

Many Happy Returns

Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

Issue 73 Summer 1998

TriFly Plans!

Two of Eric's Most Popular Competition Models

pages 11 and 18



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How to Jumpstart Your Local Boomerang Movement

page 5

World Championships Wrap-Up

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Reviews

Six boomerangs from three makers

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Frederique Richard of the International Women's Exhibition Team at the World Championships in Edwardsville, Illinois.

Many Happy Returns



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Many Happy Returns thrives on contributions from its subscribers. Please share your experiences with your fellow boomerang enthusiasts.

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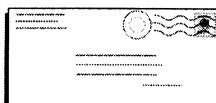
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Letters

Boomerangs come with a kind of a weird built-in spirituality at no extra cost. You have to tune into the philosophy on a very basic level in order to get any juice out of the boom experience.

The principles are very simple. 1. What goes around, comes around. 2. Respect your environment, particularly wind currents and wombat holes. 3. This is pretty silly, yes? Boomerangs are profoundly useless as hunting weapons, they're nearly impossible to make money on, and they're questionable as exercise unless you're a really terrible thrower. So why are we all into boomerangs? Because they're fun.

Last week I saw a little league coach humiliate his shortstop for dropping a pop fly. The poor kid was up to bat first in the bottom half of that inning and didn't even swing at three straight strikes. This to me is everything that's wrong with sports in America, and I don't ever want it to seep into boomeranging.

At the Nationals in Amherst I saw one of our best competitors come storming and swearing out of the circle at a spotter who had called a drop. There were allegations of scoresheet sabotage by opposing teams and of political maneuvering within our own USBA. I expect you'd get that in any national group, but let's not lose touch with the spirit of the boom. Ain't no instant replay, and we don't need one either. Let's make sure the judges and throwers all know who will make the official call and agree in advance to deal with the ruling even if it's wrong.

We need clear official channels if your biggest rival is scoring you, work it out before you throw, not after it becomes a Very Big Deal. For God's sake, let's not fight like 9-year-olds in front of spectators who stop by to learn what boomerangs are all about.

Paul D. Sprague
Connecticut

Thank you very much for the information on boomerangs. It was extremely useful. We used your internet listings, and made several boomerangs. We made indoor boomerangs out of file folders and they flew like a charm. We also used cardboard and index cards.

The local Wal-mart store gave us some paint

Quarterly Quote

"RAAAD READYYYYYYYYY!!!!!!"

- battle cry of
USA Team THE RAD before
every event of the Foster's
1998 World Boomerang
Championships in
Edwardsville, Illinois.

stirrer sticks and we made those as well. Most flew and turned but only one truly boomeranged back to us. We were all very excited on our success. Lack of funds for this year, prevent us from inviting you this year, but I'm looking into grant funds for a possibility of next year. Thank you, once again for the information and helping make our boomerang unit a fun success.

Denise Pape
Harlem High School
Machesney Park, Illinois

I am glad to hear that the USBA is opening up to suggestions.

I will cut to the chase and tell you what I think should change in the boomerang competitions, or more specifically what I think boomerang competitions should include. I am not a member, and this letter will include some issues that have discouraged me from joining.

Boomerang competitions should loosely reflect the history and roots of the boomerang itself. Without this quality, it is just another obscure sport like Frisbees or cow chip throwing. But boomerangs are not like these things...this sport has a rich legacy reaching back into pre-historic times.

I think competitions should include the following. Distance throwing, MTA, Aussie Round, Fast Catch, Accuracy, and non-returning boomerangs.

I am amazed that non-returning boomerangs are not included in competitions. They are the original boomerangs and quite frankly one of my favorite aspects of the sport. I replicated a couple of throwsticks from the Australian Museum and set up a target in my yard. Once I began to learn how to throw them, I was surprised at how much fun I was having. This part of the sport could really catch on.

I want to touch on the very controversial subject of restriction on boomerangs that can be used in competition. There is not doubt in my mind that restrictions are needed in this sport, as they are in almost every other sport. Why would we restrict the boomerang construction? To preserve the intrinsic historic and aesthetic values of the sport. Let me give hypothetical example. Lets assume that non-returning boomerangs were added to competitions. One of the accepted events is throwing 40 meters to a target...well, you could probably construct a g10 boom about 8 inches long and just hit it every time, but it would negate the whole purpose and value of the sport. All the throwsticks should be made of wood and be constructed within certain parameters to look like real throwsticks. There are many artifacts to use as a guide for these parameters. So everyone would show up with all these cool looking sticks painted with Aboriginal designs ect. and it would be a fascinating and educational event, instead of just throwing pieces of composite material at a target.

I am a firm believer that most events should be restricted to 2 blade boomerangs. Fast Catch would be the only exception to this rule, in my opinion. I think some events by nature lend themselves to radical modification, like unlimited distance or Fast Catch. However, accuracy and Aussie round for example should maintain the traditional two bladed standard.

Why not give it a try? Just set up a competition similar to the WC where anyone can compete for a reasonable fee. I believe you would be surprised at the response. USBA events seem to cater to the few athletes who travel around for them. On the other hand a once a year open tournament with no membership restrictions that was all inclusive of every aspect of the sport, would surely appeal to many more enthusiasts.

Roy Dempsey
Shreveport, Louisiana

May 16 was a day of "A Toss Across America". We (my son Svyatoslav, he is 10 years old, and I) decided to answer for you and at May, 23 and at May, 30 we did our own holiday for honor of our American boomerang friends. We called it "A Toss through the ocean".

We marked a bullseye and every toss was in honor of one of our boomerang friends. The rules were simple - if toss was good, one point was added. Every thrower must bring his boomerang in bullseye. Boomerangs require respect. That's all.

Judge for Svyatoslav was myself, judge for me was Svyatoslav. We threw boomerangs made by Kendall Davis. The first toss was in honor of Kendall Davis. The second toss was in honor of Boomerang Man, Richard Harrison. The other tosses were in honour of Tony Brazelton, Dave Hendricks, Tom Conally, Fred Malmberg, Pat Steigman, Ted Bailey, Michael "Gel" Girvin,

Michael Gray, Steve Conaway, Eric Darnell and so on. If I could not remember somebody, please, don't be angry. The list of names was very large.

At the second day (May 30) we have some random spectators. They asked about boomerangs, about throwers, rules of competitions and so on. They asked to throw too, but we refused. We are not grasping, but we think that every boomerang must have only one owner. Our spectators want now to buy own boomerangs. Maybe, we shall not only in Ulyanovsk! Please, don't laugh. Seems, it was interesting play for Svytoslav! He was very proud to toss in honor of real boomerang makers and throwers! He tried to do it with all his power!

Best wishes from Svyatoslav and me.

Pavel Rumyantsev
Russia

Summerfields

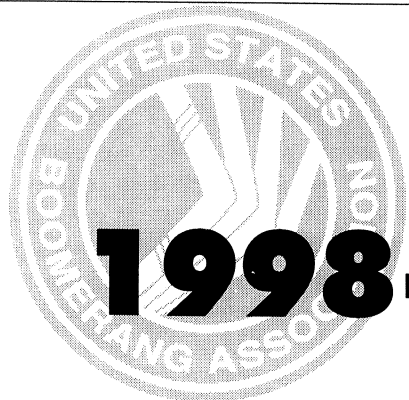
by Jim Goff

*Long day toiling, repast finished, my
Boom Soul brushes me with whispered thoughts
"The wind! Go outside and feel it Jim! A perfect
Evening to boom at Summerfields!"*

*Energy rebounding,
My boombasket is sneaking,
Towards the door, agreeing
With my boomsoul and basket.*

*Summerfields greet us with a sky of
Swooping friends, purple martins gliding, diving,
Foraging unseen insect hatches on buffeted breezes,
A perfect night for dinner flights!*

*Grumpy, seldom flown booms call out to me,
"Try me again tonight! I'll show you! I can
Really Fly!" They know! Every dusty boom in
Turn, showing their true beauty, grace and style
Delighting in being invited to a perfect boom night!*



1998-1999 Election

Each member of the USBA may cast one vote for a candidate for each of the four offices on the Board of Directors and one vote for a candidate for each of the five at-large seats on the Board of Directors. The candidates receiving a plurality of votes cast for each of the four offices shall be elected and the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes for the members at-large seats shall be elected. Please use the ballot on the next page to cast your votes. Photocopy or cut out your ballot and return to: USBA, 2405 Lawndale Drive, Champaign IL 61821 by September 30, 1998.

Candidates

President

John Flynn. USBA member, boomerang maker and competitor since 1981. Previous USBA service: Treasurer (1986-94); Member-at-large (1996-pres).

The president's duties must involve:

- * All facets of the USBA purpose statement: competition, art, and science.

- * Monitoring the overall health of the organization and guiding it in a direction of membership and financial growth.

- * Facilitating debate, feedback, and action from the board and membership.

Some specific things I feel are important to the growth of the USBA (some are already in progress):

- * Maintain a professional internet website presence.

- * Establish consistent categories for boomerang craftsmanship. Feature pictures of winning booms in MHR. Feature more general boomerang construction ideas in MHR.

- * Coordinate USBA marketing efforts. Continue to explore advantageous corporate relationships. Convince US boomerang makers to add USBA website to their literature. Explore producing a USBA instructional/educational video of how to make and throw boomerangs.

- * Continue to look at ways to make USBA competitions more enjoyable (Rules committee). At the same time, continue to test the skills necessary to develop championship-cal-

ber US Boomerang Teams.

- * Continue to support grass-roots boomerang workshop events like Toss Across America.

If elected to serve as USBA President, I will try to treat every viewpoint fairly and openly and expect timely responses from fellow board members and committees. Since this is a volunteer association, everyone's time and input is precious. It will require a dedicated nine-person team to make the USBA grow and prosper and I look forward to doing my part.

Vice President

Fred Malmberg. "I was born a poor black child . . ." Oops, that's Steve Martin's line. Most of the people in the USBA know who I am; I have been involved in throwing booms regularly since 1977, and competed in some events in the '80's, and am regularly competing in the '90's. I have been making booms since the early '80's, and doing rare wood construction since the late '80's.

I believe I have a good overview of the sport, the science, and the art of boomeranging. I believe that all aspects of boomeranging need to be supported and encouraged, as the loss of any of these parts will be sorely missed. While I have no previous experience in the USBA as an elected officer, I do feel that my level-

headed, objective approach to questions and unbridled enthusiasm for boomeranging in all its aspects make me an excellent candidate for USBA office.

Secretary

Betsylew Miale-Gix. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve the USBA. Next year's Board will be building on projects set in motion during the 1997 - 1998 term, including in particular the Competition Committee's work and the Foster's 2000 Boomerang partnership. It will also have a unique opportunity to set the goals and plans that will move us toward success in the new millennium. If elected I will re-propose that the Board prepare a USBA MISSION STATEMENT and GOALS to focus our purpose and direct our efforts toward achieving that success.

