

Pétanque Times

Vol. 6, No. 2

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

March-April, 1998

Gala Opener, March 22:

Member-Guest Invitational

Luncheon Menu

Sunday, March 22



Barbecued Leg of Lamb

Fresh Spring Mix Salad

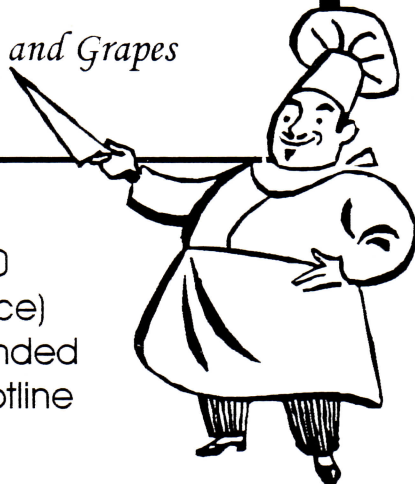
*Roasted Garlic Potatoes,
Herbs Provence*

String Beans a la Ken

Sonoma French Bread

Ripe Brie and Grapes

Luncheon Cost \$10
(Kids under 12, half-price)
Reservations Recommended
Call the new VOMPC Hotline
(707) 258-3450



'Select Doubles' Tournament for Opening Day

Spring Lamb Barbecue

After weeks of wet El Niño pétanque, a sunny Sunday is forecast for March 22, the start of the VOMPC 1998 season.

We open with the *Member-Guest Invitational*. It's a 'select doubles' tournament. Each team consists of an FPUSA member and a non-FPUSA member.

Don't miss out. Invite a friend to join you for a day of good food, friendly pétanque and a gala introduction to the club.

Entry fee: \$5 per player.
Registration closes, 10 a.m.

At 1 p.m. we break for a leisurely luncheon. Tom Bricca, VOMPC president, head chef and coordinator for the day, plans a spring lamb, barbecue feast.

Cost for the luncheon is only \$10. (\$5 for children under 12.) For reservations, call our new VOMPC Hotline: (707) 258-3450



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

Q. We had a good game going in the gravel. I landed a boule on one side of the cochonnet. My opponent landed a boule on the other side of the cochonnet, a hair closer than mine.

On an aerial shot, my final boule landed a foot out from the target. But it knocked a gravel chip into the cochonnet, moving it just enough to give me the point with my first boule.

"I have the point," I said.

"No, no," my opponent yelled. "The cochonnet was moved accidentally by a moving object, so you have to put it back in place. It's not your point."

What do you do?

A. If the cochonnet's position was marked, you move it back to its original position. Otherwise, it stays in the new spot where the chip hit it. And you measure the point from there.

(Got a pétanque question? Write to The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. All answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

City Council OKs VOMPC Court Plans

Designs Approved for Courtside Facilities

By unanimous vote, the Sonoma City Council at its February 18 meeting approved our design plans for further improvements at the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts.

Plans call for a sunshade trellis on the south side of the courts and additional rammed earth benches by MaTerre, along with a permanent barbecue-oven as a future centerpiece for club picnics.

On the heels of earlier meetings between VOMPC President Tom Bricca and Public Works Director Mike Moore, the VOMPC plans sailed through the city council with firm recommendations from city staff.

Of special significance, the city council also accepted a public works proposal to develop a lease arrangement that will commit land use, and give the VOMPC long-term responsibility for the Sonoma courts and adjacent area.

Tom Bricca, Byron Mayo, Mike Norton and Frank Pipal represented the VOMPC at the council meeting.

Tom followed up the city staff report with a brief presentation, inviting council members to come out to the courts and let us introduce them to the joys of pétanque.



What Happens if it Rains ?

The weatherman predicts one sunny, spring day for Sunday, March 22—the date of our Member-Guest Invitational.

But what if he's wrong?

O.K., if he's wrong and we face a downpour, here's what we do. We simply shift the date of our grand opening day picnic and *select doubles* tournament to **Sunday, April 26**—a date we already have set aside for "Picnic and Pétanque."

