

Many Happy Returns

Issue No. 82

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Summer 2001

A Wonderful Selection of
Sporting and Competition
Boomerangs by Adam
Carroll of Australia.



Sky
Rider

Champ

Aussie
Mozzie



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BoomerangUSA Website

by Billy & Tony Brazelton & Gregg Snouffer

A new boomerang website called BoomerangUSA has just been launched. There has already been a great deal of interest shown since its launch in early May, and we urge everyone who is still in the dark to check it out at:

<http://www.boomerangusa.org>

The website is fairly self-explanatory, so let us just briefly explain the ideas and motives behind BoomUSA. The guys behind it (Gregg Snouffer, Tony Brazelton, and Billy Brazelton) think that competitive boomeranging is a sport that has yet to realize its full potential. We also believe that boomerangs as a sport and boomerangs as a recreational hobby are two mutually beneficial aspects of the same thing. To promote one of them is to promote the other.

Our strategy is to give people incentives to attend and host local USBA tournaments because local tournaments are our best tools for creating a sense of community among boomerang players and exposing our sport to the public.

In order to promote local tournaments, we have instituted a system in which players are rewarded for posting good scores at local tournaments. If the scores are above a certain qualifying mark, they are posted on the BoomerangUSA website and that player is invited to compete in the BoomUSA Championships, a tournament to be held later this summer.

The qualifying standards are relatively easy, and anyone can achieve them at all but the windiest tournaments. (9 out of the 12 players at the Atlanta tournament qualified in at least one event!) Tournament too windy? Go to another one! Not another one near you? Host your own! The Tournament Directors' Headquarters (TDHQ) at the BoomerangUSA website makes it easy to host a first tournament.

We also post scores from all other events, ranging from Endurance to Hackuracy to Blindfolded-Supercatch-With-10-Person-Teams-In-The-Dark. You run it, we'll share it with the world. We want to see some exciting new events this year!

When you visit the site, there may be something about it that seems familiar. That's because BoomerangUSA is really an extension of the wildly popular "Competition Update" that Chicago Bob published in the mid-1990s and the Head-2-Head Boomerang Organization founded by Gregg Snouffer and Aron McGuire in 1997. There was a lot of player support for these two ideas but no organizational support. Until now. BoomerangUSA combines the hard stats of Comp Update with the vision for a more fun, fair, and media-friendly sport of the H2HBO.

Think of the BoomUSA website as a free service being provided to USBA members. If our hopes and dreams are realized, the success of BoomUSA will lead to a bigger and better USBA, and more people will learn of the wonderful hobby and sport of boomerangs. And in the meantime, we'll have lots of fun!

Recent USBA News

New Tournament Regulations

The USBA has made a number of changes to local tournament regulations this year in order to encourage creativity and to embrace all boomerang events and formats. The traditional six USBA events are now entirely optional, and you can hold USBA-sanctioned team tournaments, head-to-head tournaments, Gel tournaments, or anything else. The minimum number of throwers requirement for tournaments has been reduced, and it now applies to each event separately. For example, MTA only requires four players, and Trick Catch only needs five! And as long as certain minimum requirements are met, you can even pull individual scores from team competitions! The USBA will maintain a running high scores list on usba.org for the six traditional events so you can keep track of everyone else's scores and know what score you have to beat in order to move up to the top of the list. For full details, go to: http://usba.org/The_Sport/comp-reform2001.html

A description and guideline for the new USBA events for the 2001 season has been posted on the USBA web page. USBA members who plan to compete in the 2001 throwing season should review these changes at:

http://usba.org/The_Sport/rules2001.html

2000 USBA Ratings

The USBA Ratings for the 2000 Throwing season were completed by Jason Smucker and posted on the WWW at: <http://www.prism.gatech.edu/~gt5353b/USBA/2000/> Congratulations go to the following Top 10 Throwers:

- 1 Gregg Snouffer
- 2 Stevie Kavanaugh
- 3 Jason Smucker
- 4 Adam Ruhf
- 5 Dennis Joyce
- 6 Billy Brazelton
- 7 Aron McGuire
- 8 John Flynn
- 8 Betsylew Miale-Gix
- 10 Chet Snouffer

The first USBA National Expo

Until now, the US Open has been attended mainly by a core group of regular competitors. That is all about to change. In an effort to embrace all aspects of boomerangs, the USBA has transformed the US Open into the USBA National Expo. There will still be a boomerang tournament, but we will also have design contests, featured speakers, workshops and lessons for beginners, and a junior competition. Basically, it will be a festival-like atmosphere creating a community of boomerang enthusiasts with a national competition running in the background. The First Annual USBA National Expo will be hosted by the Snouffer brothers August 10-12 in Delaware, Ohio. The festival events will be running continuously, but the competition schedule is as follows: Friday: Individual Championships; Saturday: fun-oriented team events with beginners and experts playing side-by-side; Sunday: H2H Championships, Junior Nationals. A Distance tournament and Gel events will also be scheduled. This will be without a doubt the biggest boomerang party on the planet - don't miss it!

The Atlanta Tournament

The Southeastern Classic was held near Atlanta the last weekend in April with great success. Youngster Matt Golenor pulled out a surprise victory over US Team members Jason Smucker, Steve Cook, Dennis Joyce, and International Women's Team member Laura Smucker. Tournament results can be found at:

http://usba.org/The_Sport/results/2001_Results.html

Membership Office Moves

Keith Mullinar is the new USBA Treasurer, so please send membership renewal checks to him at 34 Lorraine Court, East Hartford, CT 06118. If you have any membership questions, contact Keith at: membership@usba.org

Toss Across America 2001

More than 30 TAA events were held around North America in 2001. Most of the TAA Hosts didn't send in their reports, but Brian Braye (brbraye@ilstu.edu) of Bloomington Illinois did. This is what he had to say:

Brian taught 18 people how to throw a boomerang over two hours in the morning of 19 May. The age of the throwers was 8 - 55. Three of these throwers expressed an interest in forming a local throwing club. Brian passed out instructions for: "How to Throw a Boomerang" and "Where to Buy a Boomerang". Brian also demonstrated various types of boomerangs, including a Triskelion under handed boom. Brian tossed a left and right handed boomerang at the same time and caught them both.

Prior to the TAA event, Brian was featured in a large article about boomerangs by "The Pantagraph" newspaper (15 May 2001). The excellent article had several full color photographs of Brian's boomerang collection and of Brian throwing and catching a boomerang. The article really helped bring out the locals to his TAA event.

Overall, this was a first class TAA event and the USBA encourages others to participate in this annual affair and bring new throwers into the sport.

Bits & Pieces

News From The: USA

The Outback Survivor II show is now history. As the show ended, a large number of boomerangs were posted on eBay, each bearing signatures of the participants. The prices realized were \$300 for Item #1423123053 (Steve Conaway's Tribesman model!) on 15 April, \$810 for Item # 1428142199 on 6 May, \$550 for Item #1427025129 on 6 May, \$335.51 for Item #1428814998 on 9 May and \$305 for Item #1430544846 on 17 May. The last survivor boomerang auction (Item # 1435705089) ended on 10 June. What a difference a month made.

This final boomerang didn't even meet the reserve price of \$74.99. Of course, you can always buy your own Survivor boomerang directly from Steve Conaway for a lot less money. Just visit Aboriginal Steve's web site: <http://www.vcnet.com/abosteves/booms.html>

Dean Kelly will be hosting the 14th Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup in Salem, Oregon on July 29, 2001. All USBA events will be held in the following order: Accuracy, Trick Catch/ Doubling, Fast Catch, Endurance, MTA 100, Australian Round. The event will be held at the McKay High School soccer fields located at 2440 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, OR. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with events beginning at 9:30 AM. The entry fee is \$10 (Novice entry fee: Free). Tournament Director: Dean Kelly; Head Judge: Diane DuFresne. Email Dean for more info at: Dean.A.Kelly@state.or.us

In March, the USBA Board of Directors asked the editor to update the listing of boomerang manufacturers and retailers in the USA. An email inquiry was sent out to a large number of boomerang manufacturers and there was only one response. Therefore, USBA members are encouraged to order their boomerang products from: <http://www.bvdrangs.com> email: bvdrangs@enter.net or call 610-434-7305

BVD'Rangs
Dave Hendricks
1086 E Gordon Street
Allentown, PA 18109-2208

Dave sells 18 sport models from beginner to intermediate. Constructed from Baltic or Finland birch plywood, ABS and polypropylene plastics. Prices range from \$6 to \$15. Also available are stock and modified Darnell Triflys. Specialty boomerangs include hardwood lap joint boomerangs.



One of the best episodes of the Outer Limits television show was "Fun and Games". This photo shows the Calco Galaxy Primitive and his boomerang weapon (modified from a 1950s Chevy emblem) with Nick Adams and Nancy Malone in background. You can rent this episode from most video stores.

