

PÉTANQUE TIMES

VOL.8, NO. 4, JUL-AUG 2001

Boulliabaise, Paella and Pétanque!

Two Great Summer Feasts Coming Your Way

Sunday, July 15th



You've Seen Them Before...

*...and they'll be back for more—at the Annual **Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque!***

You know the drill: sign up by 10am for the Random Triplette, play a couple of games, then sit down to a sumptuous bowl of authentic boulliabaise. All will be served up by Chef Marco Ilaria, prized instructor at the California Culinary Academy, and his trusty cohort Franklin "Mad Dog," "Butch" Earl.

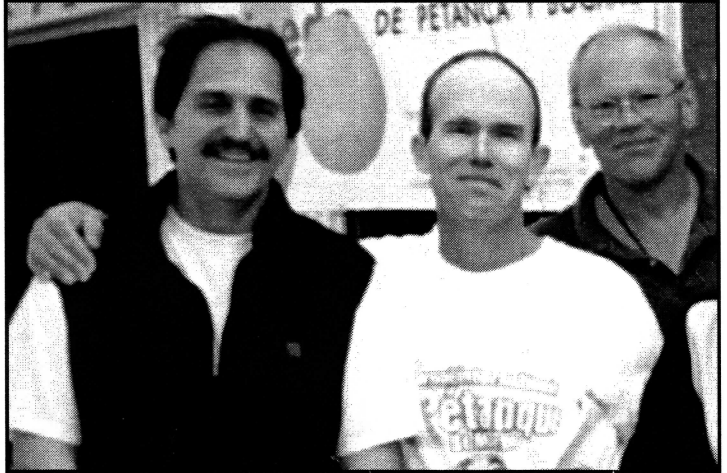
The afternoon features the Concours, Consolante and lots of prizes. *Maybe this year Bob ("Bobby Bastille") Bosko, will actually let someone else win!*

Lunch is thirteen bucks and the tourney is seven. Here's the menu:

**Fresh Seafood Boulliabaise
Garden Salad
French Bread, Brie and Fresh Fruit
Glass of Ravenswood Wine**

See you on Sunday, July 15th! Sign-up closes at 10am.

Saturday, August 11th



Where Have These Guys Been?

Ed Porto, Frank Pipal and Tom Noonan got a crash course in pétanque (we'll spare you the details) and *paella* last spring in Barcelona, Spain. They will be recreating the beauty and flavor of authentic Valencian Paella at the Courts for a **Special Evening Edition of Picnic and Pétanque** on Saturday, August 11th.

Dinner will be served about 6pm. Come by anytime beginning at 3pm to play some friendly games and work up a little appetite.

For only fifteen sheckels, here's what you get:

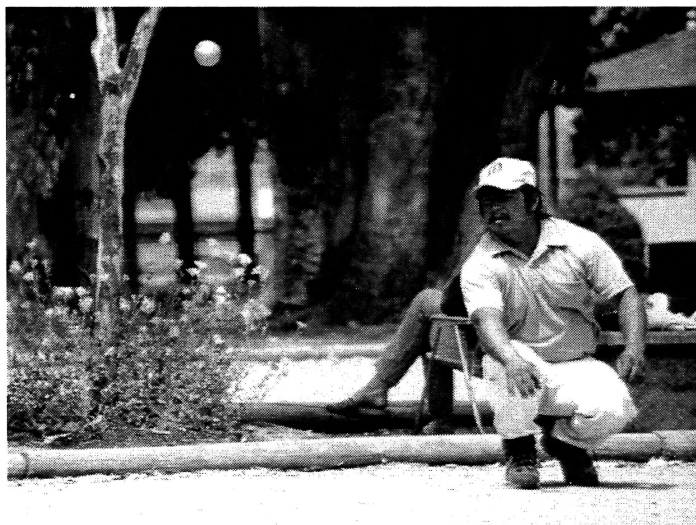
**Tapas Variadas
Paella (Seafood, Mixed, or Vegetarian)
Mixed Green Salad
Dessert
Glass of Wine or Sangria**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 11th!

