



Pétanque Times

Vol. 6, No. 4

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

July-August, 1998

Sponsored by Ravenswood

Grand Concours de Pétanque & Bastille Day Luncheon

VOMPC's 10th Annual Random Triplette Extravaganza

SUNDAY, JULY 12

The summertime magic is back. Sunday, July 12, our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club presents the 10th annual Grand Concours de Pétanque and Bastille Day luncheon, proudly sponsored by Ravenswood Winery.

Registration for the random triples tournament closes at 10 a.m. Entry fee, \$7 per player. (Half-price for youngsters under 16.)

Along with the fun of random triples pétanque, Peter Mathis, coordinator for the day, has announced an outstanding, Bastille Day luncheon to be catered by Wild Thyme.

This year's luncheon, still only \$12 per person, includes a complimentary glass of fine Ravenswood Zinfandel.

Call our VOMPC hotline by July 7 for reservations. (707) 258-3450

Luncheon Menu, July 12



Fresh Local Sonoma Lamb en Brochette

Marinated Green Beans and Vine-grown Tomatoes

Wine Country Red Potato Salad

Fresh Baked Artisans Bread

Assorted Ripe Cheeses

Fresh Seasonal Fruit

Complimentary Glass, Ravenswood Zinfandel

Price: \$12

(Half price for children under 12)

Catering by Wild Thyme



Real Cool Four-Boule Tête à Tête

*Toulon Over Bricca
In 13-5 Final Match*

IT was a cool, cool day on the courts in Sonoma. Never got above 53 degrees. Remember the weird weather we had in early June?

That didn't bother 23 diehard pétanquers who turned out June 6th to play in our first, four-boule singles tournament.

The competition was keen. Louis Toulon, back in form, topped the field with a 13-5 win over Tom Bricca. Tom settled for second place honors. Third place went to Peter Mathis, who waltzed to an easy 13-2 win over Jake Martin.

Patrick Vaslet won the *consolante*, defeating Jean Etcheverry, 13-8.

Once again, all players turned down the optional Class "B" category and went straight for the Class "A" competition.

Interestingly, the four-boule format drew mixed reviews. Some players thought it was an intriguing approach to playing singles. "It's different." "I like it."

Others, however, said, "Give me the regular three-boule game." "I don't go for this four-boule stuff."



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

Q. When you play more than one game, it seems to me the winner of the first game should get to play first in the next game. What's the rule on this?

A. No official rule exists on this question. You'll find that some tournament directors do specify that winners go first in the following game.

However, in every day social games, it's a long-standing tradition in the world of pétanque to allow the loser to toss out the cochonnet that starts the next game. In Sonoma, we follow this gracious tradition.

Editor's Note: We also hold to this tradition in our Sonoma Summer League matches. Loser goes first!

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

BIG MONEY!

*Sonoma Open
Coming Up
Sat., August 1*

Masters Doublette

Jon Des Pois figures` 38 or more teams will turn out for this doubles tournament on Saturday, August 1. Why? Cash prizes totaling \$1,550, plus all kinds of secondary prizes, raffle prizes including fine wines, point and shoot contests and a hearty lunch. That's why!

It's the Sonoma Open Masters Doublette.

The \$25 per person entry fee includes both the tournament and lunch, and a drink. Pre-registration is required by July 30. Call Jon Des Pois, coordinator, 996-7561. Or call our VOMPC hotline, 258-3450.

Play will start at 9:30 a.m. sharp, with three games before lunch. Lunch 12:30-2:30 p.m. Finals and *consolante* after lunch. It'll be a big day with a big payout. Any questions, call the man —John Des Pois, 996-7561.

Boskos Coming

Bob and Jane Bosko are driving down from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, arriving July 9. They will be in Sonoma until the end of July, playing pétanque and visiting friends.

SUMMER LEAGUE SINGLES 1998

Current Standings, June 26

PLAYER	MATCHES WON	MATCHES LOST	PERCENT W/L	GAMES WON	GAMES LOST
THE REDS					
Byron Mayo	3	0	1.000	6	2
Peter Mathis	1	0	1.000	2	0
Jake Martin	1	0	1.000	2	0
Luis Velez	0	1		1	2
David Ogaz	0	1		0	2
Jacques Mathieu	0	3		1	6
John Bouldt					
Bill Carter					
Eldon Moilanen					
Frank Pipal					
THE BLUES					
Antonio Lofaro	2	0	1.000	4	0
Gerard Canabou	1	0	1.000	2	1
Bill Miller	2	1	.666	2	2
Ed Porto	2	1	.666	4	3
Chuck Fleming	1	1	.500	3	3
Mike Norton	0	1		0	2
P. J. Mallette	0	3		2	6
Tom Bricca					
Renato Sottile					
Tom Tetard					