The more politically active and vocal minority of USBA members who are competitive throwers have traditionally demanded and received significant Board attention. The silent majority of USBA members whose primary interests are the art, science and recreational throwing of boomerangs have not received nearly as much. The Annual Toss Across America event, inclusion of more non-competitive materials in the MHR, and processing information requests have been the primary

vehicles for promoting this aspect of our corporate purpose. The Mission Statement and Goals writing process can help the USBA formulate ways to do more.

With respect to existing projects my experience and relationships with our insurance representative as USBA Insurance Coordinator, and with Foster's/Paine PR as the Foster's Boomerang 2000 partnership liaison would be of continued benefit to the organization. I would also like to make a special effort to come up with New and Better Materials for THE GALA 10th ANNUAL TOSS ACROSS AMERICA Event that will take place on MAY 22, 1999.

Treasurer

Tony Brazelton. I am seeking the office of Treasurer of the USBA for practical reasons. Having the membership database at my fingertips will allow me (as MHR editor) to coordinate newsletter production and subscriptions more efficiently. But I would also like to use the next few column inches to address what I feel are the most important issues facing the USBA today.

Competition Reform. John Koehler and I pushed the USBA to form a Competition Reform committee because we could see the potential for massive growth in the sport if we could implement some of the new ideas that we had seen evolving independently of USBA-sanctioned tournaments. Making boomerang get-togethers more fun and inclusive while maintaining a fair ratings system is the goal of the Rules Committee. With your continuing in-

put, I know that boomerang events in 1999 will be changed for the better.

Membership Benefits. One purpose of the USBA is to be the authority on boomerangs in America. To this end we must continue to build our informational resources and develop materials for distribution. General information brochures, instructional resources, and beginner packets should be produced and stockpiled for rapid distribution to those who visit www.usba.org or happen along a boomerang event in their community.

Grassroots Efforts. All organizations grow from the base up. Each USBA member must educate his or her community about our sport. The only way to ensure a growing membership base for the future is to promote boomerangs locally. The USBA should take a leadership role and develop and produce materials to make it easier for all USBA members to spread the word about boomerangs in their hometowns.

At-Large Directors

Mike Dickson. Lifetime member of USBA, member of Board of Directors since 1995. Wife, Pamela; Son, Adam. In the past year, the USBA has got back on track: MHR was resurrected; a Rules Committee was appointed and, under strong leadership, is a work in progress; a corporate sponsor was found to help expose our sport to the public. The World Cup is about to take place in St. Louis. The continual debate in and around the board is how to grow the sport, how to grow our membership, how to get the word out. This is a good thing, and the con-

tinual effort in the same direction, albeit from different stances, will ensure our success. The multifacets of boomerang throwing and making means many different things to different people. Every USBA member is an ambassador, on a grass roots level. How many more people can share the thrill and satisfaction derived from boomerangs? It is up to our members to get involved, carry the torch, and find those that will carry it further. I propose more "fun" throws with the accent on boom making and art, organized gatherings that will draw a more diverse cross-section of our members.

John Weigel (a.k.a. Southbay Johnny). If you want someone who is clueless on the way the USBA operates, than I'm your man. If you want someone who has never competed or doesn't even know how to calculate an aussie round score, than I am your man. If you want someone who doesn't even know what the job description for member-at-large, than I am your man. If you want someone who is an enthusiastic, willing to learn newbie, yet will fearlessly impart his opinions, no matter how inane (based upon my own limited experience with boomerangs) than I am your man.

Eric Darnell

Keith Mullinar

Chet Snouffer

Gregg Snouffer

USBA Election Ballot for the 1998-1999 Term

Step One.

Vote for ONLY ONE candidate FOR EACH office.

President

John Flynn

Vice President

Fred Malmberg

Secretary

Betsylew Miale-Gix

Treasurer

Tony Brazelton

Step Two.

Vote for ONLY five.

At-Large Directors

Mike Dickson

John Weigel

Eric Darnell

Keith Mullinar

Chet Snouffer

Gregg Snouffer

Step Three.

Photocopy or cut out this ballot and mail to:

USBA
2405 Lawndale Drive
Champaign IL 61821

Teaching a Local Boomerang Class



by Michael 'Gel' Girvin

Do you throw boomerangs and have no one to throw with? Do you want to spread your knowledge about boomerangs and teach others how to throw? Do you want to create a local boomerang scene that is fun and informative? If you answer yes to any of these, then you might want to start teaching a local drop-in boomerang class. Such a class can introduce many people to the fun and exciting sport of boomeranging. This is how I did it:

When I started throwing boomerangs in the Oakland area, in 1984, I was one of only two people who threw. This being the case, I decided to teach as many people about this sport as I could. I told everyone I knew that I would be at Strawberry Field every Saturday and Sunday at noon. I didn't reserve the field, the field just seemed to be free each weekend. People showed up, and I taught them how to throw. With only word of mouth promotion, I taught many people about the sport of boomeranging.

When I went to college at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, in 1985, I used the same word of mouth approach, at first, and I taught many people how to throw booms. I then approached the Recreation Department and Student Union with proposals for weekly boomerang classes and tournaments. They were hesitant at first, but we showed them literature on boomerangs, taught them how to throw and discussed safety. They gave us permits to use the fields for classes and tournaments. We posted announcements around school and town, talked about the weekly class on the school radio, arranged for articles to appear in the local papers and continued word of mouth promotion. We submitted proposals

to the Student Union and they allocated funds to help us run our events. By the third year, we had the largest student group on campus. With a little persistent hard work we introduced many people to the sport of boomeranging.

When I arrived at the Chicago Art Institute, in 1988, I was well versed in how to get a weekly boom class going. I found a section of Grant Park that was free on Wednesdays and Fridays and started to talk up boomerangs to everyone I met. I put up flyers, wrote articles for the student paper and submitted proposals to the Student Union. The classes were successful and many new people learned about the joys of boomerang throwing. We even got a spot on a local television show called "Where's Wallace."

When I moved back to Oakland, in 1991, I started meeting people at Billy Martin Field every Saturday. I put up flyers at local stores that sold boomerangs, contacted local papers which listed free events, and sent a proposal to the Oakland Parks and Recreation Department. One of the local stores had a connection at a local TV station, and the TV station did a report on boomerangs for their morning show; one of the local papers came out and did an article on the boom class; and the Recreation Department, after troublesome negotiations, did give

us a free permit to use Billy Martin Field every Saturday. They still send us the permit for Billy Martin Field every three months.

In all three places that I have taught free weekly drop-in boomerang classes, many people learned about boomerangs. Many of them are still throwing today. The sport of boomeranging is still a sport in its infancy, and the best way to help the sport grow is at the grass roots level: just teach some friends, or some interested locals. Whether you meet at a field casually, or organize through the Recreation Department, it all helps the wonderful sport of boomeranging grow!

If not having enough boomerangs to hold a class is a problem, get out there and make a bunch, or phone some boomsmiths and ask for the club/class discount. And it does not matter if you hold a class once a week, or month, or only once in a while. The key is to get out and share your enjoyment of booms! Have fun teaching people about boomerangs. If it is fun for you to teach others how to throw booms, then it can be fun for them also. So get out there and teach people the joys of boomerangs!



Boomerangs for Breakfast

by Len Fisher

Here is the story of boomerangs appearing on BBC TV's *Tomorrow's World* program recently. Reprinted with permission from *The British Boomerang Society Journal*, 7, Spring 1998.

An Australian living in England has to be schizophrenic to survive. My personal schizophrenia comes out particularly in popular science lectures. As an Australian, I sound off about boomerangs, even though I knew nothing about them until I came to England ten years ago. As an Englishman, I deliver what are intended to be urbanely humorous talks on the science of sex. To the best of my knowledge, I have not yet become so confused as to attempt an urbanely humorous talk on the applications of boomerangs in sex.

On sex I can and do talk for a whole hour, usually leaving the audience with crossed legs and an urgent desire to know less. So, given the chance to offer a topic for *Tomorrow's World*, what on earth made me choose boomerangs?

Perhaps it was the time of day. Topics were decided over breakfast meetings at Simpson's in the Strand, with smoked salmon and scrambled eggs at twelve pounds a plate. For me, this meant catching the six o'clock train from Bath, its carriages filled with grey-faced commuters in pin-striped suits. After an hour and a half in this company, any fugitive thoughts about sex had long since left my mind.

Perhaps it was the nature of the *Megalab* program itself, an annual event to promote audience participation in science. My job as a British Association Scientific Media Fellow was to help to create and assess ideas. The Australian side of my mind did occasionally drift toward ideas for a mass audience participation in the science of sex, but the English side kept it firmly in check. In any case, we needed live acts for the studio. Sex was out. Boomerangs had to be in.

Boomerang throwing indoors is not a new idea. The late Frank Donellan did a show in a Sydney theatre where he threw a boomerang out over the audience. To liven up the act he put a bolt through the middle of the boomerang and caught the boomerang, bolt down, spinning in an open tin can tied to the top of his head. So that it wouldn't be too easy, he did the whole act blindfolded.

Even Frank Donellan though, might have had

trouble throwing a boomerang in a TV studio cluttered with lights and cameras. But I had suggested a cunning plan. "Why not" I suggested, "make the boomerangs out of cardboard?"

My imagination hadn't taken me far enough. "That would be fine" decreed Roger Highfield, urbane doyen of science correspondents, "if we

Can you imagine the TV appeal of an MTA competition? It would be like watching grass grow.

could run a world record competition with them." "No problem," said the Australian side of me.

The English side promptly rang up Sean Slade, an honorary Australian himself, to discuss what to do about the Australian side's bright idea. We quickly agreed that a distance competition would be ridiculous. It would need an aircraft hangar. Maximum time aloft would be equally bad. The higher the ceiling, the greater the possible time. In any case, can you imagine the TV appeal of an MTA competition? It would be like watching grass grow.

