



Pétanque Times

Vol. 4. No. 1

Jan.-Feb. 1997

FPUSA Picks Sonoma!

REMEMBER THOSE LAZY, HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER?



Bill Carter and Bob Bosko were captured by Bruce Frigard on camera as they languidly watched a sizzling hot Summer League Singles match

VOMPC Bid Wins 1997 National Tournament

Singles Championship Scheduled May 24-25

Starting the New Year off with a bang, the FPUSA this week announced that our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club has won the bid to host the FPUSA's 1997 singles championship.

Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, the prestigious two-day event will be coordinated by a special VOMPC task force that includes Tom Bricca, Peter Mathis and Jon Des Pois.

On May 25, second day of the tournament, the VOMPC will also host an open random triplets tournament.

"This *side* tournament will give single players who are eliminated on Saturday a chance to compete again on Sunday," according to Tom. "This should be an added draw for people who will have traveled long distances to play pétanque."

Preview of '97 Club Schedule:

Are you ready for this, pétanque fans? Well, the spring season, it starts early this year. And our enthusiastic new VOMPC board has okayed an all-out schedule to get you going.

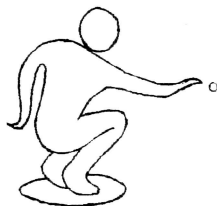
The fun begins March 23 with an easy, informal family picnic along with a premier, member/guest select doubles tournament.

From that point, it keeps on going and going with a major tournament scheduled every month—ending with a select doubles event on October 26.

A few surprises are planned along the way, too, according to our club's new president, Frank Barsocchini.

Details on all of the year's events, including the national singles championship, will be released well in advance, of course, through the club's pre-tourney flyers and bi-monthly newsletter.

Meanwhile, a preview of the year's schedule as it stands now is outlined in this issue, on page four. (*An all-women's tournament may be added to the schedule later.*)



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER

Q. What do you do at the end of a round of play, if the closest boule for each team ends up exactly the same distance from the cochonnet? *Exactly the same!* That happened in a game at the courts last week.

A. Very simple. If that happens and it's the end of the round and nobody has any boules left to play, you declare the entire round void. Then, you start the round over. The cochonnet is again tossed by the team that won the previous round.

(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.)

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"Pétanque Times" is a bi-monthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Byron Mayo, Editor and Publisher.

VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Frank Barsocchini, president
Barbara Stieper, vice-president
Frank Pipal, treasurer
Tom Bricca, secretary
Peter Mathis, director of sports
Jon Des Pois, director
Morris Katz, director.

Board Revises Cost for Family Memberships

The VOMPC must now pay the national Federation of Pétanque/USA eight dollars annually for every member. This covers national FPUSA membership and liability insurance.

In order to avoid a potential loss to the club on our family memberships, the VOMPC board recently revised the group dues structure.

Family memberships in 1997 will be \$30 for a family of two and \$8 for each additional family member up to 16 years of age.

This new approach will provide insurance protection for each family member, still provide a family with an advantageous group rate, and at the same time protect the club from a loss.

At the club's next annual meeting, the directors plan to submit this interim 1997 approach to a vote of the total membership, for revision of the by-laws.

1:30 a.m. Jan. 1

Two hardy New Year's Eve celebrants named Bill Miller and Tom Tetard were spotted on our Valley of the Moon courts at 1:30 a.m., January 1, launching the first official pétanque game of the 1997 Sonoma season.

Our anonymous informant did not report who won.



The Depot Park sign came crashing down in the December windstorms, along with our VOMPC bulletin board. However, the Sonoma Valley Historical Society and the VOMPC have agreed on a joint plan to reinstall the structure, using sturdy new 4 x 6" posts.

Bill Carter has volunteered to handle the job before the start of the upcoming season, with the help of Frank Pipal and Phil Leveau.

Welcome to Our New Members

Dave Porto, the Dave Torri family and Teresa and Mario Pardini all joined the VOMPC recently as new members.

We closed out the year with 107 paid members—a record total for the club.

(This total includes 13 members from other clubs who joined VOMPC as a second club. In joining the VOMPC, such members do not have to pay the \$8 FPUSA fee a second time. And we warmly welcome such interested members.)

Pétanque— Under the Pale Midnight Sun?

