



Season Opener: Singles+Soup!

Traditional Season Opener Returns—As Does SoupMeister Noonan! Saturday, February 23

It's gonna be hard core competition straight out of the gate this year as the VOMPC begins the season with the popular **Four Ball Singles Tournament**.

And to keep your batteries charged, **Mr. Tom Noonan**, the club's own "Doctor Gumbo," will be cooking up another one of his fabulous and hearty soups!

There will be two divisions: Open and Women's. **Sign up closes at 10am.**

Rain dates are set for Sunday, February 24, and, if necessary, the following weekend. There will be tourney status updates on the hotline if the weather is dicey—so stay tuned. *See you there!*

Tourney—\$7, Soup—\$5. Reservations Are Required.

CALL THE CLUB HOTLINE BY THURSDAY, FEB 21st: 707-258-3450

Sonoma Lauds VOMPC! Club Earns Accolades at City Council Meeting Cooperation, Stewardship Noted in Talks

(Dec.5) As reported in the *Sonoma Index Tribune*, the City of Sonoma expressed its appreciation to the Valley of the Moon Petanque Club for being model custodians of the Maysonnave bequest. The City Council also noted the Club's commitment in creating and maintaining a first rate public facility and it's openness to all parties in the ongoing proceedings with regard to future development in the Depot Park.

The recognition was sweet satisfaction for a small cadre of dedicated individuals who maintained constructive relations with the City and various community groups over the past couple of years—to the benefit of our Club and the game.

Jeanne Markson and **Jacques Mathieu** have provided official liaisonship with the City for the last couple of years and President **Frank Pipal** has been a regular presence in the Council Chambers when agenda items there concern the Club.

In the recent efforts regarding area development, Club founder **John Boultd** and Vice President **Mal Misuraca** have been instrumental in their research and negotiations.

But, of course, these good messengers could not do the great job they did, were it not for all our members, who have represented the VOMPC in the most positive way for all in the community of Sonoma to see. *Congratulations to one and all!*

New Board Takes Command! Pipal Re-Ups for Prez, Mal Misuraca V.P.

(Nov.13) *WHATTA TEAM!!* At their November meeting, the VOMPC Board of Directors divvied up the club offices in a smooth and swift nomination process which leaves the Club in great hands for 2002.

In addition to the executive team of President **Frank Pipal**, Vice President **Mal Misuraca**, Secretary **Barbara Hall**, and Treasurer **Karen Semerau**, **Dave Ogaz** received the nod for Director of Sport, a post which had been left vacant for the past three years. Former Secretary **Gail StClair** retired from the board (at the January meeting) and was replaced by **Bart Zachofsky**. **Bart** and **Renato Sottile** hold the at-large seats.

All nominations were approved unanimously and the group wasted no time in getting down to brass tacks. Old business was on the agenda as well as some transitional procedures and preparations for the 2002 season.

The Club wishes the new leadership much luck in 2002. And a Big Thanks to **Gail StClair** for her year of hard work as Club Secretary.

Please note: VOMPC Board meetings are open to all members. Time, place and agenda are posted monthly at the courts.

VOMPC and Willits Boules Club Meet Again at Preston

(Nov.10) The Annual **George Pipal Memorial Tournament Club** was attended by twenty-six players at the lovely **Preston Winery** in Dry Creek Valley. It was a relaxed day of friendly competition featuring a great potluck lunch and the fine wines of Preston.

The traditional "Willits vs. Sonoma" routine gave way to a less structured format as the twelve teams paired off for two morning games.

Defending Champion Frank Pipal picked up where he left off last year, as he and Eva Lofaro swept their way to the final match. Their counterparts, Tino Lofaro and Barbara Hall did likewise, giving up a mere six points in their four matches.

But the final had to wait for another day, as the rain which began after lunch came down with a vengeance, and sent soggy boulists scurrying to their vehicles and putting an abrupt end to the enjoyable event.

