

BOOMERANG NEWS

Issue Number 1

An International Boomerang Newsletter

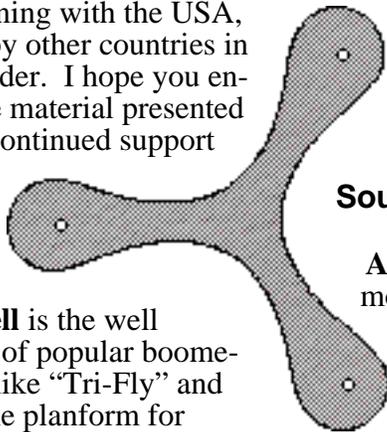
February 1994

Welcome to the first issue of an exciting new publication about the sport of boomerangs. This international newsletter is designed to be a highly interactive tool for the reader to keep in touch with others who share a common interest in the sport. The reader is encouraged to send in news about anything related to boomerangs. This includes the topics of: competition, new products, craftsmanship, science, computers, design, collectables, Aboriginal artifacts and history.

Most of the readers are familiar with my editing style through publications like: "Many Happy Returns" and "Boomerang Journal". "Boomerang News" is simply a continuation of the "Bits and Pieces" column that I created and edited for those publications. Each issue will be organized by country, beginning with the USA, and followed by other countries in alphabetical order. I hope you enjoy reading the material presented below. Your continued support is highly appreciated.

USA

Eric Darnell is the well known creator of popular boomerang products like "Tri-Fly" and "Fun-Fly". The planform for these two tri-bladers is depicted on the lower left at a reduced

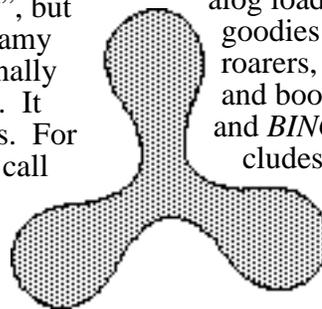
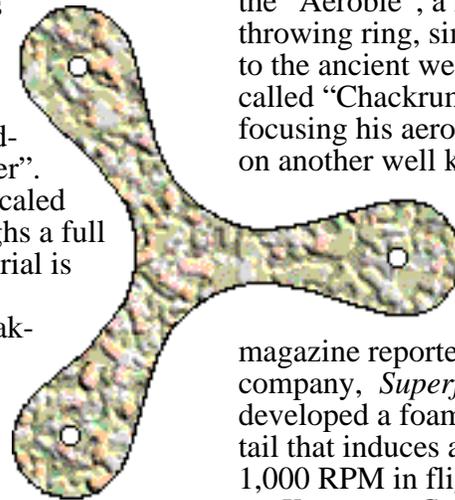


scale of 2/9. Eric is about to release two new plastic tri-bladers. The first is a larger outdoor model called "Air Dancer". It is proportionally scaled to the right and weighs a full 35 grams. The material is similar to that of the "Nerf" tri-blader, making it one of the safest outdoor 'rangs available. It is expected to retail at about \$10. The second new model is a tri-blader, called "Flip 'n Fly". It is smaller than "Fun-Fly", but made out of the same foamy material. It is proportionally scaled to the lower right. It weighs less than 3 grams. For information on pricing, call Eric at (802)-765-4066

or write to the following address:

**Turning Point
Star Route
South Strafford, VT 05070**

Alan Adler is possibly the most successful marketer of commercial boomerang products. Alan was the designer of the "Wham-O Tri-blader" and the "Aerobie Orbiter" (triangle boomerang). Alan also designed



the "Aerobie", a long distance throwing ring, similar in function to the ancient weapon from India called "Chackrum". Now Alan is focusing his aerodynamic talents on another well know sporting device - the foot-

ball! The December 6, 1993 issue of "Business Week"

magazine reported that Alan's company, *Superflight, Inc.*, has developed a foam football with a tail that induces a spin rate of 1,000 RPM in flight.

Kangaroo Connection has issued their new 1994 General Catalog loaded with Down Under goodies like clap sticks, bull roarers, woomeras, didjeradoos, and boomerangs by RANGS and *BINGHI*. The catalog includes lots of other

goodies for home-sick Aussie transplants.

