



BOOMERANG BULLETIN

BOOMERANG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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BRUCE CARTER'S BOOMERANG BUS
Thanks to the Carter Clan for helping to make our unknown sport
so attractive to so many through their wonderful night and day demonstrations.

EDITORIAL

Enthusiasm. Enthusiasm. That's what this article is all about. In this Bulletin I have featured an article from Kelly Boyer Sagert's book on America's supreme example of enthusiasm in the person of *Ted Bailey*.

The article will tell you about Ted, but I would like to thank Ted for all the material he produces that we are able to make use of in our Bulletin.

Quite a deal of this issue is from Ted, since it helps to fill in our knowledge of what the rest of the world is doing with boomerangs.

Yes, the rest of the world is enthusiastic about boomerangs, both in making them and throwing them!

What about us? Check yourself for your enthusiasm.

Do you try to **make** better boomerangs? Do you **practise** often? Do you **spend much time** on boomerangs? Do you **make an effort** to come to *practices and competitions*?

Do you feel **any responsibility** towards other throwers by your presence or absence from competitions? **How many comps** have you attended in the last 12 months?

How many times have you been throwing? Have you **taught** many to throw?

Are they **turned on** by your enthusiasm?

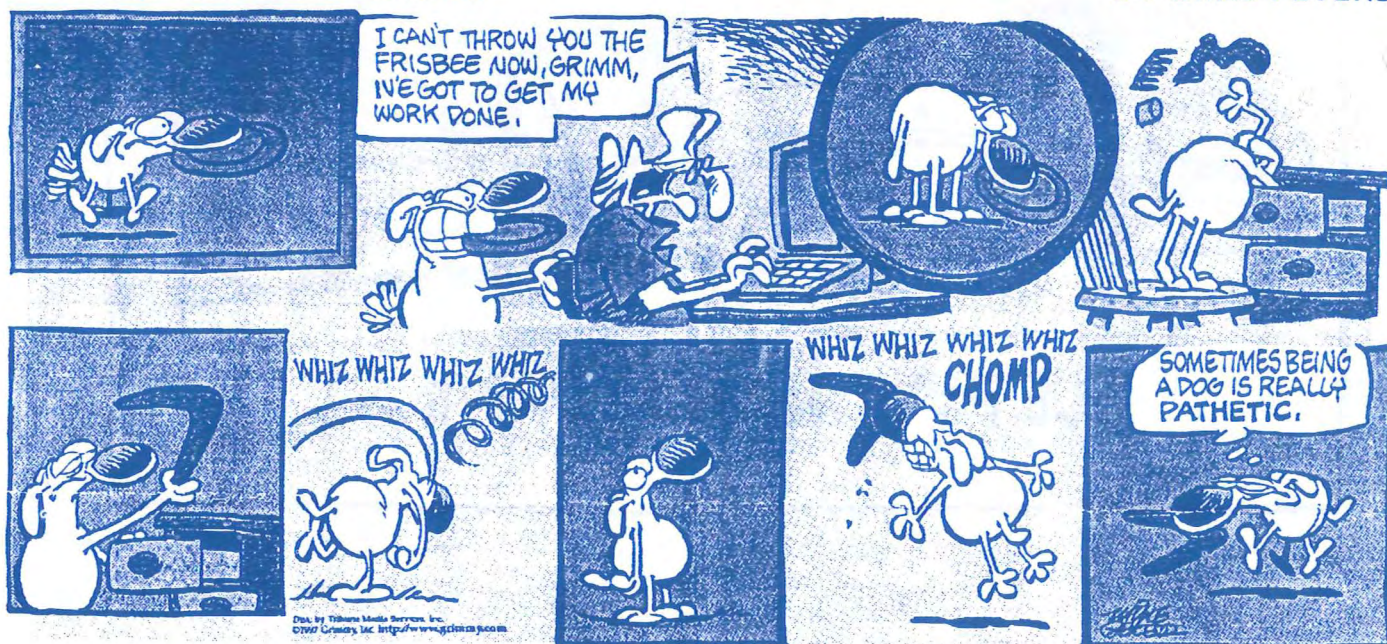
If we want an Australian team to be near the top of the world again as a **true force**, then the first quality we need to develop is true and lasting **ENTHUSIASM**.

Br.B.M.Thomas, Editor.

Fred Malmberg sent in this cartoon to share with the readers.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



RECORDS

WHAT WE DREAM ABOUT

Boomerang throwers enjoy throwing. That's why they do it! But with all those pleasure throws there is usually the hidden desire to be doing the **perfect throw**. In practice, we sometimes manage it too. We think, "If only I could do that on the day of the comp!" Fate seems to determine that most perfect boomerang throws are *always done in practice*, when there is no one present to verify our claim. As our porky friend, *Babe*, was told by the other animals at the farm, "That's just the way it is."

The **Holy Grail** that most boomerang throwers seek is usually a world record. It is the stuff dreams are made of, the deep desire of most throwers, that one day everything will go right for them.

So how do you achieve a **world record**?

It usually comes about when you are simply *trying your very best* to win a competition. If a record comes with the win, it is the icing on the cake. You can't predict a record, even though the media would like you to turn one on for their cameras. *Everything has to go perfectly well for you. You need the right breeze with the correct boomerang which you throw at just the right angle with the appropriate amount of power.* Then **bingo**..you've got it.

Official records began in 1970. To set a record in the early days was usually much easier than now. The first records were set with the first competitions and since then they have improved and improved out of sight. When **Fast Catch** went from **10** to **5** catches, I set the first record with **42 seconds**. At the next comp I had it down to 35 seconds. Now it is down to just over **14 seconds**! Why the improvement? Several factors have led to this.

