

## The Heart of the Season is Here!

### *Bastille Day, Paella, Wine Country Classic & Summer Leagues*

"Summer's here and the time is right for..." Well, if not "dancin' in the street," then playing pétanque it shall be!

The culinary hit parade will barrel through the summer months, courtesy of our club chefs. First up is the magnanimous **Marco Ilaria**. On July 14, Marco will be serving up an authentic bouillabaisse at the fifteenth annual **Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque**, generously sponsored by **Ravenswood Winery**.

Three weeks later, the prolific one, **Tom Noonan**, returns (with Prez **Frank Pipal**) for the second running

of **Paella Valenciana Night**. Come to the courts for a beautiful evening meal and some light-hearted play.

For competitors, the **Wine Country Classic** Select Doubles Tournament on **August 25** is always a big draw, with 'Open' and Women's Divisions (**sign up by 10am**).

League play is now in full swing with 37 entries in singles and doubles formats (see update, page 6). Standings and late-summer playoff dates will be posted at the courts.

So, as we move into the heart of the season, stay cool, play hard and *Bon Appetite!*

### Sunday, July 14th LE GRAND CONCOURS

The format is *random triplete*, so you don't need a team. Just show up at the courts **before 10am** and sign up according to your experience level. Our helpful staff will do the rest. Before you know it, you will be on a team and in the chase for prizes and fun!

Of course, the menu promises an authentic taste of the old country:

#### Aperitif

Mixed Seafood Bouillabaisse

Garden Salad

Baguette, Brie & Fresh Fruit

Glass of Ravenswood Wine

Tournament entry fee is \$7. Lunch is \$15. (Half price for kids on both.) Reservations are required.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE:** make your hotline reservations no later than **MONDAY, July 8th**. Thank you!

### Saturday, Aug. 3rd PAELLA COURTSIDE DINNER

The inspiration came from Spain, but the cookin' is down home at this special evening edition of a great club tradition: *Picnic & Pétanque*

Giant paella pans will be filled with the myriad ingredients and cooked over wood fires for all to enjoy. It's as fun to watch the cooks as it is to eat.

And, oh yeah, casual play at the courts as usual. Here's the menu:

Tapas Variadas

Paella Valenciana

Tossed Green Salad

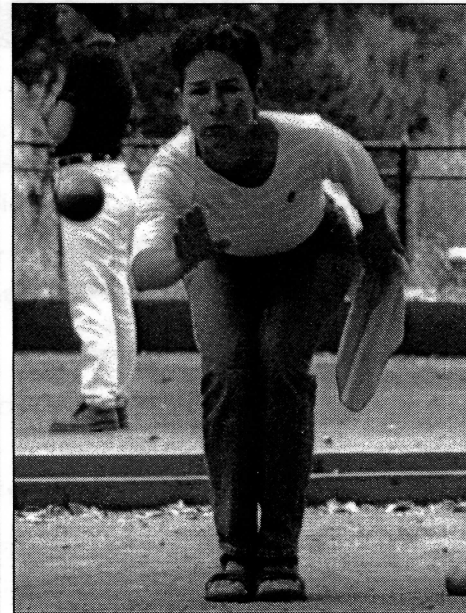
Glass of Sangria

Special Desserts

Dinner, a great deal at \$15, will be served about **6pm**. (Half price for kids.) Reservations are required.

**Call the hotline by Thursday, August 1st to make your reservations.**

### Karen on Her Way to World Championship!

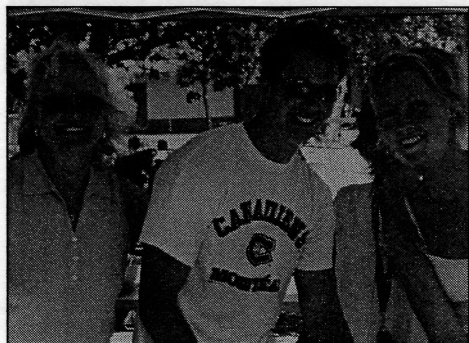


One person who won't be around on Bastille Day will be Karen Semerau. Karen will be joining two teammates from New York and Florida to represent the USA in the **World Women's Championship** in Latuc, Quebec on July 12-14.

