



# MARCH BOULES NEWSLETTER

## FPC Tops 100

You have heard, "Success is a journey, not a destination." Perhaps this is a fitting cliché for FPC to ponder as we take joy in the growth of our little pétanque club.



Achieving one hundred members is a milestone of success by any measure. Achieving this success would not have happened had it not been for you. Your enthusiasm and motivation for growing pétanque in Fresno has been nothing short of amazing. You consistently have invited your friends and colleagues to boules with FPC. Little by little, every month, we kept inching toward that one hundred mark, and now we have passed it. As we continue to grow, let us keep focused on how this little game improves the quality of life for those who make it their game.

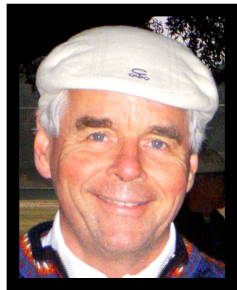
**Pengsue – FPC Member #100** Nineteen months ago, when we formally affiliated with the Federation Pétanque USA, none of us anticipated the growth we would have in such a short period of time. We all have been delighted at how Fresno has taken to pétanque.

Our boules organization is young and it has a rich cultural mix we find so delightfully unique about Fresno. As such, it seems appropriate that the one hundredth member of our club be a charismatic, ten year boy named Pengsue. Pengsue’s father is FPC member Paul Yang. Paul is doing a wonderful job teaching Pengsue, and his brothers, how to play pétanque. When we watch Pengsue boules, one can’t help but sense a champion boules player in the making. Add to that the smiles he brings to us all and you begin to understand why we are delighted that he is this milestone member of our club. Here’s to Pengsue, FPC member #100.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ **Helen Keller**

# Temporary Boules Terrain Expansion

One of the most pressing concerns FPC has with a growing membership is where will we all play pétanque at Cary Park? Over the past few months, Carl Motschiedler and Tim Channell have been in discussions with the Parks Department management about the “lack of pistes space.” For now, the temporary solution is expanding to the grassy areas. It is not a preferred solution, but it is the only one the Parks Department consented to let us do. We have added seven additional pistes on the grass area adjacent to our dirt terrains. This now brings our total bouling area to thirteen pistes. Thirteen pistes will accommodate seventy-eight boulistes in a triplete



**Carl**

game. Several weeks ago we had sixty three boulers show up for Sunday games (a record turnout). Thirteen temporary pistes will be sufficient for a time, but we will outgrow that space quickly. We all know that the only solution is finding a way to build our large, thirty six pistes pétanque terrain designed by FPC member and landscape architect Bob Boro. FPC keeps moving closer to finding a way to get that terrain built. It will happen. Be patient and positive.



**Edward**

Club member Ed Loughmiller, has taken the leadership to cut the grass as low as possible before our weekly boulegames. Fortunately, Ed has a special lawn mower that cuts the grass very short. This mowing technique does not kill the grass, but it does make the piste area more playable for pétanque.



**Gordon**

Then, there is that indefatigable Gordon. After Gordon was notified about the temporary expansion of our pistes, he went to Lowe’s and bought and fitted more boards to serve as stops at the end of the pistes. While at Lowe’s, he bought 500 pounds of lime for marking the boundaries of our pistes and the baseball diamonds. When we tried to pay Gordon for these items his response was “oh, don’t worry about it. It gives me something to do.”

Every organization wants, and needs, volunteers like Carl, Ed and Gordon. We appreciate their service to our club and just want to say to them, “Thank you very much!”

## Great Boules of Fire



Over the past few months, FPC has been in discussions with the Fresno Fire Department about the idea of building a few pétanque pistes at their fire stations. The idea has now moved from the talking phase to implementation. Three Fresno fire stations will soon be remodeled and the Fire Department has instructed their architect to include pétanque pistes in the remodeled design. Soon you will see Fire Fighters playing pétanque during their down time. **Vive La Pétanque!**



## FPC Goes to the Movies

Movies take us to places we could not or would not go ourselves. They allow us to be voyeurs into a world of make believe. Several weeks ago, twenty FPC members went to the Tower Theater for an evening of “Oscar-nominated” short film entertainment...fifteen award-winning short films from nine countries. What a great evening it turned out to be.

After the movies we wandered over to Rousseau’s restaurant for dinner and ended up staying over an hour after they had closed. They were happy we came, we were happy to be supporting a local restaurant, and we had a great time together. Peter Woolcock was heard saying “We should have club outings like this on a regular basis.” Perhaps we will.

Oscar animation, **John and Karen**, <http://en.con-can.com/watch/preview.php?id=20081021>

## The Celtic Spirit

As a prelude to St. Patrick’s Day festivities, FPCers gathered on Sunday, March 15, for a few games of boules and a party. We finished the boulegames early and adjourned to a club party at *The Public House*.