For more information on *Kangaroo Connection* products, call (312)-248-5499 or write to:

**Kangaroo Connection
1113 W. Webster
Chicago, IL 60614**

Tony Gembeck of GEMZ boomerangs has asked to have his new phone number published for the benefit of his customers. The new number is (503)-397-9796. For a free catalog of Tony Gem-

beck's products, write to:

GEMZ

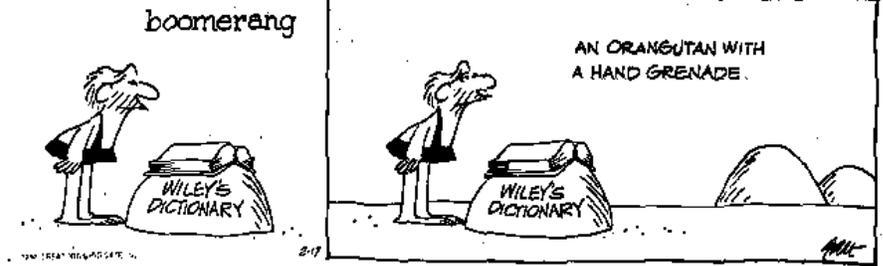
P. O. Box 5241
Portland, OR 97208-5241

Michael Girvin has issued a new full color product catalog with goodies for everyone from the beginner to the advanced competitor. Both phenolic and plywood boomerangs are offered for virtually every event. Special combination sets can be purchased at a reduced rate for throwers at three different levels of proficiency. For more information on Gel products, call Michael at (510)-658-2469 or write to:

Gel Boomerangs
2124 Kittredge St. #61
Berkeley, CA 94704

Boomerang News is not the only boomerang publication to have initiated in 1994. **Bill Tumath** and **Liz Toomey** of the *San Francisco Boomerang School* have issued the first edition of a new publication called "The Boomerang Collector". Bill and Liz are offering to coordinate sales and trading of both finely crafted and antique boomerangs to subscribers. A subscription is only \$2 within the USA or \$5 overseas. A special introductory offer is available to new subscribers. For an introductory price of only \$5, you will receive a subscription to "The Boomerang Collector", as well as a collection of photographs depicting contemporary Herb Smith boomerangs. And the best part is: many of the Smith boomerangs, in both wood and Paxolin, are offered for sale at unbelievable low prices. A price sheet is delivered with the premiere issue of the newsletter. Bill and Liz are also offering a new line of quality Aboriginal throw sticks. For more information on these products and

B.G.



Frank and Ernest



Lowell Hollars of Scottsdale, AZ shares the above cartoons with the readers

"The Boomerang Collector" newsletter, call Bill or Liz at (415)-550-6746 or write to:

Bill Tumath & Liz Toomey
127 Knollview Way
San Francisco, CA 94131

John Flynn is one of America's best known boomerang throwers because of his consistently low Fast Catch scores and numerous World Records. John is also known for the collectable boomerangs that he makes on an infrequent basis. These collectables include both strip laminations and natural elbow booms. Pictured on the following page are three natural elbow boomerangs that John recently made out of Vermont Yellow Birch and New Hampshire Beech (bottom). The scale depicted is 3/8. These boomerangs are currently being displayed at the *North Wind Artisan's Gallery* in Woodstock, Vermont. John is willing to trade or sell a few of these spectacular boomerangs to appreciative collectors. The quality of each boomerang is superb. Each is without major defect and many exhibit a spectacular fiddleback pattern

commonly associated with Curly Maple. For more information, contact John at the following address:

John Flynn
52 Christian St.
White River Jct., VT 05001

Another new boomerang fanatic has emerged from the juggling crowd. The new enthusiast is **Gregory Cohen** from Tallahassee, Florida. Gregory has a retail outlet that specializes in juggling equipment, but he has added dozens of new boomerang models made by popular manufacturers such as Snouffer, DuFresne, Girvin, Mayfield, Ruhe, Surace, and Darnell. There is no mail order distribution system, but Gregory is looking for other high quality products to add to his inventory for local customers. He will sell boomerangs by mail order if you call and ask about availability. Gregory can be contacted by calling (904)-385-6463 or (800)-548-6724 or by writing to:

Gregory Cohen
P.O. Box 2584
Tallahassee, FL 32316

1 2 3 4 5
inches

Made by John Flynn of
White River Junction, VT



NEW ENGLAND NATURAL ELBOWS

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out boomerang.
2. Bend each arm up very slightly.
3. Right hand thrower: hold boom in right hand. Tilt boom slightly right of vertical (approx. 15°). Left handers: substitute left for right.
4. Toss rang 45° to your right
5. If boomerang lands to the left, toss more to the right. If boomerang lands to the right, toss more to the left.



