



Pétanque Times

Vol. 3. No. 3

May-June, 1996

Welcome Newcomers May 5

Annual "No Pressure" Tournament Scheduled This Coming Sunday

The club's annual random triplets tournament, planned especially for pétanque newcomers, is all set for this Sunday, May 5.

Originally planned for May 26, the date was changed by the board of directors in order to avoid a scheduling conflict with the national men's triplets competition taking place that same weekend in Menlo Park.

One of the club's most popular events of the year, the VOMPC Newcomers' Tournament is organized so that each team includes at least one beginner—new to pétanque.

This mixes beginners with club regulars. It takes the pressure off. And it offers anybody who's ever been curious about pétanque an ideal chance to come learn the game, meet some friendly pétanque people and have a rousing good time.

Earlier Registration This Year

Registration takes place 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Coordinators then draw names for the teams. Play gets underway at 10 a.m.

The tournament will break for lunch after the opening *barrage* round, according to Chuck Fleming, tournament coordinator.

"This is a good time to bring your friends and neighbors, too, and introduce them to the fun of the game and the camaraderie of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club."

Cash prizes go to the winning teams, including the *Consolante*.

(Photo by Tom Noonan)



SPRING BREAK IN SUNNY SONOMA... A bunch of the boys were whoopin' it up on our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts

Late News Flash:

April 28 Tourney Winners

Here are the winners in last Sunday's select doubles event—our annual "Wine Country Classic," coordinated by Jacques Mathieu. (36 teams entered.)

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|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st place | John Krauer & Raymond Nielsen (13-0) |
| 2nd place | Patrick Vaslet & Jacques Biscay |
| 3rd place | Monique & Tom Bricca |

Consolante: Maurice Ebolitto & Gerard Canabou

13-12 Score Wins 1st Place In '96 Opener

In one of those tight, down-to-the-wire games, Garrick Clayton, Bill Carter and Jeannette Krauer won the VOMPC's March 24th opening tournament of the new season.

They edged out a strong Number Two team, Mike Norton, Bill Miller and Claude Berthoud, in an exciting 13-12 final.

Third place went to Fernand Navez, Terry Boden and John Swearingen.

Maurice Ebollito, PJ Mallette and Susan Blue won the *Consolante*.

Coordinated by Frank Barsocchini, this smoothly-handled random triplets event attracted 36 players, who launched the new season with complimentary *pastis* along with their pétanque.

New Sycamore Trees Planted

New Sycamore saplings are now in the ground next to the path that borders the east side of the courts.

These young trees replace the ones destroyed last year by vandals.

Chuck Fleming and Jacques Mathieu handled the planting job, with hands-on help from Cody Mathieu.



Pétanque Personals

Congratulations to Patrice and Jon Des Pois, who were both surprised and delighted on April 15 by the early arrival of a good-looking baby boy they proudly named Patrick Beau Des Pois. All goes great with Patrick and Patrice and Jon.

Congratulations to Morris and Anne Katz who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary June 23. That's 50 years together! Steve Katz and the entire Katz family plan a big party in their honor

Congratulations to Maryse Joske who was the star of a surprise birthday party on April 28. With Pierre and her family all around her, Maryse happily celebrated her 60th birthday.

Congratulations to Maurice Ebolitto who was royally entertained on his 70th birthday last weekend. Dolly planned a grand dinner party in his honor with loads of friends and family on hand, up and down the table.

(If you have personal news you would like to share with your pétanque friends, let us know. This new column is designed to keep us all up to date on what's happening within our burgeoning VOMPC family.)

Oenothera In Under Trees

The new plants you see at the courts under the Sycamore trees are *Oenothera berlandieri*—better known as the Mexican Evening Primrose.

Once established, these hardy perennials thrive in rough, tough conditions, such as the dividing strip on a pétanque court.

Frank Pipal grew the plants, donated them to the club, then planted and watered them in, himself.

Frank, we are all deeply grateful to you.

New Members Join the Club

A warm welcome to Pamela Stephens, who has rejoined the VOMPC, and to seven more new members: Patrice Des Pois, David and Christiane Parker, Bill Miller Carson Silkey, Monica McKey and John Swearingen,.

