 to 6 m/s and saw a tie among Torsten Fredrich, Olivier Vouktchevitch, and Volker Behrens. Torsten dropped first and Olivier won the battle with an amazing (for those conditions) foot catch, which was loudly appreciated by crowds who were watching throughout the day.

The second event was Fast Catch: winds were still blowing in gusts, so it wasn't much fun. Fourteen out of the 42 throwers didn't make 5 catches within the 2 minute limit. Konzelmann won with an amazing 36.27 sec (somebody later said: it's incredible! Uli picks up his 'rang and the wind is gone. . .), followed by Siems with 37.67 sec and Behrens with 38.15 sec.

Endurance: everybody was screaming just by the idea of running on the beach sand for 5 minutes, so head judge Dieter Neu generously cut back the running time to 3 minutes, which for some throwers was hard enough. Uli Konzelmann won this event with 21 catches, followed by Matthias Giesenschlag with 20, and Fridolin Frost with 18 catches, tying Carsten Palfner, Olivier V. and Torsten Fredrich. Remarkably only 13 throwers got more than 10 catches.

Then we got to Doubling with increased difficulty (similar to the Doubling

event during the 1988 ITC). Winds were still awful for some and generous for others. It required a lot of running, and after the Endurance event, each thrower's strength was limited, so the crowds and the tournament saw quite a few people looking, instead of running, after their sticks. Torsten Fredrich won with an amazing 10 out of a possible 14 catches. Fridolin Frost, Eric Darnell and Jan Fischer, another newcomer, tied for second with 9 catches, followed by Michael Siems and Gunther Moeller with 8.

After the doubling event, the tournament direction decided to continue the next day and so everybody took off for the Youth Hostel in Lubeck, which was a partial sponsor of the tournament.

Sunday gave way to sunny skies, the beach packed with spectators (also a first, since tournaments are usually held in remote areas where it's hard to get anybody to watch at all), and the competitors full of optimism and energy. Thanks to the support and work of a friend, there was a fast working computer program, which at any time allowed the competitors to know where they were and what it would take in tactics to survive. At the beginning of the second day, there were 5 top competitors: Fridolin Frost (17 year old protege of Volker Behrens), Torsten Fredrich (17 year old from Hamburg), Volker Behrens, Uli Konzelmann and Michael Siems.

Juggling was the first of the last two events. Uli Konzelmann, with a ton of luck got the right breeze and caught 11 to take this event. Fridolin Frost took second with 9 catches followed by Thomas Munch with 4 catches. This left three competitors tying for first with only one event to go: Fridolin Frost, Torsten Fredrich, and Uli Konzelmann. The crowd was getting bigger as the suspense grew. All of them were in the same throwing group for Outback, and we were taking turns at throwing. Fridolin took this event with a nerve of steel and three one-handed-behind-the-back-catches. Four others tied for second: Jurgen Rohde, Olivier Vouktchevitch, Torsten Fredrich and Volker Behrens.

Thus, the total ranking was: Fridolin Frost with 241 pts., Torsten Fredrich with 239 pts., Uli Konzelmann with 233 pts., Volker Behrens with 231 pts., Michael Siems with 220 pts., followed by Olivier Vouktchevitch, Carsten Palfner, Dieter Neu, Ola Wahlberg from

Sweden, Oliver von Kempen (another new 17 year old), Stefan Simon, and Eric Darnell.

After the final celebration in the fifth floor of a hotel right on the beach overlooking the whole bay, the first ten went off to get their prizes, which included para-sailing rides across the bay, to make sure they were going home with a clear picture of the north and the ocean. . .

After that, there were demonstrations given by the competitors, among these were: Simultaneous Catching, Kylie Throwing at the target, MTA, Trick Catching, etc. The promenade was packed with spectators and Dieter Neu was explaining everything to them and managed to convince them to stay.

So when the day was finally over, everybody seemed exhausted, happy and satisfied: the throwers, the spectators, the city of Lubeck, and the organizers. The Travemunde Boomerang Cup will become an annual spring event. So make sure that you register for it next year.

Looking at the results provides the following insights: The top two throwers are 17 years old. Three of the top ten throwers are 17 years old. Three out of the top four are from the region that the event was held. Seventy Five percent of the winning boomerangs in the predominantly windy conditions were made out of Paxolin or polypropylene. Thus in windy conditions, you do not have that many choices!

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PIZZA HUT-JOCKEY INT'L SPRING FLING '89

by John Derden

Twenty-seven throwers from 10 states competed in the Pizza Hut-Jockey International Spring Fling '89 tournament held on the campus of East Georgia College (Swainsboro, Ga) on Saturday, April 29. Simultaneous competitions were held for veteran and novice throwers. Organized by the South Georgia Boomerang Club, the first tournament of the 1989 season followed the most recent revisions of the USBA rules. Featured events in the veteran category included Consecutive Catch, Fast Catch, Endurance, MTA100, Australian Round, Doubling, and Juggling. Novice events were Consecutive Catch, Fast Catch, Doubling, Juggling, Accuracy, and MTA.

Dennis Joyce (aka "Juice" and also president of USBA) blitzed the veteran field on his way to a 19 point victory over second place Chicago Bob. Joyce compiled a record of four firsts, one second, one third, a fifth, and a ninth (accuracy, naturally!) on his way to the overall title. Rounding out the top five were Rick Szumski (third), Jesse Robertson (fourth), and John Derden and Gregory Ross (tied for fifth). Other veteran competitors included Rex Grasso, Tim Maultsby, Alan Winterroud, Willie Davis, Sean Marquardt, Eddie Carrigg, Keith Mundis, and Neil Kalmanson.

In the novice competition, artist Pat Cardiff took top honors in his first tourney, followed by Lee Mundis, Eric Richardson and Matt Price. As is usually the

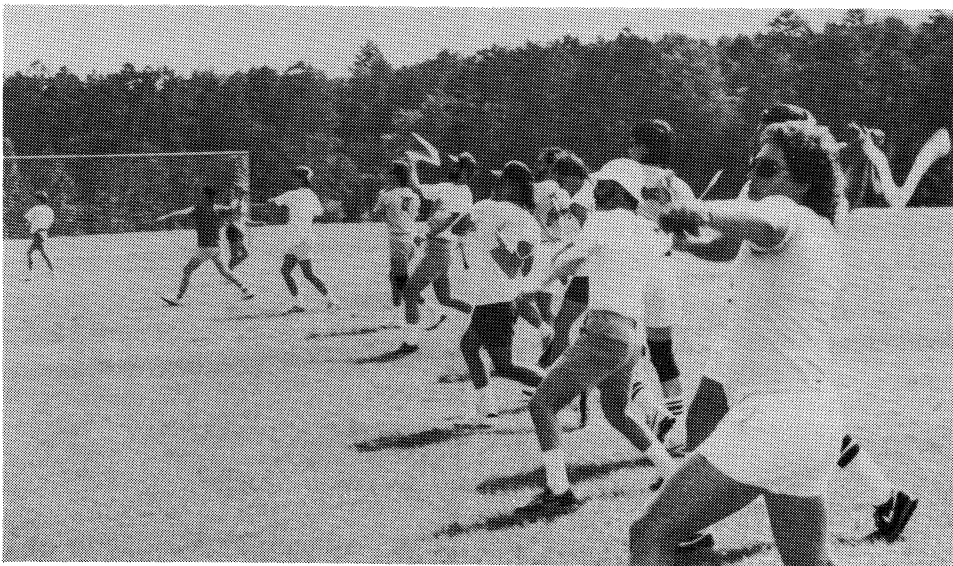
case, the novice events were full of enthusiasm and good natured competitiveness among the thirteen participants.