*Bonne chance to Karen and her team, from all the VOMPC! (See page 7.)*

**VOMPC HOTLINE: 258-3450**

# Emperor Norton Day: A Madcap Handicap



**Servin' it up:** Susan, Jeremy, Annick and Amanda were a crowd-pleasin' crew. They treated everyone to a tremendous meal—and had a great time themselves! *Thank you all!*



Brendan Cohen(r.) celebrated his 12th birthday with sister Hallie, mom Shannon Bowman, and all in attendance. Night-marish Sears Point traffic delayed their arrival, but they came to play and won two games in the afternoon. *Nice goin'!*

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Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto, Tom Noonan

## VOMPC 2002 Board of Directors

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(Jun 23) Fifty odd club members and their guests (including a number of newcomers) threw their hats in the ring for the fourth annual **Emperor Norton Handicap Tournament and Royal Picnic**.

In this come-what-may favorite, people enjoyed the light-hearted competition as much as the delicious BBQ feast put on by the Emperor's loyal assistants. And the day wrapped up with a fun raffle and awards presentation.

**Susan and Amanda Norton, Annick Bouldt and Jeremy Bossio** worked the line and served up a hearty meal. And thanks to Mike and Susan Norton for their generous donation of the wines and prizes.

In the tournament, teams competed

in two's and three's and negotiated the web of "edicts", "carreau cards" and handicaps which were doled out by the Emperor as he saw fit.

Levelled playing field notwithstanding, the final saw a couple of familiar faces, as Patrick Vaslet and newcomer Eddie Hankel took out Tino Lofaro and David Render, 13-11.

## Member/Guest Rainout

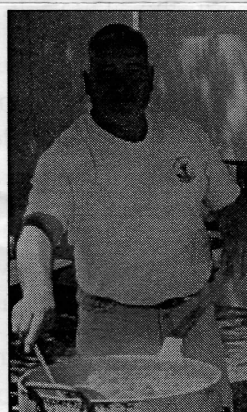
(May 19) Steady weekend rain forced the cancellation of the annual Member/Guest Tournament and Picnic.

Thanks to **Dave Rizzo** for prepping all the goods. The club is making use of the supplies in subsequent events. *See y'all next time!*

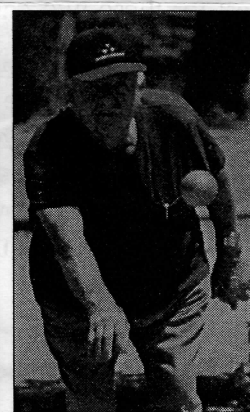
## Couscous Royale: Big Hit at Picnic!



Gustave Foucher (l.) and Roger Poli (r.) discuss the fine points of grilling *merguez*.



Antonio Lofaro got things going for the chefs early on.



Gus got in a morning game before it was time to cook.

(Jun 2) Seventy-five club members and their guests were treated to a beautiful couscous luncheon prepared by **Roger Poli** and **Gustave Foucher** and friends at the second annual **Members Picnic**.

A warm and sunny afternoon was the perfect setting for casual play and camaraderie at the courts. The chefs were ably assisted by club vols **Bruce Frigard**, **Antonio Lofaro** and **Frank Pipal**. Gus provided the wonderful *merguez* sausage which were grilled to perfection. Frank worked his dessert magic, *cornes de gazelles* cookies. And Chef Roger pulled it all together.

*Thanks to all these hard-working gentlemen (and others who pitched in) for a great day at the courts.*



## Les Rennes de Pétanque

Erika/Holly Take Women's Title!



(May 26-27) Erika Schmitt (in her maiden entry into a national tournament) and rock-steady Holly Sammons teamed up to take Sonoma's first **FPUSA National Women's Doubles Championship**. In two days of play, the dynamic duo won all of their games!

While surviving the opening rounds wasn't easy, the true test for these two came in the playoff. In the Semifinal, two other rising stars with designs of their own, Erin McTaggart and Shannon Bowman, gave the soon-to-be-champs a fistful of trouble but were unable to get the upper hand. Erin and Shannon played well but fell to their friends, 6-13.

