

Many Happy Returns

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- To promote the art, hobby, craft, sport, history and culture of boomerangs
- To organize and hold an annual National Boomerang Expo
- To represent the United States in International Boomerang Competitions

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Changing of the Guard

See who is in the mix for the U.S. World Cup Boomerang Team, as the U.S. looks to a combination of old and new blood in an attempt to sort out a team that can finally shake the Germans' stranglehold

By Gregg Snouffer

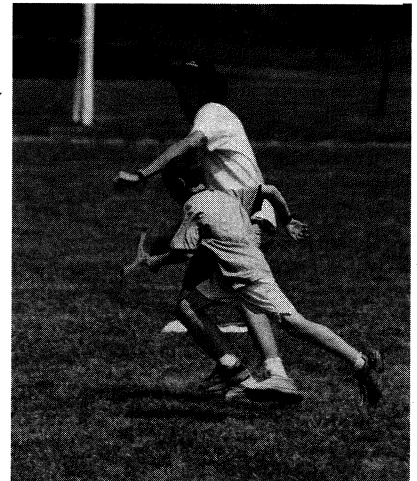
After three World Boomerang Cup titles in a row, the German "Young Guns" are in the driver's seat coming into this summer's World Cup in Kiel Germany. They have the home field advantage, a couple of newer, younger guns, and the self-assuredness that comes with being the heavy favorites and having the know how to win the big one.

The question for everyone else in the boomerang world is "Are there any teams out there that could mount a challenge to these perennial champs?" A growing stable of young American

talent hopes so.

The truth is, there haven't been this many new young throwers that are this excited about making the US Team since 1988, when the US took three regional teams to Europe for the second World Cup.

This team renaissance began with the revival of domestic team challenges two years ago by Larry Ruhf at his Umass Tourney. Several of the throwers in attendance were smitten with the fun of team throwing, and that sentiment echoed through to last winter's Future of Boomerangs



Aron "Zippy" McGuire gets tough with junior national champ Logan Broadbent. Photo by TC

committee (F.B.C.), headed up by John Kohler.

The idea was to come up with ways to make tournaments more fun and

(Continued on page 16)

FREE BOOMERANGS!

The United States Boomerang Association is proud to announce a membership drive like the days of old! Renew or sign up now for another year and be entered into a raffle for **free boomerangs**.

Want MORE boomer-

angs??? Sponsor a new member to get your name in the raffle again. You get another entry for each member you sponsor in up until April Fools Day! The more people you get to join, the better chances you have to win. Act Quickly! The

raffle results will be posted in the Spring issue of the MHR (#85). To qualify, have your membership in by May 1, 2002.

A full year's membership is \$15 for domestic and \$20 for international.

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USBA President's column

By Gregg Snouffer

Hello Boomerang Faithful. I have been serving on the USBA Board in various positions for over ten years now. But this is the first time that I have the privilege of addressing you from the President's seat I am excited about this year and hope to use the energy of this new board of directors to really make our little hobby into something about which we can all proudly say, "Yes, I throw boomerangs!"

Since taking over office on January 14th, your new board of directors has ambitiously been at work on the following agenda. We could use your help! If any of the following sounds like something you could help us with, whether it be through lending a hand, or lending a contact or idea, or otherwise, please contact me! Any possible input is welcome!

1) We have been seeking new sources of funding for the USBA from outside grants and sponsorships to enable us to expand our mission of promoting the art, science, craft, history, culture, sport and hobby of boomerangs.

2) We continue to work to expand and promote our national Boomerang Expo. This year's expo is coming up June 6-9 in Seattle. We want everyone who is remotely interested in boomerangs to see that this annual event is the one boomerang event that you don't want to miss. Included in this year's agenda:

a) a live radio-broadcast moderated debate by a panel of experts (Dr. Fred Malmburg, Gary Broadbent and possibly Rusty Harding) on 1) the use of the returning boomerang for hunting purposes in historical times, 2) the possibility that early throw sticks developed

by cultures outside of Australia were of the returning variety, and 3) the final missing physical principal in why a boomerang returns. This debate will feature the latest developments and news from the scientific world and the international boomerang community!

b) The National Boomerang Design Competition, featuring a qualifying throw and catch by the craftsmen (or designated stand in)

c) The National Boomerang Championships and Head To Head Championships and Junior National Championships. We are currently working with Nickelodeon about a possible feature on the Juniors and with an independent film company and sponsors about possible filming of the H2H showdown for development of a one hour program to be used to gain sponsorship and broadcast on ESPN2!

d) A demonstration by members of the United States Boomerang Teams as they prepare for this year's World Cup in Kiel Germany

e) Digital filming of various fast catch throwers (everyone is welcome to be filmed) for break-down and study in a possible upcoming Science Magazine article

f) the novice tent, workshop and games for kids, passersby and media to learn how to make and throw a boomerang

g) The return of the USBA boomerang and related-items auction, featuring sticks and rare aboriginal antiquities from around the world!

h) The annual boomerang party on the field, when you can throw leisurely with all of the greatest boomerang crafters and competitors from across this great country! Impromptu demonstra-

tions and activities!

i) The National Championships of GLORP! (Should actually be letter "a")
j) A demo by John Whitehead on his breakthrough three-bladed lap joint techniques

k) The world premier of "The Fifth Throw", a boomerang horror film by Gregg Snouffer

l) Three nights and two days of boomerang fun, activities, workshops, debates, demonstrations, ...

We are also working hard currently to establish the sight and dates and sponsorship for the 2003 Boomerang Expo... hopefully October in Austin, Texas! Contact Dave Hughes if you are available to assist in gaining sponsorship, accommodations or just to help bring it to the Great State of Texas!

E m m a i l :
David.Hughes@bakeroiltools.com

3) The continued promotion of boomerangs at the grass roots and educational level with

a) a revamp push of the Toss Across America... held this year on May 18... contact Betsy Miale-Gix at Email: BMG@adlergiersch.com for promotional package and hold your own TAA!

b) A redesign of the classroom/school demo boomerang lesson plans, which are available through Fred Malmburg at Email: fmalmb@pol.net

Please feel free to let myself or any of the board members know how else you think we can help achieve our boomerang mission!

Gregg Snouffer

Email: boomerang@columbus.rr.com
phone: (740) 363-4414

See more about the USBA on page 12

USBA Membership Drive

(Continued from page 1)

Many fine crafters have already donated boomerangs – **Mike Gel, Betsy & Will Gix, William Glover, Stephane Marguerite**, and more. More donations are expected.

These crafters have donated a variety of boomerangs ranging from recreational to collectable, to competition.

To join, just fill out the membership form on Page 10, and mail it to **Keith Mullinar**, 34 Loraine Court, East Hartford, CT 06118.

So, tell the kids, neighbors, church folks, Bingo cohorts and significant others and their kids that its time to join up! Then take 'em out in the field and show them what they just signed up for! You'll be doing a great service to them, yourself, your country and your bag!

New Line of Gel Boomerangs Available

For those of you who have been lamenting the loss of Michael Gel's line of inspired and inspiring boomerangs, you will be glad to know that The Rad One has reached an exclusive deal with Colorado Boomerangs to produce and market a replica line of Gel's greatest shapes.

The Boomerang Man, Rich Harrison, of Monroe, LA is carrying the line and sends the following specs and report, based on his personal experiences with the new sticks.

The models offered are the **BELLEN** (2.25 oz, 12"L x 8" H). The **SUNSET** (2.50 oz. 12"L x 8"H), and the **DUECE** (2.25 oz. 12"L x 8" H, or 10.5" H if you measure to the exterior tab). L is span tip to tip. H is height from top of elbow to a line across tips.

The out distance is approx. thirty to thirty-five yards.

Rich says, "I've just received my first stock of these NEW 'rangs. Very well finished, excellent flyers. Prices are available upon request. The BELLEN will be up with the YANAKI in popularity. Fun to throw, EZ to catch. The SUNSET seems to love a breeze, no hover for me, it just rides the zephyr back for to-the-hands accuracy. The DUECE....is fun. lots of eye-action with that elbow tab. It takes a slightly different sort of release than the other two Gel Booms. It's going to give a thrower lots of fun. Clearly, I've not spent enough time with it....I kept going back the BEL-

LEN:)"

To obtain your own Gel model boomerang, produced with permission by Colorado Boomerangs, contact Rich at boomerangman@centurytel.net

Brother Brian Thomas recuperating from Brain Surgery

Brother Brian Thomas, famous Australian boomerang aficionado, reports that he is recovering from surgery for a brain tumor in Australia. He has undergone several hospital stays and is currently receiving ray treatments to make sure the tumor is gone for good.

He remains remarkably upbeat throughout this ordeal and posts updates regularly to the Yahoo group, Boomerang Talk.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brother Brian as he wins this battle!

