

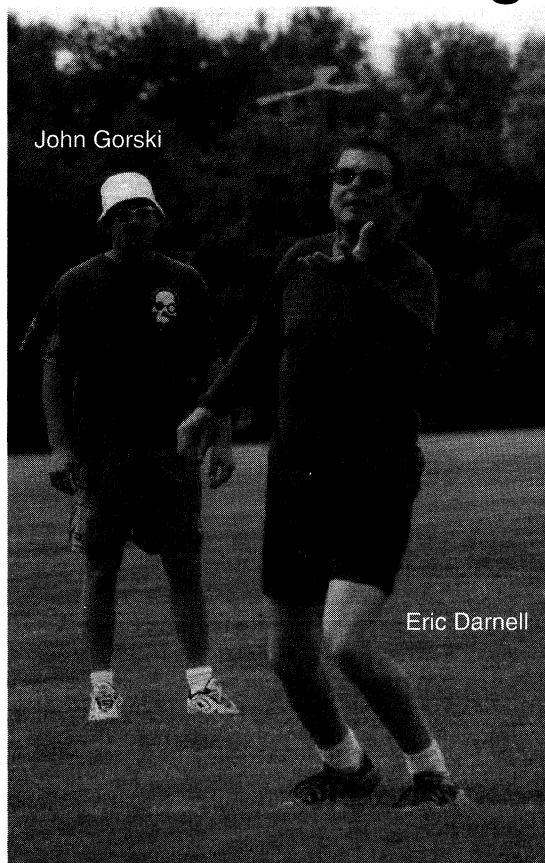
Many Happy Returns

Issue No. 80

An International Publication of the United States Boomerang Association

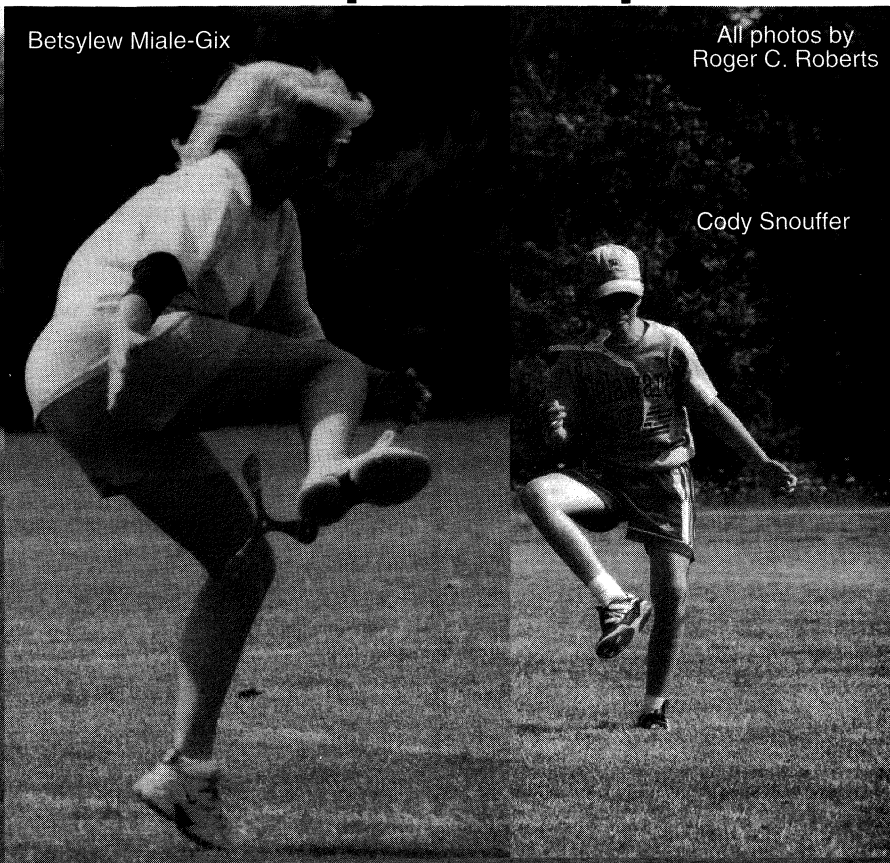
Fall 2000

Trick Catching at the US Open Competition



John Gorski

Eric Darnell



Betsylew Miale-Gix

All photos by
Roger C. Roberts

Cody Snouffer



Spike Frazier



Laura Smucker



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President's Message

News from the front line has some of our members on the Board of Directors filling new roles. Keith Mullinar has taken over for Steve Cook as treasurer. Keith has a lot of experience in this area. Billy Brazelton has taken over the USBA store from Pat Steigman. Pat did a great job re-vamping the store, creating the new stickers and materials, and getting things organized. Now Billy is set to run with it. Meanwhile as we go to print, the Board is finalizing the selection of two new board members to replace Pat Steigman and Eric Darnell who did not seek re-election this term. By the time you read this we will have two new board members from the trio of Steve Kavanaugh, Suzanne Lentz and Gregg Snouffer. All three bring great things to the table and it's pretty clear we can't go wrong. Unfortunately the bylaws limit us to 5 at large members, so we must pick, but will utilize all of their skills, as well as *yours* if you'd like to be involved! Contact me today and let me know how you would like to help the USBA reach a new level of service to members at usba-pr@usba.org

Meanwhile, as you'll see on page 3, the **Future (of) Boomerangs Committee** is working hard on brainstorming new ideas to present to the board for consideration. We want to make tournaments more inclusive, faster paced, and more flexible in how they are run, so a variety of formats can be contested. Also finding ways to highlight the top throwers as a marketing tool for media and sponsors is a priority of the FBC.

This upcoming Spring will be an exciting time as we do experiment with some new formats for fun in our get-togethers whether tournaments or free-for-alls. In

addition the US will be looking to select that elusive mix of talent that will get us out of the runner-up spot and back on top at world championships against those hyper-talented Germans and a host of hungry countries out there gunning for supremacy. **World Cup is in 2002 in Germany**, so watch for the team machine to get geared up this summer 2001!

Grass roots development is heavy on the mind of yours truly lately as I canvass the Board for ways to meet the needs of the non-competitive boomerang thrower within the scope of the USBA. There is so much exciting activity in the Boomerang Talk groups on-line. Check out <http://www.egroups.com/group/BoomerangTalk>. It's free to join and best of all, you can leave the emails on the message board to read at your leisure! Your in-box stays clear!! You can also choose to have the emails come straight to you or receive a daily summary of all the posts that day (just one email a day!!) Don't forget the venerable rang list at Ranglist@jcn.com where you can chat away on a wide range of boomerang topics. The Boomerang Man and Rusty as well as other top commentators are present on both lists to boost your knowledge of the boom world!

Also, be sure and check out the updated USBA web site at www.usba.org. Tony Brazelton continues to update the site and has made it easy to contact the officer or office of your choice through point and click! And as always, you can link to the world of booms from there.

Hit the shop this winter and buy some new booms for Christmas!! And I look forward to seeing you in the field come Spring!! Full circles,
Chet Snouffer, USBA President
Owner, Leading Edge Boomerangs
1868 Panhandle Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015 USA
(740) 363-8332

The Futures of Boomerangs Update

by John Koehler

The Futures of Boomerangs Committee (FBC), as established by the USBA, has been working diligently for the past few months on producing a blueprint for improving boomerang tournaments and events in the U.S.

The mandate and goal of the FBC is to make boomerang events more fun, more accessible to all throwers, to give more freedom to Tournament Directors and still maintain an accurate system of measuring boomerang skills.

Some of the proposed ideas that the FBC is considering include:

- o Allowing non-USBA members to participate in one USBA tournament. This is seen as a possible incentive for getting them to join the USBA and catch the boomerang bug."

- o Adding Boomerang Design Contest as a set feature of tournaments

- o Adding a "Last are First" Boomerang Awards Table, as a feature of tournaments. All throwers donate boomerangs for the table, and throwers, starting with the last place finishers, choose a boom. This standardizes a traditional element of past tournaments.

- o Using a multi-format system for tournaments that include our current Individual (Indi) format, Team 2x2 format and Head To Head (H2H), Distance and Free-style. This system will give the Tournament Director (TD) more freedom to create a unique tournament.

- o Reducing the minimum requirements for numbers of throwers, announcement time before tournaments and number of core events at tournaments.

- o Standardizing and including Distance as a viable and safely run format and event.

- o Adding Team Relay Leg as a core event. Reasoning is this event is exciting, fun and closely tied to several World Boomerang Championship (WBC) events such as Team Relay, Endurance & Fast Catch Relay.

- o Standardized scoring of ALL core and optional events, using the International Scoring System.

