



PETANQUE PULSE

Official FPUSA Newsletter

Summer 2025



Welcome to the Summer 2025 Edition of *Pétanque Pulse!*

Summer invites us to slow down, savor lazy days, and enjoy life's simple pleasures—like throwing boules and sharing good times with friends and family. It's a season to gather, to play, and perhaps to reflect on the special moments we've collected from past adventures.

In this issue, you'll find stories of personal reflections, tournament updates, pétanque for little campers, growth through outreach, and more! If you're fortunate enough to travel and play this summer, we wish you joyful experiences and fantastic memories—there's nothing quite like throwing boules on new terrains and meeting pétanque players from faraway places. It's amazing how immediate these connections happen when we meet people, regardless of language or geography, who share our love for the game. Wherever your summer takes you, we hope pétanque is part of it.

Cheers!

Michelle Dang & Heidi Davison

Newsletter Editors, Communications Committee

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Board Updates: Exciting Growth and Support Initiatives

The FPUSA Board continues to meet monthly via video conference, working through full agendas and focusing on key deliverables. The Executive Committee also meets monthly to address time-sensitive matters and support ongoing initiatives between board meetings. Members can find Board meeting minutes and other important documents by logging in to fpusa.justgo.com and click on “Documents” from the menu.

Recently, FPUSA has awarded funding to support juniors and the continued development of junior programs, helping to grow the next generation of pétanque players. We also launched a new call for applications for the Club Grants Program, which provides funding for club projects, equipment, and other initiatives that help clubs thrive and promote pétanque in their communities. Club grant applications are currently under review, and we look forward to sharing the awarded projects in the next newsletter.



The following clubs were awarded funds to support junior players and/or junior programs:

- Carolina Pétanque
- Eugene Pétanque International Club
- Mile High Pétanque Club
- Sactown Pétanque
- Thibodaux Pétanque Club
- Zanesfield Pétanque Club

Additionally, we've welcomed two additional affiliated clubs to our growing network:

- **Roaring Fork Pétanque Club**, Glenwood Springs, CO
 - info@roaringforkpetanqueclub.org
- **Lincoln Park Pétanque Club**, Chicago, IL
 - edvonbergen@gmail.com

We're thrilled to see this continued momentum and look forward to the positive impact these programs and new clubs will have on our pétanque community.

Summer & Fall Tournament Schedule



Summer and fall are packed with opportunities to play pétanque across the U.S., with a full calendar of FPUSA tournaments and Open events. Whether you're traveling to new regions or competing close to home, there's no shortage of chances to connect with players, test your skills, and enjoy the spirit of the game. Many clubs are also hosting friendly club tournaments, especially around Bastille Day. So mark your calendars, gather your boules, and get ready to make the most of this vibrant time of year!

FPUSA Title Tournaments

Check FPUSA's [website](#) for tournament dates, locations, and registration forms. **From July through November, FPUSA clubs are hosting a total of 19 Regionals and Nationals!** Current FPUSA membership is required to participate in FPUSA Title Tournaments.

Opens

Exciting Open opportunities:

- July 18-20: [Sauvie Island Open Challenge](#), Sauvie Island (Portland area), Oregon
- September 6-7: [Maine Boules Club Boatyard Cup](#), Brooklin, Maine
- September 13-14: [Rose City Open](#), Portland, Oregon
- October 11-12: [US Open](#), Hoboken, New Jersey
- November 15-16: [Viva Las Vegas Open](#), Las Vegas, Nevada

Reminder: All participants must have a signed [waiver](#) on file to compete in FPUSA-sanctioned events. Once signed, the waiver remains valid as long as the participant maintains active membership.

Umpire Updates

FPUSA Recognizes Three Umpires Emeriti for their Contributions

FPUSA proudly honored three outstanding members who have dedicated years of service to the sport and our community as umpires, volunteers, and mentors - **Gary Jones** (Carolina Pétanque), **Pascal Gravier** (Lamorinda Pétanque Club), and **Louis Toulon** (La Pétanque Marinier). They were each awarded special medals recognizing their contributions as Umpires Emeriti. **Heidi Davison**, Leader of the Umpire Group, presented the honor to Gary and **Janice Bissonnette**, National Sport Director, presented the honor to Pascal and Louis. We celebrate their legacy and feel fortunate to have them as part of our pétanque community.

Check the Winter 2024 edition for a special tribute to Gary, and the Spring 2025 issue for a special story about Louis.

We share the following heartfelt praises for Pascal from our members.

"In the short time I've been playing pétanque no one has been as friendly and welcoming as Pascal. He has patiently taught me so much, and continually encourages and supports my play." - Duncan Wheat

"What a wonderful celebration and tournament! Pascal Gravier's training was a HUGE part of John's and my success in Pétanque! We absolutely needed to find someone to train us correctly in the beginning, almost 20 years ago. There was NO ONE to turn to! We lucked into having Pascal come to Oakhurst to give a training seminar. We asked for personal training, and drove up to his club several weekends and he turned our game around! We give him full credit for between us, the 5 times we've been to the World Championships. He is a TREASURE to Pétanque, and we are all so lucky to have him! He trained us with the understanding that we SHARE our knowledge with whoever might want to improve their game, and to this day we



do that happily! We love you Pascal! I'm sorry we weren't there to see you receive this well deserved accolade." - Tish Harris

"Pascal is a welcoming face at the Lamorinda courts, always willing to teach someone how to play, pitch in a helping hand, and arrives with something wonderful to eat and drink. As an Umpire he took opportunities to explain the rules to new players and those who needed a little gentle reminding. Always quiet and understated, as I was presenting his medal of recognition at a Regional tournament, he whispered to me..."I don't know what you are about to do, but keep it short". One of the FPUSA's founding fathers, we are better because of the time and efforts you have invested into a game you love. Merci beaucoup Pascalsee you on the Lamorinda courts." - Janice Bissonnette

"I met Pascal in the summer of 2024 on a trip to San Francisco with Al. We accepted an invitation to visit the Lamorinda Club to join them for lunch, playtime, and tournament spectating. When visiting other clubs or playing in tournaments, it's my practice to seek out umpires with whom my only connection is email. To my great pleasure, Pascal was playing that day! Pascal often replies to my emails with an abundance of friendliness and encouragement. His quiet, modest and humble demeanor speaks volumes to me as quiet strengths that impact those with whom he interacts with. I know they have meant a lot to others and, also, to me. What a wonderful stroke of luck for me to spend some time with this wonderful gentleman." - Heidi Davison

"Pascal Gravier was my first contact with the Bay Area petanque community. It was the early 1990s. The French Consulate gave me his name and number when I called them to find out how to purchase boules in the US. He answered the phone with his beautiful French accent and, learning where I lived, directed me to Louis Toulon. Not long after I joined La Petanque Marinierie I had the pleasure of meeting Pascal in person, when he made the drive across the Bay to play in a Marin tournament. With his personable smile and sparkling eyes, I found him even more charming in person. Over the decades that I have had the pleasure of knowing Pascal, I have found him to be always warm and welcoming. His knowledge and enthusiasm for petanque is contagious. His support for petanque both as a competitive sport and a relaxing pastime has been never failing." - Christine Cragg

Umpire Promotions

Congratulations to the following members on their promotion to Regional Umpires!

- **Cathy Diebold**, Thibodaux Pétanque Club
- **Guy Diebold**, Thibodaux Pétanque Club

Interested in becoming an umpire? Please reach out to **Heidi Davison**, Leader of the Umpire Working Group, heidi@heididavison.com.

Umpire Tips: Pétanque Étiquette Essentials

Good player etiquette helps everyone enjoy the game, play their best, and maintain the friendly spirit that makes pétanque so much fun. Practicing proper etiquette also shows that you know and respect the game—especially when playing with those outside your club.

Whether you're new to the sport or a seasoned player, here are some key expectations to help keep games fair, respectful, and moving smoothly. Some are formal rules, others are common courtesies, but all contribute to a great playing experience.



Bill Norris at work as arbitre

Key Etiquette Guidelines

Wait Your Turn

When **Team A is in possession** of the terrain, the opposing team must stay clear of the jack during Team A's strategy discussions and until they have declared the point. Once the point is agreed upon, Team A should immediately exit the playing area to an appropriate observation spot. The opposing team may then measure to confirm the point. *Team A refers to the team whose turn it is to throw—they have possession of the terrain and the circle.*

Keep Quiet

Players and spectators should stop talking the moment a player enters the circle to prepare their throw. Opponents should never speak to the player in the circle.

