

Many Happy Returns

The Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

No. 103 Fall 2012



Inside: Tournament Results, World Cup Preview, More

USBA INFORMATION

The USBA is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Our mission is to promote the sport, craft and science of boomerangs in the United States. Contact the USBA through a member of the Board of Directors, or by joining our Yahoo group:

USBA_info

Board of Directors

President – James Stickney	<i>jimbeam704@yahoo.com</i>
Vice President – Dan Bower	<i>darthdude@gmail.com</i>
Treasurer – Betsylew Miale-Gix	<i>rangsters@frontier.com</i>
Secretary – Richard Bower	<i>bubbajohnson@gmail.com</i>

Directors at Large

Mark Legg	<i>uberrang@gmail.com</i>
Logan Broadbent	<i>broadbentlogan@gmail.com</i>
Adam Stankiewicz	<i>adam@unicycletoday.com</i>
Don Monroe	<i>monroe47@q.com</i>
David Hirsch	<i>duckhead@airmail.net</i>

**Send commentary, photos, articles, tournament results, to MHR Editor, Bob Foresi:
Raforesiassoc@verizon.net
MHR NEEDS YOU TO CONTRIBUTE TO KEEP IT THE TOP NEWSLETTER AROUND!**

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

USBA Membership, 3351 236th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036

USBA MEMBERSHIP INFO

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
Email (optional) _____

Membership Type

_____ Electronic \$15.00
_____ E Plus \$ 20.00
_____ Family \$ 35.00
_____ Internat'l \$ 25.00
_____ Lifetime \$ 250.00

_____ New _____ Renewal

Please note this is an ANNUAL membership organization. All members without a lifetime membership expire on December 31 of each calendar year. Your membership will be due for renewal at end of 2012. THIS INCLUDES ALL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS.

Don't let your membership in the USA Boomerang Movement Lapse!

Cover Photo: Throwers at Viareggio, Italy, Oct. 2011

Boston Teen Discovers Boomerang Throwing as a Sport

This article submitted by Stephanie Frisch and written by a high school student from Boston, MA makes a great pitch for boomerang throwing as an alternative to the core sports.

by Michael Chapin

My mother worked for a company called Career TEAM. On several occasions she was required to go to their corporate offices to attend meetings. I was very suspect of these meetings, because before she left she was always preparing items to give as gifts or party favors, and when she came back she always had really good loot. Once when she returned from one of these meeting she presented me with a boomerang. Now I had never seen or used a boomerang before, but her friend Stephanie Frisch was thoughtful enough to put directions on its use inside the boomerang package.

At first, I was skeptical. So I brought it to school. My para-professional Matt Lynch is always trying to get me to do physical activities during our gym period, so I thought the boomerang would be a great idea. In fact, it was. First, we prepped it like the directions indicated and then we threw it! It came right back. The thing I like most about it was if you threw it just right, it came directly back to you with little or no movement on my part. I don't want to say I don't enjoy sports but, "I don't enjoy sports". I have a fine motor skills problem due to having Asperger's Syndrome. I am not always sure why Asperger's is a syndrome or even a problem. Technically, I am really smart, have a million great ideas that come all at once, get very interested in certain subjects to the point of tunnel vision, remember almost everything I read, and don't like to socialize with a lot of people but have about 5 really close friends. Sports has been one of the most difficult things for me in school, because if you are bad at sports, and I am, kids get really upset in gym if they think you caused them to lose a game. Personally, I am not that invested in winning a game of dodge ball in high school gym class. So hence, the bringing of the boomerang to school!

(cont)

Matt and I played with the boomerang for about fifteen minutes when we noticed we had drawn a crowd of spectators, most of them girls. They had never seen or used a boomerang before and wanted to try. Matt insisted I be the one to show them how to use the boomerang. I was not pleased to say the least. As each girl came to the head of the line, I reluctantly gave them directions and showed them how to throw and catch it. Everyone was laughing and screaming as it soared into the air and came right back. The enthusiasm was contagious, and I found myself having a great time and being the center of attention, which I don't usually enjoy. When my gym period was over, we were all sad to give up playing with the boomerang.

That afternoon at lunch period a few of the girls that I had showed how to use the boomerang came to my table to talk with me. At lunch I like to read my book, but it was impossible. They kept asking me, "when can we do this again" and "where did you get a boomerang". Patiently, I answered the questions and agreed to let them use the boomerang the next morning before school. This became a regular thing during the good weather and more and more kids showed up for instructions. Now the kids are like the boomerang, they keep coming back for more. It has provided me with hours of fun and exercise, and I have made some new friends, which is sometimes a hassle because I also enjoy being on my own. I think that having the opportunity to show kids something new and different made the kids see me in a different light, which gave them an opportunity to get to know me better. All around it has been a great experience. Good news is Stephanie sent me some more boomerangs, so even more kids can learn and I get to be the teacher.

