

THE SCORE

OFFICIAL BOULES NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATION PÉTANQUE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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FPUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The FPUSA national board is composed of volunteer boulistes elected by the membership of the Federation. We thank these leaders for giving their valuable time to promote boules across the United States.

For a complete listing of FPUSA leaders, [CLICK HERE.](#)

PÉTANQUE: THE NEXT GENERATION

You have heard the mantra “it’s all about the kids.” Our actions have an impact on all our children. What the young learn today largely determines how they will think and act as adults.

Our children grow up and step into our proverbial shoes. They will sustain and nurture the things we started and taught them, or they will focus their efforts and thoughts elsewhere, while our dreams and hopes may become altered or abandoned.

What does this discussion about young people have to do with pétanque in America?

As leaders of our local and national pétanque communities we must redouble our efforts at creating a culture of pétanque

for the young, ranging all the way from less than 5 years to young adult.

By emulating local boules programs that have been



implemented we can repeat those successes in our own communities. Simultaneously we can stretch our creativity to develop new programs that assertively reach out to young Americans.

This youth outreach and programmatic redoubling effort will not be easy, and, like most community efforts, it will take many hours and many volunteers before we even begin to see results. Our efforts will also require us to become more vocal as ‘boules’ advocates for support from local governments and public and private sources.

This newsletter examines a few examples of successful youth outreach activities in pétanque communities across America from “boules in schools” in high schools and colleges, to family fun days with the baby boulers. Enjoy!

This is about our children, our sport, our future. We can do this! Let us begin now.

PRESIDENT’S POINT

Joe Martin, President, FPUSA



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We don’t often have a brand new program to introduce, but here is a fun one, the Club Assistance Committee. Prompted by suggestions from our players, this committee was formed to come up with ideas to help clubs promote themselves and help new players.

Popular ideas under consideration by Chairman Dan

Danielson, Chicago club President, FPUSA board member and Webmaster, and John Harris, Oakhurst club player and FPUSA board member, are starter boules sets, and helping a new club buy its first banner to put up while playing, using some FPUSA developed templates for banners and websites.

Ideas are being gathered for presentation to the FPUSA board along with a proposed budget. When approved, it will mean some FPUSA dollars will flow to the clubs to help promote Pétanque in very practical ways.

Ideas you’d like considered? Contact Dan via e-mail at [dan@chicagopetanque.com](mailto:dan@chicagopetanque.com)

## BUILDING AMERICAN PETANQUE ONE YOUTH AT A TIME

## LA PÉTANQUE AND YOUTH - SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA: 2003 TO 2009



CHRISTINE LEMOR-DRAKE  
Member, Pétanque Marinière  
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I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1990. Soon after my arrival, I became very involved in many French associations in San Francisco. I had heard about the numerous local pétanque clubs, but never attended, thinking that, in France, the game is primarily played by retired French people.

In 2002, the Alliance Française organized a day of pétanque for its members at the San Francisco Pétanque Club, La Boule d'or. At that time, I had 2 young sons who were attending the French-American International School of San Francisco, a pre k-12th grade school with over 1,000 students. My sons and I attended the La Boule d'or pétanque demonstration. We had a great time playing pétanque and I saw that boules were not just for retired people. I decided to do whatever I could to bring some younger players to the San Francisco and Marin pétanque clubs.

My sons and I joined both clubs. I discussed youth and pétanque with the presidents of both clubs and also discussed the idea with Louis Toulon, the boules importer. They were all very enthusiastic about my interest and offered their technical help, as my

sons and I were very new players to boules. During the months following that meeting, I started slowly formulating a plan to introduce boules into my son's school through a boules tournament.

To make that first tournament more fun, a friend and I designed a T-shirt for the event: "Pétanque du LIFA, Tu tires ou tu pointes, that is the question" and by May 2003, the plans were finalized for the first boules



YOUTH TOURNAMENT — LA BOULE D'OR CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO

tournament at my son's school. The tournament was open to the whole school community, including students, parents and staff. We held the tournament in San Francisco's beautiful Golden Gate Park on the Boule d'or pétanque terrain. One hundred people participated in that tournament and they all had a great time.

Some of the participants even joined the Boule d'or club. To make the tournament even better, the month before our event, Josseline Krauer,

Jean Krauer and Louis Toulon organized a boules demonstration for children on the Marin Pétanque Marinière terrain located just north of San Francisco. These two events gave a big boost for getting children in the Bay area involved in boules. People loved both events.

