



# MARTINEZ BOCCE FEDERATION

## JANUARY News Letter

### New Years' Edition 2012

#### THE ISSUE OF VANDALISM AND PERIMETER SECURITY

By way of an update to the vandalism and perimeter security situation, we have had replies from the City of Martinez and the East Bay Regional Park District, neither of which has been constructive.

If you have not yet written to the significant public figures listed in the December News Letter, voicing your support for the club initiative now is the time to do it. We need your support and enthusiasm to see this through. This is your club and we want it to be the best club in the country but without your support we will not be able to achieve that goal.

For reference, you may refer back to the December News Letter, and in fact all News Letters from November 2011, as they are now being archived and accessible from the Web Site Home Page under "MBF Newsletter".

We are in the process of setting up a meeting with the City of Martinez to further discuss the issues on hand and to get an updated agreement with the City regarding "Use" of the bocce facility.

We will keep you up to date as to progress in subsequent News Letters.



#### 2012 Team registration

It's that time of the year again.

As I mentioned in the December issue, the annual "Team Registration" ritual will soon be upon us in little more than a month's time.

To secure your night this year you MUST hand in your "roster and check" at the:-

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm.  
MARTINEZ MOOSE LODGE**

**NO MAIL IN ROSTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

If you miss this date you will be considered a new team. New teams or those requesting a "Change of Night", will line up at the Bocce Clubhouse on the Second Saturday in February, the 11<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am.

**FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.**

The Agenda for the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting is as follows.

- Election of "New Board Members".
- Turn in filled out "Roster Forms" with payment.
- Board meeting and election of officers.

**NO ROSTER FORMS OR PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION OF THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS.**

**ALL CLUB MEMBERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING AND MAY USE THEIR VOTE TO ELECT THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

**IT IS NOT RESTRICTED TO TEAM CAPOS.**



A Very Happy, Prosperous & Healthy New Year to All Our Members



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Home Court Advantage

This month's "Home Court Advantage" belongs to Rick Benton. Now this guy is an interesting person. We'll get to his Bocce Court setup later but first let's just get some background into just who Rick Benton is.



I first met Rick as the Capo of the Tuesday night team, SPEDS. It was another team of guys who we had to play in our league matches, 3 or 4 times a year.

However you can't help but notice that it's not simply a game of bocce with SPED's. It's very much a social gathering with a group of friends who like to eat and drink and I mean really like to eat & drink.

I did a bit of research into Rick's past and came up with some history and the meaning of his team's name, SPEDS.

It stands for the "Society of Professional Eaters & Drinker's".

This is one serious society.



Way back when, founder Pete Radich was hosting lunch at his home with a bunch of friends. Apparently he was a "whiz" at welding stainless steel as was seen by his back yard barbecue set up. After finishing up the day's festivities Pete suggested they should form a group of those who enjoyed good food and fine wine, so the Society of Professional Eaters and Drinkers [SPED's] was founded.



The guys decided that most of the events would be for the members only except for special occasions like Christmas.

Pete made his own wine and cured his own prosciutto and was known as Prosciutto Pete. He also came up with the Society's Motto and was known by the



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members as the CEO. You can look up the motto on their website.

A couple of the guys volunteered for the next two events and a "sponsor system" began.

Sadly, Pete passed on December 28, 2000 and was missed by all.



There was considerable concern that SPED's might not be able to go on without their founder. It was difficult but the group has continued and the membership has grown. Rick Benton stepped in as President and has been responsible for many a good party and a lot of organization work and eleven years later it is flourishing.



One of Pete's sons, Bud, is Vice Capo of the Sped's bocce team and another of Pete's sons, Kevin "The Rat" Radich, is the weekday afternoon sports reporter on KGO AM 810, in San Francisco

I think a bottle or more of "The Best" would have been popped open a few days ago as the members of the current SPED's society remembered & toasted the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pete's passing.

Rick is also a very fine "maker and purveyor of fermented grape juices" and has a magnificent vineyard on his property. He told me that he owes a lot of his success to his Father Figure, Pete Radich and spoke of him in endearing terms and with fond memories of his old friend and mentor.

Rick's vineyard, adjacent to his house, reaches for an acre and contains 185 Syrah vines and 100 Grenache. The Syrah vines were planted 11 years ago and the Grenache a year later. He named the vineyard "Joysinga" after his lovely wife Joyce, a pet name that her Father used to call her when she was growing up.

This year Rick experienced mixed fortunes with the vineyard due to the uncooperative weather this summer.

The Grenache vines successfully matured to the correct sugar content and were successfully harvested but the Syrah failed by a couple of % points and so Rick being the purist that he is where wine making is concerned, decided to leave the grapes unpicked and when I arrived at his house the fruit was still hanging on the vines.



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Rick built his court back in 2003 and went with dimensions of 12ft X 75ft. The sides of the court are made from 3" X 12" pressure treated boards which Rick was fortunate enough to salvage from a project he was working on. Posts along the perimeter of the court were sunk and set in concrete 2ft into the ground with 1ft showing above.

He told me that there was some controversy regarding the building of the courts and the neighbors actually thought he was putting a lap pool in his back garden, especially with the mechanical digger going to work.



The court has some "Green" growing on it at this time of the year but that will be dealt with in the spring with a chemical spray. The French drain running down the middle of the court gives more than adequate drainage. On top of this is 4" base rock and above that 5" of granite dust. No oyster shell being used here at the moment but Rick is thinking of incorporating some when spring arrives ready for the 2012 season.



What a beautiful day to visit Rick's set up, early December with the sun shining and the autumn colors, although just past their peak, still spectacular.

Vic Delpine



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**Members of the "Martinez Morning Mafia" enjoying early morning play, December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.**



**We've really been lucky in 2011 to have been able to use the courts this late into the year.**



**L to R: - Ron Thomas, Bruce Commiskey, Roger Maxfield, Fred Taft, Carlos Amspoker, George Gonsalves, Angelo Costanza, Sante Cerri and Ken Cook.**



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## AND TO CONCLUDE

It was Anthony's birthday and Maria, his roommate, had bought him a beautiful set of Italian Bocce Balls as they were both ardent fans of the game and were playing in a tournament the following evening.

Mrs. Camponisini comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner and to meet his female roommate.

During the course of the meal, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate is.



Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his Mamma's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you Mamma, Maria and I are just roommates."

They all had a very pleasant evening and Anthony's Mamma left for home.

The following morning, Maria came to Anthony saying, what did you do with my gift as I want to get everything ready for tonight's event. Anthony replied that he thought Maria had already taken the bocce balls and packed them for that evening.

"You don't suppose your Mamma thought that the balls were for her, and took them, do you?" replies Maria.

"Of course not", says Anthony, "but I'll email her, just to be sure."

So Anthony sat down and wrote his Mamma an email:

Dear Mamma,

I'm not saying that you "did" take the new set of bocce balls from the house, I'm not saying that you "did not" take them..

But the fact remains, that we are unable to find them since you were here for dinner last night.

Your Loving Son,

Anthony.

Later that afternoon, Anthony received a response from his Mamma which read:

Dear son,

I'm not saying that you "do" sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you "do not" sleep with Maria.....

But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed last night you wouldn't be searching for the Bocce balls today !!!!

Your Loving Mamma,



Moral:

Mai stronzate tua Mamma.



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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.

## Official MBF Club Hat.

Hats \$20.



## License Plate Frames



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



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**Club Contact Email**

**Address**

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



**HOTLINE**

**925-295-2003**

**Please note:-**

**Our website ends in (.org)**

**Our email is (.com)**



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Enjoy Your Bocce  
Vic Delpine



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