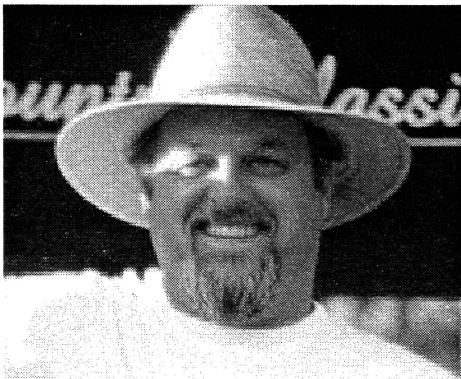


# PÉTANQUE TIMES

VOL.8, NO. 3, MAY-JUN 2001

## Member/Guest, Kids Day, then the Emperor!

*Food, Fun and Games in Store for All Comers*



### Member/Guest Chef

Meet Dave Riffo, mild-manner pétanque player, wine aficionado and erstwhile heavy equipment operator, who happens to be no stranger to churnin' out gourmet vittles for hungry crowds of clubbers.

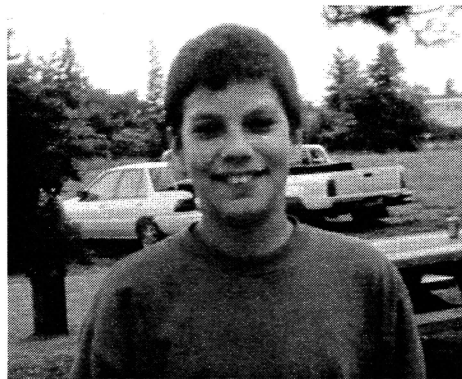
Join Dave and the lot of us for the *Annual Henry Maysonnave Memorial Member/Guest Tourney and Picnic* on Saturday, May 12th.

Bring a newcomer to the game and be part of a great event designed to open our club to more members of the community.

The menu is barbequed lamb and all the fixins'. Tourney and lunch cost is \$15. *Fun and Prizes will abound!*

#### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call the Hotline (258-3450) no later than Thursday, May 9th. Sign-up Closes at 10AM.



### Ready for X-Games?

Does the VOMPC have something in store for Seric Ogaz! It's the *X-Games, pétanque style*.

Kids are invited to the courts on Sunday, May 20th for their own tournament and FREE picnic. Adults are welcome for lunch (for a nominal charge) but the kids own the courts on this day.

Former VOMPC President Tom Bricca and Board Member Renato Sotille are planning a full day of food, fun and prizes. Last year's *Kids' Day* was a great success, and this year we have more kids. That means more fun! **Sign up by 10am. Play ends about 4pm.**

*Come on down for a great day!*

#### RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED

Please call the Hotline (258-3450) after May 12th for more details.



### The Emperor Rules!

Emperor Norton will return to Sonoma to wield his mighty staff of justice over the uneven playing field of pétanque.

The *Third Annual Emperor Norton Handicap Tournament and Royal Picnic* is on for Sunday, June 25th.

Hosted by FPUSA President Mike Norton, this tournament is an open format (doubles or triples, random or select), offering a "grab bag" of surprises.

Unpredictability is the name of the game, as handicaps are judiciously administered according to players' abilities and, um, the whimsy of the Lord Emperor. *Don't miss this one!*

#### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Please call the Hotline (258-3450) for details no later than Thursday, June 22th. Sign-up Closes 10AM.

*...and there is one more June event coming your way...details on page two!*

# Special Olympians Offer VOMPC "Growth"

In the past few years we have seen tremendous growth for the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club. We have come to pride ourselves in our "open door policy," inviting newcomers to the game. We have diversified our membership, taking in more women, kids and are graced by participation from Latin American Sonomans and a fresh group of young adults.

