



Pétanque Times

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March-April, 1996

Revised Date Set for Picnic

Pre-Season Celebration On March 17

The French Country Picnic for 1996 club members, families and guests has been shifted from March 10 to Sunday, March 17, starting at high noon, it was announced this week by VOMPC directors.

According to Dave Riffo, picnic chairman, the club will be picking up a good share of the luncheon expenses, *so the cost for members and their guests will be only \$5 per person.*

The menu includes your choice of white beans and lamb, or lentils with sausage and carrots—with prize-winning breads and Sonoma Valley wines.

Helpful workshop tips on pointing, shooting and strategy are also planned for the day, along with informal pétanque all afternoon.

"The focus is on fun," Dave says. "It'll be a great time to come get acquainted and re-acquainted, as we head into an exciting new pétanque season."



Photo Traverso—Cannes

PÉTANQUE ON THE RIVIERA...circa 1960

In this rare photo, courtesy of Pierre Joske, a crowd gathers to watch a French champion play in a high stakes match near the harbor of Cannes.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PICNIC

If you're planning to attend our French Country Picnic on March 17, we need your reservation by next Monday, March 11. That will give the hard-working committee time to order the right amount of food and wine for this fun-filled event. Don't put it off. Call today!

Call any of these numbers:

Dave Riffo—539-5933

Barbara Stieper—938-0342

Mathieu's offc.—939-9925

Court Surface Review Project

A new VOMPC grounds committee is now considering various plans for the Sonoma pétanque courts playing surfaces.

The special committee includes Chuck Fleming, Frank Barsocchini, Bob Bosko, Tom Bricca, Tom Noonan and Mike Norton.

According to Chuck and Frank, an open meeting will be held soon to discuss the committee's final report and recommendations.

UMPIRE'S BOX...

Q. My loud-mouthed opponent tossed a boule that hit the sideboard and then rebounded into my boule, knocking my boule away from a good position I held, very close to the cochonnet. Did I have the right to put my boule back into its previous position, close to the cochonnet? Or should my boule have stayed where it was after being hit by his dead boule?

A. In a friendly Sonoma game, where both sides are agreeable, you put your boule back where it was before your opponent's boule hit it—because your opponent's boule was out of play once it hit the sideboard.

In a big tournament, however, most competitors will insist that you can do that only if you had the position of your boule marked. That's the correct, literal, hard-line ruling.

(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.)

Random Triplets Planned for 1996 Season Opener

The 1996 pétanque season officially opens for the VOMPC on Sunday, March 24, with a wide-open, random triplets tournament on tap as our first competition of the year. So get your 1996 dues in now. Be ready when the fun begins.

Registration is set for 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tournament play will start promptly at 10 a.m.. No late registrants will be admitted.

"However, one good complimentary Ricard pastis eye-opener at sign-in may compensate for the early starting time," says Frank Barsocchini, tournament coordinator.

Entry fee is \$5 per person. Cash prizes go to the winners. Bring your own lunch for the break.

Barbara Wins At Marinière

Barbara Stieper starred on the winning team in La Pétanque Marinière's first tournament of the season—a "Triplette Mixed, à la Mêlée" held in Marin on a sunny Sunday, February 11.

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'Pétanque Times' is a bi-monthly newsletter of the 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

Five New Trees Coming Soon for VOMPC Courts

Five Sycamore saplings have been ordered by the club for planting at our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts. Three of the young plane trees will replace trees destroyed last year by vandals. The other two will be added to further enhance the overall setting.

According to J. Mathieu, club president, volunteers will be invited soon to a tree-planting party

Tournaments To Start Earlier

Our upcoming 1996 VOMPC tournaments will get started about one hour earlier than in past years, it was decided at the club's last board meeting.

Registration will be 8:30-9:30 a.m. with tournament play starting at 10 a.m.

"This will help solve the problem our across-the-bay visitors encounter, trying to get home after a late, late finish in Sonoma."

Combined 1996 Bay Area Tournament Schedule

Many of our friends in other Bay Area pétanque clubs come to Sonoma for our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club tournaments. This year, they would like to invite more and more VOMPC members to do the same thing—come enter their tournaments, too. So to help further this friendly idea, we are presenting here a combined *Bay Area* schedule for 1996. Enjoy.

