

# Many Happy Returns

Number 43 \$2.50 U.S.

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Summer, 1990

## 1990 USBA Nationals, St. Louis

by Paul Sprague

The weekend kicked off Friday evening with a general psych-up session, including the design contest, the Team Gel fashion show, speeches, poetry readings and the USBA auction. The auction cleared \$2,136 from donated items, an all-time record. Special thanks to Rev. Jim and all who gave products to the auction. The evening also included a performance by Gregg Snouffer and company, described by one observer as, "not bad, for Ohio white boys' rap."

In the shadow of the St. Louis Arch, sometimes known as the "Gateway Boomerang," early Saturday morning, the first throwers squished out onto the rain-soaked field to loosen their booms. The air was still but damp. The field was a vast mud-bowl. The baseball infields were like peanut-butter, caking shoes with humungous globs that defied scraping.

Fast-catch, first up. The wind was becoming light and shifting. Chet and Gregg Snouffer turned in the best times of the more than 70 throwers with times of 20.76 and 21.87 respectively.

In Accuracy Gary Broadbent's



*Michael Girvin (left) congratulates Chet Snouffer at the awards ceremony. Girvin came in second place overall and Snouffer won first. (Photo by Alan Winterrowd)*

boom settled lightly down into the chalked circle for a score of 38, tying with Chet for first place.

Following the Accuracy event was a lunch break and the USBA annual meeting. Officers were elected for the next year, and rules changes were discussed. The concession tables, manned by Rich "Boomerang Man" Harrison and Ben "Guru" Ruhe among others, stocked high-quality merchandise. T-shirts, booms, posters and puddle-jumpers introduced the

wonderful world of boomerang insanity to the curious locals who read about it in the paper.

The Count-up event had some great lying-on-your-back-in-the-mud foot catches. On top for this event were Chet and Oregon's Doug DuFresne.

The winds came up for the Maximum Time Aloft event, sending the best times close to the highway. Michael "Gel" Girvin led this one with a 35.53 second catch. Pat Lavalley and Willie

# USBA Nationals *(Continued from page 1)*



*Doug DuFresne throws as Tom Fitzgerald watches his feet. (Photo by Alan Winterrowd)*

Davis took 2nd and 3rd.

After MTA the field cleared for dinner and dry socks. Competitors sampled the St. Louis night life.

First thing Sunday morning the throwers hobbled heroically back onto the field. The worst of the mud holes were filled in with straw, and the field was in generally better shape than on Saturday.

The wind was strong but steady for Endurance. Stiff competitors limbered slowly for their five-minute boom sprints. Girvin turned in a count of 49 catches, just over six seconds per catch, followed closely by John Flynn and Barnaby Ruhe.

In Aussie Round the best throwers read the shifting and faltering winds. Chet Snouffer took first place with a score of 79. Tim Schallberger and John Flynn scored 76 and 74.

Doubling featured epic performances by scores of competitors. Perfect rounds with no drops by several throwers tied up the lead. The winners were decided by another 25 minutes of spectacular

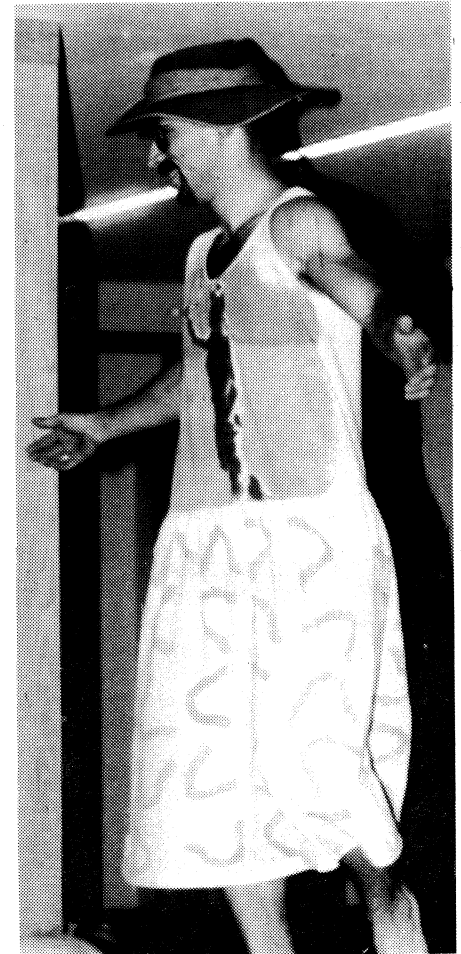
grunts and dives. Chet, DuFresne and Flynn emerged with muddy shirts and a boomerang in each hand.

Juggling featured Team Gel's Mole Man and Michael Girvin simultaneously taking first and second places. The planets lined up just as they threw, and the cosmos resonated. Girvin caught 40 and Mole Man caught 29.

After the tournament was the general freestyling and showing off that always comes with a high-caliber tournament.

There was a touching triangle-boomerang throw in memory of Germany's Thomas Hartmann, who specialized in triangle booms. Many throwers headed off to SchmieZing's restaurant after Gel Girvin, Chet and Flynn carried off all the awards.

Thanks and apologies for the mud go to the St. Louis hotels and rental car companies, the Science Center and Tom Fitzgerald for putting together the tournament. Great show, Tom. And most of all, thanks to the boomers who travelled across time and space to be a part of the 1990 USBA Nationals.



*Mole Man's modeling career takes a turn for the worse at the Team Gel Fashion Show the night before the tournament. (Photo by Alan Winterrowd)*

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## Boomerang Design Contest

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Thanks to John Derden for organizing the design contest.

The winners for each category were:

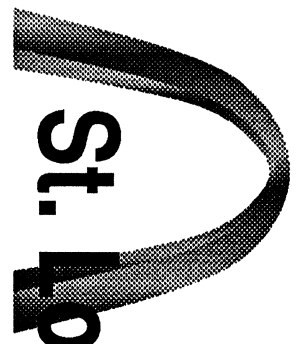
**Craftsmanship** ..... Jonas Romblad from Stockholm, for a beautiful inlaid wood boom.

**Decoration** ..... Alan Scott Craig, for his triangle snake boomerang.

**Design** ..... Larry Parks from Traverse City, Michigan, for his bullseye interlocking boomerangs.

**Technology** ..... Jonas Romblad, for his Kevlar and wood MTA.

The Judges Special Award went to Michael Girvin for his "Boom Box," a boomerang with a built-in compartment to hold a poem, so after catching the boom, the thrower can read the poem and be inspired.



