



# Martinez Bocce Federation News Letter Thanksgiving Edition

November 2011

## VANDALISM

### How can "you" help to reduce the problem?

With the recent incidents of vandalism that were covered in the October News Letter, the Board of Directors has voted to readdress the issue of Perimeter Security. We are going back to the East Bay Regional Parks District and the Martinez City Council in an effort to finally take positive steps in protecting "Your" assets.

### Here are some facts that you may not be aware of:-

About 3 years ago we suffered the loss of the Club House when it was destroyed by arsonists/criminals and only through the dedication of the MBF Membership and friends of the MBF who gave their time, their skills, their equipment and their money were we able to rebuild so quickly.

Last year, vandals overturned the Portable Toilet into court 10 with all the associated problems of "Waste Products" being spilled into the court material. Tony Herndon, who manages the maintenance of the courts, had a very "Difficult & Hazardous" task of removing the contaminated material and rebuilding court 10 back to a playable surface. We require the portable toilet because the nearby facilities are so often out of "commission" or in such a state that they are unusable, except under the most "Desperate of Situations", if you get my drift. The portable toilet now has to be chained to the nearby tree to avoid further occurrences happening.

There have been frequent instances of the picnic tables being removed from the complex to accommodate picnics & BBQs being held where no tables are available. These "People" do not subscribe to the MBF but feel empowered to use the facilities as they wish. If we had perimeter security this type of incident would be more or less eliminated. At the moment we have to dig holes, fill them with cement and then **chain the tables down**.

There was the time when equestrians decided to ride three large horses through the courts, at the time under two inches of rainwater, or the time when the Little League teams decided to hold sliding practice, with cleats, up and down three still damp courts, or the time when two golfers decided to go down and practice their "chip" shots on a couple, back and forth.

We have had recent incidents of vehicles driving up and parking on the grass areas bordering the courts and even onto the center aisle. In the past, someone even deemed it necessary to take a short cut through the bocce courts in their pick-up truck and eventually got it stuck in one of them.

The Bocce Courts seem to be a thoroughfare between the entrance to the park and the recreation areas beyond and it is typically used by cyclists who seem to think that riding through the courts and destroying the surface is why they are there.

This one is for the archives. A few years back, on arriving at the courts, a Board Member came across a drunk taking a bath on court #2, which had 2-3 inches of water from recent rains and then trying to actually swim up and down the area. A sight, not soon forgotten.



In the recent episode in October, a complete canopy was removed from between courts 5 & 6 at the Marina end



Happy Thanksgiving



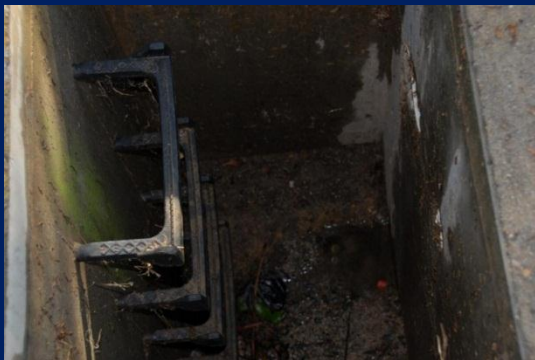
**Vandalism continued:-**

and vandalized. It was eventually found in another area of the park with extensive damage.

This was not enough for these delinquents so they had to ride their bikes through several of the courts churning up the surfaces, which after the water drained away, dried leaving deep ruts, thus rendering the courts unplayable.



They also removed a metal grating covering a deep void which could have caused extreme personal injury or even worse had it not been replaced.



Yes, we can go on in the same old fashion year after year, season after season, repairing, replacing, using the club's finances but it has to be noted that of the "Five Families" involved in Contra Costa we are the only Federation that does not have any Perimeter Security. Visit these other venues at Concord, Crockett, Pittsburg and Antioch and see how well organized they are. They are secure. They are pleasing on the eye. The fences are not intrusive and over the years bushes & shrubs have been incorporated along and on them. The recent 2011 installation of 4 courts at Baldwin Park was constructed at a cost in excess

of \$465,000. None of that expenditure was borne by the Concord Bocce Federation. What could we do with a grant of that magnitude, build a Club House worthy of the largest bocce club in the USA?

