



**THE
BRITISH
BOOMERANG
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

NUMBER 7 DECEMBER 1981

THE BRITISH BOOMERANG SOCIETY, 9 BOWOOD DRIVE, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV6 9AW

Please make cheques etc. payable to The British Boomerang Society and address correspondence to John Jordan.

NOTES AND NEWS

Renewal Subscriptions On receipt of this newsletter, everyone who joined the BBS for 1981 will have received the 4 newsletters for the year and renewal subscriptions for 1982 are now due.

Please don't wait until the Spring! You might forget and I can assure you there are a lot of good things coming along which you won't want to miss. I'm pleased to report that in the last couple of months about 20 more enthusiasts have joined and if all present members rejoin for 1982 we shall be off to a very good start.

With this hope in mind, it's been decided not to increase subscriptions despite rises in postal and other charges. So the rates for 1982 are:-

Junior, under 16 years of age,	£2
(U.K. only)	
Senior, 16 and over,	£4
Overseas, by surface mail,	£4
(Please send subscription in Sterling)	

Although the BBS is not now directly associated with The Midlands Kite Fliers (MKF), through a reciprocal arrangement, BBS members may still receive the MKF newsletter for an additional subscription of only £2. The MKF newsletter is similar to the BBS one and is also issued 4 times a year.

BBS Formalisation Now that the BBS is firmly established and the membership increasing, it's been suggested that we should have a more formal framework for the club, i.e. there should be a constitution, committee and annual meetings etc. I'm not against such a proposal, indeed, I'd be delighted to feel that all members were taking an active interest in the affairs of the club. However, we must be a bit careful. There are some practical difficulties and I don't mind admitting I'm not a very good committee man. I'm always right you see! Seriously, I think the best that can be done at present is to try to arrange a meeting at the time of the Hornlman event in the Spring. In the meantime, I welcome ideas from anyone. (Write a note on your renewal form if you like).

European Boomerang Federation (EBF) Some of our more recent members may have little knowledge of the EBF and possibly the EBF President's letter, in our last newsletter was the first they had heard of it. In my view, this is not the place to give a long account of all the past happenings within the EBF. I'll just say that the first meeting was held Oct. 1979 and since that time difficulties have arisen.

Now, at an informal meeting of several BBS members following the recent Dulwich Park event, I suggested sending out a separate 'EBF Supplement' with this newsletter and Peter King kindly offered to print it at his own expense. However, I've since given the matter a great deal of thought and at this stage I don't think any useful purpose would be served by discussing all the troubles of the past. Everyone involved agrees a fresh start is needed, so Max Hoeben, the EBF President, has drawn up a proposed new constitution.

This proposed constitution is printed on pages 4 and 5.

The wording of one or two points ought to be changed a little perhaps, but basically, if this proposed constitution is adopted the difficulties of the past should not arise again.

A fresh start will give us all the opportunity to show that with goodwill and common sense the EBF can do much to promote boomerang sport in Europe which will give a lot of people a lot of fun.

(Perhaps I just ought to add that the previous problems did not directly involve the BBS).

Turning now to the proposed new constitution, the question of FUNDS may cause alarm to some members. After all, if 1/3 of BBS subscriptions is to go to the EBF, the subscription would need to be increased from £4 to £6 to generate the same income for the club.

At present, I've no idea if members would be willing to pay such an increased subscription - 'What do we get for the extra money?', is a reasonable question. It's matters such as these which could be discussed at the proposed BBS meeting.

In the meantime, there's no question of an increased subscription, so please renew at rates listed. Of course, if you're feeling generous, you can always send more than the minimum! Several members did just that in 1981 and their generosity certainly helped to keep the club going.

Night-Sticks These have been mentioned in previous issues, e.g. No. 6, p 11. The question is, where can these be obtained in Britain? Peter King has come up with the answer....Field & Trek (Equipment) Ltd., 23-25 Kings Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 4ER. (Tel. 0277 221259). They are called 'Cyalume Chemical Lights', and the price is 95p each (inc. VAT). Postage charge is 50p for one, or £1.50 for orders value up to £25. Peter says it's good fun throwing at night, but at a quid a go it's a bit expensive. Does anyone know of other, perhaps cheaper sources?

Boomerang Events 1982 Sorry to say the only event that's been notified to me so far is the one to be held at WESTON PARK, Shropshire on Sunday 6th June. Camping will be possible on the Saturday night again.

(Organisers, please let me know as soon as possible of any events you'd like mentioned in these pages).

Size of Newsletter etc. The smaller size makes it more difficult to present full size plans, even if we show 'halves' of B's as was done for the C. GULL and WINGS last time. These were full size as the centre pages were not reduced. In his letter Rusty drew a small B full size. After printing, the size will be reduced by a factor of 1/√2, or whatever. So, for convenience, I've drawn round my copy of Rusty's B elsewhere in this newsletter. That makes it full size again, more or less anyway! Don't blame me though if the one you make has a range of less than 40 metres. Need I say boomerangs are funny things?!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS !

CONSTITUTION OF THE:"EUROPEAN BOOMERANG FEDERATION"First object:

Creation of a solid organization for the promotion of boomerangs in games and sport in Europe and to bring as much boomerang fans and throwers from all countries together.

Name:

"EUROPEAN BOOMERANG
FEDERATION"

Emblem:

6 encircled boomerangs. (Bright yellow) on a bleu back ground. A star for each enlisted club. (Bright yellow)

Members:

Enlistment is open for all boomerang clubs and groups throwing and making boomerangs.

Registration Official registration of small groups and clubs in the home country is favoured, but not compulsory.

All clubs and groups to be accepted without exception as long as the main object exist out of boomerang promotion without political backgrounds.

Communication:

As far as possible should all letters, bulletins, programs and conversations be in the English language when converging to the E.B.F. and/or referring to the same, and by communication with members in other countries.

Executives:

1 Member of each club/group as nominated by the club members and/or group.
Age of the executive; Not younger than 18 years.
If a club or group are under 18 years one of the parents or any person above mentioned age can act as a executive.

Meeting of executives: At least once per annum. (If possible.)

FUNDS:

1/3 Of fees received by clubs, organizations and groups out of contributions is needed to support and to become a member of the E.B.F.

Voting:

Each and every E.B.F. executive has a right to vote and to forward new ideas and/or suggestions. Each E.B.F. executive should vote and/or suggest in accordance with the members wishes of his club, group, organization and/or organizations. Votes can be casted by mail if there is no other possibillity and/or alternative. There is no veto right.

Competitions:

Official competitions and efforts to set or break a registered record, by official rules only.

Games, plays, festivals and demonstrations:

As planned and intended by organizing clubs, organization association etc. etc. Participants must accept events as planned by the organizers.

Treasures:

Payments of yearly fees January of every year.

» Australian rules

Fees to be payed to an account/bank as to be agreed by executive members of the E.B.F.

E.B.F. Executives:

Elected executives are in office for the duration of two years after election date. Executives have to hand in the wish to resign two months before resignation date.

New executives:

New executives are elected by the group, club, organization, association etc.etc.

BOARD OF THE E.B.F.

- 1 President
- 1 Vice President
- 1 Secretary
- 1 Treasurer (or fund controller)

Duties of the president:

To distribute all information he receives concerning boomerang/events etc.etc.
 To assist where his assistance is wanted and/or needed or asked for.
 To give advise as above mentioned.
 To listen to suggestions.
 To visit as many events as he can.
 To be impartial and without favouritism.
 To have an open mind to constructive criticism.
 To try to keep all boomerang throwers together.

Duties of the executives:

Same as the duties of the president. Executives forward all information that they think to be important for the members of the E.B.F. to the president for distribution.

Representative of the;
 Boomerang Association of Australia.
 President of the;
 Algemene Boomerang Organisatie-"HOLLAND"
 Honorary member of the;
 "Deutscher Bumerang Club"
 Authority for:
 "The Guinness Book of Records"

Max Hoeben

President European Boomerang Federation.

SURFACE TREATMENT FOR BOOMERANGS by Herb Smith

Most makers consider birch plywood to be the best all round material for boomerangs. So, assuming you are using it too, here are some surface treatments you might like to try.

In order to protect your finished boomerang from moisture and dirt, it will be necessary to treat the surface with a sealing coat of varnish, paint or other such protection. However, before you do this, the surface must be reasonably smooth and free from scratches and rasp marks. This should not be difficult if a fine grade of sand paper has been used for the final sanding down and the boomerang then wiped with a piece of clean cloth to remove wood dust and small particles of sanding grit.

