



PETANQUE PULSE

Official FPUSA Newsletter

Summer 2024

usapetanque.org



Welcome to the Summer Edition of Petanque 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, upcoming tournaments, tournament results, and more!

[Club Directory](#)

We dedicate this newsletter to Ernesto Santos.

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Letter from Kirk Edwards - FPUSA President

Dear FPUSA Members,

Ernesto Santos was passionate about petanque and loved the people who play petanque. It was his intention to build a strong and vibrant organization through investing in programs to make our players more competitive in the international arena and to promote the sport we love to so many more.

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your support and commitment to our collective mission and continuing with Ernesto's vision for the organization. As we look toward the future, we are excited about the new opportunities that await us. Your continued engagement and support will be crucial as we embark on these new endeavors and will be greatly valued as we strategize for the future.

Thank you for your continued loyalty and dedication to the FPUSA. It is an honor to serve as your president and to work alongside such a passionate group of individuals. If you have any suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Best,

Kirk Edwards

FPUSA President

edwards.kirk@gmail.com

FPUSA has gone digital!

In April, the FPUSA board approved the adoption of digital membership cards, initiating the rollout process. The Digital Wallet Committee, chaired by **Michelle Dang** and including members **Mitzi Gimenez, Heidi Davison, and Ben Bull**, collaborated closely with **JustGo** technicians over several weeks to design the card and ensure compatibility with FPUSA's configuration. A new feature incorporates umpire credentials directly on the digital card.

In addition, the committee developed a multilingual **User Guide** to assist members. In early June, active members received emails with links to download and store their digital cards on their smartphones. Paper cards remain available for those who prefer them. Members will automatically receive an email to download a new digital card each year they renew their membership. No more printing!

Members needing assistance with their digital cards should contact their club President, who will connect with the appropriate Digital Wallet Committee member.



Links to Digital Card User Guides:

[English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#), [German](#), [Hmong](#), [Lao](#), [Thai](#), [Vietnamese](#)



Bleys Rose, Regional Umpire, enjoying a quiet moment before a tournament

Umpire News

Congratulations to the following members who recently advanced or became umpires:

Regional Umpire

- Al Davison (Classic City Petanque)

Club Umpires

- John Wilson (Carolina Petanque)
- Michelle Dang (Sactown Petanque)

It's great to see umpires wearing their lanyards!

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

List of Umpires

Upcoming FPUSA Tournaments & Opens

Date	Region/Club	Format
July 21	Northwest/Portland PC	Regional Select Doubles
July 21	Northwest/Portland PC	Regional Women's Singles
July 21	Northwest/Portland PC	Regional Men's Singles
July 20 & 21	Central/Denver Petanque Club	Juniors WC Qualifier
August 10	NorCal/La Petanque Marinier	Regional Select Doubles
August 11	Mid-America/Carolina Petanque	Regional Select Triples
Aug 10 & 11	Northwest/Port Townsend Open	Select Doubles & 4-Ball Singles
Sept 7 & 8	Northwest/Portland Rose City Open	Select Doubles
Sept 7 & 8	Mid-America/Carolina Open	Select Doubles
September 14	Northeast/Philadelphia PC	Regional Select Doubles
Sept 21 & 22	Northeast/La Boule New Yorkaise	Women's Triples WC Qualifier
September 28	NorCal/Valley of the Moon PC	Regional Men's Doubles
October 5	NorCal/Sactown Petanque	Regional Women's Triples
October 5	NorCal/Sactown Petanque	Regional Men's Triples
October 13	Mid-America/Carolina Petanque	Regional Mixed Triples
October 12 & 13	Northeast/LBNY U.S. Open	Select Doubles
Oct 19 & 20	Southeast/Oh-la-la Petanque	National Men's Triples
Nov 15 - 17	Southeast/Amelia Island Open	Select Doubles

Juniors World Championship Qualifier Information



The poster features a dark blue background with white and red accents. At the top right, a blue rounded rectangle contains the text "2024 YOUTH SPORT EVENT". The main title "2024 FPUSA JUNIORS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER" is in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, the dates "JULY 20-21 2024" and location "DENVER, COLORADO" are in white. To the right is a white line-art illustration of a person in a crouched position, ready to throw a ball. Below the title, text in white states: "Open to all youths 17 or younger", "Beginners and all skill levels welcome!", "FREE to Register", "Free lunch, Prizes, Raffles, and more!", "Find a friend and register to play in a Juniors only Select Doubles Tournament!", and "Grand Prize Winners: Play in the world's largest Pétanque Tournament in Joliette, QC, Canada in 2025!". A QR code is located in the bottom left, with the text "REGISTER NOW FOR FREE!" to its right. At the bottom left, a red button with white text says "LEARN MORE". Below that is the URL "https://www.usapetanque.org". On the right side, a large, dark grey pétanque ball is shown, featuring a circular logo with the text "FEDERATION OF PETANQUE" and "U.S.A." around a stylized American flag design.

2024
YOUTH
SPORT
EVENT

2024 FPUSA JUNIORS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER

JULY 20-21 2024
DENVER, COLORADO

Open to all youths 17 or younger
Beginners and all skill levels
welcome!

FREE to Register
Free lunch, Prizes, Raffles, and
more!

Find a friend and register to play in a
Juniors only Select Doubles
Tournament!

**Grand Prize Winners: Play in the
world's largest Pétanque
Tournament in Joliette, QC, Canada
in 2025!**



REGISTER NOW FOR FREE!

