

## Pot is Stirrin' for Autumn Events

### Alsatian Banquet in Store for Panaché

Franklin "Mad Dog" Earl enjoyed cooking for us so much on Bastille Day (see page 3), that he and Marco Ilaria will be returning to prepare an authentic *choucroute garni* at the last event on our courts for 2001: the **Oktoberfest Picnic & Panaché** on Sunday, October 21st. This Alsatian specialty is a robust medley of various meats, potatoes and sauerkraut. The perfect choice for an autumn afternoon picnic.

Here's the menu:

**Garden Vegetable Salad**

**Choucroute Garni**

**Fresh Baguette**

**Apple Strudel**

**Glass of Draft Beer or Wine**

Cost is \$13 for lunch, \$7 for the tourney, kids are half price. As usual, proceeds will benefit the Club's General Fund.

In *panaché* you change partners every game. Individual records and point totals determine the rankings for a variety of prizes. It's a great format for newcomers and veterans alike. *So come on down and enjoy yourself!*

**CALL THE HOTLINE  
707-258-3450**

**RESERVATIONS CLOSE ON  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18.**

### See him play —but on not this day!

When Jacques Mathieu gets back from France he will put on another great feast for the **Annual MaTerre Club Championship** on Sunday, September 23rd.

This year it's a new format: due to the increased female membership in the VOMPC, it will be a **Select Mixed Triples** event.

**Remember: This gig is for MEMBERS ONLY.** 1st time late-season memberships will be available for \$15.

**No discounts on renewals.**

Lunch will be \$13, tourney \$7. As usual, half price for kids. Sign up before 10am.



Mathieu is donating all the food, so 100% of the lunch proceeds will go to the club. And there will be 100% return on the purse.

**Call the Hotline (258-3450) between SEPTEMBER 16TH AND 20TH for more information and to make your reservations.**

*Don't delay! Get your team together now!*

## Annual Meeting & Dinner Oct. 27th

In early October every club member will receive an **Annual Dinner Reservation Form** and a ballot for the annual election. For this, our club's General Meeting, we'll be back in the historic Sonoma Barracks, a most popular spot for this special event. *Space will be limited. Check your mailbox for the details!*

## Fall '01 Leagues Begin this Month

By now, all club members have received their Fall 2001 League Registration Forms. Contact volunteer coordinators Barbara Hall (Women's League) and Bart Zachofsky (New Member/Vets League) if you would like more information.

***And get your forms in right quick!***

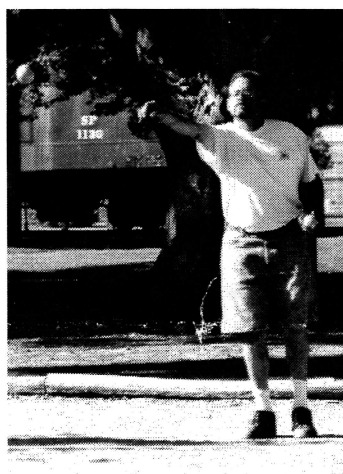
# Wine Country Classic Draws Big Crowd



After the Women's Finale, a supportive *gallerie* celebrated the contestants.



Olivia Sammons plays for the point, as Edith Nasworthy looks on.



Peter Wellington shoots *au fer* (on the iron) during a morning match.

(Aug 19) Thirty teams participated in the VOMPC's Annual **Wine Country Classic** Select Doubles Tournament and solid regional competition was the name of the game. There were two divisions, Open and Women's, with a total of eight prizes were awarded.

In the Women's Division, Barbara Hall and Karen Semerau took no prisoners in their unimpeded march to the title. No team managed more than six points all day against this duo. Eva Lofaro and Joss Becoulet were runners-up and Lisa Hoxie and Martha Lewis took the Consolante.

In the Open Division there were lots of familiar faces in the late rounds of the Concours. The Final was a battle royal with John Krauer and Raymond Nielsen versus last year's runners-up, Tino "Bello" Lofaro and Patrick Vaslet. It was nip and tuck during most of the match with great pointing, shooting, and back-to-back *carreaus* until "Bello" and Vaslet appeared to take control, building an 11-7 lead. But, after tying the score at eleven (in two rounds), Krauer and Nielsen took advantage of some spotty pointing, marking four easy points in the final round and going home winners.

John Bouldt and Mike Norton defeated Roger Poli and Peter Wellington for the Third Place prize. In the Consolante, it was Peter Mathis and Dexter Tracy eking out a close victory over Frank Pipal and Dave Rizzo, after most folks had gone home.

It was a long day but a good one with great games and great sportsmanship. Whether regional or national in format, the Wine Country Classic is always a popular event. Fittingly, the VOMPC expanded the offering to include its second successful women's division this year. A big thanks to Holly Sammons who ran a one-women phone tree to recruit players for the Women's Division and to Karen and Barbara for directing that side of the tournament.

## © 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

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto, Karen Semerau

## VOMPC 2001 Board of Directors

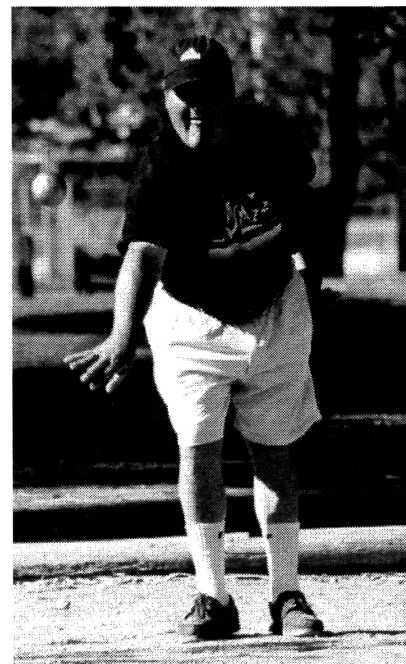
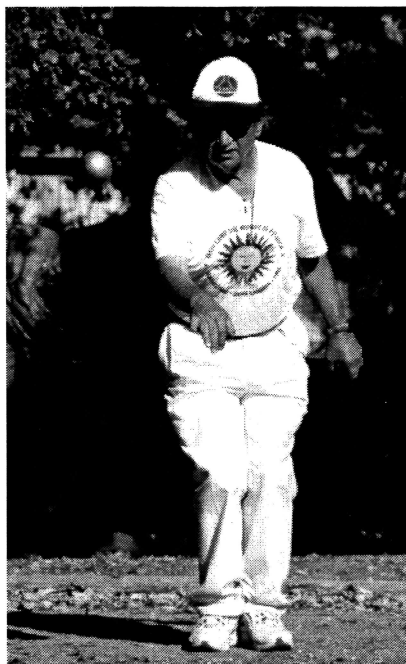
Frank Pipal, President

