

No.99 - Fall/Winter 2009-2010

# Many Happy Returns

*The Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association*



## **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:

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Front cover photo – Logan Broadbent doubling at Delaware, Ohio  
Photo courtesy of David Klutho, Sports Illustrated

Editor's Note : Owing to the length of time since our last issue, we have some catching up to do. This issue, #99, will cover up to the first half of 2009. Tournaments and news occurring later will be covered in our next issue, #100.

## *Consecutive Catch Record Falls*

*On March 10, 2009 Japan's Haruki Taketomi made 2251 consecutive throws with a catch, eclipsing the previous record of 1297, set by Manuel Schutz of Switzerland in '05. Taketomi came within 37 catches of the record in '08, as a member of a Japanese team at the WBC. This time he left no doubt. The feat took 11 hours, 41 minutes!*

## **16th Annual Greater Seattle Open Boomerang Tourney, June 20-21, 2009**

*by Betsylew Miale-Gix*

From the wilds of Wisconsin to the cradle of Presidents they came to the boomerang Mecca of the Northwest, to throw with the Northwest crew June 20 and 21 at the 16th Annual Greater Seattle Open Boomerang Tourney.

The days before were sunny and beautiful, with great winds leading to the inevitable partly cloudy and difficult tournament day. Assisting in running the tournament was Gregg Snouffer, while Eric Darnell roamed free, observing and coaching.

East Coast ex-patriot Larry Ruhf and Dean Kelly dueled in the 50+ division, while up-and-coming Kian Dart Snouffer and Neethi amazed in the novice division.

Jousting in the advanced division were a squadron of splendid boomerang aviators, including the Twin Towers of Boomerang Power Richard Bower and Daniel Bower, RESULTS For Advanced Division

BMOC Logan "OHIO" Broadbent (the only man in the world to have made a flipping head catch in a toga), Cheesy Dan Johnson of Wisconsin, Billy Under the Sea Brazelton, Stevie Kcool Kavanaugh, Will "Smooth as Silk" Gix, the Southern Gentleman Jason Smucker, the Portland Flash Doug Dufresne, the BC Bomber Tibor Horvath, Rocky Mountain Carly Parkins, the Dunkin Doctor James Stickney, Nick "the Kid" Citoli, Brian Total Effort Wisner, Carl the Truth, and Betsylew. Suzanne Lentz came out to see everyone but did not compete.

Billy Brazelton won the day in impressive fashion, throwing consistently well and avoiding whoopsie events.

When all was said and done, there was tons of fun and scores reflective of the difficult conditions.

Winning event scores included:

Accuracy	Richard Bower	86
Fast Catch	Billy Brazelton	25.09
Endurance	Logan Broadbent	47
Tr.C/Doub.	Richard Bower	82
MTA	Jas. Stickney	101.73
Aussie	Billy Brazelton	62

Other highlights included an amazing unlimited MTA flight by Kian of over 1:47 SECONDS WITH A CATCH!  
(see pg. 11)

Larry Ruhf outpaced Dean Kelly in the 50+ division in a close contest, while Kian won the Novice Overall!

## TOURNAMENT PLACINGS

	ACC	FC	END	TC	MTA	AR	OVERALL	PLACE
Billy Brazelton	2.50	1.00	3.00	2.00	6.00	1.00	15.50	1
Richard Bower	1.00	7.00	2.00	1.00	3.00	12.00	26.00	2
Logan Broadbent	12.00	2.00	1.00	9.00	2.00	2.00	28.00	3
James Stickney	9.00	3.00	4.50	7.00	1.00	5.50	30.00	4
Tibor Horvath	4.50	6.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	3.00	36.50	5
Dan Johnson	6.50	5.00	6.00	5.50	8.00	11.00	42.00	6
Steve Kavanaugh	8.00	10.00	7.00	4.00	4.00	14.00	47.00	7
Betsylew Miale-Gix	6.50	14.00	4.50	12.00	5.00	9.00	51.00	8
Will Gix	2.50	8.00	11.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	51.50	9
Jason Smucker	10.00	11.00	9.50	5.50	11.00	7.00	54.00	10
Dan Bower	11.00	9.00	15.00	3.00	16.00	4.00	58.00	11
Doug Dufresne	4.50	12.00	9.50	14.00	14.00	5.50	59.50	12
Nick Citoli	13.50	4.00	13.50	11.00	9.00	13.00	64.00	13
Brian Wisner	15.00	13.00	13.50	13.00	12.00	8.00	74.50	14
Carl Miller	16.00	15.00	12.00	15.00	13.00	15.00	86.00	15
Carly Parkins	13.50	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	16.00	92.50	16

Following the tourney it was over to the Bowers for a post tourney barbecue party with Richard at the grill and a wheelbarrow full of assorted organic microbrews provided by Betsylew via a charity auction! Great hilarity ensued, and a wonderful time was had by all !