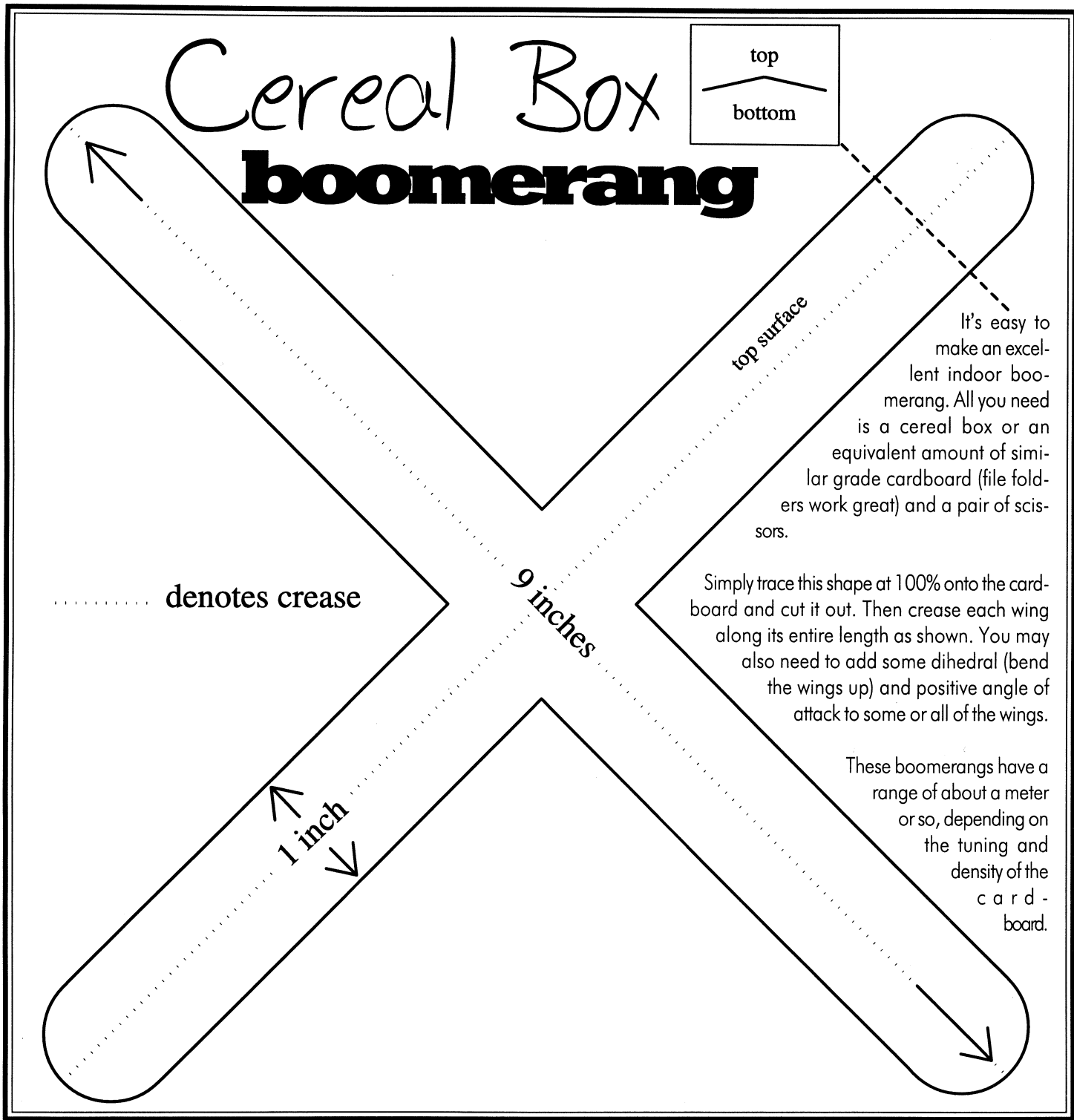
One thought that I had was a competition for the world's smallest boomerang. That one is still on the cards, but for TV appeal a fast catch competition was the obvious option, with boomerangs thrown and caught from behind a line and having to pass around a pole.

As with most TV related things, the idea was only accepted at the last possible minute. The Guinness Book of World Records people were a great help, pushing through my hastily

manufactured rules for a world record, and the contest was duly advertised in *The Telegraph* by Roger, on TV in *Tomorrow's World* and (with Edward Cadman's enthusiastic help) as an addendum in the *BBS Journal*. Entrants had to send their actual boomerangs in for me to test. Those whose boomerangs looked as if they might pass around a pole three meters away, and even come back with luck, were asked along to the heats. In practice, this meant that all entrants from the British Boomerang Society were immediately invited, along with anyone whose boomerang didn't sag like an overcooked stick of asparagus.

The heats were filmed in an empty art studio in West Hampstead. For background, groups of school children were kept busy cutting boomerangs from sheets of cardboard about three grades too light. Looming above them was Sean Slade, explaining the intricacies of boomerangs to Jez Nelson, who showed all the interest of a eunuch in a harem. Some of the contestants displayed rather individual technique. One young lad favored the "dive catch" when his boomerang persisted in crashing to the concrete floor before reaching him. At this stage, the producer was seen to be burying her head in her hands and praying to whatever gods TV producers pray to.

She needn't have worried. The Boomerang Society throwers did us proud. Top marks for style went to Mark Harris, the only thrower to warm up in the approved athletic manner, nattily attired in a highly professional black and orange tracksuit. Top marks for throwing, though, went to Lawrence West, whose neat little boomerang smacked back into his hands an impressive twenty-two times in one minute. "Popular Loser" went to Willie Watts, who had come up from Devon with his wonderful five bladed pink job. Willie and his boomerang scored top marks for telegenicity, and Willie got the job of being filmed throwing his boomerang around Jez Nelson. To the regret of some of the onlookers he kept missing. On the night, it was Lawrence West, Steve Parkhurst and Mark Harris who took the stage. My suggestion of



dressing Peter Snow up as a kangaroo to act as a target was greeted with the disdain that it probably deserved, and three chromed poles on wheels were produced instead. Lawrence, Steve and Mark all threw well but it was Lawrence who held his nerve to record twenty catches in one minute and become the first world record holder. Rolf Harris, who presented him with an inscribed boomerang, didn't do quite so well, perhaps because he threw the

boomerang more like a frisbee. Join the British Boomerang Society, Rolf.

The event attracted a lot of attention. *The Telegraph*, which sponsors *Megalab*, produced a full page feature, with pictures of Lawrence, now smiling, and his boomerang plastered across the page. Publicity was wider than that. I have in front of me a cutting from the *Brisbane Courier Mail* announcing the news. Until I read it, I hadn't realized that Lawrence hails from

Basingstoke.

This isn't the end of the story, and there may be more news of indoor boomerang competitions soon. Guinness Records are certainly interested in maintaining the momentum. When something comes up, you will read about it in the BBS Journal first. Meanwhile, it's time for me to become English again. I'm going back to sex.

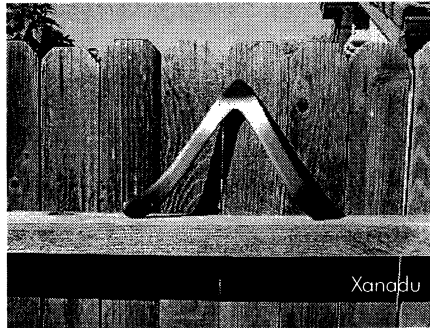
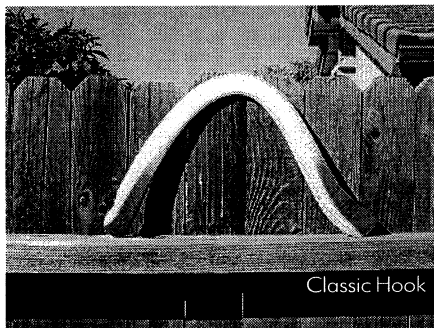


REVIEW

BOOMERANGS

G10 Performance From a New Source

by Tony Brazelton



Steve Conaway of Fillmore, California is quickly becoming a supplier of competition grade boomerangs not to be ignored. Steve's experiments with G10 and G10/carbon fiber laminates (which Steve calls "Stealth") are continuing but have already produced some potential winners. I tested two Stealth boomerangs, the Classic Hook and the Xanadu.

The Classic Hook took a lighter throw than I expected for a 75 meter boom. The resulting low, even-altitude, round flight is a soothing sight indeed. Until it's almost home. Then you realize, "That sucker's coming in fast!" I was able to catch it without incident, but I think throwers with less experience than I might shy away from such a speedy hunk of G10/CF. I did notice that there is a fairly narrow window of release height, layover and angle off wind to achieve a nice, accurate, non-deadly flight. But then again, this is hardly a boom for beginners. Steve also makes this boom with serious long distance airfoils for ranges of 100 m or more.

I'm still scratching my head about the

Xanadu. It doesn't act normal. It breaks the mold out of which other high-performance booms come. It is a bizarre mutant. I like it.

Let me explain. ...if I can. I throw it. It starts to climb. The way it is climbing, it looks like it's going to be that familiar elliptical, out-and-back flight path of many Aussie Round booms. But then it climbs too high, or so it seems. It climbs so high it looks like it's going to crash when it starts to descend. It looks like I threw it too sidearm. But then something weird happens. It doesn't crash. It descends more gradually than that, although still swooping down, not hovering. It's still coming in FAST when it's 15 meters away. Then something REALLY weird happens. It puts on the brakes BIG TIME and nicely presents it's flat side to me in an oblique, easy-to-catch position. Then I notice I'm still standing in the bullseye. I just stand there, scratching my head. That was weird. I doubt it is likely to do THAT again. I throw it again. Same exact flight. I throw it again. And again. And again. And again...

Then I find myself writing a check to Steve Conaway. This boom is staying in Illinois.

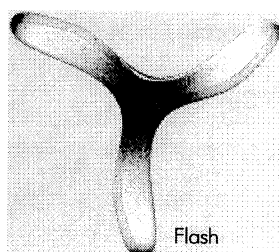
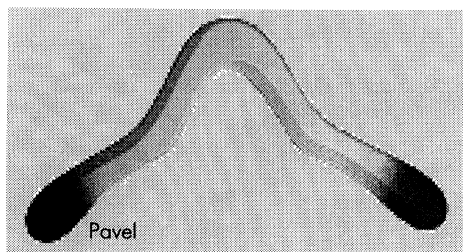
I really enjoyed throwing both of these booms, but the Xanadu is really something special. The Classic Hook performed best for me in fairly breezy conditions and held up to about 15 mph. The Xanadu liked more moderate winds or even calm with a hard toss.

Steve offers several other booms in G10 and continues to refine and improve what he hopes will eventually be a line of high-performance competition boomerangs. Time will tell, but I expect to see Steve's booms winning events very soon. Check them out at his website (www.vcnet.com/abosteves/booms.html) or contact him from the information on page 22.

Steve's booms exhibit beautiful craftsmanship and finish. Boomerang consumers are very lucky to have someone like Steve Conaway actively engaging in product development and making production models from modern materials.

Master Designs Boomerangs = Pure Fun

by Tony Brazelton



I tested three boomerangs by Kendall Davis of Master Designs Boomerangs from Rock Island, Illinois. The Pavel, the Gull and the Flash.

I've been throwing boomerangs for 14 years, competing for 5 years. In that time I have thrown hundreds of different models. I had more fun throwing these three booms than I have had since my very first good returns and catches in 1986.

I believe these are some of the best boomerangs for beginners I have ever seen. Here's why:

The airfoils are super-lifty. Especially the Pavel and Flash. This makes it much easier to give the booms enough spin to return, a common problem with beginners. As a result, the increased spin makes them hover for a long time, giving the beginner plenty of time to get under it for the catch, regardless of the accuracy of the throw. This is the main reason I liked Kendall's booms and the reason I would recommend them to a beginner.

