

No.100 - Summer 2010

# Many Happy Returns

The Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

**M O L T O   R A D !**

*The United States comes home from Rome with the World Cup, as its Rad Revolution squad comes of age.*



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**Our 100<sup>th</sup> Issue !!**

## 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

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**Send commentary, photos, articles, tournament results, news items, etc. to MHR Editor, Bob Foresi: [Raforesiassoc@verizon.net](mailto:Raforesiassoc@verizon.net)**

*Especially needed for future issues are boomerang plans/photos, finished or unfinished.*

## **2010 - USBA 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Cover Photo submitted by John Flynn*

**USA Rad Revolution squad**

**L to R: Daniel Bower, Richard Bower, Dan Johnson, Matt Golenor, Logan Broadbent, Billy Brazelton, Gregg Snouffer, coach**

*Back cover photo as appeared on WBC website*

*Betsylew Miale-Gix*

# OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE

Many Happy Returns is celebrating 100 issues of coverage on the sport of boomerangs! Early issues in the series (#s 1-13) were titled simply, Boomerang Newsletter, and were edited by Ben Ruhe, who also edited issues 14 to 31. Furthermore (it's complicated), MHR was not the newsletter of the USBA before issue #20 (Fall 1984). The USBA's early newsletter was Return Mail, edited by Chet Snouffer, later by John Mauro. Past editors of the MHR series are:

# 1-19, 21-31	Ben Ruhe
# 20	Ben Ruhe/Ali Fujino Miller
# 32-41, 51-55, 78-83	Ted Bailey
# 42-50	Paul Sprague
# 56-58	Jay Emerson
# 59-68, 84-85	Gregg Snouffer
# 69-77	Tony Brazelton
# 86-91	Kendall Davis
# 92-96	Morri Mohr
# 97-98	Joe Rader/Denise Jewell Rader

Have you hugged a former editor lately? Thanks also to all the past assistant editors, reporters, photographic contributors, etc. for help getting MHR this far. Onward !

Back issues are available from Andy Cross : [across@telusplanet.net](mailto:across@telusplanet.net)

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**Retromania !!** *Scattered throughout this issue, in addition to current material, are four classic articles from past MHRs. Also a collection of just some of the fabulous poetry that's appeared in MHR through the years. Also a retro plan. Finally, for the insatiable nostalgia buff there's a selection of MHR excerpts from the past 30 years, which the editor could not resist putting in the form of a contest/quiz.*

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USBA Membership, 3351 236<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Brier, WA 98036

## USBA MEMBERSHIP INFO

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Type

\_\_\_\_\_ Electronic \$15.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ E Plus \$ 20.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$ 35.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Internat'l \$ 25.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$ 250.00

\_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

This is an annual membership organization. All memberships except lifetime memberships will be due for renewal at end of 2010.

## President's Letter

*Fellow boomerang enthusiasts,*

*As the Teams return from Rome, I want to take the time to make my first general message as President. There's a lot to be excited about with the performance of our throwers in Rome and a lot to look forward to, but also a lot of work that needs to be done. This isn't going to be short, and I apologize for that, but it's necessary, and I hope you'll all take the time to read completely and give feedback.*

**First and foremost, the USBA has to find a way to grow. Most of you know membership is down. There are a variety of reasons for this but I won't rehash any of the negatives of the past. Suffice it to say, as the old saying goes "If you're not growing, you're dying". The USBA is not on a healthy track at the moment. I have several suggestions for rectifying this, and I've asked the various Board members for their help, but we also need every USBA member to pitch in. The following is a list of actions that I believe will help us to grow. As I say, I've pitched these ideas to the Board, but any input or ideas will help. Details after the list:**

- 1. We need to get everyone online and have a central electronic way of communicating. For the moment, that's USBA\_Info.**
- 2. Reconnect with crafters.**
- 3. Solicit complaints and problems, but not if you don't have a solution in mind and are willing to put in time to help fix things.**
- 4. Expand the role of women and girls in the USBA.**
- 5. Have all Board members contribute a paragraph each quarter for MHR: plans, thoughts, insights.**
- 6. Prepare a ship-ready package with info, roomarangs (etc) with nice graphics when teachers or the public ask for info.**
- 7. Initiate an annual contest for all US Middle School/High School Physics and Earth Sciences students to build a boomerang and win a trip to the Nationals**
- 8. Get top throwers in the sport to contribute a short, once a quarter column for MHR relative to the various events, i.e., a section of the mag is "Tips and Tricks" where Betsylew writes about MTAs (with guest columnists), the Bowers write about Fast Catch, Eric writes about Endurance, and so on. The average thrower would love the insight, and it will make the Editor's job easier.**
- 9. Prepare a "How To Throw" video... finally!**

*Now, some details related to the above list. One of our big problems is membership. The question is, what to do about it? This issue has several facets.*

**First, I've asked Betsylew and Zoe to form a committee, invite anyone they want to participate, and come up with an actionable plan that we can initiate within one calendar year to increase the participation of girls and women in our sport. Between now and a year from now, the committee should be able to discuss with the Board ideas and plans, so that we have a real timetable. How can we get to the media with this issue?**

**Where can funds be applied to achieve the goals? What events or sponsors can be approached? Could we approach the Coman Race for the Cure folks and see if a Woman's sponsored tourney could draw participants, and throw for sponsor money to help raise money for their cause? Could we get some of the manufacturer's to start carrying booms designed for girls by girls? [Would boomerang resellers denote special coverage on their sites, for instance?] The main point: we need more women in the sport, and we need to do whatever it takes to get them involved.**

(cont. on p.9)

## *How to Lose an MTA*

by Ted Bailey From MHR #77

*I have lost* all three types of Maximum Time Aloft boomerangs (wood Bailey, Jonas, and Ola Snake) to the Wind Gods. The first Bailey MTA was lost during a Hampton, VA tournament in the 80s, where my timers last noted a time of over 17 minutes before we lost sight of the MTA. No chance of a catch on this one! It was just a spec in the clouds when we last could make it out. There was no 100-meter circle requirement in those days, and we were probably close to a mile away, anyway. I watched my Jonas take off into the mountains in Emmaus, PA after making a throw in the afternoon, while practicing for a night tournament. Expensive practice. I also shared the opinion that Snakes would come down and not be lost, until when I was throwing Snakes exclusively during John Flynn's tournament in Vermont three weeks ago. A practice throw of an 88% Snake set up into a hover, that carried it over trees, over the next field, and into the mountains. Bye, Bye! I think it is safe to say that the more tendency an MTA has to hover, the higher the chance of it taking off. All MTAs have a chance of catching a thermal, and if conditions are right, you will be looking for something else to throw. There are three ways that I have lost an MTA to the Jet Stream God.

The first is via a *thermal*, which is rising air with slow, cyclonic motion. The best place to find them is at the interface between a large green grassy field and a large blacktop surface in 80+ degree heat and with little wind. Just watch for where the vultures are hovering, and throw underneath. MTAs will just rise until all you see is a dot (or not) in the air. Often they just disappear. Midi-MTAs get lost the easiest.

The second is via a *dust devil* or other (anti) cyclonic vortex that spins faster than a thermal air mass. You want to hang the MTA at the edge of the vortex, not the center. One of the neatest MTA flights I ever saw was at the edge of Lake Erie in a February snowstorm. Gary Broadbent and his friend Ken launched two of my Midis up high. Their MTAs stabilized just as a vorte blew by. It looked just like a tornado, only smaller. It was about 6 feet across, and went from the ground all the way to the sky. Both MTAs became trapped in the edge of the vortex, which could be seen because the powdery snow painted the edges of the vortex ghostly white. The MTAs bobbed up and down and circled the center of the vortex like two moons around a planet. They stayed with the vortex for several minutes, until the vortex's path intresected Lake Erie. At that point the vortex abruptly disappeared. Both MTAs drifted slowly down. Gary's landed on the land a few feet from the shore. Ken's landed on the water 10 feet and quickly blew out into the middle of the lake. We had to restrain Gary, who was about to swim out to get it in 35-degree water and 20-degree air. I wish I had that one on videotape.

The 3rd way to lose an MTA is in *straight wind* with a vertical velocity gradient. One of my early models was the Wind Sailor, which is what Jonas started with in the development of his highly optimized super MTA. This type of MTA is capable of tacking relative to the wind. If you throw a LH and RH model at the same time, they go with the wind but at an angle of 60 degrees relative to each other. They also travel slower than the wind, thus the tack. The relative velocity between the blade and wind creates lift. Without a vortex the MTA will travel at nearly the same height, and just not come down. Thus the name Wind Sailor. I lost more than 50 of these, and then it wasn't fun anymore, so I stopped making them.