There are a variety of ways in which you can now treat the boomerang. The following is a list of products suitable for this purpose:-

- POLYURETHANE VARNISH (GLOSS or MATT)
- PAINT (any good quality household paint will do)
- ENAMEL (Humbrol is excellent)
- BUTTON POLISH (takes time to apply a good surface)
- LACQUER (very quick drying)
- CELLULOSE DOPE (very quick drying)
- BEE'S WAX (good for solid wood)
- LINSEED OIL (good for use on solid wood)
- SHOE POLISH (good as a temporary covering)

From the above list I prefer to use POLYURETHANE VARNISH and HUMBROL ENAMELS. These both have a drying time of between 6 and 8 hours, but are easily applied by brush, and give a fine, durable, waterproof finish.

BLACKFRIARS manufacture an excellent black lacquer in Eggshell, Satin and Matt finish. I use this often and am more than pleased with the results obtained. Like the HUMBROL ENAMEL, it brushes on easily, without leaving brush marks. I always use a small camel hair brush which I thoroughly clean in white spirit or turps after use. Treat your brushes well, and they will give you good service!

Always work in a dust free room with sufficient ventilation when using any of these materials. Dust in the air can spoil an otherwise good finish. And fumes from cellulose can cause headaches and sore throats. Cellulose and dope are both highly inflammable so use at a safe distance from naked flames.

A good tip, to clear the air of dust particles, is to leave a boiling kettle in the room for 2 - 3 minutes, then wait a further 2 - 3 minutes before commencing work.

When using POLYURETHANE VARNISH, ENAMEL or PAINT, it will not be necessary to apply more than 3 coats. This should be sufficient to give a good surface finish. Always remember to rub down lightly between coats. Your well-used pieces of fine grade sandpaper will be suitable for this job. Remember, each coat of varnish or paint will add a little extra weight to your boomerang. Perhaps this is not so important for boomerangs as model aircraft, nevertheless, you will soon notice the difference when throwing if you apply layer upon layer of paint to the surface.

When using ordinary household paint, you may require an undercoat. Rub this down smoothly before applying the top coat. Personally, I have found it unnecessary to use an undercoat when applying HUMBROL ENAMELS. A first coat gives a very good covering, and two subsequent coats an excellent finish.

QUICK FINISHING

One of the quickest drying covers is CELLULOSE DOPE. It will give a reasonably good finish and 3 coats (rubbed down between each) can be applied in the space of 20 minutes. Most LACQUERS also have a quick drying time. Some are labelled, QUICK DRYING, and can be handled in 10 minutes.

Whatever covering you decide to use, always read the manufacturers' instructions. Always be careful when repainting, some paints are incompatible and will cause blistering if used together.

You may wish to give your boomerang a simple coating of BEESWAX. In which case, may I suggest that before doing so you BURNISH the surface by rubbing it vigorously with a small block of hardwood. Don't forget the edges also! This treatment is particularly effective on boomerangs which have been made from a natural blend of solid timber. However, when the boomerang is used in wet weather, it soon loses its shine, and consequently, will require a further coating and polishing.

In the list of products, I have mentioned SHOE POLISH. Whilst this will give a reasonable coverage and protection it does tend to have a streaky effect on plywood and will require several applications. Furthermore, like BEESWAX, its shine is affected by damp weather and regular repolishing will be necessary.

STAINING

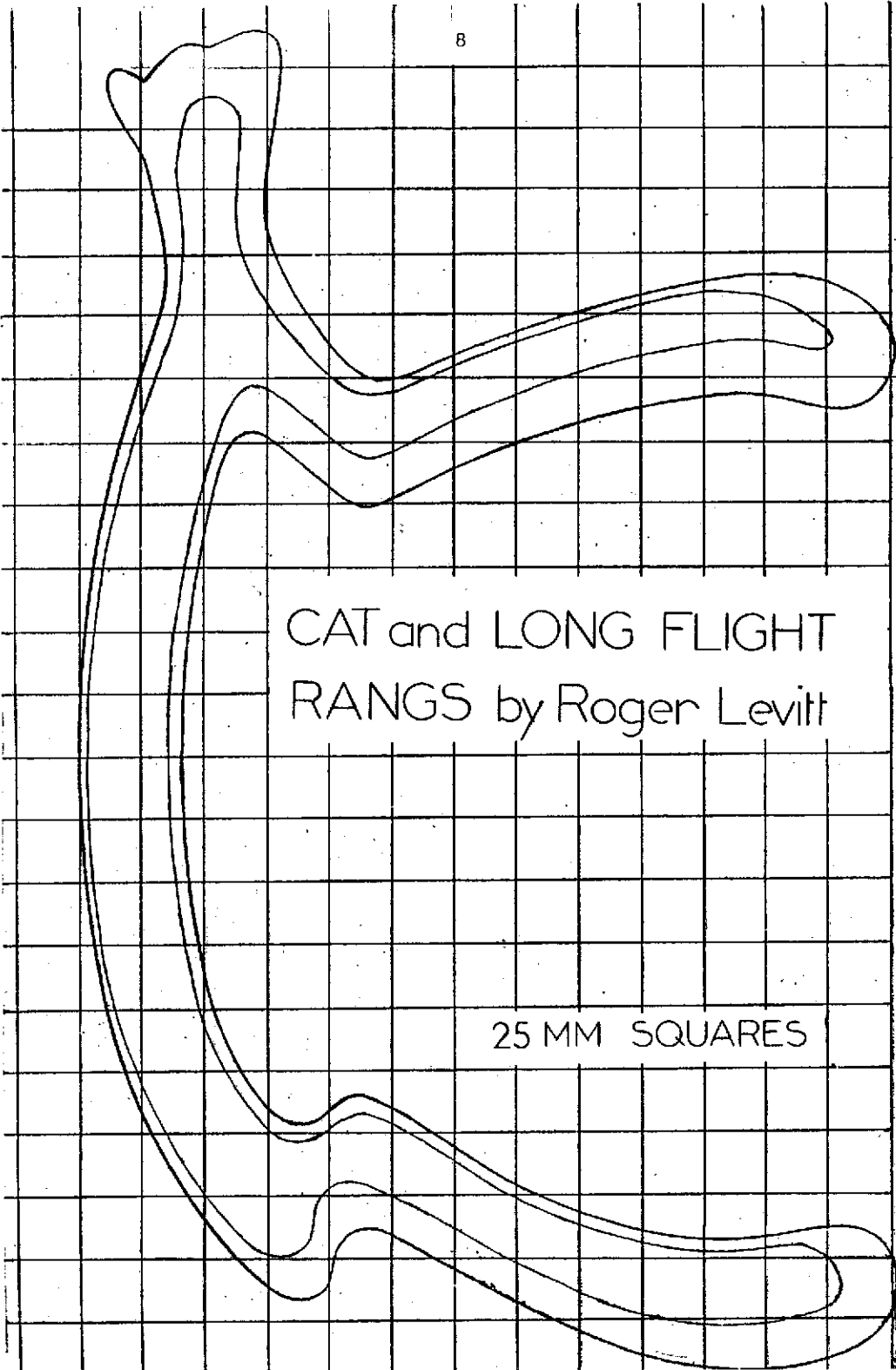
RONSEAL manufacture an excellent range of WOODSTAINS. These are mostly spirit based and are ideal for use on birch ply. After application, cover with two coats of RONSEAL POLYURETHANE VARNISH, for a really fine finish.

Spray cans can be purchased for paints and coloured cellulose, which give an excellent finish. However, unless you are familiar with their use, I would advise that you use a good quality brush, and do the work by hand.

My next article will deal with the subject of DECORATING boomerangs, and several novel ways in which this can be done.