Total club membership is now up to 73, with the summer season still ahead.

June Tournaments:

Saturday, June 22, it's a select triplets All Women's Tournament. Then, Sunday, June 23, it's an open, select triplets event. You'll hear more about these, early in June. Start thinking about who will be on your team!

Court Surface Changes Proposed by Committee

*May 9 Membership Meeting Scheduled
To Review Committee Recommendations*

A new proposal to further upgrade the surface of our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts was issued this week by the club's 1996 grounds committee.

According to Frank Barsocchini, a leading member of the group, the final plan divides into two parts:

1.) It was agreed to leave the lower court (closest to the bench) as is. However, some bare spots on the playing surface will be covered with a small amount of gravel to match overall lower court conditions.

2.) It was agreed to cover the upper or northern court with a liberal amount of small gravel (1/8" or less).

The purpose of the gravel is to provide VOMPC members with a challenging surface that hopefully will help them to improve their skills—especially shooting.

An open meeting to discuss the committee's proposals will be held at our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts on Thursday, May 9, at 5:30 p.m. This meeting will give interested VOMPC members a chance to review details of the plan with committee members, voice their opinions, and have a say in the decision on type of gravel to be applied.

The special grounds committee was named earlier this year. The VOMPC board asked the committee to evaluate various ideas and to recommend any club action on what has been a long-standing question among members:

What kind of playing surface do we want on our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts?

Members of the 1996 committee of six include Chuck Fleming, Frank Barsocchini, Bob Bosko, Tom Noonan, Tom Bricca and Mike Norton.

THE UMPIRE'S CORNER

Q.

A longtime member of the club told me that at the start of a match, you toss the cochonnet out first—and then draw a circle on the terrain.

I'm a new member of the club and new to the game. So I didn't question his advice. But it doesn't make sense to me. If you don't draw the circle on the ground first, how can you tell if your throw is 6 to 10 meters from the nearest edge of the circle?

A.

Good question. The fact is, you received bad advice.

At the start of a match, a player on the team winning the coin toss draws a circle on the ground. Then, and only then, does a player on that team toss the cochonnet, while standing with both feet inside the circle.

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

Time to Sign up for Summer Leagues

It's Back Again: Original VOMPC Singles Format

For all of you purists, this is it.: *Tête à Tête* competition. One-on-one singles. Head-to-head. Pure pétanque.

Whatever you call it, this is the summer league that answers the question: *Who's Number One in the VOMPC?* And it's a lot of fun—from beginning to end.

The new Summer League Singles start on June 1, coordinated this year by Byron Mayo.

Deadline for signing up is May 15. A coupon is in this issue of the newsletter.

We'll draw names for two divisions and you arrange to play a match with the others in your division, at your convenience.

Cash prizes and more go to divisional winners. We'll have a playoff tournament, too. So if you don't win your division, you still may make the playoffs.

You'll get all the details when you sign up.

WHAT A PICNIC!

Fifty-two members and guests had a great time March 17 at our pre-season French Country Picnic.

They gorged on lentils with sausage and carrots, white beans and lamb, local breads and fine Sonoma Valley wine.

The club owes a big vote of thanks to Barbara and Ken Stieper for their culinary wizardry on the lentils and sausage, Roger Poli on the white beans and lamb, Dave Rizzo for the overall planning along with cups, plates and charcoal, and to Jacques Mathieu for a food and beverage donation that amounted to almost \$200.

Merci beaucoup.

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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

Easier Format Planned for 1996 Summer Doubles

You asked for it—the return of Summer League doubles in an easier format. Not so many teams in each division. An earlier start date. And a more flexible schedule.

According to Steve Katz, Summer League Doubles coordinator, we will have an all-men's division, a mixed doubles division, and if there is enough interest, an *all-women's division*.

The start date is June 1. The sign up deadline is May 15. Use the doubles sign up coupon that's in this issue of the newsletter. (For VOMPC members only.)

Cash prizes go to the winners of each division plus a grand prize for the overall doubles champion.

"We're looking forward to our doubles matches as a time for friendly, sociable get-togethers," says Steve Katz. "When you sign up, we'll send you all the particulars."

VALLEY OF THE MOON PÉTANQUE CLUB

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TO: