



Pétanque Times

Vol. 7 No. 6

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Nov.-Dec. 2000

FRANK PIPAL, PRESIDENT

New Board Elects 2001 Club Officers

Ogaz Named VP

Frank Pipal, (pronounced *people*), vice-president, two-term director, and longtime VOMPC activist, becomes president of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club this month, following an election of 2001 officers by the new Board of Directors.

David Ogaz, going into his second two-year term, will become the club's vice president. Randy Ellis will move over from secretary to treasurer. Gail St Clair will take on the job of secretary. And Gerard Canabou, Richard Bagel and Renato Sottile will serve on the 2001 board as directors at large.

Gerard Canabou, Gail St. Clair and Renato Sottile are newly elected members of the board. The two-year terms of Richard Bagel, Randy Ellis and Frank Pipal expire at the end of 2001.

MEET OUR VOMPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR 2001



Front Row: Gerard Canabou and Frank Pipal, Back Row: Renato Sottile, David Ogaz, Gail St. Clair, Randy Ellis and Richard Bagel.

VOMPC Number One in the U.S.

Los Angeles Number 2, New York City Number 3

A dramatic increase in membership this year has pushed the VOMPC over the top. Our club is now the largest in the United States with 177 members. That includes 133 regulars, 15 juniors and 29 associate members from other clubs.

The Los Angeles Pétanque Club is second in the U.S. with 107 members.

La Boule New Yorkaise stands in third position with 77 members.

One strong aspect of recent VOMPC growth is our diversity. For example, 62 of our VOMPC members this year are women—a further sign of pétanque's position as an integral part of wine country living in the beautiful Valley of the Moon.



P.J. Captures Singles Title

He got into the playoffs with a lucky wild card draw. He went on to win the championship.

P.J. Mallette, 15-year-old sharpshooter, cruised to an easy win over Ed Porto, 13-9, 13-5, in the final match of the 2000 Summer League Singles playoffs, September 23.

Third place in the playoffs went to another wild card entry, Peter Wellington.

Leading into the playoffs, Ed Porto in the Left Bank and Chuck Fleming in the Right Bank won their division titles.

P.J. now joins an elite group of VOMPC Summer League Singles champions of the past

- 2000 P.J. Mallette
- 1999 Mike Norton
- 1998 Antonio Lofaro
- 1997 John Henry Bouldt
- 1996 John Henry Bouldt
- 1995 Mike Norton
- 1994 Louis Toulon
- 1993 Eldon Moilanen

Porto, Carter, Vaslet Win MaTerre-VOMPC Tourney

Close Match for 2000 Triplette Championship

Ed Porto, Bill Carter and Patrick Vaslet won the 2000 MaTerre-VOMPC club championship, select triplette, Sunday, September 17, with a tense, come-from-behind 15-12 victory over a strong second place team, P.J. Mallette, Raymond and Tuan Nielsen. Midway in the match, the winners were down 9-0. But they surged back, point by point, and nailed the win with a devastating three-point finish.

Third place in this 2000 championship playoff went to the triplette team of Peter Mathis, Erika Schmitt and Byron Mayo.

In the *Consolante*, Bart Zachofsky, Adrian Reyes and Tom Noonan took first place with a 13-9 win over Robert Pierre, Joanne Pierre and John Barkoviak. Marco Ilaria, Richard Bagel and Luis Velez came in third.

Seventy-two players on twenty-four different teams entered our seventh annual club championship, select triplette, sponsored by MaTerre International. The all-day event, including a fabulous MaTerre barbecued lamb luncheon, lasted until well after dusk.

An enthusiastic culinary task force helped Jacques Mathieu prepare the feast.

Pamela Stephens, Michel Saga, Bill Carter, Chuck Fleming and Jenifer and Montana Mathieu all helped during two long days of advance preparation up the hill at the Mathieu's.

