

Many Happy Returns

No. 34 \$2.50

An International Newsletter of the U.S. Boomerang Association

Spring 1988

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

President's Corner	2
1988 Competition Rules	2
1988 World Boomerang Cup	3
1988 USBA Nationals	4
1988 International Team Cup	4
1988 Tournament Circuit	5
Boomerangs on T.V., etc.	6
Olympic Boomerang Pin	8
Flypaper [origami journal]	9
Wood Sources	9
Free Throwers	9
Collector's Corner	10
Romantic 'Rang	11
Throw Stick Study	11
La Perouse Boomerang Club	11
On Volker's Heels	11
Boomerang Game	12
Roger Perry visit to the USA	12
More Fairy Tales Come True	13
Ben's Correspondence	14
News from Brazil	15
Boomerang Exhibitions	15
News from Europe	16
Making 'Rang Tricks Pay	17
What they had to say	18



JACQUES SOTTY'S \$5,000 PHOTOGRAPH

story on page 17

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Carmen Snouffer

The **WORLD CUP** is fast approaching . . . May 8-15 in Barooga, New South Wales. Barnaby, Chet, and Eric will travel along with Doug DuFresne (International Referee), Cheslye Larson, and myself. I'll be working on some international relations with the BAA, as well as helping "the boys" with their tactics ["Try and CATCH this one!", etc. . .].

The **USBA NATIONALS** are scheduled for the weekend of June 18/20 in the Bethlehem, Pa. area. Housing will be at the Moravian Academy [site of last year's International Team Test], which should provide an excellent low-key affordable setting for a great boomerang weekend. Peter Ruhf is site manager and tournament director. Our goal is to have the Nationals continuing to be held in August in the future. The diversion to June this year is strictly due to the International Team Challenge already scheduled for August and the inavailability of housing later in September. You will receive a separate mailing regarding all the details on the Nationals in due course. Beginning next year, we will initiate a rotational system to move the Nationals around the country at regular intervals. The event will rotate West, South, Midwest, East, and back to the West. This will help to develop a better distribution of interest across the country and make for a more "fair" selection of sites. Many throwers cannot afford to travel coast to coast for a major event every year. This way, we'll be bringing the Nationals "to an area near you!" At least every 4 years.

The **INTERNATIONAL TEAM CUP** will be held August 18-30 in France, Germany, and Switzerland, with two six-man teams from the USA competing. It's a busy season of boomeranging coming up! In addition, look for an influx of overseas visitors; including Roger Perry of Australia, and Matthias Giesenschlag of West Germany during August and September. These boomerang enthusiasts will be traveling the country, visiting friends, and throwing in tournaments with us. Welcome to them and others planning on visiting. Drop us a line and let us know if others are coming to visit!



1988 Competition Rules

by Chet Snouffer

The rules committee (at press time) is finalizing rules changes for 1988. The revisions will be compiled and printed as a supplement to the 1987 Rules Book, which served as a base for these revisions. You may obtain a copy of the revisions from:

USBA
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Oh. 43015

by sending a SASE with your request. Complete copies of the rules plus revisions are available from the USBA Store.

The major considerations for this year include the **possible** introduction of clean catches into the **Consecutive Catch** rounds, and the inclusion of **Doubling, Juggling and Endurance** into the Overall ratings for the year. **SAFE** and **ACCURATE** methods of measurement are the main topics which still must be solved before **Distance** enters as a standard event.

MTA 100 will probably become the primary rated MTA event, **with MTA unlimited** still contested, and **MTA 50** placed "on a shelf". Throwers still have the option to launch from the **Bullseye**, if they wish,

to challenge existing "MTA 50" standards, but would of course run a risk of "Blowing out".

The major change for throwers will be the **improvement of the rating system**. The leading proposal includes BEST scores entered into the rating system for throwers who only participate in one tournament. Either AVERAGE or PLACE points would enter the system with the second tournament, and all three factors would be included for three or more tournaments. In addition, each event will be ranked individually before tallied with other events to determine "Overall Champion". In other words, the person with the best cumulative score in Accuracy (total of place, average, and best scores) would receive 11 points for first in that event. The person with the second highest cumulative points would receive 9 points, etc. With 8 events contested for Overall (Accuracy, Consecutive Catch, MTA 100, Australian Round, Fast Catch, Doubling, Juggling, and Endurance), the best possible score for overall would be 88 points. It is our belief that this will give a much more accurate representation of what actually occurred in tournaments, as well as providing incentive for throwers to continue participating in ongoing tournaments.

WORLD BOOMERANG THROWING CUP 1988

by Dennis Maxwell; BAA

Greetings from the members of the BAA Inc. The World Cup will be staged at Barooga, New South Wales with the first Test on Sunday, May 8, second Test on Wednesday, May 11th and the third Test on Saturday, May 14th, 1988.

This major change in venue [from Alice Springs] has come about due to the failure in securing a major private sponsor for the Central Australian venue. I tried every possible avenue to finalize the venue, but failed. Barooga is a different story with a major private sponsor being secured as the first step and we are building on that lead. The Barooga Sports Club is the major private sponsor for the "Australian Bicentennial World Boomerang Throwing Cup 1988".

All previous details included in Bulletins 1,2,3&4 will still apply to this new venue;

Teams arrive Melbourne Thursday 5th May. Teams will be accommodated on Thursday night in Melbourne. Teams will travel as a group to Barooga. In Barooga people will be staying at the High Noon Motel and the Barooga Lodge.

