



JULY BOULES NEWSLETTER

FPC Tops the List - Largest Pétanque Club in the United States

FPUSA National Board of Directors reviewed the 2009 national club membership records during their Board meeting in Lafayette, California. Fresno Pétanque Club was at the top of the list for having the most club members. Congratulations FPC. Currently, FPC has 130 members, and still growing.



Achieving number #1 status is nice, but numbers alone are not the goal. We are growing a dynamic organization that brings joy to the lives of Fresnans, adds a little bit of Europe to Fresno, and improves the overall quality of life in our community. FPC is about community, not numbers. The only way we achieved this record number of members was through the club's vigorous community outreach. In other words, FPC achieved this milestone because of YOU.

Thank you for your commitment to our boules club, to growing a community of pétanque in Fresno, and for bringing your friends and family to Cary Park for a few games of boules. The future looks very bright for our club.

"Baseball And Boules" - FPC supporting Fresno



FPC ~ On The Marquee!

Twenty-eight (28) members of FPC recently turned out to support Grizzlies Baseball at Chukchansi Stadium in downtown Fresno at the second annual "Baseball and Boules" outing.

We started the evening with dinner at Hero's Sport Grille on Van Ness Ave. After stuffing ourselves on pizza and beer, we waddled the three short blocks to the baseball stadium. We had a great time sitting along the first base line idling away the evening with friends and conversation. It was a beautiful night to take ourselves out to the ballpark and show our community support and spirit.

Everyone knows that Grizzlies mascot, Parker, is loved by all. Just ask him! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-whGWXzmAw&feature=related>



FPC had a special guest with us during the evening, Anna Topp, who was visiting from Muenster, Germany. This was Anna's first baseball game. She even got a **Parker - Grizzlies Mascot** t-shirt from Parker to take home to Germany! Anna said she had a great time even though the home team lost.

Anna scores a Parker t-shirt! the U.S. Patrick?



Our "Baseball and Boules" evening ended with a gathering for dessert and champagne. Staying with tradition, we made a short drive over to Tim and Terry's house in the Old Huntington Historic District (near downtown). It was a good old American way to spend a summer evening. We will look forward to "Baseball and Boules" next July. Maybe the Grizzlies will hold on to win that game. ☺

Terry serves up Strawberry and Buttercream Cake

FPUSA Leadership

The Federation Pétanque USA is tasked with developing a national pétanque organization. As with most organizations, growing a dynamic organization requires special committees. Joe Martin, FPUSA President (member, Portland, Oregon Pétanque Club), recently appointed FPC Board member Paul Yang as a member of a national Federation management committee. Joe's nomination of Paul was confirmed by the FPUSA national board and Paul has already begun working with the 3 member committee.



Joe Martin FPC thanks Paul for representing our club at the national federation level. We also appreciate his service to the United States pétanque community. Merci beaucoup, Paul.

Paul Yang

"Leadership is not only about ideas. It's about showing up. It's about realizing that the organization depends on you. It's about being there when you would rather be sleeping in one morning. It's about being committed to a cause or effort that requires your continual presence, and that ultimately makes your life and others better.

General George Patton – 1945

How Legends Begin

There are those moments in life when we say “*I can’t believe it.*” Recently, during a Tuesday night of boules, new member Wilbert Rimper, was about to toss his boule when a dove alighted on his shoulder. You can image everyone’s surprise, especially Wilbert’s. We stared at the dove thinking it would fly away any moment. Wilbert went on bowling while the dove watched Wilbert’s pointing style, perched right there on his shoulder.



Wilbert Rimper and his friend

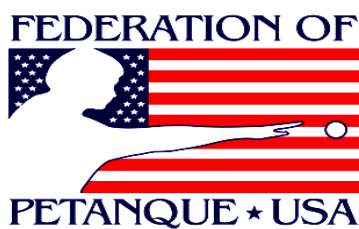
say this was a sign of good luck. Maybe it is. Keep us posted if you encounter an abundance of good luck, Wilbert.

Five minutes passed, then fifteen. Before we knew it, thirty minutes had lapsed and the dove remained. The only movement it made was walking from one shoulder to the other on Wilbert’s back. The dove was affixed to Wilbert.