Cardboard Cross Stick Designed by Steve Conaway for NASA Far West Regional Technology Transfer Center

Steve Conaway has been extremely busy helping *The NASA Far West Regional Technology Transfer Center* promote boomerangs as a benefactor of technolo-

gy transfer from NASA to the general public. Steve started out as a recommendation from **Ted Bailey** who was featured in the 1992 *NASA Spinoff* publication. Steve

linked up with **Kristen Dougall**, Manager of Media Relations, and put on quite a show at the Technology 2003 Conference that was held in Anaheim on December 7-9. On December 7, **Alan Scott Craig** dazzled NASA booth visitors with his art form boomerangs. Steve finished the show over the next two days by setting up a display of more than 40 competition and sport boomerangs (left) and by handing out more than 4000 cardboard cross sticks (above) that Steve designed specifically for the NASA show. The display featured high tech boomerangs made by numerous seasoned boomerangers such as: Romblad, Bailey, DuFresne, Smith, Conaway, Snouffer and Girvin. Literature was handed out on: how to join USBA; as well as throwing instructions (complements of the B'Man). Boomerangs made by Conaway and Bailey were raffled off to lucky NASA booth attend-



Aboriginal Steve Boomerang Display at NASA Tech Show



ees. NASA was so thrilled with the attention that the boomerang display brought to their booth that *Aboriginal Steve* was invited to attend the *Consumer Electronics Show* at the Las Vegas Convention Center, which took place over the four day period of: 6-9 January 1994. More than 80,000 people attended the conference. As in the December show, cardboard boomerangs and information sheets were handed out to interested booth attendees. Steve said that he made many valuable contacts at the two shows which will hopefully spinoff into other boomerang promotional activities. For more information on Aboriginal Steve's boomerang products, call (805)-524-2913 or write to the following address:

Aboriginal Steve's Boomerangs
121 Oakdale
Fillmore, CA 93015

T. W. Smith called to say that he is planning an exhibition of boomerang art at the Phoenix Gallery in Cottage Grove, Oregon for the month that spans May 14 - June 14. The start of the exhibition is planned in conjunction with the annual *Toss Across America*. For more information, call T.W. at (503)-942-4327 or write to:

T. W. Smith
P. O. Box 11332
Eugene, OR 97440

Chet Snouffer called to say that there are only two tournaments scheduled in the USA so far for 1994. The first tournament is the annual Free Thrower's Competition scheduled for 27 August in Delaware, Ohio. A week later, the USBA Nationals will be held in Jackson, Michigan over the Labor Day Weekend: 3-5 September.



For more information on USBA events, call Chet at (614)-363-8332 or write to:

USBA
P. O. Box 182
Delaware, OH 43015

Michael Girvin called at the last minute with information on two tournaments that he is sponsoring on 16/17 April and 16/17 July. Individual events will be contested on both Saturdays and on Sundays: there will be world record attempts at consecutive two handed catching in the morning and team events in the afternoon. For more information on these USBA sanctioned tournaments, call Michael at (510)-658-2469 or write to:

Michael Girvin
2124 Kittredge St. #61
Berkeley, CA 94704

AUSTRALIA

Brother Brian Thomas sent a deposit slip from the *Advance Bank of Sydney* which integrates a boomerang (see above) into its logo. Brian also supplied a picture (see below) of **Tony Butz** who likes to make oddly shaped boomerangs. Tony has taught thousands of kids to throw over the years. He is a primary school teacher in New South Wales.

