

Many Happy Returns

Issue Number 56 An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Fall 1993

A JUBILANT CROWD AFTER JOHN GORSKI'S



INCREDIBLE 17+ MINUTE THROW AND CATCH

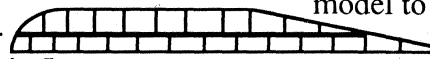


★ S/L Boom Auction ★

John Cryderman has donated a trio of offset laminated boomerangs for auction to help raise money for the 1994 World Cup in Japan.

The trio consists of replicas of Al Gerhards' Standard Hook, White Lightning, and Big "U". Offset laminated boomerangs have two blanks are horizontally lapped together to produce a stiff and stronger mid-section epoxy glue line, as depicted above. Photo-

graphs are depicted below. Send a low, middle, and high bid for each



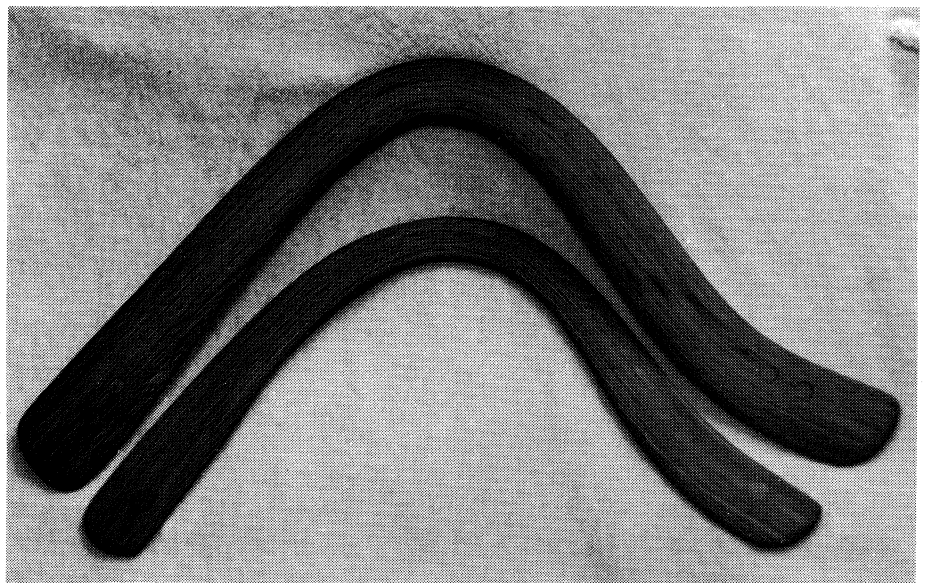
model to Ted Bailey at the address below before 1 November 1993.

For each model, the lowest bid that exceeds anyone else's highest bid, will win the boomerang bidding. Good Luck!!

Ted Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

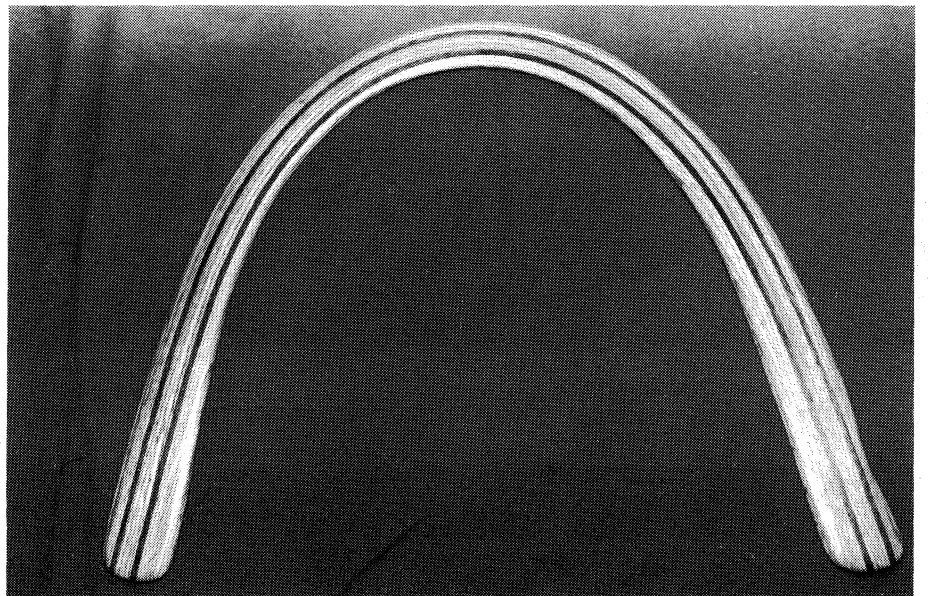
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Where Are They !!!

Address corrections are needed for two USBA members with undeliverable addresses. If any member knows the address or phone number of **Greg Campbell** or **Carol Leigh**, please contact *Gregg Snouffer* at the USBA address immediately. Greg Campbell is from the Washington, D.C. area. Carol Leigh is a life member with her last known address in San Diego, California.



The USBA Store

The USBA Store is open for business! Where else can you find a broad selection of boomerang books and paraphernalia.

I'm always looking for new items that will be of interest to our members. Send me your suggestions for what you'd like to see here. I've already received some suggestions and am looking into them now.

All proceeds from sales will go directly toward store operating expenses and the support of the USBA as a whole. This makes buying stuff from the store of double benefit to you! You not only get top quality merchandise at outstanding prices, but you also support the USBA!

All checks and money orders should be made out to **Dean A. Kelly**. Make sure to clearly state the items wanted for each order.

For a complete list of what is currently available in stock, send a SASE (USA) or \$1 (overseas) to:

**The USBA Store
C/O Dean A. Kelly
3350 Neef Ave. SE
Salem, Or. 97302**

Questions? Call: (503)-581-8050

All prices are in \$USA\$ and include Shipping and Handling to the USA or Canada. Overseas orders must include \$2 extra for surface or \$4 extra for Airmail per item. Back issue newsletters are \$1 additional for surface mail and \$2 extra for Airmail.

USBA Store Stock Availability - Prices Each Item:

\$3.50	USBA Embroidered Patches
\$1.50	USBA Mylar Decals
\$6.00	"Boomerang": a book by Ben Ruhe
\$8.00	"The Big Book About Boomerangs": a book by H. L. Mayhew*
\$4.00	"The Boomerang": an early pamphlet by B. Ruhe/L. Hawes
\$20.00	Huerer Swiss Digital Stopwatch**
\$15.00	USBA T-shirts available in sizes: M, L, XL color: gray
\$12.00	USBA '93 Open T-shirts available in size L only color: gray
\$2.50	Back Issues of MHR: # 21-W85; #23-Sm86; #26-Sp86; #27-Sm86; #28-F86; #29-W87; #31-Sm87; #32-F87; #33-W88

* First edition and signed by the author.

** high quality Swiss made. A \$50 value. Only 4 in stock.

Orders of \$15 or more are eligible for a free issue of MHR. Please indicate your first and second choices.

USBA T-Shirt Design Contest Winner!

Thanks to all of you who submitted designs for the USBA T-Shirt contest! I received a number of good designs, but one of them just stood out from the time the envelope was opened. Congratulations to Tony (Antoine) Brazelton of Illinois. As an award, Tony received one of the T-Shirts and a throw-stick crafted from Sweet Gum wood by Dean Kelly. These shirts were a hot item at the USBA Open. The full circle returning boomerang in the design (see back cover) is printed with bright fluorescent colors. This shirt is graphically pleasing and a real standout! USBA T-shirts may be ordered from USBA for \$15. See above for more details.

Flash! USBA Store to Stock Boomerangs!

As a service to the USBA membership, the USBA Store will begin stocking and selling boomerangs. By the time this issue of MHR reaches you, I will have worked out the details on this venture and will be able to put together a catalog of available boomerangs. Stock is expected to change frequently but you will always be able to find out what is available by sending me a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Along with the list of available boomerangs, you will receive a list of all that the store has to offer. Boomerang manufacturers are encouraged to contact the USBA Store if they are interested in having the store carry their boomerang products.

MHR Survey Results

In the last issue of MHR, the editor solicited the readers to mail in commentary on the three articles that were liked the most, and to mention the single article that was liked the least. Only about a dozen readers responded to the survey and their response sets the course for future issues of MHR.

The figure below summarizes the results of the survey. Points were assigned as follows: "3" for the best liked article; "2" for the second best article; "1" for the third best article. No points were assigned for articles mentioned after the first three articles. A negative "-1" was assigned to the article liked least.

Overall, tournament results was given the least favorable rating. Most readers commented that there was too much coverage in each issue and "who beat who" was too repetitive. Readers did want a brief summary of real highlights such as: new records; etc. Some readers wanted coverage on the technology used to win. There

were several favorable comments on the coverage of equipment used by the best throwers as published in the "1993 Tournament Season" column in MHR #54 and #55.

One reader mentioned that he didn't particularly like the Mickey Mouse cartoon. Others said they were opposed to cartoons that illustrated boomerangs causing injury to people. The editor feels that it is important to report on how society views boomerangs, including their use in cartoons, good or bad.

The "Bits & Pieces" column received the most favorable rating of all. This is fortunate because this column is the vector for general news and reader dialogue. Without this, MHR couldn't be considered to be a true newsletter.

One person did not like the Mark Twain article, but most liked it and wanted to see additional historical essays.

The Whistler Boomerang article by **Ed Russell** also received a high rating. Only one person liked this article the least. Most readers said they favored articles on how to make and throw boomerangs. Many wanted to see

boomerang plans, throwing techniques and manufacturing tips that new throwers could use to make boomerang products. There were several favorable comments on the article written by **John Flynn** (MHR #54) on repairing MTAs.

The "Chatham Wood Show", "Determining Wind Direction" and "1993 Boomerang Season" all received moderately favorable ratings. No one disliked any of the three. Two readers commented that the regular "1993 Boomerang Season" column was a valuable reference because of the listed events and the brief summary of tournament highlights.

About half of the responses said the material was too focused on the seasoned competitor and that more material should be included for the amateur thrower.

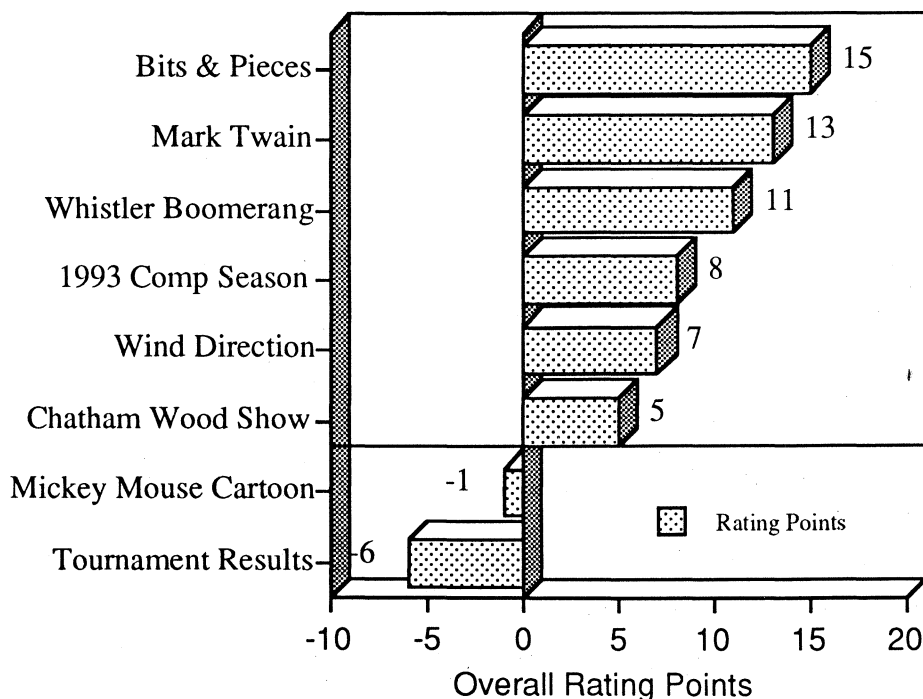
Two readers wanted more advertisements, but this is beyond the control of the editor. A hot item for the USBA Board for the following term is a membership drive. With more new members, there will be more advertisements.

