



Pétanque Times

Vol. 2 No. 1

Sonoma, CA

Jan.-Feb. 1995

National Playoffs Here Sonoma Selected for USA Tournament

(Alexandria, VA) --The Federation of Pétanque/USA has selected the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club as the host club for the 1995 'Champonnet du Monde Qualification-West'.

It's official. The 1995 national playoffs are coming to the Sonoma Valley, Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29. This prestigious, FPUSA Qualification-West playoff tournament will determine one of two *select-triplet* teams to represent the USA at the world championships next fall in Brussels, Belgium. The other top-ranked USA team will be decided at a similar playoff tournament in the east.

Recognition for VOMPC

"The selection of Sonoma for this major national event is a tribute to the growth and success of our club over the past three years," says Byron Mayo, 1995 VOMPC president. "Now the exciting challenge is to make this a highly successful and enjoyable occasion for our national visitors. At the same time, we'll all get to enjoy watching some of America's finest pétanque players in action. And I expect some of our own VOMPC players will be right in the middle of the action, too."

Blue-Ribbon Committee Named to Coordinate Memorial Day Weekend

Mike Norton, who played a key role in winning the national federation's vote for the VOMPC and Sonoma, has agreed to head-up a special task force to organize and plan for the big national playoff event to be held over Memorial Day weekend. This super tournament, to be held under the auspices of the VOMPC, will be the largest pétanque event ever scheduled in Sonoma.

In addition to Mike Norton, the special task force includes John Bouldt, Jean Markson, Jacques Mathieu, Susan Norton, Frank Pipal, Ken Stieper and Louis Toulon. If you would like to join this blue-ribbon group and help out, call Mike at 938-9128.

**Happy New Year To
Pétanque Lovers !**

Pre-Season Pétanque, Potluck Party Planned At 'Little Switzerland'

"Let's have some fun -- and get ready for a great season ahead." That was a New Year's resolution last week, when club directors announced plans for an early spring get-together at 'Little Switzerland' on Saturday, March 25, for VOMPC, spouses and invited guests.

Fun Starts at 11 a.m.

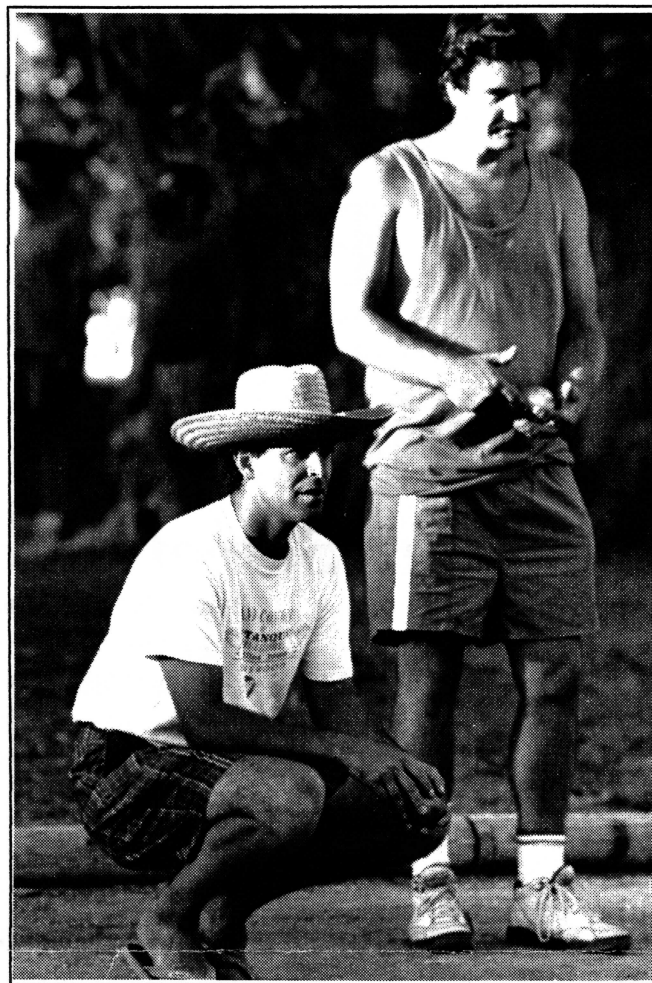
It's not a scheduled tournament. This pre-season party will be an easy-going afternoon of potluck food and drink, socializing with friends, and plenty of pétanque. With perhaps some "shoot and point" games along the way.