We have improved our park. We have offered expanded programs of leagues and tournaments. We have welcomed pétanque players from around California and the US to some top-notch events. Wednesday evening play attracts ever greater numbers and this past winter saw weekend play increase dramatically. On any given evening one can find a mixed bag of social games and good cheer at the courts. *VOMPC, you're doin' good!*

This spring, however there is a special kind of "growth" which our club is fortunate enough to experience. Our open arms have been extended to the Sonoma Valley Special Olympics bocce program. And, oh, how sweet it is!



For an hour or two on every Saturday in April, May and June, beginning at one o'clock, a few of our courts are being used as a practice ground for these special members of our community. A small group of club members has signed on to host these young folks, giving them instruction, guidance and some individual attention with the aim of teaching them an outdoor bowling game, and to hopefully make their lives a bit more fun.

The growth here mentioned is not of numbers or programs, courts or amenities, prizes or publicity (all those well and good). For anyone who can be involved, the growth is of a more personal nature. It comes from seeing the efforts and the joy of those who are especially challenged. Like all of us, they strive to excel in sport and in life and, like all of us, can benefit from a helping hand. May we serve them well.

## © VOMPC 2001

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

Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Contributing Editor: Byron Mayo

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto

### VOMPC 2001 Board of Directors

Frank Pipal, President

Dave Ogaz, Vice President

Gail StClair, Secretary

Randy Ellis, Treasurer

Directors at Large: Rick Bagel,  
Gerard Canabou, Renato Sotille

## Club to Host First Free-to-Members Picnic! *Picnic and Pétanque Set for Sunday, June 3rd*

At their February meeting the VOMPC Board of Directors voted to try something new on the calendar of events. In appreciation to all members, a celebration is planned for Sunday, June 3rd.

It's a **Cous Cous Royale** Luncheon, cooked up by long time club member and career chef Roger Poli. For more details, call the Hotline (258-3450) or check the bulletin board at the courts. *See you there!*

## New Members

The VOMPC would like to welcome:

**Narin Garrett**

**Marri Lemaire**

## [www.sonomapetanque.com](http://www.sonomapetanque.com)

Check out our revamped website for the latest news, results and pictures. Kudos to Jessica Misuraca for her design of the site, Byron Mayo for key input and Jacques Mathieu for underwriting the startup costs.

***Bob-a-Loo, where are you?***

# Mixed Doubles Draws Big on the road...

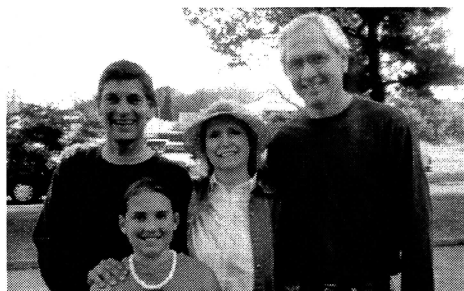
## Thirty Teams Compete. Potluck Lunch



Finalists (l to r): Dolly Ebollito, PJ Mallette, Barbara Hall and Peter Wellington.



Bart Zachofsky and Teri Sirico took third place against Toni Mallette and John Bouldt.



Consolante Finalists (l to r): Tom Bricca, Keilyn Rice, Susan and Mike Norton

(Apr.22) The cool morning turned into a hot afternoon of pétanque as the *Second Annual Mixed Doublette Tournament* attracted a healthy number of players of all ages. Representatives from Menlo Park, Sacramento, Willits, Santa Rosa, San Rafael, San Francisco and Lafayette joined a large group of VOMPers for the event. Vice President Dave Ogaz and Secretary Gail StClair put it all together and the participants did the rest with great potluck dishes and good sportsmanship.

The biggest draw of the day came in the final grueling match of the opening rounds. It was a battle royal between Byron Mayo and Holly Sammons and Pascal Gravier and Elizabeth Ogaz. The one hour and forty minute, 13-12 marathon was brought to a dramatic conclusion with a vicious *carreau-sur-place* two inches from the cochonnet by Byron, to the delight of the crowd.