*The Bowery boys & James Stickney  
J. Flynn photo  
Other photos as appeared on WBC website*



*USA #2 il Sindicato XVIII  
clockwise from top left : Will Gix, James Stickney, Mark Weary, John Flynn, Betsylew Miale-Gix and Steve Kavanaugh, (contemplating the ageless bottle half full/bottle half empty conundrum)*



*USA #3 Third Eye Tribe- L to R , Nick Citoli, Jason Smucker, George Essig, Ty Beaujean, Pat Surdam, Zoe Ruhf*



*Carly Parkins  
There's that wine again*

# WORLD CUP

Rome, Italy , May 28-June 6, 2010

*by John Flynn*

The World Boomerang Championship trophy is back in US hands, after the Rad Revolution, the USA #1 team, consistently threw, ran, and caught better than 19 other teams, en route to an impressive 16.5-point margin over 3-time defending champion (and 6 of last 7) Germany. Switzerland finished 3rd, the US #2 team, il Sindicato XLIII, was 4th , and France #1 and Japan #1 finished tied for 5th . The Italian organizing contingent put on a well-organized week of events on the outskirts of Rome, a wonderful destination to a WBC. We were just a quick 15 minute bus ride from downtown so there were ample opportunities to see the important sights, and many added extra time before and after to see more of Italy and Europe. The weather was sunny, breezy and challenging, made more so by certain circle placements and variable field surface.

The RR's (Billy Brazelton, Dan Bower, Richard Bower, Logan Broadbent, Dan Johnson, captain Matt Golenor, and non-throwing coach Gregg Snouffer) led from wire-to-wire, continuing a peculiar WBC trend of the Day 1 team leader becoming the eventual champion. The results may have been different, or at least closer, had Germany not suffered two devastatingly sub-par events on Days 1 and 2 that cost them a -26 point differential against the RR, and rendered them mere mortals along with the other squads also looking up at the RRs. Sometimes, rarely, a team can absorb one bad event and still win a Cup, but never two. After 4 events on Day 1, RR had 7 placing points total, while France #1 had 15, il Sindicato 17, Germany 18, and 22 for the Swiss, playing without Stephen Spirgi, 2009 European co-champion, who could not attend due to personal commitments at home. Japan #1, considered a strong contender, had a difficult day with 34 points.

Day 2 saw the RR continue to set a strong pace but Germany chipping away slightly until MTA-100 where they finished 15th, falling back into the deep hole they dug for themselves in Super Catch on Day 1. The other contending teams fared similarly, or worse, and RR's (7 + 9.5) 16.5 total points after Day 2 was 27 ahead of Germany, 32.5 ahead of Switzerland, and France #1, USA #2, and Japan #1 (2nd overall for Day with 24.5 points) rounding out the top group. The rout was clearly on, and barring a colossal RR meltdown, the Cup was headed back to the US. Not enough events left for anyone to catch the RR otherwise.

The fierce sense of team preparation, fueled by disappointments in Asahikawa 2006 and Seattle 2008, and crystallized in Atlanta in late 2009 at the team trials, was not going to let this Cup slip away. But no matter how big the lead in any Team Cup tournament, the final team day is always a test of nerves and forced adherence to fundamentals. As if on cue, Day 3 saw the RR trip a bit for the first time all week, in first event MTA, with a 10th place. Germany of course was pleased to gobble up 8 placing points, finishing 2nd. Then another bump, 8th in Super Catch and a 1st for Germany, another big swing of 7 points, leaving the RR lead at 12 points with 2 events remaining! And all of a sudden, strange thoughts and glances were being tossed about....but the next event was Team Relay, an event the RR absolutely owned in Days 1 and 2 with fast-but-safe boomerangs and superior foot speed. The RR knew if they execute, they win. And that is exactly what they did. Not the near-perfect round like Day 1, but 8 throws and 8 catches combined with sprinter's speed yielded a nearly 7-second win over France #1, with Germany taking 3rd. So, with a 14-point lead now and only Australian Round remaining, the finish line was clearly in sight and the RR finished the job in style with a strong 1st place, followed by il Sindicato XLIII, and the German #1 and #3 teams tied for 3rd.

For the first time since 2002 in Kiel, a US team held the Cup at the victory ceremony, and I must say it was quite satisfying to sip champagne - or perhaps it was prosecco, no matter - from Uncle Toby's Cup once again. The Germans were gracious sportsmen in their uncharacteristic defeat, and one was left to wonder how the Swiss might have fared with Spirgi in the mix. The USA #2 il Sindicato squad finished respectably in 4th position, beating the top France and Japan squads. The USA #3 Third Eye squad had some strong performances and some learning experiences that resulted in a 12th place finish this time, but points to a bright future for several of its members, who were competing internationally for the first time.

In the Individuals on June 4 & 5, Alex Opri emerged from a 3-man scrum with Fridolin Frost and Manuel Schutz to take the World Individual Overall Championship. The deciding event was MTA-100, really an event for the ages. 32nd place was still over 40 seconds, as thermals started rising off the hard-baked surface in late morning, and spinning boomerangs rose and fell, or simply hung motionless in the air. Alex took 2nd place with 87.99 seconds but the thermals didn't keep everyone's sticks within the 100m diameter circle; Manu had

(cont. on pg. 11)



## *Beginner's Circle*

Getting in Tune

By Paul D. Sprague

*I gave a boomerang lesson one time at a university. I explained the throw I was about to do, and then was going to let the students throw the ones I lent them. Absentmindedly, I twisted the lift wing up on my polypropylene boom as I was speaking. I noticed they weren't listening anymore, but every blessed one of them was watching my hands and twisting their own boomerangs.*

*Here, in a nutshell, is the very roughest explanation of boomerang tuning. At competitions you hear throwers waxing eloquent about the ultimate MTA (Maximum Time Aloft) tweak – this is strictly basic:*

**With modern plastic boomerangs tuning can be done on-the-fly between throws. All you do is hold it in a stiff bend for a second and toss. You can see the results immediately. Wooden boomerangs, although they can be hand-tuned to a certain extent, are a different story.**

**Tune: Positive dihedral – Bend the wingtips up (away from the flat side).**

**Result: Higher flight, lands more downwind of launch point, may come in with more speed.**

**Use in low wind conditions with a soft layout throw.**

**Tune: Negative dihedral – bend wingtips down (toward flat side).**

**Result: Lower flight, lands more upwind of launch point, more circular flight pattern.**

**Use in high wind conditions with a high throw.**

**Tune: Positive angle of attack - twist leading edge of wing up.**

**Result: Airfoil "bites" more wind, flies around a smaller circle. Shorter range.**

**Tune: Negative angle of attack – twist leading edge of wing down.**

**Result: Longer range flight. Use in high wind conditions with a strong throw.**

*Depending on the design of your boomerang, using one or more of the tunes described above may achieve perfect flight. Try them first on one wing, then the other, to see how they affect the flight pattern. Be aggressive when experimenting, give it a lot of tune, so you can tell the effect it has, then back off until it gives you the flight you want.*



**Next, we have to work on involving crafters in a more serious and significant way. For some, there's been a perceived schism, deserved or not, between crafters and competitors, and we need to close it and involve everyone. I was talking to Dave Hendricks in Emmaus, and I asked him, how do we get those crafters that have drifted away back? He said some of them don't see the point. To which I say, even if you don't want to gather and play, the synergy of a national group helps all our causes. We all want the sport to continue and thrive, and we want others to see and enjoy and join in with us for what we obviously find as beautiful and rewarding. We need to work together to accomplish this. But we also want to see warm bodies at the Nationals. It's a "Tournament and Exposition" after all. If we could get even half as many exhibitors to show up as do competitors, think of the fun! This may be a hard sell, but we need to work on it. After all, every major enterprise has some sort of National gathering for the personal, face-to-face aspect of the endeavor. Personally, as both a crafter and competitor, I believe both aspects deserve equal attention.**

**We need to renew an open invitation for comment and constructive criticism but give no quarter for vicious, pointless rambling. You'd think the Board had our own fleet of black helicopters (this is referential for the conspiracy set). Most of the current Board has not been involved long enough to even know of all the grudge issues. So we put it bluntly: tell us your thoughts, problems and complaints, but not if you don't have a solution in mind and are willing to put in personal time to help fix things.**

**We need more people to contribute to MHR. Get throwers to contribute a once a quarter column for MHR related to each of the seven contested events. We can also have someone write about Team Events. Nothing lengthy; c'mon, who can't write two paragraphs four times a year? A couple of graphs about construction, throwing style, dealing with wind, psyching competitors, etc. And no one in particular has to write it each time; any thrower can add in.**

