

Many Happy Returns

The Official Newsletter of the United States Boomerang Association

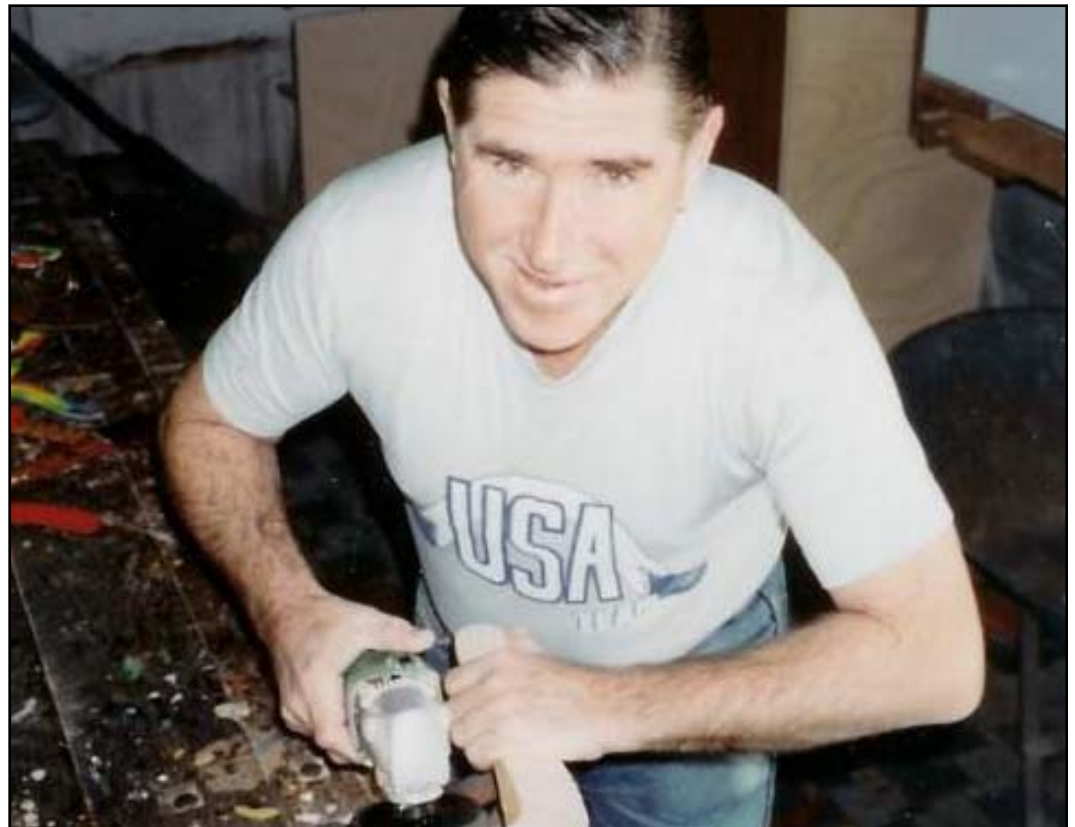
ALL ABOUT BURWELL



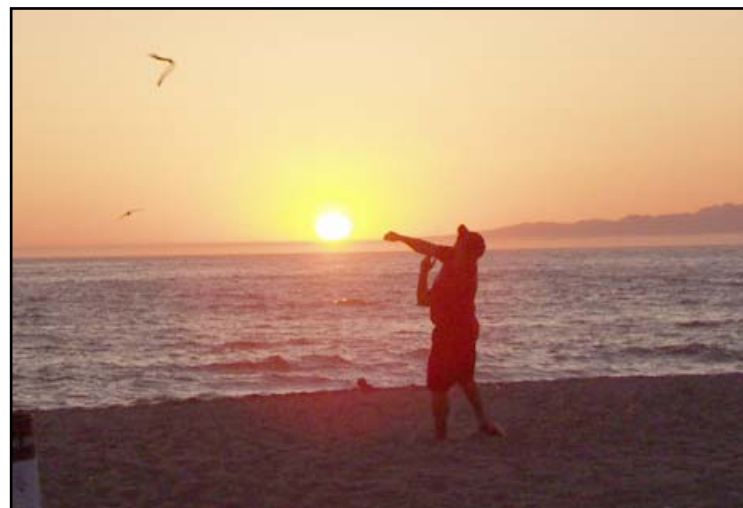
Betsylew Miale-Gix, USBA Treasurer talks about some good times at the 2006 WBC.

Did the USA team have fun at WBC 2006?

We had a blast! Yoshi and the JBA did a great job of organizing and bringing about a truly memorable and terrific WBC 2006. The Japanese were great hosts and hostesses. Living at the View Side Hotel "Tokiya-Tei" provided the opportunity for a definitely non-Western experience. The food was excellent and beautifully presented. There were many new dishes and varieties of sea food and fermented/pickled things to try and for the most part greatly enjoy. Sleeping on the futon on the tatami mat was a very different (See "Good Times" on page)



Bob Burwell, master boomsmith at work in Tanamerah in 2000, see page 10 for full article.



MHR editor throwing a Sunshine around the sunset, see page 21

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Message from the President

I hope this summer issue of MHR finds you well. As the summer winds down, the American boomerang scene is heating up. Your USBA Board members have been hard at work bettering our organization and looking to make our sport improve and grow. We have incorporated new plans for the next few years. To help accelerate one of our missions of having more boomerang events throughout the course of the year, we have been fortunate enough to acquire a few monetary grants. The USBA will pass on this grant money, in part, to individual USBA members looking to arrange sanctioned tournaments around the country. I would like to thank our USBA Board members for their dedication and diligence to our sport. Their efforts should be highly commended.

One of the many great things about boomerang throwing is the fond memories that are continually created. Most of these, for me, involve the fabulous people in our sport that have become great friends, even family.

However, I have also made great personal accomplishments, not unlike every other boomerang enthusiast. For a new boomerang thrower, there are plenty of “firsts.” We have our first throw, first boomerang and first try at carving a boomerang, to name a few. For me, I will never forget my first perfect throw and catch. From my early days of throwing, I recall a lot of trial-and-error, challenge and promise. While I struggled those first few months to make a boomerang fly properly, I was filled with hope that perhaps the next throw would be “the one.”

One particular summer day in 1999, I experienced my first perfect throw. Although optimistic for a great throw and catch, I was completely unaware of the magic that was about to take place. Previous throws usually resulted in either a mad dash to try to catch the thing 20 or more yards away or a complete crash into the ground. Despite these failures, I was determined to master this instrument of flight.

One of the two boomerangs I owned at the time, a Jim Mayfield “Alpine” was in my hand. Undeterred from earlier setbacks, I stepped up and fired my next attempt. For some reason, the wind was just right and my release fell into the proper slot. In an instant, that beautiful yellow painted flying V cartwheeled across the sky in an awe inspiring rhythm. Shocked by the complete accident of what just occurred; my feet, accustomed to racing into the wind, cemented themselves to the ground. It was as if they knew. As I studied the transition of the Alpine’s position from vertical to hovering, my heart filled with nervous anticipation. I had never seen this boomerang fly like this before! The Alpine descended on a meticulous and determined path, like the stealth bomber, directly towards me. I was not sure what to do next, but the Alpine’s last turn squared itself directly at my stomach. In the next moment I knew that I was either going to be the day’s champion or goat. Luckily for me, the boomerang took care of everything. As it buried itself into my gut, I clumsily cradled the magic stick into my arms! With a triumphant shout, I readied myself for another throw that would surely result in a catch without moving my feet! Unbeknownst to me, it would be another two weeks until it happened again!

