

FRESNO PÉTANQUE CLUB

Member • Federation Pétanque USA (FPUSA)



DECEMBER BOULES NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

2009 IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR FOR FRESNO PÉTANQUE CLUB! FPC starts off the New Year on January 1 with “Boules and Bubbly,” our Annual New Year’s Day Party. The party will take place in two stages. First are boule games at Cary Park from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Then we will meet up at 2:30ish for an FPC afternoon party at the Lakeview Clubhouse in North Fresno (east of the corner of Van Ness and Bluff). The clubhouse address is 2555 W. Bluff Avenue. Bring a friend and a designated driver!



Rebecca or Linda for more party details. Plan on joining us. Happy New Year!

We are calling this party, “Boules and Bubbly.” It is a potluck so bring your favorite dish. A special thanks goes out to FPC’s social committee for organizing the party. Speak with committee members Karen, Joyce, Deb,

TOP 5 NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

- 1) ~~WORK MORE~~ Play Pétanque More.
- 2) ~~TRAVEL LESS~~ Play For FPC In 2009 Away Tournaments Across California.
- 3) ~~WATCH MORE TV~~ Turn It Off. Go Outside. Boule.
- 4) ~~EXERCISE~~ Play More Pétanque.
- 5) ~~DIET~~ Drink More Wine; Play More Boules; They’re For Heart And Soul.

2008: A YEAR OF BOULES IN FRESNO

As the few remaining hours in 2008 slip past us, FPC looks back on the year with amazement at what our members have done with boules in Fresno. Following are highlights of major FPC boules activities in each month of 2008...

JANUARY: FPC started off the year with nineteen members. They gathered on January 1 for a New Year's Day boulegame at Holmes Playground, followed by a party hosted by Terry and Tim. Late in January, the FPC planning committee that would become the Fresno/Nimes, France Sister City Project was formed.

FEBRUARY: City of Fresno Parks Department officially announced in a news conference they were dedicating a large tract of land at Cary Park for an official municipal pétanque terrain. FPC members started working with landscape architect, Robert Boro (FPC member) on a Cary Park permanent pétanque terrain site design. A club logo was chosen from four submissions received from Pierre-Paul Villafafila, Rebecca Caraveo, and Deb and Greg Lapp. Greg's design was chosen to appear on shirts and other promotional materials.

MARCH: CSU/Fresno Engineering Department was asked to complete a GPS survey of Cary Park to assist with the completion of the terrain site design. The Engineering Department donated this service.

APRIL: Members competed in the San Pedro Select Triplette Tournament hosted by the Los Angeles Pétanque Club. In late April, FPC got its first club logo polo shirt.

MAY: The month started with a fun party at the Lapp's King's River property. A few weeks later, two triplette teams traveled to Sacramento and compete in the FPUSA National Championship tournaments. Later in May, the Fresno Bee published a great story on pétanque and the FPC.

JUNE: In cooperation with the City Parks Department members taught seventy-five children how to play pétanque at the City Summer Youth Camp. FPC Members competed in the FPUSA Southwest Regional Triplette Tournament in Los Angeles. Boule days were permanently moved from Holmes Playground to Cary Park. Shortly thereafter we moved our games from the sunny baseball diamonds to the shaded area under the oak trees.

JULY: Working with Robert Boro, the Cary Park terrain site design was submitted to the City Parks management team. FPC gave boules demonstrations to Francophiles who attended "Bastille Day" celebrations organized by L'Alliance Française. Later in the month, we enjoyed a "Baseball and Boules" party at Chukchansi Stadium.

AUGUST: FPC celebrated its one year anniversary. Over 45 people were on hand for boules games and festivities. Later in the month, members gathered at the Edwards Cinema to enjoy the musical "Mamma Mia." Members also competed in a select triplette tournament in San Francisco.

SEPTEMBER: Our first official tournament, “Fresno First” was held. Thirty-three members competed in this panache tournament. Joyce Simpson took the first place and became FPC’s first Club Champ. Fresno Bee published another great news feature on FPC, one radio station and six television channels interviewed FPC members on pétanque and our club. We competed in the fun and early “Oktoberfest” tournament in Oakhurst where Vang Moua took first place.

