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F.P.U.S.A. North West regional melee tournament

PETALUMA Petanque update: The Petaluma Valley Petanque Club has been formed! They will be the proud parents of a brand new petanque terrain to be built this year at Oak Hill Park in Petaluma (proceed west on Washington Street. Turn right at Howard and follow Howard to the top of the hill. Park is on the left.)

If you would like to support this fledgling club, please contact Dave Brooks, Ed Porto or Teri Sirico for more information.

Sunday, June 1st, **Lamorinda** hosted a day of mixed doubles play. 19 teams played under the shade of oaks and fruit-laden pear trees.

Clubs represented at the tourney were La Boule d'Or, La Petanque Mariniere, Lamorinda, **Valley of the Moon**, and the Willits Boules Club.

Three games were played prior to lunch. 12 stepped up to play in the concours, 7 to the consolante.

Medalists were:

Gold -

Raymond Nielsen, Pym Nielsen, La Boule D'or

Silver -

PJ Mallette, Narin Garrett, VOMPC

Bronze -

Peter Mathis, Holly Sammons, VOMPC

Two more players representing VOMPC, Ed Porto and Carol Davis, placed fourth.

Coming Soon to the VOMPC Petanque Courts

July 5 & 6: A weekend to meet and greet the visitors from the New Zealand Petanque Federation.

A group of 23 fun-loving boulists (12 women and 11 men) of all skill levels are making a tour of California. And their first stop is Sonoma! VOMPC is hosting this special event.

Saturday July 5. Join together to welcome a fun-loving group of 23 boulists from far-off NEW ZEALAND! Carol and Laura are planning a sumptuous barbeque lunch and Ed is planning for a short format casual tourney so that we can mix in with our guests for some fun games. Please call the hotline with your reservations after June 22nd, or use our website reservations page if you prefer.

Sunday July 6. If you are 60 years of age or older, here is a tournament that is tailor-made for you: a friendly seniors' competition, USA vs. New Zealand! You don't need a team. Just PRE-REGISTER and you will be placed on teams in different combinations and formats: doubles, triples, mixed and same-gender. There will also be a couple of singles matches for those interested.

There will be five rounds of play. Game winners score points for their country. At the end of the day, the country with more points takes home the winners' plaque.

Lunch is included as well as aperitif after the games.

For those who can stay later, a paella dinner at the courts will be available. Pre-paid reservations are required to plan for the food and to organize the various team combinations.



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their website for more information:
www.michelschlumberger.com/

July 13: Bastille day grand concours de petanque. This event will be a random triples tournament sponsored by Ravenswood Winery with the traditional bouillabaisse lunch featuring Chef Marco. Reservations required, sign up before 10 AM.

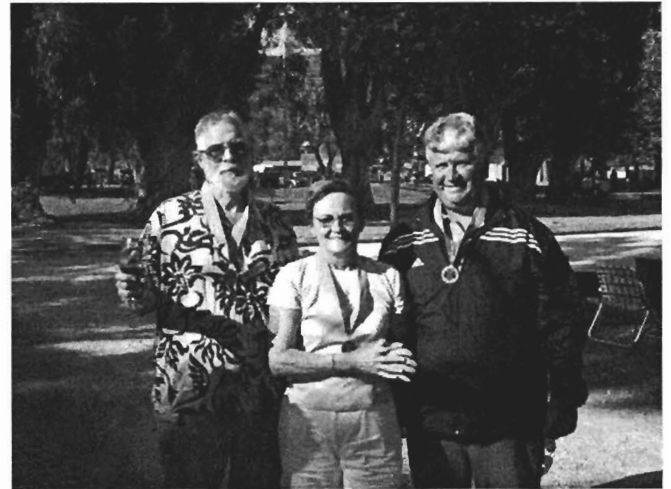
August 23 & 24: The wine country classic. There will be a singles tournament on the 23rd and a select doubles tournament on the 24th. Details to be announced.

September 28: VOMPC championship select mixed triplets tournament. This tournament is open to primary and associate members of VOMPC only. Bring your own lunch and show up before 9:30 AM.

October 19: Oktoberfest panache. Meet different players and enjoy a beer and bratwurst lunch featuring Hans Kurz. Reservations required, sign up before 10 AM.

November 29: Post-thanksgiving potluck. Bring your leftovers to share and enjoy a short random doubles tournament.

Stay tuned to our website for details of the tournaments!
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Second place winners in the 2008 FPUSA Northwest regional triplet melee

Personals

We are still seeking a Newsletter Coordinator. Please Call the Hotline - 258-3450 or Mike Cooper - 939-9848 or talk to any Board member.

The Michel-Schlumberger Wine Estate now has a Pétanque court. It is available for visitors. You can purchase some wine and play a game on their court with views of organic garden and vineyards. If you drive up their way on a Friday, in the evening you can listen to live music they have playing in the courtyard as you engage in a game of Pétanque out back. Check



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Recipe courtesy of Dave Rizzo
from Lulu's Provencale Table by Richard Olney

GRADIN OF EGGPLANT AND TOMATOES Serves 4
1 cup olive oil; 2 pounds firms, young elongated eggplant without seeds, stem ends and flower ends sliced off, cut lengthwise into 1/2 inch slices; salt and pepper; 2 cups hot tomato sauce; coarsely grated bread crumbs

In large fry. pan, heat about 1/4 inch olive oil. Fry the eggplant slices in batches, turning the heat up and down as necessary, turning the slices and adding more oil as necessary, until they are golden brown on both sides and tender to the fork at the stem ends. Drain on paper towels. PREHEAT oven to 350 F.

Press a layer of eggplant slices into the bottom of a large gratin dish, salt and pepper lightly, spread over tomato sauce, add another layer of eggplant, season, and cover with tomato sauce. Sprinkle over crumbs, dribble over olive oil, and bake for 30 minutes, or until crumbs are golden. Serve hot or tepid.



"ARBITRE!"

"Hey Ump, the last boule of this end was just played and we're counting points."

Unfortunately, we have a problem beyond simple math and measuring!

"It seems that I played one of my opponent's boules by mistake, and he reciprocated in kind by doing the same! Our boules are old and beat up, and practically identical.

Instead of me marking three points, he is claiming the point because HIS boule — that I played — is the closest to the jack!

"Can you help us out here?"

"Well, I can help you out, but it is probably not the kind of help that you are looking for.

"As an umpire, I can only go with what is evident on the ground — especially if two players have conflicting stories.

"In case of a wrongly played boule, Article 22 states: 'The boule played is nevertheless valid but it must immediately be replaced, after measuring, if necessary.'

"If a boule was wrongly played, an umpire should have been called to replace it with the proper one right away to avoid confusion.

"Your opponent asserts that it WAS properly played — by him.

"I left my polygraph machine at home this week! Therefore I must take him at his word and go with the evidence that is on the ground.

"The point is his."

"Ask the...Arbitre !" comes to you courtesy of FPUSA Umpire and National Sport Director Ed Porto. If you have an interesting question regarding the rules of pétanque, please contact Ed (edporto@sbcglobal.net).

The newsletter of the Valley of the Moon Petanque Club is an occasional publication, even in the best of the times. Contents and opinions are a reflection of the writer(s). Your input is highly desired, whether it is an article or photos, both are welcome. Please submit contributions to bcrdavis@comcast.net or, to any VOMPC Board member. We regret but will not be held liable for omissions or errors contained within this publication.