Enjoy creating your own wonderful boomerang memories!

Rang it up!
Gogo



USBA President Matt Golenor at 2006 US National Championships making his third throw during the “Australian Round” event.



Boomerang News

Current events and tournament news from around the U.S.

Who wants to represent the USA at the World Boomerang Championships in 2008

WE ALL NEED TO VOTE!

**See the Ballot below and email or send your votes to Andy Cross
This could not be easier!**

Ballot for the USBA Board of Directors 2008

Listed below are the candidates for the USBA Board of Directors for 2008.

President - Joe Radar
Vice President - Dan Bower
Treasurer - Betsylew Miale-Gix
Secretary - Andrew Cross
At Large:

(You may vote for 5 of the 6 "At-Large" nominees).

- Don Monroe
- Rob Stewart
- Pat Steigman
- Stuart Jones
- Kevin Verbael
- David Hirsch

Please photocopy or cutout this ballot and send your votes to:

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

or

Email your votes to:
across@telusplanet.net

The Seattle crew is hosting a WBC-style team training camp on both Labor Day weekend and the weekend of Sept. 15/16 on the same field that will be used for the 2008 WBC. This is a great opportunity to practice on the same field under similar conditions we will experience at the WBC. We would be foolish not to take advantage of this opportunity.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and we will transport and house everyone, so there is no need to get rental cars and no need to get hotel rooms if you don't mind sleeping on the floor.

To clarify - the Seattle training camp has nothing to do with team selection. The Team Trials will be held in the spring. The Seattle training camp will be more like a workshop for those interested in preparing for the world cup.

It is NOT a team trials and not an individuals tournament. It will be more like a workshop. Everyone who comes will be considered to be as one team, and our opponent is the challenging winds and conditions of the world cup field. We will explore all wind sucks, holes, and corridors. We will assess what booms work and what booms don't. We will keep scores, but only to assess whether we are capable of getting the scores we need to achieve our goals at the world cup, and if not, how we can fix that. We will go to the Bower boom shop and make booms. We will spend lots of time throwing and catching booms, together. There

will be no results table at the end showing who won or who lost. We will all be winners.

Team Trials:

Will be held in Austin Texas, April 17 - 20, 2008. The location will be Zilker Park Soccer Fields. We will have three soccer fields available to us for the days.

Joe Radar (who is an At-Large USBA board member) will be hosting the Team Trials. If there are any questions please send Joe an email at: sonofchi@sonofchi.com

Joe can forward you airline and hotel information along with some interesting details about the area.

Team Selection Process:

In case you haven't heard, the USBA has approved a team selection process for 2008. It is much like the process for 2006 in that there will be a WBC-style team tournament, and the top 3 teams (the USA has been awarded 3 team slots) from that tournament will earn the right to represent the USA at the 2008 WBC.

The only difference is that there will be no selection committee. Instead, teams will form 'on their own' by the throwers themselves. No invitation is required - just show up at the Team Trials, and your team has the potential to become part of the USA Boomerang Team. I would hope that the USA Veterans and Women teams would also be competitor one of the three spots as well.

Boomerang Clubs

Contact Information For Boomerang Throwers Around The USA
Including Online forums

ARIZONA

Desert Ranglers
Mark Weary & Don Monroe
4026 East Cholla Canyon Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044
602.759.3973

CALIFORNIA

S.C.O.R.E.
(Southern California Organization of
Rang Enthusiasts)
SCORE has a bi-monthly throwing
session. Morri Mohr, John Villagrana
& Kris Kemp
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
310.493.7100

COLORADO

Richard Pollack-Nelson
Colorado Boomerangs
2530 S. Ouray Way
Aurora, CO 80013-1576
303.368.5933

CONNECTICUT

The Wandering Nutmeg
Boomerang Society
Paul D. Sprague
782 Boston Post Rd.
Madison, CT 06443
203.245.8211

FLORIDA

The Orlando Boomerang Club
Meets every Saturday morning at 9:00
am to throw boomerangs at Memorial
Middle School. For more information
please contact Cookie
(teamgel@cfl.rr.com) or
Mike Hudkins (fatfinger@cfl.rr.com)

Flite Stix Boom Slingers

Rich Surace
855 E. Crisafulli Rd.
Merritt Island, FL
407.452.3963

ILLINOIS

Rock Island
Kendall Davis has a fully stocked
boomerang shop with several materi-
als to choose from and virtually any
crafting tool you may need (if you
make it, you take it). There is also a
guest bedroom for use and the great-
est cook in the Midwest prepares the
meals (317.793.9885).

INDIANA

Indianapolis Boomerang Club
Tony Brazelton
1184 Barrington Dr.
Greenwood, IN 46143
317.883.2334
brazelami@yahoo.com
[http://www.usba.org/chapters/
indyboomclub](http://www.usba.org/chapters/indyboomclub)

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis/St Paul - Boomerang
Organization Of Minnesota (BOOM)
<http://www.uboomerang.org>
current record-holder for the tourna-
ments hosted in a season!
Contact Stuart Jones
circlestixstuk@webtv.net
651.228.1393
The Twin Cities Summer Series of
Boomerang Competition runs weekly
through October on Saturdays at 3:00
pm, at Como Park (softball fields across
from the pool, on Horton) in St. Paul
MN. - the 1st Saturday in May

NEW MEXICO

Sandia Boomerang Club
Steve Sanders
10408 Woodland, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
505.294.8842
<http://homepage.mac.com/boomerangs>

OHIO

Canton
Gary Broadbent's boom shop and field
next door. One of the most prestigious
shops in the country, fully outfitted with
materials for making all types of
boomerangs. Featuring prolonged
boomerang-making sessions followed by
3:00 am grilled cheese sandwiches, sur-
rounded by one of the world's most
extensive collections of boomerangs.
Call Gary at 330.492.RANG to inform
of your arrival.

Delaware

Gregg's Boom shop and field down the
road. Stop in, make and throw some
booms and sign the guest book.
Nightly drink specials. Call Gregg at
704.363.4414 or e-mail at
boomerang@columbus.rr.com

TEXAS

Republic of Texas Boomerang
Society
(TexBoom Yahoo! Group)
Dave Hughes
2506 Charla Circle,
Austin, Tx. 78728
(512) 670-0508
dlhughes001@juno.com

Boomerang Association of
Dallas (B.A.D.)
David Hirsch
8925 Rosecliff Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75217
(214) 398-4567
duckhead@airmail.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown
Dave Hendricks
"P/NJ Boomerang Group"
1086 E. Gordon Street
Allentown, PA 18103-2208
610.434.7305

Vermont

Vermont Boomerang Association
Paul Gustafson
South Burlington, VT
802.859.3430
paul@vermontboomerang.org
<http://www.vermontboomerang.org>

ONLINE GROUPS

Boomerang_Talk
Replacing the long time running
BoomerangTalk that was recently closed.
To join this group go to:
[http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/
Boomerang_Talk/](http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/Boomerang_Talk/)

USBA_info

This is a USBA members only group for
the online discussion of issues. The
group is closely monitored by the Board
which makes for an "open door" policy
for complaints, props or concerns. You
can join at:
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
USBA_info/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USBA_info/join)

LD Boomerangs

This group is for all those interested in
Long Distance Boomerangs.
Information on making LD's, materials,
plans, techniques, throwing, and upcom-
ing LD competitions is all in here!
[http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/
LDBoomerangs/](http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/LDBoomerangs/)

IFBA News:

www.ifba-online.com

President

Maurizio Saba was re-elected

Vice President

Günter Möller was re-elected

Auditor

Suzanne Ragan Lentz was re-elected

Treasurer

Andrea Sgattoni was elected

Directive Committee members at large include:

Manuel Schütz

Noboyuki Iizuka

Stephane Marguerite

Steve Kavanaugh

Goals and how to join IFBA:

Hello Boomerang friends over the world,

As President of the IFBA I would like to extend to you my best wishes to all boomerang throwers for the year.

If you have a National Association, by that I mean a legal or registered association, you can join the IFBA by filling out and sending the Application Form; this you can find in the download page of www.ifba-online.com. The fee is only one euro per member of your national association per year.

If you haven't a National Association in your country, you can join the International Boomerang Team by filling out and sending the IBT Application Form; this you can find on the same page as above, the fee was fixed at only five euro per year.

By doing that you will help us in our job and you will become an active part of the big family of the boomerang which is the IFBA, you may also participate at the next World Boomerang Team Cup and

the WBC. Aside from taking part at the WBTC you will also have the right to vote at the General Meeting and help formulate what happens in the future with boomerangs and the Association.

Thanks for your attention and for your cooperation

Maurizio Saba

Aussie Round World Record Matched:

Tim Lendrum equalled the World Record for Aussie Round (96 out of 100 points) last month at Mulgoa on the outskirts of Sydney.



Tim Lendrum at the WBC

The History Files

Featuring a Historical Boomerang Article Related to The Early Days of Competition

A History of Modern Boomerang Competitions

by: Gregg Snouffer

TRIVIA QUESTION #1: What were the eight core boomerang tournament events during the Eighties?

TRIVIA QUESTION #2: During the Eighties, which of these eight “core events” used to be considered the “premier boomerang event,” requiring more skill than all of the others, and as a result, was weighted by 1.5 in a tournament’s rankings for overall champ?

History reports that when Captain Cook first witnessed the magic of the returning boomerang, it was being used for games that the Australian Aborigines were playing near Botany Bay in 1770. If they were true games, then they must have had rules and objectives that could be used to measure a player’s skill and distinguishing the various skill levels of the participants. Wouldn’t it be fascinating to know some of those early boomerang games and their rules, especially as we delve into the history of our modern sport and how the current rules came to be?

It was 1987 when I was invited to participate in the first International Boomerang Team Cup, held in a series of three venues on three different days along the east coast. It was at that tournament where I was invited to become the secretary of the United States Boomerang Association... for no better reason than that I owned a computer and could keep a data base of members!



Gregg Snouffer and Matt Golenor raise some money during the auction at the '06 Nationals

In 1991, I volunteered to take on the job of rules committee chair to rewrite the rule book Doug DuFresne had largely put together. The idea was to get international involvement in the evolution of the rules. At that time, the Europeans and the Americans were evolving the rules with little regard to each other and the sport was heading in two different directions. My job would be to recruit a committee of U.S., European and Australian throwers and to conduct polls among those members in order to determine what aspect of the rules needed to be changed and what direction we could move together as a global sport. This was all done by postal service back then, since email was only in its beta stages. The process was arduous and slow. I would put together a questionnaire, include a “return by” date, and then,

since email was only in its beta stages. The process was arduous and slow. I would put together a questionnaire, include a “return by” date, and then, based on the results of that questionnaire, develop another. A questionnaire would take about a month in total turn around time. I think there were four or five that went out over the fall and winter of 2001-2002. Finally, in the Spring of 2002, we had a new rule book... and it looked like one that the Europeans could endorse.

It was the beginning of a process, later hammered out by World Cup rules committees and expedited by email, that would lead us to our present, nearly-universal rules. There still are differences in scoring MTA, with the Euros recording one of three throws, while the Americans still insist on totaling the

(continued on the next page)

History of Boomerang Competition *Continued...*



1987 the first International Boomerang Team Cup Members

best three of five throws, but the opposition to innovations in rules is no longer a major concern. And it goes both ways. Look, for example, at the twist accuracy took last year at the World Cup, moving to 10 throws and a possible score of 100. That was a European innovation, yet the new format has already been adopted and competed at U.S. tournaments this season.

So on the one hand, there has been a trend toward standardized rules. But another trend has also emerged... toward more manageable tournaments, with regard to length of time spent throwing. In the '70's events were being invented. In the '80's, largely due to the efforts of Doug DuFresne, those events had become standardized given specific rules.

At that time, there were eight core events contested (Answer to trivia question #1) They included the familiar six of trick catch, MTA, fast catch, endurance, accuracy, and Australian Round. They also included doubling, which has since been lumped together with trick catch, and juggling, which is no longer contested.

When all eight of those events were contested, a tournament of 20 throwers could well take 10 hours... an all-day marathon ordeal that left little time to socialize.

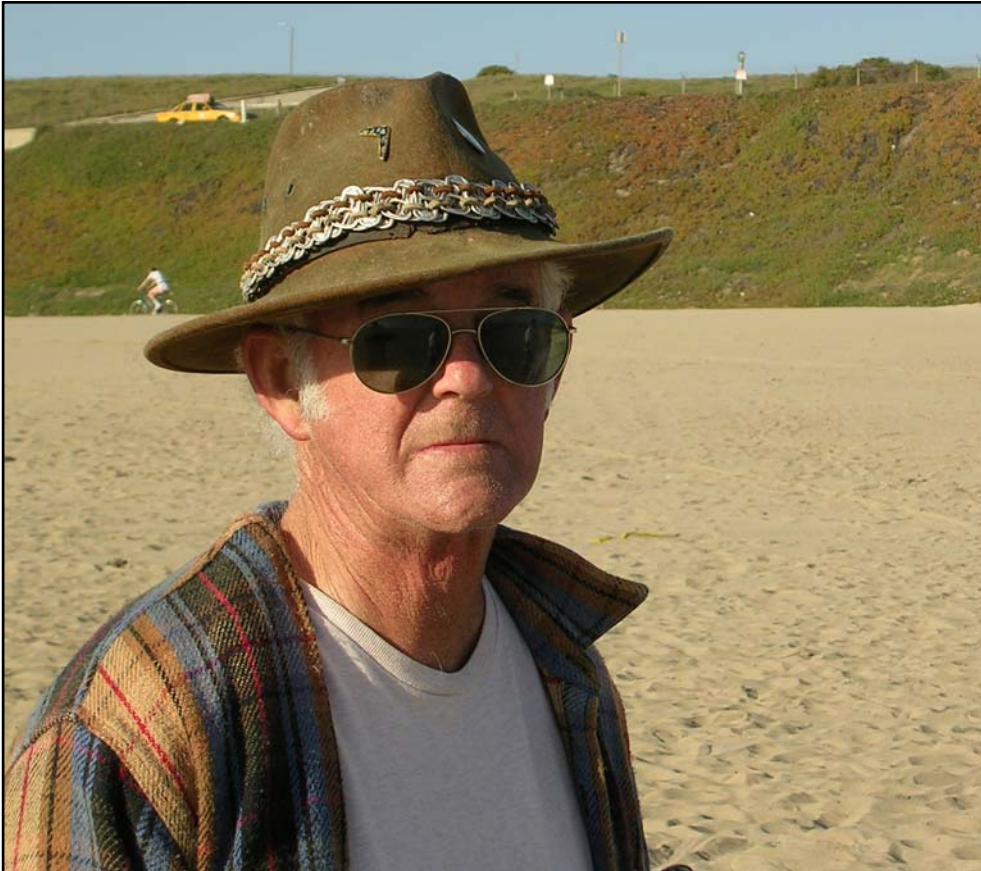
Juggling was finally scratched after several throwers and spectators became bored while watching the world record performance by Chet Snouffer while making 502 catches, a remarkable feat that provided a

three hour break for all of the contestants who were not Chet.