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THESE EVENTS NO LATER THAN THE THURSDAY BEFORE.
CALL THE HOTLINE 707-258-3450 (16 yrs. and under—half price)**

The Emperor Reigns Supreme! 3 Leagues Underway

Loyal Subjects Return in Droves! A Big Day for All. for Summer Season



Rafael Echeveria delivers a soft lob with finesse for the point.

"Rafa" led his triplete of newcomers through some great games in the opening rounds.

Competition got off to a fast start for the 2001 Summer League Season. In the Singles League, John Bouldt and a three-way tie of Bill Carter, Peter Mathis and Bill Miller lead their respective divisions.

Bill Carter/Pamela Stephens and Byron Mayo/Ed Porto are setting the pace in the "Social Doubles" League (*don't let the name fool ya!*) with 3-0 records.

In "Hard Core Doubles" (*don't let that name fool you either!*) it's Chuck Fleming and Bill Miller who are leading the pack at 4-0.

But it's a long way to the playoffs in September and anything can happen...so stay tuned!

Special thanks to our volunteer league directors Byron Mayo, Bill Carter and PJ Mallette.

www.sonomapetanque.com

Jessica Misuraca has been busy updating our Club website with pictures, league and tournament results and a bit of Club history.

...so boot up and check it out!!

(June 24th) Twenty-four teams of two's and three's competed in the **Third Annual Emperor Norton Handicap Tournament** on a delightfully cool day. FPUSA Prez Mike Norton (sporting a souvenir pétanque uniform from France) meted out his brand of justice upon a happy field of revelers.

To pull off the Royal Picnic in fitting style the Emperor was not without his minions. Rob and Judy Zitzewitz worked the signup table and Susan Norton and Ken Stieper cooked up a delicious mixed barbeque, baked beans and Oriental salad. Newcomer Jeremy Bossio also was a great help.

Patrick Vaslet and Tino "Bello" Lofaro took home the championship magnums by virtue of their 13-5 drubbing of Raymond Nielsen and Dave and Seric Ogaz in the Final.

All contestants entered a raffle for donated prizes and PJ Mallette won the Emperor's trivia* quiz. As "Bello" danced his victory jig, the crowd cheered at the drawing, a fitting end to a day of surprises at the courts.

Big Thanks to Mike Norton for his generous donations of wine and prizes and to all who created, once again, a truly regal day.

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

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Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto, Deborah Siler, Mai Nguyen

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 Sottile

Wine Country Classic Select Doubles Aug 19th

Ready for some good competition? Well then, don't miss the Annual **Wine Country Classic** on August 19th. It's a b-y-o-lunch affair, with possibly the taco truck, *La Bamba*, serving up authentic south-of-the-border delights.

As usual, sign up by 10am and bring \$7 to enter. There will be an Open and a Women's Division. Kids 16 years & under pay 1/2 price.

Call the hotline for more details (258-3450). *See you there!*

*Here's some tourney trivia (combined ages): youngest team-24 years, eldest-207 years! (now THAT's a spread)

Welcome to Our New Members!

Jenny Arendt	Erin McTaggart	Michele Silkey
Thierry Barbetti	Seric Ogaz	Weldon Smith
Dave Clark	Dave O'Hara	Nancy Smith
Lawren Giles	France Ruffenau	Mel Srybnik
Kathleen Gurney	Morgan Sanders	...and welcome back
Cory McPherson	Cynthia Scarborough	Joanne Sanders

VOMPers Compete and Place High in Regional and National Events

on the road...  ...with the VOMPC



VOMPC Mixed Doubles (l to r): Elizabeth Ogaz, Pascal Gravier, Tino "Bello" Lofaro, Holly Sammons, Pamela Stephens, Bill Carter, Karen Semerau and Ed Porto.



VOMPers in Tinseltown (l to r): Frank Barsocchini, PJ Mallette, Peter Mathis, Mike Norton, "Bello", Bart Zachofsky, Jean Claude Bunand, Frank Pipal, and Ed Porto.