Paul Gustafson will host a Burlington, Vermont competition on Saturday, July 14, 2001. Call Paul at: 802-864-3212 or email him at: fatelvis@together.net Website: <http://homepages.together.net/~fatelvis/2001Comp.htm>

Tony Brazelton will host two two tournaments this summer. The first is the 7th Annual Indiana Open on June 30-July 1, 2001 at the Center Grove Soccer Club in Greenwood, Indiana. Events include: Singles Head-2-Head Shootout in three divisions (novice, intermediate, advanced). All the events to be contested at this year's National Championship will be held. PLUS: demos of new events like Freestyle and Boomerangathlon. Tournament Director: Tony Brazelton; email to: brazelami@yahoo.com or call (317) 883-2334 or visit:

Web: <http://www.usba.org/chapters/indyboomclub>

Tony's second event is the 7th Annual Indiana Open Team Cup on July 21-22, 2001 at the Center Grove Soccer Club in Greenwood, Indiana. Events will include Supercatch, 30m Relay, Speed (Endurance) Relay, and Position plus a round robin Scramble tournament. Join a pickup team on the field or bring your own. Tournament Director: Tony Brazelton. Email: brazelami@yahoo.com or call (317) 883-2334 or visit: <http://www.usba.org/chapters/indyboomclub>

Terry Broshears has an injection mold for making 6-bladed pinwheel boomerangs for sale. The mold cost \$15,000 to make and he is selling it for \$4,000. The price includes enough stock to make 200-300 boomerangs, plus packaging. For more information, call Mr. Terry Broshears at 812-425-6097 or write to:

Mr. Terry Broshears
3731 Stringtown Rd.
Evansville, IN 47711-3117

For those of you who live within driving distance of Ann Arbor, the Ann Arbor Public Library will host a large display of art boomerangs constructed by Boom artist Pat Cardiff in September 2001. The show will be on the third floor and will feature 200 magnificent boomerangs depicting animals, plants and people. For more information, call Pat Cardiff at 734-761-1908, email cardiffeliot@hotmail.com or write to:

Patrick H. Cardiff
1003 Miller Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

USBA Board member, Suzanne Ragan Lentz (206-784-0453), has moved. Her new address is:

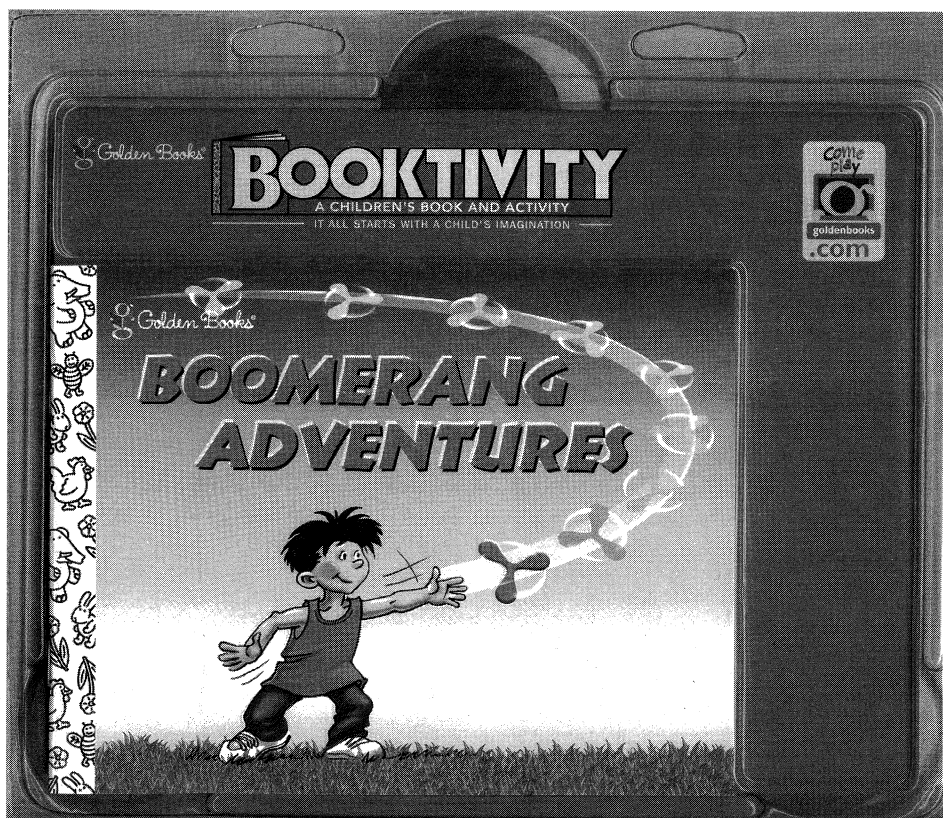
Suzanne Ragan Lentz
833 NW 52nd Street
Seattle, WA 98107

Ted Bailey of flight-toys.com is offering to collect subscription payments for readers who are interested in subscribing to newsletters from other boomerang organizations. The following newsletters are available:

(1) Many Happy Returns, quarterly publication of the USBA. \$15 in the USA and Canada and \$20 elsewhere. You get 4 newsletters per year and a membership that allows you to compete in USBA sanctioned tournaments.

(2) BAA Bulletin, quarterly (sometimes more) publication of the Boomerang Association of Australia, edited by Brother Brian Thomas. These newsletters are a treat to read and are full of history about Aussie boomerang throwers. The next couple of issues will have reprinted material from the first USA/Aussie Challenge Match that took place a full 20 years ago. A subscription is only \$15 USD from anywhere outside of Australia.

(3) DBC Info, quarterly publication of the German DBC club. You get 4 issues (in German language of course) with 20+ pages of plans, pictures, etc. The cost is the same worldwide: \$22 for surface mail or \$51 for airmail shipping.



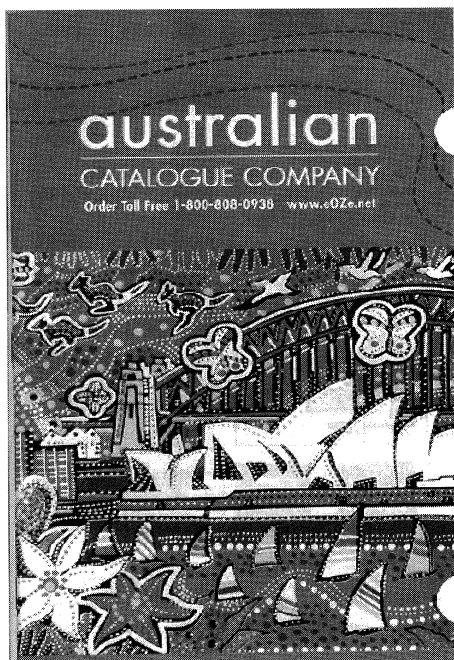
Paul Sprague has authored a 24 page child's book titled "Boomerang Adventures". The illustrations were done by a Russian artist named Vitaliv Romanenko who smuggles boomerangs back home to Russia. Paul's book is part of a Golden Books series called Booktivity because it comes with two foam triblader boomerangs. You can find this book for sale (\$7.99) on Amazon.com or in selected bookstores. ISBN 0-307-30483-3

(4) Boomerang News, published approximately 8/year with up to date information about boomerangs from all over the planet. Definitely required reading for every serious boomerang thrower. Subscriptions are only \$10 in the USA and Canada or \$15 elsewhere.

All prices quoted above are in USD. You can pay for any number of subscriptions with one check or MO, made payable to "Ted Bailey" in US Funds and mailed to the following address with your contact info (address, email, etc.) included with your payment:

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

The Australian Catalog Company has put out a new catalog full of wonderful Aussie products. The catalog includes Aussie foods, didjeridus, music CDs, jewelry, knick-knacks and just about any other product produced in Australia, including boomerangs. There is even a Signature Series Super Flyer model by Rob Croll. To obtain your own catalog, call 800-808-0938 or visit their web page at <http://www.eOZe.net>



Suzanne Lentz and Stevie Kavanaugh will be traveling to Europe this Summer to throw in a Kiel tournament as well as in the European Championships. We look forward to receiving a report from them as the USBA prepares to select a team for the 2002 World Championships.

The Michigan Atlatl Association and Great Lakes Primitives sponsors an annual Primitive Technology gathering every year on Bois Blanc Island, near Cheboygan, Michigan. There is a small fee for the 3 day event that includes camping and participation in all kind of neat activities. Almost every year, there is a boomerang and/or throwstick competition. If you have an interest in attending this wonderful event, please contact Jim Gilligan by phone at: 810-231-2314 or by email at: atlatl@ismi.net

The third annual Twin Peaks Boomerang Tournament was held on 16/17 June in North Bend, Washington with 30 throwers from 6 states & Canada participating in a large number of team events. The throwers were most excited about the first official USBA long distance event held in more than 10 years. The top scores included 136 metres by Eric Fields, 127 metres by Casey Larrance, 122 metres by both Dan Neelands and Steve Cook. Kelly Neelands set a woman's world record in the event with a throw of 84 metres. For more information on this event, visit Will Herlan's web site: <http://communities.msn.com/TwinPeaksTripleEye>

AUSTRALIA

The Boomerang Association of Australia (BAA) has a new President. This time it is long time thrower and boomerang organizer Morris Maxwell. Brother Brian Thomas continues to edit the BAA Bulletin.