I think the boomerang is a good item for kids like me. Kids that are not really social butterflies or very competitive in sports. What I discovered is no one is good at first with the boomerang because it's an unfamiliar thing. Truth be told, when someone got really good and started showing off and trying to turn it into competition, I just took the boomerang and went home. Now I use it with a close group of friends and it's strictly for fun. The friends keep coming back, just like the boomerang. The upside is they are mostly girls, for a 15-year old boy that is cool!

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

U.S. NATIONALS - JULY 6-8, 2012 - NASHVILLE, TN

WEST COAST THROWERS DOMINATE, WITH RICHARD BOWER REPEATING AS NATIONAL CHAMP !

OVERALL

1)Richard Bower 27.5
 3)Steve Kavanaugh 39.5
 5)Will Gix 45.5
 7)George Essig 55.5
 9)Mark Legg 67
 11)Nick Citoli
 13)Wilson Lawrence
 15)Dennis Joyce
 17)Rick Saldenberg
 19)Kenny Barr
 21)Jacques Sabrie
 23)Tim Maultsby
 25)Orrin Rydingsword



2)Daniel Bower 33
 4)Betsylew Miale-Gix 41.5
 6)Takeshi Honda 53.5
 8)Matt Golenor 65.5
 10)Chicago Bob 69
 12)Jason Smucker
 14)Adam Stankiewicz
 16)Tom Howman
 18)Clayton Hundley
 20)David Hirsch
 22)Laura Smucker
 24)Joe Tinney
 26)Dane Anderson

d.hirsch photo

(group photo pg. 16)

Accuracy: Will Gix 81 pts/100, T. Honda 66, Mark Legg 65 Aussie Round: R. Bower 75 pts/100, Matt G. 71, Nick C. 70

Endurance: D. Bower & R. Bower 46 catches, Will Gix 43 (5 min.) Fast Catch: R. Bower 20.53 sec, T. Honda 20.59, (5 catches) Matt Golenor 20.62

Max. Time Aloft (tot.3): Betsylew Miale-Gix 122.46 sec, Trick Catch: D. Bower 94pts/100, R. Bower 92, J. Smucker 84 N. Citoli 106.84, Steve K. 100.55

1st Place Craftsmanship Awards: Kenny Barr-craftsmanship, Ron Rupert-decoration, David Hirsch-nat.elbow , throw stick, & boomerang-related objects, Dave Fantone, crowd favorite. Other prizewinners: Chris Kalfa, Steve Lowke

MONTH AFTER SUMMER SOLSTICE/WESTERN OREGON BOOMERANG ROUNDUP - JULY 22, 2012

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. THROWING CONDITIONS WERE EXCELLENT EXCEPT FOR SOME WEIRD WINDS IN THE LATTER PART OF ACCURACY - Doug DuFresne, T.D, Diane DuFresne, Head Judge

Overall:

1)Richard Bower 13
 2)Daniel Bower 16
 3)Steve Kavanaugh 26
 4)Betsylew Miale-Gix 29
 5)Will Gix 30
 6)Billy Brazelton 33
 7)James Stickney 40
 8)Byron Seward
 9)Brian Wissner
 10)Nick Citoli
 11)Dean Kelly
 12)Neethi Nagarajan
 13)Dave Fantone

Fast Catch: B. Miale-Gix 17.81sec, R. Bower 17.96, D. Bower 18.42

Endurance: R.Bower 61 catches, B.Brazelton 59, D.Bower 58

Accuracy: D.Bower 90pts, Byron Seward 81, R.Bower 80

MTA: S.Kavanaugh 120.2 sec, J.Stickney 117.8, R.Bower 108.2

Trick Catch: B.Brazelton 92pts, D.Bower 90, R.Bower 89

Aussie Round: R.Bower 80pts, Will Gix 70, D.Bower 64

19TH ANNUAL GREATER SEATTLE OPEN BOOMERANG TOURNEY

by Betsylew Miale-Gix

The Seattle Boomerang tourney was held on July 28, 2012. All you all who did not come missed out on a lovely 70 degree partly cloudy then sunny day in beautiful Seattle! This year both Pacific Northwest tourneys had fun, dry conditions without excessive heat or humidity that let us all have a great time and have the opportunity to break out the faster booms for fast catch!

We threw the six USBA individual events with Supercatch between the lunch event and Trick Catch Doubling, then Relay after Aussie. With 8 USA team throwers in attendance it seemed a no brainer to play a little team too!

Super Catch featured some great throwing among the five teams of 4 - the core of Yama Otoko from Japan 2006 ended up together and had a great round to take Super Catch (Richard, Billy, Betsylew and Will!) then Daniel, Billy, Richard and Neethi ran past James, Will, Stevie and Nick for the remixed teams Relay event title.