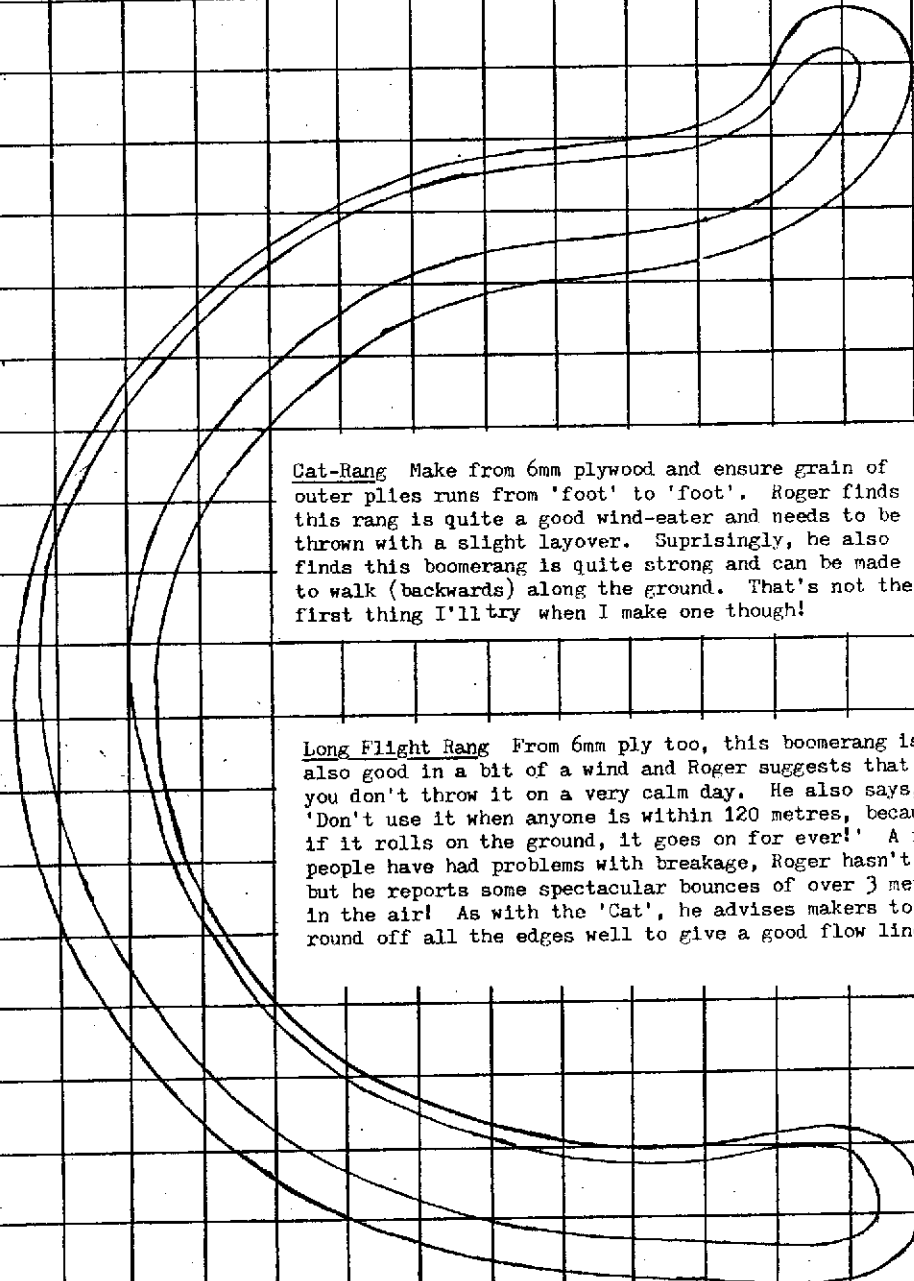


Advert. Michael Hanson, The British Boomerang Connection, P.O. Box 1, Cumnock, Ayrshire, can supply quality returning boomerangs from around the world. Plans are now available also boomerangs from Rusty Harding. Send S.A.E. for list and information. Christmas will soon be here!



CAT and LONG FLIGHT
RANGS by Roger Levitt

25 MM SQUARES



Cat-Rang Make from 6mm plywood and ensure grain of outer plies runs from 'foot' to 'foot'. Roger finds this rang is quite a good wind-eater and needs to be thrown with a slight layover. Suprisingly, he also finds this boomerang is quite strong and can be made to walk (backwards) along the ground. That's not the first thing I'll try when I make one though!

Long Flight Rang From 6mm ply too, this boomerang is also good in a bit of a wind and Roger suggests that you don't throw it on a very calm day. He also says, 'Don't use it when anyone is within 120 metres, because if it rolls on the ground, it goes on for ever!' A few people have had problems with breakage, Roger hasn't, but he reports some spectacular bounces of over 3 metres in the air! As with the 'Cat', he advises makers to round off all the edges well to give a good flow line.

Whistling Boomerang

by Robert Leckie

The British Boomerang Society Newsletter No 5 (June 1982) carried an article on whistling boomerangs and how to make them.

In that issue I detailed one method, using thin layers of ply to build up a hollow chamber within the body - at each end of the arms of the boomerang. Further experimentation has shown that a simpler and more effective whistling boomerang can be made and without the need for a balancing chamber, unless one cared for a two-tone double ended whistler!

Again, some craft skill is required but this should be well within the capability of the enthusiast. As before, clean workmanship is essential.

I have used the GEM pattern boomerang (designed by Herb. Smith to whom I am indebted) so that a tried and tested design could give me direct performance comparisons with and without a whistling device.

The results have been very gratifying, with no adverse effect on performance and a really piercing whistle in flight. So

STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blank out a GEM boomerang shape from 6mm 5-ply. Each arm 30cm long, 4.4cm wide and at 95°. (See Herb. Smith's book, "Boomerangs Making and Throwing Them") Do not bevel any edges at this stage.
2. At the end you do not intend to grasp in throwing, mark off two lines above and below the blank 5 cm apart and 4 cm from the end of the blade. Also mark out rectangle shown as darker lines. (Fig. 2)
3. Drill holes at each corner of this darker rectangle and cut out with a fret saw or Abrafile. Sand the inside surfaces perfectly smooth.
4. With a Stanley knife or scalpel, cut along each line marked (A - B) to a depth of one laminate only.
5. With a Stanley knife remove top and bottom layer of ply remaining between the cuts as in Fig. 1. A little heating in front of an electric fire will help soften the glue and the colour of the glue should determine the limit of removal. Sand the resulting surface carefully, leaving the vertical sides square and clean.
6. Cut out shapes C and D indicated in Fig. 3 out of 0.8 mm ply (this can be obtained from good modelling shops) so as to fit the space left by step 5 EXACTLY. Glue top and bottom plates in place as illustrated. Allow to dry.
7. Bevel and shape your boomerang in the normal fashion but use a sanding block near the whistle opening; do not use a rasp.
8. Sand the lip (indicated in Fig. 2) carefully, so that it is absolutely smooth and horizontal to the direction of flight.
9. Smoothe the underside of the forward facing edge of plate D to produce a fine wedge within the sounding box, as indicated in Fig. 4.
10. Give your boomerang a fine coat of varnish. Allow to dry thoroughly.
11. Cut out a flat plate of metal to size of E. I use phosphor-bronze draught seal strip.
12. Cellotape strip across slot as shown in Fig. 2 for trial throws. Increase or reduce slot size from front to back until you strike optimum note and volume. You should get a strong note just by sweeping the boomerang downwards.
13. Mark off final position with a pencil and then fix the metal plate permanently with Araldite or Superglue.

Go whistle your stick. B.B.S. will be heard!

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Robert Leckie

ROBERT LECKIE DESIGN ASSOCIATES
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fig: 1

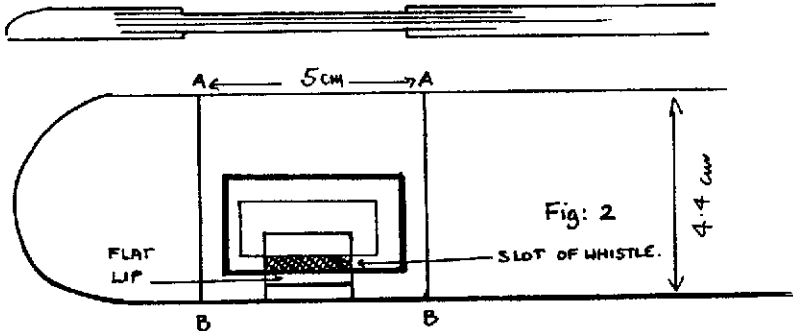


Fig: 2

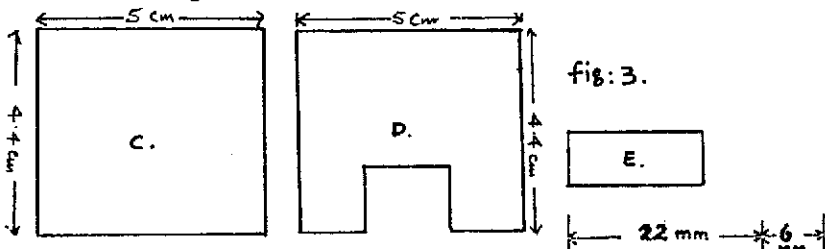


fig: 3.