In the Consolante, it was Ricky Bagel and Glory Glover doing their level best against the amiable duo of



Despite inclement weather, all twelve teams were lookin' pretty chipper! photo: Ted Bucklin

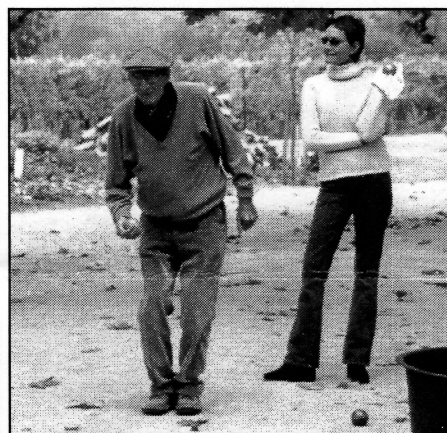


photo: Karen Semerau

Pétanque Legend Armand Squitieri prepares for the point—under the admiring gaze of his daughter, Monique.

"Louie LePoint" Velez and the ever-tenacious Erin McTaggart. But when it was over, *LePoint* and McT came out on top, 13-5.

Now you're asking, "Who took home that handsome trophy (which contains genuine abalone shell and authentic ACE hardware)?"

The Final was postponed until Saturday, November 17, and took place at our courts. The venue was different, his partner was different but when the dust settled, it was "*deja vu* all over again," for President Pipal. He and Eva took the prize in undisputed fashion over

Tino and Barbara. The final score was 15-6, *but it wasn't that close!*

One might ask: "The weather was dodgy, there was no prize money and the trophy—well, um, let's just say it may not quite blend with any decor...so what's the draw?"

As those who were there will tell you, it's a great way to close out the season: the wine is top notch, potluck treats abound, the setting is idyllic and wine master **Lou Preston** makes us all feel very much at home.

Much thanks to Lou and his staff for their warm hospitality and a lovely day which we all will savor over the cold winter months.

'See you there next November!

No sense waitin'...

Get your memberships for 2002 mailed in right away! The enclosed **Renewal Form** is easy to use. Also, it makes it easy on the staff to get all your information recorded correctly.

A VOMPC membership is a great investment in fun for the entire year. **Don't delay—sign up today!**

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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): Ted Bucklin, Karen Semerau

VOMPC 2001 Board of Directors

Frank Pipal, President

Mal Misuraca, Vice President

Barbara Hall, Secretary

Karen Semerau, Treasurer

Dave Ogaz, Director of Sport

Directors at Large: Renato Sottile, Bart Zachofsky

Tino/Seric Ogaz: New/Vet Champs!

Second Junior to Win with Tino in 2001! Weaz0/McT Take Division but Fall Twice on Playoff Day (OUCH!)



League Director Bart Zachofsky (top row, 2nd from right) planned an amiable day for his troops. All played with determination in the Concours and Consolante.

(Nov.17) This year's second running of the **New Member/Veteran League** ended on a fine note, as players met for a fun and surprising playoff day.

As we have seen with a number of leagues over the past couple of years, odd things often happen to the odds-on favorites when playoff day arrives. This time around, perfection was denied to the formidable duo of Erin McTaggart and PJ "The Weasel" Mallette.

It was Bart Zachofsky and rookie Narin Garrett who administered that dose of reality. They stuck it to the league's only previously unbeaten team, 13-10 in the Semifinal.

The forgiving format allowed those eliminated in the Concours to enter the Consolante. And what couldn't be done to Erin and PJ in seven weeks of league play, happened to them again! This time it was Bill Carter and Lisa Vaughan who vanquished the beleaguered front runners in a lop-sided Consolante Final.

Meanwhile, success was in the grasp of dragonslayers Bart and Narin, except for one important detail—that being the rock-steady Tino Lofaro. Taking Seric Ogaz under his wing, Tino played close to the vest all season, and finished a lackluster 3-4. But when it counted most, he and Seric tightened the screws on the competition, and took home top honors.

To little surprise, Tino and Seric surprised the cool and collected Narin and Bart in the Concours Final. No mistake about this one: 13-6.