# St. Louis Tournament Results

Events	Countup		Accuracy		Fast Catch		Aussie Ro: MTA		Doubling		Endurance		Juggling		Overall	
	#	Place	#	Place	Time	Place	#	Place	Time	Place	#	Place	#	Place	Points	Place
1: Rev Jim	8:29		8:51		310.00	60	36:32		18.16	37	6:23		9:53			
2: Terry Hughes	3:53		6:58		110.00	46	32:37		11.25	52	3:43		14:39			
3: Eddie Carrigg	6:42		26:21		85.00	40	54:13		16.50	40	6:23		23:21		3:17	
4: Sean Marquardt	9:11		15:41		56.62	34	57:10	1	29.29	10	1:7	18	20:27			2.00
5: Dave Boehm	4:49		32:6	4	63.84	38	40:28			53	4:34		20:27			3.50
6: Pat LaValley	7:34		22:25		49.93	29	43:25		33.10	2	9:3	43	11:46			9.00
7: Barnaby Ruhe	10:6	3	16:37		31.67	13	60:6	5	22.07	31	9:10	0.3	41:3	8	12:5	6
8: Steve Cavanaugh	10:6	3	8:51		29.81	10	1:59	7	3	24.82	24	11:4	6:33	8	3:17	16.00
9: Tom Tuckerman	3:53		0:64		55.65	33	54:13		15.68	45	9:10	0.3	11:46		1:29	0.25
10: Rich Harrison			16:37							53						
12: David Spencer	6:42		0:64		310.00	60	35:33			53	2:48		3:59			
13: Chris Thompson	6:42		4:60		51.72	31	18:55		24.31	25			2:61			
14: Stewart Jones	9:11		27:18		49.12	27	50:17		28.51	13			22:24	10:6	5	5.00
16: Willie Davis	9:11		16:37		44.33	20	44:24		31.30	3	8:3	43	12:44		3:17	8.00
17: Jim Sprague	7:34		23:24		44.12	19	42:26		30.06	6	5:6	23	20:27			5.00
18: MoleMan	9:11		18:30		34.18	15	56:11		28.63	11	4:34		40:4	7	29:2	9
19: Will Gix	9:11		27:18		51.30	30	32:37		27.59	14	6:23		10:50		6:11	
20: Max Belvedere	10:6	3	29:15		31.95	14	50:17		26.82	16	7:18		28:12	14:4	7	10.00
21: Allen Grindle	9:11		29:15		47.48	26	50:17		26.45	19	7:18		28:12		6:11	
22: Bryan Myers	9:11		32:6	4	44.45	22	38:29		30.85	5	6:11	4	6:10	50	2:24	15.50
23: Matt Hannifin	3:53		11:47		160.00	53	29:46		15.19	46	4:34		11:46			
24: Tim Schallberger	8:29		30:11		26.30	7	4:76	2	9	26.29	20	8:14		28:12		3:17
25: Allen Myers			14:44		110.00	46	48:22			53	4:34		12:44		2:24	
26: Loe Battdorf			11:47		310.00	60	17:56			53	1:51		1:64			
27: Mike Andersen							30:41						11:46		1:29	
28: Greg Patton	9:11		26:21		53.65	32			22.77	29			14:39			
29: Scott Creech	6:42		8:51		110.00	46	34:34		29.86	8	3:2	48	3:59		2:24	3.00
30: Paul Sprague	7:34		14:44		57.42	35	50:17		19.00	35	6:23		16:38		4:14	
31: Gary Broadbent	9:11		38:1	10	49.13	28	70:5	6	23.97	26	10:7	3	3:35	7	4	19:3
32: Norm Kern	7:34		7:56		160.00	53	14:60		21.87	32	6:23		21:26			
33: Dennis Joyce	9:11		31:10	1	44.38	21	73:4	7	26.75	18	10:7	3	18:34			11.00
34: John Flynn	8:29		17:36		23.42	3	8:74	3	8	30.96	4	7:15	3	8:44	2	9
35: Chet Snouffer	17:2	9	38:1	10	20.76	1	11:79	1	11	28.53	12	24:1	11	39:5	6	7:9
36: Geoff Hatcher	9:11		16:37		110.00	46	33:35			53			22:24			59.50
37: Bud Pell	8:29		18:30		34.40	17	24:48		24.88	23	3:43		19:31		1:29	
38: Micho Gravis	9:11		19:29		27.57	8	3:30	41	16.27	42	8:14		23:21		1:29	3.00
39: Edwin Braun	5:46		11:47		44.99	24	16:57		18.77	36	4:34		24:18		4:14	
40: Larry Parks	9:11		10:50		30.65	12	21:53		16.44	41	5:32		24:18			
41: Chicago Bob	10:6	3	29:15		85.00	40	24:48		20.47	34	8:14		4:57			3.00
42: Noah Kleiman	2:60		2:62		110.00	46	12:61			53	0:52		2:61			
43: Rob Parkins	7:34		25:23		23.89	4	7:55	12	29.37	9	2:9	10	0.3	28:12	7:9	2
44: Jeff Lacount	11:4	7	7:56		46.13	25	48:22			53	7:18		18:34		4:14	6.50
45: Larry Ruhf	10:6	3	15:41		24.40	5	6:54	13	16.09	43	6:23		31:10	1	2:24	9.50
46: David Hatrick	7:34		32:6	4	110.00	46	4:63			53			20:34			3.50
47: Joey Fitzgerald	4:49		4:60		160.00	53	4:63		21.28	33			10:50			
48: Pete Robson	7:34		22:25		110.00	46	25:47		17.56	39	6:23		6:56			
49: Alan Winterrowd	9:11		8:50		62.97	36	54:13		25.71	21	6:23		14:39		2:24	
50: Suzanne Lentz	2:60		15:41		160.00	53	30:41		30.85	7	4:2	48	9:53			4.00
51: Michael Girvin	18:1	11	30:11		29.11	9	2:49	21	35.53	1	11:7	18	49:1	11	40:1	11
52: Gregg Snouffer	9:11		30:11		21.87	2	9:59	7	3	25.47	22	10:7	3	32:9	2	5:10
53: Mike Salerno	8:29		30:11		34.34	16	24:48		22.55	30	4:34		23:21		3:17	
54: Alan Haig	3:53		18:30		160.00	53	22:51			53	8:14		24:18			
55: Betsy Miale	7:34		33:5	6	30.06	11	38:29		16.00	44	7:18		19:31		6:11	6.00
56: Leigh Barry	5:46		35:4	7	160.00	53	41:27		14.19	48	11:4	6	17:36		1:29	13.00
58: Mark Legg	0:63		27:18		85.00	40	32:37			53			26:17			
59: Mike Smith	3:53		12:46		85.00	40	33:27		11.27	51	3:43		17:36		1:29	
60: Jim Mayfield	9:11		18:30		42.64	18	10:62		17.89	38			31:10	1		0.50
61: Ken Witt	3:53		8:51		160.00	53	30:41						1:64			
62: Ken Dreier																
63: Corey Costello	4:49		6:58		310.00	60	19:54		12.37	50	2:48		4:57			
64: Garry Lamothe	9:11		18:30		26.12	6	5:59	7	3	23.90	27	9:10	0.3	19:31		8.25
65: Mike Laprade	11:4	7	18:30		310.00	60	30:41		23.53	28	4:34		27:16		8:7	4
66: Tim Maultsby	9:11		20:28		68.27	39	32:37		12.84	49	4:34		13:42		3:17	
67: Frank Hale	2:60		21:27		85.00	40				53			13:42			
68: Wade Kennedy	5:46		32:6	4	63.47	37	22:51		26.78	17	5:32		9:53			3.50
69: Brian Pearson	4:49		8:51		85.00	40	16:57									
70: Doug DuFresne	15:3	8	36:3	8	44.58	23	37:31		27.41	15	23:2	9	36:6	5	3:17	30.00
71: Chris Wilmes	3:53		0:64		600.00	65	16:57		15.06	47			2:61			

# Many Happy Returns

## Editorial

Good day. For those of you who don't know me, my brother and I have been involved with boomerangs for some 15 years and have competed in scores of tournaments since 1980.

If you've been to a tournament, you know that you spend most of the time spotting or standing around waiting for your turn to throw. It seems to me that more time should be devoted to having fun. The events should move right along.

I've been involved in the organization of tournaments, and I know that can be a tall order. What can be done?

Boomerang teams. Get the whole team throwing at once or in rapid-fire sequence. It moves faster and it's a lot more fun.

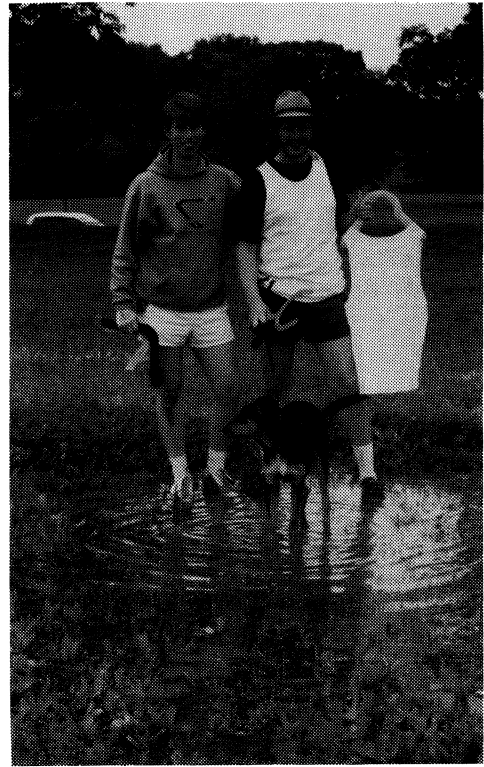
Custom-made jerseys. Synchronized throwing exhibitions. Diving catches. Team effort. This is the stuff boom legends are made of. Think about the novice thrower who goes to his first tournament. When he goes home from a normal tournament, he tells his friends, "Well, I didn't win anything."

