

# Petanque Times

## Meet our New President

*Peter Wellington*

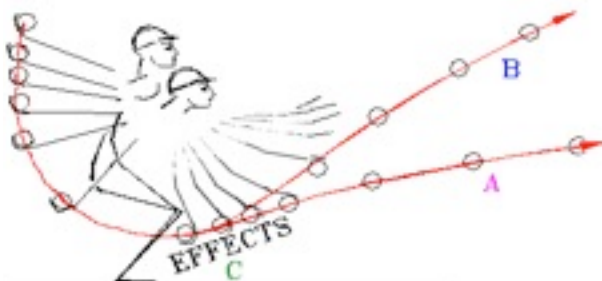


Winemaker, vegetarian, ecologist, strategist, arbitre, sportsman, great partner, humanitarian, father, husband & all-around good guy, Our New President Peter Wellington.



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## Soup & Singles VOMPC Season Opener

- What:** Singles 3-Ball
- When:** Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
Rain Date Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>
- Time:** Sign up closes @10:00 am
- Cost:** \$5 entry, \$7 for Lunch

## Renew! Rejoin!

It is a most excellent time to send in your membership dues. Enclosed please find the form for 2011. Mail completed forms to the club P.O. Box. Any questions??? Please feel free to email any one on the Board of Directors.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**Top;** Adair Hastings & Peter Mathis  
**Bottom;** Peter Wellington, Peter Mathis & Shannon Bowman  
**Far Left;** 2011 Board minus Renato Sottile

Our season ended with a delightful evening hosted by President Narin Garrett at Rin's Thai Restaurant. Delectable appetizers, prepared by Ms. Garrett, and delicious wines, donated by Peter Mathis, highlighted the cocktail hour. A fine turnout of members in festive attire made for a lively evening.

As the meeting began, the election committee members Chair Teri Sirico, Barbara Hall and Lee Hastings, retreated upstairs to count the ballots. President Garrett took care of last minute business and recapped the events of the year. Peter Mathis then held court announcing the results of his beloved Doubles League. He and partner Adair Hastings ended up wearing the infamous #2 caps, while Peter Wellington and Shannon Bowman earned the privilege of placing the coveted ceramic "Grand Champions" trophies on their mantles.

Finally the election committee descended the stairs and Ms. Sirico announced the results, in no particular order, as follows;



Joe La Torre, Peter Wellington, Narin Garrett, Peter Mathis and Shannon Bowman. They join incumbents Mike Menefee and Renato Sottile.

Congratulations to the Board and thank you to Narin Garrett and Peter Mathis for their generosity.

### 2010 NOVEMBER MINUTES

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2010
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT –10 teams participated in the VOMPC Club Championship: Registration \$10/person x 30 = (+) \$300 Expenses = (-) \$117 Prize Money = (-) \$165 // Donation from Jacques Mathieu = (+) \$ 20 Concours Winners: Tom Bricca, Mike Cooper, Frosty Sabo Consolante Winners: Dave Katz, Debbie King, Maggie Lane. It was suggested co-Directors and two arbiters be adopted when possible to avoid conflicts of interest during the games in which they participate. Mathis apologized stating he could have handled things differently.
- At 7:28 pm the incoming 2011 Board of Directors were presented: Shannon Bowman, Narin Garrett, Joe LaTorre, Peter Mathis, Mike Menefee, Renato Sottile & Peter Wellington.
- ELECTION OF 2011 OFFICERS – nominated, approved & accepted:  
 President: Peter Wellington  
 Vice President: Peter Mathis  
 Treasurer: Joe LaTorre  
 Secretary: Mike Menefee  
 Peter Mathis to serve the one year term.  
 Bowman nominated/ accepted as Communications Committee Chair and recommended soliciting the involvement of the general membership to avoid having 'Committees of One.' President Wellington suggested frequent communication from the Board. Mathis noted that several members do not have email accounts.

