



Welcome your 2008 Board of Directors...



Michael Cooper, President

I have been a member of VOMPC for only three years, but I have come to love the game of Petanque and all of its eccentricities. It is a great game and Sonoma is a great venue to play in. It is my pleasure to serve on the Board, and I hope to do my part in ensuring the continued success of our club. Although we are a volunteer board we have accepted the responsibility of running the "business" of our club and I take that seriously. We have all of the ingredients to be the best club in the nation, so let's DO IT. I welcome your comments and suggestions, especially from those of you who have been around for a while, for making this the "Best" club. I look forward to seeing you on the courts.



Dwayne Reed, Vice President

I did not guess that when I signed up for the 2005 Wednesday beginners petanque training course that after one session I would become addicted to a game that satisfied nearly all of my basic needs: A game with simple rules which can be learned in a few hours but requires a lifetime to master a complicated mix of skill, luck and playful tactics; involving a group of friendly, helpful, rowdy people who like to eat and drink well and discuss at length the philosophical importance of the distance between two balls. While serving as treasurer during the past year I learned how many members help in all of the different jobs required to maintain the club activities. Among these, I came to appreciate the efforts of the individuals who work hard to bring in and teach new members, give workshops and share their personal secrets for perfect pointing. These are some of the activities that I support and hope to be involved with during the coming year. But mostly I am looking forward to playing petanque in this outstanding club.



David Riffo, Communications

A member since 1995, second time serving on the board. "My goal for myself as I serve during this term is to continue to increase my own pleasure of playing the game and the fellowship we all enjoyed this past year". I feel I speak for the entire Board when I say that as a volunteer, I will put the best interests of the club first, always. This club has provided me friendships, a sense of community and has additionally given me a place to go and compete at a challenging game with the incredible Sonoma valley as a setting, for this I remain grateful.



Dave Brooks, Facilities

This is my third year in VOMPC. I have really enjoyed being a part of this great club. The warm welcome I received when I joined showed how much people care about others and their club. I look forward to helping make improvements for everyone's enjoyment during the coming year. Thanks for your help.



Laura Anderson, Facilities

I started playing petanque two years ago and have enjoyed the new friendships and the game. Being on the board I feel committed to furthering the quality of the club by establishing a team to help maintain the courts, and helping run tournaments, cooking & whatever it takes to keep the club a viable social scene. I am asking all of you to participate in continuing this tradition in the great game of petanque. I am starting classes at Santa Rosa JC in January and hope to keep a regular time in my schedule to play. The courts are a place I can put down the daily grind and enjoy the outdoors, socialize for an hour or a day and feel great throwing a boule around. Whether I play well or not, it's always enjoyable. I want to thank all of you who have shared your knowledge of the game and taught me to play!



Carol Davis, Secretary

I've lived in Sonoma since 1982. The commute to Martinez (since 1986 to teach 2nd graders) can wear me down so I've been happy to find that THE GAME is a fine way to relax and make new friends in my home-town. Oh, also, a terrific opportunity to sample the culinary creations of the other players! I have been playing at the courts and having a great time now for over five years; it's time to give back to the club.



Bill Thomson, Treasurer

Bill moved to Sonoma from San Francisco in 2004 after retiring from Sun Microsystems and a career in the computer industry. He was enticed into Petanque from an article in the Sonoma Index Tribune advertising free classes on Wednesday mornings. After attending classes for three years, he is ready for serious gaming. As a board member, he will focus on including new members and more informal low end tournaments.

who's in the kitchen... now?

After a decade or so of cooking and serving the membership of the VOMPC, Chef Marco Ilaria has decided to step back and spend more time with his family, especially his two beautiful grandchildren. Marco, thank you from all of us for so many delicious meals over the years.

Now the call is going out as you see not only from our Club Prez, Mike Cooper, but from all of us here in the VOMPC family, for some able volunteers to step up and take on some of the cooking duties for a few events. This does not have to

be done by just one person. Pick a partner or two to plan and prepare a meal of your choice.

Some of the upcoming tourneys and "play days" will be featuring lunch in addition to play. This is where your talents are needed. If this is something that you would enjoy taking part in, please contact a Board member. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

As long as we are on the subject of finding volunteers, we really need someone to step forward to run our ever popular summer doubles league. If we can find yet another

volunteer, we can bring back the summer singles league which has also been popular in the past.

If you are a regular league player, it should be a fairly simple operation. Peter Mathis and Byron Mayo, just to name a couple, have run these leagues often and quite successfully in the past. It is about time that someone else step forward to support league play. Chances are that either (or both) Peter and Byron would be happy to explain to you the ins and outs of running a league. Who among you is a willing volunteer?

from Carol's kitchen:

~ CHICKEN POT PIE WITH BISQUICK ~

Saute some chopped mushrooms and potatoes (about a cup or two) then combine the following in a saucepan to boil:

1/3 c. melted butter 1/2 c. Bisquick

1/3 c. chopped onion 1/4 t. pepper and 1/8 tsp. thyme (or a little more)

ADD:

1/2 c. chicken broth + 2/3 c. milk

Heat to boil, constantly stirring, boil 1 min. & stir. Add: 1.75 c. chicken, 1.25 cup frozen peas & carrots + the mushrooms and potatoes.