We had other highlights of course- to name a few: Neethi had her best fast catch time and a clean relay round! Brian and son Brandon Bernard threw novice- with Brian making range and getting some solid scores to build on as he moves up! Brian Wissner and Nick Citoli had personal bests in accuracy. Michael Gel wowed us all with his radness and his son Isaac showed being 6 is no reason not to do all the events while having a great time! Caden Kavanaugh had fun throwing Accuracy and Aussie!

Doug Dufresne and Dean Kelly came up to represent for Oregon and threw Advanced - scorning the Senior Division - and finished 10th and 14th overall respectively. Peter Gibson drove up from Oakland, CA to throw with us and brought his totally cool paint stick booms and strip laminates for the boomerang prize table. Rob Greer in part throwing a couple new boomerangs he made just for the tourney, and Karl Miller added style to the games!

Because 8 events were not enough, part of the crew also played a game of GLORP after awards. Daniel took first followed by Billy, then Stevie. The Pizza party then began at Seattle favorite Zeek's Pizza and added great food and beverages to the laughter and conversation. I can think of few better ways to spend a Saturday than throwing boomerangs with friends!!!!

**Top 10 Advanced Finishers: 1. Richard Bower 20.5 2. Betsylew Miale-Gix 22 3. Daniel Bower 27
4. Will Gix 29 5. Steve Kavanaugh 30.5 6. Billy Brazelton 36.5 7. Brian Wissner 37.5
8. James Stickney 38.5 9. Nick Citoli 47.5 10. Doug Dufresne 48.5.**

Event results:

**FC - 1. Richard Bower 18.18 2. Betsylew Miale-Gix 19.37 3. Daniel Bower 20.06.
Endurance - 1. Daniel Bower 66 2. Richard Bower 61 3. Steve Kavanaugh 56.
MTA - 1. Billy Brazelton 117.65 2. Daniel Bower 110.01 3. James Stickney 104.39.
Trick Catch - 1. Daniel Bower 87 2. Steve Kavanaugh 83 3. Will Gix 82
Accuracy - 1. Betsylew 89 2. Nick Citoli 86 3. Brian Wissner 83
Aussie Round - 1. Betsylew 78 2. Richard Bower 76 3. Brian Wissner 70.**

PLAN ON COMING OUT NEXT YEAR TO HAVE A GREAT TIME AND CELEBRATE THE 20TH YEAR OF THE GREATER SEATTLE OPEN BOOMERANG TOURNEY Dates TBD post WBC 2012. Fair Winds and Blue Skies - TD - Betsylew Miale-Gix

33RD ANNUAL FREE THROWERS TOURNAMENT - AUGUST 4: DELAWARE, OHIO

by Jason Smucker

The Delaware Boomerang Tournament (in Ohio) was tremendous fun on Saturday! Many thanks to Chet and Gregg for hosting and running a great tournament! After three event, there was a 3-way tie for first place between , Adam, and Logan. In the end, Chet broke the tie and ran away with it all. And Adam showed what can happen when you live with Gary all summer long by giving a very commanding performance, taking second place overall. The wind conditions were typical for a mid-west tournament: blustery and variable. Chet's weather station was consistently measuring periods of sustained winds in the 8 to 12 mph range. Of course there were windows of opportunity, but the wind did a good job of frustrating everybody (except Chet!) at some point during the day. Stay Rad, Jason

Final results:

Place	Points	Thrower
1	19	Chet Snouffer
2	28	Adam Stankiewicz
3	28.5	George Essig
4	31	Jason Smucker
5	32	Logan Broadbent
6	39	Gary Broadbent
7	42.5	Mark Legg
8	44	Kenny Barr
9	56	Tom Howman
10	57.5	Clayton Hundley
11	58.5	Laura Smucker
12	68.5	Isaac Syler
13	70.5	David Hirsch
14	80.5	Bill Rusky
15	81	Patch Houser
16	87	Joe Tinney
17	94.5	Bob Foresi

Trick Catch/Doubling	
1	70 Jason Smucker
2	61 Adam Stankiewicz
3	59 Gary Broadbent

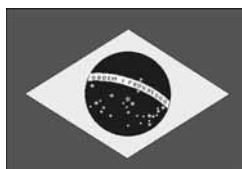
MTA 100 (Best 3 out of 5 catches)	
1	91.24 George Essig
2	87.07 Mark Legg
3	82.24 Kenny Barr

Fast Catch	
1	27.54 Chet Snouffer
2	29.00 Tom Howman
3	33.97 Logan Broadbent

Accuracy (10 Throws)	
1	57 Jason Smucker
2	52 Adam Stankiewicz
3	50 Chet Snouffer

Endurance	
1	43 Chet Snouffer
2	40 Logan Broadbent
3	30 Adam Stankiewicz

Australian Round	
1	58 Logan Broadbent
2	56 Chet Snouffer
3	49 Adam Stankiewicz



WBC Preview - Brazil

by Steve Kavanaugh August 29, 2012

Ricardo Bruni Marx leads the organizational efforts of the Brazil Boomerang Association hosting the 2012 World Boomerang Championships in the city of Itu located in the state of São Paulo, about 45 minutes outside of São Paulo city. The WBC begins October 17th and ends the 28th.