The Pavel especially takes SO little effort to throw. I am used to throwing comp booms pretty hard for optimum performance and it took me a while to tone down enough to appreciate the easy-toss flight of the Pavel. The Pavel is so forgiving that I am sure I would be able to teach the weakest-armed beginner to throw with this boom.

The 5 mm, 10-ply Gull is a model intended for a thrower of intermediate skill. It likes an easy, layed over Aussie Round style toss and comes home with an enchanting backdoor swing. This unique shape is fun, but not as great a beginner boom as the Pavel.

The reason I would recommend Kendall's sticks to a veteran is that they are absolutely beautiful in the hands and in flight. I was planning to get in a full practice the first day I tested these boomerangs, but when I started throwing them I couldn't stop. They took me back to a time and place when I was just discovering the awe of boomerangs. I think others will like

them for this reason.

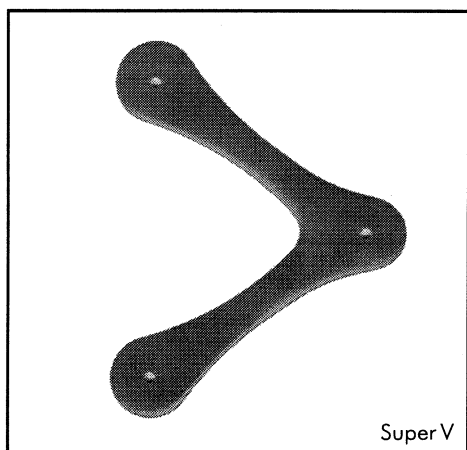
But the most fun I had was with the Flash. I think Kendall intended this to be a competition FC model, but I discovered something about it that made it much more fun than just another plain ole fast catch boom. If you throw it really hard, you can get TWO COMPLETE CIRCLES! Many models claim to have this ability and I have thrown them all. None of them even come close to the double roundtrip of the Flash. Kendall let me keep this one and I can't wait to use it in demos.

Each of Kendall's boomerangs comes with excellent, simple instructions on the back. The simplest and clearest I have seen.

Master Designs' boomerangs are available in Baltic birch plywood or aircraft grade Finnish birch plywood (4 or 5 mm). Kendall is always coming up with new designs, so bookmark his website at www.cris.com/~davisks/catalog or contact him from the information on page 22.

Turning Point: The Next Generation

by Tony Brazelton



Very few of us have gotten this far without throwing an Eric Darnell boomerang. The TriFly, that three-armed injection-molded plastic wonder that revolutionized boomerang competition, has long been the staple of Turning Point, Inc., Eric's South Strafford, Vermont company. It has been used (in its many modifications and materials) by players all over the world to win every event except MTA, and I'm not even sure that someone hasn't accomplished that too. In addition, the TriFly is one of the best beginner booms available, and certainly one of the most commercially available.

So, if you owned the patent on the

most popular competition boom in the history of the sport, what would you do next? If you are Eric Darnell, you make something even better.

Enter the Super V, an idea Eric has been formulating since even before he dreamed up the TriFly. At first glance, it's easy to label the Super V a two-armed TriFly, as its wings resemble those of a TriFly. But one throw and it's clear that the Super V is an entirely different animal with a future certain to be just as rich as the TriFly.

Like the TriFly, the Super V comes in many
(continued on page 23)

The Super V Predator

Material: Polycarbonate (Lexan) Super V.

Undercut: Round off 2 mm of the leading edge all along its length.

Range: 40-50 meters.

Use: High wind (>15 mph) Aussie Round. Throw medium-high with layover.

Scale: 1:1.



TriFly Fast Catch

Material: ABS or polycarbonate (Lexan) TriFly

Undercut: Typical Fast Catch airfoil undercut. The more undercut, the faster the boom (to a point).

Range: 20 meters.

Use: Low wind (calm-5 mph) Fast Catch. Throw low, hard and vertical.

Scale: 1:1.



BOOM fragments

The USBA and Foster's Lager have entered into a partnership which provides Foster's with an exhibition boomerang team and the USBA with some free publicity.

The members of the Foster's Boomerang 2000 Team are John Gorski of Avon, Ohio; John Koehler of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Casey Larrance of Seattle, Washington; Betsylew Miale-Gix of Brier Washington; Gregg Snouffer of Delaware, Ohio; and Mark Weary of Phoenix, Arizona.

This team will appear at numerous venues through 2000 leading up to the 2000 Sydney Games. The first two appearances were in St. Louis during the week of the Foster's 1998 World Boomerang Championships (FWBC).

The USBA has already seen benefits from the deal. As a result of the press generated by Foster's at the FWBC, the USBA has gained exposure in the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Everett, Washington Herald*, a satellite feed from a press conference in St. Louis, a Washington DC sports radio station, the TWA flight magazine, *USA Today*, the *Today Show* and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, most mentioning the USBA and www.usba.org.

Future appearances by the team may include Major League Soccer, NFL, and NBA halftimes as well as the Super Bowl and the MTV Beach House.

The long distance record was broken twice so far this summer. On June 7, Manuel Schuetz of Switzerland threw a 3 mm Paxolin MegaQuirl 155 m in Kloten, Switzerland.

At the Foster's 1998 World Boomerang Championships in Edwardsville, Illinois David Schummy blasted that record with a 174 m flight with his revolutionary G10 design with symmetrical teardrop airfoils. Manuel Schuetz had a 172 m flight shortly thereafter. Other notable flights are recorded on page 19.

Frank Devlin is on a newly formed economic development committee in the town of Hamilton, New York. He is interested in bringing exciting and unusual events to the area. Hamilton is a picturesque village located in the rolling hills of central New York state. They have lots of open space, lodging, shopping,

dining, an airport and other amenities. Anyone wishing to help Frank organize a tournament in Hamilton should phone him at (315) 824-6443, fax him at (315) 691-4950 or e-mail him at xylos@xyloswoodworking.com.

Boomerang manufacturer LMI & Fox and steel structure manufacturer Castel & Fromaget, both of France, sponsored the production of the largest boomerang in the world erected in Fleurance, France on June 13, 1998.

It took three weeks and \$20,000 to make, weighs 2000 kilograms (4400 pounds), and stands 9.4 meters (31 feet) tall. It has no airfoil, however; although the initial design called for

a right-handed airfoil, the elbow area was too complicated, so the cross-section was made uniformly rectangular.

You can see pictures of it at <http://www.perso.hol.fr/~orgueil/bigboom.htm>

Richard and Joyce Pollock-Nelson of Aurora, Colorado are the new owners of Colorado Boomerangs. Previous owners Jim Mayfield and David Smith are pursuing other areas of interest. The boomerangs will still be handmade in Gunnison, Colorado. The marketing and sales have moved to Aurora. All other information remains the same as listed on page 22.



websites

WWW
 @
 WWW

muttley.ucdavis.edu
 K-8 Internet Aeronautics textbook. Section on boomerangs. Very cool site.

www.mygale.org/07/duffez/catches.htm
 Didier Bonin of France designed a few years ago a poster with 50 acrobatic catches. Now they are published on the web.

www.dsUPER.net/~etsourd/boom_beer.html
 Labatt Brewery in Canada has a new beer called BOOMERANG. Etienne Sourd of Montreal set up this web page with photos of the label design.

www.doodleTOP.com/boomerang/throwhome.html
 Turning Point's distributor, University Games.

Please let us know about your new website. E-mail:
usba-pr@usba.org

M. H. Rchives

The who, what, when, where, and how of yesteryear

10 years ago

"The US Team won the 1988 World Cup in Barooga, Australia last May. The USBA team dominated the games, commanding an early lead over the second place Aussies by 45.5 to 34.25 points during the first test match on May 8. The Americans took first place honors in all events during the first test match. Barnaby took firsts in both MTA (37.14 seconds) and Australian Round. Chet Snouffer set a new Australian record for Fast Catch with a time of 22.53 sec.

The American lead was strengthened (with blustery winds) during the second test match on May 11 as the USBA team placed first overall again. This time with a score of 39.5 and an increased margin of 3 more points over the second place Australian team. Conservative throwing in tricky winds was something the USBA team learned from the Aussies in the 1984 test series in Delaware, Ohio.

The overall team placement was 1. USA, 2. Australia, 3. France, 4. Germany, 5. Holland, 6. Switzerland, 7. Japan."

MHR #35 SUMMER 1988

5 years ago

"CNN News came to Ann Arbor to film a documentary on the MTA boomerang. The 2.5 minute blip was shown the following day throughout the world. The tape included footage on how to amke an MTA and portions of a 71 second flight that made believers of a doubting film crew.

"Secondary fallout from this publicity included Children's Television Network who wanted information for Sesame Street and 3-2-1 Contact and KDN Videoworks who wanted to do a show on Toss Across America.."

MHR #55 SUMMER 1993



Enter the

Foster's 1998 World Boomerang Championship Photo Contest!

As announced at the World Championships in Edwardsville, Illinois, the USBA is holding a photo contest. There were a lot of cameras at the WBC and we know there are some great action shots and other great moments caught on film. We want to share them with boomerang enthusiasts worldwide by publishing them in the USBA newsletter, *Many Happy Returns!* We are asking you to submit your photos for entry into this contest.

The winning photo, along with many other submitted photos will be published in the Fall issue (#74) of *Many Happy Returns*. In addition to worldwide recognition as an excellent photographer, the winner will receive a boomerang and a one-year free USBA membership, including a one-year subscription to *MHR*.

All photos relating to the 1998 World Championships are eligible. Entry into the contest is free and there is no limit to the number of entries per person. **All entries must be received by November 1, 1998.**

Photographic prints may be mailed to
USBA Newsletter
2405 Lawndale Drive
Champaign IL 61821

Electronic versions may be e-mailed to
usba-pr@usba.org

Electronic versions may be in any file format but must have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

Contact Tony Brazelton at usba-pr@usba.org or (217) 352-6184 if you have any questions.



REPORTS

TOSS ACROSS AMERICA '98

Lake Jackson, Texas

Hosted by Danny Coppedge and Bob Rudy

Danny Coppedge and Bob Rudy hosted the "Toss" at the Lake Jackson, Texas Intermediate School football field. From 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. the public was invited to a show and tell session with Danny and Bob taking turns instructing new throwers on the field. From 9:00 - 9:30 p.m. Danny and Bob put on a night throw. Weather was good and attendance was around 100 people. The local paper ran notices of the event three times prior to the "Toss". The "Toss"

was held in conjunction with Danny's Seventh Grade Industrial Technology classes, where the students enjoy making boomerangs the last month of school.

Danny Coppedge

West Hartford, Connecticut

Hosted by Paul Sprague

We had our Toss Across America in West Hartford at the Science Center of Connecticut. Pretty good crowd but I didn't get a count.