The USBA finally decided to scratch an event that got more boring the better a thrower did, and which had the potential to tack on an additional two to three hours on a good day!

Another place where a lot of time was spent was in the warm up periods between events. While these breaks were supposed to be limited to 10-15 minutes and provide a chance to move to the next event, in reality, they usually turned into thirty to forty minute socializing sessions that people seldom wished to leave. It was believed that by cutting the number of warm up periods, we would also lose the number of delays. *(continued on next page)*

Close Encounters of the boomerang kind



John Gaston while at the SCORE beach tournament in 2006 in true Aussie fashion.

A new regular article that relates to “Encounters” with the random “non-boomeranging” public

by: Kris Kemp

It was a Sunday evening with not much happening and it was getting close to dinner time so John decided to order a pizza from the local Little Caesar's in Tucson. After arriving at Little Caesar's John checked on his pizza and found out that he still had some time to kill before his pie would be ready so he did what many of us would do. He pulled a tri-blader out of his car and headed for an area of the parking lot that was empty and away from the main traffic lane and proceeded to get in a little impromptu boom tossing.

After many throws and catches and what seemed an appropriate amount

of time, John made one successful final catch and began to walk back over to Little Caesar's to see if his pizza was ready. A boy and his father who had also come to pick up some pizza were standing by the entrance and had apparently been watching John throw his boomerang for several minutes.

As John approached them the boy said to John, "Nice boomerang!". Then he said to his Dad, "Did you see that? He can really make it come back!". The father, sizing up John (who was wearing the hat you see in the picture) said, "Of course he can! He's Australian."

Continued from previous page...

Thus, the combining of trick catch and doubling into one event served the dual purposes of eliminating a warm up period and also of eliminating an event that duplicated a skill set, effectively doubling the importance of the trick catch skill in a tournament.

While the same logic never did succeed in eliminating one of the two fast catch events, the two were ultimately linked together in order to save a warm up period. So now, Fast Catch and Endurance are run back to back with no warm up in between. (Although it may still ultimately be in the sport's best interest to combine these two events into a single event and eliminate the overrepresentation of this skill in a tournament's overall rankings.)

These modifications represent structural changes in the sport that show the desire to more effectively manage a tournament's time length. But another aspect that is interesting to see is the evolution of the event rules themselves.

TRIVIA QUESTION #3: What was a “Sighter throw” and in what events was it made?

TRIVIA QUESTION #4: What significant change in the Trick Catch rules brought on the wholesale changeover to three bladed boomerangs?

<End

That part of the article continues in the next MHR! Stay tuned!



Gegg competing in Aussie Round at the '06 National Championships

“Git” It Out There !

News and Info about Long Distance Boomerangs

A Comprehensive Look Into Long-Distance Boomerangs.

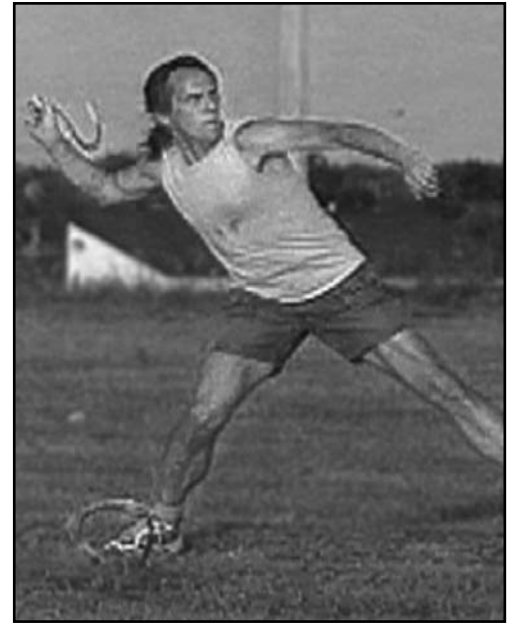
By David Hirsch

In this installment of Git It Out There!, I'd like to go over some of the terminology involving some of the most common materials used for making LD booms and some basic info about those materials.

First, however, let me reiterate a few important points about LD booms. When you go to the field to throw think safety! LD booms are, by design, sharp. It's one of the reasons that a catch is not required in competition. A very large space is mandatory. Don't throw when other people or animals are within range. And when working with the materials I'm about to discuss, wear a respirator. Not a paint mask, a real respirator; these materials are bad to breathe!

Currently, most LD booms are made with some type of plastic; one of a variety of high density, very strong composites. There are a lot of names used for the most common material. Primarily it is fiberglass; but the word fiberglass can cover a wide range of generalized names and materials. Mostly, the material used for LD booms is a high pressure laminate composite. Some of the names associated with these materials are Bakelite, Derakane, Garolite, phenolic, G10, G11 and GFEC. It's often misunderstood but the first three of these are just brand names. It's easier if you look at it this way: you have a material (cloth, paper, spun glass, glass fabric, etc.) and a binding agent (epoxy resin, phenolic resin,

melamine resin, ester resin) that are put together under pressure/temperature to make the material. For instance, Derakane is not the material the boom is carved from, it's the resin used in the material (Derakane is the brand name of the binding agent, epoxy vinyl ester resin). And for those of you who have been working what you were told is Derakane, it's very likely G-10, certainly a high pressure laminate and very likely fiberglass. It doesn't help that many manufacturers use the words incorrectly. For example, the distributor I get my G10 from incorrectly calls it phenolic. More than one distributor I'm aware of lumps these materials incorrectly under that name. You aren't truly using a phenolic unless the binding agent is from the phenol class. The G-10 designation has to do with the specifications of the material, it's heat and strength tolerances and the binding agent. I know some folks swear that G-11 is stiffer but the specs don't qualify it as such. The main difference is in heat tolerance and the binding resin is melamine. Although, with the variances from one manufacturer to the next, it is certainly possible that some G-11 is stiffer than some G-10. It's confusing because different manufacturers make these materials and the tolerances can vary. That's surely at the root of why some folks report that the G11 they get is much stiffer than G10. And some folks report G10 that has lots of delamination issues. The supplier I get mine from has always carried a good,



David Hirsh lets one RIP..

cheap material... \$40 for a 2 ft. x 3 ft. piece, much cheaper than some sources, and I've never had delamination problems, even from booms that are several years old and have taken many bad hits and thus had to be bent to retune them. The problem, as I've alluded to, is that you really don't know where the material came from and the manufacturing tolerances used. Distributors may use one or more manufacturers or switch without telling you. If you can find a distributor that sells good stuff at a fair price, that's what matters. As a matter of reference, I'll give the name and number of the source I use at the end of this article. They will ship and cut sheets, which is another issue as some distributors won't sell partial sheets.

GFEC is what the Europeans often call the group of materials we're talking about (GFEC stands for Glass Fiber Epoxy Composite). Here again, many materials are sometimes lumped under a single name.

(See LD continued on page?)

All About Burwell

By John Villagrana

A Glimpse Into the Life of This Boomerang Legend

In the modern world of boomeranging we have two basic camps - that of makers and of throwers.

The professional comp thrower and the boomerang craftsman. A Pro Thrower may be good at making his own comp booms, often requiring a strong arm and a well skilled throw. A boomerang craftsman may be good at making comp booms also, but a Master Boomsmith makes rangers that anyone can throw. There are a few great boomerangers who transcend distinction between these two specialized fields and one of them is Mr. Robert Burwell.