Since the 1996 WBC in Christchurch NZ, the team and individual events solidified into a consistent WBC format.

The WBC begins with an arrival day, by which most overseas travelers are expected to arrive, followed by a registration and field practice day. Registration day is when national team rosters must be finalized, registration and accommodation fees must be paid. National team may register 5 or 6 team throwers as well as coach. The competition field is usually available to practice on that day after registration.

In each team event 4 team members compete, and one team member must report to the WBC head officials to act as an official on a competition circle that does not involve their team.

While there is a priority to include the maximum number of unique national teams, our sport is still too small to exclude eager participants. For this reason, some nations, especially the host nation, are often able to field more than one 6 person team, depending on the competition field's dimensions and ability to accommodate enough

competition circles.

The host is responsible for setting the schedule of events. Core Team Events are Endurance Relay, 30m Relay, Super-Catch and Australian Round are augmented by Team Accuracy, Team MTA 100 (best single time of 3 attempts), Team Trick Catch, and decreasingly Team Fast Catch; team rules are available at the usba website.

Team Events usually are scheduled for three competition days. Like other boomerang tournaments, event results are tracked by placing points for each event; the team that has the best overall results at the end are the Team Champions.

The Individual World Championship usually begins one or two days after the end of the Team Championship. It consist of the same 6 events as the USBA National Championship: Accuracy, Australian Round (30m minimum), Endurance, Fast Catch, MTA 100 (best single time of 5 attempts) and Trick Catch. Placing point determine the overall World Individual Champion.

Then there is Gel Day!!!! Fun fun fun with Team Gel events such as Sprinklerhead, Whoa Nelly, Team Super Style Outback and the Grand Finale, GLORP.

Just my personal opinions:

Favorites for the Team Championships include Germany, USA, and a mixed International Team.

Individual Favorites include Alex Opri and Fridolin Frost from Germany, Italian Andrea Sgattoni, Manuel Schütz of Switzerland, Takeshi Honda from Japan, and USA throwers Richard Bower and Daniel Bower. Buy ya never know; that is why we have the competition. Watch out for reigning World GLORP Champion Logan Broadbent with his killer back flip catch!

<u>Site</u>	<u>Winner</u>
1981 Australia	USA
1984 USA	Australia
1987 USA, France	USA
1988 Australia	USA
1989 Gaithersburg, MD, USA	USA
1991 Perth, Australia	USA
1992 Hamburg, Germany	USA
1994 WBC Tokyo, Japan	USA
1996 WBC Christchurch, NZ	Germany
1998 WBC Edwardsville, IL, USA	Germany
2000 WBC Melbourne, NSW, Aus.	Germany
2002 WBC Kiel, Germany	USA
2004 WBC Charleville-Mézières, FR	Germany
2006 WBC Asahikawa, Hokkaido, Japan	Germany
2008 WBC Seattle, WA, USA	Germany
2010 WBC Rome, Italy	USA

Herb Smith Revisited - 40 Years Ago - One for the Books

by Bob Foresi

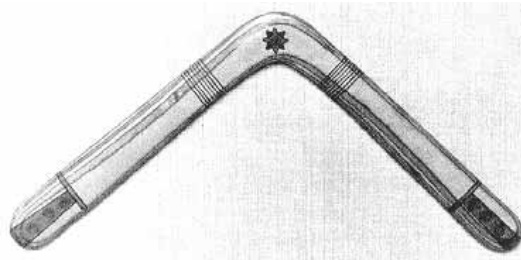
On a day of historic events worldwide, Herb Smith capped off June 17, 1972 with the first official 100-yard throw of a boomerang with full return in Sussex, England. Now 40 years since, and despite the more than doubling of the record in the meantime, the original event continues to impress.

The global happenings of 6/17/1972 began early - stirrings in the middle of the night in our nation's capital. Frank Wills, a security guard making mundane rounds at 1 AM at the Watergate Hotel, noticed a piece of tape covering a door latch and removed it. When it reappeared an hour later, he knew someone was in the building and playing with locks. He then called the police, who found and arrested five men who had broken into the Democratic National Committee headquarters. So began the notorious Watergate scandal, and the undoing of the USA's 37th president Richard Nixon. In fact the book "All the President's Men", begins with the line, 'June 17, 1972.'

Twelve hours later another hotel made history, this one in Boston. An alarm rang out at 2:30 PM to announce a fire at the Vendome, a 100-year old structure undergoing renovation. The fire was out two hours later, but a section of the building collapsed at 5:30 PM, killing nine firefighters performing overhaul and cleanup. It was the worst firefighting accident in Boston history, made more poignant by also being the eve of Father's Day.