OCTOBER: Carl and Linda Motschiedler held FPC’s first Oktoberfest party at their house. Carl, Paul and Tim met with Fresno City Councilman Blong Xiong to discuss the Cary Park Pétanque Terrain and funding opportunities. Later in the month, FPC teams competed in the annual Emil Furlan Memorial Tournament in Sacramento. Jimmie and Joyce Simpson and Jerry Personius’ team won the Consolante. The annual member’s meeting, board election and party was held at Robert Boro’s home. Eight volunteers participated in Valley Public Television’s telethon fundraiser. Teams competed in the FPUSA Southwest Regional Select Triplette tournament and the team of Paul Yang, Jer Thao, and Mary Jane Mann garnered a second place title (FPC).

NOVEMBER: In cooperation with Quady Winery, FPC showed 350 oenophiles how to play boules during the Madera Wine Trail. Carl, Paul and Tim meet with incoming City of Fresno Council President, Cynthia Sterling to discuss the Cary park pétanque terrain and funding opportunities. FPC held its first “Thanksbouling” series of games over the long weekend.

DECEMBER: In coordination with L’Alliance Française, a grant proposal was submitted for fifteen thousand dollars to the Federation L’Alliance national office for funding of our Cary Park terrain. FPC ends 2008 with 90 members and interest from many visitors!

2009 is going to be another growth year for FPC as we continue building a pétanque community and improving the quality of life in Fresno.

THANKSBOULING 2008

FPC had a fun three day “Thanksbouling” marathon which complimented the great and indulgent Thanksgiving dining tradition all of us experienced a few hours before the boules hit the dirt. Here are three member’s recollections of “Thanksbouling”...



WE ARE ONE BIG PÉTANQUE FAMILY

by Linda Motschiedler

One of the great things about pétanque is how it such an ideal family sport. This fact was obvious to all as about thirty FPC boulistes kicked off the first annual “Thanksbouling” marathon at Cary Park on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Linda You might say it was a "Family Day" on the piste, the day after Thanksgiving. Fathers and sons, nieces and nephews had come from Los Angeles, Denver and as far away as Park City, Utah to enjoy the holiday with relatives. Even the Motschiedler's three year old Grandson, Ian, learned to play pétanque that day! The pictures certainly capture the spirit of the day. Mark your calendars for next year's "Thanksbouling" Party!



BOULING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

by Deborah Lapp

On the second day of the “Thanksbouling” marathon, the sun was shining in Sanger. Greg and I, a few days earlier, had crushed rock spread onto our drive and the available driveway space stretched into three simultaneous pistes for our visiting FPC boulistes. Since the weather was fine, we brought the picnic tables out to the lawn, and between pétanque ends, eighteen of us

Deborah feasted on turkey, sweet potatoes, Leslie and Peter’s “bubble and squeak,” and Greg’s home brew. Surrounded by the forest and creek, the clank of a shot and swoosh of a point delightfully mingled with our laughter. The Dempseys came from just across the river and the Yangs also came from close by, while Amy and Bruce came all the way from Kingsburg. Jimmie and Joyce carpooled with Gordon, and Donna and Carol also carpooled, but took a scenic tour of Pine Flat Lake on the way. It was a great day for pétanque and we had a sweet time playing this little French game.



2008



**Thanksbouling
Memories**





THANKSBOULING ON THE ROAD

by Jerry Personius

Family comes first for me especially when it comes to a great American holiday like Thanksgiving. My family does not live in Fresno so I took to the road for a Thanksgiving gathering with my family in Sacramento. While I was not able to participate in FPC's "Thanksboulting" marathon, I got to thinking about having met (and played with) Reid and Colette Evans at the

Jerry Personius Emile Furlan's Tournament in August... and then thought that MAYBE... some members of the Club Français de Sacramento MIGHT be playing boules while I was in town. So I contacted Colette and she graciously arranged for what turned out to be a delightful, sunny afternoon of pétanque. You might be able to say I got creative and put together my own version of "Thanksboulting" via Sacramento.

Small problem...when I arrived at the appointed time, I couldn't see any place to play... instead I found Reid and another member with leaf blowers busily rearranging the leaves that completely covered the pistes. With the leaves temporarily relegated to the sidelines, lots of introductions made (I kind of like that French cheek-kissing thing), and a couple sips of wine... it was melee time.



With only a dozen or so boulistes, they first designated shooters... then each pointer individually points from a circle to determine the two-player teams... thereafter, the teams remain the same with winners playing winners and losers vs. losers. I had the extraordinarily good fortune (I soon discovered) to be paired with a gentleman by the name of Alain Pourvoiries. His name was impossible for me to pronounce, his accent was often difficult for me to understand, and his manner was a bit gruff...

but none of that mattered... he played pétanque like Tiger Woods plays golf!... and announced during the first end that he does not like to lose!