We kept organizing and spreading the word of pétanque and almost one year later, in April 2004, after a vote of the entire club membership, that day was proclaimed "Pétanque Initiation Day."

For some time, we had been discussing expanding our school tournament idea and in May 2004, we organized the first "Pétanque des écoles", a tournament with the communities of three French schools in San Francisco and Berkeley, l'école Bilingue de Berkeley, the Lycée La Pérouse and the French-American International School of San Francisco in Marin. We added food and a trophy to this tournament. Thirty people participated in the event and like our first tournament, some of those participants officially joined our boules



Josseline and Jean Krauer

clubs. We used the same T-shirt at this event, but changed the color and modified the slogan to "Pétanque des écoles, Tu tires ou tu pointes, that is the question."

The exciting thing is that some of the families at the Berkeley school have started playing pétanque regularly. At the Lycée International Franco -

américain of San Francisco, pétanque started to regularly appear at the Lower School pique-nique and annual sport event. Every year now, for the past five years, the three schools have competed in a boules tournament for the first place trophy. At every one of these tournaments more than one hundred people have participated. There were different families each time.

#### MAKING BOULES PART OF SCHOOL

In 2005, pétanque became a part of one of the school's curriculum. Today, pétanque training is part of the Physical Education program for the Middle School of the French-American International School. All the 7th graders, averaging about 50 students, go twice a year with their sport teachers to the Boule d'or Terrain, where the Krauers and the Nielsens teach them the game of boules.

We are not ones to stop something we started, so, our new idea is to form an informal school club where parents, staff and students can get their license and meet occasionally to boule. Our goal is to get these parents in downtown San Francisco, to the Civic Center Plaza and eventually have them participate in other club tournaments.

It's one step at a time, but the first steps have already been made and the boules is rolling. Go, boules, go....

**Editor's Note:** Christine Lemor-Drake is a member of the La Pétanque Marinière Club. She also is an associate member of the Boule d'or, San Francisco Club and the Petaluma Club. Christine says she talks more about pétanque than she plays. You can reach Christine via e-mail, [Christine@appletpomme.com](mailto:Christine@appletpomme.com)

#### The Toolbox

### PAINTING A PICTURE OF BOULES

PAUL KOS

MEMBER, LA BOULES DAWGS,  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA IN ATHENS

Pétanque is a great teaching tool: one that I am using in the art program at the University of Georgia in Athens (UGA) and for many years before that at the San Francisco Art Institute.

Last year, as the Dodd Chair, an honorary position in the Lamar Dodd School of Art at the University of Georgia, I bought all the graduate art students pétanque balls and the university even built us a pétanque terrain. UGA is the home of the famous football team, the "Bull Dawgs". Accordingly, we are the "La Boule Dawgs", numbering about 20 active artists/players.

Pétanque teaches my art students about perseverance, practice, and perception. I tell my new students each semester a boules story which provides a good analogy to art making. *Napoleon took his artillery gunner into a field and asked him to hit a target some 100 meters away. The nervous recruit fired a shot which fell short, "No problem, but compensate when you fire again" said Napoleon. The recruit fired again, this time long. "No problem, but now that you have the long and short of it, fire again and you should not miss" said Napoleon while holding a pistol to the recruit's head. Voila, un careaux!* In art making, when one is "out of shape", one tends to copy one's last successful work and make no advance, as if shooting short like we sometime find in boules. Another attempt, this one goes too long, not seen by the artist nor by the viewer, too long, too far even to be called good avant garde. The third attempt



should be right ON. If an artist can make one in three great pieces, that is a good percent. Taking my art students onto a terrain for a game of pétanque allows me to put theory into practice. Pointing and shooting: *short, long, on!* is the basis for how the student's art work can be engaging and fun, but requires rigorous practice to become excellent. The game of art, and boules, have much in common.

Last spring we played the Stone Mountain Pétanque Club in Atlanta. Their youngest player was about 65 and their oldest and one of the best was 94. This past

October 18<sup>th</sup>, we co-hosted a small tournament against the French Consulate from Atlanta at our off campus terrain in Athens. This community involvement and regular pétanque practice by my art students is making their art better and giving them a connection to their community.

