

Many Happy Returns

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Summer 1987

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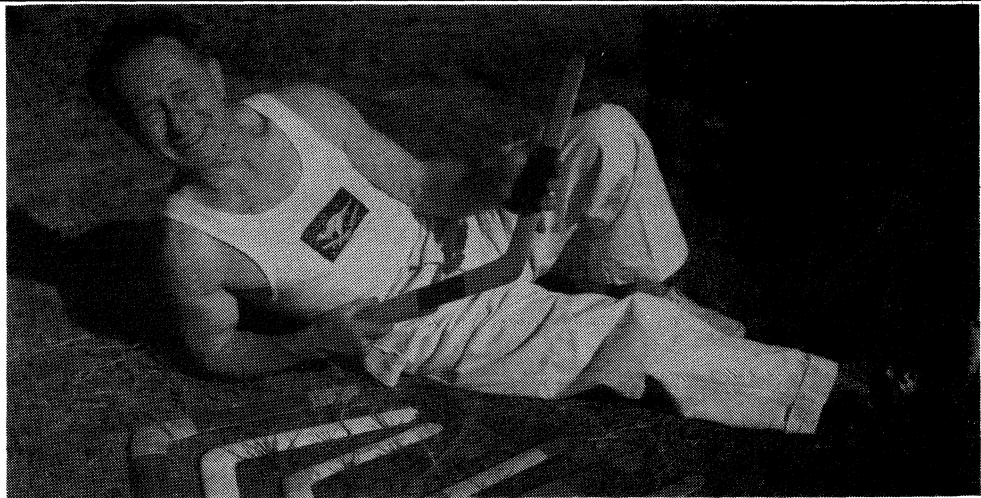
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USBA Tournament Notification Service

Dan Russell
3522 Union St.
San Diego, CA 92103

Russell is the chairman of the USBA tournament notification committee. If you send six or more stamped, self-addressed post cards and indicate the regions or states you are interested in for competition, he will send your cards back with the information as soon as it becomes available. Another tournament notification service is the USBA Tournament hotline. It is also maintained by Russell, and provides 24-hour message service on upcoming tournaments.

**USBA Tournament Hotline:
(619) 298-4283**



© George Leavens 1987.

Frank Donnellan

a fond memory Text and photos © George Leavens 1987

Donnellan made his throw and quickly retrieved the boom as it landed at his feet. Casually, he handed it to Steve Silady. The time: 1957, a sunny Sunday morning in Spring. The place: a Sydney suburban park.

And the two were watched by the usual gaggle of neighborhood kids. Silady, a postwar Yugoslavian immigrant, a tool and die maker, had carved the mold for Frank's recently designed plastic rang. He took the boom from Donnellan (one of the latter's long range specials) and gave it his best shot. Now Steve is of medium height, but broad and heavily muscled; he would almost make two of the little Irishman, so short and light. Still, his throw circled far shy of that of his client/mentor.

The cycle was repeated a couple more times, with the same results, before I realized that the old master was detuning the rang as he handed it to his pupil, and retuning it as he took his own turn. Here I had early indication of Frank's secretive nature; and the fluid ease with which he returned that skinny angle of fiber is testament to his skill - a twist, a fleeting glance down its length, with perhaps another quick twist, and the thing was done - almost hidden in the moment of taking and throwing. Not that I believe it could forever have remained lost on Silady. But it seemed ritual and I heard no word said about it.

The boomerang itself was typical of his long-range designs - quite obtuse, narrow of cross

Continued on p. 10

Maximum Time Aloft in search of the ultimate hover

Gordon Shuttleworth on MTA

Gordon Shuttleworth is the new focal point for the British Boomerang Society (BBS). The following passages relate some of his recent experiences which may provide him with a competitive edge in MTA with accuracy restrictions. The method of tuning is similar to the "Samora Technique," described in previous issues of *Many Happy Returns*.

I have recently become an MTA convert. My progress has been reasonable. On a good day, I can put sticks up for 30-40 seconds quite regularly and some for a little longer. My main problem is the stability of hover, the stick nearly always falling off the hover into those sickening, clockwise descending spirals.

The other day I happened on a technique that seems to be somewhat different to most MTA styles. I was having a lot of trouble with a particular 'rang. Having spent about an hour and a half trying to tune the thing with little success, eventually, in a desperate, try-anything mood, I took most of the dihedral out of the arms, gave the leading arm a neutral angle of incidence and the trailing arm a marked wash-out.

Then I threw it very much as I would a long-distance boomerang, using some 25-30° layover. The result was quite stunning. The boomerang shot out in exactly the same manner as a distance model, curving only slightly as it went. The outward path being roughly like half of a long ellipse. At the end of its outward journey the rang had climbed up to about 80 feet then, instead of coming back round in the manner of distance

type, it did one little tight circle and 'stuck' hovering beautifully, without any tendency to begin any clockwise circling (as viewed from above).

I had thrown at roughly 25° into a 2-3 mph breeze. The outward distance travelled was at least 80 yards. I feel confident that this is not an overestimate of the distance. All I did was stand and stare with wonder as the gentle breeze slowly brought the boomerang bobbing along back in my direction turning in small anti-clockwise circles.

The whole flight lasted in excess of 30 seconds (self-timed) and ended with the 'rang coming to rest only about 10 metres away. I repeated this throw several times with the same results.

The type of boomerang used was a 16-inch 'hockey stick' style, weighted at each tip and also at the elbow. 3 mm plywood was used.

I was amazed that such a light delicate 'rang would travel so far. The thing I'm trying to do now is design one that will go out even further and higher and still be able to hover properly.

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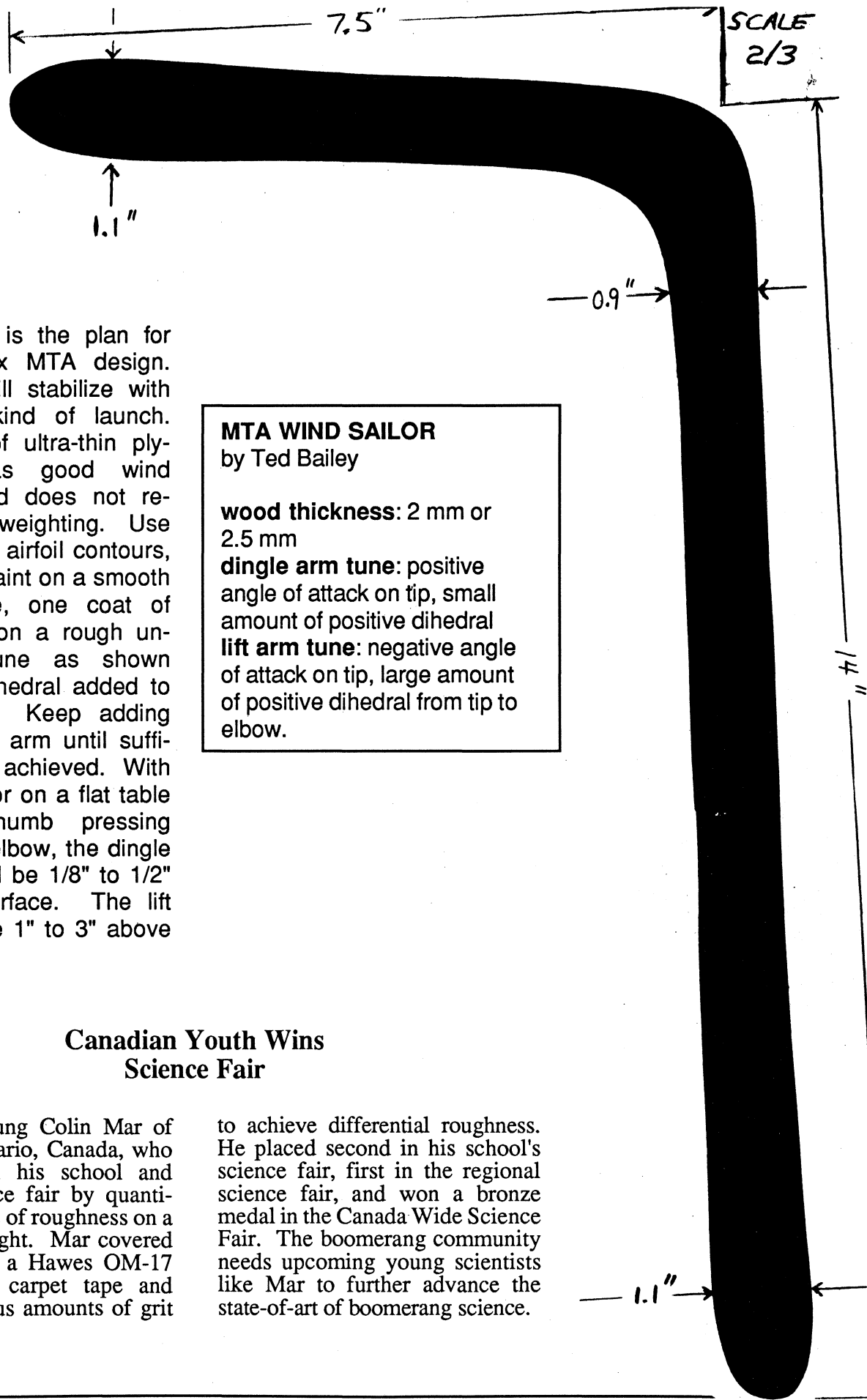
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Pictured here is the plan for an unorthodox MTA design. This boom will stabilize with almost any kind of launch. Constructed of ultra-thin plywood, it has good wind resistance and does not require internal weighting. Use standard MTA airfoil contours, two coats of paint on a smooth upper surface, one coat of polyurethane on a rough underside. Tune as shown above with dihedral added to lift arm last. Keep adding dihedral to lift arm until sufficient height is achieved. With the Wind Sailor on a flat table and your thumb pressing down on the elbow, the dingle arm tip should be 1/8" to 1/2" above the surface. The lift arm should be 1" to 3" above the surface.

