



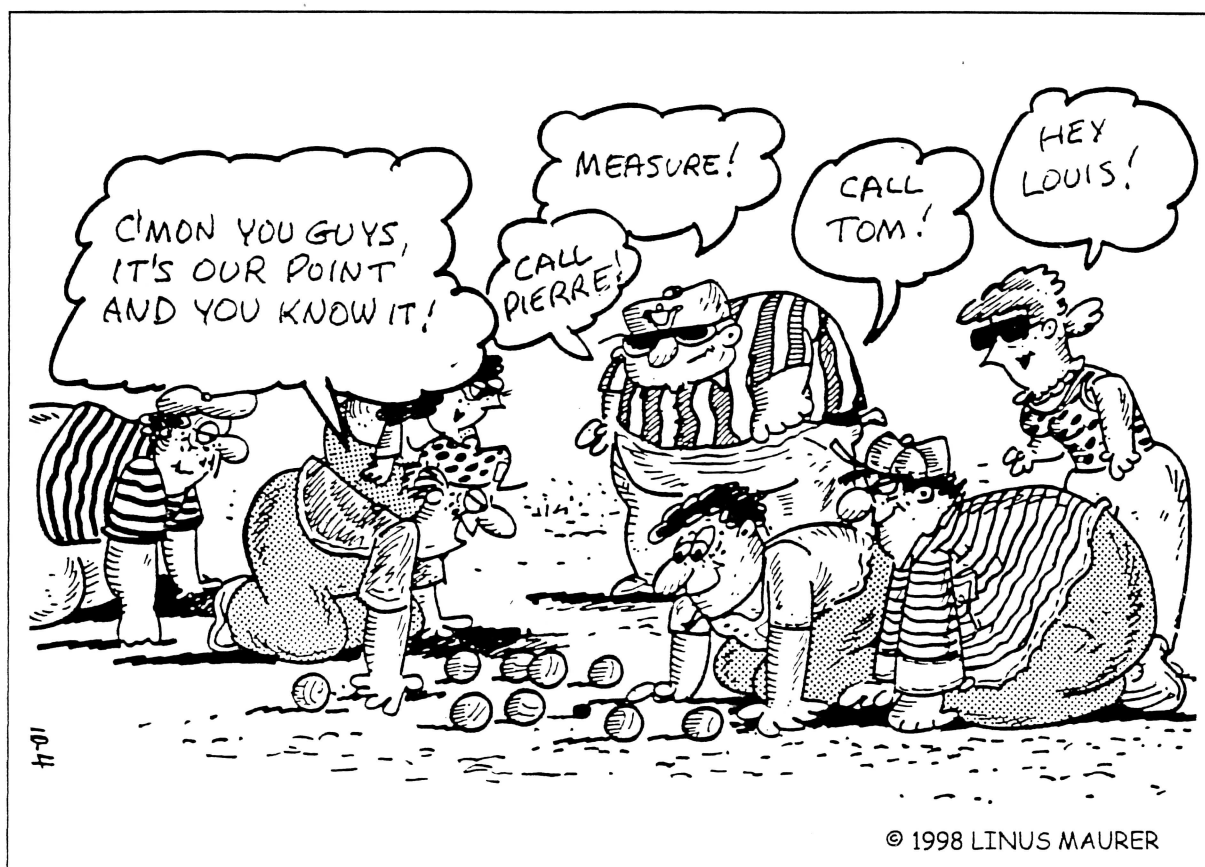
# Pétanque Times

Vol. 6, No. 3

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

May-June, 1998

## PRELUDE TO SUMMER



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### *Delayed Season Opener—Smash Success*

#### **Sunny Day for April 26 Member-Guest Tourney**

**S**unday, April 26, the gods were smiling. And the sun was shining in Sonoma. Sixty members and guests turned out to launch

the 1998 VOMPC season, gorge on a gourmet lamb BBQ, and toss the boules around like a bunch of Marseilles stevedores.

Frank Pipal and his guest Ron Nelson won the doubles tourney, handily defeating Francois Bugué and guest

Herve Diez in the final, 13-8.

Armand Squitierri, 84, and his grandson, John Paul Martin, 12, triumphed in the Consolante.

Jon Des Pois, Tom Bricca and a gang of stalwart helpers put on a great show from beginning to end.

## Final Results:

# Wine Country Classic

### **Roulveyrol-Zanela Win Select Doubles Event**

**G**eorge Roulveyrol and Jeannot Zanela, two of the best pétanque players in the US, rolled into Sonoma last week for our Valley of the Moon, May 2, *Wine Country Classic*:

This sharp-shooting duo swept through the final ladder in Saturday's select doubles event, defeating our own Antonio Lofaro and Jake Martin in the last match, 13-4.

Michael Rago and Albert Lucas took third place.

Chuck Fleming and Jacques Mathieu of the VOMPC won the *Consolante*, with second place going to Bill Carter and Bob Bosko.

This tournament was scheduled to be the club's initial experiment with "A" and "B" levels of play. But all 32 players arrived in the mood for heavy competition.

All sixteen teams opted to go all-out in the Class "A" category.

