



# Pétanque Times

Vol. 4. No. 6

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Nov.-Dec. 1997

## Bricca, 1998 President

### *Board Elects Officers For Year Ahead*

#### **Vice President's Job Goes to Mike Norton**

**I**n what was a friendly, two-way contest for the club's top job, Tom Bricca was elected VOMPC president for 1998 at the board of directors' November 11 meeting.

Peter Mathis was the other presidential nominee.

Following a split 4-3 vote, Peter pledged his continued support and agreed to take on the job of director of sports for the year ahead.

Mike Norton, returning to the board after a two-year absence, was named the club's vice president.

Frank Pipal, elected to his second term on the board, volunteered to continue as treasurer. Jean Markson, newly-elected to the board, was named secretary.

Jon Des Pois and Morris Katz, going into their second

year as directors at large, complete the makeup of the club's seven member board of directors for 1998.

In remarks prior to the voting, both Tom Bricca and Peter Mathis emphasized for

1998—a year of picnics and fun on the courts.

*The directors also voted to meet on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 7 p.m., in the back room of the Pasta Nostra Restaurant.*

#### **POST-TOURNAMENT CLEAN-UP**



*(Photo by Bruce Frigard)*

**When the day is done and the prizes won, somebody has to clean up after every tournament. Here, outgoing president Frank Barsocchini shows how it's done—from garbage can to dumpster.**



## HARVEST PANACHÉ

### Total: Fourteen Players

**A**s a “mixed random triplets” extravaganza, the VOMPC Harvest Tournament, September 28th, was a complete flop.

Only two women and a dozen men turned out for the “big” event.

Yet, ironically, the 14 players who did turn out had a rip-roaring time playing mixed-up *Panaché* doubles, in which each player draws a new partner after every game.

Vladimer Zaroudny, the old master from Marin, amassed the highest scoring total in this little roundelay. Phil Leveau came in second. Byron Mayo came in third.

Frank Pipal coordinated the day’s offbeat festivities.

### CORRECTIONS

**1.** In the Sept.-Oct. issue, it was reported that Frank Pipal had donated four sets of boules to the club. The fact is he donated *eight* sets of boules to the club. More than ever, our thanks to Frank Pipal.

**2.** The name of one of Frank Barsocchini’s L.A. partners in the VOMPC’s August championship tournament was Jeannot Zanella—not Jeannot Ruperti as previously reported to the *Pétanque Times*.

## Final Tourney Draws Raves On All Sides

*Big Turnout for Pastis,  
Picnic and Pétanque*

**“O**ne of the best club picnics we’ve ever had.” That’s what they were saying around the Valley of the Moon pétanque court on the heels of our “Fall Classic” select doubles event, October 26. Fifty-one people turned out for the lunch!

The tournament was terrific, too. Twenty-six teams entered. Frank Barsocchini and Jeannot Zanella defeated Jacques Biscay and Gerard Canabou in the finals, 13-6. Vladimer Zaroudny and Charles Davantes took third.

The large turnout forced two *consolante* play-offs. Gerard Martin and Robert Vigmalats won one of them—Emily Etcheverry and Bart Zachofsky won the other.

It was a great day—coordinated by Tom Bricca and Frank Barsocchini—with all kinds of help from VOMPC members on the food and grounds preparation.

Chris Barsocchini, Bill Carter, Tom Evans, Bruce Frigard, Jake Martin, Montana and Jacques Mathieu, Bill Miller, Mike Norton, Frank Pipal, Ed Porto, Ken Stieper and Tom Tetard all pitched in to make this final VOMPC tournament of 1997 a superb event. *Outstanding!*

## Welcome New Members

Johnny Lind  
Charlene and Jack Linkletter  
Antonio Lofaro

## Dinner Crowd Adjourns To ‘Night Court’

### Retiring Directors Honored by Members

**I**t was a night of revelry and camaraderie, along with sincere tributes to two retiring directors and others for jobs well-done.

At the October 18 annual dinner in Zino’s Restaurant, members raised their glasses of *Ravenswood* in a toast to Frank Barsocchini for his accomplishments and his continuing dedication during two years on the board. Then, in an emotional outpouring, the entire room stood in tribute and support for Barbara Stieper in her gutsy fight against cancer.

Barbara and Frank both retire from the board of directors this month.

At the end of the evening, almost half the crowd spilled out of Zino’s and headed for “night court,” alongside the Vallejo barracks, where the camaraderie and pétanque continued until two in the morning. *That’s the good life—in our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club!*



## **Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club CODE OF CONDUCT**

*The purpose of this code is to help promote and  
ensure a civil and genial atmosphere  
on the Valley of the Moon pétanque courts.*

1. The VOMPC membership agrees that civility, courtesy, mutual respect and integrity shall characterize the behavior of members while at the Valley of the Moon pétanque courts, VOMPC functions, or any other FPUSA club functions.
2. The VOMPC membership agrees that it will not tolerate foul or abusive behavior, discourtesy, excessive arguing, belligerence, or any other offensive behavior which detracts from the civil and genial atmosphere of our club.

# More Picnics ... Please

By Frank Barsocchini  
1997 VOMPC president

**P**icture a lazy afternoon, some wine in your belly, good talk, and all the while playing a game that allows it all to happen simultaneously. Pétanque is what you will picture. There are few sports that embody such a civilized and healthful marriage of my hobbies.