Coordinator: Byron Mayo

935-1069

SUMMER LEAGUE DOUBLES 1998

Current Standings, June 26

TEAM	MATCHES WON	MATCHES LOST	PERCENT W/L	GAMES WON	GAMES LOST
Bouldt/ Norton	2	0	1.000	4	0
G. Canabou/ M. Canabou	1	0	1.000	2	0
Mathis/ Mayo	2	1	.666	4	3
Berthoud/ Pipal	2	2	.500	4	5
Carter/ Porto	1	1	.500	2	2
Fleming/ Mathieu	1	1	.500	3	2
Lafaro/ Martin	0	1		1	2
Frigard/ Malette	0	3		0	6
Bricca/ Riffo	0	0			

Coordinator: Ed Porto 935-0574



City Approves VOMPC Lease

IT's official! The Sonoma City Council has granted the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club a renewable, five-year lease on the Sonoma pétanque courts and surrounding area.

Negotiated by our club president, Tom Bricca, with instrumental help from Jean Markson, the one-dollar-per-year-lease grants the VOMPC responsibility for the land from the Eucalyptus trees on the north to the pathway on the south.

From the president:

Our success in gaining recognition from the City of Sonoma through a renewable lease agreement has long-range implications.

It's a green light to make further improvements to the pétanque courts area. And it's our chance to really promote the game of pétanque.

I need to emphasize that this unique privilege depends upon our ability to maintain the landscaping in a neat and orderly fashion.

In a word, we need members to help take care of our grounds. One hour per member spent raking is enough to keep the park clean.

If we make this happen, the club will take its proper place in our own hearts as well as in the eyes of the community.

Thank you all very much.

—Tom Bricca

SONOMA PETANQUERS ON THE ISLE OF ST. MARTIN



Photo by Tom Noonan

At the bar, *La Belle Epoch*:

(L. to R.) Frank Pipal, Jean Pierre Bourssinet (bar proprietor), Ken Stieper and John Bouldt. (See story on back page.)



Matt Ogaz— The Graduate

Matt Ogaz, one of the club's most active teenage members, graduated this June from Sonoma Valley High School. *Congratulations, Matt*

Congratulations to the Ogaz family, too. Matt and Dave are the only father-son duo to hold full membership in the club.

Reminder: Picnic & Pétanque the last Sunday of every month. Next outing is July 26.

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to five new members who joined the VOMPC last month:

Gerard Canabou
Margeurite Canabou
Marco Ilaria
Andre Sanchou
Helene Stratman

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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
Jeanne Markson, secretary
Peter Mathis, director of sports
Jon Des Pois, director
Luis Velez, director



The Caribbean Caper

By Tom Noonan

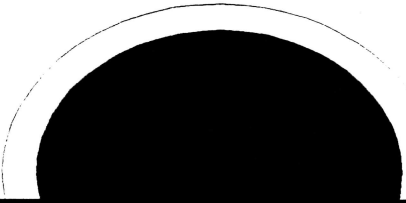
Imagine for a moment, turquoise water, white sand and blue sky as far as you can see. Add to this enough pétanque to satisfy even the most boule-hungry of us. This is the isle of St. Martin. This is what greeted Ken Stieper, Frank Pipal, John Boultd and yours truly on May 26 through June 4 at the 5th annual International Pétanque Tournament in St. Martin F.W.I.

Along with the most beautiful weather, great food, gallons of pastis and the most beautiful women on earth, was the game of pétanque as it is was meant to be played. According to tournament promoter Michel Coubard, there were no less than 600 participants in this year's event. Players from Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana and of course France all vied for the 150,000 Franc (\$250,000) prize money.

Mike Rago from the San Rafael club also made the journey. Rago and Boultd joined forces in the Saturday *doublette* and, as they say in the islands, "touched money." They came in fourth in the *consolante*.

Our resident tour guide and interpreter, Frank Pipal, and his partner, a St. Martin resident, took 8th place in the same event, which by the way didn't conclude until 5:30 a.m. The Sunday *triplette* began just seven hours later and ended as the sun was coming up Monday morning!

There were many other interesting and exciting activities to tell about, but they will have to wait until the statute of limitations run out.



Valley of the Moon
Pétanque Club
P.O. Box 863
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