

American Yo-Yo Association Newsletter

December 1995

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AYYA Newsletter

December, 1995

Members Vote

There is a members response sheet and ballot enclosed with this issue. Please fill it out and return it. Votes are for Board Members and an AYYA Logo. There are three open positions on the Board and four nominees. Following are biographies of the nominees so that you will have an idea of who you are voting for if you don't know them.

James Johnson, Baton Rouge, LA

I am 50 years old and my love of the sport of Yo-Yo spans over four decades. From a young child, I was fascinated with this sport and as a result, I have been featured several times in the local papers and on local television showing off my 'ability'. Through the years my continued obsession with the sport never 'Yo-Yo'd'. Some of the best and most interesting parts of my life have revolved around Yo-Yoing, from doing it for pleasure to doing it for competition and meeting new, fun people along the way. In addition to my consuming passion for this sport, I offer the following accomplishments for nomination for the Board position:

Trained by Dale Oliver, Wayne Lundberg, Barney Akers, Gus Somera and Bill deBoisblanc.

Baton Rouge city champion, 1950s

Louisiana State champion, 1950s

Placed 4th & 5th in the National Championships in Chico in the 90s.

Yo-Yo instructor for over 7 years.

Hold Yo-Yo clinics for Scouts, youth groups, church groups, company picnics, birthday parties and anywhere else groups of people want to learn.

Manufacturer of wooden Yo-Yos customized for two handed looping.

Present distributor for various Yo-Yo manufacturers.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue my love of Yo-Yoing by service to this association in the continued advancement of this sport.

Steve Speegle, Lodi, CA

My brother, John, and I were taught to Yo-Yo by our mother. I won my 1st patch in 1953 in Chico, CA. I continued competing through the following years and won the Chico City Championship in '59, '60, and '61. In 1960, I won the regional competition and placed 4th in the state and in '61, I won 2nd in the CA state championships.

After that, I had wanted to turn pro, but Bob Allen, my only contact left the Duncan Co. in 1961. I vowed to help others learn and enjoy the pleasure of the yo-yo and move it towards Olympic status.

As a motivation and guidance specialist, I taught thousands of kids to yo-yo in order to enhance self esteem. Thanks to Tom Kuhn, I picked up the yo-yo and began to talk about them and become more interested in yo-yo manufacturing, technology and history.

I started to pickup and save a few yo-yos and today, I have a collection of yo-yos and memorabilia with over 2000 items. By Jan. 1996, I plan to have my International exhibit open to the public.

I competed in the Nationals at Chico in 1992 and placed 2nd in the advanced division and won 1st in 1993. I then retired from competition and devoted my time to promoting yo-yo play and sponsored/produced the 1993 and 1994 California State Championships at Lodi. I became a Board Member of the AYYA and have been primarily concentrating on my exhibit.

John W. Stangle Jr.

Born in 1964, I am a Navy veteran employed by the Sonoma County Dept. of Health Services and have a wide background in Business Administration skills. I started playing with a yo-yo in December of 1993 and haven't put it down since. I got really enthused about the idea of yo-yoing as a sport and started entering and conducting contests in 1994. In the advanced division, I took 1st place in the Vacaville competition, 2nd place at the California State Championships in Lodi and in 1995 placed 4th in the National Championships at Chico. I organized, promoted sponsors for, and got ESPN to come out and televise the 1995 West Coast Regional Competition in Santa Rosa, CA.

I have scheduled two major competitions for 1996. The California State Championship May 18th and the West Coast Regional Competition July 27th, both in Santa Rosa, CA.

I am also founder and president of the Willie Birds' Flyers Yo-yo club and I own 'Yo-topia', a yo-yo sales and promotional company.

At the AYYA Board Meeting in Chico, Sept. 30th 1995, I volunteered and was appointed the committee head for promotion of sponsors for the AYYA.

I would be proud and happy to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Yo-Yo Association.

Hans Van Dan Elzen

No bio received from Hans. He is a student at ASU in Tempe, AZ and has a club going there. You might have seen him doing his Yo-thing on MTV.

Technical Tips

by Dale Oliver

String Adjustment for beginning spinners.