1. Years of *intelligent research* have developed much faster boomerangs. Credit for this must be given to *John Flynn* and *Eric Darnell*, who started the ball rolling. Now we have many capable makers turning out speed machines. At the 1997 Whitsun Competitions in Amstelveen the first ten places all threw below 20 seconds!
2. The introduction of *multibladed boomerangs* has added to reliability of return and made catching easier.
3. *New materials* have been used, especially in the plastics field.
4. Many very *fit young people* are now engaged in the sport.
5. Throwers have become *very conscious of records* and are practising more constantly to break them.

6. **Development and changes in rules** have also helped many competitions. Once the consecutive catching record was 7. But that was when you had to catch it within a 7.5 metre radius circle. As soon as the range went to 20 metres, the number of catches climbed and climbed. With the introduction of the multibladers it went even higher. It now stands at **1251**.

7. **Mental toughness** is essential. It is no time for nerves or doubts. Forget about the on-lookers and concentrate fully on your throw. Good practice throws mean nothing. You must present your best throws once you step into that centre circle.

Of course, there are many more events in which to set records these days, the latest being **trick catch doubling**. To set a record in most of the events you certainly need a *specialised top-performing boomerang or boomerangs* to do so, otherwise you are not in the hunt.

Probably the record that holds out the *most hope* to the **ordinary everyday thrower**, as well as the expert, is **Accuracy**. It seems unbelievable that after 27 years of competitive throwing no one has thrown the maximum **50 points**. And so we live on, hoping every comp day that this is going to be the great occasion when we shall put it all together and write ourselves into the history books! Surely that day is not too far away. *When it does happen, what shall we do then?* I am sure we shall then be aiming for the **really perfect throwing day** and land **five bullseyes in a row!!**

Of all the events the most unpredictable must surely be **MTA**. Who knows what horizons are ahead, as evidenced by **John Gorski's** incredible 17 min. plus flight. As the saying goes, "**The sky's the limit!**" This is another event that does hold some hope for the ordinary battling thrower, since most of your fate in this event depends on the unknown thermals. In other words, *it pays to be in the right spot at the right time*.

Amongst all the record holders through the years, my deepest sympathy and regard goes to **William Gix**. For ten years my Aussie Round record stood at **90**. Finally William broke it with a **brilliant 91**. I can imagine the elation he must have felt at that moment. Within 30 seconds **Mark Weary** did his last throw to bring up **92 points** and steal away the much coveted record from poor William. And at the end of the day not only could William not be the record holder, *but he didn't even win the event!* How cruel life can be at times.

This brings out the *final factor* necessary in setting a record: Don't have anyone throwing against you who will score more that day.

*Br. Brian M. Thomas, cfc, Australian National Boomerang Coach. 1997.
Former World Record Holder.*



Spot on: Jack Byham's skill with spears and boomerangs has thrown him into the spotlight.

Blazing boomerangs

ONE OF the enduring memories of opening ceremonies was the arrow used to light the flame at the Barcelona Olympics. And it got us wondering: could a boomerang do the same thing?

We rang local boomerang throwing expert Rob Croll, who told us not only *could* it be done, but that Sydney officials had already been given details of how it *should* be done at the 2000 Olympics.

Croll says a boomerang could be fitted with something resembling a sparkler. It could fly out, ignite a gas jet and return to the thrower.

"A boomerang would be most appropriate, not only because of its obvious links to Australia, but because the World Boomerang Championships are being held in Melbourne that same year," Rob told us.

But before you start suggesting boomerang throwing becomes an Olympic sport, let us assure you Australia would be anything but assured of a medal. Belgium, Germany, America and France are considered the main boomerang nations, with Australia struggling to make a top-10 ranking.

Jack scores direct hit in Hollywood

THROWING spears and boomerangs propelled Jack Byham all the way to the bright lights of Hollywood.

His journey to the playground of the rich and famous began in outback Australia and lasted half a century.

After jobs in the canefields of Queensland and the Riverina, Jack met a Polish woman in 1951 at the Mount Buffalo Chalet.

The couple married and moved to Cobram.

After settling into domesticity, Jack rekindled his interest in Aboriginal culture, an interest spawned during

years living in the Victoria Desert with the Wongai tribe. He perfected spear and boomerang throwing.

His career as a "chucker" peaked in 1972, the year he threw for Gene Autry, of *Rawhide* fame, in LA's Anaheim Stadium.

Reg Williams, who created the Mousketeers, was so impressed he made Jack an honorary member of Disneyland.

Now 74, Jack divides his time between swinging golf clubs, casting a fishing line and throwing spears and boomerangs.

THE MAGIC OF THE BOOMERANG

The Aboriginal Aussie Sport

Australia's most famous symbol overseas is surely the **BOOMERANG**. Long before the Wright Brothers conquered flight, our own Aborigines had done so..with boomerangs. They had mastered flight through the air with a heavier than air material.

Despite the fact that it is one of **our national symbols**, most Australians know nothing about the boomerang...except a few wrong facts! Most know the typical boomerang shape and some even believe that it comes back. Others are not too sure and think that maybe there is some Dreamtime mythology tied up with it. Well, let me tell you that the boomerang is an outstanding scientific invention. And that goes for **both kinds** of boomerangs.

So let's get some facts right. How old is the boomerang? The oldest returning wooden boomerangs were found in a swamp at **Millicent** in South Australia in 1975 by archaeologist **Roger Luebbers**. He discovered eight fragmented boomerangs made from she-oak, which have been carbon dated to nearly **11, 000 years old**. Cave paintings of boomerangs even go back much further to possibly **40, 000 years**, making this definitely Australia's **oldest sport!**

Of course, boomerangs were not just a sporting thing. They were mainly used to make a living and were a bit like the Aborigines' **Swiss Army Knife**. We mentioned there were two kinds of boomerangs: the **returning** ones and the **non-returning** ones. Most boomerangs made were of the second type..non-returning. This was the main hunting one. They were heavy, large and quite nasty if you were at the end of the flight. They were anywhere from half a metre to two metres long and could travel well over a hundred metres with a good throw, although most hunting would have been done at much closer range. Creatures were not always killed with a blow from these, but they were slowed down enough to be caught.