Dave Ogaz, Vice President

Gail StClair, Secretary

Randy Ellis, Treasurer

Directors at Large: Rick Bagel, Mal Misuraca, Renato Sottile



John Krauer (l.) won his 2nd Wine Country Classic in three years.

"Bello" played well but he and Patrick Vaslet came up short in their bid for the title for the 2nd year in a row.

# Grand Concours Marks 10th Anniversary of Courts

Bouillabaisse, good friends and pétanque! That was the winning formula for the Annual Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque. Perfect weather greeted ninety-odd club members, local dignitaries (including Sonoma Mayor Ken Brown) and friends of pétanque from all over Northern California. This was a very special Bastille Day celebration for the VOMPC, for it marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Valley of the Moon (now the Henri Maysonnave Memorial) Pétanque Courts.

Huge thanks for an unparalleled effort from those gourmet gods, Marco Ilaria, Franklin Earl and Luis Velez, in putting on a tremendous bouillabaisse (note the correct spelling in this issue!) feast. Right down to the frisée salad and rouille, there was quality and attention to detail, a hallmark of their collective talent. *Bravo, gentlemen! Bravo!*

Jean Claude Bunand delighted guests with an assortment of his finest fresh-baked croissants and his delicious baguettes mopped up many a bowl of the savory seafood stew. Joel Peterson, founder of Ravenswood Winery, was on hand to wish our club well and contributed a plethora of fine wines for tournament prizes and for all to enjoy with their lunch.

Peter Mathis was chief ringmaster and head honcho for this prestigious tournament and he took pleasure in doling out the awards at day's end. President Frank Pipal worked diligently behind the scenes to ensure success. Rob Zitzewitz pitched in as usual for the early morning preparations and sign-up. And Bill Carter was spotted doing some last minute court prep. By the crack of eleven the randomly-composed teams took to the courts for the opening rounds.

*Après déjeuner*, an elite group of eight teams advanced to the playoff and the rest of the field went on to compete in the Consolante. The team of Patrick Vaslet, Pascal Liopé and Jean-Michel Poulnot prevailed 13-10 in a crowd-pleasing and well-played final, over Bill Carter, Christine Cragg and Giselle Danielle. Ed Porto, Bob Bosko and Teri Sirico took Third Place by besting "Iron Mike" Norton, Lisa Hoxie and Lynn Woodward.

The Consolante was a merry maelstrom as the Mad Bernais of Sacramento, Andre Sanchou, led his team of Thierry Barbieri and Keilyn Rice to a 13-11 victory in the final match over the day's only doubles team, Byron Mayo and Rob Zitzewitz. (As you may recall, eleven year old Keilyn also took the Consolante in the Mixed Doubles tourney last April. *Good goin', Girl!*)

Thanks again to all the organizers for their hard work and to the participants for their great spirit and good sportsmanship. It all boiled down to a perfect day at the courts.



*Les chefs du jour:* Franklin Earl, Marco Ilaria and Luis Velez.



*Happy Campers:* Steve Sterbentz, Glory Glover, Teri Sirico, Barb Hall, Lynn Woodward



*Happy Champions:* Pascal Liopé, Jean-Michel Poulnot, Patrick Vaslet

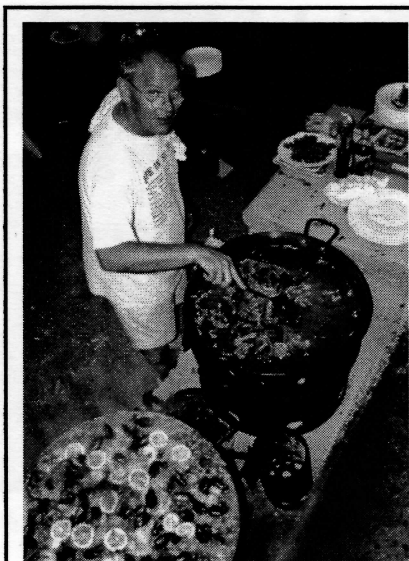


*Les Tireurs:* Michel Saga, Frank Pipal

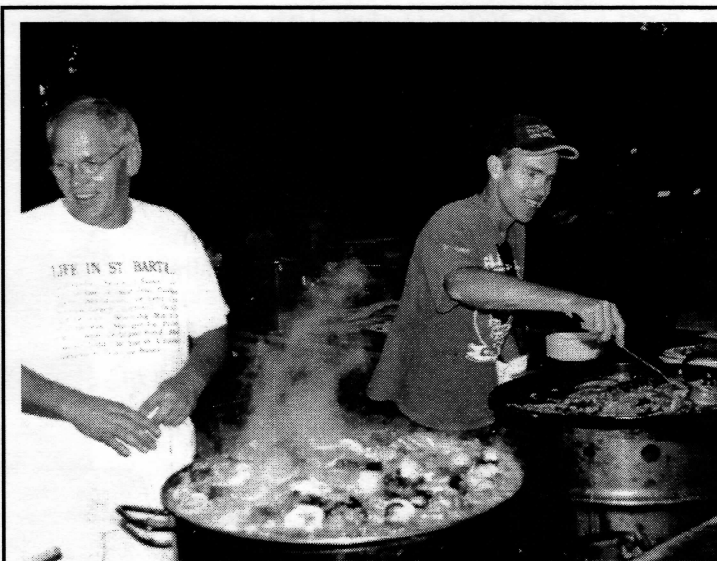




# Club Enjoys a Great Evening of Paella & Pétanque!



Ariel photo of "The Noonan" preparing ingredients in pan number two.