**I asked Don and Matt to form a committee (including John Gaston) to initiate an annual National Boomerang competition (and hopefully a better name). With a small sum from a sponsor (Outback? Our own Boomerang Freight?) of about \$3-5k, we purchase or acquire mailing lists for all U.S. Earth Sciences teachers (Jr.High/Middle school) and physics teachers (High school). Then, we mail/email all these teachers an invitation to participate. The contest is simple: Students write two paragraphs in the process of building a boomerang, 1) about how a boomerang works, and 2) about how they constructed their boomerang. This goes hand in hand with the classroom exercise of actually making a boom. Then, each teacher selects a winner from their class. Those papers are submitted online to ten USBA volunteers. We read the entries and select one for each official to actually mail the completed boomerangs for testing. The grand prize: an all expense paid trip for student and parents/guardians to USBA Nationals. The payoff to sponsor; their name to all U.S. physics teachers for next to nothing and a highly leverageable p.r. payoff. For us: the USBA in every classroom. With estimates from Eric, Gary and Dana of tens of thousands of boomerangs being sold yearly, surely one percent of those buying a boomerang can be pulled into the USBA.**

**I asked James Stickney, Daniel and Richard Bower to form a committee to craft a boomerang kit prepared in advance for shipping to any bona fide boomerang query. That is, if a teacher or somebody like that wants to know more, we have a nice graphics kit already prepared and can be shipped immediately. A box custom fitted to the USPS Flat Rate box, for instance. Gary or other manufactures will gladly supply foam or non-liability issue booms and then we need the box with graphics and even a CD/DVD. And with that in mind, I've asked Rob to help me finally get a professional "How to Throw" video off the ground, coordinated with James, Daniel and Richard and into said kit. My thought is to shoot this at the 2010 Nationals. That will mean a couple of folks show up a day or two early to the shooting. We should have the kit ready by this time next year**

**So these are just some of my thoughts for an improved and growing USBA. We're all busy, I know, but as Betsy Lew oft mentions, "many hands make for a lighter load". That, and a long throw approach (no LD puns intended). That is, if we work incrementally over time, and with lots of folks pitching in, we can achieve some large and lasting goals. I've purposefully set these goals with a one-year time frame in mind. Surely realistic and achievable. When I contemplated taking over this job, I didn't want to take it on without sincerely attempting to fulfill the work of the office. With your help, I think we can make great strides**

*towards a dynamic and thriving USBA. After all, if I take the point of view for Richard, Daniel, James or Zoe, those a generation behind me, where do you want the USBA to be in 30 years? Not that I'm going off to wrestle Grizzlies anytime soon, mind you... but you get my point.*

*I'm excited to tell you that I've discussed with the Board, and also some key people, the idea of hosting the 2016 WBC in my home town of Dallas, Texas. Keep in mind, the Dallas/Ft.Worth area is a large, urbane setting of roughly 7 million people. Though we do have some, it's not all cowboys and oil wells in Texas! I've written the IFBA to let them know of this intention and will be working to make a presentation at the 2012 WBC in Sua Paulo.*

*Finally, I'll just mention this much about myself, in case you don't know. I may be relatively new to the USBA (joined in 2003), but I've been throwing as long as almost anyone. I threw my first boom around Xmas of '65... a Sportcraft that broke with a couple of throws. But I've been throwing constant since March of '75 when I encountered the famous Wham-O boomerang. Then, Ben Ruhe called me in Jan. of '79 after seeing me on P.M. Magazine (seems there were several of us that did that show) but back then I didn't have the time or money to get to D.C. Ben did put me in contact with Rich Harrison, and I made contact with the wider world of boomerangs. Now, I've been on the Board the past four years, and though I may not know about all of the skeletons, I have a good idea of the general state of our sport and the USBA. I hope we can all join together to make the USBA the best it can be,*

*David*

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### **2010 Tournament Results**

through 6/01/10

#### **5/08/2010 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Seattle Open**

1)	Richard Bower	24.0	9)	Logan Broadbent	47.0
2)	Matt Golenor	31.0	10)	William Gix	53.0
3)	Daniel Bower	32.0	11)	Brian Wissner	56.0
4)	Billy Brazelton	32.5	12)	Nick Citoli	57.0
4)	Betsylew Miale-Gix	32.5	13)	Doug Dufresne	66.5
4)	James Stickney	32.5	Intermediate		
7)	Steve Kavanaugh	35.5	1)	Dean Kelly	
8)	Dan Johnson	45.0	2)	Eric	
			3)	Neethi	

#### **5/18/2010 Australian National Championship Melbourne, Australia**

- 1) Craig Carter
- 2) Rob Croll
- 3) David Richardson

only scores available

Other tournament results – P. 18

*"Tell me a fixed rule on making a boomerang, and I'll show you the boomerang on which it is not applicable."  
Rusty Harding*

Cont. from p.7

a 38, Frido a 36, and Alex finished with a strong Trick Catch event to easily claim his first world title. **17-year-old American Nick Citoli set a new MTA-100 World Record of 2 minutes, 19.10 seconds, and Billy Brazelton set a new MTA-Unlimited World Record of 6 minutes, 20 seconds!!** Overall, the US made a strong showing in the Individuals with several Top 20 finishes: Dan Bower (6), Steve Kavanaugh (7), Rich Bower (10), James Stickney (11), Billy Brazelton (12), Logan Bradbent (13), Adam Ruhf (14), Mark Legg (15), John Flynn (18), Mark Weary (20t).

Overall results can be seen at <http://www.bumerangclub.de/rl/results/otb.htm> . Thanks to the DBC and Italian organizing team for posting them.

Team Results	Pts.
1. USA – Rad Revolution	36.5
2. Germany – Heads	53
3. Switzerland – Skandal	63
4. USA – Il Sindicato	72
5. France – Limit a Bloc	83.5
5. Japan – Samurai	83.5
7. Germany – Dreckhecken	93.5
8. Italy – Made in Italy	108.5
9. Australia – Aussie Devils	118.5
10. Japan – Shoryu	122.5

Billy Brazelton and Nick Citoli, new MTA World Record Holders (J. Flynn photo)



**The 2012 World Cup will be held in Sao Paolo, Brazil.**

World Cup Team Winners Site

2010	USA	Rome, Italy
2008	Germany	Seattle, WA
2006	Germany	Asahikawa, Japan
2004	Germany	France
2002	USA	Kiel, Germany
2000	Germany	Melbourne, Australia
1998	Germany	St. Louis, MO
1996	Germany	New Zealand
1994	USA	Kyoto, Japan
1992	USA	Hamburg, Ger.
1991	USA	Perth, Australia
1989	USA	Gaithersburg, MD
1988	USA	Barooga, Australia
1987	USA	USA, France
1984	Australia	USA
1981	USA	Austaralia



Individual Championship Winners  
 Manuel Schutz, 3rd, Alex Opri, 1<sup>st</sup>, Fridolin  
 Frost, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Jungi Maiya, 4<sup>th</sup>, Andrea Sgattoni, 5<sup>th</sup>)  
 (photo as appeared on WBC website)

## How to be a Champion

by Kelly Boyer Sagert

*This 1998 article notes the strong points of throwers, classified by geographic region. Pay no mind to Kelly's downplaying of her qualifications to write this type of commentary. Instead it proves just how keen the view can be from the perimeter of the throwing field.*

First, the Midwest. These throwers have an extraordinary grasp of sport fundamentals. They're strong, they're tough, and their throwing sessions border on the excruciating. They stress basics, they practice repetition of skills, and they work hard on the skeleton of this sport.

You can't tell a Midwest thrower that you've already practiced for an event. They'll just answer, "Well, that's real nice, now, isn't it? Now do it again." Their attitudes remind me of an old story about a painting apprentice. This student had worked long hours on a certain piece of artwork, and he'd toiled over the techniques of stroking the brush.

He then took his completed painting to a master of the art. The master examined it closely, smiled, pointed out what he liked of the work, and then he said, "Now, finish it."

"Finish it? Why, Master, I'm done." "Oh no, my son. You certainly aren't done," the master said, pointing out flaws, small spots of white burrowed amongst the color.

The student then painstakingly covered the unpainted portions, and he proudly returned.

"Now I am done, most certainly."

"Much better, much better," the master said. "But you are not finished. What about this uneven shading over here, that blotch over there?"

This scenario was repeated, in various flavors, many times over, until the frustrated student finally cried out, "But Master, when will I ever be finished?" The master looked absolutely astonished at this question. "My son," he said, "why, that answer ... would be never". And that, I believe is the gift of Midwest throwers. They realize that, even if they win an event, even if they place first in a tournament, even if they dominate their sport, practice is never finished.

Now, head East. Listen to these throwers encourage each other. That's it, they might say, go ahead, find your inner place..... but first consider your purpose.... Then free-flow. You've got to free-flow...

How different that is from the foundations-first philosophy I hear in the Midwest. The East Coast thinking, to me, is the essence of brainstorming, that floating, right-brained thinking that can be gathered and harnessed, much as a mill wheel can be powered by the force of the invisible currents of clear water. They grasp answers found within a dream, cosmic and spiritual, solutions melded from the dots-not-all-connected kind of thinking that embarrasses the more rational brain. They search for their inner core, they uncover the marrow of the mind.

