



Pétanque Times

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Grand Concours de Pétanque, Bastille Day Barbecue, June 16

*Premiere Event of the Year
Sponsored by Ravenswood*

WE'RE celebrating Bastille Day on Sunday, June 16, with the seventh annual *Grand Concours de Pétanque*—a random triplets tournament and lavish luncheon with fine Ravenswood wines.

Considered by many to be VOMPC's "premiere event of the year," this annual celebration starts with early registration, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$5. Tournament play starts promptly at 11 a.m. on the Valley of the Moon pétanque courts. Special awards and cash prizes go to the winners, including 1st place Consolante.

Summertime Feast Planned

During the 1:30 p.m. luncheon break, we feast on barbecued prime beef brochette, spicy French sausages, new potato salad Dijonnaise, coleslaw Lorraine, Sonoma French bread, fruits, ripe cheeses and a complimentary glass of Ravenswood Wine. Cost for the luncheon is \$12 per person.

Tuesday, July 11, is the final deadline for luncheon reservations. Write Byron Mayo, VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, 95476. Or, call (707)-935-1069. (Sorry, no late luncheon reservations can be accepted.)

It's a grand event—sponsored by our friends at Ravenswood, "where serious wines are made by people who believe wine should also be fun."

Don't forget: Reservations for July 16 luncheon must be made by Tuesday, July 11.



DOUBLES PARTNERS (Photo by Tom Noonan)

Newcomers Tournament Draws A Red-Hot Crowd

LAST Sunday, June 25, was a sizzling, +100° day in the Valley of the Moon. Still, 27 sweltering sun-lovers turned out for VOMPC's annual Newcomers Tournament, coordinated by Chuck Fleming and Steve Katz.

It was a random triplets competition with beginners positioned on most of the teams. Tom and Monique Bricca along with Chris Barsocchini won 1st place, in a close match against 2nd-place winners John Bouldt, Whitney Gilman and newcomer Wes Whitman. Along with their cash prizes, each player on the 1st place team won a complimentary dinner at Renato Sottile's *Pasta Nostra Ristorante*.

Tom Noonan, Dominique Sands and Renato Sottile won 3rd place. Bill Carter, George Pipal and Rob Zitzewitz captured the Consolante.

VOMPC Now No. 1 in US, Surpasses LA, NY Clubs

WITH 89 active members on the roster, our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club has moved ahead of Los Angeles and New York to become *the largest federated pétanque club in America*, according to André Dollé, national FPUSA secretary. Los Angeles Pétanque Club is second. La Boule New Yorkaise is now third.

Let's give a warm welcome to ten new members who helped put us over the top: Susan Blue, Vera Bozinovich, Bill Carter, Howard Gorbach, Cory Maguire, Judy Mendel, Dan O'Donnell, Paul Porter, Wesley Whitman and Barton Zachofsky.

Eighteen Players Enter Summer Singles Series

The popular Summer League Singles are back, coordinated by Frank Pipal. Eighteen players entered the random draw—to makeup two unnamed divisions, with eight players in each division.

1.—John Bouldt, Jon Des Pois, Chuck Fleming, Jacques Mathieu, Peter Mathis, Mike Norton, David Ogaz, George Pipal, Myron Reece.

2.—Byron Mayo, John Noonan, Tom Noonan, Dan O'Donnell, Frank Pipal, Dave Rizzo, Renato Sottile, Louis Toulon, Sal Troia.

Trophy and cash prizes are planned, with a playoff to decide the champion.

Pétanque Video Available

The club now has an excellent video cassette of the 1994 *Championnat du Monde* held at Clermont-Ferrand. On this 60-minute video, you get a close-up view of the world's finest pétanque players in action during championship competition. If you would like to borrow it for home viewing, call Byron Mayo, 935-1069.

From the president...

All the news in this issue of *The Pétanque Times* leaves little room or need for any comments "from the president." This is a great, big, exciting year for our club. Let's keep it going!

—Byron Mayo

Thursday Night Doubles A Big Hit This Summer

THURSDAY night doubles are proving to be the new rage of the 1995 Summer League season. A surprising total of 34 members signed up. Matches are underway.

Coordinators Steve Katz and Paul Verdone say the operative word for Summer League Doubles is 'FUN.' And they divided the 37 entries into "Black and Blue" divisions—with six all-male teams in the Black division and 11 couples in the mixed Blue division.

Black Division: Steve Katz and Paul Verdone—Louis Toulon and Byron Mayo—Morris Katz and Roger Poli—Bob Bosko and George Pipal—Claude Berthoud and Peter Mathis—Frank Pipal and Sal Troia.