The New/Vet League is now placed in the Fall slot, alongside the Women's League. Being free to all members, its a great way for newcomers to become comfortable with competition and it gives our increasing number of veterans a chance to mentor the new players as well.

Big thanks to **Bart Zachofsky** for running the show. And to all who participated in the most successful year for leagues in club history!

Mixed Doubles Rock! Popular Format is Back

If you make it down to the courts this winter, you may notice a little extra juice in those friendly week-end games. The reason: the return of the **Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club Mixed Doubles League**—and the action has just got underway!

The regular season will run for eight weeks, be followed by a short playoff schedule and ends with the Concours and Consolante Finals on Saturday, March 9th.

There are two divisions of seven teams each and players range from salty veterans to newcomers willing to take a dare!

Watch for a full report in the next issue of the *Pétanque Times*!

LEAGUE ROSTER

The "Banana Slugs" Division

Ed Porto/Glory Glover
Dexter Tracy/Lisa Hoxie
Lorraine Cline/John Bouldt
Frank Pipal/Keilan Rice
Karen Semerau/Tino Lofaro
Peter Mathis/Holly Sammons
Luis Velez/Erin McTaggart

The "Mud Turtles" Division

Shannon Bowman/Ted Bucklin
Mick Bunker/Sharon Bunker
Bart Zachofsky/Teri Sirico
Lisa Vaughan/Bill Carter
PJ Malette/Barbara Hall
Narin Garrett/Tom Bricca
John Krauer/Joss Krauer

GOOD LUCK, WINTER LEAGUERS!

The Umpire's Corner . . .



Q. "My opponent tosses the jack out to 10 meters. He plays his first boule, hits the jack and moves it out to about 11 meters. I say the jack is over ten meters and it must be rethrown. He says it was not marked beforehand, so it remains in play.

What do you say, arbitre?

A. Your opponent is correct. Unless the original position of the jack was marked, the game continues with the jack in its new 11-meter location.

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

Got Time?

Before the season gets underway, our Board of Directors is busy lining up volunteer staff for a host of activities in order to pull off another top notch schedule of events.

If you can spare some time to help out, please contact your friendly board members and get on the esteemed list of club volunteers! It's a great way to get involved and makes being part of the VOMPC even more special.

No task or time commitment is too small to consider and all we VOMPers will appreciate your help!

"And the Last Shall Be First..."

Michael and Sharon Bunker, who took the final two memberships in 2001, were the first to renew for 2002. *Thank you both!*

Pickin' Up Where We Left Off—Great Events Coming Our Way!

Tourneys, Picnics, Melées and Selects

Here's the PRELIMINARY 2002 schedule. *And it's a beauty!* (Full details will be included in the March/April newsletter.)

Sat. Feb 23 Four Ball Singles, with a Women's Division and Soup (Rain dates: Sun. Feb 24, Sat. Mar 2, Sun. Mar 3)

Sat. Mar 23 Sonoma Cup Select Triplettes (Rain date: Sun. Mar 24, Sat. Mar 30, Sun. Mar 31)

Sun. Apr 28 Mixed Doublette. Potluck Picnic.

Sun. May 19 Newcomer/Guest Select Doublette & Picnic

Sun. Jun 2 Couscous Royale Club Picnic. Members free. Casual play.

Sun. Jun 23 Emperor Norton Handicap Tournament & Picnic

Thu. Jul 4 Evening Potluck Picnic, Pétanque & Sonoma Fireworks

Sun. Jul 14 Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque (Random Triplettes)

Sat. Aug 3 Picnic & Pétanque: Paella Dinner at the Courts

Sun. Aug 25 Wine Country Classic (Select Doublette)

Sun. Sep 22 MaTerre Club Champs (Mixed Triplette-Select) and Picnic. Club Members Only.

Sun. Oct 20 Season Finale: 'Oktoberfest' Picnic & Panaché

Sat. Oct 26 Annual Meeting & Club Banquet

Sat. Nov. 2 George Pipal Mem. Tournament at Preston Winery.