It wasn’t long before onlookers began to whisper, Wilbert, *the bird man*. Some think Wilbert’s new nickname will be “Wilbird.” Most mythology would

Paul Yang ended up taking the bird home to add to his family’s collection of critters.

FPUSA National Championship



Federation Pétanque USA (FPUSA) recently sponsored the U.S. Pétanque Men’s, Women’s and Mixed National Championship in Lafayette, California. The tournament was hosted by the Lamorinda Pétanque Club. Over 125 tournament registrations were made for the tournaments. Fresno had the largest delegation registered in this tournament coming in at twenty three (23) boulers. Thanks to all members who represented FPC in this national tournament.

Congratulations to Raymond and Pim Nielsen - concours winner, Mixed Doublette Championship; Raymond Nielsen and Alain Guisella – concours winner, Men’s Doublette Championship; Pim Nielsen and Antonia Chavez – concours winner, Women’s Doublette Championship.



Our club had a number of members in the winner’s circle too. Jer and By (pronounced Bee), concours 3rd place – Men’s Championship; John and Tish, concours 3rd place – Mixed Championship; Richard Starkey and Jimmie Simpson, consolante 3rd place – Men’s Championship; Terry and Diane,

consolante 1st place – Women’s Championship; Mary Jane and Joyce, consolante 2nd place – Women’s Championship.

This was the first national championship for many FPC boulers. We now have an insider’s view on what a National Championship is like and how we need to prepare for the next one in 2010. Hopefully, our club will have fifty (50) boulers in the 2010 National Championship.



FPC In The News

KVPT-TV Channel 18 recently visited our club and recorded a 2 minute segment that will be broadcast three times a day, every day, in August. Take a look at the video, <http://www.kvpt.org/community/vs.php>

FPC Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 16, 9 a.m.: FPC Birthday Party at Cary Park. Our club celebrates its two-year anniversary as an official FPUSA boules club. Come join us for cake and merriment as we celebrate each other and the great Fresno club we all have created. Happy Birthday FPC!

Saturday/Sunday, September 5-6: Annual Emil Furlan Pétanque Tournament in the Sacramento area, Select Mixed Triplette. FPC has participated in this tournament the last two years. It is a great boules tournament held in a walnut orchard along the Yuba River. Look at your calendar and consider representing FPC in this tournament. FPC coordinators of this event are Jimmie and Joyce Simpson. For more detail you can reach them via e-mail at Joyce.Simpson@gmail.com or by phone at 431-5944.

Sunday, September 13: FPC’s annual “Fresno First” mixed triplette panache tournament. This will be an all day event and we are expecting a large turnout. 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. Registration material will be e-mailed to you soon. Coffee, croissants, lunch and water will be included in the registration fee. For more information speak with Carl, Karen, or Paul. There will be prizes for tournament winners.

Sunday, September 27: FPUSA Southwest Regional Mixed Triplette Championship. Hosted by the Oakhurst Pétanque Club. Registration details will be e-mailed soon.

F P C Member Profile

This month’s FPC member profile is on Jer Thao. Jer brings a positive spirit to our pétanque club. He is an extraordinary bouler possessing an amazing shooting ability as well as pointing style. You never know if Jer is going to point or shoot when he steps into the circle. His style looks the same with both techniques. It is only when the ball leaves his hand that you know what tactic he is using.

How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?

Well a few years back, Paul Yang introduced pétanque to me, and to a few other people at our apartment complex. I started to play pétanque then off and on. After everyone who



Jer Thao

knew how to play pétanque moved out of that complex, I stop playing. But when Paul told me about the Fresno Pétanque Club, I just had to come and check it out. When I came and played with the club the very first time, I like it and decided to join. After that I start to regularly play pétanque once again.

What brought you to Fresno?

I came from Laos to Thailand and from Thailand to the U.S. This was over 20 years ago. I first lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I have spent the majority of my years in the U.S. Then I moved to North Carolina for a while where I got elected to be the new Secretary of our Church Organization. This is what brought me to Fresno, California. I have live in Fresno for almost 6 years.

What is your profession?

I am a Church leader and am studying religion so I can become a minister.

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

Most people in Fresno do not know about us boulistes playing at Cary Park with Fresno Pétanque Club. When people find out about pétanque in Cary Park, they are surprised. I think pétanque is one of the best hidden gems in Fresno.

