



Pétanque Times

Vol. 4. No. 3

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

May-June. 1997

PRIZES TOTAL \$1,800!

National Tête-à-Tête May 24-25

Top Sponsor Support Increases Prize Level

With strong support from our generous sponsors, prize money for the upcoming FPUSA national singles championship now totals \$1,800, according to Tom Bricca, who heads up the VOMPC team planning the big May 24-25 event—for FPUSA members only.

"We expect more than 60 players," Tom says. "This includes about a dozen from our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club. It'll be a great weekend and a lot of fun."

Entry fee is \$20. Lunch is free both days for everyone still in the singles tournament.

Advance registration closes Tuesday, May 20.

If you've lost your entry form or if you have any questions, call Tom Bricca at (415) 897-1910.

Pétanque in Sonoma Featured on KRON-TV



Vern Glenn, KRON-TV's "Mr. Involvement," took a lesson from Louis Toulon recently. Setup by Frank Barsocchini, the hilarious game was taped and ran as a weekend sports feature on Channel 4. (Photo by Tom Noonan)

Awards Banquet at Ravenswood

Wine Country Setting Overlooking Vineyards

Sonoma's super weekend of pétanque, May 24-25, closes with an informal awards banquet outdoors, at nearby Ravenswood Winery.

Tony Najioli, former chef at *Ernie's* in San Francisco, promises a superb provençal menu: *Green bean salad with feta cheese and provençal olives, new potato salad in a mustard vinaigrette, flagolet*

beans stewed with bacon and sweet peppers, grilled saucisson d'ail and chorizo, baguettes, and butterflied leg of lamb Dijon with herbs d'Provence—plus Sonoma Valley wines.

Cost: \$20 per person, \$35 for couples. Send your check by May 20 to the VOMPC Banquet, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

The food and the fun starts at 6 p.m., after the final championship match of the day. (Tip: Bring a jacket.)

Two "Other" Tournaments Sun., May 25

Triples Melee, Doubles

If you're not playing in the FPUSA national singles championship finals on the second day, Sunday, May 25, you'll still find plenty of pétanque action in Sonoma.

Two other tournaments are scheduled for that Sunday, at our Valley of the Moon pétanque courts.

One is an open random triplets event. The other is a select doubles tournament, exclusively for those FPUSA competitors eliminated on Saturday.

Entry fee for each of these "other" tournaments is \$7 per person. Registration runs 9:30-10 a.m.

Pipal Undefeated in Willits Tourney

At the Willits Boules Club's season opener, a round robin singles tournament March 29, home court advantage didn't mean a thing.

VOMPC's own Frank Pipal mowed down the best of Willits, winning *eight* games in a row. He walked away with top money, undefeated.

Frank's remarkable Willits showing continues a tradition set by his late father, George, who was on the winning team in Willits' autumn trophy event in both 1995 and 1996.

National Tête-à-Tête Championship Awards	
Gold	\$ 800
Silver	400
Bronze	200
Fourth	150
Fifth	100
Sixth	75
Seventh	50
Eighth	30

A Big Thanks to Our Sponsors of the 1997 National Tête-à-Tête

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Sonoma Valley Bank
The Cannery
John Walker & Co.
Sonoma Cheese Factory
Swiss Hotel
Steiner's
Coldwell Banker
Cocina Cha Cha

Silent Auction Coming Up

Bundle of Exciting Prizes

As a part of the VOMPC'S big, national Tête-à-Tête weekend, the club has lined up a sensational list of prizes for a silent auction that will take place at the Sunday night banquet, May 25.

Prizes include premium wines, dinners at Sonoma restaurants, pétanque boules. Sonoma cheeses, overnight stays in romantic Sonoma hotels—and more!



The prize board with full descriptions will be displayed at the courts throughout the two-day tournament. And everybody attending the Sunday night banquet can get in on the fun of the bidding.

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"Pétanque Times"

is a bimonthly 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

LET'S PLAY DÉTANQUE!

