



AUGUST BOULES NEWSLETTER

Partnerships Growing any dynamic organization requires partnerships. No business, no governmental agency, no civic group, no petanque club can grow without forming partnerships. Over the past year, FPC actively reached out into the larger San Joaquin Valley community, and the world, to built strong partnerships that have grown our boules club and dramatically increased the visibility of Fresno.



- FPC 2009 PARTNERSHIPS**
- California Fig Advisory Board
 - Fresno Convention and Visitor's Bureau
 - KVPT – Public Television
 - Madera Wine Trail Association
 - San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
 - The Vineyard Farmer's Market
 - Twin Rivers Vintners Association

This “giving back to the community” outreach strategy has worked for our club. In the short period of

nine months we have added over fifty members to our membership roster and have become known in many parts of the world simply by using this partnership approach. This is not a unique strategy.

Successful organizations use marketing to grow their business or organization, everyday. If FPC continues forming partnerships we will see more growth in our membership numbers, but we will also bring increased international attention to Fresno that will result in the growth of tourism dollars spent in our community.

The dilemma, as you know, is that we have limited pistes space on which to boules each week. The question then becomes, “where do we put all the new boulers” or, “should we stop our growth strategy until a larger pétanque terrain is built.” This is a difficult situation at best.

Fresno wants to play pétanque. This should be obvious to policy makers and city officials. In just two years, our pétanque club has become the largest boules club in the United States with almost 140 members. The potential is there to keep growing. You know why you have chosen to be a part of this thriving community of boulers, and you know that others will want to join us too. But, we must have a place that accommodates all of us. We have to have a boules terrain.



Here's how you can help FPC move closer to that reality. Kindly **place a telephone call to your City Council member** (<http://www.fresno.gov/Government/CityCouncil/Default.htm>) and tell him or her that the almost 140 members of FPC need a permanent pétanque terrain at Cary Park. Invite, urge, challenge, or cajole them to stop by for a boulegame so you can show them the draw of this sport that is accessible to everyone. Once our petanque terrain is built, the U.S. and International tournaments we organize will pay for this terrain within two years. This is a win-win situation for Fresno and FPC.

International Partnerships



In October 2007, members of the Fresno Pétanque Club had a visionary idea that our little pétanque club (with only 17 members, at that time) should work to create a partnership between Fresno and a city in France. Early in the development of our Club, members saw Fresno as an international pétanque destination. Today, FPC still sees Fresno as that international destination.

Just saying that Fresno should be an international pétanque destination is not enough. We wanted this Fresno/French City idea to be official. So, members started working on the creation of an official Sister City partnership (called a twinning) with a city in France.

STEP 1: Our first step was to form a steering committee and reach out to L'Alliance Française de Fresno (<http://affresno.org/>) as a partner in this important international endeavor.

STEP 2: Almost six months after we began the Fresno/France twinning process, we partnered with the Fresno Chapter of Sister City International (<http://www.sister-cities.org/about/index.cfm>) and picked Nimes as the city we wanted to partner with in France (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C3%AEmes>).



Linda

STEP 3: One and half years after we started the twinning process, FPC member and chapter leader of Fresno Sister City, Linda Motschiedler, worked with Council members Andrea Borgeas and Henry Perea to introduce a motion in City Council to approve local Sister City efforts and Sister City projects. Eighteen FPC members showed up for that Council meeting. The City Council gave the green light to move forward on our Nimes twinning.



A Few FPC Members at City Council



Pierre-Paul

STEP 4: FPC, in cooperation with L'Alliance Française, immediately expanded our community steering committee to include a larger base of Fresno organizations. A few weeks ago, in early August, the community steering committee met and elected FPC member Pierre-Paul Villafafila as chair of the Fresno/Nimes committee. They also elected FPC members Arnaud Marjollet and Norman Stokle as vice-chairs. This effort, begun by FPC, has officially evolved into a greater Fresno effort much larger than our little our club could have imagined. Fresno now owns this twinning process.

STEP 5: A concerted effort is underway by the Fresno/Nimes steering committee to collect letters of community support that will encourage Mayor Ashley Swearengin to contact the Mayor of Nimes and officially begin the twinning process.



Fresno/Nimes Sister City Steering Committee

STEP 6: Once the mayors of both cities begin discussing a possible twinning, a delegation of Nimes citizens will visit Fresno and a short time later a delegation of Fresnans will visit Nimes.

STEP 7: The mayors of Fresno and Nimes sign official documents forming the twinning partnership. At that point, international exchanges and partnerships in education, business, art, agriculture and pétanque will begin.