Every time a Yo-Yo is thrown, every time a Yo-Yo is wound by hand, the twist of the string is changed. A beginner needs to adjust the string for about every three or four times the Yo-Yo is wound up. If you are having trouble making the Yo-Yo sleep, drop it. If it won't sleep when dropped, it definitely won't sleep when thrown. The fastest, easiest and most accurate way for a beginner to adjust the string (advanced players use string adjustment tricks like the Flying Saucer) is to remove the string from the finger, hang on to the Yo-Yo and let go of the string. The string will quickly adjust itself to neutral. Then wind the string back into the Yo-Yo BEFORE putting it back on the finger. If it still won't sleep when dropped, there is a knot in the bottom of the string around the axle. If it sleeps when dropped but not when thrown, there is a problem with the throw, not the Yo-Yo. Usually the hand is moving as the Yo-Yo reaches the end of the string. The hand must be stopped and relaxed for the Yo-Yo to sleep when it reaches the end of the string.

The 'Sweet Side'

Every Yo-Yo player that has gotten into string tricks (Brain Twisters, Trapezes, Atom Smashers) knows what happens when you put the Yo-Yo on the string 'backwards'. It has a

tendency to 'bite' i.e., catch the string and try to wind up. Some Yo-Yos will tolerate this if you are careful, other Yo-Yos will immediately 'bite' and freeze up. What does "on the string backwards" mean? The string is wound around itself (about 7 to 9 times per inch at neutral, depending on the type of string). That wind is directional (like a one way street). If you have a sensitive touch, you can feel that the string slides more easily through your fingers from top to bottom than from bottom to top. The Yo-Yo spinning at thousands of R.P.M. greatly multiplies that difference. When the Yo-Yo rides on the 'Sweet Side' of the string, i.e., with the direction of the string wind, it is smooth sailing. But when it is put on the string with the spin going against the grain of the string wind, you have a potential disaster. This function is actually used in the trick 'Thread the Needle' and 'The Shotgun'. Many yoers who were trying to learn Brain Twister' from written directions were continually frustrated by unwittingly putting the Yo-Yo on the string 'backwards'.

What most players don't know is that the same scenario holds true for the single strand of string that goes around the axle. This 'single' string is actually 6, 7 or 8 individual threads twisted together to form the string. It is this unidirectional twist that causes the string to wind around itself those 7 to 9 times per inch. This unidirectional twist also creates the some type of 'grain' or 'sweet side' experienced with the doubled string. The Yo-Yo will actually spin easier and longer in one direction than the other. I have seen this phenomenon cause problems in every contest that I have ever witnessed. A contestant will 'test throw' their Yo-Yo until it sleeps and then try the trick only to have the Yo-Yo return to the hand without sleeping. They will take another test throw and the Yo-Yo sleeps easily. Back to try the trick again and once more the Yo-Yo doesn't sleep. The trick is to throw a sleeper on the test throw, then take another test throw to put the Yo-Yo back on the 'sweet side' of the string for the attempt that counts. When you are on the 'sweet side', the Yo-Yo not only sleeps easier and longer, but string tricks run smoother also.

I actually use a bi-colored Yo-Yo and set it up so that I know which color needs to be on the right for the 'sweet side'. Remember, it's the string not the Yo-Yo so if you use this bi-color method, when you change a string and test it, you may have to remove the string and put it back on the other way to match the color you want to use as a key. It's best to always use the same color as the key so you don't have to stop and remember each time which is the 'sweet side'.

Yo'er Forum

Got something you'd like to tell the Yo-Yo world about or something you'd like to see discussed? Got a joke or cartoon? Write it into the AYYA's Yo'er Forum. As long as it stays in good taste, we'll print it.

A member asks; "What's the deal with the new Washington address and a California phone number?".

The AYYA is registered in the state of Washington as a non-profit association. The bank account and the AYYA treasurer, Mark Brataas, are in Washington. The address is that of the treasurer. He receives the checks and deposits them in the bank account and then forwards the applications and other correspondence to me, Dale Oliver, in California. The phone number is mine. All this helps keeps costs down. We have a special non-profit bank account that only costs \$2 a month and there were no legal fees to set the association up in Washington.

Have you heard about the boat coming from China loaded with 100,000 Yo-Yos? It got caught in one of those tropical storms and sank 42 times.