- o Quick posting of ALL raw scores, all throwers, all events, to the USBA website.

- o Establishing the US Nationals as the US Boomerang Festival & National Championships. 3-day format, featuring Indi, Team 2x2 and H2H competitive formats, along with Design Contests, hands on training and demos of boomerang

competition and manufacturing skills, seminars, speakers, public demos and training, boom swap meets, sales and more.

- o Holding Nationals as the "last event" of the season, no sooner than September, with all tournaments held after Nationals considered part of the following season.

After review and consideration by the USBA board, the complete FBC report will be released to the USBA membership and established for use in the 2001 season.

All comments and questions concerning this article may be emailed to the FBC co-chairs, Gregg Snouffer Email: boomerang@midohio.net and John Koehler Email: john@koehlerstudios.com

DENNIS



"SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T COME BACK BY ITSELF, SO I'VE GOT KUFF AS BACKUP!"



Bits & Pieces

News From The: USA

Steve Conaway hosted 7 of the *Survivor 2 Challenges* producers for a three hour throwing session on 17 August. They had little experience or knowledge of boomerangs. Steve gave them a quick "boomerang development" tour and then took them down to the field. Several of the producers demonstrated good throwing skills after only a few minutes of instruction. They then threw a ky-lie at a football sled. They purchased 100 returners and 5 kylies from Steve and later reordered 20 additional kylies. The staff left for Australia on the morning of 10 September to set up the site for *Survivor II* contestants.

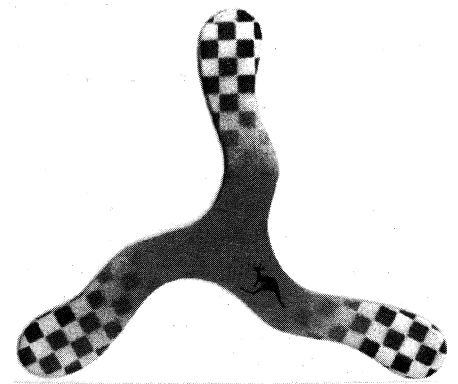
Ronny Smith works for Intromark Inc., the largest invention company in the world. The company employs over 200 people in Pittsburgh, and has over 70 offices world wide. They are looking for a company to manufacture and distribute a new patented flying toy called the Zoomer Wizard. Ronny will send a video, a copy of the patent, and literature about the invention to anyone who has an interest in working with Intromark. Call Ronny Smith at 1-800-851-6030 x 1366 or email: rsmith@intromark.com

Rich Harrison, the Boomerang Man, has a limited supply of Vipers and ViperMates made by Bob Burwell for sale to his customers. Rich is looking for someone to supply both MTA and Distance boomerangs that the typical thrower can handle without problems. If you want one of those hard to find Burwell booms, a catalog of Boomerang Man products

or want to contact Rich about supplying booms for his catalog, please email Rich Harrison at: boomerangman@centurytel.net

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

The International Encyclopedia of Women & Sports is debuting in December. There's an article in this publication, written by Kelly Boyer-Sagert, focusing mainly on Betsylew Miale-Gix.



This terrific ABS triblader was made by Oklahoma's Steven Graham and is sold by the Boomerang Man for only \$12 + shipping.



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e-mail: koalaman1@juno.com

(over, please!)

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Canton OH 44718
USA**

CURRENT RECOVERY PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

=====	
SIMPLE FIELD RECOVERY.....	\$0.25
LD FIELD RECOVERY, KNOWN LOCATION.....	\$0.50
LD FIELD RECOVERY, UNKNOWN LOCATION.....	\$2.00
IN TREE RECOVERY, SIMPLE.....	\$1.00
IN TREE RECOVERY AFTER YOU'VE TRIED RETRIEVING IT.....	\$3.00
MTA, JANETSKI, OR GERHARD RECOVERY.....DAD SAYS "THANKS FOR THE BOOMERANG, IT'S A JEWEL IN MY COLLECTION".	

Logan Broadbent

"SERVING THE BOOMERANG COMMUNITY FOR 10 YEARS"

Logan Broadbent has turned into quite an entrepreneur at boomerang and throwstick tournaments. Logan is now handing out the business card, printed on both sides as shown above.

Sports Illustrated for Women gave the publication a glowing review!

Azriela Jaffe has just published a book called "Create Your Own Luck". The book has two pages (189 & 190) where Kelly Boyer-Sagert is interviewed about her boomerang philosophy.

Kelly Boyer-Sagert hosts a cable television show in Northwest Ohio. The show taped an hour's worth of competition at the USBA Open in August. The tape includes interviews with 17 throwers, each interview lasting about 5 minutes. For either one of the two 30-minute tapes, the cost (including S & H) is \$15. For both tapes, the total cost is \$25. Send your request and check to:

Don and Kelly Sagert
1131 W. Fifth Street
Lorain, OH 44052.

Ray and Callie Laurent have moved to sunny Sarasota, Florida. Both Ray and Callie have been active members of the boomerang community for many years. Their friends can now contact them at:

Ray and Callie Laurent
4025 Giannini Lane
Sarasota, FL 34233

phone: (941) 922-6538
email: raycal40@home.com

John Derden found an advertisement for Publix Super Markets in the Atlanta Constitution that showed a boomerang painted up like an American Flag as a salute to the Olympic competitors.

Bob Rudy of West Columbia, Texas recently went into a gun show in Houston looking for primitive weaponry. To his delight, he spotted an old stone tool manufactured throwstick in a glass display case with other odds and ends. When Bob inquired about purchasing it, the owner grunted "I just want to get the \$5.00 back that I paid for it". Bob

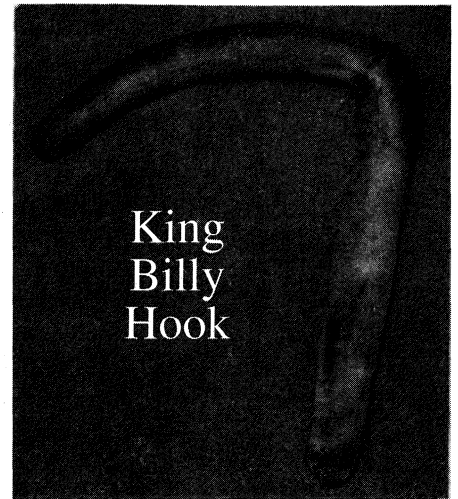
obliged and didn't try to barter the price down at all. He is now the proud owner of a beauty. Is this a record low price for an old throwstick in the USA?

AUSTRALIA

A thief recently broke into Bruce Carter's famous Boomerang Bus and stole his entire competition throw kit bag. Bruce is a lefty competition thrower who also makes his living demonstrating boomerangs near his home in Melbourne. Boomerang manufacturers are encouraged to send Bruce lefty competition boomerangs to help him get his throw kit back together and keep Bruce from retiring early. Donated lefty booms can be sent to Bruce at:

Bruce Carter
21 Fran St.
Glenroy Melb. 3046
Victoria
Australia

The May 2000 issue of the BAA Bulletin (Issue #106) had an article written by Ralph Sinclair who lived across the street from Dennis and Morris Maxwell when they were children. Ralph competed in his first Australian tournament in 1963. This tournament was organized by Bill Onus, a well known Aboriginal boomerang craftsman and thrower. Ralph won this tournament and received publicity for his accomplishments in a newspaper story. Ralph received lots of letters and phone calls from readers including a letter from a Mrs. Roseman who wanted to give Ralph the special gift of an old Aboriginal solid wood boomerang with an unusual *hook* shape. Her father had acquired it in 1887 when the famous Aborigine named "King Billy" had thrown the boomerang in anger at a weather vane atop the local liquor store after being refused



King
Billy
Hook

alcohol. The weather vane was totally destroyed and the boomerang lay unclaimed at the scene. This special boomerang is the "King Billy Hook" (see above), one of the most famous and valuable boomerangs in existence. This boomerang has had a tremendous impact on the design of boomerang, even more than a century after it was lost by King Billy.

BELGIUM

<Kanga> Hubert Foulon, founder of the "COME BACK" Belgian Boomerang Association and member of the International Kanga team passed away at the age of 59 on 24 August 2000. Hubert was an active thrower in the 1990s European International Championships.



Georgi Dimantchev recently found this Chinese manufactured boomerang for sale in Bulgaria



Georgi Dimantchev in Germany with Sabine Hoffman & Lothar Hase



Frido Frost - A Perennial Winner

BULGARIA

Georgi Dimantchev made a tour of Germany this summer, visiting the EXPO 2000 in Hanover and competing in two German tournaments. Georgi did quite well at the German Nationals taking a fourth in Aussie Round using his Atlas model and a fifth place in MTA using his Gradus MTA with a time of 46.20 seconds, a new Bulgarian Boomerang Club competition record. Georgi came in 17th overall out of 60 throwers. Georgi also competed in the Bielefeld Tournament where he came in second place overall against 30 other competitors. Georgi sent in a couple of photos (see above) that he took during the German competition events.