But that same novice after a team tournament tells his friends that his team took a first place and two seconds and that one of his teammates was in the *Guinness Book of Records* and that he's joined the USBA as a life member.

If you're a good thrower who doesn't want to get "dragged down" by a novice on your team, lighten up — these things are supposed to be fun. Take the time to show your novice teammates the finest points of MTA tuning. Share your knowledge — this is what it's all about. Don't keep dark secrets of your successful techniques.

Larry Ruhf is hosting a team tournament July 14 and 15 in Amherst, Mass. I hope to see you all there, and I hope to see some more team tournaments coming down the pike.

I'd like to thank all the people who have contributed articles and photos for this issue of *Many Happy Returns*. And I'd also like to thank Ted Bailey for laying such easily-followed footsteps. Lastly, I would like to solicit any copy for the next issue of this news-



Many Happy Returns editor Paul Sprague (left) cools his heels in the St. Louis throwing circle with his brother Jim Sprague, an engineering grad student at Michigan, and Greta, a Shepherd/Border Collie mix from Savanna, Illinois. All three are members of the Flying Platypi Boomerang Team.

letter. This can be tournament results, advertisements (see center spread), stories, photos, drawings, or virus-free (Mac) electronic junk. I can be reached at any of the following:

**Mailing address:** Two Ems, Inc.  
786 Boston Post Road  
Madison, CT 06443

**Work phone** (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST): (203) 245-8211

**Home phone** (hardly ever) (203) 526-4866

**Fax** (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST): (203) 245-1805

**CompuServe address:** 72470,1567

Let me hear your two cents' worth.

Paul D. Sprague  
editor

# Beginner's Circle

All of us boomerangers have heard this story a thousand times: "I had a boomerang when I was a kid, but I couldn't make it come back." Well, the problem was one of two things. 1) It was a lousy boomerang. 2) You didn't throw it right.

The way to correct the problem is to 1) Get a good boomerang (see the advertisements and reviews in this issue) and 2) Throw it the right way.

Throwing a boomerang so that it returns is a very precise science. Stand in the middle of a LARGE field, face so the wind is coming from your left, and let 'er rip, straight overhand. It doesn't much matter which wingtip you throw from.

Watch what it does after it leaves your hand. It should curve to the left and gain a little altitude, then the wind should waft it gently back to you. It begins to lose its spin and hovers down for an easy two-handed catch. Doesn't sound familiar, eh? Well, let's look at the trouble-shooting table below to figure out what went wrong. The table assumes that you have a working boomerang and that it is tuned correctly.

- **Symptom:** Boomerang skies way up high, crashes and breaks in two.  
Cause: You threw it sidearm. This is the single most common mistake by beginning boomerangers.  
Solution: Glue your boom together again. Throw should be vertical.
- **Symptom:** Boomerang grounds on the way out and breaks in two.  
Cause: Throw is too low.  
Solution: Aim about 5° above horizontal. Sight at the top of a distant tree for vertical height.
- **Symptom:** Boomerang grounds on the way in and breaks in two.  
Cause: Throw was not hard enough.  
Solution: Launch harder and higher.

## Wind Direction

For this section, throw your boomerang, then stand at the launch point facing directly into the wind. Watch where the boomerang lands.

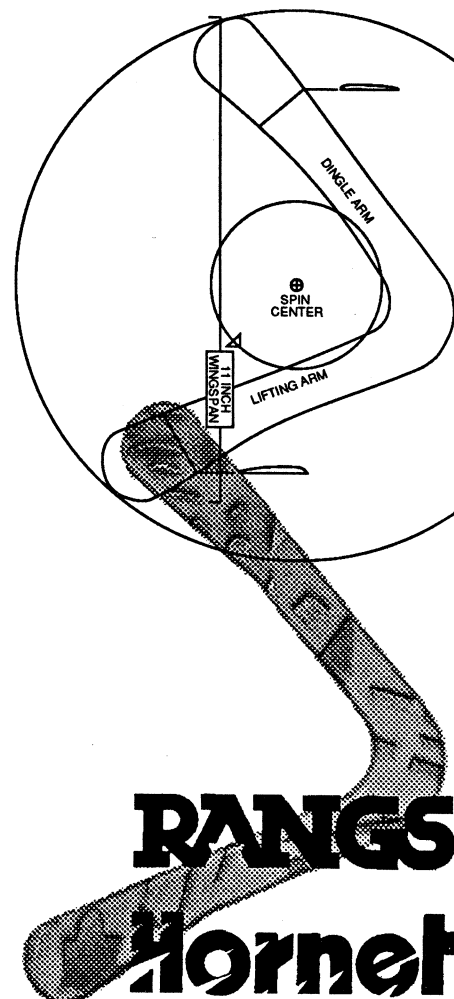
- **Symptom:** Boomerang lands to your right.  
Cause: Throw was too far off the wind source.  
Solution: Launch more to the left, that is, more into the wind.
- **Symptom:** Boomerang lands to your left.  
Cause: Throw was too much into the wind.  
Solution: Launch more to the right.
- **Symptom:** Boomerang lands upwind of launch point.  
Cause: Throw is too high or not enough spin.  
Solution: Throw with a very slight tilt to the right and aim lower to the ground. Try to give it more spin by snapping your wrist. The motion is similar to cracking a whip.
- **Symptom:** Boomerang lands downwind.  
Cause: Throw is too hard or wind is too strong.  
Solution: When throwing in high winds, the throw should be very gentle, almost directly into the wind.

Left-handed throwers should use lefty boomerangs, which perform in the mirror image of those described above. Watch the next issue for boomerang tuning instructions.

# New Booms on the Block

The Hornet by RANGS of Australia (you may be familiar with the RANGS RangeMaster) is a high-quality, injection-molded boomerang. It is small and light, suitable for beginning throwers, and very accurate in moderate winds. Take one for a spin. The Hornet is available from RANGS BOOMERANGS Box 225, Nedlands 6009 Western Australia.

Also available from Boomerang Man (see advertisement page 16). Send new products for review in future issues to: Paul Sprague, Two Ems, Inc., 786 Boston Post Road, Madison, CT 06443.





# Calendar of Events

## BOOMERANG SEASON 1990

6/23 .....Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
2nd 1st Annual Thuba Boom  
Catarrh with Orville the Duck,  
Carroll Jr. High School.  
Sean Marquardt (219) 486-0503  
or Alan Winterrowd (219) 694-  
6653

7/7-8.....Basel, Switzerland  
Swiss Nationals.  
Manfred Stahle  
Mittlerer Kreis 14b  
CH-4106 Therwil, Switzerland

7/14-15 .....Amherst, Massachu-  
setts  
Team Nationals, UMass campus.  
Eight events, six-person teams, \$25  
covers entry, dinner.  
Larry Ruhf (413) 323-4340

7/21 .....Evergreen State Col-  
lege USBA Boomtest, Olympia,  
Washington. Casey Larrance (206)  
943-8207

7/22 ..... Western Oregon Boom  
Roundup, Salem, Oregon. Dean  
Kelly (503) 581-8050

7/28 ..... Team Gel's Team  
Radtest, Oakland, California.  
Michael Girvin (312) 929-4360, or  
(415) 548-2936

7/28 .....North Ridgeville, Ohio  
Tournament  
Sports Complex on Root Road,  
10 a.m. Fee \$10.  
Gary Broadbent (216) 327-7796

7/29 ..... Team Gel's Oakland  
USBA Funtest, Oakland, Califor-  
nia. Michael Girvin (312) 929-  
4360, or 548-2936

8/4 .....Delaware, Ohio  
11th Annual Free Throwers Boo-  
merang Tournament  
Chet Snouffer (614) 363-8332

8/5 .....Cleveland, Ohio  
Cleveland Tournament 9 a.m.,  
Cuyahoga Valley National Rec.  
Area. \$10 fee includes T-shirt.  
Gayle Hazelwood (216) 650-0438  
or Dave Boehm (216) 289-6324