In the final match, facing the wonderful and vivacious Dolores Bush (many times a National Champion) and newcomer Sylvie Rothenberg from Los Angeles, our gals prevailed 13-11 in a pointing clinic that left many a male pointer shaking in his *sabots*.

Although Dolores took an occasional shot, the rounds invariably finished with a cluster of balls surrounding the cochonnet. The players exchanged turns in the circle, rolling in their boules ever closer to the target. And the crowd loved it, applauding practically ever ball!

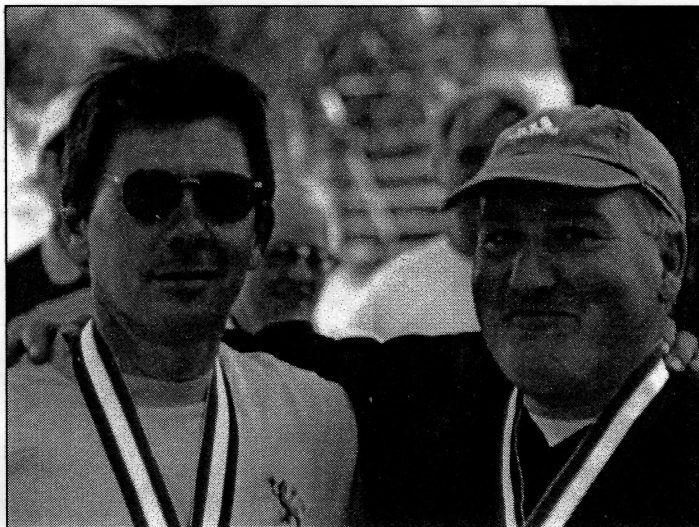
At game's end the competitors embraced to the crowd's delight and all were cheered for their good sportsmanship.

The bronze medal was won by Eva Lofaro and Joss Krauer. Earlier in the afternoon, Karen Semerau and Barbara Hall took first place in the consolante.

Congratulations to our VOMPC women for such a grand showing. *Ya done good!*

## Les Rois de Pétanque

Patrick/Tino Steamroll Competition



(May 26-27) They've been winning a lot lately, but Tino Lofaro and Patrick Vaslet showed they could win the big one, as they shot and pointed their way through all comers to take the coveted **FPUSA National Doubles** title.

Twenty-six teams from two coasts, four states and ten clubs were represented in a tough field. Nearly one half finished 2-2 in Sunday's qualification rounds. No team went undefeated as upsets were *de rigueur*.

After a lackluster performance on Sunday (finishing 2-2), the pair squeaked into the Monday morning pools. There they handed fellow VOMPers PJ Mallette/Peter Mathis and Mal Misuraca/Bart Zachofsky smarting defeats.

It got even easier for them in the afternoon playoff rounds, they gave up a mere five points in three games finishing with the *coup de grace*—a stunning fifteen minute, 15-0 blowout of John Rolland (Florida) and Pascal Corschia (Los Angeles). **WOW!**

A dozen or so VOM players competed but, alas, no other pairs made it past the quarterfinals in the highly competitive field.

Michel Saga and Pierre Smets made the consolante final four. Ed Porto and Peter Wellington finished second in that bracket, going down in the final 11-13.

Hail to our sister club **La Pétanque Mariniere** for a great job hosting the National Doubles Tournaments. Special thanks to Christine Cragg, Jan and Louie Toulon, Eva, Antonio and Sebastian Lofaro, John and Joss Krauer, Bart Zachofsky and all others who helped in many ways.

