

# Many Happy Returns

Issue No. 79

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

Summer 2000



Design of USBA  
Open T-shirt by  
Pete Mercado



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## USBA Nationals Scores

Canton, Ohio, Aug 11-14, 2000

### Sport Division Top 10 - Overall

Place	Name	Score
1.	Chet Snouffer	34.5
2.	Adam Ruhf	40.5
3.	Jason Smucker	47
4.	Steve Kavanaugh	51.5
5.	Billy Brazelton	59
6.	"Zippy" Aron McGuire	66
7.	Justin Brown	68
8.	Gregg Snouffer	70.5
9.	John Flynn	73.5
10.	Gary Broadbent	89.5

### Sport Division - Top 3

#### Accuracy

Place	Name	Score
1.	Jason Smucker	46
2.	Mark Lugg	37
3.	Billy Brazelton	36

#### Fast Catch

Place	Name	Score
1.	Jason Smucker	28.44
2.	Betseylew Miale-Gix	29.77
3.	Billy Brazelton	29.84

#### Australian Round

Place	Name	Score
1.	John Flynn	88
2.	Tony Brazelton	78
3.	Justin Brown	74

#### Maximum Time Aloft

Place	Name	Score
1.	Nobu	117.02
2.	Justin Brown	115.11
3.	Chicago Bob	110.81

#### Doubling

Place	Name	Score
1.	Steve Kavanaugh	88
2.	Adam Ruhf	84
3.	"Zippy" Aron McGuire	76

#### Endurance

Place	Name	Score
1.	Chet Snouffer	40
2.	Steve Kavanaugh	37
3.	John Flynn	30

#### Juggling

Place	Name	Score
1.	Gary Broadbent	35
2.	Chet Snouffer	24
3.	Barneby Ruhe	18

### Open Division Top 10 - Overall

Place	Name	Score
1.	Matt Golener	13
2.	Carl Morris	25
3.	Kendall Davis	26
4.	Eddie Carrigg	28
5.	Logan Broadbent	32
6.	Richard Pollock-Nelson	33
7.	Cody Snouffer	34
8.	Steve Caudill	37
9.	Tyler Prout	39
10.	Will Nolen	40

### Open Division - Top Three

#### Accuracy

Place	Name	Score
1.	Carl Morris	36
2.	Devin Broadbent	35
3.	Logan Broadbent	31

#### Fast Catch

Place	Name	Score
1.	Eddie Carrigg	23.17
2.	Richard Pollock-Nelson	33.56
3.	Matt Golener	37.97

#### Australian Round

Place	Name	Score
1.	Matt Golener	76
2.	Eddie Carrigg	60
3.	Bill Nolan	55

#### Maximum Time Aloft

Place	Name	Score
1.	Kendall Davis	97.98
2.	Matt Golener	83.59
3.	Steve Caudill	83.58

#### Doubling

Place	Name	Score
1.	Carl Morris	62
2.	Matt Golener	41
3.	Wilson Laurence	40

#### Endurance

Place	Name	Score
1.	Steve Caudill	20
2.	Matt Golener	14
3.	Richard Pollock-Nelson	13
3.	Will Nolen	13

#### Kylie Golf Par 27

Place	Name	Score
1.	Gary Broadbent	22
2.	Stuart Jones	27
3.	Tim Maultsby	28

#### Distance

Place	Name	Score
1.	Dan Neelands	134 M
1.	Erik Fields	134 M
2.	Steve Cook	123 M
3.	Tyler Prout	118 M

## Burlington Competition #1

by Paul Gustafson

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 15 throwers from New England, New York, and Canada assembled for the first annual Burlington, Vermont, Boomerang Tournament. The competition was held at Fort Ethan Allen Park, part of a former military base from the early 1900's. An old bandstand located on the edge of the park made for a picturesque backdrop and served as competition headquarters.

The competition started at 10:00 am with Accuracy. In winds varying in both speed and direction, Adam Ruhf placed first with a score of 38. Second place, with a score of 31, was a tie between John Flynn and newcomer Justin Brown of Massachusetts. The varying winds continued for the next events, Fast Catch and Endurance. Once again, Adam placed first in Fast Catch with a score of 24.37. John Flynn placed second again with a time of 29.01. The trend continued in Endurance with Adam placing first with 49 catches and John placing second with 41 catches.

After a break for lunch, the competition continued with Trick Catch/Doubling. Adam continued

his dominance, missing only the doubling foot catch (just barely), for a score of 90. And once more, John Flynn was right behind, placing second with a score of 83. Going into Australian Round, storm clouds threatened to rain on the competition. John Flynn placed first with a score of 85. Stephane Marguerite placed second and set a new Canadian record with a score of 81. A steady rain fell on Adam and the last group of throwers, with Adam scoring 67 points.

Going into MTA, the final event, the rain had stopped and Adam was in first place overall with John trailing by only half a point. With combined throws totaling 123.57 seconds, Flynnie placed first in MTA and won the overall competition. Justin Brown placed second in MTA with a total of 111.52 seconds and the longest single throw of the event at 49.34 seconds. Adam took third place in MTA with 108.30 seconds.

Press releases had been sent out to the local newspapers and television stations and the competition received some good media coverage. A photographer and a reporter for the Burlington Free press arrived mid-morning and stayed for two hours, chatting with competitors and taking pictures. The Sunday edition of the paper featured a prominent article with a large 7" x 7" color photo of Paul Sprague making a two handed under the

leg catch with a two-bladed boomerang. The article also included pictures of Adam Ruhf and Eric Darnell, with interviews with Eric and John Flynn. Also featured was a prominent note referring people to the USBA web site for further information about boomerangs and the USBA.

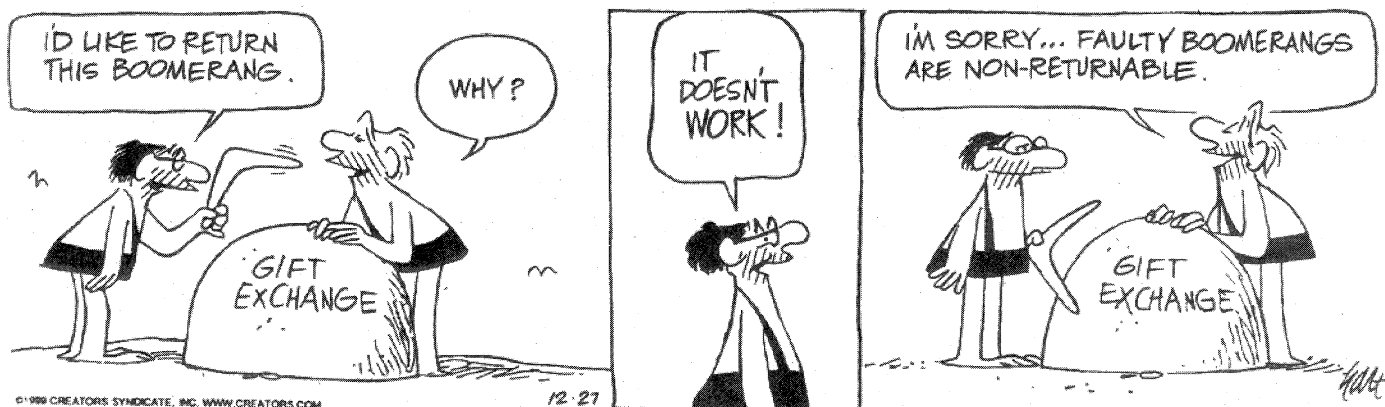
(Editor's note: Paul copied the pictures and text from the article and posted it on the web page: <http://homepages.together.net/~fatelvis/bfp.htm>

Thanks to all the participants for making the first Burlington competition a success. Special thanks to Tricia Lyon for helping with marking the field and supplying food and also to local thrower John McGinniss for help with scoring.

### Final Standings:

- 1 John Flynn
- 2 Adam Ruhf
- 3 Justin Brown
- 4 Stephane Marguerite
- 5 Larry Ruhf
- 6 Eric Darnell
- 7 Paul Gustafson
- 8 Paul Sprague
- 9 Bob Foresi
- 10 (tie) Chantal Plamondon
- 10 (tie) Gaston Jacques
- 12 Daniel Bellemare
- 13 Danny (?)
- 14 Dana Broadway
- 15 Martin Massey

B.C.