Avoid Distractions

Only the player who is currently throwing should be near the circle. Most of the game's action happens near the jack, so:

- Players on both teams should stand at least 2 meters to the side or beyond the jack. Technically, teammates of the player in the circle may stand anywhere they like.
- Players with mobility challenges may stand or sit behind and to the side of the circle.
- While it's legal to stand at least 2 meters behind the circle, doing so offers no helpful perspective.



Tom, Brendan, and Tim keeping quiet

Keep Banter Light

Friendly banter is part of many sports, especially among friends, but even playful teasing can break a player's concentration. Keep it respectful and minimal.

Use Your Time Wisely

Pétanque is a measured game. Players have 60 seconds to throw and should use that time to:

- Discuss strategy with teammates.
- Decide who should throw next.
- Examine the playing surface for obstacles or key contours.
- *Opposing players should never be on the playing surface while the other team is strategizing.*

Manage Your Boules Safely

Boules can be a tripping hazard.

- Keep unplayed boules in your hands or place them next to the circle while you throw.

- If you can't hold all your boules, group them together (touching) at least 2 meters behind the circle.
- Never leave the circle to hunt for your next boule—it's considered bad form.

Handle Dead Boules Properly

- Boules that are out-of-bounds should be promptly removed and placed well outside the terrain in a visible, safe spot.
- Dead boules should always be visible to both teams for accurate counting. Never hold a dead boule or place it where it can't be seen.
- Never touch another player's boule—not with your hands or feet—until both teams have agreed on the points.
- Exception: For measurement purposes, only the owner of the boule or the umpire may move it using proper methods.

Move the Circle, Not the Jack

- The last player to throw should bring the circle to the jack and smooth out any marks left on the terrain.
- The jack belongs to the team that just won the end. The losing team should never touch it.
- Place the circle for the next end directly over the jack after the points are agreed and all boules are cleared.



Circle Placement Exceptions:

- If the circle is too close to a tripping hazard. (For example, at Classic City, a local rule requires the circle to be at least 1 meter away from wooden boundaries.)
- If there's less than 6.5 meters to the boundary, move the circle straight back to provide at least 6.5 meters of play.
- The circle may also be moved straight back to allow up to 10.5 meters of distance.
- The circle should always remain in line with the position of the previous jack. It may only be moved sideways to meet local safety rules.

Measuring

Each team should bring their own measuring tools—it's a basic courtesy. Always measure from the edge of the boule to the edge of the jack for accuracy (never from the center). If you need help learning to measure, don't hesitate to ask.

Scoreboards

Scoreboards are for convenience—they are not required by the official rules of pétanque.

- The real score is always the agreed number of points each team has earned.
- It's good practice to update the scoreboard promptly and ensure all players agree on the score at the end of each end.
- If the score isn't updated right away, it's never too late to correct it.

When we play with good etiquette, everyone has a great time—that's what pétanque is all about. 😊



Handcrafted scoreboard by Preston Myers,
Carolina Pétanque



Growing Our Sport Program

By The Sport Committee

The FPUSA Sport Committee (SC) plays a vital role in shaping the competitive landscape of pétanque in the U.S. Guided by the FPUSA Bylaws, the Committee is responsible for recommending playing and tournament rules, improving the quality of play, and ensuring rules are consistently applied at all FPUSA title tournaments. It also oversees tournament documentation and other duties related to national competitions.

The SC takes great pride in its work and is committed to fostering the growth of pétanque in the U.S. through innovation, structure, and community-building.

Meet The Members of the Sport Committee

The committee is composed of dedicated volunteers from across the country, each bringing their expertise and passion to their work:

Sport Committee Members:

Janice Bissonnette – National Sport Director
Alex Canesse – Tampa Pétanque Club
Juanita Celix – Seattle Pétanque Club
Tricia Domingo – Thibodaux Pétanque Club
Albyn Jones – Portland Pétanque Club
Stefan Nicolas – South Florida Pétanque Club

At Large Members (consult on projects):

Emmanuel Domingo – Thibodaux Pétanque Club

John Harris – Oakhurst Pétanque Club

Shannon Hodge – Zanesfield Pétanque Club

Pascal Tisseur – Portland Pétanque Club

Together, this group has been actively developing systems, programs, and resources to enhance your experience as a member of FPUSA.

Progress and New Initiatives

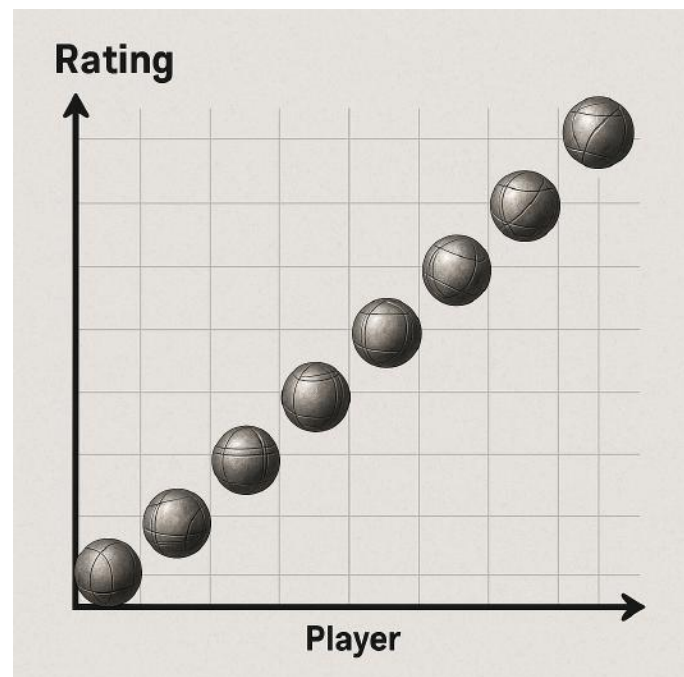
This year, the SC has made substantial strides on multiple fronts, including:

The FPUSA Player Rating System

NOW ACTIVE! For all players who have competed in FPUSA-sanctioned or Open tournaments using the Pétanque App (Kickertool), this system introduces a new era of dynamic player assessment. An updated Rating list is available to view on the FPUSA website (usapetanque.org) under the *Competition* tab.

Unlike rankings, which simply place a player in relation to others, ratings provide a real-time, evolving measure of an individual's performance over time.

- It reflects a player's cumulative win/loss record from the system's launch.
- Ratings increase or decrease with each tournament, depending on a player's performance.
- Members can now track their own progress, identify areas for growth, and understand how they compare to similarly rated players.



This system also adds context and data that can support sponsorships and strategic partnerships, both for players and for FPUSA.

Collaboration with Pétanque App

The SC is working closely with the development team at Pétanque App to improve integration and usability, aiming to streamline tournament regulations and make it easier than ever for tournament directors to run smooth, consistent events.

Supporting Juniors Through Grants and Regional Advocates

FPUSA is deeply committed to developing the next generation of pétanque players. To support this, they've launched a grant program for clubs with junior players, and they are actively soliciting **Junior Program Advocates** in each region. These individuals will work closely with local clubs to understand their needs, share resources, and help coordinate outreach efforts. Their role is to support ongoing progress, foster collaboration, and keep the Junior Program moving forward. Thus far, the following members have kindly accepted this role:



Pascal Corchia – Southeast Region, Miami Pétanque Club
Catherine Diebold – Central Region, Thibodaux Pétanque Club
Songmi Keating – Southeast Region, Amelia Island Pétanque Club
David Keil – Central Region, Mile High Pétanque Club
George Lewis – Southwest Region, Oakhurst Pétanque Club
Mark Rankin – Mid-America Region, Les Boulefrogs Pétanque Club of Virginia
Mike Stasack – Northwest Region, Eugene Pétanque International Club

Members who are interested in supporting Junior outreach in their area or have ideas to share should contact Janice Bissonnette at nsd@usapetanque.org.

Looking Ahead...

As they move forward, the SC continues work on:

- Updating tournament regulations across all FPUSA-sanctioned events
- Expanding the coaching program
- Creating new resources for both junior player development and member training

These efforts are rooted in one goal: To elevate the quality, consistency, and enjoyment of pétanque across the country.

The SC thanks the FPUSA community for their ongoing support and participation. Whether you're a new player or a seasoned competitor, the work being done is for *you* – and with your involvement, the future of pétanque in the U.S. looks incredibly bright!



Reflections from the Terrain

In this new section, FPUSA members share personal stories, reflections, and memorable moments from their pétanque adventures. From first tournaments and lessons learned to surprising encounters and the simple joy of playing, these are the vibrant moments—and the interesting people—we meet along the way.