MTA WIND SAILOR
by Ted Bailey

wood thickness: 2 mm or 2.5 mm

dingle arm tune: positive angle of attack on tip, small amount of positive dihedral

lift arm tune: negative angle of attack on tip, large amount of positive dihedral from tip to elbow.

Canadian Youth Wins Science Fair

Hats off to young Colin Mar of Huntsville, Ontario, Canada, who placed well in his school and country's science fair by quantifying the effects of roughness on a boomerang's flight. Mar covered the surfaces of a Hawes OM-17 with strips of carpet tape and sprinkled various amounts of grit

to achieve differential roughness. He placed second in his school's science fair, first in the regional science fair, and won a bronze medal in the Canada Wide Science Fair. The boomerang community needs upcoming young scientists like Mar to further advance the state-of-art of boomerang science.

The Legal Definition is my stick really a boomerang?

An Essay by Brother Brian Thomas

BOOMERANG BULLETIN #47 Item 2 stirred me into giving some more thought to the definition of a boomerang. I am pleased to see that the definition put forward is only an interim idea for 12 months. I have heard many definitions of boomerangs in my time, and inevitably they are pulled to pieces by masters of stupidity. I believe that it should be simple but unequivocally definitive. This is a challenge, but I am sure we can meet the challenge.

IN SEARCH OF THE BOOMERANG DEFINITION

A boomerang is an artifact that is expressly designed to be thrown by hand in an outward direction, (though it will function when launched by other means) with the dedicated intention of performing a flight pattern, resulting from gyroscopic precession (caused by the difference in wind speeds across the wings applying torque that tries to change the rotational axis) as the major factor that gives it the ability to return exactly to the area from where it was thrown.

A boomerang is an artifact that is expressly designed to be thrown by hand in an outward direction, with the dedicated intention of performing a flight pattern resulting from gyroscopic precession as the major factor that gives it the ability to return exactly to the area from where it was thrown.

BOOMERANG- An object that is thrown with a combination of both

translation and rotation about its center of mass so that gyroscopic precession (caused by differential lift over the airfoil surfaces relative to its angular orientation) and aerodynamic lift combine to produce a circular flight path which returns the object within a reasonable distance from the thrower.

BOOMERANG- An object that is thrown from the hand, unaided by any mechanical means, with a combination of both translation and rotation about its center of mass so that gyroscopic precession (caused by differential lift over the airfoil surfaces relative to its angular orientation) and aerodynamic lift combine to produce a circular flight path which returns the object to within a reasonable distance from the thrower.

BOOMERANG

- by Duncan Mac Clennan

"An Aboriginal word used to describe to the white settlers the weapon they were carrying which, according to whites, resembled wooden swords. Definitely not. A little piece of painted plywood or plastic, such as is used today by the B.A.A. and other B.A.s around the world, who incidentally have made little or no attempt to use traditional of the COME BACK variety. The competition known as HUNTING STICK is pathetic and pitiful, considering that white Australians are going along with the U.S. term for what is and always will be BOOMERANG. WHERE IS AUSTRALIAN PRIDE? CAN'T WE THINK FOR OURSELVES? DO WE HAVE TO HAVE OUTSIDERS TELL US WHAT TO CALL OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE? Face up B.A.A. and all the other B.A.s around the world, start throwing real boomerangs- see how many consecutive catches you rack up- shortest

time for five catches, with a real root boomerang 20 inches wide instead of paper thin plywood 5 or 6 inches wide.

The late Joe Timbery launched 10 boomerangs consecutively in an exhibition for the Queen of England- all hardwood boomerangs - then caught a 25 inch conventional return boomerang with his feet at the same exhibition, also hardwood.

The early white settlers recorded measurements of boomerangs thrown by Aborigines for their benefit - flat stones were observed to be glued to the ends of the boomerangs - longest distance return throw recorded 162 yards. Taking into account the rough measuring, which was probably pacing out the distance - allow 30 inches for each yard stepped, and the distance thrown is still considerably more than the present world's record. It is obvious 162 steps was the correct number of paces taken.

What is needed now is for the B.A.A. to promote the true boomerang - organize competitions for it, understand the true purpose of the boomerang, master the non-return boomerang and admit that the NON RETURN boomerang is the father of all the other boomerangs of the return variety -irrespective of whether they are natural root timber, plywood or plastic.

I am not a lone voice in this matter, as you are aware, I have two shops here in Sydney, selling, teaching, and demonstrating to tourists from all nations of the world, and it is a fact that at least 10 to 20 per cent of our customers will comment on when shown the plywood range of our selection, "THESE ARE NOT REAL BOOMERANGS, we can buy this in Europe or America in the shops, where are the real boomerangs?" They are soon satisfied when they observe the genuine timber hardwood boomerangs, of both types."

While I appreciate and agree with Duncan's very learned outline of the boomerang, the B.A.A.s definition of throwing im-

plements used in the sport is based on the modern day approach to the sport or activity. It does not intend to define Aboriginal terminology or use of their implements. A great number of languages existed among the Aboriginals, and therefore, they had many different names for these implements, going back thousands of years. We are more concerned

with the modern history of the boomerang.

Our 20th century terminology is aimed at defining implements that may be used in the sport according to B.A.A. rules, and with a view to world wide acceptance by those countries which also participate in the sport. The sport has grown extensively

during the last 10 years, both in variety of competition and in the number of countries participating, necessitating very clear definitions, so that a common approach to the sport may lead to full harmonious relationships amongst throwers. Thus, the distinction between returning and non-returning boomerangs.

Chronicling the International Debate

There has been much debate on this subject in overseas boomerang circles. Very little has been discussed in Many Happy Returns. As co-author (with Dennis Maxwell) of the USBA definition, the subject hits close to home. It is the topic of my last editorial as president of USBA. I begin with a condensed chronological summary of dialogues from the BAA Newsletter. The debate begins: BAA Bulletin No. 42, 1 Nov. 1984.

BOOMERANG SHAPES; A POINT OF VIEW by Mark Cambourn

The definition of a boomerang can be approached in two ways: 1. by what a boomerang is - i.e. its physical shape and 2. what a boomerang does.

The statement 'definition of an aboriginal two bladed boomerang', implies that the first approach will be taken as a matter of course. There are some difficulties and problems with this approach, as follows:

- 1 It is extremely difficult to define a generalized shape. This is best illustrated with some examples:

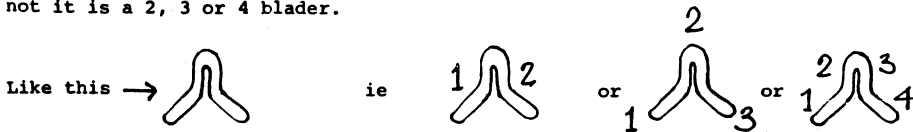


Is this a 2 bladed or 4 bladed design?



Like this, → it is certainly a 4 blader. At what point does it become a 2 blader as the angles indicated open up to 180°?

With a little modification, we can make it difficult to decide whether or not it is a 2, 3 or 4 blader.



Take a shape like this → which may be regarded as a point of filling in the 3 blader?



