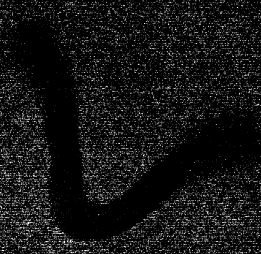


# BOOMERANGS

Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Club



... in the next  
millennium

# Many Happy Returns

ISSUE 77

BOOMERANGS BOOMERANGS

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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Payment for articles published is US\$0.02 per word after editing. Payment for images (photographs, original artwork, etc.) published is US\$1.00 per square inch (6.45 cm<sup>2</sup>) after resizing and cropping.

All contributions may be submitted by e-mail to [tbailey@ic.net](mailto:tbailey@ic.net)

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Deadlines for contributions and advertisements are published inside the back cover of every issue of MHR. Contributions will not be returned unless requested. Contributions will be considered donations unless payment is specifically requested.

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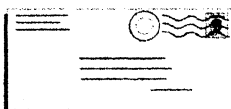
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# Letters

## I was thinking last night while throwing,

what will the USBA be like in 50 or 60 years?? Is the USBA getting enough new members to keep it growing? And what has the USBA been doing to get and keep younger members interested? Does the USBA have any programs to educate children about our wonderful sport/hobby? I know that when I was doing a demonstration at a school many of the kids were interested in getting involved, some hadn't even heard of the sport. I think maybe it (the USBA) needs to promote the sport.

Mat

## What role is MHR supposed to fill?

Newsletters are quick and dirty. It's not unconceivable that you have a emergency release to get out important information. All you have to do is work \*late\* one night and abuse the office copier. The magazine format is much more professional, but you can't expect it to fulfill the same role as information provider.

I suspect that MHR is being used to provide functionality for which it is not best suited. I think that USBA should look into alternate methods (direct/bulk mail, newsletter) for in/semi-formal communication and use MHR as a formal journal.

Mark Horstmeier

## I dislike throwing in heat.

This is why I rarely compete anymore. I prefer temps in the low 60s for vigorous exercise. October is the perfect month. When I was a USBA officer, I tried pushing to hold the Nationals and other competition events during cooler times of the year. The arguments did have merit. The first reason was that school is in recess only in the summer months. To attract younger throwers, you need to hold your tournaments during the summer. The other reason was that teams from all the other countries (Australia, Eu-

**Quarterly quote**

"Gary! What boom should I use for this event?"

"Well Dad, I think I would go with the weighted Stubby as long as the wind stays like this. High, hard and vertical."

- Overheard at the Champaign, Illinois tournament.

rope, Japan, etc.) compete in the Summer and the USA teams would be at a disadvantage if competitors only had throwing experience during fair weather conditions.

I'm definitely a fair weather thrower. I usually wait until the last half hour of daylight to throw in cooler temperatures and lighter breezes. I also like the first couple of hours in the morning unless there is a lot of dew (and doo) on the ground.

As for the Nationals, I haven't attended one of these events for a very long time because the focus has been on one thing only - hard core competition. The board was made of these same people and the only thing they did for years was pick teams, change the competition rules and figure out ways to spend USBA money on these same self picked teams.

Things have changed in the recent past. I was very pleased to see Fred Malmberg join the board with the result that recent emphasis has been placed on boomerang design and fine workworking. Tony is doing a great job with the newsletter, store and web pages. John Koehler made an effort to add non-competition functions to this year's Nationals. Because of this, I would have attended if free had permitted.

The USA boomerang scene needs more

diversity. I hope that when the next USBA board of directors is elected, there will be more members with an interest in wood-working, collecting, science, history, art, etc. Electing a board with a more diversified interest could result in a USBA Nationals event that has a lot more to it than hard core competition. A real conference atmosphere with displays, science lectures, throwing demonstrations, instructions, collectable sales, etc. will bring a lot more members to this event. If that happens, then who cares if it's hot. I'll be doing the things inside that interest me most and throwing in the early morning and late evening with Dave and the other fair weather throwers.

Ted Bailey

### There were a lot of things that happened

at this U.S. Nationals that made it unique from others I have attended. One outstanding feature was the high attendance of youth. John Koehler had scheduled two groups of local youth show up on Friday to learn how to throw a boomerang for the first time.

At the Nationals, many experienced throwers brought their sons to join in on the fun. It was a family affair. For the Nationals lineup, we picked 1 Novice, 2 Open, and 3 Sport to evenly distribute the level of experience on the field. These numbers came out almost exact - so, this means that half the field was filled with new or less experienced throwers. There were a lot of new faces and they were all very excited in spite of the heat!

By mixing in the less experienced throwers evenly with the experienced throwers, the experienced throwers were given the opportunity to teach and help out the less experienced. In many cases, the less experienced had better scores than the experienced throwers. Good job!

The emphasis at this Nationals was about having fun. As promised, there was something there for everyone. If you have any particular interest in boomerangs, it was probably covered in some way during this jam-packed weekend.

I had a great time at this Nationals, however I envy the fathers that shared the experience with their sons. I think this

*(continued on page 24)*

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The 1999 USBA Nationals have come and gone and a big thanks and congratulations goes to John Koehler for organizing and delivering a great weekend of boomerang fun. Yes, it was hot, but as I write this I am thinking more of the sight of 65 throwers lined up en masse for the Ben Ruhe "Suicide" Championship and practicing MTA. Also, the sight of kids throwing along side the adults and the large turnout of Novice throwers. The design contests, as promised, enjoyed a higher profile and we were treated to some great examples of boomerang innovation and craftsmanship. Perhaps next year we can add a "vintage" boomerang throw to the schedule.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and to all of the attendees, and may the next Nationals be as well planned and enjoyed as 1999. As the USBA attempts to place the Nationals in different parts of the country, a western site would be favored for the 2000 event. If you have an interest in hosting the 2000 Nationals, start by giving John Koehler a call for tips how to do it right.

As important as having a fun and well-attended Nationals is the grass roots work many members do without fanfare, teaching and exposing new faces and minds to boomerangs every month. Kudos to all who do this vital work on a voluntary basis. As more are exposed, a certain percentage will attend a USBA tournament. If the tournaments are well-run, safe, and all-inclusive, these folks will have fun and hopefully make boomerangs a bigger part of their leisure time. There is intense competition for leisure time these days, so all we can do is keep doing what we enjoy and love and hope it shows.

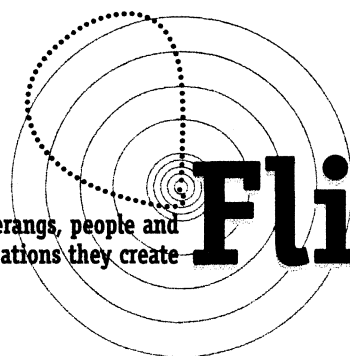
Lastly, I must thank the members USBA Board for their support and unbiased input for the past term. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with this Board and serve the organization.

See you on the field.

John Flynn

USBA President

stories of boomerangs, people and  
the situations they create



# Flightpaths

## Something Lost, Something Gained

by Charles Swanson

**W**here Dennis Joyce and I throw booms in Knoxville, Tennessee, there is a long strip park between a river and an upper class type neighborhood. It was windy on this April afternoon. There was an older man working a garden that he has behind one of the homes and on the edge of the park. After some throwing I went over and talked with the man, asking him about his garden. I was about to quit throwing, as it looked as if it was going to rain. The wind had picked up even more. I decided to tempt fate, and throw my Abo Steve MTA.


I threw it once, but it did not go up very high. I knew I should not be throwing in this type of wind, but decided to throw higher, hoping to catch the wind, and have some fun. Unfortunately, Dennis was not with me today, so I was without his expertise and good eye.

Well, the MTA caught the wind all right, not really a thermal, as it just headed north-eastern with the wind. It started going toward some trees at the back of one of those homes, and I lost sight of it at the end. I looked around the back yard of this home for a while. I figured it was a lost cause, but I did not really want to lose my first MTA to such a foolish throw. A lady came out of the

home, and asked me what I was doing. I told her, and she offered to take my name in case she found my MTA. In other words, it is lost forever. I went back to the rest of my booms in the middle of the field.

The older man from the garden started walking over to me. He had something in his hand. I could see it was cream colored. I thought it might be a MTA Dennis lost last year (boy would he be surprised to get it back). But then I remembered Dennis's MTA was rust colored. The man said he had found the object about a year ago, and that he has kept it over at his garden area ever since. He said he had not known what it was, but was giving it to me. I told him it was a boomerang, and thanked him. I told him I had just lost one of my booms, and he replied that I now had one to replace the one I had lost.

The boom was a heavy type of tan-white semitransparent plastic. I tried throwing it couple times, but it did not perform very well. Then I looked at the airfoils, and figured out it was a left handed boomerang. I tried throwing left handed, but I did a poor job. Even though I write left handed, I throw right handed and do not have much strength or coordination to throw left handed. Even

*Flightpaths* is a new MHR department devoted to human interest stories. From the inspirational to the downright silly, *Flightpaths* will give you a glimpse of the colorful personalities that help make our pas-time unique. 

with my weak left handed throws, it may have made about a 1/3 of a turn.

The shape of the boomerang looked very familiar to me. It was a small type of hook. When I got back home I compared the shape, and it ended up being almost an exact reflection of a right handed Volker Geronimo Hook I have.

I was kind of sad to lose the only MTA that I have been able to get to work for me. However I now have another boomerang in its place that has a story behind it. How one day, a man with whom I had struck up a conversation with about his garden, had found a left-handed boomerang, made by an unknown person, lost on some unknown day in the past, and now today this man happens to think of this strange object and gives it to me. Kind of a long story, but I wanted to share it with you all. Something lost, something gained.

**Charles Swanson's story was posted to RangList. About a week later, there was this reply from Carl Morris of Orlando, Florida:**

**I can tell you** who made that boom: I did!

That boom was my first experiment with composite material, a copy of my Geronimo Hook in a pretty thick piece of G-10, if I remember correctly.

A couple of years ago I was in Knoxville for business and got together with David Martin and Doug Bible for throwing down by the river. The boom was too heavy to return well with a "normal" throw, so I was laying it way over and letting it slide back. On a bad throw it came back over my head but way behind me, landing near a garden. We looked for it some, but never found it.

This is proof that God has a sense of humor. Charles came through Orlando a few months ago and we got together for a throw. He asked if I had anything I'd sell him, but most of the booms I make are copies of commercial ones for my use, so I didn't have anything.

Then he goes back home and finds one on his own throwing field, unbelievable! Well, Charles, I guess you were meant to have that one!

Carl Morris



## Este es la Fiesta del Aire Noventa Nueve!

by Steve Kavanaugh

Around the 15th of October, I recieved an email from Ted Bailey, requesting boomerang throwers able to take a 10 day trip to Colombia and present boomerangs in the 1999 Fiesta Del Aire.

Like everyone else in the US, I thought to myself, "Whoa, Colombia...isn't that where they are kidnapping Americans, killing people for political reasons, running cocaine to the US, and generally not a good place to be a Gringo?"

Well, despite my concerns, I sent back an email reply, saying I would be interested in going. As I like to say, it is a fine line between brave and stupid. Besides, I was a wholesale florist for seven years, and we imported fresh flowers from Colombia on a weekly basis. I had met many Colombians, contrary to the negative impressions from the media, and the overly political warnings from the US State Department, I knew them to be very friendly, generous, and nice people.

As I speak a fair amount of Spanish, have done many boomerang demonstrations, and have a respectable boomerang competition resume, I thought that I might be selected as one of the two throwers to be invited. Eventually, as a few other, fine, unnamed, Ohio based, demonstration professional, boomerang throwers succumbed to the paranoia of "malnoticias", I was invited to the Fiesta del Aire.

Camilo López, the director general of Eco-Sport Colombia, sent me my flight information via email. I left October 21st. I had to buy my ticket to LA, but Eco-Sport, "La Primer Marca en Eventos" covered all my other expenses from there, including transportation, accomadations, three meals a day, as well as 40,000 pesos per day. (This is about \$20/day and goes quite far in Colombia!!)

Camilo also informed me that Penny Lingenfelder, a kite flyer from the Seattle area, would also be attending for a second year in a row. With one phone call to Penny, most all of my fears were gone:

"Great time, no problems, wonderful people, I'm going again".

Penny and I met on our flight to LA on Thursday night, we spent the night in LAX

indoor kite flying, yo-yoing, trying to sleep and of course indoor boomerang throwing. That morning we got on our flight to Bogotá. We were met by Camilo and others just outside of customs, and then retired for the night in our hotel.

### The Show Must Go On.

Kite flyers, jugglers, yo-yo players, frisbee freestylists, bike trialists and me, the boomerang dude, we made quite an eclectic mix of talents. I was still on west-coast time, Colombia is on the same time zone as New York, that was my excuse; we shut down a happenin' little pub swilling 50 cent beers and listening to loud party dance music.

Our first show was the next day, for Avianca, the national airline of Colombia and the main sponsor of the Fiesta del Aire '99. We all began setting up and warming up, and after a "futbol" soccer game was finished using the feild, the show was set to begin.

We were set to go, and well, it turned into a rainstorm, with no signs of stopping. As a native Seattlite, I ain't scared of a little water, so I covered up my bags as best I could, and proceeded to do my thing.

Bogotá is at 2600 meters, (about 8,450 feet). I had to re-tune a few booms just to get anything to fly reasonably well. I managed to put on an OK show, but the rain really messes up kites by adding way too much weight on the kites and the lines. Some valient attempts were made, but heavy, wet kites are literally too much of a drag; we bailed out early due to the weather.

That night, we flew to Medellín, the home town of Camilo and Eco-Sport. It is a wonderful city, full of history and future. The only Metro system in all of Colombia was built there in the 80s, and the Paisas (as they call the folks in that area) are quite proud of the Metro and their beautiful city. Bogotá to Medellín by car is a 10 hour drive of twisting, turning roads, and mountain passes; by airplane it is 27 minutes. As we drove in from the airport, and down the main highway and into the city, we passed a very crowded, happening area full of disco-techs and resturants. A serious Saturday nightlife scene was in full swing.

The next day we did a big outdoor demonstration at a coliseum downtown. This coincided with massive Peace Marches in all of Colombia supporting the government's decision to negotiate rather than fight over their future with FARC guerrillas. A holiday type atmosphere ensued at the "Marcha de la Paz", it seemed like all of the city was out along the parade route; we were about half a block away.

This is the hometown of some stylish and free-flowing extreme kite flyers. New friends of mine, Santiago and Oches thrilled their hometown audiences with stellar performances with various types of kites. Later, they are seen at the edge of the field, mysteriously working on something.

What is it? Filling with air, and expanding to reveal its form; a custom made, hand fabricated giant Free Willy Orca balloon!! A person holds each corner, (or flippers in this case), and Keiko is ushered to the center of the field. The whale wants to swim; its black topside and warm sunlight is lifting it in a self-contained thermal all its own. After a couple of quick tape repairs are finished, Colombian airspace is graced with our large sea-mammal, and beautifully floats up and away. As our friend swims off to the north, we wonder what kinds of Unidentified Flying Orca reoprts will come in from Mexico City

Too Cool!! I had no idea what Bike Trial was before I met these guys on their 20in BMX-style shredding machines of raddness. Imagine a massive bunny-hop from the ground onto a 3 foot pedastal with a bouncing back-wheel only landing. Routine for Javier Zapata, a 27 year old Paisa, who has the Guinness Book record for hopping up stairs on a bicycle. Just 747 of them, and he could have done more, but that was every one of them in "el Edificio Coltejer", the tallest building in Medellin.

Fellow shredsters Andrés and Alejandro rip huge spins and hops from one pedastal to another, and land them on endless front-wheel, endo-style hops. Amazing, and of course the word RAD comes to mind most often when watching the shred-fest. And then, the human obstacles are selected from the crowd. Look out!!! Spread-eagled on the ground, the wheels land between the victim's legs, beside their heads, but never on them. Too scary for me.

Due to the massive festivities, turnout was not as great as expected, but we put on a great show for the 4,000 or more who

came into the stadium. Thousands more looked through the chain-link fences from the streets around us.

Michel Beyer, a fun loving Bavarian, wowed the crowd with his complicated, trick filled, two-line stunt-kite routine to the music of The Cure's "Boys Don't Cry". Michel is also a great yo-yo player and he dazzled the kids with his Yomgea Saberwing Fireball and fancy tricks.

Penny Lingenfleder, who lives just across Puget Sound from Seattle, flew her four line Revolution kite while dancing and hypnotizing the crowd with her magical costumes, movements and tricks. She shares her art form of beautiful poetic flights, and occasionally breaks out with a can of SillyString to the delight of school kids and adults alike.

It was there in Medellin that I met Oscar Cuartes. This guy makes the most incredible tropical hardwood boomerangs that I have ever had the pleasure to encounter. You must see these to believe them. Oscar is also a great host and had brought some fine Colombian coffee to the field, so we talked and drank "tinta", and generally had a great time throwing booms for the crowd.

With the work of the beautiful and charming Paula Arias and Johanna López, Eco-Sport sold over 100 boomerangs at this event alone. (Boom sales being just one of their many logistical and promotional responsibilities.)

Conditidions were ideal for booms at this demo; I was able to do all the best spectator events, fast catch, trick catch, MTA and 40 meter. Oscar and his friend threw MTA (their favorite) with me; we hit some great thermals with a number of throws over a minute. My highlight catch was diving between kitelines for a full lay-out diving MTA catch landing in a big splash of mud!

I did a TV and newspaper interview in my corrupted spanish. The next day, La Fiesta del Aire '99 shared newspaper highlights with the Negotiations and Peace Marches (every major city in Colombia, as well as New York and Wa, DC).

### When In Rome...

In Medellin, we had one of our only nights free, with no shows scheduled the next day. Sort of like Ouzo, the preferred local drink loosely translates as "fire-water". You keep it in the freezer and then do shots this, "Aguardiente". It is one of many fine, Colombian diversions, and I feel that one should experience different cultures to the

fullest. Local prices being great bargains compared to the US, a scooter was sent out for provisions. I personally went to bed around 6:30 after watching the city come to morning life from our hotel room balcony.

That week we did a series of demonstrations for schools in the area. Eco-Sport never charged a penny for the demonstrations, they seem to get sponsors to cover expenses and then the public gets to see all sorts of cool things for FREE!!!

This seems to be a trend in Colombia, where the general public needs to spend their money on more pressing issues like food, housing and education. Big companies sponsor cool events for the public, not to gain profits, but to put their name in the public's mind, and show that they are giving something back to the people who support them.

Next stop was Cali. We stayed at the national sports education school. All the top athletes study and train there. One day, there was a class dissecting human brains, cool!!

The Kogui Kite Club from Bogotá sent a whole crew of their best flyers to help out during the tour. With a flair for style and precision, Julien, Felipe, Carlos, Leonardo, Andrés, Jorgé, and Jorgé (and others too I think), fly everything from little, single line fighter kites, dual line stunters, Revolution quad-lines, up to the big "power kites" which can pull a person up-hill on snowskis!! Fun loving and talented, these local flyers added to our line-up of entertainment and education tour.

We did another series of school demos, and a very big, nighttime, indoor demo at a vele-drome. The ceiling was tall enough to throw full trick booms and never hit the top. I was able to pull of great trick catch and fast catch demos at this venue, and the kites flyers put on an awesome show as well. For me the wind was perfect for whipping fast catches out, around a pole and over the crowd!! They loved it. Again we sold a nice number of ProFlies, Tryflies and Funflies (oh yeah, and some Gregg Snouffer Tantrems I had been stuck with).

In Cali, we did some more school demos, and then a big show at a larger outdoor festival. I met another Colombian boomerang maker there. At the stadium demo, I switched demo music from Bob Marley to Billy Idol "Dancin' with Myself". I didn't have time to practice in the stadium and was quite nervous about having enough space

to throw even fast catch. I remember the first throw, thinking, "boom or bust", and boom I did. Over the heads of the crowd with the nylon fast catch, a perfect boom for space!!! That was my demo with out a single drop, and even hit a bunch of fast/trick catches including hackey and foot catches.

The announcers for the demos, Tata and Andrés, told the crowd everything we wanted to get across, from tournament event information, booms are not weapons, trick catches on command, world records and boomerangs for sale. Masters of ceremony, the crowds were always kept well entertained and well informed about the different presentations and performers.

Freestyle frisbee players Juan Manuel and Rodrigo Davilla wowed the crowd with their spinning-on-the-finger-under-the-leg-behind-the-back-to-hacky-catches and beautiful hovering throws. In addition to being great performers these Colombian locals were also excellent hosts sharing, and showing me around the sights.

Later that day we did more demos, but this time out in the country, where the people have less materiel goods, but are just as interested in sports and learning about new things as anyone in the world. Camilo told me that these demos were more "socially correct", than an attempt to help the sponsors sell their services.

### If You Can't Beat 'Em, Join 'Em

We were scheduled to leave for the airport at 3:30am in the morning and all wanted to get some much needed rest. The students at the Sports School had some other plans, as there was a "Baile y Bingo" scheduled that night. The Latin dance music was going loud and strong by 11pm, salsa rumba and flamenco dancing mixed with together bingo food, and a full bar. Sleep was not really an option.

Johanna taught Michel and myself how to salsa dance. Penny and Carlos were seen swinging to the beats, and more than a few beers and Cuba Libres were left empty. I crashed out/passed out around 2:30. At 4am, unable to awaken him by more traditional means, I had resorted to throwing water in the face of my German kite flying buddy. We stumbled to the bus and had more trouble getting people awake and moving at the airport. What a crew we were, riding that fine line between asleep, drunk and hungover.

We made it to Bogotá with no problems, but once there, Camilo pretended there was some sort of problem so that we could get onto the Avianca flight to Carteheña with every single one of the Ms Colombia Beauty Padgent Contestants!!! We got to take pictures with them, and they even had an informal fashion show up and down the aisles of the plane while the TV and News cameras covered the "Reinas". I still think Ms Baranquilla is the best; other less discriminating fellows think it was Ms Valle.

When we arrived to the hotel in Carteheña, the CART "automovilismo" final race of the year was on TV. Juan Pablo Montoya, the rookie driver from Colombia, was poised to win the year end ratings, a first for any rookie ever. He guy he had to beat by at least 4 positions was right on his tail, and this exciting race came down to the very last lap, with Montoya placing excatly well enough to win the year end ratings. It was a very proud moment for all Colombians everywhere.

Carteheña is a very old Spanish port on the Carribean Sea. It has a long pirate history, massive castles and stone forts with cannons for blasting pirate ships. It is also a great tourist town with Princess Cruise Ships in port and people from all over the world. Our hotel was 1 block from where we did the big show on the beach the next day.

With better kite winds, we were a huge success. David Brittan, "Mr Showman", a native of Boulder Colorado, but living in Switzerland, pulled out all of his tricks. He blows bubbles with his Revolution quad kite, drops a ball in the basket, and tempts the crowd with money and candy hanging from his kite. And that is just the beginning; with the big 4 line powerkites he skis along the sand in just his sandals, races back and forth, up wind and down wind in the kite buggy, even popping up onto 2 wheels for style and speed. Two wheels is tough, but he is the only guy who can ride a unicycle while flying a power kite. No to be matched, he can whip 360s on the uni and even pops little bunny-hops like the bike trialist. Now if anyone wants to try and pull off his stunts, he can also juggle 3 balls while riding the unicycle and flying the powerkite!!!

We did an all day demo on the hot and humid beach. I swear I drank 6 liters of water over the day. The wind was ideal for humming 40 and 50 meter Spanglers over the heads of the crowd who were on the water

and upwind side of 70 x 30 meter fenced off area. More TV cameras and media showed up throughout the day. Kite-buggy racing with car racing sound effects over the loudspeakers was a hit for the proud Colombian crowd who was still feeling the after-glow of Juan Montoya's dramatic victory.

Many a boomerang was sold on the beach, and a spontaneous boomerang clinic erupted on the scene with tryfls going everywhere, and a beautiful party beach atmosphere.

Later that night the wind finally came up enough for David to break out his surf board. You guessed it, one of a handful in the world, this "Loco Gringo" rides the waves and the wind at the same time. Kite surfing looks like a massive rush, but I have enough trouble just trying to fly one of these monster power kites.

More dancing and good times were had by all, especially out in the "old city" which is surrounded by ancient walls. I had such fun that I had my return flight changed to a few days later. Even met a wonderful Paisa señorita, a friend of the bike trialists, who gave me a necklace. :)

### Don't Believe The Hype.

So that was my experience in Colombia. Massively huge fun rad time; no problems at all, beautiful people and country. Colombia, so different from the information that we get from the media here in the US. I hope to return soon.

Think for a minute about what happens here in the US: a national capitol where drugs, guns and violence are a way of life, schools where the students open fire on classmates and teachers, federal buildings destroyed by reactionary paramilitary terroists, disgruntled workers seeking their revenge on employers with gun-fire and violent crime an everyday issue in the major cities.

Here in the US, these things are all realities. And the news about Colombia that we hear and see in the US is the news that is going to sell advertising on CNN and ABC. We only hear the "malnoticias" (bad news) about Colombia here in the US. The reality in the Colombian cites is about the same as here in the US.

New York and Washington, DC both have great qualities; do not let the real horror stories about them scare you away from visiting them.





# How to lose an MTA

by Ted Bailey

*I have lost* all three types of MTAs (wood Bailey, Jonas, and Ola Snake) to the wind Gods. The first Bailey MTA was lost during a Hampton, Virginia tournament in the 80's where my timers last noted a time of over seventeen minutes before we lost sight of the MTA. No chance of a catch on this one! It was just a spec in the clouds when we last could make it out. There was no 100 meter circle requirement in those days and we were probably close to a mile away anyway.

I watched my Jonas take off into the mountains in Emmaus, PA after making a throw in the afternoon while practicing for a night tournament. Expensive practice.

I also shared the opinion that Snakes would come down and not be lost until when I was throwing Snakes exclusively during John Flynn's tournament in Vermont three weeks ago. A practice throw of an 88% snake set up into a hover that carried it over trees, over the next field, and into the mountains. Bye, Bye!

I think it is safe to say that the more tendency an MTA has to hover, the higher the chance of it taking off. All MTAs have a chance of catching a thermal and if conditions are right, you will be looking for something else to throw.

There are three ways that I have lost an MTA to the Jet Stream God.

The first is via a **thermal** which is rising air with slow cyclonic motion. The best place to find them is at the interface between a large green grassy field and a large blacktop surface in 80+ degree heat and with little wind. Just watch for the where the vultures are hovering and throw underneath. MTAs will just rise and rise until all you see is a dot (or not) in the air. Often they just disappear. Midi-MTAs get lost the easiest.

The second is via a **dust devil** or other (anti) cyclonic vortex that spins faster than a thermal air mass. You want to hang the MTA at the edge of the vortex, not the center. One of the neatest MTA flights I ever saw was at the edge of Lake Eire in a February snow storm. Gary Broadbent and his friend Ken launched two of my Midis up high. Their MTAs stabilized just as a vortex blew by. It looked just like a tornado only smaller. It was about 6 feet across and went from the ground all the way to the sky. Both MTAs became trapped in the edge of the vortex which could be seen because the powdery snow painted the edges of the vortex ghostly white. The MTAs bobbed up and down and circled the center of the vortex like two moons around a planet. They stayed

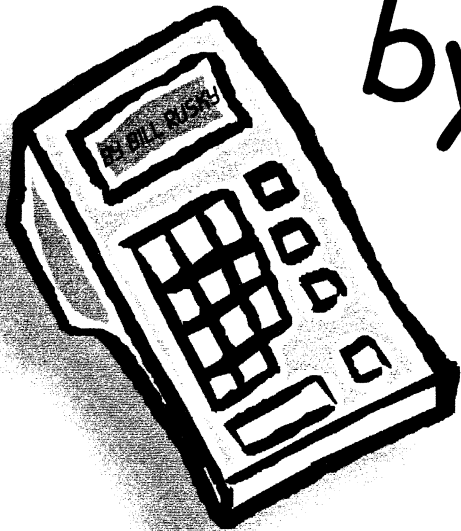
with the Vortex for several minutes until the vortex's path intersected Lake Eire. At that point the vortex abruptly disappeared. Both MTAs drifted slowly down. Gary's landed on the land a few feet from the shore. Ken's landed on the water 10 feet and quickly blew out into the middle of the lake. We had to restrain Gary who was about to swim out to get it in 35 degree water and 20 degree air. I wish I had that one on videotape.

The third way to lose a MTA is in **straight wind** with a vertical velocity gradient. One of my early models was the Wind Sailor (see MHR 1985) which is what Jonas started with in the development of his highly optimized super MTA. This type of MTA is capable of tacking relative to the wind. If you throw a LH and RH model at the same time. They go with the wind but at an angle of 60 degrees relative to each other. They also travel slower than the wind, thus the tack. The relative velocity between the blade and wind creates lift. Without a vortex, the MTA will travel at nearly the same height and just not come down. Thus the name Wind Sailor. I lost more than 50 of these and then it wasn't fun anymore so I stopped making them.



# BOOMCRAFT

by numbers



**I** designed and made boomerangs for many years before I ever attended a USBA tournament, in fact before I ever met anyone else who knew anything about boomerangs.

I noticed a significant difference in size between my boomerangs and the average competition boomerangs. Determined to be able to design competition boomerangs, I measured a number of Paul Gustafson's boomerangs that he acquired from many different competition boomerang makers.

etc. Because the underlying data is sparse you should take the following formulae with a grain of salt. They are more of a ballpark estimate than a strict guideline.

The formulae for Trick Catch and Fast Catch/Endurance boomerangs assumes tri-blader designs. The formulae for Australian Round boomerangs assumes a IVI type design and the formulae for MTA boomerangs assumes a basic ILi shaped design.

T = thickness; WL = wing length; LWL = leading wing length; TWL = trailing wing length;

mum chord width is usually located near the tips. The minimum chord width is often located close to the center section in tri-bladers and anywhere between mid wing and the elbow on two winged boomerangs. The center circle diameter is the diameter of the largest circle that can be inscribed in the center section of a tri-blader. The leading and trailing edge cutback widths are how far back you remove material from these edges. Because they are dependent on density and each other the edge cutback widths

Type of Boomerang	WL (mm)	LWL (mm)	TWL (mm)	CC (mm)	MXC (mm)	MNC (mm)	LE (mm)	TE (mm)
Australian Round (V-shape)	N/A	$3.39T + 218.4$	$8.85T + 204.5$	N/A	$0.82T + 33.3$	$0.73T + 21.1$	$0.044T + 2.8$	$0.96T + 4.1$
Fast Catch/Endurance (tri-wing)	$2.36T + 145.8$	N/A	N/A	$2.91T + 41.9$	$2.18T + 31.8$	$1.62T + 19.6$	$0.38T + 1.2$	$1.18T + 7.9$
MTA (I-shape)	N/A	$22.6T + 233.2$	$5.23T + 173.5$	N/A	$4.04T + 24.9$	$145T + 19.8$	$0.51T + 1.8$	$0.01T + 11.7$
Trick Catch (tri-wing)	$6.12T + 130.8$	N/A	N/A	$0.485T + 48.8$	$1.0T + 37.1$	$1.0T + 21.6$	$1.96T - 3.0$	$2.23T + 6.1$

From these measurements I created formulae for the design of competition boomerangs. If I had a large sample size and a lot of time I would probably do a multivariate analysis with thickness and density as the independent variables. Since there was only a small sample size, I created formulae that had thickness as the independent variable  $\bar{n}$  you choose the thickness and the formulae gives you the wing length, chord,

MNC = minimum chord; MXC = maximum chord; CC = center circle diameter; LE = leading edge cutback width; TE = trailing edge cutback width.

Wing length on the tri-bladers is from the center point to the end of the wing. Wing length on the Aussie Round and MTA booms are from the end to the opposite side of the elbow. Most competition boomerangs do not have uniform chord width. The maxi-

should be considered the least accurate of the following formulae.

I think that the following formulae will give the novice and intermediate boomerang designer a good starting point to work from for the proper sizing of competition boomerangs.



---

Wouldn't it be cool if

# Michael 'Gel' Girvin

were

## your personal trainer?

Your wish just came true ...

### **Get good at trick catching and all the other boomerang event skills**

**will follow.** This is true because in order to be in position to make any one of the infinite number of trick catches possible, the thrower must **be acutely cognizant of the slightest changes** in the boomerang's forward motion.

The thrower must **be perfectly in tune with how the boomerang moves** in the air.

This ability to **have a harmonious connection** between the boomerang's flight and your body's positional reaction translates into all other events. To be in the most advantageous position for a Fast Catch/Endurance catch this same skill is used. To make a jumping catch in Australian Round (in order to maximize points) this same skill is used. Not only that, but **trick catching is rad** .



# NEWS

## USBA Board Election

### Some new faces

The results of the USBA Board election for the 2000 term are as follows. Number of votes received is in parentheses. 53 ballots (17% of the membership) were received.

#### President

Chet Snouffer (51)

#### Vice-President

Fred Malmburg (52)

#### Secretary

Betsylew Miale-Gix (52)

#### Treasurer

No candidate. Pursuant to the USBA Bylaws the newly elected Board will select the Treasurer.

#### At Large Directors

Eric Darnell (49)

Larry Ruhf (41)

Pat Steigman (38)

Billy Brazelton (34)

Keith Mullinar (33)



## 1999 Financial Summary

January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999

Compiled by Tony Brazelton, 1999 USBA Treasurer

Category	1/1/99 12/31/99
<b>Inflows</b>	
Auction Income	1,905.00
Dues:	
Domestic New Members	640.00
Domestic Renewals	1,887.08
Intl New Members	40.00
Intl Renewals	80.00
Dues - Other	120.00
Total Dues	2,767.08
Interest Earned	31.02
Tournament Sanctioning fees	225.00
USBA Store Income:	
Back Issues	90.00
Rulebooks	2.50
T-shirts	12.00
Total USBA Store Income	104.50
Inflows - Other	1,071.66
<b>Total Inflows</b>	<b>6,104.26</b>
<b>Outflows</b>	
Auction Expenses:	
Payments	127.75
Total Auction Expenses	127.75
Bank Fees	61.49
Insurance	960.00
Newsletter Expenses:	
Article Commissions	57.00
Professional Printing	2,404.68
Total Newsletter Expenses	2,461.68
Office:	
Envelopes	24.65
Miscellaneous	314.65
PO Box Rental	20.00
Printer Cartridges	104.00
Total Office	463.30
Postage:	
1st Class Dom MHR Postage	165.00
Bulk Rate Dom MHR postage	78.74
Free Packet Postage	118.57
Intl MHR Postage	124.47
Special Mailings	162.15
USBA Office Move	27.65
Total Postage	676.58
Short-term loans	580.00
TD Packets	36.06
USBA Store Expenses:	
Refunds	2.50
USBA Store Expenses - Other	5.40
Total USBA Store Expenses	7.90
<b>Total Outflows</b>	<b>5,374.76</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>729.50</b>
<b>Balance on 12/31/99</b>	<b>12,332.62</b>

# M. H. Rchives

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

## 5 Years Ago

"Three world records were set at the first Arizona tournament, held in Phoenix on October 16. First, Michael Girvin started the sequence by setting a new world record in Doubling (new USBA rules) with 17 catches. Then, Will Gix, with a score of 91, broke the world record score of 90 points in Australian Round, previously set by Brother Brian Thomas nearly 10 years ago.

Will's record was short-lived though. Only a few minutes later, Mark Weary scored an incredible 92 points to take first place in the event and the current world record mark. Both Will and Mark were using the Aussie Round boomerang *Phenolic Sunshine* made by Michael Girvin."

MHR #57 Winter 1994

## 10 Years Ago

"The Rules Committee is spending the Holiday Season fine tuning the rules for 1989. Items that the committee are addressing include 'clean' catches for Consecutive Catch and Doubling. Also under consideration are 'count-up' formats for the above two events. This would allow each competitor to throw a certain number of times regardless of any drops, and the total score (for example: 8 out of 12) would be their score. In the case of ties for top score, the surviving throwers would go to the familiar single elimination format now used in Consecutive Catch and Doubling, where, if you drop, you are 'out'."

MHR #37 Winter 1989

# NEW websites



<http://www.lexasoft.com/bba>

Belgian Boomerang Association



<http://www.imall.com/stores/boomerangs/inc/mta-web/>

MTA-WEB



<http://www.iinet.net.au/~rangs/>

RANGS Australia



<http://home1.gte.net/blugar/twinpeaksmain.htm>

More Twin peaks boom tournament pictures

## Previous Design Contest Winners Lost in the Shuffle

Have you won a previous USBA Boomerang Design Contest? Do you know someone who has? We need your help to remind us who you are (we forgot to write it down).

Dave Hendricks of Allentown, Pennsylvania is acquiring a database of winners of past USBA-sponsored boomerang design contests. Since the USBA has not kept the appropriate archives, Hendricks has volun-

teered to do the research necessary to make sure that past and future winners are remembered for their contributions to boomerang art and design.

The USBA has held a design contest in conjunction with every US Open (or national championship) for many years. If you have any information about the winners of any of these design contests, please contact

**Dave Hendricks, 1086 E. Gordon St., Allentown PA 18103. E-mail: [bvdrangs.enter.net](mailto:bvdrangs.enter.net).**

Hendricks' up-to-date efforts can be found on his website at [www.fortunecity.com/marina/trinidad/123/winners.html](http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/trinidad/123/winners.html).



**You will need —**  
 Scissors  
 Ruler  
 Table or Desk

**INDOOR CARDBOARD BOOMERANG**

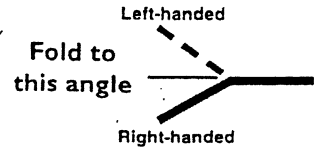
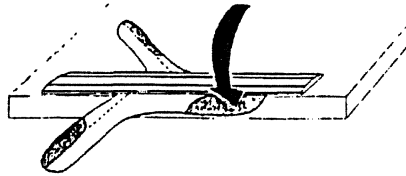
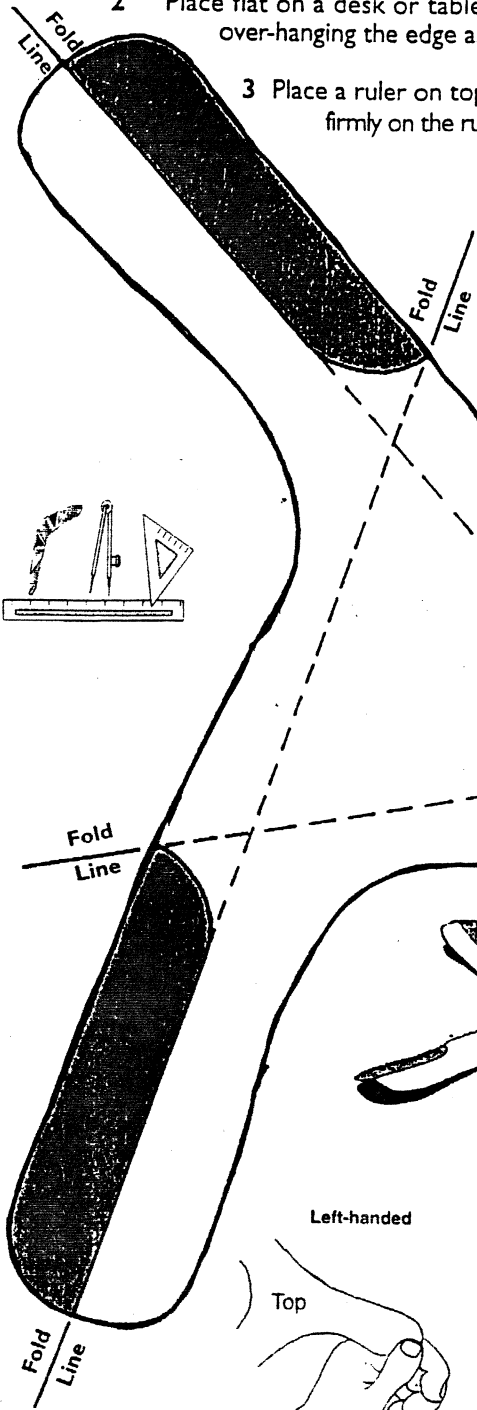
Designed By  
 Lawrence West

Indoor Boomerang World Record Holder



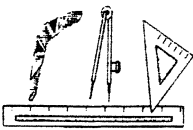
**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Carefully cut around the out-line.
- Place flat on a desk or table with the shaded area over-hanging the edge along one of the three fold lines.
- Place a ruler on top, level with the same fold line and, whilst pressing firmly on the ruler, fold down the shaded area (fold **UP** if you are left-handed).

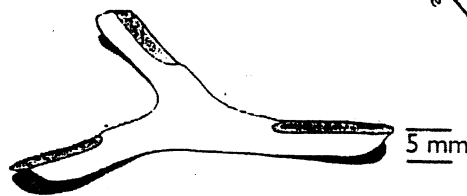


- Repeat for the other 2 wings.

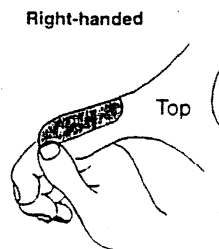
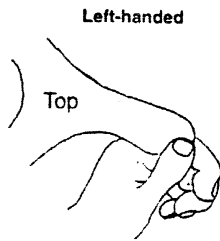
**NOTE:** If you are left-handed turn your boomerang over after stage 4. The top for you will be the other side.



- Gently bend up each wing so that when put top side up, on a flat table, each wing tip is 5mm above the table.



**THROWING**

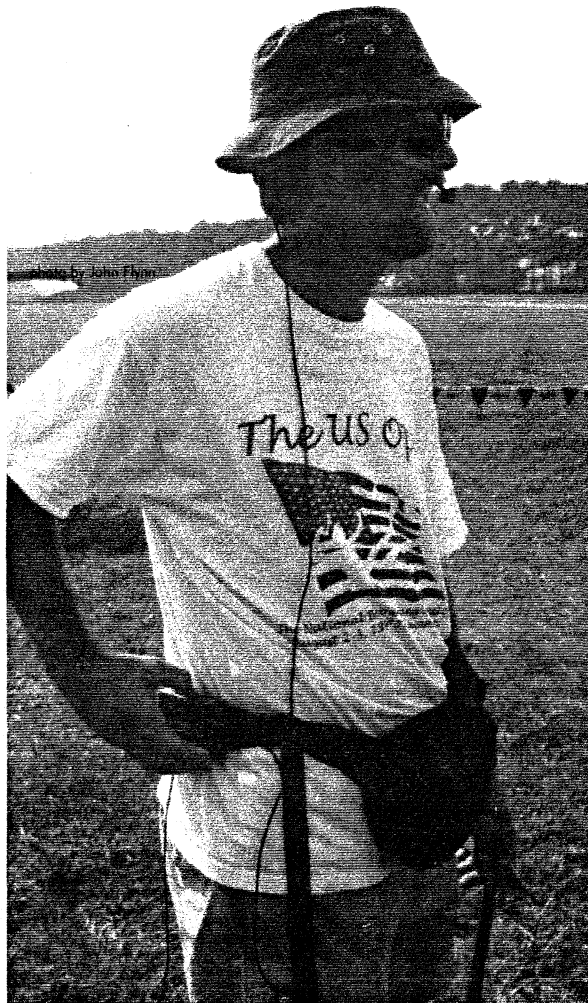


Hold like this, with the top facing you, and throw straight out, upright (NOT FLAT like a frisbee) and with a flick.

**Many Happy Returns**

# 1999 US Open

July 31 - August 2  
Virginia Beach, Virginia



**Left top:**  
1999 National Champion  
Gregg Snouffer.

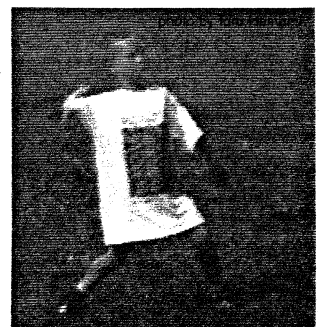
**Left middle:**  
1999 Intermediate Division  
Champion Gary Broadbent,  
Jr. (middle) with 3rd place  
Ross Snyder (left) and 2nd  
place Jim Sprague.

**Left bottom:**  
Adam Ruhf heaves one.

**Above:**  
First throw of the single-  
elimination Ben Ruhe  
Suicide event.

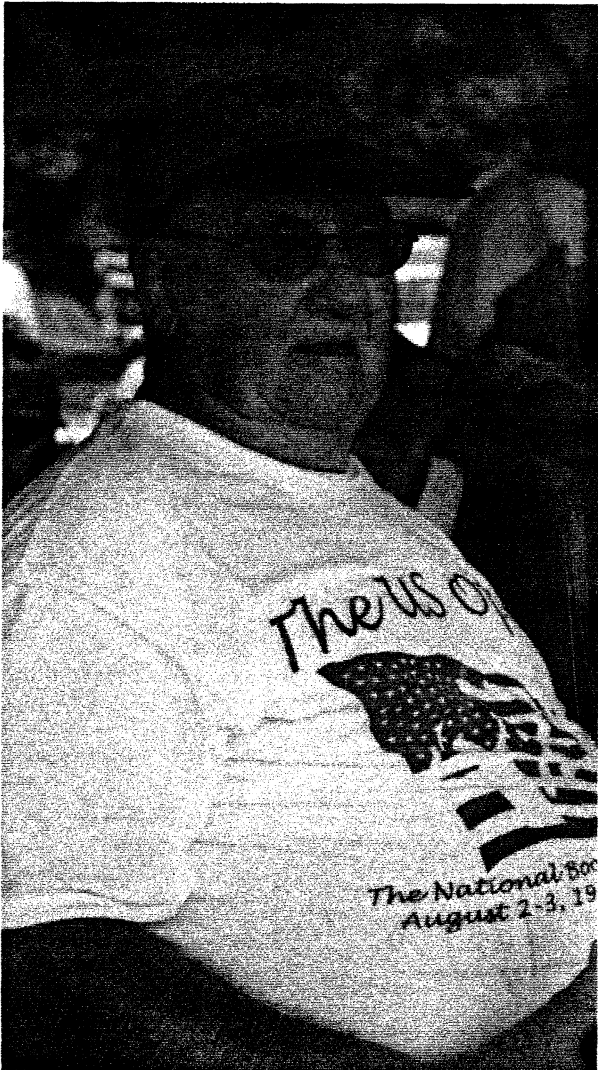
**Left:**  
Tournament director John  
Koehler keeping things  
running smoothly.

**Below:**  
Kent Sprague in pro form.



# 1999 US Open

July 31 - August 2  
Virginia Beach, Virginia



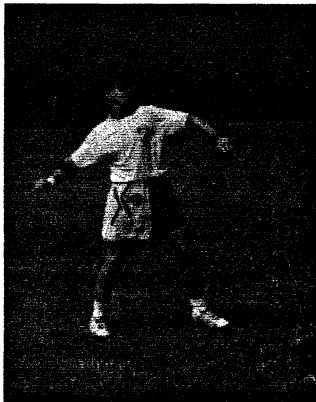
**Above left:** Endurance with Quebecoise Chantal Plamondon.

**Above:** The best approximation of Ben Ruhe, with Gary Broadbent presents John Koehler with an expression of recognition.

**Left:** Boomerang legend and guru Rusty Harding surveys the sport's future. **Below top:** Flyboy Kelly Leggette.

**Below bottom:** The persistent perfectionist Devin Broadbent

**Bottom right:** Nobody does it better. 1999 National GLORP Champion Steve Kavanaugh.





# E V E N T REPORTS

## The Post-Dennis, Pre-Floyd Kitty Hawk Hurricane Boomerang Tournament or The Great Mosquito Tournament

Nags Head, North Carolina  
March 27-28, 1999

I want to thank all the throwers who came out to the event this year. It was a little smaller than last year, but a whole lot of fun. Boy did we luck out with the timing. The tourney fell right between Dennis The Menace and Flooding Floyd. The only drawback as a result of the hurricane was the massive amount of Mosquitos. All competitors are now blood related.