Bob is well known around the world as one of the greatest boomerang makers and throwers of all time. A World Champion Thrower and a profound Master Boomerang Craftsman. Bob has won championships and set world records in distance, accuracy, juggling and other events and was the first to break Herb Smith's record of 108 meters. He's also a champion marksman. He is also known for his great designs such as his Rippah, Lazy 7, Bob's Hook, Viper, Viper Mate, Adder, and his new K9-30 sport boom.

The truly special thing about Bob's highly prized boomerangs are their universally friendly throwing windows. They're easy to throw and they fly so well. And still, many are suitable for the specifics of competition throwing. The Burwell Family is a famous boomerang Legacy. It started with Bob's father Cecil in 1927, when he visited a cattle station in Queensland that was also a home for a group of Aborigines. This is where Cecil saw and purchased his first boomerang. During the Great Depression, Cecil found himself in Sydney. Becoming acquainted with local aborigines, at



Ben Ruhe has a posse kicks-off the 2006 US National Championships in Conyers Georgia

times he made and sold boomerangs. Charlie Ahoy was his mentor. Bob says, "Last year I was competing in Japan 2006. John Flynn produced a boomerang that he obtained through ebay. To my utter amazement it was made by Charlie. John gave me the privilege of throwing that boomerang. Immediately I saw the skills passed

on to my father embedded in that boomerang". Bob's Mother went to school with famous Aboriginal boomeranger Joe Timbrey. Today, Jack's son Scott makes very nice artistically painted boomerangs.

Robert Burwell was born March 22nd, 1943 in an Aboriginal Mission at La Perouse, Sydney, Australia and was throwing boomerangs before he can remember "I am told I started my boomerang throwing at a place called The Basin, 30km north of Sydney, near Palm Beach in October 1945. My father told me he saw my brother, sister and me throwing stones into the water.

He thought we would get more fun from throwing boomerangs. He made some light models from Bond wood, which came from the sides of tea chests. So begins my boomerang throwing life.." (continued on next page...)



Cecil Burwell and some of his boomerang designs

Industrious from early childhood, by age 5 Bob sold newspapers at the local train station. Bob grew up on Botany Bay among his Australian Aboriginal friends. By age 3, Bob's throwing skill had developed to a point where his father arranged for The 20th Century Movietone News team to make a film record of his throwing. It's stored as a historic record with the New South Wales Film Council Library, entitled "AUSTRALIAN DIARY SERIES. No 1 for 1947."

Throughout his life, he, his father Cecil and brother Jack were very involved in making and promoting boomerangs, responding to movies, radio, newspapers and the new media of the day - television. Trained by Cecil, Bob and Jack were exceptional throwers with a great variety of throws to demonstrate. Spectators would be mesmerized by their skill. Finger spin catching was the most popular with crowds. Jack's specialty was to throw one boomerang after another, releasing twelve before the first one landed.

Bob has loved all kinds of sports. He played competition rugby for three years in the Melbourne area. He also played tennis, soccer, badminton, squash, tug-of-war, darts, bowling and a multitude of Army Style obstacle course games. He met his wife Pam in 1963, "Pam and I married in 1966. She has never been able to throw a boomerang, and still we are happily married and together."

In 1969 Bob's father went to the first meeting of The Boomerang Association of Australia (BAA). He believed his experience with boomerang throwing together with structured rules would enable him to contribute positively. Alas, he was ahead of his time for others at that meeting. His comments received little support.



Cecil Burwell teaching Bob the basics along with the rest of the Burwell gang, 1946

Duration of flight (today's MTA event) received the most criticism and was dismissed out of hand. In 1970 the Burwells traveled to Darlington point, New South Wales and met some new boomerang friends. Among the best were Jack Byham and Bruce Kyle. "At that time our observations were that there was a strong resentment towards us from the organizers who were throwers. The non-throwing organizers were very friendly and cooperative." This is where Bob won his first accuracy contest. Thirty six years later, at The World Boomerang Cup in Japan he again won the individual accuracy event. Within those thirty six years, Bob has won competition boomerang awards too numerous to list, but here are some of them:

- 1970**, First contest with the BAA at Darlington point N.S.W.
 - Winner of Most Accurate Return.
 - Winner of consecutive catch. 13 catches.
 - Winner of distance spear throw with Woomera. 313 ft.
- 1976**, Albury N.S.W.
 - Winner of smallest boomerang contest. 140mm
 - Winner, General Championship. BAA champion. 131 points New record by 11 points.
 - Winner of fast catch 57 seconds.
 - Winner of largest boomerang contest. 1217mm.

1977, Albury N.S.W.

- Winner of distance throw 86
- Winner of smallest boomerang contest. New BAA WR 98mm
- Australian boomerang Champion. 236 points (New scoring method)

1978, Albury N.S.W.

- Winner of consecutive catch New BAA WR 144 catches.
- Winner of distance throw 86m
- Australian boomerang Champion. 194 points (New scoring method)
- Winner of smallest boomerang contest. New BAA WR 74mm

1979, Sydney Australia.

- Winner First BAA Sydney Championships.

1981, Albury USBA Versus BAA

- Winner of Long Distance BAA, World Record 111 Meters. 2nd test Champion



Bob making one of his finger catches
(continued on page 25)

Regional Tournament News

News and information from tournaments around the U.S.

The First Tournament of 2007 Draws Some Veteran Throwers.

By M. Mohr

This was the second addition of the SCORE sponsored "Beach Boom" in sunny Southern California.

The weather cooperated with sunny days and milder than normal winds which made for a terrific tournament on the sand. Besides a few sunburned feet, everyone had a good time throwing booms, drinking Corona's and eating Mexican food at the local hang-out just a short walk of about 200 meters from our throwing site.

We had a big contingency from Seattle with the Stevie K and the Bowers making the trek. I might add that while Stevie flew the Bowers made the trek by car (or should I say four cars put together to make one) and did it in record time! Suzanne even pulled in to make the last two events of the day AR and Accuracy. Casey Larrance and family also joined in as they have family in a neighboring town. South Bay Johnny (who now lives in Fresno, CA) also made the trek. And along with the regular South Bay crew, Michael Manley from Carlsbad and Dana Larrabee and son Kevin drove from nearby Oceanside.



Retro Dan making his behind the back catch.

We had fourteen throwers start the tournament which began at 10 AM with MTA. The prevailing winds blow off the ocean and onto shore and our 100 meter circle fits nicely between the waters edge and the Strand (a cement walk path before the first row of houses). The winds were just so that a really good throw would use up nearly the entire 100 meters with few catches being made on the Strand. In the end Stevie K won MTA with Casey and Daniel close behind.



We did some Head-to-Head on Sunday for fun. Shown here is HTH Fast-Catch between Daniel and myself with Daniel taking the win.

We went to Trick Catch next and ran two circles to speed things up. Not too many surprised here as Richard and Stevie tied for first with two 93's followed by Daniel with 90.

We broke for lunch at a local eatery called El Gringo and soaked up some fine Mexican food along with a Corona or two.

Going to Fast Catch the wind that was good at about 3-5 mph. The top three were Daniel at 19:12, myself at 19:32 (PB), and Richard at 20:21. I believe these were all first round throws with all three busting in the second round.

Endurance went smoothly but the wind picked-up a bit which made for some last minute boom changes. Daniel took first with a 54 followed by Stevie at 52, and Richard and Casey (Fatboy) at 48.

Accuracy 100 was next which turned out to be quite interesting due to the "turf" center circles we were using for the first time. If the booms hit the bullseye they would bounce out. So we had to shoot for the 8 meter ring and hope the boom would bounce or run into the center. In the end it was Daniel with 79, Richard with 78 and myself with 77.