The BAA Nationals were held on 5/6 May 2001 with 23 throwers

at Xavier University in the historic town of North Albury. David Schummy put in a solid performance and won the senior division. Brother Brian Thomas won the Veteran's division. Adam Carroll won Aussie Round. David Schummy won Accuracy (44). Bruce Carter won Fast Catch (25.26 sec.) and Trick Catch/Doubling. Craig Carter won Endurance (32). Rob Croll won MTA(45.70 sec). Günter Wandtke has posted photos of the 2001 Aussie Nationals at: <http://community.webshots.com/album/13838044AKHLESuAEI>

Brian Thomas was the winner of the Blacktown Aussie Round Competition held on 17 June, beating out 15 other throwers, including Tony Butz and Gunter Wandtke who came in second and third respectively. In this competition, throwers get 4 rounds of Aussie Round and use the best two rounds as their score.

Congratulations go to Ken Arthur on his 80th Birthday. Ken has been throwing boomerangs for 70 years! He has also been the Treasurer of the Boomerang Throwing Association of New South Wales for 20 years.

The cover of this issue belongs to three Birch Plywood boomerangs made by Adam Carroll. These models are excellent sports boomerangs, but can be adapted for the Accuracy or Australian Round events by adding tape spoilers or coins. The editor tried all three models and found the Champ to have the best range and wind resistance, but it takes a harder throw as well. If you would like to find out more about Adam Carroll's boomerang products, you can email Adam at: agcarroll@bigpond.com or write to:

Adam Carroll
3/29 Forster Street
West Pymble 2114
New South Wales
Australia

Many of the readers are familiar with the famous Aboriginal boomerang maker Bill Onus who made collectable boomerangs in the mid 20th Century. Bill's lefty son, Lin Onus (1948-1996), is not as well known in the boomerang community today, even though he was a founding member of the BAA in 1969. However, Lin Onus is rather famous in the art community. Sotheby's is auctioning one of Lin's paintings in Melbourne on 9 July. The estimated price is \$12,000 - \$18,000. This auction has a lot of other art work and Aboriginal artifacts that may be of interest to the readers, including some beautiful incised and decorated shields, a fabulous Lil-lil and a few boomerangs. If you wish to find out more about this and future auctions by Sothe-

by's, you can call 03 9563 5067 or write to:

Sotheby's
926 High Street
Armadale, Victoria 3143
Australia

CANADA

David Visschedyk is the editor of the Internet Herald. The Internet Herald is an internet magazine with just under thirty-thousand readers at <http://www.iherald.com>. The Internet Herald is planning for a series of articles on fun things to do during the summer. One of the activities they plan to highlight is boomeranging. Anyone wishing to send in one or more boomerangs for review on

the program can mail their package to:

David Visschedyk
Internet Herald
1200 Western Rd. Suite 426F
London ON N6G 5E3
Canada

Congratulations go to George Gray of British Columbia who supplied one of his traditional boomerangs as art to be published in the May issue of "Yahoo Internet Life". The boomerang was to be used in an article about incredibly useful products.

ENGLAND

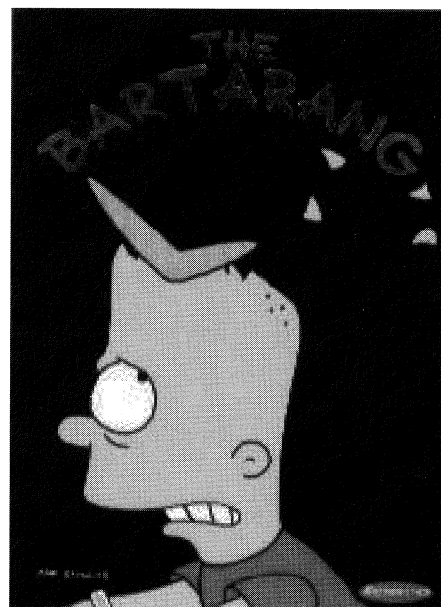
It is remarkable how much a collector will pay for a rare boomerang. What is even more remarkable is how much a collector will pay for a trading card. On June 19, a bidder paid the equivalent of \$806.88 in British currency for a very rare (only 50 issued) Simpsons Boomerang trading card - eBay Item #1154011916.

FINLAND

The Finnish Boomerang Association and the Student union of the University of Kuopio will hold the first Open Student World Boomerang Championships the



The Urban Dingo; A Painting by Lin Onus



The Rare Bart-A-Rang Card

22nd of September 2001. Both individual and team events will be held. The events include: Accuracy, Trick Catch, Fast Catch and Indoor Throw. There will also be a design competition. First prize in the individual competition will be a trip to Australia! There will also be team prizes. For more information, contact Riitta Alakoski by calling: +358 17 163 731 or by email: riitta.alakoski@uku.fi Website: www.uku.fi/kyy/startti (which will be in English in early August.)

FRANCE

Timothée Boissy-Ganivet is a 13 year old French student from the school: Marcel Mariotte de St Siméon de Bressieux. Every week, the school participates in boomerang making and throwing activities. Recently, the students set a new French record for throwing and catching boomerangs in one hour (10 throwers in a gymnasium). The students used Air Dancers to rack up the magnificent score of 7549 catches! Timothée's school would like to challenge other schools for the title in September. For more information, you can visit his web site at: <http://recorddelheure.multimania.com/> or you can email Timothée at: timotheeboissy@multimania.com Please email in French or simple English so that your message can be easily computer translated.

Renan Guillou (email address: rguillou@club-internet.fr) is the new editor of the France Boomerang Association (FBA) newsletter.



World Record Holding French Students With Their Air Dancers

ter. After reviewing the latest two issue, this MHR editor would like to say that the FBA Newsletter has become a world class newsletter full of good information and great art. Renan would like to exchange the FBA newsletter with other boomerang publication editors. Renan's mailing address is:

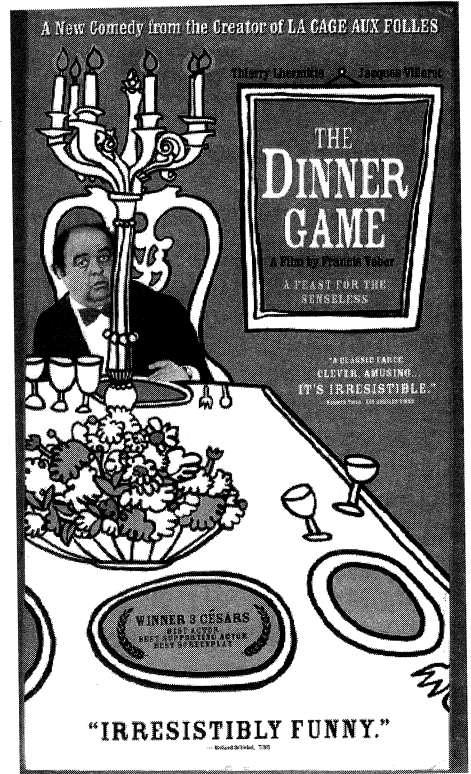
Renan Guillou
1 rue du Stade
22950 Tregueux
France

One of the funniest movies that the editor has seen in a very long time is currently available on videotape (through Universal in the USA with English subtitles). This French language film is about a snobbish group of Frenchmen who hold a monthly dinner meeting and invite an idiot to speak as the guest of honor. The first idiot shown in the movie's introduction is a boomerang thrower with a wonderful competition throw kit with well known boomerang models (who supplied this?). The movie quickly moves on to the next idiot who is the primary subject of the film. This movie is definitely worth viewing. Ask for it at your video rental store.

LATVIA

Aivars Brengulis was researching the use of prehistoric boomerangs in Northern Europe when he found a book, titled "Middle of TransUral in era of Neolithic and Bronze", by Raushenbah V.M., 1956. with a photo of ceramics and wooden artifacts found at a depth of 6 metres in a Peat Bog. The photograph clearly shows a large (85 cm) wooden throwstick with a shape that resembles the Polish Mammoth Tusk throwstick, only with rounded tips.

Aivars Brengulis doesn't get many television channels in Latvia, but he watches what is available. He recently found boomerangs in use in two television



The Dinner Game

shows. The first was the American soap-opera "LIVING SINGLE". One of the episodes showed one of the actors correctly throwing a traditional boomerang. The second show was on the German TV channel RTL in a serial

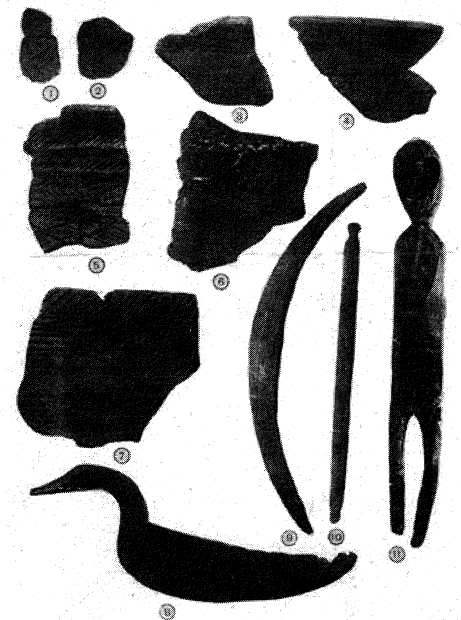


Рис. 10.
Керамика (1—7—1/2 и. н.) и изделия из дерева из среднего слоя свечки на 6-м от
рассеянного горизонта (8—1/5; 9—1/10; 10—1/7; 11—1/12 и. н.)