*Their efforts were much appreciated!*

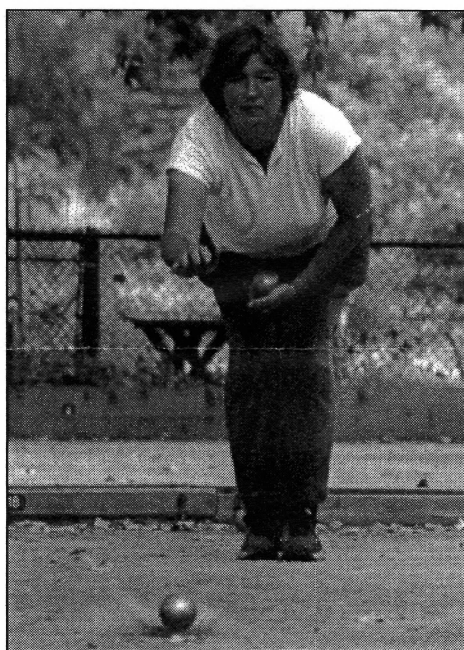
# Photo Gallery: National Doubles Tournament



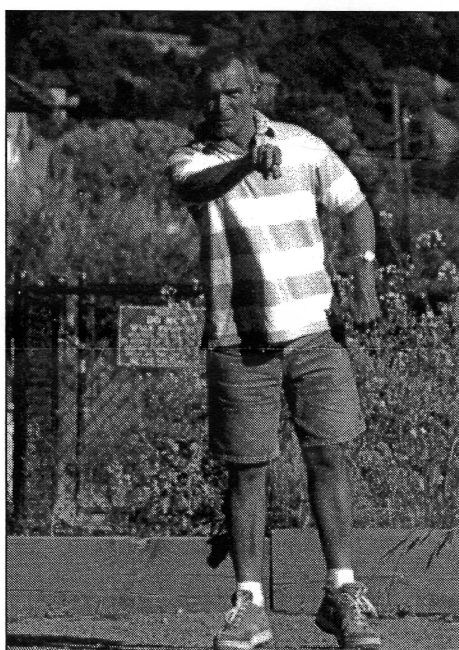
Eva Lofaro and Joss Krauer took home the bronze medals.



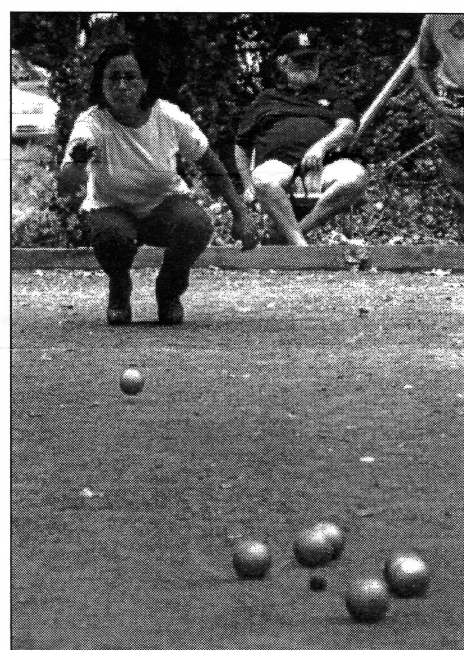
Marin Prez Christine Cragg made all the winners happy.



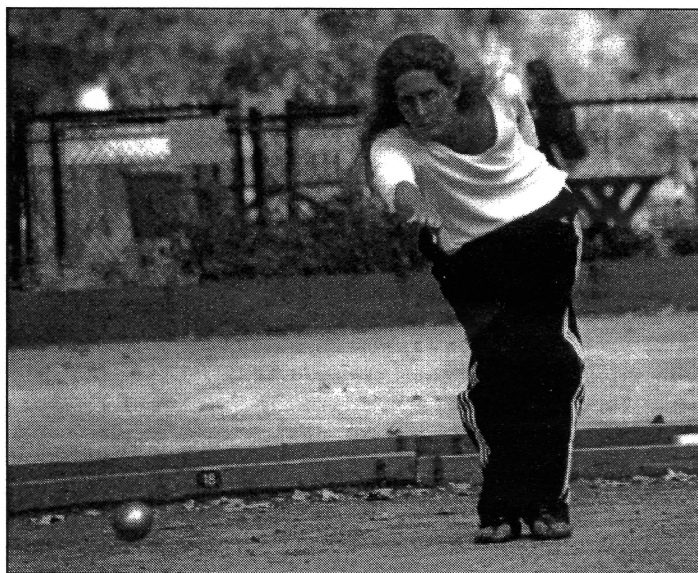
Holly Sammons finds her *donnée*.



