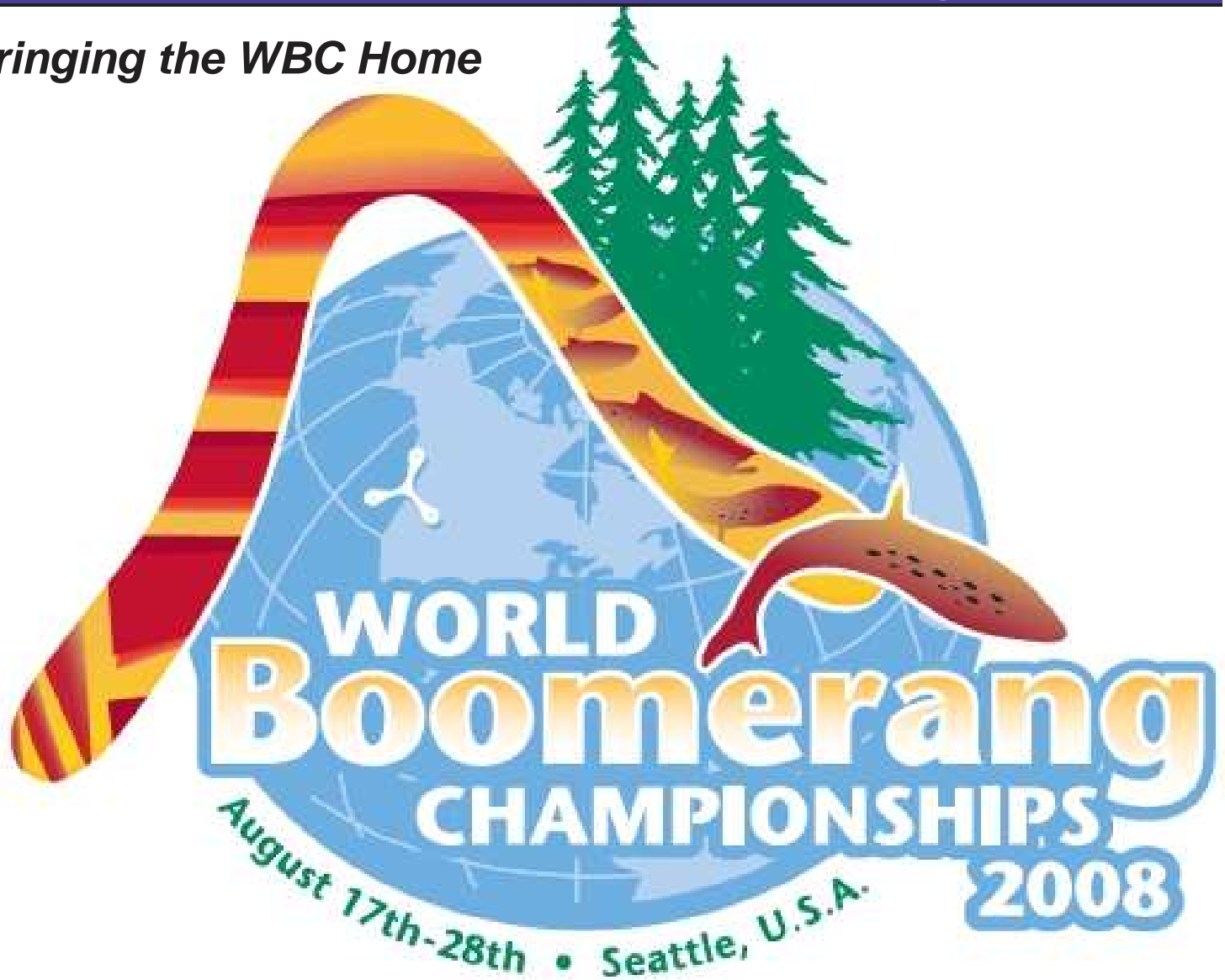


# Many Happy Returns

The Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

*Bringing the WBC Home*



## ***Back in the US after 10 Years***

13<sup>th</sup> International World Boomerang Championships. *Turn to page 8-9 for more info.*

# BOOMERANGS.COM

**THE BEST BRANDS - SHIPPED FAST!**



**TURNING POINT**



**Join us in this year's efforts to grow the sport of boomerangs in the US and the world. Let's keep an open mind and be focused on the goal of nationwide TV coverage of our sport! Let's pull together to get this done for the 2008 World Championships tournament!**

**A special thanks goes out to the many pioneers who have contributed so much to our sport. This includes great throwers as well as the many people who have done USBA development work. Check out our Boomerang Biographies page at <http://www.boomerangs.com/bios.html>. If you know someone who you feel warrants special recognition for their contributions to our sport please send us an email.**

\* All brand names and trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

***Proud Members of the United States Boomerang Association!***



**boomerangs.com**



**BOOMERANGS.COM**  
Suite E  
4095 OCEANSIDE BLVD  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92056

**(888) 734-1166 TOLL FREE**  
**(760) 722-3561 FAX**  
**<http://www.boomerangs.com>**  
**[sales@boomerangs.com](mailto:sales@boomerangs.com)**

# Tournament News

## 15th Annual Greater Seattle Open Boomerang Tourney

By B. Miale-Gix The annual regional summer boomerang fest was held at Dahl Field this weekend - in company with the summer solstice- give or take ½ a day ☐ As always we had a great time together.

We had challenging shifty up and down wind on surprisingly warm days given how things have gone this year, with partly cloudy and humid conditions for the individual tournament on Saturday. There was a small but high quality field of competitors, including a Canadian team contingent: Tibor Horvath, Eric Promislow and John Cross; as well as the dynamic duo of Oregon boomerang throwing Doug Dufresne and Dean Kelly. Nick "The Kid" Citoli continuing his march toward the 2010 USA team, and Suzanne Ragan Lentz joined the usual Seattle crew of Billy, Daniel, Richard, Stevie, James, Will and Betsylew.