Apart from throwing the hunting stick at things, it was also used for hand to hand combat, to skin the kangaroo, stir the embers of the fire, dig holes in the ground and tapped together to make music. Useful, eh!

Not all tribes had the boomerang, and even less tribes had the returning boomerang, which had a more limited hunting use. Probably **one in a hundred** boomerangs made was a returning one. The returning boomerang is thrown in a different manner than the hunting one. The non-returner is usually thrown side arm and travels parallel to the ground. The returning boomerang is thrown vertically and off to the right of the breeze, if you are **right handed**. Yes, there are **left handed** boomerangs for left handers and these fly to the left of the breeze and circle in the opposite direction. The first Aborigine seen throwing a returning boomerang around Sydney was the famous Bungaree, who sometimes travelled with Matthew Flinders, and was a well known figure. The first recorded flights of boomerangs were by natives west of Sydney towards the Blue Mountains. This was recorded by the French born ensign Francis Louis Barrallier on **12th November 1802**. In 1770 Captain Cook had seen Aborigines with boomerangs, but he did not see them fly.

It is thought the word boomerang derived from a **Dharug** word *bumarang*, from the **Georges River** area, south of Sydney. Different tribes had **different names** for it.

How is a boomerang shaped? It has two sides. One is flat, while the other is shaped like the wing of an aeroplane with a **trailing and leading edge**. That's the basics. It can get more complicated, but that's the basic principle that gives you a returning boomerang. Making a good non-returning boomerang is even more complicated than making a returning one, believe it or not. It is a huge subject and space does not permit me to elaborate any more. The sad news is that many of the boomerangs sold as returning ones will never work, since they lack the trailing and leading edges. Look for it. Remember **correct dynamics** and not pretty designs make the boomerang work.

We non-Aboriginal people have adopted this marvellous machine for our modern day sport. Most **competition boomerangs** are made of ply-wood and other materials that are not so heavy as the natural timber ones of the Aborigines. With catching being a major component in most competitions, we need to look after our hands! There is no evidence that Aborigines used to try and catch their returning boomerangs, which further proves how smart they were! In the past, throwing a boomerang was a man's job only too. Now we live in the days of **gender equality**, and we have had many **outstanding women throwers** such as Carol Lewry, Leanne Loveland, Janine Knight, Cadia and Philomena Riccardi, Birgit Walter and Margaret Patterson to name just some.

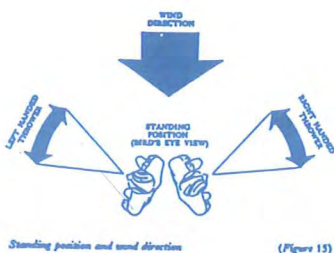
Age is no barrier in the sport either. Currently our oldest competitive thrower in NSW is 76 year old **Ken Arthur** of Lane Cove. He has been throwing boomerangs for **66 years**. A few years ago we had the famous **Janetzki brothers, Les and Arthur**. Les died at 86 (still throwing) and Arthur at 91. He threw in competition on his 91st birthday and came 6th out of 20. Our youngest thrower to win at the National Championships was the world famous **Ben Loveland**, who won the Junior (Under 16) Accuracy at Albury in 1982 when he was 2 years and 10 months old!! He was coached by his famous grandfather, the late **Bunny Read**, who was an Australian Champion.

Boomerang throwing does tend to be a family sport, since children need the encouragement of their parents to stick with anything. It is essentially an adults sport, since **safety is always a key factor**. A spinning piece wood through the air can be dangerous, if you aren't watching. Common sense must always prevail. So always *watch the boomerang in the air*.

Today boomerang throwing is **an international sport** with an evergrowing number of countries competing. Fourteen took place in the last **World Cup** in New Zealand in 1996. America is the venue in 1998 and Australia in 2000. Boomerang throwing membership is far greater in overseas countries than in Australia. Most boomerang books are written overseas too. Strange, isn't it? As Professor Julius Sumner Miller used to say, "Why is it so?" Can you throw a boomerang?

Competitions are conducted by the **Boomerang Throwing Association of NSW**, and **free boomerang lessons** are given at **Blackmans Park, Lane Cove**, on the last Sunday of every month (except for Dec. & Jan.) between 10.30 and 12.00. If you wish, you can even buy a boomerang that works.

Br. Brian M. Thomas, cfc, 1997
Australian National Boomerang Coach
 131 Birrell St., Waverley, NSW, 2024.



Standing position and wind direction

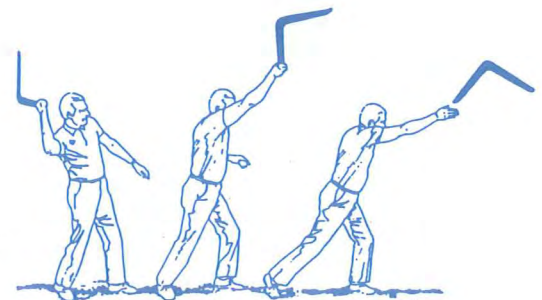
(Figure 15)