Mix well w/spoon, turn off heat.

TOPPING:

1.5 C. Bisquick, 3 Tb. hot water, 3 Tb. softened butter

Form dough and put on top of above mixture in an iron skillet. Bake in preheated 375 oven for about 45 min or until crust is golden.

A CALL TO ARMS

We need member volunteers for a variety of committee assignments, tournaments and events. Please get involved with your club and volunteer.

When your 2008 SCHEDULE arrives and you would like to help run one of the planned tournaments, please contact Mike Cooper.

Those in charge of the tournament are also the taskmasters for putting together a clean-up team the morning of the tournament to pick up litter. More hands make light work, so call the Hotline (258-3450) or Mike Cooper (939-9848), or talk to any Board member. *It's fun!*

COURTESY OF CAROL DAVIS

Turkey Day ‘Gobboule’ Draws an Affable Flock

MARCO ILARIA/ERIN DALY TAKE TOP HONORS IN FINAL ‘COMPETITION’ OF 2007



Dave Brooks plays for the point.

The VOMPC closed a successful season of events with a true-blue, seat-o-the-pants running of the annual post-Thanksgiving picnic and tourney, a young but popular tradition. Random Doubles was the format for the 40-odd petanque diehards who were looking to extend play for just one more day into the mild 2007 autumn season.



Congratulations were in order after a good game.

The potluck spread was quite a hit at lunch time but it was back to business afterwards for the remaining two games. The team of Marco Iliaria and Erin Daly vanquished all comers and came in first, based on a 3-0 record with the best point differential. Prizes were given to second and third place teams, as well—but *this erstwhile reporter was not taking notes!*

Ask the...



“ARBITRE!”

“Hey Ump, my team mate played the last boule of the end from the wrong circle. It was an honest mistake.

“On top of that, his boule pushed our opponents’ boule closer to the cochonnet and gave them the point!

“All the boules had been marked, so his boule is disqualified and everything should go back into place, RIGHT?”

“My opponent says that everything must stay where it is and that they have scored the point.

“Ump, it’s 4-11. Throw me a bone here!”

“Good job marking your boules. It is good practice to do so in a competition. Marking boules and the jack can alleviate a number of problems, but unfortunately in this case, not the one that you are experiencing. ‘No bones about it,’ your opponent is correct!

“According to Article 23 — INVALID PLACEMENT OF BOULES, *‘All boules thrown contrary to the rules are dead and, if marked, everything they have moved is put back in place. The same applies to a boule played from a circle other than that from which the jack was thrown.*

“*However, the opponent may play the advantage rule and count the erroneously played boule as valid. In this case, the boule pointed or shot, and everything it may have displaced, is left in its new position.’*

“If you had tapped your own boule in for the point, you can be sure that your opponent would have stuck to the first part of the rule.

“If the boules had not been marked, there would be no discussion: last boule played would be out, everything else would be scored as it lay.”

“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).

VOLUNTEER! HAVE FUN... At the Napa Valley Mustard Festival

Here's a great opportunity to put on the ritz, have a wonderful dinner and, oh yeh! do a little work volunteering your time for the benefit of the Valley of the Moon Petanque Club at the 2008 Napa Valley Mustard Festival opening event at Greystone/Culinary Institute of America, on Saturday, February 2nd.

This is truly a gala event! We assist with the silent and live auctions. Volunteers are needed from 5:30/6 PM until the close of the evening which is generally 11/11:30 pm. In the past the club has received in the range of \$1,000 from this event, and all you need to do is have some fun and do a little work. If you can assist, please contact Teri Sirico at 707-782-0330 or email me at chezteri@earthlink.net. We need about 15/20 volunteers. Please note NVMF or VOMPC in the subject line of your email to me.

With heartfelt thanks, Teri Sirico.

The Valley of the Moon Petanque Club
P.O. Box 763
Sonoma CA 95476

THE KIWIS ARE COMING!... New Zealand Petanquers to Visit Marin & Sonoma this July

An amiable group of New Zealand Federation members will be touring California this summer to play petanque and see the sights of our Golden State. Their first stop will be the Bay Area. Socials and "60 + over" tournaments are being planned at some of the area clubs. The VOMPC will be hosting a luncheon and afternoon tourney on Saturday, July 5th. Stay tuned for announcements and further details.

A big need for our visitors will be HOME STAYS, to defray costs and to make the trip more social and fun. If you can put a couple or a single up for a few days starting July 5th, please contact Ed Porto (edporto@sbcglobal.net). New Zealand and Australia have been hosting reciprocal 'tours' for a number of years with great success, and an open invitation has been extended to our club members to be hosted "down under" anytime in the future.

The Pétanque Times 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 davidrizzo@yahoo.com or to any VOMPC Board member. We regret but will not be held liable for omissions or errors contained within this publication.

RENEW! RENEW! RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, TODAY!