LEARN MORE

<https://www.usapetanque.org>





Members of Les Boulefrogs Petanque Club of Virginia

News from Mid-America

Carolina Petanque

It is exciting that 3 FPUSA Clubs are hosting Opens on the same weekend across the country; many players can play their favorite sport together! Please consider playing at Rose City Open, Carolina Pétanque Open, or Maine Boules Club Open on September 7th and 8th, 2024. Hopefully, all 3 tournaments will be filled and much FUN will be had by all!

Top prize for **Carolina Pétanque Open** will be **\$1,500.00**. Medals and/or cash prizes will be awarded in multiple

divisions. Plan to attend and bring a friend!

There are also 2 FPUSA title tournaments scheduled for the Mid-America Region. We are accepting wait-listed players for the **Select Triples** scheduled for **August 11th** in **Asheville** as this tournament is currently full. However, the **Mixed Triples** in **Winston-Salem** on **October 13th** still has openings.

Submitted by **Shirley Jones**, [Carolina Petanque](#), Mid-America Regional Counselor

Les Boulefrogs Petanque Club of Virginia

In March, Les Boulefrogs Pétanque Club of Virginia celebrated their **19th anniversary** with games and a potluck the first Sunday after the actual Feb. 26 date, filling all 6 courts to capacity with over 30 players. The celebration included 6 original members, with founders **Richard and Kirsten Taranto** visiting from Massachusetts and **John and Bénédicte Whitworth** visiting from England, along with locals **Karen and Mark Rankin**.



Recruiting efforts at various events over the past year have paid off, increasing membership from **28 to 40** over the course of the year. And we're continuing to grow.



Through outreach to schools, we have introduced pétanque to students from around the greater Richmond area: **24 students at Chesterfield Co. Schools' annual Congrès Français**, and about **50 students at Franklin Military Academy**. We love our youngsters!



We held a semi-random **Spring Fling Doubles tournament** for club members on Sunday, May 19. More experienced and less experienced players were matched together, which allowed players who've never been to a tournament to get a taste of what it's like.

Les Boulefrogs sent 6 teams to the **Zanesfield Tournaments** this year and 8 players came home with medals! Thanks to **Bo, Shannon**, and the entire club for hosting! We all had a wonderful time!

Submitted by **Mark Ranking**, [Les Bullfrogs Petanque Club](#).



CAROLINA OPEN

Saturday
September 7th
2024



Sunday
September 8th
2024

64 Doubles Teams
\$120 Registration fee per team

**Open to all
petanque players!**

Located just South of Asheville off I-26
Bold Rock Gidery
72 School House Rd Mills River NC 28759

Check in starts at 8:00 AM
Play begins at 9:00 AM

Lunch will be available for purchase on site by
Bold Rock Bites Mobile Kitchen.
(Registration for lunch will be Saturday morning.)

Payment Information

Registration form available at: www.CarolinaPetanque.com
Email registration to: sportdirector@carolinapetanque.com
Paypal: treasurer@carolinapetanque.com

or

Make check payable to: Carolina Petanque
Mail check with registration form to: Mike House
1778 White Oak Road Burnsville NC 28714





SE Mixed Triples Tournament hosted by Classic City Petanque Club -
27 teams representing 12 clubs across 7 states

News from the Southeast

Classic City Petanque Club

Classic City Petanque Club focused their spring energy on recruitment. Two afternoons were spent at a **local high school** introducing Petanque to members of the **French Club**. Several came for both sessions. We plan to re-engage with this group in the fall.

The **Winterville Marigold Festival** invited us back again. Our pétanque terrain was a grassy field where we played with visitors all day long.

The **University of Georgia's International Association** offered opportunities to reach out to students during their International Coffee Hours and **25th annual International Street Festival**. For the festival we turned a downtown street crossing into a temporary piste with the help of timbers and pool noodles. With one ring and six indoor boules, club members played pétanque with an untold number of interested community members.

Using a large map, we were able to show how universal the game is by marking every country in which pétanque is played across the globe.



And, for the second time, one of our club members who teaches English for the **Office of Global Engagement**, brought a large group of students out for a day of play. Countries represented were: **Mexico, Brazil, Korea, Cambodia, China, and Ukraine**. One of the students who visited for the first time went home to Costa Rica and introduced pétanque into his physical education curriculum at the university where he teaches.

This kind of recruitment is hard work, but club members volunteer their time to these various events, and we've reaped the benefits of those hours by adding members to our ranks.



Global engagement at the local level



Submitted by **Heidi Davison**, [Classic City Petanque Club](#), Southeast Regional Counselor

South Florida Petanque Club

In March, South Florida Petanque Club (SFPC) hosted several significant tournaments: the **National Men's and Women's Singles and Mixed Triples**. Teams from across the U.S. gathered in Lake Worth, Florida, to compete for national titles. On Friday evening, SFPC welcomed the participants with a special reception featuring our chefs' specialties. The tournament began on Saturday with the nation's top players vying for the Men's and Women's Singles championships.

Organizing the tournaments posed a challenge, as assigning courts to accommodate all singles competitors simultaneously was no small feat, especially with the men's competition being oversubscribed. Despite this, we managed to keep everything on schedule, awarding the medals before sunset. Congratulations to all the winners! See Tournament Results section for more information about winners.



Our Chefs: Gérard Reuter, Francis Chéru, and Maurice Pailleret (not pictured)

Also in March, SFPC held a **Four-Stage Clinic** that covered Rules & Regs, Mechanics of the Throw, Pointing, and Shooting, followed by Pointing and Shooting contests. We can all improve our game!

Submitted by **Mitzi Gimenez**,
[South Florida Petanque Club](#),
Southeast Regional Counselor



Amelia Island Open

[November 15-17](#)

2024 Amelia Island Open



AMELIA ISLAND OPEN 2024 NOVEMBER 15-17

The largest Petanque event in the Americas keeps growing, welcoming players and spectators from around the world to this charming Florida island. Play takes place alongside the harborfront and historic district that welcomes all with sunshine, shops, restaurants and a true feeling of joie de vivre.