Also, Neil Kalmanson organized an aesthetics event. Judged by Pat Cardiff, Keith Mundis won the open division with his well crafted booms, and in the East Georgia College student division Daphne Walker's entry won best in class.

Highlights of the tourney included watching "Juice" attempt to compensate for the tricky winds by resorting to such high tech devices as a portable wind speed indicator and a cordless electric drill for on-the-field "Swiss-cheesing" of his booms for added wind resistance; Team Thuba's mysterious ceremonies involving a plastic duck prior to each throw; Pat Cardiff's fascinating menagerie of booms and boom designs; "Juice's" first MTA throw that went the length of the field, rose over the surrounding woods, and then entered boom Valhalla, never to be seen again.

Popular among those present was the boomerang "grab bag". Anyone who wanted to participate placed a boom in the grab bag box and was given a ticket. At the end of the day, each ticket holder was allowed to draw from the box. Some great booms were donated, and everyone seemed happy with their new acquisitions.

Spring Fling '89 was the fourth annual tournament held on the East Georgia College campus by the South Georgia Boomerang Club. Throwers came from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, Florida, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Competitors were given lunch coupons by the Swainsboro Pizza Hut and tournament logo T-shirts by Jockey International of Millen, Ga.



TEAM GEL'S EVERGREEN S. C. USBA BOOMTEST

by Michael "Gel" Girvin

May 14 was a sunny day. People came from California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Switzerland to test the green fields, shifty winds and new '89 USBA rules.

The days festivities went smooth and many smiles crossed many faces. The new count-up format was appreciated by all - - everyone got to attempt a foot catch and one-handed Doubling catches in competition which up to this point in USBA competition was not possible.

Some highlights go like this: Jeff Schwartz's terrific wind throws proved to be the winning recipe in Accuracy. Casey Larrance pulled a come from behind second round of Fast Catch to take the win. Ed Love used a pair of jugglers that he had never thrown before to score the best for the day. Doug DuFresne did an under the leg catch in MTA! Ted Jelsema competed in every event with only one hand - - the other hand and arm were in a cast. And Bell'in Drake, the wonderful person who has a boomerang named after her, signed autographs on people's Bell'in model Gel Booms.

The winner of the Boomtest was everyone that participated. As May 14 came to an end it was a new beginning for what came next. Awards were handed out to all that participated and 60 boomerangs were distributed so that they could cause even more happiness than was already present. As the boomers dispersed with new boomerangs in their hands, they knew that in their grasp was the perfect metaphor for life. And they know that whatever you throw out, comes back to you.

BoomVoid Liberated!

by Rich Westerman

The weekend of July 23, 1989 was an auspicious date in central Illinois' otherwise placid history. Roger Perry and his traveling Boom Show arrived to bring enlightenment and knowledge to the provinces. Fresh from a stay with Tom Fitzgerald in St. Louis, Roger pulled into rainy rural Illinois for a short visit with Rich & Marty Westerman. He quickly charmed all of us with his good humor and fascinating tales of life on the road.

Even the rain couldn't withstand Roger's cheerful enthusiasm- Saturday morning found the sky clear and the winds agreeable, so off we headed for a day of aerial poetry, taught by a genuine artist. An athletic field behind a local school was the chosen spot and soon the shirts were off and the 'rangs were flying. A dozen or so of the local throwers were joined by Brian and Bruce who drove down from Chicago.

Roger gave us all some tips on tuning our 'rangs and updated us on the recent changes in USBA tournament rules. A photographer from the local Daily showed up and soon several rolls of film were history.

THE NINTH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND CORROBOREE

by Larry Ruhf

On a beautiful calm day in May, the ninth annual New England Corroboree, hosted by Larry Ruhf and Jim Youngblood, produced many excellent scores as Peter Ruhf grabbed the overall title. Excellent scores were achieved in Australian Round as Larry Ruhf won with 75 points; Eric Darnell scoring 74; and Barnaby Ruhe 73. Nine year old Adam Ruhf was fifth with a 63, including a dropped boomerang.

Peter Ruhf was tops in MTA₁₀₀ with 41.04 with Larry Ruhf second at 36.47 and Nick Berg was third at 35.73. Consecutive Catch produced a show down between Rob Parkins who finally won with 23 catches and Barnaby with 22. Barnaby flew in Fast Catch with a 21.74 and Rob

Roger stole of beautifully decorated boomerangs caught a lot of attention (and a few dollars) from the group. It looks like the boomerang world has only begun to hear of Roger's 'rangs. He plans to produce numbered sets of ART BOOMS and had a few in that Saturday's gathering ready to sign up immediately.

Back at Rich's that evening, the winds reduced to dead calm and it was time to make use of the wide open spaces at Rich's homestead to tune the MTAs. While the lack of any breeze at all, along with the cool evening, produced no spectacular MTA times, Roger discovered that an otherwise unimpressive pair of small MTA 'rangs made the ideal juggling pair.

Finally, the volkswagon sized mosquitos drove everyone indoors where Roger astounded us all by decorating our T-shirts with his beautiful art.

It was time to leave and Roger had saved his most incredible feat for last. He managed to pack the mountain of belongings he travels with (mostly 'rangs and T-shirts) into his two large suitcases. With the help of 6 year old Trina, sitting on their tops, Roger was finally able to zip them up.

We all said our sentimental good-byes and waved Roger a fond farewell. Promises of keeping in touch and sending tapes, 'rangs, and newspaper clippings back and forth in the mail ensured that the ties we made won't be forgotten.

Parkins had a 23.41 for second. Jeff Lacount held third with 23.71. Peter held solid in Endurance with 49 catches for first; Eric Darnell was second with 47; Ron Tamblyn was third with 46. Continuing his assault, Peter registered 11 catches in Doubling for first place while Rob Parkins and Allen Grindle tied for second place with 10 catches.

