

Many Happy Returns

Number 47 \$2.50 U.S.

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Summer, 1991

US Sweeps World Cup

Somewhat faithfully reported by Dr. Barnaby Ruhe

Editor's note: The two US teams who competed in April for the World Boomerang Championships finished first and second place, obliterating competition from around the globe.

Perth, Australia — Dennis Maxwell commentates for Test II all morning: "Japan is in second place overall for the day," again and again (an omen of '92?). It is Test III in Perth, 1991, and Casey Larrance struggles through a treacherous round of fast-catch as Team I USA is sliding ignominiously toward victory. They'll lose the third day ugly, yet cop the cup. Trailing around 5th overall in the morning, with a reborn USA II surging too late for the cup, the Snouffer/Flynn gang missed a step finally, after a week of stupendous consistency.

Casey's 2nd round is a 22 through trash, and the day pivots for USA I as they rally to take a strong 2nd for the day. Good spirit. Like any good coon, they kept the coondog's head underwater. Don't want to give those Europeans the idea they can take it.

The French unravel at Test III, after pounding at the heels of USA I in the first test. The ghost of USA



First place in the World Boomerang Championships was USA Team I (above - John Flynn, Mole Man, Casey Larrance, Doug Dufresne, Chet and Gregg Snouffer). Second place was USA Team II (below - Barnaby Ruhe, Dennis Joyce, Eric Darnell, Rob Parkins, John Koehler and Jim Jordan).



II surged quixotically at Test III to win the day, to wrest 2nd from a powerful field of Germans and French.

This third test, after seven tournaments in eight days, is merely a character test. Germany and France are contenders. They've reached the top level with Australia and the USA. Look for a five-horse race in Japan, '92. Hell, the French had the best fast-catch tools, wind and calm, and the Germans yielded the latest technology. But USA I won in "worst wind"

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Left Turn Boomerangs



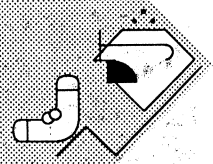
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A "Real" Boomerang Poem

by Scott "Neck Catch" Felton
Dedicated to the crowd in Fitchburg, Mass.

Dew on the grass, blue skies, birds in flight.
First toss with a boom I had finished last night.
It flew out and turned left and then hovered right in,
swooped low and then high and then caught me in the chin.
My next throw was perfect it was easy to see.
I was ready to catch when it cracked my left knee.
The third toss went left and a little bit right,
punched into my rib cage and continued its flight!
A crowd had now gathered of about twenty-three.
One suggested a doctor, one psychiatry!
I continued my throwing, the next one real low.
It swooped up and stalled and came down on my toe.
I threw yet again and it curved with a flair.
A beautiful arc that caught me "you know where."
And the onlookers were puzzled by my grin and my glee.
I felt compelled to tell them "there's no feeling, you see,
and no greater tribute to its accuracy, than to be beat near to death by a boom made by me.

"Dear Webtown..."



Dear Webtown,

The time has come to admit I am an addict. It began two years ago with a little casual throwing. Nothing much — just a few throws at lunch and a few more after work. Soon it wasn't enough. It wasn't long before boomerangs were the only thing I was interested in. People began to drift away. Friends dwindled. I began spending more of my free time throwing — alone. I found I was sneaking out of work to get a few quick throws. I began carrying boomerangs in my truck. My personal hygiene faltered.

I brought boomerangs into my brother's life. He was a well-rounded, circumspect young man, running a shop in a small Maine town. Now he has no job, and lives in the woods with a clearing in the trees for boomeranging. There are boomerangs all over, 20 stray cats, and a dead one in the freezer.

My new bride gets a troubled look in her eyes when spring approaches. She knows I'll be gone for days at a time. I say I'm just going to get together with some friends to throw a few. She knows it won't be just a few. She knows I need help.

I've finally admitted my problem and am writing to you, Dear Webtown, for professional advice and salvation. Is there any hope?

— A Fledgling Thrower

Dear Fledgling Thrower,

There is help out there! You have taken the first step on the long road to recovery by admitting your problem. It has been trav-

elled by many before you, and the success rate is promising.

Studies have found counseling utterly useless in these cases, unfortunately. When counseling sessions are attempted, the subject material continually reverts itself and the talk goes in circles.

I assume you have approached your clergy with little success. No fault of yours, I'm sure. Have you seen the crucifix boomerang yet?

Some feel there is little help for the epidemic in the rural grassy areas. Clinics hand out foam tri-bladders to addicts beyond help. They claim it cuts down spreading the problem, by addicts not sharing their boomerangs.

The best results to date have been seen in the *Journal of Obsessive Behaviour Monthly*. Dr. Throwaway researched several thousand boomerang addicts' daily activities and found a common denominator.

When the addict is in his/her deepest boomerang thought, all other brain activity stops. This leads to the progressive harm in extreme cases, where throwers run out into traffic and are flattened.

Throwaway suggests a complete severing of the arm. Although this is a severe measure, the success rate speaks for itself.

At-home remedies have had some success also. By slowly eliminating the boomerang stock in your house, you are left with your current flying models. As each one breaks, you are left with fewer and fewer available. Soon you will lose interest and your wife will have her loving husband back.

— Webtown
P.S. Good luck.

Membership Notice:

Nominees for USBA Board

President Betsylew Miale-Gix
Vice President Chet Snouffer
Secretary Gregg Snouffer
Treasurer John Flynn
Directors: Tom Fitzgerald
..... Jim Jordan
..... Michael Girvin
..... Doug Dufresne
..... Gary Broadbent
..... John Derden

Notice of Issue for Vote of the USBA membership at the 1991 Annual Meeting, Delaware, OH:

Shall the USBA Secretary be authorized to provide copies of the USBA membership list, at a fee to be set by the USBA Board, to non-USBA members upon their request for that membership list?

Brief statement of the issue:

The USBA receives requests from non-members for the membership list to be used for marketing purposes. This list has been provided in the past for a nominal copy charge. The list has economic value to the requestors, and organizations commonly charge a fee in addition to the copy charge. If the funds generated are used according to the purposes of the USBA, no violation of our non-profit status would occur.

USBA members have a constitutional right to privacy which gives them the ability to control whether or not information about them may be released. The time and expense required to ascertain each individual member's wishes and keep separate lists of those wishing to be disclosed and those not disclosed, makes this an unworkable option. Therefore, the membership at large is being requested to decide as a whole whether of not to dispense membership lists, upon request, for a fee, to non-USBA members.

Choose a job that you love, and you will never work a day in your life. — Confucius

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To College on Boomerangs

Editor's Note: Boomerang Man Rich Harrison forwards a note explaining how Jimmy Shreve of Morganfield, KY won a college scholarship with a boomerang science project. Congratulations, Jimmy, and welcome to the world of boomerangs.

Dear Mr. Harrison,

My son wrote to you and received your catalog on boomerangs. He couldn't decide on a Science Fair project until he received the catalog. He ordered one of the cheaper Boomerangs and you sent him some information on theory that he used. He did very well at the Science Fair. He came in first with another boy and was given a scholarship to Murray State College.