USBA seeks grant monies for seed projects

A new USBA committee, chaired by board member Nic Yeager, is actively involved in seeking grant monies that are available to non-profit sports organizations such as ours for the purpose of: 1) making MHR available to every library in the country as a periodical., 2) Produce a professional video about the sport of boomerangs, featuring footage from several of our events, from TAA to National

(Continued on page 4)

Wood Scraps

News from the boomerang world

New Boomerang Tournament Scoring Program available

Steve Cook announces a new boomerang tournament scoring program that he and Will Herlan have worked out that makes scoring a boomerang tournament a light (3mph) constant breeze. The software is free and available from Steve Cook at scook1975@hotmail.com.

If you are still clueless, just ask Cookie to come over and do the data entry for you as well. Rumor has it that Steve will be attempting to set a new record for domestic tournaments attended this year, so this last option may not seem as far fetched as it might appear!



Rev Jim attempts the dangerous "Flaming Boomerang Toss" near ground zero, prompting yet another bogus round of terrorist warnings.

Ask Not What Boomerangs Can Do For You - Ask What
You Can Do For Boomerangs!

HOST A TOSS ACROSS

AMERICA

MAY 18, 2002

Now more than ever it is Boomerang time! With interest in eclectic sports newly stoked by the hours of curling, Nordic combined and skeleton during the winter Olympics, our fellow Americans are primed and ready to be introduced it to boomerang throwing. Take it to them by hosting a Toss Across America event.

All it takes to be a Toss Host is a love of boomerangs, some beginner boomerangs, and a field. You can make this as plain or fancy as you wish. The key is getting the word out to the community inviting them to come, then just doing it! Take a couple hours or an afternoon. Dress up the site by drawing some circles - set up a couple wind flags - make a handful of signs and put them on the side of the approaching roads. Hang a banner on one of the fences at the field - set up a tent and/or a table with some booms and literature etc.

If you have several throwers keep someone teaching, answering questions and demonstrating all the time. If it is just yourself or a cou-

ple throwers, no worries - you can do it all! Alternate between teaching and throwing.

The USBA will provide a Press Release, Posters, Brochures, and other materials to put into press kits, information packets for schools and Scout Troops, and to post to promote your event. Often schools will allow you to put up posters in common areas or pass out some flyers. Downsized posters make good flyers. Identify area Scout Troop leaders and talk with them or show up at a meeting to invite them to attend your toss event.

Use the Posters for high visibility locations that have lots of folks walking by. Schedule a couple of follow up throws or novice tournaments then include that information on the poster, flyers and press releases.

To receive your very own TAA press kit and posters, contact Betsy Miale-Gix at:
Phone: 425-485-1672
Email: BMG@adlergiersch.com

More Boomerang News

Continued from Page 3

(Continued from page 3)

H2H finals, 3) Mini Grants for TAA sponsors to apply for in order to get funding to try exciting new things, to generate new ideas, and to generate excitement and enthusiasm for hosting a Toss Across event, 4) Putting boomerangs on the moon (just checking to see who's reading!), among other things.

If you have ideas for funding, experience in grant writing, or ideas on how to spend the money, here's your chance to get involved!

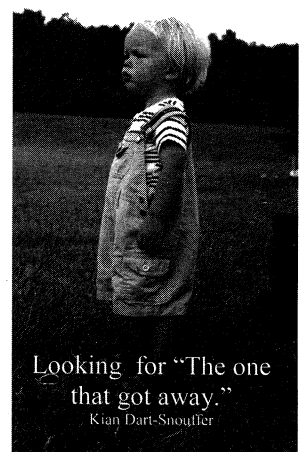
To participate, email Nic at nic.yeager@voicestream.com

New Boomerang Club Found

I am pleased to announce the formation of a new boomerang club in New York: The Sandy Beach Fliers meet @ Sandy Beach Park, off Conklin Ave, near the bridge (Binghamton, NY) on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month starting in May @ 7:30pm

Flyin' Brian Cavallaro, the founder of the club, tells me that they are into flying discs and kites as well as boomerangs, and they already have a good core of regular enthusiasts showing up every week.

He also says that he is planning a boomerang tournament for this summer. You can reach Brian at 331 Conklin Ave, Binghamton, NY 13903.



Looking for "The one
that got away."
Kian Dart-Snouffer

Beat our caption and win! Got a better caption for this picture than ours? Email it in to boomerang@columbus.rr.com and if we chose it, win a free Adam Ruhf fast catch boomerang!

Chet and Carmen have a new baby!

Lysandra Kendall Snouffer was born 2/19/02,, a healthy, strapping 9 lbs 5 ounces. She has lots of hair and looks like Cody did, as in spitting image. If she can throw like he does, we're jamming!! "Lyssy" and crew will make their debut somewhere on a boom field this summer.

On Top of the world

At just 13 years old, Logan Broadbent set the boomerang world on fire, sweeping the first ever Junior National Championships in Delaware, OH last summer. An MHR exclusive interview with the nation's hottest boom youngster.

MHR: Do you remember throwing your first boomerang?

Logan: Yeah, I remember throwing and catching my first boomerang.

M: How old do you think you were?

L: Two or three.

M: What about MAKING your first boomerang?

L: I remember my dad helping me make my first boomerang

M: How old were you?

L: Probably five.

M: Did it work?

L: Yes.

M: Do you still have it?

L: I'd probably have to dig it up around here somewhere. I'm sure my dad would still have it... you know him.

M: Yes. And that's another point. What's it like having a boomerang idiot for a father?

L: Well... it's a lot of fun. It can be a little crazy at times. He's always talking to people and being wacky.

M: Do you find it hard to step out of his shadow in the boomerang world?

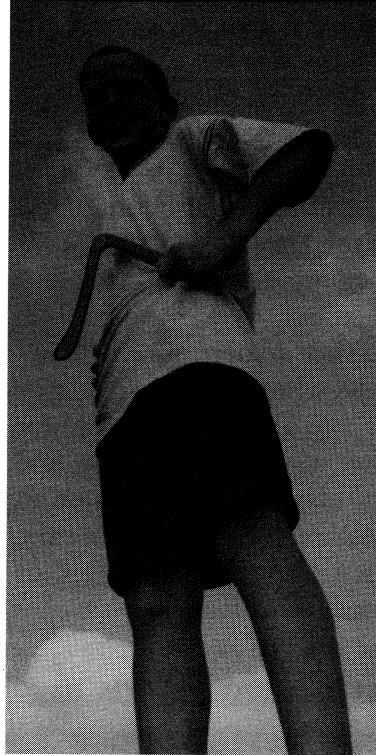
L: No. Its not hard. Everybody in the boomerang world is really nice. It also gives me motivation to be good.

M: I know you used to have to get your boomerangs from your Dad's comp kit. Do you still have to do that?

L: No, I have my own kit and make some boomerangs for it. People like Nobu and Gregg make me boomerangs for competition. too

M: I notice you have started stepping out a little bit and showing up at competitions without your dad. Do you think you'll still be throwing and competing in, say, five years?

L: Definitely. I am looking forward to attending many world championships, and winning lots of national titles. I want to get to as many tournaments as I can... even if my dad doesn't keep competing or is unable to attend. As I get older, it will be easier to get to tournaments that he can't make.



M: If boomerangs can get a little attention in the world, you are standing in a great position to be able to capitalize on that. How do you feel about that?

L: Its exciting. I want to see the sport grow and get more people involved in throwing. It would be nice for people to learn more about the history and to find out how much skill really goes into throwing and catching a boomerang... to appreciate what it takes to do what we do.

M: Do you have any girlfriends right now?

L: I have lots of girls who are friends and who would like to be my girlfriend. But I am more focused now on my academics and sports.

M: What do you want to do after high school?

L: I am planning to go to college. I'm not sure what I want to study, but I want to be able to travel, so I want to get a job where I can be my own boss

and make my own schedule.

M: What other sports and things do you do?

L: Cross Country, track, (1600 and 800 and pole vault.) I was the captain of the wrestling team this year, I dive and plan to dive in high school. I am also in jazz band. For science fair, I did a boomerang project and got a superior, so get to go to districts. I showed how the material of a boomerang effected its flight and accuracy.

M: So with boomerangs thrown in, you go pretty non-stop.

L: Yes. Its really busy all the time.

M: What's your favorite boomerang event?

L: Either trick catch or aussie round.

M: What do you use in those events?

L: I use an Ola "Medium V" that Gregg Snouffer made for me in Aussie. It gets about 40 meters. For trick catch, I use a set of Nobu doublers. If its really calm, I use the outsider. But in the wind, I put a rubber band on the insider.

M: Tell me about this United Nations project you're involved with.

L: Its called the Ohio Model United Nations. There is a junior high and a high school program. This was my last year competing at the junior high level. A teacher recommendation is required to get into the program. At this year's event my group won the International Talent Showcase. We also won the Outstanding Nation (for Israel). I won outstanding delegate award and was elected president of General Assembly for next year.

M: That's amazing. You certainly are involved and active. Any last words?

L: You can do anything you want to do, as long as you keep trying no matter how hard it gets. You can always overcome difficulties if you stay optimistic. Always try your best.

M: Sounds like you're writing a book on the subject.

L: It would be more of a novel...