Team day dawned sunnier, with calmer wind conditions making for some better scores. We broke into 4 mixed teams of 4, playing for fun and glory in the core WBC events Supercatch, Endurance Relay, Relay and Aussie Round. Throughout the team day Gregg and Eric were coaching and providing invaluable feedback to all.

Following the team events, throwers invaded Zeke's pizza parlor for the traditional post event pizza feed, then to the Bowers for some boom making. It was a wonderful weekend.

Thank you to all who came. With the WBC 2010 dates look for us to have an earlier event next year!



### ***MTA Conundrum***

*Here's a new twist on an old one. From SIBS newsletter #60, used by permission.*

With the Maximum Time Aloft event about to start, James Stickney has a problem. He has in his bag nine MTA boomerangs, identical in shape. He's forgotten to mark his favorite b, and can't tell which one it is. He does know that it weighs slightly less than the other 8, which all weigh the same. Having at his disposal a 2-pan balance (who doesn't?), he needs to find out in a hurry which is the light 'rang. What is the minimum number of weighings guaranteed to pick it out? *Answer pg.14*

## ***US Nationals, Oct. 16-19, 2008 Eastfield College, Dallas, TX***

### **Placings :**

- 1)Harald Steck
- 2)Betsylew Miale-Gix
- 3)Steve Kavanaugh
- 4)Daniel Bower
- 5)Richard Bower
- 6)Billy Brazelton
- 7)Will Gix
- 8)Stuart Jones
- 9)Morri Mohr
- 10)Don Monroe
- 11)James Stickney
- 12)Bruce Armstrong
- 13)Eric Darnell
- 14)Randy Kirk
- 15)Carly Parkins
- 15)Dennis Joyce
- 17)Nick Citoli
- 18)Tibor Horvath
- 19)Tom Wythes
- 20)Retro Dan

### **Odds and Ends from the Tournament by Bruce Armstrong**

- Carly Parkins from the Intermediate Division beating everyone in Accuracy.
- David Hirsch throwing an old-school 70-meter hook to take first place in Intermediate Aussie Round. He was also 9<sup>th</sup> overall with that performance.
- Daniel Bower having an MTA fly all the way over I-30 wasn't very cool, but him driving over there later and actually finding it lying in a soft, grassy area sure was.
- Me getting a personal-best 42-second flight with an MTA that the Bower brothers made in my garage just a couple of nights earlier. In interest of full

disclosure: I didn't make the catch, but MAN it was cool to see something I threw fly for that long!

- Ace Armstrong doing a flying, sliding foot catch that is already the stuff of legend. More people than could possibly have seen it made sure to tell me about it.
- David Fantone nearly sweeping the aesthetics awards. He made the awesome trophies, and almost got all three of them shipped back to himself. David Hirsch and I won one of those trophies, each by the narrowest of margins – Hirsch: Design, Armstrong: Craftsmanship. David Fantone did win the Decoration category, and got 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the other categories.
- Pat Steigman's live workshop. When it was realized we didn't have many lefties for demo purposes, he quickly whipped up a couple. Another note: I was actually working on some Texas Longhorn boomerangs for the prize table and the USBA Auction only hours before they needed to be done.
- Tom Wythes guessing that the silhouette in the t-shirt design was actually Stu Jones. Tom said he recognized Stu's calves.
- Tuscon Don playing his theramin at the awards banquet.
- Finally, all the help we got during pre-tourney setup (caution tape, painting circles) and setup and cleanup each day. Thanks Pat, Bob, Stu, Joe, Don, Richard, Daniel, Juice, and anyone else I'm leaving out. We literally couldn't have done it without you!