But, instead of the above titles, I think I shall dub this the year of the Novice. We had 6 novice throwers in the tourney, including myself. The guys really helped us out with booms and training prior to the tourney, and gave us advice throughout the events. In fact, they somewhat sacrificed a bit of their own spotlight for us. (a novice took 3rd in accuracy, including the only perfect ten of the event! - pat meself on da back) Two other employees of KHK came out to throw - Olof Hansson and Jeff DeBrinkett. Jeff did HUGE in Trick Catch, scoring a whopping 12. He was on FIRE. Olof - the blonde Scandinavian wunderkind scored famously for his FIRST DAY THROWING EVER. wow. Then there were the three walk-ups who got recruited to throw, Randy, Cal & Bill. These guys did very well, and have been brought over to the boom-side.

We outdid ourselves by throwing night

booms TWICE this year! Once with the entire crew and the second time as a smaller crew - breaking the law in more ways than one. (no one got naked...) The wind wasn't as good as last year, but we had lots of rad fun. stevie k invented a new game. throw boom, air guitar, catch boom.

Lessee. Highlights. Well, the "Don't hit Jim" rule from last year was compromised during night boom number one. I don't think the thrower owned up to that toss. This year though, the rule changed to "Don't BEAT Jim". A couple of us compromised that rule. Sorry Jim. In fact, once it was with Jim's boomerang!

and speaking of "Don't hit..." rules, the prize for Target of the Tourney goes to Dennis Joyce, who got hit dead-on-throw during warm up for Fast Catch - TWICE! He's got bruises with my name on them. Sorry Dennis.

The second day was demo & clinic day with Dennis, Stevie K, Tim and Jim - thanks guys. We taught a few families how to throw, and if it weren't for the mosquitos, they would have stuck around longer. We had fun the rest of the day throwing booms through the football goal posts. I think Jim Jordan won that unofficial event.

My one regret from this year's tourney - my second one - was the absence of a game of GLORP. It was the only event I participated in last year, and looked forward to it

again this year, finding creative new catches to top my Courtney Catch of last year. But alas, no GLORP. Next year. Hope to see more of you then!

Annie Thompson

## Toss Across America

Columbus, Ohio  
May 22, 1999

Location: Whetstone Park in Columbus, Ohio.

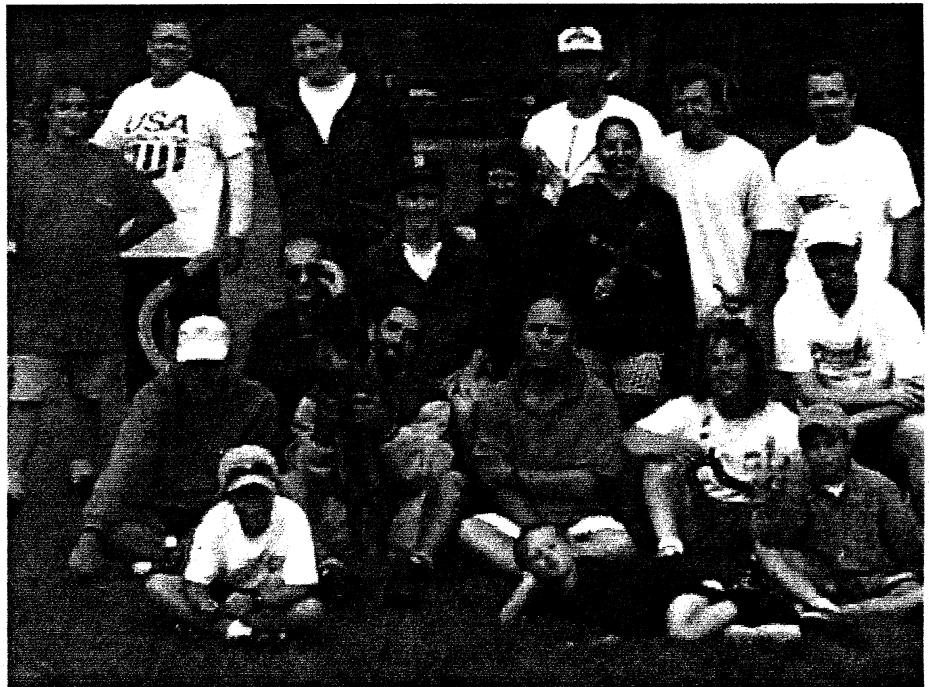
Host(s): Bob Lackey and Roger Roberts.

Time of day and conditions: 1-5 pm. Rain until 1:15, then again at 4pm.

Press coverage: This is Columbus, Ohio - home of the Columbus Dispatch. Any questions?

Summary: We had six throwers with two dogs accompanying. The last thrower came with a Snouffer 'V' he had found. We had him throwing and catching by the time the 4pm rains came. Drops the size of tennis balls!

Bob Lackey



Cast and crew of the 1999 Meriden, New Hampshire tournament. Tournament Director John Flynn back row, far right. GelDog II front row, sniffing Rob Parkins.

## Toss Across America

Bellevue, Washington

May 22, 1999

Our TAA in Bellevue was great. We had SUN! We had hordes of people in a nice park. We had FUN!

After a very wet winter and spring, we had SUN on Saturday. A nice breeze out of the north, temperatures soared into the 70s (20s for those of you that have useful units) and no clouds in the skies. For those in the Pacific Northwest, the sight of a cloudless day brings three reactions: "My gosh, what is that thing in the sky!", "quick, to the park!" and "Where did I put my sunscreen 45?"

Hordes descended on Bellevue's downtown park. The center field is surrounded by a moat on two sides, and a pond on the third, and we had it mostly to ourselves to throw.

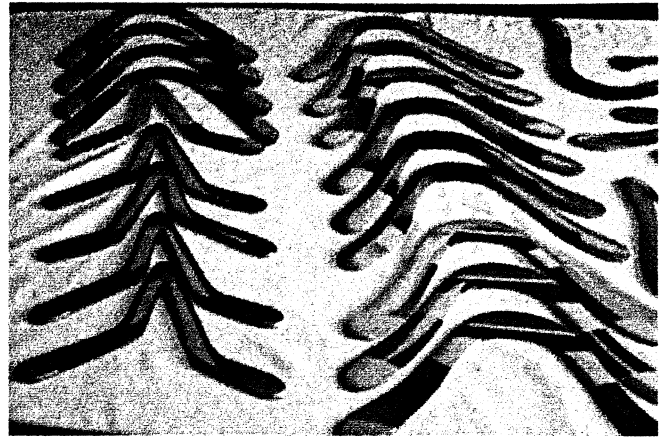
Due to the extreme temperature and lack of previous sun this spring, many non-boomerang throwers were afflicted with sunstroke and decided that just upwind from us was a good place to sunbathe. They were invited to join or move. A dozen joined us. The local and not so local throwers (Peter, Dan, Jeff, T.W. Smith, myself) helped all those that show up including friends (Angus, Mitch, Guy and lefty son), randoms at the park - the high school group of 8, tourists from San Francisco, people who read about us on [seattle.sidewalk.com](http://seattle.sidewalk.com) and in company newsletters and their kids. We peaked at about 20, and taught about 35 how to throw over the afternoon.

Dan was tossing a few over the moat, Peter was doing great with trick catch, T.W. demonstrated those unusual booms that don't need a signature on the back - you just say "Hey, that's one of T.W.'s booms." I demonstrated my first cutlass sword-boom, which T.W. took a liking to (it looks so weird in the sky). Maybe he'll pick it up on June 5th - it is going to be one of the prize booms.

I collected email addresses and phone numbers from a dozen people, and many expressed an interest in the Twin Peaks Tournament.

*Will Gix*

## Toss Across America (and other stuff)



Prize boomerangs (above and above right) from the Twin Peaks tournament. Reason enough to go to Twin Peaks 2000!

### Tucson, Arizona

things are going well here in the old pueblo; rangslinging couldn't be better. thought i'd send along some of the fun had around here in june. first on june 2nd, my casa grande rangler buds and i went to phoenix in the morning to meet up the one and only lorin hawes.

the story is like this, tucson rangler doug walters had loaned his book by lorin to a friend in phoenix and by accident she spilled coffee on it. feeling very bad called doug to get lorin's address to see if she could get another. the reply came back asking if he could bring in person. fantastic was the reply, lorin has relatives in phoenix and was planning to visit them so decided to deliver the book in person.

well when doug found out he told the rest of us and dwaine morris, bill adamson, myself and doug walters went to visit. the friends of doug's were very kind and generous to all of us and even fed us a great meal.

we threw in a near by field in the morning till the wind picked up, then we ate and talked untill late afternoon. lorin gave each of us an original hand made lapjoint boom and let us pick from some first batch models of his plastic ones, it was incredible. an experince none of us will forget and will forever tell about.

then to tell a brief story of our so called toss across america event! i knew the wind was blowing when i left the house, but i told myself-self don't think about the wind, you'll throw no matter.

well it was a challenge to put up the easy-up canopy, - the sun was very warm that day, temps were in the upper 90's. the wind

slowly got worse as the first hour passed. when the only other hard core showed up we had to stake down the chairs so we could get up and keep them there. we never did get a display up, the wind would not allow such things.

bill and i attempted to weight and flap some booms we already had for wind, but success was minimal at best. after a time, deciding that no one was coming, (and i had put out a number of press releases and such) we tried to take down the easy-up, but as we did the wind increased and we nearly became air borne trying topull us across the feild, we did manage to get everything back in the car, including a large portion of dust that was coming off the parking lot.

all in all it was a blow out! figured i'd get a laugh out of some of those who are used to much wind, but 30 plus mph is a bit to much.

*tucson don monroe*

## 10th Annual Kimball Union Academy Boomerang Tournament

Meriden, New Hampshire

July 10, 1999

The 10th annual Kimball Union Academy boomerang tournament took place on July



10th, in what could be described as "washing machine" wind conditions. The tournament maintained its international flavor with Montreal friends Stephane Marguerite, Chantal Plamondon (her 1st-ever contest), Etienne Sourd, and Daniel Bellemare among the 17 competitors. Jim Jordan, Mike Forrester, itinerant GLORP-master Steve Kavanaugh (once again), and Barnaby Ruhe were other long distance travellers.

Chantal exemplified the true boomerang spirit by competing in each event, in tough conditions, and she easily captured the Novice award. 2nd place Novice was 7-year-old Kent Sprague. Overall honors were not decided until the last throw of the last event, with John Flynn barely edging Moleman 22-241/2. Mike Forrester was a solid 3rd with 301/2 pts.

*John Flynn*

## 12th Annual Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup

Salem, Oregon  
July 18, 1999

The 12th Annual Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup was held at McKay High School in Salem, Oregon on July 18, 1999. Tournament director was Dean Kelly and Head Judge was Diane DuFresne.

We only had ten USBA throwers and three novices registered for competition. It was suggested that I submit the results and petition for them to be recognized. We had

the option of drafting Diane or one of our novice throwers into the USBA but that was rejected as being a dishonorable method of achieving a legal tournament. The point was made that it is a known fact that other tournaments, specifically some of the east coast tournaments, as well as my tournament last year, have done just that. While I have participated in such 'thrower padding' before I believe that it is a sham and does nothing to enhance the image of boomerang throwing as a viable sport.

I strongly recommend that the USBA vigorously encourage tournament directors to maintain the honesty of the sport by not trying to manipulate tournaments for their benefit. If we have trouble attracting enough throwers to a tournament to make it legal then we need to take another look at how we promote our tournaments, why there aren't more throwers attending the tournaments, and/or at whether the 11 thrower minimum is a reasonable rule.

All that said, I am submitting my tournament results for consideration by the USBA at the request of my competitors. At the same time I am recommending that the scores not be accepted because of the bad precedent I believe it would set.

Regardless of all that, we had a great time! As usual the winds picked up later in the day and made several of the events 'challenging.' You can take a casual glance at the event scores and see that they in no way reflect the raw talent of the throwers that were there.