Craftsman's Corner

By Gregg Snouffer

2002 Design Competition

To enter this year's design competition, to be held at the National Boomerang Expo in Seattle June 6-9, just pick which of the categories you are going to enter, get your boom built (it must be built within the last calendar year) and either plan to come to Seattle, or send your boom to Fred Malmburg at the address below.

All entries must be qualified at the Expo with a throw to demonstrate its boomeranging characteristics. You can make this throw in person, or you can designate an alternate, or Wil Gix or Dr. Fred will make the toss for you at the competition.

Categories are: Throw Stick (non return), Natural Elbow returner, Most artistic (painted or not), best lap joint, and boomerang-related (which includes miscellaneous, boomerang films and documentaries, and all osrts of things we haven't even thought of yet!).

Entries that are being sent in should be mailed to Wil Gix at 3351 236th St. SW; Brier, WA 98036-8421. Phone: 425-485-1672
Email: betwil@att.net

Hardly a day goes by when someone somewhere isn't whittling away in their boomerang shop, working on a new design or paint job to wow the boomerang world. The sensation ranges from relaxing to cathartic, as boomerang hobbyists seek escape, stress relief, and artistic expression among piles of sawdust and wood scraps.

As the USA gears up for another season of throwing and design competition this June at the national Expo in Seattle, here's a look back at a few of last year's creations.

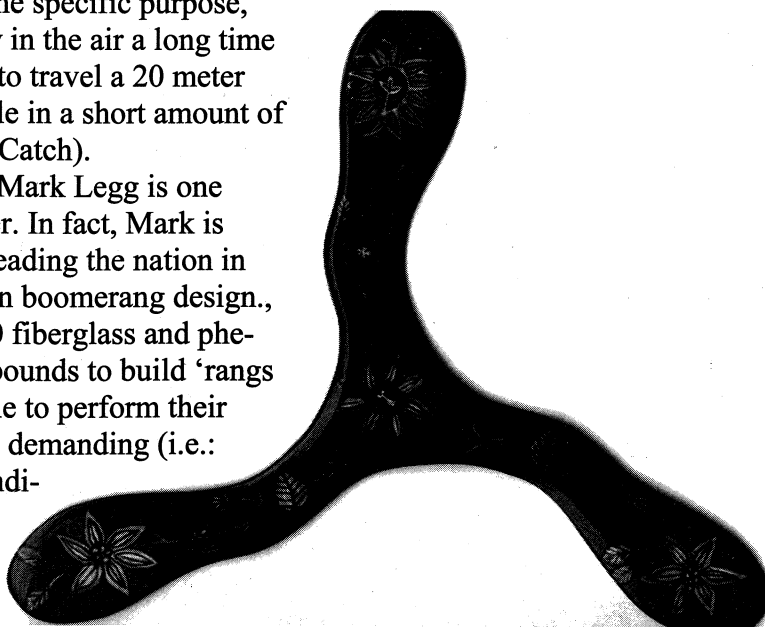
Mark Legg blends art and performance

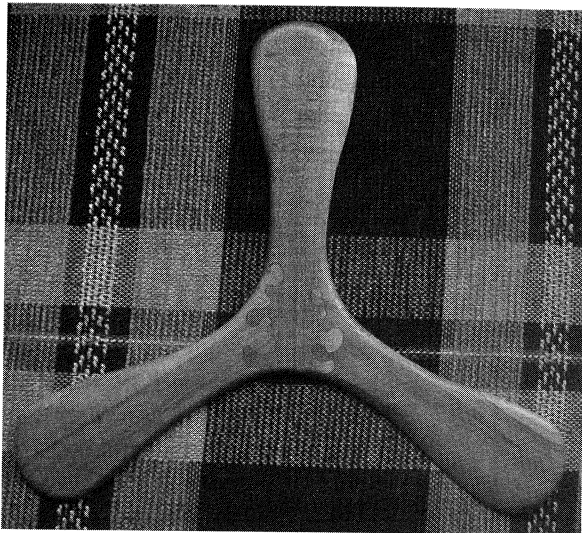
In the United States, only a handful of crafters spend much time perfecting competition boomerangs: 'rangs designed to perform for one specific purpose, like to stay in the air a long time (MTA) or to travel a 20 meter radius circle in a short amount of time (Fast Catch).

Ohio's Mark Legg is one such crafter. In fact, Mark is currently leading the nation in competition boomerang design., using G-10 fiberglass and phenolic compounds to build 'rangs that are able to perform their function in demanding (i.e.: windy) conditions.

But Mark is

also into precision crafted artistic boomerangs, as well. The pictured three-blader is a Mark Legg creation that was painstakingly hand painted by Pakistani artist Salman. Says Mark, "I had just taken a 600 mg dose of Ibogain and was playing around with a free-hand design while blindfolded. It just happened to come out a perfectly symmetrical tri-wing, with each wing at 120 degrees. I measured it the next morning after I came to. I don't think that has ever happened before... at least not to me. The paint is hand mixed from various Pakistani herbs. The cool thing is, you can take it out and throw it, or hang it on your wall, or cut it up and toss it over a salad, or just burn it and sit around whiffing the smoke. Its all good."





Lap joint three-blade in Cherry

John Whitehead

John Whitehead laps the competition!

Lap joints have been around since the first wood scraps fell at the foot of a prehistoric band saw belonging to a penurian boom crafter who couldn't bring himself to throw them away! So, instead of tossing those odd-shaped corner pieces, he whipped up some kangaroo-hide glue, drilled some small holes through the ends of two pieces of scrap, and drove some eucalyptus pegs through them, forming an elbow and the world's first lap-joint boomerang!

Aspiring boom smith John Whitehead, of Casnorio, MI, has joined the few who have taken this time-honored process a step further and joined, not two, but three pieces of scrap wood together to form a three-blader.

Pictured above is a solid wood tri-wing lap joint made of Cherry. John had never seen a three bladed lap joint when he came up with this concept.

Says John, "One of the wings is a completely different grain than the other two, so it's identifiable as possibly the throwing wing. It was sanded to 2000 grit and finished with Watco Danish Finishing Oil and one coat of Minwax paste wax."

Here is a web page where this one can be seen in full color:

<http://home.wmis.net/~jwhite/Boomerangs/cherry%20triwing.JPG>

Here is a detailed jpeg of the above:

<http://home.wmis.net/~jwhite/Boomerangs/cherry%20triwing%20detail.JPG>

Here is a variation on the first one. It is made of straight grained white oak that John found in some old pallet material. It is sanded to 600 grit, three coats of Deft lacquer sanded between each coat, final buffed with 2000 grit, then paste wax:

<http://home.wmis.net/~jwhite/Boomerangs/oak%20triwing.JPG>

Here is the joinery detail of the above:

<http://home.wmis.net/~jwhite/Boomerangs/oak%20triwing%20detail.JPG>

John says "The grain is very pronounced and it catches the light and looks different from

various angles. "

"These two are the third and fourth I've made and I'm still playing around a bit with the design for good consistent flying ability. I'm happy with the joinery, but I'm still playing with the airfoil cross-section. "

<http://home.wmis.net/~jwhite/Boomerangs/oak%20triwing%20obtuse.JPG>

"The first one of this type I made was kind of weird. I made it out of two different kinds of wood, mahogany and maple. I should have known better as the density of these two woods is completely different. It flew very nicely, but really looked weird! While radially symmetrical in appearance, it was not symmetrical in mass, so it wobbled like crazy as it flew. The second one needs some serious tuning, darn thing won't presses at all. "

"Numbers 3&4 are OK flyers, but they don't fly as good as they look, which is what I'm after. Part of the problem right now is testing them. It's kind of hard in the middle of the winter due to snow and cold!"

In order to try one of John's tri-bladed lap joints, come to the USBA Expo in Seattle this June. John has graciously donated one to the USBA for its annual auction. But before it goes on the block, attendees will have a chance to give it a test drive on the field!

Craftsman's Corner continued on page 8

What's in store at the 2002 National Boomerang Expo for crafters

Will Hurlin is in charge of the craftsman's day at the national Expo on June 6 in Seattle this year. Here's some of the events you can get involved with. For some of these events, you'll have to catch a plane, train, or automobile to participate. But for others, you can enter without being there. Take a look and see what you can do, in order to be able to say "I participated in the National Boomerang Expo2002!"

