



PETANQUE PULSE

Official FPUSA Newsletter

Winter - Spring 2024

usapetanque.org



Welcome to Pétanque Pulse!

In this issue, we're bringing you updates and news from our regional counselors and clubs across the country. Find out what's happening in your area and other regions, from recent events to upcoming opportunities and umpiring updates. This quarterly newsletter is your source for staying connected with the FPUSA Petanque community and keeping up with the latest developments in petanque.

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FPUSA Regions & Directory

- **NORTHEAST REGION:** The region extends from Maine in the north to Pennsylvania in the south. It includes all of New England and extends inland to the edge of the Great Lakes.
- **MID-AMERICA REGION:** The region extends along the seacoast from Maryland to South Carolina and inland to Wisconsin.
- **SOUTHEAST REGION:** The region extends south from Georgia to Florida and inland to the Louisiana border, embracing the Gulf states.
- **CENTRAL REGION:** The region stretches from Louisiana in the east to Colorado in the west with a geographic span north to Minnesota.
- **SOUTHWEST REGION:** The region takes in Utah and Arizona, then sweeps west to include Nevada and the southern half of California.
- **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:** The region encompasses northern California including the Bay Area and rural communities to the north.
- **NORTHWEST REGION:** The region includes Washington and Oregon as well as Idaho and Montana to the east.

[FPUSA Club Directory \(Excel format\)](#)

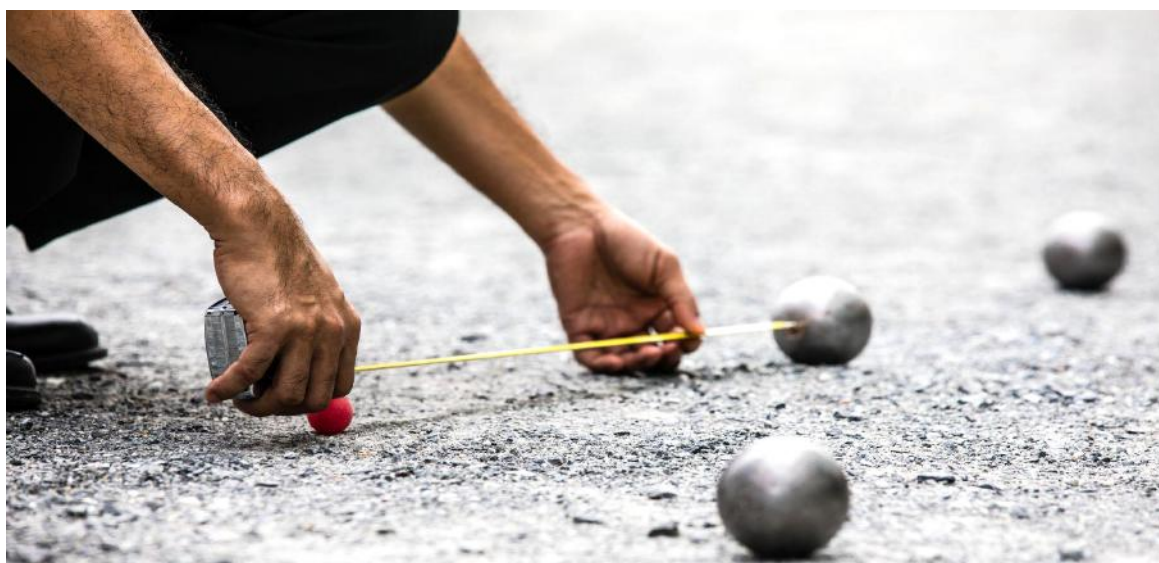
[FPUSA Club Directory \(PDF format\)](#)

Newcomers



The FPUSA continues to grow with the recent addition of four (4) new clubs and one reinstated club [Boca Petanque 2000](#) (Delray, FL), Southeast region.

Region	Club Name/Location	President
Central	Club Petanque Denver City (joined in 2022)	Dan Hilton
Northeast	Local 718 Petanque (joined in 2022) Brooklyn, NY	Adam Maid
Northwest	Sunriver Petanque Club (joined in 2022) Sunriver, OR	Gary Bigham
NorCal	Petanque La Rose (joined in 2023) Santa Rosa, CA	Richard Bell



Umpire News

submitted by Heidi Davison (Classic City Petanque Club, Athens, GA)

During 2022 and 2023, FPUSA added ten (10) new Club Umpires and promoted two (2) to Regional Umpires. This is great news!

Congratulations to the following individuals:

Regional Umpires:

- **Bill Cooke** (Carolina)
- **Bleys Rose** (Petaluma)

Club Umpires:

- **Guy Diebold, Cathy Diebold, Al Guarisco** (Thibodaux)
- **Tracie Jefferies** (Carolina)
- **Dan Goldfisher** (Local 718)
- **Barbara Kongsbak, Jen Sliker** (Portland)
- **Bill Norris, Kaye Norris** (Amelia Island)
- **Manu LeBihan** (Fresno)

Thus far, we have fifteen (15) applicants in the pipeline to test for Club Umpire and one (1) for Regional Umpire. FPUSA desperately needs more Regional and National umpires so those of you who are Club or Regional Umpires, please consider taking the next step!



By the start of the 2024 tournament season, all umpires will have received an official **FPUSA lanyard and license protector** that will also hold their new penalty cards. These lanyards and protectors will help players in competition to find an arbiter (umpire)

more easily to assist them with measuring and rules questions. Thanks to [Pétanque America](#) for their work on securing penalty cards for our umpires. We hope our umpires and players find these useful during tournament play.

