

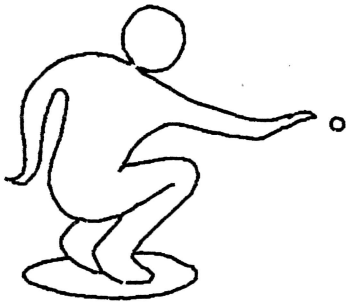


Pétanque Times

Vol. 5, No. 1

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Jan.-Feb. 1998



**ARE YOU READY
FOR PÉTANQUE '98!**

Laissez les bon temps rouler

Old Friends-New Friends-Playtime-Tournament Time-
Food-Fun-Extra games-New Ideas-Prizes-Adventure

All coming up in 1998

at the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Time to renew your membership—now!

Let the good times roll!

"Let the Good Times Roll"

Our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club will return to its roots in 1998, with a genial mix of picnics and informal pétanque on the fourth *Sunday* of each month—plus a monthly series of *Saturday* tournaments—throughout the spring and summer.

Peter Mathis, director of sports, headed up a task force that developed this ambitious and innovative schedule for the upcoming season.

Appointed by President Tom Bricca, the task force also included Morris Katz, Mike Norton and Frank Pipal.

VOMPC directors approved the comprehensive calendar by unanimous vote at the board's first meeting of the new year, January 6.

With its *Sunday* "picnic and pétanque" series, the new program will offer club members and newcomers a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in which to enjoy the game.

At the same time, the exciting and unusual 1998 schedule of tournaments on *Saturday* will keep the competitive juices flowing.

Member/Guest Picnic & Tourney Opens the Season

Picking up on last year's popular format, the season will open Sunday, March 22, with a member/guest picnic and select doubles tourney—one newcomer on each team.

Our talented VOMPC chefs promise a delicious luncheon. *Complete details in the March newsletter.*

Fourth Sundays: Picnic & Pétanque

On the fourth Sunday of every month, April through October, you can count on a club picnic and informal, family pétanque at the VOMPC courts.

Our own club chefs will handle most of the cooking for this new "Sunday Picnic and Pétanque" series.

These easy-going, Sunday events will be a time to relax, visit with old friends, make new ones, savor some good food and wine, play a lot of friendly pétanque, and enjoy the good-fellowship our club has to offer.

Introducing: **NEW A&B LEVEL TOURNAMENTS**

Our tournament schedule for 1998 includes some new wrinkles along with the old.

At our select doubles event in May, (the *Wine Country Classic*), and at the four-ball, *Tête à Tête* tournament in June, we'll welcome *A-level* and *B-level* signups: *A-level* for hearty, hard-core regulars who thirst for competition—*B-level* for newcomers and the more casual crowd that simply enjoys playing the game—with no pressure.

More about this as tournament time approaches.

For another new idea, how about that nifty *Vauclusien* in August? It's one that'll attract players from miles around. Think about it. 1, 2 or 3 on a team. Total balls—six.

Add to that our annual *Grand Concours de Pétanque* plus our highly-competitive VOMPC Club Championship (select triplets), and you can see we're in for a fascinating season.

It ends in October with a picnic/panaché tourney, as a finale celebration.



1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH	Sunday, 3/22	The Season Opener! Member/Guest Picnic (Select Doubles—One newcomer on each team) We're planning a very special luncheon, too
APRIL	Sunday, 4/26	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
MAY	Saturday, 5/2	Wine Country Classic (Select Doubles) A&B Levels
	Sunday, 5/24	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
JUNE	Saturday, 6/6	Tête à Tête (Four-ball Singles Tournament) A&B Levels
	Sunday, 6/28	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
JULY	Sunday, 7/12	Grand Concours de Pétanque Sponsored by Ravenswood (Random Triples) and catered <i>Bastille Day</i> luncheon
	Sunday, 7/26	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
AUG.	Saturday, 8/1	First Annual Vauclusien (1, 2 or 3 on a team. Six balls total)
	Sunday, 8/23	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
SEPT.	Saturday, 9/5	VOMPC Club Championship Sponsored by <i>MaTerre-</i> (Select Triples) Followed by a festive dinner
	Sunday, 9/27	Sunday Picnic and Pétanque (Luncheon served at the courts)
OCT.	Sunday, 10/25	Season Finale Celebration (Picnic and <i>Panaché</i>) Change partners every game

Marin-VOMPC Teammates Win for Willits

'George Pipal Memorial'
Held at Preston Winery

On a cold December day at the Preston Winery in Healdsburg, Sonoma's Ken Stieper and Marin's Louis Toulon won this year's annual "Willits Challenge" ... *as a doubles team playing for Willits!*