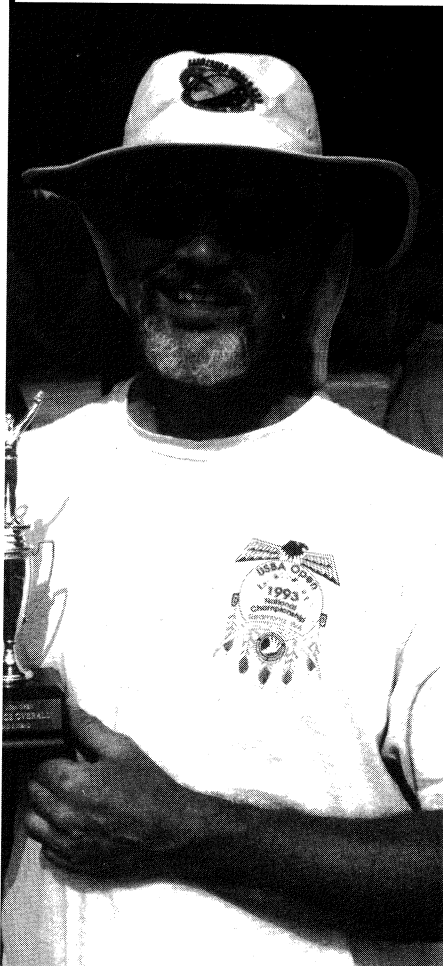
- 1) Craftsmanship Design Competition (see page 6 to enter)
- 2) Novice lessons: Will is targeting the Seattle area's home schoolers and the media to ensure a large crowd for this day of fun events and workshops when America's throw-

ers teach America's non-throwers how to play!

- 3) Challenge Cup 2: A craftsmanship design and throwing competition that levels the playing field by requiring all entrants to design a boomerang from a standard size and type of wood, and then to make it perform in three flight events: Trick Catch, Fast Catch and MTA! (See page 12 for details)
- 4) Boomerang debate: Friday night features Boomerang authorities Fred Malmburg and Gary Broadbent leading a panel debate on the role of the boomerang as a weapon in Aboriginal Australia, and on the physics of what actually makes

a boomerang return. Find what the latest research has uncovered and participate in this recorded event for USBA archival purposes! Don't be left out! If you wish to participate on the panel, please email Fred at fmalm@pol.net

- 5) The USBA auction! Design a special boomerang for the annual USBA auction/fundraiser. Your one-of-a-kind contribution is tax deductible and the auction will generate publicity for you and your designs, as all contributions will be featured in the next edition of MHR. Send all auction donations to Wil Gix at 3351 236th St. SW; Brier, WA 98036-8421. Phone: 425-485-1672 Email: betwil@att.net



How an American eats a Reece's Cup... and wins the "Most Artistic Boomerang Design" category at last year's Boomerang Expo!

Stuart Jones (left) of Minneapolis, shows off his trophy for "Most Artistic boomerang design" competition.

His "Reece's Peanut Butter Cups" design (right) featured two "smashed" peanut butter cup tri-blade boomerangs of birch plywood, hand painted to resemble the tasty confections.

Stuart left

nothing to chance, even producing a large replica "package" in which to carry the boomerangs, as well as the black paper wrap-

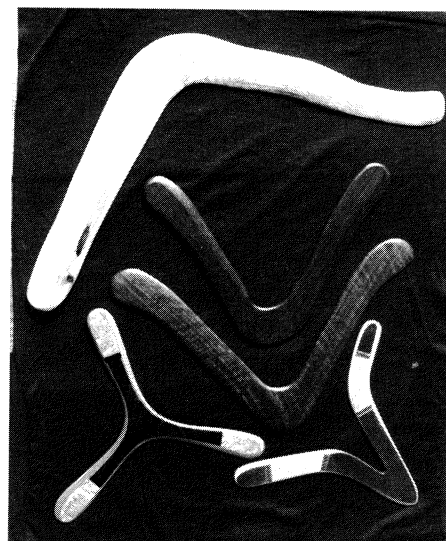
pers that go around each cup. Then he went a step further and donated these tasty treats to the USBA auction to help finance "the mission." Thanks Stuart!





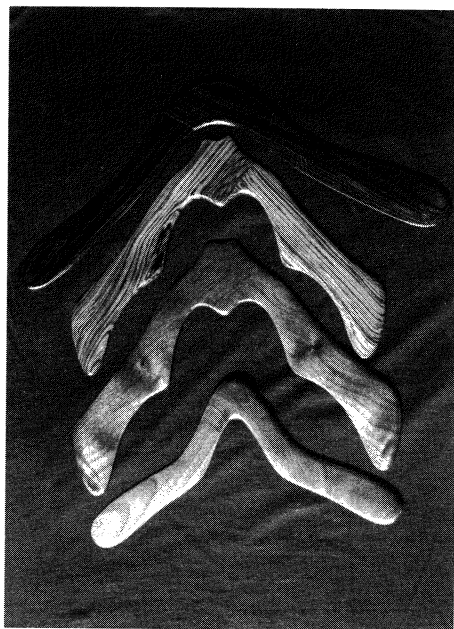
Scenes from the National Boomerang Expo 2001

Don't get left out of the fun this year! Airfare to Seattle is cheap right now! See page 10 for all the details.



TOP LEFT: Gary Broadbent displays two craftsmanship design entries that Jeff Arington of Nashville, TN entered in last year's National Expo Craftsmanship Design competition. The center is plywood, with G-10 laminated to the bottom and various wood veneers laminated to the top. "It was a different way of making a boomerang," said Gary when asked what Jeff was trying to do.

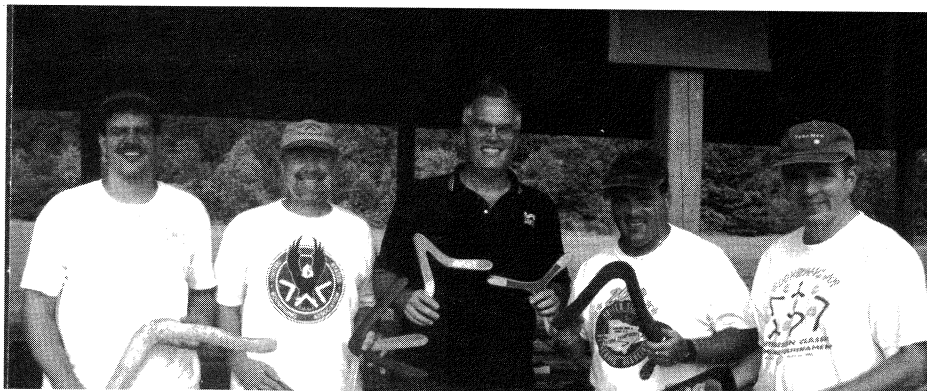
TOP RIGHT: Top: Eric Darnell's grand champion in the Natural Elbow division, made of white oak (we believe), 3rd from top: Tom Broush's walnut lap-joint (which won the lap joint division and also won Tom overall craftsman 2002)



CONTEST QUESTION:

What American boomerang crafter made all of these 2002 National design competition 'rangs. Bonus points if you can name the wood used in each one. (The crafter is not allowed to enter.) If you know, email your answer to:

boomerang@columbus.rr.com. The first one to answer correctly receives a FREE Boomerang USA T shirt, sponsored by BUSA and a stack of 10 indoor Foster's boomerangs!



Attendees at last year's National Boomerang Expo in Delaware, OH show off their craftsmanship entries. From left, Tom Braush, Kendall Davis, Fred Malmburg, Gary Broadbent, and Carl Morris.

FACT: The very first boomerang-themed website was created in the fall of 1994. A few months later (Spring of 1995) it became the official USBA website. The very first boomerang FAQ was created in 1991 for the alt.boomerang newsgroup

National Boomerang Expo 2002

June 6 - 9, 2002

Betsylew Miale-Gix, Exposition Director

JUNE 6, 2002 Kickoff Event:

Marymoor Park, Redmond Washington. Skill building, teaching and boomerang construction workshops. Local and National throwers and boomerang throwers will be on hand. Confirmed as of this date are Fred Malmburg, Will Herlan and Don Monroe.

JUNE 7, 2002 THE GAMES

BEGIN in North Bend, Washington (30 minutes east of Seattle) at Mountain Meadow Farm. Events will take place on a large, beautifully kept polo field in a picturesque semi-rural setting. Mount Si rises majestically above the field to the east.

JUNE 7 USBA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

This event will feature the core skill events Fast Catch/Endurance, MTA, Accuracy, Trick Catch, and Australian Round. Throwers will be competing for awards in all three divisions - Novice, Open and Sport. First event will begin at 9:30am.

JUNE 7 USBA ANNUAL MEETING AND GET TO-

GETHER. Find out what is going on with your organization, share ideas and see the latest epic boomerang film by talented, internationally known film

maker Gregg Snouffer! 7:30pm - 9:30pm North Bend Historic Railway Station.

JUNE 8, 2002 USBA TEAM EXTRAVAGANZA

Team Events Session I.

9:00AM - 12:00PM This is fun team play for everyone regardless of skill level. Teams will be put together blending throwers with different levels of experience to compete in 3 events. Events will include Position, Team Hackey Catch and modified Team Endurance Relay. More if time permits!

Team Events Session II. 1:00

PM - 6:00 PM. This event is geared to those who are intermediate level and above. The USBA Nationals teams will compete as units. Other throwers are invited to put together 4-6 person teams in advance or to form pickup teams at the Expo. A minimum of four WBC events will be contested including Endurance Relay, Super Catch, Australian Round and Relay. Additional events as time permits!

JUNE 8, 2002 USBA AUCTION AND BOOMERANG CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARDS.