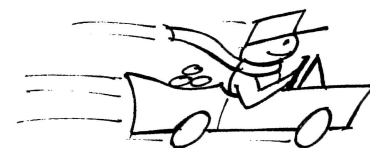


Dexter Tracy hung tough with partner Lisa Hoxie, but came up short in the Quarter Finals.

In the Semifinals of the Concours, PJ Mallette and Dolly Ebollito outlasted John Bouldt and Toni Mallette, 13-11. Waiting in the wings were Peter Wellington and Barbara Hall who had dispatched Bart Zachofsky and Teri Sirico with methodical efficiency, 13-7.

In the Final match, youth and experience proved to be the winning formula, as PJ shot *à la raffle* and Dolly touched the cochonnet for the game's last point, earning a 13-7 triumph. Bart and Teri mopped up for Third Place, finishing off the day with a 13-10 win.

In the Consolante, it was two former VOMPC Presidents on opposing teams. Mike and Susan Norton played valiantly but came up short against Tom Bricca and eleven-year old newcomer Keilyn Rice, 13-8. Dave Ogaz and Gail StClair took Third Place.



...with the VOMPC

The Bay Area pétanque season got underway last month and a number of VOMPC boulistes were not to be denied in their quest for out-of-town competition.

On March 11th a cadre of mixed doubles teams travelled to San Rafael to play in the *Northern California Commemorative Cup*. Ed Porto and Karen Semerau placed second overall and PJ Mallette and Cynthia Markson took the Consolante.

On April 1st Sonoma teams carried the day in Lamorinda's Annual April Triplette. The Final Match saw Ed Porto, Tom Noonan and Lamorinda club founder Pascal Gravier outlast Frank Pipal, Bart Zachofsky and Jean-Claude Bunand, 13-10. Gerard Canabou, Patrick Vaslet and John Krauer played on the two other semifinal teams. PJ Mallette, Mike Norton and John Bouldt made the Quarterfinals.

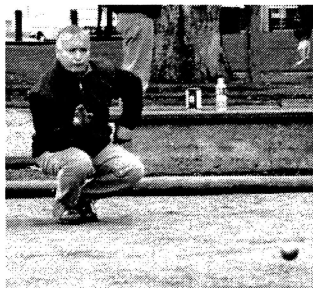
Many thanks to our sister clubs, La Pétanque Marinier and the Lamorinda Pétanque Club, for hosting two marvelous events.

Further afield, Tom Noonan, Frank Pipal and Ed Porto, tried their luck in the 6th Annual *Pineda del Mar Open Triplette* (Barcelona, Spain, April 14-15). The homeboys were the first Americans to enter this event, placing in the top third of the consolante.

**Other clubs' events are posted at our courts on a regular basis, so check out the schedule and hit the road!**

# 4-Ball Singles: Wet, Wild

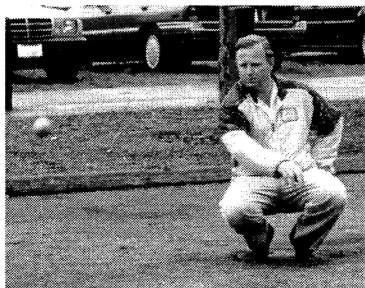
*Two Divisions, Great Games, Great Day*



Golden Boy Antonio Lofaro excelled in the wet conditions and nearly won it all.



Glory Glover and Barbara Hall went at it for almost one and a half hours in the Semifinal.



Raymond Nielsen took 1st Place for the second straight year.



"Rain?"  
"What rain?"

## The Umpire's Corner . . .



by Byron Mayo

My boule was an inch from the cochonnet, holding the point. My opponent's closest boule was about six inches from the cochonnet.

With his next boule, he tried to shoot my boule out. He missed. But his shooting boule hit the log in back and bounced back into the game, knocking my boule out of position and leaving his first boule closer to the cochonnet.