Then on Sunday, Roger Poli, Bruce Frigard, Mike Denton and Ted Bucklin helped Mathieu down at the courts with his on-site preparation and final cooking—(with pots and pans on loan from Zino Mezoui and stunning ceramic serving dishes from the artist, Nicole Hummer).

The hard working, food and wine serving crew included Jeanne Markson, Pamela Stephens, Glory Glover, Richard Bagel, Luis Velez and Michel Saga. With wines from Dave Rizzo, Peter Wellington, Ravenswood and *Ceché*.

Rafael Echeveria led the way afterwards in the big cleanup.

Richard Bagel, Jeanne Markson and Glory Glover also worked with Ed Porto on registration and tournament coordination.

All in all, it was a true championship day and a superb example of the participation and family spirit that's a key part of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Pétanque Times

Dining at the Barracks!

Featuring VMI Board News

Grand Setting for VOMPC Annual Dinner

The VMI Chapter of the VOMPC is pleased to announce the 1999 Annual Dinner. The event will be held at the VMI Barracks on Friday, November 19, 1999, at 7:00 PM. The dinner will feature a three-course meal, a live auction, and a raffle. The VMI Chapter is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the dinner. The VMI Chapter is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the dinner.

Pétanque Times

Grand Concours de Pétanque & Bastille Day Luncheon

VOMPC's 10th Annual Random Target Extravaganza

Sunday, July 11

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the 10th Annual Random Target Extravaganza. The event will be held at the VMI Barracks on Sunday, July 11, 1999, at 1:00 PM. The event will feature a three-course meal, a live auction, and a raffle. The VMI Chapter is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VMI Chapter is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

Peter Mathis, 1999 President

On Our Way to the New Millennium

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the 1999 President, Peter Mathis. Peter is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the VOMPC for many years. Peter is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the VOMPC for many years. Peter is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the VOMPC for many years.

Pétanque Times

The Making and Dedication of the Mayanque Memorial Bench

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the making and dedication of the Mayanque Memorial Bench. The bench is a memorial to the Mayanque family and is located at the VMI Barracks. The bench is a memorial to the Mayanque family and is located at the VMI Barracks. The bench is a memorial to the Mayanque family and is located at the VMI Barracks.

Pétanque Times

Season Opener Mar. 26

Open Tournament, Four Bowls Singles

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the Season Opener. The event will be held at the VMI Barracks on March 26, 1999, at 7:00 PM. The event will feature a four-bowls singles tournament. The VMI Chapter is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VMI Chapter is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

Michael Norton Elected FPUSA Vice-President

From Mission Valley, Secretariat Post

The FPUSA is pleased to announce the election of Michael Norton as Vice-President. Michael is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the FPUSA for many years. Michael is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the FPUSA for many years. Michael is a member of the VMI Chapter and has been a member of the FPUSA for many years.

Pétanque Times

National Title Up for Grabs On May 29-30

Hosted by the FPUSA at the University of Texas

The FPUSA is pleased to announce the National Title. The event will be held at the University of Texas on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a national title tournament. The FPUSA is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The FPUSA is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

FPUSA Picks Sonoma as 1999 Site for National Doubles Championship

VOMPC to Host Two-Day Event, May 29-30

The FPUSA is pleased to announce the 1999 National Doubles Championship. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a national doubles championship. The FPUSA is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The FPUSA is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

COMRADES IN SONOMA

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the Comrades in Sonoma. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a comrades in sonoma tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

VOMPC "Code of Conduct" Wins Strong Endorsement

New in Effect at All Tournaments

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the VOMPC "Code of Conduct". The code of conduct is a set of rules that govern the behavior of VOMPC members at all tournaments. The code of conduct is a set of rules that govern the behavior of VOMPC members at all tournaments. The code of conduct is a set of rules that govern the behavior of VOMPC members at all tournaments.