Is this shape → 1 curved blade, or 2 equally curved blades joined end to end? There clearly is no elbow.

Take elbow development. At which line does the elbow → become a third arm?

Shapes, Cont'd

Please note that none of the examples shown on page 5 are extreme or unusual today. In fact, the single curved shape is centuries old. So the problems outlined could arise, and probably already have, at most competitions.

2. Because it is essentially impossible to objectively define '2 bladed', the task of deciding what is legal and what is not, will land in the lap of a number of 'accredited judges'. They will have to base their decisions on essentially subjective standards, i.e. on their own personal judgment. Inevitably there will be differences between judges, resulting in marginal designs being accepted in one competition and disqualified in the next. There will be a continuous search for, and argument over 'legal loopholes'. There will be uncertainty amongst designers as to what will be accepted and what will not.

The arguments will, of course, all end up in the lap of the BAA for arbitration and will be a pain in the neck for everyone. If you doubt that all these difficulties will occur, you should remember that they are epidemic in sports where such definitions are attempted. For example, in sailing the argument over the legality of Australia II's keel is only the tip (bottom), of the iceberg.

3. If somehow it were possible to achieve a workable definition of a 2 bladed boomerang, the result would be a heavy restriction on designers and design freedom. Development of shape, and therefore improvement of performance would be severely restricted. This would be very much against the interests of all serious competitors, who by nature are looking for improvements in performance. Also the BAA would find itself in the invidious position of its competition throwers having to use boomerangs inferior to the ones freely available to recreational throwers, for whom

there are no design restrictions. I would be surprised if it were traditional amongst Aborigines to restrict design. Almost certainly they used the best designs and materials available.

4. I assume that the ambition to define a boomerang as 2-bladed is based on the desire to maintain a connection with traditional Aboriginal boomerangs. If we were to be consistent with this aim, we would also have to use traditional Aboriginal materials and forget any design advances made in the last 200 years. The use of plywood is at least as radical in nature as some of the shapes discussed previously. The production of plywood requires an industrial society with logging, milling and chemical industries. It is not a traditional material in any way. Also the use of lead (extensive nowadays) in Boomerangs is hardly traditional. So, shall we ban plywood, lead, fiberglass, copper sheet, modern paints and varnishes, etc? If we are to be consistent we will have to. It is too convenient, indeed dishonest, just to restrict shape.

The alternative approach (in case you had forgotten, there is one), is to define a boomerang by what it does. In simple terms, it is an 'object that is thrown, that uses kinetic energy, aerodynamics and

gyroscopics to return to the thrower'. And that is all you need for a recreational boomerang.

For competition, the Rules of Competition are all that is required (excluding of course, a rule attempting to define shape). That is, the best boomerang is the one that performs best within the rules. Boomerangs that are inaccurate in accuracy contests, or slow in Fast Catch, or don't return in any contest will be failures as competitive boomerangs and will not prosper. To use only the Rules of Competition will be to encourage performance advances through giving design freedom to designers. This would mean that many designs of 3 blades and more will appear (as if we don't see them now!!) But what is wrong with that? More power to them if they perform better than current designs

Finally, boomerang throwing is an open, friendly sport full of the relaxed, easy-going temperament we would like to think is traditionally Australian. Let's keep it that way by not burdening ourselves with unnecessary rules and definitions. Let's keep it free.

Thank you for the hearing, and good throwing.

Mark Cambourn

A Victorian Perspective

by Mark Schafer

With regard to "What is a competition boomerang?" After long consideration and discussion with others, I feel I have to conform with Mark Cambourn's ideas. Stringent regulation of "competition" boomerangs is fraught with administrative problems.

A New South Wales Opinion

by Garry Durrant

BTA of NSW members I have spoken with agree with Mark Cambourn - it would generate unnecessary problems to try and limit boomerang shapes. It would also stifle creativity and what's the point of that?

Boomerang Definitions from Everywhere, 1984

This information was compiled by Dennis Maxwell, comparing the various definitions that were in effect in 1984.

1 BAA Morris Maxwell

subjective approval

- 1.1 Outline shape of two effective blades or arms
- 1.2 Any outline shape is to be approved by BAA referees
- 1.3 No mechanical power source or device attached to aid flight
- 1.4 No extra protrusions such as wires to aid catching
- 1.5 No restriction on materials used
- 1.6 No restriction on size used

2 USBA Doug DuFresne

edge perpendiculars - center line

- 2.1 Draw the outline shape of the boomerang
- 2.2 Plot outside edge perpendiculars

around the elbow area

- 2.3 The outside edge perpendicular must pass below the center line of the boomerang

3 ABO Holland Max Hoeben

two leading edges only

- 3.1 Two leading edges only are allowed
- 3.2 A leading edge is the forward edge of the classic airfoil

4 Boomerang Club De France

Jacques Thomas

center of mass

- 4.1 Locate the center of mass
- 4.2 Plot this point on the outline of the boomerang
- 4.3 Measure the distance to the inside edge of the elbow
- 4.4 measure the average arm width
- 4.5 Rule: 4.3 must be greater than 4.4

5 BAA Chris Henzgen

elbow width - arm width

- 5.1 Measure the elbow width

- 5.2 Measure the minimum arm width

- 5.3 Rule: 5.1 must be greater than (5.2 x 2)

6 BAA Dennis Maxwell

elbow disc theory

- 6.1 The elbow is the point on the outside edge of the boomerang closest to the center of mass. Measure the elbow radius
- 6.2 The "elbow disc" is the area about which the boomerang rotates
- 6.3 On the outline shape plot the elbow disc, the ineffective area
- 6.4 Highlight the effective blades or arms (if more than two, measure the radius of the protrusions)
- 6.5 Rule: accept protrusion if 6.4 is less than (6.1 x 1 1/2)

7 BAA Mark Cambourn

allow any shape

- 7.1 A boomerang is an object that is thrown and returns to the thrower

Analysis: Here and Now - Ted Bailey

1987 BAA Rulebook

Boomerangs used in competition must comply with these requirements:

- 1.1 Outline shape of two effective blades or arms
- 1.2 Any outline shape is to be approved by BAA referees
- 1.3 No mechanical power source or device attached to aid flight
- 1.4 No extra protrusions such as wires to aid catching
- 1.5 No restriction on materials used
- 1.6 No restriction on size used

1987 USBA Rulebook

Boomerang

An object that is thrown with a combination of translation and rotation about its center of mass so that gyroscopic precession (caused by differential lift over the airfoil surfaces relative to its angular orientation) and aerodynamic lift combine to produce a circular flight path which returns the object to within a reasonable distance from the thrower. No launching, propulsion or catching aides may be incorporated in the object.

Please note that boomerangs which will be used in the World Cup will not be judged to be legal until just before the competition begins. The judgement will be totally subjective based on the decision of three referees. Competitors should bring safe backup shapes in case their favorite competition stick is judged to be illegal at the last moment.

Gordon Shuttleworth (BBS) writes: All the quibbling about legal shapes is becoming rather tiresome. If and when an international set of rules can be agreed upon, then to my mind, that is the definition that should be used.

Jacques Thomas (La Perouse BC de France) writes: All throws with a boomerang weighing at least 100 grams, measuring at least 35 cm. wingspan and 12 cm between the blades, parallel to the wingspan at the center of mass.

John Jordan (BBS) favors a template idea that would require all boomerangs to fit within the outline described by a standard template which pivots at the elbow, with wide blades to accommodate omegas, etc.

This completes the portrayal of opinions on what a legal boomerang should look like. The USBA remains firm in retaining the 1987 definition. Gone are the days when you showed up at a tournament only to have your favorite 'rang disqualified. Many favor a return to heavier, more "traditional" shapes common in museums today. I respect their viewpoints and cherish my own collection of old aboriginal boomerangs. But I would never think of using them (or copies) in competition. Sometimes I wonder what the aborigine would have done if he had access to plywood and modern tools. How limited

(Continued on page 9)

RETURNING BOOMERANGS

The following is a segment of a story by Jeffrey Zaslow, printed in the *Wall Street Journal*, 4/29/87:

If you bought an L.L. Bean shirt back in 1932 and now realize it's "not you," just return it. Everything the company sells carries a lifetime guarantee.

Customers bring back boots from the 1940s, camping gear from the 1950s, duck decoys from the 1960s. Not long ago, a man even brought back nothing - and still got a refund.

"All he had was his sales slip," said Kilton Andrew, L.L. Bean's spokesman. "The store's supervisor told him, 'Sorry, if we're going to give you a refund, we'll need the merchandise.' The guy looked him square in the eye and said, 'Sir, that's my problem. What I bought here was a boomerang.'"