Very early on during the next three hours, Alain became my mentor (and my friend)... and I think I learned more of le technique pétanque in that all too-short time... than in all the months I have been playing the game. In the end, the sun was still shining, leaves were still falling on the piste... and we all agreed to contact each other whenever we could again get together for this fantastic game. Alain will be traveling to Fresno in January... and has promised to join us for some boules. I have to admit, I love this game and how it brings people together! Vive la Pétanque.

Now about all that food I ate over Thanksgiving? Let's just say I'm going to do better next year and not eat so much.



<http://www.petanquesacramento.net/index.html>

Buying Boules on the Boulevard -- in Paris!

by Robert Boro



Buying my boules at the Obut shop in Paris was a real treat. The woman at the counter was extremely accommodating and let me select from hundreds of boules on the shelves. Every option was displayed in the shop. Engraving took one week and I put everything on the Visa to get the best exchange rate. The euro was at \$1.26 that day and jumped up to \$1.40 a week later!

Meanwhile, I schlepped my purchases on the Metro to my friend's house where I stayed and packed them safely in my suitcase. I'm certain they would be confiscated in carry-on luggage, so I checked that bag from Paris to Fresno. When I changed planes in Chicago, I had to retrieve my checked bags to clear U.S. Customs and then

Wall of Boules

recheck them to Fresno. When I opened my bag at home, I discovered an official printed note from the Federal Security Department (TSA) informing me that my bags had been opened and searched for weapons. I'm certain that the French Security x-rayed my bags and recognized the boules for pétanque. In the U.S., I imagine they x-rayed my bags and thought my boules were hand grenades! In any case, they fortunately passed security and arrived home safely.



The first FPC boules game day after my return I showed up at Cary Park and you probably know what happened. Within the first thirty minutes of my arrival I was standing in the renown FPC circle of boulistes initiating **Boules Accessories** my new boules into the Fresno Pétanque Club, and getting them all smashed up with that brutal club christening. OK! Now that everything is in order I am ready for some serious boulegames. So, I'll see you on the piste!

Expanding The Circle Of Boulistes



River Studies Center

This past November, David Koehler, Executive Director, San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, asked the Fresno Pétanque Club to teach the staff at the Parkway how to boule. This was part of their in-service staff development.

A few weeks ago, FPC members Pierre-Paul, Cathey, Tim, Mary and Terry visited the Parkway to train the staff of thirteen on the finer points of pétanque. The Parkway treated us to a wonderful lunch. While sitting around the long conference (lunch) table in the Parkway's new office, FPC members discussed the story of pétanque. Then, they took the staff outside for an hour of "hands on" training. The staff had a great time and so did the FPC trainers. FPC continues expanding the circle of boulistes in Fresno County.



FPC Members Train Parkway Staff

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH – Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new club members Colleen Mitchell and Amy and Bruce Roberts.

FPC Member Profile



This month's FPC newsletter features club member Karen Petryna.

How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?

A friend of a friend—I was (and am) pursuing all things French.

What brought you to Fresno?

A friend of a friend—I was looking for affordable horse property in California.

Karen Petryna

What is your Profession?

I am a licensed Civil Engineer, and I own an environmental consulting company.

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

I like Woodward Park and especially the Japanese Gardens, although they're not exactly hidden. I also like Lost Lake up Friant Road on this side of the dam.

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

I am into horseback riding, playing the guitar and piano, painting and drawing, learning French, physics, metaphysics, alchemy, history, reading good literature and writing.

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

I really enjoy watching Tiger Woods play and would like to take a swing at golf one day.

“This is to tell you, with variations, what I'm sure you must know by now: It is within you to change someone's life for the better. In this new year make a commitment to yourself to go out and do for others what somebody did for you.”

--Dylan Thomas

SUPPORTING OUR FRESNO COMMUNITY



CLIFF FINCH'S ZOO

<http://www.topiaryzoo.com/custom-topiary-frames.php>

Friant Rd. (559) 822-2315

This is one of those Fresno stories that is difficult to believe. Did you know that Fresno is known across the United States for its topiary designs? That reputation is due largely to Cliff Finch's Zoo on Friant Road.

Topiary? Yes, topiary! You know, the art or practice of trimming and shaping plants into ornamental shapes. The shapes can be any object or geometric shape one can image. This art form has been documented since Pliny the younger (AD 62-110).