Happy Birthday, BYRON!

Eighty Years Young!

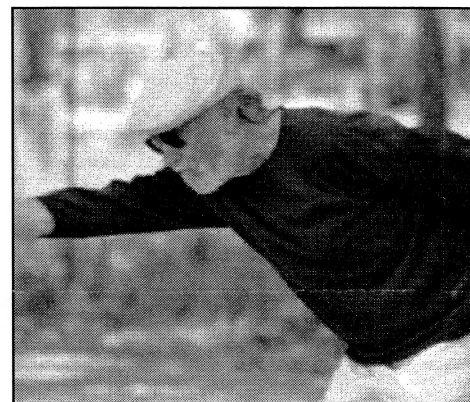


photo: Club archives

If you've been around the VOMPC, you can't help but know him. If you're a new member, there's a good chance he's welcomed you to the courts, or offered you a set of boules to try out.

This month, longtime club member, former Club President and *Pétanque Times* publisher, **Byron Mayo**, celebrates a milestone birthday.

The Club is truly privileged to have our Gentleman Friend as a member. Next time you see him, wish him well!

Madames Président et Vice Président

Christine Cragg and **Eva Lofaro**, who have their primary membership with *La Pétanque Marinère* in San Rafael, are taking the helm at sister club for 2002.

We look forward to great things from our neighboring club in the upcoming season and wish these two hard-working, pétanque-loving gals the very best!

VOMPC Board Notes

11.12.01

Sottile nom. Ogaz for Pres; declined. Misuraca nom. Pipal for Pres. Sottile nom. Misuraca for VP. Sottile nom. Hall for Sec. Ogaz nom. Sottile for Treas; declined. Misuraca nom. Semerau for Treas. Misuraca nom. Ogaz for Sports Director. All nominations approved unanimously. Treasurer's Report (R.Ellis absent).

WCQT report: in progress; final tallies pending.

Membership Report: 172 total (104 males, 68 females, 11 juniors, 23-secondaries)

Nov/Dec newsletter (E.Porto): \$244.45

Election Committee Report: D.Riffo, J.Markson, B.Mayo counted 92 ballots.

Annual Dinner Report (Sottile): Future report to be submitted.

Motion made for future Banquet Refund Policy: no refunds will be made after the specified date of club's commitment to the caterer; unanimously approved.

Children's Discovery Garden (Misuraca): report submitted.

12.04.01

Treasurer's Report: Current balance: \$7,542.44
Children's Discovery Garden report (J.Markson, J.Mathieu): official VOMPC position; unanimously approved.

Complaints Committee Status: a special session will be held to determine the status of all current complaints with a report in Jan.

Newsletter/Communications (E.Porto): report submitted. Porto reappointed Communications Director (unanimous). 2002 newsletter budget of \$1700 unanimously approved.

2002 Tournament Calendar: TBD by committee.

Winter Mixed Doubles League: Porto approved unanimously for League Director.

1.8.02

Treasurer's Report (Semerau): \$5,771.09.

Board vote for FPUSA Counselors: 6 for Toulon, 5 for Boulldt, 1 for Canabou.

Boy's & Girl's Club Fundraiser (Pipal): Club will contribute \$100 for a hosted picnic to be auctioned. Approved unanimously.

Code of Conduct complaints status (Pipal): hearing set for 1.13.

Winter Mixed Doubles League (Ed Porto): 14 teams signed and underway. \$270 in purse

2002 Event Calendar: unanimously approved

Jeanne Markson, Jacques Mathieu unanimously approved for City Liaisons.

Resignation letter of Gail St Clair submitted by Ogaz. Pipal nominates Bart Zachofsky. Unanimously approved.

Head Count: VOMPC representatives in the FPUSA Norton Runs Unopposed for Prez Two Run for NW Counselor Spot

The Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club is a willing contributor to our parent organization, **the Federation of Pétanque USA**, and a number of clubbers have stepped up to support the game at the national level.