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

When I was young, I liked to play volleyball, soccer and some other sports, too. So, I guess you could say I like sports in general.

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

I am a religious person. I hope to one day go back to Laos as a missionary and tell them about Jesus Christ.

**NEW FPC MEMBERS – Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members
Obie Silverwood, Wilbert Rimper, and Willard Smith**

Boules as Art

A boule has artistic qualities and is a marvel of engineering. It is a mathematical equation and yet something quite simple. Just a ball. A spherical, stainless, striated orb. A hard, unyielding, steel ball that brings joy to people's lives. What an odd combination of characteristics a boule possesses. Its physical qualities almost seeming incongruous with joy, but there you have it. Hard ART. Art with a purpose. Utilitarian art. In a current exhibit called "Boule to Braid," the Lisson Gallery in London, England cleverly connects disparate art works. One art work in the exhibit is our lovely boule.

This is a fun story for you. Click the first link below and listen to comments on this exhibit.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/audio/2009/aug/03/boule-to-braid-private-view?popup=true>

While listening to the audio, click this second link and scroll through some of the art works. Have fun.
http://www.lissongallery.com/#/exhibitions/2009-06-24_boule-to-braid-curated-by-richard-wentworth/

Supporting Our Fresno Community



CENTRAL FISH MARKET

OLD CHINATOWN
1535 Kern St
237-2049

Old Chinatown, near downtown Fresno, was once a large and thriving community of Americans of Japanese descent. In 1950, Akira Yokomi started the Central Fish Market.

Akira and his wife, Nofuko Yokomi, were known as a couple that would never take a day off; tirelessly working seven days a week as well as contributing to various associations. Since opening, Central Fish has built a reputation of being Fresno's finest fish market. His family has taken over the business and continues to preserve Akira's on-going legacy.

If you would like a little dose of Japan in Fresno, then you need to stop by Central Fish Market. Yes, they sell fish. Lots of fish. They also sell Japanese household supplies and have a restaurant on the premises. If you are a vegetarian, stop by anyway, and take a look at all the things they sell that are uniquely Japanese. You will enjoy the visit.

USA Petanque Spotlight



Sacramento Pétanque Club

Club Francais de Sacramento

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

California is so fortunate to have more than a dozen pétanque clubs. By any measure, it is easy to say California is the heart of pétanque in America. This is partly due to our beautiful weather and generally to a diverse international population.

The Sacramento Pétanque Club, is one of the stars of California pétanque. This club has an affable group of boulistes who host many tournaments for California boulistes. One of California's most loved boules tournaments, Emile Furlan Memorial Tournament, is organized by the Sacramento Club. This memorial tournament is played in a walnut orchard owned by the late Emile Furlan. Emile loved pétanque. When he passed away, it just seemed like organizing an annual Labor Day tournament in his name was the right thing to do. So, the Sacramento Club got involved in this tournament and today it is a California Classic attracting almost one hundred boulistes.

If you have plans for being in Sacramento, give Sacramento Club President, Colette Evans a telephone call at (916) 362-0509 or e-mail: mrevans1@pacbell.net.

International Pétanque - One World, One Game, One Boule



AUSTRALIAN PÉTANQUE

<http://www.petanqueaustralia.com/>

Pétanque Down Under – Boules is growing quickly in Australia. Currently, they have forty-nine pétanque clubs and 1300 licensed members. More clubs and members are expected to be added this year.

PETANQUE AUSTRALIA

The Australian Pétanque Federation is their national governing body and their web page is a good source of boules information if you want to boules while you are in Australia. Take a look at the Prospect Pétanque Club (<http://www.prospectpetanque.com.au/>) and the Camberwell Club (<http://pisteup.googlepages.com/home>) to get a flavor of boules down under.

Rules Of Boules



Is It My Turn To Boule?

International Rules of Pétanque, Article 15

This is an easy rule to remember. If the first boule played goes out of play, the opposing team then plays their first boule. If that boule goes out of play, the teams alternate play as long as there are no boules in play.

"Just remember that if you're not working at your game to the utmost of your ability, there will be someone out there somewhere with equal ability who is. And one day you'll play each other, and she'll have the advantage.

Bill Bradley



WHO STARTED THIS TRADITION ANYWAY?

Photography Credits: Thanks to George Bedrossian, Joyce Simpson, and Terry Bond 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.