DENMARK

Harald Toft recently had his bag of 60 competition boomerangs stolen after he left his boom bag outside the garage on his moped all night. The boomerangs were worth approximately \$2000. This is the second major theft of a throwing kit over the past month. Please keep your boom bag inside and under lock and key at all times.

GERMANY

On 21 October, the "Deutscher Bumerang Club e.V. (DBC)" had its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Herne and elected a new Board Of Directors:

President (International): Günter Möller
email: gm@rediboom.com

Vice-President (Sport Director):
Oliver Thienhaus
email: oli@bumerangclub.de

Treasurer: Bruno Mueller
email: Aussiebaer@bumerang-sport.de

Secretary (Membership): Dietmar Reinig
email: dr@rediboom.com

Calculation of Years' Rankings:
Paul Gajski email: Paul.Gajski@usa.net

"INFO" Newsletter and Internet <http://www.bumerangclub.de>:

Axel Heckner
email: axel@bumerangclub.de

Gerrit Lemkau
email: gl@muenster.de

Oliver Thienhaus
email: oli@bumerangclub.de

Rules Committee: Klaus-Dieter Franke
email: info@bumerangfibel.de

Lothar Haase

Julia Kraemer
email: julia.kraemer@uni-essen.de

Gerrit Lemkau
email: gl@muenster.de

Sascha Winkler
email: sascha.winkler@ctm-computer.de

WWW

Ed Cadman has new email at:
ed@TheCadmanFamily.co.uk
Visit their family web page: <http://www.TheCadmanFamily.co.uk/>

Brother Brian Thomas has posted a gallery of photos from the recent World Cup and other Australian events at: <http://community.webshots.com/user/TFMD1>

Sascha Winkler has a boomerang web page called "Boombastic Rangs". Most of the photos are of European tournament scenes:
<http://www.boombasticrangs.de/>

Please visit the home page of the Danish Boomerang Club at:
<http://www.geocities.com/DanskBoomerangklub/indexuk.html>

Dave Hendricks has registered his BVD 'Rangs name on the web. Check out his fine lap joint boomerangs on his new web page:
<http://www.bvdrangs.com/>

Kendall Davis has moved his catalog web page to: <http://mdboomerangs.freeyellow.com/>

Please make a bookmark for Chet Snouffer's pending internet

catalog at: <http://www.leadingedgeboomerangs.com/>

Ross Robertson of Flying Toys Ltd. in New Zealand has posted a web page with various flying toys, including a 10 metre Superang foam triblader for \$15 at: <http://www.flyingtoyz.com/>

Mr. Joong-Hyun Ahn of the Sky Boomerang Company has posted a Korean web page with two boomerang products at: <http://skyboomerang.co.kr/>

The Maximum Time Aloft web site keeps changing it's URL. The most recent URL is: <http://www.excitestores.com/stores/boomerangs/inc/mta-web/>

Russel Hanson has set up a web page for the Boomerang Association of Australia at: <http://www.powerup.com.au/~rhansen/baa/toc.html>

Sonia Sansonetti of Ozark Boomerangs sent in their URL to share with the readers. They sell lots of plywood booms with

unique shapes like stars and the crescent moon. Check out: <http://www.angelfire.com/mo2/teck5/>

Michael Terry of Billabong Factor has posted a great web page with natural elbow Aboriginal Boomerangs having great artwork and sold at attractive prices: http://www.australiagift.com/boomerang_shop.html

Results of the "Primo Torneo Città di Milano Parco Teramo", held on 15 October in Milan, Italy

Rank	Participant	TOTAL Points	Accuracy Score	MTA100 Score	Aussie-Round Score	Trick-Doub Score	Fast-Catch Score
1	Serbelloni Paolo	8	35	35.23	58	64	25.58
2	Scarpellino Antonio	25.5	36	15.28	45	25	35.65
3	Rossi Francesco	30.5	36	21.81	14	33	35.3
4	Saba Maurizio	33	26	32.84	54	24	3 c
5	Belfi Jacopo	34	38	13.84	39	18	33.57
6	Bina Giorgio	35.5	22	7.12	41	27	28.46
7	Lorenzoni Giovanni	37.5	21	34.1	18	20	26.72
8	Coluccini Federico	48.5	18	14.92	21	28	49.13
9	Forti Mirko	49	22	14.6	40	8	39.4
9	Banalotti Renato	49	15	18.94	18	30	46.98
9	Garuglieri Francesco	49	34	17.68	16	6	37.23
12	Nadalon Emanuele	53	23	20.31	15	15	58.46
13	De Chiara Valentino	60	15	14.99	40	11	0 c
14	Safeer Afzal	61	25	0	32	4	4 c
15	Belfi Giuseppe	62.5	18	11	19	2	37.58
15	Benedetti Alessandro	62.5	6	0	19	22	41.34
17	Alessio Morandi	66.5	18	0	21	12	2 c

Results of the Italian Beach Tournament in Lido di Camaiore held on 22 October (Antonio Scarpellino set a new Italian Aussie Round Record with 82 points)

Rank	Participant	TOTAL Points	Trick-Db Score	Fast-Catch Score	Endurance Score	Accuracy Score	MTA-100 Score	Aus-Rnd Score
1	Paolo Serbelloni	23	62	29.31	35	43	29.92	28
2	Francesco Rossi	24.5	49	25.93	41	35	24.42	43
3	Antonio Scarpellino	32	38	32.55	6	43	21.46	82
4	Francesco Garuglieri	33	34	47.11	37	42	23.9	57
5	Alessandro Benedetti	38	38	30.31	20	40	12.59	58
6	Jacopo Belfi	41.5	37	29.71	35	35	14.51	49
7	Giorgio Bina	42	29	28.5	22	28	15.51	74
8	Renato Banalotti	44.5	61	56.91	18	40	19.19	49
9	Maurizio Saba	47.5	20	39.67	20	36	24.2	38
10	Federico Coluccini	50.5	48	46	17	14	15.57	58
11	Emanuele Nadalon	57	10	56.2	18	34	17.13	56
12	Giuseppe Belfi	65	4	34.46	28	29	11.36	22
12	Alessio Morandi	65	32	1 C	4	30	19.34	32
14	Stefano Tognocchi	66.5	7	37.49	15	11	12.02	56

Throwstick Construction

by Bob Foresi

When I last wrote an article on throw sticks (1991, Boomerang Journal #3), the section on tuning was admittedly lacking. With the goal being to consistently build throw sticks traveling low, straight, and far, I was disappointed at the time that with 10 years experience logged in, the tuning was still too lengthy and mostly trial and error. Now, with nearly another 10 years at the dubious pursuit of making a boomerang not come back, I can report something which might be labeled progress.

Not so much in terms of airfoils, which for throw sticks remain mostly a mystery to me. This article deals mainly with choosing size and shape factors to minimize tuning later. It is hoped that this article will be of some value to someone who has procured a good natural elbow, and wants to carve it down to a good-flying throw stick, without it being too time-consuming a process.

1) The angle of the arms should be 135 degrees. This was first mentioned by Errett Callahan in Ben Ruhe's book, *Many Happy Returns*, years ago, and I see no reason to argue with this optimum even a single degree. If the angle is too shallow (above 140 degrees), flutter usually becomes a problem. This is the phenomenon when the throw stick "comes undone" in flight, and drops gently to the ground. Conversely, if the angle gets below 130 degrees, returning tendencies creep in, which can be very difficult to tune out later.

To measure the angle for a curved stick, I put a pencil mark at the middle of the chord at the balance point, and draw a straight line towards the middle of each tip. If the angle of the arms of the blank need to be shallower, you can accomplish this either by shortening the arms or by cutting slightly across the longitudinal grain of the stick. I prefer to shorten the arms and keep the grain running exactly along the length of the stick, for reasons of strength and aesthetics. If the angle of the arms is too shallow, which is more often the case with natural elbows, your only option aside from discarding the blank, is to cut across the longitudinal grain. You can usually get away with this a few degrees if the wood is strong.

2) An asymmetric shape seems to work better than a symmetric shape, usually with more bend in the distal arm than the throwing arm. (I use this terminology for naming the arms of a throw stick because the throwing arm is always the

same.) I.E. A parabolic or spiral curve works better than a radial curve. Of course, you are limited by the parameters of your natural elbow, and as this is one of the lesser factors towards achieving good flight characteristics, I would not radically change a blank to make it asymmetric.