8/25 .....Gaithersburg, Maryland  
Potomac Open Boomerang Tour-  
nament.  
John Kohler (301) 349-5132

9/1 .....Catskill, New York  
Catskill Tournament, Barnaby  
Ruhe, head judge.  
Dara & Bryan (518) 678-3332

9/1-2.....Geneva, Switzerland  
5ème Tournoi de Boomerang de  
Geneve, Eight events, USBA rules.  
No registration fee for overseas  
throwers.  
Matthieu Weber (022) 462 355  
3, rue Saint-Jean  
1203 Geneve

9/9-10/14..Tokyo, Japan  
Boomerang Exhibition, Yokohama  
Children's Science Museum.  
Submit interesting boomerangs to  
Yoshinobu Sakimitsu  
15-5, Kudankita 1-Chome  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102

9/16 .....Portland, Oregon  
Summer's Final Fling.  
Doug DuFresne (503) 292-4316

10/6-7 .....Treignes, Belgium  
Intercontinental Games of Prehis-  
toric Weapons.  
Jacques Thomas  
24 Rue Tronchet  
69006 Lyon, France

10/18 .....Shelton, Connecticut  
Team Gel's Connecticut Boomtest,  
Beacon Falls Recreation Area.  
Mole Man (203) 924-4666

10/21 .....London, England  
Boomerang Throwing Competition  
at Belair Park.  
Elizabeth Goodhew 01-669-1872

4/6-14.....Perth, Australia  
Proposed dates for 1991 Interna-  
tional Teams Cup, Karragullen  
Boomerang Club. Top-secret  
Rippahpitmanjara boomerang  
revealed at last.  
Roger Perry  
155 Fremantle Road  
Gossnells, Perth 6110  
West Australia

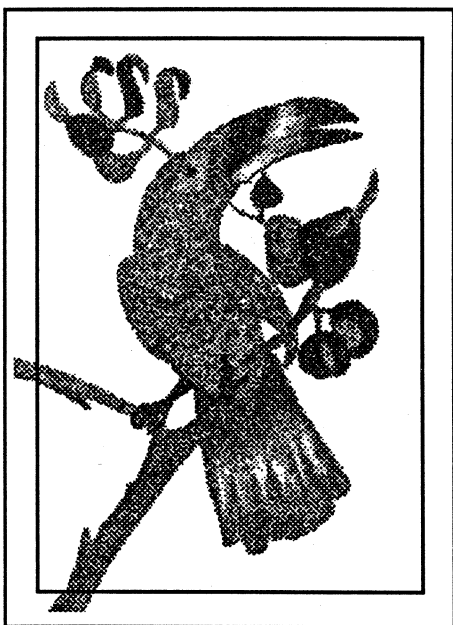
Submissions are solicited for  
this column. If you are involved in  
any boomerang-related events,  
please forward the date, place and  
contact to the USBA.

Editorial deadline for the fall  
1990 issue is August 25.

# The World Scene

# German Tournament Results

The 5th annual Geneva Boomerang Tournament is coming up September 1. Contact: Matthieu Weber 3 rue St-Jean 1203 Geneve



This toucan sand-painting comes from Prof. Lezíro Marques Silva of the Brazilian boomerang organization. Silva reports the boomerang activity is most developed in the southern regions of Brazil and lacking in the north.

**Bumerangs**  
Matthias Giesenschlag of Hamburg reports a successful supercatch (with three witnesses) May 7. Supercatch (for the uninitiated) is the performance of throwing a Maximum Time Aloft boomerang, and while it is in the air, catching a 20-meter fast-catch boomerang five times before catching the MTA.



Boomerang Association of New Zealand

# BANZ

Welcome to the world boomerang scene. For information on this new club, contact: Earl Tutty 19 Bletsoe Ave. Christchurch 2, New Zealand

Volker Behrens' Beach Tournament (May 5) went to Fridolin Frost. Event results were as follows:

- Endurance**
1. Fridolin Frost .....53
  2. Thomas Stehrenberger .....50
  3. Uli Konzelmann .....49
- Juggling**
1. Jürgen Rode .....9
  2. Axel Heckner .....8
  3. Udo Wenning .....7
- Fast Catch**
1. Axel Heckner .....21.38
  2. Udo Wenning .....23.53
  3. Uli Konzelmann .....24.00
- Style Outback**
1. Fridolin Frost .....37
  2. Gerrit Lemkau .....36
  3. Volker Behrens .....35
- Consecutive Catch**
1. Torsten Fredrich .....13
  2. Gerrit Lemkau .....12
  3. Fridolin Frost .....11
- Position**
1. Matthias Giesenschlag .....0.69m
  2. Ben Owen, USA .....3.35m
  3. Uwe Niederstraßer .....4.94m
- Overall**
1. Fridolin Frost
  2. Axel Heckner
  3. Oliver Rau
  4. Volker Behrens
  5. Ben Owen, USA

# Japanese Museum Exhibit Solicits Unique Booms

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu is putting together a boomerang exhibition for the Yokohama Children's Science Museum, to run September 9 through October 14. He has asked JBA members to make unique boomerangs especially for this exhibition, and also asks collectors

and craftsmen around the world to submit "cultural, historical and/or worth displaying" boomerangs. The exhibit is intended to introduce the sport of boomerangs to the Japanese people and facilitate the plan to hold the 1992 World Cup in Japan.

If you have any boomerangs you can send for the exhibit, his address is:

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu  
15-5, Kudankita 1-Chome  
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102

# The World...Down Under

## Australian Nationals

Brother Brian Thomas reports a crowd of 50 for the BAA Nationals in Melbourne. The winners in each event were as follows:

### Accuracy

1. Bunny Read .....43
2. Br. Brian Thomas .....38

### Aussie Round

1. Bruce Carter .....74

### Fast Catch

1. Bruce Carter .....21.09  
the best in Australian competition  
(scored with a Peter Ruhf rang)
2. Geoff Kennedy .....24+

### MTA

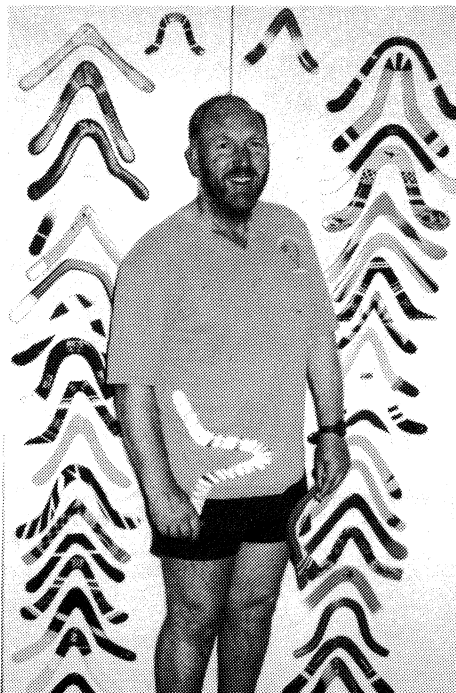
1. Geoff Kennedy .....28

### Endurance

1. Roger Perry .....31

### Over-all

1. Rob Croll
2. Bunny Read
3. Geoff Kennedy
4. Roger Perry
5. Br. Brian Thomas
6. Bruce Carter



Brother Brian Thomas of the Boomerang Association of Australia

## Indoor World Championship Planned

Roger Perry has been testing out the Burswood Superdome. The stadium is 79 meters by 120 meters, and proved to be the perfect environment for Fast Catch and MTA. Wind direction is variable; doors can be opened to allow a set wind direction up to 4 knots. The top 10 World Individual Champions (held in the USA last year) will be automatically selected for events, and there will be six to eight wildcard entries. Rules for this competition will be changed slightly, and should go as follows:

**Fast Catch** Same as usual

**MTA** MTAs may be caught anywhere. Half the competitors to throw at or near the same time

**Aussie Rd.** Two competitors to throw from same circle at same time; Changes range:

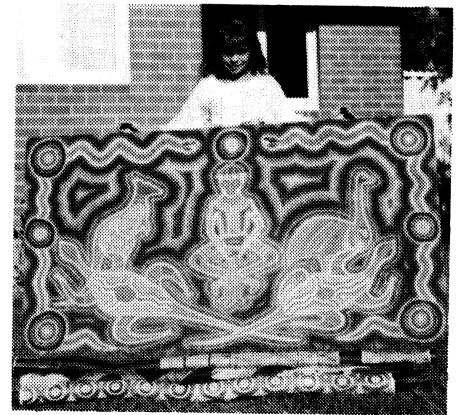
- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 20met ..... | 2 points |
| 30 .....    | 4        |
| 40 .....    | 6        |

**CCID** Same; one round then elimination. Increased difficulty.

**Doubling/MTA** Throw MTA, then Doublers; perform increased difficulty of catch

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1st round ..... | all 3 any catch  |
| 2nd round ...   | all one-handed catches   |
| 3rd round ..... | 2 Doublers 1 in each hand, MTA either hand                         |
| 4th round ....  | 1 Doubler 2 hand, 2nd Doubler behind the back and MTA either hand. |

More details on this indoor World Championship will be available soon.



