

Many Happy Returns

**Official Publication of the
United States
Boomerang Association**

- To promote the art, hobby, craft, sport, history, culture and science of boomerangs
- To organize and hold an annual National Boomerang Expo
- To represent the United States in International Boomerang Competitions



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INSIDE THE MIND OF A MASTER

By GREGG SNOUFFER

The story behind winning back the Cup and an exclusive interview with the man who's vision brought it home

The year was 2000 and the Americans returning from Melbourne Australia were in a sour mood. They had just lost their third world cup in a row to the upstart German Young Guns and it was beginning to irk some of America's finest competitors... including its first time coach, Eric Darnell.

Several throwers in the American contingency could remember the years when the U.S. had won World Cups as surely as the sun would rise tomorrow. Since 1981, the first time two international groups of throwers from the U.S. and Australia had gotten together to test their boomerang throwing skills in team format, the U.S. had lost only once... to Australia in 1984. From 1987 to 1994, the U.S. won all six of the team competitions, which, by then, featured teams from Europe and Japan, as well.

A leading theory states that there were two contributing factors to the rise of the German Young Guns. On the one hand, it was this monolithic domination by American throwers throughout the '80's and mid-'90's that motivated European throwers, presenting a stimulating challenge that motivated European throwers to improve their skills and team selection procedures in an attempt to unseat the Yank boomerang version of the Titanic.

Several European throwers were becoming more accomplished,



individually, led by *wunderkind* Fridolin Frost, who studied American throwers, techniques, and equipment while traveling, living and competing in the U.S. during the summer months in his teens. In '96, the Young Guns finally overcame team selection politics in their own country to put together a homogenous, hard-core group of young, well-equipped, well-coached throwers and mounted the first successful challenge to the American throwing machine in Christchurch, New Zealand. The Americans there were gracious in defeat and welcomed these upstarts into the fold of

(Continued on page 8)

Wood Scraps

News from the boomerang world

Barnaby's Christmas Shocker

While hosting a Christmas day party at his remote family estate farm in Eastern Pennsylvania, Barnaby Ruhe's chimney caught fire, unbeknownst to those in the house, and spread quickly up the interior wall and into the attic, causing extensive damage. By the time the single fire truck that could make the trip back the mile-long heavily wooded drive to the house, the house was engulfed. Firefighters battled the blaze for nearly eight hours.

The house had served as a repository for much of the Ruhe family's art and books. Barnaby is going through the remains in hopes of salvaging anything



Ruhe House Burns

Christmas party turns to shock

that he can.

The house was a turn of the century farm house ordered from the Sears Roebuck catalog. Barnaby spent his childhood there, with his family, a well-known clan of artists and writers.

Many boomerangers remember it as a place where they stayed while visiting Barnaby or attending his annual

tournament. The farm was the sight of the legendary, mystical U.S. Team selection camp in 1999, prior to the World Cup in Melbourne.

The day of the blaze, one guest was hospitalized for smoke inhalation suffered while battling the blaze. The Christmas party then continued at a neighbor's house, according to reports.

Boomerang-related injury

"The x-rays are in and so is the jury. It's a broken clavicle," reports 2002 Junior National Champion Dan Bower of Seattle, WA about his twin brother, Richard, who fell on his shoulder while attempting a handstand catch in GLORP on Valentine's Day.

"His hand came out from under him causing him to fall down right on his left shoulder. The bone was completely displaced and one of the bone segments was driven down and underneath the other bone one and a half inches! The doctors did not operate because of a high infection rate for that kind of operation and instead gave him a weird "figure 8" sling which somehow pulls the bone back into place over time."

"The ER doc referred us to a shoulder guy to give us a timetable for his return. The shoulder guy is the same guy who works for the Seattle Mariners! Just think Richard could see the same guy who operated on Ken Griffy JR, A-

ROD, Jay Buhner etc."

Reports are that Richard was throwing two days later... with quite a bit of layover... and vows that no matter how bad it is he will be in action on March 30th for the BUSA Championships. (See calendar on pg 22.)



Distance Tournament Results by Andy Cross

The final Long Distance tournament at Storke Field in Santa Barbara California was held last July. No new records were set, but many throwers got personal bests. Saturday's weather was a little odd. The wind was pretty good but the marine layer didn't burn off the entire day so there was very little sun. Sunday was more typical Santa Barbara weather with the marine layer burning off by noon and excellent wind. Most everyone's top throws came on Sunday.

Erik Fields 146m
 Dan Neelands 140m*
 Dan Harding 138m*
 Andy Cross 130m
 Clay Dawson 129m*
 Chris Cotter 116m* Solstice
 Rick DeNuccio 112m*
 Karen Dawson 107m
 Brad Westervelt 98m*
 Kelly Neelands 78m
 Larry NM
 * denotes Personal best
 NM denotes No Measure

Erik Fields, one of the original west coast distance guys, chucks the winning 146 meter toss in last July's distance tourney in Santa Barbara. (Picture by Andy Cross)



Betsy's Airport Update

Top U.S. woman thrower Betsylew Miale-Gix shares her court ordeal after last Summer's airport security arrest... a story that caught world attention following the airport security situation in the wake of September 11. Betsy was stopped trying to take her competition boomerang kit onto the plane. (See "Terror in the Airport, issue 85) Here, told in her own words is a story told only the way a trial litigator by profession can tell it.

What an experience the whole CT court gig was. Here was the deal - As advised by local CT counsel we get to the court and meet Eric Darnell (U.S. Team coach who would serve as professional witness) early - 8:10 am Turns out the Enfield Courthouse is about the only courthouse in America that does not open the doors until the time the calendar is set for in the morning - 9:00 am. By the time 9:00 arrives we are in a crowd of 25-30 milling outside.

Marshals at the door won't let Eric bring his boomerang bag in. Hassle but Eric rolls with it after they promise to watch it. He later takes them back out to the car until needed. I am # 77 of over 100 defendants due in court that day. I check in, with the Marshall in the courtroom. Despite being 3rd person to check in, the prosecutor does not call me up for 45 minutes to discuss my case. Prosecutor and I make a deal after we glance at file, I tell him my side, show him USA Team coach and witness in the courtroom, etc. The deal is I will plead to an infraction - causing a public disturbance - it is the equivalent of a traffic ticket - non-criminal and only \$90 fine.

Unfortunately there is a note in my file to call the local lawyer who was volunteering assistance and the mention of another prosecutor senior to the one I talked with. He leaves to make the calls. Judge comes in and deals with about 20 matters from the other prosecutors' files.

Recess at 10:15 and in comes the press - 2 TV and AP female reporters and a local paper reporter and photographer.

Impromptu news conference outside the courthouse then takes place for the two TV cameras, photographer and 4 reporters. I do well, introduce Eric as USA coach - he gets some good face time and talk - then I go back in to the courtroom after Will comes out to tell me prosecutor wants to talk with me again. Will and Eric continue with the press.

I find out the prosecutor's boss nixed the deal - kid is embarrassed and now insisting on what equates to a deferred prosecution with me on 18 month probation - means the charge stays on the books. I don't plead to anything and, if I am good, it goes away at the end of 18 months

as if it never happened - called AR - accelerated rehabilitation. I am not pleased but roll with it. To the clerk office, bail commissioner and back to the courtroom. If approved, in some ways is better than the 1st deal because I don't have to plead to anything.

We sit and wait as dozens more go up and meet with the prosecutors and the lunch break draws near. The prosecutor knows we have a 2:20 pm plane to catch and has assured me will be out before noon.

12 pm - Judge back into the courtroom. Other prosecutor's present a couple property forfeiture matters for summary disposal then BMG case gets called. All 4 reporters are in the courtroom at this point but no TV cameras as they were not allowed.

Judge hears the prosecutor's reasonably generic version of the facts based on the lying police report. She swears me in and asks prior arrests? No prior AR - No - then asks the prosecutor to approach the bench.



First question to him is "Why are we doing this?" Then they talk in lower voices I cannot hear for a bit as I stand there -

still under oath in front of the packed courtroom - packed with many of the other 100 folks on the criminal docket, some lawyers, 4 marshals etc.

The Judge then says "Well, alright then." Asks me if I want to make a statement. I do. At the end she thanks me for giving her my version of the facts and says that I need to be aware that all airports may not interpret security the same way and be prepared to deal with that eventuality in the future - no big lecture or humiliation. Then says finds me at low risk of re-offense, and eligible for AR and only 3 months - not 18 - probation! No need to return to CT and I get my \$500 bond money back minus the \$135 in fee for the AR program. I thank the Judge.

Brief conversations with reporters then to clerks office for processing and check, to probation department to fill out papers, then at 12:35 we are leaving the courthouse. To the airport where we carry on our only small suitcase with my 3 illustrative boomerangs in it - no problem and we get to Seattle at 7:30 pm.

Letters

Needs a developmentally handicapped boomerang

Hi there,

I have started a club in the hood and have found a couple of reeeeeeeely great natural throwers. At the moment I have a membership of 9 but I hope to get more.

One of the members of the club is an eight year old boy by the name of Liam. He has learning and physical disabilities and has the muscular development of a five year old. At the moment all I have got for him to throw are plastic hornets and air dancers, but he has a problem holding the air dancers and is not quite strong enough to do anything with the hornet.

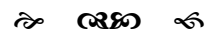
Is there any rang you could suggest he might be able to try? I would really like to try something as this boy is so keen, when he gets to training he never stops till we tell him to take a break. He loves boomerang throwing.

**Rad Mamma Leonie
Perth, Australia**

Dear Rad Mama,

There is a thrower in the U.S. who has a similar level of coordination to your boy there. His name is Rev. Jim, and he was able to become quite a successful thrower in the central north-west quadrant of the lesser St Louis region. I asked Jim what's in his competition bag, in hopes of giving you some ideas for your kid. He says he prefers the pop sickle cross stick boomerangs for Distance, but is happy with the Captain Crunch cereal box model for shorter range events.

But no, seriously since Jim spends his time changing diapers now, instead of airfoils, he wanted to recommend the many readily available polystyrene three-blade backyard models. Have you given these a try? I know many kids around ten who love them and often have too much power for them. You can find them under various brand names, including the Tantrum from Roundtrip Boomerangs and the Backyard Boomerang from Broadbent Boomerangs. See the manufacturer's listing on page 18 for more ideas. Anyone else have any luck with this sort of situation? Let us know!