We begin with a reflection by Christine Fadden, who shares her unexpected pétanque journey.

If you have a reflection or a story you would like to share for future newsletters, please email Michelle at secretary@usapetanque.org. We'd love to hear from you.

My Big Break

By Christine Fadden, Port Townsend Petanque Alliance

I sometimes look through photographs to get my bearings and help me remember enough to write. Browsing nine years of pétanque images this week—oof—taking a break from playing this year has been tougher than taking a break from running.

Though I have (literally) crossed paths with dozens of incredibly vital and inspiring people running and racing, running for me is primarily a solo endeavor. Over the decades, I've logged 99% of my miles alone, running the full course of a race with a partner only twice.

Pétanque is a whole different ball game. Living in France in the late 90s and early 00s, I of course saw people playing pétanque—often in the parks I was running through. As someone who played youth and adult softball, this seemingly chill hand/eye/ball-coordination sport caught my eye. I wanted to try it, but despite how brave I could be approaching haute couture shopgirls in Paris, I lacked the nerve to approach the groups of mostly men throwing boules.

After I moved from France, I didn't think of pétanque again—*loin des yeux, loin du cœur*—until I saw it being played in 2016 at a bayside bar in Port Townsend, Washington.

Even then though, I didn't have the courage to approach the players—who once again, whenever I was there at The Pourhouse sipping an IPA—were dudes.

Imagine my glee then, when my friend Cherry, who I'd met at one of Tom Spanbauer's Dangerous Writers workshops on the Oregon Coast a decade prior, called and said, "Hey Christine, I'm coming to Port Townsend to play in a pétanque tournament, women's triples. We've lost our third to car trouble. You're athletic. Any interest in playing?"



MAIS OUI!

The first time I picked up a pétanque boule was to play in a tournament. Cherry, Barbara, and I won bronze medals that day and I thought, “Oh, this is easy! I kick ass!”

MAIS NON!

Show up at any pétanque club, tell them you’d like to learn, and within the first hour, you’re guaranteed to hear, “The thing about pétanque is, it seems so simple as a beginner—just land your boule closer to the *cochonnet* than your opponent’s boule.”

Your new friend might then toss their boule to demonstrate how it’s done.

“But the more you play,” they’ll say, “the harder it gets.”

Trust them. The more you play, the more you study how the pros play, and the more you train and improve—the more you’ll have to learn. You do not kick ass, and once you start to believe you kinda do again like you did when you medaled the first time you ever played, register for a few tournaments in France. The ninety-five-year-old grandmother and nine-year-old great grandson team will insta-humble you. Two barely-twenty-year-old women could not be less impressed or more bored, scoring in the blink of an eye their thirteen points to win, while keeping you to one. *I mean, did that game even happen?*

Playing pétanque—like with any sport, or art, or passion—you hit plateaus; you experience ends, games, or weeks where it feels like you’ve never touched a boule before; you wonder if your eyesight is failing or you need (more) therapy, meditation, or medication to help you remain calm.

Posture, flexibility, breathing, the weather, reading the terrain, determining how low or high to release the boule and how far out to land it—how to curve, bump, or shoot a boule. These are a few of your concerns while standing in the circle—the circle your feet must not touch, exit, or lift from until your boule has touched gravel, because the whole origin of pétanque (*pieds tanqués*) is about your feet and the ground within that circle.

Your teammates—you gotta gel, communicate, strategize. Your opponents—are they gelling, what’s their strategy? Don’t forget the rules and regulations about live boules and tied boules and *oh, how could you*, a forgotten boule.

I’ve traveled great distances for pétanque, foregoing non-tournament related trips and activities. If there was a white sand beach nearby, I didn’t see it. (Okay, I did—briefly.) I attended trainings in France and the Czech Republic (the top-notch CIEP trainers work as a team, each bringing a unique lens on how to improve your skills, mindset, and game). My pétanque budget was... not reasonable.

I was committed, and knowing when I moved to the Azores in 2023 that there were no clubs here, I remained committed, despite the challenges in finding suitable terrain and in drilling and training for a team sport, alone.

People are what make the sport of pétanque a joy. We speak of our local and global pétanque family, and we mean family. We play with our friends and strangers. We play in torrential downpours and life-threatening heatwaves. We delight in the boy who wanders by the courts one day to try the game out, then brings his fiddle the next, to share with us the skills *he* has spent years developing and honing.

La Ciotat, the birthplace of pétanque, is a beautiful town, but the bouillabaisse the players and their friends prepare brings the place to life. Tacos and tequila in Mexico accompany the conversation you and your friend have about the novel he wants to write. Logging miles with team mates on planes, trains, and automobiles; giggling and hexing and singing “Lunch.” The sound of a thousand languages, pétanque crushes, the rush of a cold-water plunge after play. Choosing team t-shirts.

Births and deaths. R.I.P. Ernesto Santos, I hope you started that novel.

R.I.P. Tony Quinteros—I hope it’s all loud 80s music where you are.

Wins and losses.

The wind blows through your hair post-tournament as you head to Gigantic with your Sassy Pony sister-player in Joe’s convertible red Mustang. A room will always have your name on it at Scott and Jamie’s. You will always love that cat but likely won’t visit him again because hey, some of our paths diverge—some for stupid reasons, others for good. Spats, misunderstandings, disses and snubs, broken hearts. Some repairs are made, others not.

There are tears.

But the love and the laughter.



Floss-offs with Silas and staying awake till odd hours to watch Bekah online at the World Games and World Championships, representing not only our nation, but the very heart of good sport.

Your friends' son's dogs sift through the suitcase you carelessly left open and devour the bags of Azorean cookies you brought as gifts and boy, do they love you furrrrrrrevvvverrrr.

The player you fangirled over and were slightly intimidated by leaves the U.S. to marry a pétanque legend and you not only team up with her several times in France, but get to know how wonderfully human she and the legend are.



You played that night tournament in Marseille after La Marseillaise and were shooting so consistently, you almost felt guilty! Every damn time your full-on-faith-in-you partner Christophe said, "Shoot, Chris," you did, 9 times out of 10, hitting the shot. Your all-male opponents were pissed, confused, trembling. You, on the other hand, had such an out-of-body experience you told your friends you felt like a robot.

Given a command, you executed. Perhaps you had touched the zone.

"Le Tigre" another friend nicknamed you.



Cherry, the friend that brought you into the game, gave you a handmade miniature pétanque journal—nesting it inside a tin mint box she covered in vintage pétanque images—for your 56th birthday.

An Azorean man looked out his front window and saw you drilling alone, walked across the street, and asked you to teach him to play. After you hit a few of his boules away, he said, “Wow! You’d make an excellent rabbit shooter” and you told him you would never shoot a rabbit. But you eat the fish he guts seaside, and salts and grills for you in his backyard now.

So why take a break from this sport I love, other than the fact that doing so saves me *much* *dinheiro* and a whole lot of time travelling? While I’m “resting,” won’t everyone else who is putting in the time and effort vastly improve? Aren’t I at risk of falling two steps back, and losing any edge I was gaining?

In pétanque, as in life, I am making an effort not to compare. Not to worry. Not to suffer FOMO.

Instead of bemoaning the fact that in the four women’s world qualifiers I have competed in to date, my teammates and I have won bronze (not gold, not silver), I celebrate. I am making an effort to trust, even when at times (this year being one of them) I have to tell myself several times a day, almost daily, “Everything will be okay. Everything will be okay.”

We train to develop muscle memory, and I trust my muscles. I trust them more than my memory, but that’s another story. When I step inside the circle again, which I will because I’ve committed to my teams in the States for both 2026 women’s world qualifiers, I’ll step in with beginner’s mind, but also with the eye of the tiger and a stronger sense of gratitude for the ties that bind. This is gold.



Christine is a freelance ghostwriter, book editor, and writing coach. Discover more about her work on her [website](#) and more of her writing on [Substack](#).

My Favorite Pétanque Memory

By Manu Le Bihan, Fresno Petanque Club

My favorite memory of pétanque since I arrived in the U.S. in 2016 was sometime in 2017 or 2018 during a period of frustration where **By Vang** (center in photo) and I couldn't win any competitions - despite a good osmosis in our training together. It was also a time where **Paul Yang** and **Jer Thao** won practically every competition they participated in.