Event top finishers were:

MTA
1. Daniel Bower 106.79
2. Betsylew Miale-Gix 99.67
3. Tibor Horvath 98.03 (A new Canadian record)
Accuracy
1. Richard Bower 90
2. Daniel Bower 86
3. Will Gix 80
Endurance
1. Daniel Bower 68
2. Steve Kavanaugh 63
3. Betsylew Miale-Gix 59
FC
1. Billy Brazelton 17.80 (PB)
2. Daniel Bower 18.97
3. Richard Bower 19.18
TC/D
1. Richard Bower 94
2. Daniel Bower 90
3. Betsylew Miale-Gix 85(PB)
Aussie
1. Billy Brazelton 70
2. Daniel Bower 68
3. Richard Bower 65

Overall

1. Daniel Bower
2. Richard Bower
3. Steve Kavanaugh

4. Billy Brazelton
5. Will Gix
6. James Stickney and Betsylew Miale Gix tied
8. Tibor Horvath
9. Nick Citoli
10. Doug Dufresne
11. Dean Kelly
12. John Cross
13. Eric Promislow
14. Suzanne Ragan Lentz

On Sunday the Canadian contingent was gone, as was Suzanne but we were joined by our new fellow West Coasters- Larry and Peter Ruhf, Kris Ruhf with lovely daughter Dani for 5 World Cup events. We competed in Accuracy, SuperCatch, Endurance Relay, Aussie and Relay. There were some good scores and good times in wind that was once again up and down and swirly.

PS – special thanks to score babe Katy Bower who once again was a great help during the indi tourney!

## Salem Tournament Report

By Richard Bower High to low incredibly variable winds greeted the field of 16 throwers yesterday July, 18th 2008 in the reincarnation of Dean Kelly's Western Oregon Boomerang Roundup tournament, now in it's 19th year in Salem, Oregon after a two year layoff. Seattle regulars Rich and Dan Bower, Stevie Kavanaugh, Bestylew and Will Gix were joined by a large host of many US team members including Adam Rhuf, Logan Broadbent, Dan Johnson and Team Coach Gregg Snouffer. Also in the fold was Doug DuFrense, the newly transplanted West Coasters Larry and Peter Rhuf, and a Novice group from Grants Pass, Oregon: David Fantone, Daniel, and BJ. Winds were recorded in ranges of anywhere from 2-18mph with sudden 45 and 90 degree shifts making for a very difficult day of throwing.

Logan put on a display in MTA chucking huge throws, one timed at just over 69 seconds! The only problem was only two landed in bounds. The variety of winds resulted in some wild times and crazy score discrepancies and a LOT of running around in TC and MTA. Adam Rhuf was looking as solid as ever and there was a neck and neck shootout going on between Adam and the Bower brothers going into Fast Catch, but

Adam suffered a minor knee sprain and did not participate in Endurance, knocking him down in the overall.

Top scores in each event:

### - Accuracy:

1. Dan Bower, 76
2. Adam Rhuf, 70
3. Dan Johnson, 64

### - MTA:

1. Bestylew Maile-Gix, 82.xx
2. Richard Bower, 73.xx
3. Adam Rhuf, 72.xx

### - Trick Catch/Doubling:

1. Adam Rhuf, 80
2. (tie) Richard and Daniel Bower 75

### - Fast Catch:

1. Dan Bower, 25.xx
2. Richard Bower, 29.xx
3. Logan Broadbent, 30.xx

### - Endurance:

1. Richard Bower, 43
2. Dan Bower, 41
3. Will Gix, 36

### - Aussie Round:

1. Gregg Snouffer, 60
2. Bestylew Maile-Gix, 59
3. (tie) Steve Kavanaugh / Adam Rhuf, 56

### - Overall:

1. Dan Bower
2. Richard Bower
3. Bestylew Maile-Gix
4. Stevie Kavanaugh
5. Adam Rhuf
6. Logan Broadbent
7. (tie) Will Gix and Dan Johnson
9. Doug DuFrense
10. Gregg Snouffer
11. Peter Rhuf
12. Larry Rhuf
13. Dean Kelly

### Overall, Novice division:

1. B.J
2. David Fantone
3. Daniel





# Message from the President



Writing this from Austin, Texas, where it is hot, hot, hot!! We've had 100° temps daily since mid May with lows just below 80°. Makes boom throwing challenging – short sessions and drink lots of water. I'm looking forward to spending a couple of weeks in Seattle for the World Boom Championships.

It's been a busy year around the USBA with tournaments going on coast to coast, from the Beach Boomerang Tourney in Hermosa Beach, California to the 28<sup>th</sup> New England Boomerang Corroboree in Hanover, New Hampshire. But right now most competitors are focusing on the WBC. Check out pages 8 and 9 for information on the teams that will be representing the US. There will also be other USBA members competing in individual and long distance events. And we have some of our best supporters and vendors in it, too. Boomerangs.com, aka Dana Larrabee, is helping purchase the US uniforms and has set up a website to highlight competitors. Check out the WBC website – you can get there from USBA.org – and see the international sponsors along with our good friends and local boom vendors Eric Darnell and Colorado Booms. Anyone that can get to Seattle even for part of the tournament should.

This edition of the MHR is smaller than what we've put out in the past couple of years. The USBA Board

has recommitted to getting out four issues a year, and part of making that happen will be in trimming down each issue. As always, your input and ideas are welcome and wanted - contact the editor at:

[MHReditor@usba.org](mailto:MHReditor@usba.org).

We've pulled a page from the past in a feature called MHR Flashback. Going through old MHRs really highlights how long some of us (you) have been in this game. The article on page 5 came directly from the Summer, 1988 issue of the MHR, twenty years ago. Here's the **Board of Directors from 1988**. Lots of familiar names.

BTW - Elections for 2009 are

happening – go to the back page and fill out a ballot and send it in.