Interested in becoming an umpire?
Contact Leader of the Umpire Working Group - **Heidi Davison**,
heidi@heididavison.com

List of Current Umpires

SPRING NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- 3/9/24 - National Women's and Men's Singles, South Florida Petanque Club
- 3/10/24 - National Mixed Triples, South Florida Petanque Club
- 4/6/24 - National Women's and Men's Doubles, Atlanta Petanque League (Men's Doubles is full)
- 4/7/24 - National Mixed Doubles - Full, Atlanta Petanque League

Feature Story: When Snoopy Learned to Play Pétanque

submitted by: Don McPherson (Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club). Appreciation for their generous collaboration is extended to: Jean Schulz, Frank Pipal, the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, and Peanuts Worldwide LLC.

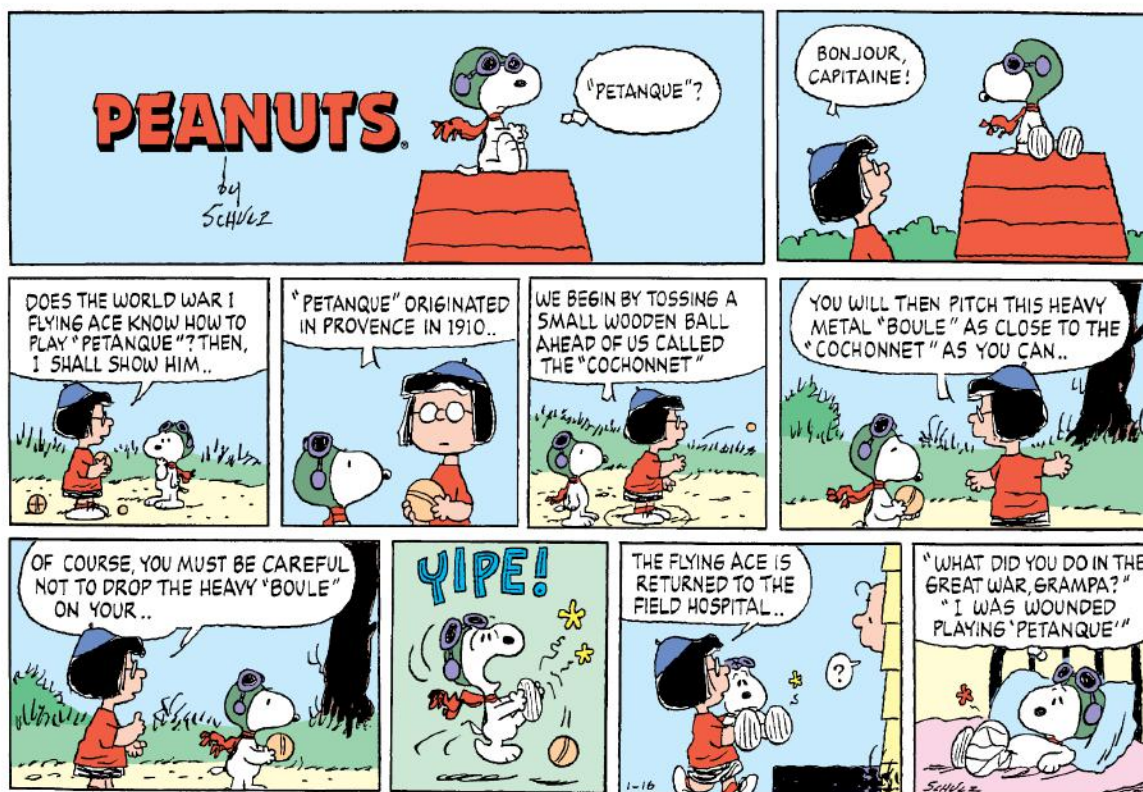


Image courtesy of Peanuts Worldwide © Peanuts Worldwide LLC (used with permission)

Charles M. Schulz's full-color comic strip homage to pétanque that appeared in newspapers around the world 30 years ago in January 1994 is well known in the pétanque community. Far less well known is how it came to be that **Snoopy** – America's favorite beagle – appeared once, and only once, playing a game that most of the general *Peanuts* audience probably had never heard of. The genesis of the iconic pétanque-themed comic strip is Schulz's introduction to the game by members of Sonoma, California's **Valley**

of the Moon Pétanque Club (VOMPC) in August 1993.

Early in 1993, Kenwood, CA resident **Frank Pipal** joined VOMPC in nearby Sonoma. He liked the company and enjoyed playing so much that he invited his dad, George, to join also. As vice president of United Features Syndicate/United Media Enterprises. **George Pipal** had worked in the studio at 1 Snoopy Place in Santa Rosa since 1979 handling, among other responsibilities,

syndication of the *Peanuts* comic strip and licensing of associated images and products. George joined the club, immediately became a regular at the courts, and played the occasional tournament.



Sparky pointing – left to right: Frank Pipal, Pamela Stephens, Charles M. Schulz, Jake Martin, Garrick Clayton at Chateau St. Jean Winery, Kenwood, CA. (1993 photo ©SFIP/T/Courtesy of Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center)

After hearing repeatedly from George about his newfound “pétanque bug,” Schulz, known to friends and family as **Sparky**, asked to be introduced to the game. **Caroline Pipal**, George’s wife, proposed inviting **Sparky and Jean Schulz** to an August *pique-nique* of the Alliance Française of Santa Rosa scheduled at Chateau St. Jean Winery in Kenwood where there would be time and plenty of room for a game. George and Frank recruited three fellow members of VOMPC – **Pamela Stephens**, who was a director on the VOMPC Board, **Garrick Clayton**, and **Jake Martin** – to come along to the picnic and play some pétanque, which fit well with an event featuring all things French.