In the world of music there was Elvis Presley performing an afternoon concert at Chicago Stadium and the release of the first album by The Eagles. So unassuming a breakout theirs was, that the album was simply titled 'Eagles', definite article dropped. The 1970s masters of soft rock let the music speak with now-classic Take it Easy, Witchy Woman and Peaceful Easy Feeling.

Somewhere in the midst of all of this, in the P.M. Greenwich Meridian Time, we had Herb Smith, already standing on the ground of the Littlehampton Sports Field. Herb was just-emerged from three years of independent study about boomerangs. He knowingly placed a few bewildered judges in the far reaches of the field. Herb then backed up to the throw line and hurled a 22", 8.5-ounce stick around one of them from 108-plus yards away. When it returned across the throwing line, amidst what must have been a chorus of "by Jove", and maybe a stray "what the ___!", Herb was in the history books. This witnessed, measured and properly documented throw would be accepted as the breaking of the 100-yard barrier, and did more to put the sport of boomerangs on the map than any one throw ever.



1972 record-setter- Herb originally called this model a large Gem, then settled on 'Sportsman', after The Sportsman's Club which owned the field.

OK, the stray exclamation above was simply the writer picturing too vividly if he had been there. For any one of the above events of 6/17/1972, it's enough to make you think of where you were on that day. Two weeks graduated from high school, I naturally would have opted out of the country on 6/17/72, knowing what I do now, to have been on that throwing field, than to stick around for what was ahead for me in the States. So would've the President.

(cont.)

The Throw - An Appreciation

So what's the big deal?? We have this strong arm thrower who super-weights a clunker, and it comes home riding a stiff wind. So?...

So, let's see if we can apply Yogi Berra's "baseball is 90% mental - the other half is physical" to long-range boomerang throwing, specifically to what Herb was throwing. The above criticism would be true for 60 yards range, even 80, but every yard/meter after that comes grudgingly - 108 yards is a different animal altogether. With 3/8" thick (9 mm) plywood such as Herb used, you have to 'trick' the boomerang in going out more than 80 yards before making the turn - conventional airfoils don't work. There are many ways to try this with tuning, but nearly everything also ruins the rang's returning ability. Herb solved this dilemma by using a distinct undercut of the trailing edge, giving a bluntly lenticular cross-section to the rang (throwing arm only). This enabled the extra range, and tends to give more spin retention as well, something that is important for a heavy rang that wants badly to sink on the return. The cross section Herb used is more fully detailed in Ben Ruhe's book, but the airfoils are otherwise typical. The same undercut in a more streamlined form was used by Manu Schutz on his Voyager rang in the 1990s. That Herb was able to figure this out with no network of throwers providing support seems impressive.

However, Herb was not without peers. Bob Burwell of Australia threw in excess of 100 yards just months after in Australia. Although not accepted by The Guinness Book of World Records for whatever reason, they accepted Bob's throw of 100.58 meters(110 yds) as a new record in 1977. About this time and mostly because of Guinness, the shift to metric measurements began. The two men had long-range throwing pretty much to themselves thru the 70s. Herb got the record back in 1978, then Al Gerhards joined in the fun just before the end of the decade.



Littlehampton Revisited

David Weiss is a Londoner who knew Herb pretty well, and was kind enough to submit this photo of the Littlehampton Sports Field today, as well as the original article from the Littlehampton Gazette. For trivia buffs David has identified a tree to the left of the light standard as a likely last survivor of the group of poplars that appear in Herb's little book.

Unfortunately, no other witnesses to the throw were found. David did visit the Club and located two older members, including the Chairman in 1972, Mr. Andy Hawkes. But he wasn't at the

event. Mr. Hugh Milner has actually written a book, "The History of the Littlehampton Sports Field, 1897 – 1997", but after speaking with Mr. Milner, David was pretty sure the book didn't include the throw. Mr. Milner remembered the event taking place, but wasn't on the field. While the research was not exhaustive, the problem is The Sportsman's Club has been happily immersed in cricket and 'stoolball' (don't ask), and there may never have been another boomerang event there. We don't even know if Herb was a member of the Club. However, it is noted that the club these days is just calling itself "The Sportsman", same as the boomerang.

Where is the Boomerang ?

While many Herb Smith collectable boomerangs are out there, no one seems to know where the 1972 record boomerang is. David Weiss never saw it. Anim Smith, Herb's second wife, who now lives in Singapore but visits Littlehampton periodically, hadn't yet met Herb in 1972, and claims to have never seen it. She did make the trip with David Weiss to The Sportsman's Club, which Herb had told her was where he had set the record. Herb's first wife is long gone, and his daughter Amanda supposedly has no boomerangs. Perhaps it broke long ago, or Herb took it with him.

