

2003 Club Event Calendar Set!

Women's World Championship Qualification Tourney on Labor Day

The scheduling committee of **Teri Sirico, Barbara Hall, PJ Mallette, Frank Pipal** and **Ed Porto** has hammered out a calendar of events for the upcoming year which is

guaranteed to please. Below are the first three tourneys to kick off the new season. The complete schedule is listed on a special insert (see inside).

Saturday, FEBRUARY 22

The SEASON OPENER: Three-Ball SINGLES and SOUP by Tom Noonan

Dust off those boules for some good competition, as the traditional season opener takes with a more traditional twist—*THREE BALLS ONLY!*

Der Klub Züppenmeister (and current Secretary) Mr. Tom Noonan will have a cauldron of delicious soup on the cooker for all to enjoy. And he's goin' easy on us—*no reservations needed!*

There will be both Open and Women's Divisions, with concours and consolante playoffs in each.

This event is a good skill-builder—don't miss it (or the soup)!

RAIN DATE: Sunday, February 23

ENTRY FEE: \$7.00

SOUP: \$5.00

TOURNEY DIRECTORS:

Barbara Hall, Ed Porto

Saturday, MARCH 22

Select MIXED DOUBLES with a Potluck Lunch

With all the good cooks in our club, this has become one of the best feeds on the calendar! Bring a dish to share and partake of good, friendly competition.

Mixed Doubles is a ton of fun. (Twenty-eight winter leaguers can't all be wrong!) Show up early if you don't have a partner and the staff will do their best to match you up.

There will be prizes and awards in the concours and consolante. The gas range and the BBQ will be available to all who attend.

It's is a great event for everyone. Be there!

RAIN DATE: Sunday, March 23

ENTRY FEE: \$7.00

TOURNEY DIRECTORS:

John Bouldt, Frank Pipal

Saturday, APRIL 26

3rd Annual Sonoma Cup SELECT TRIPLES/Tacos

Don't let *prestige* scare ya! Form your team and compete for the coveted perpetual trophy!

Founded as an auxillary event to the World Championship Qualification Tournament in 2001, "*da Cup*" has become a first-rate open triplète in its own right.

Our favorite taco truck, **La Bamba** will be on hand for some great lunchtime treats. Or bring your own lunch if you prefer.

The higher entry fee allows for the prizes in the concours and consolante brackets to go a little deeper.

So come on down!

RAIN DATE: Sunday, April 27

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00

TOURNEY DIRECTORS:

Tom Noonan, Holly Sammons

SIGN UPS CLOSE AT 10AM SHARP • JUNIORS: 1/2 PRICE • 100% RETURN OF PURSE

WORK PARTY & FREE LUNCH: SATURDAY, MAR.15

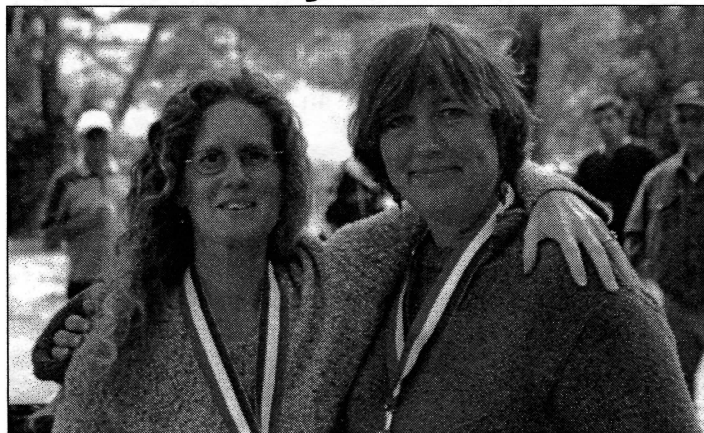
It's been a long winter—sort of—and it's time for the **Annual Spring Clean-up and Work Party**. This is a call for 'all hands on deck' to get our courts ready for the new season.

There will be hoes and rakes available. Please bring your work gloves. Your appetite will be an afterthought, as a delicious lunch is planned for all who participate.

We'll start about 9AM and finish around 3PM. Please come down and spend as much time as you can. **Frank Pipal** will be directing activities. You can call him if you have any questions (833-2020).