Three readers wanted MHR to become more like the now defunct "Boomerang Journal" publication.

Some readers wanted to see more boomerang plans. This can only happen if other readers submit boomerang plans for future publication.

The results of the MHR survey were reviewed by the USBA Board of Directors in July. Changes were made that will impact the production of MHR for the next four issues. A summary of these changes is discussed on the following page. It is the intent of the MHR production staff and the USBA Board of Directors to improve the quality of this publication. Readers are encouraged to continually provide feedback to the editorial staff and to submit quality material for possible inclusion in future issues. This is your publication. With your help, we can make it a top rated source of fun and useful information.

MHR Reader Survey Results



MHR Editorial Changes

Changes are underway to improve the quality of future issues of MHR. In July, a proposal for these changes were sent to the USBA Board of Directors. After membership discussions at the USBA Nationals, the proposal was approved and a description of the changes is outlined below.

There will now be three MHR editors. **Jay Emerson** is the new *MHR (Chief) Editor*. **Chet Snouffer** is the new *MHR Competition Editor*. **Ted Bailey** is the new *MHR Science and Correspondence Editor*. A breakdown of new editorial duties follows:

Ted Bailey will retain responsibility for the "Bits and Pieces" column as well as for all materials that are related to Boomerang Science and Technology. All articles related to science and technology must be submitted directly to **Ted Bailey** for consideration. Such articles include, but are not limited to: computer programs, new design technology, scientific explanations, etc. The newsletter exchange program with all overseas clubs will continue as it has for the past several years. In order for an overseas club to receive a complementary copy of MHR, a newsletter must be sent directly to **Ted Bailey** at the address that follows.

All materials for the "Bits and Pieces" column must also be mailed directly to **Ted Bailey** for consideration.

Ted Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6076

Chet Snouffer will discontinue publishing his popular independent newsletter: "The Leading Edge" and direct his literary talents to writing and editing competition related materials for MHR.

Only a calendar of events, the Super Catch Honor Roll and a condensed summary of tournament highlights will be published in the Spring, Summer and Fall issues. Coverage in these three issues will be restricted to four pages. There will no longer be a separately published competition issue, as there was for the 1992 season. Instead, the Winter issue will have an unrestricted number of pages dedicated to competition material. This issue will have the rating system; a summary of equipment that was used by the best throwers; more detailed writeups of the individual events; commentary by the various competition committees; and problems associated with the rules and rule book for the season under consideration. All tournament directors are challenged to identify a competition reporter for each tournament with responsibilities for conducting interviews, collecting photographs, and providing these with dialogue and box scores to Chet for publishing consideration. It is best to have this material forwarded as soon as possible after the tournament to give Chet time to review and edit all materials.

All competition material can be sent directly to Chet at the address that follows:

Chet Snouffer
51 Troy Road
Delaware, OH 43015

Jay Emerson will have the responsibility for coordinating all newsletter materials for the publishing dates: March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Jay will be responsible for selecting the article or topic that is featured on the cover, as well as for the order for which all articles are placed. Jay will be responsible for the layout of the cover page, the inside front cover with the table of contents, the President's Column and the USBA Store. The back cover and inside back cover with

USBA information will also be Jay's responsibility.

Chet Snouffer and **Ted Bailey** will submit their MHR sections to Jay at least one week before each deadline.

All advertisements must be sent directly to **Jay Emerson** in advance of the deadline. The rules are printed on the inside back cover of each issue of MHR. Jay will have the responsibility for integrating all advertisements into the body of the text.

All articles that are not directly related to competition, science & technology, and correspondence for the "Bits and Pieces" column should be sent directly to **Jay Emerson**. Articles in recent issues of MHR that Jay would have had responsibility for include: Toss Across America; Chatham Wood Show; Mark Twain on Australia; The Legend of Arthur Janetzki; and Excalaboom.

Jay Emerson
374A Roe St.
Plymouth, MI 48170

The new MHR editorial changes may cause confusion with some members, especially those who never read political columns like the one on this page. All we ask is that you try to send your newsletter contributions to the proper editor to avoid the delay associated with having your article returned so that you can send it to the proper editor at a later date. The new MHR editorial changes will strengthen the publication by adding the competition coverage that was so appreciated in "The Leading Edge" with the correspondence, science & technology that was covered in "The Boomerang Journal". Jay Emerson's writing talents will act as the glue to bind the system together into a powerful and dynamic new publication.

BOOMERANG SEASON 1994



edited by Jay Emerson

Hello, and Goodbye from **Jay Emerson**. At the National meetings it was decided that **Chet Snouffer** will assume the duties of Competition Editor, as I am assuming the duties of editor beginning with the winter issue. **Ted Bailey** will stay on as corresponding editor. The winter issue of MHR will deal primarily with the competition season, so don't be alarmed by the brevity of information this fall. Chet will do a fantastic job detailing all of the happenings this past competition season. Hope all of you enjoy the new face of the newsletter in '94.

TOSS ACROSS AMERICA

Another great turnout was reported by the hosts and hostesses of the toss. Tough wind seemed to be the rule of the day unless you were lucky enough to be on the west coast. **Michael Girvin** started with a discussion of boom history that led into a throwing seminar for thirty participants. New boomers chose from over 500 booms from "Gel's" throw bag and enjoyed games, prizes and a sunny "rad" time. The Oakland, CA crowd had a great toss in the perfect wind. **Stephane Marguerite** from Montreal had 30 throwers in thirty miles an hour winds. Bud, Norm, and Jay had forty MPH winds as they tied shoes to the booms for a demo. Only a few brave souls opted to try to catch the downwind booms. **Dean Kelly** reported great weather in Salem, OR, along with some great media coverage. Keep up the

good work and please get those responses in for Toss IV. This is a great way to expose the public to booms and increase membership.

6th Annual Gateway Classic

May 30 - vicious wind interrupted the tourney at breaktime, though it was still tough all day. Scores were down considerably, but Chet the "Jet" still took top honors. **Tom Fitzgerald** did a great job as director again, along with those fantastic awards. The location of this tournament in the middle of the country makes it a great opportunity for all season tune ups. Hope to see you next year!!!

9th Annual Oakland "Gel" Tournament

June 5 - Eleven throwers were competing, but what competition as some of the best boomers in the country were on hand. **Steve Kavanaugh** took top honors with 68.5 points. **Doug DuFresne** was close on his heels with 66.5 points. **Kim Galeazzi** was a close third at 64 points.

1st Annual Michigan Boom Bash

June 19 - Great conditions set the tone for the day. **Chet Snouffer** finished first with a phenomenal 84 points, taking seven first places among the 34 throwers. **Gary Broadbent** set the mark in doubling with a new world record of 15! Gary finished second with the long traveling **Mark Weary** in third.

THUBA, Ft. Wayne, IN

June 20 - The second half of the Mid-west boom bash saw **Chet Snouffer** take top honors again. **Mark Weary** was second and **Gary Broadbent** was third. The Thuba gang had special awards for cumulative points for the two weekend tournaments combined. Most throwers made the short trip to Indiana from Michigan, all had a great time, hold the rain, please.

North Ridgeville, OH

July 10 - **Gary Broadbent** hosted another excellent tournament. Great field, good wind most of the day, Chet wins.

K.U.A. Contest

July 17 - 36 throwers competed under breezy conditions and a experimental format wit both individual and team events contested. **Dennis Joyce** won the day atop a nine in doubling with two bladers. Highlights included **Maureen Fay's** 32 in Accuracy in her first ever contest. **Scott Barrett's** 23.52 fast catch in dicey wind until **Eric Darnell** edged him out at the end by .23 seconds. Nine first time throwers and team relay to finish the day. Also great box score coverage was printed in the



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local paper's sport section. Contact **John Flynn** for details.

USBA Open & Nationals

Jul 30 - Aug 2 - by Chet Snouffer

Betsy and Will held a great tournament in the majestic northwest. Just a fabulous weekend that will be covered thoroughly in the winter issue. **Mark Weary** made a valiant charge at the National title, but, that guy from Ohio is still the king. Brother Gregg captured third place honors.

Hope I peaked your interest. Please send all future competition related material to:

Chet Snouffer
51 Troy Road
Delaware, OH 43015

Calendar of Events

The 5th Annual Novice/Veteran Team Tournament will be held in the Detroit, Michigan area on September 12. The exact location will be determined in the near future. For more information, call **Norm Kern** at (313)-645-9308 or write to the following address:

Norm Kern
1640 Haynes
Birmingham, MI 48009-1605

The Second Mighty Williamette Tournament is scheduled to be held on 12 September. For more information, contact **T. W. Smith** at (503)-942-3167 or write to:

T. W. Smith
P. O. Box 11332
Eugene, OR 97440

The 9th Annual Summer's Final Fling is scheduled to take place in Portland, Oregon on 19 September. For more information, call **Doug DuFresne** at (503)-292-4316 or write to

Doug DuFresne
4235 S.W. Crestwood Dr.
Portland, OR 97225

The second Coupe de France de Boomerang de Longue Distance is scheduled to take place at Sedan (near Belgium) on 25/26 September. The tournament is open to all throwers. For more info, call **Michel DuFayard** at 24-33-92-13 or write to:

Michel DuFayard
44 rue du Moulin
08000 Charleville-Mezierés.
France

The First Annual Phoenix tournament will be held on 16/17 October. Call **Mark Weary** at (602)-759-3973 or write to:

Mark Weary
4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Now is the time to plan for travel to the 1994 World Cup which is to take place in Hiratsuka, Japan from August 10-18. **Yoshinobu Sakimitsu** has published a preliminary outline below:

August 10 - Arrive at Hiratsuka
August 11 - Registration & Captain's meeting
August 12 - Opening ceremony and first Team Cup
August 13 - Second Team Cup
August 14 - Rest Day
August 15 - Third Team Cup
August 16 - Individual Championships and closing ceremony
August 17 - Climb Mt. Fuji and Farewell Party

For more info, please contact:

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu
Japan Boomerang Assoc.
15-5, Kudankita 1 Chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102
Japan

SUPER CATCH HONOR ROLL

Ted Bailey (6)
Volker Behrens
Gerhard Bertling
Didier Bonin
Rob Croll (7)
Eric Darnell
Doug DuFresne
John Flynn
Torsten Fredrich
Fridolin Frost (8)
Mike Forrester
Kim Galeazzi
Matthias Giesenschlag
Michael Girvin
Rob Greer
Thomas Hartmann
Axel Heckner
Dennis Joyce
John Koehler
Uli Konzelmann (8)
Jason Krouse
Charlie Kunkel
Jeff LaCount
Mike LaPrade
Ray Laurent
Gerrit Lemkau
Alain Mangin
Mole Man (6)
Gunter Moller
Rob Parkins (8)
Roger Perry (6)
Philippe Picgirard
Jonas Romblad
Barnaby Ruhe
Larry Ruhf
Tim Schallberger (8)
Chet Snouffer (7)
Gregg Snouffer (7)
Olivier Vouktchevitch
Ola Wahlberg (6)
Matthieu Weber (8)

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

For those who are unfamiliar with the term: Super Catch; the thrower must launch a MTA from the center circle, then complete a round of Fast Catch from the same circle. The thrower must then catch his MTA. The thrower has the option to throw & catch more than 5 times within the F/C sequence.