Yo-Yo Awareness and AYYA Membership

by Val Krantz

The AYYA needs YOU! As members of the American Yo-Yo Association we all have the pleasure and the obligation to promote Yo-Yo playing. It is, in fact, part of the mission of the AYYA itself. If you love doing something, the best thing to do with it is to share it! I venture to say that most of us love Yo-Yo playing and enjoy sharing it with others and would love to see the interest in it grow.

The mission goes on to say that its purpose is also to render assistance to fellow Yo-Yo players. We are our greatest advertisers. Word of mouth is the only way people can learn about the AYYA. All of us know other Yo-Yo players. Maybe we were even the ones who taught them to Yo-Yo initially. Are these people AYYA members? Most of us enjoy the days when we open our mailbox to find the Yo-Yo Times or the AYYA Newsletter. Can we think of others who might also enjoy it? Many Yo-Yo players may not know that the AYYA even exists - and who is going to tell them? WE ARE!

There are currently approximately 150 AYYA members. If each of us were to add one new member to the AYYA during the coming year, that number would double. Add 2 and it would triple! Need I go on? Introduce the AYYA Newsletter or the Yo-Yo Times to fellow Yo-Yo lovers in the coming months, whether they are young or old, beginners or experienced. Encourage and invite them into membership. With the holidays quickly approaching and birthdays occurring constantly, is there someone who you have yet to find that perfect gift? How about giving them an AYYA membership this year? Attached to this newsletter is a membership application. Use it! Share it! Let's each do our part to add at least one new member to the American Yo-Yo Association this year. They will love YO for it.

Dave's Top Ten

This offering comes from Dave Keele, Reno, NV.

Top Ten reasons why a yo-yo is better than a girlfriend.

- #10. You can tie the knot anytime you want.
 - # 9. When you tie the knot, It's a slip knot.
 - # 8. You can keep a Yo-Yo wrapped around your finger.
 - # 7. Yo-Yos aren't afraid of commitment, they like to have strings attached.
 - # 6. Travel is cheaper with Yo-Yos. You can cruise 'Around the World' still do 'Niagara Falls' and see the 'Eiffel Tower' without touching your wallet.
 - # 5. Your Yo-Yo won't make you constantly 'Walk the Tightrope'.
 - # 4. A Yo-Yo never complains if it has to 'Walk the Dog', 'Rock the Baby' or do 'Spaghetti'.
 - # 3. Yo-Yos improve with age.
 - # 2. If the string breaks, the Yo-Yo doesn't take your tapes and sweatshirts with it.
 - # 1. My Yo-Yo always comes back to me.
- From the Distaff side, multiple authors.

Top Ten reasons why a yo-yo is better than a BOYfriend.

- #10. You can thread the needle without having to darn socks.
- # 9. Yo-Yos like to rock the baby.
- # 8. Yo-Yos predictably follow a line instead of giving them to you.
- # 7. Yo-Yos will jump through hoops for you.
- # 6. Yo-Yos always put a ring on your finger.
- # 5. Yo-Yos never go hunting with their buddies.
- # 4. With Yo-Yos, You don't have to compete for attention on Super Bowl Sunday.
- # 3. With a yo-yo, you pull all the strings.
- # 2. Yo-Yos always come back to you.
- # 1. Yo-Yos can sleep without snoring.

Do you want to keep going with this? If so, send them in. Remember, this is a family publication.

The Ultimate Looper

From Jim Johnson, Baton Rouge, LA.

I have tested and tested many a Yo-Yo for the ultimate looper. With the help of my Yo friends, and taking note of all they had to say, I have finally found it! I will be glad to pass the info to all that will listen. To get these results you have to do one of two things. Either increase or decrease the diameter of the string or use the same type string and increase or decrease the gap in the Yo-Yo. If the gap is too wide, the Yo-Yo will ride up when looping. If the gap is too narrow, the Yo-Yo will loop down. Good looping Yo-Yos off the shelf are Pro-Yo, Tom Kuhn, Duncan Professional, Sayco Tournament, Yo Pal, Hummingbird, Slo-Yo Pro, Monarch Yo's and Russell 'Coke' Yo-Yos. There may be some other good loopers that I don't know about yet. If anyone can help me find another good Yo-Yo, please drop me a line or a Yo-Yo.