Not only is topiary an art form, but it's just plain funny! Cliff Finch's Zoo can help you create your own topiary design or they can grow one for you – house plant size to the size of an elephant.

You must drive out and see this place for yourself. It is a treat for the eyes – more so in the summer than in the winter, but topiary is just fine in the winter months also. Go check it out! Have fun! H-m-m-m, I wonder if they could create a giant topiary boule for FPC. H-m-m-m. ☺



L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE FRESNO

This organization has a mission of promoting French cultural activities and French language development. L'Alliance has a kindred spirit and obvious connection with pétanque. It was France after all that gave the world pétanque. If you would like to become a member of L'Alliance Française just send an e-mail to L'Alliance President, Colleen Mitchell (who is an FPC member) at ColleenM@CSUFresno.edu and ask her for details. Individual membership is \$30 a year and gives you free admission to the various presentations from local and visiting French scholars, artisans and academicians.

For more information browse the L'Alliance web site, www.affresno.org.

A New Year's Toast

“You're not as young as you used to be, but you're not as old as you're going to be. So take heart my friend, but watch it!” *Old Irish Toast*

USA PETANQUE SPOTLIGHT



Pétanque Louisianaise

http://www.lsu.edu/student_organizations/petanque_louisianaise/pages/players.htm

Petanque in Louisiana...it's a long French story that started in Canada in the 1700's. You remember those political science/history lessons about the English and French fighting over who owned what that eventually became America. The French lost that war and between their taking boat trips down the Mississippi and Napoleon Bonaparte's empire building they eventually got their hands on the area we call Louisiana. Come to think of it, the

Petanque Louisianaise members

U.S. bought this area from French in 1803 and we called that real estate transaction "The Louisiana Purchase." That's a long story to just say that even though Louisiana is in the Southern United States, there is a long historical connection to France in the South. Why do you think those Southern people love pastries, cakes and sweets so much? Come to think of it guess why Southern people use Darling, Dear, Honey and Sugar as nouns when addressing you. Yep! You got it, those French.



Anywhere you find a legacy of France you will

Louisiana State Flag

find our beloved pétanque. It is a given then that folks in Louisiana play boules. One such group (which is not affiliated with FPUSA) is Pétanque Louisianaise based at Louisiana State University (LSU). Their webpage is a bit dated, but word has that they still play boules. So, if ya'll find yourselves heading down to New Orleans or anywhere in Louisiana for that matter make sure you play boules with some of those good Southern folks while you are visiting. Eat some pie too!

Thomas Halloran was the founding member of this boules club. You can reach Thomas at thallo1@lsu.edu for more information on LSU petanque.

INTERNATIONAL PÉTANQUE – One World, One Game, One Boule



Canadian Pétanque Federation

<http://www.petanque.qc.ca/home.asp>

Speaking of the French in Canada – let's just say they love boules up there too. In fact, they are real serious about their boules and the French language. Their web site is in French and may be problematic for some of you, but you will get the gist of it. Many American boulistes travel to Canada and play in tournaments where they usually have high dollar first place prizes. That's a model for FPC to emulate when we start organizing larger tournaments.

RULES OF BOULES

ARTICLE 25 OF THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF PÉTANQUE - MEASURING BOULES



In every boulegame boules have to be measured to see who has the point. Here's what the rules say about measuring boules...

“The measuring of a point is done by the player/team who played the last boule or by one of his or her teammates.

The opponents still have the right to re-measure the point. Whatever positions the boule may hold, and at whatever stage the end may be, the umpire may be called to adjudicate and his or her decision is final.”

Bottom line: if you are in a game and the other team wants a boule measured, then hand them a tape measure to measure it if they threw the last boule.

United States Petanque Newsletter - FPUSA

During the past four months, Joe Martin, FPUSA President, has been discussing with FPC President Tim Channell, the possibility of he and Terry Bond taking over the editorial responsibilities for producing the quarterly national pétanque newsletter for Federation Pétanque USA. Just recently an agreement was reached and Tim and Terry will start working with the national federation on producing this quarterly newsletter for boulistes in the United States. This is a volunteer position. The first edition of the newsletter will be emailed to FPUSA members early this year.



“WIN OR LOSE YOU GET A HUG!”

Membership in the Fresno Pétanque Club is \$30 annually. For more information, contact Terry Bond at BouleFresno@yahoo.com . Visit us online at www.FresnoPetanque.com