3) Density. The wood's density is a factor for both distance and straightness of flight. Other things being equal, a lighter wood is more prone to deviations and shorter flights.

4) Straighter flights may be obtained by decreasing the length-to-chord ratio. This can be accomplished by shortening the length of the blank, or by keeping the chord wide, usually done at the distal end only. The width at this end should be at least 2 inches, and sometimes as much as 3 1/2 inches works well. At the throwing end the chord is usually narrowest, in the range of 1 1/4 to 2 inches.

This decreasing of length-to-chord ratio can sometimes be an important factor in decreasing the throw stick's natural tendency to roll to the right in flight (for a RH stick) with the result of a tail to the right at the end of the flight.

Cross-sectional factors :

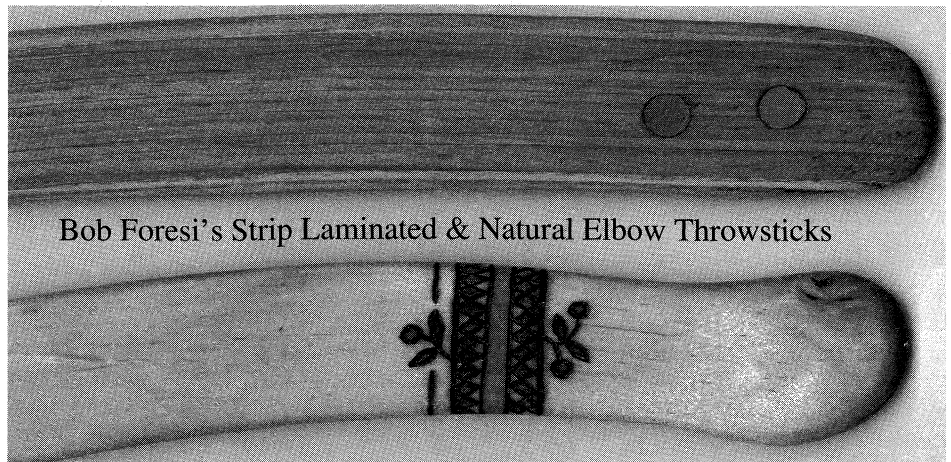
Thickness - For throw sticks with densities of typical American or European hardwoods, 3/8 inches seems to work best. Sometimes super-range sticks can result from less thickness down to 5/16", but the tuning becomes twice as difficult, and most sticks this thin never fly well at all.

Twist - Unlike the Australian aborigine, I have had almost no success with twist as a tuning method. Almost all of the sticks I have made have no twist or a very slight amount, negative on the throwing arm, positive on the distal arm.

Dihedral - Never positive. Usually dead flat or 1 to 2 mm negative. Surprisingly, I have had no success at attempts to produce a stick with zero layover or

layover to the left by adding negative dihedral. Result has always been a stick which dives into the turf.

Airfoils - As indicated before, this is the factor for which I have observed few consistent patterns. Unfortunately, some tuning in the form of tinkering with airfoils is sometimes necessary. Even if all the above factors can be incorporated into your throw stick blank, only about 1 in 4 sticks might fly great without any tuning. Two out of 4 might be expected to require minimal tuning, and 1 of 4 would be a problem child. I still favor a basic airfoil of a blunt, symmetrically lenticular cross-section. For sticks in the second category above, where the range and straightness of flight is there, but there's just slightly too much rise or sink, I like to tinker only with the trailing edges, after making sure twist and dihedral are gone, and the camber line of the leading edge is exactly halfway up for the full length. I like to drop or raise the camber line of the trailing edge just slightly, **KEEPING IT BLUNT**. Adjustments away from tips can be expected to produce more subtle changes in flight. For sticks in the third category, where considerable field-tuning is necessary, it becomes an often frustrating exercise in troubleshooting. Abrupt rises or dips early in flight usually involve a tip problem. Returning tendencies are common, and can be difficult to get rid of when one is more used to tuning returners. Again, watch for unwanted positive twist and dihedral, and keep the camber line up. Although I've never tried it, it might be a good idea to use a router or shaper to carve a throw stick airfoil, ensuring a symmetrical cross-section. Recognize that tapering an airfoil on top or bottom may add lift or it may decrease it, probably depending on whether the resulting airflow adheres better or worse to the new airfoil. Regardless of experience, there appears to be no substitute for the twin virtues of persistence and luck when dealing with the poorly flying throw sticks.



Bob Foresi's Strip Laminated & Natural Elbow Throwsticks

Fall 2000 Boomerang Auction

The Fall 2000 Boomerang Auction is now complete. The boomerang items that sold at the highest prices were as follows:

Janetzki Traditional	\$401
Aboriginal Swan Neck	\$376
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$263
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$209
Janetzki Red Baron	\$202
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$179
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$175
Brist Cross Stick	\$167
Herb Smith Traditional	\$163
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$141
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$141
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$138
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$128
Bill Onus Traditional	\$127
Bunny Read Hook	\$114
David Schummy Prodigy	\$113
Manü Schütz Voyager	\$102
Bob Foresi S/L Throwstick	\$98
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$96
Pat Steigman S/L Voyager	\$94
Pat Cardiff Pteradactyl	\$93
Bill Onus Traditional	\$90
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$83
Bob Foresi Throwstick	\$83
Rod Jones Christmas	\$83
Pat Cardiff Red Dragon	\$82
Aboriginal Throwstick	\$81
Oscar Cuartas 2 Way 30	\$72
Eric Darnell F/C Set	\$72
Aivars Brengulis N/E	\$71
Pat Cardiff Nightjar	\$70
Pat Cardiff Red Kangaroo	\$65

Another auction will be held in the Spring of 2001. Details will soon be posted on the web page:

<http://www.flight-toys.com/boomerang/auction.htm>

If you would like to submit boomerangs for the Spring 2001 auction, please email a list of the items you have to offer to Ted Bailey at: tbailey@ic.net or write to:

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

Greater Seattle Metro Open 2000

by *Betsylew Miale-Gix*

Here is the tale of the Greater Seattle Metro Open 2000. We had 18 throwers, 11 USBA, 5 novice and 2 experienced non-USBA SN throwers (sandbagging novice). Novice newbies James Stickney, Pierce Stickney and Tyler Chorzman were joined by the Bower brothers Daniel and Richard completing their West Coast Tourney tour.

Doug DuFresne, Dean Kelly and TW Smith came up from Oregon, Andy Cross from Canada, Suzanne Lentz from California, joining the Puget Sound irregulars Steve Kavanaugh, Dan Neelands, Sponge, Peter Caliandro, Clay Dawson, Will Herlan and Will Gix. It was especially good to see special guest star, Michael "Gel" Girvin who dusted all with radness.

Adding to the difficult throwing conditions were four waves of soccer players who had to be persuaded not to overrun the proceedings. Sometimes it's good to have a lawyer running the tournament. Throwing highlights ranged from Stevie K's amazing ability to keep his MTA in for good scores and consistent performance to T.W. Smith's 69 in Aussie and novice Daniel Bowers 55 in Aussie. Novices Richard Bower and James Stickney had life time best MTA rounds of 53.95 and 57.16 respectively.

During a hellish TC/D, a gust blew Betsylew's new German first doubler throw into the woods. As she and a handful of intrepid volunteers searched they were attacked by a dislodged swarm of bees. Will and Peter were stung a couple times - Betsylew had about a dozen fly up her shorts. OUCH. Thank goodness there were no camcorders on hand.

There were Betwil prize booms for everyone and a real made in Mexico straw hat for the victor, Stevie Kavanaugh. Fun was had by all.