Beat our caption



“Although he enjoyed getting all of the trophies, Bob learned that holding a tournament by yourself was lonely at the awards banquet.”

Beat our caption and win! Got a better caption for this picture than ours? Email it to boomerang@columbus.rr.com. If we chose it, you'll win a free package of USBA bumper stickers and an assortment of rare #56 fat rubber bands for flapping your wind rangs!

Last Issue's Winners



"That's the last time I try a Trick Catch with my @\$!"

- Dave Bradshaw

"I got it out.... Do you want it back?"

- Jim Lucas

"...I can almost get it to go all the way around in here"

"...hey, it beats where I had to stay when we went to Tucson"

- John Gaston

"Tactful Tact?"

- Steven Max Droge

And finally, from Dr. Fred's fertile mind, come the following entries...

"Danny, who never did play well with others, amazed even himself with some of

the 'loner games' he invented."

"What do you mean, 'They're out of corn cobs'?"

"Do you have any idea how much tuning you have to do, to get a 0.3 meter distance boom?"

"All right; who wants to trade booms?"

And the winner of the Gunther Moeller boomerang for the best 'Beat Our Caption' caption is...

"And you thought Gary Broadbent was the 'Black Hole of Boomerangs'!"
-Dr Fred Malmberg

USBA News

Because, honestly... what other news IS there?

(The following editorial content aside, we here at MHR are actually very proud of our new corps of USBA officers and their tireless dedication to reinvigorating the USBA! Please excuse the editor. His cat threw up just prior to writing this article...)

New board of directors runs amuck

The newly elected USBA Board of Directors hit the ground running with the new year. In spite of an unusually late election, the new Treasurer, (Thomas Carter) and Secretary (Kendall Davis) are working hard to ensure a smooth transition of existing services, as well as a start-up of many new and badly needed services to members.

Treasurer sports new data base of boomers

A top priority for Thomas Carter (TC) is to bring the membership database online and to make it available to all members. He wants to ensure that new or renewing members can check their current membership status, and confirm receipt of dues and the updating of their of membership. (One of the top complaints the past couple of years was aimed at the timeliness of the USBA office in getting out confirmation of receipt of membership dues.)

Another benefit that an online USBA membership database would offer is connectivity. Members will be able to look up contact info that other members choose to make available. Very soon, TC will be contacting all members to ask what info, if any, they wish to make available to share with fellow USBA members. You can show your name, email address, street address, city, state, phone, whether you host a tournament, compete in tournaments, are a boomerang manufacturer with booms

for sale, are suppliers of materials to produce boomerangs or other weapons of mass destruction... (OK, that last part is a joke!)

Again, the only people who will have access to this information will be fellow USBA members and certain high-ranking law-enforcement officials (and we're not sure whether that bit is a joke or not!)

So, before you decide to start sharing sensitive personal information about yourself with your fellow boomerang buddies, like whether you import black market carbon fiber and Kevlar from the former Soviet Union, you'd better think about who might be seeing it!

Secretary makes sure everyone is 'in the know'!

Meanwhile, Kendall Davis, as Secretary, is striving to make members more aware of the USBA's day-to-day activities and its myriad of previously unknown services.

Kendall is revamping the USBA.org web page and reinstating the "USBA update" email service to members that Billy Brazelton pioneered back around the turn of the century.

Both the USBA and its members should all be prepared to have many of their civil liberties challenged in the near future by these two new mission-driven USBA officers!

VP works with Texas to organize best Expo ever!

Tony Brazelton, as new Vice-President, is working with Dave Hughes bringing the annual USBA National Boomerang Expo to Houston, Texas. This will be the first time that the Expo will be held in Texas. It is hoped that this will invigorate the Texas boomerang crowd and bring many new and old throwers out of the closet, so to speak... and we mean that

in a good way! More information will be available shortly.

New Yahoo Group helps keep in touch and up to date!

In addition to the web page, www.usba.org, and the USBA Update, which is emailed periodically to its members, the USBA has adopted the Yahoo group USBA_info as its online presence where you can get information and answers to all of your pressing questions about the USBA and its going-ons. There are USBA officers and members monitoring and answering the messages daily, as well as boomerang patterns, instructions and articles of interest, the USBA bylaws and such in the files section. Check out the USBA logo designs in the photos section and leave a photo of yourself or your favorite boomerang! You can even take a crack at identifying mystery Ohio boomeranger R.C. Roberts! (Hint: Gary Broadbent knows who he is!)

To join the group, you must be a USBA member. You can sign up online for just \$15 per year, using a credit card through Paypal. Or you can send in the coupon in the back of this newsletter with a check.

If you are a member, go online to www.yahoo.com, then click on the "groups" link on the main page beside "Connect." You must have a yahoo ID, which is free. If you do not, you can follow the prompts on that page to get one. If you do, sign in and then type the word "USBA" into the search box. The first choice of groups you are shown that have that in their name is USBA_info. If you click on that link, it will take you to our group where you can choose to "Join this group." Choose your preferences about how you want to receive info from the group and then kick back with a cold one and come up with some good questions that you think your officers can't answer! Its that simple!

Be careful though, because if you choose to join the other group with USBA in its name, you will start receiving information from the United States Beauceron Alliance. Since we aren't too sure what a Beauceron is, we

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aren't recommending that option at this time.

Board goes T-mobile

Thanks to T-Mobile and board member Nic Yeager, who are sponsoring USBA Board tele-conferences on a bi-weekly basis, greatly facilitating communication and organization.

USBA Store gets boost

Treasurer TC is now operating the USBA store, which currently offers various bumper stickers. Any member who would like to help take initiative with developing new stock... t-shirts, etc, should contact TC. Look at it as your opportunity to change the face of boomerang history!

Senior throwers still Chuckin'

Bud Pell and BoomerangTalk Yahoo group guru Dave Hendricks are designing a new Senior division for old-timers to test and compare their meddle on the field just like the novices and intermediates do now.

We couldn't reach Bud for a comment, but had we, he would have said something like, "The one advantage Seniors have over the younger guys... and the reason they keep kicking booty and taking numbers... is experience and the ability to think."

He would go on, "Today's generation is so addicted to Atari and PS and PS2 and PMS and X-Boy that they have completely lost the ability to think critically! Boomerangs are all about critical thinking skills!"

The new Senior Division will be optional for throwers over fifty and would allow slight variations in the regular rules designed to make it easier for these guys and gals to compete. Among the proposals still being hammered out in committee are: Sighter throws (non-scoring warm-up tosses) in Aussie Round and Accuracy, different distance scoring in Aussie Round, reduction of Endurance round to three minutes, bringing back the two-handed catch, as well as to make all catches optional in trick catch with thrower's choice throughout the

round.

Rumored to be a major sticking point in negotiations by delegate Rusty Harding are the use of golf-cart type boomerang retrieval devices with fully stocked, refrigerated bars and umbrellas for sun or rain.

In either case, the Senior Division is scheduled to be in place this Spring, so find a Senior, teach him to throw, give him some boomerangs and watch him go!

Keep up to date on all of the breaking USBA information, including Expo details, tournament calendar, who's having babies, and more online at www.usba.org and on the USBA's yahoo group http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USBA_info/

MHR Boomerang Trivia

The Mystery of the Commonwealth Boomerang

In 1942, Lawrence J. Wackett designed the Commonwealth Boomerang. Interestingly enough, the Boomerang was derived from a North American (Texan) design. It was small, robust, and agile. It was unbeatable in a tactical role. With a description like that, I am utterly amazed that Barnaby doesn't have one in his kit!

The reason that most of us have never seen a Commonwealth Boomerang is that they saw very limited production. Only 250 were made and only one survives today.

In its day, higher performance models became available and the Commonwealth Boomerang was replaced. It had acquitted itself well. No one knows for sure if competition from the Frank Donnellan, Lorin Hawes, Bunny Read, or the Janetski brothers had anything to do with putting the Commonwealth Boomerang out of business. It is a shame that a model can be in production for two full years and then just disappear.

One thing I guarantee, Gary Broadbent will never get his hands on the sole surviving Commonwealth Boomerang. For more information on the Commonwealth Boomerang, check this web site out -<http://www.kotfsc.com/aircraft/boomerang.htm>.

As always, keep your wits about you.

Last Issue's Winner



In 1989, Barnaby Ruhe received his PhD with what thesis?

For those who want to know; Dr. Ruhe's Dissertation was titled "The Artists Shaman; improvisation in the Work of Selected 1980's Expressionist Patrons". Issued by NYU 1989.

Congratulations to John Gaston of Tucson, AZ and Gordon Schmidt for knowing the right answer! John and Gordon will each receive half of an original Barnaby Ruhe painting entitled "Midnight Butt-Naked Accuracy by Full Moonlight."

Boomerang Clubs

(and online forums, open shops for instruction, etc.)

Contact info for boomerang throwers around the USA

UNITED STATES ONLINE

BOOMERANG TALK - Your one-stop, non-stop online boomerang club. Keep up to date on the latest info and chatter from the boomerang world. Join at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BoomerangTalk/join>

USBA_info - This is a USBA members only group for the online discussion of issues. This group is closely monitored by the Board which makes for an "open door" policy for complaints or concerns. Join at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USBA_info/join

Other (local) boomerang discussion groups are available at YAHOO! <http://groups.yahoo.com> - all you need to do is search for "boomerang".

ARIZONA

Desert Ranglers

Mark Weary & Don Monroe
4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr.
Phoenix AZ 85044
(602) 759-3973

COLORADO

Richard Pollock-Nelson (Colorado Boomerangs)

2530 S Ouray Way
Aurora, CO 80013-1576
(303) 368-5933

CONNECTICUT

The Wandering Nutmeg Boomerang Society

Paul D. Sprague
782 Boston Post Rd.
Madison CT 06443
(203) 245-8211

FLORIDA

The Orlando Boomerang Club meets every Saturday morning at 9:00 to throw boomerangs at Memorial Middle

School. For more information please contact Cookie (teamgel@cfl.rr.com) or Mike Hudkins (Fatfinger@cfl.rr.com)

Flite Stix Boom Slingers

Rich Surace
855 E Crisafulli Rd.
Merritt Island FL
(407) 452-3963

ILLINOIS

Rock Island - Kendall Davis has a fully stocked boomerang shop with several materials to choose from and virtually any crafting tool you may need. *If you make it, you take it!* There is also a guest bedroom for use and the greatest cook in the Midwest lives there, too. Ph. 309.793.9885 or send e-mail to boomerang@master-designs.com

INDIANA

Indianapolis Boomerang Club

Tony Brazelton
1184 Barrington Dr
Greenwood IN 46143
(317) 883-2334
brazelami@yahoo.com
<http://www.usba.org/chapters/indyboomclub>

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/St Paul - Boomerang Organization Of Minnesota (BOOM)

<http://www.uboomerang.org>
current record-holder for most tournaments hosted in a season!
Contact Stuart Jones
circlestixstuk@webtv.net
651-228-1393

The Twin Cities Summer Series of Boomerang Competitions runs weekly through October on Saturdays at 3:00 pm, at Como Park (softball fields across from the pool, on Horton) in St. Paul, MN. beginning the 1st Saturday in May.