We finished the day with Aussie Round and what a day it was. I was hoping for a day like this with the sun shining and the winds not getting out of control. We were blessed with both and I couldn't have asked for a better day to have the tournament!

Aussie Round was a blast as everyone seemed to be totally enjoying themselves. The top three were myself at 81, Richard at 80 and Fatboy a 71.

The top All-Around finisher's were Richard and Daniel knotted for a first place tie (16pts), with Stevie third (17.5). *<End*

Regional Tournament Update:

Any tournament director who submits a write-up and/or photos WILL be included in the MHR. To date for this year only Beach Boom tournament and the Long-Distance tournament in Dallas have been included in the section. You can email your event coverage to: mohr41@yahoo.com

More Photos from the Beach...



Style and Grace by Richard on the sand.



Not too bad, Casey pulls-out the Flamingo!



Randy getting one finger around this boom!



Sunday's Glorp game L to R, Stevie, Casey, Morri, Daniel, Richard, Retro Dan (the Dominator), and Randy.

The First Annual LD in BigD Long-Distance Boom Tournament was a Great Success.

By David Hirsch

It was held June 8-10. For those interested in LD, it brings to three the total number of tournaments this year for watching or throwing LD. It's a great time for LD in North America.

Besides the BigD tourney, LD will be contested at the USBA Nationals in Wisconsin this August and again at the fourth annual Texas LD Shoot-Out in Houston this Oct. For more information go to: www.usba.org

The LD in BigD tournament was actually in Mesquite, a suburb of Dallas, just east of the city and long known for it's famous rodeo. The tourney site was Eastfield College, one of several county community colleges in the area. The field is a good venue for LD, with a clear area of about 300 yards by 300 yards. Normally mowed, the field is rich with a local weed called "spear grass" and as a native Dallasite, I can tell you it's exactly as the name implies. When we were kids, we had fun throwing the green barbs at each other but as it dries, it penetrates socks and shoes and can be a little more than painful. Stu Jones was so excited to hear that it grew here (having missed it since childhood) that I mailed him some last year. Needless to say, he got his fill of spear grass this weekend.

This weekend, they mowed the entire campus BUT the very area we used. Recent rains had promised to make a swamp of the area but providence shown and the field dried but they didn't mow the part we needed. No worries, the weeds weren't really that deep, especially when looking at photos of locations where some of the European tourneys occur. We were lucky: we probably had the only dry week of the entire month. It's still rainy here and we've had one of the craziest months of weather in Dallas ever.

The weekend began with a warmup day on Friday. Tom Wythes flew in early from Silver City, New Mexico to get a feel for the field. Pat Steigman of Tyler and Roy Dempsey of Shreveport came by later in the afternoon and we got a little throwing in.

The recent storms had prevented me from having hot dogs at my place that night so we all met up at a local Tex-Mex eatery that evening (I think Tom is still wondering why Mesquite needs a Uni-Card). We were joined by Walter Owens, a Garland resident (also a suburb of Dallas) who was new to LD but a welcome member for enchiladas and margaritas.

The first day of competition had moderately good winds, though somewhat light and shift. We got the awning up, throwers began warmups and then we read through the rules and safety precautions. Thanks again to Roy for bringing his safety/spectator net. Then it was time to throw. We had a fine turnout, thirteen throwers in all. Most of the throwers were from this region but several drove hundreds of miles to get here. Throwers came from Houston, Austin, Tyler, Shreveport, Louisiana, Silver City, New Mexico and the Dallas area.

But the heat was brutal. Temps weren't too high, in the low 90s, but humidity was excessive due to the recent rains, around 65%, and as a result the THI (temperature humidity index) hovered at 100 degrees. We worked through it and Stu had the first 100 meter throw of the day, qualifying him for a Twinkie (it's a LD thing). Because of the heat and a sizable field of contestants, we only managed two rounds on Saturday. We all cleaned up and headed for some of that unique Texas delicacy, Bar-B-Que. A few local folks had other commitments but we had a good turnout.

Sunday the humidity was down slightly but still a very warm day. We only managed one round that day, with a total of three for the tourney. Tom again led the way in distance for the event, winning with 130m.

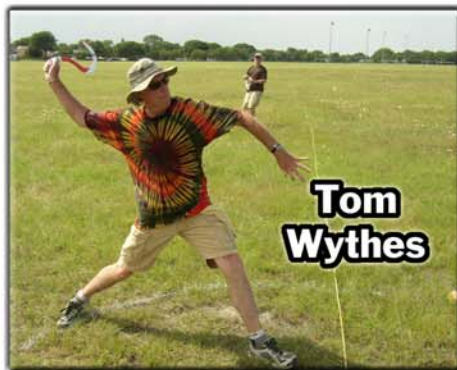
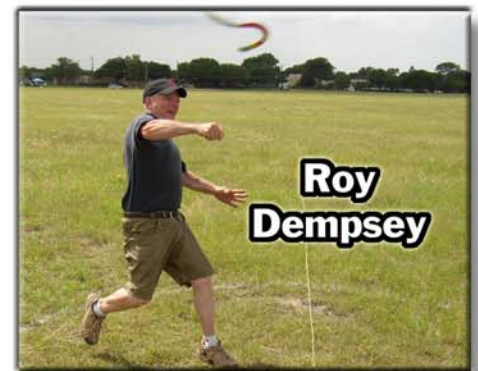
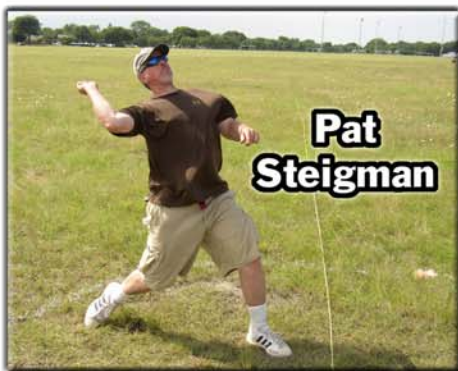
He's having really good throws with CF. Stu took second place with 113m and Joe and I tied for third with 112m. But it was a great tourney in two other important ways: the number of people that made the 100 Meter Club and those that set personal bests in distance over 100m. Five throwers topped 100m and Roy Dempsey, Stuart Jones and Joe Rader set personal bests over 100m. Ace Armstrong bested his previous record by 10m and his cousin, Cameron, showed fine form with some really long throws, though he'd never thrown LD before. Cameron's longest didn't score but the Armstrong clan showed great potential. Mark continued to improve and my nephew Adam and friend Jeff gave great efforts for new throwers. The field of throwers was a great mix of seasoned veterans, intermediate throwers and newbies as well, providing a nice blend of throwing and advancement. The LD throwers I've known have always been generous with help and expertise, for each other and newer throwers.

Because of some coverage in the Dallas paper several tourists showed up and, as always, our throwers demonstrated the fun of boomerangs, even giving away personal booms to some.

The Second Annual LD in BigD tournament to be held in 2008. Tentatively it is scheduled for June 13-15, 2008.

Throwers listed Alphabetically:
Andrew "Ace" Armstrong - 69, 79
Bruce Armstrong - 71
Roy Dempsey - 82, 79, 94, 84, 108, 99
David Hirsch - 109, 98, 112, 106
Stu Jones - 113, 107, 110,
Cameron Kelsey - 69
Joe Rader - 97, 112, 95, 112
Pat Steigman - 99
Mark Wolff - 75
Tom Wythes - 124, 130, 113, 110
(See pages 17 and 18 for event photos)

LD in BigD Boom Meisters throw far!



Not pictured: David or Walter



Scenes from the first **LD in BigD** Tournament



Pix and graphics by D.H.