OVERALL RESULTS

SPORT

Steve Kavanaugh
Betsylew Miale-Gix
Doug DuFresne
Will Gix
Peter Caliandro

OPEN

Will Herlan
Clay Dawson

NOVICE

Daniel and Richard Bower
James and Pierce Stickney
Tyler Chorzman

TOP SPORT SCORES

FC

Betsylew Miale-Gix 28.81
Peter Caliandro 42.30
Steve Kavanaugh 45.64

Endurance

Steve Kavanaugh 18
Andy Cross 15
Doug DuFresne 14

Aussie Round

T.W. Smith 69
Doug DuFresne 65
Betsylew Miale-Gix 61

Accuracy

Betsylew Miale-Gix 42
Steve Kavanaugh 41
Will Gix 39

Trick Catch/Doubling

Steve Kavanaugh 37
Will Gix 27
Peter Caliandro 24

MTA

Steve Kavanaugh 106.94
Doug DuFresne 84.81
Andy Cross 76.79

**2000 US Open
Start of a New Era?**



*written by Billy Brazelton
photos by Kendall Davis*

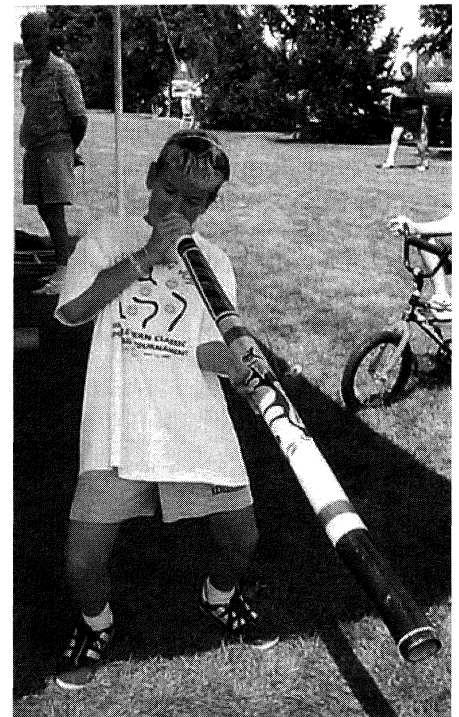
In case anyone had any doubts before, Gary Broadbent proved this August that he knows how to host an awesome boomerang tournament. Thanks to Gary's insane generosity and infinite energy, the 2000 U.S. Boomerang Championships in Canton was a definite success.

The fun began on Friday night in an indoor soccer facility that Gary had rented for the weekend. The indoor facility was right next to the gigantic boomerang field (gigantic = two 100m circles and eight 20m circles), and it was extremely convenient for competitors and spectators throughout the weekend. Gary received decent publicity during the week leading up to the tournament, and so there was a fair turnout for the indoor demonstrations. Gary taught a bunch of kids to throw boome-

rangs, and then the competitors staged a fun-filled indoor tournament featuring, among other events, suicide Trick Catch and team Supercatch with backyarders! Next was the USBA Design Contest and Auction. Highlights of the Design Contest included a beautiful wood airplane by Kendall Davis made of several boomerangs fitted together and a hilarious video by Gregg Snouffer. Aron McGuire, and Co. featuring a remote controlled MTA, a TIE Fighter explosion, and Nobu's voice dubbed-over like a Godzilla movie.

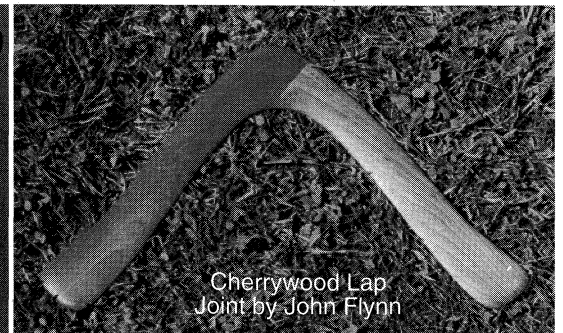
We ran four events on Saturday: Accuracy, Trick Catch, Fast Catch, and Endurance, plus one fun game of team Position. It was windy from the start, as evidenced by all of the completely horizontal red, white, and blue windicators Gary had bought for the tournament. There must have been at least 50 of them.

In Accuracy, Jason Smucker blew away the field with a 46; Mark Legg was closest at 37. Devin Broadbent scored an amazing 35 in horrible winds, just behind Carl Morris's 36 in the Open division. The winds died down slightly for Trick Catch, and Stevie Kavanaugh took the event with an 88, just edging Adam Ruhf's 84. Of course, the highest winds of the day came during Fast Catch and Endurance. Jason "What wind?" Smucker was unaffected, though, and threw an impressive 28.44s round. Jason also happened to be the center judge during Chet Snouffer's second round,



Cody Snouffer Played His Didjeridu All Day Long

who needed to beat Jason's time to take the overall lead. After four blistering bullseyes, Chet was on pace for a 26 second round, but the fifth just blew over his head. Jason consoled Chet, "You'll get them in Endurance." Chet, the true competitor, replied, "The 'them' is you! It's you I'm chasing!" Jason's remark turned out to be prophetic, though, as Chet made Endurance in 15mph winds look easy and won the event with 40 catches. Jason, who had the overall lead after the first three events, broke his boomerang midway through his round and finished in the middle of the pack. At the end of the day, Chet was in the lead, followed by



Many Fine Boomerangs Were Displayed in the Design Contest. Here are some Winners!



Tournament Director Gary Broadbent Takes His Fast Catch Round

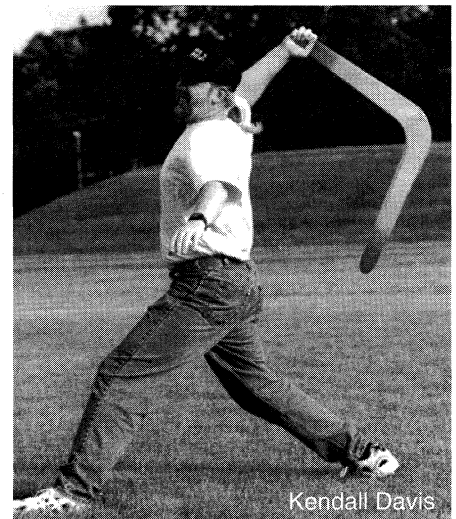


Everyone Gawks at a Great MTA Toss by Kendall Davis

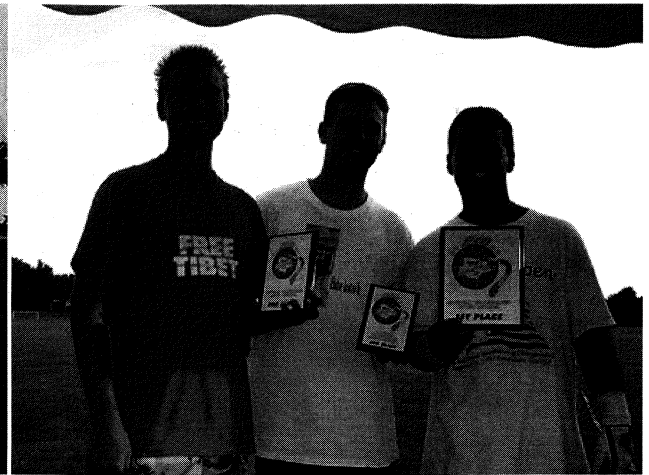
Adam, Stevie, and Jason. MTA was the first event on Sunday morning, which made for some interesting winds. It was relatively calm, with a few puffs and the occasional thermal. On his very first throw, John "Air" Gorski thermalled a Gary Villiard Highlander-shaped boom into the vast corn field. Nobu from Japan ended up winning the event with a combined time of 117.02 seconds; Jason and Chet were 4th and 5th; Adam and Stevie were close behind. Chet had a chance to take the event on his final throw, but his new \$300 light-weight Jonas found a thermal and was finally found in a tree clearing later in the day. There was practically no wind for Australian Round, so many throwers had trouble getting their booms to come all the way home. John Flynn threw an in-

credible 88, well ahead of second place Tony Brazelton's respectable 78. Adam, Jason, and Stevie all had decent rounds, but Chet's lead was too big. The Dinosaur from Delaware had won his 12th National Championship! Thanks to Gary's superb organization all weekend, we finished on Sunday with plenty of time for fun and games. The extreme sports show "Adrenaline TV" filmed the entire tournament, and host Dana West participated in the National GLORP Championships. After countless acrobatic, inventive catches on camera, Chicago Bob finally dethroned Stevie with a relatively easy fist-hackey-to-foot-hackey-to-head-catch. Chicago Bob is now the only person other than the master himself, Michael Gel, to beat Stevie in a GLORP Nationals. While the final scores

were being tabulated, Adam and Chet competed in a head to head shoot-out for about \$30 in prize money. Chet won on the final throw of the final event, Aussie Round, but more importantly, the crowd absolutely loved it! There was a steady stream of spectators throughout the weekend, but none were able to really become involved in the action. But with the head to head shoot-out: all of the action and drama was taking place in one spot; the pure drama and excitement of the head to head format was impossible to ignore; and the spectators anxiously watched every throw and catch because they were all important. As Chet and Adam walked from the Fast Catch to Aussie Round circle, the massive crowd followed, as in a golf match, with eager anticipation. It was without a doubt the most exciting moment of the whole weekend and proof that boomerangs can be spectator-friendly in the right format. The future of boomerangs was also foreseen in the final standings: 6 of the top 10 competitors were under 30 years old, and 7th place finisher Justin Brown was competing in his 1st Nationals. US Team Member Tony Brazelton remarked, "It is clear that a new generation of elite boomerang players are ready to carry the torch and win more World Championships."