ANGLES OF ELEVATION

THE BOOMERANG MAY BE RELEASED AT ANY ANGLE BETWEEN THIS TRIANGLE RANGE

Throwing: angles and elevation



Throwing: action sequence

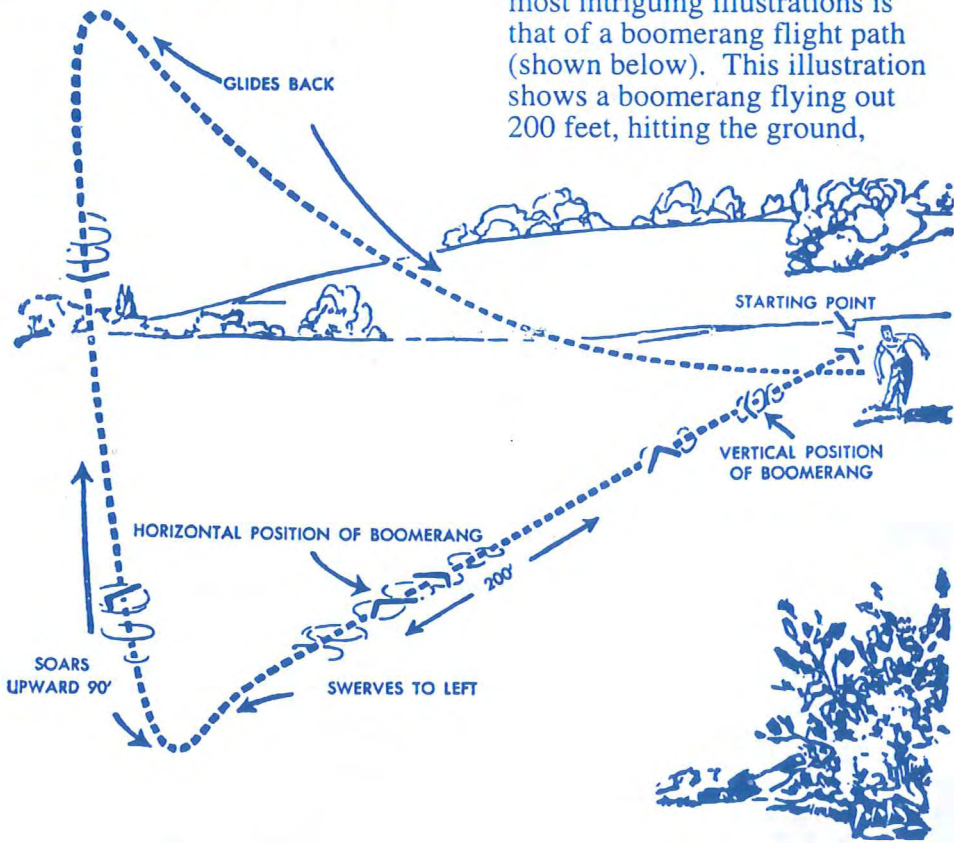


Catching: two handed

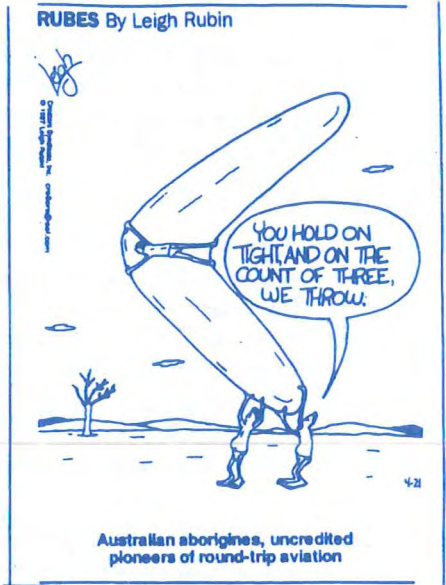
Tom Risher and **Bud Bell** both sent in copies of the Rubes cartoon, pictured right. The caption reads "Australian Aborigines, uncredited pioneers of round-trip aviation". Tom also sent in a newspaper announcement that the 1971 movie "Walkabout" (about two children who are lost in the Australian Outback and are saved by an Aborigine who is on a Walkabout) was released to video stores in March. If you are a fan of the Aboriginal culture, this may be a good movie to rent. **Dan Neelands** has been researching historical articles about boomerangs. Dan found a book titled "Games, Pastimes and Amusements", published in 1906, that had instructions for taking a solid hardwood board, boiling it in water to make it soft, bending it into a boomerang shape, holding it in that shape until it dries, slicing it into boomerang sections, trimming the edges with broken glass and then throwing it at an object 100 yards away. (Look at

the kind of technology that we have forgotten in only 50 years!) The Popular Mechanics Press has published a series of articles about how to make and throw boomerangs. An article published in 1940 and titled "Boomerangs are Fun" has lots of illustrations for how to make a three piece lapped boomerang. The book is called "Boy Mechanic". The 1929 issue of "The Boy Mechanic" has an article titled "Boomerang Throwing is Great Sport" by **Keenan H. Ward**. This is a well written article with plans for making a narrow bladed, lapped hardwood boomerang, similar in shape to the boomerangs made by **Frank Donellan** of the same time period.

The last article published by Popular Mechanics Press was simply titled "Boomerangs". It was published in 1956 and titled: "Build It Yourself Book for Boys". The article borrows heavily from the graphics in the earlier two publications. One of the most intriguing illustrations is that of a boomerang flight path (shown below). This illustration shows a boomerang flying out 200 feet, hitting the ground,



Flight Path of Boomerang From Popular Mechanics Press



bouncing straight up to incredible heights, then gliding gently back to the thrower. The editor will pay \$100 for the first boomerang that is submitted that repeatedly flies in this manner.

The editor has been both a stamp collector and boomerang thrower for quite some time. I have been unsuccessful in identifying a postage stamp from anywhere in the world that has a boomerang or throwstick on it. A boomerang stamp doesn't even exist in Australia! I searched stamps from the USA (Hopi Rabbit Sticks) and Egypt (King Tut's Tomb) without success. I almost thought I had one when I discovered the USA 9¢ Airmail stamp with the Chevron shape, pictured below, but the Post Office said the stamp art depicted a jet plane, not a boomerang.



USA 9¢ Postage Stamp



Stephen F. Hickman

Stephen Hickman is also a boomerang thrower and he doesn't collect stamps. However, he is a graphics artist who has designed USA postage stamps. Stephen integrates boomerang art into his creations whenever appropriate. Note how he did this in the fourth stamp depicted on the cover above as well as on the cover cache art. The space ship is boomerang shaped! Although this stamp is no longer available, you can still buy the boomerang spaceship art on the newly issued *Prepaid Phone Card* from the U.S. Post Office. This Phone Card is pictured above right.

