

# Louis Toulon, Frank Pipal, Win National Title

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## Pétanque Times

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# Season Opens Mar. 23

### *New Format: Member/Guest Select Doubles Tournament*

**G**et ready for some fun at the start of our 1997 season. First off, we're introducing a new format: the *Member/Guest Invitational*. It takes place Sunday, March 23. And here's how it works:

You simply invite any non-member, let's say a good friend or curious neighbor, to come out and play pétanque as your partner, in what will be a clean, well-run, *select doubles* tournament.

*Every team entered must consist of one FPUSA member and one guest who is a non-member.*

"It's a great way to introduce new people to the game and to the club," Frank Barsocchini pointed out during the February board meeting at Renato's La Pasta Nostra restaurant.

Frank proposed the 1997 Member/Guest Invitational format and he plans to coordinate personally the entire day's activity.

The tournament entry fee is \$5 per person. Cash prizes and perhaps a couple of surprises are also planned for the winners.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. It closes at 9:45 a.m. sharp, with tournament play scheduled to start with the

first toss at 10 a.m.

The luncheon break runs from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be a delightful family picnic with savory on-site barbecuing.. This is one you won't want to miss.

Call Frank Barsocchini at 938-5745 for reservations—by Wednesday, March 19 at the latest. See adjacent story. —>



### Family Picnic, Barbecue on Opening Day

**T**wo talented chefs, Frank Barsocchini and Ken Stieper, promise some mighty fine eating at the VOMPC family picnic on Sunday, March 23—as part of the club's opening day *Member/Guest Invitational*.

How does this sound, for only \$10 per person?

Barbecued butterflied leg of lamb, string beans a la Ken, freshly-made salad, French bread from the ovens of *Basque Boulangerie*, along with some ripe Brie cheese and juicy grapes.

Tournament players and spectators alike can share in this feast. So come on out and bring the whole family!

**Advance reservations are essential.** (Frank and Ken need to know how much premium leg of lamb to buy.)

**Call Frank Barsocchini, 938-5745, by March 19. That's the cut-off date!**



## THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

**Q.** Two players on the courts last week insisted on calling the little target ball a *bouchon* instead of a *cochonnet*. What's that all about?

**A.** Both of these French expressions are used in the colloquial world of pétanque.

In the south of France, players informally call the little one a *bouchon*, which means a *cork* or *plug*.

In most regions of France, however, and in the language of the official *Federation International de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal*, the little one is called a *cochonnet*, which means *little pig*.

Take your choice.

(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.)

**Don't Forget!**  
Call in your Opening Day  
luncheon reservations  
by Wednesday, March 19

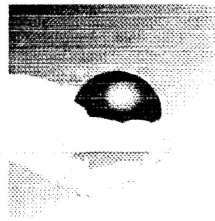
## Planning In High Gear For FPUSA Nationals

**Best Players in the US  
Compete May 24-25**

**T**he top pétanque stars in the US come together in Sonoma this May 24-25, when our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club plays host to the 1997 United States FPUSA singles championship.

Tom Bricca is directing VOMPC planning for the big event, along with Jon Des Pois and Peter Mathis.

Big, big cash prizes are in the works, according to Tom. It's now confirmed, too, that the entry fee of \$20 per team includes lunch on both Saturday and Sunday.



"We're also getting a good reaction to our plans for a random triplets tournament on the second day of the competition," Tom reports. "This will give *tête à tête* players who are eliminated on Saturday a chance to compete again on Sunday."

Full details on the national singles tournament, timing, sponsors, the awards banquet and final prize money, will be announced shortly.

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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.



## At The End of March —The Ax Will Fall

*March 31.* That's the final date each year when any members who haven't paid their membership dues are dropped from the club's membership.

If you haven't yet paid for 1997, please get your check in now. Your membership helps provide improvements and upkeep at the courts; and it provides you with court liability insurance, eligibility for all FPUSA tournaments, the club's newsletter and flyers, plus eligibility for VOMPC summer events. It also makes you an important supporter of pétanque and a part of the fun and the camaraderie that adds so much to our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

## New Grounds Committee

Ask any five members for opinions on the court surfaces and you'll get five different answers.

In a move to maintain a consensus, the board has appointed a new grounds committee which will decide on any issue involving the surface of the VOM courts.

Headed up by VOMPC sports director Peter Mathis, the grounds committee will also include Tom Bricca, Tom Noonan, Bruce Frigard and Ken Stieper.

All five are regulars at the courts. All five have strong opinions.

This will be interesting.

### Tom Tetard in Taiwan

*On a postcard sent to Bob Bosko, Tom Tetard reports that he's been standing deck watches on the bow in sub-freezing weather—from Alaska to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He sends his greetings to all of his friends in the club..*

## Tournament Time Change

Registration time for all VOMPC tournaments in 1997 will be 9 to 9:45 a.m.—one half-hour later than 1996.

(Out of town players convinced us that last year's 8:30-9:30 a.m. check-in time was too early.)

Tournament play this year will start at 10 a.m.

## VOMPC Crowd Turns Out For Wednesday p.m. Work Party

Some guys came ready to work. Some came only to play pétanque. In the end, however, all of 'em rolled up their sleeves and pitched in last month on a cool, gray Wednesday afternoon at the courts.

It soon turned into a big, sweaty, high-spirited, dirt-flying, mid-week, iron-pumping, all-out, satisfying work party.

They cleaned up around the courts, dug a 70-foot-long trench along the low-level, often-flooded south side, and installed plastic three-inch drain pipe.



Then they spread a massive ten-yard truckload of pea gravel around the perimeter and down the narrow middle strip of the courts.

It's lookin' good.

The hard-working VOMPC crew included —Frank Barsocchini, Claude Berthoud Bob Bosko, Tom Bricca, Jon Des Pois, Tom Evans, Chuck Fleming, Bruce Frigard, Morris Katz, Phil Leveau, Jacques Mathieu, Peter Mathis, Byron Mayo, Bill Miller, Tom Noonan, David Ogaz, Frank Pipal, Renato Sottile and Ken Stieper.

### Coming in April: WINE COUNTRY CLASSIC

A nifty select doubles tournament is coming up Sunday, April 27.

It's not too early to pick out your partner for this annual Valley of the Moon appellation event.



**Say "Hello"**  
to 11-year-old Charles Matteo, who joined the VOMPC last month as our first new member of the new year.

Welcome to the club, Charles.

## Memorial to George Pipal

The Willits Boules Club has dedicated a memorial plaque to the VOMPC's George Pipal, who died last November 20. And the club has proposed that the annual Willits-Sonoma Challenge be renamed the George Pipal Memorial Tournament.

In making the proposal, the Willits Boules Sheet said the name change would "honor the sporting gentleman who brought such goodwill between the two clubs (and who won the last two Willits tournaments in which he played)."

# Congratulations to the Champions!

## *Frank Pipal, Louis Toulon, Win National Doubles*

### **Norton-Bouldt Team Also Place in FPUSA Championship Event**

A wintry, windy cold-wave that swept into South Florida mid-January made not a bit of difference to the VOMPC's Frank Pipal and Louis Toulon.

*They were sizzling hot.*

In the final match of the 1997 FPUSA National Doubles Championship at Lakeworth, Florida, January 18-19, Frank and Louis beat the best from the *South Florida Pétanque Club*, Jean Rolland and Jean Arneux, 13-7, thereby winning the FPUSA 1997 national doubles championship and a healthy \$600 prize.

Their decisive win in the finals came on top of another 13-7 victory in the semi-finals, where they defeated two fellow-Californians, Christian Triay and Gerard Canabou.

It was a truly stunning performance for Frank and Louis. Their only close game during the entire two-day

tournament came in the quarter finals, when they ran into a couple of tough young players, Phillipe Henery and Lasse Lost, from *La Boule New Yorkaise*. That match went to the wire, with Frank and Louis eking out a 13-12 win.



John Bouldt and Mike Norton, the other VOMPC team that flew to Florida for the championship, also put on a strong performance.

They sailed through to the quarter finals before losing, 13-1, to two young East Coast champions from the Bethesda club, *La Joyeuse Boule*.

Some 70 enthusiastic fans braved the clear but cold weather to watch the FPUSA

competition. Bundled-up and hunkered down in their aluminum folding chairs, they crowded around the court for the championship finals.

Later, at a barbecue hosted by the *South Florida Pétanque Club*, Frank and Louis received FPUSA "gold" medallions and the \$600 prize.

It was an especially proud victory for Frank Pipal and our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, because it marks the first time that a local Valley of the Moon player has ever won a national Number 1 championship title. (*Last year, Frank Pipal and Peter Mathis placed 3rd in the nationals in Los Angeles.*)

Louis Toulon, who holds a dual membership in VOMPC and in *La Pétanque Marinière* of San Rafael, is no stranger to national honors, however. In 1977-78-79, he represented the United States at the world championships.

Our congratulations to Louis Toulon and Frank Pipal—true pétanque champions.

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club  
PO Box 863  
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**SEASON OPENER**  
**March 23rd**

*The Member/Guest Invitational!*