Kendall Davis



The Throwers from the 2000 USBA Nationals

Top 3: Ruhf, Smucker & Snouffer

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

New Boomerang Products

One of the things that I like most about being editor of MHR is the task of reviewing new boomerang products. In this issue, four new boomerangs, made by three popular manufacturers are reviewed.

Georgi Dimantchev's Gradus MTA - This MTA is made out of composite materials and has advanced features such as camber on the lift arm blade and turbulators in just the right locations. The span is 33 cm and the weight is only 16 grams. It took me about a dozen throws to get the hang of this MTA which requires a throw with a higher incline angle and a more over-vertical layover angle. Once I got the throw down, it was easy to achieve stable flights of 30-40 seconds. This is a good MTA for your throw kit, but only if you warm up properly before using it in competition.

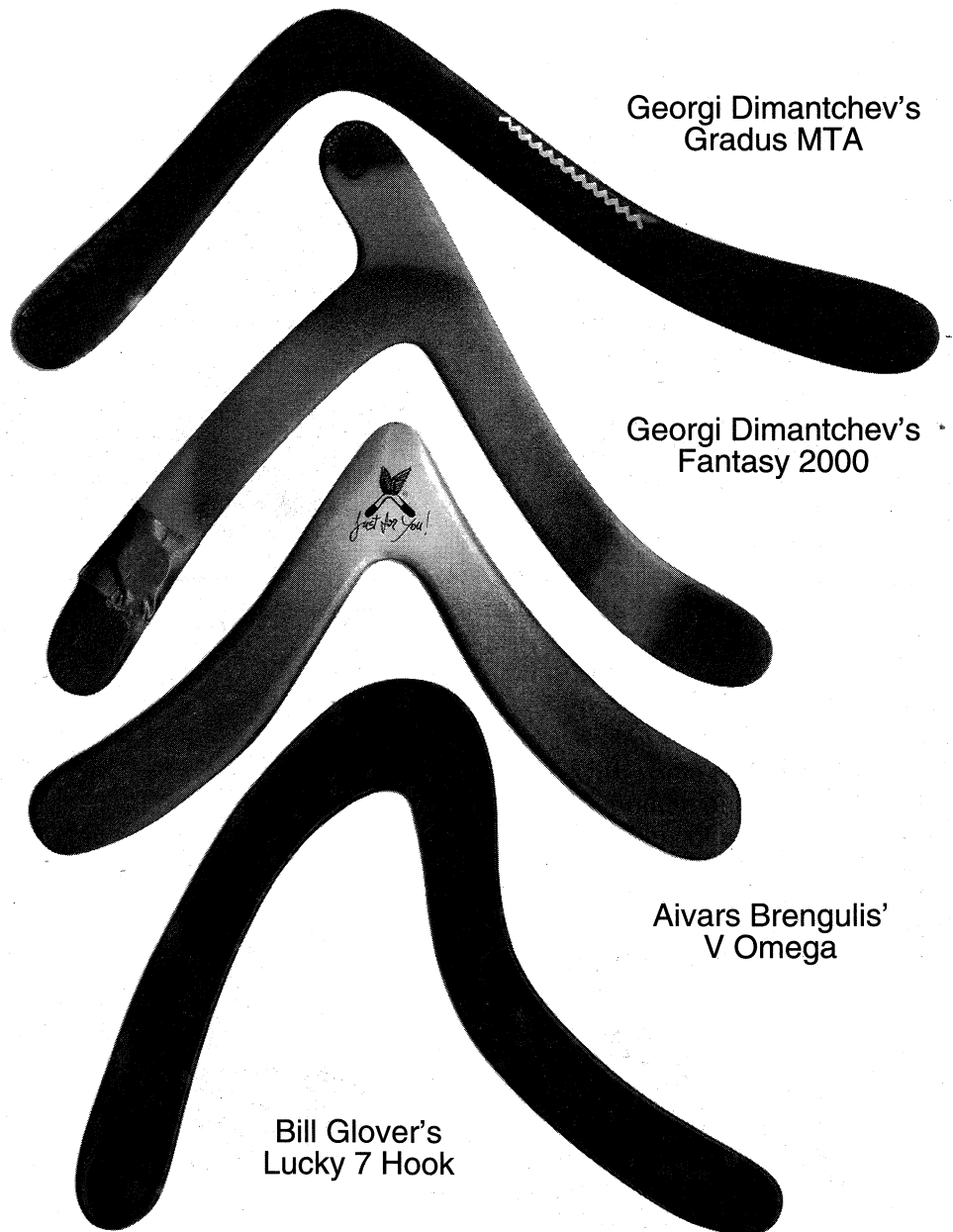
Georgi Dimantchev's Fantasy 2000 - This weighted Birch Plywood model with a weighted stub at the elbow is an incredible distance boomerang for the extra strong thrower. This is definitely not beginner stuff. It takes a strong muscle man throw with a layed over low release. If you can get it to work, it makes a huge 70+ metre circle with max height more than 20 metres over your head at the end of the flight before it begins a quick drop. This one really likes a good wind for best performance. Don't throw your arm out. You can obtain this boomerang by contacting Georgi via email at: bg_boom_club@hotmail.com or by writing to: Georgi Dimantchev Hipodruma 139A-A-23; 1612 Sofia; Bulgaria

Aivars Brengulis' V-Omega - This is a charming little omega design that makes a pretty 25 metre flight with a high spin rate. It works well in calm and light winds. The

flight is more like a slow Fast Catch which is pleasing to both the thrower and spectators. For more information, please email Aivars at: ABrengulis@inbox.lv or write to: Aivars Brengulis; L. Paegles 14-23; Sigulda; LV 2150; Latvia

Bill Glover's Lucky 7 Hook - This is a heavy composite hook that likes a moderate wind for best performance. This model likes a low, but very strong throw. The range is more than 50 metres. If you add a penny coin to the lift

arm with some tape, you can extend the range out to more than 60 metres. This one is too stiff to tune so you need to adjust the flight by putting the coin on the upper surface if you want it to fly high or on the undersurface if you want it to fly low. You can use this as a sporting boom or in Australian Round if you warm up with it before competing. For more information, email Bill at: leftyatlarge@earthlink.net or write to: Bill J. Glover; 2835 S. Wagner Road No. 129; Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Georgi Dimantchev's
Gradus MTA

Georgi Dimantchev's
Fantasy 2000

Aivars Brengulis'
V Omega

Bill Glover's
Lucky 7 Hook

Boomerangs on Coins and Stamps

Several examples of boomerangs on both coins and stamps have been recently identified. Australia has issued both a silver and gold coin with the Olympic logo. As you all know, a boomerang is integrated into the logo. You can see photos of these coins at the upper right.

For years, the editor has searched for a postage stamp that truly glorifies the use of the boomerang. In the past, boomerang stamps have been identified that show small boomerangs at the feet of an Aborigine or have a boomerang integrated into the logo of an organization or show an airplane called the "Boomerang". And of course, there are the self portrait stamps that Brother Brian Thomas puts on his correspondence (see bottom of this page). On a more serious note, a stamp has finally been found that truly glorifies the boomerang for what it really is. It is not from Australia, New Zealand or the USA. Instead, the tiny nation of Antigua & Barbuda has stolen the thunder from the Australian government by issuing the beautiful stamp depicted at the middle right.

