



**NATIONAL
PLAYOFF
SPECIAL**

Pétanque Times

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Vol. 2 No. 3

May-June 1995

CHAMPIONSHIP PREVIEW

Top US Players Compete May 27-28, Sonoma

Winning Trio Goes To World Championships

By Mike Norton
Task Force Chairman

Anticipation continues to build as we make final preparations to host the 1995 West Coast National Championship of Pétanque. During Memorial Day weekend, the very best players in the nation compete for \$1,500 in prize money and the honor of representing the United States in the International Federation's Triplets Championship to be held next September in Brussels, Belgium.

The winning team takes home \$750 and a championship award. The second-place winner collects \$375. And a prize of \$200 goes to the third-place trio.

For those teams eliminated early from the championship, there is a double elimination *consolante* event. \$150 for first place, \$85 for second. We're also planning special prizes for certain categories of teams not sharing in the top prize money. These include best Northern California team, best Sonoma Valley team and best women's team.

Absolute registration deadline is Friday, May 19. No late registrations accepted. That means a registration form must be received by that date. Registration fee is \$60 per team. At least two members of each team must be U.S.

citizens; and all players must be 1995 FPUSA members. (We recommend you bring your license.) Teams may be male, female or mixed.

On Sunday morning, players not entering the championship may register and play in the *consolante* tournament. The fee is \$7 per person. Those teams eliminated from the championship are automatically entered in the *consolante* for no additional fee.

Festivities commence with an informal wine and cheese reception at the VOMPC courts starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26. Team draws are held at this time.

Tournament play begins on Saturday, shortly after the welcoming and introductions at 9:30 a.m. Box lunches are provided to all participants on Saturday. The box lunches are also available for purchase by spectators. Closing matches on

the first day start about 4 p.m.

On Sunday, *consolante* registration opens at 7:30 a.m., with play starting after the draw at 8:30 a.m. Continuation of championship play begins at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is available for purchase by both players and spectators. *Consolante* play should end about 4 p.m. The championship semi-finals are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and finals for 5 p.m.

A festive awards banquet and raffle drawing follows at Andrews Hall, with a reception beginning at 7 p.m. *We look forward to a great turnout and a lot of fun.*

"If you're planning to enter the Nationals, better hurry. Friday, May 19, is the final deadline for registration!"

FESTIVE BANQUET, RAFFLE, FOLLOW FINAL MATCHES (See inside story)

From the president...

A Touch of Pride

All of us can be especially proud of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club this year. VOMPC is now the third-largest pétanque club in the entire nation. And for the first time, we hold the honor of hosting an FPUSA national pétanque championship. Our club will be well-represented in that competition, too.

On behalf of all members of the club, I want to thank Mike Norton and his small band of task force volunteers who are working so very hard to make this national championship tournament an outstanding event here in Sonoma.

And I want to offer a very special thanks to our wonderful sponsors. Their generosity and support for our club is deeply appreciated.

—Byron Mayo

National Championship Sponsors

Dry Creek Inn
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Pasta Nostra Ristorante
Ravenswood Winery
Richardson Winery
Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa
Sonoma Valley Inn
The Sonoma Wine Exchange
Zino's Ristorante

Two-Day Nationals End With Big Banquet, Raffle

VOMPC members and all FPUSA tournament players are invited to enjoy an evening of fun and feasting Sunday night, May 28, after the final national championship match.

The festivities begin with a no-host reception at 7 p.m. followed by a full-scale banquet that includes gourgeres, crudité and charcutrie platters, Sonoma breads, generous cuts of prime roast of baron of beef, amora, roasted potatoes, fresh green salad, local cheeses, fruit platters, loaded plates of chocolate squares, coffee and premium Sonoma Valley wines. All for only \$30 per person.

At the end of the feast comes the awards and the drawing for hundreds of dollars worth of raffle prizes. For banquet reservations, send your check now to VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476

Two Summer Leagues!

In response to the strong member interest, two different Summer Leagues are in the works for the VOMPC this year.

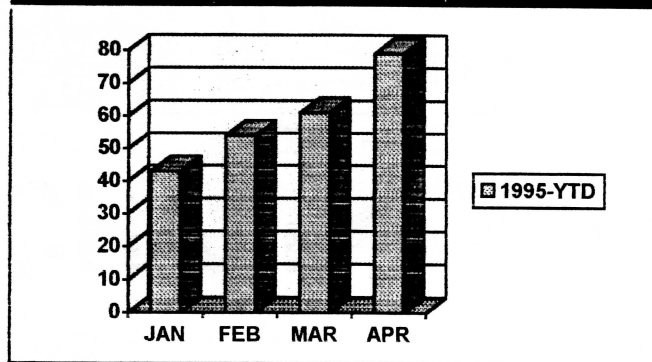
One will be our traditional *singles* competition, coordinated by Frank Pipal. The other will be a new *doubles* league, coordinated by Steve Katz and Paul Verdone. Two inserts in this issue of the 'Pétanque Times' offer information on both leagues—along with registration coupons. May 31 is the final deadline for signing up. Yes—you are welcome to enter both events. If you have questions, call Frank, Steve or Paul.

Don't miss out. *Use the coupons—and sign up now* for a great summer of pétanque, in our Valley of the Moon.

The Umpire's Box...

