



Many Happy Returns #106 • Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association • www.USBA.org • Spring 2015

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Editor's note >

Stéphane Marguerite reports that Jacques Thomas of La Pérouse Boomerang Club of Versailles died 2/16/2015 at age 92. He was the author of several books in French including "Les Boomerangs d'un Pharaon", and "Magie du Boomerang" which are available from Amazon. Marguerite calls him an authentic boomerang aficionado, and Australia's Jack Byham called him "the greatest authority on boomerangs in the world". You can see some of his work at <http://mauricemonnot.perso.sfr.fr/Musee/JThomas.html>.

Our sympathies go out to his family and to all of France for the loss of a kindred spirit. Le printemps arrive, nous allons jouer pour notre ami.



Paul D. Sprague, Editor

Musings from Boomerang_Talk >

Following is a snippet of conversation from the Yahoo Group Boomerang_Talk. You can sign up to participate with a free Yahoo account: groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Boomerang_Talk/info.

about stewart jones:)

> It was at a very early USBA NATS(I believe). there was this crazy guy tossin' WHAM-Os....on the streets...putting 5 or more in the air, each crashing onto the pavement.

"why don't you throw on the field?" I asked.

"Oh, I throw on the streets at home, only place I have," his reply.

As we talked, I commented on his throwing power...

"that's how I toss papers on my paper route."

b-man,rich www.theboomerangman.com

> I do remember Rich,,,,at the 1st USBA nats. George Mason Uni. But I really remember Chet and about 5 other guys in his car driving up,"laughing" while I was trying to bring home those wham-o's into the trash can next to me like a basket ball net would be. Over and Over,,,,made a few,,,,but was pooped by the time the real action of the tourney started. Stu

Random boomerang videos >

Following is a collection of video links. If you find one you'd like to submit for consideration for the next issue, please send it in.

John Cryderman making a strip-laminated distance hook on Discovery/Science Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z110s5xe2-4>

A nice collection of scary-huge boomerangs by Gerhard Walter <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtpoA9bqrfs>

Here's Victor Poulin setting stuff on fire by smashing it with a boomerang. Complicated to explain, you just have to see it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGfIMOKDXt4&list=PL024D17FBD93334B0>

Impressive precision throwing from South Korea, does anybody have details or contact info for this guy? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHZr8YoRFmU>

Upcoming events schedule >

At the risk of spilling someone else's beans, I can with strong-ish confidence list the following rumor:

> July 18-ish 2015

Vermontish/New Hampshire-ish Huge-ish Boomerang Tournament of Awesomeness featuring New Englanders in fully-depreciated hats. Entry fee is expected to be \$35-ish for USBA members, \$850 for non-members. Arrive by 9am and you can paint circles on the field. Lunch will be announced by the arrival of special guest Kirk Flynn in a hot-air balloon.

Sachem Field adjacent-ish to Campion Ice Rink, 394 North Main Street, West Lebanon, NH 03784

This highly speculative listing comes from the off-hand comment: "I'll likely host a contest in the usual mid-late July slot, details later". Well, it *is* later, so send them in if you can wring more precise details from John Flynn <activermont@myfairpoint.net>. Otherwise my listing stands, and I think Kirk will be bringing sandwiches. And yodeling.

> September 11-13 2015

US Boomerang Association National Championships and Exposition
Cornerstone Lakes Park 2199 Smith Road West Chicago, Illinois 60185
LD on Friday, standard 6 events on Saturday and Sunday is a Gel/Funday maybe with H2H. The location is Cornerstone Lakes Park in West Chicago. Entry

fee will be the same or less than last year (approx. \$50). The name of the hotel: Hyatt Place, Chicago/Naperville/Warrenville. Rate is \$85 per night from Thursday to Sunday. Rooms must be reserved by 8/20/2015 to get that rate.