When will the first true boomerang appear on a postage stamp? Perhaps Australia will be the first to issue one if they integrate the logo for the 2000 Olympics in a stamp design. If any of the readers know about postage stamps with boomerangs, please notify the editor.

Barnaby Ruhe sent in an article from the *New York Times* with a quote from Richard Nichol's testimony at the Oklahoma City bomb trial of Timothy McViegh: "I turned and I looked", he said. "And I could see this humongous object coming towards us out of the air. It was spinning like a boomerang. And you could hear this "woo-woo-woo-woo noise" And I looked and I saw it and I said "Get Down!" The object was the axle from the Ryder Truck!

The Cleveland area throwers have stepped up their boomerang throwing activities, much of which is in support of marketing efforts for **Kelly Sagert's** new book: "Bout Boomerangs; America's Silent Sport".

Several throwers participated in a 12 minute long live boomerang talk/demo for Cleveland television on May 12. Kelly was the commentator with six throwers demonstrating booms, including: **Don and Duane Sagert, Len Burns, Gary Broadbent, John Gorski and Eddie Carrigg.** They threw in 30 mph winds along the edge of Lake Erie.

Kelly has also written a boomerang philosophy for a group of former alcoholics who have chosen the come-back symbolism of the boomerang for their recovery group. The text of Kelly's philosophy statement follows:

Whatever you toss out in life will return to you, like a boomerang

Decide, then, what to toss out, and what to throw away. Throw away hopelessness, throw away despair, throw away hatred. And, then, after you've done all of that, concentrate on an even harder expectation to throw away -- that because you do good work, because you did the right thing, that people owe you in return.

Card Must Be Activated At Time Of Sale



Prepaid Calling Card

When you toss out kindness, do so only as a gift to your neighbor . . . when you toss out generosity, do so freely, without ever expecting anything in exchange . . . and when you toss out your love, do so because you truly love.

And, then, when you do all of that, life and love will return to you, gracefully, like a boomerang.

Big news regarding the USBA newsletter - Many Happy Returns. **Gregg Snouffer** will have a jam-packed Issue 69 (Winter/Spring combined printed and mailed out shortly. Immediately following, **Tony Brazelton** will take over the editorship of MHR. Tony plans to issue each newsletter on a tight and timely schedule. Tony's first issue will be the Summer issue (#70). The deadline for submitting material for the Summer issue is July 1. This issue will be in the mail to you by 29 July and will be different from any you have seen before.

◆ Ted Bailey

Ann Arbor, Michigan

One of this engineer's many contributions to the boomerang world is his definition of the boomerang, his phrasing now officially accepted around the world:

Boomerang: *Number of arms is unrestricted. To be a boomerang, a stick must tend to return as a result of gyroscopic precession caused by asymmetric lift. The lift is created as a result of a throw that gives the object rotation and linear motion. An object that is thrown from the hand, unaided by any mechanical means, with a combination of both translation and rotation about its center of mass so that gyroscopic precession (caused by differential lift over the airfoil surfaces relative to its angular orientation) and aerodynamic lift combine to produce a flight path that returns the boomerang to the thrower or within a reasonable distance from the thrower.*

Wow. While previous definitions of the boomerang tended to focus on the appearance of the flying stick, Ted took a different approach to the question, and instead he revealed how the magic of boomerangs worked.

His idea was first accepted by the United States throwers, and then an engineer, Dennis Maxwell from Australia, with tiny modifications, put his seal of approval on Ted's definition. The rest of the world quickly agreed after that.

Ted is the unofficial historian of the boomerang world. I've interviewed dozens of people for this book, and countless numbers of times I've asked a question and gotten this response. "Hmm. . . I don't know the answer to that, but I know someone who would. His name is Ted Bailey, let me get you his phone number. . ."

I posted e-mail messages throughout the Internet, and got this reply. "Hey, you've just got to talk to Ted Bailey, okay? Here's his e-mail address. . ." I checked out the boomerang newsletters, and what name did I see over and over again on the bylines of intriguing articles? That of Ted Bailey.

So guess what I did? I talked to Ted Bailey. My husband Don, and Len, the book's photographer, made a weekend long journey to Ted Bailey's house, starting their own personal obsession with the flying stick.



Ted Bailey with his revolutionary-design MTA.

Len's response to the visit explains Ted's wealth of knowledge far better than I could. "Kelly," he said, "there's enough stuff here for a thousand page book. No, make it more than that."

A week later, I accompanied my husband and Len to Ted's house, for even more boom photos, folklore and info. Nothing was ordinary at Ted's house. Each boomerang had an incredible legend behind it, and when we left, we were shaking our heads at Ted's encyclopedic knowledge, his absolute genius. Ted's mother had gifted him with his first boomerang when he was nine. Tossing it around, it didn't work well at all. While walking to school one day, he threw his ineffective boomerang, smashing a nearby window. After being chased for more than a mile by an angry, obscenity filled man, Ted gave up boomerangs for many, many years.

While in college, lefty Ted started fooling around with a cheap plastic boomerang, another one that didn't return. Discovering that the boomerang wouldn't return in the hands of a left-hander, Ted built a wooden mirror image copy of the boom, and his boomerang flew and returned.

Throughout the 1970s, Ted knew of no other throwers, so he tinkered with his boomerangs with little assistance. When finally he discovered the enormous amount of information on aerodynamics available in NASA technical reports, however, Ted's creative, innovative mind took over, and the rest is history.