Pétanque Times

Smashing Finish at National Doublette

Bay Area Duo Crush LA Finalists

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the National Doublette. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a national doublette tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

Annual Harvest Tournament

A "Good Harvest" of Fun and Games

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the Annual Harvest Tournament. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a harvest tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

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VOMPC Y2K READY

New Millennium Board in Place For New Year

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the VOMPC Y2K Ready. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a Y2K ready tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

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2000

Board Unveils A Lively Mix For New Year

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the 2000. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a 2000 tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

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MAY 21, THE EMPEROR REIGNS

A Bay Area Tournament & Four Rock-Paper-Scissors & 20 Jokes

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the MAY 21, THE EMPEROR REIGNS. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 21, 1999. The event will feature a rock-paper-scissors tournament and 20 jokes. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

Pétanque Times

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Seventh Year Of Ma Teve Sponsorship

The VOMPC is pleased to announce the Club Championship. The event will be held at the Sonoma State University on May 29-30, 1999. The event will feature a club championship tournament. The VOMPC is proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event. The VOMPC is also proud to have a large number of members and guests at the event.

"We had a good run . . ."

Sponsorship Committee In the Works

Interested Members Invited to Participate

A proposal for a new committee to deal with sponsorship issues was approved unanimously by the board at its October 10 meeting.

Submitted by Jacques Mathieu, the proposal calls for a new committee whose job initially would be to develop a Sponsorship Policy for consideration by the VOMPC directors.

If approved by the board, the policy would establish guidelines for the club in the solicitation or acceptance of sponsors.

The committee may also consider setting graduating levels of sponsorship in line with the amount or value of a sponsor's contribution.

In return, the club's level of support and recognition for sponsors would also be considered by the committee.

In a follow-up to the board's unanimous vote, VOMPC President Ed Porto named Jacques Mathieu to head up the Sponsorship Committee.

Mathieu asks that any member interested in participating on this committee, at least for its initial phase, please call him at 939-8258.



Bob Bosko received an ovation at the club's annual dinner in honor of his upcoming 80th birthday on Christmas Day, December 25, 2000.

Members OK Dues Increase For Next Year

VOMPC annual dues will increase next year to \$30 for individuals, \$45 for a family membership, and \$12 for juniors under 18.

The increase comes as the result of a favorable vote on a by-laws change during the club's annual election. Final tally was sixty-six "for" and two "against."

This marks the first increase in the basic dues structure since 1993.

The increased dues, according to outgoing President Ed Porto, will help the club pursue court improvements and help cover increased FPUSA payments triggered by rising insurance costs.

Details on the new dues structure will be mailed to all members soon.

Annual Dinner Draws a Crowd Ready for Fun

Ed Porto Presides at VOMPC Annual Meeting

It was a grand night for toasts and tributes, awards and celebration, feasting, fun and fine wines.

It was our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club annual reception and dinner meeting, held in the Sonoma Valley Inn's new conference center, Saturday, October 21.

Sixty-two members and guests applauded as a giant bouquet of flowers were presented to Jeanne Markson, responsible along with Jacque Mathieu for the room and superb dinner arrangements.

The applause continued as President Ed Porto reported on the growth and success of the club during the Year 2000.

Byron Mayo was awarded an original Nicole Hummer ceramic bowl as a thank-you for publishing "The Pétanque Times" the past seven years.

Our FPUSA President Mike Norton told of the club beginnings under John Bouldt.

Frank Pipal and Byron Mayo presented awards to the summer league winners.

Frank announced the results of the annual election.

And it ended with more toasts and a thanks to Dave Riffo, Zino Mezoul, Luis Velez and Ravenswood for the many fine wines at dinner.

Karen Semerau Sweeps Women's Singles League

Holly Sammons Second, Erika Schmitt Third

Karen Semerau at 7-0 stood undefeated at the end of regular play in the autumn Women's Singles League.

Holly Sammons at 6-1 came in a close second. And Erika Schmitt took third place with a 4-3 record.

