

Many Happy Returns

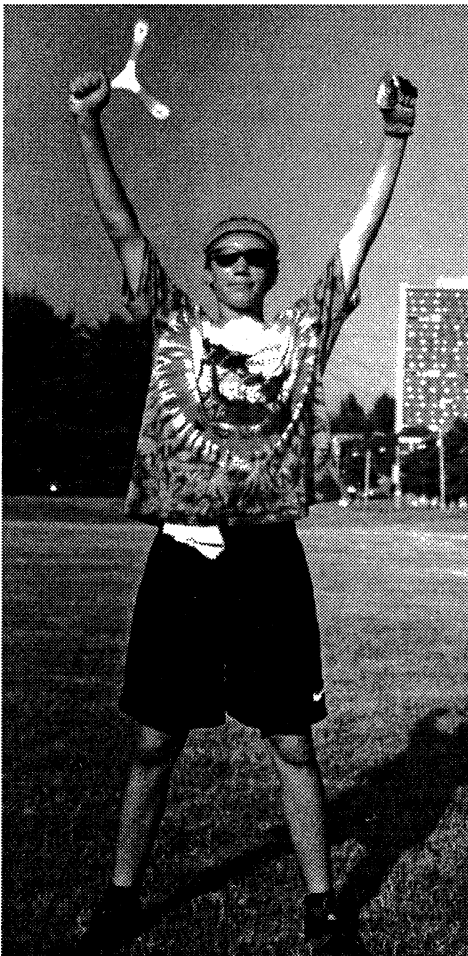
Issue No. 67

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Summer 1996

Two in Two Weeks

Adam Ruhf Grabs World Record in Fast Catch and Ties World Record in Endurance



One of boomeranging's longest standing marks was broken June 15th by Adam Ruhf, a sixteen-year-old cannon-armed youth who competed for the US Team in New Zealand back in March. Adam's blistering 14.98 second Fast Catch round at the Amherst, MA tournament smashed the five year-old mark of 15.03 seconds held by Frenchman Gregory Biseaux.

The affable son of east coast legend Larry Ruhf knew he was ready for the challenge after throwing rounds of 14.3 and 14.4 seconds in practice the day before the tournament in light breezes. But when tournament day dawned with gusty, unpredictable winds, the stage was far from set.

In his first of two attempts, the winds lightened for him, allowing a mid-16 second round, which easily clenched first place. Then, before his second round, the willowy, 6-foot-two youth meditated for a moment then publicly asked the ancient gods of wind for a world record. As an amazed, but expectant crowd looked on, the winds moderated and died while Adam cranked out the world's fastest round of five, 20-meter throws and catches ever done in competition. When asked how he did it, Adam replied, "I threw hard and had fast turn arounds." Ruhf previously held the US Fast Catch record of 16.5 seconds, which was the second best time in the world.

Then again, at the National Championships in Virginia Beach on June 30, Adam tied a World Record. This time, in the Endurance event with 76 catches, equaling the world mark set by France's Yannick Charles in September 1995 at the Strasbourg tournament.

Adam is throwing a modified Darnell ABS Tri-Fly which he carved down, tuned up and added fast-catch airfoils. While the experts disagree on the exact speed of boomerangs at any given moment, it could be safe to say that Adam's boom was approaching the 100 mph mark during the round, specifically during the outward leg. Adam's Fast Catch round was recorded on video and has already been examined by video experts who determined that the time was accurate, using slow motion and time-encoding. The official USBA score sheets and other documentation have been gathered and will be sent to the Guinness Book of World Records for inclusion in the next issue.



USBA BUZZ

"Everything you need to know!"

Corrections In This Issue

The South Georgia Boomerang Club information has been updated. See page 22 for the correct info.

Editor's Column

Well, here it is. The penultimate MHR. (Is that like five times more than the ultimate, or what?) It took forever to put this one together and it filled 4 more pages than usual! I think its got more info, stories, news, plans, photos and good old tabloid trash than any MHR ever before, so I certainly hope you like it.

We almost scooped the latest-breaking story of the decade, with **Adam Ruhf's** smashing of the five-year old fast catch world record, but trusty **Ted Bailey**, who seems to wait by his printer for stuff like this to happen, beat us to the punch with in "**Boomerang News.**" But, hey, we've got more coverage from the witnesses, timers, and even the Hot Shot, himself, so don't go cancelling your subscription just yet!

We've also got boom plans hot from the competition bags of some of the greatest European crafters. **Axel Heckner** shares for the first time his most phenomenal, secret-weapon, three-bladed MTA. To give you an idea of the waves set off by even the **rumor** of this boomerang's release, when Gary "**Xerox Broadbent**", on the eve of leaving for the World Cup in New Zealand, heard that Axel had developed a three-bladed super MTA. He ran out into his garage/boom shop and started cranking out three-bladed MTA's... **without even the slightest clue as to what they might look like or even be made from!!**

I did manage to spend a couple of days with Gary before the U.S. Open and made some great new booms in his shop... including Axel's new MTA, which is now available to the

masses through MHR (page 18). While it is very stable and high-flying, Gary and I agree that it won't yet beat a Jonas in calm to light wind conditions. But that's another story.

I need to thank all of the contributors who made this MHR so easy to put together. If I start mentioning them all, I will surely leave someone out, but maybe its better to have tried and failed... OK, here goes: **Michael Girvin** (and thanks for the cool "Rad MHR Editor" award!), **Fred Malmburg**, **Ben Ruhe**, **Chet Snouffer**, **Earl Tutty**, **Bruce Carter**, **Ann Larabee**, **Dean Kelly**, **Ted Bailey**, **Betsy and Wil**, **Chi-Town Bob**, **Gary Broadbent**, **Jacques Thomas**, **Axel Heckner**... and everyone else that I left out.

My apologies that we could not squeeze in Dr Fred Malmburg's much anticipated plans for cross stick booms made from paint sticks. I know many of you hard-core crafters were waiting for this! Australian **Ed Russell** submitted an interesting article on the evolution of the boomerang that will appear in the next issue as well. Then, of course there will be lots of interesting news to cover from the field, as the tournament season is upon us.

Its now quite late and I have to wrap this issue up before driving to Va Beach in the morning. From there, I am flying off to Europe with Adam and Zippy for the German Nationals and some R&R. (Hey, its not like we have to work during our Summer months!) So now its off to the presses and off to Europe. While I'm gone, keep those articles, stories, quotes, and photos coming in. Otherwise, you'll be seeing a whole lot more cartoons like Zippy's sick one on page 11, and I don't think you want that!

Talk to you all soon,

Gregg Snouffer

What's In This Issue!

Page	Contents
2	Editor's Column:
3	Letters
4	Ask Ed: The editor answers technical questions that Chet and Gary didn't have time for!
5	Fred's Fast Catch Tips: Dr Fred Malmburg gives advice on hauling in your speed demons.
6	Boomerang: Professional journalist Ann Larabee takes a first crack at throwing a boomerang and somehow comes up short!
7	Tidbits From Nationals John Koehler on meeting results, auction & T-shirt orders
8	Ask The Experts Ted Bailey settles a dispute on who invented the boomerang once and for all (yeah, right)
9	Boom Fragments: News you want so bad, you can taste it!
11	A Supersonic Flight: Frenchman Jacques Thomas tells what its like to throw and catch a boomerang at Mach 1, while riding in Liz's seat!
12	Clubs and Competitions: St Louis, Bay Area Team Comps, New Zealand Scrap Book, Toss Across '96, Competition Calendar...
18	Builder's Square: Fred's paint-stir-er cross-stick, Axel's 3-blade MTA, and more!
21	USBA Store: and manufacturer's list
22	Boom Clubs and Organizations

LETTERS

"The true essence of communication!"

Boom Club Wants To Do Some Hunting

We are in the process of creating an official Boom club in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

As such, we would be very interested in any help you can give us concerning:

1. Typical Membership due structures
2. Club charters and rules
3. Any other info you think might make our start-up easier or more efficient

We would rather find out some of the problems and pit-falls others have experienced, and how to avoid them, rather than find out on our own.

Thanks for your help and consideration.

Matthew Rix
Albuquerque, NM

Dear Matt,

I don't know if you realize it, but Steve Sanders has started the Sandia Boomerang Club right there in Albuquerque in the last year (See page 22). If you still want to start a club, all you have to do to be recognized by the USBA is send to this newsletter your name, contact person, address and phone where you can be reached. We'll publish it in MHR.

You and many of your club members will want to join the USBA in order to receive the newsletter and be eligible to host and throw in USBA-sanctioned tournaments.

Some club directors charge a small fee (\$3 - \$5 annually) to cover the cost of a local newsletter to keep members up to date on local events, weekend tosses, full moon flings, parties and so on. But many clubs are even more loosely organized than that with a loose group of friends that inform each other by word of mouth.

If you ever want to host a USBA sanctioned tournament, you just send for a Tournament Director's package, schedule a tournament date with the President, pay an \$80 sanctioning fee that includes your event's insurance coverage, and then run the tournament according to the rules laid out in the packet. Turn in results to the USBA and your event gets covered in MHR and your throwers get rated by the USBA. That's really all there is to it.

Even if you're just having a little weekend fling, MHR would still like to hear about all the fun you had. It helps inspire other clubs to host events and keeps the nation-wide member-

ship up to date on what's going on in the boomerang world. And THAT's really all the USBA is about!

Channel Craft Resurfaces

Hello USBA,

Hope you're well... and ready for Spring time. We've just recovered from a devastating flood of 42 inches of the Monongahela River through our shop. We're just about caught up to re-crafting all the puzzles, games, toys and 'rangs that were washed downstream.

I've had a lot of time to rummage through my files while the contractors have been in here and found not one issue of your newsletter from '94 or '95, so sign me up and send me any back issues you have on file.

Have you been getting any response from our customers? Let me know what the '96 tourney schedule looks like.

See you soon,
D.J. Helfer
Channel Craft Recreational Woodcraft
North Charleroi, PA

Dear DJ,

Yes, it's been a long time. Glad to hear that you're nearly back up and running. Our own shop and boom fields have been gurgling quite a bit lately, as well.

Channel Craft boomerangs has consistently been right at the top of the list for membership referrals from manufacturer coupons included in boomerang packaging. Thanks for the fantastic effort!

Here are the back issues you are missing. Nice to have you back! -ed

New Boom Friends

Dear USBA,

I am new to boomeranging. I have two boomerangs and have thrown only a few times. Very exciting and fun. My 6-year-old daughter is interested also. She is inconsistent, but capable.

Enclosed are membership dues. I look forward to learning more about boomeranging. Thanks for running the group.

Sincerely,

Dayle Hodge
Columbia, MD
dayleh@clark.net

Hello Jim and Dayle! Nice to have you. -ed

How'd HE Get Through?

Dear Editor,

This latest issue was as good as the last one --- I like the "Letters" column, particularly the answer to "Why Are You Here?". Keep up the good work, and thanks for your help on our phone conversation of last month.

Sincerely,

Stephen Hickman

Dear Stephen,

Thanks for the letter. The rest of the members are wondering how the heck you managed to catch anyone home at the HQ office!

-ed

A Novice's View

I recently participated in the 12th Annual Team Gel California Championships and found it to be a perfect example of a sport that emphasizes the joy of participation, camaraderie and cooperation amongst competitors, over the more common "Win at all cost" atmosphere of other sporting events. At this tournament, all levels of ability were out there throwing side by side and really enjoying themselves.

Under the enthusiastic direction of Michael "Gel" Girvin, everything happens in rapid succession. Girvin does it all. He signs you up. He coaches you. He cajoles and jokes. He keeps things moving. Meanwhile boomerangs are flying non-stop the entire day. My only regret is that I was so absorbed in throwing my own rangs (and a few I borrowed) that I missed out on seeing a lot of good spectacular performances. I couldn't help myself!

Not only were there games with strange names, like Aussie Round, Whoa Nelly and GLOP, to name a few, but boomerangers have their own peculiarities of language, as well. For example, if you make a particularly good throw, you'll be pleased to find that you are "shredding." An outstanding catch is "huge." Its a compliment to be referred to as "rad," and its advisable to "stay rad" in all you do in life.

To anyone considering participating in a boomerang event, I say go for it! Shred some rangs. Do something huge. But above all, stay rad!

Ed Hoops
Stockton, CA

Dear Ed,

You obviously haven't been to a midwestern tournament. The tension gets so thick at times that you can cut the air with a boomerang blade! And when Rev. Jim gets upset, you don't want to be depending on him for a ride back to St Louis! Chet Snouffer and John Gorski are two more guys that have no friends on the competition field. And if you have a boom that works well, keep it locked in your boom bag so no one will warp it out of shape!

Dr Fred Speaks Out!

Dear Gregg,

Hey, what the heck happened to the "cross-markings", or scale indicators, on the boom plans I saw of mine in the last issue? It said to blow the patterns up until the squares were one inch squares; but, there were no squares!!!! Maybe they could be re-run with the squares in place this time? Or, at least, with height and width dimensions of the entire boom, and chord lengths at a few places?? And maybe some wood sources, for those living in the boonies?

I did like the photos of the throwers; in fact, the one of Norm exactly showed the delayed wrist action I described. I think the last sentence was cut off somewhere, though, which kind of left the reader wondering how Dr. Fred ends sentences. You may note that Fred is pretty good at criticizing and proof-reading; if only one could get rich doing that for a living!!!

Overall, I did enjoy the last issue, but, since half of it had me associated with it, I'd better. It seems like a return to the old MHR days when more than just tourney results and fluff filled the pages. I hope the ball keeps rolling, and others submit their plans in a similar, openly-sharing manner I remember from the earlier days of the USBA.

On another note, I was at my local high school recently, giving a lecture to a small number of students in an Engineering Design class, concerning boomerangs (what else?). They got my name through Dave Hendricks, and got his name from the web page he runs. I gave them a good 40 minutes out of the 45 I was allotted, and then asked if there were any questions. One student said, "I was looking through the 'net, and saw that there was something called 'Gel boomerangs'. Are they actually made of gel?" I told them yes, they were. But they were awful messy to catch!!

Actually, I wish I had the gonads to say that. I actually told them the truth, that it was just a kind of strange nickname. But it shows how a little knowledge can be unsettlingly dangerous; the assumption made was not ridiculous on his part, but radically incorrect nonetheless.

Fred Malmburg
York, PA

(Dr Fred's cross stick boom plans will appear in the next issue of MHR !)

There And Back

Dear Gregg,

You indicated that the Columbus sub-species could have their club listed in MHR. Well, since we now have a name, it seems an appropriate time to do just that. Whichever deadline we meet is OK with us.