Thanks to H.L. Mayhew for sending this in.

Upcoming Events:

August 1

3rd Annual California Regional Championships
Contact: Steve Fargon, Michael Girvin
Oakland, California
(415) 428-1813

August 8

New England pre-nationals tournament
Contact: Mole Man
Bridgeport, CT
(203) 736-6204

August 8

Free Throwers' 8th Annual Tournament
Contact: Chet Snouffer
Delaware, Ohio
(614) 363-8332

August 14, 15, 16

USBA Nationals
Contact: David Boehm
Cleveland Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area
(216) 442-6024

September 5

2nd Annual Catskill NY International Boomerang Meet
Contact: Stephen Ringold,
Palenville Interarts Colony
PO Box 59
Palenville, NY
(518) 678-3332

September 20

Summer's Last Fling
Contact: Doug Dufresne
Portland, Oregon
(503) 292-4316

The Down Under Cookbook

By Graeme Newman

Editor's Note: This book is a must for those who groove on Australian culture. It would be wonderful to prepare food for boomerang tournament banquets using this odd cookbook. Single copies (172 pages, illustrated,) can be ordered from the publisher for \$8.95 (postage included), by writing to:

Harrow and Heston
P.O. Box 3934
Stuyvesant Plaza
Albany, NY 12203

For Mouth-watering meringue Pavlova, to grilled witchety grubs, all traditional Australian dishes are included in this unique cookbook: the only Australian Cookbook written especially for the American

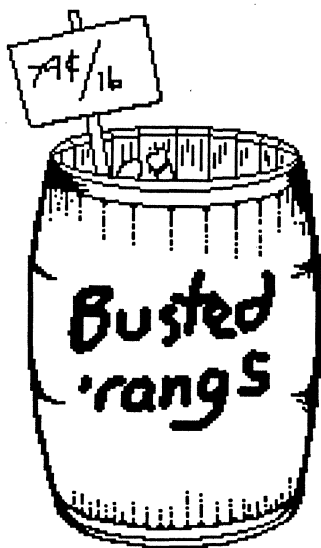
kitchen. Enjoy the delights of Passion Fruit Spread, the fabulous tastes of Yo Yos and Afghan cookies, learn the secrets of scone making, and the amazingly nutritious Australian pasty (not a typo!).

The Down Under Cookbook is written in the fun-loving, amusing tradition of Australians. Many of the recipes, such as Bunyip Buns, are themselves fun to read. The commentary that accompanies the recipes on every page is crammed full of interesting facts about Australia and the unusual and often hilarious eating and drinking traditions of those lovable Aussies.

If you have not yet travelled to Australia, you will want to after reading this truly entertaining and informative book,

And if you have recently returned from Down Under, the wonderful collection of recipes will help keep the memory of your trip very much alive. It's informative, it's entertaining, it's a wonderful souvenir.

About the author: From Criminologist to Cook. Graeme Newman is a leading criminologist, best known for his controversial books on Crime and Punishment. Dr. Newman is an Australian who has lived in the United States for some 18 years. He teaches criminology by day at the State University of New York at Albany, then he practices cooking at night. He has appeared on many national talk and radio shows, including the Oprah Winfrey Show, Nightline, Crossfire, and Donahue.



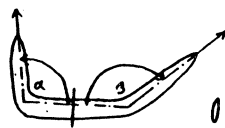
Thomas Hartman, a member of the West German club, DBC demonstrates a night catch under a strobe light. Thomas recently appeared on a West German TV show, "Wetten, dass..." (translated to: I bet that...) in which he sliced an apple off his head with a tri-blader while standing on a small platform indoors. The tri-blader sailed over an audience of 2500.

Thomas recently joined the 1 minute, 2 minute, and jet stream clubs using a copy of Bailey mid-MTA. On the last throw, the boomerang disappeared from sight after 4 minutes, and a height exceeding 100 meters. The chase took place over a full kilometer distance. When will these MTA enthusiasts start writing their names and phone numbers on their boomerangs?

Boomerang Definitions: An Alalysis

(Continued from page 7)

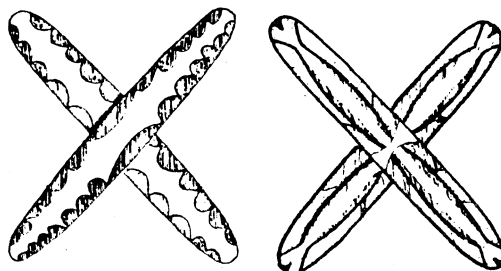
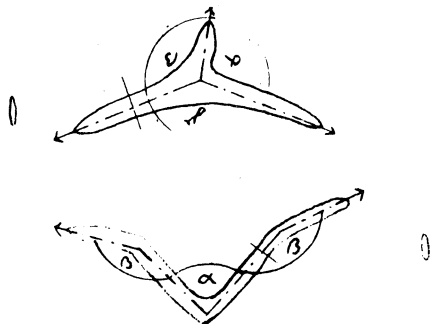
was the aborigine to the material at hand? To satisfy my curiosity I did some research on what a traditional aboriginal boomerang looked like. The following shapes were among those that Dr. Hans Peter encountered in his recent study of aboriginal boomerangs. Put these actual aboriginal shapes to the test of the definitions discussed.



Roman Black writes about cross-stick boomerangs in "Aboriginal Art,"

At night, for amusement, these are thrown into the air with glowing coals fastened to them." Imagine that; prehistoric cross-stick night boomerangs!

The aborigine knew what to use to maim and kill. He also knew what to throw for games and to have fun. We in the USA must also comply with safe boomerangs because of the liability issue. Are we hunting for food and engaging in battle, or are we having safe fun? Do we have as much common sense as the aborigine of old Australia? It appears to me that what needs redefinition is "traditional boomerang shape" and not "legal boomerangs." -Ted Bailey



Donnellan from p. 1

section, and of considerable span. In fact it was very similar to today's aluminum long flyers. The material was fiber; vulcanized fiber to be specific, and "whalebone" - so dubbed by Frank himself, I believe. It is comparable in toughness to fiberglass/epoxy but significantly lighter and more easily workable. As to "memory" it falls between glass and aluminum. In all, a really great material for the purpose.

(Frank once sent me, here in Connecticut, a beauty, a helluva flyer, but very rough looking. Finally, the Devil convinced me it needed just a little bit of cleaning up, aerodynamicwise, to become a super helluva flyer. I operated, and it now flies like a eunuch.)

I assume that it was this general design that Donnellan used for the distance records he claimed. Basically, those are 140 yards with a catch, 160 without a catch. Both made in Centennial Park, Sydney on May 4th, 1934, with the press present. His self-imposed rules differ from today's - some laxer, some more stringent.

I, myself, have never tried to dig out verification, but the Australian Information Bureau, at my request, did a search of the Sydney papers of the time, without result. So it's still neither confirmed nor disproven. Papers print only a portion of the news they gather. Even with verification there still could be no valid comparison with today's records.

Finally, I certainly give credence to Frank's claims. In 1957, at nearly sixty, when stripped to his "Australian Champion" showbiz outfit, he displayed the torso and arms of a weight lifter. And under his casual Aussie facade of "She'll be right, mate," he had the moxie of a Cagney. When he threw he made every ounce count. I have a slide, taken at the moment of release, that shows an effort-contorted face akin to that of a karate wood chopper. So good was he at the

age of fifty-eight, what might he not have done nearly a quarter of a century earlier.

In 1956 I had returned to Australia cover the pre-Olympics training of the host athletes for Sports Illustrated. The games were to be held in Melbourne. Expected to stay only a few months but the Sydney surf, the uncomplicated outdoor people, and the foaming Foster's sang a siren song to a middle-aged magazine photographer, but recently fancy-free. I based there for the next two years.

On a local newsreel I happened to see this little Irish bantam cock throwing boomerangs out of one window of a Holden sedan, then sliding across and catching them out of the other. I tracked him down, working as a printer in the suburbs - and eventually he got around to telling me a few slices of his background.

Some Donnellan highlights - As a kid of seven he learned to throw from the local Aborigines. He rode out much of the Depression years, gypsying around New South Wales, demonstrating and peddling his rangs in schools of the area. When the Japs were slogging across New Guinea, down the Kokoda Trail, well on their way to the aforementioned Aussie women and the Foster's, Frank tried to interest the Department of Defense in his design for a hand-launched flying grenade. It was patterned after the nonreturning hunting boom, wide bladed. The explosive charge was at the end, and it was delivered sidearm to skim far further than a regular lobbed pineapple, said Frank. The unimaginative D. of D. turned him down.