The Raindate is set for Saturday, March 29th. We all enjoy the courts, so this is a great time to pitch in and help out your club—and it's fun, too! See you there!

Erika/Holly or Tino/Patrick? All Great—It's a Tie!



National Women's Champs: Erika Schmitt and Holly Sammons went undefeated during the two-day tournament. The final was a cliff-hanger and a crowd-pleaser as the duo (newcomers to the national stage) displayed the grace and poise of champions.



National Open Champs: After struggling in the qualification rounds, Tino Lofaro and Patrick Vaslet finally won the big one. The pair gained strength throughout the playoff day. The *coup de grace*: a 15-minute, 15-0 victory in the final match!

Good Readers, please humor me. Indulge me in my homage to some great moments in 2002 for VOMPers on pétanque courts from Sonoma to St. Pierre.

While there is much more to the game of pétanque—and our club—than won/loss records, tournaments, trophies

and medals, a few outstanding achievements should not go unnoticed as we get ready for the new season.

So, please enjoy reliving these moments (do you still have your back issues?) and be ready for your chance to shine. For yours may well be a "Top Ten" moment in 2003!

Apples and oranges. Peaches and pears. (And, dare I say it?) Women and men. It's difficult to measure achievement and no list will ever be complete—certainly not such a subjective one as this. But I do believe the grandest moment for the VOMPC in 2002 came on May 27th when the four club members

noted above brought home the gold medals from the National Doubles tournaments in San Rafael.

Also great and not to be diminished, the "best of the rest" are ranked according to the Editor's preference. The rankings are secondary to the recognition of these fine competitors, which is so well deserved.

2. Alec Stone, Grand Champion, National Singles, Boca Raton, FL.

3. (Tie) John Bouldt and **Louis Toulon** missing the eighth-finals by one point in the 256-team Grand Prix de la Caribbe in St. Pierre, Martinique (French West Indies).

Karen Semerau (with the US team) taking 3rd place in the Coup de Nations (consolante) at the Women's World Championship in LaTuque, Quebec.

4. PJ Mallette taking the National Mixed Doubles Championship (with partner Sylvia Marquez of NY).

5. PJ Mallette, Alec Stone (with Christian Triay) finishing second

in the FPUSA World Championship Qualification Tournament in Sarasota, Florida.

6. PJ Mallette taking his third straight VOMPC Singles League title.

7. Erika Schmitt and **Karen Semerau** winning their second consecutive VOMPC Women's League title.

8. Shannon Bowman, Peter Wellington and **Ed Porto** taking the Club Championship, going undefeated through all seven games.

9. Teri Sirico/Erin McTaggart and **Barbara Hall/Holly Sammons** winning on successive days at the Ebollito Memorial Tournament (women's divisions) in Menlo Park.

10. (Tie) Hallie Cohen, Tom Noonan (with partner Bill Albright of Lafayette) winning the annual Bastille Day Grand Concours de Pétanque.

Olivia Sammons and **Shannon Bowman** finishing first in the 8-team Women's Division of the annual Wine Country Classic.

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

Ed Porto, Editor/Publisher

Photographs (this issue): Ed Porto

VOMPC 2003 Board of Directors

John Bouldt, President

Ed Porto, Vice President

Tom Noonan, Secretary

Holly Sammons, Treasurer

Directors: Barbara Hall, Frank Pipal, Teri Sirico

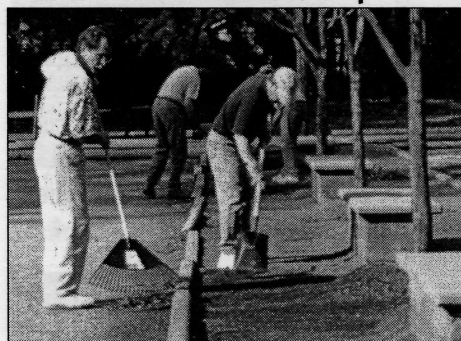
For more info, visit: www.sonomapetanque.com

Club Off to Fast Start-'03 Activities Underway

Your VOMPC Board of Directors is undertaking a variety of tasks to make our club and our community a better place for all of us. Whether it's sport, event planning, special programs or park improvements, there's something in the works in all kinds of areas.

