

Many Happy Returns

Issue 70

Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

Fall 1997

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Stevie Kavanaugh
1997 US Open
Champion

Many Happy Returns

FALL
1997

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Boomerang Association
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MHR

EDITOR IN CHIEF Tony Brazelton CORRESPONDANT Gregg Snouffer COPY EDITOR Tara Hemami

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Letters

Let's have some fun!!! In 1996 there were fewer USBA tournaments held and there were fewer entrants in many. This was probably due to the fact that 1996 was not a year which was going to have much bearing on who made the USA teams for world cup. In 1997 we have also seen fewer tournaments. This is probably due to the fact that making a USA team is totally dependent on three tournaments. These three were very well attended.

I would just like to suggest that if the USA teams are determined only by three tournaments every second year, we could have a whole bunch of fun the rest of the time! Since I got involved in the sport in 1990 I have heard endless conversation on the rules and heated arguments about enforcement of the rules at tournaments. This was all because every throw could affect the outcome in the event for the tournament and every event in every tournament impacted who would make the USA teams. Well, Good News!!! That is not a problem any more!!! We can have fun now!

Tony B can take his wife's advice and run thrower selected trick catch. Larry Ruhf can run trick catch with the suicide format. John Koehler can combine trick catch and doubling and count it as one event. Someone can forget the trick catch event entirely and let the standings in GLORP count toward the tournament winner. In Michigan we can let 3 throw stick events and 3 returning boomerang events decide a tournament. Save some time: Combine fast catch and endurance into 2 minute endurance. Run a couple individual events and count the scores towards team results and then run team events the rest of the day. Run some events head to head and some per

USBA rules. We've grumbled long enough. We are free.

Tournament directors should only submit events which were conducted according to USBA rules and the USBA should track these scores as they always have. We don't have to bother them with the rest of the results.

The only question I have is, will people travel very far to compete in a tournament which is not 100% according to USBA rules. We'll see.

*Norm Kern
Birmingham, MI*

Quarterly Quote

Mark Horstmeier said:

"Jonas is here in America right now helping the Europeans to break the sound barrier in a jet-car. I'll try to twist Jonas' arm about getting the article he has promised."

Then Louis Cassorla said:

"I thought the great thing about Jonas is that you never have to twist his arms. They're supposedly all properly and permanently tuned."

Iwould like to urge that we adopt the word "player" when referring to boomerangers, boomerang throwers, boomchuckers, etc.

Boomeranger is cumbersome. Boomerang thrower is incomplete. We not only *throw*, but also *catch* boomerangs. And the sport isn't just throw and catch either. There are many other facets to the game. Some words sound nice and flow well when you tack on an *-er*. There are golfers, swimmers, runners, and wrestlers. But some words sound just plain dorky. We don't have footballers or tennisers or baseballers or soccerers. Those are all sports that we play, and the people who play them are players. I think we play boomerangs and therefore we are players.

When presenting our

sport to the media and the public, it is good to stick to words and phrases people are used to. Boomerang player just sets better on the ear for the first time than boomeranger. Sure, it sounds a little awkward to us, but that's because we've been saying *boomerang thrower* for so long. Why do we say boomerang thrower? Well, I'm not sure who first used the term but I do know that as recently as 20 years ago most boomerangs were best left uncaught. They were traditionals with knuckle-nipping spin rates. Now we have better boomerangs that we catch and do all kinds of crazy things with.

We have a complex sport that we *play*. Why can't we play boomerangs?

One last thing. Look at the word: *boomeranger*. There should be no anger in our sport.

Now pardon me while I go racquetballing...

*Tony Brazelton
Champaign, IL*

Iwant to say thanks to JimboLouis Labs for the article in *MHR* about lighting booms with LEDs and batteries.

We just had our biggest central Nebraska kite fly last weekend. Both Saturday and Sunday nights had night flys scheduled. There was no wind on Sat and it died quick on Sun. A boom friend and I hooked up a couple booms with LEDs and went to work. We were a big hit with the crowd. Several times I heard from the spectators "I'll be damned, would you look at that." We had a lot of fun and probably have some kites looking for booms.

*Scott McCullough
Central Nebraska*

Yesterday I received issue 69 of *MHR*. It looks good but to tell you the truth I've given up on the USBA. Issue 69 was the first thing out of the USBA in about a year when issue 68 came out. The quote "There has been a noticeable lapse in" *(continued on page 4)*

www.staff.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/MHR.html

Be sure to look for these little boxes throughout *Many Happy Returns*. These contain web addresses where you can find certain articles and resources on the USBA website. In many cases, the web versions are enhanced, more detailed, and interactive.



FROM THE
President's Desk

Betsylew Miale-Gix addresses some recent changes on the American boomerang scene

THREE DIVISIONS The USBA Board, at the urging of Tony Brazelton and Betsylew Miale-Gix (and at the request of Norm Kernace Open class competitor) has voted to enforce the requirement that all three divisions be offered at all USBA tournaments (if the TD wants the results sanctioned by the USBA). Also, we voted to require some form of award to the best in each of the divisions. As you may recall the rules have required three divisions (Novice, Open and Sport) but many of the east and midwest tourneys weren't following these requirements.

During the 1997 Tourney season, if you choose to throw Open, for example, throwers in your division will have their scores computed against each other only for tourney awards purposes, i.e., you won't have to beat Chet to win an event!

For the ratings system, the Open and Sport classes will continue to be clumped together for ratings point computations according to the chart.

Your USBA Board thinks it is important that everyone who comes out to a tournament leaves at the end of the day having both accomplished something and wanting to come back again. Maybe some people will be inspired to practice and move up the division food chain. Others may want just to have fun at the skill level they are comfortable with.

Tournament directors may simplify the scoring within the Open and Novice divisions if they like - for tourney award purposes only, as the scores don't go into the rating system that way - by using a simple system like the Aussie/Euro system, for example. First place gets one point, second place two points, etc. Add 'em up from each event and the one with the least total points wins. This has been clarified for tourney directors in their packets.

Yes your USBA DOES CARE about the beginner and intermediate thrower as well as the top competitors. This is one good example.

NEW TRICK CATCHES The USBA Board

also voted NOT to change any catches in the Doubling event and NOT to combine Doubling and Trick Catch. This was done expressly with the intermediate and beginner throwers in mind.

The changes in Trick Catch will help all of us at each skill level get better and have more fun working on cool new catches. These are tried and true catches that the Europeans have been doing for a couple of years now. Just as many of our rules have been accepted overseas, so we need to be willing to adopt some of their good ideas as well!

Also, there is a trade off for all of us in this line up: there is ONLY ONE FOOT CATCH now. Only one big 5 pointer. So we took away one tough, big point catch and put in a new one worth a point less. Heck, those of you soccer or hackey sack players have the basic skill needed for that foot/leg hackey already.

TEAM SELECTION With regard to the team selection process, the system was designed to be as fair and open as possible within reason. It was designed to get all the OPEN class throwers who believe they have what it takes to compete at the WORLD CLASS level for the USA, against the best from the rest of the world, to go to all three regions of the country with fairly large numbers of throwers and face each other.

No more having some throwers being able to minimize the expense and distance of travel needed to get to enough tournaments to be rated because there are more tourneys within driving distance of where they live, while other throwers cannot do the same. No more choosing to go only to the tourneys that traditionally have offered the best throwing conditions and dodging those that don't. No more just dominating your region without having to face the top throwers from other parts of the country.

By eliminating the ability to use the above ratings manipulation tactics, avoiding the subjective factors of the old boy network comfort level aspect of past selections, the USBA Board has given MORE THROWERS THAN EVER BEFORE A SHOT AT MAKING A TEAM!

*Betsylew Miale-Gix
USBA President*

Perspectives

Thoughts from the RangList and Elsewhere

The universal sales rep

I faced some strong winds the other Saturday. Then I remembered something Colorado Boomerangs suggested about outdoor alternatives, "too strong for rang throwing, fly a kite!" I went to the local kite store and purchased a kite. I noticed some Pro Flys and 5-ply rangs hanging in the store with the kites. A couple of the wooden rangs were pretty, but not up to the quality of Colorado or Abo Steve (my only rangs to date). I then suggested to the store owner that he look at my rang makers printouts from Abo Steve, Colorado and even B-man's stuffed catalog. The kite guy was very accomodating because he purchased several from Abo Steve and Colorado for his store.

As fate would insist, the day I purchased my kite, the wind stopped blowing, lasting 2 weeks. I and the kite store owner and fellow kite-heads have been throwing rangs down at the kite field. Also, the group has taken up nite-rangs when the winds are lower in the evening. (I purchased some 3" X 1/4" Cyalume light sticks from Jim Jordan not long ago and loaned a dozen to these fellows.) The kite store is purchasing some 2" Cyalume sticks for kites (and rangs) with which to perpetuate the night sport.

I am purchasing a Delicate Arch today from the kite store.

*Richard R. Choate
Colorado*

Twist some negative

Congratulations to the top throwers in this year's throwing season. However, what was the mechanism for selecting these teams? There is a problem using a rating system to pick teams. I sense an imbalance in personalities and individual strengths on these two teams which will probably give Germany (and France) an edge over the USA in 1998. If I could rearrange the same 12 people into two different teams, I would put them in this order:

Team 1: Chet Snouffer, Adam Ruhf, John Flynn, John Gorski, Michael Girvin and Mike Dixon.

Team 2: Betsylew Miale-Gix, Gary

Broadbent, Chicago Bob, Mark Weary, Rob Parkins and John Koehler.

These combinations would probably give a better mix of strengths in all the key areas and insure at least a first place win.

The best way to form a team is to let the throwers pick their own teams and then petition the USBA. The throwers already know each other and they will naturally gravitate towards the strongest and most compatible teams. The German team (Young Guns) that won in New Zealand was picked in this manner. I would rather see the USBA put their energy into providing membership services that will benefit all of the USBA members, not just the small percentage who religiously compete each year. Too much effort goes into this team and competition stuff.

*Ted Bailey
Ann Arbor, MI*

Feedback from the Gu-Ruhe

I liked the article in issue 68 on the actual speeds being attained by fast catch throwers. I always wondered about those casual 100 mph claims, having watched close up (in my sports writing days) some of the authentically good major league fast ball pitchers. Granted the baseball has more air resistance, but still...When you saw the likes of Bob Feller in action, you realized

The Autumn Wind

The autumn wind is free tonight
Free to soar and fly tonight!
Clouds of hawks, 100 meters high
Dance in the wind, across the sky!
Arrows of geese, at cruise-missile height
Dodging boomerangs in errant flight.
Sundown's purple, orange and red
Frame booms in flight above my head.
Great beams of light spiral the sky.
Miracles surround us, from on high.
A part of me aches to be free,
Jumps from my hand, eager to see
What lies beyond, above the trees.
Each throw stronger, higher, bolder
Til time stops beating
To pause and wonder
The autumn wind is free tonight
Free to soar and fly tonight!