I am sending you some clips out of some newspapers that did some articles on him... The Union County Advocate, The Sturgis News (local papers), and the Evansville Courier, Evansville, Indiana. My son hopes to one day be able to afford the Sportcomeback 22 and to also get other people interested. Thank you for Everything, Pam Shreve.

USBA Nationals, Delaware, Ohio, August 9-11

Date: August 9,10,11, 1991

Place: Mingo Park, Delaware, OH

Hosts: Free Throwers 51 Troy

Road, Delaware, OH 43015

Phone 614-363-8332 (Chet) or

614-363-4414 (Gregg)

Registration fee: \$25 prior to July 1, 1991. \$35 after July 1.

Housing: Delaware Hotel is the official housing site at \$44 plus tax for four persons per room. Call 614-363-1262, mention you are with the USBA.

Awards: Top ten per event and top ten overall.

Schedule: *Fri. 8/9* Practice during day. USBA Auction and party at Delaware Hotel, 8 p.m. *Sat. 8/10* Four events - order posted Friday evening. Dinner at the Brown Jug

Restaurant starting at 9, pay as you go. *Sun. 8/11* Final four events, awards ceremony on the field. Lockers, showers, pool available all day. Dinner on your own. Breakfast at Delaware Hotel Sat. and Sun., pay as you go. Lunch is just five minutes from the field.

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Many Happy Returns

Boom Money Talks

A slightly tongue-in-cheek opinion on the Prize Money Debate by Gregg Snouffer

Prize money for boomerang contests is not a new idea. But perhaps it was Roger Perry's proposed amount, \$5000 for the indoor matchplay winner, that whipped up the debate.

The anti-money arguments go along these lines: Money will cause a new level of competition, an unfriendly level that will destroy the fun-loving crowd.

Peter Byham, in the Winter '91 MHR, fears friendship will fall by the wayside when prize money is involved. Look at pro beach volleyball - they take competition seriously. These guys are professionals, and behave professionally. We boomerangers, on the other hand, are amateurs and couldn't be expected to have the experience or training for such behavior. (Don't you have to go to some school in Nebraska to learn that?)

Last summer, I won \$90 at Gaithersburg. One of my buddies, who defeated me earlier, was outraged that I held back, waiting for the prize money to actually "try" to win. (Alan, I'm joking, but I could TELL you were THINKING it).

Then there's judging. If you think you've seen fur fly at tournaments, think what might be flying at a prize money tournament! (Koehler, did we have any disputes at your tourney last year? The only tournament I remember without disputes was the ONE tournament with prize money. Oh, but that's the one Barnaby wasn't at either!)

According to C. D. Tavares in MHR #44, "80 to 90% of USBA members are recreational and not competitive throwers." I believe he's correct. This equals 320 to

Editorial

Accidental Boomage

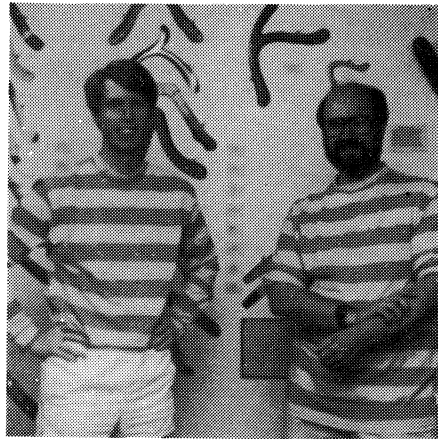
Bud Pell reports that the Detroit "Toss Across America" was cancelled because he was told he needed a million dollars worth of insurance. Premium: \$2,000. So instead they had an informal toss at a nearby park and the only PR was word-of-mouth. Everyone here in the insurance capital of the world knows the hidden agenda of the industry is to ensure that nobody has any fun.

Now most boomerangers I know are reasonable and are not likely to sue anybody if they get beaned, but somebody will.

What can you do?

Get the backing of a school or museum or some kind of recreation group. Organizations like these have established bases, and they've got all the insurance headaches already out of the way for you. They are always looking for interesting stuff. They *need* boomerangs, even if they don't yet know it. Seeing the reports from nationwide "Toss Across America" events, I noticed that the most successful were the ones that had such backing.

Here in Hartford we've established a permanent museum display, use of the grounds and have had all kinds of enthusiasm



Many Happy Returns editor, Paul Sprague (left) and Keith Mullinar (right) put up a boomerang display at the Science Museum of Connecticut as promotion for the "Toss Across America" in May.

from the Science Museum of Connecticut. They just can't do enough for us — it's great.

Scout around. Somewhere in your town is an organization that can help you spread the word about boomerangs. You'll be surprised.

And the insurance executroids? Let the winds take 'em.

Paul D. Sprague
editor
Two Ems, Inc.
786 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, CT 06443-3045
(203) 245-8211
(fax) 245-1805
CIS ID #72470,1567

360 people worldwide. We had better be careful with our prize money. WE can't afford to lose ANYone by disgusting them with such pop-culture ideas.

If you want to eliminate hard feelings from competition, eliminate competition. I am not more of a winner because I won \$90. (I was the top money winner in 1990, come to think of it!)

I went to eight different tournaments last summer because I love boomerangers. When I got into boomeranging, and the social aspect of the sport, I was hooked. I also love the competition. I have competed in boomerang tournaments for 10 years but only won three, all of which were in the '90s. I am not the least bit worried about money entering the sport. If anything, it will improve the caliber.

Boomerang tournaments are boring to watch. If you want to make some slick, media-ready boomerang events, I'll do them because I love media attention. I would love to see big crowds at boomerang tournaments, but some would say, "We want EVERYONE to compete." But then, who's going to watch? What comes first, proficiency or competition?

Professional sports have large followings who do the sport recreationally. They are dazzled by the professional level of play. As a result of media coverage, people get involved as beginners, intermediates, and finally, perhaps, even tournament competitors. I don't think prize money would kill boomeranging, it could help. Why are people worried that their "friends" will desert them if prize money is involved? Will competition truly turn bitter? Are there ANY pro athlete competitors out there who are friends?



Beginner's Circle *a Sampling of Sawdust*

by TW "Rang" Smith


The prerequisites are throwing experience, having a few good boomerangs to study, and the desire to create a boomerang that flies exactly the way you want.



Tools: Coping saw or jigsaw; C-clamp or vise; wood files and rasp; coarse and fine sandpaper, hand, belt, palm or drum sander. For finishing your boom, a can of varnish/polyurethane, and brush.


You can probably find small, affordable quantities of Aircraft-grade Finnish Birch (1/8" 6-ply to 1/4" 5-ply) at your local hobby store. Cabinet and specialty wood stores may have lighter-weight (but less durable) 5-ply 1/4" Baltic Birch or 5-ply 1/4" Apple ply.

