



# Pétanque Times

Vol. 7, No. 2

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

March-April, 1999

## Season Opens Mar. 21

### *Tête à Tête Start Date Moved Up One Week*

**T**he new pétanque season comes roaring in on the Spring Equinox, Sunday, March 21. That's the new date for our first tournament of the year—an all-out singles event, *Tête à Tête*, head-to-head, with lucrative cash prizes adding to the excitement.

**Important:** *This one is for current 1999 FPUSA members only.* So if you have not yet paid your VOMPC dues, now is the time to do it. Or, you can renew your membership when you sign-in at the courts.

The firm deadline for registration Sunday morning is 10 a.m. Entry fee is \$6.

For lunch, tournament coordinator Mike Norton plans to send out for sandwiches and drinks—or you can bring your own.

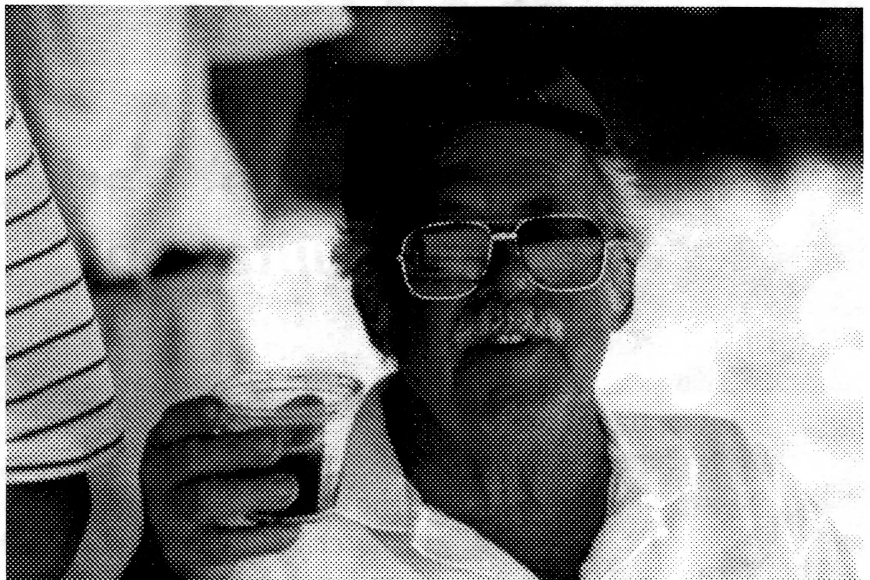
That's Sunday, Mar. 21.

All of these plans are weather permitting, of course. Call the VOMPC hotline for any last-minute news. (707)-258-3450

Now—here is the answer for those of you who have been asking why the date for the opening tournament was changed:

The scheduled date was moved up one week so that any interested VOMPC players can compete in *La Boule Rouille's* Masters Doublette, March 27-28 in Menlo Park—honoring our late VOMPC member and friend, Maurice Ebolitto, who founded the event.

### A TOAST TO THE NEW SEASON



*Photo by Bruce Frigard*

**Claude Berthoud**, VOMPC *bon vivant*, lifts his glass in a genial toast to the start of another fun-filled season at our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club in Sonoma.

Coming April 25:

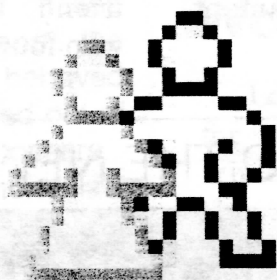
## ***Member Guest Invitational***

**Y**ou bring along a guest or two. You introduce them to the fun and camaraderie of pétanque. You feast on a Sonoma spring barbecue. And you and your guests get to play in the friendliest, most easy-going tournament of the year.

That's what our Valley of the Moon *Member-Guest Invitational* is all about. Coming Sunday, April 25.

You'll hear a lot more about this informal select doubles or select triples affair as we get further into the season. Meanwhile, start thinking about the people who you want to invite. It's a tournament day especially designed for newcomers.

(The guests on each team must be players who have never belonged to the FPUSA.)



## **City Plans Total Depot Park Restrooms Rehabilitation**

*Good news!* The City of Sonoma, with an \$80,000 federal grant in hand, plans the complete rehabilitation of the aging restrooms at Depot Park, north of the VOMPC pétanque courts.

The scope of the design project includes access for the disabled, in addition to a park maintenance office and workshop building.

The only downside to the project as it now stands is the timing. We are now heading into the heart of the pétanque season. And the city staff says the work will not be completed until the end of the year. Still, the project is welcome news for pétanquers. And the job site problem is temporary.

*Next—portable potties!*

## **NO SHOW!**

*The Inside Story of  
"The Willits Challenge"*

By Kolibri

**I**t's never been easy to get a full field of competitors to square off for the "Willits Challenge." Our attempt in the middle of January was no exception.