...Strictly speaking it was not the first 100 yard boomerang. That was made a few minutes earlier with a fiberglass boomerang. From Herb's account, "I made a series of throws with the fiberglass boomerangs, all over ninety yards and back. The best throws were ninety-three, ninety-seven and a half and a hundred three and a half yards. I then made a few throws with the birch ply boomerang, reaching a distance of a hundred eight yards, one foot, 4 inches."

Since all the throws were measured afterwards, naturally the longest one got recorded. About the fiberglass boomerang nothing is known, except that Herb described his fiberglass rangs in general as needing " a great deal of physical effort to throw successfully."

There is an appealing element of simplicity in the mode of measurement that was used. The thrower places the judge(s) where he wishes, and gets credit only for the distance to the judge, if the rang goes around him. The judge does not attempt to move to the apex of the flight or point to it. Hmmm.....

Littlehampton Gazette,
Friday, June 23, 1972

VIEWPOINT

Good turn

MEMBERS of the 4th Littlehampton Cub-Scout pack did the community a good turn with their recent sponsored clean-up of the West Beach.

Their target was to collect 40 bags of rubbish but forcefully they proved the extent of coastline pollution by giving up counting after filling 50 large bags. This haul was a staggering one for such a limited area, especially as the wet and cold weather kept down the number of people visiting the beach.

And it is not, of course, only the recreational areas which show what an untidy community we are. The local authorities seem to be fighting an uphill battle in clearing up the deluge of litter deposited on our roads, pavements and verges.

There has been a suggestion that sponsored rubbish clearing could replace sponsored walks as a means of fund raising for charity. We do not think that this is likely to come about, but it would be excellent if litter

Boomerang Herb sets a new world record

RUSTINGTON'S boomerang king Herb Smith had a shot - (or a throw) at the world record on Saturday.

For the last six months he has been practising regularly at Littlehampton Sports Field with the aim of beating Australian Bob Burwell's record of 90 yards.

And on Saturday he did it, with a throw of 108 yards 1ft. 4in.

Herb, who lives in Kirdford-close, Rustington, had his record attempt delayed by injuries. He hurt his arm last August, and just as it was getting back into throwing condition again he damaged his shoulder in a car accident on New Year's Eve.

His throwing programme has been further interrupted by the bad weather. "You need a fairly calm day to use a boomerang and recently the wind has been too high," he told me.

Using the Sports Field has also meant that he has had to wait until it is clear of cricketers and other sporting obstructions. He used to practise on the beach but found that landing on the sand took the polish off his boomerangs.

On Saturday he took along three boomerangs of his own design and manufacture—two wooden and one glassfibre. For his successful throw he used one of the wooden ones.

Herb also broke the existing record with his glassfibre boomerang with a throw of 97 yards. He then decided to try the wooden one which he had not originally planned to use.

All the throws were measured by the groundsman at the sportsfield, Mr R. Bolding.

FRIDAY FOCUS
By David Harries

IN CHARGE OF BEACH SAFETY

THE MAN in charge of Littlehampton's beach patrol this summer is 43-year-old Jim Raven (pictured right), of 215 Clun-road.

As a native of Littlehampton and a member of the Blue Peter inshore rescue boat crew, Jim is well aware of the dangers of the offshore current, and the patrol's aim, he says, is to keep swimmers away from the groyne nearest the harbour mouth.



HERB SMITH making his successful attempt on the world boomerang-throwing record.

Article from the weekly Littlehampton Gazette of 6/23/1972. This secured Herb's place in the history books, the future of beach safety perhaps less certain.



G-12 tribladers by Volker Behrens

Volker Behrens Passes

Boomerang maker, long-range thrower and former German Team captain Volker Behrens passed away in June. Details are still uncertain.

Few people have ever covered so many aspects of the sport as well as Volker. He will be missed.

"Git It Out There" #8

Long Distance Boomerang news

by David Hirsch

In this column, info on NALDO 2012 (which substituted for the LD Nationals this year), the story of the Twinkie shrine and an interview with Adam Stankiewicz, National LD Champion for this year. Also, a photo page from NALDO with the Twinkie winners.

NALDO 2012 started out glum and foreboding. Rain was all around, the winds were gusting and the forecast wasn't good. And I tried to break my arm first thing that morning... that's another story. But I didn't; the rain cleared, the winds settled into beautiful 7-12mph and the sun... well, it didn't really shine lots but I'm right handed and I fell on my left arm so things seemed sunny. We had lots of good throwing with several Personal Bests and 8 throwers throwing 100 meters or more. We got in two good rounds, finished on time and headed for some good food, brews and awards at The Old Bag of Nails in beautiful downtown Delaware. The throwers and their throws (in meters): Adam Stankiewicz 135; Logan Broadbent 133; Tom Howman 127; Gary Broadbent 118; Clayton Hundley 110; Gregg Snouffer 105; David Hirsch 103; Kenny Barr 102; Isaac Syler 95m; Joe Tinney 53; Rick Mott 47; Mark Legg NS; Tom Hyer NS.