(May 6) Twelve hearty boulists, including two women doublettes, journeyed to the annual **Ebollito Memorial Tournament** in Menlo Park for a fun-filled day of pétanque, hosted by Rene and Nicole DiMase, Rafael and Christiane Meucci, all of Marseille, France and Dolly Ebollito of La Boule Joyeuse Pétanque Club. The final match of the Open was swift and merciful as homeboy John Henry Boultdt and Louis Toulon delivered a 13-2 shellacking to Christian Triay and Tom Nguyen, the Los Angeles team who won the coveted Wine Country Classic in Sonoma last July. *Did someone say "Ray-Vahnj?"*

(May 19-20) Four VOMPC teams entered a field of twenty three doublettes, including last year's defending champions from New York in the **FPUSA National Mixed Doubles** in Rancho Cordova, hosted by Le Club Francais de Sacramento. Three of the four teams made the Quarterfinals. The Cinderella team of Elizabeth Ogaz and Pascal Gravier played brilliantly together and won the final match, 13-11. Ed Porto

and Karen Semerau finished on a strong note by besting the defending champs 13-8 for Third Place. *Hats off to the Sacto folks for hosting a great event!*

(May 26-27) The VOMPC was well represented in the **FPUSA National Doubles** Tournament in Los Angeles. As usual the LAPC put on a first class event for twenty-four teams hailing from California and New York. Frank Barsocchini teamed up with Mai Nguyen of the LAPC to take Second Place. Tino Lofaro and Jean-Claude Bunand gave it their best and finished fourth overall. PJ Mallette and Peter Mathis played well and reached the Quarterfinals.

(May 27) It was described as a "Lovefest" for the twenty women who showed up to compete in the **FPUSA National Women's Doubles** in Lafayette, hosted by the Lamorinda Pétanque Club. VOMPC teams Glory Glover/Barbara Hall and Holly Sammons/Karen Semerau did well and made the Quarterfinals.

Congratulations to all our contestants!



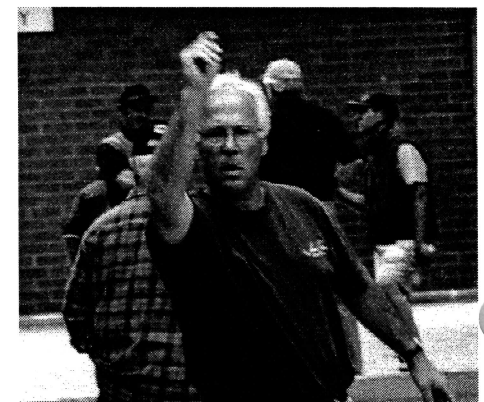
Ebollito Memorial Winners Louis Toulon(l) and John Boultdt with hosts René DiMase and Dolly Ebollito.



Her finest hour! Elizabeth celebrates her victory in the Final of Mixed Doubles.



3rd Place medals put smiles on these two!



Frank Barsocchini took care of the pointing and finished a strong second in L.A.

Member/Guest Wows 'em!

Big Tourney, Big Eats, and Good Play



Club member Judy Olivier coaches her guest, Susan Davis, as opponent Gervais Pasquier looks on.

The Umpire's Corner . . .



In a tournament match, my testy opponent tosses the cochonnet. It looks short. He walks it off and claims that it's good. Then he asks me if I think it's good. I tell him, "I don't know." He asks me if I want to walk it off. I tell him, "No."

He tosses his first boule. It ends up about two inches from the cochonnet. Then, I pull out my tape and measure the distance. And it's definitely short. So I tell him to toss the cochonnet once again.

He refuses. He says the round began when he played his first boule. "No turning back," he says.

What do you say, arbitre?

You have the right to contest the distance until you have either accepted the location of the cochonnet or played your own boule.

In the situation you cite, the fact that you did not want to walk off the distance prior to your opponent's toss of his boule did not constitute an acceptance of the distance.

You had every right to measure the distance after he tossed his first boule. Then, when a confirmed tape measurement proved the toss was short, he should have brought his cochonnet back and tossed it out again.

(When he refused to do this, of course, you should have immediately called over the tournament arbitre.)

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

(May12) The tradition of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club's **Henry Maysonnave Memorial Member-Guest Tournament and Picnic** was carried on in fine style as twenty-two doublettes participated in a friendly day of competition and fun.