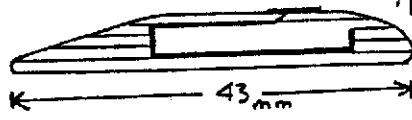
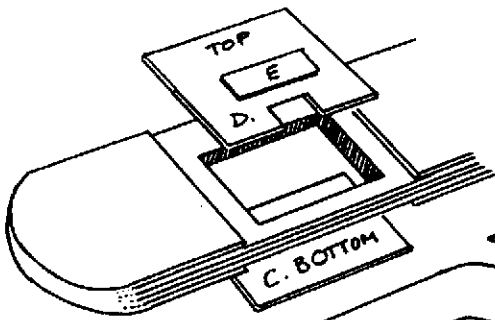
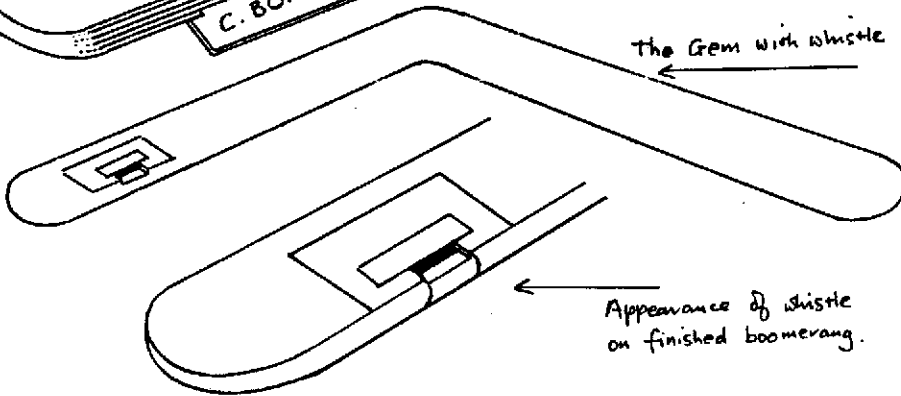


fig: 4

Exploded section of parts.

The Gem with whistle



Appearance of whistle on finished boomerang.

RUSTY'S LETTER

RUSTY HARDING
 BOOMERANGS
 P.O. BOX 2884
 VERO BEACH, FLA. 32960 U.S.A.



Returning Boomerangs
 For the World's Oldest Sport

August 29, 1981

Dear John,

I'm sorry to have been so long in writing. I've been very busy this year, and was away from home for 5 weeks this summer as well; 4 of those before and after the Washington tourney were spent visiting with the many boomerangers throughout the New England states. I arrived back home on a Thursday night to find that Michael Hanson had been there since the previous Monday. Early the following day, he and I drove over to Orlando to go to Disney World. I'm sure he'll tell you about it when he returns. That night, I put him on a bus for Washington and Ben Ruhe. The next Wednesday, I flew to Seattle, Washington for a week as I'd been invited to give a lecture and demonstration at the Pacific Museum of Flight. I stayed the week with Dr. Steve Miller and Ali Fujino Miller. Great time, with boomerang throwing, and talking stretching into the wee hours of the morning. They got married while I was visiting them. Ali had written me that instead of having a "Shotgun" wedding, they would have a "Boomerang" wedding, so I custom crafted the ideal wedding present for them, a "Shotgun Boomerang"!!! It looks like a double barrel 12 gauge, broken open and with the shells slightly protruding from the breech! Ali promised me a picture of it, and when I get it, I'll copy it and send you one.

Herb's account of his first Washington visit brought back fond memories. He is such a gracious person, and has one of the fastest throwing arms in the boomerang community. Al Gerhards and I discovered that fact when we were looking at some movies that he had taken of many of the throwers. We went back through them and counted the frames from beginning of throw until the boom left the throwers hand. The average number of frames for most throwers was 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ (launch in between frames), while Herb took 3 frames or less! Of all the throwers viewed, only Peter Larson of Duck Key, Florida came close to Herb with $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 frames!

The boomerang whistle article by Robert Leckle was quite interesting also. I'm sure that his method works much better than most.

The comment about the "Overlap" design in your book review of Ger Schurink's book prompts the following comments.

Boomerangs with overlaps in either direction will work, BUT, the boomerangs are aerodynamically different even though the arms are identical for the two cases! The reason for this is that the planes of rotation for the two cases are different, with respect to the bottom surface of either arm. With the "dingle" or free arm on top, the geometry of rotation causes the arms to fly at a slightly increased angle of attack whereas with the dingle arm at the bottom, it's at a slightly reduced angle of attack. Thus, the developed lift (varying with angle of attack) varies between the two cases, even though the shapes, both planform and cross sectionally, are the same! These differences occur because of the offset weight distribution of each arm. Those who are so inclined may want to analyse these conditions for themselves, but analysis is not necessary in order to use the method.

Now, the reduced lift will probably not make much of a difference with the lighter weight, lower inertia boomerangs except to reduce the precession rate slightly, with the dingle arm under the throwing arm, but it could be critical with the longer range and higher inertia booms, including the weighted ones, by being reduced to the point where full returns are no longer possible. That, in turn, would require that additional undercutting be done to increase the lift again. But the heavier booms are usually the longer range B's, and the additional cutting produces additional drag, slowing down forward and spin velocity at a faster rate! Since OVERlapped dingle arms produce greater lift, usually without any undercutting it would seem foolish not to take advantage of the gains that offers.

Incidentally, the same kind of advantage can be had by adding weights of half the wood thickness if the throwing arm weight is installed from the bottom of the boomerang and the "dingle arm weight is installed from the top! That also reduces

the amount of undercutting for a given amount of lift control of layover. Very subtle, but very effective! As the younger set would say, "We've come a long way, baby!"

I heartily agree that the book is a valued contribution, whether you can read Dutch or not, though it's definitely better if you can (even with an English-Dutch dictionary!). Tip to tip grain direction is a real advantage, too, in warp control. This is especially important if the plywood sheet has some warpage in it even before cutting. As the cuts progressively relieve those built-in stresses, the wood tends to curl the tips rather badly when the grain is running at right angles to the tip to tip direction. Sometimes, these stresses take weeks to relieve and a nice boomerang changes as a result. Most disappointing!!!

With regard to your writings about Al Gerhards' boomerang balancer, or CG finder if you prefer, I made one over a year ago after seeing Al's so that he and I could talk with the same terms when discussing B's. I made mine with what artists call "Foam Art Board". That's really a thin sheet of foam with a light cardboard facing on each side. The light weight makes it very sensitive. I drew concentric circles every $\frac{1}{4}$ " out to about 10" (his is not metric so mine isn't either). I added a round liquid filled bubble level with about a $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ sensitivity to the center of mine (which eliminates its use for cross-sticks which don't need it anyway) for quicker readings. Personally, I don't bother with balancing the boom on a piece of wood (your fig. 2) as I don't find it necessary. I just put the boomerang on the unit and move it around until the bubble is centered. That's the CG, very close!! Now, that's the condensed version. Actually things do get a bit more complicated. The sensitivity of such a device is dependent on the vertical location of the pivot point with relation to the CG of the table/boomerang combination. The lawn mower blade balancing unit I use was chosen from about a dozen to find one that would seat in the same place every time it was assembled (many wouldn't, and that made a difference in balance point), and it has concentric, stepped diameters to accommodate the different center holes for the different blades commonly used. I've not measured the vertical distances involved, but I use the $\frac{1}{2}$ " dia. step placed in a precision cut $\frac{1}{8}$ " dia. hole cut in a small piece of $1/8$ " plywood which is epoxied to the top surface of the foam art board. A clearance hole in the foam board allows access from the bottom.

The "value" of the "neutral circle" lies in the fact that only that portion of the boomerang that lies outside the neutral circle produces lift as a result of rotational speeds. All parts of the boomerang are affected by forward speed, thus my belief that a "neutral" cross section within the "neutral circle" is best. Forward velocity will, thus, not create a disturbing force on the boomerang. That, in turn, allows one to more finely tune a boomerang by being able to concentrate all effort on the cross sectional shape outside the "neutral circle" for maximum boomerang control. My experimentation of keeping ALL the area inside the "neutral circle" neutral (i.e. symmetrical, and shaped only for low aerodynamic drag) and shaping the areas outside the "neutral circle" to produce lift necessary for gyroscopic precession of the desired rate, has born out the validity of this approach. Since the lift can be controlled by airfoil shape, undercutting, or both, and drag is a function of both as well, one should then be able to control range and laydown rate (functions of lift and inertia) and spindown (a function of drag). Drag also affects range, but to a lesser degree. Laydown is controlled by the lift ratio of the two arms.