## *World Boomerang Cup, Aug. 18-28, 2008, Seattle, WA*

*Despite a grueling four consecutive days of Team events under adverse weather conditions, Germany's veteran B-Motions squad had little trouble capturing its 3rd consecutive World Cup. The three US squads finished 2nd, 4th and 6th overall. Since the first international competition in 1981, the number of titles stands at : USA 8, Germany 6, Australia 1.*

Place	Country	Team	Points
1)	Germany	B-Motions (Fridolin Frost, Thomas Szartowicz, Oli Theinhaus, Alex Opri, G. Lemkau, Guenter Moeller)	297.5
2)	USA	Rad Revolution (Bill Brazelton, Matt Golenor, Daniel Bower, Richard Bower, Dan Johnson, Logan Broadbent)	280
3)	Switzerland	Skandal (Manuel Schutz, Stephan Spirgi, Tobias Jakob , L. Overzee, Kim Galeazzi)	274
4)	USA	The Confluence	256
5)	Japan	Samurai	241.5
6)	USA	Black Rabbit	235
7)	France	French Kiss	210
8)	Japan	Syoryu	180.5
9)	International	OzFrogs	178
10)	Australia	Aussie Stars	170.5
11)	Germany	Flying Igel	152.5
12)	Italy	New & Old Italy	132
13)	Canada	Goldmembers	102.5
14)	International	Forefathers	96.5
15)	Brazil	The Others	96.5
16)	France	French Touch	79
17)	International	Eighteen	48.5
18)	International	BoomHERang	47.5

### Individual Placings for the 2008 WBC:

1)Fridolin Frost – Germany	6) Maiya Junji - Japan
2)Manuel Schutz – Switzerland	7)Th. Szartowicz - Germany
3)Alex Opri – Germany	8)Mark Legg - USA
4)Billy Brazelton – USA	9)Daniel Bower - USA
5)Mark Weary – USA	10)Adam Ruhf – USA

The next World Cup is scheduled for Rome, Italy, May 29-June 6, 2010.

## **"Git It Out There" #5 LD and the USBA**

by David Hirsch

*In this issue's column I'm devoting all my space to an interview with Manuel Schütz, since it's a little bit longer than the normal interview. And since we're a bit behind on coverage of the various LD tournaments since my last column, I'm including a mix of pictures from those three tournaments. 2009 tournaments will be covered in an upcoming MHR. As always, if there's something I should know, let me know. You can reach me at duckhead@airmail.net or call the Boomerang Association of Dallas (B.A.D.) at (214) 398-4567.*

### **"LD and Me" - An Interview with Manuel Schütz, World Record Long Distance Champ**

*Manu is, of course, known throughout the boomerang world. He is an incredible thrower in all events. But for those of us into distance throwing, his name is synonymous with LD. He is currently the only person to throw over 200m and has done so repeatedly, since setting the World Record in 1999 with a distance of 238m. And for the record, I asked him if he prefers Manu or Manuel, and his response was "I prefer Manuel, but it seems that the boomerang world has chosen Manu."*

*DH: Tell us a little about yourself. Where were you born? Where do you currently live? What is your current job? Married, kids, hobbies besides boomerangs?*

*I was born in Bern on June 19th 1978, Switzerland's capital. Til the age of 25 I lived with my parents, 30km away from Bern. Currently I'm living in Hinterkappelen, a village just 10 min away from Bern. I'm not married, but I live together with my girlfriend in an apartment. Job: I will start an education this autumn to become a high school teacher. Hobbies: tennis, numismatics.*

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

*Around 1986, I can't really remember. I've still got the first returning boomerang I've ever made: a Frank Donnellan traditional ! I made this one about 1987.*

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

*That was in the late 1980's. I still have some small 4mm hooks with lead weights, which I constructed at this time. As a 10year old boy I wasn't able to throw the heavy hooks and I didn't have other materials than plywood. My first competition however, was in 1996 at Kloten. I became 2nd out of 4 throwers using a triblader! I scored 90m.*

*DH: What is your favorite LD boom?*

*Still all Voyager-shaped rangs, but also an Uwe Kitzberger "Lorenz", named after Lorenz Gubler, who founded the Ld movement in Switzerland with Tibor Horvath. This "Lorenz" is very safe and gets ranges between 130 and 170m.*