Boomerang Instructors were Keith Mullinar, Paul Gustafson, Alan Clough, John Flynn, Paul Sprague, Eric Darnell

The weather was OK except that it rained that morning and the field was too swampy for us to use. We did our discussion section under a tent in the Science Center's back yard and got out the Air Dancers for short-range demos. All the kids got to try throwing, and we had plenty of volunteers to retrieve the wayward ones.

We were fortunate to have two professional stage performers in the audience who helped explain gyroscopic precession. They do almost

identical acts involving juggling and physics, were both considering using boomerangs as part of their act, and they had never met each other before.

CBS Cable showed up before the crowd, so we did some demo throwing for the camera and Eric talked at *Great Length* about boom competition, philosophy and technology. The segment should run nationwide under "Sports People Play," hopefully with substantial editing.

Paul Sprague

Livonia, Michigan

Hosted by Norm Kern

Livonia Michigan provided a beautiful tho breezy day. We had our first International TAA as 4 people came over from Ontario. They heard about our event from Ted Bailey's e-mail broadcast. Four others came because they saw our event in the local paper's "Calendar" list. This has consistently been our best means of

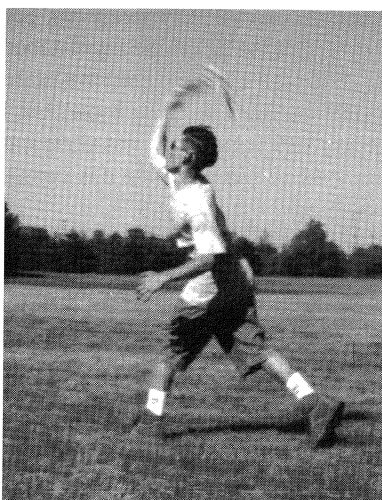
attracting new people to try a boomerang. The final new thrower was a friend of Bud Pell. She is Bud's "boss" at the Detroit Zoo where Bud does some of his many volunteer activities which lead to him being recognized as the Top Volunteer in the entire state of Michigan. Bud, Norm Kern, Tom Luziski, Jim and Kent Sprague made up the demonstration and teaching team.

Norm Kern

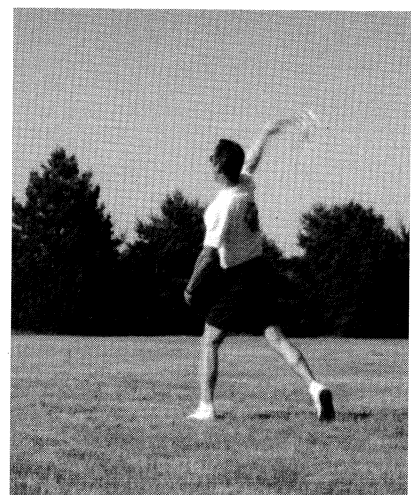


TAA photos

Left: A mass-mentorship opportunity for Eric Darnell in West Hartford, Connecticut.
Photo by Paul Sprague.



Left: Greg Schuh showing the 25 mph wind who is boss. **Above:** Greg Schuh, Bill Schuh, Billy Brazelton and Tony Brazelton after a game of Scramble at the Champaign, Illinois TAA. **Right:** Bill Schuh with a textbook humpback throw.
Photos by Tara Hemami.



REPORTS

USBA COMPS

4th Annual West Seattle Open

West Seattle, Washington
June 28, 1998

Regardless of what the calendar says the first day of summer in Seattle was June 28, 1998. As 20 boomerang throwers from Washington and Oregon descended on Denny Middle School, sun and warmth reigned supreme at long last. The competitors were a diverse bunch including old USBA tournament hands and four throwers trying USBA events for the first time.

One of the highlights of the day was watching two of those new throwers, teenagers Tyson Wonderly and his friend Nicole taking their best shot at all the events except Trick Catch/Doubling. Throwing MTA for the first time with a borrowed stick, Tyson had one throw of almost 30 seconds! Regrettably it escaped his inexperienced grasp. Nicole demonstrated a strong arm and good potential for the future. Of note, three of the novices were women, including Tyson's mother Becky Wonderly!

The wind was not as benevolent as the rest of the weather, coming up after Fast Catch to a moderate level for MTA then higher, presenting a difficult challenge for all in Australian Round, Accuracy, Trick Catch, and Endurance. Despite the challenge, all throwers seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience. But then as Shannon Nowak, a newcomer to boomerangs acting as a score babe noted: This was a fun bunch of people having a good time!

Betsylew Miale-Gix

Don't forget to send in your event results and commentary for inclusion in *Many Happy Returns*.

See inside back cover for deadlines and details.



SCORES

Gateway Classic St. Louis, Missouri May 24, 1998

SPORT: Fast Catch Mike Gabriel 24.03, Steve Kavanaugh 32.63, Tony Brazelton 41.26. **Trick Catch** Steve Kavanaugh 55, Mike Gabriel 49, Bob Leifeld 45. **Accuracy** Don Frazier 25, Bob Leifeld 22, Eric Darnell 20. **Australian Round** Bob Leifeld 48, Tony Brazelton 47, Aaron Kaminski 42. **MTA100** Steve Kavanaugh 30.22, Bob Leifeld 24.34, Stuart Jones 24.22. **Endurance** Mike Gabriel 47, Tony Brazelton 45, Steve Kavanaugh 43. **Overall** Steve Kavanaugh 42.36, Bob Leifeld 35.805, Mike Gabriel 35.112, Tony Brazelton 31.36, Eric Darnell 31.27, Stuart Jones 26.525, Aaron Kaninsky 23.487, Craig Frazier 20.78, Billy Brazelton 16.63, Don Frazier 15.86.

OPEN: Fast Catch Pat Fitzgerald 39.36, Terry Norvell 3 catches, Andy Bourey 2 catches. **Trick Catch** Terry Norvell 28, Jimmy Brazelton 20, Pat Fitzgerald 14. **Accuracy** Pat Fitzgerald 25, Jimmy Brazelton, David Bluhm, Tom Fitzgerald 16. **Australian Round** David Bluhm 32, Pat Fitzgerald 30, Andy Bourey 27. **MTA100** Jimmy Brazelton 18.42, Terry Norvell 17.19. **Endurance** Pat Fitzgerald 36, Tom Fitzgerald 23, Andy Bourey, Terry Norvell 14. **Overall** Pat Fitzgerald, Terry Norvell, David Bluhm, Jimmy Brazelton, Tom Fitzgerald, Andy Bourey, Steve Bolen, Ken Kostedt, Gerald Bolen.

US Open Amherst, Massachusetts May 30-31, 1998

INDIVIDUAL: Fast Catch Adam Ruhf 21.06, Chet Snouffer 23.82, John Flynn 24.38. **Trick Catch** Mark Weary 80, Chet Snouffer 65, Mike Dickson 56. **Accuracy** Eric Darnell 38, Betsylew Miale-Gix 36, Steve Kavanaugh 35. **Australian Round** Chet Snouffer 54, Will Gix 54, Mike Dickson 53. **MTA100** Gary Broadbent 34.05, Steve Kavanaugh 32.34, Rob Parkins 29.27. **Endurance** Adam Ruhf 33, Rob Parkins 28, Gary Broadbent 24. **Overall** Rob Parkins 46.56, Chet Snouffer 46.00, Mike Dickson 39.43, Steve Kavanaugh 39.36, John Flynn 38.50, Gary Broadbent 37.38, Adam Ruhf 33.33, Mark Weary 31.67, John Gorski 31.66, Dennis Joyce 31.00, Will Gix 21.21, Mike Forester 20.50, John Anthony 19.99, Peter Ruhf 19.55, Betsylew Miale-Gix 19.33, Eric Darnell 19.11, Gregg Snouffer 19.01, Tony Brazelton 17.61, Steve Cook 14.55, Paul Sprague 13.72, Larry Ruhf 11.61, John Koehler 9.95, Eddie Carrigg 6.89, Fred Malmberg 6.00, Mark Legg 5.61, Paul Gustafsen 5.33, Don Forest 4.33, Jim Jordan 3.95, Max Droge 3.78, Dan Hellenberg 2.11, Jeff Monahan, Alan Clough, Bill Rusky, Wilson Lawrence, Barnaby Ruhe, Tim Maultsby, Alexander Ruhe, Amber Serin.

GLORP CHAMPION: Steve Kavanaugh.

US TEAM CUP CHAMPION: United Blue (John Gorski, John Koehler, Bob Leifeld, Betsylew Miale-Gix, Adam Ruhf, Gregg Snouffer, Coach Larry Ruhf).

BEN RUHE TRICK CATCH SUICIDE OPEN CHAMPION: John Koehler.

4th Annual West Seattle Open West Seattle, Washington June 28, 1998

SPORT: Fast Catch Tim Schallberger 22.64, Will Gix 22.78, Betsylew Miale-Gix 24.89. **Trick Catch** Steve Kavanaugh 71, Will Gix 56, Betsylew Miale-Gix 43. **Accuracy** Will Gix 36, Peter Caliendo 30, Tim Schallberger 26. **Australian Round** Betsylew Miale-Gix 57, Will Gix 47, Doug DuFresne 38. **MTA100** Betsylew Miale-Gix 48.98, Steve Kavanaugh 39.21, Tim Schallberger 28.29. **Endurance** Steve Kavanaugh 39, Betsylew Miale-Gix 36, Doug DuFresne 33. **Overall** Betsylew Miale-Gix 44.45, Will Gix 41.38, Steve Kavanaugh 36.54, Tim Schallberger 26.58, Casey Larrance 12.47.

OPEN: Overall Doug DuFresne 1st, Will Herlan 2nd, Bruce Weidemann 3rd.

NOVICE: Overall Dan Neelands 1st, Bart Barthold 2nd, Tyson Wonderly 3rd, Tim Mathison 4th, Kelly Croman 5th, Becky Wonderly 6th, Nicole Grothe 7th.

REPORTS

NON-USBA

California Long Distance Competition

Approximately 18 throwers participated in the event. Roy Dempsey flew in from Louisiana, Dan and Kelly and the Bookers flew down from Washington. The Southbay crew came up. Tibor Horvath was there and David and Devon Schummy were there also. These people along with a local cast of characters from Ca. made the trek to throw in the tournament.

The event was sponsored by UCSB and the field was large enough for most throws, more on this later. Jerry Caplain, who was on the original USA Team came up to check it out. Unfortunately he had to leave early so we couldn't get into a story telling session about the old days and the that first tourney with Australia. Too bad, maybe next time.

Two complete tournaments were held yesterday. We started promptly 30 minutes late and finished up the official throwing about 6:30 PM, still under a wonderfully sunny sky. For those interested in the future of long distance boomerangs all I can say is I've seen the future and it is different from what we know now. I guess threw history someone comes along and reinvents the wheel. At times like this people notice the change. I did.