Prehistoric Russian Artifacts

called "The CLOWN". A folding boomerang was used as a weapon. After a character's gun jammed, he took out his folding boom from an inside pocket, put it together quickly, aimed and threw it at a woman, hitting her in the neck and causing her to drop her machine gun!

SLOVENIA

Congratulations go to Zoran Jarnovic on the birth of his daughter Lana who entered this world on 12 June after a lengthy 12 hours of labor. Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

WWW

Steve Conaway of Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs has a new email address: steve@vcnet.com

Dwaine Morris has posted a web page depicting Native American throwsticks at: <http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/frog/228/index.html>

You can also purchase a returner shaped like a Rabbit Stick at: <http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/frog/228/rstick.htm>

Pat Cardiff makes wonderful art 'rangs depicting custom themes like pet, people and plants. He has a new web page at: <http://T9.addr.com/cardiff/>

Russell Hansen of Australia has posted a really neat web page called "Boomerang Info" with all kinds of information about boomerangs: <http://boomeranginfo.com/>

Beginning in September 2001, Russell will produce an electronic boomerang newsletter. For more information, email Russell at rhan-sen@powerup.com.au or visit: <http://boomeranginfo.com/magazine.html>

The Wireless Corporation of Belgium incorporates a boomerang in their company logo: <http://www.twc.be>

Origins of Art is a USA based company that offers primitive art from various cultures. This includes nicely painted boomerangs from Australia: <http://www.originsofart.com/>

Sascha Winkler has a new URL for his German web page full of boomerang related photos: <http://www.boomerang-photos.com>

Chet Snouffer has won an award for the design of his web page. Please see the article: http://www.entrepreneur.com/Your_Business/YB_SegArticle/0,1314,287918-1401---1-,00.html

Lubomir Husek has announced a new URL for the Czech Boomerang Team web page at: <http://mujweb.cz/zabava/boomerang/>

Laurent Brancaloni of France has posted the Boomerang Shop web page where boom manufacturers can post photos and descriptions of their booms for free. Buyers order directly from the web page: <http://www.boomerang-shop.com>

The new email address of the Versilia Boomerang Association (Italy) is versiliaboomerang@tin.it

Maurizio Saba has posted pictures from the Beach Boomerang Viareggio 2001 tournament at: <http://web.tiscalinet.it/itboomerang/torpaid10.htm>

Gift Store UK offers a boomerang kit for £16.99 which includes a boomerang, booklet and can of wax in an attractive box: <http://www.giftstore.co.uk/products/mballtm-4.html> You can purchase the same product in the USA from: <http://www.flight-toys.com/boomerang/catalog.htm>

Susan and Richard Ogilvy make a wonderful line of plywood and strip laminated boomerang products in Scotland. Check out the DAVRO Boomerangs web site today: <http://www.davroboomerangs.com/>

The Outback Steakhouse offers a boomerang game on their web site. Please visit the URL: <http://www.outback.com/gamescontests/boomerranggame.asp>

The Boomerang Beach House Backpackers in Australia has a great advertisement showing a boomerang at: <http://dkd.net/boomerang/packers.html>

Steve Maxwell from the Canadian Home Workshop magazine has published a story about how to make boomerangs at: <http://www.thecitizen.com/homes/houseworks/000923/4564231.html>

The Spring Break Buggy Blast (SBBB) web site has published a web page showing photos of their 2001 Boomerang Competition, held on 18 March 2001 at the Roach Dry Lake Bed: <http://www.sbbb.net/sbbb2001/sbbb0104.htm>

Antonio Mazzone has posted a web page showing off his incredibly small 18 mm boomerang at: <http://www.tricaricum.net/mini.htm>

You can always find wonderful boomerang products for sale on the German Boomerang Auction web site: <http://www.boomerang-auctions.de>

The Flight-toys Spring 2001 auction is now complete with 200 boomerangs and related items selling at an average price of \$45.79. Of course, there were lots of low cost items, but the following items really brought the average up:

Swan Neck Throwstick	\$331
Jonas Romblad MTA	\$245
Swan Neck Throwstick	\$200
Aborigine Throwstick	\$175
Herb Smith Wtd. Tornado	\$169
Al Gerhards S/L Hook	\$161
Aborigine Throwstick	\$160
Aborigine Throwstick	\$151
Aborigine Throwstick	\$150
Janetzki Razor-Gang	\$143
Herb Smith Onado	\$142
Herb Smith Traditional	\$141
Herb Smith Blue Bird	\$140
Herb Smith Ninja	\$140
Herb Smith Samurai	\$140

The Fall 2001 Boomerang Auction will officially start on 1 August after all 200 boomerang items have been received and logged in. For more information on the next Flight-toys boomerang auction, please visit the following web page: <http://www.flight-toys.com/boomerang/auction.htm>

World Cup 2002

by *Günter Möller*

Hi everybody!

Yes, it's official! Eckhard Mawick, Günter Möller, Gerrit Lemkau and Oli Thienhaus from Germany are willing to take over the major task of organizing the Boomerang World (Team and Individual) Cup 2002 in Kiel/Germany!

Eckhard Mawick has already organized and ran uncountable tournaments in Kiel and Travemuende over the last few years. He also organized and ran the two European Championships in Germany: 1991 in Bad Hersfeld and 1995 in Kiel. Günter Möller has already organized and run a number of tournaments in Dormagen over the last decade. Gerrit Lemkau organized the German Nationals 2000 in Muenster.

Date: Friday, July 28th - Friday, August 9th 2002

Place: Nordmarksportfeld ("North Borderland Sporting Field"), where many tournaments - even long distance tournaments - have been held so far. One of them was the German Nationals 1998, when Adam Ruhf/USA was present. You may ask him for further information. The field size is about 400 x 300 metres! Even Manuel Schütz has no problems throwing long distance here! There will be 3 Aussie Round and 6 Accuracy circles are easily fit on the field.

Housing: The youth hostel Kiel-Gaarden has 120 beds already reserved for us and is willing to work with us also in other regards. The Youth Hostel "Kiel Gaarden" to throwing field: Less than 10 km and 15 minutes (via "Autobahn"-like city main streets). Shuttle service by organizers will be possible. 30 to 50 more throwers could even stay at the 1972 Olympic Centre "Schilksee" Kiel.

Team Cup Expenses. The Team Cup overall (Accommodation, Catering, maybe shuttle from accommodation): Approx. DM 210,- for accommodation and approx. DM 210,- for full catering (3 meals a day) for the complete time of the Team Cup (8 days). Plus approx. DM 300,- per person entering the team event. (By 2002 the EURO will be our new currency, so numbers of prices will be cut half and therefore much nearer the US dollar.)

Recreation: The University of Kiel might provide function rooms, swimming pool and internet facilities. Maybe even students of sports, which might help on and off the field.

Family: Eckhard would be more than happy to help anybody with free-time activities before, during and after the tournament (Sailing, Culture etc.). Even at this moment I'm sure, that there will be quite a few tournaments in Europe before and after the Cup 2002 - a lot of organizers will be glad to welcome you!

Media work: Public relations of the German Nationals 2000 were made by an excellent professional agency called "Cyrano". Gerrit Lemkau stays in permanent contact with "Cyrano" and he has already negotiated really good conditions for the Team Cup 2002. This will probably become the biggest media event in boomerang history! More details on that in a few days.

Website: Oli Thienhaus and Gerrit Lemkau will be responsible for the WBC website <http://www.boomerang2002.com>. Even a long time before the Team Cup will begin there will be all necessary information, news and facts online, in order to keep all of you permanently updated about how the work is getting on!

Each national association should come up with one contact person per country. Thank you. We'll keep you up-dated!

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OFFICIAL WBC 2002 WEBSITE
<http://www.boomerang2002.com>

Hamburg International Airport to Kiel: About 80 km and 60 minutes (via Autobahn). Shuttle service by organizers will be possible. http://www.ham.airport.de/english/index/index_f.htm

Rental Cars: English: <http://www.e-sixt.com/main.html>
& <http://www.hertz.com>

About Kiel: <http://www.kiel.de/>
About the Kiel Sailing Week (German): <http://www.kieler-woche.de/>
About the Kiel Sailing Week (English): <http://www.kieler-woche.de/en/index.asp>

The Wonderful New Gradus MTA by Georgi Dimantchev

Not many boomerang manufacturers have been able to fill the void left behind when Jonas Romblad stopped manufacturing his wonderful MTA products. That is until Georgi Dimantchev developed his new Gradus MTA. Lee Ragsdale purchased one this Spring and has been doing really well with it.

The first mention I heard of Lee's Success was through an email message received from Dennis Joyce (Boomden@aol.com) in early April: "Lee Ragsdale threw a Gradus MTA in the Georgia tourney last weekend and kicked everybody's tail. He averaged 40+ seconds per throw. Sweet!"