President's Column

by *Betsylew Miale-Gix*

It is my honor and pleasure to once again speak with you through the President's Column. The 1993-94 season promises to be an exciting year for the USBA. Your USBA Board will be working on several matters ranging from expanding the USBA Store to increasing participation in USBA elections.

I have appointed four committees for 1993-1994: (1) The Membership Committee. It will be preparing plans and ideas on how to bring more people into the USBA. (2) The Alternative Events Committee. It will be developing additional USBA events to compliment our existing rated individuals tournaments, team tournaments, and the annual Toss Across America event. (3) The Team Selection Committee. It will be responsible for selecting the six person team that will compete in the 1994 World Team Cup Championships in Japan. (4) The Competition Committee. It will be fine tuning the existing formats.

Each of these Committees will have five members. I have limited the number of Board members who can participate in each individual committee to three persons. This leaves two positions on each committee to be filled by members of the USBA at large. If you are interested in being considered for a position on one of the four committees, please send me a letter naming the committee you are interested in and the qualities you would bring to the work of the committee. Please be advised that being on a Committee is WORK. You will be required to participate in the exchange of information and ideas through the mail and over the telephone in a timely way. I need to receive your letters of interest no later than October 22, 1993. In consultation with the board, the remaining positions on the committees will be appointed and you will be notified if you have been selected by the Chairperson of the committee on which you will be serving.

We will also be working to increase the number of members who participate as candidates and voters in the USBA annual election process. There will be more on the election process in the next issue of MHR.

The USBA is reaching out to those of you who make up two-thirds of the USBA that are not hard core competitive throwers as well as those boome-

rang enthusiasts who have not yet joined the USBA. While there is a committee working on this, each of us can help informally as well. All of us can think of people with whom we throw or have thrown in the past who may not be members of the USBA. We know others who no longer maintain their membership. Give them a call and let them know that the network of boomerang enthusiasts is still alive and well. Encourage them to re-establish their ties with the USBA.

We are working to make a membership roster available to all USBA members. This roster will be updated annually and will be an excellent way to keep in touch with throwers in your area. We are also working to expand the USBA Store so that it will be a resource for you to obtain information, literature, and equipment.

As some of you may have read in the recent "USA Today" newspaper boomerang piece, the Fourth Annual Toss Across will take place on May 21, 1994. I urge all of you to get a field and host a Toss on that date. Believe it or not, it is very little work and a lot of fun. In follow up to your Toss Across America, consider hosting a half-day beginner fun competition event two or three weeks after the Toss Across America. At your Toss Across America, you will meet interested people and introduce them to boomerang throwing. Obtain their names, addresses, and telephone numbers and send them a card letting them know about the follow up event and encouraging them to attend.

Craft your own events to run. The field would be the ten meter circle with the two meter increments. Have no range requirements and you won't need any of the larger circles. Consider running events such as: (a) "fast throw" (The time would be how long it takes them to throw five times from the bullseye, no catch would be required); (b) "accuracy"; (c) "consecutive catch" (All would throw at once and make two-handed catches for the first six rounds in the old suicide elimination format. After six rounds of any catches, if there is more than one competitor, you could go to one-handed catches until only one remained. (d) "Australian Round" (without distance points, etc.); and (e) try some team events as well.

This will not only strengthen their interest in the sport, but will also be another fun event that gives them a taste of competitive throwing. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year!

Congratulations to the newly elected USBA Board of Directors. Their addresses and phone numbers are listed below. Copy this list and put it near your phone. This information may not be repeated in the next few issues for reasons of space constraints.

President

Betsylew Miale-Gix
3351 236th St. S.W.
Brier, WA 98036
Ph: (206)-485-1672

Vice-President

Chet Snouffer
51 Troy Road
Delaware, OH 43015
Ph: (614)-363-8332

Treasurer

John Flynn
52 Christian St.
White River Junction, VT 05001
Ph: (802)-296-2158

Secretary

Gregg Snouffer
340 Troy Road
Delaware, OH 43015
Ph: (614)-363-4414

Directors

Kelly Croman Andretti
P. O. Box 995
Olympia, WA 98507-0995
Ph: (206)-866-6579

Michael Girvin
2124 Kittredge St. #61
Berkeley, CA 94704
Ph: (510)-658-2469

Dean A. Kelly
3350 Neef Ave. SE
Salem, OR 97302
Ph: (503)-581-8050

Norm Kern
1640 Haynes
Birmingham, MI 48009-1605
Ph: (313)-645-9308

Mark Weary
4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Ph: (602)-759-3973

Boomerang Games

by Jim Cardamone

My friends and I are always coming up with "new events" and games and I'm sure that others have done the same. Some of the games we have created have all the intensity and excitement of a good tennis match. Perhaps there are games out there that would make good events for tournaments. I can't think of a better place to share new games and variations than MHR. I have included a few games that my friends and I have come up with and particularly enjoy.

Torture (also called "Fetch")

This is basically a two man version of juggling. One man must stay inside a two metre circle and do all the throwing. The other must stay outside the circle and do all the catching and returning to the thrower. One of the two booms must be aloft at all times. The catcher can toss the booms back to the thrower, but if he misses, the thrower cannot leave the circle to retrieve it. This is a good game for two teams of two. The teams alternate turns and throwers. The first team to 100 wins. (editor's note: women are allowed to play too!)

Chase

This is a one-on-one game, each with his own boomerang. This game is sort of like simultaneous Fast Catch. The game starts with the first thrower (the chasee) throwing his

boom from a two metre circle. if the boom does not come back to the circle, the second thrower (the chaser) may step into the the circle and throw his boom as soon as the chasee touches his 'rang, whether he catches it or not. The chasee tries to throw and catch ten times before the chaser does the same. However, if the chaser ever reaches the circle and announces a catch number greater than the last one made by the chasee, then the chaser wins right then. Caution: Any game where two booms are aloft at the same time can be dangerous!

Five and Dime

This is a one-on-one game with two circles of one and five metre radii. This game is sort of a simplified Aussie Round. Players take turn throwing from the centre circle. Boomerangs must be caught for points to count.

Although many variations on scoring are possible, here are the basic ways to determine points:

- 10 - any catch with both feet inside inner circle.
- 5 - any catch with both feet inside outer circle.
- 3 - one-handed catch outside outer circle.
- 1 - two-handed catch outside outer circle.

The two main playing variations are:

(1) A player may leave a circle, catch a boom and jump back in if both feet are off the ground when contact with the boom is made and both feet land inside the circle.

(2) Once a player has left a circle, those points cannot be earned. if a player leaves the center circle, only to end up catching it there, the catch would be worth five points. This makes for many last second dashes for spectacular one-handed diving catches.

Games go to 100 points each and three out of five games wins a match. This is the game we play most because of the simplicity of the set-up and the many variations.

Anyway, those are a few games that I think the readers might enjoy trying. I think it would be great to hear from others on the games they play as well. *Editors note: Here's a fun, but safe game that anyone can do. It was invented in Toledo, Ohio 10 years ago by a bunch of pre-teen throwers practicing for Accuracy*

Poor Man's Accuracy

A small target, like a T-shirt or a Frisbee disk, is used as a base anywhere on the field. You throw with your foot on the base and let your boomerang land. Placing your forward foot at the location where the boomerang landed, you see how many steps it takes to return to the base target. You get five throws in rotation and 10 points per throw. A point is subtracted for every step it takes to return to base. Falling down is worth 2 steps. You cannot get negative points for any throw. Add additional points for catching to add excitement to the game.

TEACHING A LOCAL BOOMERANG CLASS

by Michael "Gel" Girvin

Do you throw boomerangs and have no one to throw with? Do you want to spread your knowledge about boomerangs and teach others how to throw? Do you want to create a local boomerang scene that is fun and informative? If you answer yes to any of these questions, then you might want to start teaching a boomerang class or boomerang drop@in lessons.

Teaching a local class is a great way to get a lot of people exposed to the fun sport of boomeranging. This is how I did it:

When I started throwing boomerangs in the Oakland area, I was one of only two people who threw. So I talked with everyone I knew and told them I would be at Strawberry Field every Saturday and Sunday at noon. I did not reserve the field, I just found a park that seemed to be free at that time. People showed up, and I taught them how to throw. With just word of mouth promotion and an exact location and time, I introduced many people to the sport of boomeranging.

When I arrived at Evergreen State College I used the same word of mouth approach and taught many students. We then approached the Recreation Department and the Student Union with proposals for boomerang tournaments and weekly boomerang classes. At first they were hesitant, but we showed them literature on boomerangs, boomerangs, taught some of them how to throw and had meetings to discuss safety. They gave us fields to run classes and tournaments. We put posters up around campus and in town, made announcements on the campus radio station, wrote or had someone else write articles for the campus and local paper, and continued word of mouth communication.

Most importantly, I taught people how to make boomerangs, so there were enough boomerangs to throw. After the second year we had the largest student group on campus. The third year we submitted proposals to the Student Union and received money to help run the events. With a little hard work and promotion we introduced many many people to boomeranging.

When I arrived at The Chicago Art Institute, I had it down pat. I found a section of Grant Park that was free on Wednesdays and Fridays and started to talk up boomerangs to everyone I met. I put up flyers, submitted proposals to the Student Union and wrote articles for the student paper. The classes were successful and I taught people how to throw and make boomerangs.

The second year we got a T.V. spot on the "Where's Wallace" section of the local news program by phoning and asking for a spot.

Again, I used whatever avenues I had available to get the word out that I was teaching a boomerang class.

When I moved back to Oakland, I found a field that had available space at a certain time each week and with word of mouth and flyers posted at the local stores that sold boomerangs, had a good turn out. I always had boomerangs available to throw and taught whoever wanted to, how to make boomerangs. A friend then wrote an article in a local paper. I then approached the Oakland Recreation Department with a proposal to teach free weekly boomerang drop@in classes.

They accepted, and sent out notices through their network. I then contacted several local papers and discovered they had free listings for "free events." I listed the boomerang classes. A local store that sells boomerangs and posts the boomerang class then informed a local T.V. station about the class and they came out and taped a spot for their morning show. With consistent promoting effort and con-

tinued teaching week after week, the local boomerang scene has blossomed.

The best way to get people interested in boomeranging is at the grass roots level. One good way to do this is to teach some sort of boomerang class. Regardless if you run a class on a small scale or large scale, it gets people involved. Whether you find a field without reservations and tell people word of mouth, or you reserve a field and post posters, or solicit the local Parks and Recreation Department with a proposal that you will teach a free class, it all works. If you don't have the luxury of a large collection of boomerangs or the knowledge of how to make boomerangs, then having enough boomerangs for people to learn with could be a problem.