Jim Goff

Adam Ruhf has a way to go.

Small but awful error in your otherwise nice little rewrite on the antiquity of boomerangs. It's Irian (as in Irian Jaya, the western half of the island of Papua New Guinea) and not Iran, which is far, far away. Take a look at an atlas and you'll see the point. I'm hoping to go to Irian to search for unknown cave paintings of boomerangs but fear the Indonesians won't permit a visit since a revolution is going on in the country right now. Besides which the wretched Indonesian government is shipping millions—correct, millions—of Javanese to Irian, which has one of the world's few remaining Stone Age populations. There are people in the highlands still making and using stone tools. You can just imagine what the introduction of sophisticated—well relatively—Javanese rice farmers, plus the incursions of wrenching American mining

OPINION

and oil companies from Texas and Louisiana, are doing to this fragile, irreplaceable ecosystem. Maybe the USBA could do a letter writing campaign to the Indonesian embassy in Washington. The Indonesians, since they of course get lots of U.S. cash, are much more sensitive to this sort of thing than most people imagine.

I have large amounts of wonderful boomerang material written up, stuff never before seen by aficionados, and might contribute some to the newsletter if I can dredge it up out of my now mounds of packed baggage. We'll see.

Ben Ruhe
Somewhere out there

Security Check

One time on a flight to Denver, I went to retrieve my baggage but the tag was missing. Security told me that I would need to identify some item within. I said "That's easy. I have two boomerangs in the suitcase." They laughed and replied "If there is a boomerang in this suitcase it would have to be yours." Naturally it was an easy claim.

Richard George
San Bernadino, CA

Revelations

Hey, what's up? I took your advice and read the instructions again until I memorized them and finally threw a good one that actually came back beautifully. Unfortunately, I just stared dumbly as it came back in a nice hover and hit my leg. I realized then and there that I didn't know how to catch a boom on its return trip. I know you have to clap your hands together in order to catch, but it just wasn't working. Since the boom spins

somewhere inside the angle, my hands always miss cuz the boom moves around. I thing I'm thinking about it too much and I should just run after it and slap my hands together and catch the damn thing. She flies great, though and thanks again.

I got the magazine celebrating USBA's 15th B-day. I

found my letter inside and I have to say that I sound sooo cheezy. If I knew that you guys were gonna print it, I would have written something more inspiring. Thanks anyway for printing it. Read ya later.

Tizoc Gomez
New York, NY



(continued from page 1)

membership service" is an understatement. It's been at least a year since the USBA has done anything for its membership. Actually when I became enthusiastic about boomerangs 4 years ago I wanted to help. To help out I wrote an article for *MHR*. It was never used. No one told me why. Then I noticed other things I didn't care for and even though I was a USBA member it was like I had no voice. In issue 61 Rusty Harding contributed an excellent article on tuning wooden boomerangs. It was supposed to be a two-parter, part two coming in Issue 62. It never did. Apparently Rusty had stepped on some toes in the first article and wrote some things that other members didn't agree with. So they canned him, cut him out. Is this the way the USBA treats its members? Someone writes something the staff doesn't like so you deny him his say? Most of the stuff I read in *MHR* was stale news anyway. Ted Bailey's *Boomerang News* was way ahead of the game. If I had a customer who was getting interested in boomerangs, I would give him Ted's address and highly recommend *Boomerang News*, but I would not even mention the USBA. I wouldn't want to disappoint the guy. You write that "the

board...has cleaned out the cobwebs." I certainly hope so, but I have heard this before and nothing came of it. The USBA staff should be paid money for their work. This would make them more efficient and the censorship should stop. If someone writes something you don't like, don't pull the plug on his articles. Different styles and approaches is what makes a sport exciting and fun. If a member writes or says something you disagree with, don't deny him a voice. I can't think of one aspect of the boomerang sport that is without controversy- and isn't that wonderful! Our sport is just like every other sport.

Here's a side issue: How about a new name for this publication. *Many Happy Returns* was chosen in the 1970s and was OK for that time. Today the title sounds quaint and cute. Not the right title for a new publication and a new century. I would like to see the board let the membership vote on this.

I would like to write an article for the new publication, but I don't want to spend time writing the article only to have it turned down by some staff member who doesn't like what I wrote. The article would be about the public's false perceptions about boomerangs. Like you I'm very concerned at the way the public sees boomerangs. A brief outline follows: I. Public discussion of boomerangs with weapons; II. A discussion about boomerangs in cartoons (much of the public misconceptions come from this source); III. The public's misconception of boomerangs as dangerous; IV. Discussion of warning labels often found on boomerangs (some of them are very odd).

All four of these are interrelate. If this idea is accepted then I could have the article ready for spring issue 71. And let's hope that by then it's not called *MHR* anymore and that writers are compensated for their work.

Thomas Risher
Whittier, CA

RESPONSE: Regarding paying the *MHR* staff and contributors: Although previous *MHR* editors were well-compensated for their efforts (up to \$200 per issue), the current *MHR* staff receives no payment. We will let the readers decide for themselves if this makes (continued on page 17)

IT'S ANOTHER Boomerangs GIVEAWAY!



The United States Boomerang Association announces its second mass boomerang giveaway in a year! That's right, last Fall's membership drive was so successful, and generated so much interest that we decided to do it again... but with a different twist! We've got boomerangs from all of the major manufacturers to GIVE AWAY! That's right! We've got everything from beginner booms to competition masterpieces and collectables! AND WE'RE GIVING THEM AWAY! We're even paying the postage!



Here are just a few of the boomerangs donated by crafters from around the world to the 1997 USBA Year-end Boomerang Blowout!

HERE'S HOW YOU WIN:

All current USBA members as of December 1, 1997 get one automatic entry just for being a member!

Then, if you get a friend to sign up and list you as a sponsor, your friend gets entered, PLUS, YOU GET AN EXTRA ENTRY!

Use the attached coupon (or any sheet of paper with the same information) to update your subscription or to get a friend into the USBA and you could win:

- Two Ola Wahlberg Distance boomerangs, autographed by Ola for this promotion!
- Gel Boomerangs Fast Catches, Aussie Rounds, Trick Catches, T-shirts and beginner booms!
- Thomas Risher's new "Winged Navigator II" prototype boomerang!
- Five Eric Darnell Tri Flies (polypropylene three-bladers) and 2 Air Dancers (foam backyarders).
- Two subscriptions to Ted Bailey's *Boomerang News*.
- One free year's USBA membership.
- USBA T-shirts, including the USBA Eagle shirt, 1996 Virginia Beach Nationals T shirt, and other rare, out-of-print boomerang T's!
- More booms from beginner to competition rangs from Gregg Snouffer's Roundtrip Boomerangs, Broadbent Boomerangs, Chet Snouffer's Leading Edge Boomerangs, Norm Kern's Left Turn Boomerangs, ... AND MORE!
- PLUS, The Boomerang Man is giving a hand made and decorated PVC Didgeridoo to the USBA member who brings in the most new members during this promotion! (A \$40 value!).

Its never been easier to sign up a new member! Just tell them if they enter now, they will be registered for the prize drawing!

This contest is limited to current members as of December 1. So don't be shut out! Check your issue of expiration on your *MHR* mailing label and make sure it is at least #71. Then join up your friends, then sit back and wait for FREE BOOMERANGS!

USBA FREE BOOMERANG GIVEAWAY Membership Drive Form

New Member info

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone _____

right-handed _____

left-handed _____

(check one)

Membership Type: (check one)

_____ one year (\$15 North America, \$20 overseas)

_____ two years (\$25 N America, \$30 overseas)

_____ lifetime membership (\$225 N America, \$350 overseas)

Sponsor Information

Name _____

right-handed _____

left-handed _____

(check one)

MHR

The best and the worst of

Awards 1997

Well, the 1997 competition season is over. As we reflect on the year, some things stand out from others. The *MHR* Awards are a chance to acknowledge the people and the boomerangs that distinguished themselves (or not) in 1997.

MHR's **BOOMERANGER of the YEAR**

Michael 'Gel' Girvin

When Michael Girvin announced to his friends in early 1997 that he was planning to make a run for the US Team, he was encouraged to go for it. Even though a persisting back injury had kept him out of many tournaments over the last few years, he was still Gel. Injury or not, Gel is still one of the best. But even as his friends and former teammates gave Gel their support, they must have been thinking, "Can he still do it?" After all, he can't ignore the pain of multiple disc damage forever!

Gel answered that question unequivocally as he shredded all three trials with consistent excellence. He made it clear to all that not only did he still have it, but that, even through the pain, he was undeniably still one of the best.

Since he started competing in 1985, Gel has won nearly 30 tournaments and held 5 world records, world titles in Accuracy and Fast Catch, and US titles in every event. Gel has proven to be a crucial member of the US Team since 1987 and was voted MVP of the 1989 World Champion Team.

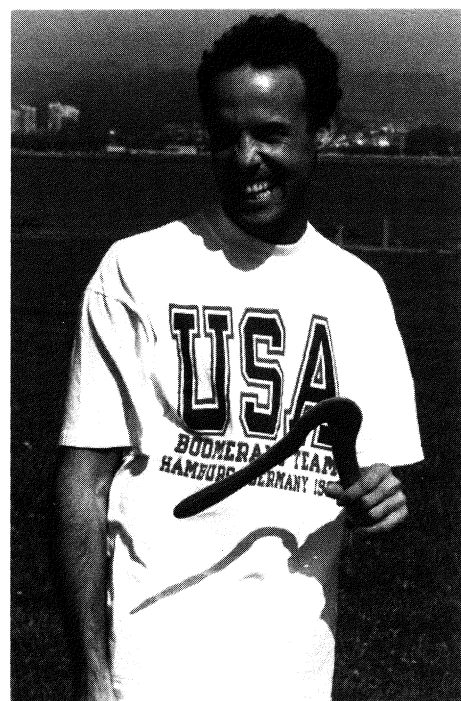
Michael 'Gel' is known for his energetic, enthusiastic presence on the field. Girvin

is usually the loudest thrower on the field, cheering on whoever is throwing at the time. This behavior alone can be inspiring to a new boomeranger.

But Gel doesn't stop there promoting the sport. Girvin has taught a weekly boomerang class for 12 years, held nearly 30 USBA-sanctioned tournaments and over 70 other individual and team competitions. Former Gel pupils include such boomerang stars as Steve Kavanaugh and John 'Moleman' Anthony.

Michael 'Gel' Girvin is a dynamic and inspiring figure in the sport of boomerangs. Nearly everything about him has had a revolutionizing impact on the sport. From his on-field dress and vibrance to his eye-catching, unique, high-performance boomerangs, Gel has had an impact on the sport like few others.

The decision to name Girvin as *MHR*'s Boomeranger of the Year came just weeks before he announced his retirement from competition (see story page 16). It seems that 1997 was truly destined to be the year of Michael 'Gel' Girvin.



TOTALLY MIKE GEL **RAD**

HISTORY OF MHR AWARDS

Boomeranger of the Year

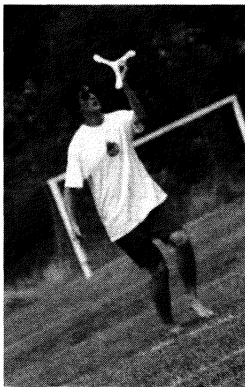
1995	Adam Ruhf
1996	none
1997	Michael 'Gel' Girvin

Rookie of the Year

1995	none
1996	Jim Nieberding
1997	Mike Gabriel

MHR's
ROOKIE
of the
YEAR

Mike Gabriel




Scanning down the season overall ratings (page 9) list, one sees the same old names in the top 20- wait. Number 17. Mike Gabriel? 6th place in Trick Catch? 8th place in Endurance? Who is this guy?

Well, he's Mike Gabriel. And if you managed to get to a tournament in St. Louis, Delaware or Canton this year you understand how he finished so high in his ratings-debuting year. Gabriel's smooth, barefooted Trick Catch style has left more than one onlooker asking, "How'd he do that?" this season. With long limbs and athletic quickness, he manages to pull out catches that seem uncatchable. "He's like a cross between Chet and Mark Weary," offers 'Chicago' Bob Leifeld.


Mike Gabriel's first competition experience was at the very windy 2nd Annual Illinois Classic in Champaign, Illinois in 1996. He brought 3 boomerangs. He used his Ola Wahlberg Medium V for Trick Catch, an unmodified polypropylene ProFly for Endurance, and a Gel Sunset for Fast Catch. He must have known those booms extremely well because he finished third overall at that comp; just behind 'Chicago' Bob and Billy Brazelton and ahead of Tony Brazelton, 'Rev' Jim Schramm and both Frazier boys in the windiest tourney in any of their memories.

In 1997, Gabriel did nothing but improve. Hard-fought efforts and solid scores kept him in the running with the

big boys and girls at every tournament. His selection as 1997's Rookie of the Year is a no-brainer. No one else with so little tournament experience did so much in 1997.

Mike lives in Evanston, Illinois where he recently graduated from Northwestern University with an M.S. in Archaeology. 

a boom with such forgiving backdoor action. If you don't have one, it's time to get one.

And let's not forget about the 8 year-old wood 'Toledo' MTA by Ted Bailey that Eric Darnell used to break the 8 year-old MTA record. 


**Boomerang
OF THE YEAR**

We went spineless on this one and ended up with a tie.

Eric Darnell's new 40-meter Aussie Round boom made from an EdgeGlow Lexan TriFly helped many throwers to satisfying scores this season. We've never seen

Photo
OF THE YEAR

Well, duh. It's on the cover for a reason! Now go glance at the cover again to remind yourself what it looks like.

Back? Good. Now, isn't that a great picture? Credit Janet Marie Fulrath for capturing this fantastic moment in the bullseye. 


THE WORST
OF 1997

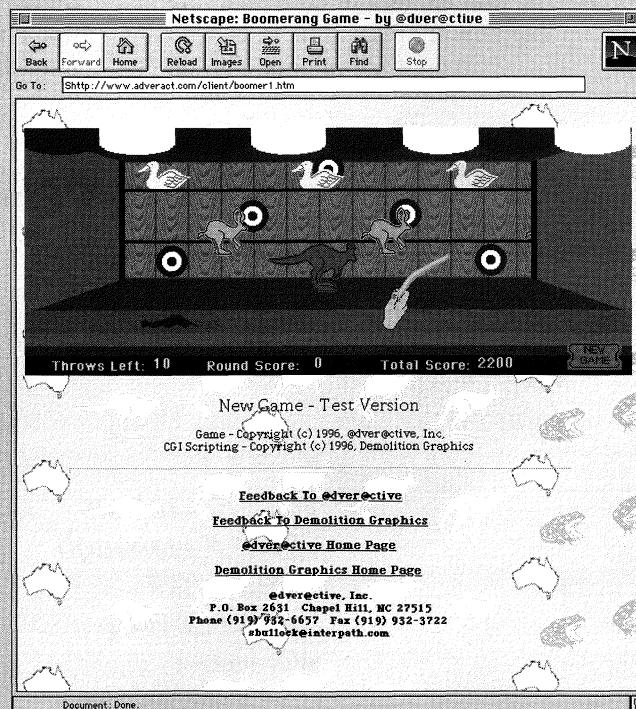
MHR's BAD PRESS AWARD

This is really bad. We found a web game by @dver@ctive (screenshot shown below) in which you throw a boomerang at targets to score points. The targets include kangaroos, rabbits, ducks, and crocodiles. The boomerang flies right back to your hand if you miss. Luckily, it doesn't look like this game will make it to Nintendo any time soon.

Runner-up: We couldn't believe it when we saw FIBA's announcement for their "International Pre-historic Weapons Game '98" with "bows, bolas, spears, kylies, and boomerangs." BOOMERANGS!? Haven't those crazy Finns heard? Boomerangs are not weapons.

MHR's BAD TIMING AWARD

"STOP THROWING!" was what some b'ranglers heard during their Endurance round at the US Open. The central timing announcer hadn't given them an update in over a minute before this abrupt end to their round! 



1997 Season Wrap-Up

This season stood out from others in many ways, but perhaps most notably was the implementation of a new team selection system. Boomerangers desiring a spot on a team were required to compete at three team trials tournaments (Amherst, Salem, and the US Open). Although the feeling of competition was higher than normal at these three trials, the most palpable sentiment was the urgency of bringing the cup back to the US after losing to Germany's Young Guns in New Zealand in 1996.

The finish places were tallied for each athlete at the end of the third tournament to generate the ranked list to the right. This list was divided into three teams of six players which will compete at the 1998 World Championship in St. Louis.

Since Gel retired (see story page 16), Gregg successfully appealed for eligibility, and Larry Ruhf accepted a coaching position at Team Blue, the teams stand as printed below.

Many experts have asserted that these three teams are the strongest to ever compete in an international competition. Team Red is jam-packed with speedy, stylin', seasoned veterans with decades of combined World Cup experience. Team Blue is as-

(continued on page 17)

Rank	Player	Points
1	Chet Snouffer	6
2	Michael Girvin	14
3	Rob Parkins	17
4	Mark Weary	19
5	Gary Broadbent	21
6	Mike Dickson	22
7	John Flynn	25
8	Adam Ruhf	28
9	Chicago Bob	29
10	Betsylew Miale-Gix	33
11	John Gorski	38
12	John Koehler	40
13	Tony Brazelton	44
14	Steve Kavanaugh	44
15	Eric Darnell	45
16	Larry Ruhf	60
17	Will Gix	62
18	Dennis Joyce	63
19	Don Frazier	65
20	Jim Schramm	67

Team Red

Chet Snouffer
Rob Parkins
Mark Weary
Gary Broadbent
Mike Dickson
John Flynn

Team Blue

Adam Ruhf
Bob Leifeld
Betsylew Miale-Gix
John Gorski
John Koehler
Gregg Snouffer
coach:Larry Ruhf

Team White

Tony Brazelton
Steve Kavanaugh
Eric Darnell
Dennis Joyce
Will Gix
Don Frazier

The DBC World Rankings

Oli Thienhaus and the DBC have developed a world ranking system that rates players by their top three scores in each event. Details about this list can be found at members.aol.com/worldranks. Since the Americans do not use the Trick Catch/Doubling format adopted by the rest of the world, the list below reflects all events except Trick Catch/Doubling. The top 50 are listed, plus the remaining US competitors with 3 tournaments or more. Nationality is in parentheses except for US throwers. While most Americans believe this experimental ranking system is too simple, it is interesting to see who is generally on top and to compare the difference in results between this list and the season overall USBA rankings.

1	Fridolin Frost (GER)
2	Harald Steck (GER)
3	Oliver Thienhaus (GER)
4	Yves Caze (FRA)
5	Gerrit Lemkau (GER)
6	Guenter Maeller (GER)
7	Eric Darnell
8	Mike Dickson
	Oliver Rau (GER)
10	Thomas Stehrenberger (SWT)
11	Gary Broadbent
12	Eugene Cinal (FRA)
13	John Gorski
14	Manuel Schuetz (SWT)
15	Tony Brazelton
16	Chet Snouffer
17	Paul Gajski (GER)
	Michael Siems (GER)
19	John Flynn
20	Rob Parkins
21	Michael Girvin
22	Axel Heckner (GER)
23	Adam Ruhf
24	Didier Bonin (FRA)
25	Bob Leifeld
26	John Koehler
27	Gregg Snouffer
28	Michael Froehlich (GER)
29	Stephane Marguerite (CAN)
30	Betsylew Miale-Gix
31	Steve Kavanaugh
32	Thomas Szartowicz (GER)
33	Don Frazier
34	Larry Ruhf
35	Lorenz Gubler (SWT)
36	Mark Weary
37	Lothar Haase (GER)
38	Will Gix
39	Laurent Crassa (FRA)
40	Christophe Dautriche (FRA)
41	David Hesse (SWT)
42	Sébastien Guiheux (FRA)
43	Georg Bauerschmidt (GER)
44	Loofy Boiteux (FRA)
45	Jim Jordan
46	Alexander Opri (GER)
47	Juergen Rode (GER)
48	Franck Douetil (FRA)
	Dennis Joyce
	Julien Kerjan (FRA)
54	Jim Schramm
56	Mike Gabriel
65	Billy Brazelton
67	Mike Forrester
68	Craig Frazier
80	Eric Promislow
89	John Cross
92	Paul Gustafson
149	Gary Broadbent, Jr.