The party starts at 11 a.m. Annette and Yves Casabonne have graciously offered their new 'Little Switzerland' picnic and pétanque facility as the location. No charge. And Yves has even promised to fire up the barbecue for everybody who wants to use it.

Saturday, March 25

Mark this down on your new 1995 calendar: *Saturday, March 25.* At 'Little Switzerland,' in El Verano. It's a pre-season pétanque and potluck party for VOMPC members, spouses and invited guests only. Sorry, no dogs or children at this one. Bring some potluck and your best boules, and we'll see you there.

FOUND: At the pétanque courts. Set of three JB 710 boules. Code B72. Call Byron. 935-1069.



Aw go ahead...SHOOT! (Photo by Tom Noonan)

New Depot Park Sign At Pétanque Courts

That ugly faded, badly-battered, graffiti-ridden Depot Park Museum sign at the pétanque courts has been demolished. In its place, we now have a fresh, newly-painted Depot Park Museum sign which also identifies the 'Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts'.

Our club worked closely with the Sonoma Valley Historical Society on this long-overdue project. The new sign went up shortly before Christmas -- just in time for the new year. We're pleased with the results. Next time you're at the courts, check it out and see for yourself.

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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

Chuck Fleming Heads Grounds Committee

Our VOMPC pétanque courts will be in great shape for the 1995 tournament season. That's because Chuck Fleming is taking on responsibility for the grounds, in coordination with Pierre Joske, our director of sports. However, Chuck can't do the job alone. He will need a few good men to help. Remember that, when Chuck puts out a call for a work crew session. .

VOMPC Ends The Year With 77 Total Members

With three more new entries, our club closed out 1994 with a record total of 77 members. Welcome to Robert and Jean Camby of Rohnert Park and welcome back to David Turconi of Sonoma.

The Umpire's Box...

Q. "What do you do when two boules belonging to two opposing teams are touching the cochonnet – and both teams still have boules to play?"

A. The team that played the last boule plays again. If nothing changes, the other team then plays. Each team continues to alternate throws until a change does occur. If the round ends with two boules still touching the cochonnet, the entire round is declared void. You start over. The cochonnet is thrown by the team that won the previous round.

(The Umpire's Corner is a new feature in our club's newsletter. If you have a question on pétanque procedures you'd like answered, send your query to The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. All answers are certified by our Director of Sports and FPUSA umpire, Pierre Joske.)

From the President:

Very Good Times Ahead

Your club's 1995 board is a lively, enthusiastic and dedicated bunch. That was apparent during our initial board meeting. This is a hard-working group that's not only determined to put on some exciting tournaments, but also to generate more VOMPC pétanque get-togethers where the goal is simply to have a lot of fun with friends and fellow club members. That's the ambiance and tradition of pétanque. A great example coming up is the March 25 get-together at 'Little Switzerland' for members, spouses and invited guests.

There are very good times ahead for our club. And we want you to be an important and continuing part of it. The membership renewals are due this month. Please, take a moment now and send in your dues for 1995. Remember, too, we welcome your thoughts and ideas for the club -- anytime.

-- BYRON.

Seven Tournaments Set For Big 1995 Schedule

Seven FPUSA-sanctioned events are planned for our club in 1995 -- one more than last year. It's an ambitious schedule that begins with the new 'Wine Country Classic,' a select triplets tournament in April -- and ends with our popular select doubles tournament in late October.

In between will be the fun of informal pétanque parties, the excitement of the national playoffs, plus more to come. For example, another 'Willits Challenge' is in the works. John Bouldt has been appointed to work with the Willits club on the dates and arrangements.

On the back page, is the full line-up to date. More details will follow.

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club
Sonoma, California
1995 Calendar of Events

25 March	---	Members' Pre-Season Party
23 April	Triplets/Select	'Wine Country Classic'
27-28 28-29 May	Triplets/Select	FPUSA Qualification-West Championship
25 June	Triplets/Random	Newcomers Tournament
16 July	Triplets/Random	'Grand Concours de Pétanque'
27 Aug.	Triplets/Select	VOMPC Annual Championship
24 Sept.	Triplets/Random	Harvest Tournament
22 Oct.	Doubles/Select	October Tournament

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Pétanque Club
PO Box 863
Sonoma, CA 95476**

**Look
What's
Coming
Up !**