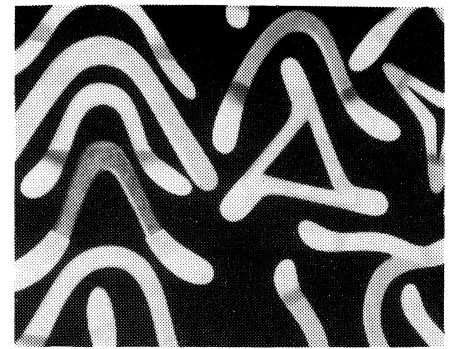
When laying out a design on the board, determine the "bow" of the wood and pick your approach: concave  for the top (usually requires slightly blunter, steeper angles for air foils) or convex  (usually requiring more acute angles). Concave gives lift and higher flying booms; convex gives lower flying booms. Heat tune to flatten or change the natural bow if you wish.

When cutting by coping saw or jigsaw, make sure the direction of the cut makes a 90° angle or less to the direction of the grain to avoid chipping the wood.


For starters try easier, symmetrical forms like vees 


hats  and omegas  To learn about how the elbow angle affects flight dynamics, consider a wood-efficient layout pattern

like:  Similarly, hats should fit inside omegas. For blade width, check what has worked well for others—often 1 - 1 1/2" for 1/4"



ply. Blade length? Experiment! Foiling should follow the consistent gradual change from leading to trailing edges on both the outer and inner contour lines

 (There are many variations on foiling - experiment. For undercuts, try flying without and experiment by slowly adding undercut to the leading edge. Rounding edges makes your boom more aerodynamically sound and easier to catch.

When trying assymetrical shapes, here are a few quick tips: pronounced flaring-out of the lead arm produces a slower flattening (laying over) boomerang in flight, yeilding stability in wind and either distance (with low-efficiency spin and weight) or fast catch (with high-efficiency spin and light-weight): pronounced flaring out of the trail arm produces quickening of the boom laying over, yeilding hover at flight end. Hats, omegas, and flaired vees  employ both principles at once, giving you stability and hover at medium range - hence their popularity with modern boomerang designers. But what do you think flairing arms the other way would do? (For further elaboration on shapes, see last issue's "Beginner's Circle.")

This is not everything, but it's a start—a fast one, I hope!

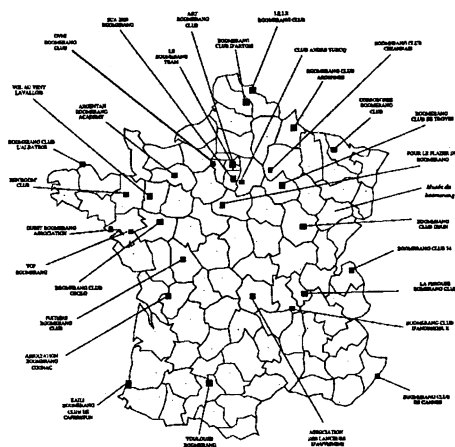


Club de Boomerang de Montréal

Stéphane Marguerite has started the first boomerang club in Québec and the second in Canada. He looks forward to North American championships in the future. The group's newsletter, "DISTANCE," is bilingual. Parts are English, parts are French and parts are mirrored in both languages.

Marguerite is organizing a Canadian team for the 1992 World Cup in Japan.

Stéphane Marguerite
 Club de Boomerang de Montréal
 2114 Rue de Chambly
 Montréal, QC H1W 3J3
 CANADA



The France Boomerang Association Newsletter lists 29 regional French boomerang clubs. For a complete listing with address & phone numbers, contact Paul Sprague, Two Ems, Inc., 786 Boston Post Rd., Madison, CT 06443-3045

Canadian Wood Show Report

by John K. Cryderman

The 1991 Wood and Boomerang Show attracted nearly 11,000 people from as far away as Pennsylvania, Chicago, Montreal, Toronto, New York and Washington. Hundreds of boomerangs were on display and were offered for sale. Some were so bright one almost needed sunglasses to view them. Chris Tait of Toronto displayed a large number of plywood booms of his own design inlaid with symbolic designs ranging from Australian culture to ancient Egypt. One of Chris' booms was recently accepted by the Smithsonian courtesy of Benjamin Ruhe. CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS!

Canadian Boomerang Association president Jim Bradley was busy throughout the show answering questions, signing up members and meeting boomers. The CBA has come out with a publication and video, entitled "Boomerangs - the Video," put out by U-RANG Productions, a division of the CBA.

Benjamin Ruhe's booth was busy throughout the show with questions concerning the latest designs and materials, information on the contemporary and early hunting sticks. We must not forget Barnaby. During the three-day show, Barnaby delighted audiences with a taste for omelettes. Barnaby was consistently breaking eggs on top of his beanie. A heated competition between Ruhe and Mark Weary of Chicago for the indoor endurance record drew more intense crowds as Ruhe



John Cryderman and Ben "Guru" Ruhe at the Ontario Wood Show

made 101 catches in 300 seconds (one catch every 2.9 seconds). It was neck and neck until a couple of misplaced throws stopped Weary at 88.

The Ontario Wood Show also supported totem poles and other early reproduction cultural artifacts. Other exhibitors and demonstrations included wood finishing, inlaying, steam bending and other crafts of interest to boomerang enthusiasts.

Three good sources for wood attended the show from Branchton, Ontario (near Toronto). TLC Farms (Bob Dibble, RR #2, Branchton, Ontario N0B 1L0 phone: 519-740-8963) had a good variety of blanks — ash, oak, cherry, walnut, butternut, etc. Bradonna Woodwork & Sawmill (P.O. Box 35, North Buxton, Ontario N0P 1V0 phone: 519-351-1260) has more than 30 varieties of home-grown and exotic hardwoods, and Rivard's Sawmill (RR #3, Chatham, Ontario N7M 5J3 phone: 519-352-3030).

Submit Your Best for the Aesthetics Competition

by John Derden

There will be an aesthetics competition as part of the 1991 USBA Nationals in Delaware, Ohio August 9-11.

Award categories are as follows:

1. **Design Award** This category includes boomerangs with unique shapes, including conceptual sets of boomerangs that are to be viewed as one or more configurations.

2. **Decoration Award** This category is used to evaluate boomerangs in terms of interest or emotional/psychological impact of their decoration in any media.

Such a boomerang can receive a high rating if it makes a strong artistic statement even if it is "ugly." Textured or engraved 'rangs can also be considered.

3. **Craftsmanship Award** This category recognizes fine craftsmanship in boomerang construction in any material. This may include such techniques as inlaying, joinery or finishing.

4. **Technology Award** This category recognizes boomerangs that have been made with unique materials or processes, or which have utilized technological innovations in their conception. These may include natural elbows, airfoil experimentation, spoilers, inventions, etc.

5. **Graphics** Boomerang-related items such as photographs, posters, T-shirts, and other articles of clothing, paintings and sculpture, jewelry, etc., will be included in this category.

Obviously, many boomerangs exhibit qualities of more than one of the above categories. These guidelines are not inflexible rules. There are many variables in the categories, and the judges' exper-

tise and discretion are always the rule.

