



Pétanque Times

Vol. 6, No. 5

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Sept.-Oct. 1998

New Date for MaTerre Club Championship:

Select Triples Now Sept.12

Winners Pose at Grand Concours De Pétanque



All of the winners at the 10th annual Grand Concours De Pétanque posed for the camera on that golden afternoon. Our longtime sponsor, Ravenswood Winery, donated an unusual array of the vintner's finest varietals as prizes for the occasion. (See inside story)

Final VOMPC Tournament of the Year

After a one-week delay because of a scheduling conflict, the MaTerre VOMPC Club Championship is rarin' to go.

Sunday, September 12, is now the date for this annual select-triples thriller. And a thriller it promises to be—with Jacques Mathieu back from France brimming with new ideas.

You can expect a pile of cash prizes spiced with a dash of controversial categories, according to Mathieu.

All the fun starts Sunday morning, Sept. 12, at the VOMPC pétanque courts in Sonoma. Register by 10 a.m. \$6 fee per person. Half-price for kids under sixteen.

The weatherman says it'll be a beautiful day in paradise for this big, final VOMPC tournament of the year. Don't miss it!

Oct. 10 Vote on Four Directors

Four out of seven seats on the VOMPC Board of Directors are up for grabs in the annual election coming up October 10.

The two-year terms of Tom Bricca, Jon Des Pois and Frank Pipal and the interim term of Luis Velez expire at the end of the year.

None of the four have yet announced whether or not they plan to run for another term on the board.

While Mike Norton, Frank Barsocchini, Jeanne Markson and Tom Bricca (the club's Nominating Committee) are now working on a slate of nominees, they emphasize that they invite additional nominations from members.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the board of directors, send or call-in your nomination by September 14. Write VOMPC, Box 863. Or, call 248-3450.

Court Committee Proposal Okd by VOMPC Board



Bill Carter Appointed Committee Chairman

A proposal for a *continuing* Court Maintenance Committee was approved by the VOMPC board at its July meeting.

The three-person committee will be responsible for the on-going care and maintenance of the pétanque courts and landscaping.

President Tom Bricca named Bill Carter chairman of the committee, which will be a continuous entity to insure regular, uninterrupted maintenance.

Other members of the new VOMPC Court Committee are yet to be named.

VOMPC Players in Top Form at US Nationals

How about this, sports fans—Twenty-five per cent of the players on the final eight teams at the National Triples Qualification tournament last month hailed from our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club!

Gerard Canabou, Louis Toulon and Max Legrand won the event and will represent the US at the world championships to be held in the Canary Islands, Sept. 12-13.

Our own Frank Barsocchini, on the team that placed second, will join the US team as an alternate.

Congratulations to Gerard, Louis and Frank from all of their fans in the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club. Bonne Chance in the Canary Islands!

Final Week for League Singles

As we close in on the final week of Summer League Singles competition, Peter Mathis and Antonio Lofaro continue to lead their divisions—undefeated.

In the Red Division, Peter's record is (4-0) with two matches to go.

In the Blue Division, Antonio's record is (5-0) with two matches to go.

Saturday, Sept. 12 ends the regular season. Then we go into the playoffs, which take place Sept. 20-26—with the final matches on Saturday, Oct. 3.

A drawing for two wild card spots in the playoffs, a new wrinkle this year, will be held at the VOMPC courts on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 6 p.m.

Bastille Day Feast Draws 80 People

'Grand Concours' Tourney

They turned out in droves for the stylish Grand Concours de Pétanque and Bastille Day luncheon July 12, sponsored by Ravenswood.

Eighty people feasted on Sonoma lamb brochette with all the trimmings.

Peter Mathis, major-domo for the entire extravaganza, also turned up as captain of the winning team. (13-10)

The Ogaz father-son duo set another record of sorts, too, with father Dave Ogaz c the tourney's winning team and son Matt Ogaz on the winning *Consolante*. (13-7)

COMPLETE RESULTS

Random Triples Final

- 1st Peter Mathis, David Ogaz, newcomer Michael Hall
- 2nd Ken Stieper, Dolly Ebollito, Janet Troussieux,
- 3rd John Bouldt, Cecile Kotski, Pierre Joske

Consolante

- 1st Mike Norton, Matt Ogaz, Bob Bosko

Welcome to Four New Members:

Richard Bagel
Michael and Barbara Hall
Ferdinand "Frenchy" White

Dine Oct. 10, Vallejo Barracks

Historic Site To be Opened For VOMPC's Annual Dinner

10th Anniversary!

In celebration of the club's tenth anniversary, our annual dinner this year will be held in a most unusual location that is rich in historic ambience.

The General's conference room in the Vallejo Barracks will be opened exclusively for the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club on Saturday evening, October 10.