I said his shooting boule was out of play once it hit the log and that my boule should be put back in place, giving me the point.

He said, "No way, Jose. Unless the position of your boule was marked, you're out of luck."

### *What's your opinion on this, Ump?*

If a boule rebounds back into the playing area after going out of bounds, any boule or cochonnet it hits at that point is put back into place, if the original position was clearly marked.

Literally, your hard-nosed opponent was correct. In a championship match or an FPUSA tournament, that's the way the rules are applied—literally.

However, in a friendly game of pétanque on the courts in Sonoma, most players don't take such a rigid stand. (Your opponent already conceded that you were holding the point, when he tried to shoot you out. In the situation you described, I think most players would be willing to replace your boule close to the cochonnet and carry on from there.)

*Do you have a pétanque question?*

Write to The Umpire, P.O. Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476.

Answers are certified by FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske

(Mar. 24) Forty-eight players showed up for the VOMPC's 4-Ball Singles Tournament. The weather was just this side of dry when the games began but cool afternoon showers tested the mettle of playoff participants.

The event staff included Richard Bagel, Gerard Canabou and Frank Pipal, with help from John Krauer and Bart Zachofsky. For the second straight year, "Open" and Women's Divisions were offered. "Bonus" rounds were also put into place, distributing prizes to more players.

In the Open there were a few surprises—from juniors and seniors. PJ Mallette scored a first-round playoff fanny over a well-respected, long-time player who shall remain unnamed. The up and coming Adrian Reyes pulled a "David and Goliath," toppling a VOMPC veteran in the tournament's opening round. Eleven-year-old Patrick Sammons

held his own against some of the Bay Area's best. Octegenarian and pétanque legend Armand Squitieri pointed his way to the Quarter Final. And it was the "Heartbreak Hotel"

for Byron Mayo, who secured his ticket to the Consolante by virtue of two 12-13 losses.

But there was no real surprise in the Final, as it was Raymond Nielsen again. The Big Red Machine came from behind to beat a tenacious Antonio Lofaro, 13-9 before an enthusiastic, if wet, gallerie.

On the women's side, Karen Semerau earned top honors for the second straight year by defeating Barbara Hall in the final match, again by the score of 13-9. Barbara earned her way there with a marathon 13-12 win over Glory Glover in the Semifinal. New member Judy Olivier took the Consolante crown.

Another Open Division notable was Peter Mathis. Fresh out of winter hibernation, the smiley ex-President took down the formidable Andrew Loi for Third Place. And in the Consolante, it was Mike Norton, Jacques Serafian and Frank Pipal who touched money. Overall, there were eleven prizes distributed in both Divisions. But for most folks that day, their reward was in the chase.

DO YOU HAVE  
THE RIGHT STUFF?

# Sign-Up Now for Summer League Singles 2001

*This is it. Tête à Tête. One on One. The Classic Singles League.  
Enjoy summer pétanque at its best. For VOMPC members only.*

---

- You play anytime you want, June 1—Aug. 31
- Each match best 2 out of 3 games
- Post-season playoffs anytime Sept. 7-12.
- Championship match Sat. Sept. 15
- You get frequent reports on the standings
- Midseason check point July 12
- Generous cash prizes—divisional and playoff levels
- Entry fee only \$12—for a full summer of fun
- Easy rules and full information will be mailed to you
- Entries must be received by Wednesday, May 18
- Any questions, call Summer League Singles  
Director Byron Mayo, 935-1069

**Mail in your entry now. Deadline is May 18**

TO: Byron Mayo  
880 Oak Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476

Here's my \$12. Sign me up.