For all those that worked on Schummy's new design, Bob Burwell, and possibly others that I am unaware of, you have pushed the limit for the sport to another level. I honestly was very skeptical of a 72 gram boomerang that could achieve distances reported of being 155 meters.... Well I'm a believer.

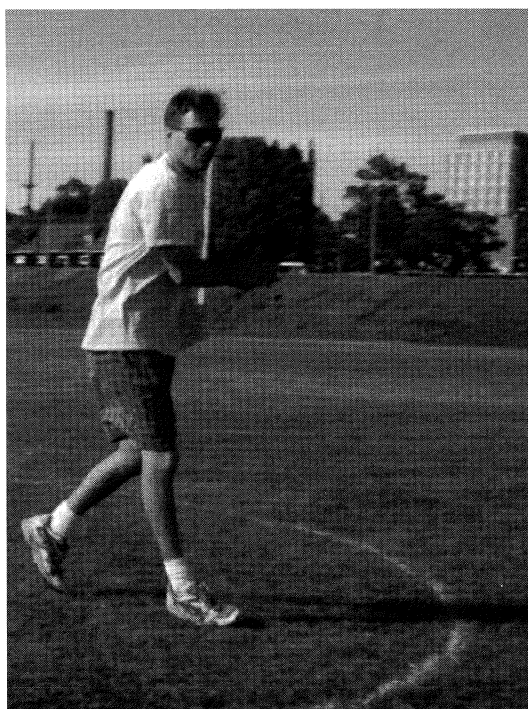
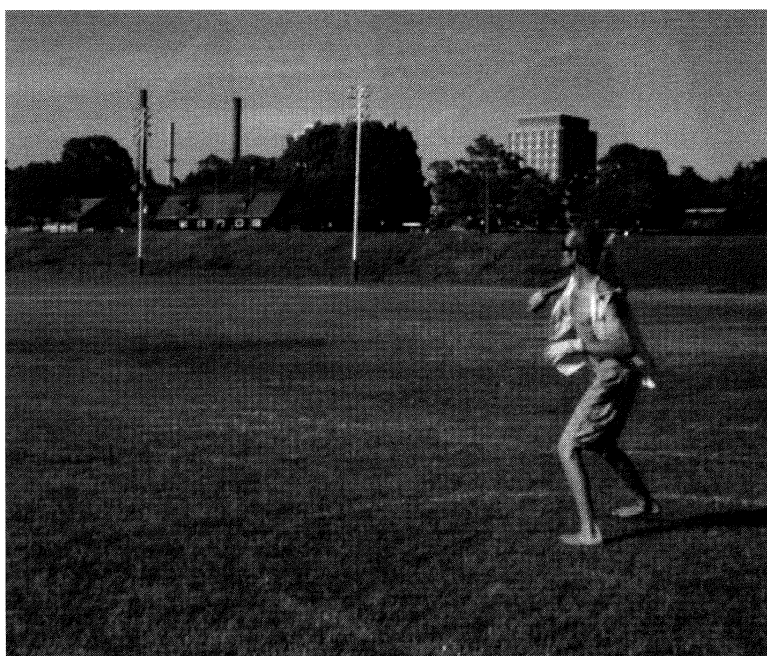
David Schummy had a 162 meter flight that
(continued on page ##)



THE US Open

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 30 - 31, 1998

Clockwise from top left: Don Forrest; USA Team United Blue (John Koehler, Betsylew Miale-Gix, Gregg Snouffer, John Gorski, Adam Ruhf, Coach Larry Ruhf); Alexander Ruhe; Mike Forester; John Gorski. *Photos by Paul Sprague except Team United Blue photo by Tony Brazelton.*



1998 WORLD BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIPS



Final Team Standings

1. Germany Young Guns	263.5 points
2. Germany Bones	245.5 points
3. USA United Blue	245.0 points
4. Swiss Skandal I	230.0 points
5. USA Red	220.0 points
6. France Acrobates	215.5 points
7. Japan	194.5 points
8. USA THE RAD	187.0 points
9. France Blue	175.5 points
10. Germany No Mercy	164.0 points
11. Australian Aristocrats	163.5 points
12. France III	143.0 points
13. Scandinavia	108.5 points
14. Swiss Skandal II	105.0 points
15. Italy	69.5 points
16. Canada	68.5 points
17. International Women	56.5 points
18. Australia Old & New	43.0 points

St. Louis
USA

The Foster's 1998 World Boomerang Championships in Edwardsville, Illinois concluded on August 2nd. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time and compliance to gather all the materials necessary for an inclusive WBC write-up. The Fall issue of *Many Happy Returns* will feature LOTS of pictures and hopefully commentary from the World Championships. Do you have a story about the WBC to tell us? Send it in! Remember articles and photos get CASH payment from the USBA!

SCORES

Team Event Results

OVERALL FOR THREE TEST MATCHES

Team Trick Catch/Doubling

1. Germany Young Guns	689 points
2. France Acrobates	631 points
3. USA United Blue	620 points
USA THE RAD	620 points

Team Endurance Relay

1. Germany Young Guns	137 catches
2. Swiss Skandal I	133 catches
3. USA United Blue	127 catches

Team Accuracy

1. Germany Young Guns	299 points
2. Germany Bones	287 points
3. USA Red	281 points

Team Australian Round

1. USA Red	866 points
2. Germany Bones	831 points
3. USA United Blue	830 points

Team Supercatch

1. Germany Young Guns	164 catches
2. USA United Blue	156 catches
3. USA Red	154 catches

Team Relay

1. USA United Blue	7 min, 28.13 s
2. Germany Young Guns	7 min, 29.81 s
3. USA Red	7 min, 55.01 s

Team MTA 100

1. USA United Blue	166.39 seconds
2. Scandinavia	143.40 seconds
3. Swiss Skandal I	140.77 seconds

Individual World Championships Event Results

Fast Catch

1. Adam Ruhf	17.84 seconds
Fridolin Frost	17.84 seconds
3. Chet Snouffer	19.13 seconds
4. Gregg Snouffer	19.74 seconds
5. Togai Yasuhiro	20.24 seconds

Accuracy

1. Stuart Jones	44 points
2. Chciago Bob	41 points
John Flynn	41 points
4. Gregg Snouffer	40 points
Larry Ruhf	40 points

Trick Catch/Doubling

1. Oli Thienhaus	94 points
2. Manuel Schuetz	90 points
3. Chet Snouffer	89 points
4. Mark Weary	88 points
5. Yves Caze	87 points

Endurance

1. Manuel Schuetz	55 catches
2. Fridolin Frost	52 catches
3. Paco Gagniere	51 catches
Jurg Schedler	51 catches
5. Adam Ruhf	49 catches
Gregg Snouffer	49 catches
Thomas Stehrenberger	49 catches

MTA 100

1. Fridolin Frost	76.87 seconds
2. Don Sagert	54.50 seconds
3. Jonas Romblad	54.38 seconds
4. Manuel Schuetz	51.59 seconds
5. Gary Broadbent	43.00 seconds

Aussie Round

1. Harald Steck	82 points
Paco Gagniere	82 points
3. Mark Weary	81 points
4. Dennis Bittner	77 points
5. Stuart Jones	75 points

Individual World Championships Final Standings

1. Fridolin Frost (Germany)	64.0 points
2. Adam Ruhf (USA)	78.5 points
3. John Flynn (USA)	91.5 points
4. Manuel Schuetz (Swiss)	108.0 points
5. Paco Gagniere (France)	108.5 points
6. Harald Steck (Germany)	110.0 points
7. Mark Weary (USA)	111.5 points
8. Gregg Snouffer (USA)	142.0 points
9. Oliver Rau (Germany)	146.0 points
10. Axel Heckner (Germany)	151.0 points
11. Chet Snouffer (USA)	159.5 points
12. Torsten Fredrich (Germany)	165.5 points
13. Yves Caze (France)	168.0 points
14. Gary Broadbent (USA)	176.5 points
15. Murata Hiroyuki (Japan)	185.5 points
16. Didier Bonin (France)	204.0 points
17. Maiya Junji (Japan)	206.0 points
18. Steve Kavanaugh (USA)	214.5 points
19. Jurg Schedler (Swiss)	223.0 points
20. Guenter Moeller (Germany)	224.5 points
Oli Thienhaus (Germany)	224.5 points

Long Distance World Championships

1. David Schummy (AUS)	174 m
2. Manuel Schuetz (CH)	172 m
3. Tibor Horvath (CH)	119 m
4. Lorenz Gubler (CH)	112 m
5. John Weigel (USA)	111 m
6. Phillipe Picgirard (FRA)	103 m
7. Bob Burwell (AUS)	98m
Markus Peissard (CH)	98 m
9. Rene Vonlanthen (CH)	97 m
10. Louis Cassorla (USA)	88 m

The TriFly Predator

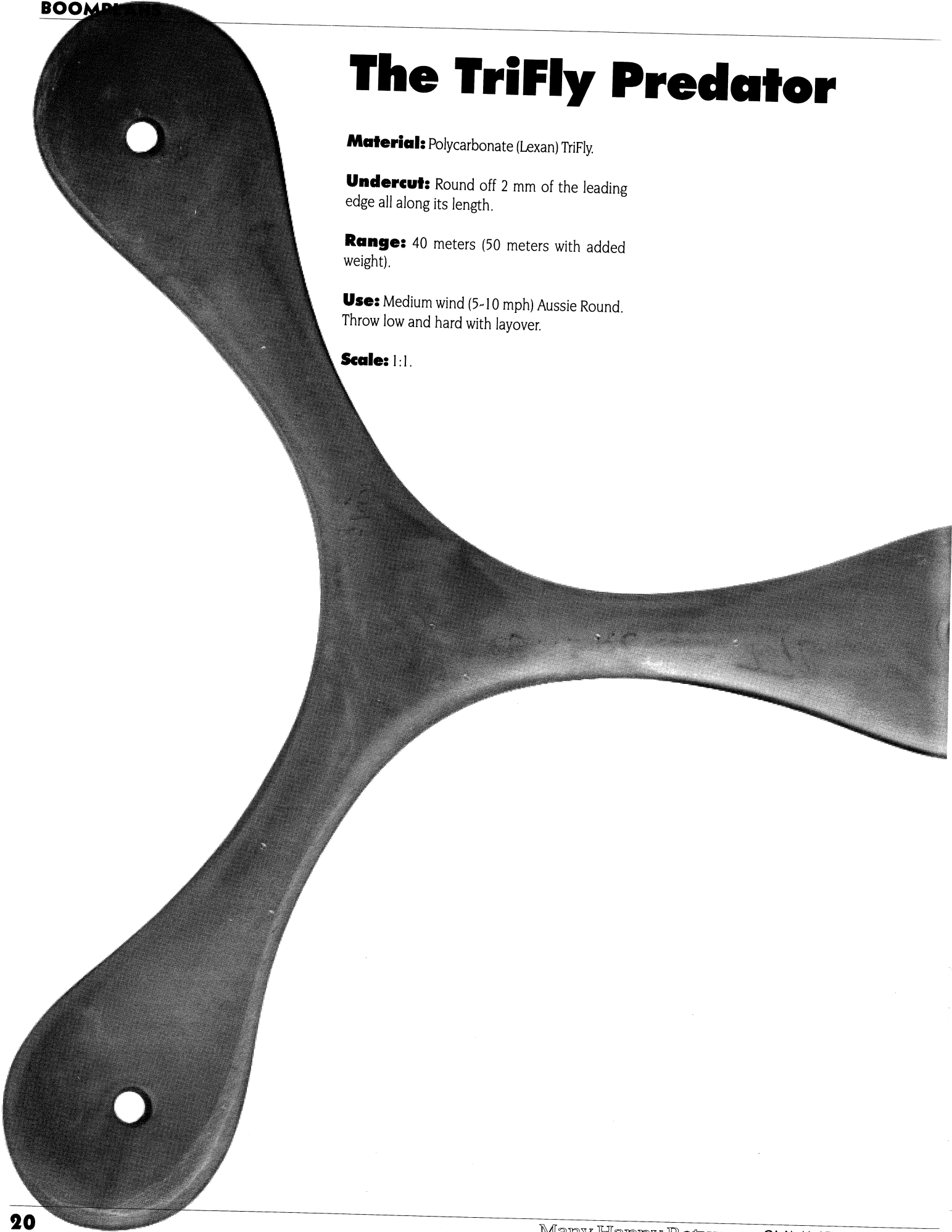
Material: Polycarbonate (Lexan) TriFly.

