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Saturday, Nov. 14, Channel 4, 6:00 p.m.

VALLEY of the MOON

# Pétanque Times

Vol. 6, No. 6

Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club

Nov.-Dec. 1998

## Peter Mathis, 1999 President

### *On Our Way to the New Millennium*

**O**n California's election night, Nov. 3, our new directors selected the officers who will lead our club through 1999, to the edge of the new millennium.

**Peter Mathis**, going into his second term as a VOMPC director, was elected club president, succeeding the hard-working Tom Bricca.

**Ed Porto**, newly elected to the board, was named vice president.

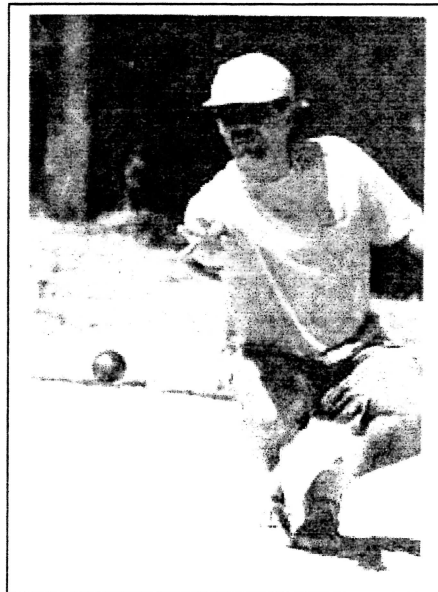
**Jeanne Markson** agreed to continue as the club's highly efficient secretary.

**Mike Norton**, former VOMPC president and FPUSA vice president, will take over for Frank Pipal as treasurer.

For the present, the sports director post will remain unfilled.

**David Ogaz**, **Luis Velez** and **Rob Zitzewitz** will serve as directors at large.

Planning for the 1999 season is underway.



Our new president demonstrates his tournament form on the VOMPC courts

### **A Note of Thanks...**

to **Tom Bricca**, **Jon Des Pois** and **Frank Pipal**, who retire this month from the VOMPC board of directors. Their leadership, planning and genuine spirit of service have been important to the continuing success of the club—and deeply appreciated by club members.

Fortunately for the future of the club, all three have indicated they will continue to be actively interested and will stay involved in VOMPC affairs.

## ***PICNICKING WITH PANACHÉ ENDS A DELICIOUS SEASON***

**S**unday, October 25, our VOMPC season ended with a superb picnic built around Jake Martin's marinated chicken hot off the barbecue and Gerard and Marguerite Canabou's savory Ratatouille. Add to that a mountain of fresh Caesar salad and French bread and cheeses and Ravenswood wine and blueberry cake and—well, you get the idea.

It was a delicious day.

The Panaché roundelay tournament got high marks from the players, too. Wine and cash went to the winners in this order:

1.) Tom Noonan 2.) Tom Gilbert 3.) Claire Peterson 4.) Byron Mayo 5.) Roger Poli.

Mike Norton coordinated this finale, with good help at the tournament desk from Montana and Cody Mathieu and Tom Bricca.



## Members Vote Lifetime Award For Byron Mayo

**B**y unanimous vote at the October 10 annual meeting, Byron Mayo, former VOMPC president, director and longtime editor and publisher of the *Pétanque Times*, was awarded a special lifetime membership in the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club.

Previously adopted by the board of directors, the special honor went to Byron "for his steadfast loyalty, his valuable counsel and his constant support," said President Tom Bricca.

Along with the lifetime membership, Byron received a prized VOMPC magnum of fine Ravenswood zinfandel, presented by Peter Mathis.

"I'm overwhelmed by all of this," Byron told the fifty-four members and guests. "And I am deeply grateful. We have an active, vigorous and exciting club. I am proud to be a part of it."

## Lively Scene At Historic Vallejo Barracks...

Annual Dinner Draws 54 Merry Members & Guests

**T**he jovial general would have loved it! The club's annual dinner at General Vallejo's Barracks was a lively night of revelry, good food and wine, warm toasts and tributes and some special awards.

President Tom Bricca introduced our four new VOMPC directors: David Ogaz, Ed Porto, Luis Velez and Ron Zitzewitz.

Tom went on to thank members for their help and support throughout a hectic season. He singled out Frank Barsocchini, Bill Carter, Jon Des Pois, Chuck Fleming, Jeanne Markson, Jake Martin, Peter Mathis, Byron Mayo, Jacques Mathieu, Mike Norton, Frank Pipal, Ed Porto, Dave Rizzo, Ken Stieper and Luis Velez.

Fifty-four members and guests gorged on the *Wild Thyme* dinner, organized by the irrepressible Jeanne Markson and her hard-working committee.

The festivities ended with a toast to outgoing president Tom Bricca for his hard work and leadership all year long. Then, half of the crowd adjourned to "night court" for some midnight pétanque.



## THE UMPIRE'S CORNER ...

**Q.** We were playing triples. For a little extra fun, I tossed the cochonnet from a circle in the lower court over the center strip into the upper court.

