

VOMPC

Petanque Times

Valley of the Moon Petanque Club, P. O. Box 863, Sonoma, CA Hotline 258-3450

October, 2008

- Contributors:
- Shannon Bowman
- Cynthia Heinrich
- Mike Cooper

VOMPC GOES TO SCHOOL...SVHS that is

Led by President Mike Cooper, VOMPC members volunteered their time and energy teaching the Sonoma Valley High School Dragons how to play petanque.

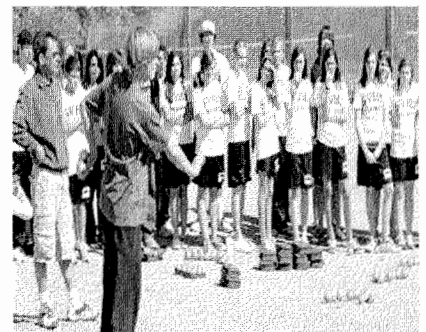
Narin Garrett, Patrick Vaslet, Laura Anderson, Shannon Bowman, Hans & Wolfgang Kurz and Brendan Cohen helped our fearless leader show students from the high school's physical education classes how to play petanque.

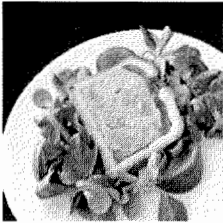
With class sizes of over 40 teenagers, it was a tall order. In two days some 160 students were taught the basics of the game and

encouraged to visit the courts. Mike gave a brief synopsis of the history of the sport and its basic rules before letting them loose with the steel boules. He spoke of the opportunities for those who learned the game. In addition to it being a fun, challenging lifelong activity, he mentioned travel. Several Sonoma youths were able to travel to different countries for the Juniors Petanque World Championship. Just last summer, four of our very own, Patrick Sammons, Brendan Cohen, Wolfgang Kurz and Hallie Cohen, represented the United

States in Japan. Prior to that, Olivia and Patrick Sammons competed Canada with their teammates.

Reponses varied from total disinterest to engaging enthusiasm. The field, hard dirt scattered with rocks, was quite unforgiving. The baseball diamond was used the second day with more success. So, if some evening you see some teenagers wander your way on the courts, please extend a hand and offer assistance. The club needs growth, and you never know, we could discover the next generation of "Champions!"





ANNUAL DINNER & ELECTIONS

It's that time of year when you don your fancy frocks and toast the season with fellow petanquers.

This year's Annual Banquet will be held on

October 25th at Olive & Vine in Glen Ellen.

Four board positions are open and enclosed please find the ballot with nominations. VOMPC members may

either mail in their vote BY October 18th or present it at the beginning of the banquet.

Testimony to the joys of Petanque



**Someone said,
"it's easy to learn
Petanque, but
very difficult to
master"**

Pictured here are players of Petanque in a quaint park in Arles, France where the game being played is a familiar sight behind Cafes and Bistros or in local parks. Gary and I spent our honeymoon in September, 2003 there, and for the first time watched and were fascinated by the game. Crashing steel balls were being shot by the skilled players anxious to undo a perfectly placed ball by an opponent's oh so closely placed to the cochonnet. We were so curious about the dynamics of

this activity that when we returned home to Napa, we immediately ordered a set of boules and found the courts in Sonoma. This began our quest to learn the game of Petanque. Someone said "it's easy to learn Petanque, but very difficult to master". Five years later, we are still here trying, and admittedly addicted to this fun, challenging and continuously dynamic pastime. Petanque has offered us hours of pleasure at a small cost for membership, a lifetime set of boules and a small measuring tape.

The challenge to constantly improve our skills, practice and meet with like-minded fellows of all ages has added to our passion for the game. Believe us, it has been a quick 5 years, in our lifetime, this social endeavor, which has given us great pleasure and joy. Thanks to the VOMPC and all our colleagues at the courts,

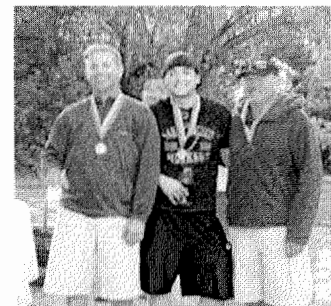
Cynthia and Gary
Heinrichs

Sonoma Hosts FPUSA NW Regional Triples

On May 3rd and 4th the VOMPC hosted the Federation of Petanque USA's (FPUSA) Northwest Regional Triples Championship at Depot Park. Thirteen teams competed on Saturday in the first-ever FPUSA Northwest "Melee" Triples. The Melee is a format in which teams of three are formed at random and according to experience levels, in order to give more players the opportunity to compete with players they may not normally be able to play with.

