



# Fresno Pétanque Club

## July/August Newsletter

Tim Channell: 559/264-0695

**Help us Grow:** Tim and Terry started Fresno Pétanque Club in March 2007. Slowly, but surely, over the past few months they continued to grow interests and membership in the club. This past month ten new boulers joined with Tim and Terry on various Tuesday evenings to play pétanque with our regular Fresno players. Help us continue to grow our club. If you know someone who might enjoy boules then forward this newsletter to them. Better yet, one Tuesday evening bring a friend along with you for a few games.

**Club Formation Business Meeting and Pot Luck:** On Tuesday, August 14 at 6 p.m., we will have a soiree and potluck at Terry and Tim's home to discuss formal affiliation with the Federation Petanque USA (FPUSA). This is an important meeting so I hope all Fresno boulers can attend. If you want to be a charter member of the Fresno Petanque Club you don't want to miss this meeting.

There are several important reasons to affiliate with FPUSA. One is to enlarge the U.S. pétanque family (national organization). Other important reasons are that once affiliated our club would be covered by a one million dollar liability policy provided by FPUSA, and club members can officially play in all sanctioned FPUSA tournaments. These tournaments are great fun and you get to meet interesting people in the larger pétanque family from California, and elsewhere.

In order to affiliate with FPUSA we must have a minimum of 8 dues paying members and elect a board of directors. Members pay an annual ten dollar membership fee to FPUSA. And, we will need to decide if there will be an additional membership for our Fresno Club. Tim then will take a digital photo of each member that must be sent to FPUSA for your membership card.

Lastly, if you plan on attending the meeting please bring a food dish, dessert and/or wine. The last social we had was a big hit so we will have fun while conducting pétanque business.

If we have time after the business meeting, we will go over to Holmes Playground for a few games of boules. I hope to see you at this important club meeting. Give me a telephone call if you have any questions about the meeting.

**Past Road Trips and Future Road Trips:** July 14, ten Fresno boulers made the road trip up to Oakhurst for a Saturday morning of boules with the Oakhurst Petanque Club. They were happy to see us. The combined total of boulers that Saturday was forty-one. Seeing that many people playing pétanque at once is a delightful sight.

Future joint club meet ups are already being discussed and Oakhurst is planning another road trip to boule with us one upcoming Tuesday evening.



*Oakhurst and Fresno Petanque Club Members*

The Oakhurst Pétanque Club (<http://www.oakhurstpetanque.org/>) started 8 years ago. They have about 70 members and an outstanding group of pétanque players. The origin of this club is an interesting story.

Way back in 1999, a few friends in Oakhurst wanted to have an internationally themed party. So they conducted a bit of research and decided that their party should focus on France. You probably have guessed by this point, but while conducting their research they came across this odd French game called pétanque. The more research they did the more they wanted to find out about pétanque.



*Oakhurst boulers: (l-r) Ron, Richard, Tim, John, Nathan and Mark*

Eventually, they invited Max LaGrande, president of the Los Angeles Petanque Club, to Oakhurst for help on building a pétanque piste. Their first piste was in the yard of club president Jan Claire. Their expanding club membership grew out of that small venue quickly. Fortunately, they worked out a long term land agreement with the Oakhurst Boys and Girls Club for a

permanent pétanque home. The Boys and Girls Club agreed to lease a small parcel of land to the Oakhurst Pétanquers for \$12 a year. With the muscle power and sweat labor of their club membership, the Oakhurst Club built a great pétanque piste. Since then, they have hosted large regional pétanque tournaments and dozens of local tournaments. Their determination and leadership are a guiding light for

other pétanque clubs that have followed in their tracks. Recently they started planning a second piste and will soon have two places to boule. **So, bravo and a big thank you to the Oakhurst Petanque Club and its great leadership team over the years! Job well done!**

**July 15**, the Fresno Petanque Club bouled at the Bastille Day Celebration sponsored by L'Alliance Française de Fresno.