In postwar, pre-TV years the newsreels periodically did a piece on one of his trick throws: the sedan number, launching from the roof of the tallest downtown building and catching the return, and his oft-copied William Tell act are examples.

As Qantas began hauling

in a slowly growing tide of visitors, Frank would, on occasion, meet with a group in the park a few blocks from the airline's headquarters. There he would demonstrate his art, peddle his wares, (generally quite large plywood models), and teach their use.

During the season he would often play an agricultural show, sometimes with Joe "E threw for the Queen" Timbery, boomerang maker and thrower at the aboriginal settlement in La Perouse. Joe was his only competition in the area. In fact, I didn't hear of another serious thrower while I was in Australia. Of course I have long since learned that there were indeed a number in other states at the time.

A decade later Frank and I missed each other at Montreal's Expo '67. I photographed the opening doings, and two days later he was sailing his sticks at the Australian exhibit. Then in '69, when I hit Sydney again to begin a two month coverage of Australian Industry for Time Magazine, I phoned Frank's home. But I had just missed him again; he had moved Upstairs only a month before.

Record claims aside, Frank Donnellan was an extraordinary thrower, with more push power than anyone I've known.

I can see him now, up there, well established boom expert, still secretive about his special flyers; perhaps putting on an interracial demo with newcomer Joe Timbery; being embarrassed when Joe lets a wild one loose into the crowd, ruffling a bunch of feathers; then capping the show with his William Tell act - the apple neatly nestled in his halo. And he's undoubtedly dreaming up one or two minor miracles with which, in good time, to greet those uppity young bludgers (Yankee, Pommy, or 'Strine alike) who are still down there carving fancy new shapes and practically catching the ruddy things in their ruddy choppers.

Seeya Frank.

Attention Artists:

1987 International Team Cup Highlights

by Paul Sprague

Interested in exhibiting your boomerangs in a group art show? They will be shown at The Gallery in Swainsboro, Georgia sometime next fall. Grants that would allow the show to tour the country (and possibly culminate in Australia) are being explored.

Send resumé and slides of boomerangs to:
Neil Kalmanson
Assistant Professor of Art
Emanuel County Junior College
Swainsboro, GA 30401

Amherst, Massachusetts, June 21, 22
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, June 24, 25
Gaithersberg, Maryland, June 26, 27

There were six tournaments in seven days. It rained at four of them.

37 of the finest boomerang throwers anywhere (See roster on pg. 18) gathered and travelled together for a week. We've all felt stiff competition before, but this was unreal. With a very few exceptions, all of the great boomerang throwers in the world competed in the series. A world record was set at each of the three sites. The new endurance record, by John Koehler, is 61 catches in five minutes. The new MTA unlimited record, by Dennis Joyce, is 2:59:94. The new MTA 100 record, by Doug Dufresne, is 49:37. Other good MTA scores were: Gregg Snouffer, 2:45; Gary

Broadbent, 1:52; and George Reitbauer, 1:16

Team Midwest finished in first place, followed by Team South and Team New England. New England finished third after just pulling ahead of Team Atlantic in the last tournament, with a real photo finish in the Team Relay. It was down to a foot race between New England and Midwest, in the last event of the tournament series, and a race against time before the thunder and lightning started again. John Flynn crossed the line for New England hundredths of a second before Midwest.

But the real struggle was between the Midwest team and the team from the South, for first and second places. Team Mar.Va.lous (Maryland, Virginia) had the world-record talent of Dennis "Juice" Joyce and John Koehler, *Continued on pg. 18*



BOOMERANGS

For fun and competition

DAN RUSSELL

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San Diego, CA 92138

Send for a free catalog!



BOOMERANG MAN

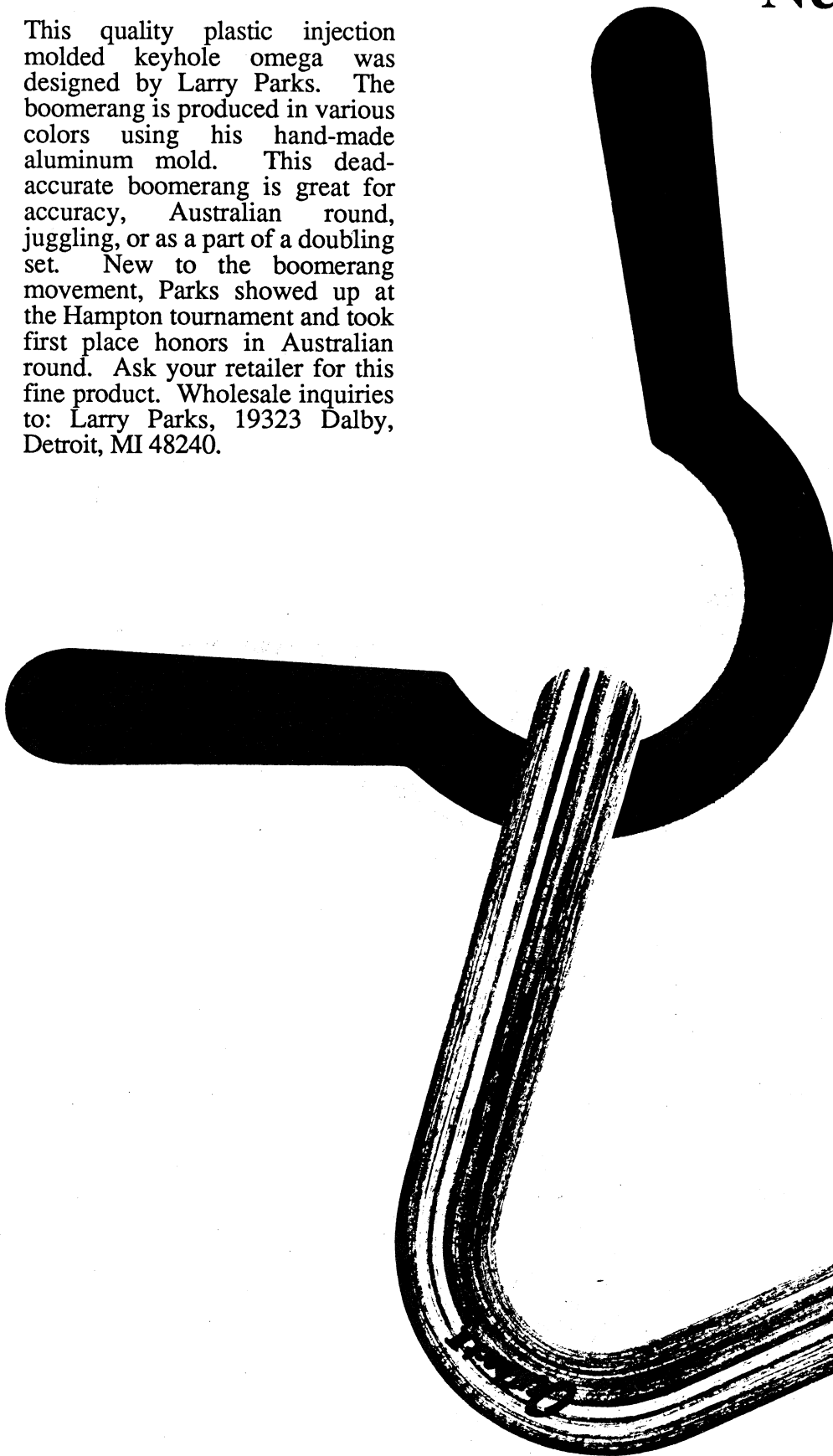
1806 North 3rd
MONROE, LOUISIANA 71201

FREE CATALOG!

Smith Paxolin; 40 and 50 meter French polycarbonite and graphite; Rex Symetrical wing 40 meter; Kalmanson Slamese; Barker laminated; Binghi; Comeback 22; Hawes; Darnell; Snouffer; Texas Boomerang Connection; Rangs; Stick Around Gerhards 60-yds.; Barnaby's Dead Ducks by Rex; Rod Jones; Dufresne's Oregon cherry Omega 2; lead ballast tape. Always something new and exciting!
See you at the contests. MOOMBA!!!!

New Product Review

This quality plastic injection molded keyhole omega was designed by Larry Parks. The boomerang is produced in various colors using his hand-made aluminum mold. This dead-accurate boomerang is great for accuracy, Australian round, juggling, or as a part of a doubling set. New to the boomerang movement, Parks showed up at the Hampton tournament and took first place honors in Australian round. Ask your retailer for this fine product. Wholesale inquiries to: Larry Parks, 19323 Dalby, Detroit, MI 48240.