"Hey Tom, this isn't that low-fat chorizo is it?"

(Aug 11) Think Tiki torches. Think steaming hot pans of paella cooked over an open fire. Think tapas and sparkling wine. And friendly games of pétanque. That will give you a bit of the picture that was on this very first **Special Evening Edition of Picnic and Pétanque**.

The menu was ambitious and the effort magnanimous. It took a small army of volunteers to pull it off. There was a first course of assorted tapas and "Cava," fine sparkling wine

donated by *Gloria Ferrer*, as a homage to all good things from Catalunya.

Many of the usual suspects took on a variety of tasks—both on and behind the scenes. The Big Dogs were Frank Pipal and Tom Noonan who prepared for two days prior to the event. Frank crafted tapas (those delectable "altar boys" and ceviché), prepared shell fish and made the most delectable authentic flan. Tom made Spanish (egg and potato) tortillas and worked tirelessly over the two

wood-fired paella pans for hours to deliver a Paella for the Ages for seventy-five delighted diners.

Many other volunteers kicked in for the cause. Teri Sirco fashioned some excellent tapas and desserts. Karen Semerau made a marvelous glazed fruit salad. Newcomer Judy Tomsy employed her *schlepwagon* for all the supplies and set-up. Bart Zachofsky, Patrick Vaslet, Erika Schmidt, Jean-Claude Bunand, Eunice Rodriguez, Dave Rizzo and Glory Glover were also on KP. Dave kicked in a substantial selection of premier wines from *Harvest Wines* and traditional sangria was on hand for a taste of the old country.

This year has seen an amazing display of culinary variety at our picnics and tournaments from cous cous to bouillabaisse to paella. Just when you think that you've enjoyed the ultimate in pétanque picnic, the next one comes along to wow you once more! And the season is far from over. Still to come are the Materre and Season Finale events.

The combination of goodwill and teamwork make these great events happen. Proceeds go into the club General Fund and benefit us all through things like funded leagues and court improvements.

## Members Go Potluck on the Fourth

The continuing tradition of the **July 4th Potluck Barbeque and Pétanque** was alive and well this year with sixty-odd club members, family and friends came together for a delightful evening at the courts. Depot Park was buzzing with other gatherings of the picknicking public. VOMPers knew how to do, as clubbers stepped up and got the BBQ going and made an impromptu buffet of homemade dishes and treats.

Bill Carter and Pamela Stephens get *The Duct Tape Award*, for rigging halogen lamps atop makeshift posts to light the courts for evening play. So a big thanks goes to them for their efforts. It was quite a party with the only break in the action coming during the fireworks show when people migrated to the grassy parking lot for a better vantage point.

So, if you haven't yet been to this event, mark your Palm Pilots now for July 4th, 2002. And enjoy the *Yankee Doodle holiday, pétanque-style!*





## World Championship Qualification Tournament

### Ngyuen/Zanella/Nielsen Prevail Krauer/Mallette/Stone Nearly Take Final

(Aug31-Sep2) The Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club hosted the **FPUSA's World Championship Qualification Tournament (WCQT)** and held the Sonoma Cup, an open tournament for novice players. Ninety-nine competitors, ages eleven through eighty, from Florida, New York, Maine, Washington D.C and all over California played in 244 matches over the course of two days, making this dual tournament the largest competitive event in VOMPC history!

On Friday evening the VOMPC put on a gracious reception, attended by out-of-towners and locals alike. John Bouldt and Mike Norton served up platter after platter of fresh abalone, the Women's Leaguers prepared a buffet table with a wide range of hors d'oeuvres and sweets, and Peter Wellington, Teri Sirico and Erika Schmitt were on hand to pour the very best wines of the Valley.

Bart Zachofsky ran a "point-on-the-ten-spot" pointing contest and New York's Beth Krumholz lacked no savvy, rolling in boules for hard currency. Tom Noonan, PJ Mallette and Ingve Biltsted ran an **International Shooting Contest** for twenty and some-odd *tireurs*. Ed Porto was took first with a score of 36. Alain Gilot scored 34 and Christian Triay got a solid 27.

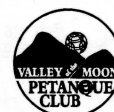
In the WCQT, each team played six games on Saturday and twelve teams advanced to the Sunday morning pools. A new format offering three pools yielded eight teams for the Quarterfinals, which saw some of the closest matches of the tournament.

In one Semifinal, PJ Mallette (VOMPC), John Krauer (San Francisco) and Alec Stone (LAPC), won large over VOMPers Peter Mathis, Frank Barsocchini and Alain Gilot of Idaho. In the other semi, Raymond Nielsen (LBO) and Jeannot Zanella and Tom Nguyen of Los Angeles bested perennial contenders Christian Triay (LAPC), Hans Jepson and Ti Meas (NY).

In the Final match Mallette/Krauer/Stone fell behind early but took a 10-7 lead behind PJ's flawless shooting. Over 100 spectators were present to cheer our homeboy on, but to no avail. The last two rounds saw Nielsen/Zanella/Nguyen mark a total of six points to secure a 13-10 victory and, with it, the right to represent the US at the World Championship in Grenoble, France in October of 2002.

The Consolante was a five-team round robin and the New Yorkers Ingve Biltsted, Beth Krumholz and Dick Steadman came out with a perfect record.

Next year, the WCQT will be held in a different location where many of us will visit each other and compete once again for the most prestigious prize in American pétanque.



## The Sonoma Cup

### Sterbentz, Barbetti, Tracy Are Winners!

(Aug31-Sep2) Sixteen teams from the Bay Area and beyond threw their hats into the ring and competed for a handsome **perpetual trophy** (made and donated by Bart Zachofsky) and a number of cash prizes in the first annual **Sonoma Cup Select Triplette**.