Undercut: Round off 2 mm of the leading edge all along its length.

Range: 40 meters (50 meters with added weight).

Use: Medium wind (5-10 mph) Aussie Round. Throw low and hard with layover.

Scale: 1:1.





Sydney 2000 Logo and Event Pictograms



Archery



Athletics



Badminton



Baseball



Basketball



Boxing



Canoe/
Kayak-Sprint



Canoe Slalom



Cycling



Diving



Equestrian



Fencing



Football



Gymnastics



Gymnastics -
Rhythmic



Handball



Hockey



Judo



Modern
Pentathlon



Rowing



Sailing



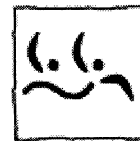
Shooting



Softball



Swimming



Synchronized
Swimming



Table Tennis



Taekwondo



Tennis



Triathlon



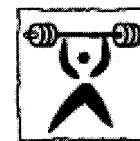
Volleyball



Beach Volleyball



Waterpolo



Weightlifting



Wrestling

THE USBA STORE

www.usba.org/USBAstore.html

PO BOX 182 DELAWARE, OHIO 43015

How to Order

Place orders by sending check or money order to the address above. Prices include shipping to US and Canada.

Overseas Clients

Add US\$2.00 for surface and US\$4.00 for airmail. Pamphlets and back issue newsletters are US\$1.00 extra for surface and US\$2.00 extra for airmail.

All proceeds from the USBA store go into the general USBA treasury. Your purchases subsidize the US Team, *Many Happy Returns*, and insurance premiums for the USBA among other expenses.

Questions?

Phone or fax
(614) 363-4414
or e-mail
boomerang@midohio.net

CLOTHING

- ◆ 1996 US Open T-shirts \$16.00 (L, XL)
- ◆ USBA Eagle T-shirts \$12.00 members, \$15.00 nonmembers (L, XL, XXL)

LITERATURE

- ◆ 1996 USBA Competition Rulebook \$2.50
- ◆ *Boomerang*, a book by Ben Ruhe \$6.00
- ◆ "The Boomerang" an early pamphlet by Ruhe and Hawes \$4.00
- ◆ "Low Reynold's number airfoils" scientific paper \$2.50
- ◆ Individual back issue of MHR (inquire for availability) \$2.50
- ◆ Get one set of ALL available MHR back issues for only \$25.00!

Gift Certificates Available in Any Denomination!

USBA Member Boosmiths and Retailers

www.usba.org/memvend.html



- Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs
- Active Vermont
- Air Traffic Kites and Games
- Boomerangs by Ted Bailey
- The Boomerang Man
- Broadbent Boomerangs
- BVD Rangs
- Channel Craft, Inc.
- Circle Stix
- Cleveland Boomerang School
- Colorado Boomerangs
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- Fly Boy Boomerangs
- Flying Frog Boomerangs
- Gel Boomerangs
- Gemz
- Greyford Co. Boomerangs
- Kalmanson Boomerangs
- Leading Edge Boomerangs
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- Fred Malmberg
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- Roundtrip Boomerangs
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- San Francisco Boomerang School
- Stix by Steve
- Stone Mountain Boomerangs
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- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Steve Conaway 121 Oakdale Ln., Fillmore CA 93015 | (805) 524-2913 | 14 models for comp and fun |
| John Flynn PO Box 4425 White River Jct. VT 05001 | (802) 296-7244 | boomerangs and outdoor gear |
| M. Hedberg & L. Sandifer Mall of America Minneapolis MN | (612) 858-9599 | retailers of Colorado, Flight Stix, Gel, Outback, more |
| PO Box 6076 Ann Arbor MI 48106 | (734) 971-2970 | comp B's, newsletter, mini B's, books |
| Rich Harrison 1806 N. 3rd St. Monroe LA 71201 | (318) 325-8157 | retailer of many models, credit cards accepted |
| Gary Broadbent 3204 38th St. NW Canton OH 44718 | (330) 492-RANG | comp booms, demos, lesson plans & supplies |
| David Hendricks 1086 Gordon St. Allentown PA 18103 | (610) 434-7305 | variety of models |
| D.J. Helfer PO Box 101 North Charleroi PA | (412) 489-4900 | fax (412) 489-0773 recreational woodcraft |
| Stuart Jones 195 E. 5th St. #605 St. Paul MN 55101 | (612) 228-1393 | demos, workshops, info phone or fax |
| Dave Boehm PO Box 17385 Euclid OH 44117 | (216) 442-6024 | variety of booms, workshops |
| 407 W. Tomichi Ave. Gunnison CO 81230 | (800) 35RANGS | recreational booms, comp booms |
| John Cryderman 136 Thames St. Chatham, ON N7L 2Y8 Canada | (519) 354-3984 | hardwood strip laminates, buyer |
| Kelly Leggette 7180 Lakemond Ct. Villa Rica GA 30180 | (888) 213-0084 | boomerangs |
| Tom Conally 1320 Cherry Dr. Burlington NC 27215 | (336) 584-4046 | boomerangs |
| Michael Girvin 2124 Kittredge St. #61 Berkeley CA 94704 | (510) 658-2469 | full spectrum of comp and sport B's, T-shirts, more |
| Tony Gembeck PO Box 5241 Portland OR 97208 | (503) 230-8955 | variety of wood B's and comp clothing |
| Thomas Risher Box 4734 Whittier CA 90607 | | manufacturer and distributor, buyer, retailer |
| Neil Kalmanson 766 Old Nunez Rd. Swainsboro GA 30401 | (912) 237-7831 | Kalmanson reversible art boomerangs |
| Chet Snouffer PO BOX 664 Delaware OH 43015 | (740) 363-8332 | comp and beginner B's, FC, doublers, more |
| Norm Kern 1640 Haynes Birmingham MI 48009 | (248) 645-9308 | 8 models from beginner to comp |
| 1545 E. Market St. York PA 17403 | (717) 848-4601 | rare hardwoods, lap joints |
| Kendall L. Davis 932 21st Street Rock Island IL 61201 | (309) 793-9885 | 15 models to choose from + special orders |
| Doug DuFresne PO Box 25577 Portland OR 97225 | | beginner to comp B's, fast catch, strip laminates |
| John Derden 451 Colegrove Dr. Swainsboro GA 30401 | (912) 237-7831 | birch ply, lap joints, poly & PVC B's, beginner to comp |
| T.W. Smith PO Box 11332 Eugene OR 97440 | (503) 465-9461 | full spectrum incl. dist., indoor, backyd, comp B's |
| G. Snouffer & R. Tilford 340 Troy Rd Delaware OH 43015 | (740) 363-4414 | whsl/retail, indoor, bkzyd, beginner to comp, T-shirts |
| Peter Ruhf 6550 Meeting House Rd. New Hope PA 18938 | (215) 863-3479 | comp & beginner booms, specialize in lefties |
| Box 84895 San Diego CA 92138 | (619) 296-4243 | wood booms, cyalume stix, call 4-8pm |
| Bill Tumath 127 Knollview Way San Francisco CA 94131 | (415) 550-6746 | Herb Smith dealer |
| Steve Collins 4820 Hillcrest Okemos MI 48864 | (517) 349-5234 | beginner to comp, FC, TC, AR, art booms |
| Dan Jones 222 N. Main St. Statesboro GA 30458 | (912) 489-3640 | birch ply, natural elbows |
| Eric Darnell Star Route South Strafford VT 05070 | (802) 765-4336 | fax same number, Tri-Flies |
| Stephane Marguerite 45 Pierre de Coubertin 1000 Succ. M Montreal QC H1V 3R2 | (514) 597-1333 | fax same number, boomerangs |

Attention manufacturers and retailers: Any USBA member who manufactures or distributes boomerangs or related products or services may be listed free of charge as a service to our members. Send description to: Boosmith Listings c/o USBA 2405 Lawndale Drive Champaign, IL 61821 or fax to (217) 244-8371 attn: Tony Brazelton.

Calendar of Events

www.usba.org/calendar.html

USBA Sanctioned Tournaments

Date	Event	Contact
August 29-30	Emmaus Night & Day Tournaments - Emmaus, Pennsylvania	Barnaby Ruhe (610) 967-3683
September 6	4th Annual Illinois Open - Champaign, Illinois	Tony Brazelton (217) 352-6184
Sept. 12-13	2nd Annual Kitty Hawk Kites Invitational - Nags Head, North Carolina	Kitty Hawk Kites (800) 334-4777
Sept. 19-20	14th Annual Summer's Final Fling - Beaverton, Oregon	Tim Schallberger (503) 241-9618
Sept. 26 or 27	Kimball Union Academy - Meriden, New Hampshire	John Flynn (802) 296-7244
October 10	Phoenix Tournament - Phoenix, Arizona	Mark Weary (602) 759-3973
October 11	Tucson Tournament - Tucson, Arizona	Mark Weary (602) 759-3973

To petition the USBA to sanction a tournament or other event, contact Betsylew Miale-Gix.
 Betsylew Miale-Gix
 (425) 485-1672
 e-mail: BMGBOOMS-SHOWDOGWG@worldnet.att.net

Other US Events

Date	Event	Contact
Sept. 13	10th Novice Tournament - Birmingham, Michigan	Norm Kern (248) 645-9308
Nov. 27	Michigan Turkey Toss - Birmingham, Michigan	Norm Kern (248) 645-9308

(continued from page 9)

materials (including polypropylene, ABS and polycarbonate) and can be tuned for either right or left handedness. But there is where the similarities end.