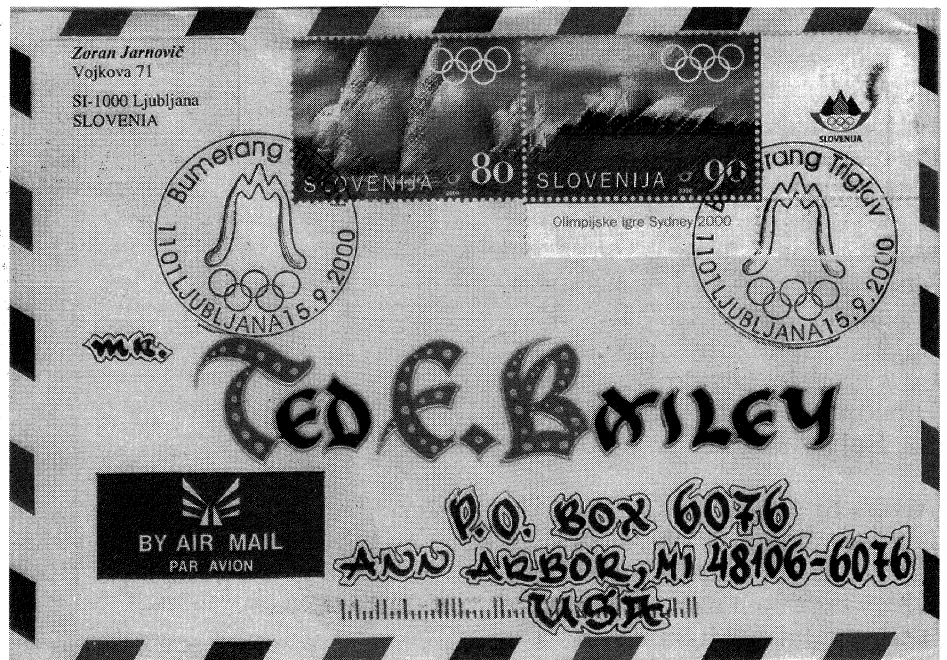
Zoran Jarnovic of Slovenia designed a postal cancellation for the first day of issue of Slovenia's Olympic stamps. The cancellation, includes both the Olympic rings and the "Bumerang Triglav", a mountain region sacred to all Slovenians. Zoran had a fellow boomerang thrower, Emiljan Krančan, address the envelope depicted at the lower right with calligraphy. Then Zoran had the stamps carefully postmarked with the boomerang logo on the first day of issue. Any other examples out there?



gold
coin



silver
coin



4th Annual Outer Banks Tournament
9/10 September 2000 (by Cookie)

The 4th Annual Outer Banks Boomerang Tourney was held at First Flight Middle School. The weather was perfect and all the throwers that came, old and young were ready to have fun. Saturday, September 9th was the boomerang competition. Even though not all the competitors were qualified to compete (and we know who we are), there were enough competitors to "Make it Count." I will add the total scores to the end of this so everyone will know who was not qualified to compete. The one thing the boomerang tourney at the Outer Banks always includes is a lot of fun. This year was no different.

The weekend started Friday night. The first thing we had to do is mark the field. All those involved know the ups and downs of that...it all worked itself out. We had to get some time to get to know each other so we all took off for Kelly's, good food and great company. We capped the night off at Port 'O Call.

Saturday began with field set up and registration at 9:00 am. The competition was set to begin at 10:00 and started on the dot! Not really, but no one was too worried about that. We all had a chance to warm up and the competition began with the Accuracy Event. First place in this event went to Will Nolen with a score of 28, second place was a tie between Tim Maultsby and Jim Jordan.

The next event was the Aussie Round. Jim Jordan walked away with first place even after having to wall the tournament director through the entire event. Second was captured by John Koehler, not a world record breaker as you might have heard from an untrustworthy, unnamed, ... large source. Dennis Joyce (Juice) and Mike Forrester shared third.

Trick Catch was the next event and there were some pretty impressive catches. At least I was amazed at some of these catches. First place went to Steven Cook (Cookie) with a score of 68, John Koehler, who the kids affectionately called "Tan Man" and seemed incapable of wearing a shirt, captured second with a score of 58. Jim Jordan and Dennis Joyce were on his heels with scores of 57 to share third.

Fast Catch was up next, we all took a quick break to add some sun screen and took back to the field. Juice won this event. John Koehler took a close second followed by Jim Jordan.

We went immediately into the Endurance event. John Koehler took first with an impressive 51 catches. Showing us all that it is the age of the dinosaur. Second place went to Juice with 48 catches and third went to Mike Forrester with 40 catches.

The last official event was MTA. We all had to avoid a hot spot on the field and there was a minor casualty during this event but in the end the "Tan Man" walked away with the best time of 112.54 for first place. The second best time was 107.45 by Mike Forrester and third place went to Cookie with a time of 88.53.

After MTA John had to be a party pooper and leave so we took pictures and handed out awards. Jim Jordan got third place and two free kayak tours, Juice took second and received a free dune hang gliding lesson and John Koehler received first place. We're going to take him up 2000 feet and cut him lose.



Then came a game of GLORP...I'm going to let you hear about this from Cookie:

The 4th annual Kitty Hawk Kites tourney concluded with a rousing game of GLORP, the most fun boomerang game ever invented. Due to the mosquito plague of 1999, GLORP was not contested, so this years was all the more special. The weather for the game was awesome -- sunny skies and little winds. Poor Annie Thompson had to wait a full two years before she could play GLORP again. She was joined by other new comers to the game - Will Nolen, Justin Luther, Mark and Matt Ramos, and (the totally rad, beautiful, talented, hip, the hostess with the mostest) Amy Thompson. Other seasoned veterans to the game included Juice, Cookie, Tim Maultsby, Jim Jordan, and Mike Forrester.

After a quick explanation of the rules, the fun started! Cheers, groans, whines, and laughs were heard throughout the game as some spectacular catches and near catches were made. An added twist to the game that Juice and Cookie liked were various catches where smiling is optional but preferred. Okay, it was funny on the field, but is somehow lost its humor in the text. Since we had the lovely and talented Amy and Annie competing, various shirt catches were made to amuse us sexist pigs. The women would have made then if their shirts were so darn tight (Ed note: Annie exact words in email, please address all hate mail to her). Such catches completed in the event were flipping head catches, crowded catches, under the leg hackeys, shirt catches, flying common catches, and more.

The final three came down to Will Nolen, Juice, and Cookie. Special, extra loud cheers and high fives go out to Will Nolen for willing to use his Dan Quayle E when Juice and Cookie both only had G's. Other congrats go out to Matt Ramos for some spectacular trick catches for the very first time competing in Glorp. After Juice and Cookie talked Will into not using his E in such a predicament, the game continued until Cookie prevailed. Afterwards, Cookie realized that this was the first time that he won Glorp after a tourney. It was one of the most funnest raddest Glorp

games there was and was a great conclusion to the most fun tourney in the world! Then we made plans for the night throwing :)! Thanks Cookie...I'll pay you for that comment later!

We then split to clean up and met again at Mulligans to eat and drink and where Jim is concerned do a favor for a girl wearing a vial and surely sporting a hang over the next day. She may not remember him, but I don't think he'll forget her!!! There was a list of e-mail addresses sent around, so if you would like to send that to me, I would love to have a copy. Then...we left for the night throwing at the undisclosed large area of sand.

This is an annual event also. Sand and glowing boomerangs, not a good combination for foxes or ummm...ANNIE. The boomerangs were lit with glow sticks and it looked very cool. There were group throws, ripples (or a wave), games and injuries. There was a fox on the dune that thought he would join us, he picked up the boomerang and then he must have changed his mind. Safer from the side line. (Just ask ANNIE) At least this year she hit herself. Tim was also struck, but he was really using his head and had no problems there.

The next day was filled with teaching spectators and trying out new boomerangs. The weather was beautiful for the entire event and you couldn't for a group of people more ready to have a good time. For those who were able to stay for Sunday evening we also paddled Pea Island and took in a bit of the charm of the Outer Banks.

Thanks to all who took the time to come. Don't miss the 5th annual boom tourney. (Make sure to share all the inside fun stories with John, and he'll share all his Sting stories with you.) Scores included.....thanks for a great weekend and all of your help! I hope you all had as much fun as we had. I hope to see you all here next year, and bring your friends!

OVERALL: 1 John Koehler (14); 2 Dennis Joyce (19); 3 Jim Jordan (21); 4 Mike Forrester (21.5); 5 Steve Cook (29); 6 Will Nolen (32); 7 Tim Maultsby (39.5)

Montreal 2000 Competition

by *Stéphane Marguerite*

The competition in Montreal was a great success. We had very nice temperatures. It was sunny and very little wind. There was media coverage: 2 TV crews and a journalist from an English newspaper. There were 9 competitors including Eric Darnell, Paul Gustafson and Alexander Ruhe from the USA. Because of the Head to head format we did a round of selection before each event to qualify the 8 best throwers to be in the seeds. The first event was Trick Catch without Doubling. Eric Darnell was the winner.

The next event was Fast Catch with Paul Gustafson and Stéphane Marguerite in the final round. Stéphane won by a few seconds. It was pretty close and really exciting to watch 2 throwers throwing Fast Catch booms in front of public.

Next was Aussie Round, throwing only to 40 meters range. Eric and Daniel Bellemarre were in the bullseye at the same time and did respectively 72 and 76 points. A really nice round and a good experience for throwing together.

MTA was the last event of the tournament. A final round between Daniel Bellemarre and Gaston Jacques (who just got a MTA from Roger Perry 2 days before) was very interesting. They threw 3 times and we took the best 2 times. Gaston was motivated and for sure did a very nice round with several 25 seconds flights. He deserved to win and he did so without any problem.

The overall score for this competition are below.