By and I teamed up with **John Harris** (right in photo) for the Men's Regional Triples in Sacramento. It was a perfect day until the final where we were facing three of the best American players, **Peter Mathis**, **Wolfie Kurz**, and **Mickey Coughlin**, all from VOMPC.

Everyone thought they would win, and the game was very close until the last end, an end I often recall and talk about when I travel for pétanque. We were down 8 to 9, the point was on the ground for us, no more boules in the opponent's hands, two boules in By's and the jack about 10m away. Any "normal" player would have decided to try and add two points by pointing



to get to 11, and John and I proposed this strategy but not By. He analyzed that the opponent had two boules located more than 11 meters away, covering two of our boules, and suggested shooting them since two carreaux would give us 5 points and therefore victory. A bit of a crazy strategy but not for a shooter who was full of confidence and considered one of the best in the U.S. at that time. He hit the first one and made a carreau pile. The large crowd of spectators applauded and then, realizing that they were about to experience something unbelievable, fell silent while By concentrated in the circle. John and I said a little prayer while our opponents surely thought that two carreaux in a row at such a distance was not possible... and then bing, carreau en place. Bravo By. First place for us and a great souvenir. 🏆



Antonia: A Butterfly of the Courts

By Michelle Dang, Sactown Pétanque



It's hard to miss **Antonia Paulsen**. A longtime member of Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club (VOMPC), she moves across the courts with the grace of a butterfly—graceful, vibrant, and quietly radiant. Often dressed in flowing, floral fabrics and charming hats, Antonia brings joy and ease to every tournament as a spectator and friend to many in the community. Her warm smile and gentle energy draw you in.

I wanted to know more about Antonia, so I sat down with her for a conversation on a beautiful June Sunday afternoon—one of those days when, as she often does, she simply shows up to say hello to the community. Raised in

Walnut Creek, California, Antonia is a lifelong painter with a rich and diverse heritage. Adopted as a child, her father was Mexican, and her mother—a self-described "wild child" from Seattle—was a member of the Whitney family, one of New York's wealthiest lineages. This unique blend of cultures and backgrounds has deeply influenced Antonia's artistic sensibility and free-spirited nature.

She started playing pétanque in the early 1980s through the Willits club in Northern California, where a group of passionate players transformed a small city field into a lively community court. The club attracted creatives—artists, dancers, gardeners—who brought flair and free-spiritedness to the sport.



Among them were Antonia (left in photo) and her dear friends **Nancy McHone** (center) and **Donna D'Terra** (right). Together they became affectionately known as the "The Bouleini Sisters," Gina, Lola and Bridgetta, from Sicily, borrowing the name from Italian film star - Gina Lollobrigida. They traveled to tournaments in coordinated outfits—tie-dye, animal prints—sometimes arriving in a pink Cadillac won in a radio contest. Antonia fondly recalled a rainy day at Lamorinda when one of her

partners shot boules while balancing a cigarette and an umbrella. It was that kind of playful, fearless energy that made pétanque memorable.

But behind the style was serious skill. Antonia represented the United States in women's triples at the World Championships three times:

2006 in Grenoble, France

2008 in Samsun, Turkey

2011 in Antalya, Turkey

In Grenoble (2006), she competed during the last championship where men's and women's triples played at the same venue. In Samsun (2008), on the Black Sea coast, Turkey was a newcomer to the international pétanque scene and hosted with great enthusiasm. The piste was a surprise: a cement surface hastily covered with loose gravel that looked like kitty litter. Security was tight—local police escorted the U.S. team due to political tensions—but the event remained spirited and welcoming. In Samsun, Antonia's most memorable moment came when her team placed third in the Nation's Cup.

In Antalya (2011), the team competed alongside 42 nations—about the same number as today. While there were no juniors competing with the women yet, the tournament was lively and well-attended. Between matches, they visited ancient Roman ruins, and she recalls the opening procession of flags as simply “fabulous.”

Although she stopped playing after a rotator cuff injury about a decade ago, Antonia remains an engaged part of the pétanque world. She still comes to watch, support, and delight in the evolution of the game. She's especially impressed with the skill and confidence of today's women players, whose shooting and strategy reflect how far the sport has come.

Antonia's story is one of artistry and quiet strength. Her presence continues to enrich the courts, even if she now plays from the sidelines—with the same graceful spirit that's defined her all along.



US Team in Samsun: (L to R) Erin McTaggart, Mary Albright, Antonia, Sandra Bonneville, and Dianna Jacobs (front center)

A French Concept That Became a Thriving Pétanque Hub

By Michel Baudouin, Carolina Pétanque

In 2019, I opened my restaurant called RendezVous. Since I had the space, I decided to include eight pétanque courts when only half a dozen of us were playing in Asheville. I thought it would add a touch of France to our French concept and, just as importantly, add some quality of life for my friends and me. I chose eight courts because I was told that was the minimum requirement to host FPUSA tournaments. The courts, surrounded by patio seating, quickly created some interest. Enough interest that now we have about seventy regular players, with many joining Carolina Pétanque, making it one of the largest clubs in the country.

Unfortunately, the Asheville area was recently damaged by Hurricane Helene. The lawn bowling club lost their courts to flooding. Not knowing if or when those courts would be rebuilt, a large number of their members have become pétanque players. Pétanque America owners and Carolina Pétanque members volunteered to host clinics to introduce the game to our new players. We intend to host more extensive clinics focused on the strategies of the game.

The last six years have been a blast—hosting FPUSA tournaments, social tournaments such as the costumed Bastille Day, an annual bragging-rights traveling trophy between Atlanta and Carolina Pétanque, pétanque celebrity clinics with **Marco Foyot** (twice), **Damien Hureau**, and a visit with **Claude Raluy**, CIEP international coach.

Let's keep it up—and may the cochonnet be with you!





News from Central

Thibodaux Pétanque Club Joins TREC Summer Camp Fun

By Guy Diebold, Thibodaux Petanque Club

Imagine 50 kids screaming: “Pétanque!” That was the response echoing in the City of Thibodaux’s Parks and Recreation Department (TREC) multipurpose room this past month to the question: *What are we here to play?*

During the month of June, TREC hosts a four-week Summer Day Camp for children ages 5 to 12. As part of the 2025 program, more than a dozen volunteers from the Thibodaux Pétanque Club introduced campers to the game of pétanque, through both indoor and outdoor activities.

Each week, more than 50 campers participated in the sessions. Thanks to a recent FPUSA Junior Program Support grant, we were able to purchase several sets of 400g indoor boules—perfect for our younger group of 5- to 7-year-olds. For the older group (ages 8 to 12), club members loaned the camp 20+ sets of outdoor boules to ensure everyone could play.

To introduce pétanque to a new group of kids ages 5–12, we began with a brief overview of the game’s French origins, sparking curiosity by asking who knew any French words, had French ancestry, or knew someone from France. We followed this with a short, engaging YouTube video by Geologic titled “How Do You Play Pétanque?”—a fun and accessible way to

give the group a quick visual overview of the game. After the video, we emphasized safety rules to ensure everyone understood how to play responsibly and then demonstrated basic technique: how to hold the boule, where and how to stand inside the circle, and the “tick-tock” arm motion used to throw. To help them understand how a game unfolds, we walked through key gameplay elements—how to decide who throws first, how teams alternate, how to judge which team holds the point (using simple geometry like right triangles), and how to agree on points and keep score. Campers put all of this into practice on the terrain under the watchful eye of club volunteers – one for each game to offer guidance and keep play moving along. Several of the camp counselors also joined in on several teams which added to the fun.



The kids had a fantastic time and showed great promise as future pétanque players—many instinctively developing strategies and pondering the classic dilemma: *Should I point or should I shoot?* Despite the heat (often above 90°F), some campers didn’t want to stop when time was up!

In addition to playing pétanque, we sprinkled in a bit of French language and culture—teaching the kids the warm-up dance “Les Pouces en Avant” (Thumbs Forward), which quickly became a favorite. Each camper received a “Pétanque Passport” and a “Certificat de Mérite” to commemorate their experience—and to share with their family and friends!





News from Southwest

How Oakhurst Petanque Club Took Root

By Sharon Lewis, Oakhurst Petanque Club



The seed which would become the Oakhurst Petanque Club (OPC) was first planted in a garden in 1999. While in Paris working on the creation of Disneyland Paris, **Jim Elliott**, a founding and current member of OPC, visited Monet's Garden and brought back seeds to garden enthusiasts and founding members, **Jan and Kathleen Claire**. It was their decision to host a French-themed picnic in their backyard garden and invite **Max and Felix LeGrand** from the Los Angeles Petanque Club to

introduce the game to friends. The LeGrand brothers returned several times to aid in the formation of an Oakhurst club and even sold boules to the original members.