If you can spare a little time and would like to get involved with the myriad activities now underway, contact any of your friendly board members for more information. The rewards are in the doing—and there's lots we can do!

Facilities Committee Plans Improvements, Maintenance, Repairs



Our beautiful courts need lots of TLC—and we be the care-givers! From planting trees and shrubs to making benches, you can bring your ideas as well as your work gloves.

Chuck Fleming, Gerry Haney and Hans Kurz have joined **Frank Pipal**, but there is plenty of room around this committee table—and never a shortage of things to do.

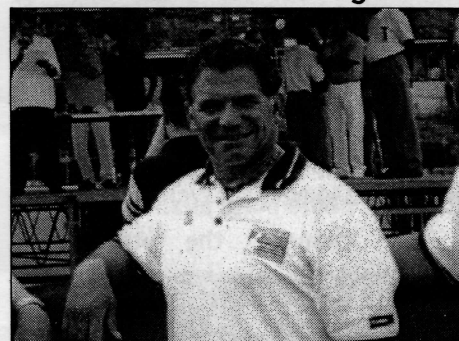
SV Special Olympics Bocce Program Expands Schedule



Special Olympians will be at the courts for bocce practice on Sunday mornings this March thru June and there are plans to play in Bay Area events.

If you can spare an hour or so on a couple of Sundays (11am until noon) this spring, please contact **Frank Pipal, Ed Porto** or **Teri Sirico**. It's a great experience to share with some truly special people.

Club "Reaches Out" to Vintage House, La Luz, Stand-By-Me



President **John Boultdt** is leading the effort to include local community groups in our club's activities.

Take your pick, they're all quality community programs—and fertile ground for future pétanque enthusiasts! Make new friends and share your own enthusiasm for the game with newcomers of all kinds.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS: On Saturday, March 1st the club will host an introductory pétanque clinic for **Stand by Me** mentors and mentees at 11am. Rain date is March 8th. Please contact **John Boultdt** for more information.

Club Website to Be Under Construction Ricky Bagel New Web Master

After two years of quality service, **Jessica Misuraca** retired from her post of club webstress.

We are fortunate enough to have another skilled digital wizard in our midst, that being the fun-loving, effervescent **Richard Bagel** who promises to keep our cyber tradition alive and well.

Stay tuned for an update. And Jess and Ricky, thank you both!

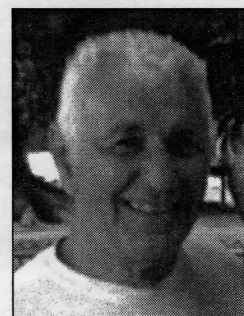
(Note: Website cost is underwritten by Jacques Mathieu.)

Changes in FPUSA Board Prez. Norton Retires, Pipal in as Secretary, Semerau Re-ups

Five-year FPUSA executive and VOMPC charter member Mike Norton retired from his post in January. VOMPers can be proud of Mike's record as FPUSA president and VP. We wish Mike well in his future volunteer efforts.

In the recent FPUSA elections, Frank Pipal easily won the Secretary's contest. Karen Semerau renewed her position as NW Counselor. Feel free to contact your VOMPC and FPUSA representatives if you have questions regarding pétanque on the regional or national level.

We remember...



Marcel Metzorian, LAPC
Gentleman and Friend

The Umpire's Corner . . .



Q. On the first toss, my boule landed right next to the cochonnet. Surprisingly, the other team didn't try to shoot. Their hot-shot pointer rolled his boule up to the cochonnet, too. So both boules were now touching the cochonnet.

Which team should have played next?

A. The team that played the last boule plays again. If nothing changes, the other team then plays. Each team continues to alternate until a change does occur.

If the round ends with two opposing boules still touching the cochonnet, the round is declared void. Start over.

The opening toss of the new round is made by the same team that opened the original round.

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

'Looking for Some Good Recipes—and Your Stories

Trish Adams, one of our friends at the Oakhurst Pétanque Club, has a project in the works as a local fund raiser. She will be creating a book of recipes and pétanque stories.