It is only recently, in the past 2 years, that we have been able to keep you informed as to what is going on within your club. Now that we have an extensive email subscription approaching 1000 members we want as many of you as possible to be aware what is happening both during the playing season and the off season so that you can voice your opinion and be a part of the solution also.

Some members are concerned that we are intent on having this security perimeter as a means of keeping the general public out. This has been the ploy of those opposed to a fence, by spreading such disinformation. However, this is far from the truth.

The gates would be locked overnight. They will be opened in the morning and closed in the evening thus permitting the courts to be used during the daytime, which I might add, is not the policy of the other 4 members of the "Five Families" and whose policies are endorsed by their respective City Councils.



**SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP "YOUR" CLUB?**

We will be writing to both the East Bay Regional Parks District and the Martinez City Council, to readdress the issue of "Perimeter Security". We will point out the problems that we have encountered and will allievate any 'Cloudy' issues that they may have of the intentions of the MBF.

A copy of this correspondence will be sent to our members in the December News Letter.



Happy Thanksgiving



Vandalism continued:-

When you receive the letter, we urge you to forward reference to it, to both the East Bay Regional Parks District and the Martinez City Council as a sign of support.

We will give further details in the December News Letter regarding email & snail mail addresses, etc.

This is your chance to be instrumental in bringing about real change, reducing the need for additional ground maintenance due to the surface being compromised & assets being vandalized and knowing that we are "ALL" doing the most we can to protect the club grounds of the Martinez Bocce Federation, **YOUR** Martinez Bocce Federation.



## Current Update

### Welcome to November.

Earlier this month, on the morning of Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup>, it was discovered that overnight, the courts have been once again vandalized.

This time they overturned 4 of the heavy concrete garbage disposal units and also 3 of the smaller concrete units, spilling trash over the ground.



Also, the framework of one of the canopies was badly damaged, causing the club more expenditure. We simply cannot let this situation go unaddressed as it would be negligent on our part, being the elected representatives at the Board level of "**your**" club.

The police responded to this latest episode and the incident has officially been reported. The Maintenance department of the City has also been contacted with a request to bring some heavy lifting equipment down to the bocce courts so that the concrete garbage containers can be moved back into place. This had now been accomplished.

**I really cannot see where any argument against erecting perimeter security can be valid and maybe those who still favor not protecting our club's assets and investments would be willing to step forward and fork out for this recent vandalism and for that which no doubt will occur in the future, should we not take steps to safeguard "YOUR" Bocce Courts.**

**Vic Delpine**

**On behalf of your Board of Directors  
Martinez Bocce Federation**

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Happy Thanksgiving



## Martinez Team place second in County Championships

"La Macchina" from the Wednesday Night "A" Division nearly went all the way to winning the County Finals in Pittsburg on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Having made 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our own domestic tournament they went to Pittsburg with high hopes of pulling off the final challenge and oh so nearly made it.



Ginny Nelson addressing the teams prior to the Championships commencing

The day began with an early breakfast of donuts, bagels & cream cheese, orange juice, coffee & fruit salad. Ginny Nelson, Commissioner of the Pittsburg Bocce Federation, addressed the teams around 8.00am and explained the draw and the requirements to progress from the Round Robin stage of the event into the Semi Finals and eventually to the Championship Final.

## Team "La Macchina" from Martinez



Happy Thanksgiving



The top 2 teams from each of the "Five Families" of Antioch, Pittsburg, Crockett, Concord & Martinez would do battle to see which team & club would have bragging rights until October 2012, as being the "best of the best" in Contra Costa Bocce.