Fresno Partnerships

FIG FESTIVAL

Sponsored by the California Fig Advisory Board (<http://www.californiafigs.com/>)

The 6th annual Fig Festival was a celebration of the noble and mythological fig. This Fest is a unique event in Fresno, and the United States. In fact, it is the only Fig Festival in the U. S.



FPC Fig Fest Trainers

Fig Fest organizers contacted FPC two months before the Fest and asked if our club would like to introduce pétanque to hundreds of Fig Fest patrons during their Festival. We said “Yes,” and the Fig/Boule partnership began.

On the day of the Fest, twenty-four members assisted in training over three hundred (300) new people to the worldly ways of boules. These FPC volunteers got to nosh on great gourmet fig entrees and desserts. You would not believe what

haute cuisine chefs can do with the glorious fig. FPC trainers had a great time and Fest organizers have already invited FPC back to their 7th annual Fig Fest in 2010 on the Fresno State Campus.



PARTNERS: FPC AND VALLEY PUBLIC TELEVISION (KVPT)

KVPT (<http://www.kvpt.org/>), located downtown, is an important institution in Fresno and the greater San Joaquin Valley. Many FPC members watch KVPT (Cable 18)

everyday and find that they get unbiased news, great films and amazing documentaries. Oh yeah, and Sesame Street.

PBS and local stations rely on contributions from people like you as their largest single source of financial support. Your support assures that Fresno—and all Americans—continue to benefit from award-winning programs that open up the worlds of current events, art, science, music, history, your local community, and more for everyone from all walks of life. Diversity is a key word at PBS.



Ernie decides he likes Karen

again we said, “yes.” Member Karen Petryna coordinated this community partnership. Thank you, Karen!



Thank you for calling KVPT

contact Karen and let her know you are willing to support FPC and KVPT by answering the telephones that are used to take contributions from television viewers (Karen - bloomorganic@gmail.com).

Karen is recruiting club volunteers for two more pledge drives. If this type of volunteer/civic effort interests you, please



Where's Greg?

FPC's 2nd Birthday Party



Terry and Tim, FPC Founders

In March 2007, Tim Channell and Terry Bond were driving back to Fresno after a day of playing boules in Oakhurst when they began discussing the need for a pétanque club in Fresno. Soon afterward, they began inviting people to Holmes Playground (Huntington Historic District near downtown Fresno) every week for a few games of boules. At first, the response was small, but they kept at it and continued inviting people out for a pétanque game. Soon, those people told their friends and the numbers slowly began to climb. Then, in May 2007, they organized a meeting at their house and 12 people came to learn about and talk pétanque. Two people at that meeting were Robert Boro and Larry Roselle, still active members of FPC, today.

In August 2007, seventeen pétanque players who were bouling each week gathered for a small party at Tim and Terry's house. It was at that gathering that these boulistes agreed to formally affiliate with the Federation Pétanque USA and officially become the Fresno Pétanque Club.



Two years later, FPC is the largest pétanque club in the United States and America's fastest growing

A few of FPC's charter members

boules club. FPC membership is quickly approaching one hundred and forty, and new members are joining every month. You might be able to say that Fresno has taken to boules and to France by association.



FPC Game Day Coordinators

On Sunday, August 16, more than 70 members gathered at Cary Park to celebrate the two-year anniversary of our club. It was a birthday party for all of us who have made this unique pétanque club an amazing Fresno success story.



Happy Birthday FPC

It takes a team to sustain an organization. The success and growth of our Club is a tribute to your commitment. You have improved the quality of life in our community and made people happy. We thank all FPC members for your dedication to our Club, to each other, and to Fresno.



Gordon Morse, our Hero

"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

- Vince Lombardi

Going International - FPC's Road To France

By Ellen Erganian and Gloria Floyd, Co-Chairs, 2010 Travel Planning Committee



Ellen

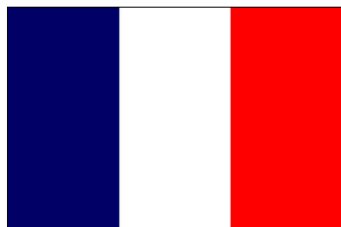
Gloria

Fresno Pétanque Club is unlike any other pétanque club in the United States. Our club is active in supporting our larger Fresno community and we are also building support for Fresno around the world through international travel.

FPC has formed a travel committee to begin planning our 2010 international pétanque tour. The committee began by developing a simple two question survey to ask members where and when they wanted to travel in 2010. Eighteen members responded to the survey and the majority of votes were cast for a visit to France in the fall of 2010.