Aboriginal artist with painting and didgeridoos, submitted by Roger Perry.

## 1991 International Boomerang Cup

Plans are already underway for the 1991 International Boomerang Cup, to be held in Perth, April 6 to 14. Already in the plans, besides the competition, are a Fun Day, a river cruise and various water sports. Accommodations are being arranged, and could include a pool, function room, BBQs and TVs for as little as \$25.00 a night. We'd like to know at least six months in advance if you're planning on visiting Perth next year. An International Cup Committee has been set up. If you have any questions, you can direct them to: Roger Perry, 155 Fremantle Rd., Gosnells, West Australia, 6110.

## New BAA Board

President .....	Roger Perry
Secretary .....	Geoff Kennedy
Senior Vice-President .....	Rob Croll
Treasurer .....	Treacey Sinclair
Editor .....	Steve Drummond
Brian Thomas .....	Registrar and Chief Statistician
Dennis Maxwell ..	Publicity Officer

BAA Newsletter Editor Steve Drummond's address is 50 Bam-boka Cres., Kaleen, A.C.T. 2617, Australia.





Advertising rates:

Midget	\$20
Mondo H	\$40
Mondo V	\$40
Maxi	\$80
1 Column	\$80
1/2 Page	\$115
2 Columns	\$150
Full Page	\$200



Midget  
2 1/4 x 2 1/8  
\$20

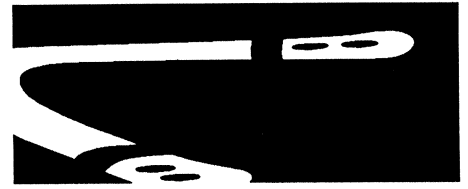
Odd sizes will be billed at \$10 per column inch. Payment must be received in advance of publication. Deadline for the fall 1990 issue is 9/1.

Mondo H  
4 3/4 x 2 1/8  
\$40

Mondo V  
2 1/4 x 4 1/2  
\$40

Maxi  
4 3/4 x 4 1/2  
\$80

# Return on Investment.



The fall 1990 issue of the USBA newsletter, *Many Happy Returns*, is going to press in September. This is your opportunity to advertise. This is the ONLY way to reach America's boomerangers. You know how these people can be — they'll try anything once and they'll buy anything once.

If you know of a business who needs exposure to boomerang throwers, send in their address and phone. As a finder's fee for each new ad placed, you will receive FREE a 22 x 28 boomerang poster (\$8.00 value).

Yes! I'd like to run an ad in the fall 1990 issue of *Many Happy Returns*. (See rate schedule on facing page.)

Ad size: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Ad enclosed is camera-ready
- Please compose ad from materials enclosed (no additional cost)
- Please fax me a proof of my ad before printing: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip, Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made out to Two Ems, Inc.  
Please return with ad copy to: Two Ems, Inc.  
786 Boston Post Rd., Madison, CT 06443  
attn: Paul Sprague

Call with questions 9-5 EST (203) 245-8211. Submissions are non-returnable. The editor has final approval on all materials. Deadlines are as follows: Editorial — August 25. Advertising — September 1. Submissions can be made by U.S. mail, fax (203) 245-1805 or E-mail (CIS 72470,1567).

# 2nd Annual Intercollegiate Boomerang Association Championships

at Santa Cruz, California, 16, 17, 18 March by Michael "Gelly" Girvin

Seven schools, 17 teams, 26 women, 47 men: 73 total radsters converged in chaotic harmony at Peter "Pay" Rose's school. Each school had held "Boomathons" to raise money so they could afford to travel, being poor, starving students and all. The contextually fun IBA Rules had been rewritten to include many new events such as Cauliflower, Humpty and Dijon 20. It was supposed to be raining. It was sunny. The stage was set for the 2nd Annual IBA Championships.

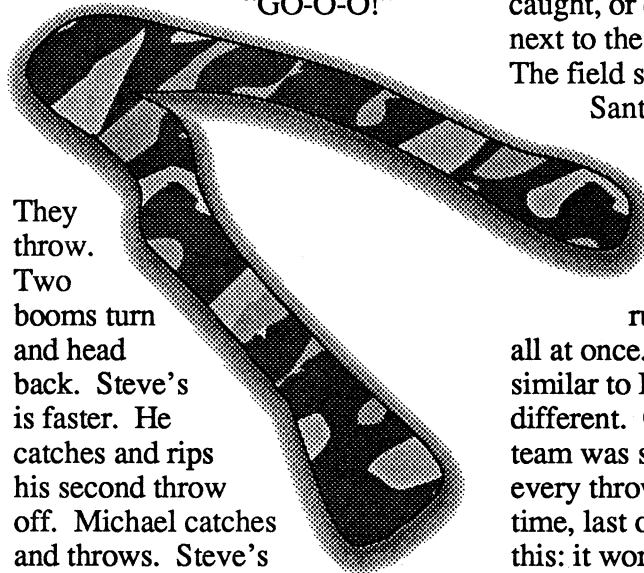
Written poetry was first on the schedule. A hundred people crammed into Pay's beachfront house and listened as the various boom poets read boom poems. Partying ensued. Most of the visiting boomers stayed at Pay's. The rest set up house at "The Church."

Saturday was easy. The boomerang field was 300 feet from Pay's house; everyone walked to the beach and began to throw with the sun and speedy wind. Happiness was contagious, the smiles were blinding. Team George was the first event. Each team member threw 23 times and attempted 23 different catches. The sand proved to be the perfect ingredient for beginners and non-beginners alike to go for all catches. Team Dijon was the second event. It was the first time that this French event has been run in the U.S. People screamed and yelled with approval. Team Cauliflower was next. This event, which was spontaneously created at last year's IBAs, involves a group of throwers simultaneously launching their booms into the air, and then an appointed group of people call out the catch in the air. This event adds an interesting and challenging twist to

trick catching. In the 15-mph wind two people even managed to get perfect scores of four catches for their teams. Team Fast Catch was the fourth event. Like last year, the head-to-head race format proved to be the best in producing crowd enthusiasm. The final race: Michael Girvin (Team PEB) and Steven Kavanaugh (Team Rock-fish) in the sand.

They stand. They wait for the magic word "go." The wind blows at 13. The sun beats down. You can see that all the eyes in the crowd have shifted to the two Fast Catchers in front of them.

"GO-O-O!"



They throw. Two booms turn and head back. Steve's is faster. He catches and rips his second throw off. Michael catches and throws. Steve's boom heads in. Catch. OHH! No catch for Steve on the bobble. Michael drops. They throw. They catch. Two, three. Steve is pumping, fast. He catches his fourth while Michael throws his fourth. Steve throws a fifth fast one, around, over sand, it heads back. A catch will win. Steve's boom exactly laps Michael's as they both attempt to catch. "Catch, catch!" the crowd screams. Catch, catch. Steve first, Michael second.