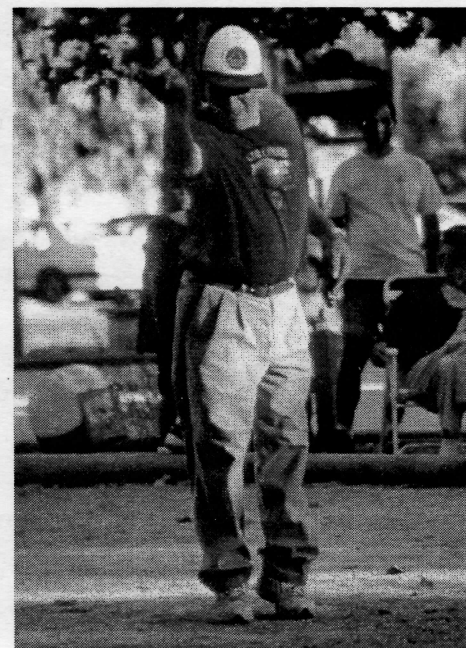
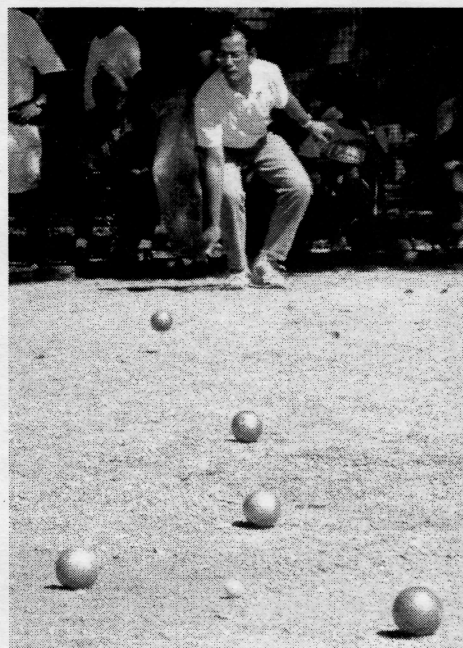
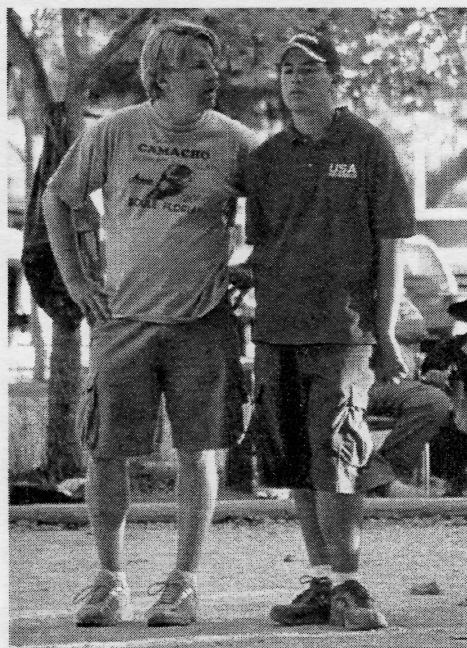
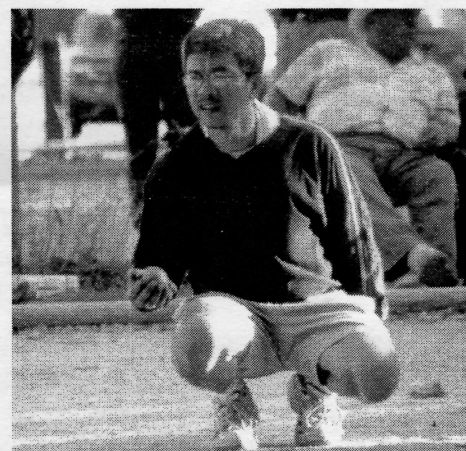
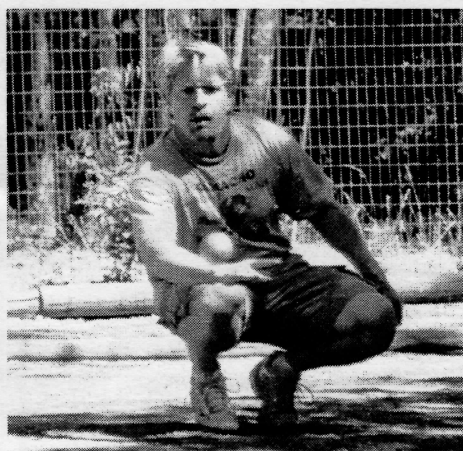
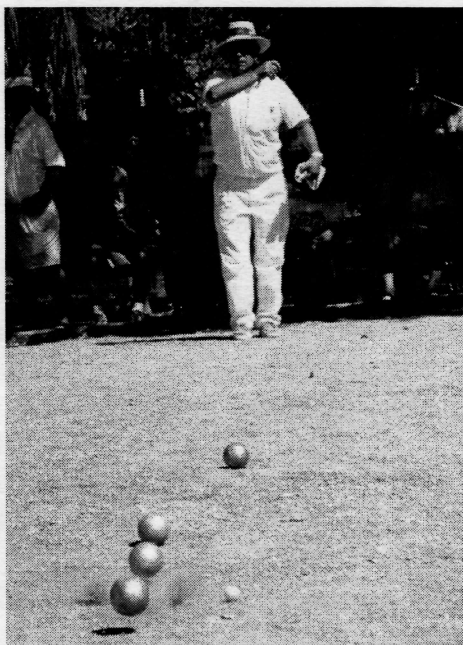
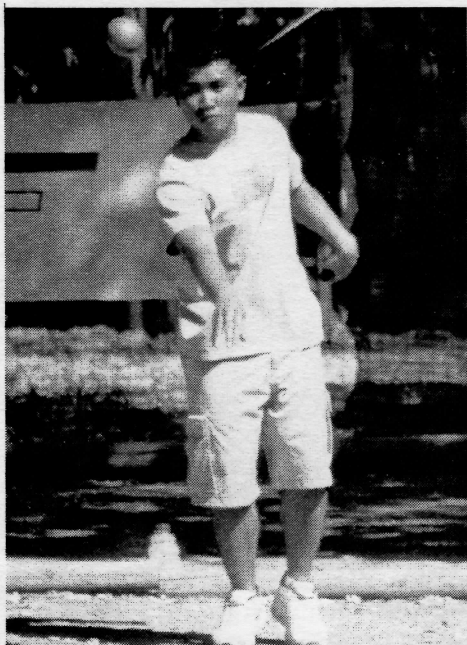
VOMPC teams prevailed as Steve Sterbentz, Dexter Tracy and Thierry Barbetti eked out a 13-7, two-hour, point-by-point victory in the final match over Karen Semerau, Erika Schmitt and Michel Saga.