Competing from 1982 until 1989, Ted won several tournaments in 1985; in fact, if he didn't win an event, he placed in the top ten in almost every event he entered throughout his competition years. "I frequently took first place in specific events because of technologies that I created," Ted said. "I was the first person to ever do Super Catch and the first to throw and catch an MTA that was documented with a flight over one minute, and then I caught the first one that flew over two minutes, as well."

Hmm. . . MTA.

Ted's name is almost synonymous with MTA technology, MTA being the competition level sport where a boomerang must stay in the air for as long as possible. A special, hockey stick shaped boomerang is tossed for this event. More details of the event, formally known as Maximum Time Aloft, will show up in later in this book, but here is how Ted radically improved the technology of the boomerang used in MTA.

Ted found a reference to an MTA-type boomerang being patented as early as 1895. It wasn't until the late 1970s, however, when an actual event called *Duration* focused on keeping a boomerang in the air for an extended period of time.

By 1980, Ben Ruhe's Boomerang Newsletter mentioned the Maximum Time Aloft event, with Barnaby Ruhe spinning a flight of 20.24 seconds. Meanwhile, European Wilhelm Bretfeld was experimenting with large boom models that flew for more than thirty seconds.

While Bretfeld greatly improved the MTA technology, Ted started scaling down the boomerangs. After he had successfully created a smaller version of the Bretfeld boomerang, Ted was sailing his improved MTA for more than a minute.

"I was responsible for the miniaturization craze in the early 1980s, by making tiny, wind resistant boomerangs that were not only functional, but advantageous to use in competition," he said. "As a result, most boomerangs today are much smaller than they were fifteen years ago."

Ted used his knowledge of the smaller, more effective boomerangs, and integrated that with the then-current MTA technology. "I integrated the smaller size with a new shape, and I invented the twist and bend tuning that everyone uses today," he said. "Before my MTAs, most MTAs were flat and large with lead weights and undercutting. I put an end to all of that."

The event has since been broken down into two categories, MTA and MTA 100. With the regular MTA, the time counts whether or not the boomerang returns to within 100 meters of the original throwing spot. With MTA 100, the rang must be caught within that range to count. While the unlimited MTA is drifting away in favor of the MTA 100, Ted hopes there is room for both events in today's boomerang world.

Okay, now let's back up a little. Ted was seriously involved with MTA technology, but he was also the first to do Super Catch? What is Super Catch?

Consider it the boomerang thrower's trial by fire. First, the thrower tosses an MTA boom in the air. Then, the thrower must toss out and catch a boomerang, known as a "fast catch" boomerang, five times in succession with each of the five throws going out at least twenty meters. All this before the MTA spirals down. All this, plus the thrower must catch the descending MTA, or the whole event is kaput.

Ted points out that the thrower must toss the fast catch rangs from the same spot as where the MTA was launched. "This makes the event even more difficult," he said, "because you need to run the distance the wind blows the MTA, in order to catch it."

But difficult? Hah! Ted laughs in the face of difficult. He was told repeatedly that the feat could not be accomplished. On August 29, 1986, during a term as USBA President, Ted decided to attempt the Super Catch in calm weather conditions. He tried three times; on his fourth attempt, as darkness threatened to fall, Ted caught five fast catch throws in just 26 seconds, leaving about six seconds to catch his MTA.

"I was elated," Ted said, in a 1986 interview. "I knew I could do it. It was just a matter of trying again and again."

He created two techniques that allowed him to be the first to achieve Super Catch status. First, after throwing the MTA, he paused for a couple of seconds, to prepare himself for a different throwing style. Second, another person watched the MTA in flight, so Ted would know where to run for his catch.

Three days after his first success, Ted completed three Super Catches. "Given the right conditions and two perfect rangs," Ted said, "Super Catch is almost easy."

Ted's importance to the boomerang world goes far beyond his impressive throwing and technological skills, however. Other more recent contributions have included several years of editing **Many Happy Returns**, the official United States Boomerang Association newsletter, along with creating and editing *Boomerang News* and the *Boomerang Journal*. "I also supply boomerang databases and other computer shareware," Ted said.

He was featured in a book, called **NASA: Spinoff 1992**, in the section titled Technology Twice Used, Spinoffs in Consumer/Home/Recreation. In it, they said, "Boom designer and thrower Ted E. Bailey pioneered the use of NASA aerodynamics technology in boomerang shaping and he became one of the sport's leading innovators."

After that book appeared, Ted demonstrated a one minute plus MTA flight for CNN, and the segment aired around the world. Ted received letters about it from as far away as New Guinea.

He is one of the few people in the world who can give an exact technical explanation of why a poorly performing boomerang isn't working, and an exact solution on how to correct it. For that reason, along with many others, Ted was recently elected as chairman of the newly formed **World Boomerang Association**. "The goal," Ted explained, "is to make this a real, viable organization within one or two years."

Dr. Fredric Malmberg, a well known creator of artistic boomerangs said he respects Ted's scientific and competition contributions. "I'm glad you've talked with Ted," he told me. "He is one of the real pillars in this group, and he's a great guy, too."