Rounding out his victory, Peter delicately landed 45 points in Accuracy for first; with Ron Tamblyn at 40 for second & Eric Darnell at 38 for third.

Overall, the standings for this tournament were: Peter Ruhf first with 53.5 points; Barnaby Ruhe second with 51.5; and Eric Darnell third with 46 points.

Prizes and dinner were held at Jim Youngblood's house to celebrate a fine boomerang tournament.

MERIDAN, N.H. OPEN RESULTS

by John Flynn

On July 15, sunny skies and light (but tricky) winds greeted 21 throwers who ventured to Meridan, N.H. for the first-ever boomerang tournament at Kimball Union Academy. Tournament host John Flynn limited the agenda to 6 events due to field size and the Webtown Classic Team Tournament on the following day, but it took nothing away from the spirit of the afternoon. Competition was relaxed and belied the tight contest for overall honors. Afterwards, a Chili dinner was devoured at Eric Darnell's newly renovated home. The Results of the tournament follow:

Overall

1.	John Flynn	43
2.	Barnaby Ruhe	40
2.	Eric Darnell	40
4.	Jim Jordan	37
5.	Peter Ruhf	33

Consecutive Catch

1.	Eric Darnell	11
2.	Peter Ruhf	10
2.	Garry Lamothe	10

Australian Round

1.	John Flynn	73
2.	Jim Jordan	60
3.	Eric Darnell	58
3.	Barnaby Ruhe	58

Doubling

1.	Jell Lacount	10
2.	Peter Ruhf	9
2.	Barnaby Ruhe	9

MTA₁₀₀

1.	Jim Jordan	38.67
2.	John Flynn	38.53
3.	Barnaby Ruhe	34.67

Endurance

1.	Eric Darnell	48
1.	Larry Ruhf	48
3.	Barnaby Ruhe	47

Accuracy

1.	Allen Grindle	44
2.	John Flynn	41
3.	Jeff Lacount	38

THE WEBTOWN CLASSIC

by Garry Lamothe

The Webtown Classic Team Boomerang Tournament was held on Gallbraith Field in Easthampton, Ma. July 16 attracted 26 enthusiastic competitors.

Six four-member teams competed in five events: Team Aussie Round; Team Count-Up; Team Position; Team MTA₁₀₀ and Team Relay.

Exciting is the word to use for Team Aussie Round. Utilizing the eight metre circle as the launching area, six competitors simultaneously threw their booms and scrambled to catch them.

Spotters were assigned designated throwers to verify each boomerang's range. Line judge Larry Ruhf had his hands full but managed to accurately score all the incoming flights as they were caught or landed.

To the surprise of many, Team Aussie Round was completed in record time: a little over sixteen minutes.

The team *Old Dog's & New Tricks* comprised of Larry Ruhf, Peter Ruhf, Eric Darnell, Barnaby Ruhe and fill in Adam Ruhf ran away with a first in Aussie Round along with firsts in the remaining events to secure an overall win.

Second Place *Team Bozo*, made up of John Flynn, Paul Sprague, Carlos Mercado and Jim Jordan narrowly edged out the tied teams of *Webtown (1)* and *America's Team* by one point. Late arrival Gary Freedman may have gotten that one point for the *Bozos*.

America's Team members: Jim Youngblood, Sean Vital, Sara Myers, and Allen Grindle were awarded third place as a gesture of goodwill by *Webtown (1)* gents: Garry Lamothe, Jeff Lacount, Pat Lavalley, and Mike Laprade.

David Silver and the Almqvist brothers Chris, Kurt, and Bill of *Team Silver and Gold* held onto a fourth place finish over *Webtown (2)*.

Team *Webtown (2)*, made up of Dan Ducharme, Pete Motyka, David Hutton, and Kris Kenny carried on the Webtown tradition of undisputed, unchallenged last place.

Spirits were not dampened by the late afternoon shower as everyone returned to Lamothe's house for quantum amounts of food and awards (trophies, ribbons, certificates, etc.).

Everyone felt more team tournaments should fill the calendar in the future.

TEAM GEL'S 5th ANNUAL OAKLAND USBA BOOMTEST

by Michael Girvin

As usual, the sun and shifty winds were there to greet us on the Billy Martin Field in Oakland, California, but this year we also had some new friends greeting us.

The city of Oakland had issued two permits for Sunday, July 9th, so our new friends played a soccer game over our Aussie Round circle while we made the best of the situation and did the events that required less room over to one side of the field. The set back turned out to be a blessing when we had to put into practice the Team Gel motto: We have bad days and rad days, but even our bad days are rad days. A first in boomerang history was attempted and pulled off: as many women competed as men - it is the future for this sport! There was a compilation of humans from Southern California, Northern California, Oregon and Washington. This Oakland meet was by far the mellowest and friendliest ever. Two rad and curious local boys decided to join novice and they learned every event as the test went along. Highlights of the day were all the smiles, and especially the smiles in the darkness which engulfed the last event, MTA, because of the Soccer event.

Some of the people even caught their booms. The awards ceremony was enjoyed with pizza and beer. The participants in the Team Gel Day received boomerangs, beautiful hand drawn awards, and blue and purple first place ribbons from the flower decoration competition that Michael Girvin's Grandma won during the 1950s. The top three veterans and novices got to choose among six handsome statues handmade by Grandma Gel. Peter "Pay" Rose chose first in the Veteran category. Maria Carlota Nelson chose first in the Novice category. Then the boomers went to bed because the award ceremony was not over until after midnight; but the boomers all had dreams of Life: the perfect metaphor for *boomerang*.

TEAM GEL OAKLAND TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Name Score Place

Consecutive Catch

Michael Girvin	9 catches	1
Peter "Pay" Rose	9 catches	1
Jake Diston	9 catches	1

Accuracy

Jennifer Hamiter	28 points	1
Steve Fargon	26 points	2
Peter "Pay" Rose	23 points	3

Fast Catch

Michael Girvin	24.19 sec.	1
Jake Disston	35.43 sec.	2
Peter "Pay" Rose	40.15 sec.	3

Australian Round

Benjamin Owen	64 points	1
Peter "Pay" Rose	52 points	2
Thomas Smith	50 points	3

MTA₁₀₀

Thomas Smith	17.79 sec.	1
Peter "Pay" Rose	15.28 sec.	2
Meredith Dean	12.74 sec.	3

Doubling

Michael Girvin	10 catches	1
Garry Knudsen	7 catches	2
Peter "Pay" Rose	7 catches	2
Jake Diston	7 catches	2

Endurance

Michael Girvin	36 catches	1
Garry Knudsen	32 catches	2
Peter "Pay" Rose	32 catches	2
Jake Disston	32 catches	2

Juggling

Michael Girvin	13 catches	1
Thomas Smith	4 catches	2
Benjamin Owen	3 catches	3

Overall Standing

Peter "Pay" Rose	65.33 pts.	1
Michael "Gel" Girvin	61.33 pts.	2
Thomas Smith	51.50 pts.	3
Jake Disston	46.83 pts.	4
Garry Knudsen	40.00 pts.	5
Benjamin Owen	39.50 pts.	6
Jennifer Hamiter	31.50 pts.	7
Joseph Siegel	31.00 pts.	8
etc.		

Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup

by Dean Kelly

The second Annual Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup (WOBR) was held again at JB Instant Lawn on July 23. The throwing field is incredible! For acres and acres on all sides there is nothing, absolutely nothing, to interfere with your throws! The grass is watered regularly and the field mowed more often than most of our front yards! This is truly boomerang heaven! Big thanx and much appreciation to Paul Jensen, the owner of JB Instant Lawn for the use of his field.

With a throwing field like this and the competitors who turned out, the tournament couldn't help but be a big success. But there was another aspect to the tournament that was incredible. For that I'll have to digress to a few days before the tournament.

Well in advance of the tournament, I had sent out flyers and press releases to all the local newspapers. It wasn't until the week before the tournament that I heard from the local paper that they wanted to do an article about the tournament. We ended up with a half page article, complete with color photo and map, telling all about boomerangs, the tournament, and the boomerang school and practice that was planned.

People took note! We had at least 50 people come to the boomerang school and learn to throw. The next day, at the tournament, we had a constant stream of spectators dropping by to see what was going on. Best estimate is that between 200 & 300 people came by and got a taste of the sport! Many of these people had never seen a boomerang, or at least never seen one actually work before. Talk about promoting the sport! It couldn't have been any better!

And then there were the competitors! We were blessed with a big turnout by Team Gel as well as Dizzy Klockner, Michael Siems, and Gabi Englert from West Germany. We truly had an international event this year! All in all, Novices and Veterans combined, we had a turnout of 39 throwers.

The tournament began with Accuracy. The competition was so fierce that when the dust had settled, there were 4 people tied for first place: Doug DuFresne, Tim Schallberger, Michael Girvin, and Michael Siems had all thrown very respecta-

ble rounds of 30 points each. To show you how tight the competition was, the next place, 5th, was Garry Knudson's score of 29.

Right on the heels of Veteran Accuracy was Novice Accuracy. A newcomer to the sport (he learned how to throw at the boomerang school!), David Deibert scored a respectable 16 to take the event.

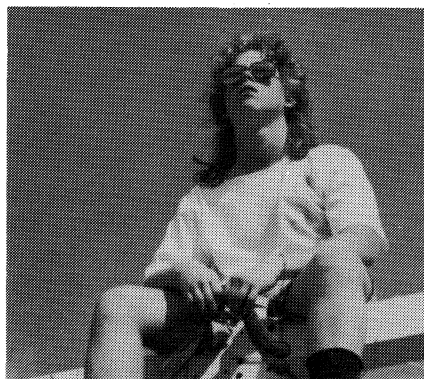
Fast Catch was next. Mr. Gel himself gave us all a refresher course in the scorched earth policy. Mike, competing with knee ligament injuries (an inspiration to us all!), stepped into the circle. In the quiet, while the timers were getting ready, I heard people talk about Mike's hot Fast Catch boom and the times he was capable of. All was set. Gel fired off his first throw and the timers started off their watches. The boom was so fast, it about scorched the 20 metre circle! 1, 2, 3, 4 catches. The 5th throw was coming around so fast and we all knew we were witnessing an incredible round! Having never moved out of the bull's eye, the 5th throw came sizzling in, slamming into Mike's hands. The stopwatches chimed together and the times were read off: 21.56 seconds!

Not a world record, but it was a new tournament record and an incredible round! We were in awe!

Countup Catch was the next event. Casey Larrance went out and aced the field with a perfect score of 12 out of 12.

Novice Australian Round was held at the same time as MTA₁₀₀. Competition was fierce as Tim Fielder and Bob Paluska (who had just gotten his first left handed boomerang a few days earlier) tied for first place with 34 points each.

Meanwhile, back at the 50 metre circle, fate smiled upon Steve Kavanaugh once again. Last year he bought a new Tom Peterson MTA at WOBR I, went out to practice with it and nearly lost it!



Steve Kavanaugh sets world record

The boom caught an updraft and sailed off over the onion field and on into history! Steve wasn't so content to let it go. He and Tim Keller jumped into a pickup and gave chase. They found the MTA laying alongside the road 1/2 mile away!

Steve was back with the same MTA. Tom Peterson had given it a tune-up and Steve was ready to throw. The throw was perfect! The MTA cork screwed up and stabilized right on top of the flight. It was settling down looking like it would produce an excellent time when a thermal updraft caught it again and it started to rise! It gained 15 or 20 feet before it lost the thermal and started to settle down again. When Steve caught it, it had stayed up within the 50 metre circle, an incredible 51.28 seconds! The field erupted in cheers! It was only later that we realized that this was a new **world record**.

The power booms were brought out for Australian Round. Doug DuFresne hurled his Chinook for 79 points, including one perfect 20 point throw to win the event.

Unfortunately, the tournament was running late (gotta figure out how to speed it up next year!) and we had to cancel Doubling and Juggling to finish up before dark.

Endurance was the last individual event of the day. Mike Girvin brought the 'rang home 48 times to win Endurance and clinch the overall championship for the second straight year.

As the scores were tabulated, Mike, who just days before had been worried that he would be sidelined for the season with his injury, took the reins and led us all in Team George and Round Rang Relay. Casey Larrance set the standard for all the rest to follow by making all 18 catches in George: a new Gel World Record! A new face in the team events was Diane DuFresne competing in her first tournament event ever!

As the sun was setting, the winners were announced. Michael Girvin, as Overall Champion, was presented with a larger than life boomerang (about 3 feet tip-to-tip (the French would have loved it! !)) which he immediately took out to the field and threw.

A weary but satisfied crew of competitors we were as we headed off to Walery's Pizza to bask in the glow of competition, sunburns, and pepperoni pizza.

A good time was had by all! WOBR III next year can't come soon enough!

WOBR Tournament Results

Salem, Oregon: July 23, 1989

Competitor	Place	Score
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Accuracy

Doug DuFresne	1	30 points
Michael Girvin	1	30 points
Tim Schallberger	1	30 points
Michael Siems	1	30 points

Countup Catch

Casey Larrance	1	12 catches
Steve Kavanaugh	2	8 catches
Michael Girvin	2	8 catches

Australian Round

Doug DuFresne	1	79 points
Michael Girvin	2	70 points
Steve Kavanaugh	3	66 points

Fast Catch

Michael Girvin	1	21.56 sec.
Doug DuFresne	2	34.44 sec.
Tom Peterson	3	34.72 sec.