In one of the Semifinals, Semerau, Schmitt and Saga scored a 13-11 victory over "Bello" Lofaro, Joss Becoulet and Mike Rago, who were coasting on a six-game winning streak. Sterbentz/Tracy/Barbetti earned their way there by extinguishing upstarts Elizabeth Ogaz, Holly Sammons and Glory Glover. This trio of Women's Leaguers had just put the hurt on VOMPC veterans Bill Carter, Chuck Fleming and Johnny Felker in the Quarterfinals.

For both tournaments, awards were distributed in a variety of categories at the event banquet on Sunday evening, hosted by Ravenswood Winery. Everyone enjoyed Chef Marco's family style Italian dinner, fine wines and, of course, the good company of far-flung friends brought together by this game we all love so well.

*Thanks again to the FPUSA for supporting both of these truly special events!*

# World Championship Qualification Tournament





# Summer Singles League Ends in 2-Way Tie at the Top of Each Division!

## Bouldt and Carter Win Tie-Breakers for Division Titles

by Byron Mayo

Talk about a close finish. It doesn't get any tighter than this.

For the first time in the wacky history of VOMPC Summer League Singles, the regular season ended with the leaders in both divisions tied for first place.

John Bouldt and Peter Wellington both racked up an 8-1 match record *On the Left*.

Bill Carter and Peter Mathis both posted a 7-1 match record *On the Right*.

In the end, however, the division titles went to John Bouldt and Bill Carter.

Here's the inside story.

### On the Left

Peter Wellington led through most of the season, undefeated, until he ran into the John Bouldt juggernaut.

Bouldt, who came up fast in the closing weeks, took a best 2-out-of-3 match over Wellington, 11/13, 13/5, 13/5. Then Bouldt turned around and got mauled by Gerard Canabou, 5/13, 4/13.

So the season ended with Bouldt and Wellington on top of the division with identical 8-1 records.

*But the title goes to Bouldt. He beat Wellington in their head-to-head match.*

Gerard Canabou took third place with a 7-2 record. And Steve Sterbentz won the wild card draw. So the playoff contingent from the left is now complete.

### On the Right

Bill Carter and Peter Mathis each held a 7-0 record going into their final match, August 31. When it was over, Carter walked away the winner,

13/4, 10/13, 13/4..

But he made an almost fatal error along the way. He tried to crowd his three remaining matches into one final night of play. It didn't work. He couldn't nail down Frank Pipal. The deadline passed. Carter and Pipal were each charged with a loss. That left Carter and Mathis tied at the top of the division with 7-1 records.

*Carter still won the title on the left, however, because he won his head-to-head match with Mathis.*

P.J. Mallette took third place with a 6-2 record. And the wild card draw went to a surprised Holly Sammons.

The playoff rounds are now underway. The semi-finals and the big, final championship match will be held Saturday, September 15.

*Editors Note: See Singles League update on the next page*

## Summer Singles League Final Standings

ON THE LEFT				ON THE RIGHT			
	Won	Lost	Pct.		Won	Lost	Pct.
John Bouldt	7	2	.777	Bill Carter	7	1	.875
Peter Wellington	8	1	.888	Peter Mathis	7	1	.875
Gerard Canabou	7	2	.777	P.J. Mallette	6	2	.750
Steve Sterbentz	5	4	.555	Bill Miller	4	4	.500
Ed Porto	5	4	.555	Frank Pipal	4	4	.500
Karen Semerau	4	5	.444	Chuck Fleming	3	5	.375
Dexter Tracy	3	6	.333	Byron Mayo	2	6	.250
Mike Norton	2	7	.222	Holly Sammons	2	6	.250
Barbara Hall	1	8	.111	Teri Sirico	0	8	.000
Glory Glover	1	8	.111				



# PJ/Barsocchini Win Doubles League Title PJ/Narin Hold 1st Place in Social Doubles

Fleming/Miller Upend Division Winners, Fall to Barso & 'da Weaz'

## Summer Doubles League Final Standings

SOCIAL DOUBLES				SUMMER DOUBLES			
	Won	Lost			Won	Lost	
PJ.Mallette/N Garrett	6	1	*	B.Carter/B.Lofaro	7	1	*
E Porto/B Mayo	6	1	†	P.Mathis/S.Troia	6	2	†
Stephens/Carter	4	3	†	PJ.Mallette/F.Barsocchini	5	3	†
H.Sammons/P.Sammons	4	3	†	S.Sterbentz/P.Wellington	5	3	
R.Sotile/K.Semerau	3	4	w	B.Miller/C.Fleming	5	3	w
F.Pipal/B.Hall	3	4	w	G.Canabou/B.Frigard	4	4	
Sara Ogaz/O.Sammons	1	6		T.Noonan/E.McTaggart	3	5	
E.Ogaz/SericOgaz	0	7		D.Riffo/B.Zachofsky	1	7	
				C.Markson/M.Denton	0	8	
* Division Winners (held tiebreaker)				* Division Winners			
† playoff entries				† playoff entries			
w wildcard entries				w wildcard entry			

The six teams noted above will meet in an unorthodox round robin playoff on Saturday, September 22. All club members are invited to come down and take in the action.

### SINGLES LEAGUE UPDATE

(Sep7) Playoff week began with a big victory for third place finisher PJ Mallette. PJ defeated Peter Wellington who finished 2nd on the Left, 13-0, 13-3.

Other matches to be completed as of press time pitted wildcard Holly Sammons vs. Left Division Champ John Bouldt. The other wildcard, Steve Sterbentz will have his hands full with Right Division Champ Bill Carter. Peter Mathis will play Gerard Canabou.