And we let the fun and games begin.

(707) 258-3450
New VOMPC Hotline

© VOMPC 1998

"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:

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

VOMPC 1998 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Reservations are recommended for all food events. To make this easy we now have a VOMPC Club Hotline you can call to get info about menus and events and to leave your reservations message. Children under 12 will be half price. Call (707) 258-3450

MAR

Sunday 3/22

Member/Guest Invitational Picnic

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.

Select Doubles, 1 Newcomer per team



"tracks diverge"



"social track"

"tournament track"

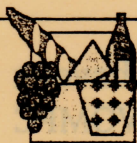
APR

Sunday 4/26

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Please note that registration for all tournaments will close at 10.00 a.m., with start of play to follow as soon as is practical.

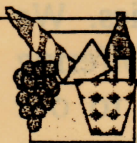
MAY

Sunday 5/24

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Saturday 5/2

Wine Country Classic

(A & B Levels)

Select Doubles

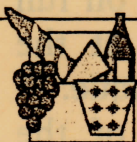
JUN

Sunday 6/28

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Saturday 6/6

Four-Boule Tête-à-tête

(A & B Levels)

Singles

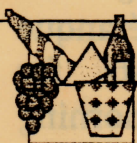
JUL

Sunday 7/26

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Sunday 7/12

Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque

Catered Lunch

Random Triples

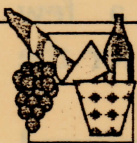
AUG

Sunday 8/23

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Saturday 8/1

Sonoma Open - Masters

Catered Lunch

Select Doubles

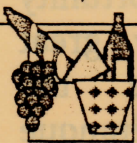
SEP

Sunday 9/27

Picnic & Pétanque

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks

Lunch at one p.m.



Saturday 9/5

"MaTerre" Club Championship

Dinner follows tournament

Select Triples



"tracks converge"



OCT

Sunday 10/25

Season Finale Celebration - Picnic

V.O.M.P.C. Cooks, Lunch at one p.m.

Panaché - Change partners every game

Bon Appétit

Some Thoughts on Sunday Picnics and Pétanque

By Tom Bricca
1998 VOMPC President

Just in case you haven't noticed, the 1998 VOMPC Schedule of Events features six new *Sunday* picnics. We are very excited about offering these picnics in addition to our standard competitions, because they renew the emphasis on fun and sociability which is at the heart of the game of pétanque.

Every fourth Sunday of the month, these picnic get-togethers will feature impromptu pétanque games, pointing contests for prizes, along with mid-morning instruction sessions for those who are interested in a few pointers. Or, just come for the picnics.

This kind of loosely structured day will give you the opportunity to invite friends, enjoy great food, and experience the universally fun game of pétanque in a relaxed Sonoma atmosphere.

Home base will be the barbecue, where one of your board members will host a sizzling Sonoma Valley feast at one p.m.

For later in the season, some of the better restaurants in town have expressed an interest, too, in preparing a main entrée to supplement our club picnics—adding even more flair to these “Open House” events.

So please come and enjoy the festivities on Picnic Sunday—the fourth Sunday of the month. Bring your family, a table, perhaps a bottle of wine, even your own tableware and a vase of flowers. Envision with us our plans for the new trellis sun shade, a wall of flowers, more rammed earth benches, and an historic earthen-oven.

Oh! And give us a call to say that you're coming!

Bon Appétit

Select Doubles Tournament Coming Aug. 1

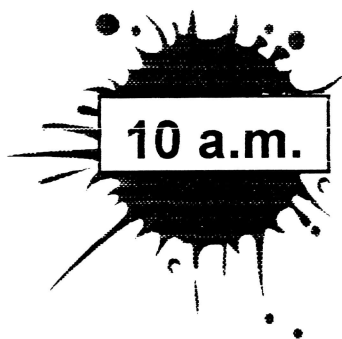
'Sonoma Open Masters'
Replaces *Vauclusien*

Scratch that six-boule *Vauclusien*, scheduled Saturday, August 1. In its place on that date, the club is holding the *Sonoma Open Masters*—a big, high stakes, all-out, 1998 select doubles tournament.