The best looping Yo-Yos are the ones you can modify, like the Bunny Martin and American Spinners. It takes time and patience to get it right. First to sand the gap to .065". Start sanding with #80 grit, next #150 and finish up with #400-J. Watch carefully not to bunch up the sandpaper on the axle. It will make the gap too wide at that point. Using a fine jeweler's file, sand the axle to 1/4" diameter and finish up with #400-J. I find that Pro-Yo strings work the best for me. If you follow these simple tips you too can have the Ultimate Looper. Good Luck!

Are You On Line? The AYYA is.

If you are on the net, send us your On-Line address and we'll make up a directory. You can find the AYYA Yo-Yo page at <http://www.pd.net/yoyo>. Once you are there, you will find access to all the Yo-Yo pages we know of. Thanks and kudos to Fred Culbertson for setting this up on the net. Also of interest is that his wife Selma, creates and sells Yo-Yo earrings. You can contact Fredd at fredd@sonic.net or Dale Oliver at Yopro@AOL.com.

Contest News

Results of the 7th Annual Utah State Championships.

Grand Champion - Ron Spears

Adult Advanced:

1st Ron Spears

2nd Scott Nybo

3rd Bruce Morrison

Teen Advanced,

1st Randy Morrison

2nd Corey Leavitt

3rd Mike Sundahl.

11 & under Advanced:

1st David Nybo

2nd Ian Furse.

Adult Beginner Division:

1st David Rigby

2nd John Myrberg

3rd Mark Passey

Teen Beginners

1st Scott Carrington

2nd Bryon Whiting

3rd Ty Huffman.

11 & under Beginners:

1st Brandon Rasmusson

2nd Mario Archuleta

3rd Adam Roach

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This competition is conducted by Dale Myrberg. He thankfully acknowledges the sponsors. Air Apparent Kites, Trolley Square and What's Next Mfg. (Brad Countryman's new venture).

Upcoming Events

Las Vegas Open, Jan. 9th, 4PM at the Showboat Casino. Held in conjunction with the IJA winter festival. 415-871-4197 for info.

1996 World Championships. July 18th at 12 noon at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, South Dakota. This is held in conjunction with the Annual convention of the International Jugglers Association and during the entire week (July 16th through the 20th) there will be Yo-Yo and Spinning Top workshops and activities as well as juggling. 415-871-4197 for info.

California State Championships. May 18th at 11 A.M. in downtown Santa Rosa. Yo-Yoers can march in the Rose Parade prior to the contest. For info call John Stangle, 707-542-1417

West Coast Regional Competition, July 27th. Santa Rosa, CA. For info call John Stangle, 707-542-1417.

New England Yolympics, May 25th. Portsmouth, N.H. For info call Bill Alton, 603-427-2473.

Club Notices

Unless otherwise noted, these clubs welcome anyone to come to their meetings. Lessons, sales, trading and fun to be had.

Santa Rosa, CA - Wille Birds' Flyers meets the first Saturday of every month, 1 P.M. at the Willie Bird Restaurant, 1150 Santa Rosa Ave. Contact John Stangle, 707-542-1417.

Wash. D.C. - Yo-Yo Share, Show and Practice meets the third Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 P.M. in the fellowship hall of Grace Presbyterian Church at Grace and Bath streets,

Springfield, VA. Contact Dick Stohr for info, 703-451-3439.

Minneapolis/ St. Paul, MN - Anyone interested in forming/joining a club in this area should contact Val Krantz, 612-929-1271.

San Francisco, CA/Bay Area - There is a sizable Yo-Yo community in this area that gets together upon occasion but not on a regular basis. If you would like to hook into this network and be notified of events, contact Dale Oliver, 415-871-4197.

If you have a Yo-Yo club or would like to start one, send your information to the AYYA Club News, 439 Northwood Dr. , South San Francisco, CA 94080.

String Source

Yo-Yo string is a hard thing to find these days and no one seems willing to sell small amounts through the mail, so I will fill the void. Send checks or M.O. to Dale Oliver, 439 Northwood Dr., S. San Francisco, CA 94080.

These are all type #8, 100% cotton string. 5 strings - \$1.00 including postage.