Michel Saga shared shooting duties.



Barb Hall came on strong in the consolante.



Erika Schmitt's concentration took her to the top.



Bart Zachofsky and Mal Misuraca surprised a few front runners.



# PJ Scores Big in National Mixed Doubles

## Da Weas + 1 New Yorker = 2002 National Mixed Doubles Champs!

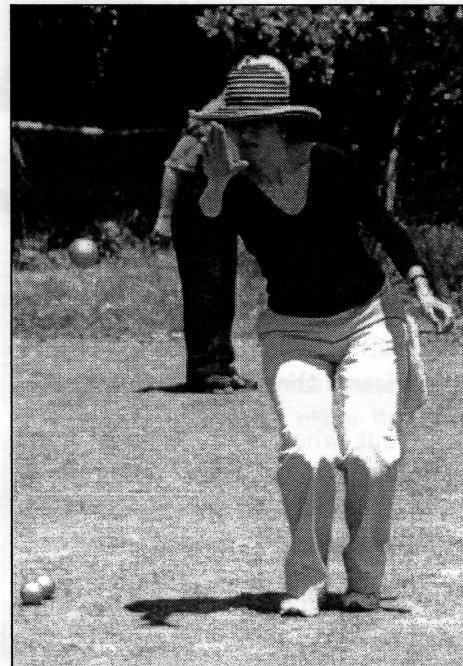
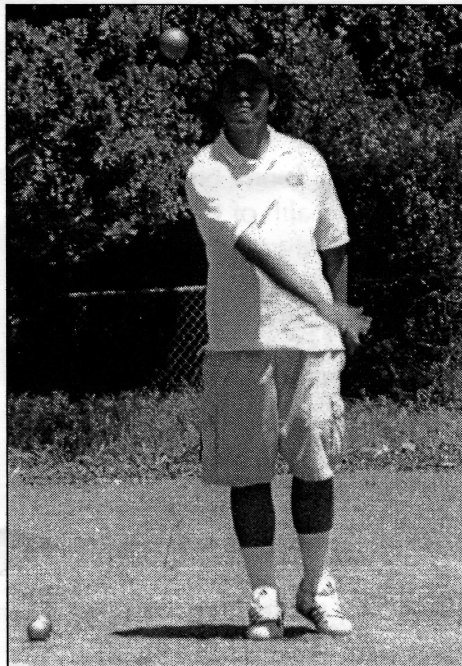
(May 25) It was a sunny and warm day in Lafayette, as the **Lamorinda Pétanque Club** rolled out the red carpet (and a grand buffet!) for twenty mixed doubles teams from around the US. Also in attendance were some well-entertained spectators and a number of FPUSA brass.

As a club, the VOMPC (which sent nine primary members to the field on six separate teams) split all the medals with **La Boule New Yorkaise**. PJ Mallette and New York's Sylvia Marquez went home to their respective clubs with the gold. The one-day format allowed for few mistakes as the field whittled itself down during the course of the day.

PJ and his trusty partner suffered their lone setback in the morning to eventual bronze medalists Tino Lofaro and Holly Sammons. In the later rounds, PJ and Sylvia tightened up their act, narrowly defeating Peter Mathis and Narin Garrett in a Semifinal, 13-11. When the 2000 Champs Beth Krumholz and Richard Stegman (both of NY) took down Holly and the frustrated Tino, the stage was set for the New Yorkers to settle their differences in the final. *And the difference was PJ!*

As the air temperature dropped before the shivering diehard crowd, Da Weas turned up the heat. After falling behind 8-10, he and Sylvia roared back to close the affair, 13-10, erasing any doubt as to who was the best team on that memorable National Mixed Doubles day.