And I proposed that we play the game by tossing our boules over a center strip bench, from one court into the other.

Two guys on the other team said, "No, No. You can't do that. It's illegal." What do you say?

**A.** In an official game of pétanque, it would be illegal, because you would be tossing the cochonnet and your boules out of bounds.

However, if you simply want to play an informal game of boules and if everybody on both teams agrees to such horseplay, go right ahead. But be careful. Don't damage our rammed earth benches.

(Got a pétanque question? Write to The Umpire, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. All answers are certified by our FPUSA Umpire Pierre Joske.)

# NEWS !!!

From Overseas!

## Canary Islands:

Our US national triples team never made it beyond the first round of the World Championships last month in Spain's Canary Islands.

However, they did upset the Czechoslovakians and the British, before getting walloped by the powerful Luxembourg and Morocco champions.

Gerard Canabou, Louis Toulon and Max Legrand represented the US, with Frank Barsocchini as an alternate. Frank played in the Luxembourg match.

*Good experience. Good fun. Good sports.*

## London:

Frank Pipal and his British partner, Mick Hugo, won one of London's best *select doubles* tournaments of the year in October.

They beat a French-Algerian team in the finals, winning a cash prize of 50 pounds sterling!

The tournament was held at the famed Pub-in-the-Park pétanque courts in London Fields.

*Congratulations, Frank. And welcome home.*



## Antonio Lofaro Wins Singles Championship

In the final playoff match, Summer League Singles, Antonio Lofaro defeated Bill Miller two straight.. But it wasn't as easy as it sounds. Underdog Bill Miller stretched the second game to the wire before Antonio won it, 13-12.

*Congratulations to our 1998 Champion!* At the annual dinner, Coordinator Byron Mayo presented the VOMPC perpetual trophy to Antonio, along with the prize money.

In the fast moving, semi-finals, Bill Miller beat an ailing Bill Carter two straight. And Antonio took two from Peter Mathis.

Leading into the playoffs, the regular season ended with Bill Carter on top of the Red Division, by way of an earlier, tie breaker win over Peter Mathis. Over in the Blue Division, Antonio Lofaro defeated Bill Miller to take first place

## Doubles Title Goes to Claude Berthoud and Frank Pipal

The playoffs went fast and furious in Summer League Doubles. Every match in the playoffs was all over in two games.

In the finals, Claude Berthoud and Frank Pipal took two straight from Ed Porto and Bill Carter (13-5) (13-9) to win the 1998 title—Grand Champions, VOMPC Summer League Doubles.

Claude and Frank made it into the finals by racking up a lop-sided win over P.J. Mallette and Bruce Frigard in the semi-finals.

The other semi-final match saw Ed Porto and Bill Carter romp over Marguerite and Gerard Canabou.

At the club's annual dinner, Coordinator Ed Porto presented good-looking, VOMPC sport shirts, individually embroidered, to each of the four finalists.

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"Pétanque Times" is a bimonthly newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club, PO Box 863, Sonoma, CA 95476. Byron Mayo, editor and publisher.

### VOMPC Officers and Directors:

Tom Bricca, president  
Michael Norton, vice-president  
Frank Pipal, treasurer  
Jeanne Markson, secretary  
Peter Mathis, director of sports  
Jon Des Pois, director  
Luis Velez, director

# Ten Team Turnout for MaTerre Tournament

## Annual VOMPC Club Championship

**O**n a crisp fall day when the annual Sonoma Vintage Festival overran the town and filled the parking lots, only 30 players (ten teams) made it through the crowd to play in MaTerre International's VOMPC select triplets Club Championship.

Still, the September 12 event attracted a surprisingly high percentage of entries from out of town—in fact, more visitors signed up than Sonomans!

The veteran team of Patrick Vaslet, Jacques Biscay and Gerard Canabou came out on top in the final match with a decisive 13-5 win over the second place team, VOMPC's Byron Mayo, Claude Berthoud and Antonio Lofaro.

The *Consolante* money went to P.J. Mallette, Max Lofaro and Tino Lofaro.

One enjoyable highlight of the day came when Jacques Mathieu announced that the grilled, gourmet duck magret luncheon would be *free* to all players, compliments of tournament sponsor Ma Terre International.

Fabulous!

## *Tribute to MaTerre International*

During the annual dinner at Vallejo Barracks, VOMPC members expressed their warm appreciation to MaTerre International for the sponsor's "continuing loyalty and generous support for the club."

In a brief ceremony, Peter Mathis presented an engraved VOMPC magnum of Ravenswood zinfandel to Jacques Mathieu, who heads up the MaTerre organization.

**Valley of the Moon  
Pétanque Club  
PO Box 863  
Sonoma, CA 95476**

## *VOMPC Club Championship Winners (Select Triplets)*



### **1<sup>st</sup> PLACE:**

Jacques Biscay, Patrick Vaslet, Gerard Canabou



### **2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE:**

Byron Mayo, Claude Berthoud, Antonio Lofaro

### **Photo Credit:**

All photography in this issue courtesy of Bruce Frigard.