100 strings - \$7.50 plus \$1.25 shipping

1000 strings - \$45.00 plus \$4.00 shipping

California residents add 8.25% sales tax.

WOOD IS GOOD

By Bill deBoisblanc

When it comes to performing the full variety of looping tricks, you simply cannot beat an old fashion wooden yo-yo. On the other hand, the modern day, rim weighted plastic yo-yos are clearly superior for length of spin and string trick versatility. The aluminum Silver Bullet could also be added to this category.

Perhaps since I grew up with the one piece wooden Duncan Tournaments (model 77), that I could hand craft to my specifications with a piece of sand paper and about an hours labor, I may be a bit prejudice.

To me, a good looper is one that loops, hops the fence, punches the bag and performs inside/outside variations of these tricks in a rather stable manner with minimal tendency to unexpectedly flip out of control for no apparent reason. A well set up Tom Kuhn 3 in 1, the old Hummingbirds (and hopefully their predecessors by What's Next Mfg.) and, of course, the Swedish made American Spinners can all meet this standard.

It is my opinion that the design parameters responsible for the long spin performance of the rim weighted plastic yo-yos are the very same ones which make them inherently unstable for looping tricks which require the yo-yo to turn over once during each loop. The even more radical weight distribution of the butterfly configuration leads to greater instability.

As you all have undoubtedly already experienced, a yo-yo will loop straight out parallel to the ground when the gap is just right for the length and weight (or ply) of the string. If the gap is too wide, the yo-yo tends to loop upward and if too narrow, it wants go downward. I have found that many wooden yo-yos, particularly the three piece ones, often come with gaps that are too wide for peak performance. Whereas, the American Spinners and their clones from Canada Games come with gaps that that are too narrow and axles that are too thick in diameter requiring considerable sanding to improve their performance. This is a better situation than the former since you can't easily make a wide gap smaller. With a little labor of love, you can create an unparalleled looper from these one piece Swedish yo-yos that will perform just right for type of string you prefer.

On the down side, these wooden yo-yos are quite heavy, ranging from 1.7 to 2.2 ounces. For

many players, this is simply too heavy for their liking, especially if they like to play for long periods of time. These yo-yos also don't sleep very long or play well on the string when compared to an average plastic yo-yo with a wooden axle. However, the heavier weight does seem to make punching bag tricks easier to perform when compared with a light weight plastic yo-yo. This is most pronounced with the Russell Professionals which are excellent loopers (some players would rate them number 1), but not the best for punching bag or reach for the moon type maneuvers.

My number one problem with plastic yo-yos like the ProYos, the Terminator and also the aluminum Silver Bullet is that for seemingly no reason they will go out of control while performing inside outside looping tricks. This problem is especially annoying when doing two-handed tricks which don't allow you the luxury to concentrate totally on one yo-yo. Although a lot of practice can greatly improve your control and minimize this tendency as you develop just the right touch, the inherently unstable weight distribution which is simply not well suited for looping will get you sooner or later.

In summary, it is my humble opinion that the Tournament shape of most wooden yo-yos is considerably more stable than the rim weighted configuration of long spin plastic yo-yos and it is this shape that is responsible for their superior looping characteristics. Conversely, most high performance plastic yo-yos are clearly superior to their wooden counterparts for performing picture tricks requiring long spins and string tricks, such as man on the flying trapeze and more complicated variations. Since I am a two-handed player, and most two-handed tricks are looping maneuvers, I use wood for two-handed play and use plastic exclusively for one-hand play. Thus, truly enjoying the very best of both worlds of Yo.

TOP TALK

There have been a number of requests to have some articles on spin tops included in the News. Since there are quite a few of us that spin tops as well as Yo-Yos, I'll give it a try and see what kind of feedback we get. Since I know that the question will come up, here's where you can get what I believe is the best top available in the U.S.. The Toycrafter, owned by Don Olney, makes a number of tops. The best one for the type of play the true top spinner engages in is the Monarch. It is a good, hollow plastic, non-take-apart, spinning top with a plastic no-mar point. You can contact them at 1237 E. Main St. , Rochester, NY 14609. 1-800-433-8697 or Email - gyrotop@aol.com

The next best thing would be a "Snap-Top" or "Pop-Top" from Duncan. The problem with this top is that they often are not well balanced, and vibrate excessively. The following article will teach you how to fix that. It is written by Herman Lau. I have seen quite a few top spinners in my life and I have no problem saying that Herman does more tricks with a spinning top than anyone I have ever seen. He has invented more tricks than most top players can do, myself included, and he is a real pleasure to watch.