The Oakhurst Petanque Club was formed and Jim Elliott became its first president. Play was rotated among players' home courts. In 2002, the courts of OPC were established on a point of land between the Fresno River and Oak Creek. This location would come to be fondly called "Two Rivers Stadium" by club members and was the site of many tournaments and events for 20 years. Flooding of the river in the winter of 2017 saw the courts under 3 feet of water and the deposit of several inches of silt on the pistes. Following hours of reconstruction, some of the courts were again playable, but not suitable for winter play.

Following inclement weather, club members began to play on a gravel parking lot above the courts. It was during one of these days of play that members were approached by the Managing Director of Fresno Flats Historic Village and Park, **Paul Adelizi**, about the availability of some land at the back of their property along Oak Creek. The site was deemed ideal for club play and members enthusiastically joined in to create a new home for OPC.

In 2023, the Oakhurst Petanque Club was moved to its current site on the property of Fresno Flats. Moving the club's signature 4-foot boule (a buoy which has graced the OPC courts since its creation) was a challenging task. It now sits as an eye-catching display near the entrance to Fresno Flats. This location offers wooded views of the creek, benches and tables for watching play and relaxing, and a stream of visitors to the park, who sometimes join in the play. Friendly coaching is available for any skill level from those new to the sport to experienced tournament players. Today, OPC is enjoying an increase in its membership (20) due to the increased visibility and accessibility of its courts.



Among our current members, we count **Deb Kincade** and **Ron Lotton**, daughter and son-in-law of founding members **Brian and Lois Kincade**. We are proud to include **Tish Harris** and **John Harris**, national champions and international competitors, as members of our home club.

Oakhurst Petanque Club is conveniently located 15 miles from the Highway 41 (Southern) entrance to Yosemite National Park. It is situated at the back of Fresno Flats Historic Village and Park, a well-maintained side trip and rest stop destination with regularly scheduled events including a monthly mountain artisans market. Regular club play begins at 10 AM on Saturday during the winter and 9 AM during the summer months but weekday play can be arranged. Visitors are always welcome to join us. We have members willing to provide accommodations for guests (contact Tish Harris at Equitard@gmail.com) or book a stay in the authentic 1880 log cabin vacation rental on Fresno Flats property.

From its start 26 years ago until today, Oakhurst Petanque is thriving in its mountain community and hoping to plant the seeds for future generations of pétanque players.



Shedmates: The Cottontail and the Feral Cat

At the Fresno Petanque Club, community stretches beyond the circles, the boules, and even beyond the people. Tucked beneath a quiet shed near the courts, an unlikely friendship has bloomed — between a rabbit and a cat.

No one knows exactly how they found each other, but they've become inseparable, sharing food, space, and lazy afternoons while pétanque players compete nearby. They've also found a group of human caretakers — **Janice, Ann, and Joyce** — who make sure they're well-fed and safe, quietly tending to their furry neighbors with as much dedication as they bring to the game.



Their bond, simple and natural, is a quiet reminder of what pétanque teaches us every day: that people from different backgrounds, ages, and even continents can meet on the courts and find connection.

Southwest Regional Winners



SOUTHWEST SELECT DOUBLES

GOLD: MANU LE BIHAN &
KHAM CHOUNLAMANY
(FRESNO) (LEFT)

SILVER: TOM NGUYEN &
PASCAL TISSEUR (PORTLAND
PC)

BRONZE: CHAN XIONG
(SACTOWN) & YE XIONG
(FRESNO)

SOUTHWEST MIXED TRIPLES

GOLD: TOM NGUYEN
(PORTLAND), SUZIE LEE
(SACTOWN), PASCAL TISSEUR
(PORTLAND) (RIGHT)

SILVER: REBECCA RUNZE
(LA), ANOUSONE
KHAMNUENGTHAI (FRESNO),
UBOL (MAY) SINGTHAYOM (LA)

BRONZE: JER THAO, JANICE
BISSENETTE, BY VANG
(FRESNO)



Viva Las Vegas 2025!

For the fifth time, the Pétanque Club of Las Vegas is proud to host the **Viva Las Vegas Open Tournament**, taking place **November 15–16, 2025**. As in previous years, players from across the U.S., as well as international competitors from Europe, Canada, and Mexico, are expected to attend. World Champion **Damien Hureau** is also planning to compete. The terrains at the Meadows School promise to be challenging.

New this year: a **Precision Shooting Competition** will be held on Friday afternoon, offering players an exciting new test of skill. FPUSA referees will be on site throughout the event to ensure fair play and accurate scoring.

Over the weekend, the newly crowned Precision Shooting champion will face off against a French champion in a special exhibition match.

[Registrations are now open!](#)

VIVA LAS VEGAS 2025!

5TH INTERNATIONAL OPEN

SELECT DOUBLES PETANQUE TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15-16

PRECISION SHOOTING COMPETITION

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, NOV 14,

WINNER WILL FACE OFF FRENCH CHAMPION

SATURDAY NOV 15



Doubles Entry fee US\$110 per team,
US\$130 after September 30.

Shooting Competition US\$10.



Valerie Hodson-Pujol, petanquecluboflasvegas@gmail.com



US Tel/WhatsApp +1 (702) 235-2485, facebook: Petanque Club of Las Vegas, www.petanquecluboflasvegas.com



Damien Hureau, lola.hureau@orange.fr, France Tel: 06 82 32 26 86



LPM courts from 2008

News from NorCal

History and Change

By Christine Cragg, La Pétanque Marinière

La Pétanque Marinière has been playing on the same plot of land since 1972. With a large French population in the Bay Area, several clubs soon formed and worked together to coordinate tournaments. They decided that the best way to support all clubs was to assign each one a regular weekend, encouraging more participation across the region. This arrangement was in place long before my time, but when I joined LPM in 1995, I learned that our club's event was held on the second Sunday of every month. This tradition continued until three years ago, when the French Market—a lovely shopping experience—moved to the far end of the parking lot we use. The increased traffic from vendors and shoppers left no room for our players to park. We struggled through the rest of that year, but when it became clear the market was a permanent addition, we made the cooperative decision to move our tournaments to the second Saturday of each month.

Last year, we encountered another challenge. Our long-standing Free Lesson sessions, traditionally held on the third Saturday from 10:00 AM to noon, were suddenly impacted by a new Car Rally Meet-Up that took place from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. While the rally featured some amazing cars, I hoped the event would fade away by this year—but it has only grown

larger. In response, we've decided to adjust our Free Lesson start time to 11:00 AM, after the cars have departed, to ensure parking is available for those interested in learning pétanque. These changes may take some getting used to, but they are necessary to keep our club thriving and accessible.

Our annual calendar includes eleven tournaments, with December as our only break. The 2025 season began with two m  lee events, which we typically schedule in January and February, the rainiest months in Northern California. These m  lee tournaments are easy to cancel if needed, and players don't need to arrange partners in advance. Fortunately, the weather was on our side. In January, we welcomed a ten-team turnout (nine doubles and one triples team), with **Bernard Passemar** and **Lynn Bell** from P  tanque La Rose taking first place. In February, we hosted a balanced roster with ten doubles and two triples teams. **Dave Mahoney** and **Matt Hopkins** from Sonoma claimed first place.

March marked the start of our Select events with 16 teams competing in the Select Triples. The winners were **Bill Miller**, **Wolf Kurz**, and **PJ Mallet**, all from Sonoma. In April, we held Select Doubles with a strong 22-team turnout, where **Chan Xiong** (Sactown) and **Peter Mathis** (VOMPC) took first place.

Since our May weekend always falls on Mother's Day, the format has varied over the years. This year, we introduced a Rally M  lee, setting up stations inspired by the CIEP training we had the honor of hosting last year.

In June, we hosted our annual Commemorative Cup. Although the turnout was smaller than usual—many of our regulars were either supporting the No King! Rally or participating in the Nationals in Portland—the 10 teams that did play enjoyed a beautiful, if slightly breezy, day with plenty of stiff competition.

The day began with a special moment: FPUSA Sport Director **Janice**

Bissonnette presented **Louis Toulon** with a medal honoring his decades of service to FPUSA and to the sport of p  tanque, particularly his work in umpiring and promoting the game. As the matches progressed, the courts were filled with the expected cheers and groans, and the tournament closed with an exciting, hard-fought final round. Congratulations to our 2025 Commemorative Cup Champions: **Tamara Efron** (La P  tanque Marini  re) & **Bernard Passemar** (P  tanque La Rose)



Big Changes at La Boule d'Or - New Courts Coming!