All of the above, and the many previous discussions we've had via correspondence are some indication as to why the flight of a boomerang is so hard to analyse, and so hard to program into a computer. There are just too many complex interacting effects, and that's assuming all wind conditions are steady! When you begin to consider wind, well.....!!!

As to Chet Snuffer's comments regarding women that have difficulty throwing booms, I'll stay out of that one, save to say that I've had numerous requests from gals to design easier to throw booms, and I'm working on it. When I have something definite, I'll let everyone know! I'm getting answers in this regard, though, so it's not a

totally impossible task!

I finally broke down and had a cutting die made for cutting out cardboard boomerangs. I then had them printed in color on a 11" x 14" piece of cardboard, with tabs holding them in place. The remaining areas of the cardboard were used for tuning and throwing instructions for it, as well as a bit about boomerang history and how to make other cross-stick boomerangs from inexpensive rulers. The only problem I've had is how to ship them, one at a time, inexpensively without them being damaged. I've still not solved that problem.

A girl, Cynthia Croteau, became the first person to catch a boomerang with the teeth! She used one of these cardboard B's. Peter Larson was second! Both ended up with a tie of 4 teeth catches each in a First Annual Yurt Boomerang Tournament we held inside a Mongoleon Yurt on Orr's Island, Maine one rainy afternoon and evening this summer.

The Washington Smithsonian tourney and the USBA tourney in Manassas, Virginia have been written about beautifully in Ben Ruhe's latest newsletter so I'll not discuss them here. One of the surprises of the year at Manassas came from Stuart Jones. Ben told of him in the newsletter. What Ben didn't mention was that in taking 3rd place with a throw of 21.7 seconds in the MTA event, Stuart was using one of my production model EZ Ploters which I'd given him only a few minutes before! All of the others were using fine tuned special models that they made themselves just for that event! Also, at Manassas, we had qualifying throws, where a thrower could qualify a boomerang for 40 meters. If successful in achieving 40 meters or better with a boomerang, a Mylar sticker was issued to be attached to that boomerang so that judges would not have to requalify each throw in the Australian round for distance and could, therefore, concentrate on other judging duties. I now have a fully certified 40 meter boomerang that measures 20.7 cm tip to tip, and weighs a full 11 grams!!! I'll trace it full size on this sheet so you can see its size. It's made from 5 ply, 1/8" birch plywood. It literally blew the minds of all who saw it fly! The only problems I have with this are: 1) it's a bit hard to catch because of its light weight - it tends to bounce out of the hand! and 2) the B tends to disappear from sight when thrown because of its small size, making it tricky to spot as it comes back for the catch! The boomerang is literally dwarfed by the sticker I'm supposed to put on it, and if I could get the sticker on the sticker would add 10% to its weight!

That's about it from here, John. Tropical storm "Dennis" kept me from making booms for over a week as it crept slowly through Florida so I'm behind in my boomerang making as usual. Do keep in touch. And remember, as a boomerang thrower, you're also the target!!!

Keep throwing all the good ones,

Rusty

NOT
FULL
SIZE

J.J.'s Note: Rusty's letter above was written just after he'd received BBS Newsletter No. 5 and to fully appreciate all of his comments it may be helpful to refer back to that issue. Some of the topics arising from "Hanson's Pilgrimerang" (Newsletter 6) were subsequently taken up by Rusty in further letters. Here's what he says

Power Throwing This is in a class all by itself. Some boomerangs just won't fly well if overpowered. Others will yield different characteristics when powered up and can be handled well by a modified throw as you suggest. Some (in spite of the theory that a boomerang's flight path is built into the boomerang) CAN be powered up for significant increases in distance. All of these are special cases and, for now, will have to remain the topic of some future correspondence.

MTA Boomerangs These are matched to the individual's power and throwing style for best results. I have two MTA boomerangs made by Peter Ruhf, also a left hander, and always a good MTA contender. I've seen him throw each of these for 20 seconds or more, but the best I've personally been able to get from either was in the

neighborhood of 15 seconds. Now, I've gotten more than that from one of my EZ Floaters, and also from one of my weighted Concept 90's, so Peter's MTA B's are obviously not designed for me and my power and style. One nice comment about my EZ Floater, though, is that Peter Ruhf, Mike Forrester, and Stuart Jones (all top MTA competitors) threw them for MTA times of 18 seconds or better, with Stuart Jones at 21.7 seconds as I told you before. Each threw them vertically (no layover, or even slight negative layover) aimed about 15° up from horizontal and as hard as they could throw! The boomerang circled up to altitude, and hovered down. Best times were obtained by adjusting the throw slightly until the boomerang achieved horizontal hover attitude simultaneously with complete loss of forward velocity.

Al's Airfoil Tracer. Yes, this a pantograph, with some modifications. The boom to be measured is held vertically with a tracer pointer on the center Vee of the pantograph (so that the cross section is displayed horizontally) and the end of the other pantograph arm (at a ratio of 2:1) holds a pen which traces the contour. The shortcomings of this are that you must turn the B over if you want the contour of the other side, but it's still the best thing I've seen for contour tracing.

MANY THANKS for all the info, Rusty, I couldn't hope for a more informative correspondent!!!

J.J.

HORNIMAN-DULWICH PARK THROW-IN 25 OCTOBER

In contrast to the Spring event, and thanks to the BBC, hundreds of people turned up this time. So with more spectators than ever, the weather would have to be the worst so far wouldn't it?!

As always, Elizabeth Goodhew and John Wray expertly organised the whole event, including the Saturday Workshop which was completely booked up. A European flavour was provided by Max Hoeben, Rob Overdyk, Jacques Beslot and Yves Simonson. Several of the spectators I chatted to were from overseas too.

Lots of boomerang information was dished out, mainly verbally, (I've recovered my voice now!) and the BBS finances look a little better as a result of 11 new members.

RESULTS

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juniors</u>
<u>Accuracy</u>	1. Robert Leckie 1.6m 2. Tony Gibbs 2.0m 3. Jack Smith 2.3m	Christopher Farrant 4.2m David Schummy 6.2m Mark Stott 6.5m
<u>Catching</u>	1. Roger Levitt 4 2. Yves Simonson 3 (2 SH) 3. Jacques Beslot 3 (1 SH)	Daniel Smith Gaius Hamilton Mark Stott
<u>Shortest Time for 2 Throws</u>	1. Charles Herbert 17.0 sec. 2. Alex Streater 20.0 sec. 3. Rob Overdyk 20.2 sec.	Joe Dobson 18.2 sec. Christopher Farrant 21.5 sec. Daniel Smith 21.8 sec.
<u>Maximum Time Aloft</u>	1. Jacques Beslot 14.4 sec. 2. David Schummy 11.5 sec. - Adult for this one! 3. Roger Levitt 11.2 sec.	Did you see his folding boomerang?!!!
<u>Most Unusal Boomerang</u>	1. Michael Hanson Paxerang - or something 2. Robert Leckie Guess What? 3. Michael Hanson Birderang	
<u>Best Made Boomerang</u>		1. Rupert Gibbs 2. Daniel Smith 3. Emily Gibbs
<u>Adult Champion of Champions</u>	Robert Leckie (12 points) Rodger Levitt, runner-up (11 points)	
<u>Junior Champions</u>	Christopher Farrant } 17 points Daniel Smith }	

BIEVRES, PARIS SEPTEMBER 26/27

This was a well attended, truly European competition. There were four of us from the U.K., (I've read that somewhere before), Michael Hanson, Peter King, John Wray and myself. This seems the usual number; maybe we can increase it next year for European events. This event was exceedingly well organised and acknowledgements must go to Jack Thomas and Jérôme Quin for all their efforts. The weather played its part too.

The competitions were held over two days to avoid having to rush through them. This arrangement also meant we had plenty of time for discussion and rest the competitions were very exhausting!

All those who stayed until Sunday evening were able to see two (unofficial ?) World Records. The MTA was increased to an incredible 29 seconds by Ger Schurink. Also Adri van de Berge, from Rotterdam, managed to get 14 boomerangs in the air at once, launching one at a time of course.