I then contacted Lee Ragsdale (lee.ragsdale@mindspring.com) shortly afterwards to find out more about his experiences with the Gradus MTA. His reply was as follows:

"Ted -- I remember meeting you in Ohio in 1987 at the Nationals. A huge open field and you were surveying the wind coming over the trees. I had a blue 'mini' that I loved. Put up my first 2:30 that day as the boom drifted several hundred yards down wind and over a barn, but I made the catch. I was 15 years old and fascinated by the beauty of MTA flight -- I was hooked. Some things never change. You announced at one point that a thermal was on its way and the next 30 seconds was the time to launch a good throw. Two people put booms into the thermal perfectly and at least 8 minutes later their booms were floating into trees bordering the huge field. What a great day that was!

I no longer have that mini, but after 8 years off (1991 - 1999), I am back into the swing of things. I

have mixed emotions about the range limit -- it is sort of equalizing, but it took some of the mystique out of the great throws that float up there effortlessly. I cannot thank you enough for the service you have done for me and other throwers. You inspired a boy 15 years ago to admire the beauty of flight. Now, you help me bring back those feelings of joy and childlike fascination. Thank you! Sincerely, Lee

OK, Lee, Many thanx, but tell me about how you did with the Gradus MTA at the Southeast Classic Boom Tournament.

"Ted -- I wanted to give you feedback on the Gradus MTA as well as tell you about my weekend success. This weekend was the Southeast Classic Boom tourney. Twelve competitors including Jason and Laura Smucker, Juice, Cookie, Dave Barrett, Will Hurlin, Matt Golenor, Dan, Tim, Jeff.

In MTA, there was a Jonas and 3 Bonus carbon fiber, a modified Quirl, and a Volker Paxolin plus others competing...and then there was me with the Gradus. The wind was a gentle breeze that occasionally dropped to no wind at all. Jason Smucker (Bonus) put up a 1:00 with a catch in the circle and Dan {from Wisc} (Jonas) had a beautiful 2:02 that went out of range and over a fence for no catch. I quietly (see below) put up a 38 sec, 46 sec, 39 sec for my

first 3 throws and no one could catch me. The other booms were so fickle with the changing wind conditions. There were a couple of other 30 sec times, but most were in the 20's.

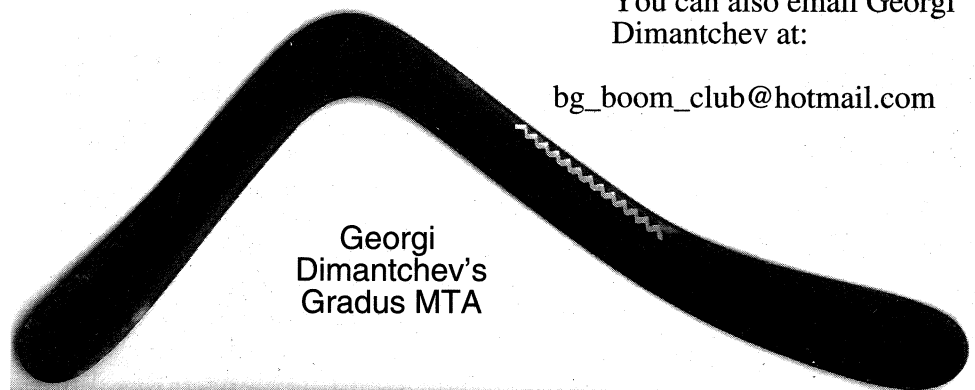
The Gradus was solid. It never drifted more than 60 meters down range, even when others were flirting with the cones 100 meters away. When any of the other carbon fiber booms were thrown you heard the distinctive pop as they torque and whipped out of the throwers hand, and then a whistle as they rocketed up to altitude. But not with the Gradus. I think the camber in the airfoil gives added stiffness, so it flexes very little during the throw. As it rises, the turbalators make it whisper quiet. I had never noticed the lack of noise when throwing by myself...but comparing it to the others, it is beautifully silent.

So, I won MTA for the very first time and was very happy. Although I didn't place higher than 6th in any other event, it gave me a great deal of pride to win that event against the quality of throwers and booms that I was facing. The Gradus was by far the best investment I made in the Fall 2000 auction.

For easy sales in the USA and Canada, this MTA can occasionally be found at: <http://www.flight-toys.com/boomerang/catalog.htm>

You can also email Georgi Dimantchev at:

bg_boom_club@hotmail.com



Georgi
Dimantchev's
Gradus MTA

Boom's in the Desert

by Bob Hogan



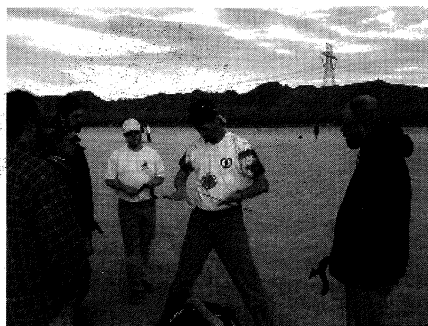
This article is being written by someone who flies kites as their main passion in life. Every year in mid-March, kitefliers from around the USA and the world descend upon the dry lakes of southern Nevada to participate in Spring Break Buggy Blast (www.sbbb.net) and practice a special form of their craft. This type of kiteflying is called power kiting or traction kiting. The kitefliers harness the power of the wind and sail around the lakebed on three wheeled kitebuggys, mountain boards and large wheeled rollerblades. This type of activity requires a substantial amount of wind. The winds of the desert are finicky to say the least (any wind before noontime is called a "sucker wind", drawing the newbies far from camp and then leaving them there to bake on the hard packed playa). So, what do kitefliers do before the winds pick up? You know the answer. Boomerang!

At SBBB in 2000, during a windless morning, and impromptu boomerang activity was held. This was my first experience with tossing a boomerang. I'm left handed and one of the folks returned a plastic tri-blader for me. I threw with minimal success but knew I could master this. After returning from the desert, I visited a local kite shop that carried boomerangs and purchased a couple of Colorado Boomerangs (Yanaki & E-Rang).

A visit to a local park with boomerangs, directions and enthusiasm produced an instant addiction. By year end my boomerang bag had well over two dozen boomerangs crammed in to it. I wanted others to be able to share this new passion. After speaking with the organizers of SBBB, we decided to formalize the Boomerang competition for 2001.

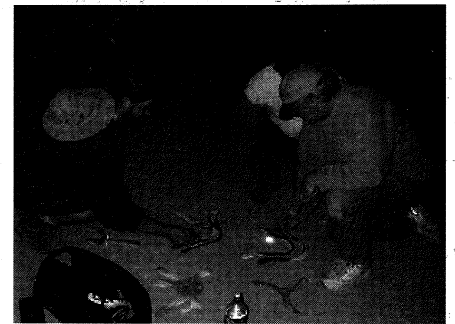
To make the event a success, supportive sponsorship would be a key ingredient. Colorado Boomerangs was contacted and Richard Pollock-Nelson embraced the idea. He agreed to support it and even administer it. Richard took it upon himself to register the event with the USBA and obtain sanctioning. This also got the event listed in the on-line calendar on the USBA website and generated publicity and interest within the local boomerang community.

SBBB 2001 began on Wednesday, March 14th on the Roach Dry Lake located in Primm, NV (45 minutes south of Las Vegas). We buggied, flew kites, tossed impromptu boomerangs and renewed acquaintances. Richard arrived on Friday morning and immediately started generating interest in the competition. Then, to the surprise of most of us at SBBB, a car pulled in carrying Mark Weary, Don Monroe and Alden Witte who had just flown in for the weekend from Phoenix in Mark's Cessna and landed in Jean, NV just north of Primm.



These three guys were awesome. They tossed boomerangs day and

night, provided instruction and entertainment for all in attendance. On Friday night we held a free for all night time throw. It was great fun with Colorado Boomerangs providing most of the boomerangs that were used. Folks practiced their throwing on Saturday during the day in preparation for the "official" Saturday evening night time competition. At 7PM on Saturday evening we held an accuracy event that was participated in by about 15 competitors. In the end, everyone was declared a winner and we drew names out of a hat for commemorative laser engraved event boomerangs. Everyone took home a new night boomerang. After a very filling dinner at a local Japanese restaurant, everyone headed off to bed to rest up for the big day of competition planned for Sunday morning.



Sunday dawned perfectly for boomeranging. No wind, bright sun, temperature near 80. A group of 25 people answered the call for the event. We decided to make it a team competition. A team fast catch event and team accuracy event were held. Then some individual "suicide" accuracy games were played. All in all a great morning on the dry lake. As with the evening before, everyone went home a winner thanks to Richard's equitable prize distribution system.

This event was a major shot in the arm for boomeranging. No less than 40 people went away from SBBB with their first boomerang. All are excited at



their newly found skills. In the days following the competition, many kitefliers were seen throwing boomerangs on the desert floor. I've received many calls and Emails since returning from the desert from folks who are now home and are practicing their new craft for friends and family. One local kiteflier has even read about "Toss Across America" and wants to organize something up here in the Boston area. The seeds have been planted!