The committee immediately began working to identify a region of France to visit. We decided that since FPC is trying to create a Sister City with Nimes we should focus our travels in the Provence region, near Nimes. A detailed itinerary will be developed over the coming months.

Start visualizing the French Riviera, quaffing great French wine, staying in small boutique hotels or large glamorous villas, wiling away the hours with great friends, great food and great conversation. Occasionally we will even play boules with the French in this birthplace of pétanque. This will be a trip of a lifetime and we hope you will join us. [Click here](#) for details.



Of important note, it has been decided that the number of traveling members will be limited to no more than fifty (50). We will soon identify a registration deadline and require a nonrefundable \$300 deposit to hold a spot on this trip.

We will keep you updated on the plans for this wonderful trip. In the meantime, if you have any questions contact either one of us at ellenerganian@pacbell.net or gloflo@comcast.net. **Vive la France. Vive la Pétanque.**

FPC Volunteers Needed

Several FPC committees are being formed and our club needs your help. If you would like to support our pétanque club by helping us plan future activities, please e-mail Tim at BouleFresno@yahoo.com.

It takes a team of volunteers to make a great pétanque club like ours work. Here are a few committees that will soon need your brain power: 2009 "Let's Have A Holiday Party" committee; 2010 Tournament Planning Committee; 2010 Annual Calendar of Events Committee. Thank you for believing in FPC.

FPC Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13: FPC's annual "Fresno First" panache tournament. This will be an all day event. In a panache tournament, teams are determined by a lottery system. Players move to a different team each game. While this is a competitive tournament, it nonetheless is more about fun and celebrating our club. Coffee, croissants, lunch and water will be included in the \$20 registration fee. For more information speak with Carl, Karen, or Paul. There will be prizes for tournament winners.

Saturday, September 26: FPUSA Southwest Regional Mixed Doublette Championship. Hosted by the Oakhurst Pétanque Club. For registration details e-mail BouleFresno@yahoo.com.

Sunday, September 27: FPUSA Southwest Regional Mixed Triplette Championship. Hosted by the Oakhurst Pétanque Club. For registration details e-mail BouleFresno@yahoo.com.

F P C Member Profile



This month's FPC member profile is on Ellen Erganian. Ellen, an active member in our club, was partly responsible for organizing the hotel arrangements during our club's recent trip to Germany and the Czech Republic. Ellen has opened her house to our many functions. We appreciate her support of our club.

How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?

Well, Richard and I are members of Alliance Française. At one of the Alliance meetings, Tim addressed the gathering and talked about a Pétanque Club that played at Holmes playground on Tuesday nights. We tried it out slowly and Tim, Terry and Greg would be there to give us introductory lessons. Also, my husband (Richard Erganian) and I are always looking for new and exciting things to do in Fresno, so over a two year period pétanque slowly infiltrated our social activities.

What brought you to Fresno?

I moved here in 1975 with my former husband and two sons. We were living in southern California at the time. He had just completed his anesthesiology residency in the Navy. We learned Community Hospital was looking for anesthesiologist. We came up and took a look. Fresno reminded us of Nebraska where we both grew up on farms, i.e. the farms, livestock, flat land and very friendly people. We hoped it would be a nice place to live and raise a family.

What is your profession?

Well, let's see, I've done many things; a physical education instructor, owned a seafood wholesale and retail business, and the last 15 years before my early retirement, I was in the insurance industry. I attended colleges while traveling across the U.S. while my ex-husband fulfilled his Navy obligation.



Ellen with teammates Ed and Peter. They were one of the winning teams in FPC's April 2009 tournament.

The last college I attended was Fresno State. I've had a great time and met many nice people along the way.

Are there any places in Fresno that you consider hidden gems that more people should visit?

The underground gardens are marvelous. And, of course, when one thinks of Fresno, one thinks of all the national parks. One gem that is nearest and dearest to my heart is The Vineyard Farmer's Market at Blackstone and Shaw. O.K. so I'm biased but it is a gem. The new pétanque pistes will certainly be a treasure, once built.

Besides pétanque, what other sports or hobbies get your attention?

I use to love to snow and water ski and play tennis. I also ran half marathons. Unfortunately, due to knee injuries, I've given up those sports. Now, I go for walks, play pétanque and belong to a gym. I enjoy gardening, having small dinner parties and baking. Richard and I also like to attend many ethnic gatherings and picnics like the Armenian, Greek, Hmong and German festivals to name a few during the summer. And---I just purchased a set of golf clubs so watch for me on the links.