Garrick recalls that at a certain point they all just drifted off to a patch of sand and gravel, explaining the rules and how to play to Schulz as he joined in. Jean Schulz also threw a few boules. George, Frank, Pamela, Garrick, Jake, and Sparky played two or three games of *triplettes* for a couple of hours. From time to time a few picnickers wandered over to watch. Explaining that “he loved

all ball games,” Jean Schulz recalls Sparky’s enthusiastic reaction to his first pétanque experience. Garrick recalls that Schulz “really got into it” and that it was obvious he enjoyed himself a great deal. Frank – who would later serve as president of VOMPC and as national secretary and president of the **Federation of Pétanque USA** (FPUSA) – concurs.

In the fall, George learned and told Frank that the occasion had inspired Schulz to work up a Pétanque-themed Sunday panel to appear in the new year. None of the VOMPC members who had participated in the August picnic, except Frank, knew anything about the strip, which was scheduled to run on Sunday, January 16, 1994. Ironically, on that day Frank was visiting his sister in Phnom Penh Cambodia and playing pétanque with some ex-pats when a young boy approached, hawking the *Bangkok Post*. Frank recalls that when one of his companions bought a paper, he gleefully took the opportunity to amaze his fellow pétanque players by asking his companion to turn to the comics, revealing the *Peanuts* Pétanque strip.

The full-color Sunday strip features Snoopy’s frequent alter ego, the **World War I Flying Ace**. Snoopy sits atop his doghouse (his imaginary Sopwith Camel) in aviator gear, scarf blowing in the wind, contemplating the obscure meaning of “Pétanque?” Marcie approaches, wearing her beret, greets him in French, and offers to teach him to play. To the Flying Ace she is the beautiful “French Lass” for whom he has fallen. As a *Peanuts* character, Marcie is known to be very intelligent. She is sometimes confused about the rules of games, but for this quintessential French pastime she instructs Snoopy ably about the history of pétanque and the basics of playing. She cautions the

Flying Ace not to drop the heavy metal boule on his foot which, of course, Snoopy promptly does. Marcie then carries her beloved Flying Ace to the field hospital, where he ponders his chagrin at having to explain that during the Great War he was wounded playing “petanque.”



Sparky shooting – left to right: Frank Pipal, Pamela Stephens, Charles M. Schulz at Chateau St. Jean Winery, Kenwood, CA. (1993 photo ©SFIPT/Courtesy of Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center)

The *Peanuts* strip surprised and delighted VOMPC members and pétanque enthusiasts among *Peanuts* fans around the country and the world. Pamela Stephens recalls her surprise at receiving a note from Schulz expressing his “thanks for teaching Snoopy to play Pétanque” together with a color print of the strip, which she framed. According to Mike Norton, VOMPC president at the time, Frank Pipal suggested that Snoopy might be made an honorary club member as a response. The Board voted to do so and arranged for an FPUSA “international pétanque license” to be printed showing Snoopy, depicted as the Flying Ace, as the cardholder. The club sent it to Schulz along with an invitation to play on the Sonoma courts anytime he wished.

Jean Schulz describes the pétanque-themed strip as “absolutely a perfect example” of Sparky’s drawing directly from a personal experience. As she explained in a February 1, 2012 entry in her blog at <http://schulzmuseum.com>: “one of Sparky’s cartooning beliefs and I heard him say it many times, [was] that a cartoonist has to be able to use every experience he has, and he has to be able to sit down and cold-bloodedly come up with something. Otherwise, he would say, you can’t put out a comic strip day after day, year after year.”

Although Schulz played on a few occasions thereafter, his personal sports passions remained golf and ice hockey. He died in February 2000. In 2004 Jean Schulz, who took a liking to pétanque, built a court near the guest house at her home where friends would gather for a few games. In the guest house she has displayed a framed memento of the day in 1993 when Sparky learned to play pétanque, combining photos of him playing with VOMPC members at the picnic together with a black-and-white rendering of the Snoopy Pétanque strip and an “I ♥ Pétanque” bumper sticker from Pétanque America.

The 2017 Santa Rosa wildfires destroyed her home - now rebuilt - but the guest house and pétanque court survived. With just a little imagination, the sound of clacking boules thrown by the World War I Flying Ace can be heard there to this day.



Northern California: Between the Raindrops

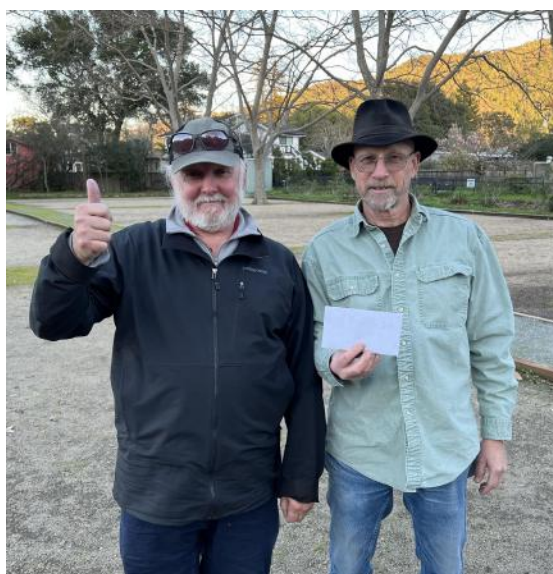
submitted by Bleys Rose (Petaluma Valley Petanque Club) & Michelle Dang (Sactown Petanque)

The atmospheric rivers have returned to grace NorCal skies. Despite the downpour, we're pleased to report that players continue to toss their boules. Amidst the winter rains, a spirited rivalry between the [Petaluma Valley Petanque Club](#) and the [Valley of the Moon Petanque Club](#) (VOMPC) was reignited. Their "Home and Home" competition not only provided intense matches but also served as a fundraiser for both clubs. Despite the wet weather, the battle was fierce, culminating in VOMPC emerging victorious.

Valley of the Moon is gearing up for their annual [Wine Country Open](#) in scenic **Sonoma**, drawing players across the U.S. and several countries. We expect the event to be full of excitement and lots of fun; 64 teams max. Reflecting the Sonoma spirit of good wine and food, the club has invited two

talented chefs to prepare lunches which will also include locally produced wine or beer. Planned events before the big weekend include social play on Thursday and pointing/shooting contests on Friday. We recommend [registering](#) early before the event is sold out. Contact **Maggie Lane**, mmlane@me.com, for further information.





Kurt Lundblad (VOMPC) & Mark Shirkey (LPM), winners of LPM's February melee

[La Petanque Mariniere](#) (LPM) recently hosted a delightful melee event. Under a picturesque blue sky, 13 doubles teams engaged in friendly competition that also drew spectators. LPM has switched their tournament days from Sundays to Saturdays and will host tournaments every second Saturday of the month.

[Lamorinda Petanque](#) proudly welcomed 11 new members. The club had numerous improvements to their field, including permanently lined courts, the installation of a plaque honoring their founder, **Marianne Gravier**, the addition of new benches, and the acquisition and installation of a new shed, generously donated by **Pat Pralle**.

These enhancements were made possible through the dedication of their volunteers. Lamorinda is anticipating a fun year with four tournaments, including their **Founders Cup** in May, the **Lamorinda Cup** in October, a "**Sunday Funday**" intra-club tournament, and an **FPUSA regional tournament**. Players gather regularly, rain or shine, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

[Sactown Petanque](#) is thrilled to add several new members including 11-year-olds **Kumone Lee** and **De Angelo Xiong**. They see a promising future for these young players who are showing a natural talent for the game and receiving wonderful coaching from their fathers. Sactown will host two regionals back to back for **Memorial Day weekend** (May 25-26) and look forward to seeing competitors return to the piste in Sactown.



De Angelo Xiong & Kumone Lee, new young players from Sactown Petanque

In mid-March, NorCal will host a groundbreaking event: the inaugural professional pétanque training conducted by France's esteemed [Centre Internationale d'Enseignement Pétanque](#) (CIEP). Thirty eager participants will have the exclusive opportunity to train under the guidance of three seasoned CIEP coaches. This highly anticipated event, taking place over three days at the courts of La Pétanque Mariniere, has garnered overwhelming interest and is completely sold out. Big thanks to the training's organizers: **Christine Cragg** (LPM), **Ann Krilanovich** (La Boule D'Or), and **Michelle Dang** (Sactown Petanque).

In the realm of officiating, **Bleys Rose** of Petaluma was recently promoted to Regional Umpire. Congratulations Bleys! Bleys is poised to oversee upcoming events such as the Wine Country Open and the Sactown regional tournaments. **Ed Porto** of Petaluma has decided to resign from his role as a national umpire.

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring, our petanque calendar is filled to the brim with excitement. We have created a [NorCal and Beyond 2024 Calendar](#) that includes major opens, nationals, and regionals in the West Coast. NorCal clubs have lined up ten (10) FPUSA regional tournaments throughout 2024. From club tournaments to the Wine Country Open in Sonoma, NorCal players are gearing up for an unforgettable season!

FPUSA NORCAL REGIONAL CALENDAR

- Mixed Doubles - March 30 (Valley of the Moon)
- Select Singles - May 25 (Sactown Petanque)
- Select Triples - May 26 (Sactown Petanque)
- Mixed Triples - June 9 (Lamorinda Petanque Club)
- Men's Singles - June 15 (Sactown Petanque)
- Women's Singles - June 15 (Sactown Petanque)
- Select Doubles - August 10 (La Petanque Marinier)
- Men's Doubles - September 28 (Valley of the Moon)
- Women's Triples - October 5 (Sactown Petanque)
- Men's Triples - October 5 (Sactown Petanque)

New Club Highlight: Pétanque La Rose

Planting Roots for Pétanque in Santa Rosa, California

submitted by Richard Bell (Pétanque La Rose)

About four and half years ago, our good friend **Bernard Passemar** introduced **Lynn** and me (Richard) to pétanque, and we fell in love with the game and the people who play it. Within a short time, we decided our town, **Santa Rosa**, needs to have a place to play this game. We rounded up local friends we had made through pétanque and began the work of getting courts in a park in our town.

Getting a city government's buy-in for something new is a test of endurance. We have been at this for four years and still are years away from court facilities like in Sonoma or Sacramento. We are getting there slowly; someday, we will be hosting tournaments like you all do. We did something three years ago that really got us on the radar with the parks dept. We did a change.org petition that got over 200 signatures and sent the results to the city council. They saw that and told the Parks department to find us room somewhere.