Coordinated by Tom Bricca, it was, indeed, a Class "A" Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club competition, no question about it.

## Gulf Coast Blues

Frank Pipal and Louis Toulon flew to Florida last month to defend their 1997 FPUSA National Doubles Championship title. This year the scene was the Florida gulf coast—the handsome, shaded courts of the Sarasota Pétanque Club.

As the only all-California team in the tournament, Frank and Louis put on a strong showing. But a repeat victory was not in the wind.

They made it to the quarter-finals, however, before losing out 13-12 to the New York Club's Brooks Berdette and Lasse Loft.

Frank, Louis, you did well. We're all proud of you.

## Valiant Volunteers!

Three cheers for these six, valiant volunteers who helped Jon Des Pois and Tom Bricca make the Opening Day luncheon and member-guest tournament such a big success:

Bill Carter  
Jeanne Markson  
Montana Mathieu  
Mike Rago  
Chef Ken Stieper  
Patrick Vaslet

# • Welcome •



**L**et's extend a warm welcome to several new members who recently joined our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Robert Bamberg  
François Bugue  
Christine Cragg  
Larry Cragg  
Hervé Diez\*  
Suzanne Fleming  
Susana Garcia  
Robert Imel  
John Paul Martin\*  
Ron Nelson\*

\* Ron, Hervé and John Paul, as guest winners in the April 26 member-guest tournament, won free 1998 memberships.

*Welcome to the club!*



P.J. Mallette celebrated his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday recently.

Our budding young star is now a bonafide Sonoma teenager!

Congratulations, P.J.

# Luis Velez Appointed Director

Replaces Morris Katz  
on 1998 VOMPC Board

**L**uis Velez has been appointed to the VOMPC board of directors, replacing Morris Katz who recently resigned.

In his letter of resignation, Morris wrote, "I find that the demands on my personal time far outweigh the efforts it will take to be an effective board member, in view of the strong program planned for 1998."

The directors expressed regret and appreciation to Morris for the past time and effort he devoted to the VOMPC board's work.

In becoming a director, Luis Velez will serve out Morris' two-year term, which ends at the close of the current year.

## Picnic, Pétanque, Sunday, May 24

No tournament. Just a lot of good food, fun, friends and pétanque. That's what's on tap for Sunday, May 24, in the first of our informal Sunday Picnic and Pétanque days at the Sonoma court.

*Luncheon will be served.  
For luncheon reservations,  
call the club's new hotline.  
(707) 258-3450.*



## THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

**Q.** This may be a stupid question, but I'm new to the game, so bear with me. How do you know when a boule is out of bounds? Some courts have a string border inside the logs, some don't. And even the old-timers seem to argue about whether a boule is out of bounds or not.

**A.** For tournaments in Sonoma, we use string to mark end court boundaries.

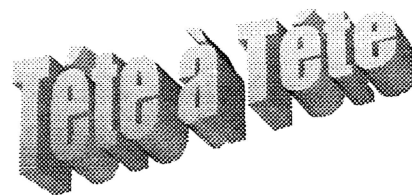
Once a boule rolls all the way across the string, it's out of bounds.

In between tournaments, the string sometimes gets broken and it's not replaced until the next tournament.

If no string boundary exists, we use the logs as the boundary. When a boule hits the log, it's out of bounds and should be removed from play.

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



## Four-boule Singles Coming Up June 6

**H**ere's a spicy addition to our 1998 schedule. How about a singles tourney where you play with four boules? Sound like fun?

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 6. That's the day we're having a French, four-boule *Tête à Tête*.

Frank Pipal will coordinate this unusual event. Extra boules will be on hand. And we will again feature both A and B level play.

"A" Level for the all-out competitors. "B" Level for everybody else who simply wants to have an easy-going day of pétanque in Sonoma.

## Bob Bosko Visit

Wasn't it great having Bob Bosko back with us last week? Visiting from Idaho, Bob enjoyed a full week of seeing friends and playing pétanque.

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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:

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

# Ground Breaking for Club Barbecue

**W**hat's that new concrete slab doing near the southwest corner of the Sonoma pétanque courts? Good news! It's the foundation for a permanent barbecue the club is building as the center of operations for VOMPC picnic events.

When completed, the solid concrete and rammed-earth structure will feature a custom 3-ft. x 6-ft. steel grill, designed to accommodate any two or three of our club's talented chefs.

At the groundbreaking ceremonies last month, these photos were taken of the pick and shovel brigade involved.

(Upper photo, L to R): Jeanne Markson, Ian Windsor, Tom Bricca, Byron Mayo, Bob Bamberg and Frank Pipal.

(Lower photo, L to R): Tom Bricca, Byron Mayo and Bob Bamberg.



## ***Wanted!*** **A Bobcat Tractor**

For the final phase of our current building project, we need the use of a "Bobcat" tractor.

If you have access to a "Bobcat" and you'd like to help out the club with a loaner, give Tom Bricca a call. (707) 996-1952.

Would be most appreciated.



Call our new VOMPC hotline  
for reservations or information

**258-3450**

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