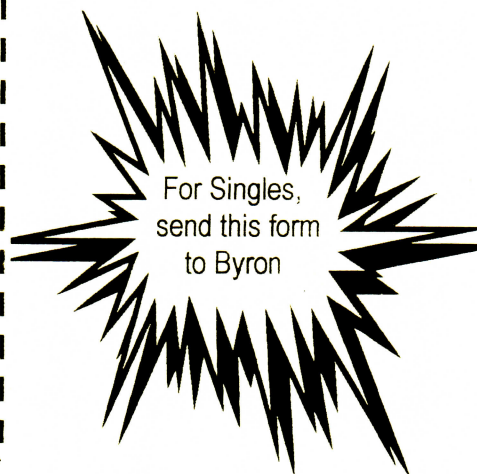
SIGN UP NOW FOR SUMMER LEAGUE.

TO: Byron Mayo
880 Oak Lane (935-1069)
Sonoma, CA 95476

Here's my \$_____. (Entry fee \$10.)
Sign me up for 1997 Summer League *Singles*.

Name_____

(VOMPC Members Only)

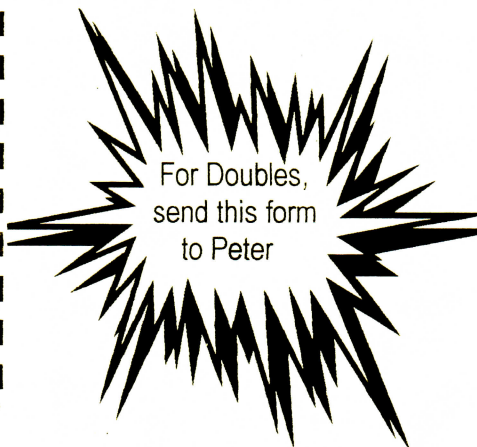


TO: Peter Mathis
560 Hopkins Street (938-2309)
Sonoma, CA 95476

Here's our \$_____. (Entry fee \$20 per team)
Sign our team up for 1997 Summer League *Doubles*.

Names_____

(VOMPC Members Only)



Final deadline for signing up is Wednesday, May 21



SUMMER LEAGUE

HEY! IT'S TIME
TO SIGN-UP!

Singles!

Tête-à-Tête

Doubles!

Doublette

Our popular Summer League is back again! With both 'singles' and 'doubles' competition. More pétanque fun for VOMPC members only.

The 1997 season will run May 31 to Sept. 7 ... with championship playoffs to follow. For cash prizes and extra surprises.

You'll get all the details prior to start date. *The important thing now is to sign-up.* The deadline is Wednesday, May 21. No late entries accepted. So don't wait. Send in your entry fee and entry form *now*.

(Singles \$10—Doubles \$20 per team.)

Any questions? Call either one of our volunteer 1997 Summer League coordinators:

Singles: Byron Mayo, 935-1069

Doubles: Peter Mathis, 938-1960



**Your entry forms are on the
back side of this insert.**



Wine Country Classic

*Canabou, Biscay Win
'Select Doubles' Event*

With complimentary *pastis* to start it off and choice Sonoma wine as prizes along with cash, our March 27th *Wine Country Classic* turned into a rollicking, highly successful select doubles event enjoyed by a field of 28 teams.

It was an all-visitors final. Gerard Canabou and Jacques Biscay edged out Mike Rago and Albert Lucas, 13-12.

Louis Toulon and LA's Max Le Grand came in third.

The Consolante went to Jake Martin and Bob Bosko.

The extra shooting and pointing contests drew an enthusiastic crowd. Jacques Gautier took top money in shooting. Jean Krauer won the pointing competition.

Barbara Stieper ran the full day's proceedings, aided by Tom Bricca, Frank Pipal and Peter Mathis

Select Triplets Set for June

The VOMPC'S first select triplets tournament of the year comes up in Sonoma on Sunday, June 22.