Final rounds will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15th. All members are invited to attend.

*Good luck to all!*

### 5-3 TEAMS MEET IN THE FINAL

(Sep8/9) The 2001 VOMPC Summer Doubles League Grand Championship went to **PJ Mallette and Frank Barsocchini**.

The playoff weekend began with the eventual champions winning a tough two out of three games against Peter Mathis and Sal Troia to advance to the Final.

In the other Semifinal, wild cards Bill Miller and Chuck Fleming continued their domination of "Bello" Lofaro and Bill Carter with back to back 13-12 victories and earned the right to play in the Final.

But, as it unfolded, the wildcards seemed to run out of gas against the unflappable pointing and shooting combination of the Champs who routed them 13-3, 13-4 in short order.

*Great season! Congratulations to all who participated!*

# The Sonoma Cup Select Triplette Tournament



## Awards Banquet at Ravenswood Winery





# Thanks to All the Donors, Contributors and Staff

Donations to the Fund raising effort were made by the following generous individuals and businesses:

Aurelio's Old World Ironworks	Rin's Thai Restaurant
Barbara Hall	RMS Distillery
Boden Plumbing	Robert Mondavi Winery
Buena Vista Winery	Roger Poli
Cafe LaHaye	Sasha & Jack Minter Antiques
Carmenet Vineyards	Sebastiani Cellars
Carneros Creek Winery	Sonoma Cheese Factory
Chuck Fleming	Sonoma Index-Tribune
Cline Cellars	Sonoma Mission Inn
Cynthia Markson	Sonoma Valley Inn Best Western
Deuce Restaurant	Sonoma Foie Gras
Gundlach Bundschu	Sonoma Embroidery
Hanzell Vineyards	Sonoma Market
Jennifer Mathieu	Three Sisters
John Bouldt	Tino Lofaro
Kenwood Inn & Spa	Tonnellerie Radoux
Kenwood Vineyards	Toulon Imports
Little Switzerland	Villa Italia
Luis Velez, The Art of Massage	Vineburg Deli
Mal Misuraca	Wellington Vineyards
playaboule.com	Wild Thyme Restaurant
Ravenswood Winery	Zino's Ristorante

The amenities enjoyed by all participants and guests were made possible by the generosity and participation of local businesses and club members.

Barton Designs - Engraving	Marco Ilaria
Broadway Market	Oak Hill Farm
Catherine Bunand Creperie	Ravenswood Winery
Coffee Co. Coffee	Richard Bagel Design Studio
Harvest Wines	Schug Winery
Jean-Claude Bunand	VOMPC Women's League
Loncheria La Bamba	Wellington Vineyards

*And last but certainly not least, thanks to all participants who travelled from far and wide to be part of a great event for Pétanque!*

## An Extraordinary Staff

An event like this could not have taken place without months of dedication and hard work by an event committee who maintained the good of their club, their community, the FPUSA and the game of pétanque as their guiding principles.

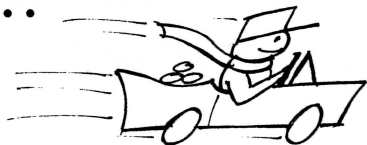
In addition, volunteer staff stepped up to ensure that all tasks be accomplished, rolling up their sleeves to make sure everything went smoothly. All should be complimented on their teamwork.

Frank Pipal,  
Fearless Leader  
Richard Bagel  
John & Annick Bouldt  
Candis Coulter  
Glory Glover  
Pascal Gravier  
Marco Ilaria  
Chris & Carmen Irving  
Michael & Barbara Hall  
Pierre Joske  
Cynthia Markson  
Mike & Susan Norton  
Tom Noonan  
Sara Ogaz  
Ed Porto  
Richard Salzman  
Holly Sammons  
Olivia Sammons  
Erika Schmitt  
Karen Semerau  
Teri Sirico  
Luis Velez  
Bart Zachofsky  
Dan & Audrey from L.A.

Courts: Bill Carter



## on the road...



## ...with the VOMPC

(Jul 8) VOMPers were out in force at La Pétanque Mariniere Courts for a Select Triplette tournament. John Bouldt, PJ Mallette and Patrick Vaslet came in First Place, defeating a team led by Jean Claude Bunand in the Final Match. Gerard Canabou and Antonio Lofaro were on the third place team. Other VOM competitors included Bob "The Machine" Bosko, LPM Vice Prez Christine Cragg, Tino Lofaro, Ed Porto, Holly Sammons and Bart Zachofsy. *Kudos to juniors Sarah Ogaz and Olivia and Patrick Sammons for forming their own team and hitting the road!*

(Aug 5) The VOMPC was well-represented at the FPUSA Northwest Regional Championship held in San Rafael. John Bouldt, Mike Norton and Patrick Vaslet nearly overcame a 0-9 deficit in the Final Match, but lost to Gerard Canabou, Antonio Lofaro and Raymond Nielsen. Frank Pipal, Ken Stieper and Louis Toulon took Third Place. Also competing were PJ Mallette, Karen Semerau, Ed Porto, Jean-Claude Bunand and John Krauer. The tournament winners will receive a \$300 per person travel stipend from the FPUSA if they choose to represent the Northwest in the National Triplette this November in Florida.

(Aug 25/26) Once again Emile and Simone Furlan and Le Club Français de Sacramento hosted their annual tournament weekend to the delight of pétanque enthusiasts from all over California. A sizable group of VOMPers made the trip to Knight's Landing to enjoy a two-day Mixed Triples tournament and all the amenities of the Furlan's Central Valley oasis. A great moment for the VOMPC came in the final game of the pools. After trailing 9-0, Jean-Claude Bunand made a dramatic *carreau* for six points catapulting his team of Barbara Hall and Bart Zachofsky to an unsurmountable lead, enroute to a 13-9 victory.

Later on in the single elimination playoff, it came down to Bill Carter, Pamela Stephens and Raymond Nielsen winning the final match against

Monique Bricca, Christian Triay (LA) and Robert Pierre (LA). John Krauer, Joss Becoulet and Gerard Canabou took third place by besting "Bello" Lofaro and Jean and Emily Etcheverry. Other VOM participants included PJ Mallette, Frank Pipal, Ed Porto, Karen Semerau, Holly Sammons, Patrick Vaslet and Lisa Vaughan.