- 'Hotline' to be researched. Menefee to continue as Facilities Committee Chair until other volunteers are sought.
- General discussion ensued regarding the creation of a 'Procedures Manual' to keep as a reference for incoming board members.
- TREASURER'S REPORT –treasury balance of \$1,506. Signators on the club checking account will be Wellington and La Torre. Insurance renewal is due by April 15, 2011.
- At 8:00pm the meeting was temporarily suspended to celebrate the World Champion San Francisco Giants victory over the Texas Rangers.
- President Wellington thanked outgoing Board members Tom Bricca, Lee Hastings, Jacques Mathieu and Erin McTaggart for all of their dedication and perseverance during a difficult year. Bowman suggested an FPUSA Task Force or committee be created to communicate with the organization. It was unanimously agreed that the FPUSA is important to the VOMPC, and every effort should be made to become an FPUSA-affiliated club again. Mathis suggested the Board prepare and endorse the By-Law amendments to illustrate, for the FPUSA's benefit, that the VOMPC Board is now in a position to place it before the General Membership for a vote in October, 2011.
- NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2010 at 7:00pm, at the City of Sonoma Fire Station.
- ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

*Bello* by Shannon Bowman

This past summer, Peter Wellington and I were having a hard time finding a third for the Sonoma Cup challenge. On the off-chance, I left a message for Tino, pretty much begging and bribing him to play with us. When I next saw him on the courts, he walked up and gave me his customary 3 kisses on the cheek, which always made me feel special, and said, "Madame Shannon, you, I cannot refuse," and agreed to play with us. I texted Wellie the happy news to which he texted back: "ASSASSINO!!!!"

Nunziato "Tino" Lofaro, was a great shooter and a world class player. When Tino was "en forme" it was magic to watch him play. He had a generous spirit whose philosophy included helping other players improve their game. And while it stung when taking my lumps after losing to him ("Madame Shannon, why you shoot?"), I knew he meant well. He watched my son, Brendan, and daughter, Hallie, grow up and was ever patient as he showed them the finer points of the game.

Born in Italy, he grew up in France before moving to the states in the nineties where he joined his brothers Antoine, Aurelio and Rocco. Multi-lingual, he spoke French, Italian, Spanish and English. He loved the blues, especially B.B. King and Muddy Waters, which could be heard from his campsite at Furlan's Ranch. Affectionately known as "Bello," he enjoyed life and was passionate about petanque.

It was his favorite subject, with cooking second. Patrick Vaslet, his longtime friend and petanque partner, once drove with him to Oregon for a tournament. Afterwards, I asked Patrick what they talked about during that long car ride. He said, "Petanque...and more petanque." They were a funny team to watch. Patrick would give sound advice, which Tino would typically ignore, and then they'd squabble like Lucy and Ricky. However, both liked nothing better than teaming up together.

This story would have been sweeter had the three of us won the Sonoma Cup. Before the final began, Bello gave me implicit instructions: "no listen Raymond." Yes, it's true, his Arch nemesis Raymond beat us. Tino was sensitive and emotional, which I can appreciate, and it seems he also had a hard time "no listen Raymond."

I shall miss my friend very much.



Nunziato "Tino" Lofaro  
1954-2010

We Love Wednesdays!



Lee, Dave & Cynthia



Debbie, Adair, Lee, Steve, Joe, Peggy, Antonia, Ed, Dick, Phyllis, Gary & Chuck



Lynda & Jurgen

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 am you'll find early-bird petanque players. A club member will be on hand for lessons or if you'd like to learn the finer points of the game.

And Every Wednesday afternoon, starting around 3:30 pm, you'll find a plethora of petanque players who love nothing more than to play one, or two or three games...depending on how hearty they are. Splash play, friendly competition. Be on the lookout for newcomers and help them feel welcome. The more players the merrier!

JUST LIKE HEAVEN BY PEGGY MATSUDA

If you were to die and go to petanque heaven, what would it be like? I would like to think that it would resemble the following:

As you pass through the pearly gates with no hassles, you arrive at the biggest petanque tournament in the United States. This heaven has:  
*Pistes* (courts) everywhere around you, neatly laid out next to the ocean and covered with pristinely white compacted sand;  
*Perfect weather* that is sunny, not too hot or too cold with an ocean breeze. *Libation*: food, beer, wine and Ricard pastis to be had at anytime during the day.

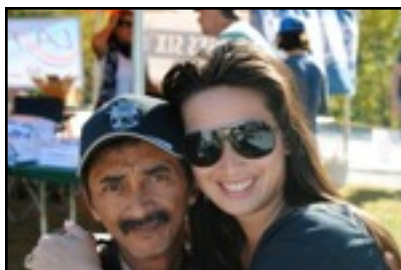
*Petanque play*: all day long with rounds that end in plenty of time to enjoy the libations before your next match.

*Pleasure*: because you don't care if you win or lose.

*Fun*: because you are playing with all the petanque friends you know from everywhere.