Because of extra FPUSA coverage this month, we are not featuring our popular *Umpire's Box* in this issue. However, it will return in the July-August issue.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP AT RECORD HIGH



With the return of Ricko Castro and Tom Noonan and with eight new members in April, our VOMPC membership now stands at **79**—an all-time record high. Let's welcome new members Verna and Don Lantz, Dominique Sands and son John, David Ogaz, Ken Brown, David Rizzo and John Noonan.

Newcomers Tournament Scheduled for June 25

Once a year the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club puts on an enjoyable, easy-going, random-triplets tournament in which at least one member of each team must be new to the game of pétanque. It's called, appropriately, a *Newcomers Tournament*—and it's one of the club's most popular events of the entire year.

The Newcomers Tournament this year will be Sunday, June 25, with Steve Katz and Chuck Fleming as coordinators. It's a day that offers everybody who has ever been curious about pétanque an easy opportunity to learn and to play and compete and have fun. It's also a great chance for new players to join the club—and for recent new members to get better acquainted with our VOMPC pétanque court regulars. As we move into June, you'll hear more about this happy-go-lucky event. For now, just mark it on your calendar: June 25.

Twenty-two Teams Enter 'Wine Country Classic'

Sunday, April 23 in Sonoma, was a perfect day for pétanque. Sixty-six players on 22 different teams came from throughout the Bay Area to compete in our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club's 'Wine Country Classic'—the opening tournament of our new season.

It was a tough, hard-fought, select-triplets competition. A strong *Boule D'Or* team that included Jacques Biscay, Pat Vaslett and Yanny eventually won top honors. Second place went to one of our own VOMPC teams, starring John Boultdt, Mike Norton and David Ogaz. They fought a good fight to the end. Veterans Maurice Ebollito and Martin of *La Boule Joyeuse* along with John Etcheverry from *Pétanque Marinier* took third place.

The courts were in top condition, thanks to the Saturday and early Sunday work of Chuck Fleming, Yves Casabonne and a few other VOMPC volunteers.

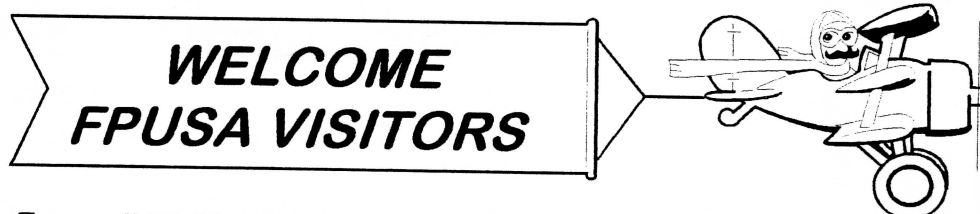
All 22 competing teams were invited to enjoy a pre-game glass of fine *pastis*, compliments of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club. It was a grand day—from beginning to end.

Great Prizes in Club Raffle

How would you like an overnight rendezvous in one of the Valley's best hotels or inns, dinner for two at one of several charming restaurants, or an assortment of Sonoma Valley's finest premium wines?

These are some of the great prizes that will be awarded in the national championship raffle that winds up the club's big Sunday night awards banquet, May 28.

You get six raffle tickets for only \$10. Ticket-holders must be present at the banquet in order to win. So chances are good for everybody who attends. Raffle tickets will be sold at the reception and at the banquet. For advance tickets, call Mike or Byron.



From all 79 Members of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Barsocchini, Christine
Barsocchini, Frank
Berthoud, Claude
Bosko, Jane
Bosko, Bob
Bouldt, Annick
Bouldt, John
Brady, John
Braun, Ken
Bricca, Monique
Bricca, Tom
Brown, Ken
Camby, Jean
Camby, Robert
Casabonne, Annette
Casabonne, Yves
Castro, Ricko
Clayton, Garrick
Dalmau, Jean Marie
Des Pois, Jon
Easley, Steve
Evans, Carol
Evans, Thom
Fleming, Chuck
Friebertshauser, Gayla
Friebertshauser, Mark
Frigard, Bruce

Gilman, Whitney
Jean, Claud
Joske, Maryse
Joske, Pierre
Katz, Morris
Katz, Steve
Lantz, Verna
Lantz, Don
La Torre, Carole
La Torre, Joe
Larrieu, Joe
Leveau, Kathy
Leveau, Philip
Markson, Jean
Mathieu, Jennifer
Mathieu, Jacques
Mathis, Peter
Mayo, Mary
Mayo, Byron
Moilanen, Eldon
Mujic, Al
Neils, Josette
Neils, Bud
Noonan, John
Noonan, Tom
Norton, Susan
Norton, Mike

Ogaz, David
Pease, Joyce
Pease, Steve
Pipal, Frank
Pipal, George
Poli, Roger
Reece, Myron
Riffo, David
Sands, Dominique
Sands, John
Sandtner, Ed
Scott, Juliett
Sottile, Renato
Spencer, Lee
Stieper, Barbara
Stieper, Ken
Toulon, Jan
Toulon, Louis
Troia, Susan
Troia, Salvatore
Turconi, David
Vatinelle, Jean Marie
Verdone, Paul
Wetherbee, Jan
Zitzewitz, Judie
Zitzewitz, Rob

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Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476

Officers and Directors: Byron Mayo, president — Jacques Mathieu, vice president —
Mike Norton, treasurer — Steve Katz, secretary — Pierre Joske, director of sports —
Chuck Fleming, director — Frank Pipal, director

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club
PO Box 863 Sonoma, CA 95476

SHOWTIME!
For the Nationals