Blue Division: Annette and Yves Casabonne—Barbara and Ken Steiper—Vera Bozinovich and Bruce Frigard—Cory Maguire and Dave Rizzo—Judy Mendel and Tom Noonan—Susan Blue and Bill Carter—Gayla and Mark Frieberthauser—Chris and Frank Barsocchini—Monique and Tom Bricca—Annick and John Bouldt—Kathy and Phil Leveau.

New Drinking Fountain

At the far NW corner of the courts, you'll find a handsome new drinking fountain. And it works! This was a joint project of the City of Sonoma and the Club, arranged by Pierre Joske. Chuck Fleming handled the ground work and installation, with special woodworking donated by Myron Reece. Our thanks to all three.

National Tournament A Resounding Success, 84 Players Compete

Four VOMPC Triplet Teams Reach Championship Quarter-Finals

IN an exciting, two-day extravaganza, four of our VOMPC teams proudly made it to the quarter-finals in the 1995 National Pétanque Championship—before losing to out-of-town sharp-shooters.

Eighty-four pétanque players on 28 teams entered the May 27-28 event, which ended in a grand night of feasting and celebration at historic Andrews Hall

Decisive Final Match.

A red-hot Boule D'Or team—Raymond Nielson, John Krauer and Andrew Loi—captured the championship in a decisive 13-1 win over Christian Triay, Patrick Fraigoun and Jean Zanella of the Los Angeles Pétanque Club. *Nielson, Krauer and Loi will be one of two teams representing America at the Championnat du Monde next September in Brussels.*

Third place in the championship round went to Los Angelenos Pierre Metzoiian, Dolores Bush and Stephen Bush. They edged out a determined Willits team which included Michael Stahl and a father-son duo, Bruce and Trevor Fisher.

**“This was the best-run
championship tournament
I’ve ever played in.”**

In a double-elimination, Consolante tournament, J. Mathieu, Jon Des Pois and Chuck Fleming of the VOMPC lost a 13-0 finals match on Sunday against another strong team from Northern California—Ebollito, Martin and Martin,

The crowd favorite, however, was a hard-playing women’s team. Jean Chavez and Susana Garcia from Willits and Susan

Blue from Sonoma soundly beat several all-male favorites. They made it through the opening rounds of the championship playoffs, then went on to reach the semi-finals of ‘Consolante II’.

Locals in Quarter-Finals

The four local teams that did make it into the quarter-finals of the championship (with at least two out of three players on each team from the VOMPC), included: Mike Norton, John Bouldt and Armand Sequitieri—Frank Barsocchini, Tom Bricca and Vladimer Zaroudny—Sal Troia, Peter Mathis and Ken Steiper—Bart Zachofsky, Byron Mayo and Edmund Ghione.

It was a profitable, smartly-run tournament, from beginning to end.. One widely known Frenchman and perennial critic summed it up well at the Sunday night banquet, when he stood up and said, “This was the best-run championship tournament I’ve ever played in.”

Stiepers Win a Big One

In a 13-12 final match, Barbara and Ken Stieper captured first place and *La Pétanque Marinier*e’s massive, Northern California Commemorative Cup, April 9, in San Rafael. It was an exciting match to watch. Our VOMPC congratulations to Barbara and Ken.

The Umpire’s Box...

Q. What happens if I toss a boule during a tournament and it goes outside the string borderline of my court? Is the boule dead ?”

A. No, it is not dead. Any boules crossing the marked lines that divide two courts can still be played. However, any boules hitting the wood barriers or going *outside* the wood barriers are definitely out of play.

(If you have a question about pétanque, ask the Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. Answers are certified by our Director of Sports, FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

From the 1995 Nationals in Sonoma, May 27-28



(Photo by Tom Noonan)

TRIPLETS TEAM WINNERS: Andrew Loi, Raymond Nielson and John Krauer

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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

COMING ATTRACTIONS JULY & AUGUST

2 July	Backyard Pétanque Lamorinda Pétanque, Lafayette
9 July	Mixed Doublette (1 man, 1 woman) Pétanque Marinier, San Rafael
16 July	Random Triplets 'Grand Concours de Pétanque' VOMPC, Sonoma
13 Aug	Select Doublette (2 men, 2 women) Pétanque Marinier, San Rafael
20 Aug	Random Triplets La Boule Joyeuse, Menlo Park
27 Aug	Select Triplets Annual Championship VOMPC, Sonoma