1 Stéphane Marguerite	9 points
2 Daniel Bellemarre	11 points
3 Eric Darnell	13 points
4 Paul Gustafson	16 points
4 Gaston Jacques	16 points
6 Chantal Plamondon	23 points
7 Etienne Sourd	25 points
8 Alexander Ruhe	33 points
9 Martin Massey	34 points

I'm really happy about this new kind of tournament. I think I will organize one like this every year because of the work done, it's much easier than a regular tournament, we throw a lot more than usual, it's fun to watch and quicker to set up with only 4 events, but we can switch events or create new ones adapted for the Head to Head. Also, there is no need to have a minimum of throwers if we want.



Rusty Harding's Biography

by Gary Broadbent

Born in 1928, Rusty grew up in the days of barnstorming and air racing; events which were to prepare him for a life filled with things that flew.

Because of WWII gasoline rationing, Rusty learned to fly before he learned to drive (aviation gas was not rationed), so-ling at age 16, and getting his private pilot's license on his 17th birthday.

Rather than be drafted, Rusty chose to join the United States Marine Corps with the stipulation that he be assigned to an Aviation unit. After a brief assignment as an aircraft mechanic in a Service and Maintenance Squadron, Rusty was assigned to VMF-214, a fighter squadron recently returned to the states after service in the South Pacific, and the first Marine Squadron to receive jet fighters. VMF-214 was later glorified for their Pacific Ocean performance by the TV series, "The Black Sheep Squadron". After three years in the Marine Corps, Rusty was discharged and then attended school at Northrop Institute of Technology where he became an Aerospace Engineer.

His career was an eventful one, working with many of the more recognizable names of the Aerospace programs of the time period. After 23 years of outstanding contributions to the industry, Aerospace applications, and United States Military Weapons, Rusty took early retirement in 1974.

By 1975, bored with retirement, Rusty, a left hander, bought three boomerangs from Boomerang Man, Rich Harrison. The boomerangs bought were a Hawes Super-Looper, Hawes M-17, and a Gundawarra Gull. After about an hour of throwing and chasing, Rusty finally got one to return. Within a few days, his skills improved to the point of catching some and having most return close to the throwing point.

When Rusty's 5 right handed boys saw him having fun with his boomerangs, they, too, wanted to learn to throw them. Rusty decided that he could make such simple things and so, using birch wall panelling, he made boomerangs for his family. Though he knew about boomerang airfoiling, Rusty had no knowledge of the reason or importance of undercutting and so, just duplicated that characteristic from the M-17. He said that about 60% of what he made flew well, and the remainder flew poorly or not at all. Those were thrown into boxes in hopes of being able to make them work later.

Early in 1977, Rusty learned of the yearly Smithsonian tournaments so in August he attended the "Seventh Annual Smithsonian Boomerang Tournament", where he got to meet those makers and throwers he'd only read about before. More important, he saw the newest designs and latest materials. When he got ten different answers when asking ten people the same question about under-cutting, he decided that they didn't know any more than he did about boomerang design and so, for the following year, he made the same boomerang over and over, changing one thing at a time and documented the flight change that the physical change made. After a few hundred boomerangs, he knew why certain cuts were made, but more importantly, knew how to "tune" boomerangs by undercutting one or more arms.

The following year, at the Smithsonian Tournament, he sold over 100 of his new "Concept Series" boomerangs made of seven different hardwoods, and became recognized for his design contributions. He began designing a series of plywood boomerangs that became well accepted by the boomerang community and still makes and sells those proven

designs today.

Rusty was one of the original group of throwers that founded the USBA.

In 1981, Dan Rather, on the "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather", Dan called Rusty "The World's leading Theorist on the Modern Boomerang". In August 1988, Rusty suffered a heart attack and became an inactive boomerang enthusiast. A second heart attack in 1989 caused him to withdraw from the active boomerang scene altogether. While inactive for the next 6 years, Rusty did keep up with developments.

Sixteen days after Rusty had Triple Bypass Heart Surgery in 1995, he threw boomerangs in a USBA tournament! Since then, he has become more active in the boomerang community again.

He emphasizes that his are not competition boomerangs, they're fun boomerangs of excellent quality.

He gives motivational lectures throughout middle Tennessee, combining his Engineering experience and boomerang knowledge to motivate people of all ages. Recent motivational lectures combined with boomerang making and throwing sessions have proven very successful for Rusty.



Rusty Harding in Vero Beach, 1980; photo © George Leavens

USBA Store

The USBA Store Manager is Billy Brazelton. The store offers bumper stickers, T-shirts, and "About Boomerangs" books. USBA Eagle T-Shirts (L, XL, XXL) are \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members. "Boomerangs are coming back!" bumper stickers are \$1, official USBA red logos are \$0.50 each (logo orders of \$25

or more are half price). This is a great way to expose the public to boomerangs, as conversation-starters or advertising. The books are \$28 and are autographed by the author, Kelly Boyer Sagert. To order, call 651-644-3086 or email: update@usba.org or write to:

Billy Brazelton
2082 Como Ave. #3
St. Paul, MN 55108



MEMBERSHIP CARDS: The USBA is once again issuing USBA Membership Cards! To get one, all you have to do is contact Steve Cook and renew your membership.

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

FUTURE OF BOOMERANGS COMMITTEE: The USBA Board is in the process of forming the Future of Boomerangs Committee. The Board recognizes that membership has been slowly dropping and USBA tour-

naments are poorly attended. Why? What are we going to do about it? Well, that's what this committee is going to find out. Emphasis will be placed on re-vamping competition styles and formats to make tournaments more spectator-friendly while still appealing to competitors. Grass-roots efforts and outreach programs will also be explored this winter by the Board. If you have input for this committee, please contact any or all of the board members listed on page 19 of this issue.

RATINGS!!!!: The 1999 Ratings are finally finished! USBA members should thank Jason Smucker

(gt5353b@prism.gatech.edu) for all the time and energy he has volunteered to get this done. We'll let you check out the results for yourself at <http://www.prism.gatech.edu/~gt5353b/USBA/> But let's just say that it's no surprise who's on top. There is a surprise in the 2000 ratings, though, which are in progress. Right now Steve Cook is in the lead, but that's because he's the only one who went to three of the tournaments which have sent in scores. So ATTENTION TDs from St. Louis, Canton, Seattle, and Hartford - Unless you want Steve Cook to be National Ratings Champ, send in your scores!

USBA Calendar of Events

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

29-31 Dec. 2000 Distance Comp in Santa Barbara, CA; Erik Fields: 805-564-4840; fields@icess.ucsb.edu
1 January 2001, 17th Team Gel New Years Tournament, Michael Gel Girvin, gelboom@gel-boomerang.com
19 May 2001: 12th Annual USBA Toss Across America. For info, email: Betsylew Miale-Gix, betwil@att.net
July 28th - August 9th 2002; World Cup: <http://www.boomerang2002.com>; email: gm@boomerang2002.com

USBA Board Email Contact Info

President Chet Snouffer - usba@usba.org
 Vice-President Fred Malmberg - fmalm@pol.net
 Treasurer - Keith Mullinar - k_mullinar@hotmail.com
 Secretary - Betsylew Miale-Gix - betwil@wa.freei.net
 Billy Brazelton - update@usba.org
 Steve Cook - scook1975@hotmail.com
 Suzanne Lentz - suzanneraganlentz@earthlink.net
 Gregg Snouffer - boomerang@columbus.rr.com

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

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

The USBA Board of Directors has created the USBA Recognition for Lifetime Achievement in Boomerangs Award. At the US Open on August 11-14, the first ever USBARLAB awards were presented to Rusty Harding (see biography on page 17) and Ben Ruhe. Candidates for this award are nominated by board members and presented to the board for approval. Unanimous approval from the board is required for the nominee to receive the award.

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 April 1, July 1, October 1 and January 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**

Many Happy Returns

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10% discount for 4 consecutive issues. All advertisements must be pre-paid in USD by check or M. O. to USBA. Camera-ready copy preferred. The editor reserves the right to refuse any advertisement or cancel a contract without reason. The deadline for all advertisements is March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter issues respectively. All advertisements should be mailed to: **Ted Bailey; P. O. Box 6076; Ann Arbor, MI 48106**

Membership Application

Copy this page and carry extra copies of this sheet in your boomerang bag to hand out.

Check: New Renewal

name

address

address

city/state/zip or country

phone number (optional)

New Member or Renewal?

USBA member sponsor's name

New members and renewals: Send the completed coupon (or copy) and \$15 (\$20 overseas) check or M. O. to:

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



United State Boomerang Association

Membership Office

Steven Cook
322 West Park Ave. Apt. B
Savannah, GA 31401-6423

Andy A. Cross (85)
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