Twenty boulistes descended on this restaurant/bar and had a bash. Special thanks go to Karen Petryna and Mary Murray for organizing this club party. It was lots of fun and we plan on doing it again next year.



**Mary and Karen**

## Petanque and Wine

Throughout Europe pétanque has a historical connection to wine. Boulistes and their families gather for a few games of pétanque, and while sharing their day with each other they drink a bit of wine. This is one of the “joys of living” or what the French call “Joie de Vivre.”



**Mary, Terry, Joyce and Jimmie FPC Volunteers, Milla Vineyards**

Fresno Pétanque Club, in the spirit of that tradition, recently formed a partnership with the Fresno County Twin Rivers Vintners Association to give boules demonstrations to the oenophiles that visit their winery during free wine tasting events.

On March 28 and 29, during the “Roll Out The Barrel” Fresno County Wine Journey, twenty nine FPC volunteers helped train dozens of oenophiles on

the basic techniques of boules. After the event was over, FPC had compiled an e-mail list of fifty Fresno oenophiles who wanted to receive more information on FPC and where we boule each week.



**Margaret, Jerry, Jack and Karen  
FPC Volunteers, Engelmann Winery**

This type of community outreach meets Fresnans where they play and it introduces pétanque to hundreds of people that would never know about it otherwise. You might be able to say we are taking boules to the people. We boulistes know that once someone plays pétanque they will come back for more.

Thanks to all FPC members that gave their time and energy to making this two day “Pétanque and Wine” event a success. Building FPC community partnerships just makes good sense. It grows our club membership and spreads the message of boules around Fresno in a fun way. This partnership also enables FPC members to support our local Fresno businesses. Speaking of which, special thanks go to Debbie and Joey at Milla Vineyards, Bret at Engelmann’s Winery and Jim at Nonini’s Winery.

To add the proverbial “cherry to the cake,” Milla and Engelmann’s Wineries want FPC to come out and have a private party at their wineries. They want to promote Fresno pétanque and FPC wants to promote Fresno County wine. It sounds like a win-win situation.



**George**

Fresno County has nine boutique wineries that produce many very good wines. Support this part of our community by buying wine locally. *Rethink* Fresno wine. Take a look at [www.fresnowines.com](http://www.fresnowines.com). Better yet, get a few friends together and take the twenty five minute drive out to the west Fresno wineries. They have free wine tastings every Saturday and Sunday. I suspect you will be very happy with the outcome. Make sure you take your boules when you visit them. Chances are really high that you will have the wine makers outside playing boules with you. Relish the moment.

"Successful organizations always have a number of projects planned, to which they look forward. Anyone of them could change the course of the organization's life overnight."  
—Mark Caine



# Upcoming FPC Events



**“PETANQUE AT THE MARKET,”** every Saturday morning in April from 9 to 11. This is an FPC community outreach effort to spread the boules message to more and more Fresnans.

Club members Richard and Ellen Erganian have invited the Fresno Pétanque Club to give boules demonstrations at their very popular Vineyard Farmer’s Market on the northwest corner of Blackstone and Shaw. Take a look at their webpage, <http://www.vineyardfarmersmarket.com/>.

Not only is the market popular with Francophiles and foodies, but the market structure designed by Berkeley architect and environmentalist Christopher Alexander, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher\\_Alexander](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Alexander), is of note to architecture aficionados too.

April is asparagus month in California. Richard and Ellen kick off the Vineyard Farmer’s Market harvest schedule with an April 4 Asparagus Festival called **“Oh Spear Me.”** FPC has set up four pétanque pistes at the Vineyard Market so make sure you come out and help train dozens of new people in the sublime ways of pétanque. For more information contact Felix at 269-9343 or Tim at 352-4142.

## Sunday, April 19 - **FPC’S SPRING BOULES TOURNAMENT, “APRIL IN FRESNO.”**



**GREG**

Select Mixed Triplette tournament. Registration deadline is Sunday, April 12.

FPC members Linda Motschieder and Greg Lapp are co-coordinators of this tournament. For more information on the tournament contact either Greg, [glapp@csufresno.edu](mailto:glapp@csufresno.edu) or Linda at [ptelli@mac.com](mailto:ptelli@mac.com).



**LINDA**

The tournament registration fee will include croissants, coffee, water and lunch. There will be cash prizes given to the tournament winners.

Our tournament umpire will be former USA national boules champion and current national FPUSA umpire Pascal Gravier (member LaMorinda Pétanque Club, Lafayette, California).

This tournament will be a series of five games. Plan on spending the entire day at Cary Park playing pétanque. Bring a chair; bring your family; bring your laughter, skill and enthusiasm.