La Boule d'Or holds a special place in pétanque history as the second oldest pétanque club in the United States and the very first established on the West Coast. Founded in San Francisco in 1959, the club has long been a cornerstone of the pétanque community.

Exciting changes are underway as the club is adding new courts at Golden Gate Park, enhancing this iconic location for both members and visitors. They are getting the piste ready for two FPUSA tournaments in July and August. We can't wait to see the upgrades and look forward to playing in this historic setting.





Another Vintage Year for the Wine Country Open

The Wine Country Open (WCO), hosted by Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club in April, sold out quickly, with 64 teams from across the U.S., Europe, and Mexico ready to compete in one of the season's most anticipated events. The tournament buzzed with excitement from start to finish and featured an opportunity for a skills clinic with World Champions **Damien Hureau** and **Dylan Rocher**. The Friday afternoon social brought players together for lively pointing and shooting competitions followed by drinks, appetizers, and plenty of socializing.

Throughout the weekend, players and guests enjoyed on-site meals prepared by two outstanding Sonoma chefs who brought their kitchens right to the courts. Saturday's lunch was provided by renowned caterer **Marco Ilaria**, and Sunday's meal was the show-stopping paella creation by **Gerard Nebesky**, famed for his victory over Bobby Flay in a paella throwdown on the Food Network. The competition matched the energy of the food with the final showdown featuring **Damien Hureau** and **Mark Greenberg** (LAPC) against **Dylan Rocher** and **Patrick Neuville**. Rocher and Neuville emerged as this year's champions. The WCO once again delivered an exceptional blend of sport, community, and celebration—truly another vintage year. Mark your calendar for next year's event - April 25-26, 2026!





Every club has a story - ours begins with a footprint

Every pétanque club has its own identity, and often, that identity is captured in a single image: the club logo. These emblems may seem small, but they often carry deep meaning, shaped by the people, history, and values that define each club. How a logo comes to be can be a story in itself - one that speaks to pride, culture, and community.

In the heart of our club lies an emblem that holds more than just visual significance. The Hmong symbol of the elephant's footprint adorning our logo encapsulates a journey of unity, diversity, and shared experience. This emblem embodies the rich cultural tapestry woven by our Hmong members.



The elephant's footprint is deeply rooted in Hmong culture and history. It symbolizes strength, endurance, and the ability to leave an indelible mark on the world. It also serves as a reminder that just as each footprint is unique, so are the individuals who make up our club. The Hmong community, with its rich heritage and values, brings an added dimension of unity and diversity to our games. Our logo stands as a testament to our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where different cultures blend to create something truly special.



At the core of the Hmong community are values that emphasize unity, respect for elders, and the importance of family bonds. These values not only shape the Hmong way of life but also bring a powerful perspective to our pétanque club. The deep-rooted respect and sense of togetherness echo on our courts and within our team spirit.

Our club is a living example of how diversity enriches sport. The laughter that fills the air during games transcends language and background, reminding us that pétanque—like all sports—can serve as a universal language. As we continue to play, laugh, and learn, we celebrate the beautiful mosaic that is our pétanque family.

Reprinted from Sactown Petanque's Blog



NorCal Mixed Triples Winners

Gold: Phominik Lee (Sactown), Holly Sammons (VOMPC), & Chan Xiong (Sactown) (top left)
 Silver: Giuseppe Gadaleta (La Pétanque Marinière), Michelle Dang (Sactown), & Hideko Matsunaga (La Pétanque Marinière)
 Bronze: Manu Le Bihan (Fresno), Maggie Lane (VOMPC), & Kham Chounlamany (Fresno)

NorCal Select Triples Winners

Gold: Michelle Dang, Hamid El Qarei, and Suzie Lee (Sactown) (top right)
 Silver: Tom Lee (Sactown), Kham Chounlamany (Fresno), and Christophe Sarafian (Sactown)
 Bronze: Phominik Lee, K Lee, and Yor Lee (Sactown)

NorCal Men's Triples Winners

Gold: Adair Hastings, Dave Lanter, and Peter Mathis (all VOMPC) (bottom right)
 Silver: Kham Chounlamany (Fresno), K Lee (Sactown), and Phominik Lee (Sactown)
 Bronze: Claude Bunand (LPM), Nicholas Bunand (VOMPC), and Patrick Vaslet (VOMPC)

Bay Area & Beyond Interclub Tournament

This year's Interclub Tournament was hosted by Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club (VOMPC), last year's champion. Each club in the region was invited to register at least one team of eight players, with the option to enter a second team for a total of up to sixteen players. The clubs represented in this year's competition were **VOMPC, La Pétanque Marinière, Lamorinda Pétanque Club, Petaluma Pétanque Club, Sactown Pétanque, and Fresno Pétanque Club.**

In the morning, players were matched with teammates from their own club to compete in three qualifying doubles games. Based on the results, the top six players from each club (if the club registered one team of eight) advanced to the concours to form two triples teams. The remaining players participated in the consolante as doubles teams.

The stakes included not only cash prizes for the winning clubs but also the honor of having their club's name engraved on the perpetual trophy. The final match featured Fresno against Sactown, with Fresno emerging as the clear victor. VOMPC secured third place.

It was a wonderful day of camaraderie and teamwork. In a sport where club members often find themselves competing against one another, this tournament provided a special opportunity to unite and play side by side in pursuit of a shared goal.



News from Northwest



Northwest Women's Doubles Winners

Gold: Megan Henzel (Portland) & Menzina Churchman (Dallas) (top left)

Silver: Gerda Jorgenson & Jen Sliker (Portland)

Bronze: Keogh Singkeo & Jeanette Reisenburg (Port Townsend)

Northwest Men's Doubles Winners

Gold: Joe Cortright & Scott Muir (Portland) (top right)

Silver: La Sinkeo (Port Townsend) & Tu Houang (Fresno)

Bronze: Tom Niemann & Rob Gruye (Port Townsend)

Northwest Men's Doubles Winners

Gold: Bekah Howe & Silas Holm (Port Townsend) (bottom right)

Silver: Andrew Sheldon & Julie Johnson (Port Townsend)

Bronze: Gabriel Delarue & Charae Duong (Lincoln Park)

National Doubles Champions

Congratulations to all our new national doubles champions—your skill and determination shone brightly! Thank you to **Portland Pétanque Club** for serving as this year's host for the National Doubles Championships.

National Women's Doubles Champions

Gold: Bekah Howe (Port Townsend) & Alexandra Tisseur (Portland)

Silver: Tish Harris (Oakhurst) & Valerie Hodson-Pujol (Las Vegas)

Bronze: Barbara Kongsbak (Portland) & Krystal Pulsipher (Sactown)

National Men's Doubles Champions

Gold: Raymond Nielsen (Ohlala) & Edward Vaissiere (Nelson Ranch)

Silver: John Harris (Oakhurst) & Silas Holm (Port Townsend)

Bronze: Roland Rakotondramanana (Sactown) & J. Mamy Ranaivoson (Zanesfield)

National Mixed Doubles Champions

Gold: Gerda Jorgenson (Portland) & Roland Rakodondramanana (Sactown)

Silver: Suzie Lee & Tom Lee (Sactown)

Bronze: Michelle Dang (Sactown) & Ziggy Kessouagni (Miami)



The Rose City Open



The Rose City Open is Portland Petanque Club's (PPC) premiere tournament! In 2025, PPC anticipates hosting a sell-out crowd of 44 teams in select doubles.

Mark your calendar for **September 13 & 14** and plan to attend the evening **social on Friday, September 12, 2025**. Last year we sold out in August, so be sure to register early to secure your spot!

[Link to register](#)



PetanqueSport & The Pumpkin Patch



INVITE YOU TO

Festival de Petanque

GENERAL ADMISSION: FREE / FREE PARKING

FEATURING



The "Sauvie Island Open Challenge"



JULY 18-20, 2025, PORTLAND, OR

FRI 5:00P-8:00P MENS & WOMENS SINGLES
SAT 9:00A-8:00P MENS & WOMENS DOUBLES
SUN 9:00A-8:00P SELECT DOUBLES

EXPERIENCE THE NATIONAL SPORT OF FRANCE AS PLAYERS "POINT", "SHOOT", "PLOMBE" & "CARREAU" TO GAIN POSITIONAL ADVANTAGE UPON A CHALLENGING ROCKY TERRAIN.