At the *5th Annual Blue Mountain Championships*, held on November 21, the weather was windy and wet, but the throwers managed to rack up some respectable scores anyway. This included **Brother Rod Shoebridge's** 35.97 second MTA_{unl} and **Bruce Carter's** 21.54 second Fast Catch. **Adam Carroll** took first overall with respectable scores in all events. **Bruce Carter** brought two new throwers to the competition. One of the promising young lads, **Rex Eisemann**, appears to have a natu-



Tony Butz of Springwood, NSW with Michael Jordan 'Rang

ral aptitude for the sport. He did a 23.68 second round on his first attempt at Fast Catch and a 3 minutes+ MTA throw using Bruce Carter's lefty MTA, even though he is right handed. (*editor's note: it is also worth mentioning that after all the trouble the Aussies caused by getting everyone else to add an accuracy restriction to the MTA event, they now practice the unlimited option under certain weather conditions*)

Sydney is the host city for the 1994 Australian Championships, planned for March 19/20 at the Macquarie University Sporting Fields. **Günter Wandte** is the primary organizer of the competition. Only six events (Aussie Round, Fast Catch, Accuracy, MTA, Endurance & Trick Catching) are scheduled. A total of six tournaments are planned in NSW this season. In addition to the Australian Championships, the NSW State Titles are planned at Oxford Falls, Sydney on February 6. The Central Coast Championships are scheduled to be held at Gosford on April ???. The Albury Championships will be held on May 7/8. **Arthur Janetzki** will turn 90 on May 6 and a big party is planned for him on that date. Arthur has had some heart trouble lately and he has moved into a hostel so that he can receive proper care. Arthur's house has been sold and his boomerang collection has been

passed on to his nephew, Spike. The Eastern Suburbs Championships will be held in Waverly in June, and Mulgoa will be the host town for the Blue Mountain Championships, scheduled to take place in November.

Dr. Ken Edwards is preparing information on traditional Australian sports for students at Australian universities. He also plans to promote these sports (including boomerangs) through research papers and newspaper articles.

Brother Brian Thomas is helping Dr. Edwards prepare materials for these ventures.

Roger Perry writes to mention that he has purchased a boomerang shop in a very old market in Fremantle. Roger has also been active in staging night throwing demonstrations which have attracted huge crowds. Roger plans to visit both the USA and Europe in 1994 in the months of July and August.

Roger Perry has issued an open letter to the international boomerang community proposing a major international boomerang tournament just prior to the Olympic games scheduled to be held in Sydney in the year 2000. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the sport with a large assemblage of an international audience and news media. The Boomerang Association of Australia will obviously be the host organization.

The championships might be associated with an indoor demonstration competition, boomerang throwing as part of the opening and closing ceremonies, and night demonstrations. For more information on this major event, write to Roger at the following address:

Roger Perry
155 Fremantle Road
Gosnells W.A. 6110
Australia

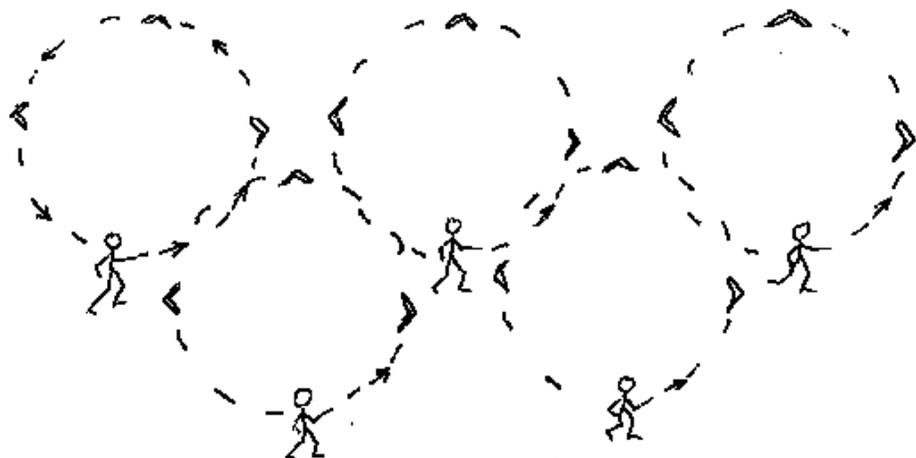
And how is the BAA doing? **Bruce Carter** remains the President. **Richard Barrass** is the Secretary. **Rohan Johnston** is the Treasurer and **Mark Howarth** is the editor of the BAA Bulletin.