No more than three awards will be given in each category, and the judges will decide whether to give the maximum of three or any lesser number. The booms will be mounted in a vertical plane rather than simply placed on tables.

To Enter:

There is no entry fee. If you cannot attend, mail your 'rang to Chet Snouffer (51 Troy Rd., Delaware, OH 43015) along with return postage. However, you are strongly urged to donate aesthetics contest entries to the USBA auction to raise money for the USBA and provide others with an opportunity to acquire your best works. This is an excellent way to determine your product's value.

You must be a USBA member to take an award in the aesthetics contest.

Please indicate the following with your entry:

1. In which categories you would like to be judged.
2. Your name, address and phone number.
3. Any information you consider relevant to your entry.

Editor's note: John Derden and Neil Kalmanson of East Georgia College's art department are again organizing the design contest segment of the USBA Auction. Last year's contest produced some good stuff. Let's see what you can do.

On the Move in New Zealand

The BANZ (Boomerang Association of New Zealand) newsletter issue #2 reports a change of address. Earl Tutty's newsletter is full of wit and wisdom, letters, tips, plans and some really gross boomerang cartoons.

Tutty writes, "if any of you are coming to New Zealand, drop in for a while." Overseas membership dues for the club are \$NZ 30. For people who want to keep up with the fast-track NZ boom scene, the new address is as follows:

Earl Tutty, BANZ
17 Truscotts Road
Heathcote Valley,
Christchurch, 2,
New Zealand
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"America's Funniest Home Videos" Wants Your Tapes

"America's Funniest Home Videos," one of the nation's favorite shows is in the midst of its second season on ABC, with its third \$100,000 contest in full swing...and they're looking for your funny sports videos.

We've already made two people happy by awarding a \$100,000 grand prize in November and again in February. We're looking forward to doing it one more time this year in May," says executive producer Vin Di

Bona. "America's Funniest Home Videos" has also increased the weekly second and third place prizes to \$3,000 and \$2,000; the first place prize money remains \$10,000.

"We've received a treasure trove of home videos over the past year, tapes that have made the entire staff howl with laughter and tapes that have made our mouths drop open in disbelief. You can bet we're looking forward to seeing what special sports footage comes through the mail this season," says Di Bona.

He also adds that athletic-oriented home videos are particularly sought after since they are a favorite with home viewers, as well as with the show's staff. However, explains Di Bona, the program is careful to present videos in good taste and which display sports in a positive sense

If you have videotape of funny or unusual moments from your favorite sports — or of anything else for that matter, — please send it to Department R, "America's Funniest Home Videos," 4151 Prospect Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Enclose a \$3.00 U.S. check or money order for handling if cassette is to be returned. "America's Funniest Home Videos" is a Vin Di Bona Production in association with Capitol Cities/ABC.

*Editor's note:
Let's see some camcorders on the tournament circuit this season. Also, if you have video editing equipment, we need somebody to take over the USBA video archives from Garry Lamothe. See note on page 19.*

Heat Turns Up with New Fast-Catch Equipment

by Paul D. Sprague

Watch for falling records this season in the speed and endurance rounds. Doug Dufresne's Outback FC-3 triblader is reported by Chet Snouffer to be the hottest thing going. Perhaps I can get my hands on one to review in New Booms.

Matthew Weber of France scored five 20-meter catches in 15.4 (unofficial) seconds in Perth with his new fast-catch model. Team White's Rob Parkins says it easily outpaces the FC-3.

Eric Darnell, meanwhile, is working on a classified speed modification of the ubiquitous (already) neon triblade SuperZoy alias Tri-Fly.

the Pickering

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Jockey International Spring Fling

by John Derden

The sixth annual edition of the South Georgia Boomerang Club's Spring Fling was held under threatening skies on Saturday, April 27, on the Athletic fields of East Georgia College in Swainsboro, Georgia. Spring Fling '91 attracted twelve veteran throwers and a similar number of novices. Competitors came from as far away as Ohio, Indiana, and St. Louis, to vie with throwers from Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina.

The veteran competition got underway at 10:15 A.M. with Count-up Catch, and Sean Marquardt of Team THUBA took the early lead with eleven catches. Tim Maultsby was right behind with ten, and there was a five-way tie for third. Jim Schramm (Rev. Jim) took Accuracy with 43 points in light winds, and Mike Dickson (who had finished third in Count-up Catch) began to show the consistency that was to serve him well all day by finishing second. Fast catch was next and featured a duel between John Derden and Scott Creech, both of whom lowered their respective times in the second round. Derden, taking advantage of the consistency of a Darnell ABS tri-blader, won with a time of 28.87 seconds.

After an hour's lunch break, the tournament resumed with light winds and occasional light rain. Aussie Round was fantastic with Jesse Robertson putting on an "awesome round" performance on his way to accumulating 86 points! As of last report, the American and world records in this event are 87



Chicago Bob lets one fly in Aussie Round at the Swainsboro, GA Jockey International Spring Fling April 22

and 90 points, respectively. John Derden used a Ted Bailey technique—throwing his trusty Darnell tri-blader fast catch—to get five straight bull's eyes for seventy points and a second place. Mr. Consistency, Mike Dickson, took third. Rev. Jim won MTA100 in 29.13 seconds. Willie Davis put on a textbook performance doubling with twelve catches, and Jesse Robertson took Juggling with eleven grabs. The Last scheduled tournament event was Endurance; however, the dark clouds that had threatened all day finally unleashed a bolt of lightning in mid-round that had everyone scurrying for cover and caused the event to be cancelled.

When all the scoring sheets

were in and the calculations done, Mike Dickson of Canton, Ohio, won the overall veteran title. The name of the game for Mike was consistency. The novice tournament was held concurrently with the veteran competition but on another part of the field. The overall winner was Mark Cook, a protege of Jesse Robertson's from Jacksonville, Florida. Sean Marquardt won first place in the Aesthetics category.

Along with certificates, winners received trophy boomerangs crafted by Rick Tilford, and tournament t-shirts were given to all participants. Jockey International, Inc., donated the shirts and paid for their printing. The company also paid for the boomerang trophies.

Overall results of the veteran competition were:

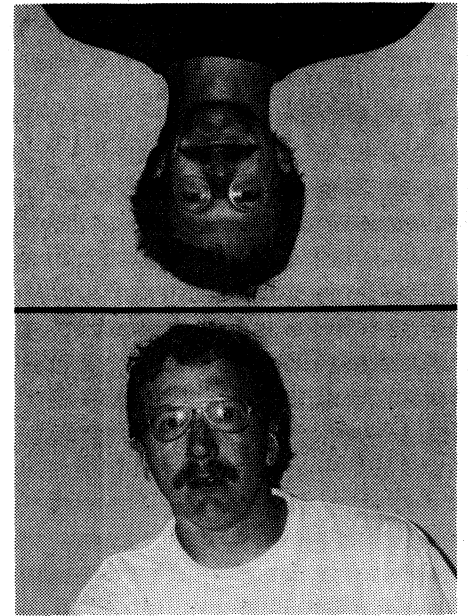
1. Mike Dickson51 points
2. Willie Davis48.5
3. Jesse Robertson42.5
4. Chicago Bob40.5
5. Rev. Jim38.5
6. Scott Creech33.5
7. Sean Marquardt31
8. John Derden28.5
9. Tim Maultsby27.5
10. Eddie Carrigg27.5
11. Keith Mundis12
12. Linda Maultsby1

Editor's note: Wayne Crenshaw of the Dublin (GA) Courier Herald writes, "Boomerang throwing is one of the few sports that is not shellacked with commercialism. Boomerang throwers make no money at all, they do not do beer commercials, and they aren't likely to be asked to appear on a Wheaties box."