Balancing Plastic Snap Cap Spin Tops

By Herman Lau

Many people have a problem learning the spin top because the tops they use are not balanced. The tops spin very roughly, vibrate or wobble making it impossible to do many of the tricks. As a result, many people mistakenly believe that the tops are not well made. The following method of balancing a top applies to any plastic spin top with a snap off cap. These type of tops are still being made by several manufacturers and readily available.

1. Find the cap position that gives the least amount of vibration. Spin the top and note how

smooth or rough it is. Then take the cap off, rotate it 180 degrees and replace. Spin the top again. Is it smoother? If not, return cap to its original position. Occasionally, for some tops, that is all that's necessary to balance your top. In the vast majority of cases however, the top will still need balancing. Proceed as follows remembering to keep the cap in the same position throughout the remaining steps.

2. Get some Blue-Tac. They are also known as Stic-Tac, E-Z Tac, Fun-Tac and other names. It is a sticky clay-like substance used mainly as an adhesive. They can be obtained from discount drug stores, stationery stores and supermarkets. They are usually blue, but they do come in different colors. Break off a small piece the size of a pea. Knead it into a ball.

3. For clarity and ease of explanation, look at the inside of the spin top cap as if it was the face of a clock with the two prongs of the cap at the 12 and 6 o'clock position. Stick the ball of Fun-Tac at the 3 o'clock position on the inside rim of the cap next to the edge. Replace the cap and spin the top noting how smooth or rough it spins. Next remove the ball of Fun-Tac and stick it at the opposite side (in this example with the blob of Fun-Tac at the 9 o'clock position). Replace the cap and spin. One side will always give a smoother spin than the other. Observe which side gives the smoother spin.

4. At this point, if the vibration has not been eliminated, it should be considerably dampened. In most cases you can still fine tune the top by moving the pellet of Fun-Tac up or down along the side you found in step 3 that gave the smoother spin. The top should now be balanced enough that you can use it for any top tricks from the simple to the most difficult. It is at this point that you've found the point on the cap perimeter where proper weight would give a perfect spin.

5. If the spin is not perfect, i.e., if there is still a slight toughness while it is spinning, then the final step is changing the size (and therefore the weight) of the Fun-Tac by adding more or using a smaller pellet at the some point you found in step 4. Once balanced, the point of a perfectly balanced top should be absolutely still when spinning on a hard surface or on the palm of your hand. In fact, if the top is perfectly balanced, you will definitely feel a pronounced eerie lightness to it while it is spinning on your palm.

6. Additional tip: Make sure the side of the point is smooth. If not, scrape it smooth with a knife, sand it down, or replace the tip. Otherwise, even though the top may be perfectly balanced it will feel slightly rough while spinning on your palm.

With practice, you should be able to balance any plastic snap cap spin top with the above method in less than 5 minutes.

One more word about tops.

By Dale Oliver

Forget wood. I guess that's two words, isn't it. Anyway, the story I hear most often from adult males is about the wooden top with a nail spike that they played 'war' with when they were young. So there is the nostalgia thing and wood is what you may remember. And there are some pretty wooden tops out in the marketplace. But, because of the weight distribution, a wooden top will just not spin as long as a good, hollow plastic one. Go ask your physics teacher if you don't believe me.

AYYA RECORDS

Here we go with a whole new thing. Send in your claims and/or your officially certified records and they will be recorded for posterity.

There are two categories. CLAIMS and OFFICIAL RECORDS. Claims are just that. While we want to

take everyone's word as to what has transpired, claims will be listed separately from official records. Official records must be witnessed by a contest judge or other unbiased persons such as elected officials or media personnel. There will be time allotted at AYYA competitions for record attempts.