## Bits & Pieces

### News From The: USA

Dave Hendricks is interested in organizing a contest for USBA members who enjoy writing boomerang song parodies. Not sure what a song parody is? Just check out Dave's on the right. Sing it to the tune of the "Beverly Hillbillies". Dave will work with judges (Steve Conaway and Rich Harrison have already volunteered) to determine who writes the most clever lyrics. Dave has also identified boom makers who will donate boomerangs for prizes. One or more of the best parodies will be printed in a future issue of MHR. Perhaps more will be posted on a web page. If you would like to send in parodies or donate boomerangs as prizes, please call Dave at 610-434-7305 or email: [bvdrangs@enter.net](mailto:bvdrangs@enter.net)

The USBA store now has boomerang bumper stickers for sale. The "Boomerangs are Coming Back!" stickers are \$1 each, and the official USBA logo red balloons are \$0.50. Place an order of \$25 or more and get them for half price. This is a great way to expose the public to boomerangs, as conversation-starters or advertising. Contact Pat Steigman to place an order. You can email Pat at: [psteigman@tyler.net](mailto:psteigman@tyler.net) or call: 903-581-5556 or write to:

**Pat Steigman**  
716 Wellington St.  
Tyler, TX 75703-4665

Diane McQuiston of GP&E (located in Plymouth, Michigan) is planning a Fishing and Sports Expo at the Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center in

### Boomerang Hillbillies "The Ballad of Fred Clampett"

*Let me tell you all a story about a man named Fred,  
Couldn't sell a boomerang, to keep his family fed.  
Headed to the woods and he cut himself a tree,  
And made himself a boomerang, maybe two or three.  
Hardwood that is... lap joints..... figured stock.....*

*Fred gave the booms a look and exclaimed that they were swell,  
So he took the booms to market, just to see if they would sell.  
And he ended at a contest by held by the USBA,  
And he put them in the auction, to see what Gary B. would pay.  
Collector that is..... spending bucks..... many booms.....*

*Gary saw the booms that Fred had made and said "Those booms are mine".  
Don't even bid against me, it just isn't worth your time.  
Even though the others bid and bid, he won out in the end.  
He gathered up the boomerangs, his checkbook, and a pen.  
Bought 'em that is..... just for him..... big collection.....*

*Even though Fred sold his boomerangs, he's not a millionaire.  
Seems he should have read the auction rules upon arriving there.  
All the money that is raised promotes our wondrous sport you see.  
And we always raise more money, when we get the booms for free!  
Gratis that is..... no cost..... nada.....*

*His booms were now collectable, and that encouraged Fred,  
Plus he heard about an auction that was run by one named Ted.  
So he shipped a box of boomerangs to Ted that very day,  
And after several months had passed, the mailman brought his pay.  
Check that is.....less commission.....not bad.*

*Fred packed up all his boomerangs and headed off to York,  
He figured it was time to find himself a job and work.  
So he took himself some classes at the University,  
And now he is a Doctor, in Podiatry!  
Feet that is, Corns, Warts.....*

*Well the moral of the story is not one you want to hear,  
If you plan on making boomerangs, to sell for a career.  
You probably won't make it as the money isn't there,  
So don't plan on selling boomerangs to be a millionaire.*

Warren, Michigan on 23 - 25 March 2001. Visitors will include 30,000 students and faculty. She would like to include boomerang vendors. The normal fee will be reduced for boomerang manufacturers as an incentive. If you are interested in participating, please contact Diane ASAP by email at: [DianeK5035@aol.com](mailto:DianeK5035@aol.com)

Several of the readers (Mike Dixon, Dan Neelands, Gary Booker, Steve Perry, etc.) informed the editor that the new Tom Clancy book titled "Net Force; Night Moves" is loaded with content about boomerang competition. The editor picked up a copy from the book store and sure enough, the novel has several

passages about an inner city youth from Washington, D.C. named Tyrone Howard and a Boom-babe named Nadine Harris. Tyrone's favorite event is MTA and his favorite stick is a "Günter Möller Indian Ocean MTA"!!! He also references the "Bailey MTA Classic" and the "Girvin Hang 'Em High MTA"! Many of the passages could only have been written by a pro thrower because the passages about weighting booms with coins or adding flaps, etc. to correct for specific performance problems are correct. OK, who is supplying Tom Clancy with technical info about boomerangs? This stuff could not have been made up. This is an inside job.

Where else can you see boomerangs in print? The August issue of the children's magazine "National Geographic World" is dedicated to Australian themes because of the 2000 Summer Olympics. Pages 15-17 have an article about boomerangs titled "Boomerangs; The Secret Behind This Ancient Australian Weapon". Lots of colored photos with boomerangs including action shots of Kent Sprague and Cody Snouffer catching their boomerangs. Page 31 includes instructions for making a cardboard cross stick boomerang. You can find coverage of boomerangs on the National Geographic World web page, August only, at: <http://www.nationalgeographicworld.com/kids/>

Earlier this year, the editor provided Pamela Anderson with a boomerang to use on her television show titled V.I.P. Pamela brings down the back guy throwing it on the episode titled "Ride of the Valkyries" which aired in late July. Set up your VCR and look for reruns later this summer.

The editor also provided the producers of the popular "Survivor" television show with a selection of boomerangs to use in the trials for the Survivor II series which will take place in the Aus-

tralian Outback. The show interviewed potential contestants throughout the USA in August. Candidates will eventually have to undergo trials in Boston where an obstacle course has been set up to weed out the physically unfit. One of the tests will be boomerang throwing. Let's see candidates hit a bottle off of a

fence at 20 metres with a proFly or Fever.

John Flynn gave a presentation with a demo at a retirement community in Hanover, NH in July. A 99 year old man had lots of interesting questions like "How do heat and humidity affect throwing?" and "Do women throw?" One man wanted to see John's

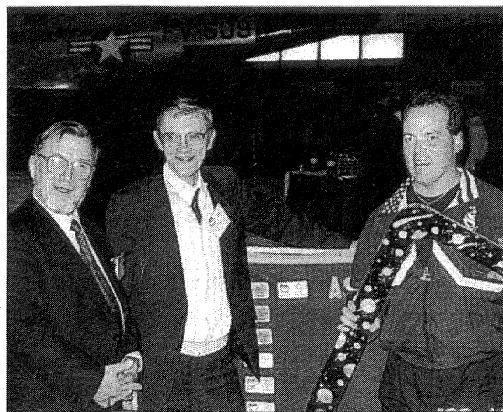
Congratulations go to Gary Broadbent for putting on a star performance at a meeting of the American Society of Materials in Dayton, Ohio this past December. The following article was published in the April issue of "Advanced Materials & Processes".

## Chapter Update

### Dayton



The Dayton Chapter of ASM International held a Spouses' Night meeting in December at the Air Force Museum with 79 people in attendance. An IMAX movie, dinner, and Gary Broadbent's fun presentation about boomerangs were the night's activities.



At the Spouses' Night meeting of the ASM Dayton Chapter, two visitors from Ukraine, Dr. Vladislav, National Metallurgy Academy of Ukraine, and Prof. Sergey Firstov, Frantsevich Institute for Problems of Materials Science, posed with speaker Gary Broadbent, who is holding the "Colossal Comeback Boomerang."

ADVANCED MATERIALS & PROCESSES/APRIL 2000

“Jonas Romblad MTA” after he demo’ed MTA. It turns out that he helped invent carbon fibers while working at Union Carbide which is probably why he could afford to live in that home. It was a fun session for everyone.

We all know that Manuel Schütz has no problem throwing his LD booms 200+ metres. The question is - Can anyone else do it too? Pat Steigman has provided some incentive by offering a beautiful strip laminated Voyager made out of Walnut, Mahogany, Ash, Purple Heart, Wenge, and Padauk veneers to the first person, other than Manuel who can do it (Manuel already has his). You can see what this one looks like at: <http://www.cox-internet.com/psteigman/>

Michael Gel Girvin announces the 17th Annual Team Gel Christmas/New Years Tournament. It will be at the same field as always, Billy Martin Field in Oakland. Team events and tons of boomerang prizes awards and trophies will be given out to everyone! The date: January 1, 2001, 11:00AM. Email Michael at: [gelboom@gel-boomerang.com](mailto:gelboom@gel-boomerang.com) or call 510-658-2421 for info.

The Boomerang Man is now offering American manufactured Bull Roarers made of Coco Bolo for only \$20. These have a beautiful wood grain and an excellent sound. Other new stock includes Bob Burwell Rippahs, hooks and his new designs: RT 30 & RT 40 (RT - reverse throw). These have an odd dingle wing tip and ranges of 30m - 40m. Also, Rich has some of Prentice Faw’s wooden X sticks, mentioned in the previous issue of MHR. These are for sale at: \$5 each, 2 for \$8, 3 for \$11, 4 or more \$3 each + \$3 post any size order. Finally, Rich plans to offer First Quality Mulga kylie, hook and lil-lil fighting sticks that are expected to cost between \$75 and \$90 each. For more info, contact Rich by email

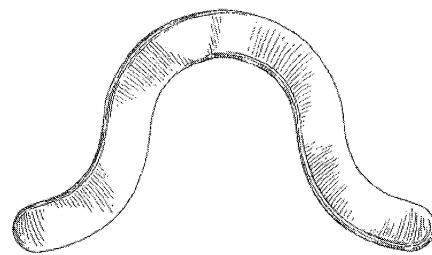
at: [boomerangman@centurytel.net](mailto:boomerangman@centurytel.net)  
or by writing to:

**Boomerang Man**  
1806 No. 3rd St.  
Monroe, LA 71201-4222

The USA has a new boomerang manufacturer. Knight Vernon makes traditional boomerangs for all levels of throwers. The USBA welcomes Knight and invites the readers to contact him and find out what models are being offered for sale. Please call (847) 679-2809 ; email: [Knightvernon@aol.com](mailto:Knightvernon@aol.com) or write to:

**Knight Vernon**  
8201 North Keystone Ave.  
Skokie, IL 60076

Congratulations go to James Oharah of Goodland, Kansas who successfully patented the “Omega Boomerang” (see U.S. Design Patent D428,450). Until July 18, 2014, manufacturers like Duncan MacClennan (see page 13) and Doug DuFresne will have to stop producing boomerangs with this shape (popular since the early



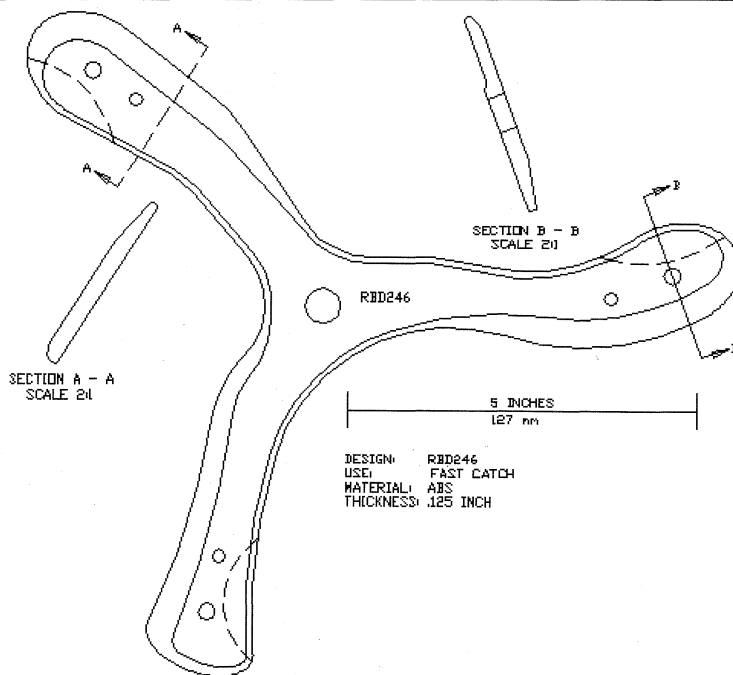
**U.S. Patent D428,450**

1970s). Please write to the inventor and congratulate him on his brilliant inventiveness. While you are at it, send a note to his patent attorney and tell him to look at the omega designs pictured on page 54 of the Ruhe/Darnell book “Boomerang”, published in 1985.

**James D. Oharah**  
1520 Montana Street  
Goodland, KS 67735

Have you heard of the new television show “Adrenaline TV”. They took lots of video at the USBA Nationals and will give our sport a major boost on their first show which is currently scheduled to air in September.

The September issue of FamilyFun magazine has a one page



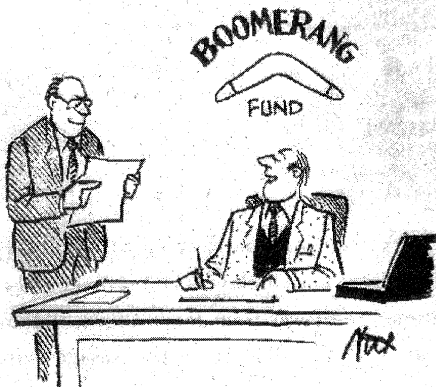
Great Fast Catch plan by Bill Rusky of Grand Rapids, Michigan.  
This design works best when made out of 1/8" (3 mm) ABS

article about boomerangs and where to purchase them. Great press for Colorado Boomerangs!

One of the perks that I enjoy as editor is the newsletter exchange program from which I obtain research material. One of the newsletters in the exchange program is "Dirt Times", edited by Jim Lowery or Earth Skills; 1113 Cougar Court; Frazier Park, CA 93225 phone: 661-245-0318. In Jim's most recent issue, there was a review of a book titled "Survival Skills of Native California" that was written by Paul D. Campbell. I purchased a copy of the book from Amazon.com (\$31.96 + shipping) and was amazed at the amount of material on primitive weapon technology including slings, bow & arrows and even atlatls and throw sticks. The throw stick chapter was rather intriguing. Lots of plans and instructions for making and throwing them. The author actually made contact with a small band of indigenous people who still practice the ancient art of making and throwing rabbit sticks in California. For those of you who are interested in primitive technology, this book is must reading, even if you don't live in California.

### Pepper . . . and Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"Investors assume that something's coming back."

From the 10 August edition  
of the Wall Street Journal

How did the Toss Across America turn out in 2000? This is an event that is held once each year in May with the purpose of educating the public about boomerangs in general and teaching newbies how to throw. Lots of throwers hold these events in their community, but few send in their report to tell us how things went. The exception was Don Monroe of Tucson, Arizona who held his event on a hot (102 °F) Spring day in light winds. The Arizona Daily Star publicized Don's TAA and he was able to introduce more than 90 people to the sport of boomerang throwing. You can read more about TAA on page 9 with a report by throwers from the great North West.

## AUSTRALIA

The Boomerang Association of Australia (BAA) has a new Board of Directors. Brother Brian Thomas has taken over the position of President from Bruce Carter who retired after nine long years. Roger Perry is the Vice President, Gunter Wandtke is the Secretary and Ian Sproul is the Treasurer. Brian retains the position of editor and Nick Gottschalk is in charge of publicity.

Congratulations go to Rob Croll who won the Senior Overall division in the 2000 Janetzki National Championships. David Schummy placed second and David Richardson placed third. Brian Kemp took top veterans honors and Craig Carter took top junior honors.

The remainder of the Janetzki Brothers' stock of boomerang is currently being liquidated. These are the most collectable boomerangs in the world. Prices range from \$300 to \$1,250. You can see colored photos of the stock at: <http://www.flight-toys.com/janetzki.htm> For more info, you can also email Brother Brian Thomas at: [b\\_thomas@sia.net.au](mailto:b_thomas@sia.net.au)

In July, the editor received an email warning message from a

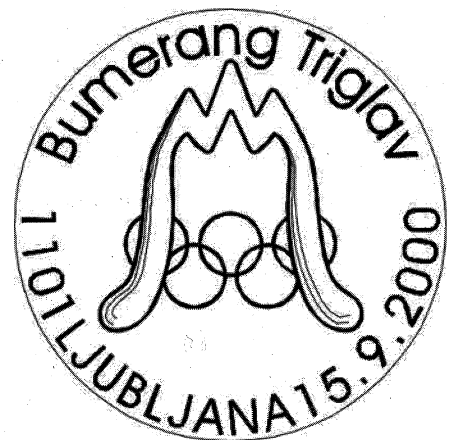
collector in Australia who said that it was illegal to purchase Australian Aboriginal artifacts that were more than 20 years old. Stunned, the editor contacted a high volume dealer named Tony Bond to get a second opinion about this claim. Sure enough, such a law does exist! However, the new law only applies to a few culturally significant artifacts and Aboriginal manufactured items that have a retail value of more than \$10,000. Gary Broadbent (who has thousands of Aboriginal artifacts) is the only one who has to worry about the new law.

## CANADA

Sensodyne Toothpaste purchased a large number of Aboriginal and strip laminated boomerangs in January for a commercial that required a boomerang in flight. The boomerang that was used in the commercial flies with a range of 40 feet and at a constant height of 6 feet. For those of you who live in Canada and the Northern USA, you can see this commercial right now on Canadian TV. Look on week nights between 9 PM and midnight.

## EGYPT

David Plum went on a sight seeing trip to Egypt in May. While touring the Cairo Museum, he saw a display case showing approximately 30 Egyptian boomerangs and throw sticks dating



Slovenian Olympic Postmark

from 3000 to 2500 years B.C. He wasn't able to take pictures because he had left his camera at the security station at the entry. Editor's note: Be sure to check out Jacques Thomas' fine book about Egyptian booms titled "The Boomerangs of a Pharaoh", originally printed in 1991.

## **ENGLAND**

Sean Slade of Shamrock Boomerangs & the British Boomerang Society has moved. Sean's new phone number is 0115 955 3591 and you can write to:

**Sean Slade**  
**1b Furlong Street**  
**Arnold**  
**Nottingham NG5 7AA**  
**England**

From the BBS Journal, Richard Ogilvy has taken over the helm of DAVRO Boomerangs from David Jones who has retired from making booms. Check out the company's web page at: <http://www.Davroboomerangs.com/>

Congratulations go to Jay Butters who achieved the rank of Super Catch First Class on 21 March.

## **FRANCE**

Congratulations go to Didier Bonin who set a new French Record in MTA Unlimited with a time of 100.51 seconds while doing Super Catch in the Charleville-Mézières Team competition.

## **GERMANY**

Eckhard Mawick, Günter Möller, Gerrit Lemkau and Oli Thienhaus are organizing the Boomerang World Cup 2002 in Kiel/Germany! The dates are July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 9<sup>th</sup> 2002. The place is Nordmarksportfeld ("North Borderland Sporting Field"), where many tournaments (including long distance) have been held in the past.