NEW MEXICO

Sandia Boomerang Club
Steve Sanders
10408 Woodland, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 294-8842
<http://homepage.mac.com/boomerangs>

OHIO

Canton - Gary Broadbent's boom shop and field next door. One of the most prestigious shops in the country, fully outfitted with materials for making all types of boomerangs. Featuring prolonged boomerang-making sessions followed by 3 am grilled cheese sandwiches, surrounded by one of the world's most extensive collections of boomerangs. Call Gary at (330) 492-RANG to inform of your arrival.

Delaware - Gregg's Boom shop and field down the road. Stop in, make and throw some booms and sign the guest book. Nightly drink specials. Call Gregg at (740) 363-4414 or email at boomerang@columbus.rr.com

TEXAS

Republic of Texas Boomerang Society

(TexBoom Yahoo! Group)
Dave Hughes
1818 Cotton Mill Ct.
Richmond, Texas 77469
(281) 341-0934
dlhughes001@juno.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown -

Dave Hendricks
1086 E Gordon Street
Allentown, PA 18103-2208
(610) 434-7305

VERMONT

Vermont Boomerang Association
Paul Gustafson
South Burlington, VT
(802) 859-3430
paul@vermontboomerang.org
<http://www.vermontboomerang.org>

Submit or update your listing here by sending e-mail to the editor at: USBAsec@master-designs.com

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Boomerang world powers. After all, it was only once. But two Cups later, after a German Young Gun run at titles that was starting to make America look like boomerang has-beens, there were those who wondered if the sun had gone into permanent eclipse on "The land of the free."

Another contributing factor to America's decline, the theory continues, is that American throwers, like Rome in its heyday, had grown fat and lazy from too many years of empire. Eric Darnell was one who believed this. In 1996, he points out, the very team politics that the Germans finally overcame, drove the U.S. to field three teams that weren't as strong as they could have been.

To be sure, there was reason for the U.S. to fall into that trap. Until that time, much of the best World Cup competition had been between the top two U.S. Teams, who had always viewed team selection as a divisive issue since Larry Ruhf first conceived the International Team Cup challenge in 1987. It was really this simple; if you were going to put together a true international boomerang challenge that featured sixty of the best throwers from around the world, half of them would have to be from North America. That's how good Yank throwers were, compared to the rest of the world.

Just how did you split those American throwers into teams? It didn't matter... one of them would win. The challenge of putting together the winning group of AMERICANS became the goal. And with the number of World Cup title rings increasing among various U.S. throwers, bragging rights were at stake among teammates. As the skill level of the Europeans was rising, driven by the unbeatable challenge that America presented each year, the unbridled self-assuredness of the Americans was too. It was just simple economics. The two lines were bound to intersect at some point. Christchurch provided the setting.

But these surges in the cosmos are cyclical. And by 2000, this tide of motivation caused by the lack of a Cup was beginning to play into America's hands. Losing that once in Christchurch

got the U.S. back on track with its selection policy. In '98 the U.S. chose to forgo politics, opting instead for statistics, and a super team was born, featuring the top six rated throwers from the previous season. But this group of six, who were the best in the country in individual tournaments, walked onto the field as a team and promptly folded. The second U.S. Team finished top for the Americans... and THIRD overall, behind dominant German performances by both the Young Guns and their second team, The Old Bones. It was going to be a long two years of sunless soul-searching for the American squads.

But the new millennium brought new blood and new hope to the Americans. Several young throwers were in training and hoped to go to Australia. After all, the Young Guns were now presenting a stimulating challenge to global throwers themselves... just as the U.S. had done in days gone by. During a magical, unprecedented team selection camp held at Barnaby's mystical secluded Ruhe Farm in Eastern Pennsylvania, newly named supreme commander of the U.S. Teams, Eric Darnell, sought to heal and unite American throwers, while combining the best of both subjective and objective selection processes. He launched a new strategy with American throwers, who previously, had only worked together occasionally, when combined on the



Above: The original Uncle Toby's Oats Cup presented to the American Team in 1981 after winning the first Cup between Australia and the U.S.

Below: The latest addition to the traveling World Boomerang Cup appears at the bottom and says: "2002 United States of America (Dogs of Boom)".



same team. His strategy was simple; three American squads... one American team.

In reality, however, each team ended up pursuing its own goals. Whether due to the competitive nature of each U.S. squad's coach, its players, the long Winter, which gave the throwers a chance to segregate and strategize, or simply that American throwers just didn't get the strength in numbers idea, it was clear after day one in Melbourne that the U.S. was in trouble once again.

For the squad coached by Larry Ruhf... a blend of athletic youth and time-tested winning talent, the Achilles heel ended up being the first event... Australian Round... in heavy wind. An eleven point deficit opened in that first event proved enough to hold off a team that, ultimately, came roaring back to close within five points of a rear-view mirror gawking Young Guns team that felt lucky to escape with their third Cup. Meanwhile, the squad coached by Barnaby Ruhe, while strong on paper, failed to mount much of a threat, and faded as the days passed.

But two things were established in Melbourne. First, it was evident to the Germans that the U.S. was on the rise and had the skill to retake the cup. For the Americans, the Young Guns had lost that air of invulnerability, replaced now with a belief that they had been lucky to get number three. But still, knowing that they could have won, and actually having the Cup on U.S. soil were two different things. And that absence of a Cup made those Americans involved more hungry than many of them had been in a long, long time... head coach Eric Darnell included.

There were several factors that came together to produce this year's winning cup, including unprecedented effort on the part of many individuals. It is impossible to include them all, and would be an injustice to include some of them, while leaving others out. The Americans that participated in this year's dominating performance will tell you that it took each and every one of those twenty-some Americans' sacrifices to pull it off. In reality, given the margin of victory, that is hard to

believe. But forget trying to convince John Kohler or Eric Darnell of that.

According to Kohler, "You would have to include stories from each and every American thrower, coach, sponsor, organizer, scorekeeper and helper, starting with those involved with last Spring's team selection camp in Kitty Hawk to those who attended the World Cup in Kiel to truly understand why we were able to make it look so simple... there were so many details covered that it is just unimaginable that we could have pulled it all off."

In the end, all of those details paid off... in a big way. The Americans were out of the gate, never losing the

lead and never even seriously challenged from the very first throw of the very first event on the very first day. And they did it together... as eighteen united throwers and three coaches and one extra -large scorekeeper, all wearing one color, sharing, spotting and helping each other in a way that no one had ever seen before... and in a way that proved to be exciting, inspirational, and completely unbeatable.

In the end, all of the doubts and judgments reserved for the coaches' handling of issues leading up to the Cup were squelched by a twenty-one year old, two-foot high metal cup,

(Continued on page 10)

A history of World Cup champions	
<p>1981 (Held in USA) Champions: USA (Ben Ruhe, A.F. Miller, Carl Naylor, Barnaby Ruhe, Eric Darnell, Al Gerhards, Peter Ruhf, Larry Ruhf, Jerry Caplan, Doug DuFresne, Chet Snouffer, Steve Miller)</p>	<p>Lacount, Rob Parkins Individual Champ: Fridolin Frost (GER)</p>
<p>1984: (Australia) Champions: Aaustralia Bob Burwell, Bunny Read, Dennis Maxwell, Rob Croll, Peter Maxwell, Mark Schafer</p>	<p>1994 (Kioto, Lapan) Champions: USA Barnaby Ruhe, John Flynn, Chet Snouffer, Michael Girvin, Casey Larrance, Gregg Snouffer Individual Champ: Chet Snouffer (USA)</p>
<p>1987 (USA) Champions: USA (Team Midwest) Chet Snouffer, Gregg Snouffer, Gary Broadbent, Jacques Sabrie, Chuck Smith, Carmen Snouffer</p>	<p>1996 (Christchurch, NZ) Champions: Germany (Young Guns) Gerrit Lemkau (c), Oli von Kempfen, Oli Thienhaus, Fridolin Frost, Guenter Moeller Individual Champ: Rob Croll (AUS)</p>
<p>1988 (Baruga, Australia) Champions: USA Chet Snouffer, Barnaby Ruhe, Eric Darnell</p>	<p>1998 (St Louis, USA) Champions: Germany (Young Guns) Fridolin Frost (c), Torsten Fredrich, Oli Thienhaus, Harald Steck, Guenter Moeller, Gerrit Lemkau Individual Champ: Fridolin Frost (GER)</p>
<p>1989 (Europe) Champions: USA (Team White) Barnaby Ruhe, John Flynn, Dennis Joyce, John Koehler, Jim Jordan, Rob Parkins Individual Champ: Chet Snouffer (USA)</p>	<p>2000 (Melbourn, Australia) Champions: Germany (Young Guns) Guenter Moeller (c), Fridolin Frost, Torsten Fredrich, Harald Steck, Gerrit Lemkau, Oli Thienhaus Individual Champ: Manuel Schuetz (SUI)</p>
<p>1991 (Perth, Australia) Champions: USA (Team 1) Chet Snouffer, John Flynn, M oleman, Doug DuFresne, Casey Larrance, Gregg Snouffer Individual Champ: John Koehler (USA)</p>	<p>2002 (Kiel, Germany) Champions: USA (Dogs of Boom) Adam Ruhf, Steve Kavanaugh, Mark Weary, Jason Smucker, John Flynn, Gregg Snouffer Individual Champ: Manuel Schuetz (SUI)</p>
<p>1992 (Hamburg, Grmany) Champions: US A (Team Blue) Barnaby Ruhe, Eric Darnell, Casey Larrance, Moleman, Doug DuFresne, Jeff</p>	



The victorious U.S. Team, Dogs of Boom, right after the final event, right before the Champaign hits (right side of photo). Team members, L-R: Gregg Snouffer, Mark Weary, John Flynn, Steve Kavanaugh, Adam Ruhf

mounted on a pedestal that bore the engraving, "World Boomerang Cup Champs 2002: USA."