So now, we have contacts in Parks who are committed to pétanque in Santa Rosa. We are currently in the process of approving 3 courts in a small park near our house. It will be a place where we can show the game to others. It is a first step to our ultimate goal of a full size terrain in a larger park.



We started **Pétanque La Rose** last year with 8 prime members, some from other clubs, some new to the game. This year we have 14, with hopes of signing up more. We formed the club to give our voice as pétanque players more weight and recruit more people. Even though we don't have courts, we find places to play and share our game. We play in baseball infields, driveways, parking lots, and the gravel roads in our rural cemetery. Santa Rosa is known for its roses; we have a Rose Parade, the rose is part of the city logo; our logo will also have a rose. When you come to a tournament here in a few years, there will be roses by the courts



Northwest: Golftanque Anyone?

submitted by Barbara Kongsbak
(Portland Petanque Club)

So what do you get when you cross pétanque with another popular ball sport, golf? In [Portland Petanque](#) this year, we called it **Putt Putt Petanque!** Participants put their creative minds to work designing miniature golf holes on our petanque terrain and the result was? Well, a lot of fun. Throwing boules over, around, and through a variety of obstacles, players kept track of how many throws it took to end up in each “cup” (throwing ring) on our 9-hole course. While knickers and argyle were not required attire, they proved to be a popular choice by this natty crew! Portland Petanque Club (PPC) President, **Joe Cortright**, finished the round with the fewest strokes to become our first PPC Golftanque & Country Club Champion!



Golftanquers Scott Muir, Joe Cortright, & Ray Souci

More news from the Northwest! Last Fall, the [Edmonds Petanque Club](#) (EPC) and [Port Townsend Petanque Alliance](#) made history with their inaugural **Cross-Sound competition**. Twelve players from each club faced off in a series of matches, including triples, doubles, and singles, plus pointing and shooting contests. The event was organized by **Ro Verdeja** and **Bill Laprade** from EPC and **Tom Challinor** from Port Townsend. It was a celebration of friendship and community. After intense competition, Port Townsend emerged victorious, winning the majority of the doubles. EPC congratulates the winners and eagerly anticipates the rematch in 2024.



The winning Port Townsend team hoists its Cross-Sound trophy

EPC also modeled community giving by having raised **\$12,000** for the Food Bank from their 12th annual **Food Bank Tournament** in Fall 2023. Congratulations to EPC on this very successful fundraising event!



UPrep 6th graders on the courts

In January, French teacher **Amy Pasterczyk** brought her 6th Grade French students from **University Preparatory School** to the courts of EPC for an enriching cultural and sporting experience. Despite recent inclement weather, the students reveled in the game under sunny skies, and their enthusiasm continued to resonate even after their departure, as they eagerly looked forward to future visits to the Edmonds Petanque Club.

Men's Doubles World Championship Qualifier

The 2024 Men's Doubles World Championship Qualifier will take place in the Northwest this year. **Port Townsend Petanque Alliance** has the honor of hosting this prestigious tournament on **June 1-2**, which is a beautiful time of year to visit Port Townsend.

For those wishing to participate in the Men's WC, we encourage you to make lodging reservations as soon as possible. Port Townsend is a popular tourist destination during the summer weekends, and because they are located on a peninsula, nearby lodging can be limited. Please note that the nearest airports are Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA- Seattle/Tacoma Intl.) and Everett (PAE- Seattle/Everett). Both are about a 2-hour trip from Port Townsend, either by car, or by ferry boat and car. Port Townsend looks forward to welcoming you! [Link](#) to Men's Doubles WC registration form.



Port Townsend courts

FPUSA NORTHWEST REGIONAL CALENDAR

- Select Doubles - July 20 (Portland Petanque Club)
- Women's Singles - July 21 (Portland Petanque Club)
- Men's Singles - July 21 (Portland Petanque Club)



Southwest: Cityscapes and Boules

submitted by: Pierre Constantin (Los Angeles Petanque Club), Valerie Hodson-Pujol (Pétanque Club of Las Vegas), & Janice Bissonnette (Fresno Petanque Club)

Experience the glamour of Los Angeles and Las Vegas, not just for their celebrity sightings, but for the thrilling world of pétanque! This March, get ready to showcase your skills and compete against pétanque World Champions **Dylan Rocher** and **Damien Hureau** at two spectacular events. Join them at the 5th annual [Viva Las Vegas Open](#) on **March 16th and 17th**, hosted by the [Pétanque Club of Las Vegas](#). The event features competitors from several U.S. regions as well as Mexico and Belgium. For information on the Vegas tournament, contact Valerie Hodson-Pujol at petanquecluboflasvegas@gmail.com.

Then, don't miss the inaugural International [Los Angeles Open Doublette Tournament](#) on **March 23rd and 24th**, presented by the [Los Angeles Pétanque Club](#). Plus, seize the opportunity to learn from the masters themselves, as **Rocher** and **Hureau** lead exclusive clinics in LA on the Friday before the tournament. For more details about the LA event, reach out to losangelespetanqueclub@gmail.com. Get ready for an unforgettable pétanque experience in two of southwest's iconic cities!



We love our new and improved terrains!

Cary Park in Fresno, home of the [Fresno Petanque Club](#), continues to receive improvements from the city. Visitors to Fresno will benefit as a result. Fresno Petanque will host the **SW Regional Select Doubles** on **May 11th** and a **Vauclusienne tournament** (6 balls - singles, doubles, or triples) on **May 12th**.