MTA 100

Steve Kavanaugh	1	51.28 sec.
Betsylew Miale	2	31.32 sec.
Dean Kelly	3	30.84 sec.

Endurance

Michael Girvin	1	48 catches
Michael Siems	2	42 catches
Casey Larrance	3	35 catches

Overall

Michael Girvin	1	54.75 pts.
Doug DuFresne	2	45.25 pts.
Steve Kavanaugh	3	33.00 pts.
Michael Siems	4	32.75 pts.
Casey Larrance	5	30.50 pts.
Peter "Pay" Rose	6	21.50 pts.
Betsylew Miale	7	16.00 pts.
Brian Dettwyler	7	16.00 pts.
Dean Kelly	9	15.00 pts.
Tom Peterson	10	14.83 pts.

Novice Accuracy

David Deibert	1	16 points
Ron Robinson	2	15 points
Kelly Croman	3	14 points

Novice Australian Round

Tim Fielder	1	34 points
Bob Paluska	1	34 points
Kelly Croman	3	32 points

Novice Overall

David Deibert	1	17 points
Kelly Croman	2	16 points
Tim Fielder	3	14 points
Ron Robinson	4	13 points

WELCOME TO THE KARRAGULLEN WA BOOMERANG CLUB

There is a new boomerang club based in the Perth, West Australia region. The organization publishes a newsletter three times a year (May, September & January); produces patches, caps, & T-shirts; and sponsors several annual social events.

Membership fees, which include the newsletter, a T-shirt and a patch, are \$20 (Australian) in W.A. & \$25 outside of W.A. A \$5 joining fee applies to all perspective members. Membership fees are due on the first of August. Advertisement space is attractively priced at only \$80 a full page with fractional page rates priced accordingly. Parties interested in joining the club or advertising in the **West Australia Boomerang News** (edited by well known competitor and boomerang manufacturer: Roger Perry) can inquire at the club president's address listed below:

Klinton Liddelow
Box 223, Armadale 6112
Perth, West Australia

HOW TO JOIN THE BAA

USBA members are always asking about the Boomerang Association of Australia (BAA) and how they can obtain the BAA Bulletin which is published quarterly. Overseas (non-Australian) throwers can join the BAA by sending \$30 (Aust.) plus a one time \$5 joining fee to the BAA Secretary at the address below. Please include personal information such as your full name, address, phone numbers and occupation. Membership fees are due on the first of January each year. A pro-rata scheme operates for memberships, so you don't have to wait until January 1 to join. Don't miss out on what's happening in the boomerang world down under, send in your dues today.

**Boomerang Association
of Australia, Inc.**
P.O. Box 155
Barooga, N.S.W. 3644
Australia

NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Erwin P. Brojan finally met a thrower from Australia, as his pen pal: Pohan Johnston, and family, visited Guinobatan for a day of trading and throwing. Erwin has been given demonstrations as far away as Manila and impresses many spectators when he launches his MTA to incredible heights after demonstrating more conventional types of boomerangs.

THE CHINA CONNECTION

Eric Darnell made contact with a Chinese Boomerang Juggler in Vermont and treated him to his first outdoor throwing adventure.

Richard Ruhe, the USA's only known thrower living in China, had to return to the USA in a hurry this spring because of the trouble at the universities. He returns to finish his studies this fall.

Richard Harrison, the **Boomerang Man**, has connected with a group of throwers from China. A four page guide on boomerang science and construction techniques was recently published in the Chinese language and distributed to 150,000 Chinese and foreign subscribers. The first official boomerang tournament was recently held with 10,000 throwers participating. Some of the throwers were able to make 6 or 7 consecutive catches. They are interested in making contact with American throwers and seeing how we compete.

Richard Ruhe has translated the documents supplied by Richard Harrison. The Chinese text claims that boomerangs were invented in Mongolia in prehistoric times for hunting, sport, and weaponry. As early as the *Sung Dynasty* (1300 A.D.) there were 400 skilled throwers doing 50 various acrobatic boomerang demonstrations.

In July 1986, the best Chinese thrower, *Dai Shu Chung*, went to the International Juggler's Competition in the USA. Several multi-bladers were donated to the Smithsonian Institution for their anthropological studies. *Dai Shu Chung* was originally from the *Hei Long Jiang* (Black River Dragon) Acrobatic troop which is famous for producing Chinese acrobats. He currently tours with the *Shanghai Acrobatic* troop. More on boomerangs from China in a future issue.

BOOMERANGS IN LITERATURE, MUSIC, AND ON TV

Peter "Pay" Rose, a *Gel* boomerang organizer from UC Santa Cruz was inspired to write the poem which begins on this page.

An article appeared in the April 24 edition of *The Gator Aid* (a newsletter published by the Brazosport Jr. College in West Columbia, Tx.) which announced a June 15 boomerang throwing demonstration by Bob Rudy of West Columbia, Tx. and Dave Hughes of Rosharon, Tx. The college library will exhibit a June display of over 200 boomerangs from their collections.

Bob Rudy also integrated the boomerang theme into a Chili cook off, sponsored by his company: Dow Chemical Co. Bob's team dressed Aussie style and learned some of the lingo with the help of an Australian friend. Bob's function on the cook off team was to make bribes for the judges and a spoon to stir the chili with. The spoon and bribes were functional boomerangs! Their secret recipe included the following ingredients: Roo meat, gall stones, javelina tail, castor beans, and cactus leaves (or so they say).

Lowell Hollars discovered an INIT program for the Apple Macintosh called "Boomerang". Written by Hiroaki Yamamoto of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, the shareware program is a small and versatile tool which remembers user usage history and returns to any previous location with ease. The program icon, illustrated to the right, graphically depicts a boomerang in flight.



The June 1989 issue of *American West Airlines Magazine* had an article titled "Boomerangs bring American enthusiasts many happy returns". Written by Peter Carlin and illustrated by Cynthia Wallace, the article portrays an excellent cross section of the contemporary boomerang movement with input from such boomerang greats as Ben Ruhe, Doug DuFresne, Chet Snouffer, Ali Fujino, and Michael Girvin. Copies of the magazine can be obtained at a cost of \$2 each from the following address:

Skyward Marketing, Inc.
7500 N. Dreamy Draw Dr. #240
Phoenix, Az. 85020

The Spring 1989 issue of *FlyPaper*, a newsletter devoted to paper flight, mentioned MHR and suggested to the readers that a laminated paper boomerang just might fly. Does anyone have such a boomerang? If you do and are interested in paper flight, you can contact the editor of *FlyPaper* at the address to the right. An annual subscription to the quarterly publication is only \$10 and is an excellent reference of low speed flight science.