An opening reception (with complimentary aperitif and wine) will be held at six-thirty p.m. Dinner will follow at seven p.m.

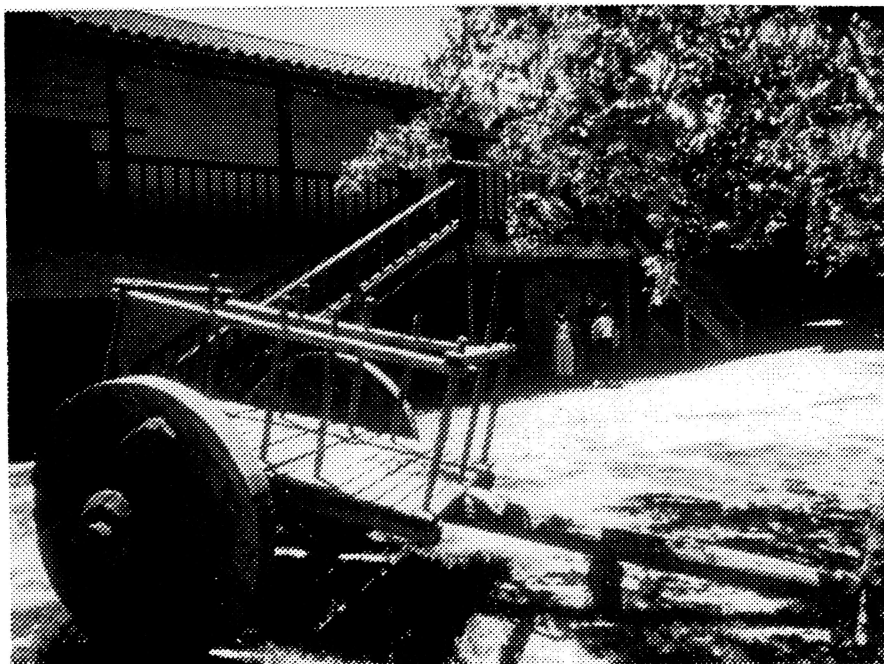
Cost of the exceptional dinner to be catered by *Wild Thyme* is \$30 per person. This includes tax, tip and premium wines—donated by *Katie Wolff Wines* and by *Calvino Distributors*.

(For a view of the full menu, see reverse side of this insert page.)

Firm reservations for this special dinner are absolutely necessary. By mailing your check in advance, along with your selection of entrée, you will be eligible for a drawing for a VOMPC etched magnum of wine.

(You must pay in advance to qualify in this drawing.)

El Cuartel De Sonoma



General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo's Cuartel barracks were built to house Mexican troops under the General's command in the 1840s. On Saturday evening, October 10, VOMPC members and guests will dine in the General's conference room, where he planned his future venture in the wine business.

(Sorry, this location is not recommended for children.)

If you do not wish to participate in the magnum drawing, leave your name, number in your party, entrée choice and phone number on the VOMPC Hotline. We will confirm your call. If you have any questions, call Jeanne Markson, coordinator for our annual dinner, 996-2673.

In addition to our election of four directors for the years 1999-2000, the evening will include an anniversary report from President Tom Bricca,

summer league awards and several surprises.

Don't miss out on this unusual opportunity to enjoy an excellent dinner and fine wine in an historic setting not generally open to the public.

Guests are welcome, too. Bring your mate and invite friends. Make it a party. Introduce them to the fun that's a part of our club off the courts as well as on. (Children not recommended for this location.)

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

1988 — 1998

10th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
& Election of Directors

Saturday Evening, Oct. 10

In the Governor's Conference Room at the Vallejo Barracks

Reception at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

Wild Thyme Menu



Complimentary Aperitif and fine Wines
Sonoma greens with Pears and Caramelized Pecans
Wine Vinaigrette
Sonoma Breads

Choice of dinner entrée

Grilled Chicken Breast with Chutney
Roast Loin of Pork, Cabernet Sauce
(Vegetarian entrée upon request)

Spanish Potato Tortilla
Mediterranean Vegetables with Saffron & Capers

Apple Crisp
Vanilla Ice Cream
Coffee

Wines donated by Katie Wolff Wines and Calvino Distributors

Total Cost: \$30 per person. (Includes tax and tip)

Make your reservations and dinner entrée selection by Monday, October 5
Watch for Dinner Invitation and Election Ballot in the Mail

Locals Win Top Money In 'Masters'

Bricca-Barsocchini Upset Out-of-Towners

Some of the West's best known sharp shooters came to town for the big money August 1 Sonoma Open Masters *Doublette*.

When the smoke cleared, however, local VOMPC teams had walked away with top money in the tournament finals and in the *Consolante*.