Oli Thienhaus and Gerrit Lemkau will be responsible for the website

<http://www.boomerang2002.com>.  
For more information, email:  
Eckhard Mawick at: [em@boomerang2002.com](mailto:em@boomerang2002.com)  
Günter Möller at: [gm@boomerang2002.com](mailto:gm@boomerang2002.com)  
Oli Thienhaus at: [ot@boomerang2002.com](mailto:ot@boomerang2002.com)  
Gerrit Lemkau at: [gl@boomerang2002.com](mailto:gl@boomerang2002.com)

## **SLOVENIA**

In honor of the opening of the Olympic Games in Sydney, Zoran Jarnovic designed a postmark which has the boomerang "Triglav" as one of its symbols. The Triglav is the most recognizable national symbol of Slovenia because it is the highest mountain in Slovenia and part of the national flag. It is said, that each Slovenian should go to the top (2864 m) at least once in his/her life. The other symbols are Olympic circles. Beside that there is written "Bumerang Triglav" at the top of the postmark and "15. 09. 2000" (opening day of OG) and "Ljubljana" with zip code of Main Post Office. The letter-stamp will be in use only at main post office in capital of Slovenia - Ljubljana on the first day of the Games. Zoran will send anybody a letter with Slovenian Olympic stamps and stamped with the special edition letter stamp on Sept. 15, 2000. Time is short so if you wish to order one of these, please contact Zoran by email immediately at: [zoran.jarnovic@uni-lj.si](mailto:zoran.jarnovic@uni-lj.si)

## **WWW**

Brother Brian Thomas is now online! You can contact him by email at: [b\\_thomas@sia.net.au](mailto:b_thomas@sia.net.au)

Gregg Snouffer has a new email address: [boomerang@columbus.rr.com](mailto:boomerang@columbus.rr.com)  
Check out Gregg's Roundtrip Boomerangs web page at: <http://www.rtboomerangs.com/>

Southbay Johnny (Weigel) has moved and changed his handle to *NorthMojave Johnny*. Email John at: [dbl-bull@iwvisp.com](mailto:dbl-bull@iwvisp.com)

Maurizio Saba of C.L.U.B. "Costruire e Lanciare Un Boomerang" has a new email address: [itboomerang@tiscalinet.it](mailto:itboomerang@tiscalinet.it)

You can visit the C.L.U.B. web page at: <http://web.tiscalinet.it/itboomerang>

Rang-list now has company. To join another email subscription service, follow the instructions at: <http://www.egroups.com/invite/BoomerangTalk/>

The official WBC 2002 website has been posted at: <http://www.boomerang2002.com>

The Fall 2000 Boomerang Auction (#10) is currently underway with 200 boomerang related items being offered for sale to the highest bidder. Photos of all auction items are pending. The bid deadline is 15 November 2000. For more info, you can call (734)-971-2970, email: [tbailey@ic.net](mailto:tbailey@ic.net) or visit the following web page: <http://www.flight-toys.com/boomerang/auction.htm>

Günter Möller, Dietmar Reinig and Gerhard Bertling have created a wonderful new internet auction site for boomerang sales. You can access and use the auction web page from anywhere in the world. Easy to use instructions can be found on the home page at: <http://www.boomerang-auctions.de>

YeahSports has posted a comprehensive list of boomerang links at: <http://www.yeahsports.com/dir/boomerang/>

Boomerang News is alive and well and is currently published by Andy Cross of Calgary Canada. Instructions for subscribing can be found at: [http://ic.net/~tbailey/Boomerang\\_News.html](http://ic.net/~tbailey/Boomerang_News.html)

The World Champion Young Guns Team has their own web page: <http://www.youngguns.de/>

A great place to buy old Australian Aboriginal throwsticks, old boomerangs and other artifacts is through William Fagan & Company: <http://www.wfagan.com/>

Alan Scott Craig has a new web page with his boomerang art: <http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/artofboom/>



Arkady Nemov of Moscow Russia received terrific press about his boomerang throwing activities on the Russia Journal web page. Visit: [http://russiajournal.com/ls\\_avt/PROFESSIONAL/PROFESSIONAL50-Moscow--146-s-boomerang-king-struts-his-stuff.html](http://russiajournal.com/ls_avt/PROFESSIONAL/PROFESSIONAL50-Moscow--146-s-boomerang-king-struts-his-stuff.html)

Matthew Longthorpe and Paul Worcester of Eyewood Designs specialize in the design and construction of boomerangs. They are one of the UK's leading boomerang specialists: <http://www.eyewooddesigns.f9.co.uk/>

Dwight Souder has added a link about boomerangs to his School Science web page at: <http://www.crestview-richland.k12.oh.us/Teacher/Souder/Homex.html>

To help National Geographic World identify boom links for kinds, the editor posted: <http://www.flight-toys.com/kids.html>

Bob Hogan, President of Kites Over New England ([www.kone.org](http://www.kone.org)) kite club, sent in the URL for a web page featuring a dozen or so kite people standing in the middle of a 4 mile by 7 mile dry lake throwing boomerangs while they waited for the desert winds to blow. You can view the fun at the following URL: <http://www.sbbb.net/sbbb2000/sbbb2000-5.htm>

Ron Hood of Survival.com has put together a series of videotapes with instruction for surviving in the wilderness. One of his videotapes has instructions for making throwing sticks, atlatls, and other primitive weaponry if your stuck in the woods: <http://www.survival.com/Vol6.htm>

Did you know there was a B29 named "boomerang"? If not, read all about it and it's link to boomerangs at: <http://pw1.netcom.com/~jb29miss/boomerang.html>

For those of you who play the didjeridoo, check out the great didjeridoo art pieces at: <http://www.wadidge.com.au/>

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## **Toss Across America at the BSA Western Regional Camporee - Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Washington on May 20, 2000**

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by *Betsylew Miale-Gix*

The BSA TAA was an amazing experience. First, special thanks to Lynol Amero for getting boomerangs into this BSA event. He placed TAA posters at key spots for the cub and the boy scouts, then helped teach and answer questions all day long!

Betsylew put together a special flyer which the BSA inserted into all the kids packets. The flyer incorporated our key elements - what the TAA is, the science, history and sport of boomerangs, and sported the USBA logo plus the Michael Gel leaping under the leg catch graphic.

Thanks next to Seattle throwers Will Herlan and Peter Calianadro who worked with the boys much of the day, and to Doug Dufresne, who came up from Portland and helped all day.

When Will and I arrived in the early morning to set up, conditions were cool and cloudy, with variable and shifty winds. The wind grew over the course of the day into the low teens by afternoon.

The madness began at the first throw - we completed one formal demonstration before the sheer volume of enthusiastic Cub Scouts wanting to be taught to throw overwhelmed us. At one point all six of us were teaching changing groups of 15 - 20 boys each! As soon as one group would get a few throws and some information about boomerangs, the next troop or collection of individual boys would take their plac-

es. We have no idea of the actual total number of boys and adults who participated, just that there was a non-stop stream with many more watching over the course of the day.

Doug and I stopped teaching a bit after 11:00 and did demo throwing. At about 12:30 we packed up and headed over to the Boy Scout area. That field was smaller and harder - except for the swampy parts. We spent the next few hours throwing and teaching hundreds of older boys.

Betwil brought boomerangs for sale, as did Doug (Outback). All the beginner and some of the intermediate models went. Along with beginner models and blanks sold by Lynol, about 90 boomerangs went home to new throwers.

Toss Highlights were legion, but to share a few: The sheer volume and enthusiasm with which boomerangs were received by the boys, parents and Scout Leaders; A 3 minute plus MTA throw with a catch by Betsylew; Great demo performances by Doug, Betsylew and Will; Will Gix setting a teaching record for number of successful returns by newbies under age 10; Will Herlan keeping an entire troop of Cub Scouts listening for more than 5 minutes straight; and the flood of boomerangs that leapt simultaneously into the air when the Boy Scouts discovered the entire beginner/intermediate boomerang bag full of booms!

We were also treated to the sounds of the Armed Forces day celebration - marching band, booming tanks and howitzers, plus views of military helicopters and a C-17 aircraft dropping paratroopers at low altitude.

What a Toss!

*Betsylew Miale-Gix*

# USBA ELECTION BALLOT 2000

All Ballots Must Be SIGNED AND POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE September 22, 2000.  
SIGNED FAXES WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED.

Mail to : Betsylew Miale-Gix, USBA Secretary, 3351 236th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036.  
OR FAX TO: 425-485-1672

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President

Chet Snouffer \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President

Fred Malmburg \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

Betsylew Miale-Gix \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer

Keith Mullinar \_\_\_\_\_

USBA Board of Directors At Large

Vote One Time Each For No More Than Five (5) Of The Following Candidates

Billy Brazelton \_\_\_\_\_

Cookie (aka Steven Cook) \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Ruhf \_\_\_\_\_

There were no additional candidates for the Board. Pursuant to the USBA Bylaws, the new Board will appoint an individual to fill the two additional Director at Large positions. Those interested in being considered should contact USBA President Chet Snouffer.