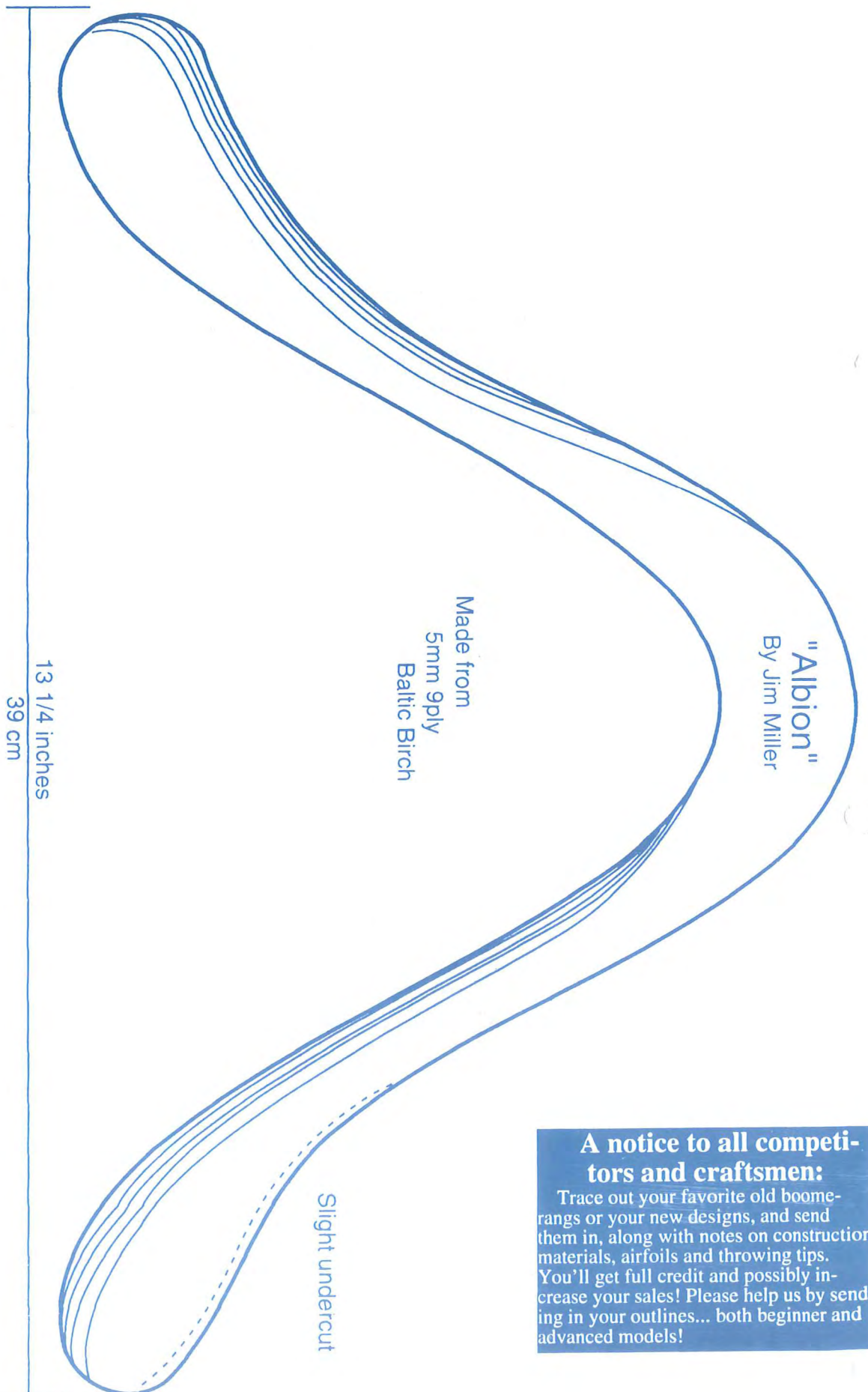
And, thank you, Dr. Malmberg, for reminding me of Ted's other sterling qualities. While Ted is boom history, while Ted is boom technology, he also appreciates the sheer beauty of the boomerang. His private collection includes antique boomerangs and kylies, along with beautifully crafted inlaid wooden boomerangs from around the world.

If there is a well known boomerang designer, craftsperson or artist, Ted has one or more of those boomerangs. If there is a new boom crafter who shows promise, Ted has one of the newbie's earliest attempts. If there is an important historical twist in the boomerang world, Ted has solid, physical evidence of it in his collection. The bottom line here? If you need to know, just ask Ted.

From the USA's "Many Happy Returns".

The "Albion" achieves good distance (50 meters - without weights) and flies a low circular path. It is easy to catch. The amount of positive dihedral you give it will determine whether it will drop quickly or hover upon return. Throw with about a 15 degree layover and a relatively level trajectory.

If you have any questions or would like to give me some feedback on this boomerangs performance please call me at 801-942-6943.



ITALY

The Roma National Boomerang Tournament was held on 31 August. The top 3 placings were **Paolo Serbelloni, Maurizio Saba** and **Francesco Rossi**. Paolo took first place in every event except Endurance.

SWITZERLAND

The results of *The Swiss Championships* (7/8 September) show that the top three Swiss throwers in 1996 are: **Thomas Stehrenberger, Jürg Schedler** and **Manuel Schütz**, respectively. **Oliver Rau** from Germany won the championships with the above 3 Swiss throwers placing 2-4. Thomas won Aussie Round with 58 points and Endurance with 43. Manuel took Fast Catch with 29.51 seconds and Accuracy with 35 points. Jürg won Trick-catch/Doubling with 60 points.

In BN #27, a photograph was published showing an artifact that was found by Archaeologist **Thomas Stehrenberger**. At the time, it was not known if the artifact was a sickle or a throwing device. After Thomas made and experimented with copies, it was determined that the artifact is a non-returning RH throwstick with an age of more than 5,000 years.

The USBA has changed the Trick Catch event [again] to include two new catches. The order of catches is as follows:

1. Two hand clean 1 pt
2. Left hand clean 2 pts
3. Right hand clean 2 pts
4. Any behind the back 3 pts
5. Any under the leg 3 pts
6. Hackey Catch 4 pts
7. Tunnel Catch 4 pts
8. Left eagle 2 pts
9. Right eagle 2 pts
10. 1 hand behind the back 4 pts
11. 1 hand under the leg 4 pts
12. Foot/leg catch. 5 pts

The new catches are defined as:

Tunnel Catch: This is an under-the-leg (UTL) catch with both feet on the ground. As with a conventional UTL, the boom may pass from behind the body, through the legs, to the front or from in front of the body, between the legs, to behind the body. Most people find the front-to-back technique easiest.

Hackey Catch: This is Hackey-Sack with a boomerang. The boomerang must be "hackeyed" into the air with the lower leg or foot (any part of the lower extremity below and NOT including the knee) and caught in any legal way.