How 'bout USBA underwear?



Burswood Superdome, Australia, where Gregg Snouffer won the World Boomerang Championship Indoor Matchplay (Photo by John Flynn). See story on page 1 and chronology on page 13.



Axel Heckner from Germany and John Flynn of Team USA I at the World Boomerang Championships — I mean Flynn and then Heckner.

Return on investment.

No fee for typesetting/design, flexible ad sizes, guaranteed readership of the United States Boomerang Association. Order your ad today to assure good placement in the next issue.

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\$40

To advertise in *Many Happy Returns:*

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Madison, CT 06443

MHR advertising rates:

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

Payment must be received in advance of publication. Deadline for the fall 1991 issue is 9/1.

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

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

New Booms on the Block by Paul D. Sprague

Madonna (Majestic Beaut)

by Michael Girvin, Gel Boomerangs (415) 236-9179

Madonna, like all Gel models, is rough-hewn with bold strokes. Lumpiness and squarish edges without apology. Even when painted in the height of radness, she looks ungainly next to a Colorado or a TW Smith. But once in the air, Madonna shines like the sun. This 40-50 meter Aussie Round boom has a "sweet spot" a mile wide - in high winds, stand it up; in calm winds, lay it out. An excellent performer for serious throwers and a colorful addition to any collection.

Sunshine

by Michael Girvin, Gel Boomerangs (415) 236-9179

Sunshine is an excellent short-range general-purpose boom (accuracy, consecutive catch) suitable for beginning throwers. As an inside doubler, Sunshine flies nicely with Madonna. Don Forest of Springfield, Mass, reports catching both on his first attempt. My own set collided a few times before I settled into a good grip, but since then has been consistent in calm wind. Good separation as Madonna takes the long road and Sunshine cuts short. After you catch Sunshine, you have three or four seconds to set for the outside boom.

Lefty

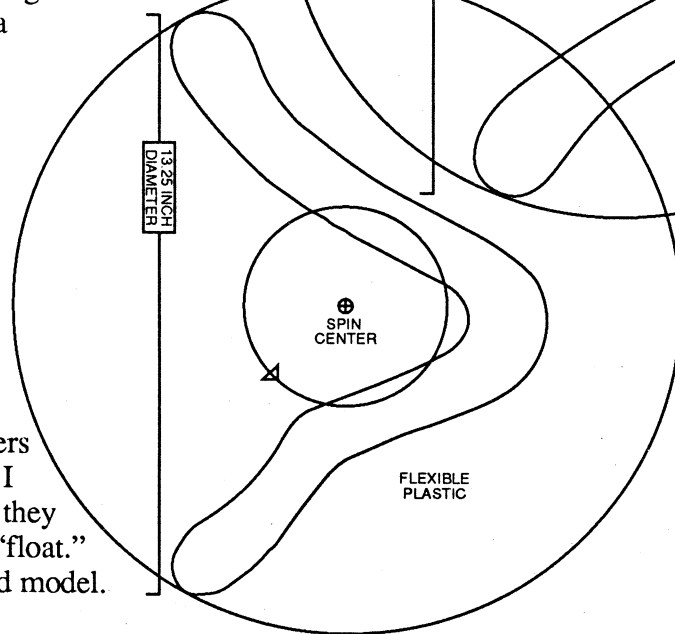
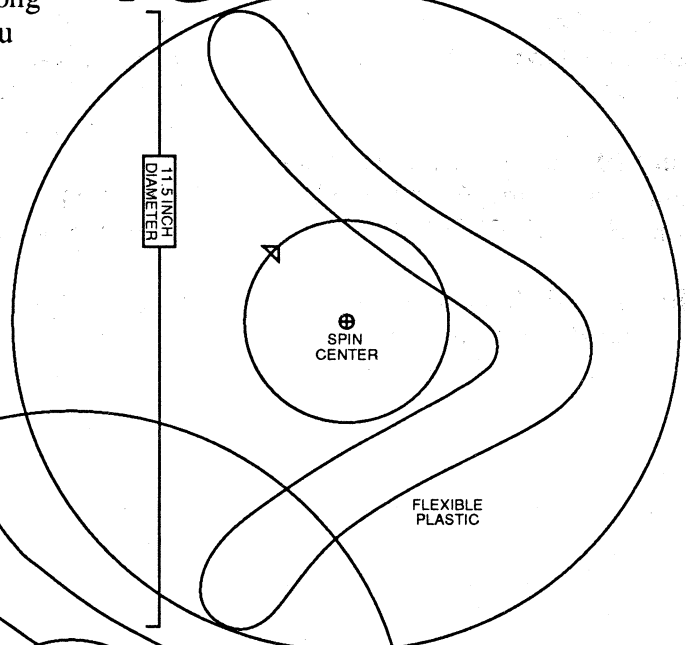
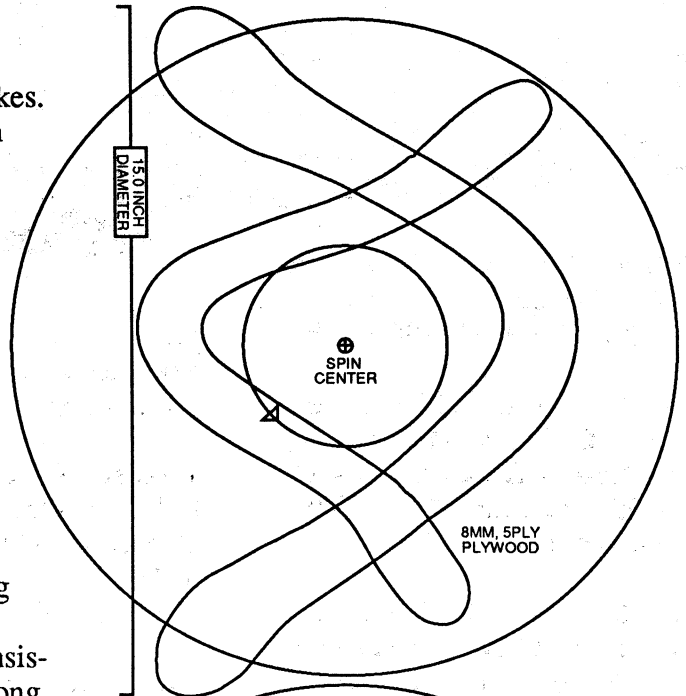
by Matthiew Weber

This is the first molded plastic lefty I have seen, and it's no slouch performer. Weber has made the wonderful world of tunable boomerangs available to left-handed throwers with this colorful 25-meter unit. Keith Mullinar is a lefty who has been making his own boomerangs for years by "reversing" popular right-handed models. Watching him throw this Weber, I thought he was going to cry for joy. It's about time there was a great production lefty.