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

*Usually i make them from 3mm GFEC sheets. Cutting, making the airfoil (outdoor, using power tools), sanding (wet). And then the most difficult part: fine-tuning on the field. Mostly the airfoil needs corrections etc.*

*Just last autumn I began to make molded Ld boomerangs, only 2.3mm thin and made of carbon fibre. In 2000, when I met Jeff Lewry at his home, he told me that it is a waste of material to make rangs out of GFEC sheets. First tests are encouraging; these 35g light rangs fly 100m and more.*

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

*It's a little bit like Nordic skiing (ski jump=distance) vs. Alpine skiing (slalom = fast catch?, Downhill = endurance, etc)*

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

*There are many names to mention: Jürg Schedler & Thomas Stehrenberger, who both introduced me to competition throwing. Fridolin Frost who let me copy his whole boomerang bag in 1995, and Ruedi Salzmann, because his boomerangs are made so perfectly as if they were molded.*

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

*Things don't look bright. Not enough young throwers*

**etc. But we had the same in the early 1990's. I just hope that our sport will exist in 10-20 years .**

*DH: You are single-handedly responsible for steadily increasing the WR distance over the past decade. What made that possible? Design, strength, materials, a change in the way you throw the boom?*

**Design: I always adapted the boomerangs to my throwing style. See above with my small 4mm hooks. The same happened in the late 90's when I seriously was interested in Ld. I simply couldn't believe that "add more weight" is the way to do it. So I developed Axel Heckners Mega-quirll to what most of Ld throwers are using now. Quite funny, that David Schummy did the same at this period!**

*DH: I've heard it said that you think 300m is possible. Is that true? What will it take to get there?*

**I still think this might work. Go back 15 years: did anyone believe that 200m was possible? No one, I guess. I don't know the solution yet, and probably it will be someone else to break 300m.**

*DH: You're the only one to throw over 200m. Why is that? What do you do differently that others don't? Don't be modest .*

**I think it's the throw. I let other throwers use my boomerangs, but nobody was able to throw more than 150m. I'm very sure that the grip is crucial, but also the movement during the throw. I use every part of the body, legs, back , left shoulder, right shoulder and right arm/wrist. Without fullhand grip I cannot transfer the whole tension to the boomerang. With pinch grip I lose half of the energy due to friction of the boomerang between the fingers, I think. The proof that other throwers can do 200m was shown by the German Torsten Gaupp who set a new German record in 2007 (186m). That's not far away from 200m!**

*DH: Since you throw in other boomerang events, what percentage of your time do you spend on LD?*

**Not much anymore. I just develop new rangs (thin composites) and try to make one new Ld-rang per year that suits to my competition set. Not doing this would cause problems: every year I lose one rang or it gets damaged, etc.**

*DH: It can be difficult to spot LD booms beyond 100m. At the range you throw at, how do you practice? If you only had one spotter to help, where would you position him?*

**I don't practice anymore on extreme ranges, I would just lose my rangs. But one spotter helps a lot! I would place him at about 200m. There it's easiest to follow the whole flight path in order not to lose anything.**

*DH: For most of us, LD requires a lot of walking and chasing bad throws; as finicky as these booms are, it just seems part of the sport. Do you have that problem? If so, what percentage of your practice throws would you say are good?*

**I also need a lot of walking. But my practice throws are less aggressive. I just check out the potential of a new rang. Does it lay down too fast? Does it go too much to the left? Etc. Valid throws in practice: less than 25%, because testing is included.**

*DH: When we throw, we often say "Be aggressive!". In competition, on average, what percentage of your throws score?*

**Depends on my strategy. If first I score a safe 150-170m I try to go for the max. So sometimes from 10 throws just two are valid. If on the other hand there are miserable wind conditions (no wind) I try to score the best possible with my safe returner. Last weekend I scored 137, 135, 144 and 144m out of 8 throws.**

*DH: What kind of place do you routinely throw in; a school, park or private land? How big is it?*

**I have some field near a little lake. Size: 100 x 200m minimum. For distance there is some risk of losing rangs in wheat fields etc.**

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

**Start with Aussie Round. If you throw 50m without any problems, make some unweighted distance boomerangs. To achieve 100m regularly you need to improve your spin rate at the throw. Without enough spin, no 100m throw.**

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

**It's not possible to have only one boomerang !**

**So that's it for this addition of "Git It Out There". Next time, an interview with Tibor Horvath. And as always, Throw Far!**



# A Year's Worth of LD tournaments

It's been a while since the last tournament news was published so we're combining pix of the last several tournies on this and the following page. No individual pix but the group shots and some of the antics.