## PJ Set to Compete in World Juniors in Nov.

*Editors note: Once again, the VOMPC's own PJ Mallette will represent the USA in Le Championnat du Monde des Jeunes (World Junior Championship). This year it will be in Lons-le-Saunier, France (South of Dijon, in the Jura region) on November 2nd to 4th.*

*PJ will join two players from Los Angeles and one player from Washington DC for this, his last year of eligibility for the event. We wish "DaWeas" much luck in the competition, knowing that he will represent his club, his country and his family with dignity and good sportsmanship.*

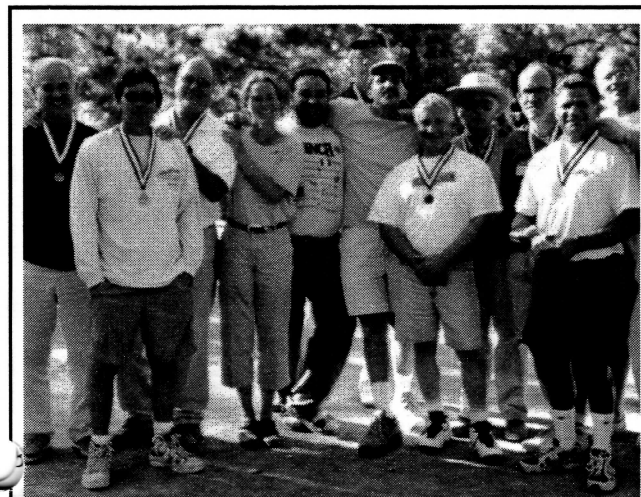
*In advance of his trip, PJ has submitted the following message to the Pétanque Times.*

Every two years there is a Junior World Championship. Two years ago, I was very excited to find out that I was going to Thailand to represent the United States in this event. From an eighteen-hour flight to playing pétanque in the hotel hallway at 3:00 AM with other juniors from different countries, it was one of the best times in my life.

This November we will compete for a world championship title and I will do my best to do the FPUSA and VOMPC proud. It seems like it has been a long road since I started playing pétanque about 6 years ago, but it's the people who have made me want to play for the rest of my life.

I know I will have an amazing time and will be thinking of all the folks back in the United States who helped me become what I am today—a sixteen year old who loves to play the game of Pétanque.

-PJ Mallette



Lots of VOMPers were wearing medals at days end of the FPUSA Northwest Regional Championship.

## The Umpire's Corner . . .



### Question:

**During a game, who has the right to fill in or smooth out a hole made by a thrown boule?**

*What do you say, arbitre?*

The player who is about to play can fill in or smooth out a hole made by the last boule thrown.

It is forbidden for any other player to do this.

Remember this, too: Once the cochonnet is tossed, it's forbidden for any player on either team to fill in any other hole on the terrain, or to flatten or move any object on the terrain.

In a tournament, the penalties are stiff for not observing these rules.

*Do you have a pétanque question?*

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

Answers are certified by FPUA Umpire Pierre Joske

## Plane Trees Find Haven in Sonoma?

The famous plane trees of France that have lined rural roads since the days of Napoleon are being cut down because they pose a danger to motorists, according to disturbing reports from outside of Paris. Despite protests by ecologists, several local governments have begun systematically felling the shady Sycamores.

Meanwhile, at the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Courts in Sonoma, our plane trees, or Sycamores, are healthy and thriving, providing more and more welcome shade to afternoon pétanquers.

—Byron Mayo

## Semerau Set to Travel for Women's Quallies

Three year pétanque "journey-woman" Karen Semerau will be making a trip to Boca Raton, Florida for the **Women's World Championship Qualification Tournament** this October. The tournament will determine the team which will represent the United States in the Women's World Championship to be held in Latuc, Quebec next July.

Meeting her there to test their mettle will be her teammates, that fiesty New Yorker Beth Krumholz, and Marieke Rolland of the Boca Raton Club.

We wish our homegirl, knowing that she will represent the VOMPC with the grace and good sportsmanship which she consistently displays. *Go Karen!*



## 2nd Wedding for VOMPC Members This Year!



photo by Karen Semerau

Longtime Club members and contributors **Dave Rizzo and Theresa Tope** tied the proverbial knot this past August 24th at Ravenswood Winery.

*Let's all congratulate the happy couple and wish them much luck, joy and a great life together!*

## From the President's Desk...



Congratulations are in order!

They go out to all of you who have made this season so successful.

From casual weekday games to League Play to the Labor Day Weekend's marathon of boules, there are more VOMPers playing more games of petanque than ever before. The World Championship Qualifier and the Sonoma Cup running parallel over the holiday weekend, had ninety-nine boulistes on the club courts playing both Saturday and Sunday - a new record for our club.

There were scores of passers-by all weekend, intensely interested by the match play and the festive atmosphere which prevailed. Some of these have already signed up to join us in our quest chasing the elusive cochonnet.

This kind of successful exposure of the game, and the great impression made on our out-of-town participants were made possible only by the commitment of a crew from the ranks of the club, named elsewhere in this newsletter. When you run in to them - please let them know how much you appreciated their contributions to a super petanque weekend.

*I'll see you on the courts.*

—Frank Pipal

## VOMPC Board Notes

### 07.10.01

Treasurer's Report: \$5,352 current balance.

Emperor Norton Tournament Report: Great success. Thanks to Mike & Susan Norton, Ken Stieper. The Club netted \$350.

Nominating Committee appointed by Pipal: Sottile, chair, J. Mathieu, K. Semereau.

Communications Report: Jul/Aug Newsletter cost: \$187.50. Event Insert: \$36.50. Total: \$224.01

Allocation of Funds (\$75) for purchase of quality photo Albums for club archive (unanimous).

Annual dinner: Payment of \$75 authorized to hold Annual Dinner at the Barracks (unanimous).