Bob Lackey
There And Back Again Boomerang Club
Columbus, OH

Dear Bob,

Been there, done that! You're in the back of the book! -ed

Building A Collection...

Dear Gregg,

Hi. Just got interested in booms from reading alt.boomerang on the internet. I have a couple of cheap booms which I am heartily abusing, but I'm learning! In any case, I would like to put together a solid collection and would appreciate a catalog and any suggestions you have. Thanks,

Jim O'Roark
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Dear Jim,

I have sent the current catalogs available to the USBA, provided from Gel Boomerangs, The Boomerang Man, and Roundtrip Boomerangs. If other manufacturers would send in catalog supplies to the USBA, you would have gotten those as well. There are a listing of manufacturers in the back of MHR to which you can write for info on your own. (Many of these manufacturers are individuals who do this in their spare time, so you might not always hear back from them. It may depend on whether they have any rangs available at the moment.) In any case, give them a try and good luck on the collection! One good bet is to travel to one of the competitions close by and purchase from the competitors there.

-Ed

French Boom Pals Sought

Dear Gregg,

Back here in France, I've started a small boomerang club in the school I work in (I'm a teacher). We make our own boomerangs from aviation plywood, we take inspiration on existing models to design our own easy-to-throw models and we regularly practice. Some of my students (12 - 15 year olds) seem really to have been bitten by the boomerang bug. I wondered if you had heard of similar clubs in US Junior high schools as I thought it would great to put students in touch, so that they could write each other, using the boomerang as a starting point.

D. C Borg
101623.3703@compuserve.com

Ask Ed

Advice From The Editor
(Heaven Help Us All)

What About Rusty?

Dear Editor,

You know I have a couple questions:

1) What's a "Non-neutral elbow?" A couple of issues ago, in Mr. Harding's article it stated there would be a future piece on airfoils. Did I miss it or was it in issue 60?

2) Having problems with Fast Catch booms. They fly great... too great. Any suggestions?

Danny Setser

Dear Dan,

Rusty Harding's articles on airfoils that were to have followed that first one were never printed. The following issues of MHR filled up with info that was either more timely, or more relevant.

Rusty is a pioneer in the sport and can tell some of the best stories about boomerangs that I've ever heard. But the articles on airfoils were for advanced crafters, because Rusty likes to modify boomerangs' flight characteristics by undercutting the booms' airfoils. Most advanced crafters already know what to do with their airfoils if they don't work right, while most novices don't quite understand his articles, with terms like "non-neutral elbow" and so on.

I wouldn't recommend that anyone go to the shop with their newly-purchased fast catch boom and start shaving the airfoil down. It would make more sense to contact the manufacturer, ask what might be wrong with the boom, and then follow his recommendations, which will probably include bending, flapping, or taping... NOT modifying the airfoils. If the boom is THAT poorly crafted to begin with, demand an exchange for a better one... maybe one out of his competition bag!

With regards to the fast catch problem, I remember when I first got my hands on a real screamer fc rang. It was a blast to throw, but CATCH it? No way! (That's why the previous owner gave it up in the first place!) It reminded me of when I was a kid and this big crow with a nest nearby would come swooping down out of the trees to scare us off. It was so fun getting swooped down on that we went back every day for the excitement!

However, my thrill-seeking urges are somewhat subdued when trying to get a good time

in a fast catch round. Like many others, I prefer to get five catches, which means I need a boomerang that flies quickly around the circle but slows enough to be caught at the end of the flight.

The answer is simple: Flaps and drag. With a few drag flaps strategically placed on the wings, the boom will slow enough to be catchable, yet still have a good flight time. The drawbacks? If you place flaps in the wrong place, the boom will travel too far out or run out of spin too early, causing it to crash or not return. So placement and flap size are important and experimentation is necessary to achieve optimal performance. Hope this helps. -ed

My Boomerang Won't Come Back!

Dear Editor,

I have a few questions for you.

First, I have been having major difficulties with the Black Rose boomerang. When I throw it, it basically flies straight out without changing its nearly vertical position at all, and curves around and hits the ground--hard. I have tried throwing it with a variety of layover angles, directions, etc., but it still doesn't want to come back. It just curves out and crashes about halfway through its flight without any sign of a hover whatsoever. I have noticed that there seems to be a slightly negative dihedral angle, because when I put it on a flat surface it bends and clicks when I press down on the elbow. Is it supposed to be slightly bent this way, or could this be affecting its flight?

Second, I am trying to figure out the best place to get a fast catch boom. There are a lot of them out there, with widely ranging prices and materials. Do you have any suggestions? Also, what are the best gloves to wear for catching these? I have been wearing gloves designed for weigh-lifting which I use for sailing, kiteflying, and booming (they come up to the knuckle closest to your fingertips), because they make catching a little less painful. Would these be appropriate for fast catch?

Frecky Lewis
frederick.lewis@yale.edu

Dear Frecky,

It sounds like you diagnosed your "Black Rose" problem correctly: negative dihedral, or anhedral. This can be cured by bending the wingtips up a little. If you pop your boom into the microwave on high for about 15 seconds, the glue will soften between the plywood layers.

Then when you bend the wings upward, they will "remember" this tune and hold it. You are trying to get the wings anywhere from flat to slightly bent upward when the elbow is held down on a flat surface. If the wings are bent up too much, the boom will either fly high and hover too much, or crash.

On fast catch, many throwers use a goalie glove to ease the impact of the returning boomerang. These gloves have fairly thick padding on the palms but have holes in the finger tips, like the ones you describe. Gary Broadbent and new World Record holder Adam Ruhf wear one glove on their left hand to keep their right hand free to grip and release the boomerang. Then, when catching, they use the left hand as the "vice" while the right hand closes in like the "clamp" to catch the speed demon.

So your fingerless glove plan is not new, but rather shared by more than a couple of the fast guys. Dr Fred Malmberg shares a catching tip below that was pioneered by Doug DuFresne some time ago and MAY eliminate the need for a glove altogether, allowing for a surer transition from catch to throw. Read on for his advice....

De Nada,
Ed

Fred's Competition Tips: The FC "V" Catch

Ed. note: Here is a Fast Catch catching tip that was forwarded by Doctor Fred Malmberg who worked out this system on his own. Upon reading through his tips, the editor instantly recognized a catching approach espoused by Doug DuFresne years ago, but never really shared through print. (to our knowledge... correct us if we're wrong, Doug!)

In any case, since Fred figured this out and was kind enough to put it into print for us, we'll call it "Fred's Fast Catch 'V' Catching technique." (At least until someone challenges us on it!)

The method of catching FC booms that I came up with entails the use of no glove whatever. That's right, bare-hand catches. Its best to try this on a wind-free day, when the boom is not veering around too much on return.

Put the "heel of your hands" together, with the left fingertips open maybe four inches from the right fingertips. When the boom comes in, it kind of wedges into this V, and is fairly easily caught, with less impact than you might think.

Another aspect of this method involves catching the boom with your arms almost extended, at initial impact (this means

your elbows are almost straight, but not locked rigidly straight), and then collapsing your elbows as the boom comes in, softening the impact somewhat ("riding the boom in"). A final note on this method - if the boom is coming at your head, you will want to move, because if you miss the catch, or "ride it in" too far, well, I'll just let your imagination run wild on that one. But if you see that it is not going to hit your head, don't duck. That definitely wastes time.

Those last two aspects (not ducking things that are not going to hit you, and "riding the boom in") I developed from my studies of a style of Chinese boxing called Wing Chun (the only style of boxing Bruce Lee studied much). The "V" hand shape I came up with from just simply experimenting.

I tried this on my favorite low wind FC model on a beautiful low wind day out here in York, and, just for reference sake, timed myself on the number of catches made in two minutes. This particular boomerang goes just a little too far, but flies so beautifully, I don't really want to mess with it. I was getting 23 catches, with number 24 dropping off of my hands. I realize that this is not quite record pace, but it is still moving pretty well.

The advantage of this method is that you can catch a pretty fast boom without gloves (save all that glove money, buy a Malmberg rare wood boom!). More importantly, I have found that you more instinctively know where the boom is, in your non-throwing hand, without the glove, because you can better feel where it actually is, and get it into a throwing position in your throwing hand more quickly.

One other editor's note: Doug spoke of catching the TOP half of the "wheel", or spinning boomerang, as it returns. This is the half that is rotating toward you, while the bottom half is actually spinning AWAY from you.

By placing the "V" formed by your outstretched hands, palms together, in front of the top part, you ensure that the FC's wings will nudge right into your "V" where you will quickly be able to find it, grab it and throw it again. In any case, it pretty much guarantees a trapped FC boom and not another one that got away!

Life truly is a boomerang. What you give, you get.

- Dale Carnegie

A neophyte's first experience exposes the surprising complexity of the throw and the confusion caused by even the most thought-out instructions

BOOMERANG

by Ann Larabee

On his way to an uncertain future, a close friend sent me a boomerang, purchased from a souvenir shop in the Sydney airport. It was unusually shaped, like two maple seeds joined at the base, light and delicately thin, made of a fine-grained soft blond wood, polished and geometrically inlaid with other woods the color of bronze, cherry and teak.

My thin, new boomerang had instructions in both Chinese and English, written on two flesh-colored 8" x 8" pages, folded diagonally twice into triangles. Sitting at my kitchen table, I unfolded them and studied them carefully to master the art of the throw. From the samples of Albatross, Seagull, Kookaburra, Pelican, Hummingbird, and Rangemaster, I learned that my boomerang was the aerodynamic Hummingbird, excellent for beginners, with a high spin rate that provided stability and forgiving flight characteristics.

Its range was 30m to 35m and worked best in winds up to 3 knots. These numbers meant little to me. I couldn't translate them into my temporal and spatial sense of the world. Above the Hummingbird drawing was a schematic showing its flight pattern, a simple loop. The others had inexplicable squiggles, the Albatross being the most complex. The instructions promoted the Albatross as a real stunt flyer with high lift and long hovering, with more zest than the classic Kookaburra, the strong, stable Rangemaster, the long-lasting Pelican, or the mathematically derived, unconventional Seagull. As brave (or rash) as I might be in my conduct of life, I was not practiced enough for boomerang stunts.

I moved on to throwing, and studied the possible grips. The boomerang had to be cocked well back for maximum spin,

gripped firmly for a clean, controlled release. I admired the language. A man was shown holding the Albatross over his head looking sternly at, presumably, the sky or some airborne thing he wanted to hit. Frozen in a single moment of action, he radiated a sense of purpose, a purpose unknown to me. The instructions advised that the boomerang be thrown like a ball or stick, but should never be laid over flat. Also, I was to avoid getting slammed in the head by a wild boomerang with fast moving wing tips, sound but rather self-evident advice. If my boomerang were to swoop dangerously, I was to ease off on the power of my throw and learn control.

...their bodies, their arms, their legs, flowed with the ... boomerang. Holistically, unconsciously, they released the object, but it remained a part of their beings...

The Chinese directions appeared to be much more complex and detailed because of the hundreds of minute ideograms and several schematics of a man in action. Perhaps like me, having never participated in baseball, the Chinese needed more explanation of what throwing a stone or stick entailed. Like a Thomas Eakins subject with clothes, a cartoon man divided into four shaded selves, each representing a slice of action, arched the boomerang over his head. One lock of hair (or an accidental inkblot) covering his eye, he appeared to be looking noncommittally at nothing, turning his attention inward. Several representations of the boomerang in flight, tiny calligraphic curves, flew out from the man's hand like a flock of dark birds. He had bare feet. In another drawing, he leaned down in an odd posture to catch the spinning boomerang, but it had dropped well below his outstretched hands. He had obviously missed it. I picked up the boomerang, felt the wood grain, observed the smooth sheen, experienced its weight, practiced a firm Dingle Armgrip, its edges pressing into the fleshy parts of my hand. It fit nicely, I thought, ergonomically shaped to my palm.

I convinced my son, who is a long, lanky sixteen, and vaguely resembles James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, to help me put theory to practice. We went out to an open field. The weather was typical for a Michigan autumn, gold and brown, cloudy, with a moder-

ate wind from the northeast. I wondered if it was blowing at 3 knots. I knew that it would produce considerable resistance if I were riding my bike against it. My son took the boomerang in his hand, bounced it a couple of times against his palm. I said, you must throw it at a 45 degree angle to the wind.

He faced the wind, put his arms out in a V, then turned east. He looked out at the tops of distant oaks, arched the Hummingbird over his head, and released it smoothly, his arm flashing out towards the sky, fingers open. The boomerang arced slowly and then began to spin, hovering unnaturally on the wind currents, then suddenly sailed back over our heads and crashed into the trees. Awesome, said my son as he ran to fetch it. It was difficult to find, because its colors blended with the thick nap of oak, beech, and maple leaves.

I stood shivering in the wind, waiting.

At last, he brought it to me. Your turn. I faced the wind, then east, held the boomerang behind my head. My body felt awkward, my position unnatural. The instructions seemed inadequate. I didn't know where to put my feet. I looked at the ground, my feet, my legs. My jeans were tight and my little toe was digging into my right hiking boot. I was reminded of a yoga posture called *The Cow*. I felt like Frankenstein's monster, comprised of newly awakened, unrelated parts, in clumsy interaction.

In a blind spasm, I tossed the boomerang. It bounced twice on the ground a few yards in front of me. I knew I had thrown like a girl. My son looked at me as if he had suspected this all along. "Wrong foot," he said. I looked at him quizzically, shifting my weight from one foot to the other.

Like in baseball. I considered the phenomenology of the throw. My son, my lovers-their bodies, their arms, their legs, flowed with the stick, the ball, the boomerang. Holistically, unconsciously, they released the object, but it remained a part of their beings, an extension of training and practice, of personal history. Skill allowed them to forget the body's fragmented, idiosyncratic demands. They expected a complete predictability within the smooth system of throw and catch. They expected things to work. They were at one with their instructions. They knew what 3 knots felt like, what 30 meters looked like. But how fragile this system of moving parts that sent flying objects hurtling into the for-

est. Chance, uncertainty, hummed in the interstices of the text, the illustrations, the action slices of life.

Physicist and philosopher Ilya Prigogine's work on chaos had taught me that the slightest fluctuations were amplified and made every system unpredictable. There were no stable initial conditions, no models, systems, or instructions, that could really take us through the throwing of boomerangs. Prigogine wrote, "the match is responsible for the forest fire, but reference to a match does not suffice to understand the fire."