A barbequed lamb lunch fit for a, well, Emperor was served up by Dave Rizzo and his ad hoc crew of Tom Bricca and Bruce Frigard. Dave treated the crowd to some fine viticultural selections from *Harvest Wines*. Members also donated funds for three rare bottles of wine which Dave kicked in for good measure.

Dave, you're a tough act to follow!

There were noncash prizes awarded at a variety of levels. *Moon Valley Boules* contributed the First Place prize (a set of competition boules) for the Newcomer and *CoffeeCo* put up the Consolante winner award of five pounds of premium java.

Proceeds of the event went into the club's General Fund. So a big thanks is also in order to all the participants who paid while they played.

And play they did! This "social tournament" lingered into the early evening and was eventually won by Tom Noonan and France Ruffenaud. Richard Bagel and newby James York took the Consolante.

What Pétanque Means To Me...

by Karen Semerau

A heavy metal ball orb to be thrown, ever so precisely, at an infinitesimal object much too small to hit.

Sun and sweat clouding judgement as the pressure increases to a pitch at which point I am wishing my opponent a sudden onset of total paralysis or at the least, blindness.

The most delectable food and drink and banter to relieve one's might from the frozen concentration of this addictive sport.

And then smacking a mental wall that reminds me that it's the laughter, smiles, friendships, generosity and support that are most meaningful.

That is what I love. This is Pétanque.

Thank you for all your kindness -Karen Semerau

A Wine Country Weekend of Pétanque

~ PROGRAM OF EVENTS ~

Friday Night Welcome

5-8pm, Casual Play
Point and Shoot Contest
(International Format)
Courtside Apéritif and Hors d'oeuvres

Saturday at the Courts

Morning Coffee at Sign-in
Opening Rounds—Both Tournaments
Play All Day
Lunch Served Courtside

Sunday at the Courts

Morning Coffee at Sign-in
Playoff Rounds—Both Tournaments
Lunch: Crêpes by Catherine Bunand
Afternoon Hospitality Table
Championship Final: 4pm

Sunday 7:30pm at Ravenswood*

Gourmet Italian Banquet—*under the stars*
by Chef Marco Ilaria (see below)
Raffle and Door Prizes
Live Auction
Presentation of Awards

~ Awards Banquet Menu ~

Tossed Green Salad
Three Cheese Lasagna
Sausage and Pepper Mélange
Coffee and Dessert
Ravenswood Wine
Served "Family Style" by Chef Marco and Staff

**Ravenswood Winery is a five-minute drive from the Courts. Taking a jacket or sweater with you is advisable.*

Directions to Ravenswood and the Courts are available. Send your request with your reservation form.

Ravenswood Awards Banquet Reservation Form

This form and your **check to VOMPC** must be received no later than Saturday, Aug.25th.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Please enclose \$25 per person and
mail on time. LATE RESERVATIONS
CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. Thanks.

Please remit to: VOMPC, Box 863, Sonoma CA 95476

The Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

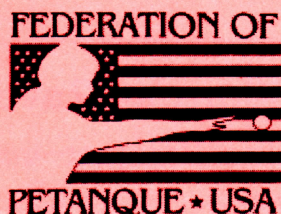
presents

A Wine Country Weekend of Pétanque

Friday-Sunday, August 31-September 2, 2001

Two SELECT TRIPLETES on Labor Day Weekend!

World Qualification Tournament



Every year the FPUSA holds this event to determine the US representatives to the World Championship of Pétanque. The winners of this tournament will have the opportunity to compete in 2002 in Morocco.

To Enter: Contact Club President Frank Pipal for an *Official FPUSA Entry Form*

Entry Deadline: August 8th (postmarked)

Entry Fee: \$30 per player (includes lunch on Sat.)

Purse: Based on number of participants

Awards: Presented at Ravenswood Dinner

~ Schedule ~

Saturday: 8am-6:00pm (approx.)

Sunday: 8am-5:00pm (approx.) -Concours
9am-2:00pm (approx.) -Consolante

The Sonoma Cup



The Sonoma Cup is a tournament designed for those who are interested in lighter competition, a chance to meet players from outside the area and in being part of the most prestigious pétanque event in the US.