The Master's Boomerang

*American Boomerang Company
1-800-933-0733*

The Master's Boomerang (aliases: Boomerang Fever and Kneebiter) is not a new product, but it seems to be making something of a...well, a comeback. Despite its new name, the venerable Master is perfect for beginners. It's easy to toss 25-30 meters and has a great "memory" for tuning. I use Master's sets for juggling because they can be tuned for different amounts of "float." Also available in 35-40 meter weighted model.



*Gel Doublers
Madonna &
Sunshine (top)
Matthiew Weber
Lefty (center)
ABC Master's
Boomerang (bottom)*

BOOMERANG SEASON 1991

July 6-7 2nd Annual USA Team Boom Championships, Bethlehem, PA; Peter Ruhf (215) 862-3479

July 6-7 1st Annual Boom Fest Fun Test, Meadow Park, Elkton, Maryland; Suzanne Lentz (301) 876-3556 or Tara Whelan (301) 398-6418 after June 10.

July 6-7 British/International Boomerang Championship; Gordon Shuttleworth, 47 Highbury Terrace, Leeds, LS6 4ET, Yorkshire, England (TEL: 0532 787649).

July 20 Tournament at Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH; John Flynn (802) 296-2158

July 21 4th Annual Western Oregon Boom Roundup; Dean Kelly, Box 4284, Salem, OR 97302

July 27-28 7th Annual Team Gel Oakland Boomtest; Gel events Sat 1:30-dark; USBA events Sun 9-5; Michael Girvin (415) 236-9179

August 3 North Ridgeville, OH; perfect warm-up for Nationals. Gary Broadbent, 5327 Wallace Blvd. N. Ridgeville, OH 44039-1931

August 4 Cuyahoga Valley Cleveland Boomerang School tournament; David Boehm (216) 289-6324.

August 3-4 European Individual

Championships, Germany; Olivier Vouktchevitch, 282 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris

August 9-11 USBA Nationals - Delaware, Ohio, Mingo Park. Contact Chet Snouffer (614) 363-8332 or Gregg Snouffer (614) 363-4414. Details on page 3

August 18 Northampton England: Hot air balloons, kites and boomerangs, John Jordan, BBS, 9 Bowood Dr., Tetterhall, Wolverhampton, WV6AW

August 24 6th Annual Potomac Open; J. Köehler (301) 349-5132

August 31 French Club team tournament; Jean Marc Tur, 29 rue de l'hermitte, 91490 Milly la forêt

September 7-8 French Individual Championships; Georges Bisiaux, 144 rue Anatole France, 59790 Ronchin

September 15 First Annual Mighty Willamette USBA Open. T.W. Smith, Eugene, OR (503) 485-2919.

September 15 3rd Annual Boomerangs Etc. Novice Team Tournament, Detroit, Michigan; Norm Kern, Left Turn Boomerangs, 1640 Haynes, Birmingham, MI 48009.

September 21 New York City Central Park Tournament; Bonn

St. Theater Company, Barnaby Ruhe (212) 431-9631 or Patrick Scirratta (212) 772-4551.

September 22 Summer's Final Fling, Portland, OR; Doug DuFresne (503) 292-4316

October 12 7th Annual Hampton, Virginia Boomerang Tournament; Dennis Joyce (804) 874-3536.

October 18-20 Canadian Boomerang & Wood Show, Pickering (near Toronto); John Cryderman, 136 Thames St, Chatham, Ontario Canada N7L2Y8

October 19 London: Boomerang Workshop, Horniman Museum, Forest Hill. John Jordan, BBS, 9 Bowood Dr., Tetterhall, Wolverhampton, WV6AW

Cleveland Boom School Doings

by David Boehm

Members of the Cleveland Boomerang School will be teaching and demonstrating boomerang skills through our weekly FREE Boom lessons at Wade Park Oval. C.B.S. will sponsor 12 all-day workshops and three Tourneys.

New this year is a Boomerang Tournament series, organized with Chet Snouffer and Gary Broadbent. We are calling this BOOMERANG OHIO. The participants will compete and be scored in tourneys in Cleveland, North Ridgeville and Delaware. The top 10 scorers will receive prizes, with the first place winner awarded the BOOMERANG OHIO TROPHY. Chet, Gary and I hope this program will attract more local interest, attract more throwers into the sport and build more boomerang awareness. Ohio-based media seem to like the idea.

World Boom Championships from p. 1
through guts and determination.

Test II: remembering T2 in Potomac, '89, Chet decides to "just do Chet" and what is ordinary for him carries his wind-flailed team in a stellar endurance round. His 31 makes up ground, 10 catches above the norm for the day under the vicious "Fremantle Doctor" winds of Perth.

The Cup went to USA I, captained by Flynn and Gregg Snouffer's brother. USA II 2nd overall. Very close behind is France I, then Australia I, then Germany 5th, Swiss next, and France II 7th, Australia II 8th, then Italy, then Japan.

Flynn's 19 score in Supercatch, with a little assist from the blazing Snouffers and a Mole, was a highlight.

Axel Hechner's 86 in Australian Round was awesome. Larrance's one-minute fast catch on that treacherous morning of the first Test was, no really, a great effort which slopped USA I into second place for the event behind the Germans. Team play is about these surprising heroics.

Roger "Rajah" Perry proved that the Indoor venue is the future. Incredible fast catch scores, with Matthew Weber's 16-second average. The sudden death elimination ladder was dramatic: 16 throwers seeded, #1 facing off with #16, #3 with #14, you get it. First one to catch five times goes on. Tension builds with each face-off. Up the ladder, Philippe Picgirard is a second behind, but with each throw you hear his lag time is a bit less, 'till at the final toss you feel he might catch up, and indeed you see his boomerang just arriving ahead of his rival's, only to blow through his hands instead, a shocker. Philippe's technique, perfected through



**"Its not about uniforms or
practice gear.....
Its clothes that fit a lifestyle".**

video-feedback analysis, takes two steps up to meet the boomerang, then pivots and steps in, gaining time for a surer toss. The French indoor specialists take five of the top eight places, but the indoor tournament goes to Gregg Snouffer. With two MTAs stuck on the roof of the superdome, where did he find a third?

The new INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPION is John Koehler. At 3,080 points, he nipped Chet by 200 points, with Flynn third by a microchip in a mind-boggling scoring system based on all 70 throwers, not just the top ten. Koehler took first in Consec and Fast Catch, second in Doubling, 12th in MTA and 14th in Aussie Round. The field was intense with talent.

Yannick Charles is like Will Clark of the Giants, quiet and perfect. When he made a couple of errors the final day, I realized that my shock was a supreme compliment - "Yannick can do no wrong" was my belief. "Comment est-il possible?"