PLUS



The "Fresh Fruit Tart Baking Contest & Tasting"

JULY 19th, 2025 SAT 5:00P-7:30P

PROFESSIONALS COMPETE TO BAKE DELICIOUS, FRESH FRUIT WORKS OF ART. TARTS ARE JUDGED BY TASTE & ARTISTRY.



VIP JUDGE

BE ONE OF THE JUDGES FOR THE TART CONTEST. SAVOR EVERY TART AND ENJOY PREFERRED TOURNAMENT SEATING.

ONLINE TICKETS

RESERVE TARTS & VIP TICKET USING THE QR CODE BELOW, OR, PURCHASE AT EVENT.

2 TARTS \$12.00
4 TARTS \$20.00
VIP JUDGE \$40.00



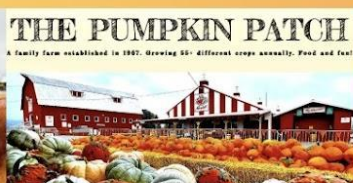
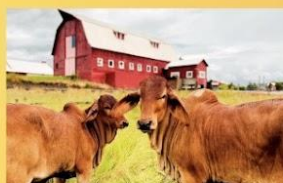
PLUS

Lots More Fun Activities...



WINE TASTING FROM 3 LOCAL VINEYARDS, GAMES OF "BOOGLE" & "SKIT-BOULE", MUSIC, U-PICK FRESH FRUIT & FLOWERS, A PRODUCE MARKET, THE ANIMAL BARN, THE COTTAGE GIFT SHOP, A COFFEE CART, THE PATIO CAFE AND THE COW TRAIN*.

(*CHECK PP WEBSITE FOR TRAIN SCHEDULE).



BRINGING TOGETHER PETANQUE & COMMUNITY FOR A HAPPIER WORLD

*[Registration closes July 12, 2025](#)



News from Northeast

LBNY Celebrates Regional Victories and Prepares for US Open

La Boule New Yorkaise (LBNY) has started both our free lessons in the parks and our tournament season. During a rainy *mêlée* in June, we gathered to dedicate two plaques, generously provided by Bryant Park, one for **Ernesto Santos**, the other for **Pierre Le Goff**—taking their place next to our plaque for **Yngve Bilsted**, three departed giants of pétanque in Bryant Park and LBNY. In addition to regular club tournaments, we've hosted the N.E. Regional Mixed Triples, with 14 teams competing. New York locals took first and second, and our friends from Philly took third (above photo). **Dawan Sangasri** (LBNY), **Olivier Hidalgo** (Local 718), and **Samba Seck** (LBNY) won gold (center in photo); **Kasia Sliz** (LBNY), **Xavier Thibaud**, and **Aaron Weeks** (both Local 718) won silver (right in photo); and **Heidi Ratanavanich**, **Stephane Marchiori**, and **Moctar Cheikh Sidi** (all Philadelphia Pétanque Club) won bronze (left in photo). LBNY members have also been traveling to play in tournaments around the country—placing in tournaments including the Wine Country Open, the Men's World Championship qualifier, and the North Carolina Open.

Spots are filling quickly for the **US Open of Pétanque (Oct 11-12)**, with dozens of teams from Canada, Germany, France, and around the U.S. already registered. So if you're planning on playing in Hoboken this October, [register soon!](#)



2025

US Open of Pétanque

Oct. 11-12

Select Doubles
\$130/ Team

Pier A Park
100 Sinatra Dr.
Hoboken, NJ

Register at
www.labouleny.com



Maine Boules Club Boatyard Cup

September 6 & 7

**Mixed Triples – Fun Weekend in
Brooklin, Maine!**

Come play on our brand-new courts in beautiful Brooklin, Maine! Join us for a weekend of friendly competition and great company. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be available on both Saturday and Sunday mornings, with lunch options available for purchase each day. On Sunday night, don't miss our special Lobster Dinner!

If you have any questions about lodging or travel, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Julie Jo Ferhle - juliejo1@mac.com

Andre Strong -
andrelstrong@gmail.com

[Link](#) for online registration, or log in to fpusa.justgo.com and click on the Events tab.

Fees can also be sent to:
Jetsun Penkalski
292 Front Ridge Road
Penobscot, ME 04467

Email team info to andrelstrong@gmail.com





News from Southeast

Atlanta Pétanque League reinvigorates two special events

Atlanta Pétanque League and Classic City Pétanque Club (CCPC) (Athens, GA) enjoyed a day of panache. One player from Atlanta and one from Classic City were paired up throughout the day. They played five games, enjoyed lunch together, and winners were awarded medals and bottles of various bubbly.

Panache is a great way to spice up the game – existing friendships are strengthened, and new friendships are created in a spirited day of competition and fun with the latter being the goal. The day's winners were: **Rob Trevena** (CCPC),

Tom Robinson (CCPC), and **Yves Andriamaromana**, who placed first overall (APL).



The following weekend, APL traveled to Asheville, NC in a bid to reclaim the Atlanta vs Asheville trophy. Both APL and Carolina Pétanque fielded eight teams at the popular terrain, RendezVous, a wonderful and popular French restaurant. The tournament included two days of fierce but friendly competition – all eight teams played one another. The club with the most wins would be awarded the coveted trophy. Atlanta Pétanque League prevailed, taking home the trophy again.



Outreach continues to be robust for the Classic City Pétanque Club

Once again, groups of students from the University of Georgia Global Education Department's Intensive English Program joined us for games of pétanque. Spanning the globe, students from **Bangladesh, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Peru** and more, enjoyed pairing up with club members for learning then playing.

Students from the UGA Terry College of Business approached CCPC for help in creating a fundraiser for the Athens Community Council on Aging's (ACCA) Meals on Wheels program. Together we created an event that invited the public to 'pay to play' in support of this worthwhile program. The money raised exceeded the students' goals, which also included raising awareness about pétanque. We enjoy this kind of engagement with our community.





CIEP comes to Athens!

Three coaches from the Centre International d'Enseignement Pétanque, Sergines, France provided a 3-day training course to 29 enthusiastic players hoping to improve their game. Training was intense, 8 hours a day, with a mix of group activities and individual coaching. Our three coaches: **Claude Raluy**, **Georges Dalgibot**, and **Petr Fuksa** are seasoned trainers who brought their specialized pedagogy along with demanding, yet patient expectations sprinkled with good humor and fun. Clubs represented include **South Florida, Amelia Island, Atlanta, Classic City, Carolina, Les Boulefrogs, Thibodaux, Nelson Ranch, and Boules de Leon**. We were privileged to host this group and thank everyone for attending. Keep an eye on us as our games improve over time!

As a special treat for our coaches and participants, we attended an early evening concert presented by Folie a Quatre, whose repertoire includes French chansons and jazzy songs in both French and English. Our club member, **Chris Martin**, who is 98.5 years old, was at the concert. Serendipity! After meeting the coaches they invited him to attend an afternoon session. Everyone found Chris to be serious, fun, and inspiring!





AIPC Team Shines at Men's Triples World Qualifier

The Amelia Island Pétanque Club (AIPC) members—**Fouad Lahnoune**, **Hassan Lakhdar**, and **Ziggy Kessouagni**—representing the Miami Pétanque Club, triumphed at FPUSA's National Men's Triples World Qualifier Tournament. Held May 18, 2025, at Sanford, Florida's Ohlala Pétanque Club, their win secured a U.S. berth at November's 2025 Men's Triples World Tournament in Chile this November. With a win in the top three in Chile, the team earns the privilege of competing in Monaco the fall of 2026. The team has chosen **Christian Cazenave** of the Miami Pétanque Club as its 4th player and **Jerry Miller**, Amelia Island Pétanque Club, as the team's coach.

The Sanford tournament showcased AIPC's impressive depth of talent, with many members achieving notable results. **Bill Norris** and **Kaye Norris** further contributed by umpiring, guaranteeing fair play and a smoothly run event. This highlights the club's commitment to both pétanque competition and the wider community.

The pétanque community and club are buzzing with excitement as the team prepares for their trip to Chile. This victory means more than just a win; it could mark a pivotal moment for the future of pétanque in our area.



A New Pavilion for South Florida Pétanque

Former South Florida Pétanque Club (SFPC) President **Bernard Masson** hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new pavilion, together with Palm Beach County Parks & Recreation Deputy Director **Paul Connell** and staff members **Kirk, Rick, Spencer and Daniella**.

Bernard and **John Wildner**, who passed away in 2023, initiated the request to build the pavilion for us in 2022. It was accepted into a future budget and work began the first week of January 2025.