East Coast throwers know the incredible ability of untapped energy, so they dig deep, they burrow until they are in tune with their subconscious, then they focus their mental and physical waves onto the astonishing boomerang. Following on the artistic theme, think about this:

“New artists must break a hole in the subconscious and go fishing there.” (Robert Beverly Hale, *Time*, 4/11/1960)

Or this: “I dream a lot. I do more painting when I’m not painting. It’s in the subconscious.” (Andrew Wyeth, *Time*, 8/18/1986)

And, maybe this is what the East Coasters are saying. Or, maybe again I’m being presumptuous:

“The first job is to get some clarity of understanding about yourself, what you are, and where you are going.” (Harry D. Gideonese, in Arthur Goodfriend, *What is America?*, 1954).

And now..... meditate on these words: awesome, unruly, radical, impassioned, enthusiastic, intense, spontaneous, spirited, combustible. Pack your excuses into the trunk, get your hand slapped for saying, “I can’t.” Just ... do it. Of course, the West Coast. These throwers have been blessed with the joy and laughter that only the risk takers in life will ever know. Go for it, even though you end up covered in sweat and mud, your boomerang crashing 10 meters from your spectacularly inaccurate dive. Here are additional thoughts:

“Go for the moon. If you don’t get it, you’ll still be heading for a star.” (Willis Reed, quoting one of his high school coaches, in Bill Bradley, *Life on the Run*, 1976).

“The greatest mistake you can make in life is to continually fearing that you will make one.” (Elbert Hubbard, *Note Book*, 1927).

“I believe in rules. Sure I do. If there weren’t any rules, how could you break them?” (Leo Durocher, *Nice Guys Finish Last*, 1975).

“Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.” (Helen Keller, *The Open Door*, 1957).

“Kid, just go down there and throw yourself on the fire.” (Andy McDonald, to Steve Raible, *New York Times*, 11/14/1976).

Forgive me, please, for my generalizations, and, God Bless America, go ahead and disagree with my finer points. Feel free to scoff at advice offered from a novice thrower, who still needs to ask her husband the direction of the wind. But, also consider this challenge: keep an open mind and mull over these on-the-side lines, backseat driver kind of observations. And then, please have faith that you can win, that you are going to win, faith meaning this:

“When you have come to the edge of all you know, and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things will happen: there will be something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly.”

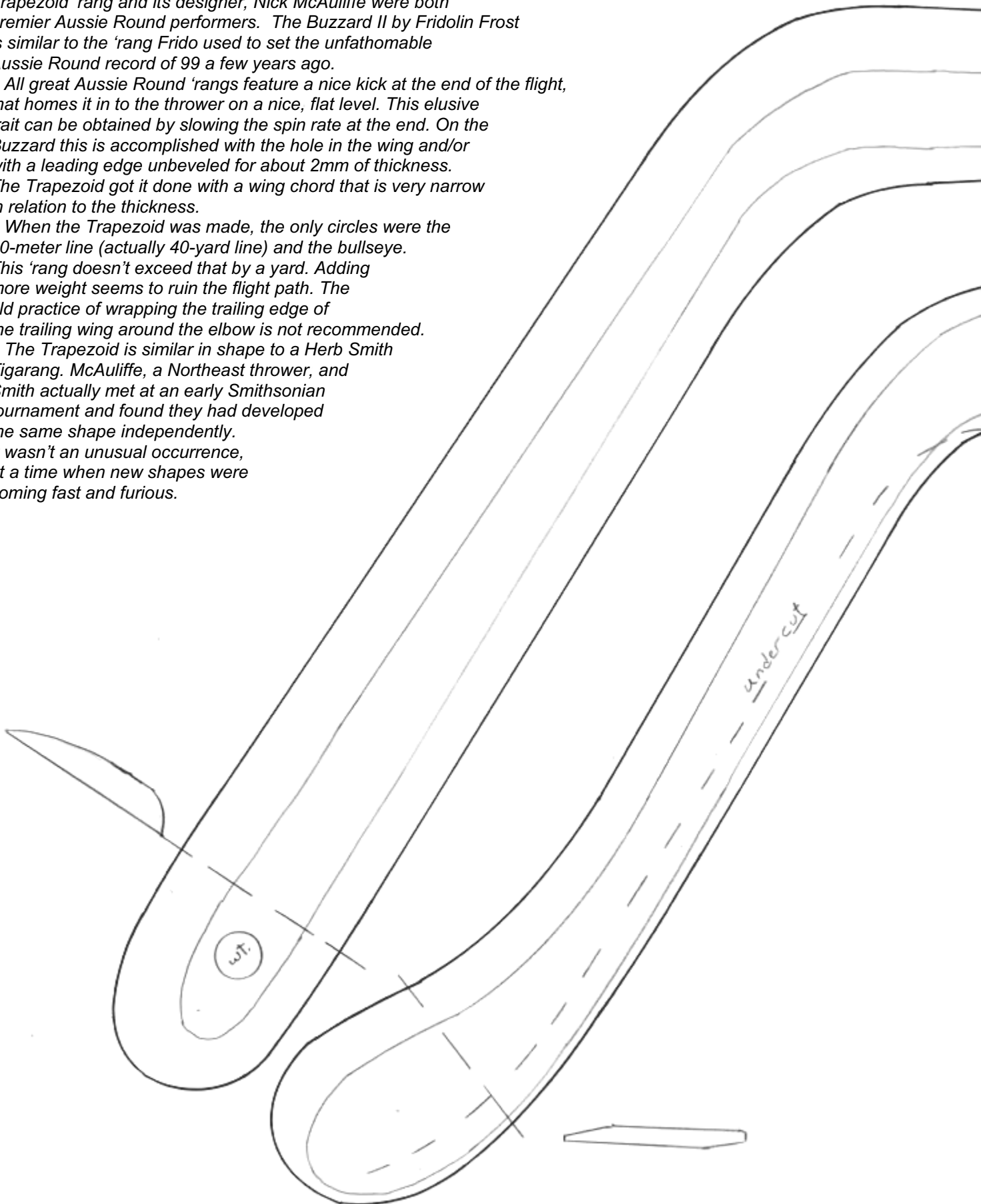
## Australian Round - Then and Now

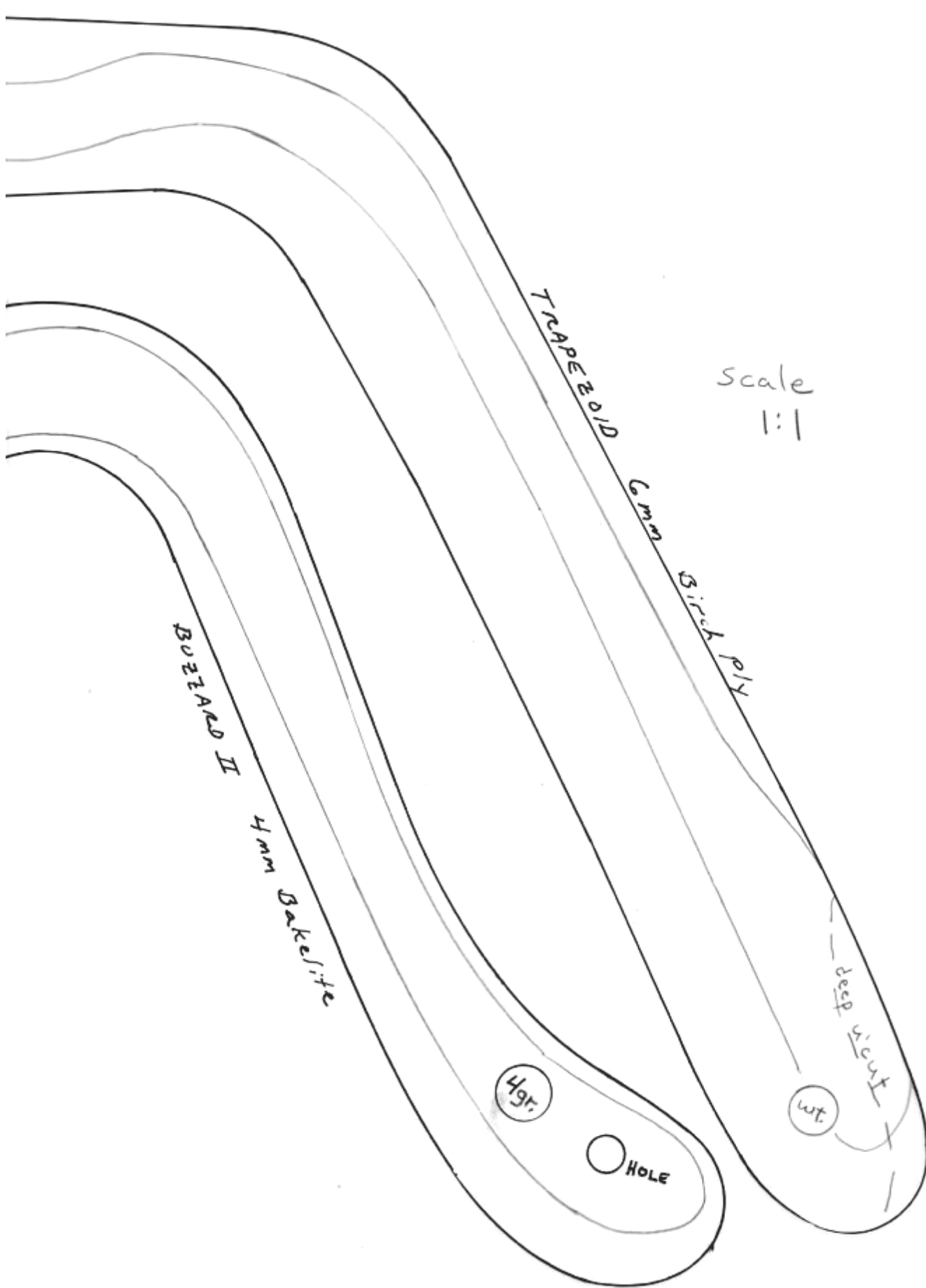
Made in the year of the USBA's inception, 1980, this Trapezoid 'rang and its designer, Nick McAuliffe were both premier Aussie Round performers. The Buzzard II by Fridolin Frost is similar to the 'rang Frido used to set the unfathomable Aussie Round record of 99 a few years ago.