The Australian National Championships 1988 have been cancelled to enable the BAA Inc. to concentrate on the World Cup. The confirmed teams at press time are:

Australia

Robby Croll
Geoff Kennedy
Bruce Carter

USA

Chet Snouffer
Eric Darnell
Barnaby Ruhe

France

Raphael Jamgotchevitch
Olivier Vouktchevitch
Jacques Roudault

Switzerland

Phillipe Haake
Kasper Kramis
Eric Pampaloni

West Germany

Dieter Neu
Gunter Wandtke
Michael Siems

Japan

Yoshi Sakimitsu
Team Member #2
Team Member #3

Holland

Team Member #1
Team Member #2
Team Member #3

USBA NATIONALS

Bethlehem, Pa: June 17-19, 1988

The 1988 USBA Nationals are to be held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania this year on June 17-19. Peter Ruhf is the focal point of the organizational activities. Competition will take place on the North Hampton County Area Community College. A significant amount of housing will be available at the Moravian Academy Preparatory School at reasonable rates. The two facilities are adjacent to each other. A registration fee of approximately \$20 will be collected to pay for liability insurance, ground set up charges, a souvenir T-shirt and other miscellaneous fees. A separate mailing will be forthcoming

with detailed information on housing, fees, and directions. Until then, you may wish to make your air flight reservations now to take advantage of super saver fares. The closest airport (Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Airport) is only 5 minutes from the field. Better rates may be obtained if you fly into Newark Airport. The field is only an hour west bound on I-78 out of Newark. For more information on the 1988 USBA Nationals, contact:

Peter Ruhf
P.O. Box 112
Emmaus, Pa. 18049

Team #1

Chet Snouffer, Captain
Barnaby Ruhe
Eric Darnell
Doug DuFresne
Ron Tamblyn
Gregg Snouffer

Team #2

Peter Ruhf, Captain
John Flynn
Dennis Joyce
Larry Ruhf
Michael "Gel" Girvin
Mole Man

The participating U.S.A. Teams are listed above. As part of the U.S. team, Ben Ruhe has been appointed as the U.S. team COACH, acting as the spiritual and motivating force to insure maximum team effectiveness.

We are looking forward, again, to a fantastic boomerang happening. The European coordinators: Olivier Voukchevitch (Paris), Uli Konzelman and Michael Siems (Stuttgart), and Kasper Kramis (Geneva) assure us that there is tremendous excitement building in Europe for this International Team Competition. For further information, you may contact Larry Ruhf at:

31 Jackson St.
Belchertown, Ma. 01007

or call Larry at:

(413)-323-4340

INTERNATIONAL TEAM BOOMERANG CUP EUROPE 1988

by Larry Ruhf

The Second International Team Boomerang Cup is scheduled for three sites in Europe between August 20th and 28th. Two USA teams have been invited to participate. Teams from Australia, France, Great Britain, Switzerland and West Germany have also been invited. Holland is also a possibility. Dates for the three tournament format and sites are as follows:

- Paris** - **August 20:** Individual Competition
August 21: First Team Cup Match
- Stuttgart** - **August 24:** Individual Competition
August 25: Second Team Cup Match
- Geneva** - **August 27:** Individual Competition
August 28: Third Team Cup Match

TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT

It's finally spring and the tournaments are back again. The following listing is the best information that we have on upcoming events. Make sure you notify the USBA President as soon as you know that you are hosting an event. An additional card to the editor of MHR will help to insure that your event gets advertised. You may also call the USBA hot line at **(619)-298-4283** for updated tournament information. "The Leading Edge" newsletter covers the tournament circuit too.

April 9, 1988
Hampton Roads Boomerang
Tournament IV
For further information
contact Dennis Joyce at:
Hm. : (804)-595-8935
Wk. : (804)-875-7365

April 30, 1988
Emanuel County J.C.
Swainsboro, Georgia
Contact John Derden or
Neil Kalmanson at (912)-
237-7831 for further in-
formation.

May 7&8, 1988
Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington
For more information con-
tact Michael Girvin at:
3243 Cooper Pt. Rd, N.W.*1
Olympia, Wa. 98502
(206)-866-3684

May 15, 1988 at 12 Noon
Thousand Oaks, California
For more info, call Jerry
Caplan or Garry Knudsen
at: (213)-644-4634

June 4, 1988
8th Annual New England
U. Mass. - Amherst
Contact Larry Ruhf at:
31 Jackson Rd.
Belchertown, Ma. 01007
(413)-323-4340

June 17-19, 1988
USBA NATIONALS
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Contact Peter Ruhf at:
P.O. Box 112
Emmaus, Pa. 18049
(215)-432-0724

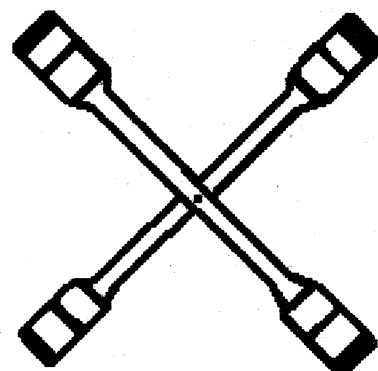
June 19, 1988
Portland Rose Festival
Portland, Oregon
For further information,
call Ted Welker at (503)-
236-2804 or contact Mar-
jorie Gerrish at:
4885 S.W. 78th Ave.
Portland, Or. 97225
(503)-292-5697

August 6, 1988
9th Annual Free Throwers
Delaware, Ohio
Contact Chet Snouffer at:
51 Troy Road
Delaware, Oh. 43015
(614)-363-8332

August 7, 1988
CVNRA Annual Tournament
Cleveland, Ohio
Contact David Boehm at:
Cleveland B'rang School
Box 17385
Euclid, Ohio 44117
(216)-442-6024

August 14, 1988
Western Oregon Boome-
rang Roundup
Salem, Oregon
Contact: Dean A. R. Kelly
3350 Neef Ave., S.E.
Salem, Or. 97302
(503)-581-8050

September 18, 1988
Summer's Final Fling
Portland, Oregon
Contact Doug DuFresne at:
4235 S.W. Crestwood Dr.
Portland, Or. 97225
(503)-292-4316



**BOOMERANGS IN MUSIC,
LITERATURE, and TV**

by Ted Bailey

Many thanx to David Boehm of the Cleveland Boomerang School for identifying the rock group "SHOES" on their new album cover called "Boomerang". Can any of the readers tell us why they would name the album this way?