Club members thanked the Park's personnel and congratulated each other on this superb enhancement to the 20-court complex the park has built for SFPC. The Park officials praised our club for its stewardship and are delighted to see the facilities being enjoyed 3 times a week, year-round. **Bernard Masson** and **Jany Masson** provided a lavish champagne apéritif while **Jeannette Dechape** sang a song she had composed. There were smiles all around!





Family, Tradition, and Boules Across Continents

SFPC's member **Jerome Nicolas** and his sister, **Nataelle**, grew up playing boules. This is not just a cliché—their parents presided over the Pétanque Club of Seyssins (near Grenoble, France) from its creation in 1980 until 2020! Pétanque was an integral part of family life, and both siblings have continued this family tradition within their own families.

When **Nataelle**, her husband **Simon**, and their children **Nathan and Agathe** came to Florida for vacation in May, Jerome brought them to play boules with SFPC. Jerome explained that they have a pétanque court in their backyard at home, where “très chaleureuses et acharnées (et bien arrosées!) parties de pétanque se déroulent!” This friendly ambiance was shared that day at SFPC. Great plays were applauded, misses were gently teased, and points were retaken amidst laughter and joy. Bravo tout le monde!



Jerome and his sons - Stefan (L) & Fabian (R)



Boca Pétanque 2000 Recognizes John Rolland for His Years of Service

Friends and members of Boca Pétanque 2000 recently held a party in recognition of **John Rolland** for his 25 years of service to the club. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fun and food, which culminated in a heartfelt presentation of a plaque to John, as founder and president of the club.

Pétanque has been a part of John's life for 80 years! He was also a founding member of the South Florida Pétanque Club, a National Umpire, U.S.A. Team coach, and both Vice-President and President of FPUSA. Additionally, he helped create a pathway for Canadians to participate in FPUSA tournaments and the Florida Trophy tournament, which is being revived by the Miami Pétanque Club. John's wife, **Marieke**, has been John's partner in pétanque. She has been a member of Team U.S.A. a number of times and an active member of Boca Pétanque 2000.



News from Mid-America

Les Boulefrogs Have Been Busy!

Bill Hase and **Beth Hase** recently brought Boulefrog cheer to the Manasota Boules Club in Sarasota, Florida. Other Boulefrogs also visited the National Capital Club de Pétanque, strengthening connections near and far. Back home, Les Boulefrogs Pétanque Club of Virginia celebrated its **20th anniversary** on May 3rd with a catered dinner. Six founding members joined new and returning players for a joyful evening filled with stories, laughter, and a photo retrospective.



The celebration continued the next day with a carnival-style pétanque skills day and a three-game tournament on May 4th. Players competed for "boule bucks" and even enjoyed placing side bets, which made the day even more exciting. Prizes were awarded based on boule buck totals.



Our community outreach efforts have also been going strong this spring. We've hosted informational booths and pétanque demonstrations at three public events, sharing our love of the sport with new audiences. The Boulefrogs continue to grow, play, and spread pétanque passion far and wide!



Zanesfield's Ongoing Promotion of Pétanque

The Zanesfield Pétanque Club has hosted many events in past years during Memorial Day weekend at the Logan Hills Festival. For 2025, the club decided to take a year off to allow clubs within the region to host events on the same weekend. In turn, local club members, who are currently playing three times a week, wanted to do an event during the festival to help promote the game. It was decided to have one small event for the local pétanque players. On Sunday May 25th, six teams of Doubles and Triples teams battled out three qualifying games. These three games ranked everyone for single elimination bracket play. Only one team was 3-0 after qualifying, the team of **Mollie Johns** and **Justin Bo Johns**. The final was won 13-9 by **Ronald Walls** and **Jon Dalmau** over **Larry Niswonger** and **Ahmed Chafi**. In the 3rd Place game **Mollie** and **Bo Johns** won 13-7 over **Mike and Joan Failor** and **William Daniels**.



Carolina Pétanque Goes Big on Outreach

A demonstration of indoor pétanque was presented to a group of participants at the Asheville Reuter YMCA. The YMCA is eager to offer this sport to its 15,000 members, including approximately 500 children who are expected to attend summer camps. Special thanks to the following members for making this introduction possible: **Lucille Gardner, Mike House, Gary Jones, Shirley Jones, Bill Cooke, James Byrd, Nick Verdile, and Carol Verdile.**

In Greensboro, Carolina Pétanque took part in the World Promenade at Tanger Garden. Throughout the day, they demonstrated the game and introduced pétanque to newcomers, offering hands-on instruction and a welcoming atmosphere.

This year, pétanque was once again featured in the Senior Games. Several members of the Winston-Salem group played key roles in organizing the event and also participated as players.

At the Kernersville Parks and Recreation Summer Camp, thirty children were introduced to pétanque using indoor boules that were purchased with support from an FPUSA Junior's Grant. Special thanks to **Shirley Jones** and **Gail Dickerson** for their enthusiastic participation and support in delivering this program.





New Courts in Raleigh, NC!

Pétanque players in Raleigh are excited to announce the opening of new courts in historic **Pullen Park**, located in West Raleigh and borders the campus of North Carolina State University.

Several students from North Carolina State set up a grand opening party as part of their Parks and Recreation Internship. Pétanque America and members of Carolina Pétanque were on hand to demonstrate the game and provide additional information about pétanque to those in attendance. Raleigh now has weekly pétanque play and boasts 3 different pétanque playing locations across town! We are happy to report that interest in pétanque in Raleigh continues to grow as does our group of regular players and visitors.



Carolina Open Finds a New Home in Kernersville

The Carolina Open made a smooth and joyful transition to its new location in Kernersville, where teams gathered to compete in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere during Memorial Day weekend. The event was filled with spirited games, warm connections, and a heartfelt tribute to **Gary Jones** for his dedication and years of service to the sport.

Shirley Jones proved to be the ultimate hostess, greeting every player and guest with genuine warmth and care, setting the perfect tone for the tournament. She even recruited new members during the event! **Bill Cooke** did a fantastic job as Tournament Director, keeping the event running smoothly and ensuring everyone had a great experience from start to finish.

Amidst the clinking boules, sharp carreaux, and playful banter, an unexpected participant stole the show—a mother killdeer nesting right on the terrain. Thanks to the thoughtful protection of cones and barriers, she and her eggs were kept safe throughout the weekend. One can only imagine her relief when the last boule was thrown and peace returned to her space on the court.

Congratulations to all the winners! **Raymond Nielsen** and **Salem Touati** emerged as the tournament champions.



Mid-America Regional Winners



Mid-America Mixed Triples

Gold: Honor Woodard (Classic City Pétanque), Frosty Sabo,, and Doug Boes (Amelia Island Pétanque) (pictured with Jesse Israel, Carolina Pétanque)

Silver: John Wilson & Goyo Martinez (Carolina Pétanque), and Shannon Hodge (Zanesfield Pétanque)

Bronze: Marc Quilici, Juan Hernandez, and Kathy Isenhour (Carolina Pétanque)

Saying Farewell to Asheville's Beloved Mascot

By Holly Israel, Carolina Pétanque

Members in Asheville had to say goodbye to its beloved mascot, 12 year old golden retriever **Sandy Israel**, on May 19th. Sandy was a regular at the courts of RendezVous in East Asheville. She could always be seen watching pétanque and smiling at everyone from her lounge chair. She loved watching games and was happy to be included by her many pétanque friends. **Michel Boudouin**, owner of RendezVous, called her his "Frite Monster" after her great affinity for the restaurant's frites.

Sandy was also known to be a greeter at Carolina Pétanque tournaments in Morganton, Asheville, and Winston-Salem. Shown here with **Holly Israel** is a photo of Sandy at the welcoming booth of the 2024 Carolina

Open, and in her favorite spot at RendezVous. She was a very sweet soul and will be missed dearly. Her parents **Holly** and **Jesse Israel** are glad she got to be a part of the Asheville pétanque community during her senior "golden years".



Keeping Score





FRIENDS & FAMILY PÉTANQUE DAY!

FPUSA would like to encourage clubs to spread the word about pétanque by organizing a fun event around the sport this summer, between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Members could invite their friends and families and show them how much fun this sport is. The event could be a picnic, a club tournament, or just a gathering with coffee, French pastries, fun games, and demos.

At the end of the day, we may have a few more passionate players and even more club members!



Please send pictures of the fun and festivities to the NSD or the Communications Committee for inclusion in the next Newsletter.



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