All great Aussie Round 'rangs feature a nice kick at the end of the flight, that homes it in to the thrower on a nice, flat level. This elusive trait can be obtained by slowing the spin rate at the end. On the Buzzard this is accomplished with the hole in the wing and/or with a leading edge unbeveled for about 2mm of thickness. The Trapezoid got it done with a wing chord that is very narrow in relation to the thickness.

When the Trapezoid was made, the only circles were the 40-meter line (actually 40-yard line) and the bullseye. This 'rang doesn't exceed that by a yard. Adding more weight seems to ruin the flight path. The old practice of wrapping the trailing edge of the trailing wing around the elbow is not recommended.

The Trapezoid is similar in shape to a Herb Smith Tigarang. McAuliffe, a Northeast thrower, and Smith actually met at an early Smithsonian tournament and found they had developed the same shape independently. It wasn't an unusual occurrence, at a time when new shapes were coming fast and furious.







Come back boomerang  
Precession is the master  
Like a tethered bird.

*Tom Conally*

Cold stiff hands working  
Fast over spinning grinder  
Boomerang making

*Steven Graham*

**A boomerang orbits a spherical  
Perimeter track. But no miracle  
Compares to F. Hess  
Untangling the mess  
With amazing deductions empirical.**

*H.L. Mayhew*

X=0, Y=0, Z=0

I float in eerie surrealism at the center of the  
universe, above the grassy field.  
My splashy neon strip-laminated carbon fiber  
inversible quivers in anticipation.  
I release it in precise, artistic slow-mo.  
It redshifts instantly into full impulse,  
screaming electromagnetic day-glo arcs  
across the crackling horizon.  
It shatters the air, shards of leafy sunlight  
crashing in its wake.  
It follows the plan, predestined with the FAA  
since the Dreaming.  
It banks and levels, seeking zero coordinates,  
seeking fulfillment.  
I lunge at the one tangible object in a psyche-  
delic free-spinning vortex of sparks and  
primitive stick figures.  
And the world is at peace; I've caught my  
boomerang.

*Paul Sprague*

**'Rang  
Nature's warm breath politely inquired,  
"What is this toy, freshly acquired?  
With trailing edge sharp and leading edge  
thick.  
What is this mysterious half-bent stick?"**

**She listened thoughtfully as I replied,  
"A boomerang! It surfs the heavens' tide."  
And with that, I hurled it to  
That She might have a closer view.**

**She spun it round and screamed delight,  
Then turned it to a greater light,  
And raised it high so she could see  
Its supple, curving symmetry.  
Then thoughtfully laid it flat,  
So she could gently hand it back.  
Now, I think she likes this stick okay.  
We play this game most every day.**

*John Harp*

No map could bring you here.  
A sense of place did not precede you.  
The sky remained constant  
As obstacles of earth moved aside.  
You are no longer faced with questions  
Of who to be or what to do,  
For all that is now left to you  
Is forecasting the weather of each moment.  
Your pursuits are beyond intuition and calculation.  
Thinking without thoughts can no longer surprise you,  
You must surprise them.

T.W. Smith

### Field of Dreams

*Most boomchuckers dream of a time,  
when they go to a tournament and the  
weather : sublime.*

*With the wind blowing ever so slight,  
and the clouds cover the sun's bright  
blinding light.*

*Well that day just happened to come  
on June twenty-second, nineteen ninety-  
one.*

*In Amherst, Mass. is where you  
would find*

*Larry Ruhf's Boomfest was held in  
Dreamtime.*

*We should have first become suspicious  
when Paul David did something that  
proved to be auspicious.*

*During Accuracy his rang scored 48,  
this feat alone would have made the  
tournament great.*

*But Paul's rangs would have more to say,  
as soon as the MTA event got on its way.*

*Youngblood and Paul tossed their rangs up  
high.*

*Both caught a thermal and kissed the sky.  
 It took Blood's rang 55 seconds to  
 come down  
 and on any other day, it would have been  
 a winning round.  
 But it was in Dreamtime that  
 tournament was held.  
 On this day the American MTA record  
 fell.  
 Paul's rang seemed to have help from  
 the heavens  
 with his rang coming down in one minute  
 eleven.  
 During Fast-catch low 20s were  
 being made,  
 by groups of boomchuckers throwing  
 triblades.  
 On any other day these scores would  
 have been fine  
 but this tournament was being held in  
 Dreamtime.  
 Robby Parkins got pumped and made  
 his boomerang scream,  
 setting a new world record in Fast-catch at  
 eighteen sixteen.  
 During Juggling, rangs filled the  
 heavens  
 and it was here another record was  
 seriously threatened.  
 First Allen Grindle got in a groove  
 and posted a score of one twenty-two.  
 Then Mole Man's rangs sent him  
 down the field  
 but one twenty-nine was all he could  
 yield.  
 So next time you hear of a boomfest  
 in Amherst,  
 get out your best rangs and come well  
 rehearsed.  
 Because when the wind becomes  
 still, you just may find,  
 yourself in a contest being held in  
 Dreamtime.*

*Robert X. Quinn*

### A Sonnet

*I threw a boomerang into the sky,  
 It looked like it was going far away,  
 But back to me the boom did turn and fly,  
 (I must admit it helped a bit to pray..)*

*It hovered in the air; it seemed to stay  
 Aloft to drop down into my waiting hands,  
 I made sure there was no one in my way,  
 Although my throws had drawn a group of fans.*

*I wondered if I'd take a little chance,  
 A trick catch would be an impressive feat,  
 I prepared myself and got into my stance,  
 Prepared to fall upon my tender seat.*

*They saw the trick that I hoped to complete  
 A soft, short gasp came from the smallish crowd  
 The 'rang I would soon catch between my feet  
 A catch, if made, would do me very proud.*

*But pride's a tricky thing I've often found,  
 The boomerang did end up on the ground.*

*Bart Lidofsky*

*No dark man spent desert nights worrying  
 this shape from warped mulga root  
 with a blade of broken stone. Instead  
 the curve sprang clean from birch ply,  
 triggered by a jigsaw blade, and was  
 coaxed with a rasp and sanding wheel  
 to sporting goods store smoothness.*

*Still, its spin trims lace in the  
 borders of an owned ring of air,  
 and snatches of ancient chants  
 are stirring in the singing of its  
 wings.*

*Casey Woods*

*Earliest MHR poem, 1982*

# Catching Up



We're still catching up. Following are tournament results from 2009 not covered in the last issue.

## 10/25/2009 Viareggio, Italy

This is one tournament all boomerangers should attend at least once. The field atones for the unfortunate 'chariot ruts' of Rome, and the site has had more than its share of record-setting performances, owing to the tendency for calm conditions here in the fall. 40 throwers turned out.

1)	Manuel Schutz	15.5
2)	Alex Opri	17.5
3)	Fridolin Frost	28.5
4)	Andrea Sgattoni	39.0
5)	Arnaud Tribillion	48.5
6)	Jerome Royo	56.0
7)	Guido Queitsch	77.0
8)	Alessandro Benedetti	79.5

## 8/29-8/30/2009 European Boomerang Championships Lausanne, Switz.

76 throwers turned out for Europe's premier event.