To Enter: Send in the entry form (below) and fee

Entry Deadline: August 30th (in club's hands)

Entry Fee: \$15 per player (includes lunch on Sat.)

Purse: 100% of entry fees (minus lunch cost)

Awards: Presented at Ravenswood Dinner

~ Schedule ~

Saturday: 9:30am-5:00 (approx.)

Sunday: 9:30am-2:00 (approx.) -Concours
9:30am-2:00 (approx.) -Consolante

*Please see the reverse side for the full program of activities
and your Awards Dinner Reservation Form*

Sonoma Cup Tournament Registration Form

This form and your **team entry fee** must be received no later than Thursday, Aug. 30th.

Team Captain: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Player: _____

Player: _____

Enclosed entry fee of **\$45** per team
includes Saturday lunch.
Check-in closes at 10am sharp.

Please remit to: **VOMPC, Box 863, Sonoma CA 95476**

VOMPC Board Notes

05.03.01

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$3,906 with additional \$300 in reserve.

Mixed Doubles Tourney netted the Club \$104.

Annual dinner: R.Sottile to chair the committee. J.Markson, R.Ellis and J.Mathieu members.

Winter League report (E.Porto): League was a success. \$200 budgeted, \$198 spent on prizes.

Report from the City (J.Markson): City is considering giving VOMPC keys to the restrooms. City is not supportive of an outhouse.

Communications Report (E.Porto): 105 copies made of May/Jun newsletter (plus league insert) at a cost of \$178.39 (incl. postage).

Website: The Board voted to table the discussion of website maintenance until next meeting.

Board voted appoint D.Ogaz to be "interim" Director of Sport.

The Board voted unanimously to use a \$500 donation to get new picnic table/tables.

F.Pipal gave a brief report on the City Council Meeting from 5/2/01. There are proposals "out there" for the Maysonnave property that could affect VOMPC. The Children's Discovery Garden Committee want the East court property.

06.12.01

Treasurer's report: \$5,377.52 balance

Member/Guest Report: club netted \$110.

Kid's Day Report: no cost to the club, thanks to donations.

Picnic/Petanque Report: Costs covered by guest purchases and thanks to donations.

\$150 approved for shed interior improvements

The City has given VOMPC a key to the restrooms for use after 5pm. Club key policy TBD.

WATER!

Long-Awaited Fountain Installed

A big "Thanks!" to Bill Carter for installing a water fountain on the side of the shed. Parts were reused from the old fountain near the pump house which had been removed last year. A handy spigot was also put in, below the fountain.

2nd Annual Kids' Day—a Ton of Fun in the Sun!

(May 20th) The VOMPC hosted a bunch of local kids for an "X" day of fun and games at the courts. Renato Sottile and Tom Bricca put this one together with help from Mal Misuraca and Frank Pipal. The kids were treated to barbecued sausages and cold drinks.

Donations for the tournament and picnic poured in from the Basque Boulangerie, the Corner Store, Readers' Books, Melanie's Emporium, Half Pint, the Chocolate Cow, Moon Valley Boules and Richard Cuneo, making the day a great success.

He Did It Again!

Roger Poli Delights VOMPers With a Great Cous Cous Feast



(June 3rd) Sixty members and twenty showed up for **Picnic and Pétanque** featuring an authentic cous cous feast planned and prepared by Master Chef Roger Poli. Zino Mezzoui donated authentic *merguez*, North African sausage and *salade mischoui* (roasted salad). Ted Bucklin of Oak Hills Farms brought on a load of nature's finest vegetables. And Bruce Frigard and Glory Glover joined them to prepare the myriad ingredients.

Frank Pipal was in charge of desserts. Erika Schmitt, Karen Semerau and Tom Noonan pitched in to help Le Prez make the famed "Horns of Gazelle" cookies. And were they ever delightful (the cookies, too!). Frank also brewed up some delicious Moroccan mint tea and prepared a refreshing fruit salad. Oh, and there were delicious cheeses and a tossed salad as well!

