



Pétanque Times

Vol. 3. No. 1

Jan.-Feb. 1996

NINE TOURNAMENTS, 1996



THREE DIRECTORS AND "THE KID"

(Photo by Tom Noonan)

(L to R) Jacques Mathieu, Chuck Fleming and Barbara Stieper offer advice to 10-year-old P.J. Mallette, the club's youngest member and future star.

"Hey, Gang...Let's Have a French Country Picnic!"

Come high noon on Sunday, March 10, at our VOMPC pétanque courts, we're welcoming in the new season with a French Country Picnic for club members, families and guests. So get ready for a celebration—some good food, good fun, good friends, and plenty of pétanque.

The menu: Your choice of white beans and lamb—or lentils with sausage and carrots. With Artisans' bread and Sonoma Valley wines. *All for only \$5 per person.*

Along with the feast, we'll conduct some skills workshops on pointing, shooting and strategy—plus informal pétanque as you like it, all afternoon.

The focus will be on the fun—and it'll be a great time to come get acquainted, re-acquainted, and polish your skills for the new season ahead.

An RSVP would be appreciated. Call Dave Rizzo, 539-5933—or Frank Barsocchini, 938-5745—or Barbara Stieper, 938-0342.

Important: If it rains Sunday, March 10, we'll do it on Sunday, March 17. Same time. Same place.

New Schedule Sets Record For VOMPC

The club's new board jumped off to a fast start this week with a blockbuster announcement that nine and possibly even ten VOMPC tournaments are planned for the upcoming 1996 Sonoma pétanque season.

The schedule as planned sets a record for the most tournaments held by the VOMPC in any one season.

"This is an ambitious schedule," says new VOMPC president Jacques Mathieu, "but we can handle it if we get a few more volunteers to help in tournament coordination."

It starts with a random triplets opener on Sunday, March 24; and the action continues every month until the season closes with a popular doubles event on October 27.

As a *ninth* tournament, plans call for a double-header weekend in which a women's event will be played on the Saturday preceding a regular Sunday tournament.

For the complete 1996 VOMPC schedule, see back page.

Umpire's Box...

Q. I tossed a boule that hit the end barrier. I called it out-of-play, but I didn't remove it from the court. My partner's next boule also headed for the end barrier. But it hit into my boule. So his boule didn't go out of bounds. *Two Questions:* 1.) Was my partner's boule still alive and in play, where it was stopped by my "dead" boule? 2.) Just who is responsible for removing a dead boule?

A. 1.) Your partner's boule definitely was still in play, because it did not go out of bounds.

2.) Nobody is specifically "responsible" for removing a dead boule. However, it's obviously to the advantage of an opponent to take the boule out of the game immediately. If it's not removed, it's valid once the next boule is thrown.

(If you have a question about pétanque you'd like to submit, write to the Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. Answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

No dues increase

VOMPC dues for 1966 will stay at the same level they have the past four years—despite an increase from \$7 to \$8 in the cut the FPUSA takes from the club for each membership.

Women Play A Key Role in VOMPC Plans

Big Tournament for Women Only in 1996

Look for women to play a more important role in the plans and affairs of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Barbara Stieper, the club's new vice-president, made that clear at the first meeting of the 1996 board of directors, when she proposed the board search for ways to get more women playing on our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts.

She went on to introduce a proposal that the club plan on one and possibly two Saturday tournaments in Sonoma this year for women only.

Select Triplets Planned

Barbara's proposal was enthusiastically adopted. And Saturday, June 22, has been tentatively set for a VOMPC all-women select triplets tournament—one day ahead of the club's open select triplets tournament scheduled for Sunday, June 23.

The board agreed also to consider a second all-women's tournament, random triplets, and to firm up both dates, once FPUSA plans are settled for selection of the women's national triplets team.

The women's select triplets *world championships* will be held this summer in Pori, Finland, July 5-9.



YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP REPORT

☺ We celebrated the end of the year 1995 with 102 members—by far the largest membership in the history of the club. Give a warm welcome to new members Edith and Bernard Murith.

Geo. Pipal Wins

Up in Willits on Nov. 5, George Pipal of the VOMPC and Jean Chavez from the Willits club teamed up to win first place in the Willits Boules Club's Fall 1995 random-draw tournament.

Their names are now engraved forevermore on the Willits club's perpetual trophy honoring the event.

(Congratulations, George.)

Names on Shirts

When you order a Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club sport-shirt this year, you can get your name *embroidered* on the shirt if you'd like, for an extra \$3.

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'Pétanque Times' is a bi-monthly newsletter of Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, a California non-profit corporation, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA. 95476. Byron Mayo, editor & publisher

VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Jacques Mathieu, president
Barbara Stieper, vice-president
Frank Pipal, treasurer
David Rizzo, secretary
Chuck Fleming, director of sports
Frank Barsocchini, director
Steve Katz, director

Pipal Picked As National Editor For the FPUSA

At the behest of Louis Toulon, our own Frank Pipal is taking on the job of national newsletter editor for the Federation of Pétanque/USA. (Congratulations, Frank!)

The federation has been without a national newsletter and editor since Harry Dubetz of Arlington, Virginia, quit in mid-1995 after about two months on the job.

The previous editor, Jean Robert Guénard of McLean, Virginia, resigned at the end of 1994.

Meanwhile, on the local scene, Byron Mayo has agreed to continue editing and publishing the "Pétanque Times" bi-monthly newsletter for VOMPC members.

Marin Election

The close ties between *La Pétanque Marinier* and our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club were in evidence at the Marin club's recent annual election.

Bart Zachofsky was elected president of *La Pétanque Marinier* and Ken Stieper was elected vice-president.

Bart and Ken are also members of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Toulon-Norton Ticket Wins FPUSA National Election

In a major shift of direction from East to West, the leadership of the national Federation of Pétanque/USA now rests squarely on the shoulders of two members of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Louis Toulon, who has long held dual membership in *La Pétanque Marinier* and the VOMPC, has been elected president of the FPUSA.

Mike Norton, former VOMPC president and treasurer, has been elected FPUSA vice-president.

Other FPUSA officers, who will continue in their present national positions, include: André Dollé of San Diego, secretary; Max Legrand of Los Angeles, treasurer; and John Krauer of San Francisco, director of sports.

The three Northwest counselor posts will be held by Gerard Canabou, Pascal Gravier and Bart Zachofsky.

John Krauer of *La Boule D'Or* and Bart Zachofsky of *La Pétanque Marinier* are also members of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.



PICTURE OF A POINTER

VOMPC member Bob Bosko demonstrates the form that has made him one of the five most respected pointers on the court this past year.

(Photo by Tom Noonan)

Don't Forget. This is the month to pay your 1996 VOMPC membership dues.



Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club 1996 Tournament Schedule

	Sunday, March 10	Pre-season celebration	French Country Picnic
1.	Sunday, March 24	Random Triplets	Season Opener
2.	Sunday, April 28	Select Doubles	Wine Country Classic
3.	Sunday, May 26	Random Triplets	Newcomers' Tournament
4.	Saturday, June 22*	Select Triplets	All-Women's Tournament
5.	Sunday, June 23	Select Triplets	Open Tournament
6.	Sunday, July 14	Random Triplets	Grand Concours de Pétanque
7.	Sunday, August 25	Select Triplets	VOMPC Championship
8.	Sunday, Sept. 22	Random Triplets, Mixed	Harvest Tournament
9.	Sunday, Oct. 27	Select Doubles	Open Tournament
* The June 22 date is subject to change			

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club
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**BIG YEAR
AHEAD
FOR THE
VOMPC !**