Team Whoa Nelly (Aussie Round with points for trick catching) was last for the day. There

were 20 different trick catches that have assigned point values that you could earn in addition to the regular Aussie Round points. The sand demanded that we add a new catch right then and there. Seventeen extra points for flip catch. Head catch, behind the back, foot and flip were gracefully performed over or near the bullseye. People were stoked inside. Saturday night. Pay arranged a boomerang dance. The DJ spun the discs and the boomers danced.

Sunday morning came and the sun was still out. We changed fields; this day we threw and caught, or didn't catch on the field next to the school swimming pool. The field sat on the top of some

Santa Cruz mountains that gave us an inspiring panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean. Team Accuracy and Team Aussie Round were run with teams throwing all at once. MTA Race was run similar to Fast Catch Race, except different. One person from each team was selected to throw. Then every thrower threw at the same time, last one up wins. And get this: it worked. There were no disputes. Team Humpty was next. This game is a cross between Fast Catch and Endurance. Each thrower is given five minutes to throw and catch the most times consecutively with one foot planted on the ground. Amazingly enough the winds made a score of seven, for a four-person team, the winning score. Team Style Out-back was the second to last event. There are no rules, only context. Everyone who is not throwing scores, while the scorekeeper tries to keep count. One team staged an  
(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

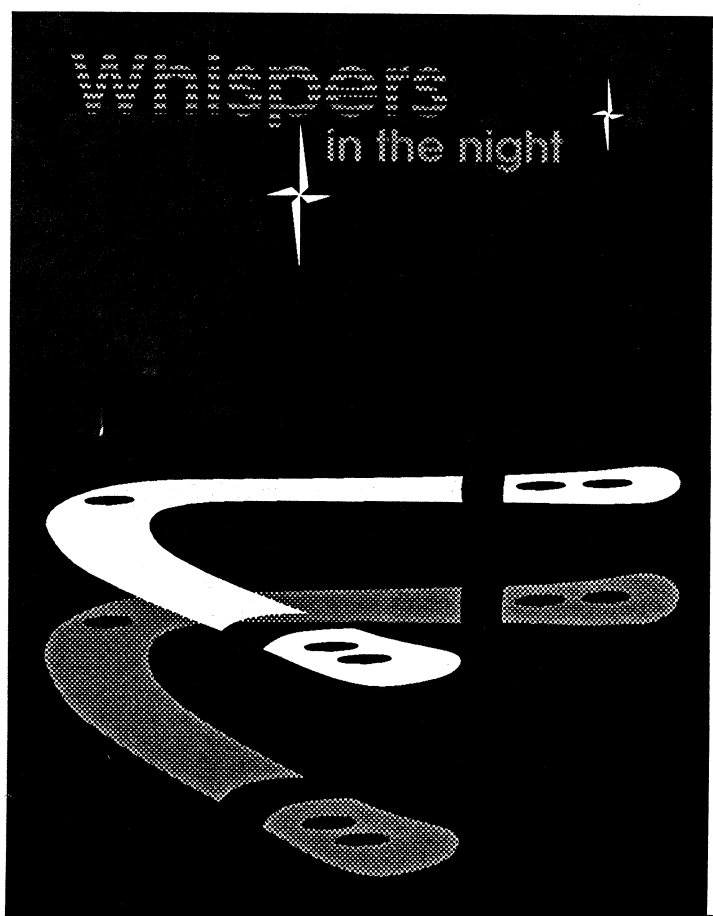
aboriginal-type ritualistic ceremony with old tires, feathers and booms. Another team seduced and begged the judge with beer and booms. Still another team threw their booms and then ran the opposite direction toward the fence surrounding the "pay money to get into" pool. And then they jumped over the fence, clothed and cleated. They jumped in and jumped out, and back over the fence. They won Style Outback. The last event was Round Rang Relay. Next to a cliff that looked down on the Pacific Ocean, on the rad boom field, legs were pumping, fingers were reaching, and the intensity that was present in each smile was great.

Over at "The Church" 112 prize-boomerangs and hundreds of printed and hand-drawn awards awaited new homes. Each participant earned at least one boom and

a handful of awards. But the real prize for all involved was the 72 new friends that each had: Team Pomegranate Elvis Beautiful (School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Columbia College in Chicago), Team Rockfish (Evergreen State College), Team Gel Trout (Evergreen), Team Electric Gel Enima (Evergreen), Team Muammar (Reed College), Team Gel-O-Spimoni (University of Oregon, Eugene), Team Sucks (Evergreen), Team Rock (Evergreen), Team Donuts (University of California, Santa Cruz), Team Drunken Mediocrity (Evergreen), Teams Freaks (Santa Cruz), Team Manchowder (Evergreen), Thousand Screaming Nuts (Santa Cruz), Team Yes (Evergreen), Something Creative (Santa Cruz), Team Science (Foothill Community College, Los Altos, California), Team Cornbeef (Evergreen).

## Boomerangs for the Blind

Sound a little ridiculous? Roger Perry and Bill Killan, an electronics buff, have joined forces to design a boomerang that will prove useful to the blind, as well as to those who enjoy a night throw. The boomerang will consist of a high frequency rapid pulse device that runs on a lithium battery. A light weight boomerang will be used, with the pulsar taped to the cord section. For more information, contact Roger at: 155 Fremantle Rd., Gosnells, West Australia, 6110.



## Boom Poster for Sale

If you've ever thrown boomerangs after dark, this is for you. You know the throw it speaks of.

The night air is still and the stars are bright. Your favorite boom spins softly into the calm darkness with an easy layout toss. It circles around with a silky whisper back toward you. It dips low, skimming the dewy grass and slides gently back into your waiting hands.

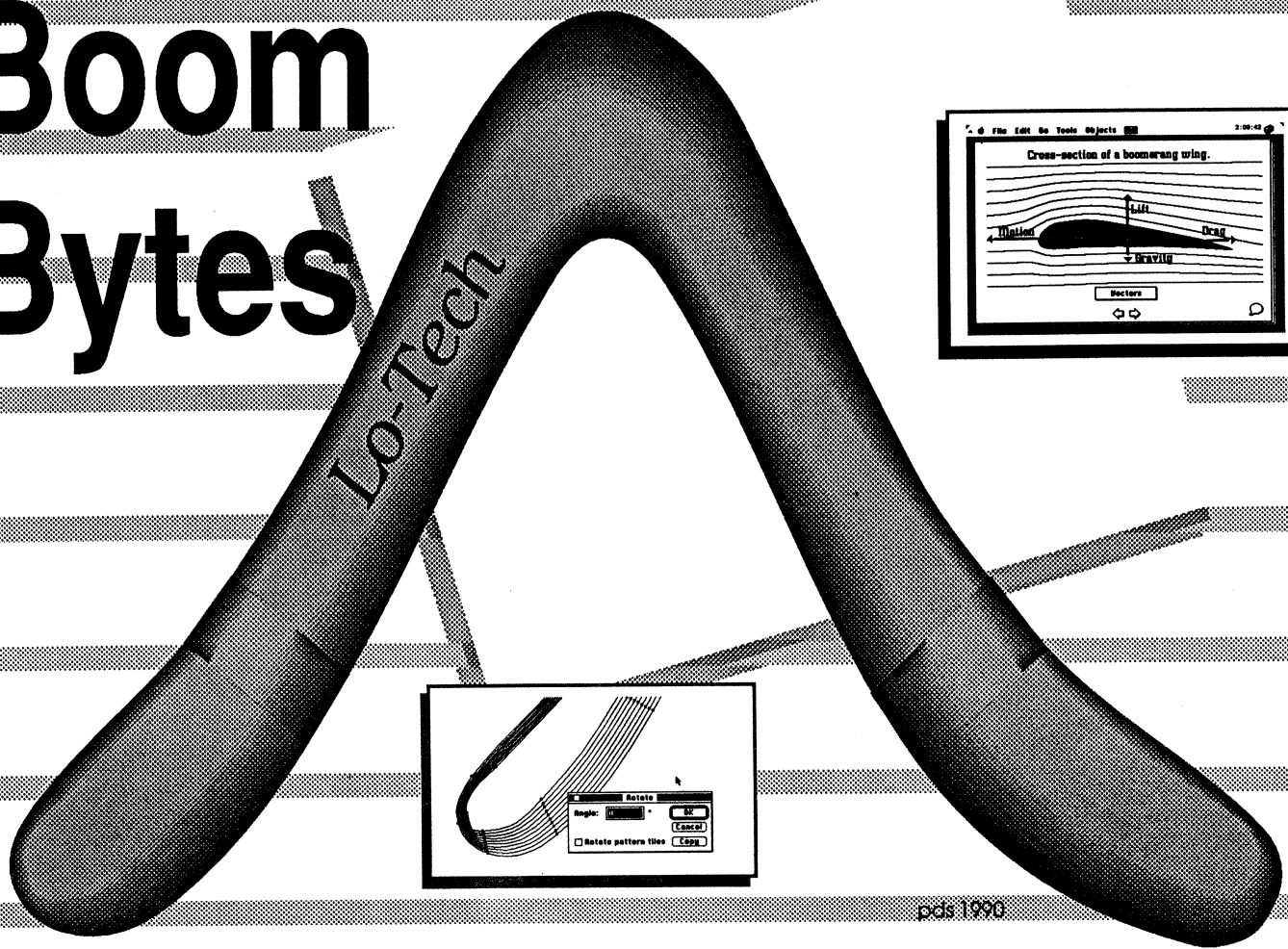
You've been there, right? This stunning glossy black poster (22"x28") takes you back. It's yours for \$7.50 plus 50¢ postage.\*