7:30pm - 10:00pm. Get those beautifully, uniquely, cutting edge designed, crafted, Decorated Boomerangs ready and share them with your peers at the craftsmanship competi-

tion. Categories include Natural Elbow non-return, Natural Elbow returner, Most Artistic and best lap-joint as well as boomerang related novelty or other crafts. Auction items needed. Please note that auction proceeds will benefit the USBA 100% and will allow us to move forward to more aggressively promote boomerangs in all its educational, sport, hobby and other contexts. **Please contact Will Gix to coordinate your donation of Auction items and entries for the craftsmanship competition.**

JUNE 9, 2002 USBA H2H CHAMPIONSHIP AND USBA JUNIOR NATIONALS AND DISTANCE!

Another action packed day of boomerang throwing. H2H and Junior Nationals will take place simultaneously from 9:00 am to 12:30pm.

H2H will feature the top 8 overall competing in all events plus the top 8 in each individual event from the sport division.

Junior Nationals will feature throwers 16 and under. These throwers will compete in all the core skill events: Accuracy, Fast Catch/Endurance, Trick Catch, MTA and Australian Round. **DISTANCE** will begin set up and practice at 12:30 and will run until the throwers are ready to stop or it gets dark - around 8:00pm, whichever comes first! This is the first time since the mid 1980's that the USBA has included a Distance Competition in the flow of events during the

Nationals tournament. Be a part of it!

WHERE TO STAY:

This is a small town without major hotels. It is highly recommended that you book early!

Here are some options in North Bend somewhat in order of recommendation:

Edgwick Inn 14600 468th Avenue SE, North Bend 1-425-888-9000. This is the newest motel. Rates range from \$65.00 two people one queen to \$80 four people two double beds.

Sunset Motel. 227 W. North Bend Way 1-425-888-0381. Rates range from \$45 one person queen bed to \$65 for 4 people, 2 doubles.

Mount Si Motel 43200 SE North Bend Way, North Bend 1-425-888-1621. 3 rooms @ \$40 for two people queen bed. 1 room with 2 doubles 4 people approx \$60. (4 units)

North Bend Motel 322 E. North Bend Way, North Bend 1-425-888-1121. Rates range from \$48 one person double to 78 4 people two queen beds. (17 units)

OTHER:

B&B: Roaring River at North Bend Bed & Breakfast 1-425 888-4834 Peggy & Herschel Backues 46715 SE 129th St. North Bend, WA 98045

CAMPING: Snoqualmie River Campground. 34807 SE 44th Place, Fall City 1-425-222-5545. They do take reservations. 21 per day per tent 2 people. 3.50 per person above 2. 25 per day RV. Children under 6 are free.



Japan's Nobu (center) clowns around at last year's National Boomerang Expo in Delaware, OH with fellow attendees Tom Braush (left) and Carl Morris

REGISTRATION FORM

Pre-Registration fee of \$25.00 (fee becomes \$35.00 as of May 27, 2002) Includes all events and one shirt. If NOT a current USBA member, include \$15 for one year membership.

Mail , along with payment, to:
Betsylew Miale-Gix, 3351 236th Street SW, Brier WA 98036.

Name: _____

Phone: () _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

T-shirt Size: Medium _____ Large _____ X-large _____
(extra shirts: add \$10.00 each and mark qty of each size)

Will you be participating in Distance? Yes _____ No _____

USBA Member? Yes _____ No _____
If not USBA member, include \$15 for membership

CRAFTERS' ALERT

Challenge Cup 2002: Seattle

A fun new boomerang event that combines craftsmanship, performance and throwing is coming to the Seattle Boomerang Expo this June. Read all about it, get your boomerang blank from Will Herlan, and hit the shop!

THE CHALLENGE:

Start with a standard sized piece of 4mm 8-ply birch plywood, design and build a boomerang from that wood to compete in 4 events.

MATERIALS:

You are limited to one piece of 4 mm 8 ply Finnish Birch plywood which has been cut into a 14" equilateral triangle. You can obtain an entry blank from Will Herlan (free for current USBA members, \$5 for non-USBA members), or create one yourself. If you create one yourself, each side of the triangle must be no longer than 14", and the grain direction has to run parallel to one of the sides.

The Events:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Voting on designs – 9 AM to Noon

General warm-up – Noon to 12:30

Fast Catch – 12:30+

MTA – 15 minutes after Fast Catch ends

Trick Catch – 10 minutes after MTA ends

DESIGN COMPETITION:

Everyone present at the Nationals Expo on June 6th from 9 AM to high noon gets to vote on their favorite boomerangs in four categories:

- Best Use of Wood – Each entry will be displayed on a 14" triangle. How well did the designer make use of the wood?

- Best Artwork – Everyone's an art critic! Look for the entry that displays the best art work.

- Best Workmanship – How nicely shaped are the boomerangs? How is the finish? Would you be proud of the quality of this boomerang?

- Most Creative Design – Wow! What a great idea!

Most total votes wins the event. One vote in each of the categories, unless you get confused by the butterfly ballot!

THE THROWING EVENTS:

Fast Catch – Use one of the boomerangs to compete in USBA fast catch. The only difference in the rules is there is only ONE round of fast catch for each entry. Fastest time wins the event. This event will use a standard 20 meter circle to check for range.

MTA Unlimited – Use one of the boomerangs to compete in MTA unlimited. Each entry gets three throws, and the longest flight wins. NOTE: We are not totaling times.

Trick Catch – Use one or more of the boomerangs to compete in

simple Trick Catch. Only the first 10 standard trick catches will be contested, no doubling. The entry with the highest number of points wins. IF you make all the catches, congratulations – we won't make you do them over and over until you drop. There will be no range check for trick catch.

WINNING THE CUP:

The winner of the Challenge Cup is determined by the total score from the 4 events. In the event of a tie for first, the entry with the most votes in the Design event wins. If a tie results after factoring that in, all 1st place entries share the prize.

THE CUP:

In addition to the overall prize, the coveted Challenge Cup traveling trophy (which bears the name of the first winner Doug DuFresne)

There will also be honorable mentions for top vote winners in the 4 design categories, and the overall design winner.

CHALLENGE CUP QUESTIONS:

1) What if I'm not going to be there to compete?

Make the boomerang(s) and send them in by June 1st. At the

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

very least, your entry will be in the design part of the Challenge Cup.

With your entry, specify which way you want to enter the competition:

- Design only.
- Design, and then my designated thrower is going to throw my entries
- Design, and then anyone who wants to can throw my entry and keep it
- Design, and then anyone who wants to can throw my entry, but I want it returned to me

Send your entry to:

Will Gix
3351 236th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036-8421

2) What if I'm going to be on the field by noon on Thursday June 6th, but I don't want to make an entry?

You can claim one of the entries that has been sent in, and compete in the throwing part of the Challenge Cup. NOTE: For the purposes of the trophy, the "winner" of the Challenge Cup is the one who makes the boomerang(s). All entries are claimed on a first come, first claimed basis. If you plan to throw, you need to claim an entry BEFORE the design contest ballots are tabulated, or be pre-designated as the thrower of an entry by the maker.

3) What can I do with this 14" triangle when I have it?

Cut it into as many boomerangs as you want, plane it, file it, sand it, paint it, flap it, tape it, weight it, twist it, heat tune it,

The State of the USBA

By Gregg Snouffer

Here are the projects and committee members overseeing them that your new USBA board of directors is currently working on. We could use your help! If you have any interest in or energy for helping on any of the committees listed, don't hesitate to contact Gregg at boomerang@columbus.rr.com, or by phoning (740) 363-4414 and offer your assistance!

1) Expo 2002: Betsy and Wil Gix are coordinating this committee, along with the help of Will Herlan. Gregg and Fred are helping to coordinate the trophies for comp and design, plus giving ideas for the weekend events. Betsy and Gregg were able to secure Foster's sponsorship money promised for the Expo in order to significantly cut the cost of registration and participation (only \$25!) Thanks Foster's!

2) Craftsmanship design comp: Fred, Will, Wil and Gregg are spearheading the drive to generate entries on B Talk, through MHR, etc. Wil Gix is point person for collecting entries.

3) Toss Across America 2002: May 18: Betsy has once again provided the materials and is mailing them out to anyone interested in hosting. She has provided details to MHR and to web sight. Nic and Gregg are looking for funding for mini grants for 2003 TAA hosts.

4) MHR is now being edited by Gregg, using MS Publisher. It is emailed to the printer in Seattle, who print s it. Steve "Cookie" Cook produces the mailing labels from the USBA data base supplied by Treasurer Keith Mullinar and sends to Betsy for distribution.

Gregg would like to find a guest editor to do issue 85 during his coaching season, but will get it out somehow if no one volunteers. He could use some help on articles and ideas for articles you think would be of interest. He would welcome an

advisory committee that would be willing to help out. Anyone with Publisher would be GREAT!

5) Aron McGuire is now editing the web page (www.usba.org) and has updated the calendar, among other things. Kendall Davis and several from Boomerang Talk are supplying generic boomerang plans for the USBA and the web page, along with links to other design plans.