The Twinkie Shrine has become something of a mystery in recent years. Normally, I'd only care to add to that but heck, I'll shed some light. I first ran into it when I met Andy Cross at the first Texas LD Shoot-Out in 2004 in Houston. Andy put a Twinkie and some incense in front of the throwing line and when I asked him what for, he said (with a wink) "For good luck." Now, we've added the Twinkie Amulet, Lulubelle sets at the line and when someone throws 100m or better they get to, er, have to, eat a Twinkie. But to truly reveal the origins of the Myth, dare I say Legend, one must take the Way Back Machine... its' roots go back to ancient history, i.e. the year 2001. I'll let Andy tell this part, in his own words: "I don't remember the exact details of when it started but to my best recollection, it was Santa Barbara in 2001. I had been to a few LD tournaments and one of the items I brought to several of them was a box of Twinkies. I figured they would be a good item to have since it would give a bit of a sugar rush and they were easy to carry around on the field. I brought them again to Santa Barbara and Dan and Kelly Neelands were encouraging me to break the Canadian record. I think I was there a couple days early to practice with them on the field and at the start of the tournament, they set up a Twinkie shrine consisting of one of my Twinkies and the stinkiest incense they could find (bought the night before). It worked and I broke the Canadian record that day. The US record and women's world record were also set that day (not to mention a few personal bests including Clay Dawson, Chris Cotter, Brian Emery and Don Monroe) so we chalked it up to appeasing the Twinkie god rather than all of us miraculously just getting better. After all, the simplest explanation is usually the right one, right? From that point forward, it just seemed like good Karma that a Twinkie shrine be set up at long distance tournaments. Some people seem to like it, others not so much but it's all in good fun. And you definitely can't argue with the results." So we keep the karma flowin', the Twinkie gods happy and as no lesser a figure than Mr. Cream E. Goodness has said, "I got yore creamy goodness right hyar!"

We look forward to a great season of LD in 2013. Tentatively, NALDO will be the last weekend of June in Canton, Ohio, Sat. June 29th, with the National Kylie Golf competition on Sunday. LD at the USBA Nationals will be Friday July 26th in Albuquerque, N.M. on an absolutely gorgeous field, Balloon Fiesta Park. Remember, it's at altitude (5200 ft.) so tune your booms accordingly.

"LD and Me" - An Interview with Adam Stankiewicz

Adam is one of the rising stars in the USBA. At the time of this interview, he was preparing for his first WBC. Adam has recently joined the USBA Board as a Member at Large. The following interview was conducted via email. The questions in each of the LD interviews are similar, the better to compare with other interviewees, and thus give a greater understanding of the thrower.

DH: Tell us a little about yourself. Where were you born? Where do you currently live? What is your current job? Married, kids, hobbies besides boomerangs?

AS: My name is Adam Stankiewicz. I'm 19 years old and I've lived in Connecticut for my entire life. I am a sophomore at the University of Hartford and have been doing web design/development related things for the past 3 years; I am on my third internship. Some other hobbies of mine are unicycling and stunt kite flying.

DH: When did you throw your first boomerang? What kind was it?

AS: I threw my first boomerang thanks to meeting Bob Anderson at Hammonasset State Park Beach in Madison, CT. He got me into stunt kites and seeing that it wasn't windy one day we were flying kites he asked if I ever threw a boomerang. Of course, not having done so, he taught me how and after making my first catch I was hooked! This was just over 2 years ago. I believe the first boomerang I threw and caught was an E-rang made by Art Rentz.

DH: When did you become interested in LD?

AS: I became interested in LD after spending some time with Gary Broadbent in Ohio last summer. Until then, I never really knew what LD was all about. After last year's NALDO event in which I took 3rd place with a 107 meter throw, I knew that LD is an really fun thing to be involved in.

DH: What is your favorite LD boom?

AS: My favorite LD booms are the carbon fiber Voyagers made by David Hirsch. I've thrown a few different Voyagers made by him, all of which fly absolutely amazing. Thanks for making great LD booms, David!

DH: What percentage of your LD booms do you make? For the LD booms you make, describe your manufacturing process. What materials do you like best?

AS: As of now, I do not make my own LD booms but would love to eventually learn the ins and outs of making them. Always something to look forward to!

DH: How do you see LD as it fits into the rest of the boomerang world?

AS: LD is a different part of the boomerang world, that's for sure. It's mostly made up of the more "odd-ball" people in the community which makes for a really fun time. Just like other boomerang tournaments, everyone is always encouraging you to do your best and offering tips to achieve greatness. This is especially visible in the LD world; no one is out there solely for the reason of doing better than everyone else.

DH: What throwers have made an impression on you and why?