Some of the many spectators taking in the great weather and top class bocce

## The following teams reached the "Final Four" of the County Championships:

Squeak's Bunch - Concord  
La Macchina - Martinez  
Jim Lanter State Farm - Antioch  
Pag's Bunch - Crockett

Squeak's Bunch teamed up against Pag's Bunch; Pag's Bunch the winner.  
La Macchina teamed up against Jim Lanter State Farm; La Macchina the winner.  
Championship Round pitted Pag's Bunch against La Macchina.  
After the narrowest of margins that could have been imagined in the Round Robin Phase, La Macchina moved forward to the semi-finals and after a memorable victory against "Jim Lanter State Farm" from Antioch, eventually reached the Championship Final.  
Taking a 9-3 lead against "Pag's Bunch" in the Final, it looked as if they were going to go "all the way" but their opponents made a dramatic comeback and eventually took the Championship with a 12-9 victory.



**And the winners are  
Pag's Bunch From Crockett**



The Martinez Bocce Federation wish to congratulate Pag's Bunch and the Crockett Bocce Federation for a splendid win but we look forward to 2012 when once again we can challenge for the top team & club in Contra Costa County.

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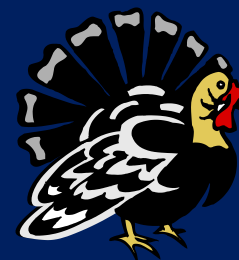


**The New York Times Article**

Those of you who are interested in reading the short article written by Louise Rafkin about Bocce in the Bay Area, in which our club was featured, can go to the web link below.  
Just click on the link and you will be directed to the New York Times web site.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/us/bocce-courts.html?\\_r=1&ref=sanfranciscobayarea](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/us/bocce-courts.html?_r=1&ref=sanfranciscobayarea)

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Happy Thanksgiving



## Home Court Advantage

Over the course of the off season and continuing into next year I will be featuring member's private courts that they have built at their homes.

We begin this series with the eye catching set up of Keith & Lisa Campbell.

Keith & Lisa play on the "Roll Players" team in the Sunday "B" division.



Their bocce court is 72 feet long by 10 feet wide. The court rails are anchored by forty 4x4 posts encased in concrete 2 1/2 to 3 feet deep.

There is a 6-inch perforated drain surrounded by about a foot total of drainage rock under the full length of the court.

Many yards of grey ¾ by dust as a filler and primary base make up the foundations. The top couple of inches comprise a mixture of crushed granite (gold fine), crushed oyster shell, oyster powder and fire clay. Maintenance is accomplished by grooming the top layer and then wetting it down and sprinkling with some crushed oyster shell. Finally it is rolled with a 450 lb. + concrete-filled sod roller.

There are covered pergolas on each end which include lighting, ceiling fans, and seating areas. The pergola nearest to the house has an outdoor bar including a sink,

mini-fridge, and a receiver/CD player wired to speakers on both ends.

The court also has lighting for nighttime play.



If you get bored waiting for your turn to roll there's also a regulation size horseshoe court adjacent to the bocce court. All conceived, designed, engineered and constructed by Keith Campbell.



Keith & Lisa's guests get endless hours of enjoyment from their bocce court!



They recommend one for anyone who has room.

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Happy Thanksgiving



## Local Clubs in the News Blackhawk Bocce Club

I recently heard about this new bocce club and the pair of courts that had been built there. The information as to their exact location was obscure, Danville, Blackhawk or somewhere nearby.

As I was about to track down exactly where these courts were, my good friends Sharon & Lee Jones who live in Blackhawk, emailed me saying that they had joined the club and were playing for the Blackhawk "Talons".

We had played together a couple of years ago and I know they really enjoyed the game. They are avid golfers and have that competitive spirit.

The Blackhawk Country Club completed the 2 courts about 2 months ago at a rumored cost of around \$100,000.

Their season began late for this year but that did not curtail the enthusiasm for this most popular of games.

As soon as it was announced that a Bocce League was to be set up they received 475 applications.