Please make checks out to Two Ems, Inc.,  
786 Boston Post Rd., Madison, CT 06443  
(203) 245-8211 (fax) 245-1805.

\* Connecticut residents please add 8% to keep our government fat.



# Boom Bytes



pds 1990

The boomerang picture above was generated by placing an actual boomerang on a flatbed computer scanner. This created a bitmap image of the boomerang's outline which was then auto-traced into Encapsulated PostScript format using high-end graphics software. The resulting image was modified by reshaping, adding shading and detail.

High tech competition boomerangs and museum quality, 19th century, Australian Aboriginal boomerangs and throwsticks.

**Ben (Guru) Ruhe**  
1882 Columbia Rd. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009  
202-234-9208

If you have access to a PC and are interested in boomerang graphics or programs, I am compiling a list of boom hackers for networking, as well as a list of available boomerang-related computer stuff. Please send me the following information:

name  
address  
phone  
modem? ID? (CIS) (GEnie) (other)  
software (Mac) (DOS) (other)  
Include a listing and brief description of any boomerang stuff you can send on disk to interested parties.

Please indicate system/software requirements and whether the files or programs are Public Domain, Shareware (fees), etc.

Send info to: Paul Sprague  
Two Ems, Inc.  
786 Boston Post Road  
Madison, CT 06443



# Minutes; 1990 USBA Annual Meeting May 26, St. Louis

*Gregg Snouffer, secretary*

I. Introduction and Welcome from  
President Betsylew Miale

II. Financial Report - John Flynn

- Fiscal year ends in two weeks, so no written report
- \$2100 from auction - new record
- Written report due in two weeks

III. Rules Committee - Changes -  
Chet Snouffer

- Count up must be done in groups of 4 (clarification and specification of last year's rules)
- At season's end, top 20 positions will receive ratings points for more depth.

IV. Video Archivist - Gary  
Lamothe

- Gary Lamothe resigns as Video Archivist
- Announce opening for new person willing to take over (includes cost retrieval and USBA contribution)

V. U.S. Team Cup '90 - Larry  
Ruhf

- Fee of \$50 for prize \$\$ and dinners (Now amended as of 6-1-90 -no prize \$)
- Open to any 6-man teams

VI. Dennis Joyce - '91 International Team Cup and Ben Ruhe World Champion

- Dennis is contact person for U.S. side

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Barnaby Ruhe's "THE MASTERS' BOOMERANG"

THE WORLD CLASS BOOMERANG FOR  
BEGINNERS AND PROFESSIONALS  
\$6.00 EACH - CALL

**1 - 800 - 933 - 0733**

# YAAAAH!!

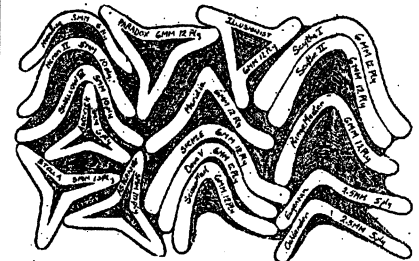
This could be  
your  
**LAST ISSUE!!**

Check your mailing label for your  
expiration date and

## Renew Renew Renew

Send ten bucks to:  
USBA  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Tournament & Long Distance Booms  
from RangSmith  
P.O. Box 70761, Eugene, OR 97401



## Left Turn Boomerangs



Designed to be friendly to new  
throwers. Right & left handed  
available. Made from 9 ply,  
5mm birch. FREE CATALOG.  
Norm Kern, 1640 Haynes  
Birmingham, MI 48009

## FOR SALE

### Natural Wood Elbows

Beautiful hardwood boomerangs. 1986 and 1988 "Best" at USBA National Conventions (only years entered). I also have solid walnut killing sticks, but supplies are limited. If interested send a SASE to:

Stone Mountain Boomerangs  
1815 Britt Road  
Snellville, Georgia 30278

# Minutes...

(Continued from page 15)

## VII. North Ridgeville, Ohio Tournament

- Saturday, July 28
- Contact Gary Broadbent at:  
5327 Wallace Blvd, Ridgeville,  
Ohio 44039

## VIII. Nominations

- No new nominations for President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary
- Board Nominations:
  - Mike Girvin
  - Willie Davis
  - Jim Jordan
  - Dean Kelly
  - John Derden

## IX. Vote:

- President Unanimous  
Betsylew Miale
- VP Unanimous Chet Snouffer
- Treasurer Unanimous John Flynn
- Secretary Unanimous Gregg Snouffer
- Board
  1. John Derden (43)
  2. Dean Kelly (38)
  3. Tom Fitzgerald (46)
  4. Jim Jordan (48)
  5. Mike Girvin (47)No - Willie Davis (31)

## X. Move to end meeting.

# Renew Renew Renew

See page 15.

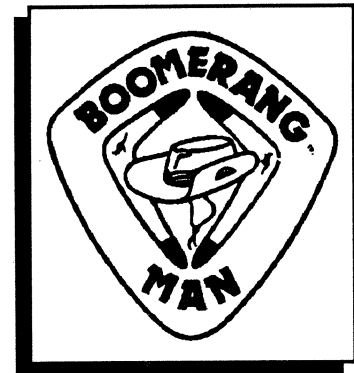
FREE CATALOG! 1990

# THE BOOMERANG MAN

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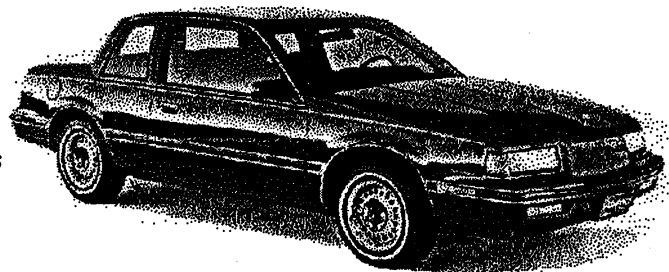


Alamo Rent A Car has extended USBA an Association Membership Program so that USBA members can obtain discount rates on automobile rentals

whenever they travel. If you are a member and do not have a card, send a SASE with a request for one to:  
USBA, P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Twenty-four hour (minimum) advance 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.

Alamo features fine General Motors cars like this Buick Skylark.



# Good Wood

## Ted Bailey's Wood Sources

Ted Bailey conducted a survey of the various wood sources listed on the USBA information sheet. The most recent suppliers with the best prices and products are summarized below:

- Industrial Plywood  
550 South 5th St.  
Reading, PA 19603  
1-800-543-4416, Andrew Wernick.

The price for 1/4" 5-ply Finland Birch Plywood is \$1.09/ft<sup>2</sup> or \$27.25 for a 5' x 5' sheet plus shipping.