Good Times *(continued from page1)*

experience for we bed sleepers. The bathing was easy to get used to after the first couple hand held showers sitting on the stool. The good part was the soaking pools - hot, medium and cold. After the first couple days of throwing and sunburn the medium pool became my morning soak of choice followed by the invigorating cold dip. With the many days of throwing to get in 16 team events , 2 public days and 6 individual events, that soak each morning really helped keep the body loose and ready to go.

The statue of the Goddess of the Mountain across from the hotel greeted us at the beginning and end of each hilly bus ride to and from the field or town. The view of the city was excellent from the hill road and those rides were times for visiting, humor and reflection.

The opening ceremony at the Snowflake Museum was amazing. This was one of the most unique museums I have ever experienced. It was beautiful. There was a room with sheets of ice in the walls, all kinds of snowflake art and other displays. We walked from the displays down a decorated spiral staircase with a multi level fountain at the bottom to the hall where the opening ceremony was held.

The ceremony itself featured some great entertainment. There was a duet of talented Japanese musicians playing



Betsylew having a bit of fun herself.



"Good Times" were also had on the boomerang field teaching some local pit woofies how to rang American style, check out the teeth on the one in the middle, looks like she's part Forengie.

a type of Japanese stringed instrument, Megumi, a very talented Japanese member of the International women's team played a lovely piece on the piano, a member of the Japanese Aparre team performed a vaudeville act that was highly entertaining, and a martial arts contest between Hisa, a personable Japanese doctor, and our own Barnaby Ruhe. Barnaby played the role of the drunken fighter with great aplomb. There were dignitaries and sponsors in attendance who spoke as well. This was followed by a terrific buffet.

13 of the Americans (plus our adopted American Lars and Aussie Rob Croll) went bowling one evening at the urging of Moleman, and thoroughly enjoyed the Japanese bowling alley experience. We had a good time during the scheduled tour events for the competitors, first at the highly regarded Asahikawa Zoo, followed by an excellent visit to the Otokoyama Sake Brewery - where one was able to enjoy samples of as many of their varieties of rice wine as one wanted! I stopped at 6 since we had to throw the next day. There were the karaoke sessions with Gregg, the most memorable of which also featured the

Bowers, Amy and I. I will never again hear "I Did It My Way" without thinking of that experience and Gregg's special boomerang lyric version

There were other memories: the hawks (Black Kites in English) soaring over and around the field daily, soft green hills and mountains ringing the field and city, any wind condition you can think of during the throwing, some rain, lots of warm and humid days, bus oads of athletes stopping at the 7-11 after several of the tourney days for refreshments and snacks. (That is one store which will have stories of the world boomerang championship business boom for a while!) Since there was no English news on tv, radio or papers one could unplug from the real world and just enjoy boomerang friends, the throwing, the environment and revel in the overall experience. It was the first time I have just said to heck with thinking, reading or hearing about work or world events and had a real vacation for a very long time.

here & there

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT...
Throwing Around
A Stationary object



Billy Brazelton defining a space around George. Jason Smucker trying to take down a prairie dog. Daniel Bower throwing around a large bowling pin.



Steve Graham who is a school teacher, shown here throwing a cross-stick around his kids.



Jason Smucker Throwing around a great piece of art in the Atlanta area.



The Bowers are in tandem around George.



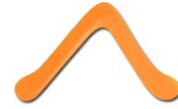
The Bowers taking a shot at George.



Morri throwing Kris Kemp's original wood Sunshine around a lifeguard tower at sunset.

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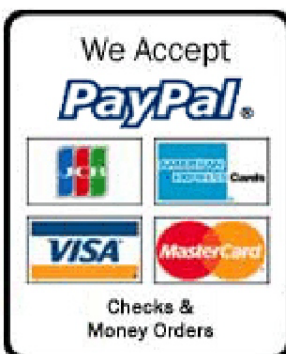


Join us in this year's efforts to grow the sport of boomerangs in the US and the world. Let's keep an open mind and be focused on the goal of nationwide TV coverage of our sport! Let's pull together to get this done for the 2008 World Championships tournament!

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

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(continued from page 9)

One other thing about these materials; you need to be sure of the substrate, that is the cloth, glass fiber, etc. as this is where much of the strength of these materials comes from. If you get something with cloth or paper, which tend to occur more often in the phenolic class, you may have a lighter cheaper material but it will not have the strength.

Hopefully this clears up some of the terminology issues out there but as you can see it can be confusing, to say the least.

Now on to a completely different material: carbon fiber. I'm really singing the praises these days of CF. It is significantly more expensive and is better used after getting some manufacturing experience with the cheaper G10 but I really like the way this stuff flies. And don't get me wrong; Manu's World record was done using G10. It's just that CF is 20% lighter and even stiffer and thus gives older arms an advantage :-), but more importantly, it doesn't detune on a bad throw. This is not CF that I'm setting up myself but rather sheet form purchased from a vendor. I'm still in the learning phase of working with this material but have thoroughly enjoyed it so far. I will have to report back as I gain more knowledge on this material.

I'll get into sanding and processing techniques in one of the future columns but if you start now, be wary of pulling too fine an edge on the G-10; it's easy to pull a very keen edge. There are even some web sites out there dedicated to making knives with this stuff. One thing i will say, find a way to mark a good midline before you begin sanding the airfoil. If you look at Manu's plans, he calls for a variance of .1mm from the top to the bottom, that's a pretty tight tolerance!

I usually finish sanding mine with jeweler glasses; an accurate midline is that important. It can be a help also to look for the layers as you sand to help guide you as you make the airfoil. So that's it for this edition. I won't say I know it all or can't make mistakes so if you know something I should know... let me know! As always, you can reach me at duckhead@airmail.net or call the Boomerang Association of Dallas (B.A.D.) at (214) 398-4567. Remember, it isn't a boomerang if it doesn't come back. Throw far!

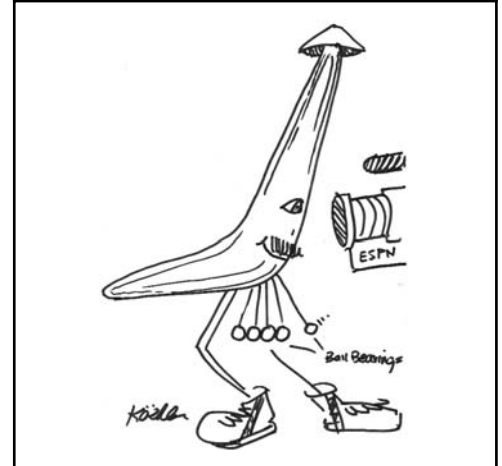
The plastic supplier I use for G-10 is Allied Plastics, 10828 Shady Trail, Dallas, Tx., 75220 (214) 350-3990; about \$40 for a 2' x 3' sheet of 1/8" thick, not including shipping. I only know of one distributor for 1/8" thick rigid CF sheet and that's McMaster-Carr. Find them at www.McMaster.com About \$158 for a 12" x 24" 1/8" piece, shipping not included. <End



Pat Steigman throwing LD and earning some extra style points for that back arch!

Guess Who...

The first three people to identify the person the drawings below will win a free t-shirt (see back cover), just email me your guess at: mohr41@yahoo.com



here & there

General Boomerang Photos From Around the Nation



Why do they call Casey Fatboy?



Looks like the Nationals t-shirt...7



Mark Legg pulling-in a one hand under the leg.

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Steve Graham who is a school teacher, shown here thorwing a cross-stick around his kids.

(continued from page 11)

1977, Albury N.S.W.