1997 SEASON OVERALL RATINGS

PLACE	PLAYER	# TOURN	ACC	AR	DOUB	END	FC	MTA	TC	POINTS
1	Gary Broadbent	4	19	1.5	12	12.5	17.5	17.5	17	97.00
2	Chet Snouffer	3		13.5	19	19.5	20	3	20	95.00
3	Mike Dickson	4	8	6	17	12.5	16	16	16	91.50
4	Michael Girvin	5	10	12	20	11	14	8.5	10.5	86.00
5	Rob Parkins	4	3	5	14.5	18	18	10.5	18	79.00
6	Mark Weary	3	17.5	10.5	18			8.5	19	73.50
7	John Flynn	5	2		7	19.5	19	12.5	12	72.00
8	Gregg Snouffer	3		20	16	6	17.5	4.5		64.00
9	John Gorski	4	12	18	3	15.5		15		63.50
10	John Koehler	4	9		14.5	14	15	1.5	9	63.00
11	Bob Leifeld	4		19	11	3		10.5	14	57.50
12	Eric Darnell	8	15	8	4	4	6	17.5		54.50
13	Adam Ruhf	5		3	13	1		20	13	50.00
14	Betsylew Miale-Gix	5		17			13	19		49.00
15	Steve Kavanaugh	5		13.5	8	8	3		10.5	43.00
16	Tony Brazelton	6	13		6	10	4.5		7	40.50
17	Mike Gabriel	3			9	15.5			15	39.50
18	Will Gix	5	11	4	5		7	7		34.00
19	Stephane Marguerite	5	7			17	8.5			32.50
21	Nobu	2				9	12	6	3.5	30.50
22	Steve Kostrab	2	4	16	10					30.00
23	Dennis Joyce	4				5	4.5	14	6	29.50
24	Don Frazier	4	20				8.5			28.50
25	Jim Jordan	4		15		7			2	24.00
26	Duane Sagert	2	14	8						22.00
27	Craig Frazier	3	17.5							17.50
28	Larry Ruhf	5	16							16.00
29	Jim Scramm	4					1	12.5		13.50
30	Don Sagert	2			2		11			13.00
31	Stuart Jones	2		10.5						10.50
32	Billy Brazelton	3		8			2			10.00
33	Aaron Kaminsky	2							8	8.00
	Chris Kinney	1	5.5							5.50
35	Tim Schallberger	1	5.5							5.50
36	Scott Barrett	1							5	5.00
37	London Hoft	1						4.5		4.50
38	Doug DuFresne	3							3.5	3.50
39	Aaron Poole	2	0.5			2				2.50
	Dean Kelly	2						1.5		1.50
41	Erik Fields	1		1.5						1.50
	Byron Seward	2							1	1.00
43	John Anthony	2			1					1.00
44	Jason Smucker	2	0.5							0.50

REPORTS

USBA RATED

The US Open

August 2-3, 1997

Delaware, OH

62 throwers: 36 Sport and 26 Open

Weather: Sunny and mid 80's Saturday. Winds WSW 5-7 for Fast Catch and then 7-10 most of afternoon through TC, DBL, ACC. Sunday: warmer: upper 80's. Light winds under 5 mph all through AR, then some thermals, light and variable through MTA, then light NW through most of endurance, building with cloud cover and increasing at times to 7-10 mph during later rounds. Winds then died for fun and games: GLORP, throw stick, and Scramble.

Chet Snuffer

3rd Annual Illinois Classic

August 9, 1997

Champaign, IL

Ah, I remember the 1st Annual Illinois Classic as if it were only a few years ago. Very windy. I promised that such winds were freakish for Illinois in July and next year would be much better. Next year: even windier. Never below 15 mph. Again, promises of better weather next year. I even moved it back a few weeks to ensure some still, August air.

Ahem... uh, well, OK. It was windy, but not quite as bad as last year, never mind the rain. We had 5 Sport throwers, 7 Open throwers, and 1 novice.

In Fast Catch, the winds were gusty and unpredictable (this proved to be the norm for the day) but the scores were amazingly good in such conditions. Tony Brazelton shredded a 27.17 with alot of running. The wind abated just a tad for Trick Catch and Billy Brazelton took us to school with a 25 (almost unbelievable for these conditions). Ditch was able to snag a window early on in Doubling and easily won with 16. Aaron Poole went slow and steady in Endurance and caught nearly every throw. Billy won Aussie Round with a

modified Lexan Tri-Fly that Tony made for him just a few days earlier!

Although Tony held a comfortable lead all day, Billy and Aaron Poole narrowed the gap in the last few events, and left the title open to whoever won MTA.

MTA: Anyone who stayed in the circle and caught did well. Tony barely edged out everyone to secure the 3rd Annual Illinois Classic, his first USBA title. When asked how it felt to win his first USBA tournament, Tony replied, "Why am I talking to myself?"

Frecky Lewis won every event in the Open division except MTA, which Terry Norvell took. Eight year-old Eric Brazelton, the newest of the Brazelton brothers to enter the boomerang scene,

Eighteen throwers came out August 24th for the Canton Open. The Malmbergs came from PA, Tony and Tara from IL, Mike Gabriel from Chicago, and Nobu extended his stay from Japan! It drizzled part of the day, but mostly it **POURED!** The day was a lesson for many in how to prepare for throwing all day in the rain. Dry towels, waterproof anoraks, more dry towels, umbrellas (mostly for your booms and towels - keeping yourself dry was a hopeless cause), change of clothes, Rain-X for your glasses, yellow lens sunglasses for the flat gray light, etc.

In spite of this, throwers' spirits were only dampened a little! What highlighted the day, besides the fact that we all had a great time playing in the rain, was some newer throwers perform-

2 hemispheres, 2 tournaments, 2 boomerangs, 2 men 2 world records

Within the span of about 12 hours, the eight year-old MTA world record was broken twice. Fridolin Frost's (Germany) former record of 84.85 seconds was eclipsed by David Hesse (Switzerland), who threw and caught a 97.78 round at the Swiss Championship on September 21. Frost's unthinkable score was replaced by a new unthinkable score by nearly 13 seconds. Hesse and company must have guessed that those 13 seconds would buy the Europeans at least another eight years. But Hesse would only be king for a day. About twelve hours later at Summer's Final Fling in Beaverton, Oregon, Eric Darnell (USA) had just finished his fourth round of MTA. He had four times in the mid-20's. By this time Betsylew Miale-Gix (USA) and Tim Schallberger (USA) had both had flights over a minute, but drifted out. Darnell stepped up for his fifth round and threw a little low, hoping to stay below the wind that carried the other booms out. As the MTA passed over the bullseye, it began to rise. "It went way up. I could hardly see it," Eric remembers. At it's peak height it switched direction three times before starting its descent. As many MTAs do when they dismount a thermal, it came down fast and hard, near the 30 meter line. "I caught it chest-high, it was coming down so fast," explains Darnell. The time: 1 minute, 44.87 seconds. Exactly 7 seconds better than Hesse's flight that same day.

Darnell won the MTA 100 event at four tournaments this year. But Eric remains stubbornly cynical about the sportsmanship of MTA. "It was a fluke each and every time I won this year," he claims.

won every novice event in his first tournament ever.

Tony Brazelton

Canton Open

August 24, 1997

Canton, OH

mances: Don Sagert's 2nd in FC with a 20.30, Mike Gabriel's tie with Gary in winning TC, w/ 32, Steve Kostrab's tie with Mike D. in winning DB (in total downpour) w/27, Mike Gabriel's 2nd in END w/53, Duane Sagert's 1st in AC w/ 43, and Duane Sagert with a huge 80 in AR!

Other highlights were:

- Nobu pulling off a win in MTA on the last throw of the event!

- The even minded crew of Tara Hemami and

SCORES

Shirley Grooms who fastidiously kept all the scores all day and WET IN THE RAIN!

• Gary, Tony, Nobu and crew literally rocking the Astro Van to Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody.' "It doesn't really matter..."

• Adam Dickson, 7, scoring a perfect five catches in novice TC in the rain with a 20 meter boom. Novice was held at lunch in the down-pour. Won by Brittany Broadbent, Adam 2nd, Pat Allman 3rd. TC, Fast Throw, and AC.

• Nathan Smucker in his second tournament! This kid is a catching machine! He won and practically swept the Open category along with Chris and Mark Malmberg.

Trophies for 1st three in each event in Open and Sport and 1st three overall in each.

Pam Dickson made awesome T-shirts for the overall: An airborne dog catching an Ola. Underneath it says: "Fetch your own stick!" Extendable antennas for 1st, duct tape for second, lead tape for third- all with ribbons.

Overall was Gary Broadbent 1st, Mike Dickson 2nd, and Nobu edging Tony out for third by fractions of a point.

We stuffed ourselves with Mexican food afterwards, looked at Fred Malmberg's exotics, and enjoyed being warm. All in all, a very satisfying day for everyone: the company was great!

Mike Dickson

Canadian Boomerang Championships 1997

I. August 30, 1997

Parc Jeanne-Mance, Montreal, Quebec

II. August 31, 1997

Hornets Nest Park, Gloucester, Ontario

After a three year hiatus, competitive throwing ventured north of the border, this time under the guise of the two-day, two-city, two-tournament Canadian Boomerang Championships.

The emphasis during the entire weekend was on bringing the sport to the Canadian public. Better locations and more cooperative weather both helped. The 1994 tournament was held in a mainly industrial part of Montreal, and with the three thunderstorms that day we had few spectators. This year's Montreal event moved downtown to a popular park next to Parc Avenue, a major artery, and scores of passersby stopped for a while to check out the action.

As for the Ottawa Open, it reminded me of a time I've only read about, a time documented in venerable tomes such as the Klutz and

(continued on page 19)

10th Annual Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup Salem, OR July 20, 1997.

Accuracy Gorski 48, D. Frazier 45, Weary 43. **Australian Round** Leifeld 70, Darnell 69, Kavanaugh 68. **Doubling** Girvin 29, Weary 29, Gix 27. **Endurance** C. Snouffer 45, Gel 43, Parkins 42. **Fast Catch** Broadbent 27.25, Miale-Gix 27.98, C. Snouffer 28.56. **MTA 100** A. Ruhf 66.01, Gix 62.37, Miale-Gix 50.37. **Trick Catch** C. Snouffer 119, Weary 79, Dickson 43. **Overall** Weary 47.34, C. Snouffer 45.65, Broadbent 45.63, Girvin 43.20, Miale-Gix 38.76, Parkins 35.27, Dickson 32.89, D. Frazier 29.86, Darnell 29.48, Gorski 28.10, Gix 25.72, Flynn 23.26, A. Ruhf 20.90, L. Ruhf 19.90, Leifeld 19.83, Anthony 19.16, Kavanaugh 18.14.

The US Open Delaware, OH August 2-3, 1997

SPORT: Fast Catch Marguerite 22.09, Nobu 22.30, L. Ruhf 22.72. **Trick Catch** Parkins 61, Flynn 51, Weary 31. **Doubling** Girvin 29, Parkins 27, C. Snouffer 27. **Accuracy** Jordan 40, Gix 37, A. Ruhf 37, L. Ruhf 37. **Australian Round** Kavanaugh 86, Girvin 83, G. Snouffer 82. **MTA100** Broadbent 47.68, Joyce 45.50, Dickson 44.50. **Endurance** Parkins 57, Kavanaugh 54, Joyce 53, Flynn 53. **Overall** Kavanaugh 58.595, Parkins 58.5775, C. Snouffer 49.73, Girvin 47.12, Weary 46.99, A. Ruhf 46.68, Leifeld 46.51, Flynn 44.16, G. Snouffer 43.92, Broadbent 43.28, Koehler 42.74, Dickson 41.00, T. Brazelton 39.54, Miale-Gix 36.43, Jordan 35.98, Kostrab 34.98, Nobu 33.57, Gix 33.42. **OPEN: Fast Catch** Kern 31.09, Don Sagert 32.22, Maultsby 34.08. **Trick Catch** Don Sagert 27, Nieberding 23, Duane Sagert 23. **Doubling** Smucker 17, Don Sagert 14, Poole 12. **Accuracy** C. Frazier 42, Cassorla 35, Maultsby 32. **Australian Round** Don Sagert 68, Smucker 64, Poole 62. **MTA100** Cassorla 30.60, Nieberding 29.53, C. Frazier 29.01. **Endurance** C. Frazier 43, Smith 36, F. Malmberg 30. **Overall** Don Sagert 25.28, C. Frazier 21.41, Smucker 13.17, Cassorla 13.12, Duane Sagert 11.57, Maultsby 10.22, Nieberding 8.61, Poole 7.68, Burns 5.53, Snyder 5.26, Kern 5.25, Smith 3.58, C. Malmberg 2.80.