Register at unitedpetanque.com

[FAQs](#)

News from the Northwest



Neil Martin and Paul Brennan

Sunriver Petanque Club

Under cool and partly cloudy skies in May, we hosted a food bank tournament to benefit the **Sunriver Care & Share**. Six doubles teams competed with **Paul Brennen** and **Neil Martin** winning the *championnat* while **Dennis Dishaw** and **Jim Schonlau** won the *consolante*. A sumptuous potluck lunch was enjoyed prior to the final round.

A shooting contest followed the final round and the awarding of prizes. The goal was to hit a single boule placed six meters from the throwing circle, with each player having two chances. Successful players advanced to the next round, with the boule moved further away each time, until only one player remained. There was a twist, however, if you missed the *boule* with both shots, you were out. However, you could still advance to the next round by paying another five dollars. This turned out to

be a popular option. In the end, **Jim Schonlau**, once again, was the winner at nine meters. A total of **\$70** was collected for the Sunriver Care & Share food bank.

The collection of non-perishable food items including cases of chili and 35 cans of various foods and nonperishable items was also a success. It was a great day of petanque.



Dennis Dishaw and Jim Shounlau

Submitted by **Gary Bigham**, [Sunriver Petanque Club](#).

Pro-Am Tourney: One Fantastic Day!

In April, **Edmonds Petanque Club** held its first-ever **Pro-Am Tournament**, and things could not have gone better! The event was designed to allow veteran players and newer members of the club to get to know each other during a day of fun pétanque. After registration, **18 “amateurs”** (defined as members with less boule



experience who have joined in the last two years) were randomly paired with **18 “professionals”** (“pro” salary figures were not divulged: these were players with more than two years in the club as well as new members with deeper experience). **Nancy and David Rockwell** provided all the logistical support needed to run the show.

The resulting **18 teams** played a series of four games, two in the morning and two after lunch. The winners at the end of the day were those teams with the most wins and the highest point differentials from all four games. As it turns out, a substitute player was needed at the last minute; and the only available sub was a player with crafty skills honed over many years, **Rich Tribiano**, so one team consisted of two “professionals,” and guess who won? **Rich T.** and partner **Bill Laprade** came in first. **Leslye Bergan** and **Doug Lockhart** were second, and **Monte Underwood** and **Mike Glenn** finished third.



The courts were packed. Here Simone Mercer and Mike Martin played against Doug Lockhart and Leslye Bergan

Most important, an absolute crowd of pétanque enthusiasts filled the six standard courts as well as three temporary courts on loan from the **Seattle Petanque Club**. Thank you, Seattle Petanque! And Thank You to ALL THE VOLUNTEERS who supported the tournament from beginning to end. Every game provided a chance for experienced players to share tips on form and strategy with their partners. The **Edmonds Playfield** itself was full of guests; so many passers-by stopped to ask about the game. Thanks, too, to club members who were not playing but who stopped by to cheer on the games. These included **Don Bothell, Ron Trompeter, Larry Thomas, Ann Swan, Howard Heflin, Nicole Gaba**, and many others. By the end of the day, Nicole had even produced a **short video** that captured the spirit of the day. Enjoy!



Top Finishers: Monte Underwood, Mike Glenn, Doug Lockhart, Leslye Bergan, Rich Tribiano, Bill Laprade

Submitted by **Jack McHenry**, [Edmonds Petanque Club](#)



Sunday Mornings at Patterson Cellars

As the clock strikes 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning, the air behind **Patterson Cellars'** tasting room fills with anticipation. The **Walla Walla Pétanque Club (Washington)** gathers on the gravel terrain, ready for their weekly friendly competition. Weather permitting, this scene unfolds every week at **1564 Whitley Road**.

The game begins as players watch a small metal ball roll across the gravel, nudging against another. Cheers or groans erupt from the group, depending on which team benefits from the play. This simple yet engaging sport has found a devoted following in Walla Walla.

Pétanque's appeal lies in its accessibility. **Ted Cox**, a club member, notes, "You don't need to be able to run fast or jump high to be a good player." This inclusivity extends to those using walkers or wheelchairs, making it a sport for all ages and abilities.



The Walla Walla Pétanque Club, officially formed in 2006 by **Van Woolfe** and **Marvin Wood**, has come a long way from backyard games. Under Ted Cox's leadership, the club partnered with local wineries to create proper playing terrains. Today, Patterson Cellars generously hosts the club, providing a picturesque setting for this beloved Sunday tradition.

The Walla Walla Pétanque Club hosts an annual **Wine Country Open** Mixed Doubles. This year, the event was on May 25 and 26. Thirteen teams played in five qualifying rounds Saturday which determined the standings for Sunday's games. Play on Saturday was particularly challenging with the powerful gusty winds and cool temperatures.



Participating players were from **Portland** and **Eugene, Oregon**; **Bellevue, Snoqualmie, Edmonds, and Seattle**; one player from **Billings, Montana**, and one from **Greely, Colorado**, who traveled the farthest at just over 1,000 miles.



(L to R) Kendra Woolfe,
Van Woolfe, Pascal Tisseur,
Philippe Michel, Ryan Raber,
Philippe Geraud

The winning team was **Pascal Tisseur** and local member **Philippe Michel**. Second place honors went to the father/daughter local club member team of **Van Woolfe** and **Kendra Woolfe**. Third place was contested between the team of **Zach White** and **Ben Murphy** against the team of **Philippe Geraud** and local club member **Ryan Raber**, with the Geraud/Raber team winning third by a single point lead.