This high-quality strip laminated "Outback II" boomerang was designed by Doug DuFresne. It is available in Cherry or Basswood, and in both left- and right-handed models. The usual assessment of this product is "This is the most fun boomerang I have ever thrown." Ask your boomerang retailer for this terrific stick. Never before has such quality been available at such a low cost. Wholesale inquiries to: Outback Boomerangs, P.O. Box 25577, Portland, OR 97225

Report from South Africa

Some of the most elaborately decorated boomerangs being made today come from an unlikely part of the world -- South Africa. The maker is Kim Deutschmann of Natal. He's a 30-year-old bachelor who makes surfboards and boats for a living, and surfs, trail bikes and throws boomerangs for fun. The tribal designs on his 'rangs are inspired by the Zulu and Ndebele peoples, whose cultures he finds to be colorful and interesting. "I speak Zulu and often trail ride in the reserves," he says. Deustschmann has sent "Many Happy Returns" the following report:

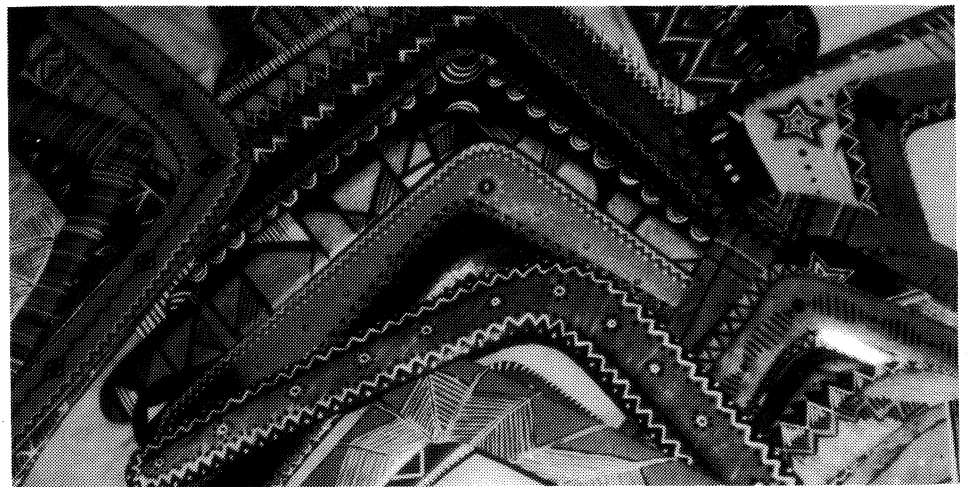
Let me begin by stating that I am a peace-loving, non-racist citizen of the world, and as far as I am concerned, politics is not a sport. Like all of you out there, I too yearn for peace on earth and good will to all mankind.

In my country, South Africa, little is known about the sport of boomerang throwing, let alone the art of manufacturing them. As a result of this, there is not much information available on their history, use and existence for that matter. For me it has been a fairly long and winding road from when I threw my first boomerang. A school-teacher friend of mine, Sven Wikstrom, got me interested when he showed me that particular boomerang one windy afternoon in the fall of 1982. We ran all over that football field chasing this wonderful curved flying stick and we enjoyed ourselves to the full. It was a traditional shape boomerang, much like a Hawes M-17, only bigger and quite roughly made, having been a copy of a copy. Aside from this fact, though, was that it flew and came back. That was enough to convince me and get my adrenaline going. Then and there I made up my mind to make some for myself, and made a dozen or so and achieved some pleasing re-

sults. I also started making different shapes and sizes, and my enthusiasm was getting stronger all the time. Even though I was having some accurate returns by this stage, I knew there was still so much to learn about boomerangs.

One day while at the news agent I found a copy of Mother Earth News Almanac of Family Play which contained an article on how to make a boomerang. There were step-by-step photos and even

possible. So I settled for Zulu and Ndebele (pronounced Indebele) African designs. All of my designs are hand-painted and, in some cases, reflect traditional tribal decorations and meanings. Colors are important to these tribal people and play a leading role in their folklore and beliefs. For example, red denotes intense passion; yellow is a sign of riches and wealth; white is for purity and faithfulness; green is for coolness and rain; and blue can



a plan. (Incidentally, it was a plan of Herb Smith's "Sportsman" model). You can imagine my excitement, because this was my first reliable, up-to-date information on boomerangs. Also listed in the magazine article were names and addresses of people like Richard Harrison, Ben Ruhe and Rusty Harding, so I wrote them and send some photos of my work. In turn I received much information and some fine boomerangs, and was totally overwhelmed to see how much there was to find out and how much had been achieved in boomeranging.

By now, my boomerangs had improved a lot and I was selling some at local fairs and craft markets. I decided that, since I was in Africa and had lived all my life in an area rich in Zulu history and culture, I wanted my boomerangs to be as ethnic as

mean the thoughts that fly to the loved one like the wings of a dove. Personally, I feel that brightly colored boomerangs are more pleasing in flight and are also more easily spotted in long grass or on the beach, as opposed to one of natural wood color.

(Incidentally, at the 1986 USBA nationals in Atlanta, one of my boomerangs won a certificate in the best-decorated category. It was such a wonderful surprise.)

I have also tried various other materials to make boomerangs from, having worked a great deal with fiberglass in boat-building, molding, surfboard and sailboard manufacture. I found fiber boomerangs to be extremely strong and virtually indestructible. They perform really well, especially in windy conditions, yet require extreme caution when catching, and because of this I feel

they are most definitely for seasoned throwers only. Yet, with all the materials available today, I still find good quality Finnish birch ply to be a firm favorite of mine.

In my boomerang collection I have some firm favorites, too, some being my own models and some from others. Notable examples are: Eric Darnell's Windcheater and Wizard, plastic, Chet Snouffer's Seabreeze, Peter Ruhf's Omega, Ted Bailey's Mini-V, Volker Behrens' Orion, and Binghi Eagles, Rex Harrison's RX 7, and the Wycheproof Hook. Also Doug Dufresne's Chinook is a wonderful boomerang, one I enjoy very much. I also am proud to own three of Herb Smith's Paxolin boomerangs that are truly amazing.

As I mentioned earlier, not much is known about boomerangs here, and in some cases not even believed. So, sometimes when I am throwing, particularly on the beach, I draw very curious and excited reactions from people. Most times, the first thing people ask me is if I'm from Australia! Some are totally astounded and have long believed boomerangs to be a myth, and that there was no way to get a piece of wood to fly, let alone return to the thrower. You can imagine their facial expressions when I flip one out over the sea and it circles around and comes back for a one-handed catch!

Well, in closing I'd like to take this opportunity to say that if ever any member of the USBA or any other boomerang association, or anyone for that matter who shares my enthusiasm for boomerangs, is ever in South Africa, please don't hesitate to contact me. My door will always be open. My address is No. 6, Manor Court, 61 Botanic Gardens Road, Berea, Durban, 4001 Natal, South Africa.

Kim Deutschmann

World Cup 1988

Anyone who is seriously considering participating in the 1988 World Cup as a competitor or spectator should contact Chet Snouffer immediately for important information.

Chet Snouffer
USBA, P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015
(614) 363-8332

MTA Highlight

Ray Laurent Joins the 2-minute MTA club with a wonderful flight of 2 minutes, 30 seconds on June 6, 1987 in Toledo, Ohio.

Welcome, Brasil

The USBA welcomes yet another boomerang organization to the world boomerang theater. This time the country is Brasil. The club has been running strong for four years and sports about 100 members. Members are searching for new sources of boomerangs (retailers take note) and they wish to visit manufacturers in the USA and take an active role in participating in international events. Parties wishing to correspond with this organization should write to:
Bumerangue Clube Do Brasil
Ciixa Postal 13074
Sao Paulo - SP 02398
Brasil

Spotlight: Cleveland Boomerang School

So you've decided to go to the 1987 USBA Nationals. If you're new to the game, you may ask, "Who is the Cleveland Boomerang School?" The Cleveland Boomerang School (CBS) is a group of fun-loving, dedicated individuals in the Cleveland, Ohio area who promote the sport of safe boomerang throwing all year long. The CBS is the American analog to the famous Boomerang School in Sydney, Australia, headed by Duncan McClennan.

If you're in the Cleveland area on a Sunday, drop by the Wade Park Oval (behind the Art Museum) for a toss with these folks at noon. Call Dave Boehm at (216) 442-6024 for further information.