Fresno club members having fun and showing their team spirit during Super Bowl



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FPUSA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CALENDAR

- Select Doubles - May 11 (Fresno Petanque Club)



Mid-America & Southeast members at the Mardi Gras Open (p. 23)

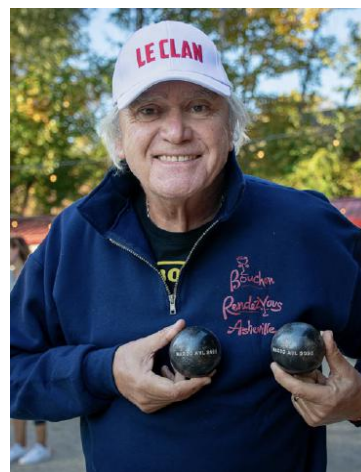
Mid-America: Pétanque Thrives in the Carolinas and Beyond

submitted by Shirley Jones (Carolina Petanque) & Justin Bo Johns (Zanesfield Petanque Club)

Greetings from [Carolina Petanque](#)! We are excited to announce the expansion of indoor pétanque in **North Carolina**! Since October 2023, our players have been enjoying the game in **Morganton**, and we have recently introduced Tuesday afternoon sessions in **Winston-Salem**. Our aim is to ignite enthusiasm for indoor pétanque, as well as for **Senior Games** and the outdoor version of pétanque.

Hungry for pétanque, five Carolina players, along with one non-playing umpire, participated in the inaugural **Mardi Gras Open** tournament in **Thibodaux, Louisiana**. The event was a resounding success, providing much enjoyment for all involved. We anticipate that this tournament will soon become a major attraction, thanks to the exceptional hospitality of **Guy Diebold** and **Catherine Diebold** and their club members.

In mid-March, the legendary **Marco Foyot** will be at [Asheville Pétanque](#) for a fun [RendezVous](#) event that includes a 3-hour pointing and shooting clinic, a tournament, and dinner. Spots are filling up fast! Contact Michel at bouchonmichel@gmail.com for further information.



Marco Foyot



Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the **FPUSA Regional Women's Doubles** on **April 21st** in Winston-Salem. Also, mark your calendar for **September 7th & 8th!** Preparations are in full swing for the **Carolina Pétanque Open Doubles** event set to take place in the beautiful **Asheville** area.

From Ohio, the [Zanesfield Petanque Club](#) is looking forward to its annual **Memorial Day** weekend extravaganza on **May 24 - 26** in the charming village of Zanesfield. This not-to-be-missed pétanque tournament weekend is held in conjunction with the **Logan Hills Festival**, a vibrant celebration of community, culture, and the natural beauty of the region. There are five pétanque events on the schedule, including FPUSA singles, FPUSA select doubles, Open "Twist" Doubles (with a different partner than the FPUSA tourney), a pointing contest and a shooting contest, as well as days of open play prior to and after the tournaments. There is sure to be a lot of camaraderie and fun in this festive atmosphere where there is something interesting for everyone!

Zanesfield's Schedule of Events:

Thursday: Open Play

Friday: FPUSA Mid-America Regional Select Singles 9:00 am \$30 & Pointing Contest 6:00 pm (Free)

Saturday: FPUSA Mid-America Regional Select Doubles 9:00 am \$60 & Shooting Contest 6:00 pm (Free)

Sunday: Club Twist Doubles 9:00 am \$20 team (The Twist is you can't play with the same partner you did on Sat.)

Monday: Open Play

Follow up-to-the-minute details on ZPC's [Facebook](#) event page!

For more information, contact **Justin Bo Johns**, zanesfieldpetanque@gmail.com.





Mid-America also has a very active group playing and growing in **Raleigh, NC**. This area is organized by coordinators **Kaye Taliana** and **Bob Robertson**. They meet once a month behind a wine shop and are able to participate in wine tastings for free, an added benefit!

Indoor Boulodrome!

Members of the [Bell Buckle Petanque Club](#) are not letting inclement weather get in the way of pétanque. They converted an old shop into an indoor boulodrome! Now that's dedication. This indoor court is the only one they know of that exists in **Tennessee**, maybe even the region. Members enjoy games every Sunday, rain or shine!





Zanesfield Petanque Club

FPUSA MID-AMERICA REGIONAL CALENDAR

- Women's Doubles - April 21 (Carolina Petanque)
 - Select Singles - May 24 (Zanesfield Petanque)
 - Select Doubles - May 25 (Zanesfield Petanque)
 - Women's Singles - June 8 (Carolina Petanque)
 - Men's Singles - June 8 (Carolina Petanque)
 - Mixed Doubles - June 9 (Carolina Petanque)
 - Select Triples - August 11 (Carolina Petanque)
 - Mixed Triples - October 13 (Carolina Petanque)
-



Central: From Boules on the Bayou to Youth Development

submitted by Guy Diebold (Thibodaux Petanque Club) & David Keil (Mile High Petanque)

The **Mardi Gras Open 2024**, hosted by the [Thibodaux Pétanque Club](#), was a vibrant and spirited event that brought together twenty teams from thirteen clubs across seven states for a Select Doubles competition. The festivities began on February 2nd with players enjoying the beautiful day in **Peltier Park** and indulging in flaming crepes to celebrate **La Chandeleur**. Despite the clear skies, rain was anticipated for the following day, but spirits remained high as participants received swag bags filled with event-themed items, including **engraved cochonnets** and **Mardi Gras doubloons**. When rain came, the Thibodaux Regional Hospital System donated towels, hot beverages, snacks, and king cakes, while club members contributed homemade treats. As the rain persisted, play was suspended for the day, but the camaraderie continued at a local sports bar where the "Boules on the Bayou Krewe of Pétanque" enjoyed a dinner of seafood and Cajun fare.