Whether you're a seasoned player or a curious onlooker, the Walla Walla Pétanque Club offers a warm welcome and a chance to experience this charming sport in the heart of Washington's wine country.

Submitted by **Catherine Schiaffo**, [Walla Walla Petanque Club](#)

How do we build it so they will come?

The FPUSA has had three successful high school clubs since the early 2000's in **Eugene, OR, Zanesfield, OH, and Denver, CO**. Eugene's club had up to 7 schools in a pétanque league that ran for 22 years until COVID hit. From there, staffing changes and retirements led to the league's extended hiatus and potential sunset. Now, as I recline in my Adirondack chair on the patio with a clouiding pastis in hand, I am reflecting upon how the FPUSA can fulfill our mission as a non-profit to grow pétanque in the U.S. I am specifically thinking about how to increase youth membership and maintain those members.

The existing infrastructure of the school system provides a great place for teachers with the drive to create a club or league. Access is easy and costs can be kept low, thereby, removing barriers to participation. The three FPUSA high school clubs have served thousands of students who have benefited from the clubs in so many ways, not least of which are self-esteem, community, and demonstrating that gender offers little to no advantage in this sport.



But have these programs resulted in much growth in the FPUSA's membership?

For Eugene, the answer is, not yet. We've had only two youth players come back and play regularly as adults, neither plays competitively beyond a local tournament or two.

So, how do we keep kids involved when they become young adults starting careers and families of their own? It feels trite to say money is the answer, but it probably is.

Does money create time for busy young adults to devote to pétanque? Maybe, indirectly. Does it increase visibility, create more clubs and more access? Unquestionably.

Imagine building off existing infrastructure, like high school programs did, and starting college clubs initially funded by seed money but which became self-funding once established. Imagine the Boys and Girls Club becoming a national partner in a cornhole-to-pétanque training and development program. Imagine Justin Herbert, NFL quarterback and former Kidsports participant in Eugene, promoting a healthy game for everyone, locally at first, then nationally for networks needing tax deductions for public service announcements. Imagine elite, retired athletes with nerves of steel, bored of golf, looking for new challenges, competing to represent the FPUSA internationally in the World Games. Why not?

Easy answer. Show me the money. It needs to be big.

We could start with a GoFundMe campaign, then follow the lead of other sports like pickleball and consider creating a paid fundraising position to seek out sponsors and, more importantly, benefactors with endowments who want to support an activity and sport like pétanque. Our pitch is that *we are promoting a safe and healthy, strategic and social, all-weather, outdoor sport that builds the mind, body and psyche and is accessible to everyone to excel quickly but challenges you for a lifetime*. It's a mouthful, but it includes pickleballers tired of waiting for an open court, hearing all the noise-complaints from neighbors, or whose knees finally gave out.

Is there any other sport where kids of any age, gender, physical ability, or socio-economic background are able to participate on equal footing with not just their peers, but experienced adults? Okay, other than corn hole, but we may partner with them anyway. For schools, it's a Title IX dream. Building youth programs can be our gateway to growth.

Ideally, programs should also feed into clubs in each community where a youth club is started, or



PÉTANQUE

(pay-tonk)

Pétanque is usually played by teams of:

- 1 against 1 (3 boules each)
- 2 against 2 (3 boules each)
- 3 against 3 (2 boules each)

Goal: Get your boule closest to the jack.

Boule
(metal ball)

Jack
(wooden ball)

Game Play - a coin toss can determine who starts.

1. Starting team draws a small circle on the ground and throws the jack to a distance between 6-10 meters (= yards). They then throw or roll one boule.
2. Other team throws a boule. A team continues to throw boules until it gets closest to the jack or is out of boules. It's okay to move the jack or other boules with a thrown boule.
3. When both teams are out of boules, the team closest to the jack scores 1 point for each boule closer than opponent's closest boule.
4. Scoring team draws a new circle around the jack and begins a new round. Additional rounds are played until a team gets 13 points.

possibly into college leagues. It may even happen organically as young adults push for more access in their communities. It will take planning, coordination, recruiting, training, lobbying, national support and much more, including money. And for a great sport with no barriers to participation, it's worth it.

Meanwhile, in our little northwest hamlet, we were finally able to get the city to build us space for 10 full-size (or maybe 14 very small) pétanque courts at a new park which has year-round bathrooms, parking, and access to locked storage. We now meet 4 days a week, twice at each of our two venues.

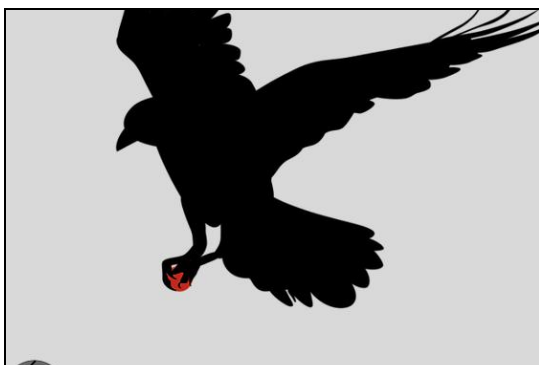
Finally, to show some of the inspiration that youth bring to table, here's a charming 2-minute video created by a student at **Marist High School**. [Circle of Pétanque](#).



Submitted by **Michael Stasack**, President, Eugene Pétanque International Club, eugenepetanqueclub@gmail.com

Port Townsend Open

August 10 & 11



2nd Port Townsend Open Select Doubles

Starts Aug 10

\$120



2nd Port Townsend Open 4- Ball Singles

Starts Aug 11

\$60

New Terrains in Portland!

The **Portland Petanque Club** is excited to announce the ongoing revitalization of our terrain. Our goal is to enhance the playing experience by adding variety and challenge to our courts. In May, we successfully completed the first phase of our improvement plan. Many of our dedicated members came together on a beautiful day to contribute their time and effort. The camaraderie and teamwork displayed were truly inspiring. We'd like to extend a special thanks to **Gregg Hodge**, who excelled as our project leader. His expertise in navigating the challenges and unknowns inherent in such an undertaking was invaluable.

Initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Players are already enjoying the new features and reporting improved gameplay. The modifications appear to be a resounding success! Stay tuned for updates on Phase Two of our terrain enhancement project. We look forward to bringing you even more exciting improvements in the near future.



Gregg Hodge taming the beast



Pascal Tisseur said "It's more fun than baking!"

Injury Prevention & Body Management Class is a Carreau!

Neil Bastian, a retired physical therapist with 30 years of experience working with chronic pain patients, recently hosted a popular class for club members titled "*Pain and Petanque*." The session focused on individual needs, demonstrating methods to integrate sound petanque technique and proper body mechanics with each player's unique injury profile. Addressing the question, "*Is there a way for players to up their game, reduce chronic pain and prolong our playing longevity?*", the class offered personalized strategies for improved performance and pain management.

Given the enthusiastic response, Neil is now developing a follow-up class that will delve deeper into designing and performing exercises tailored to individual needs and the specific demands of petanque, promising further insights for players looking to enhance their game while prioritizing physical well-being.

Rose City Open

Don't miss out on an unforgettable pétanque experience!

With two months to go, there's still time to join us for a long weekend filled with fierce competition, exceptional camaraderie, and nonstop fun. Secure your spot now by registering online at pdxpetanque.org. Spaces are filling up fast! **First prize - \$2,000.**

Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the sport, this event promises to be a highlight of your pétanque calendar.

ROSE CITY OPEN
PORTLAND OREGON

Sept. 7-8, 2024
Portland Petanque Club

PLUS...

- Friday Night, Sept. 6th Social w/ Edibles & Drinkables!
- Saturday Night "Gigantic Beer"!
- Raffle w/ Great Prizes!
- Revitalized Terrain!
- Field of 44 teams!

"Wow... \$2000 FIRST PRIZE!"
2024 RCO Fun Plane

"ALL ABOARD!"
16-14 openings remain
2024 RCO Fun Train

WILKINSON THE GREEN CLUB HOUSE
WESTMORELAND PARK

Registration Online
pdxpetanque.org
1638 SE 23rd Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

Submitted by **Neil Bastian**, [Portland Petanque Club](https://pdxpetanque.org), Northwest Regional Counselor



News from the Southwest

Los Angeles Petanque Club

On March 23rd and 24th, the Los Angeles Petanque Club (LAPC) hosted an **International Open** for the first time this year with **32 teams** playing each day. Visiting champions from France, **Dylan Rocher** and **Damien Hureau**, and petanque players from **Canada** and **Mexico**, and all over the United States came to participate in this exciting tournament. LAPC's president **Pierre Constantin**, **Mateo Kallel**, and **Xavier Perez** worked diligently to prepare the courts for this exciting event.

And then the rain came, and on Saturday morning, we all arrived to see the courts had turned into pools of water. However, we had a tournament to play and canceling was not an option. It was an amazing sight to see how club members and visiting players alike combined their efforts to clear the water from the courts. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make it possible for us to play. We did not give up! Despite relentless rain pouring down, everyone participated in a wet and mud splashing tournament.





World Champions Damien Hureau (L) and Dylan Rocher (R) with LAPC President Pierre Constantin (center)

The champions on Saturday were **Santatra Ravelojaona & Yann-Mathieu Pouplot** from Canada, with **Damien Hureau & Mark Greenberg** taking second place. **Emile Boujeke & Pascal Tisseur**, and **Patrick Neuville & Damien Monnet** finished 3rd.

The next day the courts were still somewhat muddy and challenging to play, but the rain only caught up with us during the Final. The champions on Sunday were **Dylan Rocher & Vance Gerdau**. **Adrian Orozco & Fernando Farias** from Mexico finished second, with **Erick Plata & Cruz Macias**, and **Anousone Khamneunghai & Souliyakham Chounlamany** sharing 3rd place. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year for another **International Open at LAPC!**



—LAPC OPEN WINNERS—

Top left: (Pierre Constantin), Anousone Khamneunghai, Souliyakham Chounlamany (3rd)
 Top right: Emile Boujeke, Pascal Tisseur, Patrick Neuville, Damien Monnet (3rd)
 Middle center: Santatra Ravelojaona, Yann-Mathieu Pouplot (1st)
 Middle right: Dylan Rocher, Vance Gerdau (1st)
 Bottom left: Adrian Orozco, (Pierre Constantin), Fernando Farias (2nd)
 Bottom center: Damien Hureau, Mark Greenberg (2nd)
 Bottom right: Erick Plata, (Pierre Constantin), Cruz Macias (3rd)

Submitted by **Rebecca Runze**, [Los Angeles Petanque Club](#)



Fresno Petanque Club

In March, Fresno hosted a weekend of tournaments - Saturday was the **SW Regional Select Doubles** and Sunday was a **6-ball Tournament**. We had a nice turnout of competitive players from **Fresno, Oakhurst, NorCal, SoCal, and Portland**.

Coming up, Fresno will co-host two exciting tournaments - the **Interclub Tournament** with **Lamorinda Petanque** on July 7th and the **West Coast Cup** on November 2nd and 3rd. Participants will be clubs throughout Northern, Central, and Southern California.