The last game surprised us all and really pleased the crowd as well. Here's a revised description of the rules.

This is a knock out pairs competition. Contestants throw in pairs each from a 20 m diameter circle. One non-scoring throw is permitted, then at the start signal (more fun if it is a horn or starting pistol) they have to touch the centre disc and throw. After 5 throws, including touching the disc every time, they have to run and sound a bell which is situated outside the competition circles. The fastest is the winner. All the winners go through to the next round, until there's only one left - The Champion.

So for this competition one requires a fast, accurate and catchable boomerang. The last throw can become interesting, when one tries to make the boomerang come to rest near the bell, as this can save precious seconds.

I believe there is a need for more 'fun' events like this to maintain spectator interest.

Charles Herbert

RESULTS

	NOMS - NAMES		MAXIMUM DE RAT- TRAPAGES SUR 10 Lancers		AU PLUS PRES DE LA CIBLE/CLO- SEST TO THE PIN	3 RAT-TEMPS MINI/SHORTEST TIME 3 CATCHES		RATRAPAGES CON- SECUTIFS/CONSE- CUTIVE CATCHES		POULE " TOUCH N' GO "		CLASSEMENT GENE- RAL/GENERAL RE- SULTS
1	J. THOMAS	F	4		4.50	29.4	3					
2	C. HERBERT	GB	6		7.00	44.0						
3	J. QUIN	F	7	3	9.30	37.0	4		2			3 ÈME
4	G. SCHURINK	H	6		4.00	55.1/5					2	4 ÈME
5	D. LAVOLE	F	5		0.59	OUT/2	1					
6	M. HOEBEN	H	1		6.63	48.5						
7	L. CORMIER	F										
8	TONNIE	H	1		4.25	OUT/1						
9	P. FEINARD	F										
10	J. WRAY	GB	3		1.36	OUT/1	2					
11	D. BAISE	B	9	2	5.08	27.1/5	2		1			2 ÈME
12	F. PAILLE	F	9	1	5.47	18.4	1					1 ER
13	B. BONNIER	F	3		6.42	OUT/3						
14	A. V. D BERGE	H	6		12.65	OUT/1					1	
15	K. BAKER	H	6		3.00	42.0						
16	R. CENS	F	1		5.73	OUT/0						
17	JL. LAGUITTON	F	1		4.29	OUT/2						
18	C. PERNISEK	F	3		2.34	OUT/2	4					
19	P. KING	GB	3		3.00	OUT/3						
20	M. HANSON	GB	7	4	4.93	OUT/2						
21	A. BROCARD	F	5		1.67	OUT/2	3					

BOOMERANG NEWSLETTER

Reprinted by courtesy of Benjamin Ruhe

Volume II, Number 2

Summer 1981

U.S. TEAM CHALLENGING AUSTRALIA IN BOOMERANG-THROWING. Selection of a 12-man team to represent the United States in a boomerang-throwing challenge tour of Australia in November was announced by the sponsoring Pacific Museum of Flight, Seattle, Washington. The matches will be the first international team events ever held in this growing sport. The Pacific Museum of Flight, now under construction for a 1982 opening, is a nonprofit project of the Pacific Northwest Aviation Historical Foundation.

Venues for the U.S.-Australian matches will be Melbourne; Albury, in New South Wales; Sydney; and Brisbane. The team leaves San Francisco November 10 at 9 p.m. via Qantas and arrives in Melbourne 9:20 a.m. November 12; it departs Australia December 1 and arrives back in the U.S. the same day. Match dates are being set.

Sen. Neville Bonner of Queensland, the only Aboriginal senator in Australia, has agreed to co-sponsor the tour and throw out the first boomerang of the test series. Before entering politics, Bonner had been a professional maker of boomerangs. He said he believes that "an Australian team composed of 50 percent Aboriginals can beat the socks off a team of Yanks."

The first international team competition in the sport of throwing and catching returning boomerangs grew out of the annual tournaments held by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. The Smithsonian is a federal government agency whose museums include the National Air and Space Museum.

Members of the U.S. team have distinguished themselves over the past several years in competitions across the country. Competition events include long-distance throwing and catching, doubling (throwing two boomerangs at once and catching both), juggling (keeping one of two boomerangs in the air at all times while throwing and catching them in turn), maximum time aloft, and catching with the feet, among other feats.

The team was selected by Benjamin Ruhe, of Washington, D.C., and Alison Fujino, of Seattle, with the counsel of the Pacific Museum of Flight and a number of boomerang experts. Ruhe is a federal government employee, author of the book Many Happy Returns (Viking-Penguin), honorary consultant on boomerangs to the Air and Space Museum and Smithsonian Resident Associates, and organizer of the Smithsonian's annual tournament, which has been held 13 years in a row. He will serve as captain of the U.S. team. Fujino, a former Smithsonian employee, works for the Woodland Park Zoological Gardens in Seattle. A proficient boomerang thrower and maker in her own right, she will serve as team manager.

The 12 throwers on the U.S. squad:

°Al Gerhards (1127 Glenside Ave., Downingtown, Pa.). A dental appliances manufacturer, the six-foot-six Gerhards holds the long distance throwing record--123 yards outward with a complete, accurate return. This 1979 mark has been recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records.



°Carl Naylor (120 96th Street, Brooklyn). A pharmaceutical salesman, Naylor has been throwing and collecting boomerangs for three decades and will serve as co-captain of the U.S. team. He is another notable long-range thrower.

°Steve Miller (2312 N. 62nd St., Seattle). A medical doctor, Miller is an attending physician at the University of Washington Hospital emergency clinic and is a Pacific Northwest winner in long-distance throwing.

°Eric Darnell (Star Route, S. Strafford, Vt.). Darnell is the inventor of a wood-burning stove sold un the U.S., Canada, and Scandinavia. He devised an efficient method of lighting boomerangs so they can be thrown at night.

°Chet Snouffer (340 Troy Road, Delaware, Ohio). Snouffer, a professional gymnast, has made his area of Ohio a center of boomerang-throwing enthusiasm. He holds the world's record of 106 consecutive juggles without a miss.

°Peter Ruhf (Route 1, Barto, Pa.). A professional painter with some two dozen one-man shows to his credit, Ruhf is considered to have one of the strongest throwing arms on the squad. He is the only left-hander.

°Larry Ruhf (31 Jackson St., Belchertown, Mass.). He is the twin brother of Peter Ruhf and holds a doctorate in psychology. He is a professional maker of boomerangs.

°Jerry Caplan (428 Camino Manzanitas, 1000 Oaks, Cal.). Caplan is a boomerang maker and businessman, noted for his ability to throw boomerangs simultaneously with both his left and right hands and catch both.

°Nick McAuliffe (9 Morrill Pl., Amesbury, Mass.). McAuliffe is a library science professional and designer and producer of a noted trapezoid-shaped boomerang.

°Barney Ruhe (57 Front St., Brooklyn). A former U.S. Navy lieutenant who served two tours of duty in Vietnam, Ruhe is now a professional artist. He is able to perform a unique boomerang version of the William Tell stunt: When a boomerang he has thrown comes back to him, he allows it to slice an apple off his head.

°Doug DuFresne (P.O. Box 10141, Eugene, Ore.). DuFresne works for a timber company, and has been a consistent Pacific Northwest winner in distance-throwing.

°Stuart Jones (729 E. 10th Ave., Shakopee, Minn.). Jones is an automotive expert and possessor of one of the best throwing arms on the team. He is able to throw five boomerangs in succession, then catch all five as they return.

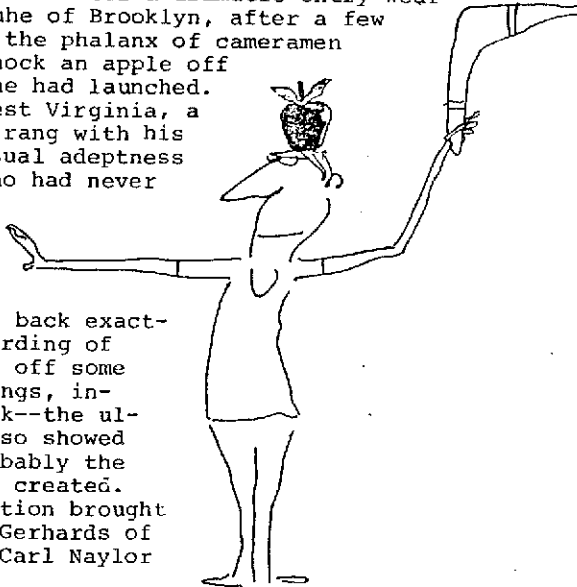
The teams will vie for a trophy donated by Marjorie Gerrish of Portland, Oregon, in memory of her husband, Col. John Gerrish, a

long-time collector and manufacturer of boomerangs. Additional support for the sport has been given by John Mauro, of Richmond, Virginia; Brian Peck of the Australian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; Lyn Cooper and Peter Roennfeldt of QANTAS, the Australian overseas airline; John Daly and Associates, a Washington, D.C., direct mail order consulting firm; John Ramsay of All-Brands Importers, Lake Success, New York; and the Australian Information Service and Australian Tourist Commission, both of New York City.

