

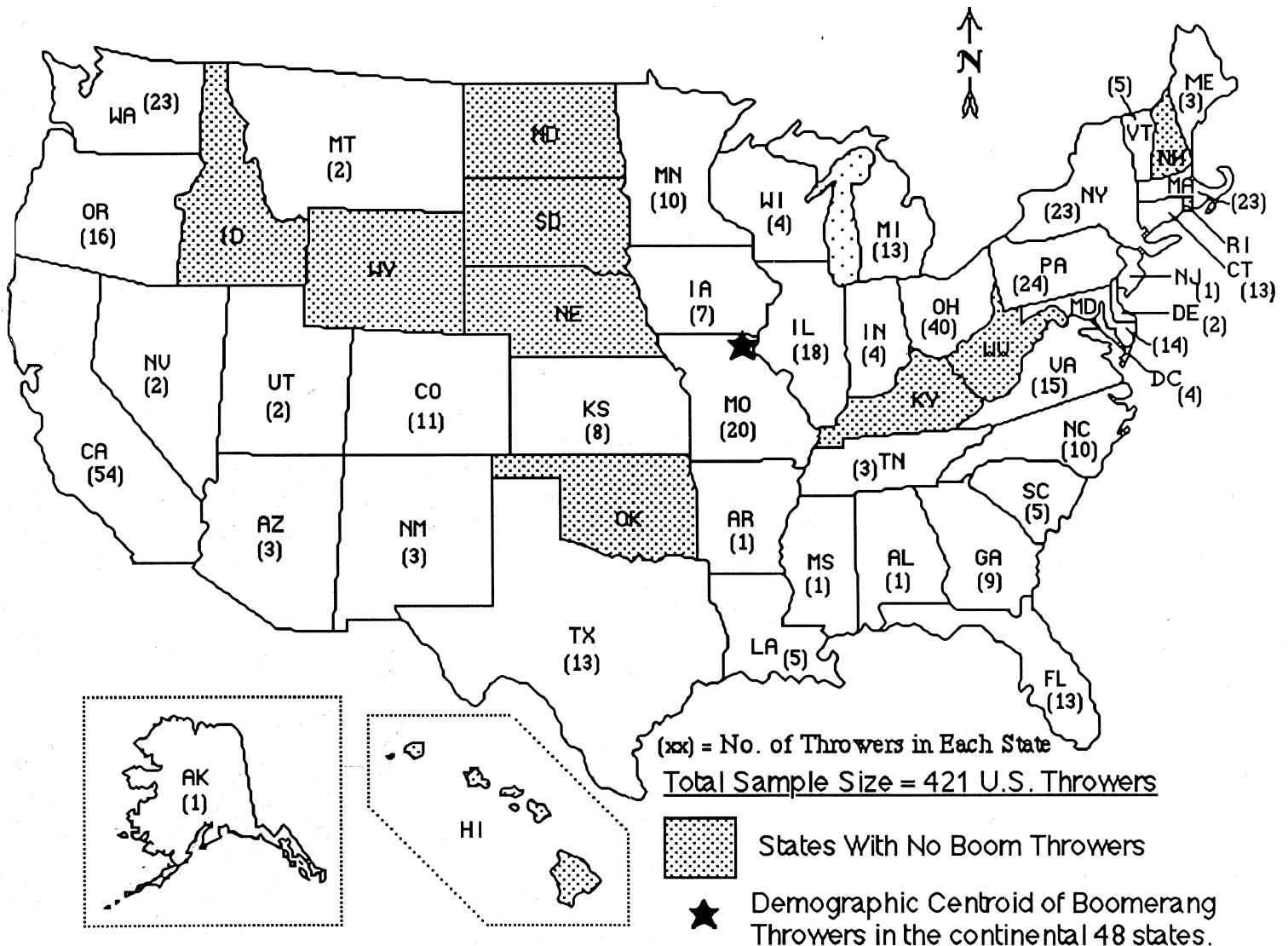
Many Happy Returns

No. 42

\$2.50

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Spring 1990



A Demographic Representation of Throwers in the USA

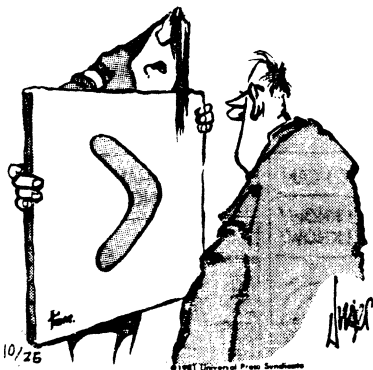
Did you ever wonder where all the throwers are in the USA? Here at last is a demographic breakdown. California leads the pack. Read all about it on page 16 inside this issue of MHR.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS ISSUE?

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HERMAN



"This is one I did on my trip to Australia."

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Roger Perry of the Karragullen Boomerang Club, based in Western Australia, has announced April 6 as the tentative date for the 1991 International Team Boomerang Cup. It will be hosted by the Perth, Australia boomerang throwers. More details will be published in future issues of this and other boomerang newsletters. Competitors: now is the time to organize your team, plan your vacation, and start saving money for the trip.

Roger also sends MHR a photograph (page 3) of the second annual Karragullen Boomerang Ball which took place last year. A Boomerang Ball is planned for 1990 as well. Contact Roger Perry at the address below for information on this large social event if you are interested in attending. Western Australian Hospitality is well worth the trip.

Roger Perry
 155 Fremantle Road
 Gosnells, Perth 6110
 West Australia
 Australia

Roger is also marketing T-shirts as depicted on the bottom of the following page. The price is \$20 (Aust) or \$18

(USA) plus \$3.50 P&H for a single shirt, or \$5.00 P&H for two or more shirts. You can order these shirts directly from Tom Fitzgerald in the USA through the address below:

Tom Fitzgerald
 1159 Holly River Dr.
 Florissant, Mo. 63031

Bob Burwell sends us the photograph of him (below) taken during a recent visit to "The Basin" region of Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park. This is where Bob had his first throw as a young child. His family left the area in 1945, before he was three years old. He doesn't remember any of it, but his older sister does. He also visited La Perouse, outside of Sydney, where he lived from 1945 until 1948. It was in La Perouse that the Burwell family was filmed for a news short in 1946. The USBA video archives has this news short in it's collection with excellent footage of young Bobby throwing a boomerang and doing a flip *a-la-Chet*.. Check with Garry Lamothe on how you can obtain the video on Overseas Boomerang Events from the video archival system. Garry's address is listed on page 23 of this issue.



Bob Burwell discovers his roots at "The Basin"

ART BOOMERANGS OF AUSTRALIA

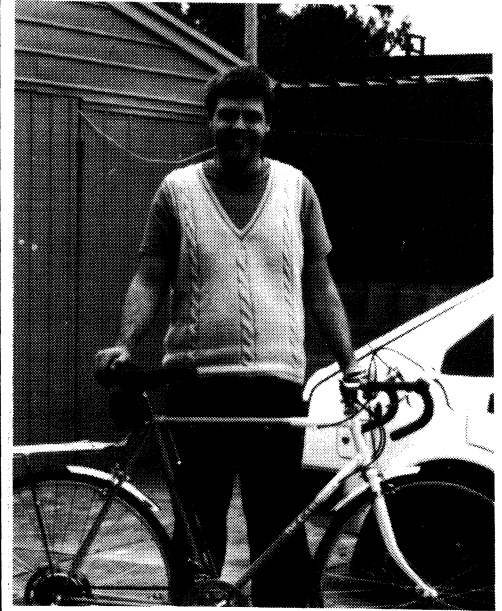
Australia has always been well known for the beautiful art boomerangs that are produced by craftsmen such as Les & Arthur Janetzki, Rod Jones, Sam Blight, Roger Perry, and others. There are lesser known craftsmen and artist that deserve recognition for their works of art.

John Gibney, Secretary of the BAA (Boomerang Association of Australia), and pictured to the middle right, sent in the photographs on page 6. His father, who sports the same name, uses Binghi traditional 14" boomerangs as an easel to which he paints Aboriginal or Australian Art. Some of his boomerang art mimics bark paintings, some focus on Australian scenery such as Ayre's Rock or the Sydney Bridge & Opera House. Other scenes depict Australian animal life.

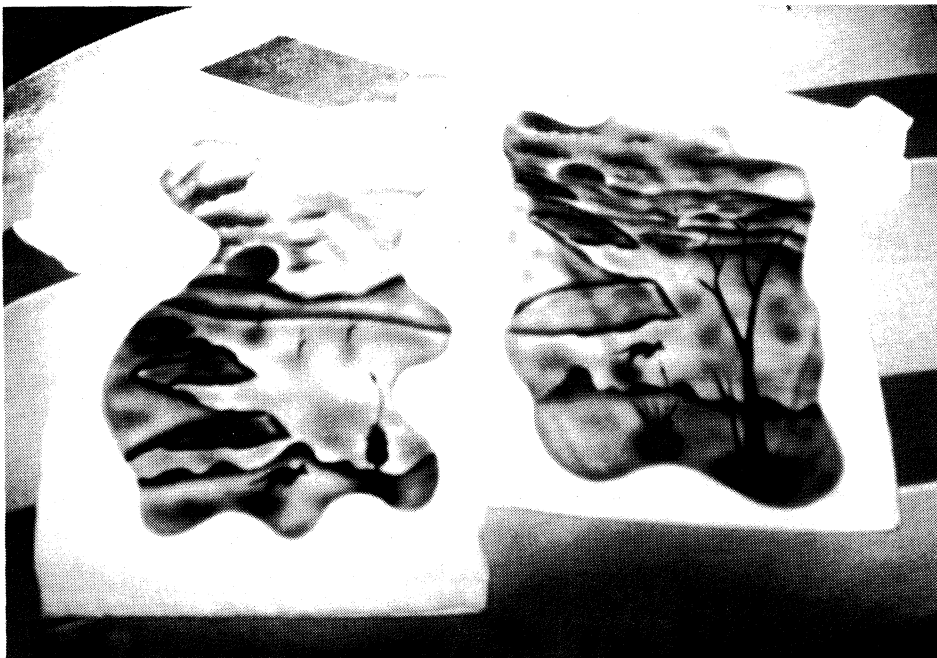
Andre Shmit is a member of the Karragullen Boomerang Club in Perth, West Australia. He is also a sleeping giant when it comes to boomerang art. Roger Perry sent in the photographs of Andre's animal boom art, also depicted on page 6. If you are interested in obtaining any of Andre's products, contact Roger Perry at the address on page 2. If you are interested in obtaining any of the Binghi/Gibney art booms, contact Ted Bailey at the address on page 17.