"Boules in Schools" is a goal we should pursue across the United States. Based on my experience, when pétanque is an integrated part of a university art program, the art students are more centered, focused, and better artists.

**Editor's Note:** Paul Kos is a Professor of Art at the University of Georgia. He has been playing pétanque off and on for about 35 years, the last two years quite seriously. Paul is a member of La Boule Dawgs club, Athens, GA. and La Boule d'or club, San Francisco, CA. You can reach Paul via e-mail at [paulkos@mindspring.com](mailto:paulkos@mindspring.com)



Art Students, University of Georgia in Athens

**"Boules in Schools" is a primary goal we should pursue across the United States.**

## DEVELOPING A “BOULES IN SCHOOLS” PROGRAM

With dozens of sports available to students in high school, the overriding question for pétanque aficionados is how to get youth interested in pétanque. The answer may not be as elusive as it appears. The following article is an account of a successful pétanque program begun in the Eugene, Oregon high school system.

Pétanque is played in four high schools in the Eugene, Oregon school district. You may recall from the spring 2009 issue of “The Score” ([click here](#)), we read of their successful effort to build a permanent pétanque terrain at Marist High School. This story continues the discussion on Eugene pétanque and describes the beginning of their “boules in schools” program. It is a story you can and should duplicate in your community, too.



### High School Pétanque in Eugene – An Unplanned Success

by Michael Stasack, President - Eugene, Oregon Pétanque Club

Pétanque in the Eugene, Oregon school system is becoming more and more successful. It has not always that way though. Taking that initial step in any endeavor always is the most difficult move. After reflecting on the possibility of starting “Boules in Schools” in Oregon, I decided to take that fateful first step.

#### STARTING SMALL

The Eugene high school boules league started as a cultural enrichment activity for students in my French classes. To add excitement to the French Club, I introduced boules to the students and set a schedule for games. These students soon developed the desire to challenge others in pétanque skill while enjoying French language repartee. A pétanque club was born.



[CLICK HERE](#)

I contacted other high school French teachers in the district and proposed the idea of a friendly pétanque league.

Students would get outside, learn more about the French culture they studied, practice their French, and simultaneously connect with students

across the district that had similar interests. We soon were able to get recognized as a club sport allowing



The Next Generation of Oregon Pétanque

students to earn a varsity letter in pétanque!

#### GROWING THROUGH OUTREACH

There was much success with the French students, but to form a consistent and lasting structure for a competitive league more players were needed. Participation in pétanque was opened up to all students resulting in a more diverse and interesting group of suitable size.

Since then, recruiting players has been

done through school language classes, announcements, club fair days, assemblies, newsletters, and word of

mouth. But the best recruiting tool I use is to simply have newcomers play boules. This is where they learn how easy and rewarding the game can be. Once a year as a cultural activity, we take our French language students outside to learn about the joy and challenge of this special sport.

PE classes get involved sometimes too.

#### BUILDING COMMUNITY

The true success of the Eugene public school league has been due to the selfless involvement of four teachers from different high schools who thought it might be fun to help students connect with something new. Although none of us was a pétanque aficionado, we all felt pétanque was a great venue to bring students together. It offers a

friendly, low cost, outdoor activity that can be easy and challenging, all with a manageable time commitment from players and unpaid coaches. Not to be overlooked is the small bit of status the students feel, many who have never played a sport. All of a sudden, with no tryouts or cuts, they belong to a sanctioned group with uniforms and trophies — not to mention they get some release time to attend state championship tournaments.

**A MATTER OF SPACE AND TIME**

Securing a place to play near the school was important. Softball fields were used in the offseason (fall), but in the spring the pétanque players were moved to a grassy area, until we successfully negotiated for our own time on the softball fields.

Now that the program is established and



**Maris High School Terrain, Eugene, Oregon**

one school has built a permanent terrain, it is less of a time commitment for teachers/coaches. Designing and ordering uniforms remains one of the bigger tasks. Getting help from a parent or adult pétanque club members, and keeping designs simple can help with this

chore. Overall, time spent with the students can be kept to 2 to 3 hours per week. There will always be the need for one point person to take a larger role in organizing

the program grows the more volunteers and time that are needed to sustain the growth and participation.



**Rising Stars of Oregon Pétanque**

the fall and spring schedules, tournaments, league rules, communications, et al. This is a management issue easily resolved with the help of other volunteers.