To accommodate the incredible response they schedule 2 sessions each evening, commencing play at 5.30 and again at 7.15.

They play "Live Back Board" and use the Volo markings for the initial Pallino toss.

Sessions are decided by the best of 3 games with the first team to 10 points or whoever is ahead after 30 minutes. Points for and against are also taken in consideration.

This way they are able to have up to 8 teams playing each evening thus doubling the amount of teams that can participate.

Their playoffs and Finals Day are to be held in Mid-November. Let's hope the weather holds out for them.

Next summer, the "Black Hawk Country Club" is to establish a "Youth Bocce" league due to the fact that the

game appeals to so many young people, from watching their parents play.



The lighting leaves something to be desired but you can't beat the ambiance generated by the 2 gas flame fire pits and the great adjacent bar.



Before you go chasing down to Blackhawk, this unfortunately is for "Members Only". Ah Well.



Happy Thanksgiving



## Memorial Benches

All current available bench spaces have now been taken. We do have spaces available for "memorial plaques" on the back wall running alongside courts 9 & 15. If you would like further information for a "Loved One" please contact Bill Kintana at:- [bkjk2005@aol.com](mailto:bkjk2005@aol.com)

If any relatives would like a photo of their loved ones added to the "In Memorial" in the Photo Gallery please contact Vic Delpine.

I can either add it to the photo of the Memorial Bench; add it as a separate photo or both. On behalf of the Martinez Bocce Federation, I will be most happy to carry out this service for you.

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## Martinez Bocce Federation

### Goodies

#### Official Club Shirts

In addition to the official MBF caps being offered we are now making official MBF shirts available with the Club logo above the left breast area. Shirts will be in sizes ranging from S to XXL at a cost of \$25 (PAYMENT WITH ORDER).



Shirts will be made to order. We can mix sizes and colors so as soon as we get enough to make an order of 12, the wait time will be minimal. If you require shirts between now and the beginning of the 2012 season please write to:-

[vicdelpine@martinezboccefederation.com](mailto:vicdelpine@martinezboccefederation.com)

Colors being offered are Gray, Green & Red.



**We missed Halloween but Happy Thanksgiving Day to all our members.**

### License Plate Frames

Back around 1999 the Club Issued Car License Plate Frames for the 25th anniversary of the founding of our club.

The new "Martinez Bocce Federation" license plate frames are available at \$5 each.



**These would make great and inexpensive gifts for the upcoming holidays**



Happy Thanksgiving



## And To Conclude

## Club Contact Email Address

### TOO MUCH SUN

[vicdelpine@martinezboccefederation.com](mailto:vicdelpine@martinezboccefederation.com)

This guy is stranded on a desert island, all alone for 10 years.

One day he sees a speck on the horizon.

He thinks to himself, "It's not a ship."

The speck gets a little closer and he thinks, "It's not a boat."

The speck gets even closer and he thinks, "It's not a raft."

He races down to a flat hard sandy beach and then out of the surf comes this gorgeous woman, wearing a wet suit and scuba gear. She comes up to the guy and says, "How long has it been since you've had a cigarette?"

"Ten years!" he says. She reaches over and unzips a waterproof pocket on her left sleeve and pulls out a fresh pack of cigarettes. He takes one, lights it, takes a long drag and says, "Man oh man, that's good!"

Then she asks, "How long has it been since you've had a drink of whiskey?" He replies "Ten years!" She reaches over and unzips her waterproof pocket on her right sleeve and pulls out a flask and gives it to him. He takes a long swig and says, "Wow, that's fantastic!"

She then starts to unzip this long zipper that runs all the way down the front of her wet suit and as she does she says to him "And how long has it been since you've had some REAL FUN?"

The man replies "Are you serious, don't tell me you have a set of Bocce Balls in there!"

### **Please note:-**

Our website ends in (.org)

Our email is (.com)



Enjoy Your Bocce  
Vic Delpine



Happy Thanksgiving