## 1988 USBA Board

**President**  
CARMEN SNOUFFER  
51 Troy Rd.  
Delaware, OH 43015

**Vice President**  
DENNIS JOYCE  
819 Olive Dr.  
Newport News, VA 23601

**Treasurer**  
JOHN FLYNN  
RR #2, Box 209-8  
White River Jct., VT 05001

**Secretary**  
TOM TUCKERMAN  
55 Barrett Rd. #333  
Berea, OH 44017

**Directors**  
JOHN KOEHLER  
37 Duffiel Ct.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

GARRY LAMOTHE  
18 St. James Ave.  
Eastharrington, MA 01027

BETSY MIALE  
8019 234th S.W. #214  
Edmonds, WA 98020

CHELT SNOUFFER  
51 Troy Rd.  
Delaware, OH 43015

PAUL SPRAGUE  
18 Harkness Dr.  
Madison, CT 06443

The flashback article coincidentally talks about the results of that year's international competition, which also coincidentally features Chet Snouffer who has come out of retirement to compete on one of our US teams this year.

Speaking of Chet, the USBA Board and the editors of the MHR want to extend our condolences to Chet and Gregg Snouffer on the passing of their father. As a tribute to Dick Snouffer, we've reprinted Chet's announcement below – it's a great tale of support we can all appreciate. So, in honor of Mr. Snouffer, go out and

*Throw more booms!*

*Joe RADER*

## In Memoriam: Dick Snouffer 1931 to 2008

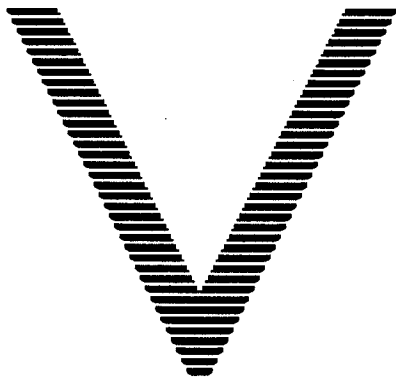
Our dad, "Dick" Snouffer passed away suddenly on Thursday May 29 and was buried yesterday June 2. He was 77 and had been ill for nearly 2 years, but not critically, so this was a shock.

He was a great supporter of the boomerang movement and was known to anyone who had ever been to a tournament in Delaware. He drove my Grandma and Grandpa out to DC back in 1982 for the first USBA nationals. He'd show up at the Delaware event every year and catch up with Betsy and Will and Smucker's and Gary and anyone else he'd ever met on the scene. He knew Flynny and Eric and Peter and all the pioneers of the sport.

He was the first person I would call from anywhere in the world to let him know how Gregg and I had done at World cup comps. He had booms on the wall of his office and den from as far back as the 1981 US-Australia Match and the 1984 rematch, as well as many events since. He was a key central figure in Delaware and Central Ohio especially in regard to athletics and public service and the number of awards he received over the years is astounding, and yet there on the wall with all those honors were the boomerangs Gregg and I made him over the years. A very cool guy and if you never met him, you missed out.

So, I just wanted to let the boom world know that even though he never made or threw a boom in any event, one of the legends has passed away. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated as like many of you already have experienced, we settle into life without our dad for the first time in our lives.

*Chet Snouffer*



No, the "V" is not another new kind of boomerang; it is the universal symbol of victory.

Yes, the USBA Team did win the 1988 World Cup in Barooga last May. At least that is what CNN news and the USBA team say. Final results were not made available to the USBA team at the conclusion of the test match. The following information was submitted by Barnaby Ruhe and Eric Darnell upon their return to the USA. The team members and MHR apologize for any inaccuracies listed below.

The USBA team dominated the games, commanding an early lead over the second place Aussies by 45.5 to 34.25 points during the first test match on May 8. The Americans took first place honors in all events during the first test match. Barnaby took firsts in both MTA (37.14 seconds) and Australian Round. Chet Snouffer set a new Australian record for Fast Catch with a time of 22.53 sec.

The American lead was strengthened (with blustery winds) during the second test match on May 11 as the USBA team placed first overall again. This time with a score of 39.5 and an increased margin of 3 more points over the second place Australian team. Conservative throwing in tricky winds was something the USBA team learned from the Aussies in the 1984 test series in Delaware, Ohio.

The Australian team rallied during the last team match (May 14) to beat the American team by 2

points with a score of 42.

The overall team placement is summarized below:

**U. S. A.**  
**Australia**  
**France**  
**Germany**  
**Holland**  
**Switzerland**  
**Japan**

All the teams had strengths that will grow and mature for the next International Competition Event. Barnaby was impressed with Yoshinobu Sakimitsu whose presence was always felt with upsets such as his first place in Accuracy during the second test match and first place in MTA during the third test match. The strongest throwers during the Cup were Barnaby Ruhe, Chet Snouffer, Rob Croll, and Olivier Vouktchevitch; not necessarily in that order. Eric Darnell, employing Barnaby's Slime Technique, racked up lots of important second and third overalls. Event overall honors went to Chet Snouffer in Consecutive Catch, Barnaby Ruhe in Aussie Round (only 1 point ahead of Rob Croll), Rob Croll in MTA, and Olivier Vouktchevitch in both Accuracy and Fast Catch.

Oh yes, there was also an open competition so that everyone, both on and off the teams, could compete for individual honors. The number one individual competitor was Rob Croll of the Australian team. Further details will be covered in the BAA Bulletin.

There was an auction to raise funds for the cup. The maximum price paid for a boomerang in this auction was \$200 *Australian*, for a very special Janetzki Skippy.

A lesson to be learned by this event is that experience with age can indeed be a valuable asset. The USBA team was the oldest team with one competitor in his 30's and two competitors in their 40's. These guys had to take a nap every day and hit the sack early each

evening. The three Australian team members were all age 29. Watch out America, next year they will all be in their 30's.

We need to congratulate all competitors for their valiant efforts toward making this event a success. Each competitor had to earn the right to participate by being the best from his country. Each paid a considerable amount of money and donated a tremendous amount of time to practice and be part of what was truly the closest thing to a real Olympic competition that boomeranging has ever seen.

And of course we can't forget the organizational efforts of the Aussie hosts during their bi-centennial celebrations, especially Dennis Maxwell who encountered numerous set backs, but was always able to overcome them by adjusting and compromising until an equilibrium was established. Dennis deserves the boomerang award of the year for his efforts.