FlyPaper
P.O. Box 47186
Wichita, Ks. 67201

Dave Hetrick found an excellent article in the May 23, 1989 edition of the *Capper's Weekly Newspaper*. The article, titled "All around the boomerang trail again", focused on the early history of the *Brist* boomerang which was a popular lawn game in the early 1900s. Keep an eye open for these old 4 bladers which sometimes inhabit antique stores.

BOOMERANGS by Peter "Pay" Rose

BOOMERANGS are fast
yet BOOMERANGS are slow.
From Bell' in to Madonna to Sunshine to Trasfer.
From LTB to Fang to MTA to Beer.

30 throws can make a mile.

On a cold morning BOOMERANGS sting.
On a warm afternoon BOOMERANGS make blue-green lines.
On a foggy night BOOMERANGS slice the mist.

BOOMERANGS bring grass stains and mosquitos.

BOOMERANGS hover and float into a "RANG sandwich.
BOOMERANGS shoot in and sploosh into a one-handed clean catch like jelly donuts.

From behind the back to leaping through the legs
to an unassisted head-catch
to a 3-60 exaggerated squinting grasp.

From Willard Park in Berkley to the St. Louis Arch
to the Salt Flats of Utah to the costly beach of Chicago.
Four brothers in the wind, a musty Clam Van and
23 non-broken BOOMERANGS.

I drop some wet blades of grass into the wind.
It's just me and the field and a breeze that barely sways 3 trees.

I catch 10 in a row.

3 kids stare and scream and tilt their necks to follow
the circle of the BOOMERANG.
They throw the BOOM and watch it land far away.
They laugh
They smile
They catch some BOOMERANGS and
They leave.

I catch 12 in a row.

A Drunk Bum asks if they really do come back.
I show him that they do.
He slams it at his toe and it splits in 2.
HE leaves.

I catch 23 in a row.

An Orange Dog chases my BOOMERANG wanting to chew on it.
I grab my precious BOOM and tell the dog to go away.
He drools and barks and snorts and
He leaves.

From Chet Snouffer to Doug DuFresne to Mike Gel to Moleman.
From Jop to Jake to Randy to Tritz.
A quick flick of the wrist and right back.

38 catches in a row 1 day

46 the next

100 tomorrow

An orange Bell in with a broken leg cured with epoxy and a blue
Sunshine with 7 holes - hovering shooting screaming spinning and caught.

5 ply quarter inch pine.

28 dollars and 20 BOOMERANGS per sheet.

The wood is flat and shapeless.

If placed in the water it would sink.

If thrown in the air it would flop.

The assembly line is set up.

A jigsaw a circle sander and a belt sander.

One man on each machine.

5 hours and 40 BOOMERANGS.

Each with it's own personality and flight.

Some make quick tight circles and shoot at my hands.

Others make huge majestic circles and hover.

All of the BOOMS are smooth and shapely and return with a flick of the wrist.

The contest is over and everyone from 1st to 40th place wins a BOOM.

They look at their BOOMS

They study their BOOMS

They throw their BOOMS

BOOMERANGS are legs

BOOMERANGS are arms

BOOMERANGS are clams

BOOMERANGS are hawks

Watch a BOOMERANG and you'll watch some more.

The boomerang movement has a publicity friend in the **Gannet News Service**. Kristian Almquist of Putnam, Ct. sent MHR two articles titled "Boomerang aces catch as catch can" and "What goes around comes around". Both articles were published in the **Norwich Bulletin** and were written by Edward L. Kenney. The articles were written to excite the public by providing interesting tidbits of feats and personalities. The USBA Hotline was published in one; and the Boomerang Man's address was published in the other. Hopefully we'll see some new throwers because of these articles.

Rob Croll brought several publications with him to the International Team Cup this past June. Each contained reference to boomerangs.

The first book is a children's coloring book: "The Downunders 'Boomer'".

Each page has a boomerang and an animal native to Australia. The book is published by Ripper Products in Melbourne.

A favorite children's book in Australia is titled; "The Silver Boomerang". The story is about a black boy and a white boy who meet in the bush and go on an incredible journey inside Ayers Rock where they do battle with a deadly reptile. Written by Charles C. Rowan, 1978, the story is well worth reading if you can obtain a copy.

"The Aboriginal Story" by Ruth C. Williams, 1959, is an excellent children's book on Aboriginal culture. A significant portion of the text is devoted to the boomerang and throwstick.

"Blackfellows of Australia" is an old publication that Rob picked up in an old book store. There is no date, but the price on the cover is 6d which sets the publication at no later than the early 1960s. The large soft covered book has many B&W photos of Aborigines and an interesting article on boomerangs.

Kim Deutschmann, focal point of the South African boomerang movement has had recent press coverage of his boomerang hobby including an 8 minute spot on the National TV Network. Kim is planning an extended trip to the USA this fall and plans to bring some of his exquisite boomerang products with him. Anyone wishing to make contact with Kim, please contact the editor of MHR immediately. His Zulu Art boomerang products are often available through the Boomerang Man.

Saturday morning cartoons has a show titled "Marvel Action Universe" which features several super heroes such as Spiderman and a lesser known heroine named Firefly. One episode contained a villain named Raven who throws sophisticated weapons. In one show, Raven captures Firefly using a heat seeking boomerang with a cold spray that resulted in the paralysis of Firefly.

Ron McClung of Melbourne, Florida sent in a copy of the October 1988 issue of **Detective Comics**, featuring Batman (whatever happened to Robin?). The feature story is about a collector of Aboriginal art that picks up something taboo in his collection and an Aboriginal warrior visits him to retain possession. Boomerangs are used as weapons and tools throughout the story. This is the only time I can remember Batman losing to an opponent, as the Aborigine gets away with the goods!

Tom Fitzgerald received coverage for the Festival of Flight boomerang outing in the June 1989 **Dierbergs Customer Club News** for his part in the St. Louis Science Center's tribute to the twentieth anniversary of man's walking on the moon.

Many of the readers remember the metal boomerang in the movie **Road Warrior**. The third sequel, titled **Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome** contains a scene where several children carry wooden boomerangs of both the return and non-return type. There are no action scenes with throwing.

Bob Kley sent in a copy of the June 26 edition of **The Phoenix Gazette** with an excellent article on boomerang throwing, written exclusively by Barbara Yost for the Health & Fitness section of the daily newspaper. Several photographs depicting his son-in-law: Chuck Paulausky and grandson: Tim Paulausky were presented to entice the locals into trying boomerang throwing as a new sport.