**Saturday, May 2 – “PROVENCE AND PÉTANQUE”** - Cary Park Pétanque Terrain. This FPC party is a community outreach effort sponsored on behalf of the San Joaquin River Parkway



Conservancy, “Parties for the Parkway.” Twenty four Fresnans new to pétanque will join with boules trainers from our club for an afternoon of pétanque lessons and wine.

This outreach is part of FPC’s effort at giving back to our community and simultaneously building community partnerships that promote Fresno and pétanque.

If you would like to volunteer as a boules trainer for this event contact Linda Motschiedler, 431-2555 or Tim, 352-4142.

**Sunday, May 17** - Los Angeles Pétanque Club hosts the 2009 **SAN PEDRO OPEN SELECT TRIPLETTE** competition at the beautiful “Bridge to Breakwater” facilities in San Pedro. This tournament is open to all boulistes. Trophy prizes will be awarded to the first, second, third and fourth place teams in the “Concours” and to the winner of the “Consolante”.



**Tournament Pétanque Pistes Here**

This is an annual boules tournament that attracts pétanque players from Central and Southern California. FPC has participated in this event since our inception. Last year there were over 70 boulistes who competed in this fun tournament. FPC already has one team going to this tournament. Let’s try to have at least four teams.

Most boulistes will arrive in LA for this tournament on Saturday, May 16. The Los Angeles Club always hosts a large dinner party for boulistes the evening

before the tournament. The total cost for this overnight (hotel) stay in LA and the tournament registration fee is usually around \$80 if you share a room with another member.

For more information on this tournament contact Los Angeles Pétanque Club President, Max LaGrand, [maxleg@aol.com](mailto:maxleg@aol.com), LAPC Secretary Carol Marcus, [csmarcus@ucla.edu](mailto:csmarcus@ucla.edu) or FPC Board member Paul Yang at [thopo\\_yang@yahoo.com](mailto:thopo_yang@yahoo.com) or 905-4692.

This is a great tournament for the FPUSA Southwest Regional family of boulistes. Please consider representing Fresno Pétanque Club in this tournament. You will have a great time. You will be with international pétanque-friendly people and besides going to LA will be nice break for you from your normal weekly routine. Ah-h yes, “California-Dreamin on such a winter’s day.”

# FPC Member Profile



**Paul Yang**

FPC profiles member Paul Yang this month. Paul is on the FPC Board of Directors. He has brought our club a high level of boules proficiency. Not only is he a great boules teacher and leader, but he also is an active recruiter of members for our club. In fact, Paul has recruited ten new members to our club over the past six months.

## *How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?*

One morning, my cousin Nicolas (soon to be an FPC member) asked me to read the Bee because it had an article about THAT French game... Et Voila!!!!

## *What brought you to Fresno?*

I was minding my own life in France when I heard the reputation about my current church senior pastor Rev. Chervang Kong, who had just moved to Fresno. I wanted to find out more about his teaching on spiritual and life principles.

## *What is your profession?*

I own a small business with 10 employees.

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

In fact yes, as we (FPC's members) all know... The Fresno hidden Boulodrome at Cary Park and the KIND hearts of everyone who plays pétanque in our club. These are the real gems.

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

Soccer, track and field, and any activity involving a ball (small or big). Also I am a dedicated head deacon for our local church (Fresno UCLE).



**Ace Shooter Paul**

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

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1991, I came to the United States, and this month I will celebrate my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (finally adult) as a US resident...and it is not an April Fool's joke, it is serious business.

**NEW FPC MEMBERS:** Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members Jack and Karen Davids, Pengsue Normen, Margaret OConnell, Gerry Sarkisian, Michel Yang, and Kongmong Yang.

## SUPPORTING OUR FRESNO COMMUNITY

**Warnor Theater** - <http://historicfresno.org/nrhp/warnor.htm>

Great architecture defines a community. It is the magic of a city. Buildings are places that people live, work, love, play and enjoy life. Fresno is fortunate that it still has great buildings in its downtown area. These architectural gems are sleeping beauties waiting to be reawakened.



**INTERIOR OF WARNOR THEATER**

One of Fresno's great buildings is the stunningly beautiful Warnor Theater for the Performing Arts. You have driven past the Warnor theater dozens, if not hundreds, of times. It's time you went inside this national historic landmark and feasted on its grandness. If you have never attended an event in this magical place then you must indulge yourself. Arrive early so you have time to wander through the interior and be amazed at its aching beauty and loving restoration. <http://www.warnors.org/index.php?n=1&id=1>.

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**Picture Credit:** Thanks to Jerry Personius for many of the photographs in this newsletter.

Membership in the Fresno Pétanque Club is \$30 annually. For more information, contact Terry Bond at [BouleFresno@yahoo.com](mailto:BouleFresno@yahoo.com). Visit us online at [www.FresnoPetanque.com](http://www.FresnoPetanque.com)