A Message to all 1998 World Cup Teams from Tom Fitzgerald

The 1998 World Boomerang Championships will be held at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. Edwardsville is a 20-minute drive from the Gateway Arch in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.

Tourney registration and an opening reception will take place on Sunday, July 26. The Team Cup, Individual Championships, and an open, public throwing day will be held from Monday, July 27 through Sunday, August 2. There will be a free day/rain day scheduled in the middle of the week.

The housing facilities are located within walking distance of the fields. The dorms are two-person rooms. Every two rooms shares a bathroom. Based on double-occupancy, the rooms will cost \$46 per night, or \$23 per person. A meal package, including three meals per day, is \$16.95 per day, for a total of approximately \$40 per day for room and board, or \$280 for seven days.

Each boomerang organization invited to compete in the Team Cup may field up to three six-person teams. Registration fee, including both the Team Cup and the Individual Championships, is \$1,460 USD per team, based on a field of ten teams. Should we field as many as 14 teams, as we hope to do, the cost would go down to \$1,043 USD per team. If more than 14 teams register, the costs will be less than \$1,000 USD per team. Until we learn otherwise, however I would base my plans on a ten-team tourney.

Ted Bailey has generously volunteered to conduct, via The Boomerang News, an auction of boomerangs, donated by participating countries, the proceeds of which will go to directly offset the entry fees of the donating country. For example, if the US team submitted boomerangs that brought \$300, their cost would be reduced by that amount. Should the Australian team's boomerangs fetch \$1000, their cost would be lowered by \$1000. This is a great opportunity--Ted will offer more details soon.

I would like a representative from each invited organization to respond by September 1, 1997 with your commitment of one team, two teams, or no teams. Actually, the sooner you respond, the better. You can write to me at the address below, or call 314-839-1604 or e-mail your commitment to Ted Bailey at tbailey@ic.net. This will be followed by a deposit of \$500 per team for room and board and \$500 per team for registration fee, due by December 1, 1997.

The venue for the tourney is great--a vast field with plenty of practice space. St. Louis has many attractions - the Gateway Arch, the nation's tallest monument; a world-class Botanical Gardens and Zoo; the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team; riverboat gambling; plenty of bars and restaurants.

Tom Fitzgerald
1159 Holly River Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

HOLLAND 'S

21ST WHITSUN BOOMERANG TOURNAMENT

Amstelveen on May 17th, 18th and 19th. 1997

An amazing field of **fifty** of Europe's top throwers met at Amstelveen to take part in the *21st Whitsun Boomerang Competition*, which owes its foundation to the wonderful efforts of Holland's legendary thrower and maker, **Max Hoeben**. Max has done much to promote the sport of boomerangs all around the world, and we are truly grateful to him for his great efforts over the years. There is no doubt that the healthy state of boomerang throwing in Europe today exists because of Max's persistent work.

We in Australia hail you, Max, and thank you for your unselfish efforts.

The throwers did not disappoint us either with their remarkable results. **Paul Gajski**, our 1996 Eastern Suburbs Champion, and Captain of the German Old Bones Team, threw a magnificent *48 in Accuracy* to take out that title, just one off equalling the world record.

The over-all winner was Harald Steck, who won **MTA** with **45.00 secs** and **Endurance** with a great **71**, which was 10 catches ahead of second place Gunter Moller on 61.

Harald finished with **15 Over-all points** from six competitions. Second place, on 29.5, was former World Champion *Fridolin Frost*, the man with an arm like a cannon! Third was *Christophe Dautrich* on 75.

Aussie Round saw some great scores with German **Michael Siems** (a leftie) finishing on top with **80 points**. Just behind him were *Rolf Schlayer* and *Axel Heckner*, both on 75.

Fast Catch was undoubtably the outstanding event with the **first ten places** all finishing **under 20 seconds!!** Here's how they finished: **1. Fridolin Frost** 16.93. **2. Georg Bauerschmidt** 17.12. **3. Harald Steck** 17.26. **4. Thorsten Fredrich** 17.65. **5. Axel Heckner** 17.80. **6. Oliver Rau** 18.28. **7. Thomas Szartowicz** 18.56. **8. Yves Caze** 18.63. **9. Gerrit Lemkau** 18.81. **10. Eugene Cinal** 19.39. You can see that all these throwers were really motoring! It would be great to know whose boomerangs they were throwing.

The first three places in **Trick Catch Doubling** went to **1. Yves Caze** on 93 points. **2. Fridolin Frost** 92 points. and **3. Florian Konig** on 88. More marvellous scoring.

All these results show that the 21st Whitsun Boomerang Championship was a great success, *a tribute to the organisers*, and to the founding father, *Max Hoeben*.

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LESTER & SON'S
28th AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOOMERANG
CHAMPIONSHIPS

1998

to be held at **XAVIER HIGH**, Fallon Street, North Albury,
on Saturday , 2nd May, and Sunday , 3rd May 1998.

Conducted by the Boomerang Association of Australia

*Sections: Juniors (under 16).
Seniors (16 - 54)
Veterans (55-100)*

EVENTS

*Juniors: Aussie Round
Accuracy
MTA
Fast Catch
Endurance
Consecutive Catching*

*Open (Seniors & Veterans) Aussie Round
Accuracy
MTA
Fast Catch
Same Boomerang
Endurance
Trick Catch*

*Veterans' Over-all points taken on first five events.
Seniors' Over-all points taken on all, except for Same Boomerang.
Any Open thrower can enter any of the events.*

Starting time: Saturday 10 a.m. till 4.30 p.m.

Annual Meeting 7.30 p.m. till 9 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Entry fee: \$10 Seniors, \$5 Juniors Family \$25.

*Enquiries: Br. Brian Thomas, 131 Birrell St., Waverley, NSW. 2024
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