The following is an exclusive interview with the head coach of the American teams in Kiel, Eric Darnell.

MHR: When did you realize that your teams were able to compete with the European teams at this year's World Cup?

E: It was the day before the first day of competition. I was spotting Australian Round and was asked to move. I did and realized as I was moving that it didn't matter where I stood because all of the Americans were spotting for each other. The one-team thing really worked. Everywhere you looked, you saw blue uniforms. Right there, we had an edge... we had the right spirit.

Another thing that told me we had prepared correctly was the comment I heard from several American throwers throughout the Cup about the wind not being very hard, like we had warned them about. That meant we were prepared. Everyone felt like they could handle the winds.

MHR: Share with us some of your strategy during the cup.

E: We wanted to start the first day off strong. American teams had shot themselves in the foot before during the first event, so that was a big focus for us. The first event was Accuracy. That has

been an American weakness over the years. When we won Accuracy, I knew we could win the Cup. On the second day, I was very happy that we continued to increase the lead. In the Trick Catch event, the Germans beat us handily, score wise, but only won one point over us in the tournament. So what? I told our team, just don't finish eighth! And they didn't. They finished second.

With the communication, we were able to keep a close eye on scores and knew what we needed to do. After the first few days, we were in a situation where they had to go with everything they had and we could sit back a bit and guard our lead. In Super catch, for example, the winds changed in the middle of the event and MTAs really started flying. Several Europeans were getting some big scores and our guys were asking if they should pop the cork. I just kept suggesting that they go with the wind rang they warmed up with and make the catch. Our point tallies ended up being right and we could afford to give up the points we did in that event. That's one of the big advantages of being prepared with our radios and scorekeepers. We knew just what we had to do the whole way through.

MHR: What was your personal schedule like during the Cup?

E: I got up every morning at 5 am and would meet with Kohler and Gelly to go over strategy. Then we would check in with team captains and make sure they were on board and everything was alright. We didn't

make personnel calls for the teams unless they asked for advice. But we stayed busy helping the Funkadelics and the Punks more than the Dogs, since they needed more.

MHR: Were the Germans at a disadvantage by hosting?

E: Absolutely. No question. Ollie and Gunther in particular. They turned over the management duties to others, but there were many decisions to make that only they could make. It put them under a lot of pressure.

MHR: Congratulations. We understand the USBA has invited you and John Kohler to coach the American teams again as they prepare to defend the cup in 2004 in France and that you have accepted the position... one that you once swore you wouldn't take again. What gives?

E: (He laughs) As I told John Kohler the other day when we were discussing whether to do it or not, you forget the pain and you're willing to go through it again. I think we had a good partnership, with John's strengths and Gelly(Michael [Gel] Girvin)'s spirit, which we needed badly to make things run smoothly. It is a position that offers very few rewards, except personally.

MHR: What does the U.S. need to do in order to defend the Cup?

E: We have a lot of work to do. We don't want to overachieve. We will continue the overall 'One U.S. Team' strategy and attitude, since I think they have a lot of support after our last effort. We heard many comments from throwers who were very happy that, even though they weren't on the Dogs team, they felt they contributed to the U.S. victory. That is the attitude we were hoping for. However, France isn't at all certain that they can host more than one team per country at this point. But whether it's one or two, I think the U.S. can field strong teams. And we have a blueprint now by which to go by. You can expect another team camp in the spring 2004. If there is only one team allowed in, the competition will be great. That also narrows the gap, as the Germans and the French will have very strong teams if limited to one, as well. We will have to be steady, but we have the skills.

Visions of the Cup

Gregg Snouffer: For me, relay was a really memorable event. On the first day, we ended up, by luck of the draw, in a showdown with the Young Guns.

We had built a good lead throughout the day and didn't need to win the round, but there was a lot on the line. The U.S. had never lost in relay, for one, and this round was a symbolic one between us and the Guns.

I was the anchor man and got to enjoy watching Adam take an early lead. Then Stevie K. ended up a little behind after his round. Mark Weary was third for us and threw a perfect bulls eye to get back ahead. Then it was my turn. My first flight ended up out in front and I lost some of the time Mark had made up and ended back at the tag in a dead heat. Now we go through again in the second round. Adam gets the lead back, Steve loses it, and I'll be darned if Mark doesn't throw another bulls eye to put me out of the gate in front again for the final leg.

As soon as the boomerang left my hand, I could see it was in trouble. I let go a little humped because of the wind, but it was diving way out in front. I thought it might ground out! I started running out front to salvage what I could and the boom ended up making it past the critical part of the flight and was going to stay aloft long enough to get a diving catch. But I had to hustle! I got a one-hander at the twenty-meter line, going down on my knees for the catch. Now I had to get up and run back through the bull's-eye then to the gate.

I could see as I regained my feet that Alex Opri had had trouble with his flight as well. It landed way up and to the right as well. I realized then that there must have been a wind shift in order to have thrown both of us off so bad. I had the lead and a head of steam getting to the bull's-eye. He had to come to the bull and then turn around and go back to the gate. I was able to go through the bull on the way home. As I came through the bull, he tagged it and turned. He was just a few yards behind, but is younger and faster. I looked back once to see how close he was and thought I was going to get

him. But I was surprised as I crossed the line that he was right there beside me. He had really made up some ground in those last few yards! To everyone around, it looked like a dead heat. They confiscated all of the watches and finally announced the results. I won by three-hundredths of a second!

Then on the final day, we had been playing conservative all day long and had been losing ground. Even though we were still winning the Cup, it was demoralizing and we wanted to end on an exclamation point! But, if we really screwed up relay, the final event of the day, it was still possible for the Guns to catch us. So we had to be fast AND perfect. Each of the guys was going through his perfect round mind psyche. But while I was warming up my relay rang (a Mark Legg Safaa of polypro) I was having some real troubles with it. I still don't know why, but it was flying all over the place. Mark's team was throwing the round before us on the same circle, so we got to watch them and cheer them on. They were perfect... but more importantly, Mark's Safaa was perfect. It flew the way mine was supposed to. I asked him if I could borrow it for my round and he gladly handed it over. I would not even get a chance to test it! Nevertheless, I knew it would work and had very little confidence in my own rang, so I was determined to throw it.

We were up against the French student team, so it wasn't a close race, as they were not very accurate. Adam, Steve and Mark were perfect in the first round and built up a nice lead. Now it was my turn. I ran thirty meters to the bull, turned, and took a huge leap of faith....

Out it went, turning just like it was supposed to do. I only had to take two steps forward to make the catch. I mean, it was far better than the first flight of that first day against the Young Guns.

The other guys continued flawlessly and we were really having a great round. My second flight arced out and around and started coming right back to me. I had to stop moving and hold still, which for me, is more frightening than running for a catch! It just kept coming

and coming to me.

What happened next seemed to take minutes, but I know it was just seconds. A young French thrower let his rang go and then had to run out the front of the bulls eye to catch it. He would have to cross the path of my returning rang to get to his! There was plenty of time for him to get thought the flight path, but he hesitated, worried that he would interfere with me and not wanting to get in my way. I was telling him, "Go ahead, go, go, go!" We were both being polite about it and I was thinking this was going to end up tragically, with my boomerang hitting him!

But just at the last moment, he went ahead and I reached behind him to pull in my rang. As I realized that I had the rang, and that the tragedy playing out in my mind was not real, and that I could run out, it suddenly dawned on me where I was standing... in the very spot I had thrown from!

I turned and headed for home. When I came through the gate, my team mates were all waiting for me. I started yelling "That's it! We win!" and then we all fell down in a big pile. There was no way anyone could do better than our team did in relay that day. It was flawless. And my final throw of the Cup was a thirty meter bull's-eye! It was the perfect ending to both the day and the Cup. I just think about it and start to grin again.

Team Relay

The fastest team wins.
Four throwers per team.
30m range requirement.

Two to four teams may compete in a heat, at the discretion of the TD.

Required officials: One starter, who also acts as Center Judge. Two judges to time each team. Three range spotters on 30m line.

Starting lines of opposing teams on 30m circle must be separated by no less than 4m, and no more than 10m

Teams line up on the 30m circle, downwind from bullseye. First thrower in each team must keep BOTH feet on the ground prior to start. Running starts may not be used.

More info at USBA.org/Rules

Who's arm is it? (from issue 85)

Jim Lucas came closest with his entry and will receive his Pizza Hut/Old Navy gift pack. Here's what Jim said (his correct answers are in **bold**): 1- Adam Ruhf **2- Billy Brazetson** **3- Gary Broadbent** 4- Logan Broadbent 5- Dennis Joyce **6- Gregg Snouffer** 7- Mark Legg 8- Casey Laurence 9- John Flynn 10- Wilson Lawrence 11- Tony Brazelton 12- John Gorski 13- Steve Kavanaugh 14- Jason Smucker 15- Steve Cook 16- Steve Kavanaugh 17- Devan Broadbent 18- Mark Weary **19- Rusty Harding** 20- Matt Goleaner **21- Aron McGuire**

It is interesting that Jim got Adam and Mark switched, thought John Flynn had Gorski's boomerang tattoo, thought Logan was Gorski and had Laura Smucker pegged for Mark Weary! Thanks for the entry, Jim!

1)



Mark Legg— Delaware, OH

4)



Devan Broadbent— Canton, OH

7)



Adam Ruhf— Brooklyn, NY

John W. Flynn— Quechee, VT

8)



2)



Billy Brazelton— Minneapolis, MN

5)



Matt Goleanor—Nashville, TN



9)

John Gorski— Cleveland, OH

Steve Cooke— Melbourne, FL

3)



Gary Broadbent— Canton, OH

6)



Gregg Snouffer— Delaware, OH

10)



11)

Mark Weary
Phoenix, AZ



15) Wilson Lawrence



19)



Rusty Harding—Carthage, TN

12)

Logan Broadbent
Canton, OH



16)



Casey Larrance—Seattle, WA

20)



Jason Smucker—Atlanta, GA

13)

Tony Brazelton—Indianapolis, IN



Steve Kavanaugh
Seattle, WA

Laura Smucker
Atlanta, GA

Aron McGuire
Indianapolis, IN

14)



Dennis Joyce—Chicago, IL

17)



18)



21)



Making Hardwood Lap Joint Boomerangs

By Dave Hendricks, BVD'Rangs
Part One

Author's notes: The construction techniques in this article use power tools such as band and table saws, and routers. These tools can inflict injuries if not used properly. Please use all normal woodworking safety procedures. Use push blocks and other safety items such as dust masks, goggles and hearing protection.