The Cleveland Boomerang School is well known for consistency and longevity in the Cleveland area. The School was formed in 1979 for the purpose of educating the public, and was incorporated in 1982. Since

1979, CBS has instructed 25,000 novices in the art of boomerang throwing in 450 boomerang classes and 50 boomerang workshops. Over the past eight years, the skilled instructors have been featured on PM Magazine, numerous news shows and in various newspapers. The CBS has organized teams which have participated in many of the major tournaments, planning well ahead in all the primary events. CBS has been active in USBA committees and through volunteer efforts, such as Tom Tuckerman's maintenance of the USBA membership files and rating system.

CBS has teamed with the US Park Service (Cuyahoga Valley Recreation Area) to host several boomerang workshops and major tournaments. So come and see these enthusiasts in action with a fresh new approach in running tournaments at the 1987 USBA Nationals on August 14, 15, and 16.

South Georgia Spring Fling

by John Derden

April 15, 1987

The South Georgia Boomerang Club (Swainsboro, Georgia) hosted Spring Fling 87 on Saturday, April 25, 1987.

Tournament Director was local club member John K. Derden, and Frank Golder of the Atlanta Boomerang Society was Head Judge. The tournament attracted about 35 throwers - 24 veteran throwers and 11 novices. Throwers came from Ohio, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, Florida, Virginia, and Georgia. Among the well-known rangers present were Rusty Harding, Ron Tamblyn, Mike Forrester, Dennis Joyce, and Richard Harrison. The Tournament Director had received a copy of the new (April 1987) USBA rules just prior to the tourney and, as a result of a vote taken on the field before getting under way, the new rules were used.

The tournament was held on the athletic fields of Emanuel County Junior College, Swainsboro, Georgia. Tournament organizers had lined off the field the day prior to the competition, so after everyone had signed in, gotten their free tournament logo t-shirts, and attended a pre-tournament meeting, things got under way.

Three competition circles had been drawn off as well as a practice circle. Veteran throwers utilized two of the circles for their events, while the novices used one. Veteran throwers competed in utilized catch, accuracy, fast catch, Australian round, and M.T.A. Novices did the same.

Weather conditions were not optimal. Although the temperature was fine, the wind was

unpredictable all day. It could best be described as blustery and shifting directions indiscriminately. It quickly became apparent that wind rangers were the order of the day. Dennis Joyce had a great deal of success with plastic Darnell rangers that had been "Swiss cheesed" and then modified for each event with the addition and/or deletion of tape and lead. Most other throwers were scrambling all day for the right combination.

Consecutive catch only went three rounds because of the wind. Ron Tamblyn, Dennis Joyce, Jesse Robertson and Bob Poole tied for first. Dennis got the tournament title, however, in a throw off. Ron Tamblyn and Jimmy Hooker tied in the accuracy event: Rusty Harding copped a second; and Dennis Joyce got a third. Fast catch proved a formidable proposition in the wind as only three throwers out of 25 even got on the board. Dennis Joyce got a first with his previously-mentioned Swiss cheese rang; John Derden finished second with an unusual three-blader with a Kalmanson-inspired Siamese airfoil that proved remarkably stable in the wind; and Ron Tamblyn was third. Aussie round fell to J. Camp (one of Richard Harrison's Louisiana gang); Dennis Joyce finished second; and Ron Tamblyn was third. Although USBA now recognizes two MTA events, the throwers agreed to compete in MTA unlimited. Mike Forrester won in his specialty with a flight of 34.47 seconds, although both John Derden and Richard Witt dropped flights that would have won. Jesse Robertson finished second, and Rex "Son of B-man" Harrison got third place.

Top Ten in Order of Finish:

1. Dennis Joyce 42.25 pts.
2. Ron Tamblyn 38.75
3. J. Camp 28.25
4. Jesse Robertson 25.75
5. Mike Forrester 22.75
6. John Derden 16.25
7. David Philpott 14.25
8. Bob Poole 13.75
9. Eddie Carrigg 11.25
10. Jim Hooker 10

The tournament ran from about 10:30 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m., including a lunch break. The local Coca Cola distributor provided free drinks for the competitors, and the president of the college provided a BBQ supper gratis. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and the novice competition brought out some first-timers who, we hope, have had their appetite whetted for more. Top three novices were: Peter Evander (first), Meredith Watson (second) and Pat Cooke (third).

Another aspect of the tourney was an aesthetics competition. David Philpott won in the builders category. In addition, Neil Kalmanson, who teaches art at Emanuel County Junior College and uses boomerang construction as a component in his three dimensional design course, held a competition among his students. Anne Black won the student category, and she had the satisfaction of having her winning entry purchased by Ron Tamblyn for his collection.

The South Georgia Boomerang Club plans to do it again next year and encourages throwers to keep their calendars open next April.

Hampton Roads

The third annual Hampton Roads Boomerang Tournament was held on May 9th, more than a full month earlier than it was last year, to avoid the stifling heat and humidity. Seven boomerang events were held, and a fun-for-all dinner followed.

Dennis Joyce took top honors with first place overall, only two weeks after cleaning up at the Swainsboro tournament. Joyce took firsts in Consecutive Catch and Doubling, with seconds in Aussie Round and Endurance.

Mike Forrester was second place overall, placing in every event. Ron Tamblyn took third.

The contestants voted to alter the MTA50 event so that the thrower could launch from anywhere within the 100-meter diameter circle, instead of launching from the center as stipulated in the 1987 rulebook. By doing this, the throwers forfeited the results for the MTA50 event rating input which will be used to pick a 1988 World Cup Team. Tournament directors should take note of the consequences that can result. The MTA scores still apply to the mandatory MTA unlimited event.

The altered MTA event was identical to the form of MTA practiced in Australia: Five throws from anywhere in the 100 m. circle with a catch within the circle mandatory. This is the first time an MTA event with an accuracy clause has been held in the United States. A new world record for Aussie MTA was set by Thomas Williams of Meadville, PA, using new technology developed by Mike Forrester specifically for MTA with an accuracy restriction. Williams had a throw and catch timed at 42.41 seconds. The previous record mark of 39.16 seconds was set by Geoff Kennedy at the 1985 Albury Championships, Australia.

Throwing Machine Produces Even Tests

by Eckhard Marvick

A throwing machine for boomerangs is useful mainly for scientific purposes, in order to reproduce consistent throws. For manufacturers, it might be a useful testing device as well.

There have been various attempts at making working boomerang launchers since at least 1905. Buckner (1916) built one for indoor use. Spin was produced by using different pressure on parts of the boomerang holder. Felix Hess (1975) explained what a well working b. throwing device should be able to perform. He settled for the old-fashioned manual throwing method for his thesis.

Musgrove is reported to have built a big machine with his students in Reading, England.

Weber (1977) made an interesting suggestion as to how to bring about a motion which forces the b. to whirr around its center of mass: in the end of its forward movement, the sled which holds the b. bounces against a bolt and tips over. But this machine was never built.

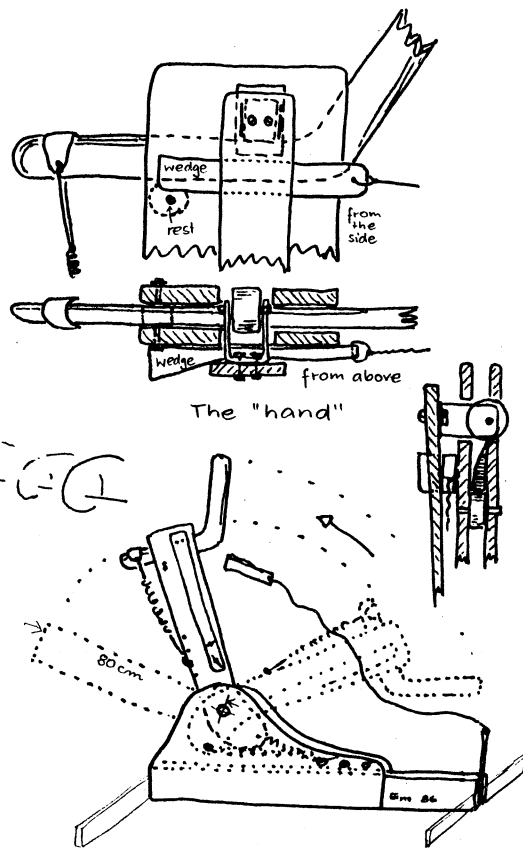
During the German championships, I demonstrated the wooden prototype of my machine. One boomerang arm is kept in a deep groove just as wide as the thickness of the arm. The groove protects the b. with a sheet of leather. The leading edge rests on a round roll. About three inches from that point, a hoof with a wheel on it mounted on a long lever holds the b. A string keeps the other side under tension like a teeter.

