



Pétanque Times

Vol. 7, No. 3

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

May-June, 1999

National Title Up for Grabs On May 29-30

*Best in the US Expected in Sonoma
for FPUSA Doublette Championship*

With the heavy hitters flying in from New York, Florida and LA—and with several Northern California teams playing at a high, competitive level—no one has a lock on the 1999 FPUSA national doublette title.

It's anybody's boule game.

The action all takes place in Sonoma May 29-30 at the **1999 FPUSA Wine Country Classic National Doublette Championship**—hosted by the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

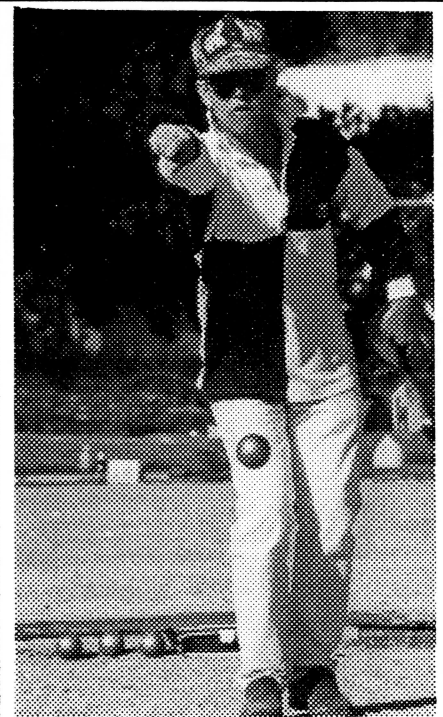
Cash prizes totaling more than \$1,100 will be spread among the winners, along with special championship awards from the FPUSA and the VOMPC.

Our VOMPC tournament directors, Mike Norton and David Ogaz, report that final plans are now set.

Working with Mike and Dave on arrangements are Tom Bricca, Bill Carter, Jeanne Markson, Jake Martin, Jacques Mathieu, Byron Mayo, Ed Porto, Luis Velez and Rob Zietzewitz.

A full, two-day May 29-30 program including entry form is included as an insert in this issue—along with a second insert that tells you what's happening during the week leading up to the Sat.-Sun. championship.

May 25 is the deadline for signing up. Don't miss out. Do it now. This is your chance to be a contender.



VOMPC's Frank Pipal, national doubles champion in 1997, will go again for the gold, May 29-30.

Awards Banquet At Ravenswood

The two-day championship festivities end Sunday night, May 30, with an elegant, wine country awards banquet at Ravenswood Winery.

There'll be awards, raffles, prizes, fun and frolic. Cost is \$25 per person. That includes gratuity and an array of fine Sonoma Valley wines.

Make reservations now. The deadline is May 25.

Tête à Tête Win Goes to "Raymond"

Peter Mathis Second In '99 Season Opener

With a wink and a nod to his fans on the sidelines, Raymond Nielsen walked away winner at our opening day Tête à Tête tournament, March 21.

Nielson defeated VOMPC ace Peter Mathis in the head-to-head finals, 13-4.

The match that drew the biggest crowd of the day, however, was a tense, semi-final thriller between Peter Mathis and Louis Toulon.

Each point was a close one, as Peter slowly built up a sizeable early lead. But Louis came roaring back late in the game and took over the lead, making it 12-11.

Then came the play of the day: With an artful, left-curl roll, Peter snaked his last boule inside the pack, close to the cochonnet, for two points and the victory, 13-12.

VOMPC's battling Bill Miller had a great day, too, making it all the way to the semi-finals, before losing to Raymond Nielsen, 5-13.

The *Consolante* went to Patrick Vaslet in a hard-fought 13-10 win over Antonio Lafaro.

Thirty-two Tête à Tête players turned out for this opening tournament of our 1999 VOMPC season.



Ken Stieper and Tom Bricca,
competing at La Boule Rouillee

Lookin' Good, at Menlo Park

A contingent of VOMPC players with nerves of steel surprised the experts at La Boule Rouillee's International Pétanque Masters Doublette in Menlo Park, March 27-28.

In what some pétanquers called a tune-up for the May championships in Sonoma, VOMPC's Jon Des Pois and Tom Bricca grabbed second place. And Frank Pipal and Ken Stieper came in third.

A portent of good things to come?

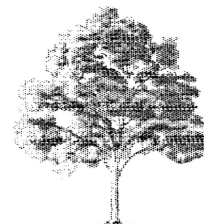
The peninsula duo of Gerard Martin and Robert Pierre won the event, which attracted a total of 31 men's team entries and 10 women's team entries.

Schedule Changes, October-November

The date for the VOMPC Club Championship, select triples, has been changed from Sunday, September 26, to Sunday, September 19, because of a conflict with the FPUSA's original timing for the world qualifier tournament in Los Angeles.