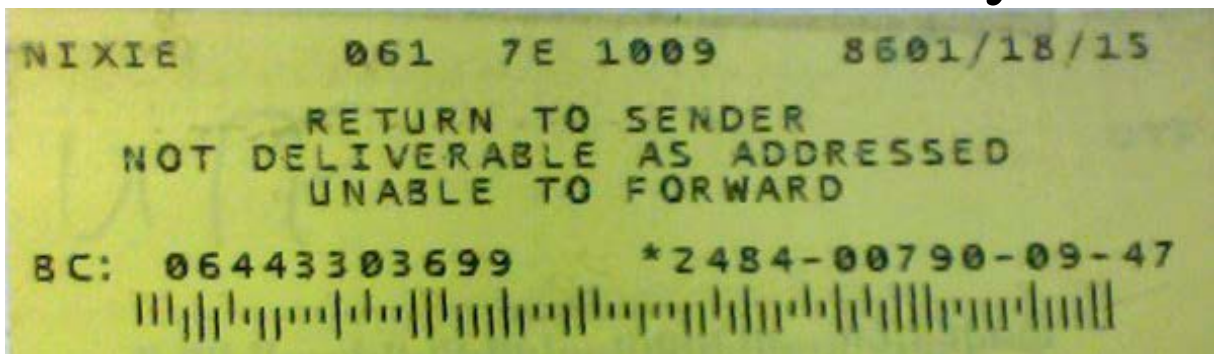
New dates & details will be posted at www.usba.org/Calendar/2015season.html

> May 15-17 2015

International German Boomerang Championships in Cologne on the Jahnwiesen. Details from Vincent Faika.

For those overseas, check out the events schedule at <http://www.ifbaonline.org/ifba-tournaments-worldwide-calendar/tournaments/>.

Lost Member Search Party >



The irony is not lost on us. In fact, boomerangers rejoice when our checks bounce, our kids move back into our basements and our hasty words are quoted snarkily back at us. Because what goes around comes around, and that's what we're all about.

But our volunteers have been trying to locate some USBA members, and of course, our mail is coming back "return to sender". If you have current email addresses for any of the members below, please help bring them back into the fold.

Bob Kley

Dan E. Jones

Dwight Souder

Frank Lawson, Jr.

Hidefumi Kobayashi

Jay Emerson

John Jordan
Pat Steigman

Sponsor Profile: boomerang carnets



Boomerang FreightSM is any shipment of goods, equipment or merchandise that is shipped out of a country and later returns to that country in its original form: temporary export/import. Since this type of merchandise is never intended to enter the commerce of the destination country it can be considered duty free and tax free for a limited period of time. Typically, if the goods are not re-exported within that time period they are assumed to have entered the commerce of the destination country and are dutiable and taxable as a permanent import.

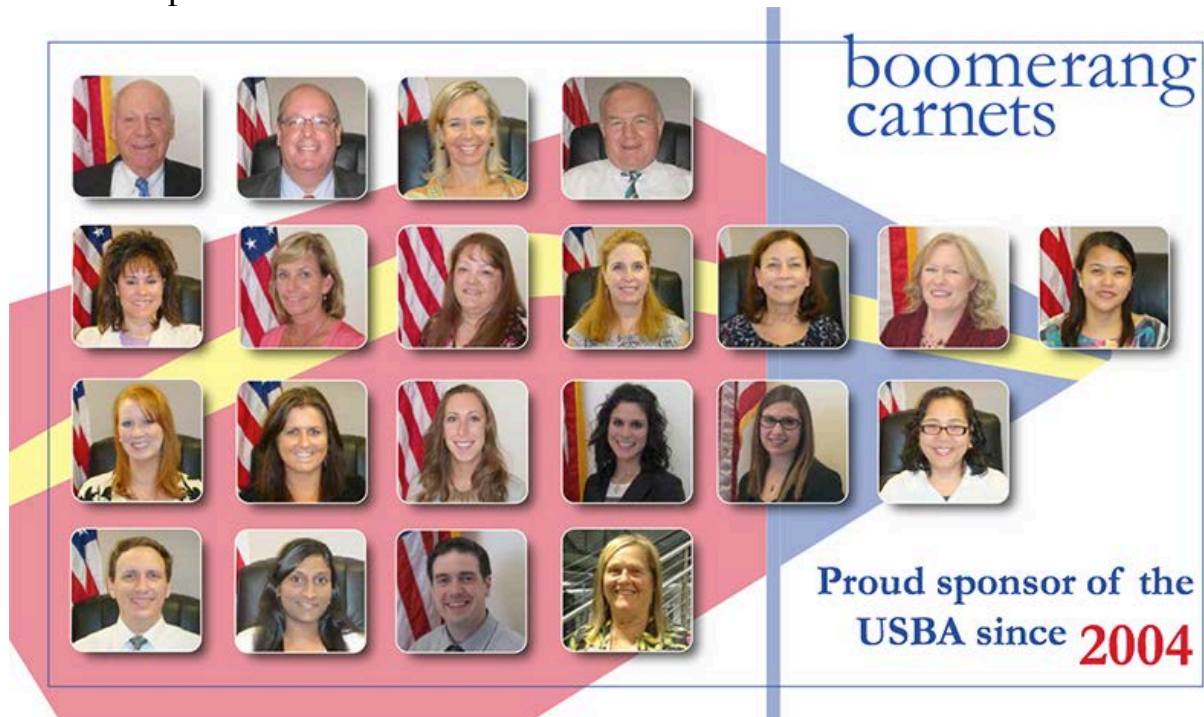
The ATA Carnet is called a Boomerang CarnetSM because it certifies that the goods listed on its General List will enter and leave the destination country(ies) within one year, returning to their original country of departure.