So when my son released the boomerang, no matter how confidently he stood, he couldn't know how the smallest variations--the tilt of the hand, the angle of step, a shift in the wind--might send it on a more elegant curve, a gentler spin, that would bring it back to his hand.

I worked on probabilities rather than certainties, imitating my son until I got the boomerang into a range of varying spinloops. But it always landed at some distance and in front of me. My son could throw the boomerang and pick it up near his feet, though he had not yet caught it on the return. I wondered if a commitment to certainty, some stable belief in predictability, honed through arduous prakly, I was bored with repetition and with running extra lengths to retrieve the boomerang after bad throws.

So I went for a walk in the nearby woods with my son, where we saw three narrow speckled gartersnakes in the pine needles. I picked one up and lets its silky red tongue flicker across my lips. Then I released it to coil away terrified under the fallen leaves.

Back at the parking lot, I threw the boome-

rang into the trunk of my old unreliable Mazda with its rust and its frozen locks and its bad windshield wipers. Then I took it home, laid it on my kitchen table, where it seemed an alien artifact against the gleaming formica and the black plastic placemats. It now had seven nicks on its edge, signs of unpredictable consequences in the winds of lower Michigan. The opposite foot, he said. Like I taught you.

Ann Larabee is an associate professor at Michigan State University in the American Thought and Language program.

For access to other essays by Ann, check out her web sight at:

<http://atl46.atl.msu.edu/atllarabee.html>

USBA Nationals Tidbits by John Koehler

The Annual USBA Auction at the Boom Nationals in Virginia Beach made about \$1,800, just missing the \$2,100 set last year in Minnesota. But, and a big but it is, we were missing some key boomerangs. B'man Rich Harrison and others were unable to send booms in time, but have committed to sending a bunch to Gregg Snouffer for another mail-in auction. The complete list of booms will be compiled in the next few weeks and a mailer sent out to the complete USBA mailing list. So get ready to place a bid and help support the USBA!

The Annual Design contest held during the Auction was filled with some very cool boomerangs, and was oohed and ahhed over by many folks, hoping that the booms would later be on the auction block. The results for the three categories were:

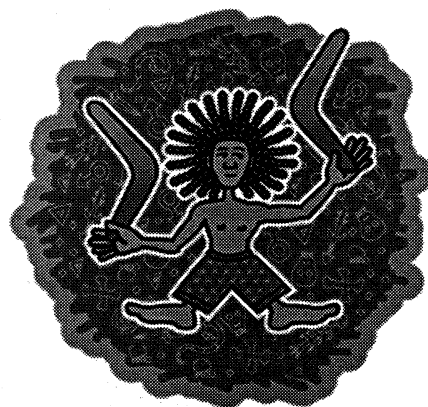
Technology & Design: A tie between Eric Darnell's new fast catch designs (recent world record holders in both Fast Catch and Endurance) and Kelly Legette's motorized booms. Though many wanted to know whether they actually flew, Flyboy Legette wouldn't say. But the judges decided that the mere thought of a propelled boom was good enough to make the grade.

Decoration: Once again Kelly Leggette tied for first place with a beautifully painted Challenger III. The other half of the award went to Gary Broadbent for his free-form Michael Jordan Boom, or, Boom Jordan, as Gary likes to call it.

Natural Wood: The judges once again decided that two should share this award. Once again Dr. Fred Malmberg won with another group of stunning lap joint booms. And coming out of nowhere (PA), or at least seemingly to some, Dave Hendricks offered a wonderful array of natural wood booms, complete with round plugs of exotic woods.

Stolen "Boom" Memories: Eric Darnell finished 2nd in the recent tournament in Mass, and has a goal of finishing in the top ten at the Nationals. Unfortunately for Eric, the bad guys didn't care. Eric's car was broken into in Baltimore, MD, on the way down to Virginia Beach and the Nationals. His entire kit of competition rangs was stolen along with many rangs he had intended to sell and offer up for auction. In spite of his loss, Eric managed to finish 14th at the Nationals, using borrowed rangs.

Nationals Tee Shirts: Since the 100 shirts at the Nationals were so popular and sold so fast, we have decided to reprint a batch. You have until October 1 to send in your order, along with a check or money order. Shirts will be ordered after Oct. 2. Allow 4 weeks for delivery. The shirts are \$15.00 and are 100% cotton. There is a \$2 shipping charge for USA; \$3 for Canada; \$5 for overseas. The shirt color is linen, a light tan/brown. When ordering, include your: name, address, phone number, email address, number of shirts wanted, and size (S, M, L, XL). Please send your checks and order form to: Nationals Shirts; PO Box 182; Delaware, OH 43015.



THE BOOMERANG
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA



USBA Nationals T-Shirt Art

BOOMERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES

VERSION 3.07; 9/2/95 compiled by PDS

David Alexander.....ausdave@onthenet.com.au
Kelly Andretti.....andretti@u.washington.edu
Joe Arthur.....Joe.Arthur@Twisternet.com
Ted Bailey.....tbailey@ic.net
Gerhard Bertling.....100706.2710@compuserve.com
Chicago Bob.....chibob@htc.net
Ralph Bonheim.....72020.1046@compuserve.com
Andy Bourney.....73204.2172@compuserve.com
Boomerang Man.....BMANRICH@AOL.COM
Billy Brazelton.....VSSA57B@prodigy.com
Mike Chelucci.....71271.2323@compuserve.com
Steve Collins.....Kumba2@AOL.com
Steve Conaway (abo. Steve).....abosteve@vcnet.com
Steve Cooke.....sjcook@mailbox.syr.edu
* Greg Corum.....SBT@aol.com
Dan Derezinski.....102766.420@compuserve.com
Ken Farr.....76514.1342@compuserve.com
Erik Fields.....fields@icess.ucsb.edu
* Max Froumentin.....froument@liff.fr
Masaaki Fujimoto.....yok1mxf@yok10.med.navy.mil
* Hubert Fulon (Belgium).....73324.344@compuserve.com
John Gibney (Australia).....gibney@werple.mira.net.au
David Hendricks (bvd rangs).....bvdrangs@enter.net
Dean Kelly.....DEAN.A.KELLY@STATE.OR.GOV
Tom Langland.....tlangland@liln.gov
Tom Luczycki.....looziskey@eworld.com
Fredric Malmberg.....fmalm@mem.po.com
Linda Maultsby.....lindam@acpub.duke.edu
Hague Nikolayczyk.....helicon@integriss.phoenix.de
* Harry Pietlä.....hpietla@oj287.astro.utu.fi
Eric Promislow.....emp@exoterica.com
Matthew Rix.....MatthewRix@aol.com
Mike Roedelbronn.....72722.3053@compuserve.com
Steve Sanders.....ccc27@nmia.com
Tim Schallberger.....Tim_Schallberger@com.jf.intel.com
Michael Siems.....100350.1111@compuserve.com
David Silver.....72133.3725@compuserve.com
.....DavidA.Silver@excalibur.org
* # **USBA:** Gregg Snouffer...75574.2346@compuserve.com
Jim Sprague.....71601.2752@compuserve.com
Paul D. Sprague.....72470.1567@compuserve.com
Jonathan Tucker.....jonathan_a_tucker@capmac.org
Tom Tuckerman.....ttuckerman@mhnet.mhmc.org
* Earl Tutty.....EARL@LYNX.CO.NZ
VA Aviation Museum.....kleigh@freenet.vcu.edu
Andrew Watson.....andyw@insignia.co.uk
Mark Weary.....wildmann@ix.netcom.com

* denotes boom club organizer

denotes boomerang manufacturer

Submit YOUR electronic address to Paul D. Sprague

World Wide Web News

Brad Penkala of Canyon Country, CA announces
Eye Of The Storm Boomerangs at:
<http://www.vcnet.com/abosteves/eye.html>

Tibor Horvath of Switzerland writes to announce
his new web page dealing with "long distance
boomerang stuff." He says after working on it for about
a month, "it keeps getting bigger and bigger." Here's the
address, but beware, says the author. "We decided not
to include too many graphics for a shorter wait." At
least the text is in English!
[http://rock-chem-stud1.ethz.ch/members/gubler/wel
come.html](http://rock-chem-stud1.ethz.ch/members/gubler/welcome.html)

Ted Bailey has also opened a web sight with
boomerang links to other sites. His address is:
<http://ic.net/~tbailey/boomerang.html>

There's a new server for boomerangers who
wish to communicate without having to put up with all

Ask The Experts

Tell Me It Ain't True!

Dear USBA,

A friend of mind has recently told me that boomerangs were discovered in King Tut's tomb and that the boomerang was first crafted in Egypt. How true is this and with your answer can you site source and web sites? I say it was aboriginal but will reluctantly accept another truth. I hope my question doesn't come back and boot me in the you know where.

Ron Stanchfield
Internet

To answer this question, we turned to Ted Bailey, the Editor of "Boomerang News" and a well known authority on boomerang history. Here's what he had to say:

Nobody

 knows who crafted the very first boomerang or

when and where this occurred. Wooden implements disintegrate quickly with time and very few old ones have ever been found. The oldest non-returner (throw stick) was found in Poland. It is made of Mammoth tusk and it is 20,300 years old. The oldest returner ever found is 10,000 years old. It was found in a peat bog in South Australia.

With the rest of the world discovering Australia only a few hundreds years ago, one has to wonder how Marco Polo brought back a fully functional four bladed cross stick boomerang from China in the 13th century. And how did all those boomerang devices make their way into Ramses the Great's and King Tutenkamen's tombs, all several thousands of years old. Some of these sticks were true returners and they are referenced in Jacques Thomas' book "The Boomerangs of a Pharaoh". Felix Hess' famous PhD Thesis on boomerangs cites a perfect returner that was found in a peat bog in the Netherlands. It is made of Oak and it is older than Chist. What looks like an even older returner was recently found in Germany.

I'll bet that a lot of cultures had the boomerang and/or throw stick for a very long time indeed. Your question is likely to never be answered, but I'll bet the first Australian Aborigines brought boomerang and throw stick technology (in a less developed form) with them during their original migration from the Indian sub-continent more than 50,000 years ago.

We should at least thank the Aborigines of Australia for advancing boomerang and throw stick technology to a very advanced state and for prolifically using these devices at a time when European man first arrived in Australia only a few hundred years ago. Remember, the Aborigines had more primitive technologies than the peoples of the other major continents and they did not yet have advanced weaponry, like the bow and arrow. Because of this convenient isolationism, we enjoy boomerang throwing today.

Ted Bailey
tbailey@ic.net

of the "spam" (junk mail postings) on alt.boomerang. Your email address is added to the list and then any posting goes to all the addresses on the server's list. To be added to the list, send an email message to majordomo@jcn.com. The subject is of no importance. The first line should read SUBSCRIBE RANG-LIST END If you email majordomo with the word HELP in the message area, you will get more info. It knows who you are by your email address, and will respond within a couple of minutes. It's pretty easy. But be ready for hordes of email on every boomerang subject from gyroscopic precession to the best after-toss beverage!

Boom Fragments

Bits of news from around the world

A Booming Success

(For you collectors who were wondering how he would get them all home...)

A certain boom collector, who shall remain anonymous for security reasons, recently used a trip to Australia as an opportunity to add to his extensive boomerang collection.

He took a full week before the World Cup tourney in New Zealand to distract Aussies Rob Croll and Bruce Carter. By the end of the week, he had filled all of his spare travel bags with hunting sticks purchased and traded from the local collectors to the tune of 170 Kilos over the weight limit allowed by Qantas Airlines!

Not to be denied, and wary of Australian customs, who try to prevent native artifacts from leaving the country, he calmly explained to one official who spotted an antiquity packed among clothes in a suitcase that he had actually made the stick and was flattered that such an "expert" would deem it to be authentic! So far so good, and off to New Zealand.

Later in the trip, as he prepared to return to the U.S., he was told that his load was too heavy to carry on the return flight and would have to be checked. Now free from the threat of Aussie customs agents, he demanded to see a manager, to whom he explained that the museum for which he worked demanded that he hand carry these priceless antiquities home (and they say ingenuity is dead!)

Well, booms and collector are all safely home... but late at night, when a car drives slowly by, this guy's got one hand reaching for his packed suitcase and the other for his plane ticket out of the country!

Booms Over The Pacific

On the flight to New Zealand, while thumbing through Northwest Airline's in-flight magazine the editor stumbled

upon a very well-written feature article on Earl Tutty and the upcoming World Championships.

Meanwhile, Seattle's Horizon Air in-



flight mag, Horizon, ran a feature on Seattle's own Steve Kavanaugh, member of the second U.S. Team to New Zealand (pictured).

A Century Of Aussie

Booms On Airport Display

SAN FRANCISCO, CA- An exhibition of more than three hundred historic and contemporary boomerangs dating from the mid-1800's to the present is on view at the North Terminal Connector Gallery at the San Francisco International Airport through August 15, 1996.

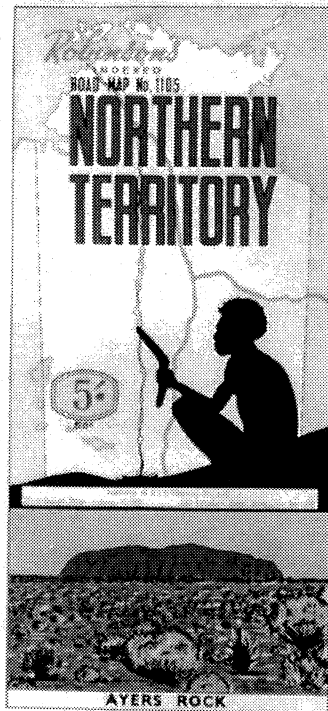
The exhibit features a century spanning collection of boomerangs on loan from the South Australian Museum as well as contemporary jewelry, furniture, textiles and fashion inspired by the boomerang form.

Highlights include many early mulga wood hooks decorated with red ochre and coated with grease, a North Queensland cross boomerang painted with a shark design, a fluted and painted fighting boomerang from northwest Australia, and two fish-killers.

Also on display are more than seventy examples of contemporary use of the boomerang motif, including pins and pendants in silver and copper in the shape of a boomerang, a tourist road map (pictured) from 1970 of the Northern Territory, boomerang-shaped ashtrays, coasters and napkins, a vase, bottle opener, lamps, tables and chairs, as well as a plastic Philco radio in boomerang form.

The display is open to the public free of charge 24 hours a day. Stop by the next time you fly through San Francisco.

Right: A 1970 roadmap of Australia's Northern Territory features Aborigine with boomerang silhouette.