Rigging of the Yo-Yo or Yo-Yo string and the type of Yo-Yo must be included in the report. That means that records (such as those reported in Guinness on looping) must include any string swivels used, type of string other than regular string and whether the loops were inside, outside or both and what kind of Yo-Yo was used.

Categories will be left open at this time.

CLAIMS

2-handed Reach for the Moons

310 - Pro-Yos by Dale Myrberg, SLC, UT

2-handed outside loops

300 - Coke Yo-Yos by Dale Myrberg

Trapeze Barrel Rolls (# of times stacked on the string and back off)

5 - Alox Yo-Yo - Bill deBoisblanc, SF, CA

OFFICIAL RECORDS

Longest spinner - to extinction

51 seconds - Pro-Yo w/.125 axle by Dale Oliver, S. San Francisco, CA

Fastest spinner

14,300 RPM-SB-2 Transaxle by Dale Oliver

11,400 RPM - Pro-Yo by Dale Oliver

Around the Worlds

26 - Pro-Yo w/.125 axle by Dale Oliver

102 - SB-2

Suggested new records to set.

Longest spinner, w/transaxle

loops, 2-handed loops, Milk the cows

AYYA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held Sept. 30, 1995 at the Holiday Inn in Chico, CA. There were 15 members present (4 Board Members - Dale Oliver, Donna Duncan, Ben Serkin & Hans Van Dan Elzen).

Results of issues put to the general membership (already reported in the Sept. issue) were noted. The most discussed topics were around the issue of more member involvement in the AYYA and encouragement to get any local event organizers involved with the association. There were Action Committees formed and committee chairpersons appointed. If any member wishes to volunteer for any of the committees, please contact the chair of that committee. They are as follows:

Competition Rules - Bill deBoisblanc

Finance- Board Members

Historical- Don Duncan

Membership - Tom Van Dan Elzen

Promotion/fund raising - John Stangle

Records of Competitions - Dale Oliver

Membership is now up to 153 an increase of over 50% in the last year.

The treasurers report stated that income from dues was \$1,749.00. \$692 paid to the YYT for

subscriptions, \$211.44 paid for AYYA contest Trophies and banner, \$24 in bank charges, \$817.45 in postage and member material, leaving a balance with last years carryover of \$685.46.

Collectors Corner

We've had a couple of queries on how to get started collecting. Start collecting. Sorry, I was compelled to say that. You can start by going to swapmeets, antique stores, second hand stores and just keep asking if people have any old Yo-Yos laying around. This is what avid collectors do in their spare time. Make yourself a card with your name and phone number and what it is you are looking for and give it to anyone you think might run across a find for you. If you start buying anything that comes your way, you will soon find yourself with a lot of Yo-Yos that most collectors wouldn't be interested in. You also might run into some real jewels. Learning what is common and what is rare and how much each is worth is the problem that any collector of anything is faced with. When Chris Cook gets his book on the market (expected sometime in '96) it will be a great boon to the beginning and casual collector. Until that time, it might be better to stick to certain categories such as:

Older wood Yo-Yos with readable brand markings (most of these are going to run from \$5 to \$50 depending on condition and how common they are]

Character Yo-Yos Super heroes, Disney, TV , Cartoon.

Wooden Jeweled Yo-Yos (pre 1970s \$15 to \$80)

Sports Yo-Yos Footballs, baseballs, bowling balls, golf balls, tennis balls, soccer balls, hockey pucks and by different mfgs.

Particular brands Duncan, Festival, Dell, Alox, Royal, Cheerio, Hyker, Fli-back, Goody, Filipino Twirlers, Russell/Coke Yo-Yos, [mostly outside the U.S.], Spectra Star Yo-Yos [present day plastic but there are a bunch of different models and models go out of production and new ones come in - not good Yo-Yos but may be the collectibles of tomorrow].

Ad specialty Yo-Yos. There are millions of them out there and they are usually cheap. They have company logos on them and sometimes there have been thousands of them made and in other cases maybe only a hundred or so. You might decide to specialize in

Yo-Yo patches or string packs. Specializing is an easier way to get a good collection. When you ask dealers and friends to look for you, they know what you want and you can give them a good idea what you will pay. Collectors that go for anything and everything end up buying Yo-Yos they really don't want just to keep their agents looking for them. Decide where you want to start, then just do it.

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S A N D H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !

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