One of the most spectacular comic book covers ever produced is DC Comics **FLASH** No. 278 which depicts *Captain Boomerang* assaulting Flash with several boomerangs. The back issue comic is very inexpensive and can usually be purchased at a comic shop for under a dollar. There is another comic series out which features the same *Captain Boomerang* character. Keep an eye out for the comic series: **SUICIDE SQUAD**. Issue NO. 2 (June 1987) has another nice cover depicting *Captain Boomerang* launching one of his booms.

Erwin P. Brojan of the Philippines sent in several articles that he identified during a research effort.

The first article, written by Joseph Goodwin, appeared in the "School Bulletin" magazine (date & issue unknown). It contained reference to the early Smithsonian workshops and Ben Ruhe, as well as speculation on the boomerang's early history.

The second article was written by Bernard Schnippert & titled "You Reap What You Sow" was published in the February 1988 issue of the "Plain Truth Magazine" which made reference to the return feature of a boomerang relative to the Golden Rule.

The Jan. 22, 1987 issue of "Awake" magazine contained an excellent article titled "Does It Really Come Back?". This one is worth reading if you can get it.

The **MONROE NEWS-STAR** carried an ad for the local **Premier Bank** which pictured a boomerang with the caption "Should Return". Beneath the boomerang (The new Colorado Crested Butte model), was pictured a check stamped "insufficient funds". The caption for the bounced check was: "Shouldn't return".



ALAMO Rent A Car

Alamo Rent A Car has extended USBA an Association Membership Program so that USBA members can obtain discount rates on automobile rentals whenever they travel. This issue of the newsletter should have a card attached for your use. If not, or if you desire extra cards, send a SASE with your request to:

USBA
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Twenty four hour (minimum) advanced reservations are required for membership rentals. You can reserve a car without a card by calling 1-800-732-3232 and providing them with the request plan identification: **BY 209311**. Have your credit card number available.

La Perouse News

Jacques Thomas, founder of the La Perouse Boomerang Club de France, writes to tell us of a study he is currently pursuing. Jacques recently spent 2 weeks in the Cairo Egyptian Museum studying throw sticks from the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, many of which appear to be true returnable boomerangs. These boomerangs are depicted on page 18 of Jacques Thomas's book: "Magie du Boomerang". Jacques carefully measured, weighed, and examined all twenty pieces of the collection. Jacques plans on making duplicates of the possible returners and conducting flight testing on them. Look for more on this study in future issues of "Many Happy Returns".

LAMINATED WOOD TIPS

by Jonas Romblad

I have found that exotic wood veneers are very cheap when used in limited quantities as in boomerang construction. I have started to apply veneering to my sticks to give them that lap joint look. It is amazing how simple it is. I have had no contact with professional wood workers, yet I have started to use a gluing technique that I developed in aeromodelling: Put a thin layer of white glue (water soluble carpenter type) on both the plywood core and the veneer. When the glue is completely dry, put the pieces together and bond them together with a flat iron set on the "wool" temperature setting.

The water soluble glue is also very good when it comes to making tiny figures in thin veneer which has a tendency to crack. Simply glue a layer of the thinnest plywood available in the model shops (approximately 0.4 mm) onto both sides with the visible grain turned 90 degrees from the veneer grain. Cut the figures out and put them in a glass of water for half an hour or so to remove the plywood. I do not know if this is a new technique or not but it works quite well.

NEW PRODUCTS

Anderson's International was identified as a west coast source of plywood last issue. Eric Darnell notified MHR of SIG Manufacturing who supplies top quality wood. Call or write to the address below for more information.

SIG Manufacturing Co., Inc.
401-7 So. Front St.
Montezuma, Ia 50171
515-623-5154

The Boomerang Man wishes to remind us that Alpha Aviation Supply Co. is another excellent source for quality Baltic Birch plywood. A catalog of all their products can be purchased for \$3.00 or you can call or write to the address listed below:

Alpha Aviation Supply Co.
P.O. Box 641
Greenville, Tx. 75401
(214)-527-3817
(214)-455-3593

Superflight, Inc., producers of the Aerobie flying ring, has made available an aerodynamics education package for school science programs. The package, which sells for \$24.95 including shipping (Ca. residents add \$1.75 sales tax) is a bargain. The contents contain 2 ten inch Aerobie rings, a 37 minute VHS video lesson on general aerodynamics, printed materials for instructors, and information on how to make flying rings in a classroom. To order the package, send a check or M.O. to:

SuperFlight, Inc.
81 Encina Ave.
Palo Alto, Ca. 94301
(415)-321-5050

The Koala Factory has a fine line of quality Aussie souvenirs which include koala bears and leather hats. Roger Perry will mail you one of their fine leather hats if you send \$US\$28 + postage to his address below:

Roger Perry
155 Fremantle Rd.
Gosnells
Perth 6110
Western Australia



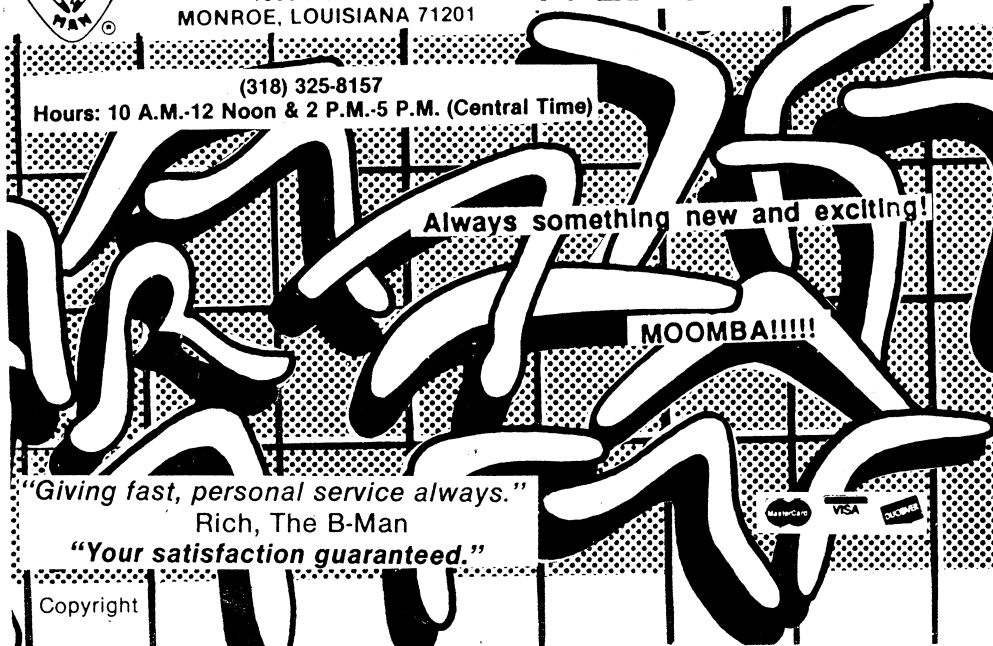
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MORE FAIRY TALES COME TRUE

Didier Bonin of Dijon, France bought a "Bailey Wind Sailor" MTA from Larry Ruhf at the 1988 International Team Cup in Evry, France. Larry sold it because he didn't get along with the required throwing style. Didier got along with it just fine, setting a French record for MTA unlimited at the 1989 French Championships in Villeneuve D'Asco on 7 May with a time of 59.47 sec.