I am often asked about how I make various types of lap joint boomerangs. I was finally coaxed into writing an article. I am starting from scratch so bear with me if you are ahead of the class. My technique relies mostly on the table saw and router table however several other pieces of machinery also make their way into the mix.

Why make boomerangs from hardwood with a lap joint? The first boomerangs were made from natural elbows in tree or stumps. These boomerangs had the advantage of the grain of the wood running parallel to the wings of the boomerang, which provided strength. Most wood we buy today does not have the grain following the shape of the boomerangs we want. In fact, many "tourist" boomerangs sold in Australia are cut from boards with the grain running left to right across the face of the boomerang. This will result in a structurally weak boomerang. In order to utilize the wood commonly available to us, we must find a way to orient the grain along the shape of the boomerang. This requires adding a joint at the elbow or any other major change in direction of the shape.

The first thing you need is some wood at the correct thickness. I normally go for something about 1/4" to 5/16" (6 to 8mm) thick. I use wood 2" to 3" wide for normal shapes, 3" for tri-blades and 2" for quadri-blades. When I make lap joints, the more traditional boomerangs normally require two pieces at least 12" long, tri-blades need three pieces from 6 to 8" long and quadri-blades need two pieces at a perfect 12". You can find some

nice woods already at the right thickness by shopping at The Woodcraft Store at :(<http://shop.woodcraft.com/>), or you can do what I do, re-saw it yourself. There are two ways to re-saw; with the band saw or with the table saw. I use both. The band saw takes a smaller kerf giving more usable wood, but the table saw is more accurate at my house and I don't spend as much time sanding.

See **photo 1** for re-

sawing at the band saw. Either way, I usually give the wood a trip to the sander or planer to make sure it is flat and even. I am fortunate enough to own a wide drum sander, which makes

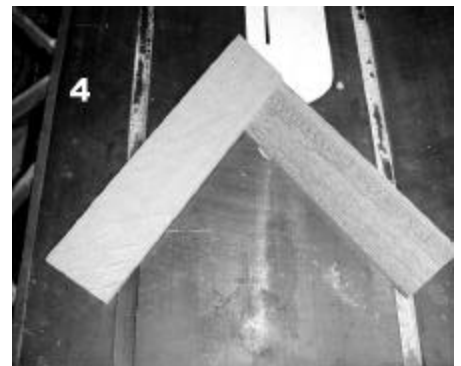
that work go so easy. One more way of obtaining thin wood would be to reduce thicker wood with a planer as in **photo 2**. A reminder, be sure you are working

with dry and not green wood. I have included some additional dealers of thin hardwoods at the end of part one. I have personal experience dealing with The Woodcraft Store and Steve Wall Lumber. The savvy shopper can also obtain very nice thin woods on Ebay (see source below). Two things to watch out for when selecting pieces of wood for your boomerang are knots and extreme changes in grain pattern.

Knots are sometimes difficult to work with, especially if they are located in the area you plan to route. Extreme changes in grain, such as burls and unusual curl, can often be weak points in the finished boomerang.

OK, we now have some wood and we are ready to go. Here is where we need to divide up the processes by which style boomerang we are making. We will start with traditional shapes, so you multi blade fans need to wait until part two of the article. The first thing you need to do is cut the angle you wish the elbow to be. If you decided that a 90-degree angle is good enough, you can cut the pieces off square, otherwise continue

on. I estimate the angle by laying a template of the final shape (or a boomerang used for a template), on my table saw and eyeballing a cut right through the elbow. (The boomerang's elbow, not mine). See **photo 3**. I lock my miter gauge and make the same cut on both pieces of wood (not the boomerang). I should note that I have attached a wood extension to my miter gauge, which allows me to use stop



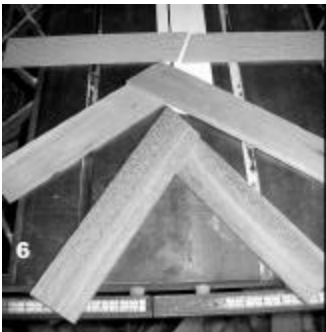
block to make the pieces exactly the same length and also allows shorter pieces to be cut at a greater angle.

Otherwise the piece may not reach the blade. When you are done flip one piece over and overlap the pieces at the elbow, the result should be the correct angle as in photo 4.

While you have the saw set, cut a piece of scrap wood with the same angle to use as a push block during routing. Photo 5



shows two cut strips and a pusher piece. Make sure that piece has parallel sides before cutting.



I now have several pieces at different angle that I reuse. This makes the set up easier for the next time. Two angles I frequently use are 18 and 22 degrees. I keep a push block for them handy and use it to set my miter angle.

Photo 6 shows how you can obtain a different shaped boomerang reversing the angle on the cut pieces.

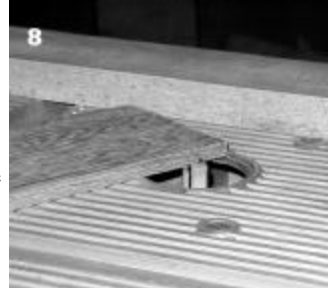
Now it's time to get out the router table. Mine is an old Craftsman table with matching router. I use a 1/4" shank, 1/2"

diameter straight bit to cut the laps. First, I use a straight piece of wood for a fence and



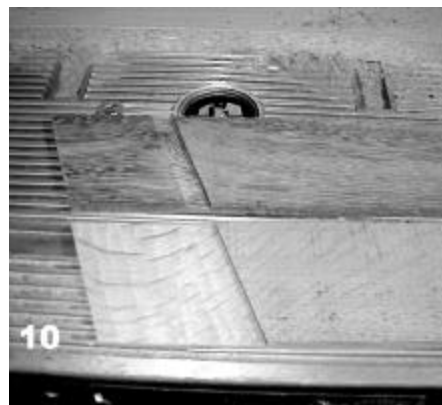
clamp it to the table behind the bit. I make sure that the distance from the fence to the front edge of the bit is the same as the width of the wood I am using as in photo 7. I then set the router bit depth to just a little less than half the thickness of the wood like photo 8.

Using the push block I made earlier I make the first pass in the wood at the maximum width I set. Photo 9 shows the push block behind the strip I am routing. I then cut the remaining wood



out by backing the wood starting at the end of the board and working my way to where I made the first cut. Using the backing board and cutting the first pass like that, helps prevent tear out as I complete the cut. I then cut the second piece the same way resulting in two identical pieces.

Photo 10 shows a piece with just the initial pass through the wood and another with the rest of the wood



removed with "waste cuts". After I have routed both pieces, I flip one over and match them at the elbow to see



how close I made the depth of cut. See photo 11. Since I started at a less than half depth, I am pretty sure I need to cut deeper. I can make fairly small adjustments on my router depth so I just set the bit slightly higher and make another cut. Now I only rout one piece before checking how the two match. If more cutting is needed, I then do the second one. Often I don't get the depth perfect and by cutting one at a time and checking the depth between cuts, I can get a more perfect match without cutting too deep. It is also good to keep cut off pieces for making other boomerangs, as they are handy to use to test the depth of cut before committing to cutting the real wood.

From here on, the going gets easier. It's time to glue the pieces together. Before gluing, I inspect the two parts to make sure the routing I did is fairly smooth.



Often when making multiple passes with the router, you get some small ridges or fuzz in the cut. In photo 12 you can see how I use a wood chisel to make sure the cut is cleaned up. You can do this with sandpaper but be careful. It is easy to round the outside edges and make the joint worse, not better. After cleaning up the area to be glued, you now have pieces ready to

(continued on page 16)
glue up into blanks.



Photo 13 show a stack of pieces ready to go.

Mix a small amount of epoxy according to the manufacturer's direction. Apply it to both pieces, making sure you get it in the corner of the cut. Flip the one piece over and attach it to the other at the elbow. Use a couple of small clamps to hold them until dry. I usually use spring type clamps as in **photo 14**. When the glue is dry, you are ready to make a boomerang.



Remove the clamps and get out your pattern (or the boomerang you used as a pattern). At this

point, you can lay the pattern on top of your glued blank and just trace the pattern directly on the wood. **Photo 15** show two blanks already traced and another with boomerang of the proper shape to trace the third blank. Using a



band saw, scroll saw, jigsaw or even a coping saw (by hand), cut the blank into the shape of the pattern. You are now ready

Sanding or shaping of the boomerang follows the normal way you have done it with plywood. A word of caution, some wood has the tendency to leave burn marks if it is sanded to hard or too fast. These require quite a bit hand sanding to remove. I notice this in cherry, harder pieces of maple, ash, and quite a few of the exotics that seem oily (rosewoods for instance). Bubinga and purpleheart are also easy to get burn marks on them.

Once you have sanded it to your satisfaction, take it out to test it. Because of the various densities of different wood, your boomerang may not fly like the original pattern. Testing is needed to confirm the flight characteristics of each boomerang. If it performs well, head to the shop for final finishing. This is one of my favorite times. That first coat or two of finish is what really allows you to see the beauty of the wood. Spray polyurethane works pretty well as does tung oil (see below). I give a light pass of clear to seal the boomerang and then sand a gain. The clear helps "stiffen up" the fuzz and fibers of the wood and allows you to produce a better finish in the end. A couple more coats of clear, with some sanding in between should get it looking good. Use progressively finer sandpaper to achieve a fine finish. When finished, sign and date it and write what wood was used on the back of the boomerang. You now have a finished, hardwood lap joint boomerang like the ones in **photo 16**.

The alternative approach to finishing natural wood boomerangs is also one I prefer. I start by sanding the boomerangs to the best I can. I then apply coat of Minwax Tung Oil finish. After that dries 24 hours, I take some 00 steel wool



and sand the entire boomerang. I apply another coat of tung oil and allow it to dry 24 hours. Again I sand it using the steel wool and apply another coat. Usually four coats will give a glossy, full finish. For the first several coats of finish, I do the entire boomerang, front and back. I lay the boomerang on brown paper bags to dry, sometime using a piece of dowel to support it. For the final coat, I prefer to do the back first and after it is dry, finish the front.