One solution is to go to your local reference library (university libraries are preferable) and look up books on how to build boomerangs. The best book is titled *BOOMERANG HOW TO THROW, CATCH AND MAKE IT* by Benjamin Ruhe and Eric Darrell.

Or go to the periodical section and look up "boomerang." There are hundreds of articles that you can find dating back to 1890, many of which will tell you how to make boomerangs. Another solution is to write to boomerang manufacturers and ask if they will give you a discount on a multiple purchase for a boomerang class. Gel Boomerangs, Outback Boomerangs and Leading Edge Boomerangs will give discounts on such purchases. If you can't run classes weekly, run them monthly, or semi annually. The idea is to get out there wherever and whenever and get people involved.

The key is to have fun throwing boomerangs. If it is fun for you to teach others how to throw, then it can be fun for them also. So, get out there and teach people the joys of boomeranging.

THROWING IN WIND

by Michael "Gel" Girvin

When I first started to throw, I would only go out on days when it was calm. I didn't think it was possible to throw with much success in windy conditions. Even the first couple of years that I went to tournaments, I didn't know how to throw in wind. It was not until I lived in "the windy city", Chicago, that I learned how to throw in wind. All it took to learn how to throw in wind was to go out and throw in wind. It is possible.

There are four basic ways to deal with wind: 1) easy throw or "surfing throw", 2) "humpback throw" 3) drag-producing additions to the boomerang that slow the boomerang down, and 4) adding weight.

Easy Throw - The simplest way to deal with wind is to throw your boomerang with less power. The key to this type of throw is to use a lot of spin by snapping your wrist without providing a lot of forward velocity. Because the wind is blowing, it will supply most of the forward velocity. Also, you must release the boomerang higher and with more layover than usual; this will prevent the boomerang from getting blown into the ground. In huge wind, you literally throw your boomerang with 30 degrees altitude and 45 degrees layover with no forward velocity and a lot of spin. It is called a "surfing throw" because you throw your spinning boomerang up into the wind so it can "ride" on the wind. Although this can be a spectacular way to deal with the wind, it is the least effective of the four methods.

Humpback - To throw humpback you must throw your boomerang at a high altitude and vertical. Throw approximately 30 degrees

altitude, 0 degrees layover and fairly hard. If you threw in this fashion on a calm day, your boomerang would tend to go up high and crash into the ground. But on a windy day the boomerang will not crash into the ground because the wind will save it from crashing and push it back to you. The reason this type of throw works is because the boomerang loses forward velocity as it tries to crash into the ground. The flight pattern is very high to low to medium high as it travels in its circular path. Generally, in windy conditions, if you throw your boomerang more vertical and/or higher altitude it will come back more accurately.

Drag - The most effective way to deal with wind is to add drag to your boomerang in order to slow it down during its flight. If you make boomerangs you can carve dull leading edges and/or drill holes in your boomerang to create drag. If you don't make boomerangs, you can still drill holes in a boomerang that might be appropriate for wind. The more the holes, or the closer the holes are to the wing tips, the more drag there will be. There are even a few boomerang companies that offer wind boomerangs with holes already drilled in them.

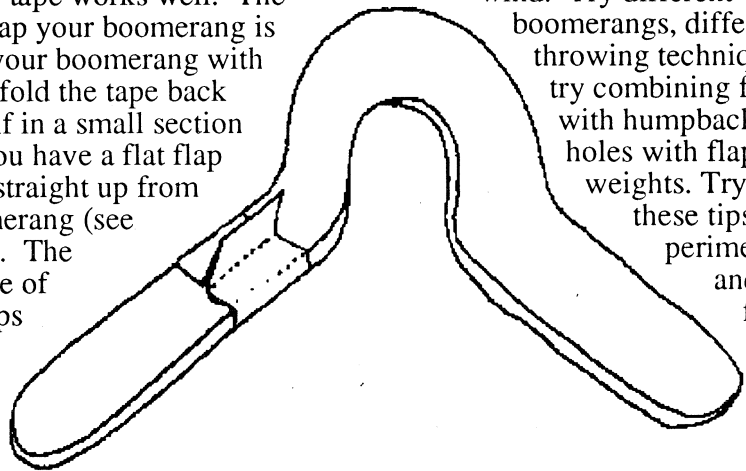
The most convenient way to add drag is to place taped flaps on your boomerang. Duct tape or electrical tape works well. The way to flap your boomerang is to wrap your boomerang with tape and fold the tape back onto itself in a small section so that you have a flat flap sticking straight up from the boomerang (see diagram). The advantage of taped flaps is that you can

place them on any boomerang including your favorite boom. The larger the flaps are, or the closer the flaps are to the tips, the more drag there will be. Generally, flaps near the middle of the wing up to the elbow area is a good place to put flaps. Eric Darnell says that flaps on the flat side will slow the boomerang down without changing the flight pattern. The best rule is to try placing flaps in various spots to determine which location works best for your boomerang and throwing style.

Weight - By taping a coin to your boomerang you are adding weight. Additional weight will help combat windy conditions. The best way to start is by taping a dime or penny to the lift arm wing tip area. In heavy wind use larger coins or multiple coins. Also, try taping the coins to different parts of the boomerang. Experiment and find the magic spot that fits your boomerang and throwing style.

Conclusion - When throwing in wind it is helpful to understand that boomerangs don't come back very accurately. If you don't mind a little running the rewards for a catch are great. And when you do flap or throw that boomerang just right and it comes back accurately, it is very satisfying. The key to learning how to throw in wind is go out and do it - throw in

wind. Try different boomerangs, different throwing techniques, try combining flaps with humpback, or holes with flaps and weights. Try all these tips, experiment and have fun.



Regarding the Name: "BOOMERANG"

by Jacques Thomas

A recent article by Brian Kemp, published in the Bulletin of the Boomerang Association of Australia, relates a protest, by members of the Australian Aboriginal community, regarding the use of the word "boomerang" to designate "the more recently developed shapes (particularly Multi-bladers)". The Aborigines arguing that these were not boomerangs but "rather gimmicky toys more suited for clowns and acrobats".

Brian Kemp "admits in all fairness that the Aboriginal community has a point" and then he suggests the name "Boomerang" for the new sporting implements capable of a return flight which differ from the traditional boomerangs, and to register the name. Personally I feel that quite commendable but have a few reservations, and those who are familiar

with my writing will not be surprised. I wish in this article to outline the researches on which I base my views, without pretending to be able to set up rules of an absolute strictness. Whilst interpretation is necessary, logic and reason may determine the rule.

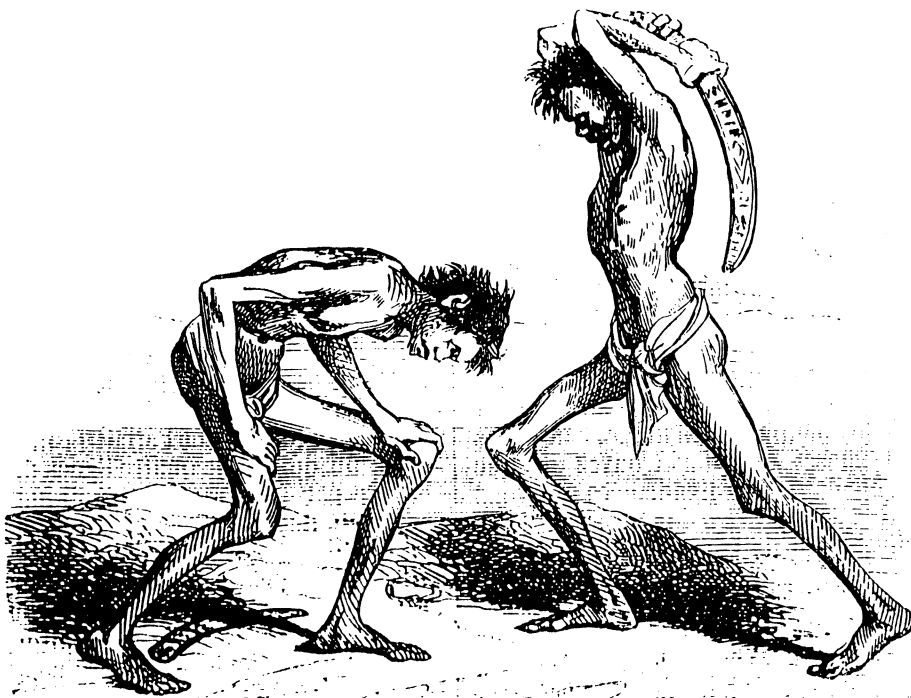
When one is concerned with and fascinated by the boomerang, when one has experience of them, it is quite natural to search for the past history, and particularly the origin of the word which is so familiar to many. Thus, I tried to find out by researching in public and private libraries, in museums and universities, in France and in foreign countries, and eventually at the Institute of Aboriginal Studies in Canberra, Australia (AIAT-SIS). I spent hours studying books and narratives, gathering an impressive collection of documents. I think I did not miss much of what had been written in regard to the boomerang in the last century and the beginning of the XXth. Felix Hess' bibliography was a great help for me, and I was surprised to find out that an important

part of this literature had been the work of French writers.

I complemented literary research by the research and study of lot of ancient artifacts, mostly of museum stores. I handled and studied about two hundred different old or very ancient boomerangs, killing-sticks and throw-sticks, Australian, Egyptian or others, prehistoric and ethnographic. I threw replicas which I had made to add practical experiment to theoretical speculations. From the whole of these studies, I acquired a broad knowledge of the subject, and I was able to draw some interesting inferences. It is only from a basis of sure and precise data that significant conclusions can be set up.

Whilst discovering New Holland, future Australia, the newcomers discovered the Aborigines and their strange wooden implements which appeared to them as being a kind of weapon. They were shown by artists on drawings like scimitars, straight or curved swords, as they were visualized. "Wooden swords, iron wood swords, ricocheting swords, curved clubs", all these names were given to them for a long time at the end of the XVIIIth century and at the beginning of the XIXth. In 1820, near Port Jackson, (which became the city of Sydney), the French writer Jacques Arago attended some boomerang throwings and he describes a return flight perfectly well. It is the oldest account, and probably the first one ever published, which I was given to read. Arago nevertheless does not seem to know the name "boomerang" and he speaks of "club". The word however is used during the same year by Louis de Freycinet who was in command of the ship that Arago was aboard, in the form of "Bomerang", and by Philip Parker King under the form which we know. But neither of them mentions a return flight.

From then, as accounts of Australia rapidly increase, the word is



Si le coup est porté dans le vide, c'est au tour du premier à se soumettre à l'épreuve. — Page 185.

From "Souvenir d'un Aveugle" by Jacques Arago - 1839

going to appear more and more frequently in the literature, heard and transcribed in different ways: "Womerang, bommereng, bommerang, boomerang, boomerang, bomring, boumarang, bowmerang, boumerang". At last, the word will take its definitive form "Boomerang" around 1840, thanks to the Colonial Press, according to W. Gardner (1853). Several authors have searched for the true original word, and three have been found: "Booroomoorong, boumarang and boomerang". It is important also to notice that in the narratives of the time the use of a boomerang is almost always connected with the idea of a return flight.