The date for our final tournament of the year, select doubles, has been changed from Sunday, October 17, to Sunday, October 24, in order to avoid conflict with the annual Sonoma Vintage Festival.

Both of these changes will be reflected in a new 1999 schedule, which you will receive as an insert in the next issue of the newsletter.



Two New Trees

Bill Carter and Frank Pipal are responsible for the two young Sycamore saplings, newly planted at the south edge of the courts. They did a first-rate job, too.

The two fast-growing, *plane* trees will provide good shade in five to ten years—about the time the city predicts the two aging Eucalyptus trees nearby may have to come down.



**A sincere thanks to our sponsors
who join with us in extending to you
this invitation to enter the FPUSA
1999 Wine Country Classic
NATIONAL DOUBLETTE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Gundlach Bundschu Winery	MaTerre International
Ravenswood Winery	Renato's Steak House
Sebastiani Vineyards	Sonoma Cheese Factory
Sonoma Valley Bank	Sonoma Wine Exchange

Send in this entry form now

(May 25 deadline)

1999 Wine Country Classic National Doublette

(Mail to VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476)

Team Members: *(please print clearly)*

1. Team Captain _____ Phone _____

2. _____ Phone _____

Number of persons attending Awards Dinner _____ (\$25 per person)

Fees enclosed: Tournament \$ _____ Awards Dinner \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Wine Country Classic 1999 NATIONAL DOUBLETTE CHAMPIONSHIP

May 29-30, Sonoma, California

- Location:** Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts, Depot Park, Sonoma.
- Teams:** Select Doubles. 1999 FPUSA members only. (Bring your card.)
- Registration:** Deadline, Tuesday, May 25, 1999.
- Entry fee:** For Championship tournament, \$40 per team.
(Includes Saturday box lunch.)
To enter Sunday's Open Consolante only, \$22 per team.

Prizes: Special awards for Championship and Consolante winners, plus cash:

<i>Championship</i>		<i>Open Consolante</i>	
1 st place team	\$ 500	1 st place team	\$ 150
2 nd place team	250	2 nd place team	80
3 rd place team	125	3 rd place team	50

Awards Banquet: Sunday, May 30 at Ravenswood Winery, Sonoma. 6:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25 per person (Includes dinner and fine Sonoma Valley wines.)

Tournament Schedule

<i>Saturday, May 29</i>		<i>Sunday, May 30</i>	
		OPEN CONSOLANTE:	
Check-In deadline	9:30 a.m.	Registration (for those unregistered)	8:30 a.m.
Welcome and introduction	9:30 a.m.	Drawing for team placements	9:00 a.m.
Announcement of draw	9:45 a.m.	Consolante Matches begin	9:30 a.m.
1 st & 2 nd round matches begin	10 a.m.	Luncheon break	12:15 p.m.
Luncheon break	12:15 p.m.	Finish Consolante tournament after lunch
3 rd & 4 th round matches begin	2 p.m.	CHAMPIONSHIP:	
		1st round, Championship matches	11:30 a.m.
		Luncheon break	12:30 p.m.
		Quarter finals begin	2 p.m.
		Semi finals	3:15 p.m.
		Finals	4:30 p.m.
Saturday Barbecue	6:00 p.m.	AWARDS BANQUET	6:30 p.m.
At Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts		At Ravenswood Winery, Sonoma	

The Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club presents

A WEEK OF PÉTANQUE!

MAY 23 thru 28, 1999

In conjunction with the hosting of the *Wine Country Classic National Doublette Championship*, a series of club and community-wide events have been planned for your participation and enjoyment.

•

Sunday, May 23, 12 noon

Pre-Championship Warm-Up Tournament and Picnic

(see reverse side for details.)

•

Tuesday, May 25, 5pm

Singles League Opening Night

Kickoff for Summer League play. Please call volunteer coordinator Dave Ogaz for details (707) 996-7576.

•

Wednesday, May 26, 5pm

Maysonnave Memorial Dedication

A community-at-large event to commemorate the life and philanthropy of Henri Maysonnave and his generosity to the people of Sonoma.

– *Our traditional Wednesday night play will follow the ceremony* –

•

Thursday, May 27, 5pm

Doubles League Opening Night

Kickoff for Summer League play. Please arrange to play your first match of the season and toast a glass of fine wine, compliments of volunteer coordinator Bill Carter.

•

Friday, May 28, 5pm

Point and Shoot Clinic

Beginners and novices are invited to join visiting pétanque competitors for tips, techniques and game strategy. Come down to the courts and welcome our out-of-town guests!

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP WARM-UP

Select Doublette Tournament and Picnic

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1999

This is a call to get your partner for the upcoming
Wine Country Classic National Doublette Championship
and tune up your game at our courts!

•

Tournament Entry Fee is \$10.00 per team.

•

All participants must sign up by 12 noon.

Play begins at 12:15 pm.