Part two of this article should be appearing in the next issue of MHR.

Dealers of thin hardwoods :

Memphis Hardwood Lumber
210 Church Street
Memphis, N.Y. 13112
Tel. (315) 689-3949 or (800) 286-3949
<http://www.memphishardwoodlumber.com>

Bristol Valley Hardwoods
4054 Bristol Valley Road
Bristol, NY 14424
(585) 229-5695 Toll Free 1-800-724-0132
<http://www.bristolvalley.com>

Steve Wall Lumber Co
P.O. Box 287
Mayodan, NC 27027
1-800-633-4062 or 336-427-0637
<http://www.walllumber.com>

Medicine Bow Wood
Dave Robertson
PO Box 969
Orting, WA 98360-0969
Phone 1360 893 3896
Ebay Seller: burl.quilt
Email: burl.quilt@verizon.net

This same article with full color photographs is available online at: www.bvdrangs.com/HowToPart1.html
The thumbnail size photos have links to larger, easier to see, images.

Worthless Trivia

The average miniature dachshund will weigh approximately the same as 128 polypropylene Tri-Fly boomerangs. What does your pet weigh - in booms.

I have a lot of Boom plans, but I have never seen one for left hand! Now it is here - the worlds first Boomerang plan, made for left hand! ☺
 The undercuts on both arms will make it fly like a FC, but 30-40m. It will keep the same layover angle all the way round, turn in front of you, and come down with a stall.
 I started with 7 mm 5 ply plywood just to test the shape, and it was great!

Now I am working my way down. The last I tried was 5 mm 10 ply with 3g weights inlaid in each arm and, and one in the knee, it flies about 50 m. I think with 4 mm 8 ply and some weights, it will be better. If you use thinner wood than 6mm, make the undercuts smaller, or add some weight, or it will fly over your head.

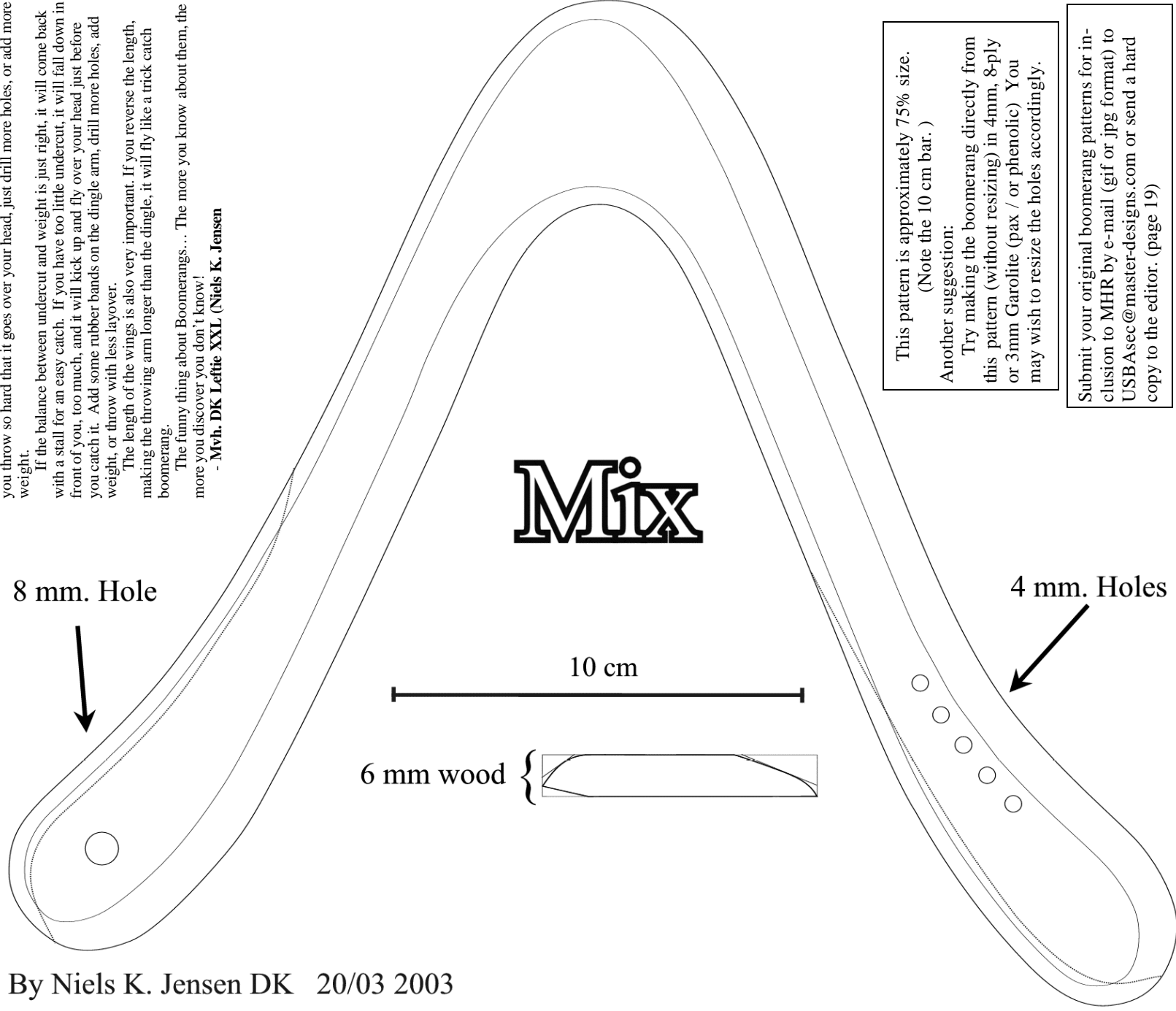
With the right humpback, it can take a stronger wind, but in light or normal wind, it is very good. The holes give great control, if you have a strong arm. If you throw so hard that it goes over your head, just drill more holes, or add more weight.

If the balance between undercut and weight is just right, it will come back with a stall for an easy catch. If you have too little undercut, it will fall down in front of you, too much, and it will kick up and fly over your head just before you catch it. Add some rubber bands on the dingle arm, drill more holes, add weight, or throw with less layover.

The length of the wings is also very important. If you reverse the length, making the throwing arm longer than the dingle, it will fly like a trick catch boomerang.

The funny thing about Boomerangs... The more you know about them, the more you discover you don't know!

- Mvh. DK Leftie XXL (Niels K. Jensen)



By Niels K. Jensen DK 20/03 2003

U.S. and International boomerang manufacturers and supplies

United States

A Boomerang Armada

Jack Claycomb
A-Boomerang-Armada.com
P O Box 41431
Houston, Texas 77241
713.937.9105

Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs

Steve Conaway
169 Cook Dr.
Fillmore, CA 93015
steve@vcnet.com

Boomerangs by Ted Bailey

Ted Bailey
P.O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Phone: (734) 971-2970
<http://www.flight-toys.com>
Boomerangs, Slings, Bolas, Atlatls and Throwing Rings. All of these aerodynamic devices have their roots as primitive airborne missiles used by early man for both weaponry and sport. Flight-Toys is your one-stop-source for information about these flying toys and hunting devices.

The Boomerang Man

Richard Harrison
....giving fast, personal service since 1975....over 70 types of boomerangs from around the globe. Order your FREE CATALOG sent via mail.
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BVD'Rangs

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610-434-7305
bvdrangs@enter.net
www.bvdrangs.com
15 different models in plywood and plastic. Also hardwood lap-jointed boomerangs

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Richard Pollock-Nelson
2530 So. Ouray Way
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1-800-35-RANGS
www.coloradoboomerangs.com
Colorado Boomerangs offers 31 models that will not only blow you away, but keep coming back time after time.

Bullseye Boomerangs

Brett P Reish
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(570) 421-1720
Bullseye@noln.com

Flying Frog Boomerangs

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1320 Cherry Drive
Burlington, NC 27215
336.584.4046
14 models hand made and painted sport and fun boomerangs.
<http://fly.to/boomerangs>
conally@netpath.net

Master Designs Boomerangs

Kendall Davis
932 21st Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
(309) 793-9885
<http://master-designs.com/catalog>
boomsmith@master-designs.com
Specializing in beginner and intermediate boomerangs, with a few competition and ART boomerangs

TBoomz

R. Foust
P.O. Box 146
Whitsett, NC 27377-9744
336-697-1279 evenings best
six models, just recreational [no competition] mostly baltic birch plywood and solid wood

Graham's Boomerangs

Steven Graham
924 Yale Dr.
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-0730
grang@bartnet.net
<http://www.bartnet.net/~grang/>
Personalized boomerangs and didgeridoos made by artist Steven Graham

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Boomerangs by Knight Vernon

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Traditional boomerangs - all Skills
847.679.2809
knightvernon@aol.com

Leading Edge Boomerangs

Chet Snouffer
1868 Panhandle Rd
Delaware, OH 43015
Phone/Fax: 740-363-8332
email: leadingedgechet@columbus.rr.com
www.leadingedgeboomerangs.com
Home of Chet Snouffer, 12-time National and 3-time World Champion! Web sight offers a wide variety of boomerangs and related products, as well as contact info for arranging speaking and motivational engagements with Chet, the Jet!

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Delaware, OH 43015
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Gary Villard

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big and little Highlander, Midge, Bonas and the new solid carbon fiber Windfree.

Whishhbone Boomerangs

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P.O. Box 2393
Santa Fe Springs, Ca. 90670
whishhbone@email.com
<http://whishhbone.freeyellow.com>
traditional boomerangs hand crafted from Finland Birch plywood

The USBA provides this listing as a free service for members. For your own free listing on this page, email your info to Kendall Davis at USBAsec@master-designs.com

International

Jeff Lewry - Australia

www.users.bigpond.com/jefflewy/
A variety of information about boomerangs. The boomerang page includes history and stories that are fascinating.

Bumerangue.com - Brazil

Ricardo Bruni Marx
Estrada da Fazendinha, 4619
Carapicuiaba - SP - Brazil
Tel: (55) 11 7856-1440
Fax: (55) 11 4169-7551
Http://www.bumerangue.com
webmaster@bumerangue.com

Georgi Dimentchev - Bulgaria

http://monsite.wanadoo.fr/dimana_boomerangs/
Georgi is one of the most innovative composite MTA makers in the world. See his entire line, which are readily available .

Wallaby Boomerangs - Canada

Stéphane Marguerite
5026 Cartier, Montréal, QC, H2H 1X5, CANADA
Tel: (514) 597-1333
Fax: (514) 597-2281
www.wallabyboomerangs.com
info@wallabyboomerangs.com
Sport boomerangs for beginners to experts

Jens Krabbe - Denmark

Ringkøbinggade 15, 4.th.
DK-2100 Copenhagen
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Jens.Krabbe@sas.dk
http://www.geocities.com/JensKrabbe/booms/mine/designs.htm
Small and light booms in 4mm plywood.

REDI - Deutschland

Dietmar Reinig
Holz- und Kunststoffvertrieb
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64686 Lautertal
Germany
Tel: +49 6254 1593 Fax: +49 6254 842
mail@rediboom.com
http://www.rediboom.com/englisch/
your partner in boomerang sports.
All you want for boomerang sports.
Wood, Plastics, boomerangs, blanks, DIY kits, constuction plans, literature, a detailed history, throwing instructions, how to build boomerang, etc.

USBA Membership Information

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

Domestic and Canadian membership gets you four issues of MHR and are \$15 per year. A domestic lifetime membership is \$250. Annual overseas dues are \$20.

Check your newsletter label for the MHR issue # when your membership expires. Membership status questions or missing newsletters should be reported to Thomas Carter.

Circulation: 500 USA and Overseas. Published by the United States Boomerang Association, 932 21st Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

Mechanical Measurements: Image area: 9.5" deep by 7.5" wide; 3 columns to a page; width of a single column: 2.25"

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Access this publication online by contacting the Editor for an address and login ID with password.

Membership Application

Copy this page and carry extra copies of this form in your boom bag to hand out!

Check: New Renewal

Name

Address

Address 2

City, State, Zip

Phone (optional)

Email (optional)

USBA Sponsor's name

New members & renewals: send completed form and \$15 (\$20 overseas) with check or m.o. payable to USBA to:

USBA Membership
Thomas Carter
10419 Conway Road
St Louis, MO 63131

Comments on newsletter content, and submissions for inclusion 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 submissions are Jan 1, April 1, July 1, Oct 1 for the Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues respectively. (Don't laugh!)

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932 21st Street
Rock Island, IL 61202
309.793.9885
USBAsec@master-designs.com

USBA ELECTIONS

Yes, it's that time of year again! I know, I know... you are thinking, "We just had the elections, the terms can't be up, already!?" Well, according to the USBA by-laws, the nominations must be solicited in the Spring issue of MHR or by a special mailing. Since we have a Spring issue this year, the board thought it would be a good idea to take advantage of this opportunity.

From the by-laws:

Sec. 3 Election

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected annually and continue in office for one year or until their successors are duly elected. Nominations shall be solicited from the membership in the Spring issue of the USBA newsletter, or by special mailing during the Spring. All candidates nominated shall be asked to submit biographical and other information which shall be published, with voting instructions, in the Summer issue of the USBA newsletter or distributed to the membership through a special mailing during the Summer with voting instructions. Voting shall be completed and terms for new directors shall begin by September 5 of each year. Each member of the USBA may cast one vote for a candidate for each of the four offices on the Board of Directors and one vote for a candidate for each of the five at large seats on the Board of Directors. The candidates receiving a plurality of votes cast for each of the four offices shall be elected and the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes for the members at large seats shall be elected.

Please submit your nominations by e-mail or snail-mail to the Secretary by May 15 for inclusion in the Summer issue. The Summer issue is on track to be printed the first week of June. All nominations, along with "biographical and other information", (please keep these 'to the point') will be printed in the Summer issue. There will also be a

ballot which you may photocopy and mail in to the Secretary. All instructions will be included along with a mailing label you can also photocopy, if you wish. Votes must be submitted July 15 to allow for mail delay and tabulation. The new directors will begin their duties by September 5 as stated in the by-laws, and notification along with raw voting data will be printed in the Fall issue of MHR. The Fall issue is on track to be printed the first week of October.

The complete USBA By-Laws can be viewed online in the Files section of USBA_info. You may also request a hard copy of the By-Laws from the secretary by sending a SASE (legal size) to Secretary, USBA, 932 21st Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

Calling all Boosmiths!

Do you feel that you have been left out of the boomerang world because you don't compete? Do you compete but still love to make beautifully crafted boomerangs? Do you wish you could let the world know about your craftsmanship skills? Well here is your chance! Bring, send, mail, drag, push, pull or throw your boomerangs to Houston, Texas this October and participate in not just one, not two but three contests designed to let the boosmiths show off their skills!

In the 2003 Craftsmanship Contest, designers and craftsman alike will have to the chance to show of their skill in building, crafting, designing, finishing and painting their boomerangs. Four categories are available for you to enter including: Best Natural Elbow, Best lap joint or strip laminate, Most creative or artistic plywood, Most creative or artistic other material. All boomerangs in all categories must return. The crafter, or designated stand-in must throw their boomerangs, and the boomerangs must return within a 10-meter accuracy circle in order to qualify for judging. All entries must be crafted and dated, or vouched for, within 12 months prior to the Expo. Craftsmanship entries will be displayed throughout the Expo. Full

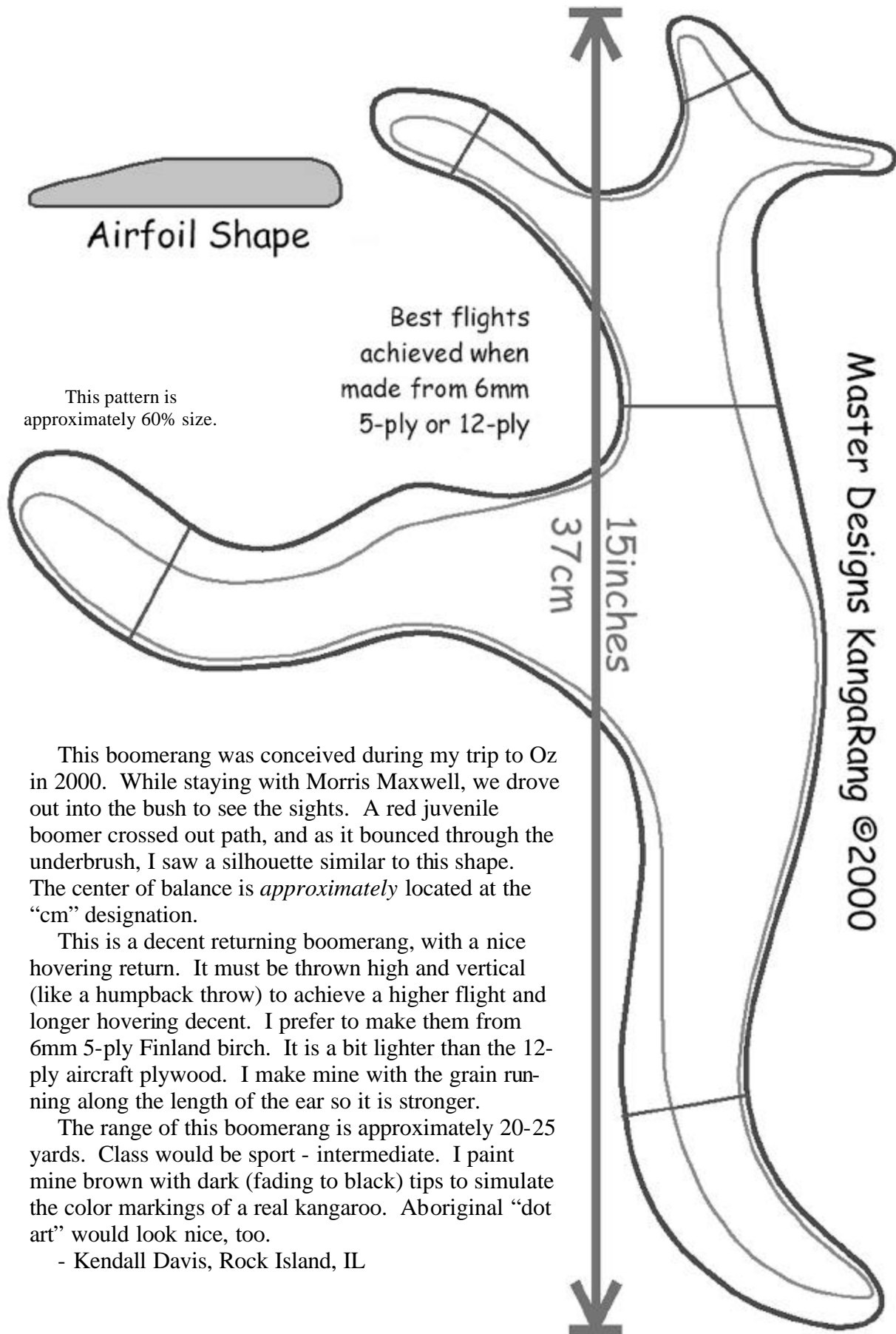
rules follow.

If you like to both make boomerangs and compete, then the Challenge Cup III is for you. The Challenge cup was instituted in 2001 by Will Herland in an effort to provide another way for boosmiths to showcase their design skills. In this contest, all boosmiths start with the same materials and not only craft the boomerangs, but also compete in three events on the field! Don't worry if you can't attend the event, as you can either designate a stand-in to throw for you, or include your boomerangs in a group, which available throwers with participate in your behalf. This year the entrants will be challenged to make their boomerangs from a single piece of 4 mm 8 ply Finnish Birch plywood that has been cut into a 9" square. In addition, there is a 1" diameter hole in the center of the square. Events to be contested include: Fast Throw, MTA Unlimited, and Accuracy. Previous Challenge Cup winner, Stu Jones, is heading up this year's contest. Full Details on the Challenge Cup follow.

New for this year is a contest, headed up by Jens Krabbe, and it is the MEGA/mini competition. This will be held on Sunday afternoon. Contestants will be bringing their largest and smallest boomerangs to go head to head in this contest. Official rules are on their way but in the meantime these are the categories:

1. Smallest boom to achieve 20 m range and return into the point circles.
 2. Biggest boom to achieve 20 m range and return into the point circles.
- The sight of both tiny boomerangs and monster boomerangs should be awesome! No if we can only figure out how carry those Mega booms on the plane, we will be all right! All entries will be displayed during the Expo. Start working on those MEAG and mini boomerangs now!

So don't just sit there! Grab some wood, fire up those power tools and start making sawdust! Get your entry to Houston and see how you stack up against the rest of the US boomerang scene!



Airfoil Shape

This pattern is approximately 60% size.

Best flights achieved when made from 6mm 5-ply or 12-ply

37 cm
15 inches

Master Designs KangarAng ©2000

This boomerang was conceived during my trip to Oz in 2000. While staying with Morris Maxwell, we drove out into the bush to see the sights. A red juvenile boomer crossed our path, and as it bounced through the underbrush, I saw a silhouette similar to this shape. The center of balance is *approximately* located at the “cm” designation.

This is a decent returning boomerang, with a nice hovering return. It must be thrown high and vertical (like a humpback throw) to achieve a higher flight and longer hovering decent. I prefer to make them from 6mm 5-ply Finland birch. It is a bit lighter than the 12-ply aircraft plywood. I make mine with the grain running along the length of the ear so it is stronger.

The range of this boomerang is approximately 20-25 yards. Class would be sport - intermediate. I paint mine brown with dark (fading to black) tips to simulate the color markings of a real kangaroo. Aboriginal “dot art” would look nice, too.

- Kendall Davis, Rock Island, IL

Performance Boomerangs

by John Cross

While reading "Performance Boomerangs" by John Cross I had the same feeling I got when watching Manuel Schutz and Dave Schummy obliterate the Long Distance record in St. Louis in 1998. The history of boomerangs was changing and I was fortunate to be a witness.

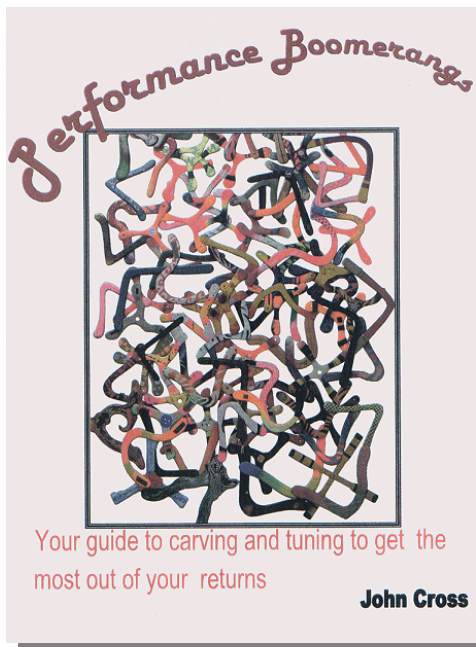
How can this book change the future of boomerangs? Easy. Just as the spread of new technology and knowledge changed LD forever, "Performance Boomerangs" contains the knowledge that is going to advance the rest of competitive and sport throwing to a new level. People will no longer have to attend several tournaments, pour through thousands of archived email, surf the Internet for hours, and experiment endlessly in the field to gain the insights required to become competitive with top throwers. In preparing this book, John Cross has gathered the information and made the experiments for you. Now enthusiasts will be able to rapidly develop advanced tuning skills which will allow them to use their field time to focus on and perfect their throwing and catching skills, thus allowing them to make quantum leaps in their overall ability to compete effectively.

John is a resident of Devon in Alberta Canada and has been throwing boomerangs since 1985. He has been collecting information, competing, and testing tuning theories on his own boomerangs for years. His professional training and work in engineering has given him the analytical skills to tackle the task of writing and producing this startlingly clear and concise explanation of how to increase the performance of your boomerangs.

There are no throwing instructions or plans in the book and a number of words specific to boomerangs are used but not defined, but John points out in the opening passages that the book was not written for people who don't know anything about boomerangs. This is an advanced guide written for people who already know how to throw a boomerang. He also acknowledges that this is a collection of tips and ideas from many other boomerang enthusiasts who have gone before him. What John has done is collect, test, illustrate, and organize a collection of some of the most valuable performance tips for tuning boomer-

angs.

"Performance Boomerangs" is a self published book, softbound, 87 pages long and generously illustrated with drawings and photographs. John's easy to read, conversational writing style coupled with the clearly drawn graphics make the book easy to read and a very



understandable guide for anyone wanting to make their boomerangs perform better.

The book begins with explanations of the difference between great boomerangs and good boomerangs. The ones you throw and the ones that you don't. After reading the book, it will be an easy task to go through the boomerangs you have culled from your kit and with a little work, make them the flyers you thought they should have been.

John diagrams the parts of the boomerang and discusses some of the differences between various models. He gives information on the material characteristics and advice on when and why they are suitable for various boomerangs. This and the explanation of his Tuning Model provide the background needed to understand why and how the tuning tips work.

The chapters on general tuning include "Bending and Twisting", "Add-Ons" (flaps and weights), and "Airfoil Modifications". In these chapters alone there are 45 graphics, which take the mystery out of tuning. Included are clear instructions on simple methods of changing the flight of any boomerang that everyone can do.

There are separate sections for each of the standard events in modern competition except for Long Distance.

Here, John gives the nod to Tibor Horvath and Lorenz Gubler's book "LD". In the sections titled "Accuracy", "Aussie Round", "Fast Catch", "MTA", "Trick Catch/Doubling", and "Relay", John not only tells about the background, history, and rules of each event, but he discusses the important strategy needed to be competitive in each event. He then goes on to explain why and how to make the tuning modifications you will need to be successful.

Approximately a third of the book is given over to the Gallery. In this section are photographs of most of the important boomerangs in competition and sport throwing along with John's comments on material and design selection. This section is a great background for people who don't have a copy of every great boomerang on the market and want to know what people are talking about when they refer to a Jonas or DeVe or one of many other boomerangs, which have come to define a given style.

The chapters on "Safety", "Repairs", "Wind", and "Putting It All Together" provide tips for various conditions and situations throwers will find themselves in. There is even a whole chapter devoted to the ubiquitous Tri-Fly and the many modifications, which throwers have used to make this boomerang competitive in nearly every event contested today. The last section of the book is a list of Suggested Reading for further inquiry.

What I consider the crowing jewel of the work is Page 87. This is where John put a table called the "Troubleshooting Chart" which lists flight problems as columns and solutions as rows which allows the user to quickly and easily find several solutions to specific flight problems. I would recommend everyone who buys the book to make a laminated copy of Page 87 and keep it in his or her throwing kit along with the tape, rubber bands, and lead strips for field tuning.

For the price of a typical sport boomerang (\$20 US +ship), you can purchase a copy of this book directly from John Cross (jcross@brenntag.ca). There are few products in the sport of boomerangs that will give you a better return for your investment. This book is destined to become a classic in boomerang literature. Hopefully the brisk sales will encourage John to write another book on some aspect of boomerangs.

Pat Steigman
Tyler Texas
www.boomerangs.us

Read an interesting book that our readers might enjoy? Let us know, or better yet, write a review and send it to the editor.

A New USBA Logo?



There have been a few discussions on the USBA_info online forum about changing the USBA logo. A few people think it is dated, some don't like the antiquated boomerangs in the center area, and some don't want to voice an opinion.

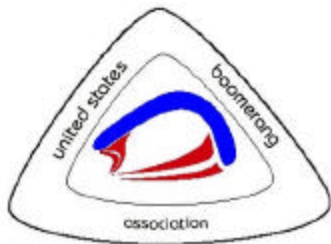
I, for one, think we need to look at updating the logo with a more modern style of boomerang (or boomerangs), something that is easily interpreted as a boomerang club in the modern era.

Having presented this idea online, the examples below were suggested as possible entries to be voted on by the membership. Others have voiced the opinion that we hand all entries over to the Board and let them make a choice.

If you would like to make your opinion known about this issue, the easiest way would be to join the Yahoo group USBA_info. (see page 7) You can also send snail-mail to:

USBA Logo
Kendall Davis
932 21st Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

Any mail I receive will be posted to USBA_info (unless requested otherwise), and the designs I receive through the mail will be scanned and uploaded to the photos section of USBA_info. Depending on the response to this issue, I would like to have a membership vote online, with the top three logo suggestions being presented to the board for a final vote. I would also be happy to proxy vote for any person without internet access.



UNITED STATES BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION

932 21st Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309.793.9885
Email: USBAsec@master-designs.com



USBA

Many Happy Returns!



Calendar of Boomerang Events

For the most complete and up to date listing of boomerang events, check the USBA web page at www.usba.org

May 3-4: Arizona Toumey North of Tucson in the town of Maranna, AZ. Contact Don Monroe Monroe5@comcast.com or Mark Weary wildmann@ix.netcom.com for more information.

May 31-June 1: Missouri Duals and Gateway Classic. Held in Forest Park - St. Louis, MO. Saturday will be the marking of the field & Missouri Duals. The Gateway Classic starts at 9:00 am on Sunday morning.

June 5: 8th Annual Greater Seattle Open Boomerang Tournament at Dahl Field, Seattle. Registration starts at 8 am. Contact TD Betsylew Miale-Gix at BMG@adlergiersch.com.

June 7-9: The 2003 European Champ i-

onships in Rome, Italy. Contact TD Maurizio Saba by email at: itboomerang@tiscali.it and get more details on the Italian web page at www.boomerangsport.it

June/July, 2003: Kitty Hawk Tournament/100th anniversary of flight celebration. Hosted by John Harris and Kitty Hawk Kites. For infor, contact John Kohler at john@koehlerstudios.com

July 12, 2003: 4th Annual Vermont Tournament, hosted by Paul Gustafson. See www.vermontboomerang.org for details.

October 16-20 2003: Houston, TX - The 2003 USBA National Boomerang Expo at George Bush Park: This annual weekend of boomerang events includes the national championships, distance and craftsmanship design competitions, seminars, speakers, the biggest

boomerang auction of the year and boomerang parties! Details will follow in the next MHR. For up to the date info, see the web page at www.usba.org or contact Dave Hughes at: Davidhughes@bakeroiltools.com or Tony Brazelton at expo@usba.org

Spring 2004: U.S. Team Trials for the U.S. World Cup Team. This will be an open trials, tentatively held in Kitty Hawk, NC with sponsorship from Kitty Hawk Kites

July 2004: (Tentatively to be held one week prior to World Cup 2004 in France) Upper Valley of New Hampshire/Vermont— The U.S National Boomerang Expo, hosted by John Flynn

July 2004: World Cup 2004 in France

To list your event please email usbasec@master-designs.com