This data is objective and certain. Without having found with absolute certainty the original name, we have come quite close to it. Circumstances induce me to join the ethnologists who have written afterwards, that the word "boomerang" comes from the expression "Boo-ma-rang" which was the name given to the two-bladed implement capable of a return flight by the Turuwal, the Awabakal and the Kammera-Gal tribes who lived near Botany Bay and Port Jackson. This is quite close to the word "boomerang" and there is no need, in my opinion, to search elsewhere for a more or less fancy origin. Collins in 1802 mentions the name "Wo-mur-rang", but without connecting it either with the idea of return nor even with that of flight. He has thought only of "clubs".

Thus, we find the same name "boomerang" used from 1820 under different spellings and pronunciations to designate the artifact capable of a return flight, discovered among the Aborigines of New South Wales. As they had no writing it is not surprising that their expressions were perceived in somewhat different ways by those who approached them. Incidentally, it must be noticed that if the word "boomerang" was used

in this part of the continent, others of the six hundred and one tribes speaking more than three hundred different dialects, counted by Tindale, used different words to name the same returning artifact, like "Barragan, Wonguim, Kylie, etc.". To the contrary of what has been sometimes written; the "kylies" were true boomerangs of Western Australia, and the same phonetic phenomenon occurred with the word which is found under the forms: "Kilee, kiley, kaile, cale, coyley, kilie, etc.". All of them being pronounced almost in the same way.

This data appears to me as being necessary and sufficient to reserve the name "Boomerang" to the "two-bladed implement, rigid and flat, bent at an angle or curved at its elbow, which when thrown spinning, flies and follows a curved flight-path which brings it back to the thrower". If all these conditions are not observed, it is better not to speak of "boomerang". Moreover, habit has now confirmed in an irrevocable way, the association of the notion of "return" with the word "boomerang" traditionally given to the two-bladed implement. Maybe some will protest that the Aborigines had multi-bladers, which is true. Some small four-bladed artifacts which were named "cross-sticks" have been found in Cairns district, Queensland. But they were so few that this kind of artifact cannot be reasonably taken into account when making a decision. Moreover the name "boomerang" seems not having been known and used in this part of New Holland.

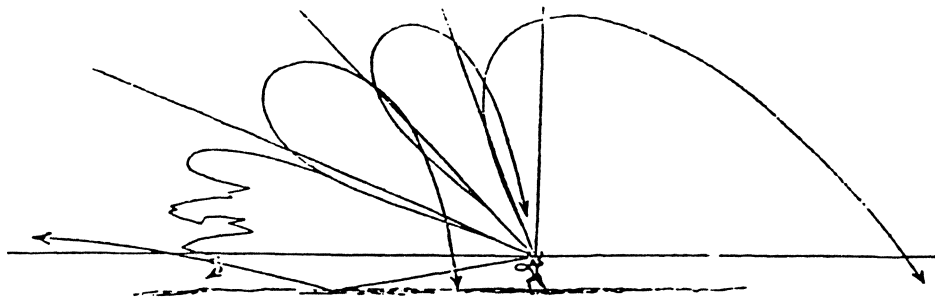
So, "boomerangs" were discovered in the part of the Australian continent which was to become the State of New South Wales before being found in many other places. As people of the Colony probably did not pay sufficient attention to the peculiarities of the different curved wooden implements which the Aborigines had,

they made use of the same word "boomerang" to designate indistinctly any of these, without considering whether they were able to return or not. It is only in the middle of the XXth century that a clear distinction was made.

This leads us to consider the different varieties of wooden artifacts able to fly spinning due to their shape and cross-sections. I think that the name of "flying-sticks" or "bois de jet" may be given to all of these. Two great families are then to be considered: the flying-sticks which are able to return, the "boomerangs"; and these which cannot return. In their turn, each of these two families divides into two.

The low and almost circular flight-path of modern boomerangs is well-known. It is probably the same as the flight-path of lure-boomerangs which were used by the Aborigines to imitate the flight of a hawk, frighten birds and drive them into nets. Several accounts mention this way of hunting birds. These boomerangs, if they were thrown flat in a horizontal plane, could also climb up quickly in the air to attack birds from underneath. Their out and return movement could be almost in a vertical plane, and their return accurate.

Beside the usually circular flight-path, there is another one which is not so well-known nowadays. Some big Aboriginal boomerangs, generally more obtuse and heavier than the former, were thrown directly at flocks of birds, high up in the air, at an angle of perhaps 45 degrees to the horizontal plane. They flew up to a given altitude before returning almost along the same path as on going. These "high flyer" boomerangs have a "passive return", when their kinetic energy of translation is fully transformed into potential energy. But of course, as for the other ones, if they hit a prey, they could not return. They form a second group of boomerangs. The distinction between the



FLIGHT OF THE BOOMERANG.

"Flight Of The Boomerang" According to Commodore Wilkes

two groups is not always easy to do, and some artifacts could be used in both ways.

An interesting drawing made by Commodore Wilkes during a U. S. expedition in Australia, in about 1838 presents the different flight paths obtained with a boomerang according to different angles of the throw to the horizontal. According to Wilkes, only a throw at an angle of 45 degrees permits a return to the thrower. It is the typical flight-path of a "high-flyer" boomerang with a "passive return". Wilkes presents neither the circular flight-path of lure-boomerangs nor the one obtained after a flat throw. Probably he had not yet observed them.

From these considerations, it seems that one may be precise on the right use of the word "boomerang" and the sort of artifact which it regards. I have not taken into account the notions of dimensions or weight or material of a boomerang as a criterion of selection. Effectively, I cannot see any reason for doing that, on a conceptual level, when giant or mini, artifacts can display the requirements stated in the definition of a boomerang.

The second great family of flying-sticks include the two-bladed artifacts which are able to fly spinning but which cannot return. They appear to have been much more numerous than the boomerangs, and wide-spread the whole world. For them, it seems right to choose their use as a criterion of subdivision. It relates with the range of size and weight, and with

their shape.

Sometimes made of ivory, carved from a mammoth tusk in prehistoric time, "killing-sticks" may be big and heavy as most of the Australian ones are or of a lesser weight and size as are the handsome "rabbit-sticks" of the Hopi Indians of Arizona, North America. They are usually flat with sharp edges, but some killing-sticks may be thicker with oval cross-sections and blunt edges. They were used for fighting and for hunting game. In French, one may give them the name of "pales de jet".

With smaller and lighter flying-sticks, with a lesser relative width of their blades, one may speak of "throw-sticks" or "bâtons de jet". They were used for hunting birds and small game sometimes, for playing, by pastoral people to quieten excited cattle grazing, and as a not very dangerous weapon in brawls. These are exemplified by the Egyptian throw-sticks.

The Study I have carried on and on which I have presented some views has allowed me to bring some facts to light and also to settle a general framework in which all the artifacts with two blades and able to fly spinning can be placed. To carry it out, I had to plunge into the past for, but a few exceptions, traditional use of flying-sticks has vanished. The raw materials for the study were museum collections of ancient artifacts, old accounts, drawings, and paintings, rock carvings. As these elements are in a high degree subject to interpretation, one can take

them into consideration only after objective criticism and comparative analysis. This means that much time was required! I wish that these conclusions bring relief and mental comfort to those who are concerned with a situation confused for a long time.

Regarding the matter of using the boomerang for sport, the Aboriginal protest seems logical, as well as Brian Kemp's suggestion which I can see as an extension of Brother Thomas' thoughtful article: "The Beginning of the End".

Seeking for easiness and efficiency in "Fast Catch" and "Consecutive Catching" events has obviously generated new conceptions of the sport. This has led to all the mini-boomerangs and multi-bladers which are in use today. As far as Europe is concerned, I would trace this back to the overwhelming triumph of Chris Hentzgen at the Amsterdam International Tourney, in 1984, where he alone was using a small boomerang with a span of 24 cm. Since then I have always thought that it was not logical to have in the same events competitors using boomerangs so different one from another, such as having spans from 20 cm to 50 cm, weight being twice one from another or with two or more blades.

Due allowance being made, modern ways of manufacture and usage have evolved so that compared with the more traditional way as it was practiced in the 70's, it is rather like Ping-Pong to Tennis. If these different ways of usage can be both difficult and hard, they require different aptitudes from the thrower. I think that they have become incompatible in a same event, and that it would be a good idea to keep them clearly distinct from each other in competition. What can be easily done is to define minimum standards of length and weight to the boomerangs used. We have adopted this long ago in our club, and it has always been appreciated. Maybe it

has prevented the total disappearance of the more traditional boomerangs from the field.

Kept distinct from one another on the field, the two ways of usage would have also to be distinct by their name. Suggested by Brian Kemp, the term "Boomer-ing" seems proper when using all sorts of small boomerangs and multi-bladed rotors (which certainly cannot be named "boomerangs"). This word, as Brian Kemp says, would have the advantage of being distinct from "Boomerang", but it would keep a root reminding us of its origin. "Boomerang" would be strictly devoted to usage of boomerangs more traditional by their size and weight.

I do not think that separating these two ways of usage would be prejudicial for one or the other.

On the contrary, each of them would have its fans and its own contests. No one would feel frustrated. Maybe some throwers who today stay out of the field would return to compete. Being aware of what they come to see, the public would have no more reasons to express their disappointment. All things would be clear.

Catching does not come from the Aboriginal tradition. It started probably in the 40's with Frank Donnellan and Joe Timbery who were both involved in the boomerang professionally. Catching has immensely developed since this time, when weight and span of the boomerangs decreased, to become an attractive and essential part of the sport. But once again, if "Boomer-ing" can include all kinds of catching, even the most acrobatic, "Boomerang" would accept only

the traditional way of catching using hands. "Boomerang MTA" would prescribe strong requirements in accuracy, but no compulsory catching. On the contrary, "Boomer-ing MTA" could be practiced with no limits for a return, but with a catch. The road would be open to any adventure!