Starting from the top, **Mike Norton** is running unopposed for his second two-year term as President. Mike has helped make great organizational improvements and will continue pursuing his interest in expanding the game to more people across the country.

At the Counselor level, **John Boulldt** and **Gerard Canabou** are on the ballot for the FPUSA Board of Directors. Returning counselor **Karen Semerau** will serve the second year of her term in 2002.

In 2001, FPUSA Sport Committee Director **John Krauer** selected **Gerard Canabou** and **Ed Porto** to join him as part his '01-'02 team to coordinate the national schedule and review rules, regulations and tournament formats.

And don't forget that almost-quarterly national newsletter, *The Boulesheet*, published by **Frank Pipal**.

Retiring after two terms (four years) of service to the FPUSA as one of our four Northwest Counselors, is **Bart Zachofsky**. Bart has been a long time contributor to the FPUSA and the game of pétanque in the Bay Area. Bart plans to remain an active participant in both local and national pétanque initiatives.

Congratulations to our FPUSA representatives! And thanks for your dedication and hard work.



From the President's Desk...

You've read elsewhere about our ongoing engagement with the city's planning process for the Maysonnave property. The recent affirmation of our

license with the City didn't just happen by itself. I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated core group of members who over two years attended all the public meetings, set up on-site conferences and represented the V.O.M.P.C. before various boards and commissions. Chief among these are Jeanne Markson, Jacques Mathieu and Ed Porto. Other clubbers got involved more recently as we formulated a response to the pressure of the CDG. We owe all of them a vote of thanks.

It is an act of faith to believe that it will ever stop raining, but believe it we must. And when it does, dedicated VOMPC boulistes will head down to the courts with extra large rags in hand ready to wipe off the muck from their boules and defy the gods of rain. Some of the first out will be those who have signed up for the Winter Mixed Doubles League. Eager Leaguers, we wish you clear skies—at least on the weekends.

The coming year will offer many of the same great opportunities for casual play, a little competition and some great outdoor eating. If you've enjoyed taking part in the past year's club activities, maybe this year you'd like to join us in making some of them happen. Leave me a message on the club hotline (258-3450) and I'll put you on the list of volunteers for 2002.

See you on the courts, Frank Pipal

VOMPC Online: www.sonomapetanque.com

Jess Misuraca of *Far and Away Design* has been busy updating our club website for the upcoming season. And it looks great!!

Photos of the 2001 season and Fall League results are posted with our '02 schedule of events coming soon.

So, point those browsers to our club page (*what the hay, make it your HOME page!*). And don't forget to email the link to family and friends for a fun look-see.

Kudos to Jess for creating a site we all can be proud of and for her diligent digital housekeeping


Same to **Jacques Mathieu** & *MaTerre International* for underwriting the site. And to **Byron Mayo** for assisting with content and copy writing.

Thanks to this team of talented folks, we're lookin' good online!


VALLEY OF THE MOON
PÉTANQUE CLUB

HISTORY

Valley of the Moon *boule* players were introduced to pétanque through Sonoma's sister city relationship with the French village of Chambolle-Musigny. In 1988, several local players organized a club and gained affiliation with the Federation of Pétanque U.S.A. They named their organization the *Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club*. Eventually, the game became an inveterate part of wine country living.




Today, the VOMPC is a diverse group of pétanque enthusiasts, male and female, all ages and backgrounds—the largest and one of the most active pétanque clubs in the United States.



WELCOME
CLUB
HISTORY
2001
SCHEDULE

NEXT EVENT
TOURNAMENT
RESULTS
LEAGUE PLAY
JOIN!

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SCRAPBOOK
LINKS



INSIDE:

Who won at Preston?

New/Vet League Wrap-up

The Ump is Back from Vacation

A Message from Our President

Membership Renewal Form

Mixed Doubles Mud Boule!

A pat on the back for the VOMPC

...and, oh yea, the '02 Schedule!

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Help pay for this Newsrag: Send in Your Dues Today!