1)	Stephan Spirgi	Switz.	43.5
1)	Fridolin Frost	Ger.	43.5
3)	Alex Opri	Ger.	67.0
4)	Arnaud Tribillion	Fr.	67.5
5)	Manuel Schutz	Switz.	73.5
6)	Olivier Chelmas	Fr.	84.0
7)	Jerome Royo	Fr.	86.0
8)	Loofy Boiteux	Fr.	97.5
9)	Oli Thienhaus	Ger.	100.5
10)	Lars Overzee	Neth.	137.5

## 8/21-8/23/2009 U.S. Nationals Delaware, Ohio

The event was run super-smooth by the person who has run more Nationals than anyone - Chet Snouffer. This Nationals featured the use of a (double?) polo field, which seems to have sprung up out of a cornfield practically overnight (one gets a vision of the Snouffer brothers hacking this out in the days just prior to the event). In any case Delaware County's loss of corn crop was the boomerang community's gain for three fine days. Lars Overzee of the Netherlands was a welcome attendee.

First day was devoted solely to Long-Distance. Steve Kavanaugh crossed over into the ranks of LD, and was the one who best read the tricky (some said multi-layered) breezes, to win the event with a throw of about 135 meters. As usual, there were many throws farther, but failed to cross the line on return.

The Saturday and Sunday were devoted to the standard six events. Daniel Bower led the way for a strong showing by West Coast throwers, winning Aussie Round (86/100 pts.), Trick Catch (94 pts.), and 2nds in Endurance and Fast Catch. Dan Johnson of Wisconsin had firsts in Max. Time Aloft (96.71sec.) and Accuracy (84/100 pts). Betsylew Miale-Gix won Endurance (58 catches) and Fast Catch (22.32sec.). Thirty-nine throwers competed. Kian Snouffer won the Junior Division. Dennis Joyce's string of consecutive Nationals (30+?) remains intact. B.F.

### Nationals Placings

1)	Daniel Bower	27.5 pts.	18)	Don Monroe	93.5
2)	Logan Broadbent	35.5	20)	Brian Wissner	107.0
3)	Billy Brazelton	47.5	21)	Ty Beaujoin	108.0
4)	Dan Johnson	57.0	22)	Pat Surdam	122.0
5)	Stevie Kavanaugh	61.0	23)	Dennis Joyce	126.0
6)	Richard Bower	61.5	24)	Nick Citoli	129.0
6)	Mark Weary	61.5	25)	Eric Darnell	139.0
8)	Will Gix	62.0	26)	Peter Hansch	145.5
9)	Mark Legg	65.5	27)	Tim Maultsby	156.5
10)	Betsylew Miale-Gix	69.5	28)	Bill Rusky	169.0
11)	Jas. Stickney	71.0	29)	Isaac Syler	175.5
12)	Chet Snouffer	72.0	30)	Zoe Ruhf	179.5
13)	Gary Broadbent	75.0	31)	Carly Parkins	180.0
14)	Moleman	75.5	32)	Tara Whelan	186.0
15)	George Essig	88.5	33)	David Hirsch	186.5
16)	John Flynn	90.5	34)	Steven Peck	190.5
17)	Lars Overzee	91.5	35)	Stephanie Frisch	193.5
18)	Chicago Bob	93.5	36)	Dana Carlson	200.0
			37)	Bob Foresi	202.0
			38)	John Gaston	206.5
			39)	Kian Snouffer	213.5

### **7/18/2009 29th New England Boomerang Corrobboree**

*With the Ruhfs taking a West Coast sabbatical, the 29<sup>th</sup> New England Boomerang Corrobboree took place at Sachem Field, site of the 2005 US Nationals. Winds were variable and tricky. Some throwers got windows of predictable wind, others were humbled by shifting gusts. To achieve the 12-person total needed, 83-year old Jack Flynn made his competitive debut, throwing a Manuel Schutz 3-bladed MTA in Accuracy and scoring 27 points. His grandson, George Flynn, won Accuracy with 67 points. – J.Flynn*

1)	John Flynn	13.5	7)	Wilson Lawrence	39.5
2)	Steve Kavanaugh	21.0	8)	Barnaby Kyle Ruhe	44.5
3)	Bart Flynn	24.0	9)	Eric Darnell	49.5
4)	Rick Saidenberg	29.0	10)	Paul Gustafson	52.0
5)	George Flynn	34.0	11)	Tricia Gustafson	67.0
6)	Barnaby Ruhe	34.5	12)	Jack Flynn	71.0

*Junior Champ was Caden Kavanaugh.*

**“A boomerang is the poor man’s falcon” Steve Woodson**

*Is it the greatest boomerang article ever written? This 1985 Barnaby Ruhe article is both timeless and dated. Written in response to a question posed by MHR.*

*[sic throughout, like Huck Finn – Ed.]*

## What do Throwers Carry in their Boomerang Bags?

*By Barney Ruhe, MHR #21*

1. Pennies plus aluminum tape, for reweighting b's for wind, retuning – for going from 19 to 21 meters for fast catch, or from 39 to 41 meters in aussie round.
2. Lots of post office rubber bands, to keep b's in stack presses, prevents warping from sun and heat and steam. You can pick up a b at the nationals and discover, too late, in air that it has a warp.
3. Leather glove for right hand. Especially if bag contains a Willy Urban "lawn mower".
4. "Green Gripper" ®: "Wipe on grip and control" – a sticky towel that gets fingers tacky, so you can "bury" a 40-meter distance b' below the horizon – Carl Naylor "rubber band" style – in order to get it to come all the way back in no wind. Also great to rub over whole b' for sure catch (pitcher's rosin, plus sweat, combine comparably. Maybe the best of all is orange juice goo).
5. plumber's toilet ball – cut in half, with the bolt filed down to a spike, sliced to spread to fit the head, rubber padding taped on the copper toilet ball, all to make an apple perch, as the spike pokes through.
6. Elfedrichler's red stocking hat - For William Telling.
7. Sewing needle and thread: to sew around the widest girth of an apple. Next pull the string through the apple's core, et voila'! A secretly split apple, (thanks to Al Gerhards for this idea), which breaks a bit easier on impact of self-targeted b'. PPS: the apple's skin is often tough enough to resist the most sinister weighted 40-meter b', e.g. musashi.
8. Alternative, also kept in bag: toothpicks to keep pre-split apple together until the denouement. Let's face it, folks, the unruly mob craves having the apple split on contact. No roll-offs.
9. Apple.
10. Arm and forehead sweat bands. Can hitch armband up to elbow to aid in warding off tennis elbow.
11. Elbow and knee braces. This is an old boys' sport. That's me.
12. Cleats: required. B'er is a launching platform. Must dig in for stability, and power push-off. How many times have you felt a tiny slip on the grass at launch, re-directing that b' that fatal bit. Great too for jump-off for the bunny-hop, kamikaze tactic for catching mid-air, as one hurls toward consec catch foot catch. (Remember to scream mid-air for 13c. kamikaze leap.)
13. You knew this was coming; you waited this long to get it; here it is: FETISH. This is personal: can be a striped red and black sock with a sea stone and an abo thigh bone knob. Can be a peg dressed with emu feather, peregrine tail feathers and claws, black aussie eagle tail feather; peg is painted, koala turd ball, red string, redwing blackbird – entire, and clothespin-wooden-painted emblem of instant santori-flash zen-society, (a secret b'er society, for which the members are unaware of the secret). Fetish useful in dialogue with furry bear wind spirits that noxiously bat the boomerang mid-air, waiting till after launch to descend and derail impeccably aimed b'.
14. Polaroid camera to catch wind spirit in the act, not yet successfully photographed. But I swear it's there.
15. Cigarette and match, to light up when the breeze is variable and soooo light only the smoke will discover its path.

16. Flask and Jamison's scotch whiskey, when the winds are soooo wild one needs a nip of courage.
17. Strips of fiberglass and 5-minute epoxy, to repair the b' that just broke that will win (A roll of thin steel tape was vogue this summer, until it was discovered that an upflap made a cutting edge. Forget this one ..... new craze is carbon fiber cloth (strong).
18. Dog and travois for caddying all the above.... with the hundred b's taken to a contest by the neurotic competitor who has a b' for every wind and pressure differential and energy level and contest type. And remains undecided.
19. Blanket, to lay b's on to keep off the grass.
20. Notepad for tuning comments on the field testing, to take back to the shop for reshaping decisions.
21. Stopwatch, for f.c. and MTA practice tests.
22. As with #1, aluminum tape doubles as wing spoiler, when taped onto top of wings with a crease flap raised, acts as a brake, drops b' without kiting..... in heavy wind for Fast Catch and accuracy. Darnell's.
23. Unbreakable plastic b' for urban assault. Good for throwing around monuments in the city square.
24. Sheleghleigh, heavy wooden stick, for un-treing forlorn b's.
25. Power snacks.
26. Mudgeeraba dirt.
27. Fingernail clipper.
28. Wind sock plepole and string O.K.
29. USBA membership application, for voyeurs.
30. Chess set/portable, for playing Naylor and Forrester; one queen is missing – their handicap.
31. Indoor b' for bar bragging, and setting MTA records while crossing datelines in planes.
32. Dog tags; donating b's to science, when struck by teed off golfers teeing off.
33. Sparklers, to tape on for nitelite, pseudo-darnell style.
34. B's. Natch.
35. More b's.
36. Etc.
37. Subway tokens, to get to sheep meadow at dawn.
38. Baby frisbee dayglo cones, for instant circle markers. Sawed-off tennis balls O.K.
39. Timely permit, to foil irascible pompous polo riders.
40. Sextant, binoculars, megaphone, walkie-talkie, for unbelievable distance measures.
41. Change of socks.
42. Dog, to fetch boomerangs that act like ashtrays.
43. Kite, for those windy ones.
44. Frisbee, when you feel like slumming into un-thought.
45. Butcher paper, for stealing tracings of the latest MTA designs.
46. Cold cash for buying what you can't steal.