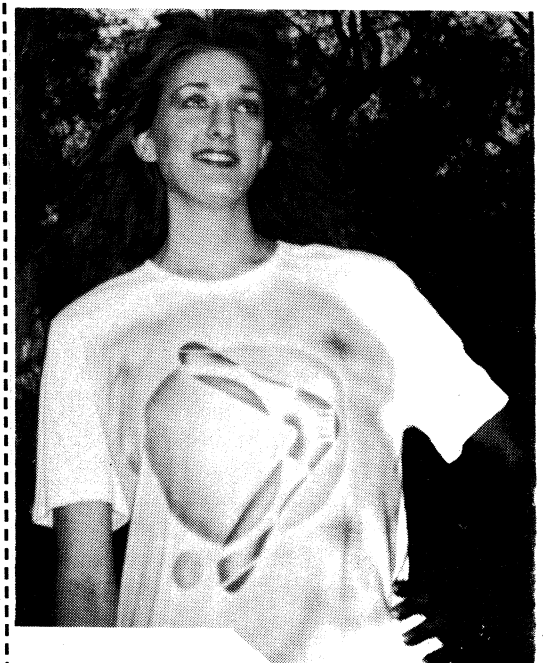
The Second Annual Karragullen Boomerang Ball



John Gibney - BAA Secretary



Boomerang/Australia T-shirts by Roger Perry



Contemporary Australian Boomerang History

A summary of the first 17 issues of the BAA Bulletin is presented as a special treat to the MHR readers. The BAA made these back issues available during the 1988 World Cup to raise funds for the competition. As one reads the historical evolution of events such as Fast Catch and Australian Round, one stands in awe of how far boomeranging has progressed since the first issue of November 1970.

Issue # 1 (November 1970) - The Society for the Promotion and Avoidance of Boomerangs was organized in England by Dr. Brenning James, who was inspired by Felix Hess' article on boomerangs in the November 1968 issue of Scientific American. Dr. James claims to have developed a fibre-glass super-boomerang with a range of 200 yards and a spin speed of 100 mph. The newsletter mentions the Smithsonian boomerang workshops, organized by Ben Ruhe, who was previously a jackaroo in NSW. Qantas provided trophies for a Smithsonian Accuracy contest. Also mentioned are no less than 4 blokes who claim to be the Australian Boomerang Champion. The Aussies were already competing in events like: Spear Throwing, Smallest & Largest Boomerang to Fly 75 ft., Accuracy, Consecutive Catch, Highest Score With Rightys Throwing Lefty Boomerangs & vice versa, Long Distance & more. Jeff Lewry won the Darlington Point World Championship that year with Bluey Williams and Bruce Kyle trailing. The main prize for the comps was a round-trip ticket for two to New Zealand.

Issue #2 (February 1971) - This issue featured a major article on the construction techniques of Lorin Hawes who circumvented the poor availability of natural elms in desired species with his spliced lap-joint method for making blanks. The BAA membership rates were \$1.00 for seniors; less for juniors. Alan Eades has formed a boomerang club in Western Australia. Peter Lewry won the Australian Open Championships, followed by Jeff Lewry and Geoff Rawson. Jeff Lewry won the distance event with 84 yards.

Issue #3 (May 1971) - The featured article was by Jeff Lewry on "The Art of

Boomerang Throwing". It was proposed that the Championships be amended to include the following scoring factors: Accuracy circles at 2.5, 5.0, 7.5, 10.0 metre radii with 8, 6, 4, 2 points respectively for scores. Catching points are awarded as 4 points within the 20 metre circle, 2 points outside the 20 metre circle. Range points of 2 and 4 are given for distances of 30 and 40 metres respectively. Thus, Australian Round existed in a form not too different from the way we do it today.

Issue #4 (August 1971) - An article on Dr. Brenning James' fibre-glass distance boomerangs was published. It referenced the January 1971 issue of Aero Modeller as a source of information on these boomerangs which span from 18" to 56". The range claim is between 200 and 300 yards with a return to within 20 yards of the throwing circle. Dr. James recommends that the thrower wear gloves on the throw and not attempt a catch under any circumstances. He wishes anyone who copies his designs to throw with the protection of a safety shield or wire mesh cage. Elsewhere, children are learning to throw a boomerang on about 260 French beaches, sponsored by the French magazine "Mickey Mouse" and several food firms. Paris industrialist: Jean Pierre Willman started manufacturing plastic boomerangs with instructions. A tournament was held with a prize of a trip to Australia. Aborigines from all over the Northern Territories flocked to Yaendumu to compete in a variety of sports including boomerang throwing of the non-return type. When asked why they do not use returning boomerangs, they always reply "because we never miss our target". White men were not allowed to compete in the Aboriginal games.

Issue #5 (November 1971) - An article was published on boomerang aerodynamics which provides excellent basics for boomerang design and throwing skills. Jeff Lewry takes the Darlington World Championships again. A new event was held, titled "Shortest Time to Take 10 Catches". The boomerang is required to travel 22 yards. The winner was Bluey Williams with a time of 4 minutes and 18 seconds. Thus, Fast Catch (in a primitive sense) is born. We all know where John Flynn will be going if time travel ever becomes a reality. The Aussies also performed an unusual ritual of contesting a Championship with Rightys throwing

Lefty booms and Leftys throwing Righty booms. Dues remain at \$1.00 a year.

Issue #6 (February 1972) - The Aussies introduce a competition for ladies. Morris Maxwell has a patented line marking machine. A strong effort was initiated to raise competition standards in order to eliminate the "carnival side show" flavor and reputation of the time. The newsletter states that no one can hold the title of "World Champion" until a "World Federation of Boomerang Clubs" exists with representatives from all clubs participating. An effort was also made to insure that records were strictly regulated. One bloke wanted confirmation of his record for "throwing a boomerang made from a standard fruit case around his Mother-in-law at low tide on a Tuesday after consuming 5 pints of an unspecified liquid containing not less than 75% alcohol". The BAA membership stands at 100 with 4 competitions that have become annual events. Accuracy rules are spelled out with circles of 1.5, 3.5, 5.5, and 7.5 metres with the bullseye worth only 8 points. New strict rules for catching, procedures for conducting tournaments, and judging are introduced.

Issue #7 (May 1972) - An all girls team has been formed in the Snowy Mountain's town of Tumut (This should interest Roger Perry!). Members range from 6 to 13 years of age. Dennis Maxwell becomes President of the BAA. Dues remain at \$1.00

Issue #8 (August 1972) - The Boomerang Association of Australia logo is born. A call goes out to name the newsletter which has until this time been published with only a title of "Quarterly Newsletter". Liability insurance coverage of \$100,000 is available to members at an annual rate of \$1. An extra (50 m) circle is added to the "General Championship" event which still does not sport the name "Australian Round". Title holders are required to exceed the 40 metre circle for qualification. John Gerrish from the USA attends the Swan Hill competitions, won that year by Bluey Williams. Gordon Rayner of Corvallis, Oregon wrote a 60 page book titled "Boomerang Engineering". A section of the book was reprinted which discussed materials used for the construction of boomerangs. These materials included Fibre-glass and Magnesium. Plans were published for a boomerang made out of Magnesium.

Issue #9 (January 1973) - The newsletter gets the name: "Boomerang Bulletin". Bunny Read wins "Consecutive Catch" and "Shortest Time for 10 Catches". The time on the later was 2 minutes & 45 seconds. Roy Johns gave a demonstration of throwing his giant boomerangs and put forth a challenge to the public, with \$500 backing, that nobody else could make and throw a larger boomerang. Carol Lewry, age 14, just missed beating her father, Jeff, out of the World Championships (in the senior division). The Janetzki Brothers do well too.

Issue #10 (May 1973) - Dues are increased to \$2 for seniors. Public Liability insurance is provided to members free. In the 1973 Australian Championships: Lorin Hawes wins "Shortest Time for Ten Catches" with 2 minutes & 19.6 seconds (Times are dropping indeed). Carol Lewry wins "Consecutive Catch" with 3 catches. Peter Lewry wins the overall Championship.

Issue #11 (August 1973) - Bob Burns was made the first honorary member for helping Bill & Eric Onus set up the first set of boomerang competition rules in 1962 and for helping to establish championship competition. The Australian Government steps in to offer funding for amateur competition, including those for handicapped throwers. Lorin Hawes elaborates on "Wind & Competitions".

Issue #12 (February 1974) - The BAA seeks a "World Council" in order to sanction "World Championships" but all inquiries lead to no serious competing body of throwers in other countries. Rhonda Moorhead, a young girl from the Snowy River Girls Club in Tumut won "Consecutive Catching" in the Darlington Point "World Championships". Rhonda Moorhead was hot as she also finished 2nd in "Shortest Time for Ten Catches". She was beaten only by Chris Waterford, who in his first competition showed great initiative by using two boomerangs, not one (The rules didn't say you couldn't do it!). Was this the birth of the Doubling or Juggling events? Jeff Lewry again retained title as World Champion, but just in front of his daughter Carol. Where are these Aussie lady competitors today?

Issue #13 (March 1975) - This was the first issue for more than a year. The "BAA Bulletin", as the newsletter is now titled, states 1974 as a tragic and disappointing year for the association. Activities were hampered by bad weather and the death of two foundation members: Bluey Williams & Bob Burns.