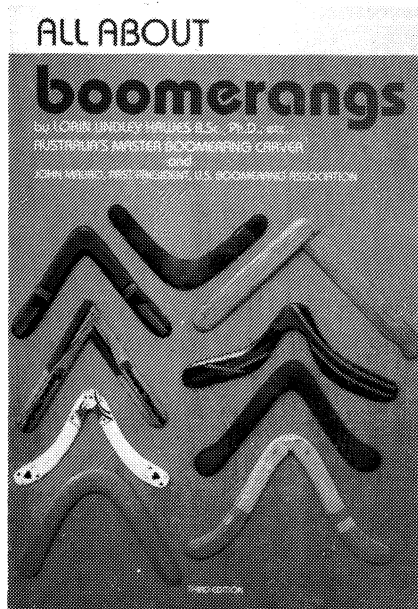
The January, 1988 issue of "BOYS' LIFE" has the same series of cartoons that I read 30 years ago. I was amused to read that Pee Wee Harris had spent 5 weeks making a boomerang in honor of the 1988 Australian Jamboree. He tossed it into a strong downwind and it sailed away. After waiting for hours, the boomerang returned for a one handed catch and a first place ribbon. He set a world record in distance and MTA on the same throw.

Lorin Hawes has issued a third edition of his famous book "ALL ABOUT BOOMERANGS". This time, the book is co-authored by John Mauro, past USBA President. The book contains much of the same information and illustra-



tions as the second edition that was released in the 1970s, except for a section that John Mauro contributed on contemporary events, new records, and his famous "Three Sigma"

design. This is worth purchasing, especially if you are a newcomer to the sport and/or never got a copy of the second edition. The glossy colored cover features an assortment of collectables by many the best boomerang craftsmen in the world today. Where can you get this book? Lorin Hawes sells it in his shop in Queensland, Australia for \$8. You get a dollar off for every boomerang you buy at the same time. Lorin says that many customers try to take advantage of him by purchasing eight boomerangs and getting the book for free. If Queensland is



not on your itinerary in the near future, the only retail source for it in the USA that I know of is the B'Man. He retails the book at \$9.95. If you order just the book, the price with postage and handling is \$11.00. If you send \$15.00, B'Man will include a xerox copy of John Mauro's publication: "An Introduction to Boomerangs". The B'Man also has other publications such as Stephen Silady's "The Complete Australian Boomerang Book" which retails for \$13.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. This is a big book with a boomerang on the cover. He has a few copies of Herb Smith's book for sale. These are now out of print. Collectors would be wise to get one while they still can. The B'Man also has a few select Herb Smith wooden boomerangs available at an attractive price that complement the book. The B'Man himself will be featured in the next edition of DAK electronic Catalog. You can write to the B'Man at:

BOOMERANG MAN
Dept. RM
1806 No. 3rd St.
Monroe, La. 71201

What is John Mauro doing with his time since he retired? Besides co-authoring the book with Lorin Hawes, he is finishing a 400 page market research book and writing a monthly newsletter for a his local PC group. John plans to update his boomerang book in the near future.

Has anyone seen the movie: "The Bosses' Wife"? There is a scene where someone takes a boomerang on a business trip.

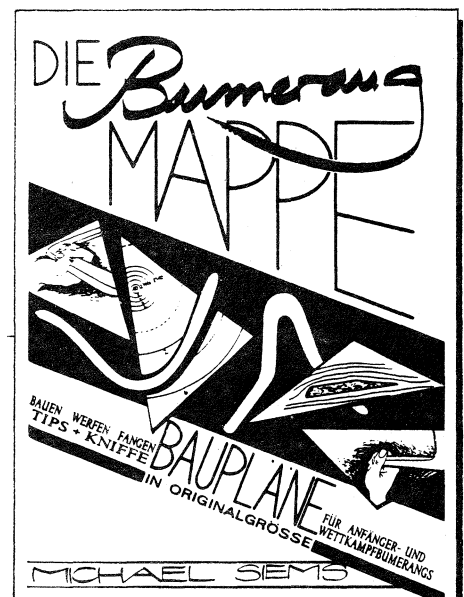
"Leonard, Part VI" is a super spy spoof movie where the bad guy throws a boomerang knife. It returns and stabs him in the chest.

Keep your eye out for "The Baghdad Cafe" which will be released in April. This movie features USBA member Allen Craig as a boomerang thrower.

Michael Siems of West Germany has a new book out, written in German and loaded with plans for building a full spectrum of competition boomerangs from MTA and Fast Catch to Doubling and Juggling. Full size plans, including airfoil cross-sections are covered in detail. The introduction covers fundamentals of why a boomerang

returns and how to throw. Despite the language barrier (if you don't speak German) the book is inexpensive and well worth getting. The book is only available through the author. "DIE BUMERANG MAPPE" can be ordered by sending a money order or cashier's check for \$15 USA (which includes P&H) to:

Michael Siems
Rosenbrunnenstrasse 4
6940 Weinheim
West Germany



John Calderazzo has written an article in the February, 1988 issue of the General Motors publication "Quest". The article titled "Ambassador of Boomerangs" features Ben Ruhe and his boomerang exploits.

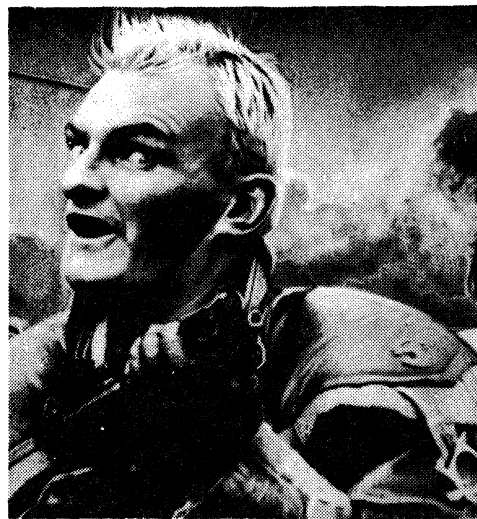
continued on page 8

Garry Lamothe writes... "I should have had a tape in the UCR last Saturday. **Pee Wee Herman** used a boomerang on his show. He threw it out the window and it travelled all over the place, eventually returning to him. On another day, **Sylvester the Cat** [of **Loony Tunes**] was using a boomerang to teach his son how to catch a bird. The other day I was watching TV and saw a dog throwing a boomerang on a program called "Faces of Japan". The dog used the boomerang to subdue a couple of villains."