## **"Git It Out There" #6 - LD and the USBA**

by David Hirsch

*In this issue's column, a few notes from the recently concluded North American LD Open (NALDO, for short), an interview with Tibor Horvath.*

### **NALDO Notes**

***NALDO 2010 was a great success, hosted by Gary Broadbent in Canton, Ohio June 18-20. A big thank you to Gary and Anne. Yours truly was TD. We had great weather and good air and a lot of PBs and new members to the 100 Meter Club. Chris Kalfa had this to say:***

***"Canton, Ohio welcomed NALDO 2010, alongside our gracious host Gary Boomerangman Broadbent. LD isn't something you can say you know about, until you've been to a tournament and have actually thrown then and there. It's not your average boomerang, it's something wordlessly more magical. My son Logan and I had the chance to live through this phenomenon and get our first taste....of this spectacular event ! Words escape my mind, from which I could only begin to try and describe the feeling. If it can only be broken down into one word, that would be WoW ! If I wasn't fully fledged and hooked before, I know I am now. Logan feels the same way, and agrees the thirst for more is not in anyway being greedy . "***

***1st Place Advanced, Logan Broadbent, 1st Place Intermediate, Fred Malmberg, 1st Place Novice, Logan Kalfa.***

***Top throws for all participants: 1. Logan Broadbent, 149m; 2. Steve Peck, 132m; 3. Tom Wythes, 127m; 4. Gary Broadbent, 113m; 5. John Gorsky, 113m; 6. Clayton Hundley, 110m; 7. Rob Stewart, 110m; 8. Tom Brausch, 109m; 9. Chris Kalfa, 107m; 10. David Hirsch, 99m; 11. Bruce Bernstein, 92m; 12. Fred Malmberg, 91m; 13. Issac Syler, 86m; 14. Bill Rusky, 85m; 15. Dave Hendricks, 75m; 16. Tom Howman, 63m; 17. Logan Kalfa, 53m; 18. Cameron Broadbent 46m; 19. Joel Wilhelm 31m; 20. Kenny Barr, DNQ***

### **"LD and Me" - An Interview with Tibor Horvath**

*Tibor is something of the Father of Modern LD. Along with Lorenz Gubler, he helped return the sport to modern tournaments. Together with their book, "LD", the Baggressive website and the 100 Meter Club,*



# Snapshots from NALDO 2010



Pix & Graphix by D.H.

*Tibor has added immensely to the sport. I had a chance to spend a day with Tibor, Alexandra and their son, Neo, in March and they graciously gave me a walking tour of downtown, even in the Vancouver drizzle. The following is an interview I conducted with Tibor via email. The questions in each of the LD interviews are similar, the better to compare with other throwers, and thus give a greater understanding of the thrower. And, BTW, Tibor's son Neo is amazing !*

*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?*

**TH: born in Zurich, Switzerland, I live currently in Vancouver, Canada. I am a research chemist for a small, but growing chemical service provider. I am living in sin with Alexandra for over 17 years now. My son Neo is almost three. Currently I am delving into iPhone/iPad programming and all the joys of the app store gold rush.**

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

**TH: My first boomerang was a traditional 100 degree angle I built myself in a woodwork shop. Lorenz and I were bit by the bug together and continued fueling the fire over a period of about two to three years, exploring shapes and catching, until we moved our focus to LD.**

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

**TH: I became interested in LD when I noticed how I could awe myself throwing full circles with a range of about 60 m and catching one handed. I read in journals and newsletters about people throwing out of sight. I knew how exiting a 60 m flight was. How would it feel to throw so far that the boom is not visible anymore? Wood was suddenly not the material of choice anymore, as even reasonably sized booms would break on release. Our mantra at the time was 'add more weight' to increase range. GFEC was the way to go. But the thinner and heavier material needed a new airfoil and sizing of span:width:thickness was tricky, until shapes were established. Lorenz and I tried early on to encourage exchange of knowledge.**

**First with baggressive.com and subsequently with our LD book. I think that availability to needed knowledge has help move LD fast forward.**

*DH: What is your favorite LD boom?*

**TH: My favorite is the Milpas Reaper. It is a design by David Schummy. He invented the shape, and built one boom for Erik Fields when both David and I were in Santa Barbara visiting before the Worlds in St. Louis. I built one copy so far, and it is my go-to boomerang in most competitions to get a range around 125 m established. I like the shape so much that I used it as outline for the second (and current) baggressive logo.**

*DH: What percentage of your LD booms do you make? For the LD booms you make, describe your manufacturing process. What materials do you like best?*

**TH: I made most LD booms myself up until I moved to Vancouver. Without a practice field reasonably close I stopped building LDs. Now the only way for me to get new booms is trade. My manufacturing process was quite simple. I prefer GFEC (be it G10, G11 or what have you, at 3 mm). Usually I use a stationary grinder to take off most material for airfoiling. Then I make sure the shape is correct by comparing to the desired outlines of a plan or boomerang. Then I'll use the gfec file (a great file for gfec material I ordered through Erik) to get the airfoils where the should be, hand powered. From there it's two coats of orange spray paint, and then it's off to the field.**

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

**TH: In the past the sheer size of LD booms was a big deterrent to entry level throwers. With the arrival of the small LD booms,**

**that hurdle is gone. It's now only a question of wanting to put the time in to learn a new throw. So really most standard throwers should have no hard time to get into it. The field requirement is the biggest obstacle to get LD better integrated. It still makes sense to run it as a separate event. I suggested years/decades ago to include a catch requirement to LD that would drop ranges to a reasonable level and still have over 100 m possible. I have done it numerous times in competition. But I guess the thrill of 200 m is just too tempting...**

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

**TH: Michel Dufayard has the most refined movement I have witnessed. David Schummy for his long run up to the throw. Manuel Schuetz for being such a dedicated person. Lorenz Gubler for his friendship. Erik Fields, Eugene Cinal, David Hirsch (oh that's you), Uwe Kitzberger, Volker Behrens and pretty much every LD competition organizer for keeping this great part of boomerangs alive.**

DH: What do you see as the future of our sport, in particular, LD, in 10 to 20 years?

**TH: Hard to tell. I don't anticipate much change actually.**

DH: LDs range has steadily increased over the past decades. What do you think is most responsible? Design, strength, materials, a change in the way we throw the boom?

**TH: Design and materials, as well as a more profound understanding of body mechanics.**

DH: Manuel has said he thinks 300m is possible. Do you agree? What will it take to get there?

**TH: I agree. 300 is possible for him. I will be surprised if there are more than five throwers in the 200 m club by 2020. To get to 300 he will need perfect conditions and sloppy spotters !**

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

**TH: Training? Zero. I don't have a field.**

DH: It can be difficult to spot LD booms beyond 100m. If you only had one spotter to help, where would you position him?

**TH: About five degrees right of the wind at the desired range. If the boom flies over him, that's my range plus/minus ten meters.**

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 are good?