Please Sign Here \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## Candidate Statements 2000

Chet Snouffer - President

I would like to continue for another term as USBA President. This board has only served a "half term" to date, since we did not assume office until January of this year. In that short time, we have completely overhauled the web page, put the formerly "missing in action" newsletter back on a production schedule you can count on, assigning Ted Bailey to revitalize and edit the newsletter. We have developed new materials for members and initiated new membership benefits, awards for services and skills outside of the competitive arena, and basically just gotten started with an overhaul of the USBA to make it more interactive and attentive to the needs of the membership.

This is a great board to work with and I would like to see the entire board re-elected for another year so we can follow up on the many plans we have. My experience on the board goes back to the early 1980's as I have filled positions from newsletter editor to at-large member, to vice-president and President. I think that experience gives us great perspective on how we got where we are, how to avoid mistakes of the past, and how to go forward, bringing boomerang throwing more exposure than ever before.

### Fred Malmberg - Vice President

Candidate statement: I would like to serve as the USBA vice-president for another term. We have seen some interesting new developments this year (despite the reduced number of months, due to last year's late vote), and I would very much like to see these developments through. I think that given a full term in office, we can take these developments to the next level. Some of these developments will be seen at the Nationals; hope to see you there. If not, you will hear about them in either Billy's updates or the MHR.

We had a good Board this year, and the combination of "old blood" and "new spirit" gave us a boost that was needed. My policy of free interaction with the USBA membership remains: any concerns at any time involving the USBA can be addressed to me (fmalmb@pol.net), and they will be either answered immediately, or directed to the right person for immediate answering. Not only do I vote on every issue the Board presents, I regularly contribute to the discussions on issues before the Board, and initiate new concepts occasionally. I think we are moving in the right direction, and would like to see the movement continue.

### Keith Mullinar - Treasurer

Once more I should like to be considered for the Board of the United States Boomerang Association. I have been involved with making and throwing boomerangs since 1987, though I am not actively throwing anymore. I have spearheaded one of the most successful Toss Across America events at the Science Center of Connecticut for the past eleven years.

Among other promotions and tournaments that I have successfully organized have been demonstrations at several professional sporting events including baseball and basketball games. I have been involved with the USBA for many years both as a dues paying member as well as serving on the board. If reelected to the board I would be privileged to continue serving and continue with contributions to our fiscal controls as well as exploring and implementing matters of membership through initiatives such as the involvement of the Boy Scouts of America and with the development of corporate support for the boomerang movement.

### Betsylew Miale-Gix - Secretary

For the last decade I have worked with the USBA Leadership Team and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to do so. If elected I will continue to coordinate the USBA Insurance and the Annual Toss Across America event, as well as performing the duties of Secretary and other project work as assigned. While we came up with several good ideas for projects to help increase interest in boomerangs, our short term this year did not enable us to put them into action. These plans were designed to grow our organization in all realms of boomerang activity from art, science, history and recreation to competition. I look forward to working with this great group to make those plans a reality.

### Board Members at Large

#### Billy Brazelton

I would like to continue serving on the USBA Board of Directors as a member-at-large. My long term goals for the sport are to reformat tournaments to make them more spectator- and television-friendly and to establish boomerangs in schools and youth organizations. Before we can think about doing this, however, I realize we need to strengthen our grass roots efforts and improve communication among our current members. In my first half-term on the board, I have started a monthly email news service, USBA Update, in the hopes of getting more members involved in the USBA and interacting with the Board. Building on this initiative, I want to help forge a close-knit community of USBA members capable of spreading this sport around the world.

#### Cookie (aka Steven Cook)

Stay Rad!

#### Larry Ruhf

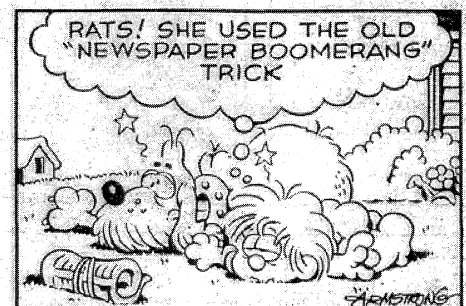
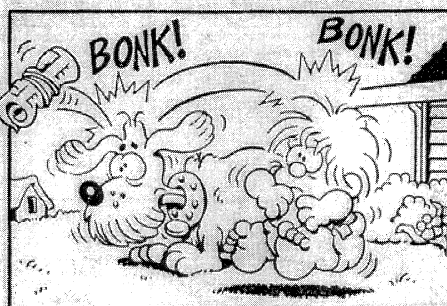
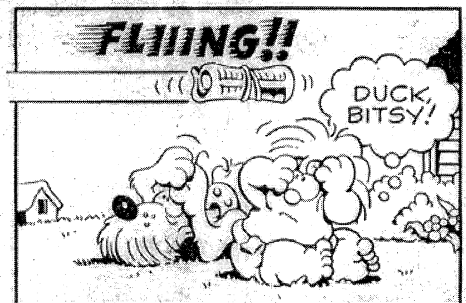
Increasing participation in our sport, especially through grass roots efforts and team play will be my top priorities over the coming term if elected.

Teaching Boy Scouts to Throw at TAA Camporee 2000



# MARVIN

By Tom Armstrong



ple to jump up and change seats while revealing intimate details about their lives. She was particularly interested in finding out when and where folks had done "it" before~ last night, last week, in a car, on a beach, etc. The tram operator joined in right over the bus PA, telling us to change seats if we had ever done it in a trolley! They mentioned a few more things, including something about a cookie that got everyone jumping up and laughing. It wasn't long before seats turned into laps~ first Johnny's, then Zippy's and then the next thing I knew, I had my own lap full of crazy Australian party girl. Into the Melbourne night we went, swapping seats and laughing like kids at recess.

The girls were headed off to a club where they had reservations and, as excited as you could imagine us to be, I could feel the jet-lag kicking in hard. So, after a while, the three of us got off of the tram somewhere in downtown Melbourne without a clue where and just stood there on the street corner staring at each other. No one would believe this! We eventually caught a cab back to the university. Worn out from the plane ride and the long day, my

inner clock believing it was sixteen hours before, I slept most of the way back.

### The World Cup of Butt-Naked Accuracy

The competitions came and went quickly... five days of throwing with just one day's break in between. There was little time or energy to do anything other than throw, eat and hang around the university with our foreign boomerang friends. We managed to hold the second sake party with the Japanese team and scheduled the third one for 2002... somewhere in Europe. Johnny G. and I picked up a few Japanese words that might come in handy some day... if we ever visit a Japanese brothel!

On the final night, there was a big end-of-the-World Cup party at the university pub. There was a DJ and all of the throwers from around the world were dancing together. It was heaps of fun, as the Aussies say, until around 12:30 AM when the DJ closed up and started packing. No last call or anything, just "That's it and good night."

For a moment, it looked like an international incident would break

out. The throwers were ready to heave the poor bloke through the doors and carry on without him.

A guy that looked like he knew something said we could carry on in a party room back at the dorm where we were staying. We headed back across campus... thirty or so pretty sauced up boomerang idiots. As we passed a small field in the middle of the cam-

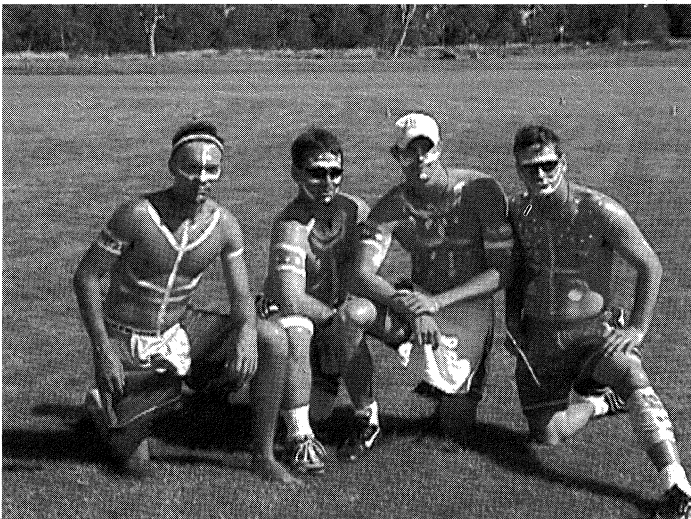
pus, just as spontaneously as it had happened two years before in St. Louis, the world championships of butt-naked accuracy just sort of... broke out!

I happened to have my trusty midnight accuracy `rang in my back pocket, because, you can never tell when or where a game of butt-naked is going to pop up! In fact, it was the same `rang I had won the world championships with two years before. But this time, I was unable to defend my title, because during the warm-ups, I let Zippy borrow my `rang for a toss. He chucked it straight on into a nearby gum tree! So while Steve "Cookie" Cook was winning the second world championships of butt-naked accuracy, Zip and I were engaged in a round of butt-naked climb and shake the gum tree! We eventually did find my boom. Unbeknownst to us, it had fallen on the ground during the tree shaking the night before and had lain all night in the grass. We found it the next morning~ shortly after the mowers did! Its twisted, shattered remains are still with me... a monument to the Second World Championships of Butt-Naked Accuracy!