John Jordan of the BBS writes... "Your piece on "Boomerangs in Television Land" [Winter, 1988] interested me. Particularly the bit about "How to Steal a Million". I've never seen the film, but about 10 years ago I met the man who made and threw that boomerang. His name is Phil Darbin (or is it Darby) and he used to have a music hall [vaudeville] act. He told me that he used to carve his Bs out of Obeche wood and Balsa wood. Strangely, by the same postal delivery as MHR, I had a request from a juggler for info on indoor Bs and he mentioned that he had seen Phil on the halls about 25 years ago.

NBC recently released a new series on Television called "THE HIGHWAYMAN" about two Fed's who drive

high-tech trucks on adventures. One of the characters, named Jetto, is an Aussie who has a metal boomerang which he uses to stop trucks. The boomerang is thrown at the front of a truck and it punches a hole in the radiator. The Aussie trucker is played by none other than that famous Aussie: Jacko, shown below.



Saturday morning cartoon lovers know of the Visionaries cartoon show featuring the Spectral Knight "Witterquick" who really knows how to use a metal boomerang. The character is available at toy stores for around \$5. Get yours before they disappear off of the toy shelves. The character is shown below.



BOOMERANG PIN AT THE OLYMPICS

Jim Gasser, USBA member went to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary and bought a nice souvenir pin shown at right for \$4.95. You can write to the address below to inquire about purchasing one for yourself. Hurry before they are all gone.

DOMINION SPORTS MKTG.
3131 DEWDNEY Ave
REGINA, SAS. S4T DYS
CANADA



INVESTORS TAKE NOTICE!

Peter Ruhf has a plastic injection mold for an omega shaped boomerang that he is trying to sell. The boomerang is patented and only a small number of boomerangs have been produced in the mold to date. I have thrown these omegas and they work great. Anyone wishing to purchase the mold or enter into some kind of business venture with Peter, can contact him at:

Peter Ruhf
P.O. Box 112
Emmaus, Pa. 18049

FLYPAPER

"FLYPAPER" is the name of a new publication that will become available in early 1988. The Journal of Folded Paper Flight will be available on a quarterly basis for a yearly membership fee of \$10.00 per year. Contributions are solicited. Anyone want to send in plans for an origami boomerang? Write to:

FLYPAPER
P.O. Box 47186
Wichita, Ks. 67201

FREE THROWERS & LEADING EDGE

Virtually all of the seasoned boomerang throwers know what the words **Free Throwers** is all about. This column was added for the benefit of new members who may not.

Free Throwers is a club based in Delaware, Ohio and headed by World Champion Thrower **Chet Snouffer**. An annual tournament is held in August. Chet publishes a great quarterly newsletter, titled "**The Leading Edge**". It is a valuable addition to any boomeranger's reading material. To subscribe, send \$5 to:

FREE THROWERS
c/o Chet Snouffer
51 Troy Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

BOOMERANG WOOD SOURCES

A request was sent out to all the wood sources listed in the "USBA Wood Source Listing" with instructions to update their status relative to the supply of quality plywood for the construction of boomerang products.

The USBA encourages boomerang manufacturers to request catalogs from

these sources. Let them know who sent you. If you know of other reliable sources for quality plywood, please contact the editor of MHR or USBA Headquarters in Delaware, Ohio with more information.

The following outlets responded to the survey:

**Flounder Bay
Boat Lumber**
Third & "O" Streets
Anacortes, Wa. 98221
(206)-293-2369

**Alpha Aviation
Supply Co.**
P.O. Box 641
Greenville, Tx. 75401
(214)-527-3817

Anderson's Int'l Trading
825 N. Cypress St.
Orange, Ca. 92667
(714)-771-6270

**Aircraft Spruce &
Specialty Company**
P.O. Box 424
Fullerton, Ca. 92632
(714)-870-7551

Harbor Sales Co., Inc.
1401 Russell Street
Baltimore, Md. 21230
(301)-727-0106

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Garry Lamothe found a great buy at an antique shop recently: a genuine four bladed **BRIST** boomerang in great shape for only \$20. If you can find them, these 75 year old cross sticks sell for \$50 or more, depending on condition. How many of the members have the collecting bug? If you do, let us know what you have found and the prices too.

Ted Bailey has been going to gun shows and looking for the people who carry swords and miscellaneous weapons. In the past two years, he has found several very old aboriginal boomerangs at prices of \$80 to \$200 each. His latest find was a miniature V100 returnable boomerang from the eighteenth century.

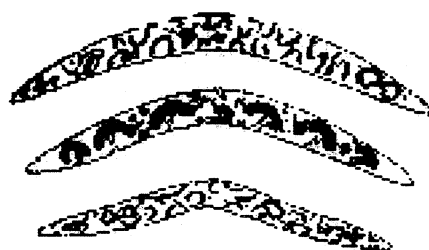
Al Gerhards found a beautiful natural elbow returner signed by the late Joe Timbery at a local antique dealer with a price tag of only \$12.

These things are out there. All you have to do is look for them. Collectable boomerang prices have sky rocketed in the last decade. The time to start

a collection is now while great boomerangs are still affordable. They are a great hedge against inflation considering the weak dollar and the fickle stock market.

The demand for Australian Aboriginal Arts and Crafts has increased immensely in the past several years. Yet, no one seems to be taking advantage of this demand with a retail sales outlet. If any of the readers know of any outlets for these things, please send information to the editor, MHR. A wholesale outlet has been located in Australia for contemporary Aboriginal arts & crafts. For more information, write to:

**MIMI Aboriginal Arts
Wholesale Warehouse
Pearce St.
P.O. Box 318
Katherine, N.T. 5780
Australia**



Duncan MacLennan sells contemporary boomerangs and antique throw sticks

out of his shop in the Sydney, Australia suburb of Kings Cross. He writes the following on the availability of antique boomerangs in Australia:

"There are no OLD booms of the return variety available, other than those in private collections. The only old booms are of the NON-RETURN type, which come in from time to time. These are truly collector's items. They range in price from \$200 - \$2,000 each. I don't have a brochure on these as they keep changing through sales.

The town aborigines make them using modern machinery much cheaper: \$40 upwards to \$100. The timber is the same: usually *Mulga*, *Gidgee*, *Brigalow*, etc.