(Name): \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer League Doubles 2001

*For the First Time Ever in U.S. Pétanque!*

*We're Doubling the Doubles!!*

*That's Right - You Make the Choice - or Pick Both!!*

## HARDCORE

**WE WANT TO PLAY!**

Name: ⑧ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**This is our Game, Send us the Stuff.  
Here's the 30 Bucks**

to: **P.J. Mallette**  
215 W. Spain St., Sonoma, CA 95476

## DOUBLES

## 2001 Summer Social Doubles

*We would like to Participate*

Name: ✿ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please find enclosed our  
\$20.00 entrance fee*

to: **P.J. Mallette**  
215 W. Spain St.  
Sonoma, CA 95476

### • Hardcore Doubles • It's the return of the Classic

- ✓ You schedule your matches, starting June 1
- ✓ Each match best 2 out of 3 games
- ✓ Monthly check points
- ✓ Standings posted at the courts every 3 weeks
- ✓ Prizes for divisional & overall winners
- ✓ \$15.00 per person - the best summer bargain!

• more information below •

### • Social Doubles •

*It's the return of last years format*

- \* Weekly assigned matches, starting in June
- \* A match is a challenging 15 point game
- \* Every 4th week is a "make-up" week
- \* Standings posted at the courts every 3 weeks
- \* Prizes for divisional & overall winners
- \* \$10.00 per person - a great summer bargain!

• more information below •

### • Important Information on Both Leagues •

All entries for both leagues must be recieved by **May 18**

Both leagues are being Co-Directed by P.J. Mallette & Bill Carter

The length the "season" will be determined by the number of teams that sign up in either league. Full scheduling, league rules, and all information will be mailed to the team "Captain" before the league starting date, June 1. For VOMPC members only

Please enter the "**Capitain's**" name first on the entry form. Make checks payable to **P.J. Mallette, memo 'summer doubles'**. 75% will be returned in prizes, and 25% of league funds will be dedicated to 'Court Maintenance Fund'.

**Any questions, call... PJ 996-3539 or Carter 933-0449**

**- Sign-up Now -**

## VOMPC Board Notes

**03.08.01**

Soup and Brie Event: Thanks to T.Noonan for all his hard work and donation of time, food, cooking, etc. Club netted \$74 (5% of purse + donation).

Special Olympics Proposal: approved unanimously.

Sponsorship Policy Proposal: approved unanimously.

Proposal for Shade Trees: approved 5-1.

Newsletter: Cost was \$245.46 for Mar/Apr issue.

Web site: B.Mayo will help provide content to J.Misuraca for web site development.

Suggestion made to re-institute the position of Director of Sport as per the by-laws

Ogaz will chair subcommittee to clarify Court Maintenance Committee status. Sotille, Bagel, Carter, Boultd and Mathieu unanimously approved.

**04.05.01**

A court maintenance budget of \$600 was approved for the year 2001.

B.Mayo proposes to run a Summer Singles League. D.Ogaz moved/R.Bagel seconded to approve of this proposal.

Two proposals received for Summer Doubles Leagues from Mike Norton and Bill Carter.

WCQT Committee: Information packets going out

An Ad Hoc Committee has been assigned the task of reviewing the Club By-Laws and Articles of Association to look for areas that need to be updated. Ogaz to chair.

Four ball Singles Tournament brought in \$40 for the club (12.5% of purse).

## No ifs, ands, or butts!

*...or bottle caps, for that matter.*

You know what we're talking about. Please use the coffee cans which are placed around the courts for your cigarette butts, bottle caps and corks. As you probably know, our courts are maintained solely by the VOMPC (that means your friendly volunteers!). Please make things easier for them by being mindful of any trash left at the courts and pitch in whenever you can...*because every little bit helps. Thanks!*

## Annual Work Party A Big Success

On Saturday March 17th, the VOMPC members listed below pitched to make our annual Work Party a big success. Two trees, donated by Frank Pipal and Jacques Mathieu were planted on the north court. 2,200 lbs. of leaves, bark and tree clippings was hauled to the dump. Irrigation lines to the new and existing trees were installed. Plumbing was donated by Boden ("Don't live with a drip") Plumbing. The courts were raked and groomed for the new season and HUNDREDS of cigarette butts and bottle caps were painstakingly sifted from the gravel on and around the courts.