- Alpha Aviation Supply Co.  
P.O. Box 8641  
Greenville, TX 75401-8641  
(214) 527-3817.

Alpha Aviation carries 5-ply Aircraft Metric Plywood in thicknesses of 2, 2.5, 3, 5 & 6mm and 24"x24", 48"x48", 30"x60", and 60"x60" dimensions. The price for a 48"x48" 5mm sheet is \$44.75. Ted ordered two sheets of 48"x48" 3mm, and 1/2 sheet of 48"x48" 2.5 mm wood. The total cost, including shipping, was only \$98. Alpha Aviation also carries 1/2" Polyurethane Foam in a density of 2 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>. This is an interesting material to work with. A 24"x24" sheet costs only \$4.25. Alpha Aviation accepts VISA and MasterCard for

## New Ratings System

John Flynn reports that in an effort to rate more throwers, the categories will be extended to the top 20 finishers instead of only the top 10. The three event rating categories that determine standings are best score, median score and placing average.

easy over the phone ordering.

- Anderson International Trading  
1011 Barkley Ave.  
Orange, CA 92668  
(714) 771-6270.

Eric Anderson of Anderson International Trading is your contact for great boomerang wood. Anderson carries the largest variety of plywood for boomerangs of any outlet in the USA. 1/4" 5-ply Finland Birch Plywood comes in 48"x96" or 60"x60" sheets at prices from \$.90 and \$1.20/ft<sup>2</sup>.

A special treat for boomerangers is the Ultra Thin Plywood panels (61"x61") which include: 2mm, 5-ply; 2.5mm, 5-ply; 3mm, 5-ply; 5mm, 9-ply, and 6mm, 11-ply. When the editor ordered several sheets, the 3mm came as 6-ply and the 5mm came as 10-ply.

Eric Anderson has agreed to stock 4mm plywood as a special favor for boomerangers. This makes Anderson International Trading the only known source for this highly desirable plywood size. The 4mm will be at least 7-ply, but could have as many as 10-ply as a mill option.

Anderson International Trading has a special stock of 4-ply 5mm Baltic Birch with a clear face. This means no knots, patches or defects or any kind on the face. This special kind of boomerang wood is only \$29.25 for a 60"x60" sheet.

Ask about other kinds of plywoods. Of special note is 1/4" 5-ply American plywood at \$0.93 / ft<sup>2</sup>. This plywood comes in 48"x48" or 48"x96" sheets. The surface plys are Alder. The composite is lighter than birch (great for Fast Catch?) and Maple has more character than Birch (for looks).

# Getting the Word Out

The May issue of *Sky* magazine (Delta Airlines) featured "Return to Sender," a comprehensive article on the sport of boomerangs, by Chicago writer Natalie Levy.

Levy talked with Chet Snouffer and Betsylew Miale, and mentions several other USBA members. The article covers the history and shenanigans of the boomerang craze, from Ben Ruhe's discovery to various incidents of boom-eccentricity. It discusses major competitions and records. Levy recommends several books on the subject of boomerangs, and gives a plug for *Many Happy Returns* and USBA membership. Says Levy, "Lofting and snaring these fascinating flyers is a portable, relatively inexpensive, utterly useless, compellingly addictive pastime...the greatest boon of the boomerang is the fun of throwing, the challenge of catching, and the endless enchantment of its magical flight."

I couldn't have said it better myself.

There was also a boomerang article in the March 1990 issue of *Recreation News* entitled "Many Happy Returns - Zen and the Art of Boomeranging," written by Jennifer Jones of Falls Church, Virginia. Jones quoted Ben Ruhe, Ted Bailey, Carl Naylor and Jim Jordan and Mike Forrester among others.





Greetings, fellow boomerang throwers and enthusiasts. Having recently begun a second term as your USBA president, I'd like to share a few thoughts with you all.

As those of you who were present at the Nationals in St. Louis over the Memorial Day weekend may recall, I proposed an idea for an event called the **First Annual Toss Across America**. The concept is to unite all of us across the country in a multitude of non-competitive, exhibition and teaching sessions to raise the public awareness of boomerang throwing in the local areas around our homes on a given day. Will and I, for example, would put up posters/notices at the neighborhood schools, on a few telephone poles and in local stores inviting any interested individuals to come and spend an afternoon with us at the field where we usually throw for a throwing exhibition, talk on the history and science of boomerang throwing and to try a few tosses themselves. We would not only be widening our public exposure across the country, but also affirming the unity of our scattered groups and individuals in our love of and desire to enhance the growth of boomerang throwing as a sport, science and recreational

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## ★ President's Column ★

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activity.

The USBA leadership will be discussing how the organization can pull this together and provide assistance with materials and media coverage. To make it happen, I need to hear from all groups and/or individuals who would like to participate in their communities so that we can provide the national organization required. We will need volunteers to work with the local media and schools. A target date of May 18, 1991, a suitable kick-off to the next throwing season, is hereby proposed. Any input you might have on this concept would be appreciated.

All of you who compete will be aware of the work the rules committee and the USBA Board have done to standardize the manner in which events are conducted and to ensure that all have an equally fair chance at success. It is to the sport's credit that we have been able to do so while still retaining some of the qualities of freedom and fun that set boomerang throwing apart from other competitive sports. A few individuals, however, feel that it is still not enough and that the freedom of association in who you will probably group with in tournaments must be taken away by random assignment to guard against dishonest scoring and coaching. They say this is how other sports do it.

Until the time that the USBA can afford to train and certify non-competitor and non-competitor related individuals to act as officials, judges, counters, etc., our sport in tournament competition will continue to be based upon a

reliance on and belief in the honesty and integrity of the competitors and their relatives.

This reliance is one of the aspects of boomerang tournaments that sets it apart from most other sporting competitions. Boomerang tournaments are also an equal opportunity event as men and women, young and old compete on an equal footing.

Another unique aspect which has attracted some throwers and will help to attract more as we expand is the ability of fathers and sons, husbands and wives, buddies and siblings to share a competitive experience by throwing together during tournaments.

Looking at other sports it seems clear that there is no one right way to conduct competitions. Different sports decide who performs when and with whom in different ways. Some change the groupings to correspond with performance, while others use matches based on seedings, or the age and experience and/or sex of the competitors. Each sport devises the technique best suited to maximize the ethos of the sport and enhance all aspects of the competition.

Working together we can make this another banner year for boomerang throwing in the United States, with an ever-increasing number of participants, innovations and accomplishments. Good luck, and have lots of fun!

Betsylew Miale



# Many Happy Returns

Circulation: 600 Worldwide.  
Published by the  
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P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

## Editor/Art Director:

Paul Sprague

## Publishing Director:

Jim Jordan

## Advertising Director:

Paul Sprague

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Image area: 9.5" deep by 7.5"  
wide; 3 columns to a page;  
width of a column: 2.25".

## Advertising Rates:

Full Page	\$200
2 Columns	\$150
1/2 Page	\$115
1 Column	\$80
Per Column inch	\$10

10% discount for four consecutive issues. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason.

Send advertisements to:

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Madison, CT 06443  
(203) 245-8211 (fax) 245-1805  
Deadlines for advertising are  
March 1 for the Spring issue;  
June 1 for the Summer issue;  
September 1 for the Fall issue;  
and December 1 for Winter.

Early ads with  
payment will receive  
the best placement.

## USBA Information

The USBA provides services other than this newsletter. Various information listings can be obtained through the USBA headquarters. These include information on wood/materials for making booms; domestic and international clubs; manufacturers and distributors of boomerangs; rules, regulations, and bylaws. A sample of catalogs by various distributors can be obtained by mailing \$2 to USBA headquarters. Domestic members are entitled to receive these listings simply by sending a SASE to USBA headquarters (Overseas members - please send \$1 for each listing required).

USBA  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

## Membership Information

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in \$\$USA\$\$\$. Make checks payable to: USBA. 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 or money orders to the address below:

U. S. Boomerang Assoc.  
P.O. Box 182  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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## USBA Video Archives Seeks New Director

Involves collecting footage, editing, duplicating, sales. Please contact:

Garry Lamothe  
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