They are also brainstorming other web page ideas. Any suggestions should be sent to Aron. He and Cookie are working on notifying past tournament directors to update us on their upcoming tournament dates for the web calendar.

6) Austin Expo 2003: Gregg and Dave Hughes are working with a variety of public and private sources to bring the National Boomerang Expo to the great state of Texas in October, 2003!

7) Keith Mullinar is serving as treasurer and has taken over the paypal link directly, so it doesn't go through the web master. Keith and Cookie still maintain the data base of members and seek to add renewals and new members in a timely manner. I know they could use some help in generating and mailing membership cards and welcome info, so that members get acknowledgement for joining. One of the most common complaints is that there is no notification after people join.

9) Fred and Gregg are currently working on USBA lesson plans to have available and to distribute to teachers who wish to use boomerangs in their curriculum.

10) Eric Darnell and John Kohler are coordinating our US team effort for the World cup in Germany this summer. Kitty Hawk is pretty much coordinated and all participants are well informed. Kitty Hawk Kites is helping the USBA fund the camp so that participation is free for those who registered. Foster's sponsorship money

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paid for the USBA team registration for three U.S. Teams (1800 Euros).

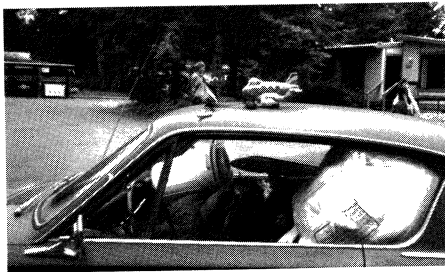
11) Cookie organized and is running the membership drive boomerang giveaway. All new members and renewals will receive an entry into the drawing. Anyone who introduces a new member will also get an additional entry. Drive ends May 1. Winners will be drawn and mailed by Cookie. We could use someone to run a subsequent membership drive. This requires soliciting boomerangs and organizing the details.

12) Fred is spearheading the USBA lifetime achievement awards. The USBA is on the agenda at the World Cup to award the first ever USBA recognition for lifetime achievement in boomerangs to an international recipient in Germany. Gregg will be doing that presentation and coordinating the award with Fred. Betsy is coordinating the National awards with Fred., to be awarded at this year's Expo in Seattle.

13) Gregg has contacted Nicholodean and YOU GOTTA SEE THIS TV about doing stories on the upcoming expo, team cup and junior nationals. Keith is lending a hand with video archives. We will also be taping the Expo's discussion panel headed by Fred and Gary Broadbent for archival purposes.

14) Nic Yeager and Gregg are currently doing research and accumulating grant applications to get alternate funding sources for projects we wish to pursue.

15) Nic, Chet, Gregg have been brainstorming various means of promoting our organization.



An unauthorized Gel plane sighting prompts yet another unwarranted panic

The Best of Boomerang Cyber Chat

Edited by Billy Brazelton

Dr. Felix Hess, who wrote his doctorate thesis on boomerangs and their flight, privately told me that, in light of what he's seen and thrown, he'd have to go back and rewrite his thesis. This was right after I allowed him free access to all the boomerangs in my private throw bags.

- Rusty Harding

In the Fall 1996 issue of MHR (#68), John Flynn and Fred Malmberg calculated the average speed of Adam Ruhf's new record-breaking fast catch boomerang. Their consensus was that it probably achieved an average speed of 75-80mph, but these were only theoretical calculations. To my knowledge, nobody has ever been able to measure directly the velocity of a boomerang. I found in the Rang-List archives the following thread on how we might go about testing John and Fred's calculations:

Barry Friedman compares Adam Ruhf to Randy Johnson:

If we take your figure of [75] mph as being accurate or at least accurate enough, that means a boom is traveling at least [25] mph SLOWER than the best Randy Johnson fastball

Fred Malmberg points out the fallacy in that comparison:

The [75] mph boom speed is an *average* speed, averaged over the *entire length* of the flight. The figures you see as radar speeds of baseball pitches are *instantaneous* speeds taken at one specific point in

the flight. They cannot possibly be compared, as they measure two different things.

This suggests the idea of putting a radar gun on Adam, but **Tony Brazelton** points out:

I seem to recall someone tried this once (a cop friend of Chet's maybe?). The radar gun sent back erratic numbers, presumably due to its inability to parse the different relative speeds of the wing when in the "bottom" (slow) phase versus the "top" (fast) phase of the spin cycle.

John Bordelon elaborates:

Yes, that would most likely be a problem... The old original radar guns measure the difference between the frequency of the outgoing signal and the signal coming back, so they are measuring the difference in frequency due to doppler effect. A messy doppler spectrum produces a result that can't be measured. If you actually plug in a pair of headphones and listen to the signal coming back, you hear a clear tone on a moving object like a car. Aim the gun at an electric fan and you get some very interesting sounds, but no velocity measurement.

So how can we get an instantaneous measurement of boom speed? Assuming an average speed of 73mph, **Tony** says:

If the boomerang slows down continuously and linearly (it doesn't) until it hits my hands at, say 40 mph, then I threw it with an initial speed of 106 mph. We know that when you catch the FC boom, it ain't goin nearly as fast as when it

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

left your hand. But how much has it slowed down? When did it slow down? My intuition is that a good FC boom doesn't really slow down appreciably until it's about 70-80% of the way around.

How do we measure this experimentally? The most common solution that people tend to come up with after they've given it a few moments thought, is to film the boomerang's flight directly from above and sample its speed during different segments along its path. Now this sounds a lot like calculus, so maybe we aren't so far away from getting some good formulae once and for all. No go get that camera set up in the ceiling of the RCA dome and I'll be there in 10 minutes!

Dan Neelands doesn't think the RCA dome is necessary :
I have an idea for a poor man's way to do this but I need some help. Have two people hold a bed sheet up as a barrier in the path of the FC boom. Have a thrower (always standing in the same spot) throw repeatedly as the barrier is moved around the circle. Record the sound of the boom hitting the barrier each time. Analyze the segments of the recording to get the speed at different times. This could be done with a stop watch or a PC. Would this work? I haven't worked out whether the boom leaving the hand would make a distinct enough sound to be on the recording. Clay? Will? Shall we try this?

Clay Dawson will sacrifice his body for science:
I'm totally willing - I've got my safety goggles and helmet ready! Next time we throw together. I've got a friend who has the gear to analyze the frequency spectrum of recordings which might be interesting to look at.

Now **Tony** starts to get silly: Clay is right. The boomerang diaphragm method would be really dangerous, and possibly not loud enough. Why don't we just have PEOPLE standing in the way instead of people AND sheets? That way we can just record the sound of someone saying "OW!" instead of the sound of the boom hitting the sheet. This method also introduces a lot of variability into the system. Many throws would be needed to get enough points along the flight-path. It is difficult to keep all the throws at consistent initial forces, not to mention on a consistent two-dimensional and three-dimensional flightpath. But surely the safety issue is enough to keep any of you from actually *trying* this! "OK, Bob and I are standing 11 feet away from you with a sheet between us. Throw a fast catch boom as hard as you can at the sheet!"
I think we should put our efforts toward locating a high-speed video camera (very expensive, but maybe one of us can borrow one from work) and a big indoor arena with an accessible ceiling.

Clay, believe it or not, was being serious:
I actually think this is the simplest way to get both the path and speed of the throw. Say in 6, 8, or 10 points along the boom path. Time and distance gives you speed (or close to it) and mark the ground where the boom hit the sheet gives you path. A whistle could be added to the boom to make it loud enough so that a recording fed into a computer could be used for time or you could simply have a few timers using stop watches. Tony is correct that it will take quite a few throws and could be risky, but safety precautions could be used (rig up the sheets so you stand behind it when holding them up, catcher's

mask, helmet, and pads for the holders).

Although I think a high speed video camera and a stadium will give far more interesting information, I think the simple diaphragm method could get the data any time 4 throwers are in the field.
I'll hold the sheet.

That was too much for **Tony**:
I'm having some trouble typing this I'm laughing so hard! Just picture (from the perspective of the boomerang-uninitiated) four people in the middle of a field:
Two of them are wearing baseball catcher's gear and possibly some assorted hockey goalie's gear. Oh yes, and they are straining to hold a sheet vertically as tight as they can. A third person is hunched down over a laptop and microphone, shouting instructions at the other three. And, get this, the fourth person keeps throwing what appears to be a boomerang as hard as he can at the two padded ones. I get to be the thrower.

I hope to include the results from this experiment in a future installment of BBCC.

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

To subscribe to BoomerangTalk, the 21st century version of Rang-List, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BoomerangTalk/>

Changing of the guard

(Continued from page 1)

friendly to old and new throwers alike. It was imagined that with pro-am teams, experienced throwers would share their sticks and knowledge with their novice teammates in order to improve their chances of winning. That would have the two-fold effect of inspiring new throwers AND giving them the knowledge and hardware to compete in the sport.

The 2001 season featured two regional team tournaments, as Tony Brazelton hosted the Indianapolis Team Cup Challenge, in addition to Larry's Massachusetts challenge. Then at this year's National Boomerang Expo, both a pro-am team tourney and an ultimate 4-man team showdown were held, so that novices could participate in fun team events like position and fast throw relay in the morning and then spectators could get a glimpse of the world cup events in the afternoon as pre-sorted regional teams battled it out for the national team championships.

This year, the FBC recommended, and the USBA board approved that the Australian Round event be run with pairs throwing simultaneously. The accuracy event had already been switched to pairs throwing last season. Not only did this speed up one of the sport's most notoriously slow events, it had the added benefit of introducing more American throwers to team-style throwing... whether they liked it or not!

With all of the increased emphasis on turning more throwers on to team events, the USBA deliberately set the wheels in motion to raise enthusiasm for the upcoming world cup next July in Germany, where the U.S. hopes to end a drought of world cup victories dating back to Japan in 1994, when the last U.S. team won the cup.

It seems to be working, as several new, young throwers are looking forward to the first-ever open invitation team camp coming this April in Kitty

"The end result: The U.S. is getting more throwers exposed to team style throwing... whether they like it or not!"

Hawk, where the leading edge throwers will be separated from the dingle arms. But there's still one question left to answer: a question that still bothers several American young guns... will the same good-ol'-boy system that has designated the past three U.S. teams still be in place this spring? And if so, will any of the hard work and effort that these throwers have put into the sport pay off?

The F.B.C. and the USBA hope so, and several steps have been taken to see that the U.S. not only wins back the cup, but also continues to be a dominant force for the next decade.

For example, the camp is open this year... not an invitational, as has been the case in the past. This will give the coaches and captains a chance to see throwers they haven't seen up close before. Also, the head team-selecting job goes to co-coaches John Kohler and Eric Darnell. These two work well together, and, while Eric provides the technical expertise and eye for talent, John provides the motivational and people skills and eye for team chemistry that is vitally important in a sport that was invented by a couple of guys that liked to go out in a field and throw sticks at themselves!

Then, there's a new coach selection procedure being instituted this year. The teams will be determined at the camp, and then those teams will select their own coaches. In the past, coaches selected teams and, in the process, sometimes unwittingly set up rivalries among themselves... something the U.S. doesn't want to see happen this year.

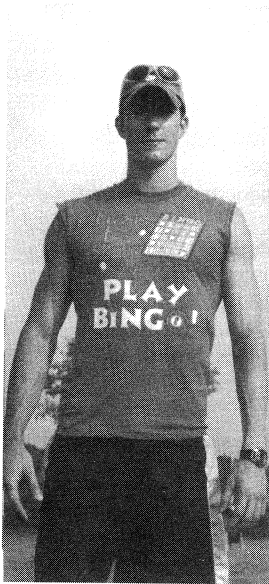
Bottom line: Whether you want to

be a team member or a team coach this year, you have to earn the spot. The teams will be free to choose whomever they please to lead them, keep track of line-ups and stats, run drills and practice sessions, get the guys talking, practicing and sharing booms and knowledge leading up to the cup, or-

ganize flight schedules, transportation, meeting and housing arrangements, and uniforms, and do it all on your own dime! (That's right, the world cup teams have seldom received sponsorship money, and there are no hopefuls lining up to foot the bill this summer!)

And then there's the issue of sustainable American boomerang domination. That's where the developmental team comes in. The U.S. has been invited to send three teams to the cup. The top two teams will be for the cream of the crop. The third team, which in the past, has provided shelter for aging throwers who still wished to be involved, will this year be reserved solely for younger throwers who have shown potential and dedication to the sport. The hope is to get upcoming throwers who lack sticks and knowledge some valuable, life-altering world cup experience. It is hoped that these upcoming throwers will be hooked and will still be there for the sport in the years to come. A developmental coach is being selected to head up this team of promising young Americans. Candidates should have team cup experience in the past and be willing to make booms for the team members, share expertise and materials, organize and teach these young throwers how to become America's hope for the future. (If you feel you can help out, please email John Kohler at john@koehlerstudios.com or Gregg Snouffer at boomerang@columbus.rr.com

Who's in the U.S. Team mix?



Aron "Zippy" McGuire inspired a whole younger generation of throwers, showing up at the Emmaus team camp in '99 with a hard-working, team-oriented attitude and solid performances that won him a top spot on the U.S. Team. The word was out... the old

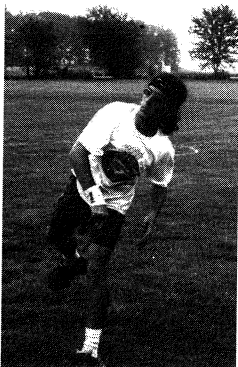
guard didn't have as strong a grip as rumor had it. Laurels wouldn't hold off these tough young competitors forever.

Nic Yeager stakes his claim, grabbing two titles in his first two tournaments of the 2001 season. After finishing first with the D-Town Boys at the Indi-



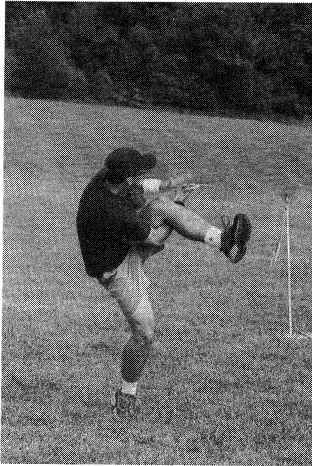
anapolis Team tourney (with teammates Mark Legg, Mike Smale and Gregg Snouffer) and then tying Steve Kavanaugh for first in the Northwest Oregon Boomerang Roundup, he is standing on top of the boomerang world and looking boldly to the future.

Mark Legg has

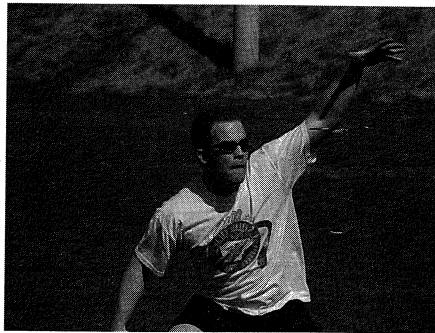


been involved in boomerangs since the mid '80's when, as a boy, he would accompany Chet and Gregg Snouffer on their boom travels to the first team cups held in Washington DC. Mark has since done some growing up and now produces many of his own competition booms. His doublers and towering M.T.A.s, have made fans with other top competitors. But Mark also grabbed some attention at this year's nationals and head to head championships with his innovative wood accuracy boom and his quick fast catch rangs and transitions.

Tony Brazelton broke into the elite ranks in '99 and was awarded a U.S. team spot, but was unable to make the trip to Oz.



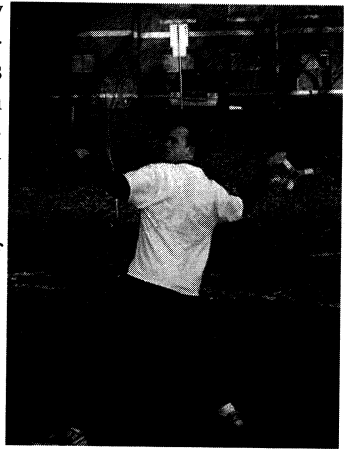
He has responded by spending more time throwing in the last winter than any other U.S. thrower. His cold-weather throwing paid off as he jumped out to an early lead in the B.U.S.A. boomerang rankings for 2001, winning the St. Louis tourney, as well as his own Indianapolis Individual Cup.



Matt Golenor burst onto the scene a couple of years ago, but showed he was for real this year, winning his first major tournament... and the first tournament of the 2001 season in Atlanta. Matt has finished his graduate studies at the University of Virginia and now

has a chance to target some of the country's old guard for their spot on a U.S. team.

Billy Brazelton has been selflessly promoting the sport of boomerangs for years now, helping brother Tony



run the BoomerangUSA.org web page, which provides an unofficial thrower ratings list, and hosting weekly throws in Minneapolis/St Paul, where he attends college. He did some traveling this season, making it out to the Seattle tournament, as well as many others, in preparation for an onslaught at the team camp next spring.



The east coast contingency includes Justin Brown and Danny Beauchamp (pictured), who have trained with East coast gu-Ruhfs Larry and Adam for years now. They have spent the last two years traveling the boomerang circuit, making believers out of (and winning support from) everyone, including Zoë.

There are several other throwers threatening to make life difficult for the old guns. Due to lack of photos and bios, we couldn't list everyone. Send photos and bios of up and coming throwers that we missed for a follow-up article next issue at:

boomerang@columbus.rr.com.