Brother Brian Thomas (35 Anderson St., Chatswood, N.S.W., Australia) is serving as Australian liaison for the challenge tour. He will also coach the Australian squad. Other members of the host team (or teams) will be brothers Morris and Dennis Maxwell, Bob Burwell, Bunny Read, Barrie Forsyth, Bob Cross, Chris Westall, and Andrew Travis. Travis is an Aboriginal.

8TH SMITHSONIAN TOURNAMENT. It was authentic swamp weather--hot and humid--and in Washington, D.C., that translates into perfect boomerang-throwing weather because there is almost no breeze. A bit oppressive, yes; but marvelous for pinpoint returns and trick catching. The 8th annual Smithsonian open June 13 was run off with such precision it startled even its planners. There were two registrations (for novices and experts), a long demonstration, a game, nine events all told, presentation of awards, and a group picture. The whole thing took just three hours and 35 minutes from start to finish. It was a particular triumph for Tina Parker of the Smithsonian Resident Associates, who organized the throw-in so efficiently.

Some 20 novices and 70 experts put on a good show for the several thousand people who came to watch during the afternoon, and had a lot of fun themselves into the bargain. Crowd-pleasing tossing began with the demonstration. After a dramatic entry wearing Arab regalia, Barney Ruhe of Brooklyn, after a few warm-up tosses and despite the phalanx of cameramen crowding him, managed to knock an apple off his head with a boomerang he had launched. Jim Banks of Huntington, West Virginia, a medical student, caught a 'rang with his feet on the first try--unusual adeptness under pressure for a man who had never even tried the stunt until a few days before. Eric Darnell of South Strafford, Vermont, drew cheers as he tossed a tiny 'rang a long way out and brought it back exactly for the catch. Rusty Harding of Vero Beach, Florida, showed off some of his oddly-shaped boomerangs, including a returning tomahawk--the ultimate boomerang. Rusty also showed off his "'Rang of Fire," probably the most complex boomerang ever created. The long-distance demonstration brought out world record-holder Al Gerhards of Downingtown, Pennsylvania; Carl Naylor

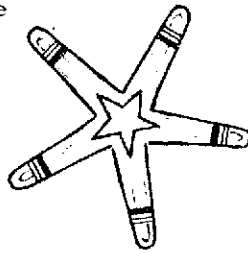


of Brooklyn; Nick McAuliffe of Amesbury, Massachusetts; and Dr. Steve Miller of Seattle. (Miller used his competition name: Mohammed Akma Shad.) After other feats and stunts, a brave dozen throwers played the game Australian shambles, in which the mob competes to catch just one boomerang. Gerhards, at 6-6 and about 220 pounds, as usual dominated. In some meleés, he was like a bowling ball scattering tenpins.

Competitions for novices turned up a couple of particularly pleased winners: Kyle Woods of Brevard, North Carolina, who won a first and a second, and Josh Cooper, aged 8, who got a third. Woods is the son of Casey Woods, editor of Mother Earth News, who came for the tourney with family. Josh Cooper is the eldest son of Lyn Cooper, the new QANTAS official in Washington, D.C., who was kind enough to donate an award in the name of his airline. Josh, as far as Smithsonian officials could recall, was the very first Australian ever to win a prize in the tournament. And he had to borrow a boomerang to compete. Good on him.

In the expert comps, increased expertise all down the line was obvious. Chet Snouffer, the professional gymnast from Delaware, Ohio, for example raised his juggling mark for the tournament from ten to 21; a new maximum time aloft mark was set by Mike Forrester of Bethesda, Maryland, with a clocking of 18.2 seconds; the five-man team fast-catching went to Snouffer's group with a phenomenal 40 catches in one minute; and consecutive catching ("suicide") was declared a dead heat between brothers Richard Ruhe of McLean, Virginia, and Barney Ruhe of Brooklyn after both caught with their feet in a playoff that had seen them survive one-handed catches, left-handed catches, and behind-the-back catches. The opening throw in this competition with 65 competitors launching simultaneously was the visual highlight of the day. The TV cameramen loved it. Resulting footage was shown by ABC across the country. (Suicide, incidentally, despite its name, is emphatically not dangerous. Boomerangs used are light and, besides that, a person almost never gets hit by a 'rang when he is paying attention; one's peripheral vision is surprisingly acute.)

Pinwheel catching was added this year for the first time. Pinwheels are big six-bladed boomerangs with a bolt sticking downward from the center point. To score in this competition, the 'rang must be caught spinning on the palm for two seconds or more. Brothers Jim and Paul Sprague of Middletown, Connecticut, and their group easily dominated this new event with flawless catches that kept spinning for six, eight, even ten seconds. Everyone remarked upon the beauty of these 'rangs, which are typically painted in many colors and whirl around like giant dragonflies. After catching behind their backs and transferring the still spinning boomerangs to the other hand, the brothers Sprague were declared joint winners.



Although Smithsonian purposely does not name an overall champion, to dampen the competitive fires and make the event more a festival than tournament, the clear winner for '81 was Barney Ruhe, with two firsts and two seconds, and a third. The runner-up was Chet Snouffer with two firsts. Hats off to them.

Hats off, too, to the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program for running a marvelously smooth tournament and to donors of awards. In addition to Lyn Cooper of QANTAS, thanks go to Al Gerhards; Rusty Harding; Rich Harrison of Monroe, Louisiana; Brian Peck of the Australian Embassy; Australian Robert Whale of Suzanne's Pub and Bistro; and John Ramsay of All-Brand Imports, Lake Success, New York, whose traditional gift of Foster's beer gave before- and after-tourney parties a Down Under touch.

The results for advanced competitors:

Consecutive catching ("suicide"): 1. Richard Ruhe, McLean, Va, and Barney Ruhe, Brooklyn--tie after both caught with their feet in a playoff; 3. Jim Pickett, Baltimore.

Doubling: 1. Al Gerhards, Downingtown, Pa., and Barney Ruhe--tie with six catches each; 3. Ray DiCecco, four.

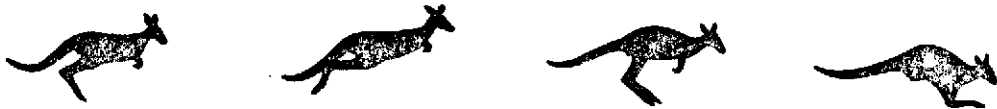
Maximum time aloft: 1. Mike Forrester, Bethesda, Md., 18.2 seconds; 2. Barney Ruhe, 17 seconds; 3. Tad Eareckson, Annapolis, Md. 15.7 seconds.

Juggling: 1. Chet Snouffer, Delaware, Ohio, 21 juggles; 2. Larry Ruhf, Belchertown, Mass., 11 juggles; 3. Barney Ruhe, seven juggles.

Pinwheel catching: 1. Jim Sprague and Paul Sprague, Middletown, Conn. (tie); 3. Jim Laskarzewski, Middletown, Conn.

Team one-minute fast-catching: 1. Chet Snouffer team, 40 catches, with Chet personally scoring 18; 2. Barney Ruhe team, 39 catches; 3. Mike Forrester team, 37 catches.

Team finale: 1. Gnarmoob (that's boomerang spelled backward).



NIGHT THROW. Because many throwers have said in the past that they didn't get enough competition tossing at the Smithsonian after coming a long way to Washington, Eric Darnell organized a Saturday night throw following the big afternoon fling. Dozens turned out to toss Darnell's glowing polyurethane 'rangas. Darnell drills holes in the wings lengthwise, fills them with Calumine fluid, then plugs the holes. The result is a glowing sight to behold when tossed out into a night sky. Catches on the return are particularly easy because the bright, spinning 'rang is the center of all attention. No passing birds to divert the view.