Now is a good time to get your team together and start practicing.

The Legacy of Pétanque

By Jacques Mathieu

More than a thousand words unfold around our picnic table, as I draw for you a mental picture.

Imagine the shady, dusty place of a village anywhere in Corsica or Provence. In the center, the water fountain finally covers the constant cry of the cigales. The afternoon grows older. The light cools down.

School is out. Kids are roaming, teenagers are courting. The café is full. The church is empty, its massive doors wide open in expectation of the cooler air and a few old black-dressed widows.

Everyone is cooling, breathing again.

Imagine now the old right-wing mayor, his younger communist opponent, the priest, the school teacher, the town drunk (still standing at this point) and other characters pacing around, *boules* in their hands. This is pétanque time. The Forum.

Kids are having their own game in a corner. The "notables" are playing the best court. That's the one closest to the gallerie: the Café du Commerce terrace where *pastis* is being served.

This is the nightly dance everyone has learned since birth. Mothers are sitting on benches attending their latest, breathing for a few minutes before the 8 p.m. dinner. They keep a discreet eye on the events around the place.

Once in awhile an argument bursts out somewhere. Quick glances are thrown, a few eyebrows raised, good wit shoots back and the case is over. It's only about a point, a missed shot, lousy pointing—nothing serious. Sighs of relief, understanding smiles are exchanged. In serious cases, the entire gallerie, the ultimate judge, bursts in laughter or boos. Like the passing of a loud truck, we know it's temporary, unimportant but annoying and it won't last long.

It's been that way for years. Who would dare to challenge it?

The pétanque court is the water hole of the animals of the savanna in the diversified community in which we live. It's a need for all players, a truce in our everyday life, a time for anyone to co-exist, to be accepted, tolerated and not feel threatened.

If you can imagine the court again that afternoon, you might even see Mattei's son playing silently with Agostini's. Their families have not spoken to each other for generations for reasons they do not even remember.

I love to go to any pétanque court in France or in Sonoma and mix with people around the water hole. (*Pastis* is OK, too). Nobody is my predator. I do not have to be anybody's predator. The mix there is erratic, weird and loose and I cannot find that in any other social event.

It's a place where we can give a chance to tolerance, acceptance of anyone's weaknesses and recognition of talent. Everyone is to gain for their own reasons.

It's just a game, with little rules and no "Ruler." Winning by points is only a small part of it. Let's help everybody to raise the challenge of this game: *Tolerance* ..

Think about it..



Members, Guests Have Fun, Launch New 1997 Season

Big Family Turnout

On a balmy opening day, 71 members and guests turned out for the family picnic, select doubles tournament and a full day of camaraderie at our March 23rd VOMPC Member-Guest Invitational. Peter Mathis and Gilles de Chambure won the tournament in an exciting finish. Working their way back, point by point, from a 0-9 deficit, they defeated John Bouldt and newcomer Cliff Bond 13-10.

Third place went to Bill Carter and his guest, Grace.

Phil Leveau and Stan Fuller captured the *Consolante* with a 13-4 win over Louis Toulon and Brynne Riffo, 9-year-old daughter of Dave Riffo.



The Barsocchinis (Chris and Frank) and the Stiepers (Barbara and Ken) did a dazzling job handling the lamb barbecue and picnic, with carving table help from Vladimir of Marin. The entire day was coordinated by Frank Barsocchini and Tom Bricca.

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

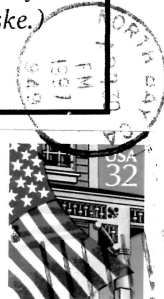


THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

Q. Tell me, what happens if the first boule I toss in a new round goes out of bounds? Do I throw a second boule, to establish a point? Or does my opponent take over and play his first boule?

A. If the first boule played goes out of bounds, the other team then plays. Sorry, you don't get a second chance. That's it!

(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.)



**Michael and Susan
Norton**
48 Aureo Ct.
Sonoma, CA 95476