Teri Sirico is our club liaison for this project. Her email box is ready and waiting for your favorite recipe or a good old story about pétanque. Later this year, our club will receive some copies for purchase.

Please send your yarn to the club P.O. box, attn: Teri, or email Teri at chezteri@earthlink.net by March 1st.

Mixed Doubles Rolling thru Winter Months New Handicap Format—Playoff Day March 16th

The **Mixed Doubles League** returned this winter with a new twist—a handicap system for all players. And while this new wrinkle is a bit unconventional in pétanque, the league's turnout matched last year and welcomed some new faces.

The intention was to give newer players a better crack at making the playoffs, and to present accomplished players more of a challenge when facing teams of lesser skill.

Handicaps (ranging from zero to four points) were assigned to players by a panel of three club members prior to registration. Each 15-point game starts off with the difference between the team handicaps as the beginning score.

League directors **Frank Pipal** and **Teri Sirico** added a bit of pizzazz with an opening day potluck lunch, catchy team nicknames and will have host of prizes to await concours and consolante finalists.

In the action thus far, it's *El Pampero* (PJ Mallette, Barbara Hall) and *Dër Fohn* (John and Joss Krauer) setting the pace in **Le Mistral Division**, while *Disciples of Bodhi* (Tom and Charlotte Noonan) in hot pursuit.

On the **Sirocco** side, *The Boule-Headed Buzzbombs* (Shannon Bowman, Patrick Vaslet) are looking pretty convincing, as are last year's champs, *Da Fenders* (Peter Mathis, Holly Sammons). The biggest surprise is *One Mick Between Us* (rookie player Colleen Christiansen and Rick "The Quick" Bagel) who are nipping at the heels of the undefeated frontrunners.

The regular season ends in the first week of March. The action will conclude on Sunday, March 16th, when

the semifinalists for both concours and consolante will gather for the final rounds of the playoffs.

All clubmembers are invited to come down to the courts to take in the action and participate in the potluck playoff lunch. *See you there!*

2003 Mixed Doubles League

Standings as of 02.01.03

(handicaps noted)

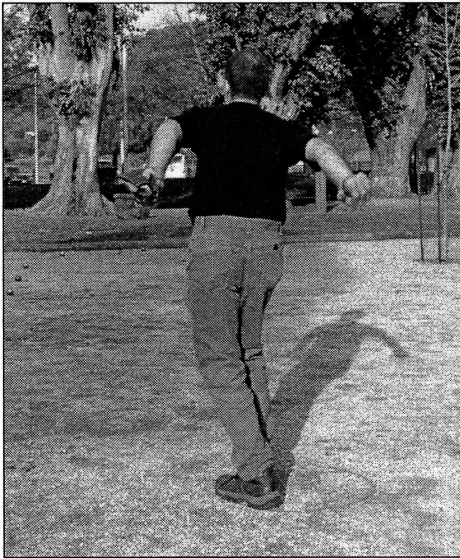
MISTRAL DIVISION

Der Föhn (3)	4-1
Joss and John Krauer	
El Pampero (1)	2-1
Barbara Hall and PJ Mallette	
Disciples of Bodhi (4)	3-2
Charlotte and Tom Noonan	
The Kardiak Kidz (5)	2-3
Glory Glover and Ed Porto	
The Emperor's Court (4)	1-2
Teri Sirico and Mike Norton	
Canasia (6)	1-3
Toni and Pierre Mallette	
Where's the Beef? (5)	0-1
Jane and Peter Wellington	