Alas the storm which had been threatening all afternoon hit and wiped out Darnell's competition. Better luck next year. Meanwhile Dr. Steve Miller's contingent, escaping the rain, repaired to the same field after the downpour and threw for a satisfying two hours. Miller's equipment was more rudimentary. Begging some intravenous tubing at a hospital emergency ward, he siphoned the Calumine fluid into the tubing, tied it off, snipped the tubing into lengths, and taped the sections to either the outside or inside of the boomerang elbow. While makeshift, this arrangement worked fine.

Meanwhile, there was a third type of night boomerang being thrown--a Florida creation. "It was a total waste of time; it's

probably the most complex boomerang ever made," said Rusty Harding of Vero Beach, Florida, boomerang manufacturer extraordinary, talking about his "Rang-of-Fire"

E-rang. This creation has 18 lights, 17 of which are LEDs and the other a white incandescent at the center of rotation; three hearing-aid batteries; and four switches to permit various combinations of lights. Rusty

made the 'rang of two pieces of 1/8th inch, five-ply wood swiss-cheesed out by routing internally and then glued together. "Just the internal soldering took four

hours," he says. "I have 60 hours of work in it," And did it fly? Well, stolidly, but with some extra oomph in the throw it did indeed return--just.

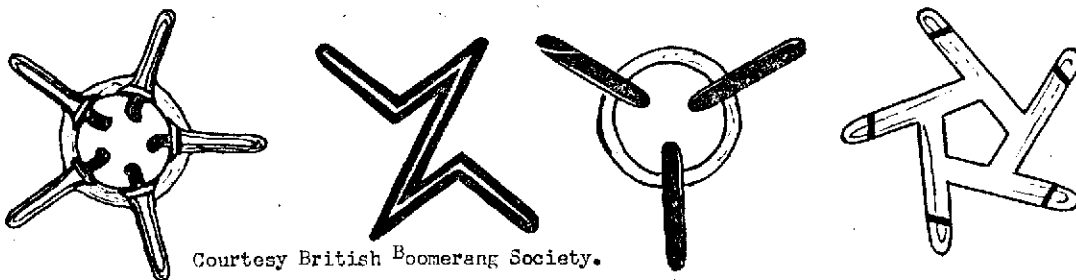
Peter Ruhf

BOOMERANG WEEKEND CONTINUES. The new U.S. Boomerang Association showed its worth by sponsoring an all-day throw the day after the Smithsonian fling. The venue switched to suburban Virginia--the Manassas campus of Northern Virginia Community College. This was an event for throwers, not spectators, so crowd control was no problem; the size of the field, though, was. A football field severely delineated by trees on three sides and buildings on the fourth, the rectangle proved none too large for 45 tossers hurling long-range sticks. After warm-ups and some delays in getting the field marked, events began. Richard Ruhe won "suicide" in a playoff with a one-handed, left-handed catch. Because there was a stiff breeze at this point, the Australian Round was moved up. In this competition, a 'rang had to go 50 meters or more and return for a catch in the seven-meter throwing circle for maximum points. Each contestant got one warm-up throw and five for the record. (The Australian Round as done in Australia gives each competitor 20 throws; top scorers then get an additional 10 throws for the championship.) Even in its abbreviated version, the event at Manassas went slowly, and proved quite difficult for some because of the wind. Since the football field had a sharp falling off and the breeze tended to push the boomerangs, there were many daring, dramatic attempts at catches, and two disasters--Mike Forrester of Wheaton, Maryland, went over the side in pursuit of a flying boomerang and ended up badly scratched from his tumble down the bramble-thick and rock-strewn 15-foot cliff. His Wheaton friend Russ Tamblyn, going at full tilt, went off the edge unaware of the drop and found himself, suddenly, out in space, way above earth. He was found in a heap at the bottom, shaken but not too banged up. After an hour's recuperation, he started throwing again in other events. The Australian round went to Jerry Caplan of Los Angeles, who outclassed the field with 49 points. Like almost everyone else, he used a weighted hook. Peter Ruhf of Barto, Penn-

sylvania, and twin brother Larry Ruhf of Belchertown, Massachusetts, were second and third, respectively, with 39 and 38.

In fast catch, Doug DuFresne of Eugene, Oregon, throwing a worked-over M17, had an astonishing five straight catches inside the seven meter circle within 28 seconds. DuFresne threw the 'rang at half-speed to hurry up the return-catch process. Steve Miller was second at 35 seconds.

After freestyle was cancelled because time was running out, throwers had a chance to try and set a record in a competition of choice. Chet Snouffer managed 22 juggles to top his mark of 21 the day before at the Smithsonian. In MTA, Mike Forrester caught a thermal and scored 23.1 seconds aloft with a specially crafted 'rang that has a lot of wing area. Peter Ruhf was second with 22.3 and Stuart Jones of Minneapolis third with 21. Jones, who had never even seen a wooden boomerang before coming to Washington for the action, threw his Wham-O plastics with unusual strength and facility. Holding five at one time, he launched them successively and caught each as it returned--one, two, three, four, five, just like that. Quite neat. What had onlookers' mouths hanging open was something else. Jones launched with such force (an estimated 100 m.p.h.) that the boomerangs whined around in the sky like little jet aircraft. An audio dimension had been added to the sport of boomeranging.



Courtesy British Boomerang Society.

WHAT'S AHEAD? After two successful tournaments, a rained-out night event that provided a lot of fun anyway, and several most pleasant parties, the consensus was that the extended boomerang weekend was the way to go. There is talk of adding a Friday event next year to keep everyone really occupied. Jacques Beslot is threatening to bring a French team over next June to challenge an American team, so perhaps Friday would be a good day for that match, if it comes off. Meanwhile, there is a year to lay plans. Ideas are forthwith solicited.

SHORT TAKES. Now that boomerang makers have successfully made 'rangs in the shape of almost every letter of the alphabet (including an "i," as in an inverted "y"), what's next? Dr. Steve Miller of Seattle has the answer: the 10,000 characters of the Chinese alphabet....With Gallic logic, Jacques Thomas of Lyons has come up with a boomerang for the beach: It's heavy to buck the wind, plastic to resist corrosion, yellow for high visibility, and flodable in case of an errant throw....Needed. Even badly

needed. Team competitions for the sport of boomeranging. By this is meant authentic team comps, where one group goes against another, as in basketball or many other sports. This would place a premium on different skills and attributes, viz. petite Cynthia Larson might team with giant Al Gerhards in Australian Shambles by perching atop his shoulders to make the catch of the returning boomerang, while other teammates blocked for them. Got the concept? Ideas needed. How can we have team challenges without authentic team events? But please do not be too bloody-minded. Boomeranging should remain a sport of tact, not contact....At a yurt on Orr's Island, Maine, Cynthia Croteau established a first in the sport: She caught with her teeth. The 'rang was one of Rusty Harding's little cardboard jobs, and thus no damage was done....Before Beatle John Lennon is forgotten, let it be recorded here that he found boomerangs interesting and tried throwing them (with what success was not reported).... Curator Graeme Pretty of the South Australian Museum in Adelaide has paid this little newsletter a tribute: He is keeping a file of issues for his distinguished museum, holder of a collection of upwards of 3,000 boomerangs....A spring visitor to my place was the Rev. Edgar Wells, former director of the aboriginal missions at Milingimbi and Yirrkala in Arnhemland. While the aborigines in the Northern Territory's far north do not have boomerangs, either returning or the more common non-returning variety, they do have curved sticks they clap against each other to make a rhythmic noise for singing and dancing, Wells reports. On a memorable day, he says he saw these percussion instruments used in a novel way. Because of an unusual atmospheric condition, a migrating flock of "flying foxes" (fruit bats) was forced down from its usual high altitude to just over the desert. The flight was so enormous as to blacken the sky. Trying to knock them down so they could eat them, the aborigines threw everything they had at the bats, including the music sticks....With Ali Mariko Fujino's marriage to Steve Miller, her initials now become AMFM. "I'm having an antenna installed next week," she says....Nick McAuliffe on a mid-summer visit to Washington, hied himself to the Washington Monument one dawn and, after getting the feel of the place, managed eight straight catches of boomerangs thrown around the monument. He used a weighted 40-meter trapezoid 'rang of his own design. "I finished up at six a.m. just as the first guard and tourists were arriving," he reports. The flinging Nicholas has also recently made a record 400 consecutive catches, as witnessed by Cynthia Croteau. Did he drop the 401st? No, says, Nick. He got bored.



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Design by super enthusiast Maggie McDonald

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