Shipped & Hand-Carried Goods Can Be Boomerang FreightSM Both shipped and hand-carried goods or equipment are eligible to be listed on an ATA Carnet. Whether you will ship the goods by ocean air or surface or hand-carry the goods, they can be listed on the carnet. The only consideration is who will present the carnet along with the goods at each customs entry and exit point. As long as your Authorized Representatives are listed on the carnet, in the case of shipped goods, those persons can present the carnet along with the goods to customs.

Examples of Boomerang FreightSM shipped overseas are:

- Musical Instruments for an Orchestra Tour
- Acoustical Testing Equipment for a Performance Venue
- Computer Network Routers for Testing or Demonstration
- Photographers Camera Equipment
- Artifacts for Display or Exhibition
- Trade Show Booths
- Trucks or Trailers Equipped with Training Materials
- Vehicles for Racing or Exhibition
- Bloodstock and Livestock
- Garments for a Fashion Show

Sets and Props for a Live Theater, Dance or Opera Performance
Samples of Manufactured Goods



Boomerang carnets is headquartered down the block from the historic Catlow Theater in Barrington, Illinois, forty miles northwest of Chicago and conveniently located to O'Hare International Airport. It is here, more than two decades ago, at the ATA Carnet Service Center, that boomerang carnets was established to provide claims services and issue ATA Carnets as an appointed Carnet Service Provider for the United States Council for International Business.

Boomerang carnets | Corporation for International Business now issues 7000+ carnets annually under the brand name boomerang carnets. From the ATA Carnet Service Center in Barrington, IL, boomerang carnets can deliver ATA Carnets in New York-JFK, New York-NYC-Midtown Manhattan, Dallas, San Francisco-Silicon Valley and Los Angeles-Long Beach for affordable same-day service.

See more about this sponsor's relationship with the USBA at <http://www.atacarnet.com/boomerang-team-sponsors>

Ben's Blog © Ben Ruhe >

These articles were written & collected by Ben Ruhe, the father of boomeranging in the USA. The crowning achievement of his career so far (beyond his work with

the Smithsonian, anthropological research and paving the way for international boomerang competition) is, of course, founding the newsletter *Many Happy Returns*.



> **Replica of Oldest Boomerang Now Available**

The world's oldest boomerang, a hunting boomerang, was found in the Oblazowa cave in the Carpathian Mountains in south Poland some two decades ago. The shaped mammoth tusk has been convincingly dated 20,600 years before present. Preservation of the artifact occurred when the roof of the cave where it was found collapsed, burying it. The site is a complex one and archeological digging has been going on there for years. A portion of human thumb is among the important finds.