Beautifully crafted Mardi Gras doubloons & cochonnets



The completion of the tournament occurred the next day with clear weather. **Alex Canesse** and **Stacey Linh** (Tampa Boules) emerged as the overall winners with **Heidi Davison** and **Al Davison** (Classic City Petanque) placing first in concours B.

The event concluded with a gumbo lunch and a local **Mardi Gras parade**, where participants were showered with Mardi Gras treasures. The event was a successful and memorable experience that celebrated the spirit of Mardi Gras and the camaraderie of the pétanque community.



Taking a break from the rain with Cajun fare



Alex Canesse & Stacey Linh,
Mardi Gras Open Champions



Will Robichaux provided entertainment with music on the accordion while competitors accompanied him on the “washboard”, staple of Cajun music



Promoting pétanque among the youth is a vital endeavor to ensure the longevity and growth of pétanque in the U.S. By introducing pétanque to younger generations, we can foster a love for this sport, cultivate new talent, and build a vibrant community of players. Since 2009, **Bear Creek High School** has been home to an after-school pétanque club. Last year, the school hosted the **Junior World Qualifier** at **Centennial Gardens**, the home courts of [Mile High Pétanque Club](#).

Beyond the French classes at Bear Creek, the youth and adult pétanquers ventured to spread the joy of pétanque to other high schools. Last semester, **Caleb Delabbio** and **Nicole Londono**, from the **Junior USA Team**, along with **David Keil** of Mile High Pétanque, showcased the game to French classes at Columbine, Chatfield, and Lakewood

High Schools. Their goal was to inspire French classes to embrace the game and, in turn, ignite a passion for pétanque among the younger generation in the Denver Metro area.





Southeast: Strong Community Spirit

submitted by Heidi Davison (Classic City Petanque Club), Mitzi Gimenez (South Florida Petanque Club), Sarah Lauerman (Gainesville Petanque), & Lee Ann Shobe (Amelia Island Boules Club)

When not playing, members are actively promoting the sport and recruiting new members. The **Athens-Clarke County Unified Government**, with whom the [Classic City Petanque Club](#) has collaborated on building and upgrading their pétanque terrain, invited the club to participate in the Human Resource Department's "Total Wellness Fair". Members **Heidi Davison, John Workman, Jeannine Collins, Dominique Carton, Dan Dolan, Marilyn Appleby, and Al Davison** spent the day sharing their love of pétanque with employees.

Another Classic City member **Lavon Smith**, who teaches English, brought students from Brazil, Vietnam, China, S. Korea, Costa Rica, and Japan to learn the game, which resulted in three unexpected guests who joined in for the fun. Classic City added three new members from their outreach efforts.



Dominique Carton, Dan Dolan, Heidi Davison, & Marilyn Appleby doing outreach



Charlie & Marilyn Appleby and Al & Heidi Davison having fun in Thibodaux



News from [South Florida Pétanque Club](#), where "**Friends, Fun & Pétanque**" is our motto! In 2023, we enjoyed over **2,400 games** at **John Prince Park**, with an average of 28 players per game. Our regular play days on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday have been a hit, with \$3 entry fees for three games and computer-selected teams ensuring fair play.

Club President **Bernard Masson** keeps members updated with monthly emails, sharing stats and upcoming events. Despite weather challenges, our competitive spirit remains strong, with numerous winners each month.



Club Championship Finalists



Club Championship Finalists

Our annual **Club Championship** and **Holiday Party** were highlights, showcasing our community's camaraderie and resilience. In January, our Sports Director **Jerome Nicholas**

introduced **Speed Dating** tournament, a fun, fast-paced format, while February's events included the **Singles 4-Boules** and **Valentine's Day** tournaments.



Monthly Birthday Celebration

Thanks to the **Palm Beach County Parks Department**, we now boast **20 regulation-size courts**. We're preparing for national and regional events, including the **National Men's & Women's Singles** and **Mixed Triples**, as well as the **SE Regional Men's and Women's Doubles**.

Our social events continue to thrive, with professional singer/songwriter **Jeannette Dechape** often performing. The **Birthdays of the Month** celebration and **Meli-Melo** tournament are always full of surprises and laughter.



World Championship Qualifier (2023)

As we move forward, we're excited for more great games, events, and friendships at the South Florida Pétanque Club. Here's to a season filled with fun, competition, and community spirit!



Jeannette Dechape, Club Singer/Songwriter

Gainesville Pétanque, nestled in northern **Florida**, is flourishing as a vibrant hub for pétanque. In 2023, the club boasted over 50 FPUSA members, with similar numbers anticipated for 2024. Embracing this growth, Gainesville Pétanque has collaborated with the **City of Gainesville** to establish two public courts in the city's northwest, each equipped to accommodate five regulation-sized lanes. These facilities have become weekly playgrounds for club members, hosting beginner clinics and themed tournaments that celebrate the spirit of the game.