Domestic Dispute

The Times Union of Albany, NY ran an article on local thrower Alan Grindle, who has been involved in boomeranging for years.

Alan is an avid promoter of boomerangs and the USBA and took the time to explain in the article the history of boomerangs, as well as the difference between hunting sticks, returning boomerangs and specialized competition-style 'rangs, including multi-bladers. The feedback from the article was tremendous, according to Alan, boosting interest in the sport across his hometown.

The article, while delivering an educated and entertaining glimpse into the boomerang world, is quite funny (although embarrassingly so to Alan, since he didn't realize they would use some of his comments) when, towards the end, he describes the possible dangers of boomeranging, including the bloody mayhem that may result from being struck while warming up on a crowded competition field.

And then there are the possible domestic side-effects of boomeranging. Alan explains, "There have been divorces over it. I've come pretty close to it myself from summer to summer when I travel around to compete."

Advance Orders On New Boom Book

Kelly Boyer Sagert, renowned as "The Boomerang Writer," takes you behind the scenes of the USA World Cup Championship Teams, and lets you in on the secrets of America's "silent sport," in her new book 'Bout Boomerangs, America's Silent Sport. She combines narrative with full color action-photos to present the history, how to build and throw, and details on tournaments and competitive events. The first edition includes biographies of throwers Gary Broadbent, Chet Snouffer, Mark Weary, and America's top woman boomeranger, Betsy Miale-Gix, among others. The book's release is

"I'd love to learn how to make my living doing boomerangs -- maybe teach people to throw boomerangs at Club Med. I could be a boom pro, just like they have tennis pros and golf pros."

- Steve Kavanaugh in an interview with Horizon Airline's "Horizon" magazine

to be accompanied by a kick-off gala the first weekend in June. Scheduled are boomerang lessons by USBA members and boomerang sales, as well as book signings by the author and other events.

Advance orders are available from the author at a 30% discount off publisher's list price through August 30. To order, send \$12*, along with your shipping address to:

PLANT*Speak Publications
34100 Center Ridge Rd.
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

* Send \$12 check or money order. Book will be sent and balance, less 30%, will be billed.

Farewell to "Sarge" Creel

H.L. Mayhew recently wrote to report he had received a sad note from a niece of Guy M. "Sarge" Creel. His niece said that Sarge died quietly and painlessly in his sleep.

Sarge had a variety of interests -- among them was boomeranging. He retired from the U.S. Army as a Regimental Sargent Major -- the highest non-commissioned rank.

Sarge liked to throw boomerangs, and enjoyed buying them and giving them to his friends and family members. One of his great joys after retirement was visiting veterans hospitals and teaching wheelchair-bound veterans how to enjoy throwing and catching.

Service-related injuries kept Sarge from becoming interested in organized boomerang events. But in his own way, he made a sizable contribution to the growth and spread of the sport.

Thanks to H.L. for passing this along. Many Happy Returns to you all.



The British Are Throwing!

The newly reformed British Boomerang Society has just released their first Journal, Spring 1996. It looks like BBS officers Ed Cadman, Alan Chester and Andy Watson, the journal editor, have

what it takes to put out a quality newsletter and to bring the BBS into the 21st Century. The sixteen page Journal includes write ups on boomerangs, tournament competitions and general interest articles, including the following frightening account of a toy firm that was successfully sued by a mother whose child threw a boomerang which came back and struck him in the head!

For further information on the BBS, contact:

The British Boomerang Society
The Wyatts Annex
Church Road
Tostock
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP30 9PE

or email: bbs@rangsoc.demon.co.uk

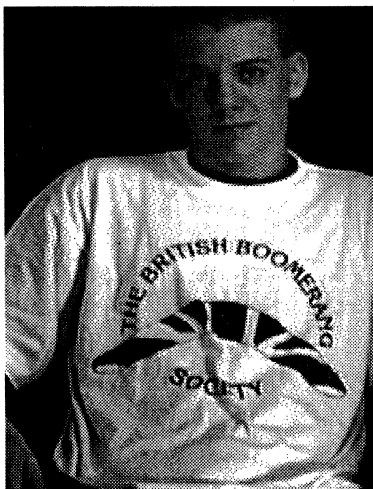
British Boomerang Importer Fined For Inadequate Warning on Boom Dangers

British court Magistrates decided a boomerang that came back to deliver a whack to the head of the child who threw it should have had more adequate warning about the dangers of being hit. Ponders End Investments, the company that imported the toy, was fined 1000 pounds plus 3000 pounds court costs.

The child's mother was upset that the only warning stated the boomerang should only be thrown in open spaces -- meaningless advice since the thing still would have come back.

The company spokesman replied, "What on earth do they think boomerangs do, for goodness sake?" He added, "The whole thing is a joke, but it cost us 4000 pounds. Now we are not going to sell the toys anymore."

That's fine with the mother, who said, "I want this toy banned. We are not talking about a grazed knee here, but a child's eyesight."



New British T-Shirt

Jay Butters of North Wales has designed a new BBS T-shirt (see photo) which he is selling for an amazingly affordable price of UNDER \$17 U.S., which includes shipping! The shirt features a large boomerang decorated with the British Unionjack in red and navy.

To get one, you'll need to get an International Money Order from your postman in the amount of 10 British Pounds. Then, send it, along with your shipping address and T-shirt size to:

Jay Butters
Garmon View
School Hill
Trefriw
LL27 0NJ
North Wales
U.K.

WBA News

A meeting was held at the New Zealand World Cup to discuss revitalization of the World Boomerang Association (WBA). The goal is to turn it into a fully functional organization that will assist the member organizations in the hosting of international events.

A committee of five was elected: Ted Bailey (USA), Rob Croll (Australia), Axel Heckner (Germany), Yoshinobu Sakimitsu (Japan) and Chet Snouffer (USA). The first couple of months was used to elect a chairperson and to set up communications. Ted Bailey was elected chairman. The primary effort will be to generate bylaws and set up a communication channel between the different organizations. A WBA logo design contest is also underway for anyone with artistic talents. Volunteers are needed to work on the bylaws and communication efforts. If you want to help (or if you have a logo you want to submit), call Ted Bailey at: (313)-971-2970 or email: tbailey@ic.net or write to:

Ted Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

<http://ic.net/~tbailey/boomerang/WBA>

A Supersonic Flight

by Jacques Thomas

On the 20th of April, 1996, I had the immense pleasure of flying, throwing and catching a boomerang beyond the sound barrier... on board the magnificent Concorde aircraft about 11,000 meters above the Mediterranean Sea.

The plane had come to Lyon, chartered to offer enthusiasts the opportunity of a supersonic flight. It was an exceptional opportunity to break the sound barrier without crossing the Atlantic. Not to say that I wouldn't love to visit my American friends again, but such a flight is pretty expensive. In the same time I thought that it would be a good opportunity to fly a boomerang at supersonic speed. Perhaps it would be the first supersonic boomerang.

For throwing over the International Dateline in 1988, I had already used the mini-boomerang which I had been asked to conceive for the promotion of the film "Crocodile Dundee." I took two of these, gave the colors of Air France and started to train at home.

Well balanced when properly tuned, this boomerang flies a range of about two meters with a nice return. It is usually very easy to throw and catch. But due to the weight of the decoration, its flight had changed. I would have to be careful!

I received a floor plan of the cabin from Air France and selected a seat which seemed suitable for what I planned to do. Later I would learn it was the seat that Elizabeth Taylor books when crossing the Atlantic, 14B. Ask for it whenever you are lucky enough to travel aboard the Concorde and if you intend to fly a mini boomerang!

When I boarded the plane, I immediately realized that it was worse than I had expected. The seats were quite comfortable, but the free space to throw was very limited, the sleek fuselage being less than 3 meters wide. So, even with no seat directly in front of me, being in the front row, and benefitting of the free space of the central aisle, it was still less than 1 meter to fly my boomerangs. I had to throw sitting and to reduce the flight distance 50 or 60 centimeters. It was not much!

Belts fastened, taking off was a matter of seconds and then we were rapidly climbing at a surprisingly steep angle. Having piloted planes before, I became aware of the aircraft's immense power.

Breaking the sound barrier occurs only over seas and deserts to avoid any disturbance on the ground. For this reason we flew for a while at Mach .93 (1,160 kph) at about 9,000 meters Altitude. It was an

excellent opportunity to practice with my boomerangs, followed by Champagne toasts served by the charming hostesses.

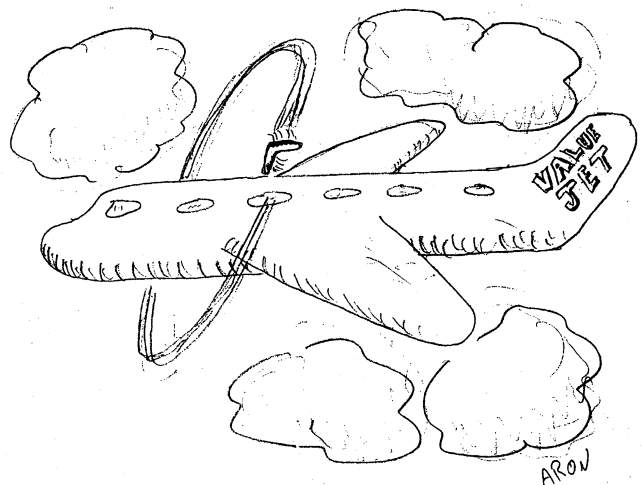
After about thirty minutes, the Machmeter began to indicate an increase in speed. I tucked up the small table in front of me. Approaching the sound barrier, the plane began to vibrate. I could feel some lateral movements. It was like it had some difficulties accelerating. The machmeter indicated .98, .99, .98 -- because of changes in the outside temperature.

Suddenly but very softly, an acceleration was noticed. The captain had started the post-combustion system, which is used for taking off and surpassing the sound barrier. By reheating the exhaust gases from the engines to increase their ejection speed, the plane gets more thrust, which is necessary to overcome the sharply increased air resistance between Mach 1 and Mach 1.6.

Now we were beyond the sound barrier and the ride had become quiet and peaceful again. The Machmeter was beyond 1. I now had plenty of time to throw and catch my boomerangs, which I did easily.

The Concorde is about 60 meters long and 3 meters wide. Its maximum weight is 185 tons at full load. It flies 1350 MPH at 18,000 meters and can transport 100 passengers. It is a splendid aircraft and superb technical feat by the French company Aerospatiale and the British Aircraft Corporation. It has been the only supersonic commercial aircraft for more than 20 years.

The "Supersonic Boomerang," along with the Captain's attestation will be displayed with a small scale model of the Concorde aircraft in a show case of the "Boomerang and Flying Sticks History Museum" when it is reopened in France.



COMPETITION and Club NEWS

12th Annual California Championships

OAKLAND, CA- A calm, sunny, 70 degree day greeted the 39 throwers from across the West Coast and Nevada who gathered at Billy Martin Field in Oakland to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the California Championships and the first test match of the 2nd Bay Area Team Championships on May 4.

The non-traditional California Championships, hosted by the Bay Area Boomerang Club, featured a world record Consecutive Catch attempt, an outdoor AND indoor freestyle championships, team events, and of course, **Michael Gel's** own unique awards ceremony.

The day started off at 7AM with a scheduled attempt at the Guinness Book Consecutive Catch World Record mark of 1251 catches, held by Frenchman Yannick Charles. Perfect calm conditions were on hand, but nobody wanted to do it, except **Brian Pearson**, who eagerly hauled in 15 catches before dropping. He won the event, but no world record.

The Freestyle Championships were broken down into three events, with suicide-style Count-up, Whoa Nelly (Aussie Round with trick catch), and G-L-O-R-P making up the overall Freestyle winner. **Steve Kavanaugh** (duh!) won every event and the overall title. Oakland local **Chris Rose** glorped his way into second, with **Jim "Long Distance" Youngblood**, **Kim "Swiss Stud" Galeazzi** and **Greg "The San Rafael Kid" Mills** rounding out the top five.

The afternoon was filled with the first of the multi-match San Francisco Bay Area Team Championships, held throughout the month of May. Teams from San Francisco, Pacifica, San Rafael, Mountain View, Berkeley and Oakland competed in events such as Team Super Catch, Round Rang Relay (with

50 meter minimum distance!), Team Hackuary (hackey the boom into the accuracy points), and Team Hackey Catch (hackey the boom among team mates for maximum points).

Gel's workshop was the sight for the awards barbeque (with every boomer receiving awards, handshakes and kisses from the trophy boys and girls) and the Indoor Freestyle championships featuring Eric Darnell's fun flies.

In the Team Championships, Team Mountain View took a commanding lead on day one, with the Berkeley Team finishing dead last. But, over the next three weekends, Team Berkeley made a methodical comeback, gaining ground each week to finally take the overall honors after the dust had settled. Team San Rafael, who finished consistently in second place over the month, ended up second overall, followed by San Francisco, the upstart Team Mountain View, and finally, Team Pacifica.

Among the novice throwers participating in the California Team and Individual championships were **Dan Neelands**, **Dave Grover** and **Ed Hoops**, who wrote the "novice's view" letter to the editor on page 3.

Everyone involved thanks **Michael Gel** Girvin for his hard work in organizing this outstanding event.



Among the trophies handed out at the Team Gel California Awards ceremony was this award for "Rad MHR editor." We proudly accept!

Tournament Directors

In order to have your tournament results in MHR, send or fax your results and a short write-up of all the interesting stuff to:

USBA

MHR Sports Reports

P.O. Box 182

Delaware, OH 43015

Phone or fax: (614) 363-4414

St Louis '96... Where's The Wind?

ST LOUIS, MO- In an astonishing turnaround from previous years, the Memorial Day weekend winds in St Louis chose to take Sunday off. While thunderstorms raged in the northern and western parts of Missouri, St Louis remained fairly calm, allowing for some uncharacteristically good scores, coming so early in the season. When all was said and done, **Chet Snouffer** (57.01 points overall) remained strongly out of retirement, winning a four horse race off between the U.S. Team members **Mark Weary** (55.9), **Chicago Bob** (49.785), and **Gregg Snouffer** (46.445), who had all honed their skills in New Zealand only one month before at the World Championships.

The competition remained deadlocked down to the final event, with the top four changing places each event. Chet started off deep in the hole after a seventh place trick catch round ("The worst of my life"), but wrapped up first place finishes in fast catch (21.05 seconds) and endurance (45 catches) to scrape out the overall. Mark won trick catch (47 points) and tied Gregg for first in doubling (29 points), and Chicago Bob won Aussie Round (74 points).