### Mystical meeting with the Barrett Boys

Our first adventure after the competitions took us down to the south... a little foray along the Great Ocean Highway. According to our travel guidebook, it boasted "Some of the most spectacular ocean views in the world."

The Great Ocean "Highway" was a thin strip of two-lane road that snaked along the cliffs that separate Australia from the crystal blue Tasman Sea. The drive included a view of "The Twelve Apostles," one of Australia's most spectacular tourist attractions. The Apostles are big outcrops of rock cliff that have withstood the ocean's erosive forces and remain after the surrounding cliff gives



The U.S. Turtle Tribe team prepares for battle in the Team relay event on the final day of the World Cup. They won the event each of the three days that it was contested. (I'm not sure of the order, but there is Adam, Zippy, Chet and Gregg)

down to the immaculate field at the foot of a stadium that seats 100,000 fans. He managed to get off a couple of tosses with his boomerang before some guards realized that he was NOT actually with the Swiss timers who were preparing the field for the Australian National Track Championships to be held there, starting the next day! He gracefully slipped away and melted from sight. We soon hit the road to continue our journey north.

### Port Macquarrie: Hitting the Tube

Surfers have a saying: when you're in the tube, time stands still. Players of midnight butt-naked accuracy can relate to this saying as well, because during that time, right after you've released your boom, and you're waiting for it to come around and land, hopefully at your feet, for a few brief seconds, time just seems to stop. Everyone listens quietly for the boom to land with their hands strategically placed, kind of like the guys waiting for a penalty kick in soccer. Well, we pulled into a beautiful little surf town called Port Macquarrie, about three hours south of Brisbane. We were tired of the road and looking for a place to hole up for a few days and get a feel for the local lifestyle. We found a cheap, but comfortable little two-bedroom apartment in an older inn called Angler's Rest. The beautiful cliff-lined beaches and small port town were addictive.

The first night, Steve and I went out to scope the local night spots. We forged an undefeatable pool partnership and I learned that the more Steve drank, the better his pool shooting got. But we made some enemies of the local crowd with our uncanny ability to pull out a come-from-behind victory. Steve was able to change their mood, though with his well-timed jukebox selection of the Eagles "Desperado." The locals were sul-

len and looked ready to shag these Yank bastards when suddenly the PA system paradoxically blared out at the lilting, mellow lyrics, "Desperado... why don't you come to your senses.

You've been out riding fences for so long now!" What had been quickly becoming a dangerous scene for a couple of drunk American blokes on a ten-game winning streak in the heart of a blue collar yabo Aussie pub turned instead, hysterical. There wasn't a dry eye in the room by the time Don Henley finished those fervent lyrics! With the imminent threat gone, we slipped from the pub and headed back to our apartment where Zippy and Adam had crashed out from the road long ago.

While in Port, as the locals called it, we managed to pick up Oli Thienhaus of the German Young Guns boomerang team. He and the Germans had been traveling around the country in a camper van and had been on their way to meet up with us when their van broke down. Since the van rental company couldn't get them until the next day, they did what any good German would do and spent the night getting drunk in the camper on the side of the road. Most of them had to catch planes soon and only Oli had more time to spare, so the next morning, he bailed out and caught a bus to come hang with us.

Wednesday night was lady's night at the local nightclub and we were first in line! Zippy and Adam met a girl named Justine, who owned "Gypsy Bell's Clothing," a little shop where she made and sold her own line of hippy-style clothing. Her shop, it turns out, was located right next to our

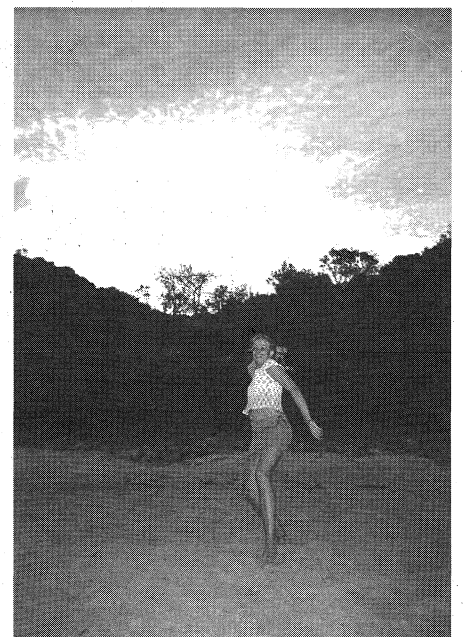


"Honest, I'm with the grounds crew!" An illegal throw... on the field of the Olympic Stadium in Sydney.

apartment. It was a match made in heaven!

Justine was twenty-six and had lived her whole life in Port. She was looking forward to closing the shop in six more months and traveling the world for a year and a half. Since Adam was on the first leg of his own personal walk-about, the two hit it off instantly. She shared a very hip beach pad with her sister, Shantel, and her boyfriend, Beau. He was a surfer, like all of the locals, and played guitar and sang in a blues band.

After the third night in our



While housing most of the members of the Turtle Tribe, Justine learned how to throw booms!

cushy apartment we were evicted in the morning when the manager walked in to find the place in utter chaos. Beer bottles were strewn about the place, dirty dishes were all over the kitchen, and Oli was sprawled out on the living room floor. In a surprisingly polite voice, he informed us that he had tenants coming and he needed us out... in thirty minutes! What we had proudly referred to as our feral den, he reckoned needed some controlling.

We moved into Justine's. In their groovy little beach pad, surrounded by rainforest, overlooking the South Pacific, we found our tube. We learned to surf with Beau and boogie boarded in the incredible blue waves of the South Pacific. We boomed the beach each sunset. We climbed the cliffs and hiked the rainforest. Each night we would watch Oli's videos of our day's with a thirty-pack of VB and our own live soundtrack of bongo drums and didgeridoos, which we practiced daily and were quickly mastering~ even the difficult technique of circular breathing. For four perfect days, we found boomerang Valhalla. Time stood still.

### The Return

Then it was over. A frantic midnight drive back to Melbourne, dodging kangaroos on the highway



Here's Gregg tossing an aboriginal hunting stick on the beach in "Port"

and hurriedly packing bags for the return flight. Two days later, while sitting on a jet airliner bound for LA, I reflected back on the previous month and a thought that had been dancing around at the edge of my consciousness began to drift to the forefront. I had been wrestling with a concept ever since Zip and I had picked up a book of Aboriginal legends and stories at the beginning of our trip. The Aborigines believe that from dreamtime, you are born and upon death, you return to it. You spend your life slipping in and out of various stages of this dreamtime state.

It is a far different concept of life and reality than our Western way of thinking, where you need to "Take a pill," and "Get a grip" on reality. But, contrary to our rational, analytical thinking, reality is a fluid, indefinable concept. When we are embroiled in life~ the highs and the lows of it, we aren't even aware that time is passing. When moments are past, we can hardly be certain that they ever existed. The thought that had been bothering me, a nagging frustration with the Aborigines for their inability to

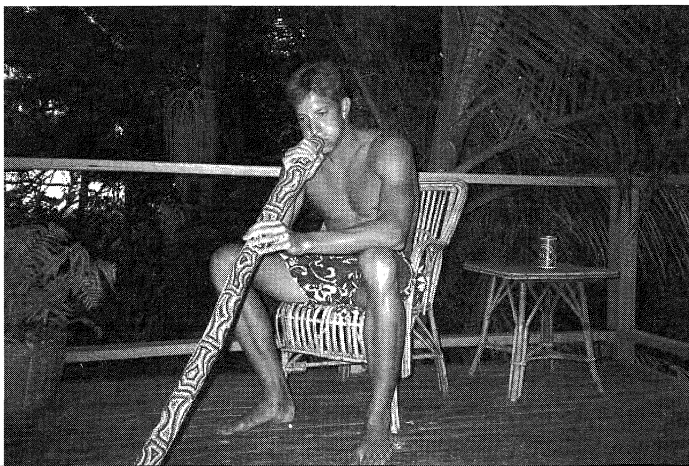
deal with reality~ was beginning to lose credibility.

Back on that New Year's eve when Zippy and I had toasted the new Millennium, I thought February would never come. When we spent that first Australian night on a tram surrounded by giggling bachelorettes, I could not imagine that it would end. Now,

as I sat alone on a plane heading back to central Ohio, ready to re-enter the cycles of my daily life and all of the little realities that combined, define my existence... I wondered if any of it had been real.

For one short month, I had managed to leave my reality behind and was now preparing to return to it. But was this the end of the dreamtime? In a week, the high school volleyball team that I coach would begin a very promising season with a skillful group of returning players, each involved in their own dreamtime period called their senior year. And my five-month old son would soon be entering his crawling stage. Then there would be first words, first steps, first day of school~ and one day he would be standing on that stage at the end of his own senior year dreamtime. There were plans and business deals and details to list on papers that say "Today's things to do." And some day I would look back on all of it and wonder if it was a dream.