Aiming for a repeat of the 1997 edition, when VOMPC and Willits teams met halfway at the Preston Winery in Dry Creek Valley, the latest contest was again set at Preston. And it very nearly happened.

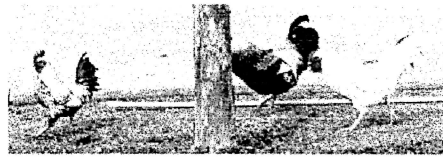
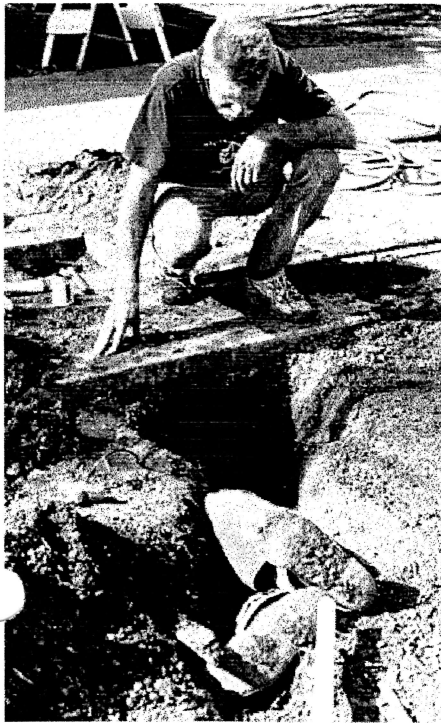
Fifteen VOMPers had a great day of pétanque at the winery, accompanied by an abundance of hot food and fresh baked bread as well as vinicological offerings.

Only one thing marred the day. *The Willitzers failed to show up!* Although we made it clear that we'd be there, and the weatherman gave the go-ahead, some miasma of the northern latitudes must have fuddled our opponents.

After waiting long enough and half, a mini-tournament in Doublettes was organized. There would have been a final between Louis Toulon and Ken Stieper against Gerard Canabou and Patrick Vaslet but the dark was gathering and the winery gates were due to be closed.

Current thinking is to try again at Preston sometime this spring—but the boule is in Willits' court.

**ON THE SCENE**  
At the grand work party & barbecue



*Photos courtesy of Bruce Frigard, Byron Mayo and Tom Noonan.*





Well, there were thirty and some-odd sore backs and biceps in the greater Sonoma area on Sunday, February 20th. But for the cause of Pétanque, it never hurt so good! Nor have the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts ever looked so good... because, on the day before, our club put on a great display of community effort to improve and maintain the public facilities entrusted to our care.

A water line for a new drinking fountain and a future irrigation system was dug and laid. For the recently-approved dumpster enclosure, fence posts were set into the ground next to the new shed site.

Yards and yards of leaves, Eucalyptus bark and debris were cleared from the courts and surrounding areas by the small army of rake-wielding club members. Yards and yards of sand were wheel-barrowed to the water line trench and shovelled in for backfill. Yards and yards of gravel and quarry fines were spread on the East courts and groomed into the surface in preparation for the upcoming season.

As club members and community members, we all can be proud of our spirit and efforts. Please join me in thanking our generous sponsors, **Boden Plumbing, Sonoma Materials** and **Sonoma Rentals** for their time, donations and expertise. And let's congratulate those listed below for their dedication, for a hard day's work and for a job well done!

Best Wishes,

Ed Porto, President, VOMPC



Richard Bagel  
Terry Boden  
Tom Bricca  
Ted Bucklin  
Bill Carter  
Randy Ellis  
Sarah Ellis  
Tom Evans

Chuck Fleming  
Bruce Frigard  
Glory Glover  
Pierre Joske  
P.J. Mallette  
Casey Markson  
Colin Markson  
Jeanne Markson

Jacques Mathieu  
Byron Mayo  
Jack Minter  
Sasha Minter  
Mal Misuraca  
Tom Noonan  
Betty Ogaz  
Pamela Stephens

Steve Sterbentz  
Patrick Vaslet  
Erin Velez  
Luis Velez  
Peter Wellington  
Bart Zachofsky  
Rob Zitzewitz





# 1999 SCHEDULE

Revised, as of March. 2

Sunday March 21	Spring Season Opener	<i>Tête à Tête</i> (Singles)
Sunday April 25	Member-Guest Tournament	Select Doubles, or Select Triples
<i>Saturday</i> May 1	Potluck Picnic & Club Gathering	Pètanque Social
Sat.-Sun. May 29-30	Wine Country Classic <b>FPUSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	Select Doubles
Sunday June 27	Emperor Norton Handicap Tournament & Picnic	Triples
Sunday July 11	Grand Concours de Pètanque & Bastille Day Picnic	Random Triples
Sunday August 22	MaTerre Club Picnic	Panaché
Sunday Sept. 26	VOMPC Club Championship	Select Triples
Sunday Oct. 17	Fin de Siècle Tournament	Select Doubles
	Casual play nightly, all season long 4-8 p.m.—at the courts	

*Note: 10 a.m. deadline for registration at 1999 VOMPC tournaments*  
For any updated information, call VOMPC hotline, 258-3450

# FPUSA Picks Sonoma as 1999 Site for National Doubles Championship

## VOMPC to Host Two-day Event, May 29-30

**F**orget that Wine Country Classic originally set for May 23. We're upping the ante. It's now the *Wine Country Classic National Doubles Championship*, set for Sonoma May 29-30.