Top three finishers per event were:

Trick Catch: Mark 47; Gregg 33; Tony Brazelton & Chicago Bob 31. **Accuracy:** Rev. Jim 43; Tony B 42; Chet 40. **Fast Catch:** Chet 21.05; Gregg 25.19; Jerry Rowe 27.62. **Aussie Rd:** Chi Bob 74; Mark 72, Chet 65. **MTA:** Billy Brazelton 40.49; Chet 36.52; Mark 35.85. **Doubling:** Gregg & Mark 29; Chet 28. **Endurance:** Chet 45; Mark 39; Chi Bob 37.

The Top Ten:

1. Chet Snouffer	57.01
2. Mark Weary	55.90
3. Chicago Bob	49.785
4. Gregg Snouffer	46.445
5. Tony Brazelton	28.72
6. Toga	19.56
7. Rev. Jim	19.55
8. Billy Brazelton	18.995
9. Willie Davis	12.88
10. Aaron Kaminsky	12.00

"When that (fast catch) boomerang is coming back at you at 95 miles per hour, you you have to be really careful about how you catch it. But if you do it right, it doesn't hurt at all."

- 16-year-old World Fast Catch Record holder Adam Ruhf, in his March Sports Illustrated interview

"The winds were up and down all day. We had just prayed for the winds to stop before Adam's round..."

-Steve Cooke, the middle timer for Adam Ruhf's Fast Catch Round. Steve's watch stopped at 14.98 seconds ... the new world record.

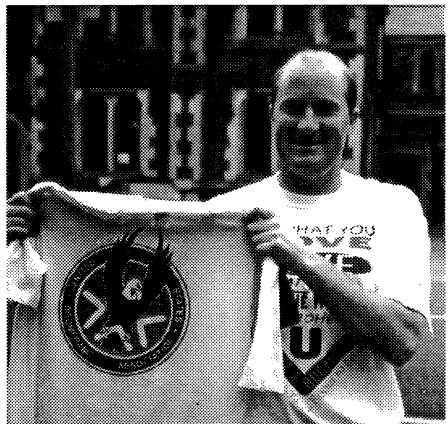
Yankee Boomers In A Land Down Under

A Scrapbook From The '96 World Championships in Christchurch

By Ben Ruhe

After more than a decade of dominance, the Yanks stumbled ever so slightly at the 1996 World Boomerang Team Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand in March... late Summer Down Under. The team trophy went to a group of hot-shot young Germans aptly named The Young Guns. It was the first victory for a non-American team since the early '80's. Team USA 1--- the defending champion team from Tokyo in '94-- and USA 2 followed the Young Guns in that order.

The individual title went to Australia's **Rob Croll**, of Melbourne, with Americans **Steve Kavanaugh**, of Seattle, and **Mark Weary**, of Phoenix, following. It was a second win for Croll, who also triumphed at Barooga, Australia back in 1988.



A new World Champion, Rob Croll from Melbourne, Australia, does some free promo work for the USBA.

The Guns, led by cannon-armed **Fridolin Frost** and **Gunther Muller**, won with skill and sheer determination, aided by conservative "slime-mold" tactics pioneered by U.S. competitor and team coach **Barnaby Ruhe** in the '70's and '80s. For example, throwing tri-bladers in high wind MTA and Team Supercatch to ensure the catch, even though the resulting scores were low, while other teams who sought higher scores with real MTA's often had devastating results with crashing flights or catches out of bounds, their booms carried over the Christchurch landscape by gusty winds aloft.



Americans in New Zealand: Kelly Leggette, U.S. Team 1 members Jon Gorski and Adam Ruhf.

The Guns were made up of four players in their early twenties and one teenager--- a cohesive group that, in Frost's words, "Thought alike and spoke the same language. In the past," he went on to say, "we used ratings to pick our teams and always lost. This time we tried something different."

Although **Chet Snouffer's** USA 1 Team was perhaps understrength, with two top choices unable to make the trip and stalwart **Mike Dickson** sidelined early on by a muscle tear, and, despite 15-year-old **Adam Ruhf** taking up some of the slack in a strong international debut, the Guns won fair and square. The decisive moment may have come on the third and final day of the team competition when Snouffer's group scored well in the combined Endurance and Fast Catch competition. When the Young Guns threw soon after, a nasty, swirling wind (The infamous Christchurch "Willy-willy") set in, but the Guns were able to stay close to the Yank score, managing to keep their small lead in tact, rather than losing a lot of ground. From then on, they sailed.

In the individual competition, Ohioan **Chet Snouffer**, out of retirement and with all of his old quickness intact at the age of 39, won the first two of five events, and looked headed for his fourth world championship. Instead, he sank after an 18 second MTA score and dismal

38 in Aussi Round, leaving the way open for Croll and others in the field of 100 throwers. Croll racked up steady scores in Trick Catch, Aussie Round (64), Endurance (45), and Accuracy (36), and nearly blew the doors off in Fast Catch (20.65 seconds), to win win his second overall World Championship handily. **Steve Kavanaugh** (Inset)

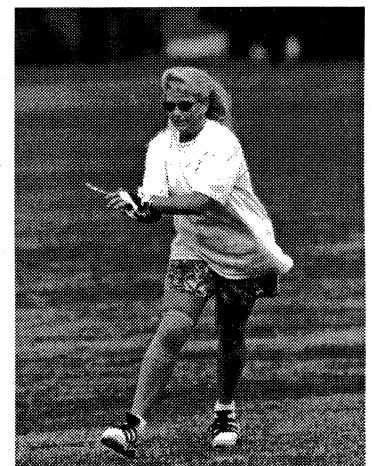
"shredded tough" on day one, actually winning the day and jumping out to the early lead on the first of the two-day event, but Rob managed to whittle away at his lead, with the help of some other throwers who strategically finished between the Aussie and the Yank.



The final day of the week-long competition featured the first-ever World Head To Head Championships, pitting the top 8 finishers in each event from the individual day in direct, head to head competition. The competition was fierce and the crowd was delighted with the drama and the play by play narratives on the P.A. It was an American sweep of the four events contested, with **Steve Kavanaugh** winning Trick Catch and MTA, while **Chet** won Fast Catch and **Mark Weary** defended his title in Aussie Round.

One surprise of the week-long tournament series was the fine throwing by the Swiss and Italian Teams.

Continued on page 20. **Right: Betsy Miale-Gix.**



Toss Across

On May 18 (or thereabouts), boomerang throwers from across the country gathered in their fields for one big weekend of peace, harmony and boomerang throwing. From all accounts, this 6th annual event met with better winds and bigger crowds than ever before. Following are the stories of those who were Tossing Across America...

Southern California Boom Bash

FILLMORE, CA- The Southern Calif. area is starting to....well...boom. Two weeks ago we had 13 throwers and a hand full of observers out throwing here in Fillmore. Since some of the group is fairly new to the sport we kept the games loosely organized.

I was glad to see the super novice games in MHR #66. Our games that day followed the super novice games closely. It has been my experience that this format is fun for those that are involved. It allows the novice thrower to improve by bench marking his/her performance against more experienced throwers in a non intimidating format.

Everyone was in the frame of mind to assist, help and coach. Booms were loaned out by everyone so the first timers had the opportunity to throw many makers products.

When our "event" was over we gathered at Mario's for Mexican food where we handed out some awards. Nothing too serious, just something to recognize the events of the day.

"Aboriginal" Steve Conaway

New Mexico's First Toss Across

ALBUQUERQUE, NM- Hosted by the Sandia Boomerang Club, this was Albuquerque's first TAA, and took place on Sunday the 19th instead of Saturday, due to field availability. The event was held at the Univ. of NM South Athletic Complex.

Throwers included: **Steve Sanders** and son **Keith**, **Linda English** and **Laurence Montgomery** (of L2 Boomerangs), **Duane** and **Jim Hartley**, **Joe Sobczak**, **Mike Raymond**, **Stacey** and

Niolia Pope-Hein, **Joe**, **Jay** and **Jordan Hardesty**, and **Lynne Cuellar** and her two sons; Sixteen throwers in all.

Participants endured winds ranging from 15 - 35 mph (mostly 25 - 30) and temps in the mid 90's (a real blast furnace!), but everyone had an enjoyable time nonetheless.

As a special feature of our Toss Across, a Kid's Tourney was held, Mini Aussie Round format (using a 20 meter circle as the outside range). Four kids competed and everyone came out a winner, as all kids received boom prizes, courtesy of L2 Boomerangs, Gel Boomerangs, and Sonic Booms (Chicago Bob). Many thanks to our generous donors!

Due to the high winds, the planned Comp. demos were cancelled, and excepting the Kid's Tourney, we concentrated on just tossing (and lots of chasing!).

A highlight of the event was some impressive flights of L2 Booms "Scimitar" rang. This beautiful one-meter wing-span boom, with a special red, white and blue paint scheme just for the Toss Across, was an impressive sight in flight, and really showed off the Toss Across theme well. And it handled the wind well, too! (Don't forget, 1st Place trophy for our Sandia Open Boom Tourney, Sept. 7, is a "Scimitar")

Attendance was less than expected, due to the high winds, but two TV stations covered the event and shot footage, with one station running a story.

We're looking forward to a bigger and better Toss Across next year (and better wind conditions!)

Keep on boomin'!

Steve Sanders
Sandia Boomerang Club
Albuquerque, NM

Wandering Nutmeggers Boom Connecticut

WEST HARTFORD, CT- The Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society hosted the 6th Annual Toss Across America in conjunction with the Science Center of Connecticut in West Hartford. We missed the rain and nasty winds once again by delaying our event to Sunday, so we ended up with perfect air - hazy but not too hot, light breeze. The ones we dropped were our fault, not the weather's.

The Connecticut Toss boasted a star-studded field including **Bob Foresi**, **Larry Ruhf**, the two **Mr. Flynns**, **Eric Darnell**, **Alan Clough**, **Joe Boudreau**, **Keith Mullinar**, **Chris Mullinar**, **David Silver**, **Chris Kenney** and **Paul Sprague**.

We used the outdoor PA system for a fast-paced run through of boomerang history, physics and competition. Dr. Ruhf gave a recap of the NZ championships and segued as the veteran throwers took the field into calling a rapid-fire sequence of the basic events. The demonstration went well except when every single thrower missed their foot-catch before a crowd of 120 spectators. Hey - it was still pretty early in the season and the wind... oh, never mind!

After the demonstration, the boomerang sales table opened for business and each instructor took a handfull of people and spread way out on the field. The event had good media coverage including 4 mentions in the Hartford Courant, and a few seconds of TV time on the Channel 3 news.

Everyone involved called the Toss a success, and we're looking forward to the 7th next year. **Keith Mullinar** was overheard saying "we ought to do something special for number 10."

Mi Casa Es Su Casa

CASA GRANDE, AZ- We had some families show up where Mom, Dad and kids all got into throwing. Most were quite successful.

By Ten O'clock in the morning, the temperature had reached 100 degrees! Dwain Morris and Bill Adamson stuck it out until 1pm before deciding to go cool off after sharing some new designs and good times.

Bill won the competition for the day... trying to throw an Aussie Round boom through a football goal post from the farthest distance and still get a catch on return!

ReTREEval In St Paul

MINNEAPOLIS, MN- Stu Jones and Jim Goff managed to hang one up in a tree at Como Park in St Paul, Minnesota as 35 onlookers enjoyed the sunny, 73 degree day with light winds. Stu's ball on a string didn't get it, but Jim did, climbing the tree to get the boom and arouse the local bluejays.

America '96

Clouds, Wind, Rain, And Boomerangs Fill The Seattle Skyline

SEATTLE, WA- Thunderstorms brought a change in the weather to the Seattle area, soaking organizers **Betsy and Wil Gix** as they painted field lines the night before the event. By noon the next day, the wind varied between 10 and 20 miles per hour and the quickly moving clouds brought alternating sun and torrential downpours to the 30 or so throwers who painted the sky with whizzing boomerangs.

The sight was Edmonds Woodway High School and despite the inhospitable conditions, the new throwers did surprisingly well, with the last of the kids filtering off the field at 5:30 PM. It was also an excellent opportunity to fill both the veterans and enthusiastic new recruits with excitement for the upcoming Seattle Tournament in July.

Among the big names assisting in the event were Seattle's own **Casey Larrance, Kelly Croman Andretti** and her beau **Dan, Sponge Alberg, Gordon McDougal** and **James McConville**. Somehow **Peter Ruhf** wound up on the opposite coast of his hometown and showed up to lend a hand in the fun.

Strange Lights Spotted Over Northeast Ohio Skyline!

NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OH- Boomerangs lit up the sky in Northeast Ohio, as **Gary Broadbent** and **John Gorski**, along with Plant*Speak Publications, presented a "Glitter and Glow" evening Toss, complete with Australian "Aboriginal" music and boomerang poetry performed by the Geauga County "Drumming Poets."

The music and poetry established a fantastic atmosphere for the 140-some participants, with great local media coverage providing an excellent opportunity to kick off the new Plant*Speak book "Bout Boomerangs, America's Silent Sport" by **Kelly Boyer Sagert**, who also was in attendance.

The plan is to follow up next year with more sponsors, more boomerangs, more

participants, and more glitter and glow!

Columbus Toss turns Poison

COLUMBUS, OH- The Poison Ivy patch served as the bullseye for booms thrown with a little too much layover, but that didn't dampen the fun, as some 21 participants took part in the first "There And Back Again" Boomerang Club (formerly "Bob's Club") Toss, held in Antrim Park in Columbus, Ohio.

Bob Lackey (the Bob from "Bob's Club") and **Patty Gray** hosted the event which featured Show-and-Tell, Demos, hands-on training and a little too much wind. But, hey, poison ivy doesn't get you until about 24 hours later, so everyone had a great time for the moment!

T-Dub Does The Shake And Shimmy In Oregon

EUGENE, OR- There was a whole lot of shimmying going on in Eugene, as the same winds and rain that soaked the throwers in Seattle sent booms into the Amazon Park trees in Oregon. Toss organizer **T.W. Smith** shimmed his way to the very top of one tree to free a captive boom in front of 20-25 participants who all learned to throw.

Ira Clark, Pat Adams and **Doug Strother** helped out with the festivities and boom liberating!

Dr Fred Throws A Smashing Toss!... (Or Was That "Tosses A Smashing Throw?")

YORK, PA- It was a hot and sunny day in Pennsylvania. As **Dr Fred Malmburg** burned under the 15 SPF sunblock, his sons **Mark** and **Chris** cavorted with the 20 to 25 new throwers who convened for the second York Toss. Their antics were captured on the front page of the Local section of the York Sunday News the following day, along with a nice article on Fred and boomerangs.