Throw Hard *Second Annual* Throw Far

## LD in BigD

Long Distance Boomerang Tournament  
June 13-15, 2008 Dallas, Texas



Pix & graphix by D.H.

# A Year's Worth of LD tournaments

( continued )

## LD at the 2008 USBA Nationals combined with the Texas LD Shoot-Out



## LD at the 2008 WBC



The wind proved to strong to throw but we still had a good time.

## 9-year old Kian Snouffer throws 1 min.47 sec. world MTA record

*In what could be a preview of a "Future Frido", a first-hand account of Kian's wonderful throw for the new junior record is given by Gregg Snouffer.*

**SEATTLE, WA - CHILLY AND GRAY DAWNED THE SEATTLE MORNING LAST JUNE WHEN THE THROWERS TOOK THE FIELD TO TEST THEIR SKILLS AT BETSYLEW AND WILL'S SEATTLE OPEN BOOMERANG TOURNAMENT. WHAT STARTED OFF AS A TYPICAL DUCK DAY FOR MARINERS FANS TURNED OUT TO BE AN EXTRAORDINARY ONE FOR NINE-YEAR-OLD OHIO NATIVE KIAN DART-SNOUFFER, WHO ATTENDED WITH FELLOW BUCKEYES, FATHER GREGG SNOUFFER, AND U.S. TEAM MEMBER LOGAN BROADBENT.**

**NOT ONLY WOULD KIAN RETURN HOME WITH FOND MEMORIES OF HIS FIRST AIRPLANE FLIGHT, CONVERTIBLE RIDES WITH BETSYLEW, AND TOUR OF THE SEATTLE AREA, BUT ALSO WITH THE JUNIOR WORLD RECORD IN MAXIMUM TIME ALOFT - UNLIMITED.**

**BY THE SECOND EVENT, MTA, THE BREEZE WAS CHOPPY. IN THE WARM UP PERIOD, BOOMERANGS WOULD ALTERNATE, ONE MOMENT BLOWING OUT OF THE PARK, THE NEXT, DROPPING LIKE A ROCK WITHIN 20 METERS OF THE LAUNCH POINT. AS A RESULT, MOST THROWERS WERE USING THREE-BLADED MANU'S, MOLDED FROM CARBON AND KEVLAR. KIAN WAS USING A TWO-BLADED GARY VILLARD BONUS, BORROWED FROM HIS DAD. HIS TYPICAL THROW WOULD NET 15-20 SECONDS, ON AVERAGE, AND HE WAS LEARNING THE NUANCES OF JUDGING THE CATCH, AS THE BOOMERANG PENDULUMED BACK TO EARTH.**

**IN HIS THIRD THROW OF THE ROUND, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED.**

**POWERED BY A NINE-YEAR OLD ROCKET ARM, THE BOOMERANG SKITTERED OUT, UP AND AROUND, SETTLING INTO A STABLE HOVER ABOUT 20 METERS UP. BUT SHORTLY AFTER REACHING ITS PEAK, THE BONUS STARTED TO MOVE SLOWLY, EERILY UPWIND AND OUT OF BOUNDS. IT HOVERED THERE FOR ABOUT 20 SECONDS AND LOOKED FOR A MOMENT AS IF IT WOULD DESCEND WITHOUT EVEN RETURNING TO THE 100 METER CIRCLE... ONE OF THOSE RARE VICTIMS OF A REVERSE WIND-SUCK.**

**BUT AT THAT MOMENT, ON THAT FIELD, SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY WAS UNFOLDING. THE APPROACHING THERMAL CAUSED THE UPWIND PULL, AND WHEN THE EDGE OF THE VORTEX SENT THE BONUS INTO A DRAMATIC ASCENT, IT WAS SUDDENLY OBVIOUS TO THOSE WATCHING THAT THIS WOULD BE NO ORDINARY FLIGHT. THE FIRST CHANGE WAS IN ALTITUDE, THE SECOND WAS IN DIRECTION, AS THE BOOMERANG REVERSED ITS PATH AND NOW TOWERED OVER THE CIRCLE, MENACING TO FLY AWAY. AS ONLOOKERS PREPARED FOR A CHASE, THE HOVERING STICK CONTINUED A BROAD ARC, THAT EVENTUALLY LEFT IT ON A HEADING WITH THE PREVAILING BREEZE... AND SUDDENLY FREE FROM THE LIFT THAT THREATENED TO LIBERATE IT FROM ITS THROWER.**