On Sunday fourteen teams competed in the standard "Select" format in which players select their own teammates. On Saturday the team of locals, Michael Cooper and Marco Ilara, teamed with Elizabeth Gonzales from Sacramento won the First place prize and took home the gold medals. Second place was Eric Thiebault from the Lafayette Club teamed with Sonoma local Dwayne Reed and Denyse Haney of Sacramento. Peter Wellington of Sonoma,

Jacques Avedissian of the Menlo Park Club and Peggy Matsuda of Healdsburg took the bronze medals. On Sunday the local team of Peter Mathis, PJ Mallette and Michael Cooper took first place honors and donned the gold medals (for the second year in a row). The second place team was Eric Thiebault, and Sonoma locals Antonia Chavez and Holly Sammons. Third place was another team of locals, Tom Bricca, Hanz Kurz and Peter Wellington.



Quote from Peggy Matsuda on Picnic & Petanque:

"Just want to say that our " really-business-weekend" highlight was your tournament! Your tournament had all the elements: Great food, fun petanque and well organized through and through! Thank you for putting on a great event!"

Picnic and Petanque

In June the VOMPC held a new format for the "Newcomers" event and labeled it "Picnic & Petanque" It was a tremendously successful event and for that we owe many thanks to Tom Bricca, who after months of planning pulled together a team that put on an event that this club hasn't seen in years. Great food and great fun was had by about 145 participants.

Meet and Greet the Kiwis'

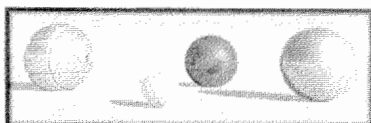
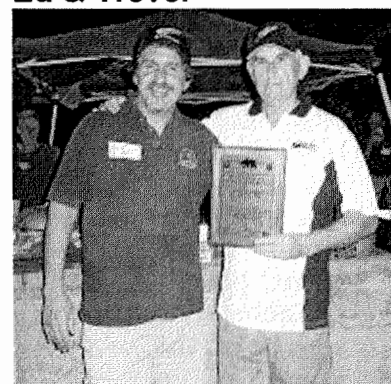
A group of 23 fun-loving boulists (12 women and 11 men) of all skill levels made a tour of California. Their first stop was Sonoma! The VOMPC and La Petanque Marinere co-hosted this special event. The New Zealand and Australian Petanque Associations host each other for regular seniors meetings on a yearly basis. They hope that some of us will be inclined to visit New Zealand, with an open invitation to be hosted

by their members and play petanque, of course.

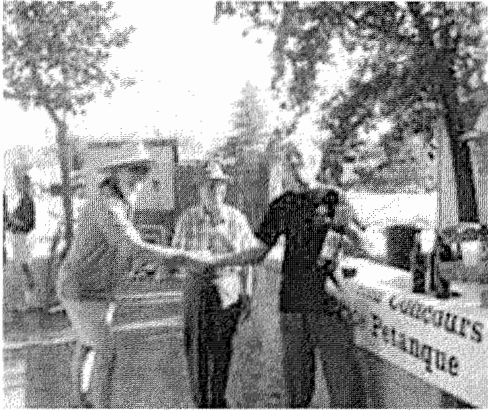
More than 70 players participated in Sonoma, and the paella pans were brimming over for one of the get togethers. The players from New Zealand walked off with a first place finish over us Americans in the Sonoma Tournament, 64-51, but there was great fun had by all.

Thanks to Ed Porto for his many months of planning for this event.

Ed & Trever



“Bastille Day” Grand Concour de Petanque



July 13th of this year VOMPC hosted the annual “Bastille Day” event sponsored by Ravenswood Winery. This was a Random Triplette format with 15 teams competing. The first place concours was won by the team of Hanzs Kurz, Peter

Sclereth and John Byrne in a tough final with the team of Patrick Sammons, Christene Cragg and unknown partner.



Join members and guests alike as we celebrate the end of the season harvest with a delicious array of sausages paired with a stein of beer, compliments of the Lagunitas Brewing Company. Music, lively conversation and an afternoon of casual play, panache style will also be on the menu.

Wine Country Classic

On the week-end of August 23rd and 24th the VOMPC hosted the “Wine Country Classic”. Saturday was the singles Tournament. Sunday was the Select Doubles. The singles tournament was

won by Patrick Vaslet in a final with Erin McTaggart. The Select Doubles tournament on Sunday was won by Ed Porto and Antoine Lafaro.

VOMPC Championship Select Mixed Triplette

The VOMPC Club Championship was held on September 28th, While it was a great day and we had good competition, we were missing some of our usual competitors due to the World Qualifier that was being held on the same week-end in New York.

Seven teams competed, with first place going to the team of Hans Kurtz, Tom Bricca and Shannon Bowman.

Second place was the team of Peter Wellington, Mike Cooper and Holly Sammons.

It was an intimate group and a Potluck lunch was shared and enjoyed by all.