AS: A notable thrower in LD would have to be Manuel. Like most people I'm sure, I always find myself talking about Manuel when describing LD to others that aren't familiar with the sport. His 238 meter throw is mind-blowing (beats my 135 meters by 100 meters still!) and is definitely something to look up to. The fact that he can get so much distance just means that there is opportunity for others to do the same. He's inspiring me to keep increasing my distance scores until perhaps I might one day be throwing that far, too.

DH: What do you see as the future of our sport, and in particular, LD, in ten to twenty years?

AS: Like anyone in the boomerang community would probably say, I'm hoping that the future is bright for boomerangs! There is still a lot of room for growth and I think if we can keep getting boomerangs in front of as many people as possible, the sport can really grow. With LD, the same thing applies. The more people involved, the better.

DH: LDs range has steadily increased over the past decades. What do you think is most responsible? Design, strength, materials, a change in the way we throw the boom?

AS: I think that all of those factors have been improved since we started throwing LD. Modifications are always being made to improve distance and other flight characteristics whether in the shape, materials (especially using carbon fiber) and even technique. There's always room for improvement and I think that LD ranges will continue to increase as we experiment more.

DH: Manuel has said he thinks 300m is possible. Do you agree? What will it take to get there?

AS: Yes, I do agree, especially with someone like Manuel who is already so close to the 300 meter mark (only 62 meters away) . It will just take a whole lot more experimenting and practice to hone our throws to maximize distance. I think it definitely is possible, though.

DH: Since you throw in other boomerang events, what percentage of your time do you spend on LD?

AS: Honestly, not as much as I'd like. Most of my boomerang throwing is focused on other events like fast catch, MTA or aussie round. LD is more of a thing that I can practice when I actually have time (which isn't often). If I can consistently get around 135 meter throws now, it's pretty cool to think what distances I could be getting if I got more LD practice.

DH: For most of us, LD requires a lot of walking and chasing bad throws; as finicky as these booms are, it just seems part of the sport. Do you have that problem? If so, what percentage of your practice throws would you say are good?

AS: I wouldn't necessarily call this a problem. It's just part of the sport and something you have to deal with. For me, the percent of throws in general that are good and would have scored in a competition varies depending on the conditions. Also, any throw that would not have scored in a competition should be considered as a learning experience. If a boomerang comes back way short on its return, try to adjust your throw so that it doesn't happen again.

DH: When we throw, we often say "Be aggressive!". In competition, on average, what percentage of your throws score?

AS: In the beginning of a competition, not many of my throws score. I'm adjusting to the wind and making minor adjustments to get good throws. Once I find my sweet spot, I usually can consistently have my throws score. At this past NALDO, it took me quite a few throws to finally have a valid throw. But by the second half of the tournament, nearly all of my throws were scoring and I could simply focus on getting more distance. It's all about adjusting your throws to achieve the best results possible.

DH: What advice would you give to someone just beginning to throw LD?

AS: For someone just beginning to throw LD, I wouldn't get discouraged if a large percentage of your throws don't score in practice or competitions. You just need to learn how to adjust on each throw. Determine what could be improved from your previous throw, make the necessary changes and try again. It's really just a process of small refinements. If every throw is improved in some way or another, you're golden!

DH: Finally, if you could have only one boomerang, any kind, what would it be?

AS: I really can't answer this question. I love all my boomerangs; each one flies differently and is used in different conditions. I can't take favorites. The boomerang that will work for me in the current conditions I'm throwing in, that would be my favorite.

So that's it for this addition of "Git It Out There". As always: Throw Hard, Throw Far!

Around and About

- **James Stickney** is the new USBA President. He replaces David Hirsch, who will remain as a Board Member.
- **Ted Bailey** is ending his bi-annual auctions, which have been running since the early 90s. His web page will be offering loads of great boomerangs per usual at www.flight-toys.com.
- **Frido Frost** equaled his world record in Australian Round in Viareggio, Italy, 2011. Same site as his 2007 record. He threw four 20s, then a 19 for 99 pts./100 ! (For newbies, that's 50 range, with 4 catches in the bullseye, then one with one foot in the bullseye. Don't worry, seasoned veterans can't comprehend it either!)
- **Betsylew Miale Gix** threw for 3min, 40 sec in Head-to-Head MTA at the Nationals. Hasn't been accepted as new MTA 100 record, apparently because there was only one watch. Is more than one watch needed in this event? Not talking hundredths of a second - the record was eclipsed by over one minute!
- **Kylie Golf** is becoming a popular non-tournament activity wherever Disc golf courses pop up, most notably within the friendly confines of the park course adjacent to Gary Broadbent's Canton OH abode.

Upcoming Events

10/17-10/28/2012 World Boomerang Championships, Sao Paolo, Brazil

11/3/2012 Emmaus Hurricane Patrol Tourney, Emmaus, PA



United States Boomerang Association
3351 236th Street SW
Brier, WA 98036



david hirsch photo