Fred used **Chet's** advice on contacting your local Parks and Rec Department and

ended up with a park for his Toss, liability coverage for the event, and even got invited back to demos on the soccer field for the "Community Days" Fair, with a crowd of about 5,000! So, as you can imagine, he highly recommends this approach!

Thanks to all of the Toss Across America hosts and hostesses who sent in their MHR reports. Without your help, this space would have been occupied by far more and far sicker **Aron "Zippy the Chimpboy"** cartoons than the one on page 11. Can't sleep thinking about that possibility? Good... keep sending in reports and stories! And don't let it bother you that there's no Toss Across until next year. Heck, we'll write about anything in here... even **Rev Jim** and **Chi-Town's** excellent bicycling adventures! Just pack along a boom and let us know what happened. Include photos as well. They've got those new point and shoot cameras now that go anywhere. Even **Zippy** can operate them... but I don't think you'd want to see the photos he'd shoot!

2nd Annual West Seattle Open

July 28, 1996

Time: Registration 8 AM
Tournament starts at 9 AM

Place: Denny Middle School Fields
West Seattle, WA

Fee: \$10 for Sport Class, Free for inexperienced Open Class.

Tournament Director: Betsy Miale
Gix, 206-485-1672

Directions To Tourney:

From I-5 Northbound, Take Exit 163 (West Seattle Frwy).

From Southbound I-5, Take West Seattle Frwy exit.

From West Seattle Freeway, take exit at Delridge Way. Stay in Left Lane on the off ramp.

Follow Delridge Way approx 4 miles until you reach SW Trenton, then go RIGHT. The field will be on your right as you approach the next intersection (29th St).

Attention Competitors!

If you are planning to attend a tournament this season, you should notify the Tournament director in advance of your plans to participate. Concerns such as trophies, insurance fees, and USBA required minimums on numbers of participants must be considered. Your notification of probable attendance, even just a few days before the event, may save valuable time and effort for your director, as well, of course, as YOU, who can then be notified of any last minute changes or cancellations, should they occur. Tournament Directors' phone numbers are listed below.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

June 28: VA Beach, VA: Youth Boomerang Team Competition- Contact John Koehler at 804-437-1085.

June 29, 30: Va Beach, VA: The U.S. Open- USBA Rated event, as well as Hunting Stick demos, Head to head, team events, annual membership meeting, beach booming... **HEY, sounds like a party!** Contact John Koehler at 804-437-1085.

July 13: Meriden, NH Kimball Union- USBA Rated event. Contact John Flynn at 802-296-7244

July 13 (14- rain date) : Salem, OR : 9th Western OR Boomerang Roundup- USBA rated. Call Dean Kelly at (503) 581-8050.

July 13: Lansing, MI: The Steve Collins Classic- USBA Rated event. Contact Steve Collins at 517-349-5234.

July 14: Jackson, MI: Norm's Big Michigan Boom Blast: USBA Rated. Contact Norm Kern at 810-645-9308.

July 20: Champaign, IL: Second annual Champaign Boom Tourney- USBA rated event. Contact Tony Brazelton at (217) 352-6184

July 28 : Seattle, WA : 2nd West Seattle Open II- USBA rated event at Denny Middle School. Betsy Miale-Gix at 206-485-1672.

Aug 4: Cuyahoga Falls, OH: CVNRA Tourney- USBA rated event. Contact Dave Boehm at 216-289-6324

Aug 10 : Delaware, OH: Free Thrower's Fling- USBA Rated event. Contact Chet Snouffer at 614-363-8332

Aug 11: Delaware, OH: 2nd Head To Head Shootout- \$20 Fee, Prize money. Contact Gregg Snouffer at 614-363-4414.

Aug 17: Minneapolis, MN: Moomba Boomba- USBA rated event. Call Stuart at 612-228-1393

Sept 7: Albuquerque, NM: Sandia Open- USBA Rated. Contact Steve Sanders at 505-768-0537 (Voice mail) 505-243-0027 (W).

Sept 15: Portland, OR: Summer's Final Fling- USBA rated event. Call Doug DuFresne at 503-292-4316

Oct 5: Phoenix, AZ: 4th Phoenix Open- USBA rated event. Call Mark Weary at 602-759-3973.

Oct 6: Phoenix, AZ: Phoenix Head To Head Blow Out! Call Mark Weary at 602-759-3973.

Our most sincere apologies to Chris Schramm for the misprint on the date of the U.S. Open in last issue's Competition Calendar! We hope you can get credit for those airplane tickets some other time!

Sandia Boom Club Announces First Tournament In NM

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 14th to attend New Mexico's first official USBA tournament, the Sandia Open, in Albuquerque. The tourney is tentatively set for Johnson Field at the Univ. of NM campus, a great large open field that is very centrally located, with restaurants, coffee shops, etc. nearby.

Hosted by New Mexico's first ever (to our knowledge) boom group, the Sandia Boomerang Club, this tournament is slated during some of the finest boom throwing weather you could ever imagine, with warm days, crisp

nights, glorious sunshine, gentle breezes, beautiful fall weather, great fresh-roasted hot green chile (get your endorphin rush!), hot air balloons, beautiful scenery, and much more...

We'll also be hosting a "Boomerang Glow" on Friday evening, the 13th, for tossing cyalume booms. (Since hot air balloons are real big in NM, everyone's accustomed to "balloon glows", so we figure a "boomerang glow" is bound to attract some attention.) So come early and join us!

First Place prize in this tourney is a "Scimitar" 'rang by Laurence Mont-

gomery and Linda English of L2 Booms; one of the nicest flying large format booms you've ever seen. It's shaped like its namesake, the Arabic sword, one meter wingspan, tosses easily and flies like a dream (catching not recommended!)

For details and particulars, contact:

**Steve Sanders
Sandia Boomerang Club
1411 Rio Grande, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104**

Phone: 505-768-0537 (voice mail)
505-243-0027 (work: your best shot)

Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup Details

Date: July 13, 1996
Time: Registration: 8:30am
 Events begin at 9:30am
 Scheduled to end by 7:00pm
Site: McKay High School Athletic
 Field, Salem, OR (same site
 as last year)
Director: Dean Kelly; 1938
 Fieldcrest Ct South; Salem,
 OR 97306; t(503) 581-8050
Head Judge: Diane DuFresne
Head Referee: Byron Seward
Event Order: Accuacy, MTA100,
 Trick Catch, Doubling,
 Endurance, Fast Catch,
 Aussie Round
Registration Fee: \$5 for USBA
 Members. Free for Novice
 and spectators.

Gregg Snouffer and Rick Tilford's ROUNDRIP BOOMERANGS

- * **The BEST Wholesale Prices On Earth!**
- * **Great Beginner to Intermediate Models**

Send for price list . Specify **Beginner** or **Competition** models.

Dealers request wholesale flier

Roundtrip Boomerangs, 340 Troy Rd., Delaware OH 43015
 Phone or fax (614) 363-4414.
 email 75574.2346@Compuserve.com



THE BOOMERANG MAN

"Giving fast, personal service since 1975!"
RICH HARRISON'S ANNUAL CATALOG

1996 CATALOG FREE!!!

1806 North 3rd St., RM - Monroe, LA 71201; (318) 325-8157
 fax: 318-329-1095, Internet: Bmanrich@iomerus.net

For a large variety of Australian
 products, call (919)-878-8267 or
 write to the following address:

The Australian Catalogue Co.
 7412 Wingfoot Dr.
 Raleigh, NC 27615



For the very best quality Finnish Birch
 Plywood with a 5% USBA discount:
 mention this ad

Anderson Int'l Trading
 1171 N Tustin Ave.
 Anaheim, CA 92807
 (800)-454-6270
 (714)-676-8183

Head To Head Shootout Is ON! Register NOW!

DELAWARE, OH- The second annual
 Delaware Head to Head tournament is
 scheduled to be held Sunday, August 11
 at Mingo Park in Delaware, Ohio.

Competitors are being solicited to join
 in the fun and excitement of real head to
 head action! Prizes and money for the
 winners of each of four events, as well as
 the overall will be awarded.

Seedings are done Saturday night,
 based upon the event standings in the
 USBA tournament held Saturday, but
 head to head competitors are NOT re-
 quired to participate in Saturday's USBA
 tournament. (These competitors will sim-
 ply split the lowest seeds in Sunday's
 events.

Seeding charts will be available at din-
 ner Saturday night. Pool betting will also
 be available for all spectators and partici-
 pants.

Pre-registration is **REQUIRED!** There
may be a cut-off based upon response, so
 please enter **EARLY** to assure your place
 in this historic event!

Fill in the coupon or a copy and send
 along with your check for \$20 made pay-
 able to:

Roundtrip Boomerangs
 340 Troy Rd
 Delaware, OH 43015

Call 614-363-4414 for more details

**Roundtrip Boomerangs
 Presents:**

The Delaware Shoot Out Head To Head Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

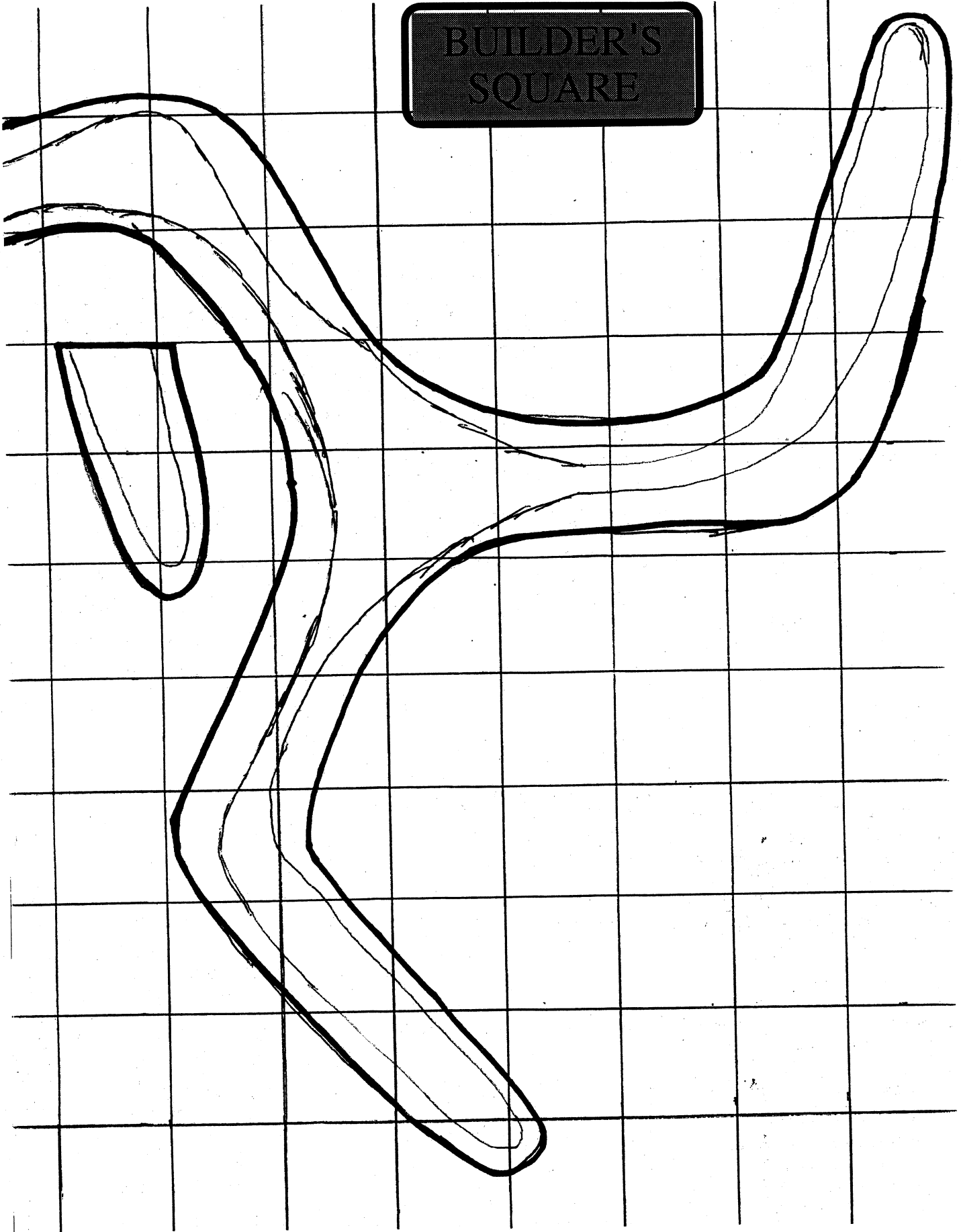
Phone: _____

Include \$20 registration fee.

(Money is fully refundable up to July 31
 and 50% refundable until the evening
 before the event. No refunds on the day
 of the event.)