Sat. March 9	La Pétanque Marinière	Women's Nationals—Select Triplets
Sun. March 10	La Pétanque Marinière	Northern California Commemorative Cup Doublette Select(1 man 1 woman)
Sun. March 24	VOMPC	Random Triplets
Sun. April 7	La Boule Joyeuse	Easter Sunday, Family Picnic & Pétanque
Sun. April 14	La Pétanque Marinière	Triplette Mixed, à la Mêlée & Picnic—Lentils & Sausage
Sun. April 28	VOMPC	Wine Country Classic—Select Doubles
Sat. May 11	La Pétanque Marinière	Tête à Tête—one against one
Sun. May 19	La Boule d'Or	Triplette Select
Sat.-Sun. May 25/26	La Boule d'Or/ La Boule Joyeuse	Nationals—Select Men's Triplets (at Menlo Park)
Sun. May 26	VOMPC	Newcomers' Tournament—Random Triplets
Sun. June 9	La Pétanque Marinière	Triplette Mixed, à la Mêlée—Annual Picnic
Sun. June 16	La Boule d'Or	To Be Announced
Sat. June 22	VOMPC	All-Women's Tournament—Select Triplets
Sun. June 30	La Morinda Pétanque Club	Triplette Select (One random player)
Sun. July 7	La Boule d'Or	Triplette Select
Sun. June 23	VOMPC	Select Triplets
Sun. July 14	VOMPC	Grand Concours de Pétanque—Random Triplets & Bastille Day Luncheon
Sun. July 28	La Pétanque Marinière	Doublette Mixed—Tentative
Sun. Aug. 4	Willits Boules Club	To Be Announced
Sun. Aug. 18	La Boule Joyeuse	Select Triplets, Mixed
Sun. Aug. 11	La Pétanque Marinière	Doublette Select. Men's Div. & Women's Div.
Sun. Aug. 25	VOMPC	VOMPC Championships—Select Triplets
Sun. Sept. 8	La Pétanque Marinière	Triplette Mixed, à la Mêlée—Free Annual Picnic for Members
Sun. Sept. 22	VOMPC	Harvest Tournament—Random Triplets, Mixed
Sun. Sept. 29	La Morinda Pétanque Club	Triplette, Select
Sun. Oct. 13	La Pétanque Marinière	Doublet Select (One man & one woman)
Sun. Oct. 27	VOMPC	Select Doubles
Sun. Nov. 10	La Pétanque Marinière	Open



Coming in April:

2nd Annual Wine Country Classic

When we get new growth on the vines and the yellow mustard is in full bloom, we know spring has officially arrived in our Valley of the Moon.

That's when we're celebrating this year with our second annual Wine Country Classic—a popular tournament that will again draw pétanque players from throughout the Bay Area.

This Bacchanalian event is scheduled for for Sunday, April 28. It will be a hot, select doubles tournament. Registration will be from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tournament play will start at 10 a.m. Five dollar entry fee per person.

Mark this one down on your calendar. And start looking for a partner now. You'll be glad you did!

This is Your Last Issue of The Pétanque Times Newsletter...

...if you have not yet paid your 1996 dues and do not renew by March 31. That's the deadline. On that date, any unpaid members will be dropped from club membership.

VOMPC club dues help cover the cost of upkeep and improvements at the pétanque courts, flyers and other event mailings, our bi-monthly newsletter, postage, club tournaments, partial cost of social events such as the March 17 French Country Picnic—plus membership in the Federation of Pétanque /USA, FPUSA tournament eligibility, and insurance.

If you haven't already done so, please send in your renewal check *today*.

An Invitation:

Board Meetings Are Open

There are no secrets in our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club. The VOMPC board meetings are wide open.

Any member of the club is welcome to sit-in on these monthly deliberations and see the kind of volunteer effort that goes into making the club function.

That's a message the directors want to get out to all of our membership.

The board meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month. Locations are usually rotated among directors' homes.

If you're interested in attending a board meeting, you'll be warmly welcomed. Just let any director know in advance, if possible, so the host or hostess that evening will know how many people to expect.

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

*You are invited to a
French Country Picnic!*

Mary & Byron Mayo
880 Oak Ln.
Sonoma, CA 95476