Sonoma Cup: Canabou motions, Sottile seconds to cancel event. Motion defeated 3-2, Pipal, Bagel, Ogaz, NAY. Canabou, Sottile AYE.

Court surface change (fill sand pit): Canabou motions, Sottile seconds. Motion defeated 3-2. Pipal, Sottile, Ogaz NAY. Bagel, Canabou, AYE.

Resignation and departure: Gerard Canabou.

### 08.09.01

D.Ogaz moved/R.Bagel seconded to accept G.Canabou's resignation. Board voted unanimously to accept.

Proposal for Fall Leagues presented by Pipal, including Women's and New Member/Veterans.

Sottile moved/Ogaz seconded to deny \$200 funding of New Member/Veteran League in the proposal. Motion defeated 3-2. Pipal, Bagel, StClair NAY. Sottile, Ogaz AYE.

Barbara Hall to direct Women's League (Ed Porto to assist). New/Vet Director TBD.

Nominating Committee: deadline for 2002 B.O.D. nominations set at 9/25/01; ballots to go out shortly thereafter.

Seven club members have expressed some interest in running for the Board.

Annual Dinner/Member Meeting Report: target price of \$30 per person given to Sottile by B.O.D.

Mal Misuraca volunteered to fill seat vacated by Canabou until the Fall Election. Board voted unanimously to approve Misuraca.

WCQT Report: more volunteers being recruited.

R.Bagel moved/M.Misuraca seconded to fund another \$50 (if needed) to finish shed interior project. Motion approved unanimously.

## Mal Misuraca Steps Up Takes Vacated Board Seat League & Tourney Survive Votes

At the August meeting of the Board of Directors, Mal Misuraca was unanimously approved to fill the seat recently vacated by Gerard Canabou. Mal will finish out the Board year as a Director at Large and looks forward to assisting the Club. The seat will be on the ballot in this Fall's election and will terminate at the end of the 2002 Board year (Nov. '01 thru Oct. '02). Recently Mal has been advising the board on parliamentary procedures, and his input and energy will be most appreciated in his new capacity. *Mal, welcome 'aboard!'*

In other Board news, Club President Frank Pipal won narrow approval for a Club-funded **New Member/Veteran League** to run this Fall. Despite a General Fund balance of over \$5,000, the prize fund of \$200 barely passed by a vote of 3-2.

At the July meeting, a motion to cancel the recent **Sonoma Cup Tournament** went down in a 2-3 vote. Two Board members, warning of organizational and logistical "disaster," brought on the motion. After much discussion regarding the technicality that the event was not listed on the Club calendar, a vote was taken.

The event, preserved by the close vote, proved to be well-attended by the VOMPC, Bay Area players and out-of-town guests. It also brought more spectators to the Qualifiers Tournament as planned.

## Board Nominations Due on September 25

A REMINDER from Jeanne Markson for club members interested in running for the board:

Deadline for your name to be included on the ballot is Sept. 25th.

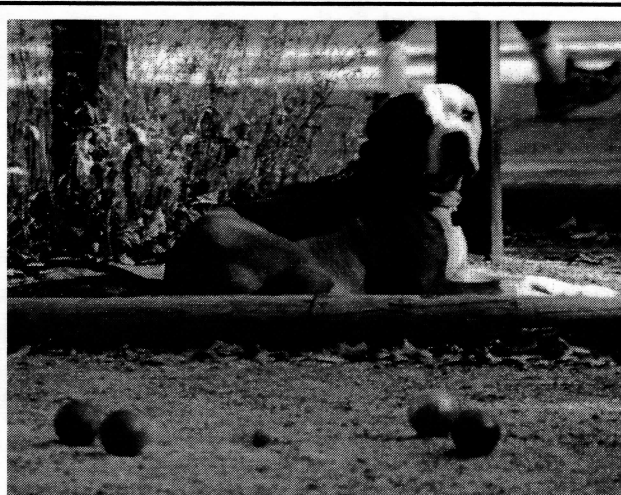
Please contact: Renato Sottile 996-5010, Frank Barsocchini 938-5745, or Jeanne Markson 996-2673.

Thank you for your interest in supporting your club.

## Welcome to Our New Members!

Didier Barbetti  
Shannon Bowman  
Lorraine Cline  
Hans Kurz  
Gary Massucco  
Edith Nasworthy  
Jean-Michel Poulnot  
Alec Stone Sweet  
Lisa Vaughn  
Albert Woodbury  
Caitlin Woodbury

...and welcome back  
David & Patsy Summers  
Sal Troia



"Gus" Felker was taking in all the action during the final match of last month's Wine Country Classic.

**Don't Forget to Vote in the  
Annual October Election!**





**Bob and Jane Bosko**

## TRUE NORTH

Well, it came that time of year again when those lovable pétanque migrants, Bob and Jane Bosko, had to leave us and rejoin their family in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. (Hey, *someone* has to live in Idaho, we just wish it wasn't Bob and Jane!)

To be sure, the VOMPC season picks up a notch or three when the Bosko's arrive on the scene. They bring with them their good cheer and they are always cordial and gracious to all our members. I had the pleasure of playing in a couple of tourneys with my friend "Bob-a-loo" this time around. And it was always great to see him at the courts, playing pick-up games, visiting his buds or just taking it all in.

Someone recently said to me, "Ed, you seem to play with some pretty good partners." In this case I would mildly disagree. This summer, I had a chance to play with the very best.

*Bob and Jane, from all of us, 'see you next time!*

*-Ed Porto*

## EXTRA!

### Souvenir Pull-out Inside

*Read all about the **World Championship Qualification Tournament** and **The Sonoma Cup** in the Special Pullout Section in this Newsletter!*

*...also in this issue:*

Summer League Playoff Preview

A kinder, gentler **Wine Country Classic** -NOT!!

*Bosko settles for Third Place in the **Grand Concours**.*

*PJ is on his way (so is Karen!)*

*...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

*P.S.-*

*Mark Your Calendar for the Annual **Willits Challenge/George Pipal Memorial Tournament**, Saturday, November 10 at Preston Winery.*

**2001 Membership Ticker: 170**