Issue #14 (May 1975) - At the Australian Championships in Albury, Geoff Kennedy wins "Shortest Time for Ten Catches" with the impressive time of 1 min., 38 sec (Times continue to drop). Brother Brian Thomas wins Consecutive Catch with 34 catches (catching had to be done within a 20 metre circle). John McMahon of Texas sets a World Record in Consecutive Catch with 388 catches, all within a catching circle of 10 feet in diameter. The feat took 1 hour & 50 minutes. There was no mention of range. It was stated that John McMahon had been throwing and selling boomerangs in Texas for 9 years. The BAA disallowed the record officially because the BAA requires a 3 metre circle and strict tournament adherence to range, etc. Roy Johns, who is famous for throwing his extra large boomerangs, set a target of raising \$1,000,000 for the Crippled Children's Society of Australia over the next 10 years. This issue, unusually large with 21 pages, was primarily dedicated to the "Origin & Development of Championship Competition Rules". Today, we call it "Aussie Round". Proposed 1975 amendments are: the definition of a legal boomerang (size, not shape); rules on throwing & catching; increasing maximum accuracy points from 8 to 10.

Issue #15 (Septembre 1975) - This issue mentions the Smithsonian Tournament in the USA as well as a competition in England. Morris Maxwell makes plans to go to the USA and help conduct the tournament. Duncan MacLennan proposes a USA/Australia test match. Lorin Hawes publishes "All About Boomerangs". Felix Hess publishes his 555 page Thesis on boomerangs. An essay was presented on the "Long Distance Competition". The official distance record is held by Jeff Lewry of Bowna with a throw of 82 metres in February, 1972. The Guinness Book of World Records has added Herb

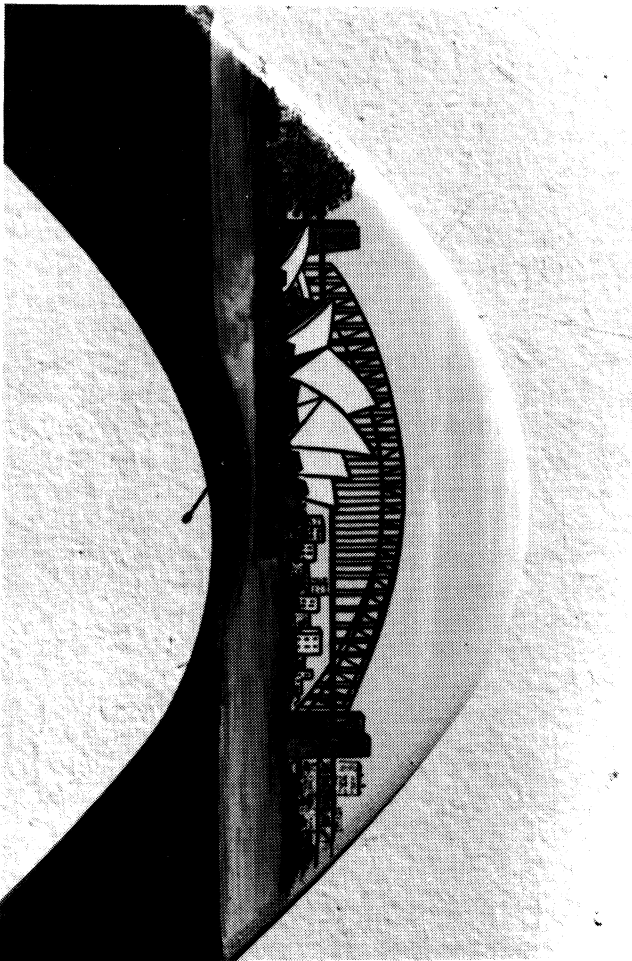
Smith to their record book for an outward throw of 99.1 metres. Notation is made that previous records claimed by Stephen Silady (102 m) and Frank Donnellan (138 m) were "out and back" distances, significantly less than Herb Smith's record. Geoff Kennedy drops out of the picture following surgery. It was proposed that sawdust be used instead of lime because it is cheaper and unlikely to wash out in rain. Five throws were proposed for the "Accuracy" event. Official registration of boomerang products was proposed.

Issue #16 (March 1976) - Membership dues are increased to \$5. This small issue focused on discussions of rules.

Issue #17 (May 1976) - Roy Johns travels to Europe with his giant boomerangs to raise money for the Crippled Children's Association. It is noted that competition has occurred in Austria over the past two years, with Erwin Greiner of Vienna publishing a magazine titled "Bumerang". Willi Urban of West Germany reports that there are about 100 German throwers. He announced the publication of a book and the manufacture of his "Come-back" sports boomerang. Max Hoeben of Holland has formed a boomerang club and the first Dutch tournament is held. Larry Hoffman reports he is alone in Japan. Ossie Wahrlich of Auckland is the Secretary of the New Zealand Boomerang Association. He convinced the Customs Department to drop a 40% duty tax from boomerang imports. He reports on giving a boomerang demonstration in a nudist colony. Otto Klipfel plans to set up a number of clubs in Switzerland. Gordon Fairbairn of the United Kingdom is making unconventionally shaped boomerangs, including triangle 'rangs. Mick Hanson has written a book on boomerangs. Peter Musgrove and students make a boomerang throwing machine. Marjorie Gerrish organizes the first N.W. coast tournament in the USA. Bunny Read throws his Giant 8' boomerangs. Bob Burwell sets a World Record in "Aussie Round" with 131 points in ten throws. Rob Croll's name appears in this issue as a junior competitor. Fast Catch as we know it with 5 catches is born. Bob Burwell does a magnificent 57 seconds in the Australian Championships.



Aboriginal Art by John Gibney Sr.



Sydney Bridge & Opera House by John Gibney Sr.



"Toucan" by Andre Shmit



New Art Boomerangs by Andre Shmit



Portrait of a Boomerang Collector: Thomas Hartmann of West Germany

Spring 1990

Many Happy Returns

MORE FAIRY TALES COME TRUE

Fridolin Frost writes to tell us that he has, in practice, cracked the 17 second Fast Catch barrier with a time of 16.91 seconds. He also sends us details about his fabulous MTA world record that was set last Summer at the European Championships in Evry, France using a boomerang with the planform outlined to the right (shown at 40% of actual size). *"The date was 10 Septembre and was located in the same field as where the 2nd International Team Cup was held a year earlier. The official time was 1 minute, 24.67 seconds. The conditions were perfect : sunny with a light breeze. It was the last of my three allocated throws for the MTA100 event and my last throw for the tournament. It was caught with a jump from the outside to the inside of the circle. An outline of the MTA I used to set the record is enclosed. Thomas Munch had a throw over 5 minutes in duration but it flew outside of the 100 metre circle."*

Volker Behrens writes to say that he performed the Super Catch last Septembre. He also lost one to the Jet Stream God at a tournament as it flew out of sight after only 2 minutes.

Breton Renaud is a lefty member of the French based Free Throwers Association and has taken a fancy to MTA. During the French Championships in Lille (May '89), he had an unlimited MTA flight of 54.9 seconds just prior to Didier Bonin's flight of 59 seconds. In the warmups at Evry, he did 1 min., 30 sec. but was unable to duplicate this achievement during the tournament.

Brother Brian Thomas from Canberra, Australia writes in to tell us of his recent MTA flight of 58 seconds. Rob Croll recently set a new Australian competition record in MTA100 with a time of (also) 58 seconds. Rob Croll's Consecutive Catch World Record of 765 catches (USA, 1989) has fallen to Stephane Marguerite who caught 801 in competition at Lyon, France on 26 Novembre 1989.

Art Markovich of Toledo, Ohio writes to tell us of several wonderful MTA flights. The longest traveled 1/2 mile with a time of several minutes.



Ulrich Roos set a World Record in F/C in 1989 with a time of 18.21 seconds using a tri-blader.

SUPER CATCH HONOR ROLL

Ted Bailey (6)
Volker Behrens
Rob Croll (7)
Eric Darnell
Doug DuFresne
John Flynn
Torsten Fredrich
Fridolin Frost (6)
Mike Forrester
Michael Girvin
Rob Greer
Thomas Hartmann
Axel Heckner
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Uli Konzelmann (8)
Jeff LaCount
Ray Laurent
Gerrit Lemkau
Roger Perry
Barnaby Ruhe
Larry Ruhf
Chet Snouffer
Olivier Vouktchevitch
Matthieu Weber (7)

{ (#): No. of fast catches if more than 5 }

BOOMS IN LITERATURE, MUSIC & ON TELEVISION

Rich Harrison, the Boomerang Man sent in an audio tape that he captured on the NPR Morning Edition of station KDAQ/KLSA. The audio tape was loaded with dialogue from several of America's top throwers and was aired a couple of days before the International Team Cup. A copy resides in the USBA archival system with Garry Lemothe.

Marvel Universe comic books, Vol.1, No. 2; February 1983 is a compilation of various super hero & villain resumes. One of the characters is named "Boomerang". Born in Australia and trained as a baseball pitcher in the USA, this guy became an assassin using his rasorangs, gasarangs,bladerangs, & screamerangs. He first appeared in Tales to Astonish issue #81.

Physics Teacher Magazine will soon be coming out with an article on boomerangs written by Michael Hanson, a visiting Boomeranging Physics Teacher from Scotland. The cover of the magazine is expected to sport color action.

Jennifer Jones is writing an article for Recreation News, a Washington, D.C. area association newsletter which promotes healthy activities for it's membership. Look for more throwers from the D.C. area in the future. The expected publication date is March 1990.

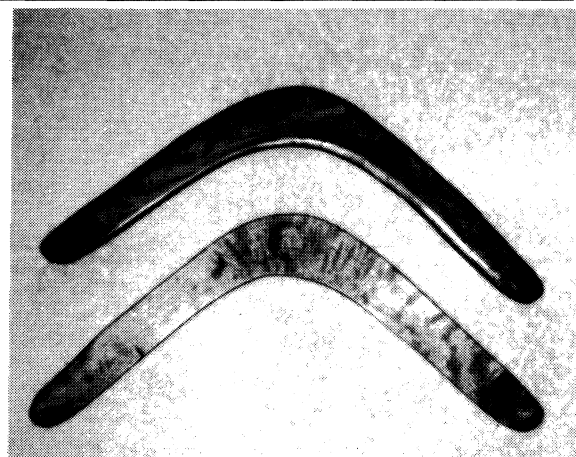


Fridolin Frost Set a World Record in MTA₁₀₀ in 1989 with a Time of 1m., 24.67s.