Sponsorship was also important as many teams received financial boosting from important commercial sources. These sources need to be cultivated and nurtured for future boomerang events such as the 1988 International Team Cup in Europe this summer and the next World Cup, possibly held in the USA in the near future.

In closing, many of you read newspaper articles about the USA team refusing sponsorship from Philip Morris, a tobacco company. Instead, they chose to accept less funding from an anti-smoking association. It is their right to do so. No disrespect was meant to the tobacco company; the team only wished to be associated with a healthier image. The team was on their own to obtain sponsorship. As an organization, USBA needs to develop a committee to handle this function so that the team can concentrate on throwing, not politics and fund raising. If you can help future teams out in this effort, contact USBA now at P.O. Box 182; Delaware, Ohio 43015.

## USBA INFORMATION

The USBA is a non-profit volunteer organization. Our mission is to promote the sport, craft, and science of boomerangs in the United States. Contact the USBA through a member of the board of directors or by joining our Yahoo Group USBA\_info.

### Board of Directors

**President** - Joe Rader - Austin, TX [sonofchi@sonofchi.com](mailto:sonofchi@sonofchi.com) (512) 557-5848

**Vice President** -- Dan Bower - Seattle, WA [darthdude@gmail.com](mailto:darthdude@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - Betsylew Miale-Gix - Seattle, WA [betwil@att.net](mailto:betwil@att.net) (425) 485-1672

**Secretary** Andy Cross -- Canada -- [Across@telusplanet.net](mailto:Across@telusplanet.net) - (403) 293-7307

### Directors at Large

Matt Golenor - Nashville, TN -- [golenom@montgomerybell.edu](mailto:golenom@montgomerybell.edu)

David Hirsch - Dallas, TX -- [duckhead@airmail.net](mailto:duckhead@airmail.net)

Stu Jones - Houston, TX - [comebackreturnrotation@yahoo.com](mailto:comebackreturnrotation@yahoo.com)

Don Monroe - Tuscon, AZ - [Monroe5@comcast.net](mailto:Monroe5@comcast.net)

Pat Steigman - Tyler, TX -- [psteigman@tyler.net](mailto:psteigman@tyler.net)



*Thanks to our sponsors in Austin, Texas  
who helped make the Team Trials  
possible!!*

The advertisement for Raesz Team Real Estate features a large, stylized key graphic on the left. To the right of the key, the word 'Raesz' is written in a large, orange, sans-serif font, and 'Team' is written below it in a large, black, serif font. Below the key and text, the website 'YourKeyToResults.com' is written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phone number '794-6635' is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'FOR SALE' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The Keller Williams logo is at the bottom, with the text 'KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY' and a small tagline 'Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated' below it. The entire advertisement is set against a white background and framed by a black border.



# Bear Boomerangs & The USO

*This is a not for profit project designed to send a piece of home to a service man or woman over seas with the message " return home to me".*

*Also this project is meant to help build moral as well as something as simple as helping someone to SMILE. The daily grind of a service person is hard enough, if and when they have some time to themselves, we hope that these boomerangs will help bring a smile to their heart, soul and face.*

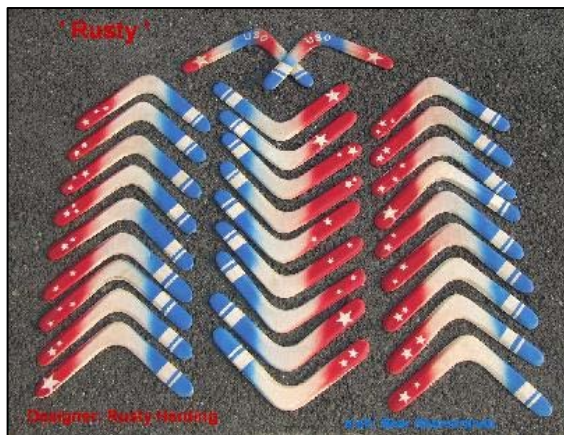
David Fantone continues to spread his love of boomerangs as far as he can. This time all the way to Baghdad.

David's set up a website with more pictures and details and information on how you can help. With this column we want to share the beginning of the story in David's words . . .

## Boomerangs for Baghdad Project

By David Fantone

To begin the project, I contacted the USO to see if this type of project was something that they would consider a good idea. My e-mail and project suggestion was met with welcoming arms



My contact there thought it was a great idea, but he could not be certain that every boomerang would find its way to Baghdad. He did however say that any boomerangs that was sent to him would find its way to an American Service Man or Woman.

After shipping the first lot I thought that those were not enough. So I posted a message in a couple of the Yahoo Groups that I belong to. My post was a request for more boomerangs of course. I was requesting other boomerang throwers to send me or to send their boomerangs directly to the USO contact I had provided the Group with. I was not surprised to hear back from many members that they had boomerangs shipped and on the way.

With the help of the Bear Boomerang Crew and Donations we cut, carved, sanded and finished off several (30+) "Rusty" design boomerangs to ship them A.S.A.P. to the USO.

In the meantime I have been

receiving reports from my USO contact by e-mail of how others were sending boomerangs to them as well.

With some time on my hands, I shaped some Paint Sticks into a simple 4 winged boomerang that can be folded up and kept in a backpack or foot locker. I wanted to send more than one type of boomerang and this one seemed to fit the bill. The



Fleet of boomerangs below were all signed with a special message from the pre-adult class at the Wayne Owen Fighting Arts School in Grants Pass, Oregon.



I am hoping to change boomerang designs from time to time. I don't want this project to get old or something i don't want to ever give up doing.

### CONTACT INFO

You can contact David at:

[bearboomerang@yahoo.com](mailto:bearboomerang@yahoo.com)

Or visit the website for more at:

<http://www.geocities.com/bearboomerang/boomerangsforbaghdad.html>

# Road to Seattle goes through Austin

The US Boomerang Team, selected by the United States Boomerang Association (USBA), has represented the United States in sixteen World Boomerang



Championships; starting Down Under in 1981 with the first Australia vs. USA Boomerang Championship, and most recently in Japan in 2006. The next WBC will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 17-28, 2008.