Dennis Joyce, who also had a "Wind Sailor" MTA; lost his over a forest with more than 2 minutes of time in the air at the East Georgia tournament on April 29.

The annual Hampton, Va. tournament is always host to spectacular MTA times. The 1989 tournament held on May 20 generated dozens of flights in excess of a minute (outside the 100 metre circle) with Ray Laurent making a catch at 2 min. 48 sec. and Jim Jordan giving up chase at 13 minutes and more than a mile from the throwing circle. Rex Grasso had 2 flights over a minute. Eric Darnell and several others also had flights exceeding 1 minute.

Roger Perry becomes the latest Australian to complete Super Catch. He used a LH Fast Catch and a RH Midi-MTA.

Guy "Sarge" Creel has been throwing boomerangs for 50 of his last 68 years, interrupted only by WW II, Korea, & Viet Nam. He made his first catch only this past summer under the direction of H.L. Mayhew.

Chicago Bob and Reverend Jim of St. Louis were never really hot in MTA. That was until they matched themselves up with a Midi-MTA that has provided them with 4 first places and 2 second places in competition this season. First and second places were registered in Georgia, Ft. Wayne, and both Ohio tournaments. Top scores included flights of 49.01 seconds and 47.07 seconds. Watch out for these guys until the Jet Stream God takes this great MTA away.

Tom Fitzgerald, also of the St. Louis area has also been having a great time with MTA. He lost two Midi-MTAs to the Jet Stream God during the same week. Both Tom and Roger Perry lost midi-MTAs at a Scout outing during a demonstration of various throwing events. The Jet Stream God captured both with Roger's MTA disappearing on

the southern horizon. Tom's MTA disappeared straight up. All the kiddies clapped with delight as they thought this grand finale was executed as originally planned. What a way to conclude a demonstration to the unbeknownst.

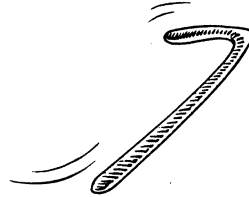
Jeff LaCount adds Webtown to the Super Catch honor roll as he accomplished the feat in the Webtown Field on August 17, 1989. His MTA was only fair at about 28 seconds, but his Fast Catch sizzled at near 20 seconds. The MTA was caught less than 30 feet away.

Two weeks later, Larry Ruhf put his name on the Super Catch honor rolls by doing Super Catch at a Webtown gathering. Larry, who excels at both MTA and Fast Catch had never seriously attempted it in the past.

Wilhelm Bretfeld, the father of contemporary MTA technology, reports that an official Super Catch throw off was held following the 10th German Nationals with the following results: Axel Heckner and Fridolin Frost completed Super Catch with 5 Fast Catches; Fridolin Frost completed Super Catch with 6 Fast Catches. Uli Konzelman, not to be out done by his countrymen, performed the Super Catch with both 7 & 8 Fast Catches. Is this a new world record? The maximum number of fast catches that a thrower has completed will be listed in this and future listings of the Super Catch Honor Rolls.

Steve Kavanaugh purchased a Tom Peterson MTA last year at the Western Oregon Roundup and nearly lost it. It disappeared from sight after a flight of more than 5 minutes only to be found later by the side of a road more than a half mile away. Using the same MTA at this year's Western Oregon Roundup Tournament, he set a new MTA₁₀₀ world record with a time of 51.28 seconds. Congratulations to both Steve and Tom for their record book achievements.

Betsy Miale, current president of USBA, is a strong thrower in her own right. She acquired a brand new Midi-MTA for the September Portland tournament and had a in-tournament flight of 64 seconds inside the 100 metre circle. Unfortunately, an unlucky fumble and drop prevented a win and a new world record.



**Didier Bonin Makes the
Catch for a New French
MTA Record**

SUPER CATCH HONOR ROLL

Ted Bailey (6)
Rob Croll (7)
Eric Darnell
Doug DuFresne
John Flynn
Torsten Fredrich
Fridolin Frost (6)
Mike Forrester
Michael Girvin
Rob Greer
Thomas Hartmann
Alex Heckner
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Uli Konzelman (8)
Jeff LaCount
Ray Laurent
Gerrit Lemkau
Roger Perry
Barnaby Ruhe
Larry Ruhf
Chet Snouffer
Olivier Vouktchevitch
Matthieu Weber

{ (#): No. of catches if more than 5 }

USBA INFORMATION PAGE

Many Happy Returns

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1 Column	\$80
Per Column inch	\$10

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John Flynn

52 Christian St.

White River Jct., Vt. 05001

The deadline for advertising is March 1 for the Spring issue; June 1 for the Summer issue; September 1 for the Fall issue; and December 1 for the Winter issue. Early ads with payment will receive the best placement.

USBA NEWS

The 1989 tournament season is almost over and the final ratings are being compiled as you read this issue. Please make sure that your membership dues are paid. Only members are entitled to evaluation in the rating system.

There have been some changes to the membership system. All membership business now goes through the USBA address listed to the right.

The USBA is initiating a membership drive to increase our ranks so that membership rate hikes will not be needed in the near future. You can help out by getting a friend to join. **How about giving a USBA membership for a Christmas present?** At the low price of \$10, it's a real bargain.

USBA VIDEO ARCHIVES

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Garry Lamothe
18 St. James Ave.
Easthampton, Ma. 01027

Write for a price listing of selected titles including: historical tournament reviews, domestic & overseas shows; scientific and ethnographic materials; etc.

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

All submittals to this newsletter should be mailed to the editor:

Ted Bailey
9611 Hollyleaf Circle
Cincinnati, Oh. 45241

The deadline for submittals is the same as for advertising; or whenever that issue fills up. Get your articles in early. Material should include print quality art or photos. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in \$USAS\$. Make checks payable to: U.S.B.A. Domestic and Canadian memberships are \$10 per year or \$150 for life. Overseas dues are \$20 per year or \$250 for life. Check your newsletter expiration season/year which is printed on your mailing label. Mail all checks to the address below:

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