No, it wasn't the end of dreamtime; it was just the end of one dream and the beginning of another. I was beginning to understand what the Aborigines meant, how they look at life, because, for one month, while on a walk-about, I had experienced my own dreamtime~ a wonderful little adventure with wonderful friends~ the dream called The World Boomerang Cup 2000~ in Australia, the land down under!



Zippy practicing his circular breathing techniques on the deck of the Justine's beach house in Port Macquarie, under the rainforest.

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## UMass Team Tournament

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by Dana Broadaway

I went to Larry Ruhf's National Team Tournament at UMass Amherst on Saturday, 15 July. What a treat! If you didn't make it, I'm really sorry you weren't there.

I don't want to try to give a sports report on the events per se, 'cause I'll get it wrong, and hopefully someone else will do it better. I hope Larry or someone will post participants, results and a summary, like Tony's excellent summary of his recent tournament in Indiana. Instead I just want to give some of my own impressions that I came away with as a newcomer to the sport and to tournaments.

I live in Albany NY and have been throwing for about a year, though not often enough. Until Saturday I never met another thrower (except on rang-list), never saw anyone throw who knew what they were doing, never had any help on my technique (or lack thereof).

I met all kinds of folks who I know from rang-list, others who aren't and various legends of the sport. People came from Ohio, Indiana and Montreal to name just a few. It was great to meet all these folks. I was especially impressed with how uniformly friendly, welcoming and helpful the people in this sport are. From the legends to the other novices, everyone was great. I won't name everyone I met, talked to and threw with, because I'm sure I'd leave someone out.

I was struck by the variety of people in the sport... young, old, athletic and not so, hot-shots, soft-spoken, techies, artistic types, etc, etc. You might think boomerangs would appeal to a certain type of person, but you sure couldn't tell it from this group. Except there were very few women ... unfortunately booms seem to be mostly a guy

thing.

When I got there, people were warming up and the sky was full of whizzing booms, tri-bladers, two-bladers, four-bladers, MTAs! What a sight!

The people who know what they're doing really throw! Lots of force and lots of spin. I realize that the throw I've been using is really wimpy compared to the olympian blasts I saw on Saturday, even in practice. I have a lot of work to do!

I've always preferred the two-bladers (i.e. real boomerangs). But I can see that for most competition events the tri-bladers are the thing to use. And with the hot throws these guys do, the tri-bladers go as far and are as dramatic as any two-blader I could hope to throw.

While my consistency is non-existent, I learned that I'm not doing anything particularly wrong with my throw. Sometimes I throw too low, or too high, or too much into or off the wind, or too much or not enough layover but mostly it's a matter of putting everything together on a regular basis. The biggest fault in my technique is lack of steps, or run-up before the throw. I've always just stood there and thrown, but I can see that if I want more power, a run-up is critical. Either this point is downplayed in the various throwing instructions I've read, or I wasn't paying close enough attention.

I expected to be a spectator, or maybe participate in some novice events, but Larry insisted everyone be part of the show. He assigned everyone to teams, mixing up the pros, intermediates and klutzes evenly. Our team captain was Barnaby Ruhe. The other stars on our team were Stephane Marguerite of WallaB in Montreal and the charming Chantal. These three rarely missed anything they tried. Events included accuracy, position, Aussie round, suicide trick catch, MTA and they were starting super catch when I had to leave a little after 5:00.

When I didn't have suitable booms, my teammates fixed me up

with the right ones from their own collections. And Barnaby tried to whip my technique into competitive shape, though he would have needed a few more weeks or months to make any difference.

I've always thought that boomerangs are pretty magical. Well it's even more so with MTA's. I'd never seen one other than pictures and never seen one thrown. They are just amazing, like they're just nailed to the sky and won't come down. Tony Brazelton, Gregg Snouffer, Eric Darnell, Adam, Alex and others all had amazing flights in the 30 and 40 sec. range despite squirrelly wind. A swamp in the far corner of the field ate a few MTA's. It had a special taste for the exotic and expensive ones. Barnaby offered to sell me a birch MTA he'd made himself. I snatched it up in a heartbeat. Someone counseled not to get too involved with MTA though "cause it's a heart breaker" I can see why.

Trick catch suicide also blew me away. There was a core group that remained making catch after catch without being eliminated. Staying in for eight rounds is impressive. Staying in for fourteen is hard for me to believe, even when I was there to see it. They'd throw, catch and they'd all still be in!

There were lots of other thrills and great moments...too many to recount. I hope we'll get posts of accounts from others who were there whose perspective will be vastly different from mine.

When I left, my arm felt like it would fall off. I've never thrown more than an hour or two at a time before.

And, oh yeah, it rained off and on all day ... nobody cared. At least the torrential stuff I drove through on the way home held off until the end.

Thanks to Larry for putting it together and to everyone who attended and made it such a great event!



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## A Beginner's View Of Twin Peaks

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by Clay Dawson

The Long Distance, Team Gel, and USBA events started with a safety briefing, so to begin, I thought it would be fitting to start this report with one: Wear something over your eyes, preferably safety glasses. You've only got 2 eyes for your whole life. Catching is hard enough, trying to catch with one eye has got to be nearly impossible.

Why I'll go to another tournament after Twin Peaks: To me, the sport is about sharing and the joy of watching the overall performance level of the sport improve. Sure there's competition, but at Twin Peaks I watched top competitors shout throwing instructions to each other and anyone else who needed help. Sharing and supporting each other above competition, I guess that's why I'll do another tournament.

I sent a reply 20 milliseconds after the Twin Peaks tournament announcement hit my email in box. Along with my reply to Dan Neelands about the Long Distance throwing I mentioned that I didn't have the right boom, but that I'd love to watch, range check, or just help out. Dan replied that he had a boom I'd be able to get 100 out of and of course I'd throw. Also that it would be very very helpful if I could get a throwing session in prior to the tournament, even if just an hour and a half or so and that a bunch of Long Distance throwers would be at his house Friday before the tournament and I was invited. I took him up on the invitation and I'm sure happy I did.

Dan and Kelly Neelands house - Friday June 23rd When I got to Dan and Kelly Neeland's house everyone was kibitzing on the third floor so I went up to inspect some of Dan's collection and got introduced to everyone ( I can't believe the folks I met! - John and Andy Cross, Erik Fields, Chris Cotter - I'm was in boom heaven). After a tour of the shop we headed out to the field next to Dan and Kelly's house for some tossing. I was throwing a triffly I had carved up for Trick Catch. Right off the bat Erik says, cool boom, but you won't make range and he gives me advice regarding twisting, coins, and placement. Then Don Monroe (Tucson Don) showed up and we head off to the field. First thing on the field Dan gave the safety briefing and then the throwing began. Dan showed me 2 booms and said to give them a try. I did and I needed a lot of instruction, which I got from everyone, along with tons of encouragement. I'm not sure how long we throw, but at the end I was bushed. At least I'd managed to get a few booms back over the line, so I was happy.

Saturday, June 24 - Twin Peaks Begins with Long Distance and Team Gel Long Distance: Everyone from Friday's practice session showed up on Saturday for Long Distance. Also joining us were Sponge (Thornton Alberg), T.W. Smith, boomsmith from Eugene Oregon, and "The Twins", 14 year old Daniel and Richard Bower. Prior to any throwing we got the safety briefing, set up the line, then the warm up throwing. It was misting hard and the winds was light and variable. My first few tosses were okay. We warmed up for a couple hours then got instructions on range finding, divided up into groups based on expected distance and experience, then into the field to range check or to the line to line check or to throw. This was serious work, pay attention, do it right. Through the whole warm up time and during the formal throwing folks were exchanging throwing and tuning advice. As far as I could tell, no one cared who threw the furthest. Everyone was pulling for the thrower to get personal bests and doing their jobs so the personal bests could be measured fairly and accurately.

The highlights, as I remember them: Everyone had a tough time getting a full return. Erik Fields threw the longest with 121m. 14 year old Richard Bower threw an amazing 96 m on his first day of LD (watch out world). I threw 73 m and was happy with that. The winds were so light and variable that during one throw

we moved the line 180 degrees, then back. This caused the range checkers to do a little grumbling, but everyone accepted that this was the thrower's right, which I thought was a cool way to run an event. At least half the throwers got personal bests. Everyone, especially me, had a great time. Many of the beginners (including me), who didn't own LD booms prior to the event got booms from Dan Neelands - Thanks Dan!

Team Gel Events: What can I say? It was great fun. Super Catch was great, John Cross threw the MTA and still did 3 fast catches - amazing considering everyone else on his team only got 2 catches. Tons of gratuitous flopping during Whoa Nelly. During Hackuracy I saw a boom get hacked once and whack 2 others for a score of 3, the hard way to get 3. To finish up we visited the trophy pile, where everyone got to pull a boom. I'm not sure, but so many booms were added to the pile that I think the pile had more booms on it after everyone pulled than when they started.

Sunday, June 25th, USBA Tournament: I have to confess that I'm a bad reporter. There were multiple circles participating at the same time, and I can only report what was happening at my circle. Overall everyone seemed interested in having fun and sharing our sport.