## US Team Trials Austin, TX April 17-20, 2008

Hopeful competitors met in Austin to GEL the teams that will represent the US for the World Boomerang Championships. In 2006, the US Boomerang Team mixed strong up and coming youth with experienced, crafty veteran throwers. In that comp, the US team rallied to claim a solid second place finish in the Team Championships. But the US doesn't want to bring home second this year.

Being the host country, the US gets to put forward three teams. The three teams formed with very distinct personalities that made the members within each team feel like they had created something unique, each a team of like minded throwers.

The team to finish first in the trials, and so is the First US team for the WBC, is filled with the youngest and some of the best

throwers in the country. Five of these guys placed first through fifth at the 2007 Nationals, the sixth team member finished 11<sup>th</sup> and the coach finished 12<sup>th</sup>. They bonded in Austin over beer and baseball and a big yellow bus that half the team spent the week in. Their nickname could be "The Young Guns" but they think their skill outweighs their youth, so they're called "Rad Revolution."

The team to finish second could be called "The Renegades" but they are just as aptly calling themselves "The Confluence." According to Webster, that's a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point. And these guys have flowed together from all over the country. Most of these guys can boast a championship or two or three, and have had their place as best in the US over the years. And one has a boomerang "pedigree" in that his family basically started the sport of boomerangs in the US and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> International Team

Cup in 1987.

The third team contains the most veteran of the throwers. If you add up their individual experience, you're looking at over a hundred years of boom chucking here. This is the only team that has a woman AND it's the team that brought Chet Snouffer out of retirement. They call themselves "Black Rabbit" because rabbits eat people. While in Austin, they hit the very Austintatious South Congress area and found a black rabbit to serve as mascot. It's ceramic, or metal, or something, but finding it seems to have put a special mark on this team.

The team trials took place at Zilker Park and got attention from the local media. The Austin American Statesman newspaper came out and interviewed and took pictures, then put a very nice spread both on their website and in print. A local news station showed up to film on the last day as well.

With the media attention



one spectator brought her family out to meet and watch the guy who taught her how to throw a boom – again, the famous Chet Snouffer. She brought the twenty



year old boom with her and had several people trying to buy it from her, but she wouldn't give. All in all a nice reunion and an intro for her kids to booms.

As tourney director for the trials, Joe Rader worked hard to make this a spectator friendly event. His efforts paid off with the news coverage, and several Austinites were introduced to boomerangs. With lots of help from Stu Jones and others, Joe was able to set up a mini-boom throwing workshop, with he, Stu, and even Joe's 10 year old son, Xee, teaching people how to throw booms they'd purchased.

But the focus for the throwers wasn't on the spectators. It was on figuring out how to best position themselves against the world in August. We will soon know how well they planned.

**2008 World Boomerang Championship, Seattle August 17-28, 2008**



## ***RAD Revolution***



RAD REVOLUTION – L to R: Matt Golenor, Richard Bower, Logan Broadbent, Billy Brazelton, Dan Johnson, Dan Bower



## **THE CONFLUENCE**

THE CONFLUENCE LtoR: Jason Smucker, Stevie Kavanaugh, Adam Ruhf, Wilson Lawrence, Casey Larrance, Mark Legg

## ***Black Rabbit***



BLACK RABBIT – L to R: Chicago Bob Leifeld, Will Gix, Mark Weary, Betsylew Miale-Gix, James Stickney, Chet Snouffer and the rabbit

# “Git” It Out There ! #4

## News and Info about Long Distance Boomerangs

By David Hirsch

In this issue's column the tournament news will feature the Fourth Annual Texas LD Shoot-Out and the LD interview will be with our current National Champion, Tom Wythes. The "Tips, Tricks and Specs" section will have info about shaping and sanding. If there's something I should know, let me know. You can reach me at [duckhead@airmail.net](mailto:duckhead@airmail.net) or call the Boomerang Association of Dallas (B.A.D.) at (214) 398-4567.

### Tournament News: The Fourth Annual Texas LD ShootOut

Pix on following page.

The fourth Annual Texas Shoot-Out had an interesting mix of events. As good as the field we've thrown on for the last two years was, we found an even better area just down the street. Friday was a warm up day and the weather was nice. But Friday evening was when things loosened up a bit as several of our LD throwers are bona fide musicians and brought their axe with them. We moved to a pavillion and the jam cranked up. Don brought his theramin, Dave Hughes his bass, Bob of course had his didge and there was a good assortment of drums and Stu had a new tambourine (a birthday present from Karen). I can't remember all who joined in so forgive me. Then we cleaned up and headed for the Texas Roadhouse for grub and suds :)

Saturday began nicely enough... until we discovered (as well as a RC airplane group) that the Houston Parks Dept. had double booked the field! A bit of drama for a few minutes but after a little consulting, we found a way to share the field. The next hurdle was the potential of rain. It was in the forecast and looming on the horizon

but we managed to start without it. Then Dave Hendricks and the rest of the Pennsylvania Dutch LD Team (go Woodchucks!), including Rob Stewart showed up... but they didn't bring their scrapple! Back in the room, we were told... that's another story. We dealt with high humidity all day long, and some showers late in the day. Rain isn't good for most LD throwers, the booms are hard to hold on to; some booms are easier in the rain but unless you've practiced with a glove (which most of us hadn't) it's tough. But we did manage some decent scores. We got three rounds in. Then we all met up that night for burgers at Beck's Prime, which has some great sword fish sandwiches.

Sunday didn't look good. We waited for rain for almost an hour but then managed to get one round in. Tom was again kicking our butts with four throws above 110m but my hat goes off to Bob Rudy. At 64, Bob was throwing great guns and very consistent. We had a nice mix of skill levels and several throwers set personal bests. Another great tournament, as I believe all who attended will attest!