Our club had a great turnout and many people in the L'Alliance joined us in a few games of boules. We even recruited a few new boulers.

This Sunday event was held at the Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club. It was a beautiful day to celebrate the greatness of the grand republic of France.



*Bastille Day Celebration Boulers*

Thanks to Jim Cardella - L'Alliance President, for inviting our pétanque club to their celebration. We invite members of L'Alliance to join us each week as we boule and celebrate the great French game of pétanque.



*L to R - Deb Lapp and Bastille Day Celebration boulers*

**Coming up August 12**, the Los Angeles Pétanque Club will host an informal triplete panache tournament. They invited both the Oakhurst and Fresno Clubs down for a weekend of boules.

If you are interested in attending this tournament, I can give you a list of inexpensive hotels near the LA pétanque piste and directions on how to get to the tournament.

Do you want to go to this tournament in LA? Let me know, soon.

**September 1-2 (Labor Day Weekend)**, the Emile Furlan Invitational Tournament will take place in Knights Landing (near Woodland, CA, near Sacramento). The Fresno Petanque Club has been invited to participate in this annual tournament. The tournament is located in a natural setting that easily looks like it is in the South of France. Tournament play is in a walnut orchard which overlooks a river delta. You should plan on going to this tournament with us. The Sacramento Club de Française (sponsoring tournament club) is organizing a superb French dinner for tournament players on Saturday evening, September 1. The dinner will cost \$22. Do you want to boule in this tournament as a club? Let me know, soon. Carpooling to this tournament is a transportation option.

During the Furlan tournament, you can tent camp or park your RV in the walnut orchard at no cost. If you would rather stay in a motel here are a few inexpensive lodges near the tournament site...

Days Inn, Woodland  
[www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)  
1524 East Main Street  
Woodland, CA 95776 US  
\$64 - \$84  
(530) 666-3800

Motel 6  
[www.motel6.com](http://www.motel6.com)  
1564 East Main Street  
Woodland, CA 95776  
\$53 - \$56.99  
(530)666-6777

Quality Inn  
[www.qualityinn.com](http://www.qualityinn.com)  
1562 E. Main St.  
Woodland, CA, US, 95776  
\$77 - \$152  
(530) 666-3050

It would be great if our Petanque Club could send up a number of boulers to compete in the Furlan Tournament. So be thinking about it.

**Fresno's Permanent Petanque Home:** The Fresno Petanque Club started about 3 months ago and from the beginning has been bouling at its temporary location in Holmes Playground near downtown Fresno. All the while, club boulers have been discussing and looking for a permanent pétanque home. So, I want to give you an update on all the options we are pursuing in that regard...

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET) in Downtown Fresno** – As many of you know, the MET is undergoing a major construction overhaul/expansion. Robert Boro, Fresno Club bouler, is helping the MET with landscape design. He is also in the process of convincing the museum leadership that the open lot behind the new museum should be turned into a pétanque court. The area measures about 100



feet by 40 feet. Even if Bob convinces the museum leadership of the merits of pétanque piste at the museum, the piste will not be available for our use until April 2008. More details will be available as this story develops. Thanks Bob for helping our club find a permanent home!

There is one small catch to this museum pétanque piste though and that is size. If we look at other nearby Pétanque Clubs, we see that their membership eventually grew to between 60

*L to R – Brad Polzin, Becky Caraveo and Robert (Bob) Boro*

and 70 members. If that level of membership involvement occurs in our club (hopefully it will), a museum piste space of 100' X 50' would not be large enough for all our boulers. Yet, we do not want to give up the museum idea because the cultural aspects of pétanque mesh so well with the museum. They would make great companions. So, perhaps we need more than one pétanque piste. Many clubs in California do have two piste locations so the idea of a second Fresno piste is not unusual. We could have one piste at the museum and a second piste at another location in Fresno.