**CHALLENGES**

Our teachers have seen that when students graduate they want to continue to compete in pétanque while at college. Formal college pétanque programs do not exist in the U.S. Without a local boules club in the college town where students enroll, they typically don't continue to play boules. Most college freshmen don't have the initiative to start a new pétanque program on their own.

To recruit younger players, we considered taking pétanque to middle schools and the community sports league. But the middle schools do not all have French programs which would provide an obvious point person and the community sport league has no true infrastructure from which to start a whole new sport. Moreover, the larger

Recently, we even presented our program at two state conferences for foreign language teachers, but despite the interest and praise, no other programs have been developed. We remain undeterred.

**COMMITMENT**

Growing the sport of pétanque in Eugene has demanded a significant commitment of time from teachers, coaches and students. It is time that has produced positive results for Oregon pétanque. Since 1998 we have had over 700 students participate and we now have an adult league in the City of Eugene that has tripled in size in the first year.

Each year new students learn pétanque who may one day return to the piste to enjoy their childhood pastime. Who knows? These students may one day also start a pétanque program in their community or even their school.

**Editor's Note:** *Monsieur Mike, as he is known to his students, has taught French in Eugene, Oregon since 1992. Mike believes in teaching pétanque, not just as a sport, but as a lifelong activity. He is the founder of the Eugene Pétanque International Club. E-mail: [stasack@4j.lane.edu](mailto:stasack@4j.lane.edu)*

## BOULES BABIES: A FAMILY AFFAIR

Carol Marcus



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On July 19, 2009, the Los Angeles Pétanque Club hosted its first ever entirely free Family Day event, including a three game Panache Triplette in the

There were gifts as prizes for the Panache Triplette, and all nine children who participated in the afternoon Round Robin tournaments received a medal. All players, whether adult or child, received a T-shirt.

We reserved two of our eleven courts for teaching, and Bruce Marcus and Diana Jacobs were our instructors. They seemed to have as much fun as the children! While our initial plan was to

There are always surprises at such an event, of course. Two-and-a-half year old Audrey Rothenberg brought her parents to Family Day, along with her "baby" boules. Little Jean Pizzella brought his parents as well, but had no boules. He and Audrey immediately hit it, off, and played their own game of "pétanque", using their own concoction of rules (FPUSA cover your eyes!). Later, when Jean's father Pierre was throwing a boule during the



It's All In The Family

morning, free barbecue lunch with a pot luck dessert bar, instruction for kids and adults in the morning, and a special kids' Round Robin tournament to top off the afternoon. The children were divided into three groups based upon age for their tournaments. The morning Triplette players had pick-up games in the afternoon after a leisurely lunch.

Instead of the 24-36 players who usually sign up, we had 42 players for the Panache Triplette, while another half dozen of our usual players ran the tournaments, taught the kids and adults, took photos, and helped cook. Another 30 or so family members came, about twelve of whom were children. Registration, along with croissants, pastries, and coffee, began at 8:30 AM. All told, we had 75-80 fun-loving folks show up, the weather was warm but not oppressive, and the play went from 9:30 until the last diehards dragged off the piste at 5:00 in the afternoon.

have a Panache Doublette, we had too many players for the nine remaining courts and therefore switched to a Triplette. This turned out to be a good choice also because some family members who knew how to play pétanque, but weren't too good, got to play with two other players who were better.

We had a fantastic day. While we worried that the children might not behave well, and might fight, or complain, or cry, or get bored, nothing of the sort happened. The kids were extremely well behaved all day. They appeared to have a wonderful time. The most common criticism we received from our members was "Why haven't we done this before?"

In the event that another Club wants to do something similar, we recommend a format for the day such as the one we chose. It was relaxed and everyone seemed happy.



Baby Boulers In The Warm California

morning tournament, little Jean simultaneously threw out one of his "baby" boules. He was only a couple of meters from the cochonnet, and nearly took the point! I heard most of their conversation, but some of the words were garbled. I think Audrey was saying, "Merde!, Jean. Quit complaining because I only have pointing boules. Bring your own shooter's boules next time!"

**Editorial note:** Carol Marcus is the secretary of the Los Angeles Pétanque Club. She is active in the FPUSA. You can reach Carol at [csmarcus@ucla.edu](mailto:csmarcus@ucla.edu)

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

This is the time of year FPUSA member clubs across the United States send out membership renewal notices. You will receive one soon.