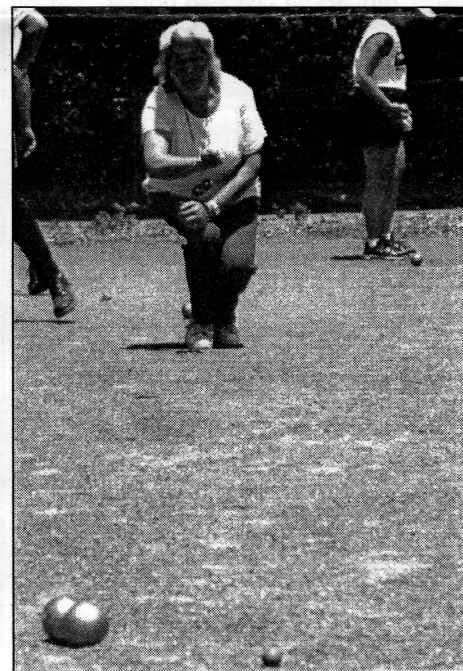
*Congratulations PJ and Sylvia! Well done.*



PJ Mallette and the stylish Sylvia Marquez of New York played tough, but they stayed relaxed in the playoff rounds to win it all.



Shannon Bowman follows through on a tough point in the early going.



Crafty as ever, Joss Krauer puts a boule where it where it can't be shot.

A big *Thank You* goes to the **Lamorinda Pétanque Club**, for hosting a tremendous day at their courts. Club founder Pascal Gravier and the Lamorinda volunteers put together a delicious buffet lunch and made everyone welcome.

*The day was enjoyable in every way. Merci beaucoup!*

## The Umpire's Corner . . .



**Q.** I'm the guy who sent in the thorny question you used in the May issue. On a measurement, the arbitre moved the jack. You said, "Once the jack is moved, the arbitre can't measure the point accurately, even with calipers. He must call it as he saw it when he first viewed the situation."

O.K., but what if the arbitre didn't prejudge the situation? What if he walked right up, bent over to measure and slightly moved the jack.

*What's the call under those conditions?*

**A.** In the close and difficult situation you describe, a fair ruling is to have the opponents replay the last two boules. (Most arbitres, however, will carefully make a judgement call before measuring.)

### *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

## Summer Leagues Update

Three leagues are in full swing with no clear frontrunners in any of the formats as of press time.

Hans Kurz and Frank Pipal hold a slim lead in **Thursday Night Doubles** over three teams who are in a 3-way tie for 2nd place.

In **Singles**, play has barely begun in *L'Escargot* division. Amongst *Les Grenouilles*, Frank Pipal, PJ Mallette and Ed Porto are 1-2-3, with many nipping at their heels.

In **Doubles**, Peter Mathis/Holly Sammons, Tino Lofaro/Gerard Canabou, Chuck Fleming/Bill Miller and PJ Mallette/Barb Hall, hold the top half of the standings.

## New Saturday Clinics Open to All Members

Is learning to shoot, make the perfect *carreau*, or improve the consistency of your pointing one of your current pétanque goals? Then the new **Technique Clinic** program is just for you.

With the wealth of talent in our very own club, the VOMPC will offer monthly clinics, taught by a different club member/coach each month.

**Tom Noonan** will coach the July 13th clinic and **Peter Mathis** is slated for August 17th. Sessions begin at 11AM and go until 12:30 PM.

Look for future announcements of clinics to be coached by **Frank Pipal, PJ Mallette, Tino Lofaro** and **Christian Triay** (of the LAPC). Any questions? Contact **Barbara Hall** at mkh528@aol.com, or 938-2332.

## 2nd Special Olympics Bocce Program Finishes



Photo by Tom Noonan

Le Prez gives the *hi-five* to one of our club's special friends. The ramp was provided by a local Rotarian so that more people would be able to play.

A big thanks goes to **Frank Pipal, Tom Noonan, Teri Sirico, John Boultdt, Erin McTaggart, Bart Zachofsky** and **Ed Porto** for helping with this community program over the past three months.

## on the road...



## ...with the VOMPC

(May 4) At the **Maurice Ebollito Memorial Tournaments** in Menlo Park, Teri Sirico and Erin McTaggart won the women's division. In the semifinal they shaved Joss Krauer and Eva Lofaro, 13-11, then had an easier time in the final, winning 13-7.