FINAL RESULTS

Open Masters Doublette:

- 1st Tom Bricca/Frank Barsocchini
- 2nd Albert Lucas/Antonio Lofaro
- 3rd Raymond Nielsen/John Krauer

1st Consolante:

- 1st Bill Carter/Ed Porto
- 2nd Leon Galea/Louis Toulon
- 3rd Raymon Nielson/John Krauer

Bonus Consolante

- 1st Jon Des Pois/Ken Stieper

Women's Doublette

- 1st J. Troussieux/Bamby Reverdito

Shooting Contest

Robert Pierre of Dana Point, Ca., winner, shooting from 10 meters.

Jon Des Pois coordinated the day's events, including lunch, with good help from members on all sides.

One of the day's most popular side-bar attractions was a silent auction in which many fine Sonoma Valley wines were donated by sponsors as a fund raiser for the VOMPC.



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER...

Q. My boule was close to the cochonnet. My opponent's best boule was two feet away. I tossed my last boule. It looked to me as if it was good for a second point. But before I could walk down and check it, my opponent picked up his boule and said I got one point. Is that legal?

A. No, it is not legal. No player should pick up his boules until both sides agree on the points.

Furthermore, unless your opponent had marked the position of his boule, which isn't likely, the boule he picked up prematurely was void. You had every right to claim two points.

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

THANKS

To Our Sponsors of Sonoma 'Masters'

Sebastiani Vineyards
Swiss Hotel
Richardson Vineyards
Schug Estate Winery
Joseph Phelps Winery
David Ogaz
Robert Mondavi Winery
Bear 2 Vineyards
Gundlach Bundschu
Renato's Steak House
Marioni's Restaurant
Bob Nobles Chevrolet
Sonoma Valley Bank

...and thanks to all of the club members who pitched in to help Jon Des Pois make the day a success.

...especially—

Jeanne Markson
Frank Barsocchini
Ken Stieper
Frank Pipal
Tom Bricca
Tom Noonan
Chuck Fleming

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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



Come Join the Happy Crowd On Picnic and Pétanque Days

Next One All Set for Sunday, Sept. 27

With Jake Martin's talents at the BBQ, Jeanne Markson put on a picnic lunch the last Sunday in June that drew standing applause from the happy courtside crowd.

And that's the way it's been all summer long on our genial 'Picnic and Pétanque' days—the last Sunday of each month.

We've had everything from barbecued New York steaks to grilled Moroccan chicken at these popular picnics. Add to that a friendly afternoon of pétanque, with new friends and old friends together and you can see that we have something special going on the last Sunday of each month.

Our next 'Picnic and Pétanque' day comes up Sunday, September 27. Luis Velez will be in charge and he's planning a pork loin with dry garlic rub, Caesar salad, pasta pomodoro and more! Call our VOMPC Hotline for details and for luncheon reservations. 258-3450

New Rammed Earth Barbecue a Big Hit

Last weekend, two curious tourists were heard to exclaim, "My Gawd, it's awesome!"

They were talking about our massive, new 10-foot rammed earth barbecue, of course. It's a big hit with members and guests alike—as evidenced by good vibes around the court as well as its popularity on our 'Picnic and Pétanque' Sundays.

The completion of this handsome, barbecue project stands as a notable example of VOMPC members working together for the benefit of all. Frank Barsocchini, Jacques Mathieu, Tom Bricca, Frank Pipal and Jon Des Pois were deeply involved with the work from beginning to end.

Others played a strong role, too, particularly in the final building phase. Jake Martin, Peter Mathis, Jeanne Markson, Chuck Fleming, Ken Stieper, Don Lambert, John Bouldt, Dave Rizzo and possibly others worked hard on the project.

Our thanks to everybody who had a hand in it.

Lost Boules Found!

One set of chrome-plated, J-B boules found at the courts. 730-wt. ID # B15. Call Tom Noonan—953-7354

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LATE NEWS:

Pipal-Berthoud Win Playoffs for SummerLeague Doubles Title

Two Game Match, 13-5, 13-9

With Claude pointing at the top of his game and Frank Pipal sharp-shooting when it counted, the team of Claude Berthoud and Frank Pipal took two in a row from Bill Carter and Ed Porto last Sunday, 13-5, 13-9, in the playoff finals for the VOMPC 1998 Summer League Doubles Championship.

Both semi-final matches turned out to be one-sided wins. Bill Carter and Ed Porto easily defeated Maggie and Gerard Canabou in two straight, 13-6, 13-5. And Claude Berthoud and Frank Pipal ran over Bruce Frigard and P.J. Mallette, 13-0, 13-5.

That wraps it up for Summer League Doubles in 1998. Coordinated by Ed Porto, it was another lively summer of exciting matches, juicy controversy, some startling upsets and lively competition, beginning to end.

Wait 'till next year!