Not only does the Super V look more like what J. Q. Public thinks of as a boomerang, but it also flies more roundtrip-ish as opposed to the up-and-hover-ish flight of the unmodified TriFly. An unmodified ABS Super V with a penny on one wingtip is a serious 30-40 m Aussie Round contender. Just imagine what will happen when people start cutting up these things. Expect some high-performance Accuracy, Aussie Round, Juggling and Relay booms when people start figuring out what happens when they mix a drum sander and a Super V.

I carved a polycarbonate Super V like my polycarbonate TriFly Predator (an excellent 40 m Aussie Round boom) and ended up with an unbelievably accurate high-wind Aussie stick. The plan is on page 10.

Aside from its potential to be the next big thing on the tourney field, the Super V excels as a teaching tool. I never go anywhere without a polypropylene Super V because it is easy for the beginner to throw and, having only two

arms, it is well-received conceptually as a boomerang. I can envision a day in the not too distant future where neighborhood parks will be filled with kids throwing Super V's, dreaming of the day they will be on the US Olympic Boomerang Team.

You can get your Super V's (as well as outdoor foam V's and indoor foam V's as described in the last issue of MHR) from Eric Darnell himself or from Ted Bailey or The Boomerang Man (all three vendors on page 22). Also watch your local stores where TriFlies are sold. They should be there soon!



(continued from page 16)

only missed crossing the return line by 1 meter. The flight was measured with a laser range finder. Oh ya, I have to add that this wasn't in high winds. I'll stop ranting about that part of the day.

The event was run well, well attended and a blast to throw in. Erik was presented a Stealth Classic Hook that was signed by all attendees for his efforts. The UCSB was presented an Aboriginal Steve's Boomerang for his help and

full day's attendance. He said that this won't be the last boomerang event held on the Campus, should we want to have another event. So good news folks, Long Distance rules supreme in Santa Barbara and is welcomed by the sponsor. That is a major accomplishment.

The Thai food was excellent late last night. Following that David showed us his night rangs. Jimbo.....you really need to check these out. 14 LEDs, computer chip, programmed light shows and auto shut off. Oh ya no wires or tape. Really quite awesome.

I arrived home sunburn and very tired a little bit after midnight. My body was already feeling the Ibuprofen thankfully. Today I'm going back up to pick up my new long distance boomerang.

Steve Conaway



Regional Clubs and Contacts by State

www.usba.org/clubs.html

AZ Phoenix	Desert Rangers	Mark Weary & Don Monroe	4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85044	(602) 759-3973
CA San Diego		John Weigel	1323 La Mesa Ave. San Diego CA 91977	(619) 462-4379
SF Bay Area	Bay Area Boomerang Club	Michael Girvin	2124 Kittredge St. #61 Berkeley CA 94704	(510) 658-2469
Santa Barbara		Erik Fields	1501 Clifton St. Santa Barbara CA 93103	(805) 564-4840
Santa Cruz		Brad Westervelt	Voicemail 800-286-6310, box 748	(408) 338-0818
Southern	Southern California Boomerang Alliance	Steve Conaway	121 Oakdale Lane Fillmore, CA 93015	(805) 524-2913
Southern		Paul W.K. Rothmund	533 South Hudson Apt. #1 Pasadena CA 91101	(626) 584-1807
CO Aurora		Richard Pollock-Nelson	2530 S Ouray Way Aurora, CO 80013-1576	(303) 368-5933
CT Madison	The Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society	Paul D. Sprague	782 Boston Post Rd. Madison CT 06443	(203) 245-8211
Shelton	Team Gel East	John "Moleman" Anthony	21 Huntington Ave. Shelton CT 06484	(203) 924-6735
FL Merritt Island	Flite Stix Boom Slingers	Rich Surace	855 E Crisafulli Rd. Merritt Island FL	(407) 452-3963
Orlando		Carl Morris	2602 Breezewind Dr. Orlando, FL 32839	(407) 859-1319
Southwest Florida		Jeff Sullivan	1715 SE 12th Terrace Cape Coral, FL 33990	(941) 458-5514
GA Atlanta	Atlanta Boomerang Society	Frank Golder	#2 Capitol Square rm 370 Atlanta, GA 30334	
Swainsboro	South Georgia Boomerang Club	John Derden	131 College Cir. Swainsboro, GA 30401	(912) 237-7831
IL Champaign	Illini Boomerang Club	Tony Brazelton	2405 Lawndale Dr. Champaign IL 61821	(217) 352-6184
Waterloo		"Chicago" Bob Leifeld	P.O. Box 242 Waterloo, IL 62298	(618) 939-9023
MD Rockville		Jim Nieberding	Rockville, MD 20853	(301) 933-1073
MI Ann Arbor		Ted Bailey	PO Box 6076 Ann Arbor, MI	(734) 971-2970
Birmingham		Norm Kern	1640 Haynes Birmingham, MI 48009	(248) 645-9308
Lansing	Mid Michigan Boomsling Club	Steve Collins	4820 Hillcrest Okemos, MI 48864	(517) 349-5234
MN Mnpls/St Paul	Boomerang Organization Of Minnesota (BOOM)	Stuart Jones	195 E. 5th St. Apt. 605 St Paul, MN 55101	(612) 228-1393
MO St. Louis	St. Louis Boomerang Club	Tom Fitzgerald	1159 Holly River Dr. Florissant, MO 63031	(314) 839-1684
NM Albuquerque	Sandia Boomerang Club	Steve Sanders	10408 Woodland, NE Albuquerque, NM 87111	(505) 294-8842
OH Ashland		Dwight Souder	453 Parkwood Dr. Ashland, OH 44805-4135	(419) 281-4565
Canton	Gary Broadbent's Boom Shop	Gary Broadbent	3204 38th St. NW Canton, OH 44718	(330) 492-RANG
Columbus	There And Back Again Boomerang Club	Bob Lackey	31 E Dodridge Columbus, OH 43202	(614) 263-6840
Delaware	Free Throwers Boomerang Association	Chet Snouffer	PO Box 664 Delaware, OH 43015	(740) 363-8332
Delaware	U.S. Head to Head Boomerang Tournament Organization	Gregg Snouffer	340 Troy Rd. Delaware OH 43015	(740) 363-4414
Euclid	Cleveland Boomerang School	Dave Boehm	PO Box 17385 Euclid, OH 44117	(216) 289-6324
OK Oklahoma City		Joel Bussey	1516 Southern Heights Ave. Norman, OK 73072	(405) 447-2117
Bartlesville		Steven Graham	924 Yale Drive Bartlesville, OK 74006	(918) 333-0730
OR Portland		Tim Schallberger	4740 SW Hamilton St. Portland, OR 97221	(503) 241-9618
PA 610 area code		Dave Hendricks	1086 E Gordon Street Allentown, PA 18103-2208	(610) 434-7305
TN Knoxville	Boomerang Club at the University of Tennessee (BCUT)	David Martin	2912 McNutt Avenue Maryville, TN 37804-2537	(423) 687-3179
TX Houston	Boomerang Association of Texas	Greg Corum	3233 Magnum Rd. Apt 184 Houston TX 77092	(713) 681-0837
Tyler		Pat Steigman	Tyler, TX 75703	(903) 581-5556
UT Sandy	Wasatch Boomerang Club	Jim Miller	2095 E. 10095 South Sandy, UT 84092	(801) 942-6943

In the next issue of

Many Happy Returns

FALL
1998

- ◆ WBC Photo Contest Submittals and Winner
- ◆ Final USBA Season Event and Overall Ratings
- ◆ Tournament Reports
- ◆ Much, much more!

Submit your materials **now** for inclusion in the Fall issue of MHR.
See inside back cover for details.

Tired of Waiting for your MHR?

MHR is shipped via bulk rate mail, which saves the USBA about \$700 per year. However, if you live far from the shipping point, you could be waiting up to five weeks for your MHR! Some members have already solved this problem by subscribing to the **MHR Express Service!** It's easy! If you live in the US, simply send a \$0.78 stamp along with your current address to the MHR office in Champaign, Illinois. Your MHR will be sent **First Class** and will arrive just a few days after it comes off the presses. You may do this one issue at a time or send in as many stamps as you wish **Express** mailings. Send in four stamps - get one year of **Express MHRs**. Please be sure to send stamps to the MHR office in Champaign, Illinois and NOT the national headquarters in Delaware, Ohio. Any questions should be addressed to Tony Brazelton, editor in chief of MHR.



the United States Boomerang Association

GENERAL 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*.

USBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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John Flynn (802) 296-7244

GENERAL CONTACT INFO

Address

USBA
PO Box 182
Delaware OH 43015

Website

www.usba.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

USBA membership entitles you to four issues of the quarterly newsletter *Many Happy Returns*, reduced entry fees for USBA-sanctioned tournaments, discounts on plywood from Anderson Int'l., discounts on books, and early notice of special offers.

Non-USBA members may receive one free trial issue by submitting the form on the left or by visiting the website.

Check your newsletter address label for issue of expiration. Membership status inquiries should be addressed to the **Treasurer**.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to help out the USBA but don't want to run for a seat on the Board of Directors? The Board and its committees periodically need help stuffing envelopes, conducting surveys, writing and proofreading articles for *Many Happy Returns*, and various other odd jobs. If you would like to help out as a volunteer, feel free to contact any board member.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

USBA members: Copy this page and carry extra copies in your boombag. Your membership is extended one issue if a new member lists you as a sponsor below.

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Make checks payable to USBA

Send this completed form along with payment to:

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 Delaware, OH 43015

Tips for Submitting Articles to

MHR

Each issue of *Many Happy Returns* has a subset of themes which are relevant to the time of year that the issue is published. Persons contributing to MHR may wish to keep these themes in mind when deciding on the appropriate issue to which to submit one's writing. Please also keep in mind that contributions need not be limited to these themes. Details for submitting text and graphics can be found inside the front cover.

WINTER Deadline

January 1

Themes

- Making boomerangs
- Calendar

SPRING Deadline

April 1

Themes

- Making boomerangs
- Comp preparation
- Calendar

SUMMER Deadline

July 1

Themes

- Comp technology
- Event summaries
- Calendar

FALL Deadline

November 1

Themes

- Event summaries
- Calendar



www.usba.org

**United States Boomerang Association
PO Box 182
Delaware OH 43015
USA**

BALLOT INSIDE!
Remember to vote and
return your ballots by
September 30.
See page 3 for details.

If the number above your name is
or less, it's time to renew!

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