"But it ain't over 'till it's over." Saturday, November 11 is the date for a two-tier championship playoff.

The top four women play in the *Concours*—the bottom four in the *Consolante*. It'll be a popular "poole system" playoff. It starts at 10 a.m.

All VOMPC members are invited to come on out that day and watch the action.



Karen Semerau, the Winner

Women's Singles League 2000 Final Standings, November 1

PLAYERS	GAMES WON	GAMES LOST	%
Karen Semerau	7	0	1.000
Holly Sammons	6	1	.857
Erika Schmitt	4	3	.571
Elizabeth Ogaz	3	4	.429
Teri Sirico	3	5	.375
Lynn Woodward	3	5	.375
Barbara Hall	2	5	.285
Glory Glover	2	6	.250

Championship Playoff starts 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11

WINTER DOUBLES LEAGUE?

How does this sound?

A mid-winter doubles league that links a veteran member with a newcomer on each team—and offers cash prizes with no entry fee?

That was the intriguing New Year's idea proposed by President Ed Porto at the October 10 board meeting, as a way of getting new members more involved, build enthusiasm for the game, and at the same time help newcomers to sharpen their pétanque skills.

Ed told the board that a vet/newcomer winter league would provide a bit of structure to the mentoring which veteran club members do so well on a casual basis at the courts already.

"For long-time members, helping newcomers is fun and rewarding," he said. "It also helps to build camaraderie among the membership."

Ed's proposal called for the club to fund the prize structure and eliminate an entry fee, as a way of further encouraging both veterans and newcomers to participate.

After board discussion of the proposal, it was decided to hold off making such an expenditure commitment and to let the entire proposal be reviewed by the new 2001 board of directors.

Coming soon?

WELCOME

New Members

In the past two months, we signed 19 new primary members, including two juniors, plus 14 secondary members from other clubs.

A warm welcome to all.

New Primary Members

Jennifer Avery, Nicolas Bach, Don Baumhefner, Kelly Crist, Mike Denton, Rebecca Lave, Pascal Liopé, Yannick Ponte, Cynthia Markson, Abigail, Alain and Patricia Samoun, Julien Ubeda, Ferdinand White Jr., Danielle White and Michelle Quijano White, Gorgina Zahradnicek and Jean-George Zanella.

New Secondary Members

Jean-Claude Bunand, Jean Bartkowlak, Jean Etcheverry, Bruce and Trevor Fisher, Bertha and Gus Foucher, Alain and Danielle Gusella, Tino Lofaro, Raymond and Tuan Nielsen, Rosanne Pierre and Fred Ryan.

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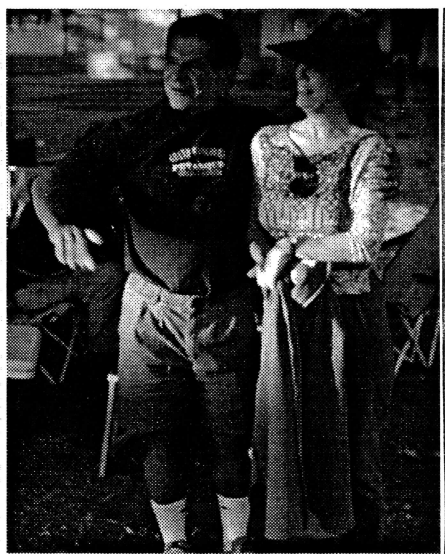
"Pétanque Times" is a bimonthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Byron Mayo, editor and publisher.

Year 2000 Officers and Directors:

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

The Panache Wrap Up



After a night of annual meeting hi-jinx, forty club members made it to the courts on Sunday morning, October 22, for the last of our Year 2000 tournaments. It was a doozy, with every player changing partners after every game. Call it "*Party Time Panache*," run by David Ogaz and Richard Bagel.