*Thanks to these folks, our courts looking great!*

Richard Bagel	Glory Glover	Sarah Ogaz	Tom Tetard
Frank Barsocchini	Barbara Hall	Frank Pipal	Dexter Tracy
John Boultd	Marco Ilaria	Ed Porto	Patrick Vaslet
Tom Bricca	Jacques Mathieu	Michel Saga	Luis Velez
Gerard Canabou	Al Mujic	Erika Schmidt	Bart Zachofsky
Bill Carter	Tom Noonan	Karen Semerau	Rob Zitzewitz
	Elizabeth Ogaz	Teri Sirico	

## Volunteers Still Needed

Please call the hotline if you would like to be involved in club event planning and staffing. It's a lot of fun and we can't do it without you. *Thanks!*

## Don't Forget the Fourth!

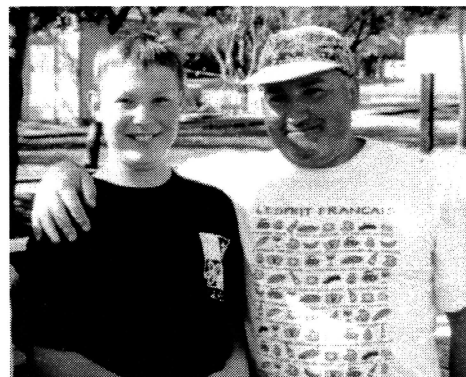
Our courts are a great place to view the fireworks. On July 4th plan to come to the courts for some casual play and potluck treats, starting about 5pm.

## New Member/Vet League Ends on High Note

(Mar.31) The 2001 Winter/Spring League came to an enjoyable conclusion as participants gathered for an amicable playoff and a picnic in the sun.

There were a few surprises as division winners were not to be seen in the finals. The dynamic duo of Bart Zachofsky and Teri Sirico tempted fate but stalled in the final against the unstoppable Tino Lofaro and his quick-learning protégé, Patrick Sammons.

Barbara Hall took the "Stranded Partners" Handicapped Round-Robin and all enjoyed the bounty of a lovely potluck feast.



# Spiffed-up Courts Take on a New Look

Have you noticed anything new at the courts lately? If you're late out of the gate this year and haven't been to the courts yet, you're in for some nice surprises. The East Courts have received the lion's share of the improvements, with boundary boards, string-lined courts, a water spigot and a picnic table. Irrigation lines have been laid as well. And you may notice the "amendments" to some of the court surfaces, the coarse gravel making them extra-challenging.

On the North Courts two shade trees have been planted, complete with irrigation lines. Some of the older boundary boards have been replaced in the central median. The barbeque

has received its long-awaited adjustable coal rack. The inside of the shed has been shelved, racked and organized. Trees have been pruned and the flowers are pushing up nicely. There is a new scoreboard mounting system on the dumpster enclosure. *And it's only May!!*

Of course, all these improvements don't happen by themselves. They come from the hard work of club volunteers. In addition to the work party participants mentioned inside, let's give special thanks to Bill Carter for his efforts. Also a big hand to Tom Bricca and Jake Martin for laying in the boundary boards on the East Courts, Frank Pipal and Jacques Mathieu for their generous donation

of the North Court trees and Rob Zitzewitz for his donation and fabrication of the coal rack for the barbeque. *Muchas Gracias!*



*In this issue...*

**The Umpire's Corner** -  
back by popular demand!

Previews of our May and  
June events

Who did all that work?

**On the road, with the  
VOMPC...**

Special Olympians at  
the Courts

*...and much much more!*

Valley of the Moon  
Pétanque Club  
P.O. Box 863  
Sonoma CA 95476



Byron Mayo  
880 Oak Lane  
Sonoma, CA 95476

*See the special insert in this issue for your  
**2001 Summer League Registration Forms!***

**2001 Membership Ticker: 112**