What one thing would you like our members to know about you that they don't already know?

Well, I wonder what they know. Maybe they know something I don't know. Actually, I'm a quiet person and have a tendency to keep to myself. I consider myself a loyal friend. I have two wonderful sons, a daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren whom I dearly love. I treasure the time spent with them and also visiting my extended family in Nebraska with my husband. In 2000, my two brothers, one sister and their spouses, Richard and I traveled together to Germany to research our roots. We traced my maiden name, Ritz, back to my great-great grandfather in 1726 and actually saw the church where they attended and the farm where they lived. It was a once in a lifetime experience as my oldest brother died shortly thereafter. To me, family, friends and health are the most important.

If I could do anything over, I would have taken singing lessons when I was younger and maybe I'd be a country-western singer today.

**NEW FPC MEMBERS – Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members
Chris Dickman, Iris Hiraga, Sandi Richerson-Watson, Skip Patterson, Gerry
Stokle and Norman Stokle**

Supporting Our Fresno Community



King-Oh Mushrooms

10452 E. Kings Canyon Rd., Sanger
559/876-6160. Visit them online at

www.KingOh.com

MOST PEOPLE LOVE EATING PLEUROTUS ERYNGII.

Nina Abe, the owner of King-Oh Mushrooms, is a fine boned glamorous woman, who does not fit the traditional image of a farmer. She does not plow fields, work in the sun all day long or, for that matter, even sweat while she works. Nina grows mushrooms.

Many people have the image of mushrooms being grown in smelly animal by-products, in total darkness. While Nina's mushrooms are grown mostly in the dark, there are no animal by-products anywhere to be seen. In fact, the King-Oh Mushroom farm looks much like a sterile laboratory. Imagine a super clean, sterile "state-of-the-art growing facility, white jackets, climatically controlled environment, cool growing rooms (50 degrees), an organic, hermitic growing medium made of rice and wheat, and small etched glass jars from which a variety of exotic mushrooms emerge.



If you prefer good, locally grown food, then you should drive the fifteen miles from Cary Park and visit Nina at her gourmand mushroom farm on Kings Canyon Road near Sanger. Visitors are welcome. It will be a pleasant and tasty adventure. You can also find Nina at The Vineyard Farmer's Market at Blackstone and Shaw every Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoon.

USA Petanque Spotlight



Salt Lake City Pétanque Club

<http://www.slcpetanque.blogspot.com/>

The FPUSA Southwest Region has eight petanque clubs. One of those is the Salt Lake City Petanque Club. Weather permitting, this club boules every Thursday.

They are a great group of petanquers that would welcome you to their pistes if you are in Salt Lake City on a Thursday at 6 p.m. Send club president Michael Kronenberg an e-mail or call him if you plan on being in Salt Lake City. He can also be

reached at miketrobe@msn.com and at (801) 360-6207.

International Pétanque - One World, One Game, One Boule



ALGERIAN PÉTANQUE FEDERATION

<http://www.fasb.dz/FrHomeJC.htm>

Boules is a very popular sport in Algeria. Their national federation promotes pétanque across the country. Algeria would be an interesting international pétanque tour destination, one day. For more information on Algerian Pétanque contact Algerian Federation President El Hadi Makboul, makboul@fasb.dz.

Rules Of Boules



Playing From The Wrong Circle

International Rules of Pétanque, Article 23

We all have done it while on the piste. It is your turn, you step into the circle and toss your first boule. The other team says, “you are not playing from the correct circle.” What does one do in this situation?

The rules are very clear on this infraction. Any boule played from a circle other than that from which the cochonnet was thrown is dead. This means the other team can pick that boule up and remove it from the piste. Anything that boule displaced is put back in place, on condition that its position was marked. The opponent, however, may apply the advantage rule and count the erroneously played boule as valid. In this case the boule, pointed or shot, is valid and anything it has displaced is left in its new position.

The best practice for boulistes is to rub out the circle once the end is over or just before the first boule is tossed out in the new end. See you on the pistes.



WHAT'S PETANKI?

(Patrons at FPC's information table and training piste, 6th annual Fig Fest)

Photography Credits: Thanks to Jerry Personius, George Bedrossian, Pierre-Paul Villafafila, and Christine Lemor-Drake for many of the photographs in this newsletter.

Membership in Fresno Pétanque Club is \$30 annually. Join America's fastest growing boules club. Join FPC. For more information contact Terry Bond, 559/352-4129 or BouleFresno@yahoo.com.