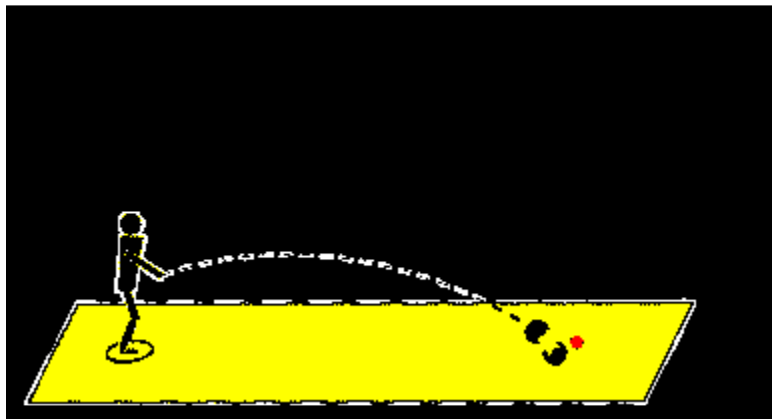
**Proposals and Private Land** – Kristy Page, a very good boules pointer, is on the hunt for this second piste location. Kristy is involved in the insurance business and knows a few developers. Due to the City of Fresno ordinance requiring new developments to have a percentage of public space (green space), Kristy is talking up her new past-time with a few developers and proposing they consider building a pétanque court to fulfill some of that required green space. Kristy asked me to put together a proposal that would be appropriate to present to developers or others with available land. Thanks, Kristy, for your initiative. As an aside, Bob, says that the City of Fresno might not consider a pétanque piste as “green space.” While this may be problematic, we are going to make the proposal pitch and see how it goes.

**City Parks** - Once we have the piste proposal for the developers in hand, we can easily modify it and present it to the Parks and Recreation Department. We still are hopeful that the City Parks management team will recognize the potential importance of pétanque to the City and dedicate a portion of City park land for our use as a formal pétanque piste.

As these matters evolve, I will keep you updated. Again, thanks to all those hard at work trying to find our Club a permanent home. If you know of possible piste space, e-mail me.

**Improving your game:** Has your boules game improved over the past month? You know that cliché “practice makes perfect” is directed toward you and me. As you boules each week your body develops a muscle memory that recalls how you pointed or shot boules the previous week(s). In time, this memory will improve your boules games. So take heart and pick up a set of boules. Turn off that wretched T.V. and go outside and play pétanque. It’s not only good for your body, but it’s good for your spirit also!

**Terminology:** Speaking of spirit and clichés, you know the one about “The Devil is in the detail?” As you already know, the difference between a good game and bad boules game lies in the detail of how you point and shoot the boule. So, continuing in this newsletter is a focus on boules terminology and technique.



**Carreau:** If you are a shooter and are able to toss your ball through the air and replace an opponent’s boule with your boule (in the same exact spot) then you have achieved a carreau. This is the most difficult shot you can learn, but if you master it, there is a bright future for you in pétanque. Study the illustration on the left and visualize a carreau. You will see just how difficult it is to make such a shot.

One upcoming Saturday morning we hope to have a boules clinic and invite down a good pointer and a good shooter for lessons on how to improve your pointing and shooting game. Watch an upcoming newsletter for details on this clinic.

**Shoot out the Cochonnet:** According to the official rules of pétanque, if your team shoots the cochonnet out of play when your opponent is out of boules then your team receives points for the number of boules still in their hands. For example, let’s say your opponent is out of boules and your team has five boules left to play. You step into the circle and shoot the cochonnet out of the playing

area. The four remaining boules your team is holding count as your points in that round. The teams walk to the other end of the piste, find the cochonnet, draw a circle on the ground, and the next round of boules is played.

Shooting the cochonnet like shooting an opponent's boule is a very difficult game strategy. As you get to know more about boules, you will see this strategy of shooting the cochonnet used more frequently.

If you would like more information on various boules techniques or just have a boules question, e-mail Tim. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

*Special thanks: several photographs in this newsletter were taken by our resident professional photographer and bouler, Brad Polzin. Thanks again Brad!*



*Deb and Greg Lapp*

*See you on the piste!*