Send to:
 Roundtrip Boomerangs
 340 Troy Rd
 Delaware, OH 43015

BUILDER'S
SQUARE



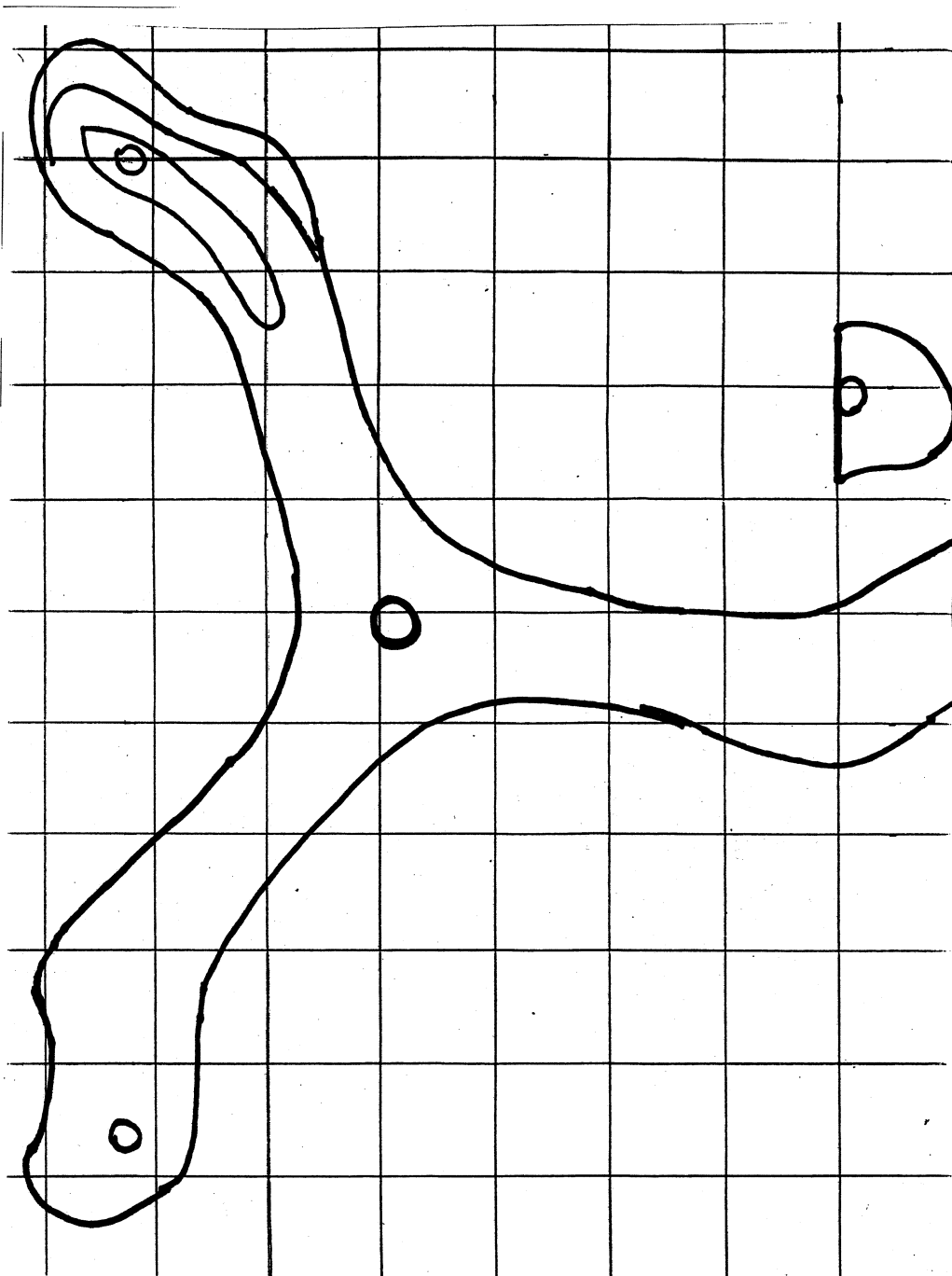
Attention: All of the plans turned in to MHR are for members' personal reproduction only. The designers retain manufacturing rights for any and all commercial purposes. Please respect this right.

Page 18: A 90% reproduction of Axel Heckner's previously top secret "Dreiben" Three-bladed Maximum Time Aloft boomerang is made of 2mm paper phenolic for wind. The elbows near the center have been carved back to lighten up the middle of the boomerang, transferring weight and centrifical force to the wingtips.

In the wind, Axel attaches small flaps to the mid-wing for stability. Tuning is accomplished by bending the wingtips up. That is all. Just the wingtips, only up (with perhaps some negative angle of attack on the tips.)

Throw high, hard and vertical, 45 degrees into the wind, for a steadily climbing flight to the stars. Then get on your horse and ride!

Right: A 65% reproduction of The "Terminator" Fast Catch rang by Ollie Thienhaus' (as in Ollie, "The Young," from the world champion German Boomerang Team "Young Guns"). Ollie uses 4mm polypropylene. It was Ollie's first 16 second fast catch and remains a favorite today. He hollows the bottom of the wing tip, starting shallow and ending with the deepest hollowed point right near the hole, where the boom is only 1mm thick. Meanwhile on the top of the wing, he runs that trailing edge all the way around the



end of the wing. The rest is a regular fast catch airfoil. Twist some positive angle in the wing tip and have fun breaking the sound barrier!

Our apologies for the lack of boom plans in this issue. We intend to increase the number and variety of plans to interest both beginners and experts. Time and space in this issue did not allow the printing of further plans.

A notice to all competitors and craftsmen:

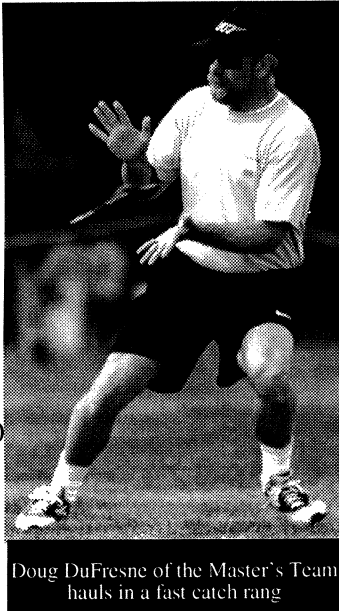
It takes almost no time at all to trace out your favorite boomerang and send it in, along with notes on construction materials, airfoils and throwing tips. Our readers find these plans to be interesting and have repeatedly asked for more plans. Please help us by sending in your outlines, both beginner and advanced models!

Cont'd from page 13

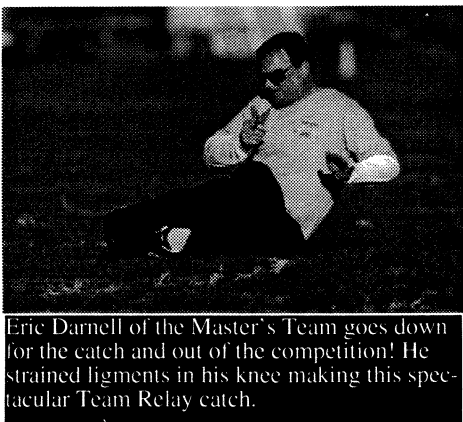
As expected, both French teams were strong, although rather loudly -- and amusingly -- emotional in their dealings with each other. **Yannick Charles**, three-time world record setter in 1995, lived up to his billing as an exciting young talent who's not only nice, but modest, as well. The Japanese are progressing quickly. The impressive women's team was led by Seattle lawyer **Betsy Lew Miale-Gix** and featured the grace and beauty of Dallas' **Carole Scott** and France's **Agnes...** a trick-catch diva.

Then there was the Masters Team of over-40 veterans known as the Pura-kau--Maori for "old men who play with sticks." Sporting the popular "Pioneers" T-shirt, the team featured Aussie **Bob Burwell**, **Yoshi Sakamitsu**, of Japan, the **Ruhf** twins, **Larry and Peter**, **Doug DuFresne** and **Eric Darnell**, all from the U.S. They surprised many, including themselves, by topping both the Australian and Canadian national teams, among others.

There was one British competitor--

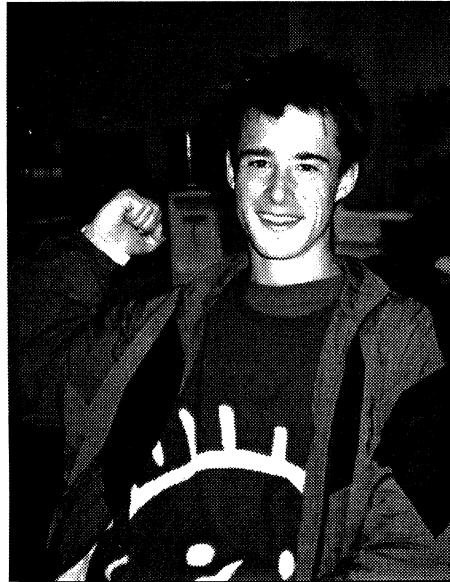


Doug DuFresne of the Master's Team hauls in a fast catch rang



Eric Darnell of the Master's Team goes down for the catch and out of the competition! He strained ligments in his knee making this spectacular Team Relay catch.

Donald MacDonald of Golspie, Scotland-- who had been wondering around Down Under after a stint of several years carving 'rangs for Bakwoods and Davro. MacDonald wowed listeners by revealing



The arm of a new generation... Italy's **Mano Schutz** flexes more than just muscle on the boom field. This guy could challenge the young Ruhf for the fast catch throne.

that not one, but two of his closest friends were also named **Donald MacDonald**.

When questions were raised as to how Swedish surgeon **Ola Wahlburg** had managed to qualify for the Canadian national team, the reasonable answer was "He knew the first line of the Canadian National Anthem."

Highlights of the tournament, which was exceptionally well run by **Earl** and **Sue Tutty** and their ever-polite, dedicated Kiwi crew, included a night throw by Aussie **Bruce Carter**, whose sparkler-lit booms glowed like blow torches. The first World Head-to-head tournament, which featured the top eight competitors from each of the individual events in a head-to-head, single elimination format, was organized and amusingly announced by **Gregg Snouffer** on the final Sunday in front of the largest crowd of spectators during the week.

Of technical interest was the development of three-bladed MTA by Germany's **Axel Heckner**, to obtain greater stability in the the hover and more sure catches. Also, many of the competitors were using four-bladed trick catch rangs, and the experimental resin fiber Aussie Round rangs were as thin as one millimeter! Old-style wooden boomerangs were hard to find.

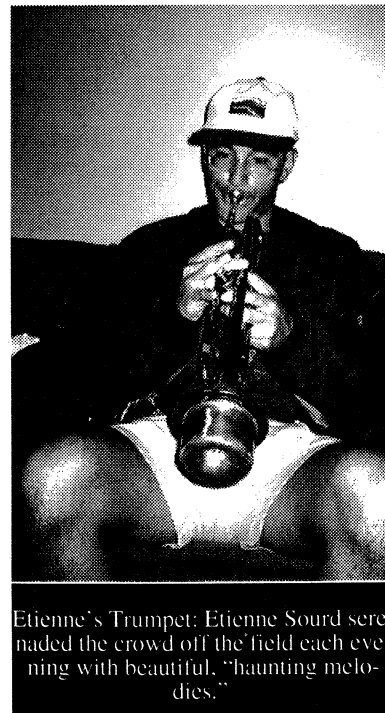
A safe and sane tournament resulted from rigidly limited practice throwing, and, since the onus of anyone being accidentally struck by a boomerang was placed squarely on the thrower, competitors went out of their way to remain safe and stay in the game.



Fleet Feet: Jerome Royo of the French team shows off the fastest legs on the boom field.

"Bloody Geneva" may be in the past forever. One wondering Kiwi dog who ventured into the twenty meter circle to examine the competitor's spinning projectile even received a tongue-lashing... in French, no less!

On the debit side, the rules were yet more complex, producing some exasperated head-shaking. Its clear that the rules are fair to the throwers these days, but are they fair to the spectators who come to watch and learn and be entertained? After all, that is what is promised in the advance publicity.



Etienne's Trumpet: Etienne Sourd serenaded the crowd off the field each evening with beautiful, "haunting melodies."

Most charming moments of the week? **Leo Lyons** of Christchurch demonstrating his elaborately crafted boomerang-launching machine (it actually worked); **Bruce Carter's** 8-year-old son **Craig** easily gunning his boomerang way past the fifty-meter line in Aussie Round; the contingent of Japanese girls appearing at the closing costume ball in elegant kimonos like so many butterflies; **Narumi Nobuyuki** of Japan, an obvious Karaoke star, joining "**Pico**" **Picgirard** of France on gui-

Continued on Page 23

The USBA Store

P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Questions?

phone or fax (614)-363-4414
email: 75574.2346@compuserve.com

Place orders by sending check, money,
or postal order to the address above
All prices are in **US\$** and include
Shipping and Handling in the USA
and Canada. Overseas orders **must** in-
clude \$2 extra for surface or \$4 extra
for Airmail per item. Back issue
newsletters are \$1 additional for sur-
face mail and \$2 extra for Airmail.

USBA Store Stock - Prices Include shipping:

BOOKS and Stuff:

- \$2.50** !1996 USBA Competition Rulebooks now available!
\$6.00 "Boomerang": a book by Ben Ruhe
\$8.00 **"The Big Book About Boomerangs": a book by H. L. Mayhew (First edition and signed by the author) SOLD OUT! NO LONGER AVAILABLE!**
\$4.00 "The Boomerang": an early pamphlet by B. Ruhe/L. Hawes
\$2.50 'Low-Reynold-Number Airfoils article (*Scientific paper on airfoils*)
\$2.00 Back Issues of MHR:
1985... #21, 23 (Winter, Summer) 1992...#52 (Fall)
1986...#26, 27, 28 (Sp, Sm, Fall) 1993...#53 (Winter)
1987...#29, 31, 32 (W, Sm, Fall) 1994...#57, 58, 59, 60 (W, Sp, Sm, F)
1988...#33(Winter) 1995...# 61, 62, 63, 64
1996... #65, 66 (W, Sp_
- \$25.00** Get a set of ALL of these back issues! (A great deal for beginners!)

CLOTHES:

- \$12 members, \$15 non-members: NEW USBA Eagle T shirts in 3 color screen. 100% white cotton T's. Sizes L, XL and XXL**
\$12.00 Now **\$10.00** Final 4 shirts! (2 L, 2 M) : Discontinued USBA T-shirts. Heavy weight slate gray with 3 color boom in flight.

Gift Certificates for membership or merchandise Now Available In any denomination!