ENGLAND

Ben Ruhe has been on world tour for the past year, spending time in Greece, England, Indonesia and Australia. While in Australia, he visited Alice Springs and Darwin to study Aboriginal artifacts. While in Darwin, he made contact with **Kim Ackerman** of the *Northern Territory Museum* who has intimate knowledge of those very rare throwsticks used for fishing. The complete text of Ben's research can be found on page 8.

FRANCE

France exercises an efficient means of organizing throwers. Each region has a strong local club. The local clubs are bonded together through the *France Boomerang Association*, headquartered out of Evry. The organization puts out an informative newsletter on a monthly basis to members. Until recently, **Olivier Vouktchevitch** edited the FBA publication. The newsletter editorship has passed on to **Fabrice Puccetti**. The addresses of both the FBA headquarters and FBA Newsletter editor follows:



Boomerang Olympics - Brother Brian Thomas Style.

France Boomerang Association
BP 62
91002 Evry Cedex
France

Fabrice Puccetti
rue de l'église
10320 St. Jean de Bonneval
France

Didier Bonin is a representative of one of the local French clubs: the *Boomerang Club Dijon*. Didier is well known for his persistent compilation of international boomerang records that he provides to all of the international clubs and newsletters. Any tournament director or club who is aware of new national or world records should contact Didier immediately so that his listing can be kept up to date. Didier has a new address as of February 1:

Didier Bonin
Boomerang Club Dijon
8 Place Centrale
21800 Quetigny
France

Didier Bonin mailed the editor a copy of the 1993 France rating sheet. Any of the domestic readers who want a copy can send \$1, or a SASE to the editor or write to the FBA at the address above. This is an excellent opportunity to compare your own rating against that of one of the world's most competitive teams. In summary, **Yannick Charles** has proved to be France's analog to **Chet Snouffer**. **Christophe Dautriche**, **Matthieu Weber**, **Jérôme Royo** & **Didier Bonin** round out the top five. Congratulations also go to **Yanick Charles** for setting a new European record in *Australian Round* with a score of 86 points.

A computer program for rating boomerang tournaments was generated for the Apple Macintosh computer system by **Freddie Richard** of the *Rennes Boome-*

rang Club. A demonstration disk is available upon request. It would be nice if the reader would include a small payment to cover the cost of the disk and postage. Please send your request to:

Freddie Resmond Richard
17 Square A. Fergent apt. 93
35000 Rennes
France

GERMANY

Gerhard Bertling writes to let the readers know that there have been some changes to the board of directors of the DBC. **Oliver Rau** is the new President, **Ellen Richter-Zacher** is the Vice-President, **Uli Lessel** is the Treasurer and **Gerrit Lemkau & Günter Möller** are the new editors. **Gerhard Bertling**, **Wilhelm Bretfeld** and **Eckhard Mawick** remain as the production staff of the independent "Bumerang Welt" newsletter.

JAPAN

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu of the *Japan Boomerang Association* has announced a change in the date for the 1994 World Cup which will take place in Hiratsuka, not far from Tokyo, over the week of 3-10 August. All international clubs have been provided details for registration of competition teams. The schedule of events includes the following:

- 3 - Arrive at Hiratsuka
- 4 - Registration/Captain's Meeting/Opening Ceremony
- 5 - First Team Cup
- 6 - Second Team Cup
- 7 - Rest Day/Public Instruction
- 8 - Third Team Cup
- 9 - Individual Championships/Closing Ceremony/Party
- 10 - Farewell/Parting

Any of the readers wishing more information on this important

event can contact Yoshi at the following address:

Yoshinobu Sakimitsu
Japan Boomerang Association
15-5, Kudankita 1 Chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102
Japan

telephone/fax: (03) 3261 9304

IN CLOSING

I hope you enjoyed this first issue of "Boomerang News". As this first edition is being completed, I have come to the realization that there are only 3 paid subscribers. I have put more than 50 hours into the preparation of this text, and I must mail out 25-30 free copies to international clubs that exchange their newsletters (or information) with me so that I have something to write about.