6-Ball Winners: (L) 1st Place - Kham Chounlamany (with Janice Bissonnette, Fresno PC President), (Center) 2nd Place - Emmanuel Le Bihan, (R) 3rd Place - John Harris & Tom Lee

Submitted by **Ben Bull**, [Fresno Petanque](#), Southwest Regional Counselor



Wine Country Open Competitors -Kevin Evoy, Emile Boujeke, Matthias Laukart

News from NorCal

Valley of the Moon Petanque Club

The Wine Country Open, hosted by the **Valley of the Moon Pétanque Club**, was held April 27 & 28, in Sonoma, California, heart of Wine Country. The event hosted **64 select doubles** teams from all over **North America, France, and Germany** and was a huge success! The atmosphere was relaxed and fun, but the specter of cutthroat pétanque was there behind the smiles.

The festivities opened with a welcome gathering on Friday, friendly games, and complimentary wine, beer and snacks. A pointing contest was hosted by **Kevin Evoy**, and an unusual shooting contest was hosted by **Peter Mathis**. The target boule was set on stakes of various heights and shots thrown from several distances. The only way to score was with a direct hit on the target, up to 2 feet above ground! **Matthias Laukart** won the pointing competition, and **Emile Boujeke** was the shooting champ.



The WCO Team: Tim Wetzel, Maggie Lane, & Rob Houghton

The tournament began Saturday under beautiful Northern California skies. Lunch was prepared on site consisting of tangy pulled pork sandwiches, savory beans, and crunchy coleslaw while participants enjoyed an accordianista playing traditional French tunes. **Rob Houghton** raffled off prizes, including,

of course, wine, and even a 2 night stay at a local hotel, so the winner can stay free during the next WCO!

Sunday began with a round to sort the teams into 4 brackets. After that, the chase was on. Lose now and you're out. Lunch break was paella, made and served on-site, with huge proportions. This time the accompaniment was to **Duo Gadjo**, a talented French Jazz café style duet.



Players gearing up for an epic weekend of pétanque

The afternoon got serious. One semi-final consisted of **Kessouagni/Rakotondramanana** prevailing over **Miller/Cuneo**, and the second was a highly spirited contest between the talented German team of **Laukart/Wagner** vs **Greenberg/Hureau**. The battle was on as the 2 giants grappled for the victory, including killing the jack over and over. **Greenberg/Hureau** eventually prevailed and moved on to the final. Powerhouse **Greenberg/Hureau** beat the very talented **Kessouagni/Rakotondramanana** to take home the grand prize.



WCO Champions: Mark Greenberg & Damien Hureau (with Tim Wetzel)

The top finishers in all brackets touched money. We created special souvenirs with the re-designed Wine Country Open logo including cochonnets, hats, towels, pins, and fridge magnets. Big thank yous to all the volunteers who helped make this tournament happen, with a special shout-out to **Chef Marco**, and the thanks and gratitude to our arbitre, **Bleys Rose**. The tournament couldn't have gone so well without the efforts of the entire team. Put this one on the calendar. You don't want to miss it - **last weekend of April. See you in 2025.** 🍷



2nd place Winners: Roland Rakotondramanana & Ziggy Kessouagni (with Tim Wetzel)

Submitted by **Tim Wetzel**, [Valley of the Moon Petanque Club](#)

CIEP Training at La Pétanque Marinière

In March, 30 eager petanquers from **California and Washington** participated in the inaugural U.S. training from [CIEP](#), organized by **Christine Cragg, Ann Krilanovich, and Michelle Dang**. The event was sold out within a week of registrations.

With much anxiety over possible rain as California was experiencing another very wet winter and spring, the weather turned out perfect for the 3-day training. To bring us clear skies, Christine prayed to the petanque gods daily, and Ann did a fasting of some sort. The 3 coaches, **Claude Raluy** (President of CIEP), **Petr Fuksa**, and **Georges Dalbigot** arrived two days before the training, and with the help of Christine and Ann, turned **La Petanque Marinière's** courts into a professional training ground equipped with tires and obstacles to create drills and challenges for participants. George's partner, **Odile**, came along to visit the U.S. but ended up immersed in the training as invaluable help.



CIEP Team: Claude, Petr, Odile, Georges



Before training commenced, the coaches were treated by **Ann** and **Christophe Sarafian** to a city tour of **San Francisco** and **Sausalito** with photo stops at places such as the iconic **Golden Gate Bridge**.



Michelle, Odile, Georges, Christophe

The training days were packed with activities beginning at 9 am and ending at 5 pm. Participants learned foundational concepts such as how to hold the boule, body mechanics, and team dynamics. They received guidance on CIEP techniques then implemented them under the coaches' guidance and support. Additionally, each participant received a pre- and post-workshop video analysis of their gestures.



Trainees Kumone Lee & De Angelo Xiong receiving their CIEP certificates

At the end of the 3rd day of training, we could see participants laughing and enjoying their interactions with each other and the coaches. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The coaches ended their stay by surprising Christine, Ann, and Michelle with a home cooked meal at their Airbnb expressing gratitude for a well-run training.

Clubs interested in bringing CIEP to their region can contact Claude Raluy at raluy.claude@orange.fr.

Sample quotes from participants:

"The hands on guidance and correction was invaluable; critiques were direct but never harsh. All of the instructors wanted each of us to succeed so they spent all the necessary time with each of us offering feedback, encouragement, and corrections every day. The emphasis on mind body connection, teamwork, and strategy as well as the creativity of pétanque was especially helpful. I leave more confident in my abilities and decision making. I will never be a world class player at my age, but I will be a more confident player when I enter 'my circle.'"

"The training made me feel much more confident about my playing, game strategy and technique. It gave me a completely different vision of the game, and I truly appreciate and am grateful for the experience."