After playing pétanque for several years, however, I have developed a competitive urge that creeps out of its hole occasionally and must be satisfied before the social harmony returns.

Trying to create an ideal mix between the recreational side and the competitive side of this sport can be a puzzling and difficult exercise. Ideally, both should occur at the same time. More and more, though, I find myself on one side of the fence or the other—enjoying both equally.

As the solution to this problem, should we hold both *mêlées* and select tournaments simultaneously? Or, should we continue with a monthly, staggered schedule?

Somebody has suggested an **A** and **B** tournament. Under this plan, players who wanted to satisfy their keen, competitive drive would fork up the dollars and play the **A** tournament that Sunday—while those who wanted only

a relaxing day of pétanque would enter the **B** side of the tournament.

Then, there is the format that has stood the test of time in France: direct elimination. The advantages are many. However, if you start poorly you could be eating lunch before noon.

A third option might be to concentrate more on the culinary aspects of pétanque. Those wishing to enjoy a good meal outdoors and play a few games of pétanque could do both and still be home for that afternoon nap—while those wishing to fill their stomachs and their wallets, if skillful enough, could satisfy their competitive desires by playing money games.

In my case, pétanque is the perfect blend of sport and relaxation. And I believe that when we discover the correct format for Sundays at the court, pétanque will flourish.

I don't believe we need large purses for pétanque to grow, although occasionally they are fun. Nor do we need membership drives for faster growth. What will create growth is the proper format ... and I believe a relaxing weekend day enjoying good food, a little wine or *pastisse* and a few games of pétanque is that format.



## THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

**Q.** Today, I shot my opponent's first boule far out of bounds. But my boule went out of bounds, too. No boules remained on the court. My question: When that happens, who plays the next boule?

**A.** When your boule went out of bounds, it became invalid. Out of play. So with no boules on the court, your opponent, who tossed the first boule, would play again.

*(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 bimonthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.  
Byron Mayo, Editor and Publisher.

**Note:** We always welcome news reports or articles, features, photos, and letters for the "Pétanque Times." Send your submissions to Byron Mayo.



# CAMARADERIE IN SONOMA



Photo by Bruce Frigard

## VOMPC "Code of Conduct" Wins Strong Endorsement

### *Now in Effect at Pétanque Courts*

**T**he *Code of Conduct*, endorsed unanimously by VOMPC directors and recommended to the full VOMPC membership, won approval in the club's annual election by an overwhelming margin of 98 percent

Such a landslide victory demonstrates the strength of our members' commitment to maintaining a civil and genial atmosphere on the Valley of the Moon pétanque courts.

Proposals for such a code came from several members after three embarrassing incidents of abusive behavior during summer tournaments.

Now a part of the club's official bylaws, the VOMPC *Code of Conduct* includes both penalties and procedures for the board of directors to follow in considering action against any overt, offensive behavior on the pétanque courts.

1998

### Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club Board of Directors

Tom Bricca, President

Mike Norton, Vice President

Peter Mathis, Director of Sports

Jean Markson, Secretary

Frank Pipal, Treasurer

Jon Des Pois, Director

Morris Katz, Director





## J. Bouldt Wins Summer League Singles Playoffs

### *Second Year in a Row*

**O**ur grand champion in Summer League Singles is John Henry Bouldt—for the second year in a row!

He did it with a two-game sweep over Chuck Fleming in the playoff final, 13-11, 13-6.

The playoff road to the championship was a rough one, however. In the quarter finals, John took three games to defeat Peter Mathis, 13-8, 12-13, 13-3. And Chuck took three games to beat Tom Tetard, 13-11, 3-13, 13-12.

The regular season ended with Mike Norton taking the *Lions'* Division championship and Peter Mathis the *Tigers'* Division championship.

Byron Mayo coordinated the Summer Singles program.

## In Memory Of

### MAURICE EBOLLITO

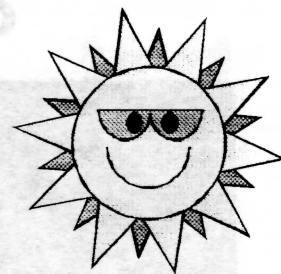
Maurice Ebollito died in September, after a two-year battle with cancer.

He was an impassioned *bouliste* to the end, still coming to our events along with his wife, Dolly, even after his illness prevented him from playing.

A native of Marseilles, mecca of boules, Maurice was a founding member of *La Boule Joyeuse* in Menlo Park and an active member of our VOMPC.

It was his firm belief that the future of pétanque in the USA depends upon strong, vigorous American clubs like ours. We will have to work (and play) hard to live up to that promise.

*To Maurice Ebollito!  
He will long  
be remembered.*



## Mathis-Mallette Win Doubles, Summer League

### *Bouldt-Norton Upset*

**I**n a flashy finish at the Summer League Doubles playoffs, 12-year-old P.J. Mallette and his partner, Peter Mathis, won the grand championship by upsetting the powerful team that led at the end of the regular season: John Bouldt and Mike Norton. The final match went three games: 13-11, 7-13, 13-3.

Third place in the playoffs went to the team of Bill Carter and Bruce Frigard, when the other semi-finalist team, Byron Mayo and Claude Berthoud, relinquished third place without a match.

Ten teams competed in the lively 1997 Summer League Doubles program, coordinated by Peter Mathis.

Valley of the Moon  
Pétanque Club  
PO Box 863  
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*Happy  
Holidays!*