At last, as a practical conclusion for these reflections, after having pondered for a long time on the matter and being much influenced by experience too, I think that the following minimum standards could be prescribed for the boomerangs used in competitions of "Boomerang" type:

Weight	= 100 cm
Span	= 40 cm
Distance within the blades measured at the level of the centre of gravity	= 13 cm



Jacques Thomas and His Collection of Boomerangs and Aboriginal Artifacts

BITS & PIECES

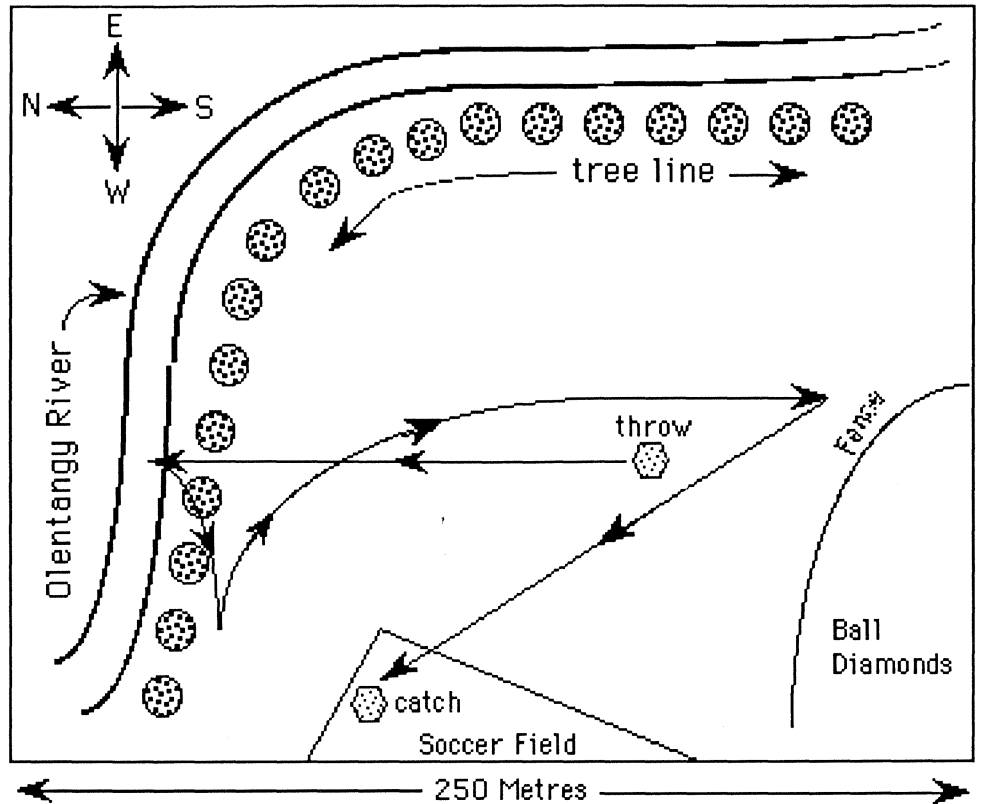
News From The USA

Jonas Romblad visited the USA this Summer and made a notable appearance at the annual Free Thrower's Fling on 7 August, carrying some of his popular composite MTAs. Some of the reports that came in from those who had picked up samples of his composite MTAs include: **Jay Emerson**, who had a timed flight of 1 minute and 48 seconds on 8 August and **John Flynn**, who had a timed flight of 1 minute & 24 seconds on 10 August.

Chet Snouffer sent in news of the ultimate MTA throw and catch ever made. Chet writes: **John Gorski**, age 24, of Westlake, Ohio, had launched his **Jonas Romblad MTA 30-60 seconds** prior when it became apparent that he had



John Gorski & Romblad MTA



hooked into a thermal drifting slowly across the field. **Gary Broadbent** noted the time, 3:10:08 PM and we began pursuit of the boomerang. It drifted slowly to the north and began ascending quickly after drifting about 50 metres. It climbed to a peak, estimated at a height of at least 200 metres based upon trajectories from spotters sitting across the field,

250-300 metres from the 'rang. The boomerang hovered over the Olentangy River for several minutes at the 10 minute mark and then reversed course, heading south, then west another 30 metres. Still at peak height, it began drifting east and then south, almost immediately back the direction from which it had originally come. It began descending at this



There Was No Shortage of Witnesses To The Throw & Catch

point, and traveled back about 200 metres to the south, now at a point 30 metres farther upwind than the point from which it was thrown. Now on descent, it then hooked into the prevailing wind and drifted down much like a normal MTA throw, and caught 30-40 seconds later. The catch was taken 50-75 metres from launch point. Although the boomerang was certainly in the air at least 17 and a half minutes and probably over 18 minutes, the feat is submitted as 17 minutes and six seconds, as that time was ascertained by a watch with no additional estimates added on. A diagram of the flight path from a bird's eye view is depicted on the preceding page. The drawing is not to scale.

Time 3:10:08 until 3:27:15 PM. Temperature: 80-84 °F. Winds South < 3 MPH. Skies: sunny with some cumulus clouds covering 10-20% of the sky. The field remained in the sun for the duration of the flight. Barometric pressure: 30.24" and falling slowly.

Also at the Delaware throw was the induction of two new throwers into the Super Catch Hall of Fame. Both **Charlie Kunkel** and **Jason Krouse** managed the feat for their first time ever.

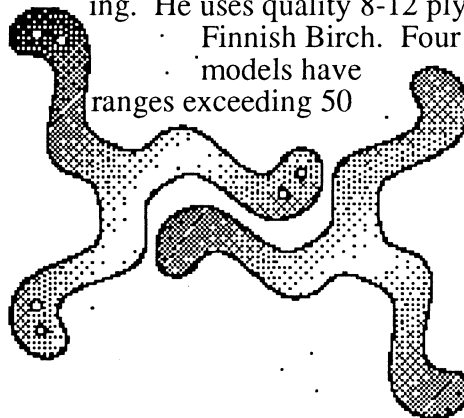
Chet Snouffer mentioned that he too had improved on his Super Catch standing at the USBA Nationals by catching 7 F/C booms under his MTA.

Ted Bailey went to his 25th high school reunion in Orlando, Florida this past June and met with dozens of class mates, some of whom had seen the CNN video on MTA in places as far away as Korea, Brazil, and Panama. Even more of a surprise was mention by the Orlando locals that he (or someone with a close resemblance) is throwing boomerangs on a television commercial for a local hotel chain (He also received a telephone call from a relative in Sacramento, California who said the commercial was

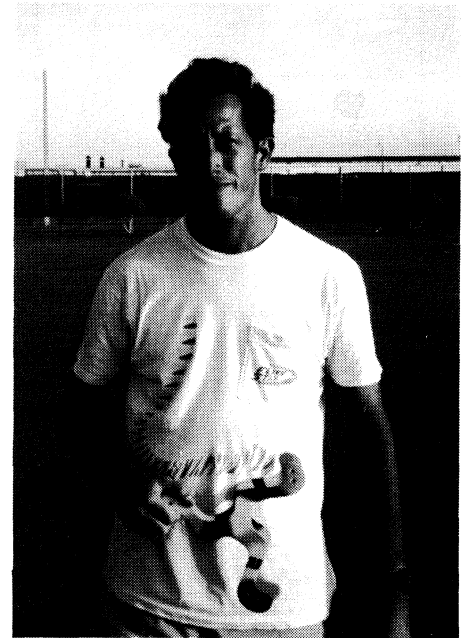
shown in that city as well). If any of the readers can provide more information on the details of this commercial, please contact the editor ASAP. During his visit, the editor made a side trip to Cocoa Beach/Merritt Island to visit with friends. In Cocoa Beach, a stop was made at the famous "RON JON Surf Shop". This store was loaded with commercial boomerangs of almost every kind from Australia. The best flyers were the **Sam Blight "Rangs"** brand. There were also hundreds of plywood and natural elbow boomerangs scattered throughout the store that were nicely painted and available at attractive prices. Most models would probably be poor returners, but they would make great wall hangings. The other products of interest were very attractive "bull-roarers", and T-shirts covered with Aboriginal art. This store is a must stop for anyone in the Cape Canaveral area. For more info on this unusual retail store, call (407)-799-8888 or write to:

RON JON Surf Shop
4151 No. Atlantic Ave
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

A visit was made to Merritt Island to throw with **Rich Surace**. Rich makes several quality competition models for sale through his "Flite Stix" catalog. Rich is especially interested in boomerangs with extended range for Aussie Round and just-plain-fun throwing. He uses quality 8-12 ply Finnish Birch. Four models have ranges exceeding 50



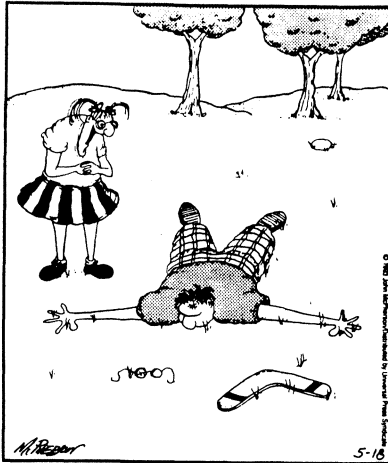
metres in range. A hook has a range of 70-100 metres. Rich has developed a beautiful tri-blader doubling set (shown below) with undulating blades and bright chromatic neon epoxy airbrush colors.



Rich Surace With Tri-Blader Doubling Set



Tourists Throwing Boomerangs On Cocoa Beach

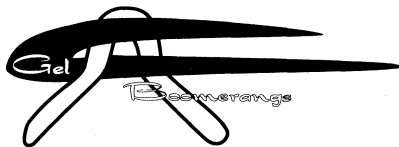


"Wow! That was neat, Dad! OK, teach me how to throw it! Dad?!"

These boomerangs have excellent in-flight separation, good wind resistance and are easy to catch. Interested throwers can call Rich at (407)-452-3963 or write to:

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Peter Close sent in the cartoon depicted to the left. Some of the readers feel that cartoons depicting boomerang violence should not be published in MHR. How do you feel about this issue?

The Pizza Pub restaurant chain of Pine, Minnesota has developed a new recycleable pizza box that can be washed in a dishwasher and returned to the pizza vendor by environmentally conscious customers. The new, two piece, plastic container is called non other than: "The Boomerang Box".

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COL. JOHN M. GERRISH
 4105-H S.W. Parkview Ave., Portland 1, Oregon

Guaranteed to Return

John Derden sent in an advertisement (depicted above) from the December 1956 issue of *Holiday* magazine. The manufacturer is Colonel John Gerrish from Portland, Oregon. Do you have one of these old collectables in your collection? They only cost \$2.50 Ppd back in the early days.

Shades of Black is a gallery of multi-ethnic art located in Toledo, Ohio. The editor visited their booth during the famous *Old-West-End Festival*. They mentioned that they could get boomerangs from Nigeria. These boomerangs are conventional returners with African art painted on the upper surface. Anyone interested in acquiring a boomerang from this part of the world can call (419)-472-3005 or write to:

Shades of Black
 1892 W. Bancroft
 Toledo, OH 43606



CAPTAIN BOOMERANG #85

1992 Series 1-85 in a series of 100

IDENTIKIT

George "Digger" Harkness
 THE FLASH
 #117 (December 1960)

5'9"
 167 lbs.
 Brown
 Brown

CAPTAIN BOOMERANG'S SONIC AND EXPLOSIVE BOOMERANGS

Who brought Boomerang to America?
 For answers see *NEWS* #101

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Pencil: Luke McDonnell/Ink: Mike Clark

Dallan Reese of Houston Texas collects DC Comics trading cards. He writes to mention that he found a trading card (pictured above) for *Captain Boomerang*, the 1970s arch nemesis of *The Flash*. Currently, *Captain Boomerang* is a member of the Suicide Squad.

Do any of the readers have one of the new electronic game machines called "Game Gear"? If you do, get the game cartridge titled: "Streets of Rage". One of the characters uses a boomerang and the graphics are very good indeed!

Has anyone read the Agatha Christie book: "The Boomerang Clue"? If you haven't, don't. The word "boomerang" isn't mentioned anywhere in the text.

Has anyone heard the new radio advertisement for the "Outback Steakhouse" Restaurant Chain. There is a phrase that says:

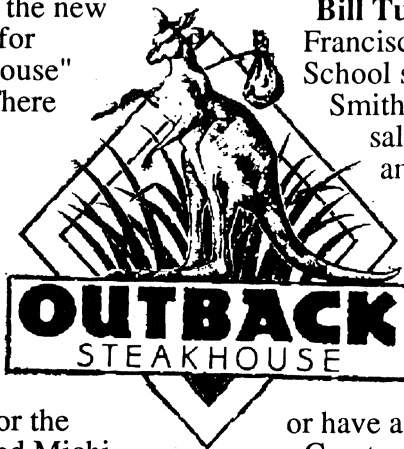
"... and like a boomerang comes back; so will you! . . ."

The Detroit area throwers took advantage of the restaurant's affinity with Australia to obtain sponsorship for the first USBA sanctioned Michigan tournament in June. Yes, they do have a "Boomerang Burger" listed on their Joey Menu.

"Zillions" is a Consumer's Report bi-monthly magazine for kids that rates products like bikes and toys. An article on flight toys appeared in the June/July 1993 issue. Three boomerangs are tested: the Nerf Turbo Screamer, the Aerobie Orbiter, and a generic boomerang product. The Nerf Turbo Screamer had the poorest rating with none of the four test throwers able to get a full return. The generic boomerang was only slightly better. The Aerobie Orbiter received rather high marks by everyone who threw it. The only problem was that the boomerang had a rather strong tendency to get hung-up in trees.

The Boomerang Man's catalog # XVIII has hit the streets. Supplemental sales sheets are also available with new or one-of-a-kind products. These sheets have booms by Norm Kern, Rich Surrace and John Cryderman. There are also a limited number of Throw Sticks and Black Wattle Returners from Australia. For more information on B'Man products, call (318)-325-8157 or write to the following address:

The Boomerang Man
1806 North 3rd Street
Monroe, LA 71201



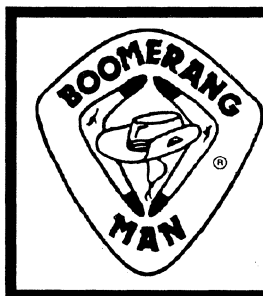
Bill Tumath of the San Francisco Boomerang School still has some Herb Smith boomerangs for sale. He is trying to amass a collection of collectable boomerangs and is interested in trading Smith boomerangs for other collectables. If you make anything special,

or have anything like an Oscar Cuartas, or Kim Deutchman Zulurang that you would be willing to swap, then please contact Bill at the address below. Bill is also seeking a photocopy or tracing of Herb's "Black Knight" model to pass on to Herb, as he has lost his template for this particular model.

S. F. Boomerang School
127 Knollview Way
San Francisco, CA 94131

Kangaroo Connection is a retail outlet for Australian and New Zealand products. This retail outlet has lots of boomerangs from Aussie manufacturers. Brand names include "Binghi" by Peter Byham and "Rangs" by Sam Blight. There are three plastic Rangs boomerangs: "Hornet"; "Wind Jammer"; and "Rad Rang". A catalog of all products costs a buck. Ask for a copy of their special "Boomerang Catalog" when you write:

Kangaroo Connection
1113 W. Webster
Chicago, IL 60614



THE BOOMERANG MAN
"Giving fast, personal service since 1975!"
RICH HARRISON'S FREE CATALOG #18

Offering You a Broad Selection: Wood; Plastic; Graphite; Paxolin; Perinex; Foam; Paper & GFK Booms
1806 North 3rd St., RM → Monroe, LA 71201; (318) 325-8157

AUSTRALIAN BOOMERANGS

For details send \$1.00 to cover postage to:

KANGAROO CONNECTION
Australian & New Zealand General Store
1113 W Webster BA
Chicago IL 60614
312-248-5499
ask for special boomerang catalog

Steve Conaway made a trip to Cancun this past spring with the goal of throwing a boomerang from the top of the temple of Kukulcan at Chichen-itza. There were so many tourists that Steve was unable to realize his life long dream for reason of safety considerations. However, he was able to barter a boomerang for two magnificent shark teeth and coral necklaces. A shop keeper fell in love with Steve's boomerang after seeing him throw and catch it on the beach.

Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs is a relatively new source for competition boomerang products. Stock items from his catalog includes: a T-shirt, cyalume capsules, and 14 boomerang products. You can pick up a MTA or a F/C tri-blader at very attractive prices. All products are made out of top quality plywood. For a free catalog, call **Steve Conaway** at (805)-524-2913 or write to:



Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs
121 Oakdale Lane
Fillmore, Ca. 93015

News From Austria

Ernst Duda has programmed a video game, called "Lonely Boomerang", for his Casio 7000 calculator. A copy of the program description is available to interested readers who may have a compatible calculator with a graphics display. If you want a copy, send a SASE to **Ted Bailey** at the address on the inside back cover.

News From Australia

Bruce Carter has recently celebrated his 10th sacrifice of an MTA to the Jet Stream God with the loss of a *Perry Paxolin* model. So far, he has lost 3 Jones, 2 Baileys, 1 Perry, 3 Bonins, and 1 Croll.

John Gibney writes to let us know that *Batman #197* (12/67) features a story about Catwoman having a feline crush on Batman. She uses a Batarang to set him off balance. Also in Steven Spielberg's "Tiny Toon Adventure", there is a segment called "Elmyras Round The World". About two minutes into the cartoon, Elmyra throws a boomerang.

The Purely Australian Clothing Company is a major source for quality Australian cloth and wool products. The outlet in Perth has a large supply of Aboriginal art and artifacts for sale at very reasonable prices. Imagine bark paintings at \$20 - \$35; spear throwers, shields and clubs at \$40 - \$150; and dozens of other collectable products at low attractive prices. For more information, contact **John Edmonds** at the address that follows:

John Edmonds
Purely Australian Clothing Co.
5/106 Robinson Ave.
Belmont, W. A. 6104
Australia

Brother Brian Thomas was the subject of an excellent article by columnist **John Collins** in the 25 May issue of the *Wentworth Courier*. Brian was featured on a 6 minute segment of a Children's program called "Wonder World" on Sydney's TV Channel 9 on 30 June. Mark Barrass is scheduled to do a 6 minute segment on a program called "Good Sports". These Aussies really know how to promote their favorite sport.

Brian found another counterfeit copy of **Eric Darnell's** tri-Fly in a store for only \$1 (AD). What is Eric's response? He is unhappy about the situation, but thinks that he should feel honored.

Conrad Stacey is an Aussie thrower with 20 years of experience in the sport. He began throwing boomerangs when he was 12 and kept his interest ever since. In 1982, he obtained a BS

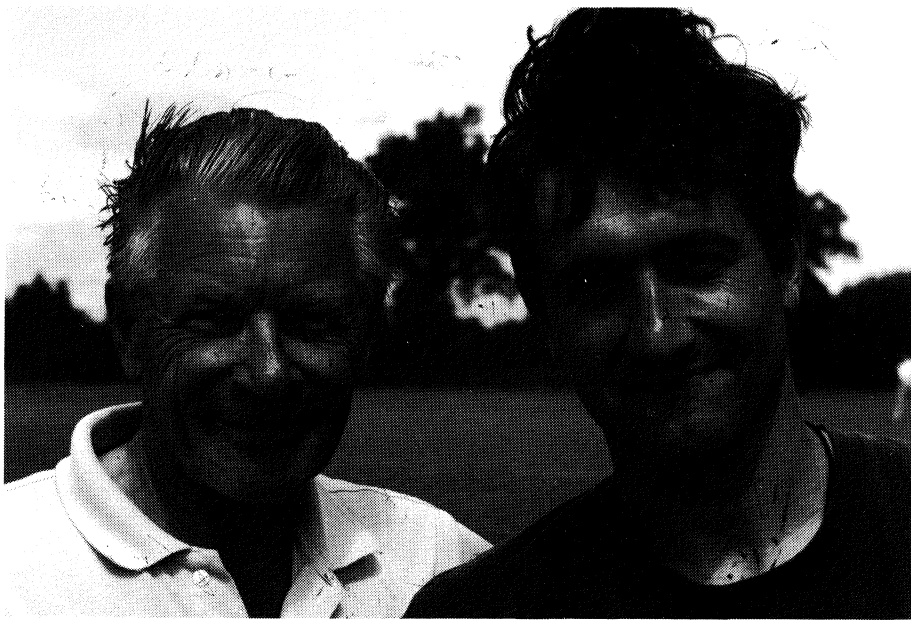
degree in Mechanical Engineering. His thesis was "A Computer Simulation of Boomerang Flight". Conrad went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering in 1989. Conrad and **Bob Burwell** have teamed to design a new boomerang called the "Hooper". It is made out of Queensland Hoop Pine 7-ply plywood, and carved using computer controlled machinery. Conrad (and his wife Carolyn) market this new boomerang out of their native Brisbane. The boomerang has a range of approximately 30 metres and is very well behaved in flight. The weight is approximately 100 gm and the span is 40 cm. The boomerang retails for \$20 in Australia and efforts are underway to expand the market to other countries as well. Any of the readers who may have an interest in adding this quality Aussie product to their catalog sales should contact Conrad at the following address:

Conrad & Carolyn Stacey
12 Ironbark Place
Bellbowrie; Brisbane
Queensland 4070
Australia

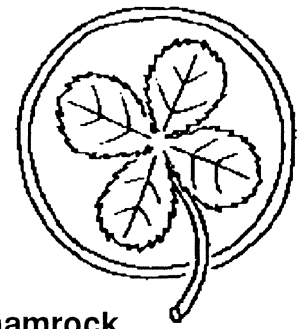
News From Canada

Art of My Heart is a dealer of world folk art and decorative items. The store has a real interest in items like boomerangs and regularly acquires such things for retail sale. Parties interested in inquiring about current stock, or being placed on a want list can write to:

Art of My Heart
3rd Floor
Toronto Dominion Square
317 7th Ave., S. W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2Y9
Canada



Herb Smith and Michel GuFayard - Distance Record Holders



**Shamrock
Boomerangs
1 Berkeley Avenue
Nottingham NG3 5BU
United Kingdom**

In the June 1993 issue of the BBS Bulletin, Sean Slade mentions that a new plastic material, called Forex, has been identified with favorable properties for boomerangs. The material has a density of about 0.45 gm/cm³ and retails for about £55 for a 4' X 8' sheet. Is there a similar material available in the USA?

News From Fiji

Sam Lemay has recently moved to Fiji and he is teaching the native population the fine art of throwing boomerangs. The sport is catching on, but Sam can use some help with stocking the new throwers with equipment. Manufacturers who have some extra stock that they feel they can do-

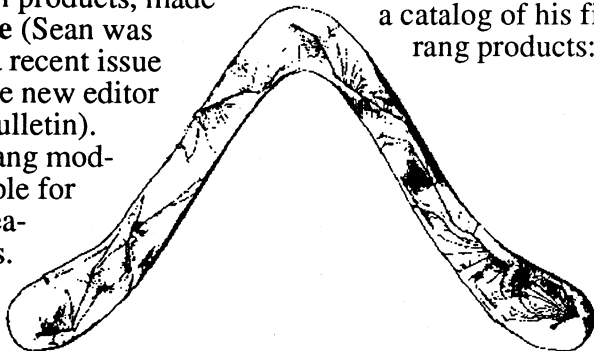
News From England

Ben Ruhe spent part of the summer in London and participated in an Australian boomerang exhibition that was held at the South Bank Centre. Ben loaned a dozen boomerangs to the display which included the boomerangs that were thrown around the South Pole and over the Berlin Wall. The other exhibition pieces were from the South Australia Museum collection depicted on the cover of MHR #51. Ben took the photo depicted above of Herb Smith (left) and Michel DuFayard (right) at the Shrewsbury tournament. Herb is a past long distance world record holder. Michel holds the current world record at 149.1 metres.

Shamrock Boomerangs is the brand name of a new line of quality competition products, made by Sean Slade (Sean was identified in a recent issue of MHR as the new editor of the BBS Bulletin). Nine boomerang models are available for sale at very reasonable prices.

Some are made out of

Finnish Birch and some are made out of Paxolin. The MHR editor sampled an Omega shaped Paxolin model called "The Carlow". The dense Paxolin material gives this model (depicted below) a range of more than 50 metres with a low and very accurate (wind resistant) flight. The boomerang has an attractive, highly visible, red and yellow enamel upper surface. It is packaged with easy to read instructions. The price of "The Carlow" is only £10.50 and includes shipping to UK orders. For overseas shipping, the cost is only an additional £1. With the British £ at approximately \$1.60, Sean's boomerangs are a real bargain, even after bank draft charges are added to American orders. Sean also sells Paxolin blanks to *do-it-yourself-ers*. The readers are encouraged to write and ask Sean for a catalog of his fine boomerang products:



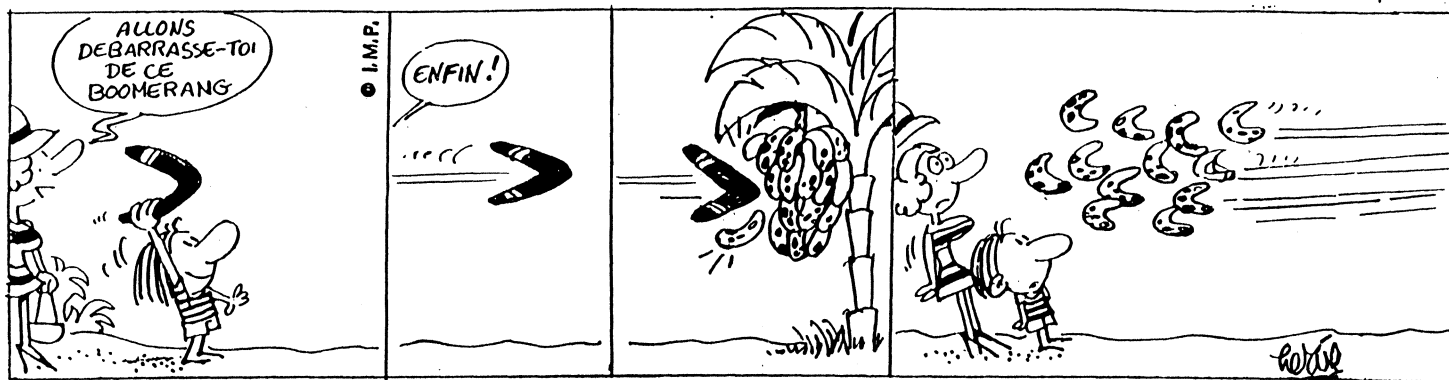
TRADE

or for sale

**Strip
Laminated
Hardwood**

Boomerangs fully tuned, signed and stamped will trade for Books, Literature and will trade Boomerangs for Boomerangs - **TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE!**

Contact: John Cryderman
136 Thames Street, Chaham
Ontario, Canada N7L 2Y5
519-354-3984 Fax 519-351-8345



nate to a worthy cause should send the boomerangs to Sam at the address below. This is an excellent opportunity to stimulate boomerang throwing activities in an isolated area. Benefits could include the eventual output of new models from this island country or even a Fijian Boomerang Team.

Sam Lemay
Box 410
Labasa
Fiji Islands

News From France

Olivier Vouktchevitch has moved and wishes to let the readers know of his new address and phone number. Olivier has the function of coordinator of the French clubs through his regular *France Boomerang Association* newsletter.

Olivier Vouktchevitch
149 Avenue du Maine
75014 Paris
France
tel: (1) 45 45 33 07

Michel Dufayard mailed in the cartoon depicted above which was found in a French newspaper. Michel is also the contact for the Second Annual Coupe de France Long Distance Competition. For more information on this event, see "Boomerang Season 1993". l'Art Boomerang Club publishes

an excellent newsletter called "Profil". Issue #11 is totally dedicated to the Long Distance event. It is full of plans and techniques that you need to sling one out for a mile. The publication is written in French, but the diagrams and plans are easy to follow. If you can read Spanish, then you can probably read French. To obtain a copy of this newsletter, you need to send 20 F to Serge d'Ignazio at the address below:

Serge d'Ignazio
92 rue des Baconnets
92160 Antony
France

News From Germany

Congratulations go to **Günter Möller** for setting a new German F/C record at the German Nationals. The time was a marvelous 17.09 seconds.

The Federal Republic of Germany is in the process of constructing a new "House of History" in Bonn which will be open to the public in 1994. **Ted Bailey** received a request from the curator to deliver several boomerangs to the museum collection because of the publicity related to the NASA Spinoff publication. The boomerangs were sent, as requested, with information on German boomerang technology contacts so they can integrate German technology into their museum as well.

News From Japan

Ted Bailey went on a business trip to Japan in late July and noticed a definite lack of grassy fields for throwing booms. All those nice green yards in front of the houses were rice paddys, as virtually every square inch of surface is used to house or feed people. Several stores carried the *Aerobie Orbiter*, but the price was ¥1800 (17 USD). Also available in retail outlets was the five bladed *Bee-Bak*, which sold for ¥500. During the few times that he threw boomerangs, the field was quickly surrounded by inquisitive Japanese spectators. The editor has a few words of caution for the competitors who plan to compete in the 1994 World Cup. Japan is warm and muggy in August. Bring cool cotton clothing and a Boda Bag for cool water. Be prepared for windy conditions as well. During the 10 day visit, 3 typhoons hit Honshu, producing either heavy rain and/or windy conditions. One thing that is for sure, you will absolutely love the warm and friendly ways of these people.

News From Sweden

Ola Wahlberg called to say that he has completed the Super Catch using a new MTA model he developed that easily breaks the one minute barrier. Ola was able to complete Super Catch several times and one effort produced 6 F/C catches under the MTA.

USBA INFORMATION PAGE

Many Happy Returns

Circulation: 400 Worldwide.

Published by the:

U. S. Boomerang Association
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

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2 Columns	\$150
1/2 Page	\$115
1 Column	\$80
Per Column inch	\$10

10% discount for 4 consecutive issues. All advertisements must be pre-paid in USD by check or M. O. to USBA. Camera-ready copy preferred. The editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason. The deadline for all advertisements is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively. All advertisements should be mailed to:

Jay Emerson
374 A Roe
Plymouth, MI 48170

Questions regarding *newsletter delivery status* should be directed to the editor: **Jay Emerson** by calling (313)-416-0966 or by writing to:

Jay Emerson
374 A Roe
Plymouth, MI 48170

All newsletter submittals, with the exception of competition; science & technology and Bits & Pieces column materials should be directed to the editor: **Jay Emerson** by calling (313)-416-0966 or by writing to:

Jay Emerson
374 A Roe
Plymouth, MI 48170

USBA INFORMATION

The USBA provides information listings to members at a nominal charge. A listing of boomerang manufacturers; a listing of wood sources; and a listing of boomerang clubs can be obtained by sending a SASE. Allow one ounce postage per listing. A sampling of vendor catalogs or a USBA rule book costs \$2 and a self addressed envelope (no stamps). Send all inquiries to:

USBA
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Chet Snouffer will respond quickly to special inquiries that are mailed to: Chet Snouffer; 51 Troy Rd.; Delaware, Oh 43015. In the event of an emergency, you can contact Chet at (614)-363-8332 (9 -12 AM EST).

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All materials related to competition notices & results should be sent to the Competition Editor: **Chet Snouffer:**

Chet Snouffer
51 Troy Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015
phone: (614)-363-8332

All newsletter submittals related to Science & Technology and the "Bits & Pieces" column should be sent to the Science and Correspondence Editor: **Ted Bailey** at the address below:

Ted E. Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6076
phone: (313)-971-2970

USBA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in \$USD\$. Make checks payable to: USBA. Domestic and Canadian annual membership dues are \$10 per year. A domestic lifetime membership is \$150. Annual overseas dues are \$20. A lifetime overseas membership is \$250. Check your newsletter label for expiration issue. Mail all checks or money orders to the address below:

U. S. Boomerang Association
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Membership status questions should be directed to **Gregg Snouffer** by calling (614)-363-4414 or by writing to the above USBA address.

New Member Application

Instructions: USBA member should copy this page and fill in his/her name as sponsor. Carry extra copies of this sheet in your boomerang bag and hand them out to potential new members.

name

address

address

city/state/zip or country

phone number (optional)

USBA member sponsor's name

New member: Please read USBA Membership Information above. Send the completed coupon and (\$10) check or M. O. to:

USBA
P. O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015



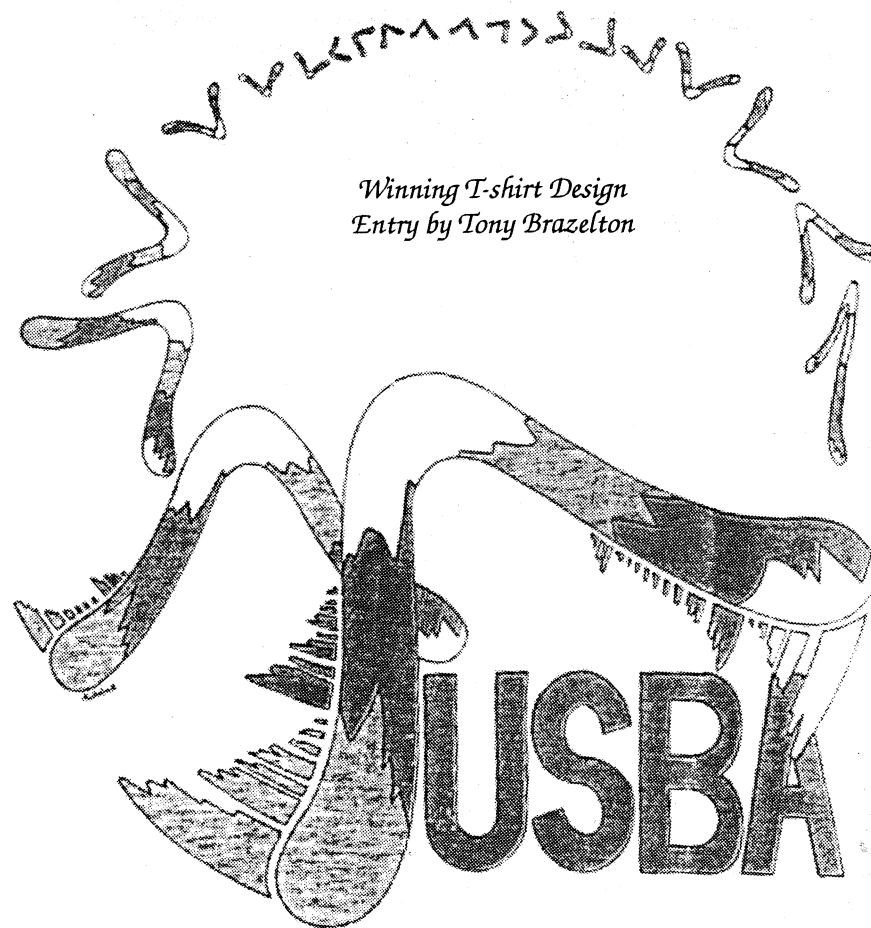
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UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 182
Delaware, Ohio 43015
U.S.A.

Last Issue: #57, Winter 1994
Dale W. Riendeau
P.O. Box 484
Jackson, CA 95642



*Winning T-shirt Design
Entry by Tony Brazelton*