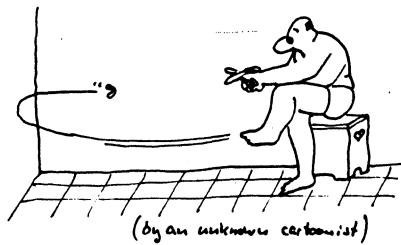
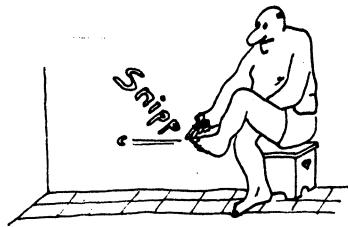
So, as soon as the lever is moved sideways, the b. snaps forward, spinning fast. In my prototype, I used a wedge on a string to move the lever sideways.

The nicest commentary of another bloke was "I should introduce you to my wife. For up to this day, she used to think only I was crazy."

But the whole thing worked anyway. I can imagine that somebody who is experienced in working with metal might be able to build a precisely working launcher. I would love to hear of such a talented bloke!

Eckhard Marvick
Wakenitzmuer 66,
D2400 Luebeck 1, W. Germany





(by an unknown cartoonist)

Bylaws Changes

The following items are presented as proposed changes to the USBA bylaws. These changes are presented for review by the membership and shall be voted on at the annual meeting.

1. Delete - word amateur from preamble
2. Addition - approve vote by mail ballot
3. Addition - nominations will be solicited from the general membership, then a slate of nominees, drawn up by a committee appointed by the Board, shall be published at least 60 days prior to the end of the fiscal year
4. Change - the president may not serve more than two consecutive terms
5. Addition - president elect must have previously served on the Board of Directors
6. Change - the treasurer shall, at least once a year, prepare a financial report for distribution to each member of the Board
7. Change - the annual meeting no longer has a set date
8. Change - special membership meetings may be held upon written request of 5% of the members
9. Addition - monthly correspondence shall be maintained between the Board members
10. Addition - a quorum to do business by mail ballot shall be 10% of the membership
11. Change - bylaws may be changed provided notice of proposed changes are sent to all members at least 60 days prior to the vote
12. The Smithsonian Institute shall be the official custodian of the USBA Archives

boomerang newsbits

The membership of the USBA regretfully offers its deepest sympathies to Arthur Janetzki over the death of his brother Les, who passed away quietly in his sleep on June 12, 1987. Les will always be remembered as a friend to the boomerang community and for the quality of his boomerang products.

The USBA is currently updating the various USBA information listings. If you are interested in remaining on the listings or wish to be added, please send your information to the USBA president by August 1, 1987. The listings include:

- Manufacturers and Retailers
- Clubs and Organizations
- Wood Products and Supplies

The listings will be available at the USBA Nationals, so don't delay. Sent all pertinent information to:

Ted Bailey
2967 Gracewood Road
Toledo, Ohio 43613
(419) 471-9989

Jim Mayfield proposes to hold the 1988 USBA Nationals in Gunnison, Colorado. At 7,000 feet, 20-meter 'rangs travel 25+ meters.

Others wishing to propose alternate sites should do their homework and be prepared to discuss it at the 1987 Annual Meeting.

Nominations for the 1987/1988 USBA Board of Directors

The 1986/1987 administration successfully deployed a new system of team management with all directors and administrative volunteers sharing all the tasks to provide you with first-class membership services. The system had some rough bumps along the way as it was fine-tuned to its present state.

It is hoped that the USBA membership will elect responsible and skilled directors for the 1987/1988 Board. To nominate or vote for an individual simply because he/she is popular or a skilled thrower or makes great boomerangs, is to do so for the wrong reason. These skills may or may not complement the reliable production of a quality newsletter or other important membership services.

The following listing of USBA members are those directors and administrators who are currently providing your membership services. As president of the USBA 1986/1987, I recommend that the following individuals be elected to the 1987/1988 Board of Directors.

John Flynn
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Larry Ruhf
Chet Snouffer
Paul Sprague
Tom Tuckerman

Other skilled and reliable members who are willing to donate their fair share of time should contact Ted Bailey before the 1987 Annual Meeting.

Many Happy Returns

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John Flynn

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Per col. inch	\$10

10% discount for four consecutive issues. Camera-ready copy preferred. Composition billed at \$10 per hour. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason.

Int'l Team Cup from pg. 11

and a strong set of proven boomerang talent. The Lewis Chiropractic Boomerang Team from Ohio (sponsored yet!?) had the overall series MVP, Chet Snouffer at the helm, and some young and explosive throwers.

The first day in Gaithersburg was a washout. The tournament got underway in the middle of the afternoon under threatening skies. The competitors threw Consecutive Catch, and it began to rain as they split up into three groups for Fast-Catch, Accuracy and Australian Round. The throwers threw and the rain rained and the three groups rotated to the next event, hoping to finish all three before their boomerangs began to slip. The sky flashed and John Koehler ordered everybody off the field until it passed. The soaked throwers watched the sky through heavily-fogged windshields for twenty minutes and it only got worse.

The second day dawned bright and sunny, but as the throwers gathered in the 40-acre polo field, the clouds gathered again overhead. The monsoon stayed off until just before the last round of Team Consecutive Catch. It hit and the catching scores went right through the floor. The soaked throwers watched the sky through heavily-fogged windshields for twenty minutes, but this time it got better.

Competitors were hard pressed to resist the purchase-instinct when faced with all the fantastic new boomerangs that showed up. Eric Darnell let loose some interesting little adjustable and reversible sticks, and Doug Dufresne boosted several fast-catch and endurance scores with a hot 20-meter basswood boomerang.

Great individual performances were shown by John Flynn, who earned the Gel Minimum Time Aloft award with a 19.1 second fast-catch, and a tie between Gary Lamothe and Barnaby Ruhe for 87 points in the Aussie Round circle.

Other highlights included the William Gel Stunt, performed by Michael Girvin, the kinetic energy behind Team Gel. This stunt is the "rad" answer to Barnaby Ruhe's William Tell in Reverse Act. The William Gel Stunt requires a good boomerang and a can of Budweiser. You throw the 'rang, pop the top of the beer can and drink it, then try to knock the empty can off your head with the boomerang as it returns. Girvin missed.

Heirlooms were created right and left at the awards banquet as competitors collected signatures on classic boomerangs. A soap salesman from Melbourne, Tony Dunlop, represented Australia for the tour. He helped scorekeepers keep track and generously distributed bits of Aussie culture.

Team Germany
Uli Konzelmann
Thomas Hartmann
Volker Behrens
Thomas Munch
Michael Siems

Team New England
Larry Ruhf
Eric Darnell
John Flynn
Gary Lamothe
Paul Sprague

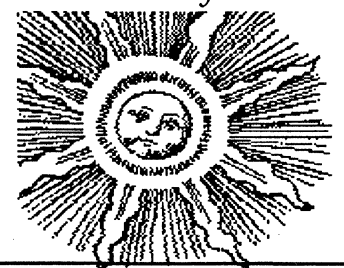
Mar.Va.lous Team South
John Koehler
Ron Tamblyn
Mike Forrester
Jim Jordan
Dennis Joyce

Team Gel
Mike Girvin
Mole Man
Jim Youngblood
Rob Greer
Jim Mayfield
H.L. Mayhew

Team France
Jacques Roudaut
Stephan Marguerite
Jerome Quin
Olivier Vouktchevitch

Team Midwest
Chet Snouffer
Carmen Snouffer
Gregg Snouffer
Gary Broadbent
Jacques Sabrie
Chuck Smith

Team Atlantic
Barnaby Ruhf
Peter Ruhf
Adam Lewis
Ray DiCecco
Stuart Jones
Doug Dufresne



USBA Store

The USBA's fund-raising store is in full operation under the stewardship of Dennis Joyce (P.O. Box 2996, Newport News, VA 23602). Some two dozen items are available, including the following:

USBA sew-on patches, \$3.50 ppd.

A beginner's packet, made up of a USBA membership, with a subscription to this newsletter included; an easy-to-throw Steve Glover "Rippa" boomerang from Queensland, Australia, with instructions; the 96-page book, Boomerang by Ben Ruhe; USBA competition rules; and a selection of interesting literature. A great gift idea! \$22 ppd.

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