**AS THE THIN STRIP OF CARBON FIBER AND KEVLAR SETTLED SLOWLY BACK TO EARTH, KIAN DANCED WITH IT... STAYING DOWNWIND AND WAITING FOR THE MOMENT TO MAKE THE GRAB. THE BOOMERANG HAD, BY THIS TIME, TRAVELED OUT OF THE 100 METER CIRCLE... OPPOSITE THE SIDE FROM WHERE HE HAD LAUNCHED IT, MAKING IT AN MTA UNLIMITED TIME.**

**AS ONLOOKERS QUIETED FOR THE MOMENT... AND FRETTE... KIAN COOLLY REACHED OUT... AND CAUGHT... NOT ONLY THE 1:47 FLIGHT... BUT ALSO, THE NEW JUNIOR WORLD RECORD.**



## AN AUSTRALIAN/AMERICAN CLASSIC TURNS 50

*M-17s – 1970 vintage and present-day model (R. Harrison photo)*

*In 1959 a transplanted American living in Mudgeeraba, Queensland, Lorin Hawes (later Sir Lorin), devised a boomerang he called the M-17. The impact of Hawes and the M-17 on the sport is assessed by Richard Harrison, “The Boomerang Man”.*

In the early 1970s our children received the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SCHOLASTIC magazine. In one issue there was an article about Ben Ruhe's Boomerang Workshop at the Smithsonian. Basic boomerangs from Ben's RUHE RANGS were mentioned. In my hobby shop, I was selling the plastic Wham-0 and an Australian Boomerang by Bruce Kyle of Abbotsford. Neither I nor any of the kids at my hobby shop knew how to throw correctly. We had no idea about wind control or range.

I wrote for Ben's sales info which listed boomerangs such as : Hawes M-17 & Super Looper; Silady/Donnellan Plastic model; Bluey Williams King Billy Hook; German Sportcomeback and others (I can't recall).

The HAWES M17 was a winner from the very first throw. Compared to the the Original Wham-0 plastic rang and to the Kyle rang, the Hawes was truly user-friendly. I sold a few to my hobby shop customers (Pat Steigman remembers).

I sold my shop... Missed being in business for myself. In 1975, I decided to develop a mail order business. Of the several products I attempted to market, only boomerangs seem to attract interest.

I contacted Lorin Hawes, eventually making a conservative order of 25 rangs.

My selections of different brands increased, as did sales, the HAWES M17 being my #1 rang.

If you could throw it, it would return. Sure, it was too light for many throwers. But it worked, and in those days getting a return was what throwing was all about.

Lorin's early 17s were dark stain with a simple white stripe on one wing.

I began selling so many M17s and Super Loopers, that Lorin began supplying me fully shaped/tested unpainted boomerangs. Soon, I was receiving several cartons of 100 monthly.

In my paint room were open-framed, chicken wire-covered tables. I'd lay the rangs out, spray Deft stain on the backs, flip them over and stain the fronts. For colored painted rangs, I would seal the rangs with Deft satin lacquer. Rex (son) would sand and dust them. I'd come back applying various basic colors. White, with blue tips, or red, or black were popular. Painting so many rangs the same color was boring; this led me to producing color assortments every 10 or so.

Lorin purchased a gold leaf embossing machine and began imprinting his name in gold leaf. Because I was buying so many, he began imprinting my business name, his brand name and my logo.

He tested all his rangs. It was not unusual to receive blanks with grass stains and mud, which I never removed. One day, the mailman arrived, holding a Super Looper. "You want this? It's got your address on it, must have fallen out of a box. That'll be 32 cents, if you want it", he stated. Visit my shop, you'll see

the only "franked" boomerang in the USA.

Lorin improved his wax finish and designed his silkscreen kangaroo motif. The rangs looked so good that I stopped painting them. That design continues to this day.