Copies of the boomerang have been made. German Michael Siems, of Mannheim, an expert thrower, has a reproduction in ivory-colored plastic made from an archeologist's detailed drawing. Eckhard Mawick of Lubeck, Germany, on the other hand has a replica made from a dental silicone mold of the original. Both fly very well.

Dr. Pavel Valde-Nowak of the University of Krakow made the boomerang find and has created the mold. He made it available to Mawick who agreed to create reproductions for educational purposes. A retired school principal, Mawick colors his replicas the discolored brown of the original and sells them, depending on the amount of work required, in the neighborhood of \$100 each. He hopes to place them in museums and with collectors and scholarly throwers. The last may be interested in putting them to the test with target practice and documenting what they learn. (Living game like hares are well advised to be wary when these 'rang are tested out in the field.)

Because a mammoth tusk is hollow in the center, the ivory when split in half as was done to create this boomerang has a natural lifting airfoil. Both tips are

sharp---the one tip apparently shaped that way by the man who made it. The artifact is 71 cm long (28 inches) and 5.6 cm wide at the elbow (2.3 inches). It is thin (15.6 mm or a bit over one-half inch) but whippy strong and weighs 600 grams (21 ounces). Curiously, Siems' replica performs well if thrown either right or left-handed. A leftie, Siems has had conspicuous success in tossing kack-handed since the boomerang stays lower to the ground than if flown the usual way and this provides an advantage in hunting small, ground-anchored prey.

For further information on this Paleolithic prize, contact Mawick at elbowart@gmx.de.

> **Roof of the World Challenge**

Although the winds usually howl, some---very few---of the hundreds of climbers summiting Mount Everest over the years have found it dead calm at the top. Who will be the first to launch and catch a boomerang on the roof of the world? It would be the absolutely ultimate high altitude terrestrial toss.

> **Oz Slang**

Want to be cool out on the boomerang field? Use a few Aussie expressions to shape your image. A test toss---sighter.

A bouncer---kanga!

A good throw---rippah!

> **Birding in the South of France**

Hunting boomerangs under a variety of names were used in many parts of the world. These nonreturners---throwsticks, or whatever---crop up mostly in desert climates, anywhere where there was unobstructed throwing. As rabbitsticks, Indians of the American Southwest used them to knock down hares.

A form of boomerang was surprisingly used in the south of France to harvest flocking birds, Graham Robb explains in his book *The Discovery of France*.

"Edible migrating birds were trapped in nets throughout Gascony," he writes. "At the end of September, while flocks of doves from Scandinavia and the Jura were heading for the Basque country, villagers in the Pyrenees were erecting giant poles. In a tiny crow's nest on the top of the tripod of poles, a man scanned the horizon. The other catchers hid behind leafy screens. The man in the crow's nest held a flat piece of wood carved into the profile of a flying bird of prey. When the flock was a hundred yards away, he hurled the wooden bird into the air; the

flock dipped and flew into the nets. The job of killing was left to women, who could exterminate hundreds of birds in a few minutes by biting their necks.”

Poetry Section >

Competition Haikus

by Steve Kavanaugh

Massively stable,
My Jonas I always catch,
Neg to make it sky.

Over-vertical,
Like Chet throw accuracy,
To hit the bullseye.

With power and grace,
Throw high hard vertical, in
Wind for five catches.

Make trick catch in head
Before you even throw it,
Style the easy ones.

Stay strong, good transfers,
Five minutes of accuracy
But for sure catch all.

Make sure you're in gear,
Fifty meters out and back,
Jump to bull with catch.

Thank you for spotting,
At the LD tournament,
Can You see my rang?

You practice all season,
Your GLORP catch, I listen to,
Voices in my mind.

MHR-USA

by Stu

There is a GURU named RUHE,
who started a comeback for me and you
Not a religion as you might know,
but the Smithsonian where the comeback
was for you ,,,,,after the throw
So they call the little thing a RANG,
about them people have sang
of returns, comebacks and you
Yes it's the BOOMERANG
that goes thru the air whirling
and if you throw it right
it might not go outa sight
but return to you swirling
So remember when you have your next throw in town
what goes around,,,,,comes around

Think you can do better? Send your poetry in for the summer issue -- *Editor*.

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