The **Northside Park** court, located at 5701 NW 34th Blvd, was unveiled in late 2020, with its grand opening taking place in 2021. The addition of lighting improvements in 2023 has extended the joy of play into the night, enhancing the pétanque experience for all. The second court, completed in 2022, is nestled within the scenic **San Felasco Park** at 6400 NW 43rd Way, further expanding the club's footprint and fostering a welcoming community for players of all levels.



Gainesville Pétanque has also been involved in various community outreach efforts to promote pétanque, including joining with the **University of Florida's French Club** for clinics and participated in the festive and zany inaugural **Flying Pig Parade** in downtown Gainesville. In 2023, we hosted the **2nd annual Gainesville Senior Games** tournament.

If you should ever find yourself near Gainesville, come join us for a game! Visit our Facebook page or contact gainesvillepetanque@gmail.com to request our seasonal schedule.



Greetings from [Manasota Boules Pétanque of Sarasota](#). Our club is situated in a beautiful setting at **Lakeview Park**, 7150 Lago Street, Sarasota. We play a friendly game of pétanque on Sunday and Thursday mornings, starting at 9:00 AM. Our current membership includes 35 players. On one Sunday per month, we follow our games with a **potluck picnic**. We cordially invite our fellow pétanque players to visit our club. We love to welcome new members or folks visiting from out of town! You can find us on [Facebook](#)!



Daniel Jdanowski (President), Rosemary Carroll (VP), Rick Tasker (Treasurer), Lori Ferraro (Secretary)



Save the Dates! Amelia Island Open November 16-17, 2024

The [Amelia Island Boules Club](#) (AIBC) continues to grow, with its current membership reaching **150 members**, comprising 147 adult members, two juniors, and one associate member. Enthusiasm for the game of pétanque is infectious and has fostered many deep friendships in the club through the years that transcend the boundaries of age.

AIBC hosted another successful [Amelia Island Open](#) in November 2023, which is the largest pétanque event in the U.S., attracting players from all over the world. In **2024**, the Open has been approved for **November 16-17**, and the club has already begun planning for another spectacular event.

Coming up soon, AIBC is hosting the **FPUSA Regional Mixed Doubles** Tournament on **March 17th** located in their picturesque pétanque courts in **Fernandina Beach, Florida**. Registration can be found on the [FPUSA website](#).

FPUSA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CALENDAR

- Mixed Doubles - March 17 (Amelia Island Boules)
- Men's Doubles - March 24 (South Florida)
- Women's Doubles - March 24 (South Florida)
- Select Triples - April 14 (Oh-la-la)
- Mixed Triples - May 18 & 19 (Classic City)



Northeast: Pétanque Vibes in BK & NY

submitted by: Aaron Weeks (Local 718 Pétanque) & Kate Brideau (La Boule New Yorkaise)

In the heart of **Brooklyn, [Local 718 Pétanque](#)** is the regional union of pétanque players. Since its inception in 2022, our vibrant community has grown to over 30 members, each sharing a passion for the game.

Our club hosts a variety of tournaments and offers ample opportunities for free play throughout the Brooklyn area. As our skill and sportsmanship grow, many of our members have ventured beyond local confines, participating in regional and national tournaments.

We're proud to say that several of our players have achieved impressive standings in Groups A & B at the prestigious Amelia tournament. Affectionately known as "**The Brooklyn Tile-Setters**," our nickname reflects our collective ambition to excel in the art of laying carreaux!



Celebrating its **56th anniversary** this year, [La Boule New Yorkaise](#) (LBNY) is continuing to promote pétanque in the tristate area. In addition to free lessons in **Bryant Park** (April-October), the club is working on expanding educational and casual play opportunities in **Greenwich Village's Washington Square Park** this year.



Thanks to tournaments hosted by our friends at **Brooklyn's Local 718 Pétanque**, our members are keeping their skills honed through the winter months, and are looking forward to LBNY's upcoming tournament season. Scheduled to kick off in **April**, we'll be playing in **Bryant Park** and **Prospect Park**. We're particularly excited to host the **Women's Triples World Qualifier in September**, and to close out the season in early **October** with our annual **US Open of Pétanque**, to take place in **Hoboken**.



U.S. Open (2023)

If you're passing through town, come see us in **Bryant Park** this spring; and no doubt, you'll also meet plenty of LBNY members playing in tournaments throughout the country in the coming months.

International Competitions

The FPUSA provides opportunities for athletes to travel and compete internationally, representing the United States in prestigious tournaments. This not only showcases the talent and dedication of American pétanque players but also fosters international friendships and cultural exchange. In 2023, we had Men's, Women's, and Juniors' teams represented at the World Championships in [Benin](#) and [Thailand](#).



Bekah Howe (2023 U.S. Women's Triples Team) exchanging jerseys with Thailand's multiple-time World Champion Phantipha Wongchuvej

Looking ahead, the U.S. World Championship Qualifiers for men and women this year are set to take place in **Port Townsend** (Men's Doubles), **Sonoma** (Women's Doubles), and **New York** (Women's Triples), promising exciting opportunities for our members. Check the [FPUSA website](#) for registration forms. Additionally, the U.S. Men's Triples Team, **Raymond Nielsen**, **Tom Nguyen**, **Christian Triay**, and **Will Poire**, and their coach **Pascal Tisseur** will be competing this year in [Dijon](#), **France** (December 2024), further exemplifying the global reach and competitive spirit of U.S. pétanque.



Raymond Nielsen, Christian Triay, Tom Nguyen, & Will Poire (not pictured), US Men's Triples Team to compete in Dijon, France (2024)



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