**TH: I will go from experience in the past, where I used to have a field. Practice throws tend to be fairly good at about 80 % when I was regularly training. But I would test lots of new booms and those would fly bad at good throws, so walking is an important part of my practice, too.**

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

**TH: Used to be high, around 60%. Nowadays I am happy to get one correct throw in.**

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

**TH: My last field in Switzerland was about 500 x 500 m. It was sheep land. Yucky.**

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

**TH: Build and throw lots. Buy and read the LD bible. (Gubler/Horvath). Go to competitions right away! That's where you learn the most.**

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

**TH: I love you all, even though I can be quite an ass at times. Wish I could go to the Worlds this year.**

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

**TH: My home made fast catch boom I call 'Cranky' made of 4 mm sheet poly. Love that boom.**

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

## **MHR Excerpts Quiz**

*Next time you're in a nostalgic mood, give this little brain teaser a try. Object is to guess the year of the event each MHR excerpt is describing (not the year of the issue, which differs occasionally). Some questions the event is only alluded to. The number of years off of your guess determines the number of points for that answer, the points accumulate and low score wins, like boomerang tournaments. If the event occurred before you got into the sport, deduct half the points for that answer. Finally, drop your two worst answers, or the two worst questions, however you view it. Can you break 50? Solution to be posted on USBA.org and in next issue.*

1) "Supercatch has been pulled off at last. ... Ted Bailey.... did the feat during a twilight toss at Toledo August 29, aided by USBA member Dave Saba, timer and spotter... What's Supercatch? The thrower puts up an MTA rang, then does the five Fast Catch sequence, after which he searches for his hovering MTA boomerang and attempts to grab for it." \_\_\_\_\_

2) "During the Open portion of the weekend, Gregg Snouffer had an 81.44 MTA flight that traveled 20 meters at most. He followed it up with a 48-second flight and a 28-second flight to round out his 157.68 second score for best three out of five throws to not only win the event, but to set a new US record." \_\_\_\_\_

3) "Steve Kavanaugh set a new world record in Trick Catch this past weekend at a boomerang tournament in Emmaus, PA. Mr Kavanaugh, of Seattle , Washington, scored 279 points in the internationally-recognized Trick Catch event to edge Fridolin Frost's old record of 262..." \_\_\_\_\_

4) "The record was 147. I wanted to quit at 200, but everybody cried, 'No, Robbie lad, no.' So as records go, I popped that one up, I did." \_\_\_\_\_

5) "MHR's Player of the Year: Betsylew Miale-Gix  
MHR's Rookie of the Year: Jason Smucker" \_\_\_\_\_

6) "In 5-minute Fast Catch (Endurance), a European favorite picked up by the Americans competing in the World Master's Cup in Paris in June, Flynn scored 59 catches on his first try. That was an astounding 17 above the world record (42) held by Eric Darnell." \_\_\_\_\_

7) "... The boomerang hovered over the Olentangy River for several minutes at the 10-minute mark ..."

8) "September 9, overcast, Moleman gets 95 in Aussie Round – New World Record; Larry Ruhf and John Flynn win Accuracy, tying US record- 48; Rob Parkins wins Endurance and Doubling; Darnell goes 90+ meters to win the first US Distance event since fire was invented..." \_\_\_\_\_

9) "Toss Across America 5/18. Don't miss out on the first-ever nationwide boomerang event. 12 states are already signed up." \_\_\_\_\_

10) "14<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer's Final Fling, Beaverton, Oregon." \_\_\_\_\_

11) "

<u>Bid/Manufacturer</u>	<u>Item</u>
\$500 Janetski, L & A	Pintubi
\$285 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$285 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$285 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$285 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$250 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$249 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$226 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$208 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$201 Romblad, Jonas	Jonas MTA
\$155 Schutz, Manuel	Quirl X-treme
\$151 Smith, Herb	Tigarang
\$150 Craig, Alan Scott	Kangaroo Motif"

 \_\_\_\_\_

12) "...plush, enormous Atlanta football Falcons training fields, excellent, reasonable nearby accommodations, and the first-time Nationals use of the exciting new player ratings system." \_\_\_\_\_

13) "Jacques recently spent 2 weeks in the Cairo Egyptian Museum, studying throw sticks from the tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen, many of which appear to be true returning boomerangs." \_\_\_\_\_

- |                   |  |       |
|-------------------|--|-------|
| 14) “ <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u>   |       |
| August 23         | Rocky Mountain Throw – Aurora , Colorado                         |       |
| August 30-31      | Mike Gel’s 100 <sup>th</sup> Tournament – San Francisco Bay Area |       |
| Sept. 14          | Ninth Novice Team Competition                                    |       |
| Nov. 28           | Tenth Turkey Toss – Birmingham, Michigan”                        | _____ |
- 15) “ ‘Our hearts stopped’, reports Larry Ruhf, tournament organizer; ‘we thought, Nobody’s going to believe this’. In a second round of throws... Flynn was perfect all the way and scored 26.81 seconds—more than 6 seconds under Read’s score. Dr. Larry, meanwhile, showed his expertise by also bettering the former world record with a time of 29.38 .” \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) “23,000 year old boomerang found in Poland.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) “Amherst, Massachusetts, June 21, 22  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, June 24, 25  
Gaithersburg, Maryland, June 26,27” \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) “...Chicago Bob Leifeld led a group of twelve throwers in winning the dress rehearsal of the new U.S. Head-to-Head tournament format in Forest Park on Memorial Day.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 19) “...the following National Distance Championship results from Seattle on Sunday of the Expo.....  
Dan Neelands, 117 m, Andy Cross, 112m; Daniel Bower, 112m; Clay Dawson, 107 m; Dennis Joyce, 105m;  
Sponge, 103m; Jason Smucker, 101m....” \_\_\_\_\_
- 20) “As a sidelight to the USBA Nationals, a design contest was held. .... First place winners were an omega by Larry Ruhf with intricate, strikingly-convincing aboriginal motifs; an omega by Oscar Cuartes of Colombia, S.A.,... and a hook made from a natural wood elbow by John Flynn. David Schummy’s big kangaroo boomerang and an undulating boomerang by the Janetski brothers of Albury, Australia tied for second. Rob Croll’s little V-rang with aboriginal decorations and the America II keel boomerang by Dr. D. Lewis Sly took third places. The competition pointed up the proliferation of beautifully-made boomerangs around the world, one reason collectors of them are getting increasingly enthusiastic.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 21) “Schutz is consistent. At Tentlingen he threw 192, 207 and 201 meters. At Klotten Schutz heaved one 212 meters before his 238-meter throw in the second round.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 22) “...Co-authors are Benjamin Ruhe and Eric Darnell.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) “... When Will [Gix] caught his final throw in the bull, the circle judge, Girvin, shouted out, “91! A new world record!” But by the time the spotters and spectators realized the feat, Mark [Weary] had already let fly and calmly reigned in his own clutch bullseye to shatter Will’s still shimmering new record with a 92!” \_\_\_\_\_
- 24) “Adam [Ruhf]’s blistering 14.98-second Fast Catch round at the Amherst, MA tournament smashed the five year-old mark of 15.03 seconds, held by Frenchman Gregory Biseaux.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 25) “Chet Snouffer set a new world record in Juggling with 89 catches at the USBA Nationals in Gunnison, Colorado ..... This record had been fixed at 69 since Bob Burwell dazzled the crowd at the 1982 USBA Nationals in Fairfax, Virginia.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 26) “German Fridolin Frost extended his own Aussie Round world record from 96 to 99 points (out of 100). Shortly afterwards, his fellow countryman Alex Opri followed his lead by equaling the Accuracy record of 99 points (out of 100).” \_\_\_\_\_
- 27) “Dr. Steve pronounces Peter fit to return to competition. Peter promptly racks up a useful third place in Long Distance and later throws well in the final competition; without a doctor’s attention, he would have had to go to the hospital and would have been lost for the rest of the day..” \_\_\_\_\_
- 28) “Laura Smucker alternated her throws with looking after her daughter Emma. Clearly, the double duty was not a distraction, as Laura became the first US thrower to achieve a perfect 50/50 score, then following with a 7 on the bonus for a 57!” \_\_\_\_\_
- 29) “8<sup>TH</sup> Smithsonian Tournament .....Doubling: 1.Al Gerhards, Downingtown, Pa., and Barney Ruhe –tie with six catches each; 3.Ray DiCecco, four. Maximum Time Aloft: 1. Mike Forrester, Bethesda, Md., 18.2 seconds; 2.Barney Ruhe, 17 seconds; 3. Tad Eareckson, Annapolis, Md., 15.7 seconds.” \_\_\_\_\_
- 30) “He has already pulled off 78 juggles before dropping, because he got so excited he lost his equilibrium. Broadbent, 22 and the father of two, is a physics major at Cleveland State, where he has taken three courses under Jearl Walker, author of that definitive two-part series on boomerangs in the March-April ’79 Scientific American.” \_\_\_\_\_



***United States Boomerang Association***

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***Upcoming U.S. Tournaments***

- 9/04/10 Carpe Diem Long Distance Tournament  
Delaware, OH contact :duckhead@airmail.net***
- 9/05/10 Free Throwers 31st Annual Tournament  
Delaware, OH contact:www.leadingedgeboomerangs.com***
- 9/25/10 23rd Annual Gateway Classic  
Waterloo, IL contact:chibob@htc.net***
- 10/02/10 Farm Boomerang Tournament  
Emmaus, PA contact:barnabyruhe@gmail.com***
- 10/15-10/17/10 Texas Shoot-out LD Tournament  
Dallas, TX contact:duckhead@airmail.net***