(May 5) On Day 2 of the same event, it was Holly Sammon's and Barbara Hall's turn. Joss Krauer and Eva Lofaro built a comfortable 9-3 lead in the final match. Backs to the wall, Holly and Barb went on a rampage, marking six points, then four, to go home winners! Karen Semerau's team placed third as did Peter Mathis and PJ Mallette in the Men's Division.

(Jun 8) Le Club Francais de Sacramento hosted the **FPUSA Northwest Regional Select Triplette Championship** in Rancho Cordova. PJ Mallette, Peter Mathis and John Krauer won first place by virtue of a come-from-behind 15-10 victory over Louis Toulon, Kenny Stieper and John Boultdt in the final. Barbara Hall, Erin McTaggart and Holly Sammons finished third.

## VOM Mixed Doubles

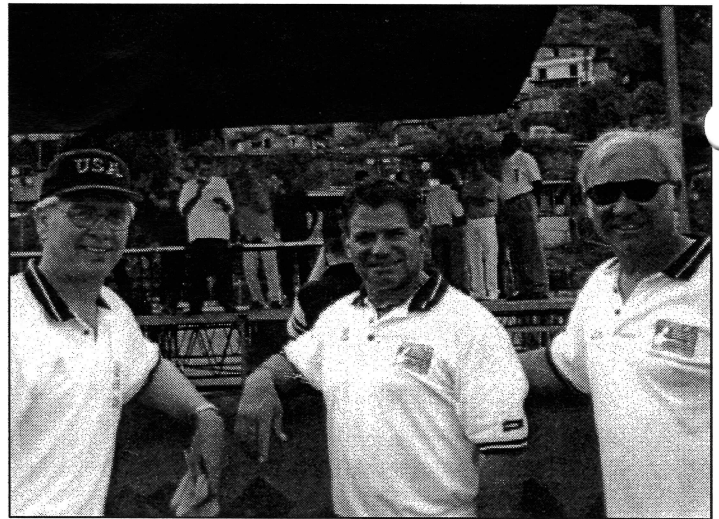
(Apr. 28) A great day and a great potluck picnic was enjoyed by 40 players at our courts. Tino Lofaro and Holly Sammons finished with two *fannies* to win our 3rd annual **Mixed Doubles Tournament**. Tom and Charlotte Noonan came in second. John and Joss Krauer took third.



By day's end, all participants, both locals and visitors, had been treated to a memorable social event, setting the precedence that has become a Sonoma pétanque tradition.



**Gold, Silver and Bronze:** VOM players took home the metal from the FPUSA Northwest Regional Championship held in Rancho Cordova on June 8th. (L to R) Louis Toulon, Erin McTaggart, Peter Mathis, Ken Stieper, John Bouldt, Holly Sammons, Barbara Hall, PJ Mallette and John Krauer. The wind was blowing strong in the Central Valley that day, but these nine boulists stayed on course and played well all day long. *Congratulations!*



**VOMers in Martinique.** Mike Norton (l), John Bouldt (c) and Louis Toulon (r) were part of a group of eight club members who travelled to the French West Indies in May for a pétanque-filled vacation. In **Le Grand Prix de la Caraïbe**, John and Louis were one point away from reaching the top 16 (in a field of 274 teams from Europe and the Americas).

*For more out-of-town results, see "On the Road with the VOMPC" on page 6.*

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

Please note, due to a scheduling conflict at *ye olde barracks*, the **Annual Dinner** has been changed to **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19.**

**PICNIC & PANACHÉ** will be held on **SUNDAY, OCT. 27.**

The **FPUSA Western Singles** (July 27-28) is **CANCELLED.**

*Please mark your calendars!*

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

*Don't forget the annual **4th of July Potluck Picnic.** Gather with your friends in the evening to play pétanque, then stay for the **Sonoma Fireworks** show. **One change: this year it's B.Y.O.W. (Bring Your Own Weber).** See you there!*

**FPUSA National Doubles**  
Full Recap in This Issue!

**2002 Membership Ticker: 123**