NEWS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Erwin P. Brojan sent in an advertisement for Philippines Airlines from the Manila Daily Bulletin newspaper. The 1/2 page ad promoting frequent flights to Australia integrated a large boomerang into the L of Australia. Erwin has become very popular because of his beautiful natural elbow boomerangs that he offers for trade or sale. Inquiries can be made to:

**Erwin P. Brojan
Guinobatan Post Office
Guinobatan, Albay 4503
Philippines**



Pictured above are the beautiful natural elbow boomerangs manufactured by Erwin P. Brojan of the Philippines. Each has a smooth glossy finish which amplifies the natural grain pattern, often with the highly figurative and curly grains of tropical hardwood species such as: *Canarium Uvatum* (Pili tree) & *Vhex Parviflora* (Amurawon tree).



Volker Behrens & Eric Darnell at the Travemunde Boomerang Cup - 1989

AFRICAN THROW STICKS

Here are some oddities from Ted Bailey's collection of primitive weaponry. These old throwing sticks are from the Zulu tribe of South Africa. The top one resembles an axe handle with a tapered air-foil. It exhibits the "beak" found on Australian Aboriginal Swan Neck Boomerangs. The middle stick has the double "S" curvature found on ancient Egyptian throw sticks. It is concave on the upper surface, convex on the lower surface, thereby exhibiting true camber. The bottom stick is very similar to an Australian Aboriginal throw stick, yet made out of African Acacia wood. All are quite old examples (100+ years); and purchased from a dealer of antique African weaponry.



Ode to an Indian Summer

by Robert X. Quinn

*The trees are bare and the leaves
have gone from green to red to brown.*

*The blustering winds of Autumn
have them dancing on the ground*

The Equinox has come and gone.

The sun is heading south.

*But the air is warm today,
Indian Summer has come about.*

There's a gentle breeze blowing.

Of summer time I reminisce.

Of throwing boomerangs for hours,

That's what I really miss.

*I run outside at lunch time,
To get in a couple of throws.
And after work, what I'm doing
Everybody knows.*

*I get to leave work early,
all I do is drive around.
I'm looking for an empty field.
There's none, that can be found.*

*There's football players and soccer players
where I want to be.*

*I have to find a field real fast
before I go crazy.*

*I finally found a vacant lot.
The weeds, flattened by the frost.
It's the only field that's empty,
I give my 'rangs a toss.*

*I've gotten in the groove now.
My sticks are flying fine.
But the sun is setting quickly,
I'm running out of time.*

*These Autumn days are way too short,
I really should have known,
To bring some light sticks with me,
Oh what night 'rangs I could have thrown.*

*Oh Indian Summer you tease me
with your warm summer air.
Darkness comes too quickly,
It doesn't seem too fair.*

*For winter time is coming,
when the days have little sun.
The wind is hard. The air is cold.
For throwing 'rangs, it's not much fun.*

*New England winters are bitter.
The boomerangs stay inside.
It's time to design some new ones,
and wait for spring to arrive.*

THE 1989 JAPANESE BOOMERANG CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1989 Japanese Boomerang Association Championship was held in Yokohama on November 23. Approximately 50 competitors competed in the standard events such as Australian Round, Fast Catch, and MTA. Masaaki Fujimoto, who placed third in MTA and ninth overall sent in the photos below illustrating the throwing field and the festivities that followed the competition.



Masaaki Fujimoto, his wife, and a friend (Mr. Gomi) display some of their competition booms.



Good Will & Cheers at the Championships

TWENTY CATCHES

Didier Bonin, president of the **Boomerang Club Dijon** sends MHR a cartoon of an advanced free style catching event, depicted to the bottom right of this page. The throwers in the Club consider free style as the most attractive form of boomeranging, and Consecutive Catch has evolved into a more complex form than that practiced in

the USA. Didier solicites a reply from any readers who also enjoy trick catching. What are the progressive levels of difficulty, etc.

The **Boomerang Club Dijon** is currently compiling a list of records from clubs with competition from around the world. If you have not received a request from Didier, and you have a potential record to add to the composite list of world records, you can write to him at the following address:

Didier Bonin
Boomerang Club Dijon
 15, rue Vannerie
 21000 Dijon
 France

phone: 80 73 10 81

1989 DIJON COMPETITION

The **Boomerang Club Dijon** is a relatively new club (since Summer 1989) situated not far from Switzerland in Eastern France. The club, with 20 throwers, held it's first tournament last Octobre 22 on the fields of the University of Dijon Campus. The Club was joined by throwers from another new club in Troyes, located to the North West. The weather was great, with the exception of 20 to 30 knot winds all day long. Philippe Picgirard from Troyes won the tournament, finishing ahead of Patrick Bollard, Didier Bonin, and Yannick Charles from the Dijon club. A summary of the top scores follow:

| Place | Name | Score |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Aussie Round | | |
| 1 | Picgirard | 70 points |
| 2 | Charles | 50 points |
| 3 | Bollard | 44 points |
| Accuracy | | |
| 1 | Picgirard | 30 points |
| 2 | Nicri | 28 points |
| 3 | Bollard | 22 points |
| Consecutive Catch | | |
| 1 | Bonin | 9 catches |
| 2 | Picgirard | 9 catches |
| 3 | Bollard | 7 catches |



TWENTY CATCHES by Didier Bonin
in the style of Olivier Vouktchevitch

2nd Annual Gateway Boomerang Classic

by Tom Fitzgerald

The second annual Gateway Boomerang Classic in St. Louis, Mo. attracted a field of 24 advanced throwers and 8 novices who had to brave wind and rain in their quest for the beautiful hand crafted plaques made and donated to the cause by SLBC artist Mike Morton.

The point leaders in the Novice Tournament, which consisted of Count-up, Accuracy, Fast Catch & Aussie Round were: (1) Alan Haag, (2) Jerry Guttman & (3) Suzanne Lentz. Congratulations to all novices and we hope to see you next year.

The advanced tournament began with 4 throwers tying for first place in Consec. Catch with 11 catches.

Doubling followed, in the rain, with Gel Girvin performing flawlessly with 12 for 12. Mark Legg and Greg Snouffer each took second place honors with eleven catches.

Gel Girvin fired off a 23.21 Fast Catch round to take the honors

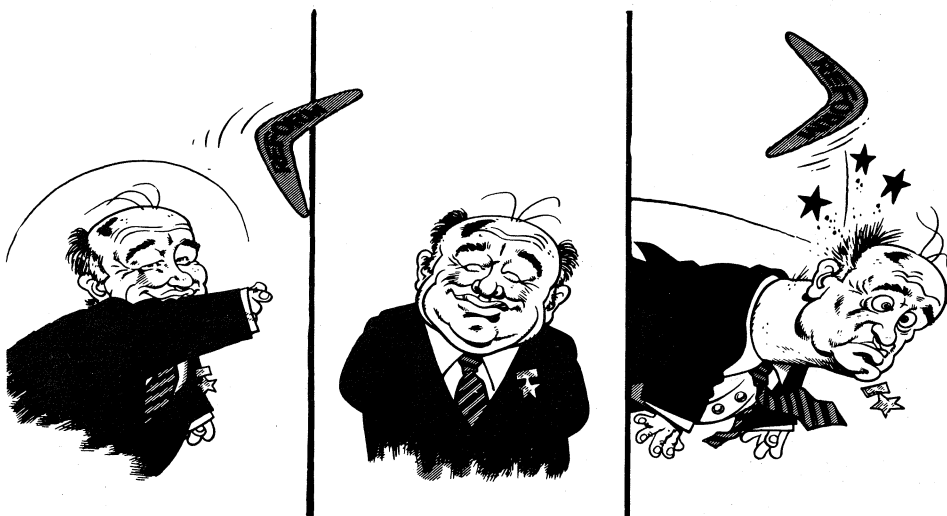
in that category. Gregg Snouffer followed in that category with 27.14, and hometown hero Chicago Bob threw a 28.68.

By the time Accuracy and Juggling came up, the already bad winds, worsened. Mike Girvin didn't seem to mind, however, as he successfully juggled 17 in a cross country race across the field! Barnaby Ruhe caught 10 for second place and Gregg took third with 8 catches. Willy Davis of Thuba and Mark Legg tied for first place in Accuracy with 32 points. Barnaby put 26 points on the board to take third prize.

Aussie Round went to Michael Girvin with an impressive total of 76. Tom Fitzgerald followed with 73, and then it was Richard Ruhe with 54 points.

MTA100 was topped with a 38.21 second flight by Gregg Snouffer. Gel popped up a 36.00 for second place. Chicago Bob lofted a 35.19 second flight for third place. Overall placings were:

- (1): Michael Girvin
- (2): Gregg Snouffer
- (3): Chicago Bob



Rob Parkins sent us this political cartoon, by Wright, of Gorbachev with his reform policies boomeranging on him. It was taken out of the January 13, 1990 issue of the Bridgeport Post, a Connecticut newspaper.

NEWS FROM BRASIL

"An Introduction to Boomerangs", by John Mauro is about to be published in Brasil. The book was translated by Prof. Leziro Marques Silva into Portuguese. A wooden boomerang will accompany the book.

The Sao Paulo State Boomerang Association conducted the first Brazilian tournament on November 15, 1989 in the town of Itu. The events contested were: Aussie Round, Accuracy, Fast Catch, Juggling & Doubling.

Professor Leziro Marques Silva is collecting data on Amazonian boomerangs & throw sticks in an effort to document these aerodynamic clubs as implements of war, hunting, and sport among the Ianomamis and Jivaros Indians. The Ianomamis are almost extinct as a race. The Sao Paulo Historical Society recently recovered historical files concerning the beginning of Portuguese colonization. Some of the documents are letters to the Portuguese Kingdom from Reverend Anchieta which document the use of throwing sticks by the Tamoios Indians which inhabited the south coast of Sao Paulo state.