#### Placement in Divisions:

1st Place Novice, Walter Owens - 35m,  
1st Place Intermediate, Mark Wolff - 93m,  
1st Place Senior, Bob Rudy - 104m,  
Advanced: 1st Place, Tom Wythes - 131m;  
2nd Place (tie), Dennis Joyce - 108m,  
David Hirsch - 108m;  
3rd Place, Rob Stewart - 106m

All throwers, with high scores (in meters) were: Tom Wythes, 131; Dennis Joyce, 108; David Hirsch, 108; Rob Stewart, 106; Bob Rudy, 104; Stu Jones, 102; Joe Rader, 102; Mark Wolff, 93; Dave Hughes, 88; Don Monroe, 84; Dave Hendricks, 79; John Gaston, 51; Walter Owens, 35.

### Tips, Tricks and Specs

This issue's info will center on tools and processes for shaping and sanding.

First, it should be mentioned that safety has to be considered not only when throwing LD booms but also when making them. Many of the materials used for LDs are manufactured using various petrochemical "glues" and when being cut or sanded can be hazardous to handle or breathe. And these materials can often be sanded to sharp enough edges to cut; I recently gave myself a nice slice when working on a boom (it was an accident, I swear!). Standard shop precautions should be followed. Additionally, a full fledged respirator should be worn when working these materials, not just a paint mask. There are ways around some of the fumes issues, such as working wet, as you'll read in Tom Wythes interview. But as far as cutting or shaping, be careful.

A lot of the materials used for LDs, which include many types of fiberglass (such as G-10) or phenolics with various substrates, can be difficult to cut. Carving just a few booms will obliterate a regular wood or even steel jig saw blade. So to avoid the hassle of constantly replacing your blade, though the cost isn't much, I recommend a carbide tipped blade. Not a carbide grit blade, but a carbide tipped blade. This blade is usually found in a 24 TPI version (teeth per inch) and can sometimes be found in t-shank or other mounting model blades. You'll have best luck finding this blade on-line as most hardware stores I've checked only have the grit version. The carbide tipped blade is a little more expensive (about \$8 per plabe as opposed to \$3) but they don't wear out very easily.

*(continued on page 14)*



# Postcards from Houston, Tx. Wish ya'll were hyar!

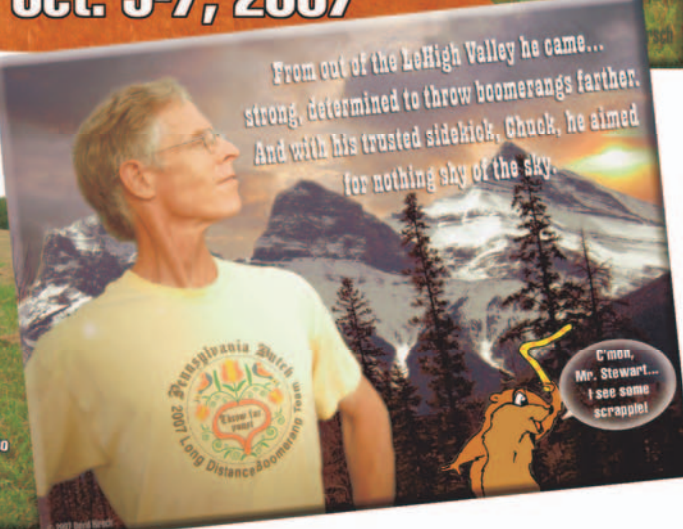


## 4th Annual Texas LD Shoot-Out



### Long-Distance Boomerang Tournament Houston, Texas Oct. 5-7, 2007

\*Dave Hendricks not pictured



Pix and graphix by David Hirsch



# LD and Me

## An Interview with Tom Wythes, 2007 National LD Champ

*Interview and pix by David Hirsch*

Tom Wythes won the 2007 Long Distance Championship at the USBA Nationals on August 16th with a throw of 140m. His throw is also a personal best, beating his 139m from the Texas Shoot-Out of last year.

Tom lives in Silver City, New Mexico with his wife Jen. He's 49 and a Senior Engineer with a mining company there. He's got a nice place in the foothills with a front yard big enough for Fast Catch.

The following interview was conducted via email with a list of questions I submitted to Tom.

**DH:** Tell us a little about yourself: where you're from and what you do for a living.

**TW:** *I moved around a bit when I was a kid. I was born in Sandusky, Ohio but moved to North Jersey when I was like 2 weeks old. I have early memories of living in South Orange, NJ but we moved to the Philadelphia area (Media) when I was 4. Then we moved to Glens Falls, New York at*



*age 10: Seattle (Everett) at 13: back to Philadelphia at 17, and then I started college at the U of dub in Seattle in 1975. I finished with a degree in geology in 1980 and moved to Reno, Nevada as an*

*Exploration Geologist. I did that for 10 years until the industry tanked, then went back to school to get a Masters degree in Geological Engineering. Since 1993 I've been working for consulting companies that do environmental and geo-engineering work, mainly for mining companies. I moved to Tucson in 1996 and joined Golder Associates. In 2001, Jen and I struck up an intra-office romance. She's also a geological engineer. Golder does a lot of work in the Silver City area doing mine reclamation so we decided to get out of the Tucson heat and volunteered to start up an office in Silver. We moved here April 2006.*

**DH:** When did you throw your first boomerang? What was it?

**TW:** *I do remember buying a red plastic boomerang (a Wham-O I suppose) around 1978 when I was in Seattle. I lost it in the blackberry brambles on the first throw. I met Don Monroe in late 2001. Don and Barb were part of a group of friends that Jen hung out with. First time I met Don he was sitting next to one of his giant boomerangs. I was fascinated. Jen and I went to the beach in Mexico with Don and Barb a couple months later and Don, of course, went down to the beach and*



*started throwing booms immediately. I wanted to try. First throw went straight into the sand. The boomerang was a closed triangle design (an Asterisk by T.W. Smith). Don gave me one of his DAM Rang Vee's. That was my first real boomerang. I still have it. So, I've only been throwing boomerangs since 2002. I wish I had discovered them sooner when I was in my prime.*

**DH:** When did you become interested in LD?

**TW:** *Lucky for me Don is into LD. It was probably in mid 2003 Don and John Gaston started talking about and practicing LD for the upcoming Nationals in Houston. I bought a Volker Behren's Pax Straight Shooter from Ted Bailey's site and was just starting to get that to come back. At Nationals I managed an 85 m return using one of Don's voyagers. I started making my own LD boomerangs after that. It was probably in 2004 that a driving range closed in Tucson and there was a period of time before they started building the subdivision that we threw LD out there a lot. I think that is when I got hooked. I struggled a bit diagnosing why boomerangs weren't working and getting proper tuning probably because of my lack of*

experience with boomerangs. Throwing LD seemed natural though. I used to play a lot of tennis and golf and I think the mechanics of the hip rotation, wrist snap, and follow-through work with the LD throw. My interest in LD has gotten stronger with my first place finishes at last years Shoot Out and at the Nationals and I am fairly obsessed at this point (ask Jen). Also, it is the only event I have a chance of seriously competing in (although I haven't given up on the other events yet).