Highlights of the day: Four MTA boomerangs were lost due to excessive drift. Strong thermals and gusty winds made a number of boomerangs drift out of the 50 meter circle. While there was lots of room to chase boomerangs downwind some of them drifted into the surrounding neighborhood or off to worlds unknown.

Suzanne Lentz, throwing in her first tournament in several years, capped the day by earning her first time in Fast Catch. Because of winds her 55.79 time in the second round was good enough to give her sixth place.

Dean Kelly, never known as a power house in Fast

Catch took second place with a time of 38.46, narrowly edging out David Hash with a respectable time of 38.92 seconds. Will Gix was the only thrower that was successfully able to match a fast Catch boomerang to the tricky winds for a time of 27.43.

Will Gix blew away competition placing no lower than third place in any of the events, including first place in Trick Catch/Doubling, Fast Catch and Endurance.

As for the new rules: The combination of Fast Catch and Endurance was considered a good move by all. This cuts down on the time spent transitioning from one event to the next and Fast Catch is as good as any warm up for Endurance.

Combining the top three scores in MTA met with mixed reviews. While it does tend to reward consistency many throwers also felt that it tended to reward those who played it safe rather than going all out for the one big throw. Past complaints that MTAs were geared toward too much luck could be applied to most of the other events where placement in the throwing order will allow some throwers to catch that window of opportunity where conditions are just right while the rest of the field is knocked out by bad conditions.

The simultaneous launch aspect of Accuracy was the most disliked of any change. By placing a time limit on the second thrower you are taking away that thrower's opportunity to throw under the best condition, or perhaps even to be completely ready to throw. If winds are gusting and the first thrower has a wind boomerang then he/



Boomerang legend Lorin Hawes (right) visited Don Monroe (left) in Arizona last summer.

she will force the second thrower to throw under conditions that are not favorable for them.

Another point: The second thrower in the circle is a distraction. It keeps either thrower from being able to properly concentrate on their throw.

It was also felt that simultaneous throwing did not significantly speed up the event. Since this was the main reason for instituting this change it seems like it doesn't really add to the event in any meaningful way.

My recommendation is that we return Accuracy to the previous rules, retain the change to Fast Catch/Endurance, return to the best throw scoring for MTA to maintain consistency with the rest of the boomerang throwing world.

All in all we had a great time at our little 'illegal' tournament. Our throwers are among the best in the world both in skill and in attitude. Many of us retire to Pietro's Pizza for the traditional victory party and a good time was had by all!

*Dean Kelly*

## 1st Annual Twin Peaks Tournament

North Bend, Washington  
June 5-6, 1999

The volcanic Cascade Mountains push up quickly from the coast. 30 miles from Seattle and salt water stands Mt. Si. Legend says that the mountain is a native chief who laid down and sleeps there to this day. One peak of the mountain has slid down it's face, or maybe it is just a cinder cone on the side. What is left behind is a shear wall where only the mountain goats live. At the base of this cliff face is Mountain Meadows farm, a picnic grounds and polo field used throughout the summer. On June 5th, the mountain peak was shrouded from view by heavy clouds as the first throwers arrived on the field for the First Annual Twin Peaks Tournament. I had to start this off dramatically, because we had a dramatic location for the tournament. When you walk on this field, the view of the mountain is spectacular. And we had a weekend of heavy dark, almost purple clouds, with some sun breaks and some occasional showers, so the view of

the sky was changing all day. And the field was green, all green and cut to 5 mm uniformly.

### Summer Picnic Demos

The farm is used every summer weekend in July and August for company picnics. Eddie Bauer, Airtouch Cellular, Microsoft, Nintendo and others show up on their designated weekend and the owners of the farm put on the entertainment, serve the food, hold competitions and give demonstrations. In the summer of 1998, the theme was "African Safari." I committed myself and some friends to give boomerang demos for 15 minutes in the middle of Saturday and Sunday for 8 weekends. Our first weekend was an audition and if we passed, we would have to be there every weekend thereafter. We started off the demos with some throwsticks, then moved to general warm up, trick catch, doubling, fast catch (including one head to head competition) and then one final salute to the crowd - all of us throwing doublers simultaneously. The crowds and the farm owners liked us, so we were on for the rest of the summer.

The only problem was that all the other performers and summer help had a written contract, and they were on the books. We didn't and fell through the cracks when it came time to get our pay in September. So I made a deal with the farm owner - instead of pay, we wanted the polo field for a weekend in June when no one else was using it. He quickly agreed.

### Friday

The day before the tournament, the throwers started arriving. From California came John Weigel, Erik Fields, Michael Girvin, Suzanne Lentz, Kiamara, and Steve Conaway. John and Andy Cross arrived from Calgary and, due to a mistake on my directions, arrived at the field instead of my house. They met Erik, Steve and Dan Neelands there, who were "checking out the field."

John and Andy helped out checking out the field, then headed down the road to my house. They pitched their tent and piled into the van with John and Priscilla Weigel and me. We had some wood shopping to do. First stop was Plywood International (just down the street from Tacoma Plywood, Weyerhaeuser, and the plywood Tacoma Dome) for a load of 3, 4, 5 and 6mm plywood. John and Andy have been making do

with whatever material they could make boomerangs out of, now they had the best Finnish birch. Next stop was the Tacoma Woodworker's store, where an 8 foot plank of Koa set us back \$20. Then we headed south to Dan's.

Dan Neelands had barbeque at his house that evening for out of state throwers. Roy Dempsey showed up, straight from the airport after a long day of travel from Shreveport Louisiana. We all checked out Dan's throwing pasture in the cool evening weather and then enjoyed good food and friendship.

### Long Distance

Erik and Dan organized a long distance tournament on the field Saturday morning under the charter of the Boomerang Organization Of the Greater Evergreen Region. A central location on the field was chosen, one 185 meters from the nearest tree in any direction. The throwing circle was painted, the throwing line was laid out, and the warm-up session begun. Only one boomerang was in the air at any time, all 14 throwers cycled through the line practicing and tuning their ranges until it was time for the event. Roy led the way on spotting, acting as the furthest point of travel and acting as the target for the laser rangefinder.

Many of the competitors had never competed in a long distance event, but with help from the veterans, they gave it their best shot. The winds were light, and the throwing line was pivoted all over the place trying to keep up with changes in wind direction. So many times a boomerang would fall just short of the line on the return, it was surprising when Casey Larrance had throws that just crossed the line. His best throw of the day, 113 meters, landed less than a meter across the line and then only a meter away from the end pole.

### Team Novice

The first part of the USBA tournament started a little after noon. The four teams of 6 were a mixture of novices and veterans. The newest novice on the field was our only (throwing) lefty - Cameron Roets. He had 3 months of throwing experience, and he joined veterans Betsylew Miale-Gix, Steve Conaway, Peter Caliandro, and Steve Kavanaugh on Team Cameron Hackeys Every Returning Rang Youthfully.

The first event was Team Hackey, which gets the whole team working together on

every throw. The midday shower stopped just before the event got underway. Next came Team Haccuracy, which included a special 43 point circle about 30 cm across outside the main circle. (43 is a Team GEL special number.) The only way to get the 43 points was if the rang was completely within the circle. Steve Kavanaugh was the only one to get one into that circle - he did a chest catch, followed by a leaned back strut over to the circle and then the most graceful self-inflicted body slam I've ever seen. The "one-hackey" throw was worth 86 points for his team.

Baseboom followed and as it was only the second time we have played it, we quickly realized we need to work on the rules. During the middle of that event, a squall of rain and hail arrived just as one the field owners showed up. He joined us under the tent and was warmly greeted by the throwers. I'll admit that there was some coaching before he arrived, but the brown-nosing paid off - he agreed to let us use the field for 5 more years. We don't get many 300 x 100 meter laser-leveled fields that have grass like a putting green to have tournaments on, so we were very enthusiastic. He watched us throw for a while as the rain changed to a shower then just drizzle.

The last event was Style Outback. The rules are as follows - ". Everyone participates, calling out points for the teams as they do whatever they want to do. One team made creative use of a tarp, coming out of it with different clothes on than when they all went under it, then going back under it and emerging as a polo match complete with horses, riders and the ball they mallet down the field. The last time they emerged, they all threw their boomerangs while duct taped together, and then they all went for the catch.

Following the totaling of points, all the participants got a choice of trophy prize booms. Most were made by me, Peter and John Weigel. Check out the web site photo album <http://home1.gte.net/blugar/PhotoAlbum8.htm> to see some of the boomerangs that John made. The signature boom for this tournament was a traditional with a double-tipped elbow - Twin Peaks.

For the evening we adjourned back to my house for some grilled Copper River salmon, salad, fruit, bread and BYOB. Dan and Erik had some trophies to hand out for long distance, including one to Doug DuFresne for throwing an ancient Challenger in the era

of Buzz Whips and MegaQuirls, and one to Steve Conaway for best throw by a professional boomsmith. Individual

Sunday morning the low clouds again hid the top of the mountain as we setup on the field. The timed events were first - MTA100, Fast Catch and Endurance. The weather varied from spots of rain and wind to light wind and glimpses of the sun. The worst bout of wind hit during endurance. We had a strong novice showing - 11 throwers, with 9 sport and 2 open throwers.

Kiamara, Chris Bartholdt, and Michael Girvin helped paint the lines as we moved from one event to the next. We had so much field to work with we ended up with a circle for MTA, two for fast catch and endurance, an accuracy circle and an aussie round circle, with the 50 meter line of the aussie round circle as the only one that crossed another circle. (I love this field!)

Highlights of the first events include Will Gix's 50.97 second throw, Bart Bartholdt's 38 second fast catch (best for novices) with a borrowed boomerang, and Steve Kavanaugh getting 36 catches in the shifting wind during endurance.

After lunch we threw accuracy with Cameron Roets besting all the novices with a 24 score, and his tandem throwing partner Andy Cross besting the sport throwers with 42. Andy originally wanted to throw as a novice, since this was his first tournament, but that score ranks him with the best.

Trick catch was next with another close contest between Will Gix and Steve Kavanaugh getting 81 and 83 points respectfully. The highlight of the day (for myself and a few others) was the final mandatory event - Aussie Round. We stopped practice for 10 minutes while another squall of rain and wind swept the field. We started practice up again, the wind subsided, the clouds parted and the sun hit the mountain full force. It inspired the best throwing in everyone with 9 throwers getting scores from 69 to 80. Curtis Seiz, who was Sunday's most novice thrower with 2 months of experience, threw a 31. Great job to all.

GLORP ended the day with Steve Kavanaugh and Michael Girvin as the last two throwers. Michael was not phased with Steve's hand-plant foot catch. Technically Michael did plant one hand and catch the boomerang, he just did it with his knees on the ground. Steve pulled off the winning throw with a head, hand, and foot hackey to a catch.

Prize booms the second day included Peter's underhand Glave boomerangs, some swashbuckler swords of my design, and a Koa lap joint boom. If you are wondering who won on Sunday, you must not have read the article very closely. Everyone did.

Hope to see you next year at Twin Peaks Too!

*Will Herlan*

**Many thanks to Will** for a fun time at the Twin Peaks tournament. What great fun we had!

There were many great moments but not enough time here to describe them all. Dan's post pretty much summed up the Id. Dan did a great job organizing the long distance tournament.

Concerning the USBA tournament, and from my perspective, the last event (Aussie Round) was the most memorable for me. It rained right before the Aussie Round event, but Will assured us that it would stop in 10 minutes. Right on cue the rain ceased and everyone gathered for the quintessential event of boomerangs. Many throwers pulled two blade boomerangs from their bags, and as I watched form behind the circle, the winds became steady light and smooth. The clouds parted, and a ray of sunlight from the heavens spotlighted the throwers with their brightly colored jackets, standing on a field of green. Immediately behind the field and towering over all, still in shadow, the sheer gray face of the mountain rose up with swirling misty clouds obscuring the very top. I longed for a camera and tripod. It would have been the tournament photograph of the millennium.

Scores were high. I think there were quite a few scores over 70. Abo Steve and Peter were kicking butt in Aussie Round with the Abo Steve's "Xanadu" boomerang. I believe Abo scored 70 and Peter 80.