I am trying to get **Joe Timbery Jr.** to make some natural returners. I have to supply the timbers so this should take about two months before they are ready. The best available in Australia are those supplied to my shop made out of *Black Wattle* [acacia]. There is a lot of *Mulga* coming on the market as returners, but definitely not so. The makers just don't know enough and *Mulga* is too heavy for returners. These are beautifully decorated and magnificent timbers for decorative purposes, but will not come back. They sell at \$70 - \$120 each. Not a good buy for throwers."

ROMANTIC 'RANG

Dr. John Tkach writes the following on his early boomeranging experiences: "My first boomerang was a plywood model in 1965 that broke the first time I threw it. My first boomerang that worked was a plastic Wham-O that I bought in about May 1965. It was smaller than the later model designed by Lorin Hawes with a sharper angle between the wings. It made perfect figure eights effortlessly. I have one old one left. It broke in half, and I don't have the heart to throw it out. Lots of fond memories. Boomerang throwing made for lots of nice and inexpensive dates. Girls tolerated it. Please do not publish this in Many Happy Returns. I do not want my wife to know. "

Editor's note.... I recently picked up one of these old Wham-Os in a garage sale and was amused by the throwing instructions:

"It returns! Hold like a scythe with flat side down. Throw sidearm and overhand. EXPERIMENT!!! "

THROW STICK STUDY

Jean-Charles Tallon is a student at the Institute of Archaeology in London, England. He has chosen "Aboriginal Boomerangs and Throw Sticks" as the topic for his Dissertation. Jean-Charles is especially interested in information and reference material on non-returning throw sticks. If any of the readers can provide assistance in his research studies, he can be reached at:

**Jean-Charles Tallon
Inst. of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1M 0PY
England**

La Perouse Boomerang- Club de France

This French boomerang club has a new Board of Directors. The new board is headed by Denis LEMAITRE, President. Philippe FORCEVILLE and Remi GILLE will assist Denis with his duties. The entire board is made up of Naval Officer School Engineering instructors. Congratulations to all.

ON VOLKER'S HEELS

Craig Kittredge of Greenville, South Carolina writes the following on his experiences with the **DISTANCE** challenge: Before reading the article on long distance in the Winter 1987 issue of MHR, I had done some experimenting myself. All I could do was about 85 meters with my distance 'rangs that look like a Challenger II in reverse. I prefer leading arm throwing. After reading the article, it dawned on me to use more weights. The results: 30+ meters more with an average of about 115 meters total. No great accomplishment compared to 145 meters but it did give me a lot of satisfaction. I've come to the conclusion that distance throwing is like making money: You've always got to have more. Watch out, Behrens!

USBA member Allen Craig, who appears in the newly released movie: "The Baghdad Cafe" relates that he has developed a new type of light weight distance 'rang that can be effortlessly thrown for 130 meters and easily caught on the return. He plans to patent the new concept before releasing it for the retail market!

Boomerang Game

by Jim Mayfield

A Wild West Game we play here in Gunnison, Colorado, is "Steps". Very simply, the low score wins. You get a test throw, that you can keep as a score and you can throw one out. So potentially there are 7 throws. Simply count the steps to pick up your boomerang. Long legged people have an advantage as long strides are allowed, even bounding strides. If your boomerang lands at your feet but doesn't touch you, it's one step. The only way to get a zero is if it hits you. You must stay in the spot you threw from and your hands must stay by your sides. You can lean, raise your elbows, or fall into the boomerang to get a hit but your feet must stay put. It's a great game, for sure. Pretty stupid at times too, because I've actually seen people lean with their heads to achieve the 0! The record low score is mine at 4, but there are a couple of people here that routinely beat me.

ROGER PERRY

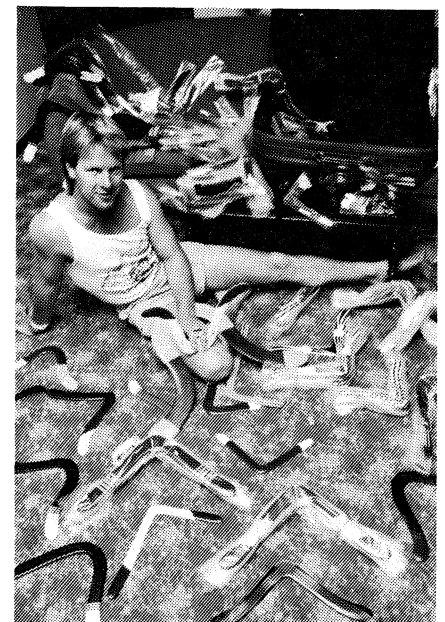
Roger Perry of Western Australia is a competitor and manufacturer of quality boomerangs. He plans to visit the USA this summer with hopes of promoting the sport through demonstrations at various locations. If you can assist Roger in his travels or if you wish to organize and/or participate in any demonstrations with him, then you can contact Roger at the following address:

**Roger Perry
Box 57
Norseman 6443
Western Australia**

Roger plans to arrive in Los Angeles on August 1 and will leave Los Angeles on September 24. He has an invitation to stay in Toledo until the Delaware and Cleveland tournaments. He is looking for other boomerangers to spend some time with. He has some flight coupons, so he can fly to most major airports at no extra cost. If you can help our boomerang brother from down under, drop him a line now, so that he can make plans.

SCIENCE FAIR WINNER

Aaron Pool of Kankakee, Illinois ordered some boomerangs and books from the Boomerang Man for his science project. Aaron took third place overall out of 51 entries and will be taking his project to the Regional Competition in Champaign, Illinois. We hope to hear more from Aaron on how he did later.



Roger Perry of Western Australia with some of his boomerangs.

**DAN
RUSSELL**

**P.O. Box 84895
San Diego, Ca. 92138**

Write for a free catalog of
Dan Russell's quality
boomerang products today!

MORE FAIRY TALES COME TRUE

by Ted Bailey

Roger Perry of Western Australia writes: "... one of my mates finally worked out how to throw an MTA with one of the blanks you sent. He beat me by 5 seconds or more on nearly every throw. Then he had his first 30+ second flight with a 1 min. 20 second flight which landed nearly 1/2 kilometer away".