In summary, this could have just been a mediocre get together of kitefliers who happen to throw boomerangs. But instead, because of Richard, Mark, Don & Alden, this event became the high point of SBBB. We sincerely thank them for sharing their passion with us and look forward to SBBB 2002 for the excitement filled sequel.

Bob Hogan

ps. Did I mention that this article is being written by someone who tosses boomerangs as their main passion in life (and flies kites also)?

Brad Morgan's Recent Visit to Australia

Brad Morgan lives in Chicago and has been throwing boomerangs for about 15 years. On a recent visit to Australia, Brad ran across Duncan MacLennan's Boomerang Shop in Sydney. Duncan asked Brad to

send photos of himself and Brad in Duncan's Boomerang Shop (top photograph) and on the field at Rushcutters Bay with a class of Americans and Canadians (second photograph) to MHR to let his friends in the USA know that he is still doing well in the land Down Under.



Boomerangs and the Police

by Will Gix

My brother sent me a boomerang from Australia in 1980. A very nice tourist model. It not only looks good, it flies too. I threw it several times in the front yard. The first throw had an accurate return, came back over my head and whacked my father the spectator in the leg. I threw it a few more times and forgot about it for several years.

My real start came in Morgantown, West Virginia. The scheduling of my visit coincided with six kegs of beer and a bluegrass band. Somehow DJ Helfer scammed the field next to the hoedown and invited Chet Snouffer as a special guest star. I was doing the all day beer boogie woogie at the hootenanny and somehow got hornswoggled into participating in a real live boomerang tournament. These boomerangs not only flew, they flew well. I was on my way.

In 1985 I lived in Economy Borough, Pennsylvania. In Beaver County steel was king. By that spring use of the past tense was appropriate. Beaver County led the country as the number one place that people were emigrating from. My kit had grown to incorporate the original tourist model, a Wham-o three blader, three Channel Craft booms and four Leading Edge boomerangs. I carried them in a brief case. Things were so bad by then that when I went to a city park in Ambridge it was totally empty. A baseball field in each of the four corners, all vacant. There was a time you could count on beer, baseball, and steelworkers. With a whole park to myself I set up in the middle of the field and did some stretching and calisthenics. When I bent over to open the brief case I heard this voice behind me: "What do you have in the brief case?" I turned around to see one of Ambridge's finest with his right hand on his gun. I explained that there were boomerangs in the brief case. In turn, the officer asked me to slowly open the case and step away. Imagine his surprise when there really were boomerangs in the brief case! He accounted for his suspicion by mumbling something about seeing a man with a brief case doing calis-

thenics and thinking somehow pistol shooting was going to ensue. Since pistol shooting in a city park was apparently common in Beaver County, I moved.

After I got Betsylew started with a little help from The Evergreen State College Gellers, we threw for several years at Shoreline High School. The school had a couple of soccer fields and a track with a football field in the middle. The field was tight but it worked. It is on the north end of Seattle about a block away from Highway 99. Some interesting businesses are between the highway and the high school. Businesses like gas stations, convenience stores, auto repair shops, and a strip joint. You can ask Tony Brazelton about it, he's been there.

One Friday afternoon we were throwing at Shoreline. There were several people from an auto repair shop partying after work. In part they were watching us. We knew they were there but didn't really pay them much attention. All of a sudden we notice a King County Sheriff hopping over the fence where the revelers are and walking toward us. As it turns out he was trying to execute a warrant for a felon and the felon went Carl Lewis. He asked if we'd seen anyone running away. We weren't able to help. We kept throwing. When the sheriff left, the party did an instant scatter. About twenty minutes later we see the guy climb out of a dumpster and come walking toward us. If I only carried a pistol in that briefcase.

We soon began to throw at a field in a different neighborhood. As working stiffs a lot of our practice time is in the evening. Officer Bob Barker of the Edmonds police department would exercise his canine partner Rudy in the evenings before being stuck together in a squad car for the night. Being a friendly sort and seeing that we were not at a school to shoot pistols or associate with felons, he came over to check us out. Didn't take long before he was actually giving boomerang throwing a whirl. Nothing like seeing a guy in uniform all decked out with the bulletproof vest throwing boomerangs and actually moving to catch them. He did well and even bought an Outback Tern. He had a couple of stories of his own. Once, several squad cars responded to a burglar alarm at the

Kmart on Highway 99. He and Rudy patrolled the perimeter of the building and found nothing. When he put his gear away, one of the other officers noticed the Tern in his trunk and made a comment about boomerangs. Officer Barker pulled it out and did a Kmart night parking lot throw with accurate return and catch. Knowing he had earned maximum style points, he promptly threw the boomerang in the trunk and shut it. He took the Tern with him on vacation back to Ohio. Got it stuck in a tree. Used a .22 rifle to shoot the branch it was on. Missed the branch and dissected the boomerang through the elbow. Our good fortune was that he bought another Tern to replace it.

When Just Plain Bud hosted the Nationals in Michigan our entry point to the Midwest was Columbus Airport. On our way back from Jackson, we traveled a well-known stretch of road between Findlay and Delaware. What is well known is that on occasion the Ohio State Patrol does some aerial surveillance to determine the speed of travelers. Neither one of us are timid with the accelerator. We found out about those little airplanes first hand. When the OHP officer saw the rental car registration he had to find out what we were up to. When we explained that we were on our way from the national championships to the Columbus airport the questions went something like this "Boomerang what?" "Oh yeah right. Did you win any trophies?" "You won a trophy. Let me see it." Once we dug into our boomerang kit and produced a trophy we were free to go. Turns out the state patrol in Marion, Ohio had never heard of Gregg or the other Snouffer. Just to keep us honest they had another speed trap right outside of the Delaware city limits.

There are several other episodes of boomerangs and the police, although none quite as eventful. Other episodes include The I-5 Time Calculation, The Bobcat Park Incident, Command and Control in Phoenix, and The CVNRA Trap.

The moral of the story is, just keep throwing. Merely by being out in the field you will see things you never imagined. Police officers are mostly good guys doing their job. Once they see you throwing they will know a boomerang is not a weapon and they might even be interested.

The Stolen Boomerang Saga

by Bruce Carter

Late last year (around October), the boomerang bus was broken into-gone was all my comp booms except for a couple which were in the kids bag.

We searched the area, had a few visits to the local police station and had some flyers posted around the area. A couple of weeks later, the case turned up (a silver camera case as used by many boom throwers. . . dented and worse for wear, but empty. . . The culprit was caught but he denies everything and says the empty case was given to him. Knows nothing about missing boomerangs!!

It means I lost over 100 comp booms - surprisingly did not hurt too much, I mean I have been a long time in the sport, now was the obvious time just to coach and only do night shows and demo's - I would rather lose the booms now than 20 years ago - would have hated to miss Barooga 1988 and the other World cups and great tournaments. So we contact Brian Thomas - not a sympathy hunt - just a warning - We carry booms in these metal cases to keep them safe. Trouble is, thieves think we are carrying thousands of \$'s of video and camera equipment. At a recent show, I saw a musician carrying a case full of whistles, flutes and recorders - no use to anyone but I had to remind him that they could be mistaken for video equipment! Throwers keep your cases hidden is what I am saying. Anyway back to the story - go to have a throw with the kids. Missing is Craig's WAHLBERG AUSSIE ROUND so accurate in no wind ... and does 50 metres in calm. soon we find out some of the Doublers and righty trick catches have also gone with my case so things seemed a bit more serious. Then what hurt me more than anything, word from overseas filtered in HARALD TOFT from Denmark - had his booms also nicked - I really felt for Harald. So I quickly accepted retirement - when things did not go to plan - first off I find Ted Bailey has put out an SOS for lefty boomerangs to be sent to Fran street. Doesn't take too long and a boom arrives from AIVARS BRENGULIS from LATVIA. Gee, I have never even heard of this guy yet he sends me a boom! Then a parcel arrives from STEPHANE MARGUERITE . . . well, , we can accept his stuff, this is his payment for besting me in tournaments since 1988. Next thing I know some booms roll in from Ted Bailey.. Come on guys, I am retiring!!! But my pleas fall on deaf ears, (even Robbie Croll offered to make me a couple).. Next thing I know - a box of junk booms arrives in the mail - all of Mr. Perry's left overs. Bad part is that they actually fly and some of them will be and have been used in comps. Actually some of them are real good so we won't tell Roger the sad story that Angie sent me some of his good staff. It doesn't end there - the nicest guy in international boomerang throwing, JOHN CROSS, sent me some great boomerangs as well. And