*Roy*

## 1999 US Open

Virginia Beach, Virginia  
July 31-August 1, 1999

I'm very happy indeed to report that, thanks to Foster's, the Nationals came off without a hitch. Or at least the hitches were very small indeed. The weather was absolutely wicked hot, with 100 degree + temps. both days. Ugly, but we survived.

## THE BOOMFIELD

Wednesday, July 28, while I was with The Foster's Team teaching the San Diego Chargers how to throw booms, a nice article by ace columnist Larry Maddry appeared on front page of Style Section, in our local paper. Photo showed me with group of about 50 kids from local Boys & Girls Clubs, many holding up booms. This article helped us get some kids out Friday and others during the weekend.

We had a very religious moment here at my house on Thursday when the Foster's Beer truck from Norfolk Beverage and my new buddy Jeff Baker arrived and unloaded 40 cases of Foster's and Miller products into my garage for the party on Saturday. The boomers on hand quickly fell in with serious tasting of the fine beer. And immediately called for my nomination as the USBA president, using the trusted FREE BEER platform. I gracefully declined.

On Friday, the tent went up, the generator arrived, chairs, tables, etc. and so did the throwers. Many of them helped about 100 kids who came out throughout the afternoon for the Kids Fun Throw. We had kids from the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Boy Scouts and other assorted families and groups. Many of them left with their own boomerangs, and lessons from cool throwers. We also had Mitchell, a photographer for National Geographic World Magazine, snapping pics the entire weekend, concentrating on Booming Kids. Look for the article next year.

Friday night was the USBA auction, where we raised about \$2,000.

Saturday was the kickoff of the competition, with Trick Catch, Accuracy and Aussie Round being contested. All the Foster's Team members did well early on, especially Gregg Snouffer. After three events, he led, and had twice as high a score as his older brother Chet.

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by the great folks from Outback Steakhouse coming out, setting up a tent, cookers, everything needed to cook all the throwers and assorted staff an absolute kick butt Outback

cheering like crazy.

First we had Will Gix carry Skippy the Kangaroo, the Foster's 6 foot model holding the giant oilcan, out from the left goal. On the right, Adam Ruhf, shirtless, slowly stalked Skippy with his hunting stick, while the crowd yelled, "Run, Skippy, RUNNNN!" Meanwhile the team waited on the sidelines ready to run out, while I used my very best Aussie accent, saying silly things like, "20,000 years ago on the Outback of Australia, Skippy the Kangaroo was eating his dinner....."

Adam threw the hunting stick past Skippy, into the goal, I said, "That was then, and this is NOW!!!!" Out runs the Team, spread across the field in front of their own particular crowd sections, who immediately adopted each thrower as I introduced them. The throwing was superb, the crowd was cheering and holding up their booms.

Brothers Jim and Paul Sprague also came out and wowed the crowd with their giant Rotor Booms.

The Team had signed about 20 of Eric Darnell's booms, so we could throw working booms into the crowd at the end of the gig. The crowd went berserk, yelling for booms. Afterwards, the Team left the field and was promptly mobbed by fans wanting signatures, boomerangs, jerseys and whatever else they could get. It had the taste and feel of a pro team crowd scene. Very cool.

Afterwards there was a Big Party at my house, where all the boomers continued the serious beer tasting ceremonies. Dr. Fred Malmberg conducted the wonderful Boomerang Design Contest with many gorgeous booms submitted. A night swim and boom toss on the beach completed the night.

Then it was back to the field early Sunday morning for more heat, and the final two events; Fast Catch/Endurance and MTA. The final outcome was preordained from Saturday, with Foster's Team member Gregg Snouffer crowned the 1999 U.S. National Boomerang Champion. Followed by his older and slower brother Chet.

and should help continue the rise towards Boomerang becoming a legitimate sport. Foster's participation, enthusiasm, support, auction items, advice, free product and monetary support all made this Nationals by far the best the United States has seen.

The throwers were especially wowed by the wicked cool trophies made by my buddy Chris Buhner. For a look at some of his products, check out <http://www.buhnerstudio.com/>

And now its on to helping the US win back the Cup in Melbourne next year! Stay tuned for news from Pennsylvania, where the US Boomerang Team Trials will be conducted this August 17-21, to determine the US Teams who will travel to win back the Cup in Australia. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in coming to PA to help run this event for the US Teams, please contact me or Dr. Fred Malmberg - [fmalm@pol.net](mailto:fmalm@pol.net) - immediately.

Good on our US Teams!

John Koehler



## TOURNAMENT SCORES

### 2nd Annual Outer Banks Tournament

Nags Head, North Carolina  
March 27-28, 1999

**Trick Catch:** Stevie Kavanaugh 71, Jim Jordan 44, Steve Cook 41. **Accuracy:** Jim Jordan 25, Stevie Kavanaugh 24, Steve Cook 18.

**Fast Catch:** Dennis Joyce 37.53, Stevie Kavanaugh 41.16, Steve Cook 51.36. **Endurance:** Stevie Kavanaugh 24, Tim Maultsby 21, Mike Forrester 20. **MTA100:** Mike Forrester 48.06, Steve Cook 27.55, Stevie Kavanaugh 24.77. **Australian Round:** Tim

May 30, 1999

**ADVANCED DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** John Gorski 85, Mike Gabriel 84, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 78. **Accuracy:** John Gorski 36, Mark Legg 34, Dave Barrett 32. **Fast Catch:** Gregg Snouffer 25.94, Craig Frazier 27.70, Don Frazier 28.15. **Endurance:** Mike Gabriel 41, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 40, John Gorski 38. **MTA100:** John Gorski 100.98, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 87.99, Bob Leifeld 82.81. **Australian Round:** Don Frazier, Stuart Jones & Bob Leifeld 74. **OVERALL:** John Gorski 15.5, Mike Gabriel 27.5, Gregg Snouffer 32, Bob Leifeld 35, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 47.5, Jason Smucker 57, Tony Brazelton 58.5, Dave Barrett & Stuart Jones 61.5, Don Frazier 63.5, Billy Brazelton 67.5, Mark Legg 69, Craig Frazier 71.5, Aron McGuire 72.5, Aaron Kaminski 80.5.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Greg Schuh 40, Steve Bolen 35, Eric Wideman 8. **Accuracy:** Greg Schuh 30, Andy Bourey 25, Gerald Bolen 23. **Fast Catch:** Laura Smucker 42.15, Steve Bolen 52.83, Greg Schuh 53.99. **Endurance:** Greg Schuh 23, Steve Bolen, Andy Bourey & Laura Smucker 16. **MTA100:** Steve Bolen 67.69, Greg Schuh 63.21, Bill Wachspress 25.96. **Australian Round:** Steve Bolen 44, Laura Smucker 42, Greg Schuh 36. **OVERALL:** Greg Schuh 75.5, Steve Bolen 88, Laura Smucker 98, Andy Bourey 116, Gerald Bolen, 124.5, Bill Wachspress 126, Eric Wideman 136.5, Tom Fitzgerald 140.

### 10th Annual imball Union Aca my Boomerang Tour ament

Meriden, New Hampshire  
July 10, 1999

**Trick Catch:** John Flynn 59, Paul Gustafson 37, Moleman & Mike Forrester 36. **Accuracy:** Eric Darnell 29, Moleman 24, Chantal Plamondon & Paul Gustafson 18. **Fast Catch:** Mike Forrester 32.21, Steve Kavanaugh 32.44, Rob Parkins 37.22. **Endurance:** Moleman 35, Stephane Marguerite 31, John Flynn 29. **MTA100:** John Flynn 61.91, Eric Darnell 60.78, Steve Kavanaugh 56.84. **Australian Round:** Eric Darnell & Moleman 42, Daniel Bellemare 40. **OVERALL:** John Flynn 22, Moleman 24.5, Mike Forester 30.5, Eric Darnell 33, Steve Kavanaugh 34, Rob Parkins 38, Stephane Marguerite 38.5, Paul Gustafson 39, Jim Jordan 45.5, Daniel Bellemare 62, Barnaby Ruhe 62.5, Paul Sprague 63, Chantal Plamondon 68, Etienne Sourd 71, Bart Flynn 91.5, George Flynn 92.5, Kent Sprague 94.

### 12th Annual Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup

Salem, Oregon  
July 18, 1999

**Trick Catch:** Will Gix 63, Casey Larrance 47, Bestylew Miale-Gix 40. **Accuracy:** Doug DuFresne

39, Will Gix 26, Will Herlan & Betsylew Miale-Gix 22. **Fast Catch:** Will Gix 27.43, Dean Kelly 38.46, David Hash 38.92. **Endurance:** Will Gix 24, Betsylew Miale-Gix & Casey Larrance 23. **MTA100:** Doug DuFresne 94.45, Betsylew Miale-Gix 68.54, Will Gix 64.97. **Australian Round:** Casey Larrance 61, Doug DuFresne 48, Will Gix 40. **OVERALL:** Will Gix 11, Doug DuFresne 18, Betsylew Miale-Gix 22, Casey Larrance 24, Dean Kelly 33, T.W. Smith 40, Will Herlan 41, David Hash 41.5, Peter Caliendo 44.5, Suzanne Lentz 55.

### 1999 US Open Virginia Beach, Virginia July 30- August 1, 1999

**ADVANCED DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Steve Kavanaugh 82, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 81, Gregg Snouffer 73. **Accuracy:** Peter Ruhf 39, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 37, Eric Darnell & Larry Ruhf 36. **Fast Catch:** Adam Ruhf 18.32, Chet Snouffer 19.55, Gregg Snouffer 20.05. **Endurance:** Adam Ruhf 59, Gregg Snouffer 53, Betsylew Miale-Gix 50. **MTA100:** Dave Barrett 124.35, Mark Weary 109.02, Aron McGuire 105.24. **Australian Round:** Mark Weary 76, Betsylew Miale-Gix & Aron McGuire 72. **OVERALL:** Gregg Snouffer 26.5, Chet Snouffer 51, Mark Weary 63, Adam Ruhf 65, Mike Dickson 76, Mike Gabriel 77, Casey Larrance 78, Betsylew Miale-Gix 79.5, Steve Kavanaugh 82.5, John Gorski 83, Tony Brazelton 86.5, Larry Ruhf 90, Gary Broadbent, Sr. & John Flynn 95.5, Kelly Leggette 96.5, Rob Parkins 97.5, Dave Barrett 98, Mike Forrester 100.5, Jim Jordan 105.5, Tim Maultsby 110.5, Eric Darnell 111, Will Gix 112.5, Aron McGuire 113, Jason Smucker 116, Stuart Jones 122, David Schummy 125.5, Mark Legg 131, Dennis Joyce 132, Paul Sprague 151, Barnaby Ruhe 155.5, Peter Ruhf 156, Stephane Marguerite 163, Leigh Barry 173, Dan Hellenberg 185, Fred Malmberg 185.5.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Jim Sprague 29, Carl Morris 26, Ross Snyder 25. **Accuracy:** Laura Smucker 40, Logan Broadbent 36, Gary Broadbent, Jr. 32. **Fast Catch:** John Derden 24.44, Gary Broadbent, Jr. 28.00, Jim Sprague 29.81. **Endurance:** Gary Broadbent, Jr. 36, Etienne Sourd 29, Ross Snyder 25. **MTA100:** Gary Broadbent, Jr. 103.39, Cody Snouffer 85.45, Ross Snyder 80.45. **Australian Round:** Ross Snyder 61, Greg Schuh 54, Jim Sprague 53. **OVERALL:** Gary Broadbent, Jr., Jim Sprague, Ross Snyder, Carl Morris, Greg Schuh, Kendall Davis, Laura Smucker, Cody Snouffer, Logan Broadbent, Bill Schuh, John Derden, Etienne Sourd, Suzanne Lentz, Devin Broadbent, Jens Krabbe.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Charles Swanson 34, Jeremy Levin 26, Deno Levy 20. **Accuracy:** Will Nolan 32, Deno

Levy 28, Tyler Proul 24. **Fast Catch:** Jeremy Levin 22.52, Will Nolan 30.07, Matt Golonor 34.57. **Endurance:** Deno Levy 35, Jeremy Levin 30, Chantal Plamondon 24. **MTA100:** Matt Golonor 90.94, Tyler Proul 80.26, Adam Dickson 66.77. **Australian Round:** Will Nolan 59, Matt Golonor 54, Chantal Plamondon & Tyler Proul 50. **OVERALL:** Deno Levy, Will Nolan, Matt Golonor, Jeremy Levin, Tyler Proul, Chantal Plamondon, Jeffrey Levin, Charles Swanson, Adam Dickson, Lance Trickey, Kent Sprague, Andy Burns.