This means that I need your help! I placed a notice in MHR #57 announcing the release of this publication; and a mailing blitz to more than 1,000 throwers (who are not USBA members) is currently underway. You can help by showing this newsletter to your boomerang buddies and encouraging them to subscribe.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This publication is produced 6 times a year. Each issue has 8 pages packed with all the information needed to keep up with the ever changing world of boomeranging. A one year subscription to "Boomerang News" is only \$8 in the USA/Canada or \$15 overseas. You can subscribe by sending payment (make check or MO out to Ted Bailey) with your name, address & phone number to:

Ted E. Bailey
P. O. Box 6076
Ann Arbor, MI 48106

About Fishing Boomerangs

by Ben Ruhe

Frequently mentioned, but rarely discussed at any length. That's the fishing boomerang of Australia.

Fishing boomerang? Seems a contradiction in terms for a flying object.

Not really. It is precisely the spinning action of the specialized throwstick which makes it effective in slicing through water to kill or to stun. Angular momentum combines with sharp edges to do the work.

Kim Ackerman of the *Northern Territory Museum* in Darwin grew up with the Aboriginals and saw fishing 'rangs being used, and wielded them himself. The archaeologist comments:

"I have seen the Bardi using the karkapin (the bloated tomahawk type) and kulme (see illustration below) types made from kurili (*Canops tagal*, a mangrove). More commonly, however, metal boomerangs known as tangk, (e.g., from the water tank galvanized iron they were originally cut from) are used for fishing. Children tend to use them these days more than adults although fifteen years ago most able-bodied middle-aged men among the Bardi of Dampierland Peninsula in northwestern Australia had one or two iron boomerangs they used on a more regular basis. Hunting was done by wading along a beach or mangrove area on the incoming tide and

striking the fish, mullet particularly, that shoaled in.

"I also recall reading that 'cutlass-shaped' wooden artefacts (i.e., boomerangs?) were used to strike fish in the 1790s at Port Jackson, New South Wales.

"When I was a child, European boys in Perth, West Australia, used to hunt fish in the Swan River with cross boomerangs made out of tin. Mullet and smelt used to be the primary target, although anything really was fair game.

These boomerangs were known by us as kylies, directly adapted from the Bibbulman language of the area. Kylie was the generic name for boomerangs.

"When the Bardi fished, a shoal of fish was either stalked or the hunter would stand motionless until it was within range, three metres or less. The missile would then be forcefully thrown into the shoal, usually killing at least one fish but often stunning two or three. Naturally, the thinner and heavier metal boomerangs were more efficient, but the wood ones would float and in murky water be easier to retrieve. Five to six fish seemed to satisfy most individuals. If a group - - - family or peers - - - were fishing, a fire would be burning continually and fish cooked and eaten as they were caught."

To round out his reminiscence, Ackerman gives historic citations to amplify the picture of their use.

"The natives of the Parnkalla tribe, near Port Lincoln, frequently go fishing at night, each man carrying a torch, which is replenished by a bunch of inflammable wood. The light attracts the fish, which, as they rise, are

struck by the wadna (boomerang)." Angas, G. F., *Savage Life in Australia and New Zealand*, 1847.

"To capture smaller fish, especially shoaling species, they (natives of Broome, Roebuck Bay, West Australia) employed a fish boomerang, an implement consisting of a thin wooden board shaped like a broad sickle, curving almost at right angles and having sharpened edges. The fisherman grips the longer end of the implement, the curved back of the boomerang turned upwards, and takes up his position at a place where the shoals pass. The boomerang, when thrown, whirls like a wheel and, entering the water, may cut through a number of fish." Dahl, Knut, *In Savage Australia*, 1927.

"In shallow water, fish are killed by throwing the kaili at them, when they are five or six inches below the surface. The writer saw a native in Cossack Creek kill eleven fishes, weighing from one to two pounds, in less than half an hour, by means of the kaili. "Clement, E., *Ethnographic Notes of the Western-Australian Aborigines*, 1903.

"A broad and flat kylie is used, having a more acute angle of bend, and with straighter arms than usual, and fish are killed by means of these kylies when near the surface of the water. The islanders have discovered that kylies made out of thin iron, such as ships' tanks, are the most serviceable, and they show great dexterity in making them. A typical fishing boomerang might be 16 1/2 inches wide between the extremities, 3 1/2 inches wide at the elbow, and the inner and outer edges have a curvature of 5 1/2 and 10 inches." Campbell, W.P. and Bird, W.H., *An Account of the Aborigines of Sunday Island, King Sound, Kimberley, West Australia*, 1915.