Rob Croll, Roger Perry and Jerrod Byham, my bet to win Tokyo '92. Then again, Chet, Gregg and John look interesting. Not to mention Yannick, Weber and Greg Bisiaux. Oops: Uli, Fridolin and Torsten. No, no: Volker, Michael and Axel. Wow, the air is getting thick. Gotta love a close race. Go Gel go!

P.S. a prelude to Japan '92 is the media tourney in Central Park, NYC on 21 September. Great Lawn, Fields 7 & 8.



Ryan Perry holds the World Boomerang Championships trophy boom.

WBC Chronology

by Roger Perry

Sat April 13th The 1st test in good throwing conditions. USA I and France I pulled away with 48.5 and 44 points.

Sun 14th World Teams Gel day. 100 people competed, followed by aesthetics judging, barbecue, awards and auction.

Mon 15th Nice conditions again, USA I dominated, Australia I took 2nd.

Tue 16th 70 competitors vied for 10 places in the matchplay competition.

Wed 17th Gregg Snouffer dominated the seeding trials with Yannick Charles.

Thurs 18th Again good conditions. Five events, 72 throwers, 5 1/2 hours.

Fri 19th Luncheon with the Lord Mayor of Perth, rest day.

Gloucester Park trotting committee function.

Sat 20th Final test - USA II won the day, with USA I taking 2nd.

Sun 21st Boat trip to Rottnest Island in 40 to 50-knot winds.

Thanks go to Eric Hazel, Tournament Director, Angie Leicester, all the judges, media and team liaisons, helpers and throwers. Special mention to Dennis Maxwell and Ben Ruhe.

Toss Across America Reports

Editor's note: The first annual "Toss Across America" was held nationwide on May 18th. Reports were still coming in at presstime, but a quick synopsis shows that boomerangs received a tremendous amount of publicity nationwide. The "Toss Across America" raised boom-awareness in at least 28 states, despite a raincloud over much of the USA that day.

^Site: Oakland, CA; Billy Martin Field

Host: Michael Girvin

Activities: Lecture on history, boom events & design, lessons, demonstration of events & booms and team tournament with novices & experts split equal on each team, awards for all.

Participants: 17 rad people

Highlights: Josh Levine and Tony Gibson did head catches for the first time during Whoa Nelly.

Mona Gibson made her first catch ever during Round Rang Relay, Pia Hagan & Joe Miller made simultaneous catches in Aussie Round. 1st - Team Meat Leg; 2nd - Team Gagnastically Anti-Puny; 3rd - Team Orlando-Wood-Orwell

^Site: West Hartford, CT;

Science Museum of Connecticut

Host: Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society

Activities: Quickie lecture, demos, individual instruction

Participants: 250

Coverage: WVIT-TV, WTIC radio, CT Public Radio, New York

Times, Hartford Courant, Hartford Advocate

Highlights: Moleman's MTA demo drifted the entire length of the field and landed ten feet on the other side of the chain-link fence.

^Site: Lake Orion, MI

Host: Boomerangs Etc. (Detroit)

Activities: Free throwing, several rounds of Australian Rag

Participants: 10

Highlights: Australian Rag goes something like this: a rag marks the launch point and you get points for how close you catch your boom. Extra style points; foot-catch counts as an automatic bullseye.

^Site: Lancaster, PA

Host: Scott Felton, Steve Reynolds

Activities: Demos of throwing, tournament events

Participants: 15

Highlights: Cool, cloudy and 20-mph winds

^Site: Delaware, OH; Mingo Park

Host: Chet Snouffer

Activities: "flight school" rangs available for use on site; event demonstrations,

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H. S. Mayhew



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COLUMBUS, OHIO 43230

historical & aboriginal display

Participants: 72

Coverage: local recreation departments, and cable news

Highlights: Nite toss, under lights; a dozen new throwers now meet to throw every day; Delaware participants entered St. Louis throw, two entering their first tournament

^Site: Eugene, OR; Amazon Park

Host: TW Smith

Activities: Boomerangs Across America display; demonstration; one-on-one instruction; fun toss

Participants: 5

Coverage: Eugene Register-Guard; TV discouraged by bad weather

Highlights: Drenching, freezing rain; Portland Trailblazer playoff basketball on TV; all other events scheduled at the park cancelled (except Toss Across America). A six-year-old boy and his folks came out for instructions. Michel Sweitzer, a new USBA member, just arrived from Perth, took his shoes off and sloshed out in the mud. A boomerang club is now started in Eugene.

^Site: Pearland, TX; Alvin Community College

Host: Bob Rudy & Dave Hughes

Activities: 4-week library display, foul-weather throwing lessons

Participants: 15-20

Coverage: Houston Chronicle, Alvin Sun Advertiser, Pearland Journal

Highlights: high winds, TORNENTIAL rain right up to show time. 15-20 brave souls came to take part. Another "Toss" is scheduled to be a part of a library grand opening. It is hoped to dazzle the natives if the weather is better.

^Site: Salem, OR; Sprague High School

Host: Dean A. Kelly

Activities: displays; demonstrations; lessons (Nerfs available so even the kids could try); history

Participants: 20

Coverage: Statesman Journal

Highlights: Iris Festival and parades, major relay race, Blazers/Lakers game, and rain. Here in Oregon we don't often cancel things just because it's raining!

^Site: Canton, OH; Devonshire Park

Host: Mike Dickson

Activities: short lecture & discussion: history, science, safety, technique; individual novice instruction; guided practice sessions.

Participants: 50

Coverage: Canton Repository, Stark County Free Press, Massillon Independent

Highlights: Because I tore my calf muscle at the Swainsboro, GA Spring Fling, I held the TOSS on crutches (no weight transfer and a lot of wrist). Mostly kids with parents; several men and women in their 60s; two throwers from the 70s and 80s, Tom Evans and Andy Esway; Tom Bent, who has been making strip-laminated booms since 1950.

^Site: Edmonds, WA; Edmonds-Woodway High School

Host: Will Gix & Betsylew Miale-Gix

Activities: Demonstrations of events; talks about boomerangs, throwing and the USBA; lessons and practice

Participants: 57

Coverage: KIRO Radio (Seattle), KOMO Radio, The Seattle Times, The Everett Herald, The Edmonds Press

Highlights: Rain began at

GEMZ

Tony Gembeck
503/230-8955
Box 5241
Portland, OR 97208-5241

Certifiably Assorted Clothing.

dawn...at start time the press arrived, and no one else. After the rain stopped, people began to come. Five throwers worked with people, demonstrating, teaching and talking. Young and old, all gave throwing a try. Helpers included Steve Kavanaugh and Peter Cummings

^Site: St. Louis, MO; Tilles Park

Host: Kathy Fitzgerald, Patrick Fitzgerald

Activities: demonstrations by Patrick; explanations of events, history, etc. by Kathy

Participants: 500

Highlights: attendance aided by the Arts & Crafts Fair taking place beside the park



Roger Perry reports on discussion at the World Boomerang Championships in Perth regarding the formation of a global association of boomerangers. The decision was made to form an interim body whose officers are: Roger Perry, President, Chet Snouffer and Kim Galeazzi, Vice Presidents, Eric Hazel, Secretary, plus one representative from each country.