USBA-Member Boomerang Manufactures

- Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs** (Steve Conaway) 121 Oakdale Ln., Fillmore CA 93015 ph (805) 524-2913: FREE info, 14 models for comp and fun, omegas, tri-bladers, hooks...
- Air Traffic Kites and Games** (Matt Hedberg & Lamont Sandifer) 518 Rosedale Cen.; Roseville, MN 55113; Ph (612) 631-3150: Retailers of Colorado, Flight Stix, Gel, Outback Booms..., In the Mail of America, ph (612) 858-9599
- Boomerangs By Ted Bailey:** P.O. Box 6076, Ann Arbor MI 48106 Ph (313) 971-2970: Competition B's, MTA's, miniature B's, books, newsletters, collector of Aboriginal artifacts, publisher of **Boomerang News**.
- The Boomerang Man:** (Rich Harrison) 1806 N 3rd St., Monroe, LA 71201 Ph (318) 325-8157: FREE "one stop, something for everyone" catalog, Fax/mail orders. VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVERY accepted. Been doing this 20+ years, would you believe!
- Broadbent Boomerangs:** (Gary Broadbent) 3204 38th St NW, Canton, OH 44718 Ph (216) 492-RANG (7264): FREE pricelist, beginner to comp booms, demos, lesson plans and supplies.
- BVD Rangs** (David Hendricks) 1086 E Gordon St., Allentown PA 18103, A wide variety of 'rangs. FREE Price sheet.
- Circle Stix:** (Stuart Jones) 195 E 5th St., #605, St Paul MN 55101: Special wooden rangs of all types. Call or fax 612-228-1393 for info, demo's and workshops
- Cleveland Boomerang School** (Dave Boehm) P.O. Box 17385, Euclid OH 44117 ph (216)442-6024: variety of Bs, workshops.
- Cryderman, John:** 136 Thames St., Chatham Ontario, CANADA N7L 2Y8 Ph (519) 354-3984: FREE Catalog, Strip laminates of beautiful hardwoods. Also, will purchase B's, Tribal Spears, Clubs, Shields, and related items.
- Gel Boomerangs** (Michael Girvin) 2124 Kittredge St., #61, Berkeley CA 94704 ph (510) 658-2469: FREE catalog, full spectrum of comp and sport Bs, T Shirts, etc...
- Gemz** (Tony Gembeck) P.O. Box 5241, Portland OR 97208 ph (503) 230-8955: variety of wood Bs and comp clothing.
- Greyford Company Boomerangs** (Thomas Risher) Box 4734, Whittier CA 90607: FREE NEW Catalog! Manufacturer and wholesale purchaser and distributor of wide variety of Bs. Prompt and professional!
- Leading Edge Boomerangs:** (Chet Snouffer), 51 Troy Rd., Delaware OH 43015 Ph or Fax (614) 363-8332: FREE Price list, Comp. and beginner B's. Fast Catch, doublers, ...
- Left Turn Boomerangs:** (Norm Kern) 1640 Haynes, Birmingham MI 48009 Ph (313) 645-9308: 8 models from Beginner to comp Bs.
- Fred Malmberg** 1545 E Market St., York PA 17403 ph(717) 848-4601: seasoned wood worker, rare hardwoods, lap joints,...
- Outback Boomerangs:** (Doug DuFresne) P.O. Box 25577, Portland OR 97225: Beginner to comp Bs, Fast catch, strip Laminates, Dealer inquiries welcome
- Rangwrights:** (John Derden) 451 Colegrove Dr., Swainsboro, GA 30401. Ph (912) 237-7831 (D) or 237-4014 (N): multi-ply birch, lap joints, poly and PVC booms for brginners and competitors.
- Rangsmith** (TW Smith) P.O. Box 11332, Eugene OR 97440 Ph (503) 465-9461: FREE Catalog! full spectrum, + distance, FC and MTAs and art
- Roundtrip Boomerangs:** (Gregg Snouffer / Rick Tilford) 340 Troy Rd., Delaware OH 43015 Ph or Fax (614) 363-4414: Wholesale abd retail! FREE price list, indoor/backyard booms and beginner to comp. booms, MTAs, T shirts, etc... online catalog: 75574.2346@compuserve.com
- Ruhf Boomerangs** (Peter Ruhf) 6550 Meeting House Rd., New Hope PA 18938 ph (215) 863-3479: comp and beginner Bs, and Lefties
- Dan Russell:** Box 84895, San Diego CA 92138 Ph (619) 296-4243 (4-8PM): wood booms and cylume stix. Write for prices.
- San Francisco Boomerang School** (Bill Tumath) 127 Knollview Way, S.F. CA 94131 ph (415) 550-6746: FREE price listing, large selection of Herb Smith's
- Stix By Steve** (Stece Collins) 4820 Hillcrest, Okemos MI 48864 Ph (517) 349-5234: FREE price list, beginner to comp. (FC, TC, AR, etc), also exotic shapes and art.
- Stone Mountain Boomerangs** (Dan Jones) 222 N Main, Statesboro GA 30458 ph (912) 489-3640: Multi-ply Birch and natural elbows
- Turning Point Boomerangs:** (Eric Darnell): 46 Douglas Ln., Norwich VT 05055: FREE catalog, wide variety: beginner to comp. Tri-Flies!
- Windsports :** (Jim Mayfield) 409 North Colorado, Gunnison, CO 81230 Ph (303) 641-3539: FREE catalog, all kinds of performance Bs

Attention Manufacturers: Any USBA member who manufactures or distributes boomerangs or related items can be listed... even if you're new or small time! For your FREE listing, send a description to: **Manufacturer's Listings, c/o USBA, PO Box 182, Delaware OH 43015** or Phone or Fax to (614) 363-4414.

Second Annual Illinois Classic

CHAMPAIGN, IL- The Second Illinois Classic will be held at Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois on July 20, starting at 8 AM.

This year's order of events will be: Trick Catch, Fast Catch, Accuracy, Australian Round, MTA, Doubling and Endurance.

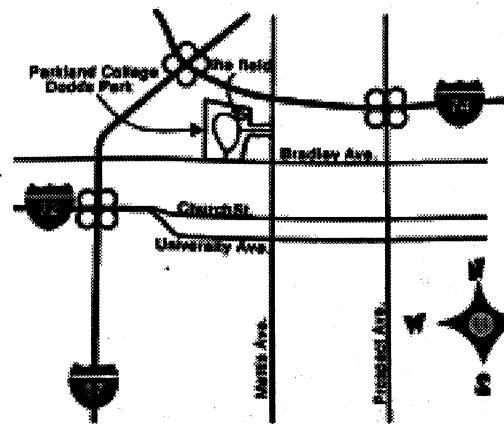
Sunday will be a team day, or fun day if people are still around.

There are a number of hotel chains in town and good camping at nearby

Kickapoo State Park.

This is a tournament you do not want to miss. Just ask any of last year's alumni about the awesome trophies, perfect winds and World Cup-grade field... well, the trophies are cool!

Phone **Tony Brazelton** at (217) 352-6184. Or email him at brazelto@uxl.cso.uiuc.edu for further details.



BOOMERANG CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S.A.

- AZ, Phoenix :** Desert Southwest Boom Chuckers and UFO spotters- Mark Weary & Don Monroe; 4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr.; Phoenix, AZ 85044. Phone or telepath 602-759-3973.
- CA, Berkeley :** Bay Area Boomerang Club - Michael Girvin; 2124 Kittredge St. #61; Berkeley CA 94704. Ph (510)658-2469
- CT, Madison :** The Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society - Paul D. Sprague; 782 Boston Post Rd.; Madison CT 06443. Ph (203) 245-8211
- CT, Shelton :** Team Gel East - Mole Man; 21 Huntington Ave.; Shelton CT 06484. Ph (203) 736-6304
- FL, Merritt Island :** Flite Stix Boom Slingers - Rich Surace; 855 E Crisafulli Rd.; Merritt Island FL. Ph (407) 452-3963
- FL, Orlando :** - Carl Morris; 2602 Breezwind Dr.; Orlando, FL 32839. Ph (407)859-1319
- GA, Swainsboro :** South Georgia Boomerang Club - John Derden; 131 College Cir.; Swainsboro, GA 30401. Ph(912) 237-7831
- IL, Urbana :** ILLINI Boomerang Club - Tony Brazelton; 2405 Lawndale Dr; Champaign IL 61821. Ph 217-352-6184
- IL, Waterloo :** Competition Update Newsletter: Bob Leifeld; P.O. Box 242; Waterloo, IL 62298. Ph (618) 282-6854: Monthly update of competition results and USBA ratings statistics. Available throughout competition season for \$10.
- MA, Holliston :** Bay State Boomerang Society - Bob Quinn; 18 Northway St.; Holliston MA 01746. Ph (508) 429-6871
- MI, Ann Arbor :** Boomerang News: Ted Bailey; PO Box 6076; Ann Arbor MI. Ph (313) 971-2970: Newsletter of national and world events. Visit www page at: http://ic.net/~tbailey/Boomerang_News.html or email: tbailey@ic.net
- MI, Birmingham :** Boomerangs Etc. - Norm Kern; 1640 Haynes; Birmingham MI 48009. Ph (313) 645-9308
- MI, Lansing :** Mid Michigan Boomslang club- Steve Collins; 4820 Hillcrest; Okemos MI 48864. Ph (517) 349-5234
- MN, Mnpls/St Paul :** B.O.O.M. (Boomerang Organization Of Minnesota)- Stuart Jones; 195 E. 5th St. Apt. 605; St Paul, MN 55101. Phone 612-228-1393.
- MO, Florissant :** St Louis Boomerang Club - Tom Fitzgerald; 1159 Holly River Dr.; Florissant MO 63031. Ph (314) 839-1684
- NM, Albuquerque:** Sandia Boomerang Club - Steve Sanders; 1411 Rio Grande NW; Albuquerque, NM 87104. Phone:(505) 768-0537. Email: ccc27@nmia.com
- OH, Canton :** Gary Broadbent's Boom Shop - Gary Broadbent; 3204 38th St. NW; Canton, OH 44718. Ph 216-492-7264
- OH, Columbus :** There And Back Again Boomerang Club - Bob Lackey; 31 E Dodridge; Columbus, Oh 43202
- OH, Delaware :** Free Throwers Boomerang Association - Chet Snouffer; 51 Troy Rd.; Delaware OH 43015. Ph (614) 363-8332
- OH, Delaware :** U.S. Head to Head Boomerang Tournament Organization - Gregg Snouffer; 340 Troy Rd.; Delaware OH 43015. Ph (614) 363-4414
- OH, Euclid :** Cleveland Boomerang School - Dave Boehm; PO Box 17385; Euclid OH 44117. Ph (216) 289-6324
- TX, Houston :** Boomerang Association of Texas - Greg Corum; 3233 Magnum Rd., Apt 184; Houston TX 77092. Ph 713-681-0837
- UT, Sandy :** Wasatch Boomerang Club - Jim Miller; 2095 E. 10095 South.; Sandy UT 84093. Ph (801) 942-6943

INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

- BULGARIA:** Bulgarian Boomerang Club- Georgi Dimanchev; Hipodruma 139A-A-23; 1612 Sofia; Bulgaria
- CANADA:** Club De Boomerang de Montreal- Stephane Marguerite; 4545 Pierre-de-Coubertin; C.P. 1000. Succ. M; HIV 3R2 Canada
- FRANCE:** Lille Boomerang Club- Max Froumentin; 144, rue Anatole France; 59790 Ronchin; France. Telephone : 20 52 24 00
- FINLAND:** Finnish Boomerang Society- Harri Pietlä; Röntämäenkatu 4 as. 18; 20300 Turku; Finland. Phone: +358-(9)21-2310578; email: hpietla@oj287.astro.utu.fi

CLUBS! If you're starting a club, or hosting a fling, send news of your activities to the USBA for inclusion in MHR!



Aussie Boom Boys Mark and Clovis, from the Aussie kid's team, have their sights set on St. Louis in '98!

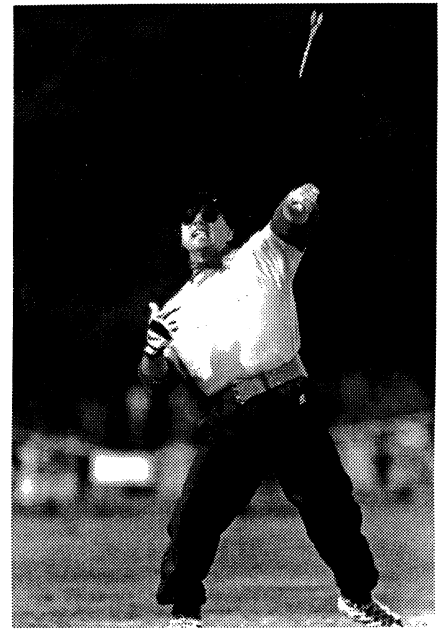
Cont'd from page 20

tar in singing "Hound Dog," complete with elaborate gestures (Elvis would have loved it); **Gary Broadbent's** hugely untidy room, with its mound of boomerangs garnered during a pre-tournament sweep of second-hand shops in Melbourne, was a museum exhibit all its own; the ultra youthful-looking, ever smiling **Sawato Ito** of Japan, all five feet of her, competing in Fast Catch wearing knee pads for diving catches and charming everyone with her enthusiastic performance;

Etienne Sourd, a symphony orchestra professional in Canada, breaking out his trumpet to serenade the teams off of the field nightly. (His haunting melodies never failed to please.)

It was, by consensus, one of the best international events ever held. Onward and Upward!

Parting Shot (Right): **Peter Ruhf**, of the Master's Team, leaves retirement to the younger bucks. Here he helps the Masters clean house in Accuracy.



The United States Boomerang Association

USBA INFORMATION

The USBA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote the art, craft, sport and poetry of boomerangs through events, competitions, and information distributed through the quarterly newsletter, *Many Happy Returns*. Your input is welcome and you can contact the USBA by writing to:

U.S. Boomerang Association
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone or Fax: (614) 363-4414

E-mail:

75574.2346@compuserve.com

Internet:

<http://ux1.cso.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/USBAinfo.html>

Comments on newsletter content, and submissions for inclusion, including articles, photos, cartoons and designs are accepted. Editorial content is also encouraged, but the editor reserves the right to edit and inclusion is not guaranteed.

Missing Issues of MHR should be

USBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Betsy Miale-Gix (206) 485-1672

Vice-President

Chet Snouffer (614) 363-8332

Treasurer

Gregg Snouffer: (614)-363-4414

Secretary

Tony Brazelton: (217)-352-6184

Directors

Gary Broadbent: (216)-492-7264

Mike Dickson (216) 499-9848

John Flynn: (802)-296-2158

John Köehler: (804)-437-1085

Mark Weary (602)759-3973

USBA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in US\$. Make checks payable to: USBA.

Domestic and Canadian annual membership dues are \$15 per year. A domestic lifetime membership is \$225. Annual overseas dues are \$20. A lifetime overseas membership is \$350.

Check your newsletter label for expiration issue. Membership status questions should be directed to **Gregg Snouffer**

Many Happy Returns

Circulation: 400 Worldwide.

Published by the:

U. S. Boomerang Association
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Mechanical Measurements:

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

Advertising Rates:

Full Page	\$100
2 Columns	\$ 75
1/2 Page	\$ 60
1 Column	\$ 50
Per Column inch	\$ 5

10% discount for 4 consecutive issues. All advertisements must be pre-paid in USD by check or M. O. to USBA. Camera-ready copy preferred. The editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason. The deadline for all advertisements is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively. All advertisements should be mailed to USBA.

Membership Application

Copy this page and carry extra copies of this sheet in your boomerang bag to hand out.

Check: New Renewal

name

address

address

city/state/zip or country

phone number (optional)

New Member or Renewal?

USBA member sponsor's name

New members and renewals: Send the completed coupon (or copy) and \$15 (\$20 overseas) check or M. O. to:

USBA membership
P. O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015



**UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015
U.S.A.**

**Renew Now
if your number is 67!**