"The training transformed me and my play. Even more important, the exercises and mini-games that CIEP trainers used were creative and fun."

"I'm glad I did this training. My technique had been pieced together haphazardly from different sources, so it is helpful to have a coherent set of basic fundamentals to rely on and perfect over time. I think it will make me a much better player."

"To have three days of pétanque instruction from top-notch European coaches was an amazing experience. I saw tangible improvements in my game right away."



Trainee Don McPherson (in green) navigating obstacles

Submitted by **Michelle Dang**, [Sactown Petanque](#), NorCal Regional Counselor

Sactown Petanque

Our club members have been busy competing both at home and across California, in addition to participating in the CIEP training. Sactown proudly hosted several **FPUSA Regional** tournaments, including Select Singles, Select Triples, Men's Singles, and Women's Singles. In addition, five of our newer members, including 11-year-olds **Kumone** and **De Angelo**, impressively tackled their first tournament.

We warmly welcomed participants who came from afar - **Scott Sheehan** and **Heather Chron** traveled from **Chicago** to play with us, as well as **Siva Nunna** and **Andrew Barron** who came from **Thibodaux, Louisiana**. We were thrilled to see **Noyo Yoyos** members from way up north of California competing in Sactown for the first time. However, the award for coming the farthest goes to **Christine Fadden**, who traveled from the **Azores (Portugal)**! The visit from our long distance guests was a true highlight, and we eagerly await their return!

Currently, Sactown members are preparing for the **Interclub Tournament** on July 7th, co-hosted by **Lamorinda Pétanque** and **Fresno Pétanque**. Teams from Northern California and Fresno clubs will vie for the coveted trophy and a cash prize for their club.



Sactown Crew and Associate Members at the Wine Country Open

Submitted by **Michelle Dang**, [Sactown Petanque](#), NorCal Regional Counselor

Location, Location, Location

When it comes to pétanque ...

Where do you stand?

From Article 17 of the Official Rules:

“The opponents must remain beyond the jack or behind the player and, in both cases, to the side with regard to the direction of play and at a distance of at least two metres the one from the other.”

When you observe experienced players, you will notice they will stand in one of the green zones here. The game is best assessed from these positions.

Many players in the U.S. learn the game in a social setting, with people gathering behind the circle or standing in areas between the circle and the jack. You also might have observed players standing beyond the jack or behind the circle in the line of play. It is common for newer players to be unaware of the rule that governs “where you stand.”

It may seem trivial, but standing in the green areas will help your game. You will get a better sense of how the boules behave as they approach the jack and there will be less chance of a miscalculation in tactic or strategy.

So, stand like a pro. It will help you play like one over time.

—Ed Porto

While it is “legal” to stand in one of the blue areas, it is difficult to assess the position of boules from this perspective. And is poor game etiquette — and that goes double if you wind up asking your opponent, “Who has the point?”

Submitted by **Ed Porto**, [Petaluma Petanque Club](#)

Member Highlight

Kham: The Man, The Myth, The Pétanque Legend!

Kham (Souliyakham) Chounlamany, a member of [Fresno Petanque](#), is everywhere! This year, Kham has participated in almost every National, Regional, Club, and Open tournament while working as a full-time chef at his family's restaurant. Since bursting onto the scene just two years ago, this Laotian-born player already left an indelible mark on our community. He radiates an infectious positivity and love for pétanque that is unparalleled. As a high-level player, Kham doesn't just team up with other top players; he welcomes partnerships with players at all skill levels and helps them elevate their game. Win or lose, Kham's excitement for the game remains remarkably constant. He has also been known to dance when a fellow petanquer makes a carreau. Kham knows how to lose with grace. When he loses, he shakes his head briefly in disappointment at himself, then readily congratulates his opponent and promptly exclaims "Next tournament!" with a laugh. Kham exemplifies the delicate balance between fierce competition and the joy of playing, reminding us all that the spirit of the game transcends mere victories. So, the next time you're at a tournament, keep an eye out for Kham. Chances are, you won't have to look far - he'll likely be right in the thick of the action, shooting carreaux and spreading his love for pétanque.



Submitted by an Anonymous Fan

Photos from Regional Tournaments





FPUSA Regional Champions

Northeast

Select Singles:

Gold - Joseph Hassoune

Silver - Damien Fagla

Bronze - Emile Boujeke

Mid-America

Women's Singles:

Gold - Honor Woodard

Silver - Tracie Jeffries

Bronze - Kristy Anderson

Men's Singles:

Gold - Juan Aymerich

Silver - Juan Hernandez

Bronze - Mamy Ranaivoson

Select Singles:

Gold - Roland Rakotondramanana

Silver - Ibrahim Arzika

Bronze - Kirk Edwards

Women's Doubles:

Gold - Kathy Cline & Tracie Jeffries

Silver - Bo Edwards & Shannon Hodge

Bronze - Tina Currie & Shirley Jones

Mixed Doubles:

Gold - Raymond Nielsen & Erika Nielsen

Silver - Lori Beth Creasy & Mamy Ranaivoson

Bronze - Bo Edwards & Kirk Edwards

Mid-America cont.