The Brazilian Army Commando Corps is developing a modern version of the throw stick made of Kevlar. The device is equipped with an electronic package to blind or deactivate parabolic antennae. The battery activated device has a jamming (battery) life of about a week. The "Flying Warrior" is capable of attaching itself to the parabolic antenna surface.

In Sao Paulo, new types of plywood are being manufactured at competitive prices using Brazilian native woods. One type has alternating layers of wood and thermoplastic films. The other uses wood sheets soaked in special resins and polymerized under high temperature and heat. Leziro M. Silva uses this wood to make his famous "Bat-O-Rang" boomerangs.

Leziro Marques Silva
Rua San Sao A. Santos, 237
Ap. 143 - Ed. Costa Brava
04.571 Sao Paulo, SP
Brasil

TEAM GEL'S THIRD ANNUAL CT. BOOMTEST

By Mole Man

The Boomtest came off well, despite the fact that lots of competitors were scared off by the threat of Hurricane Hugo. Winds were gusty, and about 20 to 30 MPH, but nothing that we haven't encountered in the past. I was worried that it would rain, but when it started, it only lasted about 30 minutes. So we waited it out.

Being a veteran of many contests, I am aware of the inevitable arguments that can arise. So to deter these arguments, I came up with a solution. I call it the *PIE IN THE FACE CLAUSE*. Any person caught arguing, whether they started it or not, or were right or wrong, would be hit in the face with a whip cream pie. Needless to say, we had no arguments. The only person who got *PIE-EYED* was Garry Lamothe. While I was throwing Accuracy, Garry was spotting. Not thinking, he tried to catch a boomerang that I had thrown too low. Interference was called, so I got a rethrow and he got a pie in the face.

To get on with the competition, it started out with Consecutive Catch, which was won by myself with 10 catches. Rob Parkins and Mike Laprade tied for second with 9 catches.

The second event was Accuracy, which was won by Slim Jim Jordan with 23 points. Jeff Lacount took second with 20 points, followed by Andre Haddad with 19 points.

The third event was Juggling, which was at a point in the day when the Wind God was torturing us. The event was won by Pat LaValley with 6 Juggles. Jim Jordan had 5 Juggles for second, and I made 4 juggles to take third.

After Juggling, we threw Fast Catch in winds that were up & down. Only 5 competitors were able to make 5 catches. I had 26.74 seconds for first place. Jim Jordan had 32.50 seconds for second place, and 41.98 seconds got Allen Grindle third place.

Aussie Round was pretty close when 44 points got John Flynn first place, with Allen Grindle & Garry Lamothe close behind, tied for second with 41 pts.

During MTA₁₀₀, the weather was great and so was Garry Lamothe. He had 54.09 seconds which would have been a world record if done a week earlier. Sec-

ond was Jim Jordan with a well done 36.19 seconds, and third was John Flynn with 33.16 seconds.

Endurance didn't go so well due to winds picking up again. Jim Jordan worked hard to get a well deserved 34 catches. He was followed by Jeff LaCount with 31 catches & Garry Lamothe with 28.

By the time we had made it to Doubling, the sun had set, which made it very hard for counters as well as throwers to see the boomerangs. Just so you know, Jeff LaCount was in the lead when we took a vote to cancel. Sorry Jeff.

When the day came to an end, Jim Jordan ran away with the first place trophy

with 57.5 points overall. I took second with 51.5 points, and Allen Grindle clinched third with 47.0.

In honor of Hurricane Hugo, we presented Anne Parkins (Rob's Mom) with the Hugo Award, when a gust of wind blew a tent over and hit her in the head.

We also had a special guest competitor, who is one of my best friends and is also a good friend with SGT. Slaughter. Four year old Erik Labranche competed with all his heart and tied for 13th overall. Nice job, Erik.

Overall, everything went well, so you see you can never really predict the weather, so I hope to see lots more of you there next year. Whatever the weather.



The Third Annual Connecticut Boomtest Begins



Garry Lamothe is Penalized for Interference

BOOMERANG BILLY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

editor's note - Boomerang Billy has become an American Boomerang Folk Hero since his death in 1985. A group of throwers in Texas has resurrected an interest in John McMahon's history and his boomerangs. Ken Glover writes the following dissertation on his research. Michael Hanson follows with commentary on his contact with McMahon. Michael Hanson is a well known British Boomeranger from Scotland who is currently teaching in the USA until Summer 1990. He has authored several articles and a book on the subject of boomerangs.

by Ken Glover

Boomeranging today has become an advanced sport and hobby to many people, but it was not very long ago that boomerangs were hard to find. A few woodworkers had made 'rangs from drawings out of woodworking magazines, but most never made a circle; some never even flew. The Boomerang Man in Monroe, Louisiana, Rich Harrison, was the principal source for most people for a long time and then the various throwers became makers and sellers of these wonderful throwing sticks.

A man named **John Kenneth McMahon** from Sodus Point, New York joined the Coast Guard in August, 1956; and when he was discharged in August, 1960 he remembered some of the good times and the good weather he experienced in and around Corpus Christi and Brownsville, Texas. He moved to Port Isabel, Texas and became self-employed making and selling shark tooth necklaces and gemstone jewelry. He was a self taught shark fisherman, mostly fishing from the beach. He became interested in boomerangs very soon after 1960 and whittled several models. He developed his own skill at throwing and became very adept. One particular skill was to throw a right handed and left handed boomerang at the same time and make the dual catch.

His artistic skills spilled over onto his boomerangs and he had models named after the planets which were another of his interests. As a primitive astrologer, he became interested in hurricanes and developed a very detailed hurricane chart relating the development of the hurricanes to the position of the planets. As the need for money arose, Boomerang Billy as he was by now affectionately called by the residents of

Port Isabel and South Padre Island, would make the "plain vanilla" 'rangs and sell them at the beach after his impromptu demonstrations. The frequency of the demonstrations was in direct proportion to his need for money. Many of Billy's good friends were given some of his "planet" decorated boomerangs; but they are hard to find and even harder to dislodge from their owners.

One 'rang in particular is the a proud possession of Gloria Bates who runs Seagull Imports in Port Isabel. It is labeled "Original Mars Model", 4-ply, made on November 16th, 1982. Holder of the World Record for most consecutive throws and catches; 385, November 24th, 1982." A more impressive and larger decorated model with planets and fishes is displayed at the Fisherman's Inn in Port Isabel, where Billy spent the majority of his evenings.

Billy began having health problems in November, 1984 and was hospitalized at the Audie Murphy Memorial Hospital in January, 1985. During this time, a few of his loyal friends looked after him; but it was in vain and Billy died from Cancer on February 19th, 1985. He was buried at the Sam Houston Memorial cemetery in San Antonio.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Port Isabel and after his death, his two brothers and two sisters from New York gave all of his properties to the church. These included many of his prized possessions such as the hurricane charts and his boomerangs. There was an auction of these items by the church; but the minister could not remember there being any boomerangs. It remains a mystery as to where most of them went. My research discovered four or five of the better ones, but they are valued by the possessors just as much as they would be by a boomerang collector.


Billy was a true enthusiast of our sport without help or influence by outsiders, clubs or associations. He must be considered one of the first boomerang pioneers in this country.

by Michael Hanson

About 1970 I learned of John McMahon from Ben Ruhe. At that time I was corresponding with only a few boomerangers. There was Peter Musgrove, Howard Baker, Ben Ruhe & Lorin Hawes. I wrote to John expressing delight at making contact with another keen boomeranger. John returned the compliment and

thus began a lengthy exchange of letters, miscellany and boomerangs. All my letters and photos and boomerangs from John are back in boxes in Scotland. I have however brought with me one of his boomerangs.

I was a raw beginner in those days but John had been making and throwing his boomerangs on the beach at South Padre Island for quite some time. His consecutive catch best at the start of our correspondence was 129. Each time he bettered that, I received details of his new record - and it was a world record at that time.

I received about a dozen of John's boomerangs - big and small. The ones I recall are traditional shaped with a really wide chord, and hooks. The ply he used was normally 3 ply - two thin sheets sandwiching one thick sheet. They are about 1/4" - 5/16" thick. Airfoils were: sort of MBASC. They were varnished with painted stripes on  each arm.

Most of the ones I have, have a red sticker at the elbow with a finger pointing to a cross with the words *ONE WAY*.

In exchange, I sent him Bakwood 20" & 25", and some of my own. He sang the praises of the Bakwood 25 and so received a few. He told me of the light steady breeze that he could usually rely on and which suited his throwing style. He generally collected quite a number of tourists to watch his demos and they usually departed with one under their arm. He would stick his boomerangs in the sand for display purposes - dingle arm down; if I recall correctly from a photograph.

Ted Bailey showed me a piece of video film of John at work/play with his boomerangs - that was a delight.

I guess I would not be adverse at doing a trade of a few of John's boomerangs. Nothing doing until next August when I return home and re-open my boomerang boxes. I am sure John would not have objected.

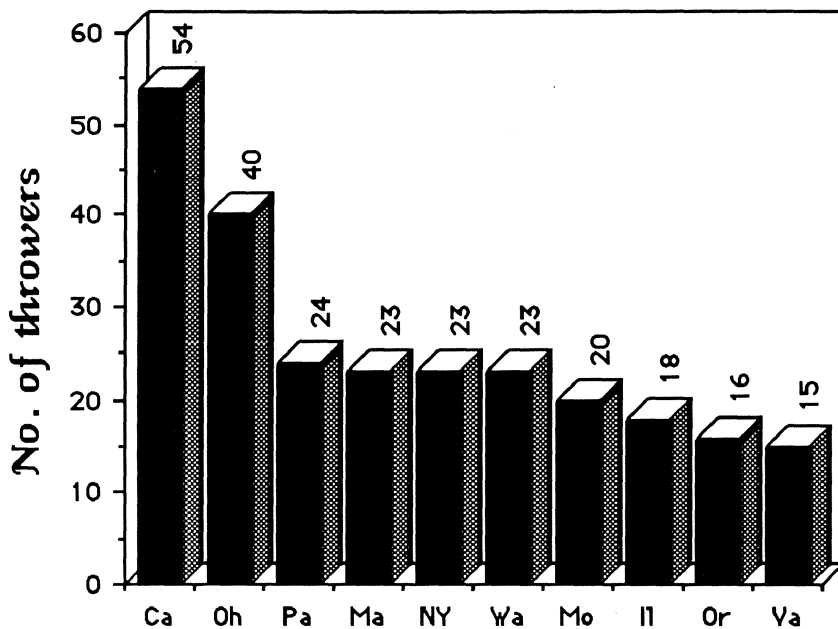
It was a sad event to hear of John's death, especially as he was one of the first boomerangers I'd made contact with and that contact proved so worthwhile and enjoyable.