\$15 of your membership money is used by FPUSA to sponsor national tournaments, buy supplies, pay international pétanque membership fees, and serve as seed funds to help new clubs get started. Membership

renewal monies over \$15 stay in your local club.

Your membership is a great bargain. It gives you friends, social activities and boules. Please take a few minutes now to renew your membership. It's good for you, and U.S. boules. We thank you for your continued support of our national Federation. Here's to 2010. We'll see on the pistes. Have fun.



YES, here's my  
2010 FPUSA  
Renewal.

[Click here](#) to  
find your club.

## ASK THE UMPIRE

Christophe Chambers, FPUSA Umpire



Member-LaBoule New Yorkaise  
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As the pétanque season draws to a close for many of us, I thought that I would touch on a few items I have gleaned from the past year. Also — if Santa has a new set of boules on his list, I'll provide some helpful hints on how he can choose what's right for you.

**From the Rule Book** — A frequently asked question this season: *What if both team's boules are touching the jack?* **Article 29** of the rules states: If two boules are touching the jack, the end is declared void if there are no more boules to be played. The jack is then thrown again by the team that last put it into play. If both teams have boules, the team that played the last boule plays again, then the other team, alternately, until a boule is holding the point. If only one team has boules left, it plays them, and can score points if the tie is broken and they win the point.

**From the Tournament Desk** — We saw lots of new faces this year at our tournaments. Some of you may not be familiar with requirements often associated with participating in these events. One example: always

remember to wear closed toed shoes when participating in a tournament. A boule dropped on a toe can certainly get your attention. Sandals & flip



-flops are not allowed in most competitions. Banned as well are smoking or drinking alcohol on or off the courts while playing a game during a competition.

**From the Pro Shop** — Finally, choosing the right boule for your game. As in any other sport, in pétanque, as your proficiency level grows, your equipment can make a difference. Here are the basics: A pointer's boules tend to be heavier. Heavier boules are easier to control. *720g - 740g is a good weight if you're going to be pointing.* Shooters normally want a lighter boule. Shooting with a heavier

boule can really tire your arm out. *If you're going to be shooting more, look in the 680g - 710g range.* Size of your boule also matters. You want a size that best matches

your hand. Too small and your hand will grip the boule too tightly. Too large, and your thumb will interfere with your throw. Check out other players sizes and feel for what's right for you. Pattern is another option. Mainly an aesthetic choice, some say that lines on the boule can help in turning the ball from right to left, or left to right. Other considerations are stainless (won't rust) or carbon. Hardness of the boule is also a factor. A softer boule has less rebound, making it an ideal shooter's boule. Combine all of these choices and you have a wide range of customization options. And there is nothing like playing with a boule that is "fitted" to your playing style. Visit [petanqueamerica.com](http://petanqueamerica.com) for more information on the choices available to you. I'll see you all on the courts.

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"Sandals and flip-flops are not allowed in most competitions."

FPUSA



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FEDERATION OF PÉTANQUE U.S.A., Inc. is the official governing body of the sport of pétanque in the United States. We are a non-profit federation of pétanque clubs which has, as its primary objective, the growth, promotion and organization of the sport of pétanque in America.

FPUSA is the United States member of International Federation of Pétanque and Jeu Provençal (FIPJP). The FPUSA acts as a liaison between all pétanque players and all pétanque clubs in the United States and throughout the world.

OUR NATIONAL FOCUS IS...

- ⇒ To grow the sport of pétanque in America and raise the awareness of the American public to the sport, and to stimulate creation of new FPUSA clubs, individuals and independent members.
- ⇒ To introduce pétanque to public and private educational institutions throughout the nation.
- ⇒ To promote competition and championships at all levels; Regional, State, National and International, for men, women, juniors, and senior citizens.
- ⇒ To encourage community groups, the U.S Parks Service and the Park and Recreation Departments of cities to develop pétanque courts in their parks.
- ⇒ To publicize pétanque in sport magazines, radio and television, local newspapers and special videos.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The holiday season is a time for thoughtful reflection. A time for greater appreciation of the people and things we have in our lives. This holiday season we ask that you thank the pétanque players in your club for their continued support of pétanque, and their continued involvement in community activities your club has engaged in during 2009.

Happy Holidays from the officers and directors of the FPUSA.