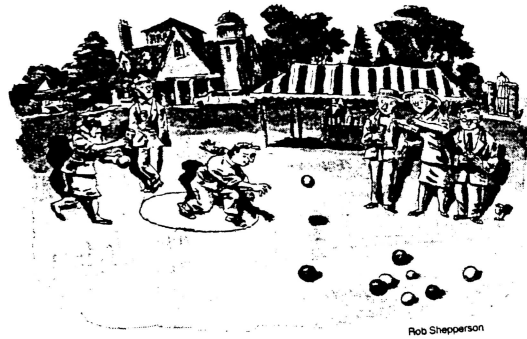
Look for this one to draw high rollers from up and down the state.

Jon Des Pois proposed the schedule change at the board's February meeting. His plan, with detailed projections, was approved by a unanimous vote of the six directors present.

You'll hear a lot more about this event as we get further into the season.



Here's something easy to remember: At all VOMPC tournaments this year, the firm deadline for signing in will be **10 a.m.** on the day of the event. **No late entries admitted.**



Pétanque, a Trendy Sport, Says Wall Street Journal

"Pétanque has become the *de rigueur* diversion of the moment," reported the national Wall Street Journal in a superficial but amusing January feature on bocci and pétanque among U.S. weekend trend setters.

"Sixty Minutes" co-editor and correspondent Morley Safer and French TV chef Jacques Pepin were among the media types quoted. They share a passion for pétanque.

Comparing pétanque with bocci, Mr. Safer said, "Pétanque is a much more demanding sport." (At his weekend home court in Connecticut, he entertains guests with pétanque and *pastis*.)

Sonoma made it into the national spotlight, too, with Frank Pipal quoted on the growth of our club and the fashionable popularity of pétanque in the Sonoma wine country.

If you would like a copy of the complete story as it appeared in the Wall Street Journal and later in the San Francisco Sunday Examiner, contact Byron Mayo.

boules ... boules ...boules

We expect many guests, (potential members), at our season opener and at our Sunday picnics, all season long.

So please bring along your extra boules—to loan to our guests at these events, as we welcome them to the club and introduce them to the game of pétanque.

As the season develops, we plan to build a supply of

boules which we can use as loaners for newcomers at any time.

If you have boules you'd be willing to sell to the club, call Mike Norton at home, 938-9128.

Or, if you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation of an old set of boules to the club, that would be very much appreciated, too.

Just call Mike Norton at home, 938-9128.

What A & B Levels Are All About

At two of our club tournaments this year, (*select doubles* in May and *tête-à-tête* in June), you sign-in on an A list or a B list. Either one. You make your choice.

What's behind this idea?

Here's the story: During the past two years, many of our members have avoided our *select* tournaments.

They say the atmosphere during *select* tournaments is too competitive for them. They don't like the pressure.

At the same time, we have many members ... plus

visitors from other clubs ... who enjoy the keen rivalry of a hot, spirited, hardball tournament.

So this year, the board decided to conduct an experiment: Have two levels of play, with prizes for each.

1.) *Have an A-list sign-up for players who really want lively, all-out competition.*

2.) *Have a B-list sign-up for players who want a casual more social approach to tournament play.*

Let's give it a try. See if it draws more members back into our tournaments.

WARNING

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

This is the last issue of the *Pétanque Times* for any members who do not pay their 1998 VOMPC dues by the end of the month.

March 31 is the annual cutoff date—when any members who haven't paid their dues are dropped from the club membership list and from the FPUSA.

If you haven't yet done so, please mail in your renewal check today.

Bob and Jane House Hunting

Bob and Jane Bosko are looking forward to spending the month of June here in Sonoma, playing pétanque and visiting with old friends.

But they have a problem. They can't find a furnished place to rent for the one month of June.

If you know of any possible furnished home or apartment they could rent for the month, call Byron Mayo at 935-1069, or call Bob in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, (208) 664-1794.



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

**SEASON
OPENER!
MARCH 22**