Doug DuFresne writes of his recent experiences: "... Michael Girvin and Rob Greer came down and threw the friday after Thanksgiving. I did an 18.04 second **fast catch** with my split fast catch boom that was previously used for 3 rounds of 18.2 seconds. With another 'rang I had flights of 2.04 to 2.10 seconds, but it was too difficult to connect five throws in sequence. All three of us did **super catch**. I did it on my second try."

Michael Girvin writes: "... My first **super catch** was done with Rob Greer. I caught the five Doug DuFresne fast ones; and then

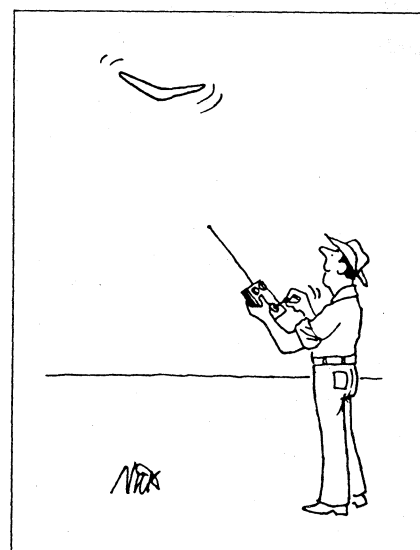
I caught the MTA under the leg. Then Rob Greer did **Super Catch** with the same Bailey-MTA and a different DuFresne-fast catch. And then I did **Super Catch** again; only all the fast catches were made under the leg and the MTA was caught with a diving one-hander. The next weekend we all went down to Doug's and did it again. Last Saturday, Lukyn Phipps, Rob Greer and I were all clocking **Fast Catch** fivers at 20 seconds and under. Lukyn got 20.1 & Rob Greer got 20.4. Not world records, but still great fun."

SUPER CATCH HONOR ROLL

Ted Bailey
Rob Croll
Doug DuFresne
John Flynn
Mike Forrester
Michael Girvin
Rob Greer
Thomas Hartmann
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Chet Snouffer
Olivier Vouktchevitch

Miss Rebecca Lees, an eleven year old girl from Schencksville, Pennsylvania, went to a crafts fair and purchased a light indoor cross stick made out of balsa wood from Peter Ruhf. She started throwing and catching the short range boomerang with her friends keeping count. At about 150 catches without a drop, Peter told her to try to beat Rob Croll's world record of 653 consecutive two handed catches. She quit at 800 without dropping and is now practicing to repeat her performance with legal range boomerangs.

Olivier Vouktchevitch writes to say that Super-catch is easy. He did it on his first three attempts using a Bailey MTA and a DuFresne Fast Catch that he picked up during the International Team Cup.



Ben's Correspondence

*from Jackie Byham
of Cabram, Victoria*

"I am still enjoying a good cough and battling with the tobacco habit. Between the smoke and the accumulated dust on the lungs from the 3/4 million boomerangs I've made, the old [66 years old] lungs are not what they are used to be. However, I still lead the field three times a week on the golf links.

There is still demand for my boomerangs but I don't make many now, and no plywood models. I concentrate on a few carved mulga killers or good natural wood returners. With the massive influx of tourists into Australia, the demand is insatiable. My nephew, Peter, Byham, who took over my business, turns out more than 1,000 a week, recently 7,000 in 12 days. I can't keep up. He secured the sole rights from the government for the 1988 Bicentennial logo boomerang at a cost of \$2,000 and has orders flooding in from far and wide.

I recently returned from a 22,000 kilometer and three month trek visiting old places from way back, plus a few new spots. I visited the Ianami desert, Hooker's Creek, Broome, Darwin, and Borraloala. There is

not much left in Australia where I haven't been. I camped out every night; it was a modern day walkabout. I stopped in about 6 Aboriginal settlements, the furthest out being Kintore, 520 kilometers west of Alice Springs, almost on the West Australia border. There were some 500 aborigines there, all Pintubi, the last group contacted some twenty years ago and now for seven years living in a settlement.

Permits to visit Aboriginal settlements are necessary now, to go on what I consider to be my own land. We have reverse Apartheid here now, in my opinion. And the permits are not readily available. I hit it off well with the Pintubi, who speak the western desert dialect with which I am familiar. Boomerangs are almost a memory now among the Aborigines, who used them extensively for hunting when I was younger. They do use them to settle squabbles or in ceremonies, but the old days of hunting with them as I saw 45 years ago, seem to be finished. The same with the spears. Not many of the young generation know how to use them. Rifles have taken over. I threw returners in most camps and mostly the desert people had never seen them and were fascinated."

*from Joe Becker
of San Francisco . . .*

"I just returned from vacation in Egypt where, in the antiquities museum in Cairo, I was astounded to find myself in the presence of King Tut's boomerangs! I had known vaguely of Egyptian 'rangs from books, but I was still thunder-struck to actually see them. When I tell my friends that I've actually seen King Tut's boomerangs, they just snicker pityingly."

*from Roger Perry
of Western Australia*

"In my part of the world, we have about 20 to 30 regular throwers out of a population of 2,000. At the last state title throw, throwers from Norseman took 13 out of a possible 18 trophies; there were 30 competitors of which 5 were Aborigines. Competitors came up from Perth, including Sam Blight. The comp was held at an Aboriginal training center.

We have about five Aborigines throwing in Norseman, all kids. One girl is looking real good. We had a consecutive two handed catching contest, and she took first spot with 38 straight on a really windy day.

Because it's in the desert, boomerang throwing conditions aren't so good here. We only get about two days a week when

it's calm enough to throw, depending on the season. November and December is the best time for us.

Recently I gave demonstrations for more than 1,500 school kids in Kalgoorie and taught the general public to throw. The real surprise was an Aboriginal girl of about 13 who could really wing them. After mastering different short range boomerangs, I handed her a 50 meter plus hook to have a go and she put it out a long way and took the catch twice in a row. It turned out that her whole family were deft throwers, with the father coming originally from the Warburton ranges. Her grandfather had been an expert with the hunting stick, being deadly accurate at 30 to 40 meters. He was also used by the police as a tracker. kalgoorie has really taken to boomerangs with more than half of my stock being sold there. I am looking forward to getting a club started there.

The one thing I've noticed about boomerangs is they're a great barrier dropper. We have "bikies", miners, doctors, and people from all walks of life throwing in Norseman. I know of no other sport that could bring all these different folk together."

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

Carlos Martini Filho of the **Bumerangue Clube do Brasil** writes to inform us that they are expending considerable effort to promote the sport of boomerang throwing in the Sao Paulo region of Brazil. The organization plans to sponsor their first boomerang tournament ever in July or August of this year. They would like to see some competitors from outside Brazil compete. If anyone is interested in attending this event, you may write to the following address for more information:

Carlos Martini Filho
Caixa Postal 13074
02398 Sao Paulo, SP
BRAZIL



CARLOS MARTINI FILHO
&
Dr. CARLOS PAGLIUCHI
[The 79 year old boomerang
Guru of Sao Paulo, Brazil]

St. Louis Boomerang Club

There is a new boomerang Club in the St. Louis, Mo. area. A large population of boomerang throwers abound in this region. Parties interested in finding out more about this group should contact Tom Fitzgerald at:

St. Louis Boomerang Club
1159 Holly River Dr.
Florissant, Mo. 63031
(314)-839-1604

BOOMERANG EXHIBITIONS

Boomerang Exhibits are becoming more popular with two shows; in the St. Louis area, and at Swainsboro, Ga.

Tom Fitzgerald, of the St. Louis club organized a show at a Hazlewood Library featuring a full spectrum of boomerangs from traditional wooden models to computer generated injection molded designs.

John Derden of the Emanuel County Junior College in Swainsboro, Ga. writes that their recent boomerang show went well. Approximately 120 pieces by four artists were displayed on 175 feet of wall space. They are seeking a Southern Arts Foundation grant to put the show on the road for a two year period. John and Neil Kalmanson also put on a show at the Augusta College on Australia Day.



The role of the Swiss Boomerang Club is of a federation for the various regional clubs, which remain autonomous. This concept has many advantages for a country like Switzerland with four mother-tongues. In their first year of organization, they have achieved a membership of 60. Their aim for 1988 is to attempt

to stretch the geographic limits of the club to include the French and Italian speaking regions.

This organization publishes a quarterly newsletter in German and solicits input from other boomerang enthusiasts from around the world. The contact for English speaking boomerangers is:

**Joy & Manfred Stahle
Mittlerer Kreis 14b
CH - 4106 Therwil
Switzerland**

The Swiss Boomerang Championships will be held on 14 & 15 August, 1988.

The latest edition of the newsletter: "Bumerang" has thirty pages of information on various topics such as: a review

of the 1987 International Team Cup, a debate on whether boomerangs should be restricted to two blades, tips on boomerang tuning, the criteria for Swiss records, and competition boomerang design summaries.

1988 GERMAN TOURNAMENTS

West Germany has a strong boomerang organization [DBC] with as many members as the USBA and the BAA combined. The following tournaments are scheduled for 1988. If you will be in Europe on the dates below, drop in for some great boomerang throwing and hospitality.

2 June - Winnender

Contact: Uli Konzelmann
IM Hummerholz 80
Leutenbach 2
Tel: 07195/660044

23/24 July - Munster

Contact: Carsten Palfner
Wieganderweg 64
4400 Munster
Tel: 02501/614825 or
02501/24367

23/25 August - Weinheim International Team Cup

Contact Uli Konzelmann (above)
or Michael Siems at:
Rosenbrunnenstrasse 4
6940 Weinheim
Tel: 06201/12385



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Making 'Rang Tricks Pay

by Ben Ruhe

Jacques Sotty, a 25 year old from Paris, has figured out a way to make real money from boomerang throwing. He performs exclusively for his own benefit. Unlike his American peers who happily throw when requested, by television crews and still photographers; and who reap nothing more than a moment of fame when their image is viewed, Sotty hires his own photographers to record his boomerang "stunts"--his word. Because he pays up front, he owns the product, which he copyrights and peddles. This strategy yielded him \$5,000 on a single photograph last year.

Sotty's "stunts"; sold to ad agencies, photo distributors, and TV networks; have included:

+ A night toss at the Berlin Wall over East Berlin, around a guard tower, and thence back to West Berlin for the catch. When the communist guards in the tower saw the sparkler being lit on the boomerang for the night photograph, they thought an attack was being readied and raised their guns. For a second throw, however, they leveled cameras. Sotty named his boomerang "Peace" and explained rather elliptically: "I

used a war tool to serve a peace mission; I did the throw to make the wall disappear."

+ A toss around a church steeple while hanging suspended from a hovering helicopter.

+ A series of throws with Australian Aborigines in the Aussie Outback.

+ A New Year's Eve heave in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris with the throw in 1984 and the catch in 1985.

+ Another New Year's throw in Paris two years later, but this time with a champagne bottle mounted on his head for the boomerang, launched in 1986 to smash off in 1987. "Tens of thousands of bottles of champagne were opened in France at that moment," says Sotty, "but mine was the only one opened by a boomerang." How'd he do it exactly? Sotty says he scored the neck of the bottle with a diamond to weaken it, then shook the bottle vigorously to agitate the gases. When the boomerang struck on the return, there was a veritable explosion of foam. "It was a really dangerous stunt", says Sotty. "The bottle might have exploded in my face." The photo, in color, earned him \$5,000 from a worldwide photo agency and a champagne company which used it in an advertisement.

Sotty says: "I like to do things with the wind, speed, and danger." Some of his other

imaginative sport promotions: successfully racing the English Channel ferry across the channel in a storm while on a windsurfing board [Sotty was eventually arrested by French marine police on a technicality], wind surfing 600 miles down the Ganges River in India while dodging floating corpses ["It smelled horribly but the photographs sold well", he says], ice surfing in Leningrad, sand surfing in the Sahara Desert, jumping off a cliff with a parafoil kite strapped to his back: a particularly dangerous enterprise.