to top it off PETER BYHAM sent me some lefty rangs as well ... THEN CAME THE REAL MONGRELS WHO MADE SURE I COULD NOT RETIRE YET!!! The Sydney saviours-Fair Dinkum if you feel a bit down in the dumps just make a visit to Sydney.. go and visit Adam Carroll --even though it was in the middle of the day (a Saturday) when I arrived so I nearly knocked his front door down when it was obvious that the 'WAIT A MINUTE' call was coming from the bedroom. He still made me welcome --even though his wife Gela's ONLY WORDS TO ME IN THE FIRST HOUR WERE he's so big. I was allowed to stay with him a week... was amazed as his test flying boomerangs mean walk out the flats to the cross roads, check to see if no cars are within 30 metres, so what if it is after work and nearly dark, THROW HARD & HARD and hope that you don't A) crash a boom on an unsuspecting pedestrian B) hope it doesn't scratch any of the 180 cars parked around the flats C) hope the boomerang bounces off the roof of the flats as they make their way back to the thrower so that I don't have to climb onto the top of the buildings to get the rangs back or D) hope that they don't hit me as I could not see them in the dark !!! Well, we survived the ordeal and I am the proud owner of the CANCELLER CELL - the thing that no matter how hard you try to get rid of the pest - it just keeps returning. How could things get better? Just try a leisurely meeting with Brian Thomas and his band of merry man . Robin Hood had nothing on these guys. They are real do gooders even for a Mexican that lives 860 kilometres south of the border. We meet at Ken Arthur's house, his wife has taken off for the afternoon, well who in their right mind would want to listen to old boomerangers reliving their past glories and old stories. There is Kevin Moran who later that week gave me a wonderful birthday gift. Nothing to do with boomerangs - the gift won't return - just a wonderful present. Ken Arthur, a charming host, who put on a lovely lunch and afternoon tea, Brian Thomas who led a lousy rendition of "Happy Birthday" and a friend of mine since '88, Gunter Wandtke who presented me with a couple of booms including a 'Mayfield Delicate Arch' which cost him a fortune at Ted's auction. I bet Gary Broadbent's bidding put the price up 400%.

Well, by now I was convinced that I had to continue throwing. Obviously these guys want to belt me a few more times in comps before I retire to that big field in the sky and just when I thought I had no more room in the battered old boom case I am taken by BT to another old funster's house, Tony Butz. A nice evening at Tony's house and now I have a couple of his boomerangs.

The visit to Sydney could not be complete without dropping in on Mister perfection as far as styles go, Ray Freebody - the man who several years ago drove some 400+ kilometres to help me do a demonstration and the lovely Joanna. Had my introduction to ordering pizza over the internet before a night throw. And before leaving Sydney no stay could be complete without visiting mister col-

lectable - Paul A.J. Croft. A terrific couple of nights came to a quick end meaning home-wards bound and a night show to do in the rain on the way home. It actually rained pretty much non-stop for a week meaning the Blue Mountains comp was cancelled which was the only downer on the whole trip. Even managed to visit Jedda Boomerangs in Dubbo and do some throwing with Boyd Schuyveschuurder, the owner and do some night stuff.

And now to complete my kit, Ed Russell from Adelaide has sent a couple of booms for me to try. Might not be comp stuff, but the thoughts are simply fantastic. The same can be said for many of the boomerangs that I have received.

Now a couple of booms including a windy trick catch has arrived from Will & Betsylew Miale Gix - thanx guys.

I DO NOT WANT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL - THE FACT THAT SO MANY PEOPLE SENT ME BOOMERANGS IS SIMPLY AMAZING. Not all the booms are up to comp standard not all of them are as good as my stolen equipment, but I sincerely want to say thanx to all the makers and throwers involved in sending me back into competition (Don't know if the missus agrees though). I will be forever grateful as long as I live. And before closing, let me inform you about another member of our family in trouble.

He is well known by many boomerang throwers - actually slept with that many of you guys over the years he should write a book.

I've seen him under the blankets with Gary Broadbent, wrapped up in Barnaby's arms, sloppy kisses with the Perry's - Mr. & Mrs. In bed with Adam Carroll, and of course snoring with Mr. Schummy. . . all of this and more - who else but REX the wonderful mutt. It was a couple of weeks ago (late Feb) when we had to take him to the animal hospital - he had blood on his chest and something stuck to it, so it seemed. Nothing major? Wrong! - Quickly into surgery he went and a large tumor was removed. Two days later the bad news - It was a very bad growth and he might not last two weeks. Could last 12 months but the most probably scenario is 6 months.

Well, it is now 2 weeks, apart from loosing 3 kilos in weight, he is still well. Actually enjoying life as he has slept in Trent's bed - every night since the operation. The best chance is Chemotherapy but apart from the cost we do not want to put the dog through the sickness associated with Chemo with no guarantee that it would fix him.

So life goes on & every day with Rex is a bonus - a slight possibility the cancer has not spread through his body. He is still being annoyed by little Ricky the Pomeranian fur ball and he is allowed to swim in the creek behind the boom field - just a pity he doesn't live under the water and retrieve the lost treasure in this area - missing boomerangs!!!

We can't say nothing ever happens in the Carter household - life is full of surprises to say the least.

The Best of Boomerang Cyber Chat

edited by Billy Brazelton

Have you ever had a question about boomerangs that you are sure had been answered before on Rang-List or BoomerangTalk, but you couldn't remember the answer? Or wanted a hard copy of some of the more interesting discussions on these online forums for later reference? Or wished someone would sift through all of the chatting and compile some of the great information and wisdom on these e-mail lists into a concise format? Your wishes are answered! In each issue of MHR, BBCC will offer an edited version of one of the more informative or entertaining threads from Rang-List and BoomerangTalk. The first installment concerns the effect of airfoil modification on boomerang flight.

The thread is initiated by an innocent question from David Hughes:
How do you change the airfoils to get a lower flight?

Ulf Valentin responds:

Remove some wood on the upperside/leading edge, not too much though, or your boomerang will dive into the ground for sure!

David is skeptical:

I don't think you can do that with changing airfoils. I believe you have to do that by altering a wing's maximum lift period relative to the center of gravity, and also delaying the boom's "lie-down". Notice that most boomerangs that fly low, like for instance omegas, or Aussie Round Hooks, have that 'kicked-out' tip, at least on the lead wing. That puts the period of maximum lift behind the center of gravity of the boomerang. In other words, in the point of rotation at which that wing produces its max. lift, the center of gravity (COG) is forward of that point as the boom flies. I think that has a lot to do with it. I've experimented a LOT, and one of the things I've done is to make a bunch of boomerangs almost alike, except for the lead-wing tip, making each one successively more 'bent-out' The more 'bent-out' the tip, the lower the flight. Exactly why that happens, I couldn't really say.

Rich "Boomerang Man" Harrison suggests tuning is more effective:

We certainly need to explore Al Gerhards' "dish tuning". His hooks usually flew a tear drop pattern. But, as I seem to recall, not because Al wanted the tear drop, but that the field he used for testing was long and narrow.

He had to tune for his field (tight flights). Herb Smith, on the other hand, had very huge, open fields, lots of wind; his early rangs flew larger, rounder patterns. After he began selling his rangs worldwide, he seemed to make his rangs fly tighter paths. What I'm getting at is, you can tune a rang for the pattern you want; however, some shapes are easier to tune for a given pattern, than other shapes might be so tuned.

Zoran Jarnovic makes the connection between airfoils and the overall shape of the boomerang:

I agree with Ulf: Removing wood on the upperside/leading edge will lead to decreased lift. That will result in more distance achieved and/or crashing down if done too radically. Your statement has in my eyes a good point too, Dave. That is why FC boomerangs that (generally) don't lie down and stay low <<have wings swept forward.> If I picture this wing in position where it points forward it has almost the same influence as the wing where the leading edge has been cut. I think that might be due to the exposed trailing edge airfoil being exposed sooner to forces of wind and thus causing less layover. <<Wings swept backward> make a good trick catch fly higher.

Fred Malmberg explains the connection in terms of slipstreams, the lines drawn around airfoils to indicate the motion of air:

The initial impact of the slipstream with the front edge of the airfoil tends to "throw" the slipstream upward, which means the arrows of pressure coming off of the slipstream are downward and forward; these arrows reverse and increase tremendously as the slipstream goes up and over the first half of the airfoil; they then decrease as you proceed farther, and then reverse slightly again at the tip. This is in an airfoil at about zero degrees angle of attack.

Anyway, the summation of these arrows results in an arrow of force pointing upwards at about 30% distance from the leading edge. This is why the summation of lift is represented here; it is due to the effects on the slipstream! Change the angle of attack, and you change the position of the summation of lift. If you give negative angle of attack, you drastically

move the position of summation of lift backwards, even past the COG of the wing. This is why twisting the wingtips into anhedral will cause the lower (and longer) flight. The coefficient of moment also relates to this. The moment referred to is distance from the COG to the actual point of summation of lift (which varies with tune and design), times the amount of the summation of the lift. Carving off the top of the airfoil is somewhat like twisting anhedral into it, at least at this point that the slipstream "sees".

Rusty Harding says the same thing in terms of chord length, the distance from a wing's leading edge to trailing edge, and he also explains the origin of the "kicked out" hook:

I'd bet that if you asked the first few that made booms with a "kicked out" throwing tip why they did it, I suspect they'd say, "Because it feels better to throw and I get a better snap on it for spin." rather than "to control laydown rate." I know I did. Analyzing it came later.