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Bumerang Welt Issue II/91 contains several interesting boomerang plans, including the Flying Circle (above) by Björn Thiesen. Gerhard Bertling reports this one works very well. Ever on the technological forefront, German boomeranger Bernhard Martin describes formulae to calculate windspeed in differing conditions.

For subscription information, contact Gerhard Bertling, Putbusser Str. 32, 1000 Berlin 65

Boomerangs by Round trip Boomerangs



Gregg Snouffer & Rick Tilford

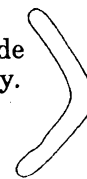
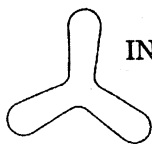
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Boom Bytes

Dr. Paul Fishwick reports what I believe to be the world's first electronic news group dedicated exclusively to boomerangs. The service, run by Fishwick at the University of Florida, is called Alt.boomerang and is accessible to people who have USENET access — usually research institutions on INTERNET. Computers dial in and the users can type a question or a response to another message that they can bring up on their screen. It carries message threads about how to get good returns, where to get good models (several USBA members were mentioned), and a lot of boomerang theory — remember, these are mostly silicon-based research types.



Australian storyteller Paul Taylor and his didgeridoo perform for American audiences. Taylor's repertoire includes bush ballads (the Australian equivalent of cowboy poetry), vivid Aboriginal creation tales and didgeridoo music. Tapes available from Boomerang Man, 1806 North 3rd St., Monroe, LA 71201 (318) 325-8157.

I am very happy that you are present for this first flight of a fledgling organization. It is my goal that GEMZ be a source of information and ideas for those interested in this unique sport and the part that we can play in the preservation of our world. Thanks,

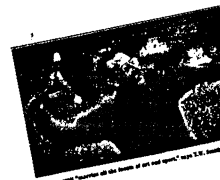
The Clippings File

Editor's note: So many people sent me newspaper clippings of boom stories, I felt I should toss out a sampling of the PR we're getting. Most of these were the result of the first annual "Toss Across America," but a conscientious boomeranger will grab a reporter or a microphone or TV camera at any opportunity. Any good headlines in YOUR paper?

Boomerangs —

'They really do come back,' says Stark County's solitary professional thrower

MARY CAN have a boomerang. Some of the more interesting ones are made of wood and are used for hunting and fishing in South County. They are made of wood and are used for hunting and fishing in South County. They are made of wood and are used for hunting and fishing in South County.



BRAZORIA COUNTY ThisWeek

Houston Chronicle

RETURN OF THE BOOMERANG

The U.S. Boomerang Association is sponsoring a boomerang throwing contest at the University of Florida. The contest will be held on May 12th and 13th. The winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize. The contest will be held on May 12th and 13th. The winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize.

J.R. Morris photo

tempo

Stone Age goes high-tech
The boomerang comes long way

Making a comeback

Boomerang throwing is gaining popularity among Americans

By WATSON GREENBERG
Fwoop, fwoop, fwoop... a lanky man with a thick board stands in a small circle and hurls a wooden stick.

Bad weather was on boomeranger's side



It's 'thinking man's frisbee'

Jackson Twp. man nationally ranked toaser of boomerangs

Throwing Boomerangs Across America

The goal: to teach the entire state to throw boomerangs in a single summer.

Boomerang addict ho

Man has hundreds in his collection

Boomerangs - the first flying machines

Boomerang tossers to meet at Sprague

Boomerangs - the first flying machines



Eat your heart out, William Tell



Sunday
FREE PRESS
Stark County's Largest Circulated Newspaper.

Vol. 6, No. 158
Tuesday, June 1, 1991

Boomerang addict ho

Man has hundreds in his collection

Boomerangs - the first flying machines

Boomerang tossers to meet at Sprague

★ President's Column ★

Greetings once again. Thanks and Congratulations to all of you who hosted or helped with Toss Events. Through your solidarity and enthusiasm the USBA introduced hundreds to the joy of boomeranging. Let's mark May 16, 1992 on the calendar and use our contacts and experiences from this year to make the Second Annual Toss Across America an even greater success!

Next on to the competitive honor roll, with congratulations to the members of the 1991 USBA Team who captured the International Team title in Australia this April. Way to go, guys. It was great to see that a team of U.S. throwers came in second, and that U. S. throwers won both the

indoor and outdoor individual championships. The success of the rank and file of the USBA in the noncompetitive Toss Across America in expanding exposure to the sport is just as important as those competitive successes. Regardless of your throwing ability and level of competitive fervor, every one of you is essential to the USBA and the development of boomeranging. Throwing is so much more than the eight competitive events and the camaraderie of competitions.

It was interesting to read Ted Bailey's B.J. survey which found, among other things, that 2/3 of the respondents opposed money tournaments. At some point, expansion into the amateur heights by inclusion in the Olympics and events such as the Goodwill Games is a goal many of us treasure. It is also a worthy goal that at some point the sport will grow to encompass tournaments at which money can be won.

For some sports, taking appearance fees and product endorsement income does not affect amateur status — track for example. For others, professionals are expressly allowed to compete in premier amateur events — basketball and hockey are examples. For most, however, winning prize money for your finishing position at an event disqualifies you from amateur competitions.


Of concern also is our inability to train and provide competent non-thrower officials for tournaments. Look around at for-money sporting events and the odds are you won't see the competitors

judging themselves. Face it, we are all mere mortals and the fairness and honesty we strive for in making calls could be difficult if the results of your call could mean money in or out of your pocket.

While discussions range ever farther afield regarding what constitutes the outer limits of legality in boomerang design for competition, once again H.L. Mayhew provides food for thought. H.L. has again advanced the idea of a standardized boomerang, the "quintessential" boomerang, with which the competition would occur. Meanwhile tri-bladders get faster, multi-sided shapes with empty space of varying grandeur prove more catchable and wind resistant, etc. Once unleashed, could the whirlwind of creativity, applied to designing the right boom for every contingency of weather and particular event skill, ever be reined in again?

On a scheduling note, there have been a couple of unfortunate boomerang event scheduling conflicts this summer. In order to maximize everyone's ability to hold events and participate in them throughout the throwing season, we need to be aware of what is happening, where and when, before scheduling an event. We can at least try to spread out events without overlap as much as possible. To facilitate this, please notify the USBA President not only of USBA individual events, but of any Boomerang Tournament, novice, team, you are planning. That way we can be aware of what others are doing and try to get the best schedule possible for everyone. Have a great summer.

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USBA Information

The USBA provides services in addition to 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:

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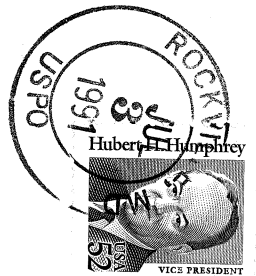
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