1997 World Games Set for Lahti, Finland in August

Bruce Frigard is looking for a few, adventurous souls to join him on a sojourn to Lahti, Finland this summer for the 1997 World Games.

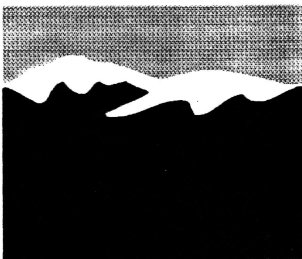
Scheduled for August 7-17, the games will take place in the sports-crazy city of Lahti, located just 400 miles south of the arctic circle, where locals will invite you to play pétanque around the clock under a pale midnight sun.

The World Games is a giant, multi-sports event organized every fourth year for some 36 different sports not yet in the Olympic Games program.

Pétanque competitions and *boule lyonnaise* exhibitions will take place August 9-10.

At these 1997 summer games in Finland, some 2,500 athletes are expected to compete in both individual and team events.

The City of Lahti also has been selected as the site for the Nordic World Ski Championships in the year 2001.



If you're intrigued and want to know more, call Bruce Frigard, 939-9418.

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE PIPAL

With the unexpected death of George Pipal in 1996, all of us in our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club lost a warm and wonderful friend. He will be long remembered.

The following is a letter the club received from Caroline and Frank Pipal.

Dear Pétanqueurs,

Thank you all for the support and kindness we Pipals received from you following George's death. I really didn't surprise us as we know that that's the kind of people you are.

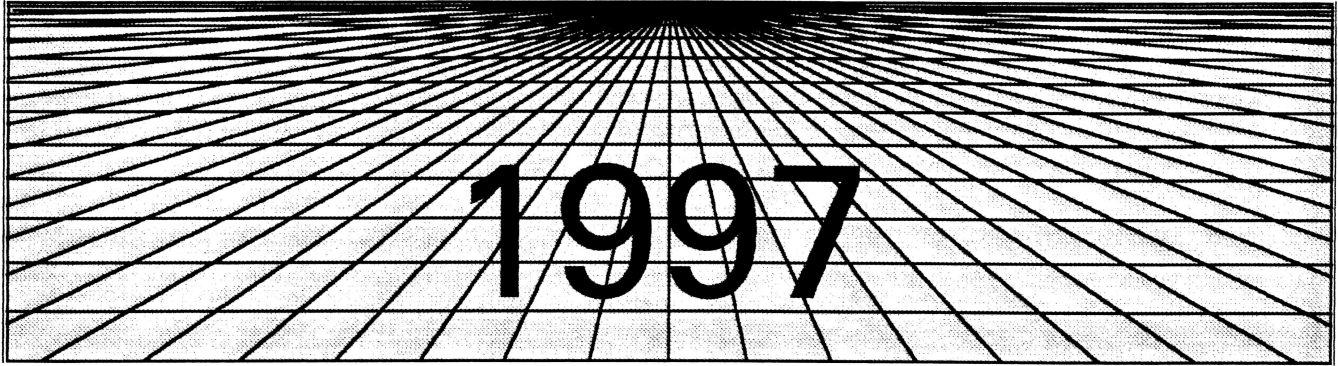
There were cards. There was a beautiful orchid which arrived from the entire club. There were many kind words. It was comforting to us to know that no one had to dig deep for something to say, that your feelings for George were genuine and near the surface.

In the past few years pétanquing had added a new dimension to his "retirement" in California. His career in the news business was always the consuming interest of his life and that never changed. As you probably know, he never did retire, we used to wonder what he would do if he did. Well, for one thing, he would have played more pétanque.

With love and thanks to you all,

Caroline & Frank

VALLEY OF THE MOON PÉTANQUE CLUB



Tentative VOMPC Schedule. Subject to revision in mid-January, when club sport directors meet to consolidate tournament plans for the entire Bay Area.

March 23	Member/Guest Invitational & Family Picnic	Select Doubles
April 27	Wine Country Classic	Select Doubles
May 24-25	FPUSA National Singles Championship	Singles
May 25	Open Tournament	Random Triplets
June 22	Open Tournament	Select Triplets
July 13	Grand Concours de Pétanque & Bastille Day Picnic	Random Triplets
Aug. 24	VOMPC Championship	Select Triplets
Sept. 28	Harvest Tournament	Mixed Random Triplets
Oct. 26	Open Tournament	Select Doubles

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club
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**RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NOW!**