3rd Annual Illinois Classic Champaign, IL August 9, 1997

SPORT: Fast Catch T. Brazelton 27.17, Poole 29.63, B. Brazelton 30.63. **Trick Catch** B. Brazelton 25, T. Brazelton 18, A. Kaminsky 18. **Doubling** C. Frazier 16, T. Brazelton 8, Poole 6. **Endurance** Poole 29, A. Kaminsky 23, T. Brazelton 22. **Accuracy** Poole 30, B. Brazelton 22, T. Brazelton 22. **Australian Round** B. Brazelton 65, T. Brazelton 57, Poole 57. **MTA100** T. Brazelton 25.62, C. Frazier 24.22, B. Brazelton 24.15. **Overall** T. Brazelton 52.46, B. Brazelton 41.56, Poole 39.725. **OPEN: Fast Catch** Frecky Lewis 52.46, Norvell 54.66, D. Kaminsky 55.73. **Trick Catch** Frecky Lewis 13, Barnhart 9, D. Kaminsky 5. **Doubling** Frecky Lewis 6, Norvell 2, Fred Lewis 2. **Endurance** Frecky Lewis 20, Norvell 4, Barnhart 4. **Accuracy** Frecky Lewis 27, Norvell 20, Barnhart 10. **Australian Round** Frecky Lewis 48, Barnhart 27, Norvell 24. **MTA100** Norvell 16.35, Frecky Lewis 11.51, Watters 4.52. **Overall** Frecky Lewis, Norvell, Barnhart.

Canton Open

Canton, OH August 24, 1997

SPORT: Accuracy Duane Sagert 43, T. Brazelton 40, G. Broadbent, Sr. 39. **Australian Round** Duane Sagert 80, Kostrab 78, G. Broadbent, Sr. 73. **Doubling** M. Dickson 27, Gabriel 27, G. Broadbent, Sr. 23. **Endurance** M. Dickson 55, Gabriel 53, Nobu 49. **Fast Catch** G. Broadbent, Sr. 20.10, Don Sagert 20.30, M. Dickson 20.40. **MTA 100** Nobu 33.59, M. Dickson 30.67, G. Broadbent, Sr. 30.29. **Trick Catch** G. Broadbent, Sr. 32, Gabriel 32, T. Brazelton 29. **Overall** G. Broadbent, Sr. 54.79, M. Dickson 52.01, Nobu 40.90, T. Brazelton 40.32, Kostrab 39.78, Gabriel 37.67. **Open: Accuracy** N. Smucker 30, L. Broadbent 28, M. Malmberg 22. **Australian Round** N. Smucker 42, L. Broadbent 39, M. Malmberg 18. **Doubling** C. Malmberg 8, N. Smucker 6, M. Malmberg 2. **Endurance** N. Smucker 30, C. Malmberg 29, M. Malmberg 23. **Fast Catch** N. Smucker 31.72, L. Broadbent 42.72, C. Malmberg 58.02. **MTA 100** M. Malmberg 24.81, N. Smucker 16.01, L. Broadbent 0.19. **Trick Catch** N. Smucker 26, M. Malmberg 11, L. Broadbent 9, C. Malmberg 9. **Overall** N. Smucker, M. Malmberg, L. Broadbent.

Canadian Boomerang Championship I Montreal, QC August 30, 1997.

Accuracy Marguerite 42, L. Ruhf 42, Promislow 32, A. Ruhf 32. **Australian Round** Darnell 54, L. Ruhf 48, Flynn 47. **Doubling** A. Ruhf 30, Flynn 25, Gustafson 23. **Endurance** Flynn 45, Marguerite 39, A. Ruhf 37. **Fast Catch** Flynn 27.75, A. Ruhf 31.19, P. Ruhf 37.09. **MTA 100** Darnell, 30.80, L. Ruhf 26.22, Cross 25.84. **Trick Catch** Flynn 27, Promislow 27, Marguerite 26. **Overall** Flynn 49.19, A. Ruhf 40.34, L. Ruhf 31.53, Marguerite 27.89, Darnell 25.00, Promislow 20.69.

Canadian Boomerang Championship II Gloucester, ON August 31, 1997.

Accuracy Stuparich 34, Darnell 33, Marguerite 27. **Australian Round** Marguerite 75, Jacques 64, Darnell 48. **Doubling** Darnell 25, Marguerite 24, Promislow 14. **Endurance** Marguerite 50, Darnell 46, Jacques 39. **Fast Catch** Darnell 22.16, Marguerite 23.39, Jacques 26.74. **MTA 100** Darnell 25.86, Promislow 23.69, Cross 20.90. **Trick Catch** Darnell 32, Promislow 27, Jacques 22. **Overall** Darnell 64.27, Marguerite 47.91, Jacques 29.74, Promislow 29.73, Cross 20.56, Stuparich 14.82.



Don't forget to send in your event results and commentary for inclusion in Many Happy Returns.

See inside back cover for deadlines and details.



P H O T O J O U R N A L



Adam Ruhf at the US Open with hardwood arm-and-boom sculpture by Fred Malmberg, commemorating Adam's breaking the 15 second barrier.

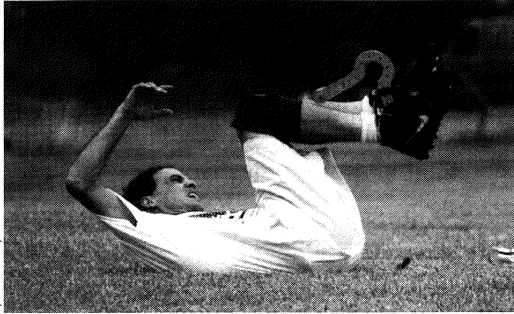
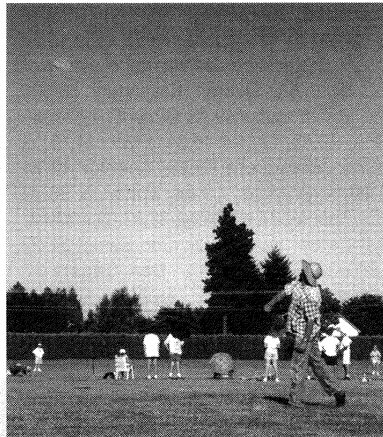


photo by Janet Marie Fulrath

Foot catch Gel-style at the US Open.



Dan Neelands goes high-low in Fast Catch at Salem. (You can see the boom in the circle behind Dan as well!).

Betsylew Miale-Gix on her way to a 74 in Aussie at the US Open.

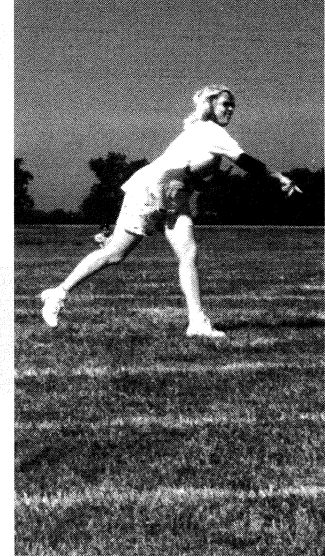


photo by Janet Marie Fulrath



Gel soars over the prairies of Delaware at the US Open.

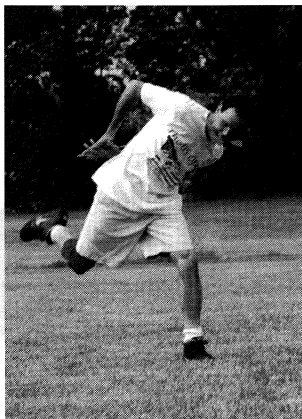
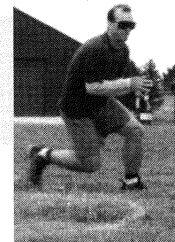


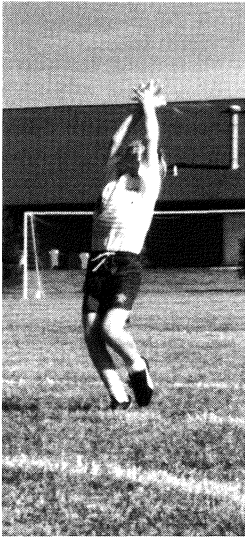
photo by Janet Marie Fulrath

Gel with two of his eleven catches in Doubling at the US Open.

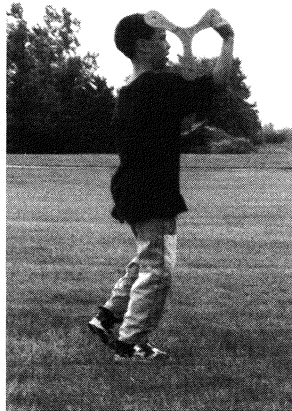


Tony Brazelton hustles back to the bullseye during Endurance at the Annual Illinois Windfest

boomer *action* caught on film



Cody Snouffer jumps one in for a 2 at the US Open.



Eric Brazelton checking all his angles in Champaign.



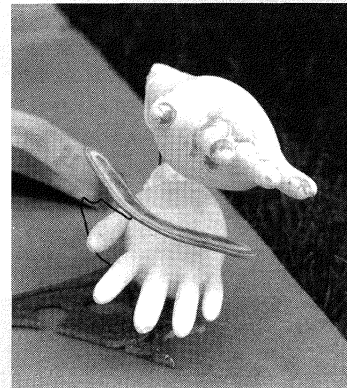
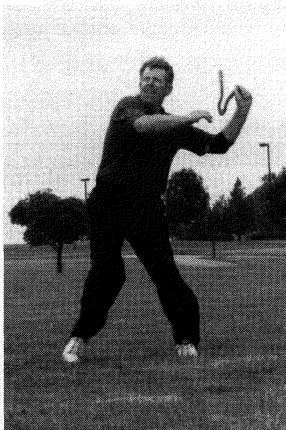
Cool all weekend long: Stevie K at the US Open.

photo by Janet Marie Fulrath

Beach boomin' at Gel's 100th tournament.



Hal Barnhart with the right wind-cutter in Champaign.



The unforgettable rubber glove clap catch trophy at Gel's 100th.

Michael 'Gel' Girvin retires

Michael 'Gel' Girvin, boomeranger from Berkeley, California, announced that he will no longer compete in the sport he helped popularize.

Girvin had been in and out of the competition circuit since 1993 with a recurring back injury. After several operations, Gel made the decision to preserve his future health by quitting the sport he nearly defines. On September 23, Girvin sent a short letter to friends, teammates, and USBA board members saying only this:

"I love boomerangs. I had a fun time earning a spot on the National Team by competing in the three tournament selection format. But in light of the tenuous health of my back, I am relinquishing my spot on the National Team to a healthier thrower.

"It is a very sad day for me. I gave it my best shot, but my future health is at stake and it is not possible for me to compete.

"USA will win!

"Stay Rad!

"Sincerely, Gel."

Girvin had mentioned to many of his friends before the start of the 1997 season that this was his last run at a spot on a US Team. Injury had kept him off teams in recent years and he had slipped in the ratings. His efforts at the three team trials this year were nothing short of amazing. Spectators were treated to spectacular performances by a Girvin in as good a condition as ever. Gel was one of the most consistent performers at the three team trials, garnering two 4ths and a 6th for a total of 14 points, second only to Chet Snouffer's 6 total points.

Retirement was the last resort for Girvin, who had tenaciously fought his lingering ailment. Michael had been in and out of hospitals on a monthly basis for the last two years with treatments of surgery, acupuncture, physical therapy, drugs and the combination of daily exercises, ice and electrical stimulation that he currently employs. Gel has multiple disc damage which eliminates the typical vertebrae fusion surgery as an option.

Few can match Michael's skills in the

bullseye, but even fewer can claim the effort and success he has had with promoting the sport. Gel has introduced more new talent to the sport than anyone else, arguably with notable exceptions. Certainly, no one has organized more boomerang events than Girvin, who held his 100th tournament on August 30 and 31 of this year.

Michael said he will continue to run his unique beginner-oriented competitions. "That is what I love to do most- running inclusive, fun events for all throwers!" said Girvin. "It is a sad day for me because I have an indomitable competitive spirit that makes it very difficult for me to make this correct decision. But that indomitable competitive spirit is matched only by my spirit to teach and run fun events! So I will move on to new boomerang activities!"

Although the US Team has lost an invaluable member, there is no doubt that the sport of boomerangs will continue to benefit as Gel redirects his boundless energy.

USBA election: more of the same

Despite recent outcries of displeasure from many USBA members, there was little interest in running for the four officer positions and five director seats available this year.

All positions ran unopposed except one at-large director seat. The retirements of Mark Weary, Gary Broadbent and John Koehler opened three slots for which Eric Darnell, Frank Gundawarra, Keith Mullinar, and Larry Ruhf ran. Gundawarra was the odd man out. The newly elected board consists of the following:

President: Betsylew Miale-Gix

Vice President: Chet Snouffer

Treasurer: Gregg Snouffer

Secretary: Tony Brazelton

At-large Directors: Eric Darnell, Mike Dickson, John Flynn, Keith Mullinar, Larry Ruhf.

Although there was considerable turnover in the at-large directors, these faces are not new

to serving the USBA.

Many board members had received pleas, complaints, and even threats in the aftermath of the recent one-year *MHR* lapse. "Lots of people were angry that they saw no benefits of membership in over a year- and understandably so. If you are not a competitor, there is little the USBA offers you besides the newsletter. *MHR* is the only contact many members have with the USBA," said Secretary Tony Brazelton.

So, when the nomination forms were mailed out for this year's election, many board members were hopeful that this emotional uprising among the members would incite many to run for office. But the ballot remained meager and familiar.

Brazelton had something to say about the situation. "It's difficult to have radical change when the ballot consists entirely of unopposed incumbents. It's nothing short of hypocrisy for people to insult the efforts of the board if they aren't willing to volunteer."

Congratulations to Eric, Keith and Larry for sacrificing their time for the good of the USBA.

MHR contributors granted reimbursement

USBA members have a new reason to let the boomerang world know what's on their minds. The USBA board approved a new measure by which contributors to the newsletter will receive payment.

All persons contributing text to *Many Happy Returns* will be paid \$0.02 per word if requested at the time of submission. Details of this reimbursement system will be printed in every issue of *MHR*.

The payment system was proposed by editor-in-chief Tony Brazelton, who believed that it would provide incentive for members who otherwise would remain silent to communicate their ideas. "More diverse copy means more interesting copy. No editor wants to be responsible for writing the entire newsletter and no USBA member wants to be bored by one writing style," said Brazelton.

As the system matures and the USBA grows, the payment amount per word may increase.

www.staff.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/MHR.html

Be sure to look for these little boxes throughout *Many Happy Returns*. These contain web addresses where you can find certain articles and resources on the USBA website. In many cases, the web versions are enhanced, more detailed, and interactive.



Boomerangs thrown aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis

Communicated by Jacques Thomas

French astronaut Jean-Fancois Clervoy took five boomerangs aboard the NASA Space Shuttle Atlantis during a 9-day space flight. It was the first known celestial boomerang flight in zero-gravity.

Clervoy, an honorary member of the La Perouse Boomerang Club de France, was given an MK-1 and four cardboard indoor boomerangs before mission STS-84, a space shuttle flight which included a rendezvous with the Russian space station Mir.

Clervoy threw all four indoor booms inside the shuttle, once in orbit. He also spun the MK-1 into a zero-gravity, stationary hover. Unfortunately, the effect of zero gravity on the flight of the indoor booms was difficult to determine because of the strong drafts in the cabin. The drafts are purposely created to avoid buildup of carbon dioxide pockets.

Thomas will display the MK-1 and one of the indoor booms in a future museum exhibit. Each of the remaining indoor booms was given by Thomas to Clervoy and the Aero Club de France, respectively. All four indoor booms bear Clervoy's signature and the stamp of Russia, since they had visited a Russian space station.

Thomas first met Clervoy two years ago as a result of Clervoy's interest in boomerangs. It was at this meeting that Thomas and Clervoy first discussed the idea of experimental boomerang flights in space.



M. H. Archives

The who, what, when, where, and how of yesteryear

10 years ago

"I propose that the BAA adopt the following definition of a boomerang, amended from Ted Bailey's submission, for a one year trial period April 1986 to April 1987.

"My amended definition would read as follows:

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

Dennis Maxwell

Boomerang Association of Australia

MHR #32 FALL 1987

5 years ago

USA Team II (John "Moleman" Anthony, Eric Darnell, Doug DuFresne, Casey Larrance, Jeff LeCount, and Rob Parkins and coached by Barnaby Ruhe) win the World Cup in Hamburg. USA Team I (Gary Broadbent, Michael Girvin, Dennis Joyce, John Koehler, Chet Snouffer, and Gregg Snouffer) finish second. Fridolin Frost (GER) wins the World Individual title.

The Endurance world record is broken three times. Rob Parkins with 73, then John Flynn with 74, then Parkins again with 75.

The Juggling world record is also broken three times. Paul David with 239, then Chet Snouffer with 480, and Chet again with 502.

Chet Snouffer wins the US Open in Amherst, Massachusetts.

"John Cryderman has received word that possibly two Russian teams will compete in the 1993 World Boomerang Cup in Chatham, Ontario."

MHR #52 FALL 1992



(continued from page 4)

a difference in efficiency and quality. However, the USBA board has officially approved a \$.02/word compensation for all contributions if the author requests such compensation. As stated before, we believe that such motivation, even though modest, will increase the likelihood that potential contributors will submit their writing. Also, to our knowledge, the USBA has never asserted that more revenue would not make it a better organization.

Regarding a name change for MHR: This was suggested by the new MHR staff when it took over in May of this year for the very same reasons that you bring up. The idea was soundly rejected by the board. The rationale is that the name *Many Happy Returns* is the oldest extant boomerang publi-

cation with an international reputation. The staff questioned whether 500 subscriptions worldwide should be considered an international reputation, but accepted the board's decision.

Regarding your idea for an article on widely held false perceptions about boomerangs: Sounds like a great idea to us!

The MHR Staff



(continued from page 8)

toundly well-rounded with Aussie Round threats Gregg Snouffer and Chicago Bob, Fast Catch mutant Adam Ruhf, hang-time masters 'Air' Gorski and Miale-Gix and no-weakness John Koehler. Team White at first glance seems the weakest of the three US

offerings (two team members, Tony B. and Spike Frazier, have never seen an international comp). But a look at their accomplishments on paper this year puts them at least into theoretical contention. Solid performances all year long including a US Open win by Stevie K. and a new MTA world record by Eric Darnell make Team White a contender.

"Any of these teams could win it," notes Michael 'Gel' Girvin, former member of Team White. But, of course, so could any of the German, French, Japanese or Swiss teams.



go boom.

BOOM fragments

> The USBA has procured the domain name *usba.org* for its use. This will enable the USBA website to be located at www.usba.org rather than the cumbersome and forgettable www.staff.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/USBAinfo.html. The website will move as soon as a suitable server is located.

The USBA tried to reserve *usba.org* in 1995 but it was occupied by another organization. In September, that organization failed to renew its contract and *usba.org* was made available.

If you have a fast, powerful machine that can handle heavy web traffic, have experience with web servers and are interested in providing a home for www.usba.org, please contact Tony Brazelton at brazelto@uiuc.edu.

> Don Sagert lost a pink Ola Wahlberg boomerang at the US Open during Aussie Round. If you have any information about the whereabouts of this boomerang, please contact Don at (216) 245-1569.

> Manu Verma of India writes, "I think I am one of the very few boomerang enthusiasts that exist in India. I am studying product design here and deeply interested in anything that flies. Frisbees used to be a craze with us when we were small, but they seem to have disappeared nowadays.

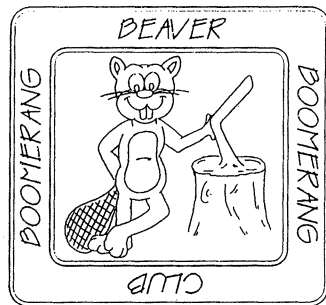
"Very few people have heard of boomerangs here, leave alone seen them. I have never come across any shop which sell boomerangs and it amazes me how can a thing like b'rang remain unpopular. I have been experementing, making boomrangs and trying them out but I could never get the kind of thrill which, I think, a boomerang is capable of giving. I would like to know about any place in India which sells boomrangs or where can I order them for. And is there any reason why boomrang can not become popular in India or what can be done to make it popular?"

Anyone wishing to send Manu Verma boomerangs or other materials helpful for promoting boomerangs in India may send them to:

Manu Verma

EB-22, vindhyachal hostel
Indian Institute of Technology
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi-110016
India

> Jim Bradley has announced the formation of the Boomerang Beaver Boomerang Club in Stoney Creek, Ontario. The club publishes a newsletter titled *U-Rang?* which is available for the price of a SASE with \$1 postage within North America or \$1.50 elsewhere.



Interested persons should contact Jim Bradley at:
BBBC
PO Box 66595,
S.C.P.O.
Stoney Creek, ON

L8G 5E5
Canada

> The Boomerang Club de Montreal announced that they would like to be considered the Canadian authority on the international competition sport of boomerangs. Canadians interested in learning about the modern sport of boomerangs should contact Stephane Marguerite at:

Boomerang Club de Montreal
4031 St. Andre
Montreal, QC H2L 3W2
Canada
phone/fax: (514) 597-1333
e-mail: Boomrang@fqrj.qc.ca

> Hague Nikolayczyk is assembling a new edition of the German Bumerang Plan Sammlung (boomerang plan collection). He is searching for previously unpublished plans from throwers from all other the world. To contribute plans to the largest plan collection in history, contact:

Hague Nikolayczyk
Ringstr. 21
D - 539191 Weilerswist
Germany

> Tibor Horvath is assembling a collection of plans for long distance boomerangs. Send your plans to:
Tibor Horvath
Rebhaldenstr. 12
8173 Neerach
Switzerland
e-mail: tihorvat@studi.unizh.ch

> The website of the ABC affiliate television station Alabama 33/40 lists the USBA website as "one of its favorite sports links."

> Bob Artus sent in a *Broom Hilda* cartoon which describes the current state of the sport of boomerangs with eerie accuracy.

The full-color Sunday, September 14 comic depicts Broom Hilda throwing and catching a traditional-shaped red boomerang. As she leaps to make one-handed grabs, she exclaims, "Another great throw! Another great catch!" When her efforts are met by the solitary clapping of one person in an otherwise empty stadium, she laments, "H'm. I guess I was wrong. Boomerang may not replace baseball as the national passtime (*sic*)."

Is Russell Myers, the *Broom Hilda* cartoonist, connected with our sport somehow?

> The *Arizona Daily Star* ran an article about the boomerang scene in Tucson as a result of a press release by Don Monroe announcing the 1st Annual Tucson Boomerang Tournament. The article featured quotes by Monroe and Phoenix Boomeranger Mark Weary and made a good case for the fun factor and health benefits of boomerangs.



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Anaheim, CA 92807
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> The *Quad City Times* published an article about Rock Island, Illinois boomer Kendall Davis on August 17. The article contained an astounding amount of misinformation and inaccuracies, starting off with the subheading in large print, "Army Sergeant crafts Aboriginal hunting tools."

Author Ross Bielema stated that "Boomerangs remain most popular in Australia, where aborigines use them for hunting," and "Davis said he's happy to demonstrate this ancient hunting device for clubs, scout groups and others, free of charge. He's already skimmed the heads of kids at Silvis Grade School and a Cub scout group."

Even when Bielema tried to educate his readers about how boomerang work, he faltered, writing, "...it involves a series of wings facing in different directions that generate loft (*sic*), which creates processional (*sic*) force and angular momentum."

All in all, it was a nice biographical piece that didn't do the sport any favors.

> Thomas Risher's Greyford Co. Boomerangs offers a new catalog stocked with five original models as well as Gel Boomerangs and Outback boomerangs. Write for your free catalog:

Greyford Co.
Box 4734
Whittier, CA 90607

> Steven Graham of Graham's Boomerangs offers boomerangs available with custom artwork. Contact Steve to discuss your personalized boom at:

Graham's Boomerangs
924 Yale Drive
Bartlesville, OK 74006
phone: (918) 333-0730

> Jim Bradley offers a large catalog of plans, blanks, boomerangs, and videos. Write for your catalog:

Jim Bradley
PO Box 66595, S.C.P.O.
Stoney Creek, ON L8G 5E5
Canada

> Eric Promislow is offering a bumper sticker to commemorate the 1997 Canadian Boomerang Championships. He worked out

new websites

<http://www.uku.fi/~hniskane/bmm.html>

Weboomeranger. A web-based boomerang magazine by Heikki Niskanen.

<http://members.aol.com/dbccclub/pages/rekorde>

Demographic listing of international boomerang records by Guenter Moeller.

<http://users.aol.com/tbrang3/Kalmanson.html>

Kalmanson Boomerangs. Commercial.

<http://www.thingzoz.com/rangs/boomer.htm>

New URL for Rangs Boomerangs. Commercial.

a design that married the elements of the Canadian flag and modern boomerangs, and deliberately avoided Aboriginal elements. The result is a Canadian flag with a modern two-armed boomerang in the middle instead of a maple leaf. Send \$0.80 (\$1.00 Canadian) for each bumper sticker to:

Eric Promislow
10 Morris Street
Ottawa, ON K1S 4A7,
Canada.

(Send your boom fragments to MHR. We'll glue them together! See inside back cover for details.)



(continued from page 13)

Ruhe/Darnell books from the '80s. Picture driving down a hill overlooking a soccer field full of young families and retirees throwing Air Dancers. At another field a few folks are trying out Tri-Flies, and at another some competitors are warming up. Find a spot in the crowded parking lot, grab your lawn chair and drinks, and sit back for a few hours to learn how to throw, and watch Canada's finest throwers (and one token Yank) show what competitive throwing is all about. And it's 1997, not 1980. That's how the Ottawa day went.

Stephane and Larry Ruhf took advantage of the early light breezes with 42s in Accuracy. John Flynn and Eric Promislow rode those same winds to share 1st in Trick Catch. Adam Ruhf claimed doubling for himself with 30, and John Flynn finished the morning with a 45 in Endurance

before the afternoon winds closed the window on the rest of the competitors.

After lunch we threw an impromptu Team Position to segue into Aussie Round, which attracted the most spectators of the day. Eric Darnell figured out how to handle the tree screen to win it with 54. John Flynn needed 27.75 to win a tricky Fast Catch. Finally, Eric Darnell won MTA with 30.80.

Day 2 in Ottawa started with a scheduled public demo at 9 A.M. I expected a few people to show up, but the parking lot was full by 9:45. A positive write-up in the *Ottawa Citizen* the previous Thursday, a radio interview on a popular local events show, and a press release I sent out to the various "what's on" guides in the city had done the trick.

During Accuracy the crowd applauded not only the bullseyes, but also the 8s, and gave Alex

Stuparich a big ovation as he won his first-ever event, with a 34 in light, shifting winds.

The crowd moved back to the 50 meter line during Trick Catch, but the applause continued. We did Doubling simultaneously, over a wide space, as only five of us were prepared for it. Those light winds helped, with Eric Darnell getting 32 in Trick Catch, and in Doubling one point separated Eric's 25 from Stephane's 24. Both of them nailed the foot-and-any-catch, to the on-lookers' appreciation.

Stephane and Eric kept the crowd impressed during Endurance, with 50 and 46 respectively. Gaston Jacques hit his first personal best of three that day, taking third spot with 39.

At the end of Endurance the dark cloud hanging over the distance in the northwest finally did its damage. After a 30 minute lunch break the cloud and rain had passed, leaving us with dead

THE BOOMFIELD

calm and Aussie Round. Stephane and Gaston figured out the wind, getting 75 and 64 points respectively. One of the local TV stations came by to film this event. The film crew left at the start of Fast Catch, in which Eric D, Stephane, and Gaston finished with 22.16, 23.39, and 26.74 (Gaston's third personal best in a row).

The two Eric's took MTA, Darnell with 25.86, Promislow with 23.69. John Cross came third with 20.90.

Finally, we had on-field ceremonies, featuring Stephane's ingenious trophies: tiny models of throwers climbing trees to retrieve MTAs, sunbathers watching or ignoring throwers, drops, and triumphant catches. We welcomed John Cross as the newest member of the Canadian team. And since you can't have a decent closing ceremony without fire, I lit up three torches and juggled a flaming farewell to the day's participants.

Eric Promislow

1st Annual Kitty Hawk Kites Invitational September 13, 1997 Nags Head, NC

Former World Champion Boomerang thrower John Koehler of Norfolk, Virginia took the title at the first Outer Banks Boomerang Tournament hosted by Kitty Hawk Kites at First Flight Middle School in Kill Devil Hills.

The tournament attracted USBA members from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Maryland, DC, Virginia, Vermont, and North Carolina. Second Place honors went to Jim Jordan of Gaithersburg, Maryland. Tied for third place was Eric Darnell of Vermont, and Dennis Joyce of Newport News, Virginia. Nearly perfect conditions prevailed for the day long event generating more enthusiasm as the Outer Banks proved itself as an ideal location for tournament play.

80 degree weather and gentle breezes set the stage for the tournament day. The tournament started with a greeting by Darla Rovniak, tournament director and marketing manager for Kitty Hawk Kites. Just as the festivities got underway six riders on horseback made their way across the dunes that provided the backdrop for the tournament rounds at First Flight Middle School. John Koehler acted as on-field director with the assistance of Eric Darnell and Dennis Joyce. The tournament fielded eleven competitors. The Juice was up to, what appears to be his usual antics, throwing backward during the stunt catch com-

petition. Kitty Hawk Kites' own Jason Laurent made a showing for the host organization with some respectable throws.

Darla L. Rovniak

REPORTS NON-USBA

4TH EUROPEAN CUP

On July 5 and 6, when Fridolin Frost (GER) swept three 1sts and one 2nd place at the 4th European Cup Tournament in Besancon, no one thought it would be possible to beat his amassed score of 313 points overall.

No one, that is, but Jurg Schedler (SWT), who bested his overall score by 0.5 points. Jurg maintained steady performances of two 4ths, two 6ths, one 7th and one 10th. Frido finished 14th in Accuracy and 20th in MTA to drop his overall finish to 2nd place.

Ironically, Frido needed only 1 more Accuracy point or just 0.3 seconds in MTA to win the Cup. Who says you shouldn't milk that MTA?

Gregg Snouffer

ROCKY MOUNTAIN THROW

August 23, 1997

We had a great day of throwing. There was a group of about 8 core competitors, with others coming and going. No one had competed in any type of competition before and for several, it was the first time they had thrown a boomerang.

The morning was spent setting the field up and warming up. The sky was clear and the temperature warm. Unfortunately, there was no wind and only an occasional breeze that would show up unexpectedly from any direction on the field. This tended to baffle most of us since it was difficult to tell where to throw the booms.

After lunch we had four events: Fast Throw, Fast Throw Endurance, Accuracy, and Team Round Rang Relay. Even in this casual format, competition was fierce. Throwers were diving back into the 2m circle and people were running their fastest to keep their times as short as possible. And if throwers were not competing, they were enthusiastically cheering on and encouraging the other throwers. Best of all, everyone was having a good time.

There were five boomerangs that landed ei-

ther in a creek, tree, or on top of the picnic shelter. All but the two rangs that landed in the huge cottonwood tree were recovered. Two rangs, that I know of, were obliterated. One smashed into the cottonwood tree, and one tried to enter the cinder block restroom without using the door.