His next "stunt"? Sotty plans a throw around the world - literally. He intends to visit the North Pole and wing a boomerang, with wrist watch strapped to it [for advertisement purposes, of course], around the pole in eight seconds.

Sotty is a shrewd businessman who travels fast. On a visit to the United States last year, he rented a luxury American car, equipped the teenage girl he brought along with him with a gold wedding band, and tapped a large message on the rear window of the vehicle that read: "Just Married". Then the two of them blasted off on their high speed travels. As Sotty guessed, they were stopped for speeding by police several times. Each time they were let off.

see photo on cover

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY

compiled by Ben Ruhe.....

"I was throwing my ultra-light at dusk and had something interesting happen. A small bat came over and flew with it for awhile." - **Diane Doig; Geneva, Illinois.**

"Sad news from Australia today: the inventor of the boomerang grenade was killed

yesterday" - **Johnny Carson on the Late Night Show.**

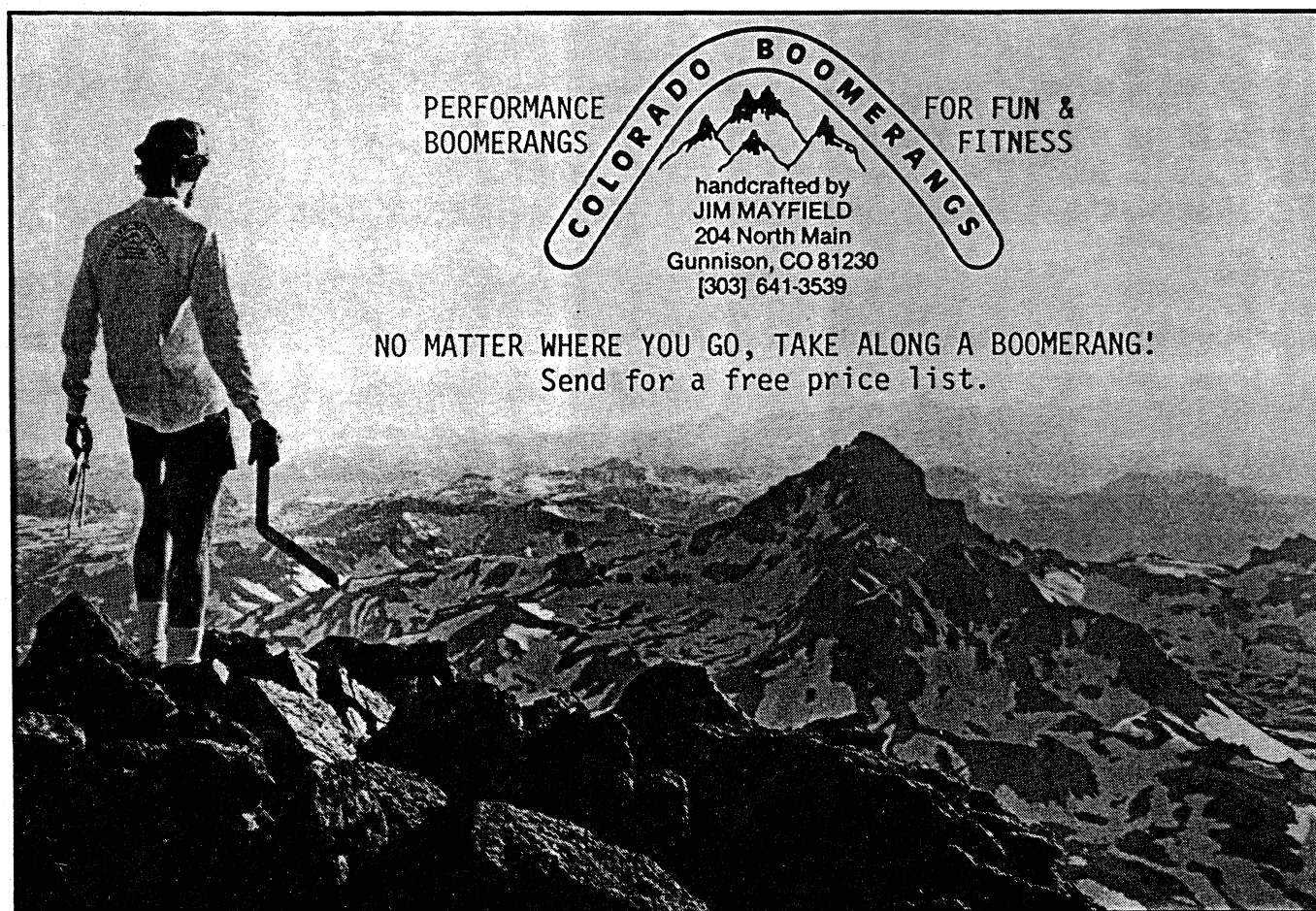
"I'm still waiting for the whirring coming closer that will tell me that my boomerang poem has come back, ready to be written" - **Gary Snyder, Nevada City, California.**

"Boomerang throwing isn't about competition. It's just about having a lot of fun." - **Doug DuFresne; Portland, Oregon.**

"I seem to have an obsessive need to make objects. Making

boomerangs is an enjoyable/whimsical alternative to my sculptural and pottery work--no more--no less! The solitary nature of boomerang making and throwing particularly appeals to me." - **Patrick McCormick, Bellingham, Washington.**

"I confess to not having any time to throw boomerangs. Between work, my sweet wife, and the latest Citroen ['70, white] my time seems quite agreeably spent." **Jan Franklin; Los Angeles, Ca.**



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The USBA's fund raising store is in full operation under the stewardship of Dennis Joyce, USBA Vice-President. Some two dozen items are available, including the following items:

USBA sew on patches, \$3.50 ppd.

A beginner's packet, made up of a USBA membership; an easy to throw Steve Glover "Rippa" boomerang from Australia [with instructions]; the book "BOOMERANG" by Ben Ruhe; USBA Competition Rules; and a selection of interesting literature. A great gift idea at only \$22.

A fascinating collection of selected boomerang patents [1890-1942] for only \$11.

Also available are other books, back issues of MHR, mylar stickers and USBA T-shirts. For more information, Write to:

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Newport News, Va. 23602

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