In the final playoffs, Emily, Etcheverry and Tino Lofaro captured first prize with a close, hard-fought 13-11 win over Gerard Canabou and Alex Ogaz.

Third place went to Patrick Vaslet and Erika Schmitt, who beat Bob Bosko and Jean Bartkowlak 13-8.

The late afternoon ended with the sound of popping corks, flowing champagne and a bevy of toasts on all sides ... to the season, to the club, to good friends, to new members ... and to the Panache winners. It was an ebullient way to end a great tournament season.

Doubles Playoffs

"Great Balls of Fire" Win a Wild Shoot Out

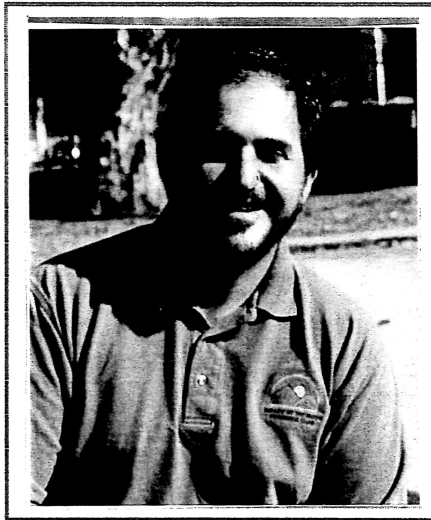
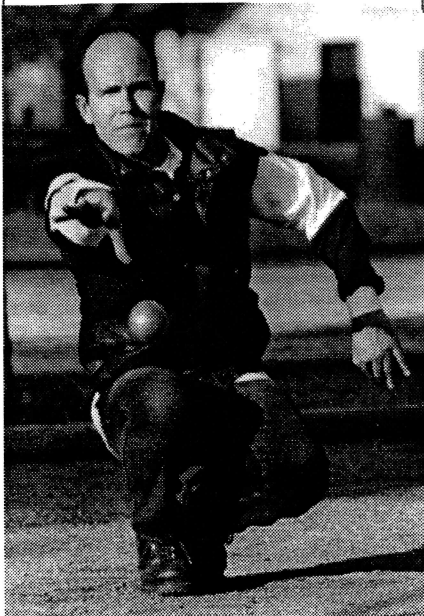
The Summer League Doubles playoff final came down to a shooting match between "Great Balls o' Fire" (Tom Bricca, Ken Stieper) and "Los Reyes de Petanca." (Tom Noonan, Adrian Reyes).

When the smoke cleared, Tom Bricca and Ken Stieper were still standing, 15-9. And they were crowned Summer League Doubles champions, Year 2000.

In the regular season final standings, Tom and Ken also captured the Unbelievable Division title while Bart Zachofsky and Louis Toulon led the Incredible Division.

Frank Papal, (pronounced *people*), did the "incredible, unbelievable," coordination.

Presidential Form



Ed Porto retires this month as president of our Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Ed has led the club during one of the wildest, busiest and most productive years in the history of the VOMPC.

Fortunately for us, Ed says that he will stay involved with club activities.

Stay tuned.

Lookin' Good In Lafayette

A sleepy gang of VOMPC players made it all the way across the bay to Lafayette Sunday morning, October 1, to compete in a Lamorinda Pétanque select triplete. They did well.

In the semi-finals, Bart Zachofsky, Ed Porto and Jean Claude Bunand squeezed out a 13-12 victory over Frank Barsocchini, Alain Gilot and an unidentified Frenchman.

Then they turned around and lost in the finals to the usual—Raymond and Tuan Nielsen, with Robert Pierre. Karen Semerau, Tom Bricca and P.J. Mallette won the *Consolante*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is my final edition as editor and publisher of "The Pétanque Times." During my tenure, it has been my goal to publish a newsletter that reflects the diversity, spirit and style of the VOMPC as a lively *American* pétanque club. I am deeply grateful to all of you who helped to make it happen.

Byron

Valley of the Moon
Pétanque Club
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