MTA: The highlight of the session had to be Stevie Kavanaugh foot catching a Jonas. What showmanship! Later I saw Andy Cross agree to repair that boom as long as he could throw it at tournaments. Stevie agreed, but said if they both wanted it they would have to fight - as best I could tell the fight would go something like, "You take it.", "No, you take it." until someone got so horse they couldn't say no and would have to throw it.

Accuracy: Everything from an E-rang to a Fast Catch with lots of drag was tossed during this event. It was a ton of fun to throw simultaneously with another thrower. I think I was the only one to get a rethrow when my boom whacked my partner. I felt lucky it wasn't me who got whacked; once you throw that boom it is really tempting to stand like a stump and watch it fly.

Fast Catch: I was on the circle with Stevie, Doug Dufresne, Betsy-Lew Gix, Janet Fulrath, and Don Monroe. I stood in awe watching these throwers. Unlike me, they all stood in one place and the boom came back to them, I got an aerobic workout. I have no idea who threw fastest. I also saw a thrower get hit in the sun glasses hard enough to scratch the glass so bad she couldn't see to throw. Yeah- back to my safety glasses pitch.

Endurance: I thought my heart was going to jump out of my body and was glad the event wasn't longer. Doug DuFresne moved to where I should be throwing and yelled "throw at me!" to help me. But even more impressive was the encouragement shouted into the circle by all the top throwers including things like "stay strong" and "turn left". This wasn't just to the Novices and Sport throwers, but also to each other. Again, more about seeing everyone do well and less about competing.

Trick Catch: The wind was blowing - I got 1 catch. I was amazed to see Doug DuFresne throwing modified Tribladers. These aren't TriFly sized booms, these are big wooden 3 bladed booms. Doug probably got the highest score at our circle. When my doubler set didn't make range, Will Herlan loaned me his beloved set - how cool!

Aussie Round: What a great way to end the tournament. I don't think I had more than 5 throws left in me. I honestly didn't have a clue who got the highest score even though we all threw from the same circle (Thanks to Will Herlan, it was Doug DuFresne with 56). The 3 throwers I remembered most were Peter Caliendo throwing a Wicked Stealth, T.W. Smith throwing a Grebe (flew like a cross between a LD and MTA for T.W. , I haven't figured out how to make mine do that yet), and Doug DuFresne throwing a Viper.

Prize Pile: Again everyone gets to pull, from lowest scoring Novice to highest scoring Open thrower. Then all the spectators get to pull, then around again. That pile was huge!

GLORP: Stevie Kavanaugh (Mr. GLORP) got beat by London Hoff. Stevie ran out and gave London a hug of congratulations. The perfect ending to this tournament.

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## 6th Annual Indiana Open Missouri Duals

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Saturday, July 1, 2000 Wind 0-5  
mph. Temperature = 85° F

### OVERALL

1. The Unknowns (Paul Bretscher  
& Dan Hellenberg) 2. Young  
Studs (Andrew Bretscher & Billy  
Brazelton) 3. AE (Jason Smucker  
& Caleb) 4. Grass Stain (Steve  
Cook & Ian) 5. Michigan (Bill  
Rusky & Josh Cina)

DUAL RELAY (20 meter Relay)  
min:sec 1. Unknowns 1:21.57 2.

AE 1:40.60 3. Grass Stain 1:47.29  
DUAL INTERFERENCE (Hacku-  
racy) 1. Unknowns 74 2. Young  
Studs (50) 3. AE 46

DUAL STYLE (Trick Catch) 1.

AE 7 2. Unknowns 6 3(T). Grass  
Stain 5 3(T). Young STuds 5  
DUAL POSITION 1. AE 2.  
Young Studs 3. Grass Stain

USBA INDIVIDUAL TOURNA-  
MENT - Sunday, July 2, 2000  
Wind 4-20 mph. 63-81 deg F

### OVERALL ADVANCED

1. Gregg Snouffer (Delaware,  
Ohio) 13 pts 2. Jason Smucker  
(Atlanta, Georgia) 16 pts 3. Steve  
Cook (Savannah, Georgia) 19 pts  
4. Aaron McGuire (Akron, Ohio)  
20.5 pts 5. (T). Billy Brazelton  
(St. Paul, Minnesota) 36 pts 5(T).  
Dan Hellenberg (Milwaukee, Wis-  
consin) 36 pts 7. Paul Bretscher  
(Greencastle, Indiana) 41 pts 8.  
Laura Smucker (Atlanta, Georgia)  
45.5 pts 9. Steve Caudill (Dela-  
ware, Ohio) 52.5 pts 10. Bill Ru-

sky (Grand Rapids, Michigan)  
54.5 pts 11. Karl Zemlin (India-  
napolis, Indiana) 62 pts

### OVERALL NOVICE

1. Andrew Bretscher (Greencastle,  
Indiana) 8.5 pts 2. Josh Cina  
(Michigan) 13.5 pts 3. Ellen Zem-  
lin (Indianapolis, Indiana) 14 pts  
ACCURACY 1. Hellenberg 35 2.  
Cook 31 3. Snouffer 28  
AUSSIE ROUND 1. Snouffer 52  
2. McGuire 51 3. J. Smucker 46  
MTA100 (cumulative best three  
times) 1. Snouffer 79.89 s 2. Cook  
57.90 s 3. Hellenberg 46.46 s  
TRICK CATCH 1. J. Smucker 85  
2(T). Cook 61 2(T). McGuire 61  
FAST CATCH 1. J. Smucker  
26.08 s 2. McGuire 29.10 s 3.  
Snouffer 38.32 s  
ENDURANCE 1. Snouffer 37 2. J.  
Smucker 28 3. Cook 22

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## USBA Calendar of Events

*regularly updated on the web at: <http://www.usba.org/calendar.html>*

- 2/3 September: Savannah Boom tourney; Steven Cook "Cookie"; [scook1975@hotmail.com](mailto:scook1975@hotmail.com) ; 912-644-7449
- 3 September: Montreal, Canada Head-to-Head: Stephane Marguerite; email: [walla-b@supernet.ca](mailto:walla-b@supernet.ca)
- 9/10 September: 4th Annual Outer Banks Comp; Amy Thompson; [events@kittyhawk.com](mailto:events@kittyhawk.com); 877-359-8447 x. 18
- 9 September: Novice Team Tournament - Livonia, MI: Jim Sprague: [jsprague@exponent.com](mailto:jsprague@exponent.com) ; 734-426-0193
- 9 September: Seattle Tournament, Seattle, WA, Betsylew Miale-Gix, [betwil@wa.freei.net](mailto:betwil@wa.freei.net) ; 425-485-1672
- 30 September: central CT: Keith Mullinar, [k\\_mulliner@hotmail.com](mailto:k_mulliner@hotmail.com) ; 860-568-6008 or 860-986-6825
- 24 November: MICHIGAN Turkey Toss - Livonia, MI: Jim Sprague: [jsprague@exponent.com](mailto:jsprague@exponent.com) ; 734-426-0193
- 1 January, 2001, 17th Team Gel New Years Tournament, Michael Gel Girvin, [gelboom@gel-boomerang.com](mailto:gelboom@gel-boomerang.com)
- July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 9<sup>th</sup> 2002; World Cup: <http://www.boomerang2002.com>; email: [gm@boomerang2002.com](mailto:gm@boomerang2002.com)

## USBA Board Email Contact Info

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## Other USBA Email Contact Info

MHR Editor: Ted Bailey - editor@usba.org  
Web Page: Tony Brazelton - web-admin@usba.org

Don't forget to notify Tony and Ted about your boom event so the info can be added to the internet and newsletter calendar of events.

All USBA members with an email address are entitled to received regular and timely boomerang news updates. All you have to do is send your email addresses to Billy Brazelton at: update@usba.org

The USBA Store has lots of goodies for sale, including bumper stickers and back issues of MHR. Contact Pat Steigman by email at: psteigman@tyler.net or call: 903-581-5556 or write to: Pat Steigman; 716 Wellington St.; Tyler, TX 75703-4665

MHR subscriptions are provided to libraries for \$10 per year. Make sure your local library knows about this great deal!

# The United States Boomerang Association

## USBA INFORMATION

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

**U.S. Boomerang Association**  
1868 Panhandle Road  
Delaware, OH 43015

Phone or Fax: (740) 363-4414  
E-mail: usba@usba.org  
Internet: <http://www.usba.org>

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Comments on newsletter content, and submissions for inclusion, including articles, photos, cartoons and designs should be submitted to the editor at the address below. The editor reserves the right to edit all material. Inclusion is not guaranteed. The deadline for newsletter submissions is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively.

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

email: editor@usba.org  
phone: (734)-971-2970

## USBA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

All membership dues should be paid by check or money order in USD\$. Make checks payable to: USBA.

**Domestic and Canadian annual membership dues are \$15 per year. A domestic lifetime membership is \$225. Annual overseas dues are \$20. A lifetime overseas membership is \$350.**

Check your newsletter label for expiration issue. Membership status questions should be directed to **Steven Cook**

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**USBA Membership**  
**Steven Cook, Treasurer**  
322 West Park Ave. Apt. B  
Savannah, GA 31401-6423



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

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