**DH:** What is your favorite boom?

**TW:** My favorite LD boomerang is always the one I'm working on at the moment. As far as which shape is my favorite, I generally stick with some slight variant of a Voyager. They seem more stable than a Buzzwhip although I haven't experimented that much with other shapes.

**DH:** Since I know you make most of your own LD booms, describe your manufacturing process. What materials do you like best?

**TW:** For the last couple years I've been making my LD boomerangs out of Carbon Fiber although the one I'm currently working on is G10. I really like the carbon fiber boomerangs. They have a lively feel and do not de-tune. The disadvantage is of course that it is less dense than G10 and you can't tune them. Getting them to come back is just a matter of adjusting the throw and to add distance you add weight and throw harder. The 140 m throw at nationals was with a 10% oversize Voyager weighted with lead tape to 74 g. That one just made it over the line and stalled there. I used another oversize Voyager but with the wing chord normal width that scored 138 m. That throw came back way behind the line, so I know that boomerang has more distance in it. I'm not sure if there is a limit to what a carbon fiber will do by simply adding weight and carving more aggressive airfoils,

without tuning, but I think I will reach the limit of my arm before I reach the limit of carbon fiber. I'm not a very prolific boomerang maker but I usually have one or two at some stage of completion at any time and have been pretty much focused on LD booms lately. I carve LD airfoils all by hand using a sheet of metal-backed tungsten carbide grit glued onto a sawed-off baseball bat. I keep a bucket of water next to me and keep the boomerang and file wet, avoiding the nasty dust issues and the power tool noise. It's more like whittling than a manufacturing process really. I finish them with a metal file and lots of sanding down to 600 grit.



**DH:** How do you see LD as it fits into the rest of the boom world?

**TW:** It seems like LD is viewed as a weird subculture of a weird subculture. But, when you read about the history of boomerangs there is always a place for distance. An obvious question any layman might ask (once you got past the "do they really come back?") is "how far do they go?" The question would not likely be "how long does it take to catch it 5 times" or "can you catch it with your feet?" I think LD should be one of the core events.

**DH:** What throwers have made an impression on you and why?

**TW:** Don for obvious reasons. Manu, because he throws so far and has set such a high bar. I'd like to see one of those 200 m flights. My first

tournament as a rookie was Don's in Tucson in 2002. Bowers, Gix's, Stickney, Weary were there. I was pretty impressed. All the top competitors are pretty impressive.

**DH:** What do you see as the future of our sport, and in particular, LD in ten to twenty years?

**TW:** Hard to say. I think that more of the top competitors will start throwing LD 'cause they see how much fun we're having. Most have thrown LD at some point. If LD were to become part of the competition scoring then I think the distances would go way up. I suspect that there will be continued evolution of the LD shape that will test the definition of a

boomerang and that will dramatically increase distances. As for boomerangs in general, I doubt that it will become a really popular sport but with the efforts of USBA and others, boomerangs will probably get more exposure and the general public will become more aware that they exist and really work. I'd like to think that we are moving into a more enlightened era that's greener and less red and where

boomerangs have growing appeal and NASCAR and World Wrestling Federation fades away.

**DH:** What advice would you give to someone just beginning to throw LD?

**TW:** Harder with more spin. And, be careful!

**DH:** Is there anything you'd like to say to other throwers, not just LDers, or about our sport in general?

**TW:** I think this is a set-up question. "Give that Glorp nonsense a rest and throw far". No really, boomeranging is so great on so many levels I feel lucky to have stumbled into it. I appreciate the work that many people do to make a boomerang community, put out MHRs, and organize events.

**DH:** Finally, if you could have only one boomerang, what would it be?

**TW:** An indoor Fun Fly.



## Tips, Tricks and Specs

(continued from page 11)

In the last couple of years I've carved 30-40 G-10 booms and 5 CF booms with one blade and it shows no sign of wear. The first blade I used was designed to cut steel and wore out after 3 booms. Also, a carbide grit blade may be easier to find but is usually wider thus making it difficult to make tight cuts.

Curiously, though these materials are heck on blades, they sand like butter when using a sanding belt or drum sander. They are still some work by hand but hand finishing is a must to get the necessary precision. To begin the sanding process, I use a Delta 1" verticle sanding belt as I find a 1" belt, versus a 6" belt, more useful for making the intricate turns associated with most LD booms. I bought this sander for \$70 locally and I don't believe it's necessary to buy the more expensive full table models to get good results. Some folks prefer a drum sander or a wider verticle belt and there are a variety of power tools that will work. These are great for doing the initial sanding but keep in mind that because these materials can be sanded quickly using power tools, it is easy to take too much off. My belt sander is 80 grit and it takes me only a half hour or so to get the blank ready for hand finishing. I then move to 100 grit, followed by 220 and then 400. If it's your first, or even tenth, time to make a LD boom, I recommend applying some type of mid-line marker on the edge of the blank to help in sanding the airfoil. Since most LD booms are in the neighborhood of 1/8" thick, you'll be dealing in fairly small increments as you fashion the airfoil. This can be difficult to see with some materials, especial as dust builds on the surface. Thus a mid-line mark can be very useful. There are a number of ways to do this, perhaps the easiest being the construction of a simple jig where your marker (Sharpie, pencil, etc.) is mounted on a penny at the appropriate

height allowing you to turn the blank on a table top while marking its' edge. A dark marker is eaier to see. The G-10 I've been using is laid up in twelve layers so as I shape the airfoil, I use these layers to help me guage the shape of the airfoil. I begin with my sanding belt by burring the edge and slowly tipping back to achieve the proper angle. Also, to minimize the chance of gouging the material, a side to side sweep while sanding is best. I would say that I shape 80% of the airfoil on my sander before moving to hand sanding. When I begin hand sanding, I use a set of jewelers magnifying glasses to assist in the effort. The layers are still hard to see in light colored G-10 but CF has been a dream in that regard as the layers are very clearly visible. I've tried using some hand tools such as files etc., but find the effects I can produce with paper in my hand the most accurate. However you approach it, power tools are unlikely to be what you finish with.