Lorin sold the business to his friend, Peter Tomlinson. Peter may have sold it back to Lorin, or sold it to Lorin's daughter Jenny Stone (thus, Stones Throw). A few years ago the business was sold to the present owner, who retains the Stones Throw label. To my thinking, their M-17 and KP-16 are every bit as good as the original Lorin Hawes versions.

An article about Hawes would not be complete if it failed to mention his SILKY SPINNER. This lap-joint, handcarved beauty was a wonderful flyer. Light and durable, it did not require a hard throw, and was easy to catch. Each was attractively hand-decorated by Lorin. SILKY OAK (lace wood) grain runs both vertical and horizontal. SILKY SPINNERS ARE a collector's item.

Lorin was a highly intelligent man. He loved the repetitive motions boomerang making requires. Also, he loved his sailboat. He's gone now. When you are out enjoying your rangs, think of Lorin. His M-17 was proof that boomerangs really do return, and it introduced many of us to the sport of boomerangs.

## Origin of the M-17 name - *As told to Ben Ruhe by Lorin Hawes, 1983. From MHR#15.*

"I found that a 17-inch boomerang seemed to fly better than an 18-inch one. Eighteen inch being based on the dimension of a sheet of plywood. 18" seemed to spin too slowly. So I played around with that. Then I used to, when I was checking the things out, differentiate. We were putting a small ad in the Australian Post at the time, extolling the virtues of the boomerang and how nice they were to throw. And the best ones in any batch I was testing out, I'd put the letter "M" on the back of them. It was my way of saying they were suitable for mail order, because I felt that someone buying by mail is trusting me and doesn't have the opportunity of someone coming to my garage, who I would teach on the weekend. So I'd better send the absolute best to him. Eventually I stopped having so many rejects, as I learned to make better ones, and the "M" started appearing all the time."

## Upcoming Tournaments



**U.S. Beach Boomerang Championships, Hermosa Beach, CA , Mar.20-21st, 2010.**  
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**World Boomerang Championships, Rome, Italy, May 29-June 6, 2010**  
[Roma2010.ifba-online.com](http://Roma2010.ifba-online.com)

*From Pg.4*

*Conundrum answer : Two. Divide the 9 rangs into three groups of 3, and call the groups A, B and C. Put group A and group B on opposite sides of the balance. If the balance tips one way, the favorite MTA is in the group on the opposite side. If it doesn't tip at all, the lighter rang must be in group C. Knowing the correct group, take 2 rangs from that group and put them on opposite sides of the balance. By the same logic, the favorite b is found out.*

# Stay Rad

*Random attempts to define/explain the term*

....“ ‘Stay Rad’ is kinda like a phrase from the movie ‘Cool Runnings’ for me. As Derice in the movie says, ‘Cool Runnings’ means Peace be da Journey”....

**Dan Johnson**

....“I was first introduced to the Gel way of life during my boom travels way back at the Nationals in Northridge, CA. It’s where I met my Gelatives. Gel and Moleman (plus many more) brought skateboard language and philosophy to the boom world. I stayed honorary Team Gel for awhile (only to bug Mr. Girvin), and then I finally realized that I wasn’t Honorary anymore... I felt I was Rad in my own way, just like everybody else. We are some of the luckiest people... we have friends and Gelatives all over the world. Our sport is different and obscure. I think that also makes it Rad. Rad to me means : Cool, Excellent, BadAss, Great, Fun, Gnarly, Super, Nice, Dolce (from Max of Bologna), and of course... Radical.

STAY RAD....the act and being rolled into one....the continuation...never-ending....Nuff said.....STAY RAD”....

**Dennis “Juice”**

....“ ‘Stay Rad’. A saluation by Team Gel, used mostly at departures or ending conversations, ‘Stay Rad’ affirms the inherent Radness of the object, while wishing a continuance of the Radness, using the imperative. Its etymology stems from the truncation of the adjective Radical. Seemingly coined by Michael Gel Girvin, the phrase has grown in usage since the early 1980s, shortly after the spontaneous combustion of Team Gel at the legendary/mythical skate contest....”

**Stevie Kavanaugh**

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*Next Issue :*

- *Our next issue will be #100, as well as the USBA's 30th anniversary. Look for loads of features in this special issue!*
- *More 2009 tournaments, including U.S. Nationals*
- *Preview of 2010 World Cup*