



Pétanque Times

Vol. 7, No. 4

Valley of the Moon Club

July-August 1999

BASTILLE DAY GALA!

11TH ANNUAL GRAND CONCOURS DE PÉTANQUE

On Sunday, July 11, the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club and Ravenswood Winery are planning a French Country Picnic commemorating Bastille Day—along with a convivial random *triplette*, the 11th annual *Grand Concours de Pétanque*.

This elegant occasion is one of our most popular events of the year. The prizes, they are lavish. The food, exceptional. And the holiday spirit runs high. You and your friends are cordially invited to participate. Tournament fee is \$10 per person. Sign in by 10 a.m.

Cost of the gourmet picnic is \$12. Reservations are necessary by Thursday, July 8. Call our VOMPC hotline, 258-3450

COUNTRY PICNIC MENU

SAUSAGE & BEEF BROCHETTES, DIJON MUSTARD

WHITE BEANS *à la PROVENÇALE*

FARMERS' MARKET TOMATOES, BASIL & BALSAMIC VINEGAR

ARTISAN'S FRENCH BREAD

FABULOUS FRESH FRUITS & FRENCH CHEESES

FINE RAVENSWOOD WINES

CATERING by Wild Thyme



Smashing Finish at National Doublette

Bay Area Duo Crush LA Finalists

It was a shocker!
In the finals of the 1999 FPUSA National Doublette Championship, May 29-30, the Bay Area's Raymond Nielsen and John Krauer trounced a highly touted LA team, Jean Claude Canestrier and Jean Yves Izzo. It was a total wipeout. **Final score: 13-0. Fanny!**

The devastating finish stunned the courtside crowd gathered to watch the final championship match.

Louis Toulon and his LA partner, Max LeGrand, took third place honors.

Two VOMPC teams, Frank Pipal and Jon Des Pois, and Jacques Mathieu and Chuck Fleming, hung in with the leaders and made it into the final sixteen before getting eliminated.

Antonio Lofaro and Albert Lucas won the national doublette *Consolante* with a 13-4 triumph over Ly and Mai Nguyen from Los Angeles.

A secondary doublette tournament on Sunday for players who didn't make it into the final sixteen resulted in a solid win for another Los Angeles team, Andrew Loi and Tran Nam.

They defeated the second place winners, VMTB's Ed Porto and Bill Carter, 13-4.

Bart Zachofsky and P.J. Mallette came in third.

The *Consolante* for this secondary tournament went to Sebastian and Tino Lofaro.

Cash prizes totaling more than \$1,100 were spread among all the day's winners.

Thirty-one teams entered this two-day Wine Country Classic National Doublette Championship, coordinated by Mike Norton with good VOMPC help on all sides.

More than one visiting team reported that it was one of the best-run national FPUSA tournaments they'd ever entered.

Congratulations to all.

"THE WARM UP"

They called it just a "warm up" for the national doublette, coming up one week later.

Warm-up or no warm-up, the fourteen teams that turned out in Sonoma on Sunday, May 23, played for keeps. . .

Veterans Gerard Canabou and Jacques Biscay won this unofficial doublette tournament with a 13-8 victory over Tom Noonan and a stoked up Dexter Tracy. Tom and Dexter reached the finals by upsetting Patrick Vaslet and Mike Rago, 13-6.

Local favorites Frank Pipal and Jon Des Pois took the *Consolante*.

Tom Bricca's wizardry behind the barbecue added plenty of heat to the "warm up" and some good eating to go along with it.

The entire affair was put together by Ed Porto, Tom Bricca and Bill Carter. They did a fine job of it, too.



Five former VOMPC presidents lined up for a rare photo at the May 30 national doublette championship. (L to R): Frank Barsocchini, Mike Norton, Byron Mayo, Jacques Mathieu, Tom Bricca and Pierre Joske.



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER ...

Q. Here are three quick questions for you. How many FPUSA umpires (arbitre) do we have here in Northern California? Who are they? And what does it take to become an official FPUSA umpire?

A. Good questions. We now have eight licensed umpires in Northern California:

John Krauer in Daly City. Louis Toulon and Jean Etcheverry in Marin. Tom Bricca, Tom Noonan and Pierre Joske in Sonoma. Eldon Moilanen in Willits. And, Jose Gonzales in Sacramento.

To become an FPUSA-licensed umpire, a candidate must pass a comprehensive written test given by the national sports director—and pass a background check on the candidate's reputation and character.

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

SUMMER LEAGUE ACTION IN FULL SWING



Dave Rizzo in silhouette. Dave is one of sixteen members who signed up for *Summer League Singles* this year, coordinated by David Ogaz. Twelve teams signed up for *Summer League Doubles*, coordinated by Bill Carter. The matches are underway in both leagues. No reports yet on standings.

Steve Sterbentz On the Board

Steve Sterbentz was elected to the VOMPC board of directors at the board's May meeting. Steve will serve out the two-year term of Luis Velez, who resigned after a job change.

Don't Lose Your Revised Schedule

We recommend that you keep the new '99 Schedule that's in this issue. It gives you the exact tournament dates for the rest of the year.

MaTerre Picnic & Panaché Tourney Set for August 22

In a panaché tournament, you change partners after every game. It's a merry roundelay. And on Sunday, August 22, MaTerre Systems, with Jacques Mathieu at the helm, is sponsoring a full day of picnicking and panaché.

You expect the unexpected in a panaché. And you can expect more details about the event, too, coming soon. For now, just mark your calendar: Sunday, August 22. It'll be an intriguing day at the courts.

Welcome

Five New Members:

Chino Benitez
John Collins
Rafael Echeveria
Peter Wellington
Arnold Williams
And welcome back to
Carson Silkey

In Charge of Courts



Bill Carter and a few good men get the courts in shape for each club tournament. But more volunteers are needed. Would you like to help? See Bill Carter.

Emperor Norton II Reigns At "Handicap" Tournament

Inaugural Crowd Cheers Rambunctious Decrees

Mike Norton, in official regalia as Emperor Norton II, reigned over an inaugural tournament of "handicap" petanque, savory barbecue and regal revelry last Sunday, June 27.

The Emperor assigned a point handicap to each team and then stirred **the** mix with an assortment of rollicking decrees that resulted in a lively, offbeat day of pétanque.

Patrick Vaslet and Mike Rago won the royal event, defeating Ed Porto and Luis Velez, 13-5.

Third place went to a popular *triple* team, Tom Bricca, nine-year-old Paulina Bricca and John Felker.

The *Consolante* final was a cliff hangar. Frank Pipal and P.J. Mallette edged out Jeannette and John Krauer and Mikko Soiakeli of Finland, 13-11.

Empress Susan Norton presided at the royal barbecue alongside the Emperor. And with the help of Rob and Judie Zitzewitz, it was a regal performance.



Emperor Norton II

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VOMPC Officers and Directors:

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

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