### 5th Annual Illinois Open Champaign, Illinois September 5, 1999

**ADVANCED DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Mike Gabriel 98, Gregg Snouffer 84, Dave Barrett 83. **Accuracy:** Gregg Snouffer 41, Mike Gabriel 39, Aron McGuire 37. **Fast Catch:** Gary Broadbent, Sr. 21.55, Mike Gabriel 22.41, Aron McGuire 22.77. **Endurance:** Mike Gabriel 50, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 46, Aron McGuire & Mark Weary 44. **MTA100:** Steve Cook 149.52, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 143.94, Mike Gabriel 122.78. **Australian Round:** Gregg Snouffer 74, Tony Brazelton & Jason Smucker 64. **OVERALL:** Mike Gabriel 17, Gary Broadbent, Sr. 22.5, Gregg Snouffer 24, Aron McGuire 35, Mark Weary 39, Tony Brazelton 40, Dave Barrett 49, Bob Leifeld 50, Gary Broadbent, Jr. 56, Steve Cook 56.5, Jason Smucker 57.5, Craig Frazier 59.5, Billy Brazelton 71, Don Frazier 73, Aaron Burke 74, Wilson Lawrence 89, Dan Hellenberg 97.

**INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Greg Schuh 42, Ryan Lowe 38, Laura Smucker 34. **Accuracy:** Ryan Lowe & Laura Smucker 32, Greg Schuh 29. **Fast Catch:** Greg Schuh 27.69, Laura Smucker 32.44, Bill Schuh 33.90. **Endurance:** Ryan Lowe 30, Logan Broadbent 23, Hal Barnhart 20. **MTA100:** Greg Schuh 79.91, Bill Schuh 75.52, Ryan Lowe 69.35. **Australian Round:** Laura Smucker 56, Bill Schuh 51, Will Herlan 49. **OVERALL:** Greg Schuh, 15, Laura Smucker 18.5, Ryan Lowe & Bill Schuh 19.5, Logan Broadbent 28, Will Herlan 36, Hal Barnhart 46.5, Bill Rusky 50, Richard Siglin 51, Adam Swanson 55.5, Nathan Burress 56.

**NOVICE DIVISION**

**Trick Catch:** Eric Brazelton 7. **Accuracy:** Tim Osieck 21, Kristi Reinecker 18, Joshua Ferrell 15. **Fast Catch:** Eric Brazelton 51.72. **Endurance:** Eric Brazelton 26. **MTA100:** Eric Brazelton 8.48. **Australian Round:** Keoki Seu 29, Howard Brooks 28, Aaron Ellis 24. **OVERALL:** Eric Brazelton 19.5, Aaron Ellis & Joshua Ferrell 31, Keoki Seu 33, Rachel Miller & Kristi Reinecker 34, Tim Osieck 35, Renee Barnett 35.5, Howard Brooks 36, Grace Castellini 40.



# BOOM!



# THE USBA STORE

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[www.usba.org/USBAstore.html](http://www.usba.org/USBAstore.html)

## How to Order

Place orders by sending check or money order to the address above. Prices include shipping to US and Canada.

### Overseas Clients

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

### Questions?

Phone  
(317) 883-2334  
or e-mail  
[tonybraz@mailcity.com](mailto:tonybraz@mailcity.com)

## CLOTHING

- ◆USBA Eagle T-shirts \$12.00 members, \$15.00 nonmembers (L, XL, XXL)

## LITERATURE

- ◆*About Boomerangs: America's Silent Sport*, Kelly Boyer Sagert (PLANT\*Speak Publishing, 1996) \$28.00
- ◆Individual back issue of MHR (issues available: 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 52, 53, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 73, 74, 75, 76) \$2.50
- ◆Get one set of ALL available MHR back issues for only \$25.00!

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# USBA Member Boomsmiths and Retailers

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PO Box 6076 Ann Arbor MI 48106  
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Gary Broadbent 3204 38th St. NW Canton OH 44718  
David Hendricks 1086 Gordon St. Allentown PA 18103  
D.J. Helfer PO Box 101 North Charleroi PA  
Stuart Jones 195 E. 5th St. #605 St. Paul MN 55101  
Dave Boehm PO Box 17385 Euclid OH 44117  
407 W. Tomichi Ave. Gunnison CO 81230  
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Kelly Leggette 7180 Lakemond Ct. Villa Rica GA 30180  
Tom Conally 1320 Cherry Dr. Burlington NC 27215  
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Tony Gembeck PO Box 5241 Portland OR 97208  
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1545 E. Market St. York PA 17403  
Kendall L. Davis 932 21st Street Rock Island IL 61201  
Doug DuFresne PO Box 25577 Portland OR 97225  
John Derden 451 Colegrove Dr. Swainsboro GA 30401  
T.W. Smith PO Box 11332 Eugene OR 97440  
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Box 84895 San Diego CA 92138  
Bill Tumath 127 Knollview Way San Francisco CA 94131  
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Dan Jones 222 N. Main St. Statesboro GA 30458  
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(514) 597-1333 fax same number, boomerangs

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 1868 Panhandle Road Delaware OH 43015 or E-mail [usba-pr@usba.org](mailto:usba-pr@usba.org).



# Calendar of Events 2000

## USBA Sanctioned Tournaments

**5/27-29**

### 13th Annual Gateway Classic

St. Louis, Missouri  
Missouri Duals (new team format) on Saturday at 1 pm; USBA tournament on Sunday throw around the Arch Monday Contact Tom Fitzgerald. Phone (314) 839-1604. E-mail: fitzreturn@aol.com.

**6/24-25**

### 2nd Annual Twin Peaks Tournament

Nath Bend, Washington  
Pristine boomerang field of mythical proportions. Team Day/Fun Day is Saturday followed by party Sunday is USBA tournament. Contact Will Herlan. Phone: (425) 883-3231

**9/2-4**

### 6th Annual Indiana Open

Indianapolis, Indiana  
Yeah, so the first five were in Illinois. We've got that problem fixed now. The sixth will be just like the fifth with the following improvements: 1) 400% more sleeping space. 2) Well-groomed field. 3) More central location (a little further for those coming from St. Louis and Chicago, a little closer for Ohio folks. 4) As always, perfect weather- oh wait, that actually happened last year! Contact Tony Brazelton. Phone (317) 883-2334. E-mail: tonybraz@mailcity.com.

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To petition the USBA to sanction a tournament or other event, contact Chef Snouffer. Phone (740) 363-8332. E-mail usba@usba.org

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## Other USBA Events

**5/20**

### 11th Annual Toss Across America

At a field near you!  
Contact Betsylew Male-Gix to find out exactly where and when. Phone (425) 485-1672. E-mail: bmgbooms-showdog@worldnet.att.net

## Other Events in the US

# Regional Clubs and Contacts by State

AZ	Phoenix	Desert Rangers	Mark Weary & Don 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	169 Cook Drive Fillmore CA 93015	(805)	524-2913
	Southern		Paul W.K. Rothmund	533 South Hudson Apt. #1 Pasadena CA 91101	(626)	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)	924-6735
FL	Merritt Island	Flite Six Boom Slingers	Rich Surace	855 E Crisafulli Rd. Merritt Island FL	(407)	452-3963
	Orlando		Carl Morris	2602 Breezewind Dr. Orlando FL 32839	(407)	859-1319
	Southwest Florida		Jeff Sullivan	1715 SE 12th Terrace Cape Coral FL 33990	(941)	458-5514
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	Waterloo		"Chicago" Bob Leifeld	P.O. Box 242 Waterloo, IL 62298	(618)	939-9023
IN	Indianapolis	Indiana Boomerang Club	Tony Brazelton	1184 Barrington Dr Greenwood IN 46143	(317)	883-2334
MD	Rockville		Jim Nieberding	Rockville, MD 20853	(301)	933-1073
MI	Ann Arbor		Ted Bailey	PO Box 6076 Ann Arbor, MI	(734)	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	10408 Woodland, NE Albuquerque, NM 87111	(505)	294-8842
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	(330)	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	1868 Panhandle Rd Delaware, OH 43015	(740)	363-8332
	Delaware	U.S. Head to Head Boomerang Tournament Organization	Gregg Snouffer	340 Troy Rd. Delaware OH 43015	(740)	363-4414
	Euclid	Cleveland Boomerang School	Dave Boehm	PO Box 17385 Euclid, OH 44117	(216)	289-6324
OK	Oklahoma City		Joel Bussey	1516 Southern Heights Ave. Norman, OK 73072	(405)	447-2117
	Del City		Chris Ozolins	4319 SE 9th St Apt #54 Del City OK 73115	(405)	677-2763
	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
	Tyler		Pat Steigman	Tyler TX 75703	(903)	581-5556
UT	Sandy	Wasatch Boomerang Club	Jim Miller	2095 E. 10095 South Sandy, UT 84092	(801)	942-6943
WA	Redmond		Will Herlan	Redmond WA 98052	(425)	883-3231

In the next issue of

## Many Happy Returns

ISSUE

78

SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW AND EXCITING WITH THE VENERABLE TED BAILEY PRESIDING AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. IT'S A BRAND NEW MHR FOR A BRAND NEW MILLENNIUM.

Submit your materials **now** for inclusion in the next issue of *MHR*. See inside back cover for details.

(continued from page 2)

Nationals will be the highlight of the summer for many of the youth that attended and a good memories for years to come.

Jim Jordan

**I have finished preliminary work** on a page devoted to winners of the USBA Boomerang Design contests. As much information that could be located has been uploaded and ready to view. We are working on building pages featuring the winning booms or boomerangs that represent the ones entered. Bill Sotak is trying to obtain photos of the ones which ended in Gary's collection but we could use help with others. Also anyone with information not listed, please let me know. This has been a tough road and we have a long way to go to get this done.

The URL is: [www.fortunecity.com/marina/trinidad/123/winners.html](http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/trinidad/123/winners.html)

Dave Hendricks





# 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*.

## USBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Chet Snouffer (740) 363-8332

### Vice President

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### Treasurer

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### Secretary

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Billy Brazelton (651) 905-9550

Eric Darnell (802) 765-4336

Keith Mullinar (860) 986-6396

Larry Ruhf (413) 323-4340

Pat Steigman (903) 581-5556

## GENERAL CONTACT INFO

### Address

USBA  
1868 Panhandle Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015

### Website

[www.usba.org](http://www.usba.org)

### E-mail

[usba-pr@usba.org](mailto:usba-pr@usba.org)

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

USBA membership entitles you to four issues of the quarterly newsletter *Many Happy Returns*, reduced entry fees for USBA-sanctioned tournaments, discounts on plywood from Anderson Int'l., discounts on books, and early notice of special offers.

Non-USBA members may receive one free trial issue by submitting the form on the left or by visiting the website.

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to help out the USBA but don't want to run for a seat on the Board of Directors? The Board and its committees periodically need help stuffing envelopes, conducting surveys, writing and proofreading articles for *Many Happy Returns*, and various other odd jobs. If you would like to help out as a volunteer, feel free to contact any board member.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

USBA members: Copy this page and carry extra copies in your boombag. Your membership is extended one issue if a new member lists you as a sponsor below.

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# MHR DEADLINES

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. Details for submitting text and graphics can be found inside the front cover.

**WINTER** Deadline  
January 1

**SPRING** Deadline  
April 1

**SUMMER** Deadline  
July 1

**FALL** Deadline  
November 1



**United States  
Boomerang Association**

**Membership Office**  
Tony Brazelton, Treasurer  
1184 Barrington Drive  
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If the number above your name is **78**  
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