Michael can be contacted by writing to:

Michael Hanson
292 East Main St.
Springville, NY 14141

Where The Throwers Are

The editor combined the USBA membership list with his personal list of boom-contacts and came out with the demographic data depicted on the cover of this issue. There were 421 throwers in the 50 states and DC. There were no throwers in 11 states. The demographic centroid of the 48 continental states & DC was computed to be in Missouri, just south of Iowa, near the Illinois border. This makes St. Louis an ideal site for the USBA Nationals. There is no excuse to not attend in 1990. St. Louis is a major airport for airlines within the USA.



The 10 Most Populous Boom-States

1990 TOURNAMENTS

2nd Annual Intercollegiate

17,18 March: UC Santa Cruz

Contact Peter "Pay" Rose at:

(408)-462-1440

or Michael Girvin at:

(312)-929-4360

So. Georgia Spring Fling

28 April: Swainsboro, Ga.

Contact John Derden at:

East Georgia College

Swainsboro, Ga. 30401

(912)-237-7207

Western Mass. Open

XX May: U. Mass Amherst

Contact Larry Ruhf at:

31 Jackson Road

Belchertown, Ma 01007

(413)-323-4340

USBA Nationals

25-27 May: St. Louis, Mo.

Contact Tom Fitzgerald at:

1159 Holly River Dr.

Florissant, Mo. 63031

(314)-839-1604

French Championships

26,27 May: Dijon, France

Contact Didier Bonin at:

15, rue Vannerie

21,000 Dijon

France

Int'l Boom Tournament

2-4 June: Amstelveen, Holland

Contact: Tony Van der Gyp at:

A. B. O. Holland

Postbus 509

1180 AM Amstelveen

Holland

2nd Annual Thuba Boom Circus

23 June: Ft. Wayne, In.

Contact: Sean Marquardt at:

5415 Old Dover Blvd #5

Fort Wayne, In. 46835

(219)-486-0503

World Distance Comps

23,24 June: Paris, France

Contact: Denis Lemaitre at:

6, rue des Etats-Generaux

78000 Versailles

France

Swiss Nationals

7,8 July: Basil, Switz,

Contact: Manfred Stahle at:

Mittlerer Kreis 14b

CH-4106 Therwil

Switzerland

New Hampshire Open

XX July: New London, NH

Contact: John Flynn at:

52 Christian St.

White River Jct., Vt. 05001

(802)-296-2158

Western Oregon Boom Roundup

21 July: Salem, Oregon

Contact Dean Kelly at:

P.O. Box 4284

Salem, Or. 97302

(503)-581-8050

11th Annual Free Thrower's

4 August: Delaware, Oh.

Contact: Chet Snouffer at:

51 Troy Rd.

Delaware, Oh. 43015

614-363-8332

Potomac Boomerang Open

25 August: Gaithersburg, Md

Contact: John Koehler at:

17121 Spates Hill Rd.

Poolesville, Md. 20837

(301)-349-5132

Summer's Final Fling

16 Sept.: Portland, Or.

Contact: Doug DuFresne at:

4235 SW Crestwood Dr.

Portland, Or 97225

503-292-4316

Intercontinental Games of Prehistoric Weapons

Oct. 6,7: Treignes, Belgium

Contact: Jacques Thomas at:

24, Rue Tronchet

69006 Lyon

France

* See page 19 for British tournaments

USBA NEWS

Attention all throwers and tournament directors!

The USBA has established the requirements that all throwers who wish to compete as experts in boomerang tournaments must be members of the USBA. Tournament directors should be prepared to accept USBA membership dues payments from would be competitors as required, and to forward the name, address, and \$10 payment for each individual to: USBA; P.O. Box 182; Delaware, Oh. 43015.

Tournament directors should be aware that the USBA does not sponsor or subsidize tournaments, including the USBA Nationals. All individuals wishing to host the USBA National Tournament should state in their bid whether or not the site requires insurance coverage, and if so, the cheapest policy obtainable evidenced by a written price quotation.

Finally, the USBA has worked hard to complete a set of rules for competition which assures that all tournaments can be fairly and safely conducted. In order for the results of your tournament to be comparable to those of other tournaments, the events must be conducted in strict compliance with the letter of the rules. This includes the pre-tournament and post-tournament duties outlined in the rule book for tournament directors. Thank you and have a great 1990 throwing season!

BetsyLew Miale,
President, USBA

At press time, the following individuals had expressed an interest in running for a position on the 1990-1991 USBA Board of Directors. Other members of the current Board of Directors are also planning to make a bid for a position. The 1989-1990 Board of Directors should be congratulated on a terrific job. Their reign was stable and constructive. Anyone wishing to run for office can be nominated at the annual meeting which will be held at the USBA Nationals in St. Louis over the Memorial Day weekend.

Recommended Slate of Nominees

President: BetsyLew Miale
Vice-President: Chet Snouffer
Treasurer: John Flynn
Secretary: Gregg Snouffer
Directors: Tom Fitzgerald
Jim Jordan
Dean Kelly

This year, there will be no fundamental changes to the USBA competition rules. Only minor procedural changes will be implemented. Competitors will be able to purchase 1989 rule books, Ppd., for \$2.50 (domestic) & \$5.00 (overseas) by sending payment to: USBA; P.O. Box 182; Delaware, Oh. 43015.

WELCOME: NEW CLUBS

At press time, MHR learned of three new European boomerang clubs. The first is Club Dijon in France (page 12). A new club has been formed in Berlin, W. Germany: **Bumerang Club Berlin**. For info, contact **Gerhard Bertling** at:

Putbusse Strasse 32
1000 Berlin 65
West Germany

The **Gent Boomerang Club**, complete with a newsletter, has been formed in Belgium. For more info contact **Patrick Mestdag** at:

Toote Fais, 19
9720 de Pimte
Belgium

NEW PRODUCTS

Michael Janke of West Germany sent MHR a catalog featuring his sharp, German quality boomerangs. You can write for your own catalog to the address below:

Michael Janke
Winterfeldtstrasse 38
D-1000 Berlin 30
West Germany

John Flynn has decided to market some of his high tech products, including a sub-3-second Fast Catch 'rang, Doublers with more than 5 seconds between catches (the insider is also good for Consecutive Catching), and a Bullseye Aussie Round boom. For a copy of his catalog, write to:

Green Mountain Boomerangs
P.O. Box 181
Hartford, Vt. 05047

MHR EDITORIAL

by **Ted Bailey**

This issue of MHR is my final issue as Art Director/Editor of MHR. I have held this position since issue #34 (Spring 1988). It has been a wonderful and fulfilling experience for me over the past 2+ years, but it is time for me to make changes in my life. **Paul Sprague** will assume the position of Art Director/Editor of MHR starting with the Summer issue. Paul has significant experience in newsletter production. He produced MHR prior to my tenure. I ask that you, the reader, give Paul all the support that you gave to me; and keep those stories, tournament results, and photos coming in to him so that MHR can enjoy the same vitality that it has had over the past several years. Paul's address is listed below:

Paul Sprague
C/O Two Ems, Inc.
786 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, Ct. 06443

A benefit that I enjoyed as editor was receiving all those newsletters from overseas boomerang clubs. If any of the readers or producers of overseas newsletters wish to exchange a subscription of their newsletter for any of my boomerang products, please call or drop me a line at the following address:

Ted Bailey
9611 Hollyleaf Circle
Cincinnati, Oh. 45241
(513)-779-8923

My future plans include the research & development of new boomerang products; the possible production of a book on boomerang technology; and the possibility of a quarterly newsletter starting in early 1991. If you would like info on my involvement with any of the above, please call or drop me a line. If you pass through Cincinnati or Dayton on the way to the USBA Nationals this Spring, please stop by, see my collection, and get your MTAs tuned. Thank you for taking the time to read this column.



© 1989 BOB THAVES—NEA

NEWS FROM JAPAN

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu writes to tell MHR that boomeranging has really taken off in Japan. He had more than 500 inquiries about boomerangs in the recent past and he is preparing a catalog of competition boomerangs for the Japanese market.

Yoshi is organizing a boomerang technical conference. Members are invited to report on the results of their scientific investigations. The first conference will have an open format so that any topic can be discussed. Yoshi is particularly interested in obtaining a scientific explanation as to why a boomerang lays down in flight. If you want to contact Yoshi for more information on Japanese boomerang activities, you can write to him at:

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu
15-5, Kudankita; 1-Chome
Chiyoda-ku; Tokyo 102
Japan

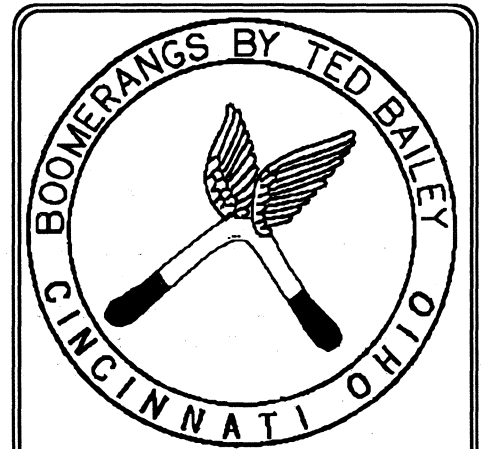


ALAMO
Rent A Car

Alamo Rent A Car has extended USBA an Association Membership Program so that USBA members can obtain discount rates on automobile rentals whenever they travel. If you are a member and do not have a card, send a SASE with a request for one to:

USBA
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Twenty four hour (minimum) advanced reservations are required for membership rentals. You can reserve a car without a card by calling 1-800-732-3232 and providing them with the request plan identification: **BY 209311**. Have your credit card number available.