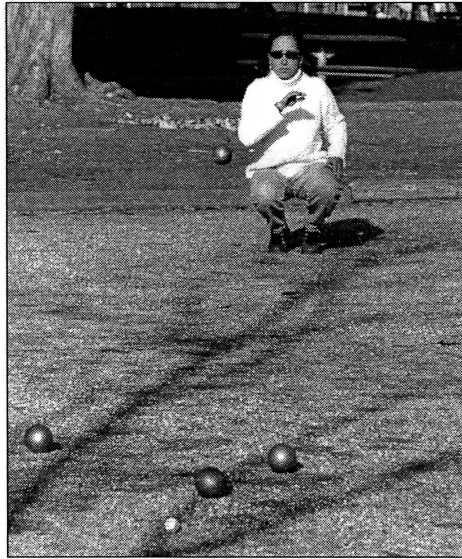
SIROCCO DIVISION

The Boule-Headed Buzzbombs (2)	2-0
Shannon Bowman and Patrick Vaslet	
Da Fenders (1)	1-0
Holly Sammons and Peter Mathis	
One Mick Between Us (5)	2-1
Colleen Chistiansen and Ricky Bagel	
Beauty and the Beast (5)*	2-2
Narin Garrett and Hans Kurz	
Whose Army? (4)	2-3
Lorraine Cline and Frank Pipal	
Kool and the Gang (5)	1-3
Erin McTaggart and Luis Velez	
The Dust Devils (4)	0-1
Deanne Carr and John Bouldt	

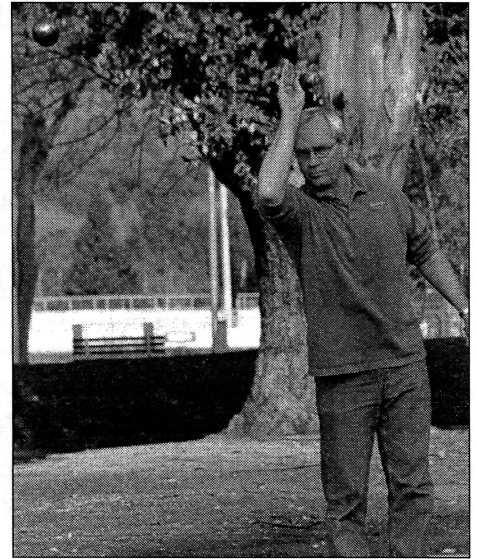
M I X E D D O U B L E S L E A G U E R E P O R T



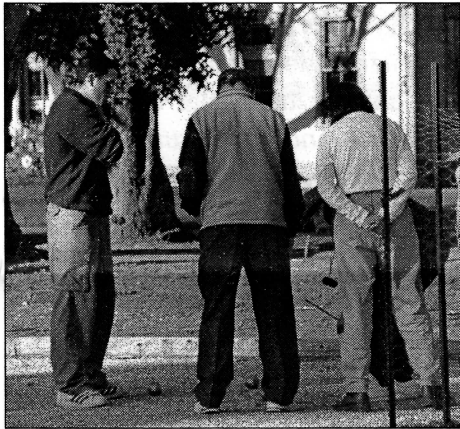
Frank Pipal winds up for a long shot (the distance—not the odds!).



Barbara Hall picked up where she left off in the Women's League.



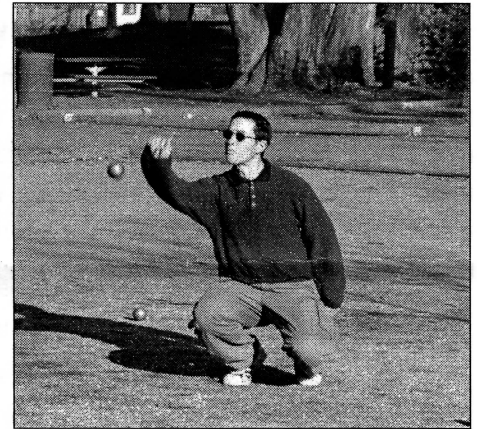
Mike Norton plays the *plombé* on the soft winter terrain.



In a tight league match, measuring the point usually draws a crowd



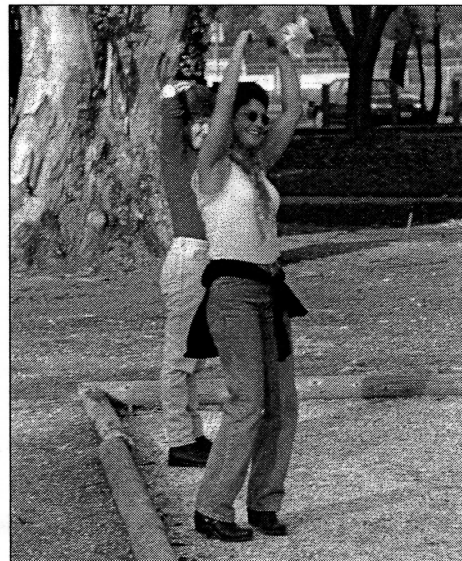
A study in concentration, Teri Sirico steadies herself for the point.



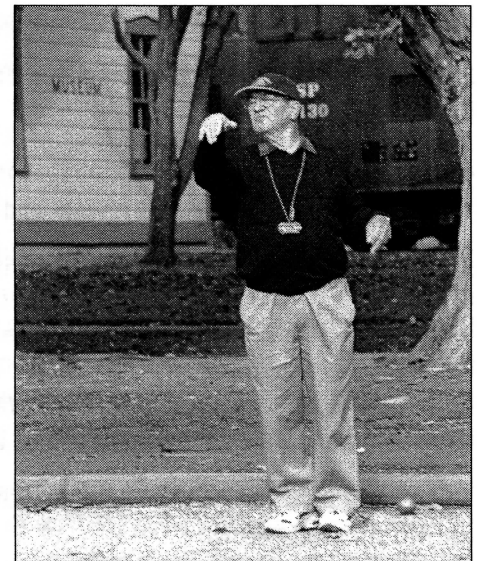
The dapper PJ Mallette—puttin' a whole lotta *mojo* on his boule.



John Krauer looks on as wife Joss gets ready for a shot.



Lorraine Cline celebrates an early-round point, while Shannon Bowman stays loose.



Veteran player John Krauer looks skyward while lobbing in a point.

A Letter from Our New President

Dear Club Members and Friends,

First thing I would like to say as the incoming prez is that the out-going president, Frank Pipal, did an exemplary job in his two years at the helm. His stewardship during that time, along with his active involvement in leadership positions on VOMPC Boards since 1994, is the standard for the rest of us to try to emulate. Folks, he deserves our praise. During his tenure, our club membership continued to grow, we hosted the World Championship Qualification Tournament (WCQT), presided over our acquiring a ten-year lease on our Depot Park terrain, revised our club Articles of Association/Bylaws and Code of Conduct, guided our involvement with the Special Olympics and the Boys and Girl's Club. And last but not least, he managed to stay composed through the tribulations and all that he did for us. *Hey bud, from us in the VOMPC, we thank you.*

Since my previous presidency in 1993, the club has grown from 34 members to its current 158. We began with 11 women and 23 men—that translates to a gender ratio of 34% female to 66 % male membership—same as today!

Traditionally, this was not the norm in the US pétanque community, yet the club founders recognized that for pétanque to flourish in Sonoma Valley, we must include the entire citizenry. And we have stayed that course. The current board (Holly, Ed, Tom, Frank, Barbara, Teri and I) consists of a balanced team of veterans and "new blood." We will strive to continue the quality leadership that has made the VOMPC a player and contributor in our local community and in American pétanque.

To those goals, in 2003, we have set out to accomplish the following:

1. Community outreach to the Vintage House, La Luz Foundation and Stand By Me Mentoring, as well as continuing involvement with VOM Boys' and Girls' Club, Special Olympics and perhaps areas not yet identified.
2. Expand VOMPC's volunteer involvement in community social activities for exposure and fundraising.
3. Further develop our administrative procedures via a comprehensive Operations Manual.
4. Qualify the parameters of contributors, ie, donors-sponsors interaction with VOMPC (this requires bylaws review and revision).
5. Host the Women's World Championship Qualification Tournament.

Obviously, this is a dynamic social club that depends on volunteers to be successful. As is customary, the person leading in this type of group, asks that club members pitch in, to make what we have even better. Please contact me, or any boardmember, if you would like to help.

I am proud of what VOMPC members have done. And I look forward to what we will do...let's do it!

Sincerely,
John Bouldt

Club "CAN DO" with Summers/McCann!

Mustard Fest Fund Raiser Big \$uccess, Great Effort

Local professional event promoters and club supporters **Patsy Summers** and **Connie McCann** gave the VOMPC another golden opportunity to raise funds—this time at the annual **Napa Valley Mustard Festival**.

The good volunteers listed below seized the moment on the evening of February 1st at the event auction in the California Culinary Institute. And what a fantastic job they did!

Much thanks goes to **John Bouldt** for organizing the staff and to **Summers/McCann** for this great way to help the club—and a great time, too.

Richard Bagel

Annick Bouldt

John Bouldt

Barbara Hall

Jerry Haney

Erin McTaggart

Tom Noonan

Frank Pipal

Ed Porto

Debbie Poulnot

Jean-Michel Poulnot

Dave Riffo

Holly Sammons

Marion Schlemmer

Karen Semerau

Judie Zitzewitz

Rob Zitzewitz

VOMPC Board Notes

11.05.02

Annual Dinner and Election Results (Hall): Thanks to Marco Ilaria, for the very fine dinner. Club election results: Holly Sammons, John Bouldt, Teri Sirico, Ed Porto elected.

Seating of the '03 Board: Pipal motioned for executive session for discussion/selection officers, due to extenuating circumstances. AYE: Pipal, Bouldt, Sirico, Porto. NAY: Hall. ABSTAIN: Sammons.

Bouldt announces club officers for 2003:

President: Bouldt, VP: Porto, Secretary: Hall, Treasurer: Sammons

Schedule Committee: Sirico (Chair), Hall, Mallette, Pipal.

Club Newsletter: Porto proposes quarterly format—approved unanimously.

11.25.02

Re-selection of officers in open meeting. President: Pipal nom. Bouldt. Sammons nom. Hall. Hall declines. Bouldt elected 5-2. AYE: Porto, Pipal, Bouldt, Sirico. NAY: Hall, Sammons.

Porto nominated VP, elected 7-0.

Sammons nominated Treasurer, elected 7-0.

Bouldt re-appoints Porto Communications Chair. Bouldt appoints Pipal Facilities Chair. Both approved, 7-0.

Hall resigns as Secretary. Tom Noonan volunteers for Secretary. Noonan elected 7-0.

12.09.02

Treasurer's report: current balance \$7,620.

Communications: R. Bagel to be web master. \$50 for Visitors Bureau Membership approved 7-0.

FPUSA elections: ballot completed.

Winter League (Porto): Handicapped Mixed Doubles approved with 50% fee subsidy by club. AYE: Bouldt, Porto, Pipal, Sirico. NAY: Hall, Sammons, Noonan.

Archive depository (Bouldt): Sammons donates a lockable cabinet for club house.

Oakhurst fund raiser (Sirico): collecting material for cookbook.

Boy's & Girl's Club Auction. Club donation of a Paella picnic for 12. Approved 7-0.

Club to participate in Napa Valley Mustard Festival to raise funds. Approved 7-0.

01.13.03

Treasurer's Report: current balance \$7323. Membership: 37.

Mustard Festival Fund raiser (Bouldt): 17 volunteers for Feb 1.

Winter League (Pipal, Sirico): Play has started with 14 teams.

Oakhurst-LA-VOMPC Cookbook (Sirico): 6 or 7 recipes received.

Facilities (Pipal): Jerry Haney, Hans Kurtz, Chuck Fleming on committee. Need to address dumpster access. Tables have become a problem. Both being addressed with the city.

Communications (Porto): tri-fold brochure planned for Visitor Bureau.

Annual Schedule (Sirico): Schedule approved.

Court Etiquette (Bouldt): discussion on sharing area with other city groups. Getting 5th & 6th players into games.

Club member's e-mail accusation of illegal board meeting: Possible violation of Code of Conduct, Sec. B #4 & 5. Will not be pursued.

The Founders' Corner

by John Bouldt

Editor's Note: In this segment, John intended to discuss the process by which we acquired our courts. Recent conflicts between FPUSA leadership and a club member's criticism has culminated in the resignation of President Mike Norton. In light of this occurrence, John has chosen to speak to the contributions of Susan and Mike Norton, and what they mean to us all.

In 1989, through the Sonoma Sister Cities (CHAMSON) relationship with the French Burgundian community, Chambolle-Musigny, I met the Nortons. Susan was CHAMSON's treasurer at the time and, because of their Franco-American involvement, they were introduced to pétanque.