- Winner of distance throw 86
- Winner of smallest boomerang contest. New BAA WR 98mm
- Australian boomerang Champion.

236 points (New scoring method)

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- Winner of distance throw 86m
- Australian boomerang Champion.

194 points (New scoring method)

- Winner of smallest boomerang contest. New BAA WR 74mm

1979, Sydney Australia.

- Winner First BAA Sydney Championships.

1981, Albury USBA Versus BAA

- Winner of Long Distance BAA, World Record 111 Meters. 2nd test Champion

1982, USBA Nationals

- Winner All-around Grand Champion.
- Winner of Juggling contest 69 catches new WR.
- Winner Long distance 102m
- Winner Consecutive Catch contest.

1984, Captain Coach for, BAA Australian team versus USBA. Series Winners.

2003, Albury Australia (on the day of Bob's 60th birthday)

- Winner Fast catch 26+ seconds
- Presented with something as recognition of being, "A Living Legend." Whatever that means.

2006, Japan World Boomerang Cup.

- Winner Individual accuracy 88/100 points.



Rob's a man obsessed

...with boomerangs

Wednesday feature

By Kerry Burrows

A MAN obsessed. That may be the best way to describe boomerang fanatic and world champion boomerang thrower, Robert Burwell of Tanah Merah.

For Robert, 45, boomerangs are a part of life — the major part of his life.

He has made more than 30,000 boomerangs, most at least 300, and is three times the Australian Boomerang Champion.

Robert, a Telecom radio technician at Mt Gravatt, competed in the Bicentennial National Championships of the Boomerang Association of Australia (BAA) held in Canberra on Saturday November 3.

About 60 people took part in the event in which Robert came sixth overall.

"I'm not unhappy with my results, I feel I should have done better," he said. "I've been out of competition for four occasions outperformed the seniors."

"It means things look good for the future," he said.

Robert has been fascinated with boomerangs since he was two, when he first learned how to throw them from father, Cecil.

"I was throwing stones into a waterway with my brother and sister, and my father thought I'd be better off throwing a boomerang. I've been throwing them ever since."

In 1946 Robert, his brother Jack, sister Dorcas and father Cecil appeared on 'Movietone' news throwing boomerangs.

Then and today, Robert stole the show.

Cecil, who died two years ago, had made boomerangs since 1928. Not only did he teach Robert

petition and can travel a distance of more than 20 metres returning to an accuracy circle of about five metres.

Just why Robert has maintained such an avid interest in boomerangs over 43 years is a mystery even to his children Greg, 21, David, 19, and Melissa, 13.

"They were very interested up to about the age of five," he said.

But Robert's real interest in boomerangs now is designing them. He has introduced about 20 designs to boomerang sporting groups.

"One of my designs is the Lazy Seven," he said. "It won't fly itself, you've got to put a lot of power into it to make it work."

"We have numerous competitors that require certain flight requirements and it's a challenge making boomerangs to perform different

Cecil Burwell teaching Bob the basics along with the rest of the Burwell gang, 1946



Cecil Burwell Making the catch in 1962

Bob Burwell is indeed a living legend. Certainly one initiator of the modern boomerang movement. In 1981 he introduced Team Relay Competition and a throwing format to speed up events.

His boomerang craftsmanship is legendary too. He is not a mass producer of boomerangs, though he has mass produced boomerangs before. He spends time developing an understanding with each one of his creations. When they do what he wants them to, they're ready for paint.

His wood-burn engraved decorations and epoxy finishes make his boomerangs stand out in any throw kit. If you ever have the chance to acquire one, go for it!

His own favorite designs are Vipers and Rippahs. I asked him which of his designs he's most proud of as being appropriate for the average thrower. "I am proud of all boomerangs that give pleasure to whoever is throwing them. Many meet this pleasure criteria."

When asked about his boomerang philosophy, Bob said "I love designing, making and throwing boomerangs. I never throw to win. I throw to enjoy myself. I throw to do my best. I throw to promote boomerangs and hopefully bring others some of the pleasure that comes my way."

<End

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Editor/Art Director:

Morri Mohr
Mohr41@yahoo.com

Publishing Director:

Morri Mohr
Mohr41@yahoo.com

Contributing Editors:

Kris Kemp
John Villagrana
David Hirsch

Copy Editor:

Kris Kemp

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Deadlines for advertising are:
March 30 for the Spring issue;
August 30 for the Summer issue;
October 30 for the Fall issue;
January 30 for the Winter issue.

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Be Careful What You Ask For...

Dear USBA Members,

As a member of the boomerang community for five years this month. Its been a fantastic benefit to me personally to have come to know most of you in some form whether it be via email, over the phone or in person. My life is better because of many of you and I'm sure I'm far from being alone in this experience. Which is one of the truly great things about boomerangs.

For me personally, I view my boomeranging as a complete circle. The fulfillment I get from them crosses many of my "core" passions. For example, I'm a craftsman at heart, I have always been fascinated with things that fly and I love learning new athletic skills. These three aspects of boomerangs are why I love the experience so much. And is why I can throw a newly made boomerang over and over and over for no other reason other than it brings me joy. I just made it, now it flies (and comes back), and I have to demonstrate some athletic ability to complete the circle. For me, THIS is the magic of boomerangs.

I do not remotely care about selling boomerangs for profit but completely understand and endorse those who do. Furthermore, I understand the importance of a thriving vendor force that will only serve to promote and grow interest in boomerangs. But lately I've been asking myself a few questions (introspectively) and I'm not sure I like the answers. We are always stressing the importance to grow our sport at every level. Those of us on the talk forums and those of us involved with the USBA, both sport and competition throwers all have in common the desire to share a sport we cherish. And this is not a new trend (obviously), it has been a primary goal over the years with numbers that appear to be declining rather than growing.

So the questions I've been asking myself is what do I really "want" both personally and corporately related to boomerangs. What do I care about related to growing our sport? How would I personally like to see the sport grow? Some of the answers I get back are selfish and at first look seem to opposite of what I think I should think. For example, at times my thoughts are that I don't want others to invade my throwing area and risk being banned from the beach when a errant throw hits a bystander. But on the other hand I enjoy throwing with others so much and I think how much fun it would be if our throwing group had a dozen or some regulars instead of the usual three to four. I also, ask bigger questions such as, do I care about boomerangs being in the Olympics? Or on EPSN? Do I want to help create a market craze related to boomerangs? And like most questions we ask ourselves, especially the hard ones, we already know the answer. Sometime we don't like the answer so we look for a different one, but deep-down we know. It may not be the same for everyone but you as an individual will know what's important to you.

The USBA board has been faced with some options lately that require them to make some hard decisions that will relate to the growth of our sport. I'm not a board member (and I feel personally that the MHR editor shouldn't be), so I don't know all the stuff they talk about. But with the influx of Boomerangs.com and the projects that have surfaced as presented by Dana Larrabee and his son Kevin (both who I've met personally at our beach tournament). They bring enthusiasm and money to the table which if taken advantage of wisely will be a benefit to us all.

I would ask each standing board member to take a step back and to think about what they care about individually and how that connects to the tenants of your position in the USBA (which I'm sure you all are doing). There is obviously no established "road map" that lays a path for growth and prosperity within the USBA. Like most things you just have to muddle through it holding true to your personal compass within the structure of the organization. It appears that there are tremendous opportunities that can be implemented NOW related to our web-site and video projects that will expose our sport on a national scale. And if this exposure happens we will need to be unified and ready to guide this growth in the direction, we, the USBA wants to go...

Stay Rad,
Morri Mohr

Any comments welcomed at: mohr41@yahoo.com (but they may be published in a future MHR)

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