Just a dream? No, it was real, or surreal depending on your point of view, and we found it this year at the Petanque America Open held at Amelia Island in Florida.

The event is hosted by our club friend, Philippe Boets, owner of Petanque America, premier petanque equipment supplier



Lucien Rako & Narin Garrett



Pf Mallette & Mike Menefee



Roger Arpaia & Peter Mathis

in the United States. He offered up a similar tournament in Miami back in 2003 with Marco Foyot as a guest player. Two years later, Philippe hosted the event again and commented that the event "almost killed" him. He didn't repeat the tournament until 2009, after moving to Amelia Island from North Carolina. It was a huge success with World Champion Claudy Weibel and Celebrity Chef Jacques Pepin in attendance. Unfortunately, it was a financial squeeze for Philippe.

Reluctant to host another, Philippe was prodded into it by city officials and the petanque public. This time he had financial and physical assistance by the local government and businesses. It seems that the money spent by visiting players and the attention received by this little beach town during their slowest time of the tourist year was noticed and appreciated. Many locals had never heard of petanque, but have since joined the newly formed club. The club now meets regularly at a local restaurant that built a couple of

courts to satisfy their new found obsession.

Last year's tournament had about 90 teams. The word got out that the participants were overwhelmed by the 'petanque love' so the interest this year was huge. With applications still coming in just weeks before the tournament, registration closed at 112 doubles teams.

There were teams from all over, including the newest petanque club to be formed in, of all places, Ohio. Players came from Canada, Arizona, Maine, New Mexico, Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, D.C., Texas, Chicago, Boston, New York and of course, Florida. California was well represented with friends from Marin, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, Willits and Sonoma. The celebrity player was again Claudy Weibel of Belgium, but there were many U.S. notables in attendance to give the tournament a rock concert sort of vibe.

Besides the great tournament, the surrounding area has lots to offer the non-player. The historic downtown has excellent restaurants, bars and shops and is architecturally rich with lovely Floridian buildings. And, if you have never experienced the beaches on the Atlantic, well, Amelia Island has beautiful, seashell-laden beaches void of the trash we might see on our north bay beaches.

This was one of the best run tournaments we've ever attended. Under the experienced directorship of Christophe Chambers (Brooklyn Petanque Club), the first day and half had matches played to 11. Games started at a designated time and had to be finished in 75 minutes or less. Finals for the Concours were played to 13 with no time limits. Because of the volume of players, there were two Concours groups and a large pool of Consolantes. There were only 4 umpires for the 56 simultaneous matches being played, yet you rarely heard one being called. Many cash prizes and gift certificates were awarded in many categories. The grand prize was \$1000.

At the time we left it was not clear if Philippe would offer this tournament next year. As we bid him farewell he seemed tired and hadn't figured out

how he fared financially. While checking out of our hotel, we said our good byes, hugging and kissing our old and new petanque friends, hoping to see one another again at Amelia Island, in our petanque heaven.

*Peggy Matsuda and her husband David Spangenberg played together in this year's Petanque America Open placing 2nd in an exciting come-from-behind match in the Concours B group. Having joined the VOMPC in 2008, both have been regular competitors (teamed together and with others) at local tournaments and in another private petanque club in Healdsburg where they live. They have traveled throughout the United States playing as they vacation in Los Angeles, Fresno, Palm Desert, Tucson, Richmond and Arlington VA, Florida, Maine and New York.*

*All photos in this article by Barbara Hall  
Below; Peggy Matsuda & David Spangenberg*



Message from Philippe Boets:

First of all, best wishes for 2011!  
Secondly thanks again to all of you for participating. Without each and every one of you, it would've been worthless!  
Some have asked what the plans are for 2011.  
We're on for Nov 11, 12 & 13.  
Registration will start sometime in May. Look for more details as the year progresses.

# Ask the Arbitre ???



## Hey Arbitre!

I was playing against Mr. "Know-It-All" the other day and during their play he stood near the cochonnet with his foot in the spot where he wanted the pointer's boule to arrive. It remained there until long after his teammate had thrown his boule. Afterwards, I informed him he was obstructing the field which wasn't allowed. Mr. Obsessive retrieved the rules from his backpack, and asked me to show him so he "understood." Naturally I declined but secretly began to doubt my answer. PLEASE tell me I don't have to eat crow...