I would also be totally out of line if I did not point out the expert judging done by Anna and Elyse Pollock-Nelson. On their own initiative, they took on this judicious task and performed very professionally. I have rarely seen things kept in such great order as I have this competition. They kept the players in line and kept the competition moving.

Richard Pollock-Nelson

9TH ANNUAL NOVICE TEAM BOOMERANG TOURNAMENT

September 14, 1997

We had 9 "regulars" which was a bit disappointing, but we had 12 newcomers turned on to boomerangs. Gary Broadbent and Bud Pell couldn't come so that accounts for 7 "regulars". With teams of 6 we got 6 events run in 2 hours flat. The Super Novice format works!!

I turned in a very small notice to the local neighborhood paper. They placed it on the front page. That brought 10 of the new comers out.

Norm Kern

1ST ANNUAL TUCSON BOOMERANG TOURNAMENT

October 25, 1997

Nine throwers registered for this event, including two novices and now new USBA members David Every from Tucson and Peter O'Shea from San Diego. A tenth thrower, John Ekelman from Australia, showed up late, but was invited to participate in the last few events. It was a gorgeous day with mild temps, and light - medium winds with occasional swirls.

A wonderful article that appeared in the local paper a few days before the tournament brought about 75 spectators throughout the morning. They showed their appreciation of the fine throwing by breaking out into spontaneous applause.

The tournament was won by Mark Weary (big surprise), with tournament director Don Mon-

REGIONAL CLUBS AND CONTACTS BY STATE

www.staff.uuc.edu/~brazelto/clubs.html

AZ Phoenix	Desert Southwest Boom Chuckers and UFO spotters	Mark Weary & D. Monroe	4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85044	(602) 759-3973
CA San Diego		John Weigel	1323 La Mesa Ave. San Diego CA 91977	(619) 462-4379
SF Bay Area	Bay Area Boomerang Club	Michael Girvin	2124 Kittredge St. #61 Berkeley CA 94704	(510) 658-2469
Santa Barbara		Erik Fields	1501 Clifton St. Santa Barbara CA 93103	(805) 564-4840
Santa Cruz		Brad Westervelt	Voicemail 800-286-6310, box 748	(408) 338-0818
Southern	Southern California Boomerang Alliance	Steve Conaway	121 Oakdale Lane Fillmore, CA 93015	(805) 524-2913
Southern		Paul W.K. Rothemund	533 South Hudson Apt. #1 Pasadena CA 91101	(818) 584-1807
CO Aurora		Richard Pollock-Nelson	2530 S Ouray Way Aurora, CO 80013-1576	(303) 368-5933
CT Madison	The Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society	Paul D. Sprague	782 Boston Post Rd. Madison CT 06443	(203) 245-8211
Shelton	Team Gel East	John "Moleman" Anthony	21 Huntington Ave. Shelton CT 06484	(203) 736-630
FL Merritt Island	Flite Stix Boom Slingers	Rich Surace	855 E Crisafulli Rd. Merritt Island FL	(407) 452-3963
Orlando		Carl Morris	2602 Breezwind Dr. Orlando, FL 32839	(407)859-1319
GA Atlanta	Atlanta Boomerang Society	Frank Golder	#2 Capitol Square rm 370 Atlanta, GA 30334	
Swainsboro	South Georgia Boomerang Club	John Derden	131 College Cir. Swainsboro, GA 30401	(912) 237-7831
IL Champaign	Illini Boomerang Club	Tony Brazelton	2405 Lawndale Dr. Champaign IL 61821	(217) 352-6184
Waterloo		"Chicago" Bob Leifeld	P.O. Box 242 Waterloo, IL 62298	(618) 282-6854
MD Rockville		Jim Nieberding	Rockville, MD 20853	(301) 933-1073
MI Ann Arbor		Ted Bailey	PO Box 6076 Ann Arbor, MI	(313) 971-2970
Birmingham		Norm Kern	1640 Haynes Birmingham, MI 48009	(248) 645-9308
Lansing	Mid Michigan Boomsling Club	Steve Collins	4820 Hillcrest Okemos, MI 48864	(517) 349-5234
MN Mnpls/St Paul	Boomerang Organization Of Minnesota (BOOM)	Stuart Jones	195 E. 5th St. Apt. 605 St Paul, MN 55101	(612) 228-1393
MO St. Louis	St. Louis Boomerang Club	Tom Fitzgerald	1159 Holly River Dr. Florissant MO 63031	(314) 839-1684
NM Albuquerque	Sandia Boomerang Club	Steve Sanders	1411 Rio Grande NW Albuquerque, NM 87104	(505) 768-0537
OH Ashland		Dwight Souder	453 Parkwood Dr. Ashland, OH 44805-4135	(419) 281-4565
Canton	Gary Broadbent's Boom Shop	Gary Broadbent	3204 38th St. NW Canton, OH 44718	(216) 492-RANG
Columbus	There And Back Again Boomerang Club	Bob Lackey	31 E Dodridge Columbus, Oh 43202	(614) 263-6840
Delaware	Free Throwers Boomerang Association	Chet Snouffer	PO BOX 664 Delaware, Ohio 43015	(614) 363-8332
Delaware	U.S. Head to Head Boomerang Tournament Organization	Gregg Snouffer	340 Troy Rd. Delaware OH 43015	(614) 363-4414
Euclid	Cleveland Boomerang School	Dave Boehm	PO Box 17385 Euclid, OH 44117	(216) 289-6324
OK Oklahama City		Joel Bussey	1516 Southern Heights Ave. Norman, OK 73072	(405) 447-2117
Bartlesville		Steven Graham	924 Yale Drive Bartlesville, OK 74006	(918) 333-0730
OR Portland		Tim Schallberger	4740 SW Hamilton St. Portland, OR 97221	(503) 241-9618
PA 610 area code		Dave Hendricks	1086 E Gordon Street Allentown, PA 18103-2208	(610) 434-7305
TN Knoxville	Boomerang Club at the University of Tennessee (BCUT)	David Martin	2912 McNutt Avenue Maryville, TN 37804-2537	(423) 687-3179
TX Houston	Boomerang Association of Texas	Greg Corum	3233 Magnum Rd. Apt 184 Houston TX 77092	(713) 681-0837
UT Sandy	Wasatch Boomerang Club	Jim Miller	2095 E. 10095 South Sandy, UT 84093	(801) 942-6943

roe coming in second and Steve Sanders from Albuquerque coming in third. Other competitors included Kelly Andretti, Dan Neelands, Chris Ozolins and John Weigel. The common theme surrounding this tournament was that it was just plain FUN. Yes, we plan to have another tournament next year, and are certain we won't have any problem getting 11 competitors registered.

Barb Monroe



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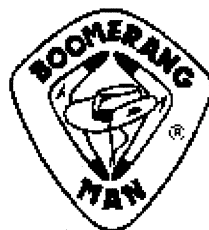
Roundtrip Boomerangs, 340 Troy Rd., Delaware, OH 43015
Phone or fax (614) 363-4414
email boomerang@midohio.net

CORRECTION

The article about the development of the Bonas MTA boomerang will not appear in this issue as promised. Initial reports of the facts associated with the story could not be substantiated, thus making the article un-newsworthy.

With many apologies, we regret to deny you the story.

MHR Staff



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All proceeds from the USBA store go into the general USBA treasury. Your purchases subsidize the US Team, *Many Happy Returns*, and insurance premiums for the USBA among other expenses.

Questions?

Phone or fax
(614)363-4414
or e-mail
boomerang@midohio.net

Store Stock

LITERATURE

1996 USBA Competition Rulebook \$2.50

Boomerang, a book by Ben Ruhe \$6.00

"The Boomerang" an early pamphlet by Ben Ruhe and Lorin Hawes \$4.00

"Low Reynold's number airfoils" scientific paper \$2.50

Individual back issue of MHR \$2.50

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Attention manufacturers and retailers: Any USBA member who manufactures or distributes boomerangs or related products or services may be listed free of charge as a service to our members. Send description to: Boomsmith Listings c/o USBA 2405 Lawndale Drive Champaign, IL 61821 or fax to (217) 244-8371 attn: Tony Brazelt.

Calendar of Events

www.staff.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/calendar.html

USBA Sanctioned Tournaments

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
May 16	Toss Across America	Betsylew Miale-Gix (206) 485-1672
September 6	4th Annual Illinois Classic - Champaign, Illinois	Tony Brazelton (217) 352-6184
Sept. 12-13	2nd Annual Kitty Hawk Kites Invitational - Nags Head, NC	Kitty Hawk Kites (800) 334-4777

To petition the USBA to sanction a tournament or other event, contact Chet Snouffer.

Chet Snouffer
 51 Troy Road
 Delaware, OH 43015
 e-mail: 103327.3123@compuserve.com

Other US Events

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT
July 26-Aug. 2	World Cup Championship - Edwardsville, Illinois	Tom Fitzgerald (314) 839-1604

CLARIFICATION

The article "Junk boomerangs: What can we do?" on page 21 of *MHR* Issue 69 was written by Tony Brazelton and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the United States Boomerang Association.
 Gel Boomerangs disclaims any connection with the article as their name, address and phone number were used without permission.

go boom.



In the next issue of
Many Happy Returns

WINTER
1998

PLANS, PLANS, PLANS!

History of boomerangs in
America.



A new kind of fetch
The secret life of pets and
boomerangs



100 free hours of
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Your ideas for competition
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What will come out of your
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see inside back cover for details

TIPS FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO MHR

Each issue of *Many Happy Returns* has a subset of themes which are relevant to the time of year that the issue is published. Persons contributing to *MHR* may wish to keep these themes in mind when deciding on the appropriate issue to which to submit one's writing. Please also keep in mind that contributions need not be limited to these themes.

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>THEMES</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
Fall	tournament summaries final season ratings team selection results MHR awards	November 1
Winter	woodworking techniques plans keeping fit in the off-season indoor booms	January 1
Spring	season calendar competition tips throwers to watch rules changes	April 1
Summer	latest comp technology	July 1

Submit all letters, articles, photographs and images:

by e-mail
brazelto@uiuc.edu

by fax
(217) 244-8371
attn: Tony Brazelton

by mail
USBA Newsletter
2405 Lawndale Drive
Champaign, IL 61821

Please do not send images
by fax.

THE UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

The USBA is a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote the art, craft, sport and poetry of boomerangs through events, competitions, and information distributed through the quarterly newsletter, *Many Happy Returns*. Your input is welcome and you can contact the USBA by writing to:

USBA
PO Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

or visiting USBAonline at:
www.staff.uiuc.edu/~brazelto/USBAinfo.html

or by contacting a board member personally:

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in US Dollars. Make checks payable to **USBA**. Domestic and Canadian annual membership dues are \$15. A domestic or Canadian lifetime membership is \$225. Annual overseas dues are \$20. A lifetime overseas membership is \$350.

Check your newsletter address label for issue of expiration. Membership concerns should be addressed to the Treasurer.



Many Happy Returns

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