With three bladers and tri-flys this is done by carving away some of its leading edge, effectively moving everything back. A rule of thumb for most airfoils is that max. lift is produced at 30 to 35 percent of the chord. For a symmetrical plan form tri blader, everything rotates about the center of symmetry, at the intersection of the 50 percent chord lines of the wings. Max. lift (the center of pressure) is 15 percent ahead of that, creating boomerang laydown. Cutting the leading edge away on that boomerang so that the resulting new airfoil's center of pressure coincides with the original wing's 50 percent chord line would then make a boomerang with no laydown at all (a fast catch) but which still produces enough lift to keep it turning (at 21 meters would be nice!).

The above passages were heavily edited for length, content, and style. Thanks to Kendall Davis and John Villagrana for providing extensive rang-list archives.

Editor's note - Rang-list was sadly discontinued in May 2001 because of problems with excessive Spam being sent to the listing. If you still have an interest in Cyber Chat, you can sign up for:

<http://ranglist.listbot.com/>

BoomerangTalk with instructions given at: <http://www.egroups.com/invite/BoomerangTalk>

<http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/~mleendr/rlchat.instr.html>

**YOUR USBA NEEDS YOU TO
RUN FOR USBA OFFICE**

Positions Available

- (1) President
- (2) Vice- President
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Treasurer
- (5-9) Directors at Large

Qualifications

1. Dues paid member USBA over Age 18;
2. Willing to donate time, energy, and ideas;
3. Able to work constructively as part of a team to further the art, sport and science of boomerangs.

How to Run

Submit your Name, Address, Phone Number and a Brief Candidate Statement by mail, email or fax to:

**Betsylew Miale-Gix
USBA Secretary
3351 236th Street SW
Brier, WA 98036**

email: betwil@att.net
FAX: 425-485-1672

The statement should include a paragraph or two including pertinent boomerang and other life/work experience, your ideas for the USBA and reasons for seeking a position.

ALL CANDIDATE INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 16, 2001. BALLOTS WILL BE PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO USBA MEMBERS IN THE SUMMER 2001 ISSUE OF THE MHR NEWSLETTER.

All positions on the USBA leadership team are unpaid. Expenses incurred performing USBA business may be reimbursed upon approval. The fol-

lowing lists the duties of each position.

**USBA LEADERSHIP TEAM
JOB DESCRIPTIONS**

President

The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the USBA, preside at all meetings of the USBA and all meetings of the Board of Directors, and be responsible for the faithful execution of the business and purposes of the USBA as set out in the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws. He/She shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Vice President

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence, and shall be responsible for all publicity involving USBA events. He/She shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall be in charge of selecting the site for the following year's National Tournament, subject to a vote of the Board of Directors.

Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership and shall maintain a current book of minutes of all corporate proceedings. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all official records of the USBA. The Secretary shall give due and proper notice of Board and membership meetings and perform all other duties normally incident to the office.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the USBA, responsible for receipt and disbursement of USBA funds, maintenance of proper records of all accounts receivable and payable, supervision of USBA contracts, and other such duties normally incident to the position of Treasurer of a corporation. The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation, execution and filing of all financial reports. The Treasurer shall prepare once quarterly a financial report of the USBA's financial status for distribution to each member of the Board. The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet at intervals of not more than three months showing the financial condition of the corporation. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of current USBA membership.

Directors at Large

The five members at large shall be responsible for coordination of special projects and activities of the USBA when so directed by the Board of Directors.

MHR Editor

A volunteer (non-elected position) is also needed for the position of MHR editor. The volunteer should have a computer with desktop publishing software and the ability to edit articles that are submitted by USBA members. Experience with a graphics editing program like Photoshop is also desirable. This is a really fun and rewarding position that will provide a valuable service to the USBA organization. The current editor (Ted Bailey) will assist the next editor with future issues as services are needed.

USBA Store

The USBA Store Manager is Billy Brazelton. The store offers bumper stickers, T-shirts, and "About Boomerangs" books. USBA Eagle T-Shirts (L, XL, XXL) are \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members. "Boomerangs are coming back!" bumper stickers are \$1, official USBA red logos are \$0.50 each (logo orders of \$25

or more are half price). This is a great way to expose the public to boomerangs, as conversation-starters or advertising. The books are \$28 and are autographed by the author, Kelly Boyer Sagert. To order, call 651-644-3086 or email: update@usba.org or write to:

Billy Brazelton
2082 Como Ave. #3
St. Paul, MN 55108



USBA Calendar of Events

regularly updated on the web at: <http://www.usba.org/calendar.html>

June 30-July 1, 2001 - 7th Annual Indiana Open: Tony Brazelton: (317) 883-2334 or brazelami@yahoo.com
July 14, 2001 - Vermont Boomerang Tournament - Paul Gustafson - 802-864-3212 or fatelvis@together.net
July 21 - 7th Annual Greater Seattle Open - Betsylew Miale-Gix - (425) 485-1672 or betwill@att.net
July 21-22, 2001 - 7th Annual Indiana Open Team Cup: Tony Brazelton: (317) 883-2334 or brazelami@yahoo.com
July 28: Rocky Mountain Throw - Richard Pollock-Nelson: 303-368-5933 or pollocknel@aol.com
July 29, 2001 - Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup: Dean Kelly (503) 581 8050 or Dean.A.Kelly@state.or.us
August 10-12 - 1st USBA Nationals Expo: Chet Snouffer: 740-363-8332, LeadingEdgeChet@columbus.rr.com
September 8/9 - 5th Outer Banks Comp - Amy Thompson: 877-359-8447, events@kittyhawk.com
September 8/9 - Calgary Boomerang Tournament - Andy Cross: 403-802-3809; across@synsorb.com
July 28th - August 9th 2002; World Cup: <http://www.boomerang2002.com>; email: gm@boomerang2002.com

Calendars of Boomerang Events from Around the World Can Be Found At The Following URLs:

<http://www.usba.org/Calendar/index.html>

<http://www.boomerangusa.org/calendar.html>

<http://www.multimania.com/franceboomerang/index.html>

<http://www.bumerangclub.de/>

<http://www.realspace.com/BoomCalendar/>

USBA Board Email Contact Info

President Chet Snouffer - usba@usba.org
 Vice-President Fred Malmberg - fmalmb@pol.net
 Treasurer - Keith Mullinar - k_mullinar@hotmail.com
 Secretary - Betsylew Miale-Gix - betwil@att.net
 Billy Brazelton - update@usba.org
 Steve Cook - scook1975@hotmail.com
 Suzanne Lentz - suzanneraganlentz@earthlink.net
 Larry Ruhf - lruhf@crocker.com
 Gregg Snouffer - boomerang@columbus.rr.com

Other USBA Email Contact Info

MHR Editor: Ted Bailey - editor@usba.org
 Web Page: Tony Brazelton - web-admin@usba.org

Don't forget to notify Tony and Ted about your boom event so the info can be added to the internet and newsletter calendar of events.

All USBA members with an email address are entitled to received regular and timely boomerang news updates. All you have to do is send your email address to Billy Brazelton at: update@usba.org

MHR subscriptions are provided to libraries for \$10 per year. Make sure your local library knows about this great deal!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: The USBA is once again issuing USBA Membership Cards! To get one, all you have to do is contact Steve Cook and renew your membership.

USBA Membership
Keith Mullinar
532 Forbes Street
East Hartford, CT 06118

The United States Boomerang Association

USBA INFORMATION

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

U.S. Boomerang Association
1868 Panhandle Road
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone or Fax: (740) 363-4414
 E-mail: usba@usba.org
 Internet: <http://www.usba.org>

USBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
 Chet Snouffer (740) 363-8332
Vice-President
 Fred Malmberg (717) 848-4601
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Secretary
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Directors
 Billy Brazelton (651) 644-3086
 Steven Cook (407)-445-3267
 Suzanne Lentz: (206) 784-0453
 Larry Ruhf (413) 323-0774
 Gregg Snouffer (740) 363-4414

Comments on newsletter content, and submissions for inclusion, including articles, photos, cartoons and designs should be submitted to the editor at the address below. The editor reserves the right to edit all material. Inclusion is not guaranteed. The deadline for newsletter submissions is April 1, July 1, October 1 and January 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively.

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

email: editor@usba.org
 phone: (734)-971-2970

USBA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in USD\$. 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 **Keith Mullinar**

Many Happy Returns

Circulation: 174 USA + 42 International
 Published by the:

U. S. Boomerang Association
1868 Panhandle Road
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: **Ted Bailey; P. O. Box 6076; Ann Arbor, MI 48106**

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)

USBA member sponsor's name

New members & renewals: Send completed coupon (or copy) and \$15 (\$20 overseas) with check or M. O., payable to: USBA to:

USBA Membership
Keith Mullinar
34 Lorraine Court
East Hartford, CT 06118



**United State Boomerang
Association**

**Membership Office
Keith Mullinar**

<http://www.usba.org>

**Renew Now
if the number by
your name is 82!**

AIR MAIL

Andy A. Cross (85)
50 Falshire Terrace NE
Calgary
Alberta T3J 3B3 Canada

AIR MAIL

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