Here's what happened: The FPUSA accepted our VOMPC bid to host the prestigious 1999 National Doublette Championship.

This means that on Memorial Day weekend, we will be hosting one of the biggest, most celebrated pétanque competitions in the country—an annual, two-day FPUSA affair that attracts the best pétanque players from all over the US.

(Your copy of the revised 1999 schedule is enclosed.)

You'll be hearing much more about this national event in the coming weeks. Jeanne Markson, Ed Porto, Peter Mathis, Mike Norton and Dave Ogaz make up the VOMPC board committee already at work on this biggest project of the year.

This will be a chance for VOMPC members not only to see some of America's finest in action, but to compete against them, too.

### *New Members*

Eight new members joined the VOMPC last month. Please extend a warm welcome to ...

**Tim Korn**  
**Monty Montague**  
**Ruth Montague**  
*and a lively contingent from*  
*Tonnellerie Radoux:*  
**Francis Durand**  
**Milouda Larsen**  
**Max Gasiewicz**  
**Angela Garcia**  
**Lee Miller**

## 'Backroads' Tape Available on Loan

**I**n November, KRON-TV's hot *Bay Area Backroads* program crew visited the City of Sonoma and environs.

They produced a program that covered everything from Steiner's Tavern to the Plaza and the Patch—plus one brief, very brief segment, on pétanque.

If you missed seeing this program and you'd like to view it on your own, call Byron Mayo. 935-1069. He has the video cassette, which you can borrow at anytime.

Even with only a minor pétanque segment, this half-hour TV show is a good one, loaded with local lore.



## **THE UMPIRE'S CORNER ...**

**Q?** The mail box was empty this month. No questions came in for our certified FPUSA answer man, Umpire Pierre Joske.

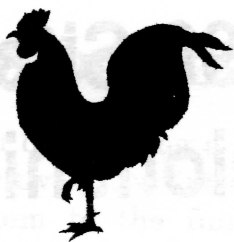
However, with the start of the new season, we expect that situation will soon change.

Remember, if you have any kind of question pertaining to pétanque, write to *The Umpire*, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

## **LOST BOULE**

Frank Pipal lost one of his best boules at the court. It's a smooth (no stripes) OB stainless steel boule, 745 gr. weight, 72 mm. dia. Serial Number N13.

If you know where it is, call Frank at 833-2020.

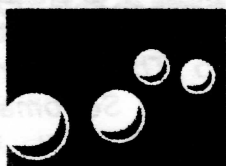


## CHICKENS! Home to Roost at the Courts

Maybe the City kicked them out of the Plaza. Maybe they sauntered up on their own. Either way, a friendly flock of chickens has taken up residence around the Sonoma pétanque courts.

Except for one incident, when a feisty rooster chased after Chuck's cochonnet, the chickens have behaved themselves and stayed out of the way of the boule tossers.

In a brief ceremony last weekend at the courts, VOMPC President Peter Mathis officially welcomed the flock, calling it a new and colorful addition to the pétanque scene in Sonoma.



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

© VOMPC 1999

"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:**

Peter Mathis, president  
Ed Porto, vice-president  
Michael Norton, treasurer  
Jeanne Markson, secretary  
David Ogaz, director  
Luis Velez, director  
Rob Zitzewitz, director

## **LA Club to Host World Qualifiers**

Los Angeles is the site for the Oct. 23-24 FPUSA triples qualifier tourney that determines which teams will represent the US at the world championships in the year 2000.

Because some Sonoma teams plan to enter this tourney, our October select doubles tournament has been reset for October 17.

*(See updated schedule enclosed in this issue.)*

## **RUMOR**

**As this issue went to press, a new rumor was circulating at the courts:**

It was said that a few of the boys are planning an array of unofficial festivities during the week leading into the FPUSA national championship tourney. To bring it all about, they say they will need volunteers.

What they have in mind has not yet been revealed.

*Stay tuned!*

## **Mar. 31 Cutoff**

The deadline is March 31. If you haven't renewed your VOMPC membership by that date, you will be dropped from the club roster.

Your club dues help to cover the cost of improvements and upkeep at the courts, the bimonthly *Pétanque Times* newsletter, liability insurance at the courts, plus flyers and other mailings, all postage, partial cost of club tournaments and social events, plus membership in the FPUSA and the *Federation International de pétanque et jeu Provençal*. We don't want to lose you. Send in your 1999 dues now.