•

A sumptuous early evening meal, prepared by the
VOMPC's own Tom Bricca, and glass of wine will be
served after an afternoon of pétanque with your fellow
competitors for only \$7.00 per person.

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!

RSVP: Tom Bricca (707)996-1952



Announcing SUMMER LEAGUES

SINGLES. DOUBLES.

Official start date: May 25th.

Signup deadline: May 14.

Play when you want to.

Enjoy the fun—all summer long.

Cash prizes*. Extra surprises.

Singles entry fee \$10.

Doubles entry fee \$20 per team.

***This year, 25% of all entry fees will go into court improvements. 75% will go into the pot for maximum cash prizes. Guaranteed. Signup by May 14. We'll mail you the rules and other Summer League information.**

**1999 Coordinators:
Singles, David Ogaz
Doubles, Bill Carter**

For entry forms,
look at the back
of this page!

Here are your 1999 Summer League entry forms. You can enter the Singles. Or the doubles. Or both. Just make certain you get your entry forms in by Friday, May 14. *Bonne Chance.*

For Singles..

Mail to: David Ogaz
PO Box 214, Vineburg, CA 95487

Enclosed— my \$10 entry fee. Sign me up for Singles!

Name: _____

For Doubles..

Mail to: Bill Carter
18754 Park Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476

Enclosed— our \$20 entry fee. Sign us up for Doubles!

1. Name (*Team Captain*) _____

2. Name _____

Note: To enter the Summer League program, you must be a 1999 member of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

WELCOME!

A warm welcome to six new members of the club:

Casey Boden
Jon Felker
Bruce Fisher
Trevor Fisher
Tom Haidet
Alex Ogaz

Want to Serve As a Director On the Board?

Luis Velez Resignation Creates New Opening

Luis Velez has resigned from the VOMPC board of directors because of a recent job change that will involve extensive travel, it was announced at the April board meeting.

Probably within the next 30 days, VOMPC president Peter Mathis will be appointing a new director to serve out the remainder of Luis' two-year term.

Any member who would like to be considered for the appointment should contact Peter (938-2309) or club vice president Ed Porto (935-0574) or club secretary Jeanne Markson (996-2673).

Luis Velez was in the middle of his second term as a director. In accepting his resignation, board members expressed their regrets and their thanks for his past service to the club.

Coming June 27th



Emperor Norton I
Handicap Tournament
and Picnic

© 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

Pétanque photos
in this issue
by Tom Noonan



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER . . .

Q. At the end of a round, my last boule knocked the cochonnet far across the court. My "know-it-all" opponent measured the full distance. About 25 meters. He then said my cochonnet was out of bounds and that we had to start the round over. How come? The rule book says the jack is dead only if it's displaced to more than 30 meters! So a 25 meter distance is O.K. Right?

A. Wrong! You are looking at an old rulebook. Early last year, the FPUSA changed the limit to 20 meters, and published a revised rulebook. You should have received a copy. If you didn't, call the VOMPC club secretary and she can help you to get one.

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

Maysonnave Memorial Bench Dedication Set for May 26 at VOMPC Pétanque Courts

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club Honors Generous Local Frenchman

In a lasting tribute to Henri Maysonnave, the ebullient Frenchman who owned the land where our pétanque courts are located, the VOMPC is dedicating a seven-foot rammed-earth bench with cast concrete top and stone memorial plaque, to be installed at the south entrance of the courts.

Members and the public are invited to the dedication ceremonies, set for 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 26, followed by a rousing evening of pétanque.

Spearheaded by VOMPC members Jacques Mathieu and Frank Pipal, the Maysonnave bench is a VOMPC memorial project approved by the city in September 1996.

Mathieu, president of MaTerre International, is donating the bench. Frank Pipal is donating the cast concrete top. Club funds are paying for the stone plaque. And other club members are contributing sweat and labor.

Henri Maysonnave, well-known philanthropist and City of Sonoma *Alcade*, died in 1988. He willed to the city the pétanque court property and adjacent cottages.

Maysonnave was a man who enjoyed good pétanque and good wine and good conversation.

Henri, we salute you.

**Call our hotline for the
latest VOMPC News
258-3450**

MEMBERS, GUESTS & SUNDAY FUN

Everybody was in a party mood. Sunday, April 25. And Ed Porto and friends gave them just what they wanted. Good food and wine, plenty of pétanque and a load of camaraderie.

It was our VOMPC Member-Guest tournament, with forty-four entrants in the doublette and an even larger number in line for the gourmet sausage luncheon.

Luis Velez was the master behind the grill. Bill Carter had the courts beautifully groomed. And with the help of Mike Norton and Rod Zitzewitz, Ed Porto ran the show.

Here's how the tournament turned out: The winners were Frank Pipal and guest John Field in a lively 13-9 win over Andre Sanchou and guest Alex Ogaz.

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


PETANQUE CLUB
Wine Country Classic
1999 FPUSA National Doubles
CHAMPIONSHIP