

Pétanque Times

Vol. 8, No. 1

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

January-February 2000

2000

Board Unveils A Lively Mix For New Year

Savory Season Runs March thru October

A flurry of pétanque and picnics, playful events and high-level action, combine for a schedule *extraordinaire* in the upcoming season.

Planned by President Ed Porto and our Year 2000 board of directors, there are enough twists and turns here to satisfy the most jaded pétanquer.

It starts with a brisk, no-mercy, head-to-head singles tournament in March—and it ends with a "change your partners" *panaché* in October.

In between, look for the casual 'Maysonnave Memorial' member-guest tourney and picnic in April, several picnic and petanque days spread throughout the season, and a couple of intriguing special events.



TOUGH JOB: Last week, Peter Mathis and Bill Carter finished digging and framing in the foundation for a storage shed at the SW corner of the courts. Jon Felker helped, too, while another work party cleaned up debris around the courts.

A tour group of traveling French boulists will visit Sonoma the end of April for a short-format VOMPC select *triplette* tournament.

And by popular demand, Emperor Norton returns in May with a new bag of tricks, handicaps, good food and fun for everybody from beginners to old-time veterans.

At the other end of the scale, look for plenty of high-level competition in June.

That's when we launch our Wine Country Classic-Sonoma National Challenge, *doublette*.

The summer leagues get underway by early June, too.

Of course, Ravenswood's Grand Concours de Petanque and Bastille Day picnic will once again emblazon July.

And the annual, MaTerre-VOMPC Club Championship takes the stage in September.

There's even more! Check out the enclosed schedule.



"A club can only be as strong and supportive as its members."

Greetings, Valley of the Moon Pétanquers,

As we begin a new year, all of us in the VOMPC can look forward to a great schedule and the fun and camaraderie of meeting and playing at the courts. The Board of Directors would like to thank all of our members for supporting the Club in so many ways over the past year and for making such a positive impact on our community.

A club can only be as strong and supportive as its members. As the VOMPC continues to grow, those qualities will ensure our position as the premier center of pétanque in the USA.

Be proud, Valley of the Moon Pétanquers. We're doing well. And with all of us working and playing together, we'll do even better in 2000.

Thanks again and 'see you at the courts.'

Ed Porto, President, VOMPC

At the Top...

In Marin:

Ken Stieper has been elected president of *La Pétanque Marinier* for the Year 2000. Antonio Lofaro takes over as vice-president. Louis Toulon now becomes treasurer-secretary. And Bart Zachofsky continues on the *Marinier* board of directors.

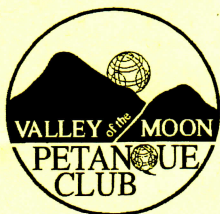
In Willits:

Eldon Moilanen has returned to the top spot as president of the Willits Boules Club for the Year 2000.

Ken, Antonio, Louis, Bart and Eldon are among several West Coast Pétanquers who hold more than one FPUSA club membership. Each belongs to one club as his primary affiliation while maintaining a secondary membership in the VOMPC.

Some years ago, after several VOMPC members introduced Charles Schulz to the joys of playing pétanque, he featured pétanque in a 'Peanuts' comic strip that ran internationally at the start of our 1994 VOMPC season. Here is a reprint of that charming strip, in tribute to Charles Schulz who retires this month in Santa Rosa. *So long, Snoopy.*





Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Year 2000 Schedule

Sunday, March 26	Season Opener	Singles (<i>Tête à Tête</i>)
Sunday, April 16	<i>'The Maysonnave Memorial'</i> Member-Guest Tournament and Picnic (One newcomer on each team) <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	Select Doublette or Triplette
Sunday, April 30	"PetanCA" Select Triplette Tournament (Traveling French boulists visit Sonoma)	Select Triplette
Sunday, May 21	<i>'The Emperor Norton Handicap'</i> and Royal Picnic <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	Random Doublette or Triplette (open format)
Sunday, June 4	VOMPC Picnic and Pétanque #1 <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	
Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18	Wine Country Classic/ Sonoma National Challenge	Select Doublette
Tuesday, July 4	VOMPC Picnic and Pétanque #2 <i>Potluck Barbeque at the courts</i>	
Sunday, July 16	Grand Concours de Pétanque and Bastille Day Picnic <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	Random Triplette
Sunday August 6	VOMPC Picnic and Pétanque #3 (plus adult-child, mini-tournament) <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	
Sunday, August 27	Mixed Doublette (One woman—One man)	Select Doublette
Sunday, September 17	MaTerre/VOMPC Club Championship and Picnic <i>Luncheon served at the courts</i>	Select Triplette
Sunday, October 22	End of Season Panaché (Change of partners after every game)	Random Doublette
All season long	Casual play at the courts nightly, 4-8 p.m.	

NOTE: 10 a.m. deadline for tournament registrations
For advance reservations at food events, call VOMPC hotline, (707) 258-3450

Jan. 5, 2000



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**It's time to renew your membership in
The Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club**

Mail your check now and get ready for an exciting 2000 season of pétanque, picnics, camaraderie, and all the good times that go along with your membership. For your convenience, use the form below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES *

\$25 for individual membership

\$35 for a family of two (*\$8 for each additional family member up to 16 years of age*)

\$10 for individual junior membership (*Juniors up to 16 years of age*)

Mail To: VOMPC, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476

Here is my check totaling \$_____ for Year 2000 membership.