Ted Bailey
9611 Hollyleaf Circle
Cincinnati, Oh. 45241

Write today for a price listing of competition and collectible boomerang. My specialty is MTA & miniature boomerangs. I also carry several models made by other craftsmen as well as boomerang paraphenalia.

DAN

RUSSELL

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

Write and inquire about Dan's source of 5mm 10-ply Finish Birch and Cyalume capsules.

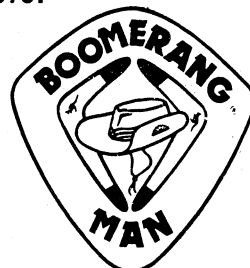
World's Best 'Rangs

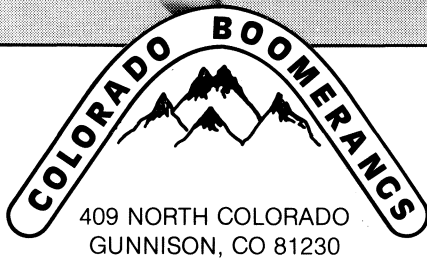
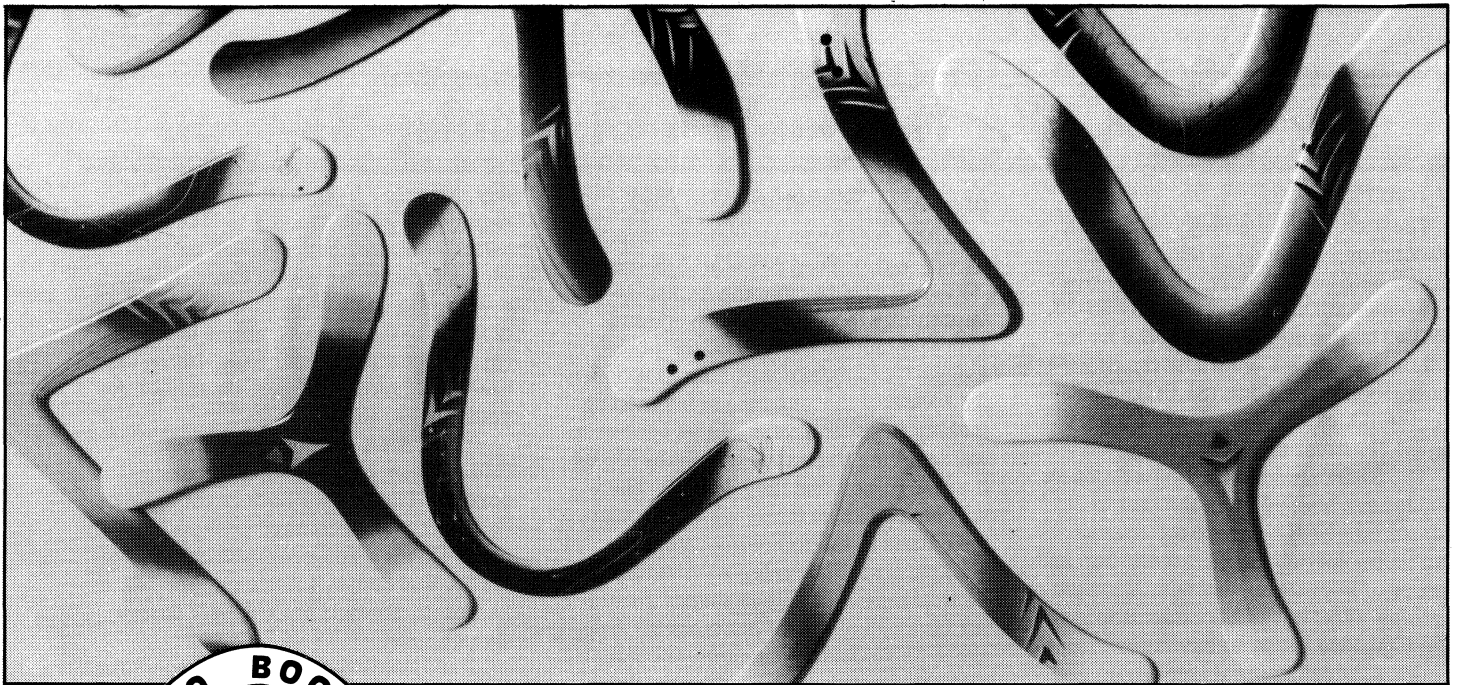
by Volker Behrens, Gerhard Bertling, etc
Ben Ruhe
1882 Columbia Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202)-234-9208

FREE CATALOG! 1989 II
THE BOOMERANG MAN
RICH HARRISON'S ANNUAL CATALOG

"Giving fast, personal service since 1975!"

<< **THE BOOMERANG MAN** >>
1806 North 3rd Street
Rm #R
Monroe, Louisiana 71201
(318)-325-8157





For a limited time to all USBA members Colorado Boomerangs is offering FREE indoor & outdoor boomerangs with every order. Send for details & free color brochure. 10 models available, all handcrafted, flight tested & beautifully painted.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING !!!

The British have been a quiet group of throwers over the past several years. Not since the days of Dave Schummy & Herb Smith have the British made a significant international impact. That is until now! In the recently published Fall 1989 edition of the BBS (British Boomerang Society) Bulletin, Secretary John Jordan (who was responsible for keeping the organization alive over the past several years) fired off a rousing editorial to stimulate British involvement in the international arena. Look for a strong showing by the British this summer in the European theater. The British have their own technology base, deeply rooted in innovative designers such as John Jordan, Michael Hanson, Herb Smith, Gordon Shuttleworth & Tony Slater. The BBS are planning on several events in 1990 including a major International Event sandwiched-in-between the French World Distance Comps and the Swiss Nationals. Here is a great opportunity to plan a vacation and compete in three different countries over three consecutive weekends. For more information on British events, contact:

British Boomerang Festival 30 June - 1 July: Sundorne Playing Fields in Shrewsbury

Contact Tony Slater at:
128 Meadow Farm Drive
Harlescott, Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY1 4JY
England
0743 235068

or

Contact: John Jordan at:
9 Bowood Drive; Tettenhall
Wolverhampton
West Midlands WV6 9AW
England
0902 742288

Horniman Museum Workshops
7 April/8 April (Comps)
20 Oct./21 Oct. (Comps)
Contact Elizabeth Goodhew at:
Horniman Museum; London Rd.
London SE23 2PQ
England
01-699-1872

John Wray contacted MHR about a large boomerang exhibit that will travel around selected British Museums over the next two years. The first exhibit will be held at the Horniman Museum from Oct. 1990 - Jan. 1991. The exhibit will follow to: Bedford Museum; Harlow Museum; Maidstone Museum; Chichester Museum; Gosport Museum; and Saffron Walden Museum. John Wray, Peter Harding and Elizabeth Goodhew have been the organizers for the exciting event.

Technology will include boomerangs and throw sticks from various cultures. Modern Boomerangs will be represented with cardboard, metal, plastic, and wood boomerangs of various shapes and technologies from around the world. There will be several cases and panels exhibiting the boomerangs and related paraphernalia, instructions, hands-on-scientific interactive devices, and almost anything else related to boomeranging that one can think of. Our own Ben Ruhe has a consulting role in the exhibit. For more information on this exhibit, contact Elizabeth Goodhew at the address to the left.

The 1990 USBA Nationals - St. Louis, Missouri

by Tom Fitzgerald

The 1990 United States Boomerang Association National Championships will be held in St. Louis, Missouri over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, 1990. The Event is co-sponsored by the St. Louis Science Center and the St. Louis Boomerang Club (SLBC). The event will kick off the Science Center's annual "Festival of Flight".

The SLBC and the St. Louis Science Center have teamed up in the past to sponsor two USBA sanctioned tournament, a boomerang making workshop and a series of boomerang throwing demonstrations. We, of the St. Louis Boomerang Club, are happy to have the support of such a valued cultural institution; and we are committed to making the 1990 USBA Nationals an event that both the Science Center and the USBA can look back on with pride. The Nationals will consist of four distinct parts: the USBA Championship Tournament; a Boomerang Design Contest; the USBA Auction; and the USBA Business Meeting.

The Championship Tournament will be held in Forest Park on the ball fields just west of the Mounted Police Stables. The competition will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27.

The events to be contested will be Accuracy, Aussie Round, Countup Catching, Fast Catch, Endurance, MTA 100, Doubling and Juggling. The order of events will be posted on Friday, May 25. Demonstrations and Team Events will be held after the scheduled events have been completed each day, as time permits.

The fee to compete in the tournament is \$25 with pre-registration, or \$35 on the day of the tournament. You must be a USBA member in good standing in order to compete. If you are not currently a member, you can join at the registration table at the tournament site. A one year membership is \$10 and includes 4 issues of Many Happy Returns.

Mike Morton has designed a logo specifically to commemorate the 1990 USBA Nationals. The logo will be printed on a 100% cotton t-shirt and will be available at a cost of \$12. Orders for t-shirts will be placed on or about May 1. We will order only L and XL sizes unless we have advanced orders for M or S. If you cannot attend, but would like to purchase a shirt, please include \$2 for (domestic) shipping.

AEETHETICS/DESIGN CONTEST

There will be an aesthetics competition as part of the 1990 USBA Nationals.

This will give boomerang craftsmen an opportunity to display their work and gain recognition for their accomplishments. This contest will help to broaden the appeal of the audience of boomerang-making in general, and will be a move towards giving the artists within the USBA the recognition that they deserve. There will be a panel of three, who will judge the entries in the following categories:

Design: This category includes boomerangs with unique shapes, including conceptual sets of boomerangs that are to be viewed as one or more configurations.