In 1991, one year after becoming an FPUSA chartered club, we homesteaded the Depot Park location where we are now. In the subsequent years of our club's growth, Susan and Mike have always been there to do what was needed for the club's prosperity—whatever the task—from trench digger, gardener, tournament organizer, chief cook and bottle washer, treasurer, secretary and two-time president (1992 and 1994). Since 1994, Mike has represented our club on the FPUSA Board of Directors, starting as a regional counselor, secretary, vice president and president the last 3 years. The loss of Susan and Mike Norton to both the FPUSA and VOMPC is extensive. They represent what we are all about: personal integrity and the spirit of volunteerism.

In volunteer-based social groups, there can be a tendency to overlook the level of effort expended by our volunteers. To sustain the eco-system of our "oasis," volunteerism must be nurtured, successors must be developed and, above all, respect and recognition of selfless efforts must be recognized. To those ends, there is absolutely no room in our club for personal attacks and criticism which undermine the very foundation of our success.

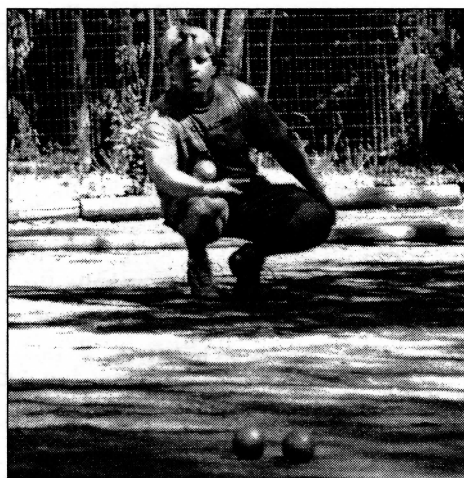
So, the next time you're standing or sitting at our courts, pause, look around. Then, introspectively, thank the Nortons for their contributions over many years and think of what we can do to prevent this from ever happening to a member/volunteer again.

Board Votes Twice—Corrects Procedural Disparity

In referring to a 1993 copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* (a procedural guideline for the proper governance of organizations), the board decided to hold its discussion and selection of officers in a private "executive" session—due to extenuating circumstances—in its first meeting on November 5th.

When it was pointed out by a concerned club member that the current (2001) of *Robert's Rules of Order* version requires "action" to be taken at open meetings, the matter was resolved by retaking the vote for the selection of officers at a special open session on November 25th.

Alec Stone — FPUSA's National Singles Champ!



We're a little light on details but the word is out—there is a new **FPUSA Nationals Singles Champion**, Mr. Alec Stone!

Alec, who lives and works at Yale University in Connecticut, is one of our long-distance

club members—and supporters. Always a gentleman on and off the courts, the mild-mannered pointer/shooter prevailed over a tough field in Boca Raton, Florida last November. **CONGRATULATIONS, ALEC!**

Also making the long journey for the tournament was another of our regular competitors, Peter Mathis, who gave it his best shot.

...got ideas?

Facilities Committee Looking for Club Members' Input & Suggestions for Court Improvements

There is precious little more important to the game of pétanque than the very courts we play on and the newly-formed **Facilities Committee** (see page 3) is taking suggestions from club members for ways to improve our Maysonnave Memorial Courts and its surroundings.

The committee's wish list items will be presented to the board of directors at the March 12th meeting. Members are encouraged to submit their requests for consideration by the board to the committee.

Currently, the 2003 "wish list" includes electrifying the clubhouse, temporary event lighting and more benches. If you have any ideas for improvements, please make them known. Over the course of the year various projects will take shape.

All the improvements the club makes are contributions to the city and community of Sonoma. Our facility is a public park and our club has the rare privilege of shaping the appearance and character of our patch of ground.

In This Issue...

The Editor's 2002 Top 10 Moments for the VOMPC

Winter League Report

Fun Fund-Raising in Napa

Feb/Mar/Apr Event Previews

Special Insert: '03 Schedule

...got recipes?

Club Community Programs

Mail from The Chief

Spring Cleaning Coming Up

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



Byron Mayo
880 Oak Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE: If there is a star next to your name, it indicates that you have not yet renewed your VOMPC Membership.

*So that you don't miss your next issue of the **Pétanque Times**, please send in your renewal as soon as you can. Thanks!*

2003 MEMBERSHIP TICKER: 55