☐ Individual Adult Membership ☐ Family Membership ☐ Junior Membership

Name(s) _____ M ____ F ____ Date of Birth _____

_____ M ____ F ____ Date of Birth _____

_____ M ____ F ____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Phone _____

*Year 2000 membership dues include a \$5 special assessment
for court maintenance and court construction projects.



THE UMPIRE'S CORNER ...

Q. In a tournament, do I have to play with an identical set of boules? Or, can I mix up the weight and size of the boules I play with?

I have one lucky old rusty boule I like to mix in with my new set.

A. It's something you don't see very often. But go ahead, mix them up if you want to. Each boule must be made by a manufacturer approved by the Federation, however. And each boule must be made of metal with a diameter of 7.05 cm. to 8 cm. And a weight of 0.650 kg. to 0.800 kg.

Some players do use a mix of shooting boules and pointing boules. If you do it, remember, you can't change boules in the middle of a game. What you start with you stay with to the end.

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

Willits Challenge a 'Laughter' for VOMPC Doublette Teams

Winning Team: Peter Mathis, Mike Norton

They call it the 'Willits Challenge'—an annual, fun-filled fracas between doubles teams from the Willits Boules Club and the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

But only two teams from Willits showed up at the Preston Winery tournament site on a bright and sunny Saturday, November 20.

As a result, the annual 'Willits Challenge' quickly turned into an all-day romp with VOMPC teams playing for both sides.

In a heavyweight final, Mike Norton and Peter Mathis of the VOMPC won the George Pipal Memorial Trophy. They just slipped by Louis Toulon and Ken Stieper, 13-12. Louis and Ken played for Willits.

The *Consolante* went to Frank Pipal and Antonio Lofaro in a 13-6 Valley of the Moon win over Bruce and Linda Fisher, one of two teams from Willits who did come to the party. (The other one linked Eldon Moilanen with Trevor Fisher).

Bill Carter and Ed Porto also played under Willits' dubious colors, providing the tall timber club with a four-team contingent for the day.

The remaining teams all played for the VOMPC in a high-spirited imbroglio. These included David Rizzo and Michel Saga, Karen Semerau and Bart Zachofsky, Jacques Mathieu and "a dirt farmer."

All of this happened at the Preston Winery's handsome Dry Creek Valley estate.

For a mid-day, pot luck picnic, Frank Pipal brought a big pot of Carolyn's famed potato-leek soup, Louis Toulon contributed a poulet provençal, Dave Rizzo brought a sausage and lentil cassoulet and others brought all manner of cold meats and breads and appetizers, washed down with copious Preston wines.

In early 1998, the *official* name of the 'Willits Challenge' was changed to the *George Pipal Memorial Tournament* in honor of Frank Pipal's late father, a popular member of both the VOMPC and the Willits Boules Club.

Known for his inveterate good humor and his uncanny string of victories when he played at Willits, George Pipal was the spark plug who ignited a close and long-lasting relationship between the Willits Club and the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Use the renewal form enclosed with this issue
Be ready for the fun and games coming up

VOMPC Sets New Membership High

By the end of the year, 118 pétanquers had joined the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, making the VOMPC once again the largest club in the US.

Now, a warm welcome to our first three members of the *new* year: **Chester Arthur** of Sonoma and **Marta Rich** and **Scott Rich** of Glen Ellen.

© VOMPC 2000

"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:

Ed Porto, president
Frank Pipal, vice-president
Rob Zitzewitz, treasurer
Randy Ellis, secretary
David Ogaz, director at large
Steve Sterbentz, director at large
Richard Bagel, director at large

GREETINGS FROM MEXICO

From her coastal hideaway in Puerto Escondido, Pamela Stephens sends best wishes to all of "the Pétanque gang."

She'd like to hear from you. You can email Pam at this address:

Pamela@ptoescondido.com.mx

FPUSA LATE NEWS:

Mike Norton Elected President of the National Federation

Succeeds Two-term President Louis Toulon

Michael Norton of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club has been elected president of the Federation of Pétanque/USA in a year-end vote by US club directors.

Vice-president of the FPUSA in 1996-97 and again in 1999, Mike Norton has long served the sport of pétanque in both national and VOMPC local affairs.

He was president of the VOMPC in 1994 and in 1999, for a second time, he served as club treasurer.

Mike takes over from Louis Toulon, who is stepping down after two successive two-year terms as president.

Winner



Mike Norton, newly-elected FPUSA president, is a winner on the pétanque courts, too.

Looking back at 1999, here is Mike in the middle of his final playoff match in Summer League Singles—a match in which he took two straight from Antonio Lofaro, 13-10, 13-8, winning the coveted trophy as 1999 FPUSA Summer League Singles champion.

First Fanny of the Year!

It happened on the first day of the new year. At 4:20 p.m., Jan. 1, 2000.

Jake Martin, Bill Carter and Byron Mayo cruised to a 13-0 win over Richard Bagel and Michel Saga.

Fanny!

**YEAR 2000
SCHEDULE
INSIDE**

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