U.S and International Boomerang Manufacturers

Flying Frog Boomerangs

Tom Conally
1320 Cherry Drive
Burlington, NC 27215
336.584.4046
14 models hand made and painted sport and fun boomerangs.
<http://fly.to/boomerangs>
conally@netpath.net

Master Designs Boomerangs

Kendall Davis
932 21st Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-9885
<http://master-designs.com> (Boomerang info and crafts)
<http://master-designs.com/catalog> (Direct to the catalog page)
boomsmith@master-designs.com
Specializing in beginner and intermediate boomerangs, with a few competition boomerangs. I also make lapjoint and specialty boomerangs (i.e. extra large boomerangs, and special colors - some fancy paint...) I have 15 models to choose from.

TBoomz

R. Foust
P.O. Box 146
Whitsett, NC 27377-9744
336-697-1279 evenings best
six models, just recreational [no competition] mostly baltic birch plywood and solid wood

Steven Graham

924 Yale Dr.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-0730
grang@bartnet.net
<http://www.bartnet.net/~grang/>
Steven Graham of Graham's Boomerangs, personalized boomerangs and didgeridoos made by artist Steven Graham

The Boomerang Man

Richard Harrison
....giving fast, personal service since 1975....over 70 types of rangs from USA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, SCOTLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, BRAZIL. Order your FREE CATALOG sent via mail.
<http://www.theboomerangman.com>

BVD'Rangs

Dave Hendricks
1086 East Gordon Street
Allentown, PA 18109-2208

610-434-7305
bvdrangs@enter.net
www.bvdrangs.com
15 different models in plywood and plastic.
Also hardwood lap-jointed boomerangs

Jens Krabbe

Ringkøbinggade 15, 4.th.
DK-2100 Copenhagen
DENMARK
+45 3543 4475
Jens.Krabbe@sas.dk
<http://www.geocities.com/JensKrabbe/booms/mine/designs.htm>
I have developed a handful of small and light booms in 4mm plywood. Of these, the Extacy is by far my favorite.

"Dr. Fred"

Fredric A. Malmberg, DPM
1545 East Market Street
York, PA 17403
(717) 848-4601
fmalm@pol.net

Info on products sold - "Top line rare wood lapjoint boomerang maker; usually made to order, and priced accordingly".

Wallaby Boomerangs

Stéphane Marguerite
5026 Cartier, Montréal, QC, H2H 1X5,
CANADA
Tel: (514) 597-1333
Fax: (514) 597-2281
www.wallabyboomerangs.com
info@wallabyboomerangs.com
sport boomerangs for beginners and experts

Bumerangue.com

Ricardo Bruni Marx
Estrada da Fazendinha, 4619
Carapicuíba - SP - Brazil
Tel: (55) 11 7856-1440 / Fax: (55) 11 4169-7551
web: www.bumerangue.com <<http://www.bumerangue.com>>
e-mail: webmaster@bumerangue.com
Pyments: VISA and AMEX.

Colorado Boomerangs

Richard Pollock-Nelson
2530 So. Ouray Way
Aurora, Colorado 80013
1-800-35-RANGS
www.coloradoboomerangs.com
Colorado Boomerangs offers 31 models that will not only blow you away, but keep coming back time after time.

REDI

Dietmar Reinig
Holz- und Kunststoffvertrieb
Hohlweg 7
64686 Lautertal
Germany
Tel: +49 6254 1593 Fax: +49 6254 842
email: mail@rediboom.com
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your partner in boomerang sports.
All you want for boomerang sports.
Wood, Plastics, boomerangs, blanks, DIY kits, constuction plans, literature, a detailed history, throwing instructions, how to build boomerang, etc.

Bullseye Boomerangs

Brett P Reish
RR#1 Box# 1349
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 421-1720
Bullseye@noln.com

Roundtrip Boomerangs

Gregg Snouffer
340 Troy Rd
Delaware, OH 43015
Phone: 740-363-4414
www.rtboomerangs.com
boomerang@columbus.rr.com
Making quality beginner to comp boomerangs since 1986. Retail and wholesale orders of wooden boomerangs and plastic Tantrum three-bladed indoor and backyard boomerangs. Can do large quantities and commercial orders.

Whishhbone Boomerangs

John Villagrana
P.O. Box 2393
Santa Fe Springs, Ca. 90670
whishhbone@email.com
<http://whishhbone.freeyellow.com>
traditional boomerangs hand crafted from Finland Birch plywood

Gary Villard

3301 23rd. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708
330-477-2324
medic@ezo.net
big and little Highlander, Midge, Bonas and the new solid carbon fiber Windfree.

The USBA provides this listing as a free service for members. For your own free listing on this page, email your info to Gregg Snouffer at boomerang@columbus.rr.com

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Comments on newsletter content, and submissions for inclusion 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 submissions are Jan 1, April 1, July 1, Oct 1 for the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues respectively.

Gregg Snouffer

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USBA Membership Information

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in \$USD\$. Make checks payable to USBA. Domestic and Canadian membership gets you four issues of MHR and 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 the MHR issue # when your membership expires. Membership status questions or missing newsletters should be reported to Keith Mullinar.

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(Your idea for an MHR article could have been here had you emailed it to boomerang@columbus.rr.com!)

Membership Application

Copy this page and carry extra copies of this form in your boom bag to hand out!

Check: New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Address 2 _____

City, State, Zip _____

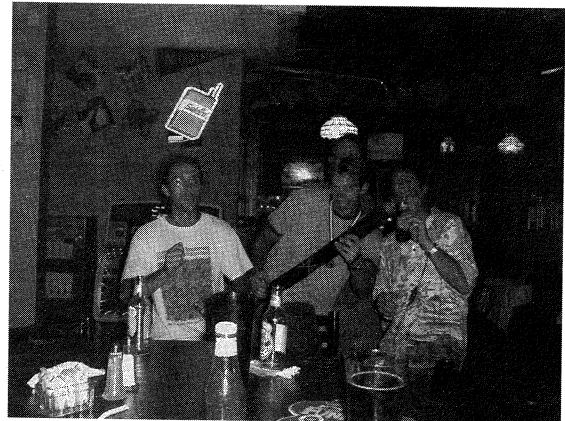
Phone (optional) _____

Email (optional) _____

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New members & renewals: send completed form and \$15 (\$20 overseas) with check or m.o. payable to USBA to:

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



Mark Legg, Aron McGuire and Gregg Snouffer say grace before digging in at Expo 2001

UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION

340 Troy Road
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone: (740) 363-4414
Fax: (740) 548-0710
Email: boomerang@columbus.rr.com

USBA

Many Happy Returns!

We're on the web!
www.usba.org

WANTED: Boomerang Clubs

If you have an active boomerang club that meets and throws and/or builds together... even a couple of boomerang buddies that get together once in a while... email us! In the next issue we will update the world on what boomerangs were really used for... CLUBS! Send in your name and contact info and the name of your club! Make one up, for god's sake!

Email: boomerang@columbus.rr.com

2002 Calendar of Boomerang Events

March 22-24: BUSA's pre-team camp-camp and head to head comp at Gary Broadbent's boom shop in Canton, Ohio. Call Gary at (330) 492-RANG

- 1) Have access to the best material, shop, and competition boomerang craftsmen (to help you make what you need to complete your bag for the team camp in KH) in the world, bar none.
- 2) Throw lots of boomerangs all weekend long
- 3) Get a chance to see how your booms, new and old, compare to others who are there in head to head format where winners AND losers advance to face the winners AND losers of the other rounds. (You thought we wouldn't be throwing a lot of boomerangs?)
- 4) Observe and get into the performance of the other throwers there, due to the nature of the team h2h. You will be cheering and sharing ideas, booms and coaching techniques. (We will be running the events that specifically apply to team cup, but doing them in an individual format so that everyone gets to perfect their form in each of these critical skills... and just in time to hone your skills three weeks before team

camp!)

- 5) Have the best 3 am meal of grilled cheese sandwiches ever enjoyed by any primate on the planet after an evening of boom making
- 6) Have the most fun of your boomerang life
- 7) Help film the final parts of the boomerang movie, "The Fifth Throw."
- 8) Have plenty of time for leisure throwing, swapping, copying and comparing of booms

April 12-14: U.S. Boomerang Team Camp in Kitty Hawk, NC.

Open only to pre-registered throwers. If you are one and need info, email John Kohler at john@koehlerstudios.com

May 26: Memorial Day Weekend: St Louis: The Gateway Arch Tournament. This is the second-longest running tournament in America and happens on Sunday, May 26. Contact Tom Fitzgerald for info at 314-839-1604

JUNE 6-9: National Boomerang Expo in Seattle, WA. Contact Betsy Miale-Gix Betsylew Miale-Gix for info (BMG@adlergiersch.com) or Will Hurlan for design competition info (blugar@gte.net). A grand weekend of throwing, workshops, design competition, Nationals, Junior Nationals, Head to head, team events, meet crafters and throw rare booms, boomerang movies, auction, media and your favorite boomerang crafters and personalities. Mix and mingle! Too much to miss; the premier boomerang event of the year!

July 28-Aug 9: World Boomerang Cup in Kiel, Germany. This biennial event features the World Team Cup and Individual Championships. For information, go to web page www.boomerang2002.com

For your event to be listed here and on the web page, www.usba.org, please email boomerang@columbus.rr.com