'Heard tell that Roger and crew was toasted three times for their efforts—a measure of appreciation well-deserved.

Ed Porto Appointed to FPUSA Sport Committee

(May 26th) At the FPUSA Board of Directors meeting in Los Angeles, Ed Porto was selected and approved for a seat on the FPUSA Sports Committee by unanimous vote. Ed will join VOMPC secondary members John Krauer (Director of Sport) and Gerard Canabou and three other committee members from around the country to coordinate competitions at the regional and national level. Ed's interest in league development, women's competition and club communications were cited in the approval discussions. He looks forward to assisting the organization in the development and growth of pétanque nationwide.

Ask Club Prez Frank Pipal about the FPUSA N.W. Regionals, August 5th in San Rafael

The following VOMPC members would like to express their sincere thanks to the Sonoma Valley Special Olympians and their staff for the wonderful series of Saturday afternoon bocce the past three months. It was pleasure and an honor to be involved with those very special folks.

John Boultdt	Olivia Sammons
Jeanne Markson	Patrick Sammons
Tom Noonan	Karen Semerau
Frank Pipal	Teri Sirico
Ed Porto	Bart Zachofsky
Holly Sammons	

A SPECIAL THANKS TO SOME SPECIAL FOLKS

by Teri Sirico

When I first saw the call for volunteers in the monthly Valley of the Moon Pétanque newsletter for coaches for a Special Olympics Bocce Team, I was ecstatic! I had the privilege of working with Special Olympics several years ago in the Northern California trials at UC Berkeley. So when I read about the need for coaches, I was there.

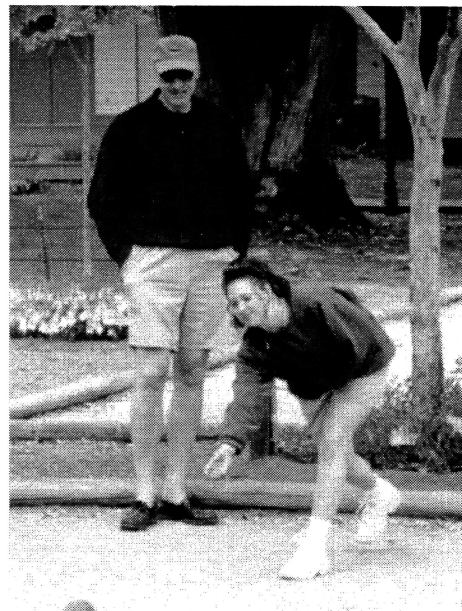
The athletes in the Special Olympics program are more special than you can imagine. No matter what the sport, I know of no other arena in which the heart is so genuine, caring and giving to all fellow athletes and to *anyone* who is there to support them. Each Saturday afternoon the athletes have graced "our Pétanque" courts has been a time of sincere joy. These athletes do no less than put their best efforts forward, to support their fellow athletes and, whether

they know it or not, offer those who have donated their time a sense of fulfillment. They offer us their smiles, their hugs, their commentary, and the sense of joy for having done something well, no matter what the result. They give to us more than they may ever know.

Since I've had the privilege of working with these Special Olympics for several years, I've noticed more maturity in the present athletes than in past years. In today's world, this is a good thing. And, this is a tribute to the Special Olympics teachers and staff. The fact that these good people have not lost the simple joy of camaraderie is a tribute to the athletes and their spirit.

I applaud their efforts and thank them for allowing the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club to participate in their program. Ernest Pitiot, who

originally devised the game back in 1910 in La Ciotat for his handicapped friend, Jules Le Noir, would be proud.



Don't miss the annual
**4th of July Potluck
Picnic & Pétanque**

*—then stick around for
the Sonoma Fireworks!*

The grill will be fired
up. Bring something
to cook and a side or
dessert to share.

Come about 5pm.

**Depot Park closes at
10pm.** It's a great
time to be in Sonoma!

Bring Friends & Family!

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

*See the special insert for information on the
2001 World Qualification Tournament and the
Sonoma Cup Select Triplette this coming Labor
Day Weekend, September 1st and 2nd.*

2001 Membership Ticker: 146