Decoration: Used to evaluate boomerangs in terms of interest or emotional and/or psychological impact of their design in any media. Such a boomerang can receive a high rating if it makes a strong artistic statement even if it is *ugly*. Textured or engraved 'rangs can also be considered.

Craftsmanship: This category recognizes fine craftsmanship in boomerang construction in any material. This may include such techniques as inlaying, joinery or finishing.

Technology: This recognizes boomerangs that have been made with unique materials or processes, or which have utilized technological innovations in their conception. These include natural elbows, airfoil experimentation, spoilers, inventions, etc.

Obviously, many boomerangs exhibit qualities of more than one of the above categories. These guidelines are not inflexible rules. There are many variables in the categories and the judges expertise and discretion are always the rule.

There will be a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place awards given in each category. There is no entry fee for this event. If you cannot attend, but wish to place an entry, mail your 'rang to Tom Fitzgerald along with enough postage to get it back to you. However, you are strongly encouraged to donate design contest entries to the USBA auction to raise money for the USBA and provide others with an option to acquire your best works. This is an excellent way to determine your product's value.

The contest will take place prior to the USBA Auction on the evening of Fri-

day, May 25. You must be a USBA member in good standing to take an award in the aesthetics/design contest. Please indicate with each entry: 1) which category(s) you would like to be judged; (2) your name, address, phone number; (3) dialogue about your 'rang - materials used, technology utilized, inspiration for your design, etc.

The USBA auction will be held on Friday, May 25, following the design contest. The site for both is yet to be determined. We encourage your participation. This is a source of revenue for the USBA that comes but once a year. Be a part of it! Support the USBA!! Donate something!!!

Rev. Jim is coordination the auction this year and he is working hard to make it a success. If you cannot attend, mail donations to:

Rev. Jim Schramm
670 Geoffrey, Apt. B
University City, Mo. 63132
(314)-993-9215

Please attach a sheet of paper to your donation with the following information:

- * name, address, phone number
- * description of your donation
- * retail value of your donation
- * noteworthy info about your product
- * please sign/date boomerang donations

Your donations are not limited to boomerangs. Anything and everything will be appreciated: boom t-shirts, books, etc. If you think someone will buy it, send it!

The USBA Annual Business Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 26. It is recommended that all USBA members attend to discuss & vote on important issues. Please read the USBA News Column on page 17 for an important message from USBA President, Betsylew Miale. It is at this meeting that the future direction of USBA will be determined. Topics include: USBA competition rules & regulations, special problems, planning of future events; international team selection; newsletter production; bylaw revisions; etc. Please contact USBA President, Betsylew Miale at her address (page 23) if you have any important business that you think should be discussed. If you think your skills could help out USBA, consider running for the USBA Board of Directors.

WHERE TO STAY ?

The following reasonably priced motels are close to the tournament site. Each has set aside a block of rooms for our group on the nights of May 24 - 27. To reserve a room at our special rate, be sure to let them know that you are with the USBA. Each motel has tentatively reserved approximately 30 rooms. All are within a 5 minute drive of the field. Reservations must be made before May 10 or rooms will be released to the general public.

Red Roof Inn

I-44 & Hampton Ave.
(314)-645-0101

Rates: \$37.95 to \$50.95 + tax
(depending on number of adults, children under 18, free)

Howard Johnson

I-44 & Hampton Ave.
(314)-645-0700

Rates: \$40/1 bed ; \$45/2 beds

1st Western Inn

3420 Lindell (at Grand)
(314)-371-6700

Rates: \$29/1 bed ; \$34/2 beds
(\$5 deposit for each key)

For non-throwing spouses, friends & children who do not relish the idea of sitting around the boomerang field for 2 days, there is a lot to do in Forest Park. The St. Louis Science Center is a short walk from the tournament site. The St. Louis Zoo is a short drive away, as are the St. Louis Art Museum and the Missouri Historical Society Museum. All of these wonderful attractions are free!

The St. Louis Cardinals will be in town to face the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday, Saturday & Sunday at Busch Stadium. The St. Louis Arena is a stone's throw away from the field, and will host the "Gypsy Caravan", billed as the world's largest garage sale. For further information about what's happening in St. Louis over the Memorial Day weekend, write to the Regional Commerce and Growth Association: 10 S. Broadway; St. Louis, Mo. 63102 or call (314)-421-1023.

NOTICE TO RETAILERS

Tables under a tent will be provided for sales. Ten percent of gross sales will go to the tournament to cover expenses and as a sales opportunity fee. Please price your goods accordingly. There will be no sales allowed until after the Design Contest and USBA Action activities are completed.

Please reproduce this sheet, complete the requested information, add pre-registration payment, and mail to Tom Fitzgerald before May 1.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I will compete in the Tournament _____ Yes _____ No

I will enter the Design Contest _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how many entries will you have? _____

How many people will be in your party? _____

If you would like to purchase t-shirt(s), please indicate sizes and quantities desired. Shirts are \$12 apiece. Please include \$2/ shirt (domestic) if you would like it mailed to you.

_____ XL _____ L _____ M _____ S

Note: Only a limited number of L and XL shirts will be available at the tournament. Guaranteed orders for all sizes must be in by May 1.

The entry fee for the tournament is \$25 if you pre-register & pre-pay. The fee is \$35 for any registration after May 24.

Make all checks payable to:

St. Louis Boomerang Club
1159 Holly River Drive
Florissant, Mo. 63031

For more information, call Tom Fitzgerald at (314)-839-1604.
Have Fun!! Pre-register!! Have Fun!! Pre-register!! Have Fun!!

Note: a limited number of (standard) St. Louis Boomerang Club T-shirts in Red, Blue & Green; and in sizes XL, L, & M are also available at the low price of \$10 + \$2 S&H. Sweat-shirts in Black or Red; and in XL size are available for \$18 + \$2 S&H. Wait!! If you are a USBA member, you may order a St. Louis Boomerang Club T-shirts postage free (domestic only). Come to the USBA Nationals dressed as a native by purchasing one of these T-shirts with your pre-registration and/or USBA Nationals T-shirt order at the address listed above. Support Boomeranging and add to your collection.

ABORIGINAL BOOMERANGS

Many of the readers have boomerangs that they cherish as collectables. These are usually contemporary beauties such as Janetzki or Gerhards boomerangs. Many collectors aren't aware that museum quality old Aboriginal boomerangs can be picked up in antique shops or at gun shows at prices between \$50 & \$200. If this isn't too rich for your blood, this page can be your guide on what to look for. The most common kind of boomerangs are non-returning throw sticks (third down of lower right photo). Returnable boomerangs, such as those illustrated to the upper right, are not as common, especially in the miniature size. The least common of all are the axe headed "Lil-lil" (top) and swan-necked "Beak" (middle) boomerangs illustrated to the lower right. Ted Bailey, who is always on the look out for such treasures, offers the following advice: *Desirable characteristics include wood darkened from age, incised art, unusual shape or size, and manufacturing with crude primitive tools.* Throw sticks from other cultures, such as the African throw-sticks shown on page 10, are occasionally available



MORE NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

Brother Brian M. Thomas of Canberra writes to tell us about his recent boomerang activities. He attended the Barooga championships on January 27 (there were 33 others competitors). The tournament ran from 5:30 PM until 1:15 AM with throwing under lights. He came in second in Fast Catch, using a Torsten Grundel F/C boom, with a time of 29.3 seconds. First place was Robby Croll with 21.7 seconds. Robby also took Aussie Round and Overall points. CCWID was won by Brian Kemp with 11 catches, including Brian's first foot catch ever. During the Christmas holidays, Brother Brian Thomas worked in Camp Quality, a special camp for children with Cancer. During the camp activities, Brother Brian managed to throw and catch a boomerang from inside the basket of a hot air balloon tethered 30 metres above the ground. Two days later (Jan. 21), Brother Brian went MTA throwing with Steve Drummond at Yarralumla Park. He managed to make the longest MTAC ever, in the ACT, with a time of 1 minute, 32.96 seconds.

Brother Brian also sent in the photo to the right of Arthur Janetzki who will celebrate his 86th birthday on May 6, 1990.



USBA INFORMATION PAGE

Many Happy Returns

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| | |
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| Full Page | \$200 |
| 2 Columns | \$150 |
| 1/2 Page | \$115 |
| 1 Column | \$80 |
| Per Column 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. Mail all advertisements to:

Paul Sprague
C/O Two Ems, Inc.
786 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, Ct. 06443

The deadline for advertising is March 1 for the Spring issue; June 1 for the Summer issue; September 1 for the Fall issue; and December 1 for the Winter issue. Early ads with payment will receive the best placement.

USBA INFORMATION

The USBA provides services other than this newsletter. Various information listings can be obtained through the USBA headquarters. These include information on wood/materials for making booms; domestic and international clubs; manufacturers and distributors of boomerangs; rules, regulations, and bylaws. A sample of catalogs by various distributors can be obtained by mailing \$2 to USBA headquarters. Domestic members are entitled to receive these listings simply by sending a SASE to USBA headquarters (Overseas members - please send \$1 for each listing required).

USBA
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015

USBA VIDEO ARCHIVES

Collecting . . Editing . . Sales

Garry Lamothe
18 St. James Ave.
Easthampton, Ma. 01027

Write for a price listing of selected titles including: historical tournament reviews, domestic & overseas shows; scientific and ethnographic materials; etc.

NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

This newsletter was produced by **Ted Bailey**. The next issue will be produced by **Paul Sprague**. Please read the **MHR Editorial** on page 17 for more information on the procedural changes associated with the transfer of newsletter production responsibilities.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in \$USAS\$.

Make checks payable to: U.S.B.A. Domestic and Canadian memberships are \$10 per year or \$150 for life. Overseas dues are \$20 per year or \$250 for life. Check your newsletter expiration season/year which is printed on your mailing label. Mail all checks or money orders to the address below:

U. S. Boomerang Assoc.
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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U.S.A.**

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USBA TOURNAMENT HOTLINE:

(619)-298-4283



**Please note that your last issue of the USBA
newsletter is printed on the mailing label.**