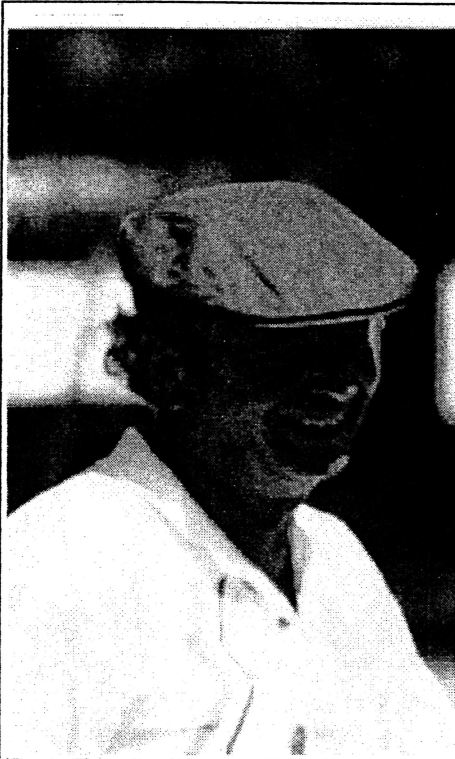
Filling in as one of five "Willits" teams going up against five duos from the VOMPC, ringers Toulon and Stieper now go on the famed *George Pipal Memorial* abalone trophy as the 1997 "Willits team" winners.

Eldon Moilanen and Dennis Bacci of Willits grabbed second place.

Making the trip north for the VOMPC were Frank Barsocchini and Claude Berthoud, John Boultdt and Ed Porto, Chuck Fleming and Frank Pipal, Bill Carter and Bruce Frigard, and Jon Des Pois and Tom Bricca.

Fine Preston wines, Preston-baked bread, and 2.5 gallons of Caroline Pipal's potato leek soup helped warm up the crowd at the winery's picnic tables.

For a bit of extra fun, Preston also made bocci balls and carefully-groomed bocci courts available, along with a multiplicity of challenging surfaces for pétanque.



Pierre Joske, first president of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, is now entering his third year as our distinguished *arbitre* in "The Umpire's Corner." (See the following story.)

Umpire's Corner Juggles Paradox in FPUSA Rules

Given the ambiguities of authority, is it any surprise that the official rules of Pétanque contradict themselves?

How about this one? In our last issue, somebody tossed a rare predicament at the Umpire's Corner:

"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?"

Our esteemed umpire, Pierre Joske, answered the question with a quick, forthright response: "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, plays again."

Pierre knew what he was talking about. He knew that Article 16 in the rules book says, *"If the first boule played goes out of play, the opponent plays, and so on, alternately, while there are no boules in play."*

Now that's clear, right? Wrong! The rules book goes on to contradict itself in the next paragraph when it says, *"If after firing or pointing, no boules are left in play, the last team to play plays again."*

For several hours, maybe days, Pierre Joske and his learned colleagues, Louis Toulon and John Krauer, pondered over the apparent paradox. In the end, they decided this obscure ambiguity in the official rules should be addressed at the next board meeting of the Federation of Pétanque U.S.A.

Meanwhile, if such a predicament happens to you, let the *on-site* umpire make the decision. No umpire? Just flip a coin!

As they say in Marseilles, *"l'esprit de contradiction."*

It's time to renew your membership

\$20 for individual *adult* membership
(16 years of age and over)

\$30 for family of two
(\$8 for each additional family member
up to 16 years of age)

\$10 for individual *junior* membership
(Juniors up to 16 years of age)

Please mail to: VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476

Here is my check totaling \$_____ for 1998 membership.

☐ Individual Adult Membership ☐ Family Membership ☐ Junior Membership

Name(s) _____ M _____ F _____

M _____ F _____

M _____ F _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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newsletter of the Valley of the Moon
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VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Tom Bricca, president
Michael Norton, vice-president
Frank Pipal, treasurer
Jeanne Markson, secretary
Peter Mathis, director of sports
Jon Des Pois, director
Morris Katz, director

Needed: Volunteers

The big, exciting calendar of events we have planned
for 1998 needs the help of club volunteers to make it work.
If you are willing to help out . . .

Call Jeanne Markson at 996-2673.

Jeanne is compiling a list of members the directors may
call for additional help at our 1998 picnics and tournaments.

You'll enjoy the camaraderie. And you'll know that you
are doing your part to make this an outstanding year for our
very special Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

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