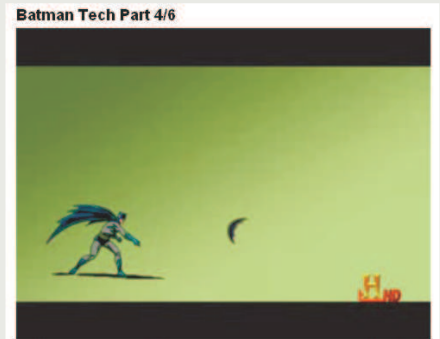
When I get the boom to where I think it needs to be, I take it out for a test fly. I always test every boom I make before applying final paint. Only occasionally have I had a boom that doesn't need a little additional shaping before final paint. I strongly suggest applying some spotting paint even when testing so that you don't loose the boom. After the test flight, I then strip or sand the test paint off and apply whatever finishing paint I'm going for. I use Krylon almost exclusively as it dries quick, bonds tight, comes in lots of colors and hasn't had any negative reactions with the various boom materials. I usually use five to seven coats, starting with 3 base coats of white and finishing with one to two top coats of gloss. The only exception is on my CF booms, as I leave the un-coated CF visible instead of using black paint. I found the surface of the CF to be much smoother than a coat of paint (or the unpainted surface of G10) so I hope to give the boom less drag in the air. I noticed this the first time I threw an unpainted CF boom (breaking my rule

about throwing without spotting paint :-)) and then when I threw it once it was painted. Without paint on the surface, it seemed to just slip out of my hand into the air. With paint, the drag was immediately noticeable. If it weren't for needing the paint to spot them or find them, I wouldn't paint them at all.

So that's it for this addition. Next time, an interview with Manuel Schutz. And as always, Throw Far!

### Booms in News and Entertainment

#### BATMAN TECH AND THE BATARANG



History Channel did a show in July and August on the technology of Batman's gear and weapons and asked the USBA for some expertise for the section on the BATARANG. Several members sent footage and information. They used a short film clip of our prez, Joe Rader, throwing and catching; and also included a brief scientific explanation of GYROSCOPIC PROCESSION. USBA was credited for its help.

If you missed it on the History Channel, check out You Tube. The batarang shows up in part four of six of BATMAN TECH.



**Many Happy Returns**

Circulation: 400 Worldwide

Published by the:  
 United States Boomerang  
 Association  
 3551 236th Street SW  
 Brier, WA 98036-8421

**Editor**  
 Denise Jewell Rader  
 MHR@usba.org

**LD Editor:**  
 David Hirsch

**Story/Photo Contributors**

Dave Fantone  
 David Hirsch  
 Stevie Kavanaugh  
 Joe Rader  
 Tom Wythes

**Mechanical Measurements:**

Image area: 9.5" by 7.5"  
 Three columns to a page  
 Width of column: 2.25"

**Advertising Rates:**

Full Page-inside front or back \$125  
 Full Page or Half Page-back \$100  
 Half Page \$75  
 One Column \$50  
 Half Column \$30

All advertisements  
 must be prepaid: check,  
 money order, or PayPal to the USBA.

Publisher reserves the right to refuse  
 any advertisement or cancel a contract  
 without reason.

Deadlines for advertising are:  
 March 1 for the Spring issue;  
 June 1 for the Summer issue;  
 September 1 for the Fall issue;  
 December 1 for the Winter issue.

**USBA Election for  
 Board of Directors**

The USBA election is  
 underway. You can place one  
 vote for each of the named  
 positions and five At-Large  
 members. Write ins will also be  
 accepted. If you have not  
 already voted, please take a few  
 moments to send your votes to  
 me at [across@telusplanet.net](mailto:across@telusplanet.net) or  
 to the address below.

Andrew A. Cross  
 USBA Secretary  
 28 14803 Miller Blvd  
 Edmonton Alberta T5Y  
 3A4  
 Canada



**CIB**  
 Corporate  
 Sponsor of  
 the USBA

**2009 USBA Ballot  
 Board of Directors**

Write-in candidates in spaces  
 provided, if desired.

Place an **X** next to your  
 choice for each position.  
 Select five candidates for AT  
 LARGE.

*PRESIDENT*

Joe Rader

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

*VICE PRESIDENT*

Daniel Bower

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

*SECRETARY*

Richard Bower

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

*TREASURER*

Betsylew Miale-Gix

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

*AT LARGE*

David Hirsch

Don Monroe

Matt Golenor

Rob Stewart

Stuart Jones

Pat Steigman

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

*Thanks RunTex for your contribution to the  
 USBA World Team Trials in Austin, Texas.*



# USBA Membership Information

## USBA Membership benefits:

- MHR Newsletter subscription
- Access to the USBA info web group for USBA related discussions.
- Discounts at Anderson International Trading Co.
- Participation in all USBA tournaments and events
- E-membership receives PDF of MHR via email.
- Family memberships are good for up to three household members.

Send completed form to:

USBA Membership  
3551 236th Street SW  
Brier, WA 98036-8421

## Membership Application

New  Renewal

## Membership Type:

Individual (print) \$20  Family \$35  
 Individual (e-member) \$15  International (print) \$25

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone (optional)

email (optional)



United States Boomerang Association  
3551 236th Street SW  
Brier, WA 98036-8421