## Dear Gentle Petanquer:

The rules are quite specific regarding opponents' conduct during play (no talking, walking or gesticulating during play, and they must stand at least two meters to the side and either behind the circle or beyond the cochonnet). Teammates may stand "between the circle and the jack." While this would generally mean at the side of the court and "between" only in terms of court length, there is not even a suggested prohibition of standing directly in line, on an intended *donnée* or on a targeted resting spot. My interpretation would be that this practice would not result in any unfair advantage

and therefore is permitted. From a practical standpoint, I think this procedure would be a more of a distraction. It just isn't seen, probably because almost any pointer wouldn't like it or benefit from it rather than because of any rule. There really isn't a qualitative difference between someone pointing out a spot or a line, then moving five seconds before the pointer releases the ball, one second before the pointer releases the ball, or after the pointer releases the ball. The only exception I can imagine would be for someone with significant vision impairment, in which case it would be only fair and sporting to allow such assistance.

**Our preeminent arbitre is Mr. Peter Wellington.**



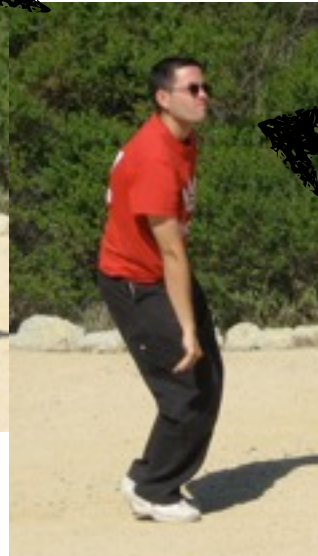
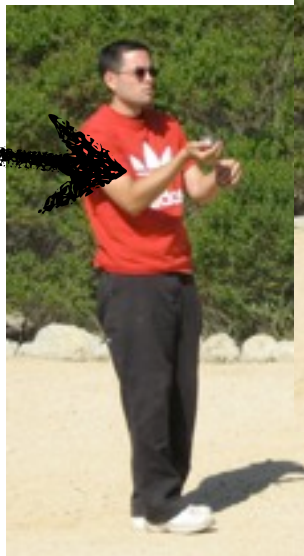
## HOW TO LOOK LIKE A SHOOTER

Distract your brain with strange unnecessary movements



Make a fist with your other hand to further intimidate your opponent.

Cup your boule, stare at your target and most important note the sneer!



Grimace menacingly because you missed your target!

## FPUSA UPDATE

As you may have heard, the VOMPC Board has been attempting to establish provisional FPUSA status for our club in the 2011 season. Unfortunately, efforts have come to naught. It appears that any reconciliation with the national petanque organization will have to wait until the 2012 season.



Guess who turned One? At 11:58PM 12/31/10 our beloved baby Zaven had his first birthday.

Happy Birthday to our youngest Petanque Family Member.



## Upcoming Events

Look for a more detailed calendar in the mail soon, but we wanted to whet your appetite for what to expect this year. The calendar committee has worked/fought tirelessly to come up with a fun filled year of events.

We hope to see all of you when we kick off the season with the perennial Soup and 3-ball Singles. Come on down shake the rust off your boules and enjoy what is sure to be a delicious lunch with a side of competition.

Please don't forget we need your help getting our courts ready for the season. There will be coffee & croissants in the



morning and casual play in the afternoon. If you can't volunteer your time, consider making a small donation toward the purchase of gravel and other supplies.

### 2011 Calendar

#### February 19

Court Clean-up Day  
Rain Date Sunday, 20

#### February 26

Soup and Singles  
Rain Date Sunday, 27

#### March 26

Doubles Panache  
Rain Date Sunday 27

Reserve online or call the hotline

[www.vompc.org](http://www.vompc.org)

707-343-9465

**We welcome your contributions!**

Have any great photos or articles of interest?

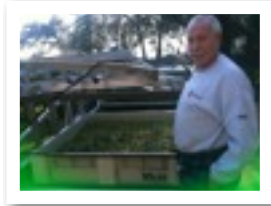
We'd love to publish them in our newsletter!

Please contact Shannon Bowman or Narin Garrett

# VOMPC 2011

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Peter Wellington, President  
Peter Mathis, Vice President  
Mike Menefee, Secretary  
Joe La Torre, Treasurer  
Narin Garrett  
Shannon Bowman  
Renato Sottile



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Shannon Bowman, Chair  
Narin Garrett, Graphics  
Barbara Hall, Contributor

## FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Chuck Fleming, Chair  
Jacques Mathieu  
Shannon Bowman