Select Doubles:

Gold: Argentina Lamas & Roland

Rakotondramanana

Silver: Noah Hertert & Eric Hertert

Bronze: Marc Quilici & Juan Hernandez

Southeast

Mixed Doubles:

Gold - Songmi Keating & Foud Lahnoun

Silver - Tom Kane & Gail Hawkins

Bronze - Stacey Linh & Alex Canesse

Women's Doubles

Gold - Linda Côté & Jo Ella Manalan

Silver - Stacey Linh & Claudia Nicolas

Bronze - Martine Charbonneau & Francine Claveau

Men's Doubles

Gold - Christian Côté & Jacques Dion

Silver - Alex Canesse & Stefan Nicolas

Bronze - Axel Cazenave & Christian Cazenave

Men's Triples:

Gold - Juan Garcia, Juan Aymerich, & Raymond Nielsen

Silver - Jerry Miller, Christian Cazenave, & Frederic Penaranda

Bronze - Jose Polo, Hassan Lakhdar, & Fouad Lahnoun

Select Triples:

Gold - Fouad Lahnoune, Kaye Norris, & Hassan Lakhdar

Silver - Juan Garcia, Juan Aymerich, & Raymond Nielsen

Bronze - Stefan Nicolas, Claudia Nicolas, & Jerome Nicolas

Select Doubles:

Gold - Jerome Nicolas & Stefan Nicolas

Silver - Stacey Linh & Alex Canesse

Bronze - Chris Tripoul & Juan Aymerich

Mixed Triples:

Gold -Lori Beth Creasy, Larry Creasy, & Frosty Sabo

Silver - Shirley Jones, John Wilson, & Goyo Martinez

Bronze - Raymond Nielsen, Juan Aymerich, & Karla Orozco

Southwest

Select Doubles:

Gold - Emmanuel Le Bihan & Alexandre Zampieri

Silver - Kham Chounlamany & Chan Xiong

Bronze - By Vang & Pao Moua

NorCal

Select Singles:

Gold -Wolfie Kurz

Silver - Kham Chounlamany

Bronze - Kevin Evoy

Select Triples:

Gold - By Vang, Kham Chounlamany, & Janice Bissonnette

Silver - Yor Lee, Mone Lee, & Neng Lee

Bronze - Wolfie Kurz, Kevin Evoy, & Ed Porto

Men's Singles:

Gold - Hamid El Qarei

Silver - Bee Moua

Bronze - Mark Shirkey

NorCal cont.

Women's Singles:

Gold - May (Ubol) Singthayom

Silver - Erin McTaggart

Bronze - Suzie Lee

Mixed Doubles:

Gold - Kham Chounlamany & Michelle Dang

Silver - Tom Lee & Suzie Lee

Bronze - Peter Mathis & Barbara Hall

Mixed Triples:

Gold - By Vang, Kham Chounlamany, & Janice Bissonnette

Silver - Tom Lee, Yor Lee, & Suzie Lee

Bronze - Mone Lee, Chan Xiong, & Michelle Dang



Foud Lahnoune & Songmi Keating
SE Mixed Doubles Champions



Joseph Hassoune
NE Select Singles
Champion

FPUSA National Singles Champions

Women:

Gold - Kasia Sliz, La Boule New Yorkaise

Silver - Dawan Sangarsi, La Boule New Yorkaise

Bronze - Michelle Healy, San Antonio Petanque Club



Kasia Sliz, Dawan Sangarsi, Michelle Healy

Men:

Gold - Emile Boujeke, La Boule New Yorkaise

Silver - Christian Cazenave, South Florida Petanque Club

Bronze - Kham Chounlamany, Fresno Petanque Club



Christian Cazenave, Emile Boujeke, Kham Chounlamany

FPUSA National Mixed Triples Champions



(L to R) Axel Cazenave, Christian Cazenave, Jade Cazenave, Karla Orozco Torres, Juan Aymerich, Raymond Nielsen, Stefan Nicolas, Jerome Nicolas, Claudia Nicolas

Gold:

Raymond Nielsen (OhLaLa Petanque)

Juan Aymerich (Tampa Boules)

Karla Orozco Torres (Tampa Boules)

Silver:

Stefan Nicolas (South Florida)

Jerome Nicolas (South Florida)

Claudia Nicolas (South Florida)

Bronze:

Christian Cazenave (South Florida)

Axel Cazenave (South Florida)

Jade Cazenave (South Florida)

FPUSA National Doubles Champions



Alex Canesse, Stefan Nicolas, Juan Aymerich, Raymond Nielsen, Kham Chounlamany, Emmanuel Le Bihan

Men's Doubles

Gold - Raymond Nielsen (OhLaLa) & **Juan Aymerich** (Tampa Boules)
Silver - Alex Canesse (Tampa Boules) & Stefan Nicolas (South Florida)
Bronze - Kham Chounlamany (Fresno) & Emmanuel Le Bihan (Fresno)



Women's Doubles

Gold - Tracie Jeffries & Kathy Cline (Carolina Petanque)
Silver - Tina Lamas & Kristy Anderson (Atlanta Petanque)
Bronze - Michelle Healy (San Antonio) & Honor Woodard (Chattooga Boules)

Kathy Cline & Tracie Jeffries



Mixed Doubles

Gold - Marc Quilici & Kathy Cline (Carolina Petanque)
Silver - Raymond Nielsen & Erika Nielsen (OhLaLa)
Bronze - Kathy Ragan (Nelson Ranch Petanque) & Neal Linhart (Dallas Petanque)
(picture: Kathy Cline & Marc Quilici)

FPUSA World Championship Qualifier Champions

Congratulations to **Franck Brousse** (Los Angeles), **Gilles Speter** (San Diego), **Bekah Howe** (Port Townsend), and **Michelle Dang** (Sactown) for winning the Men's & Women's Doubles WC Qualifiers. They will represent the U.S. at the World Championships in **Rome, Italy (2025)**. Go Team USA! 🇺🇸



Michelle Dang & Bekah Howe



Franck Brousse & Gilles Speter

Silver: PJ Mallette (Portland) & Emile Boujeke (NY) (left image)

Bronze: Nouredine Boutissiant & Youssef Ourbaati (Zanesfield) (upper right)

Bronze: Silas Holm (Port Townsend) & Christophe Sarafian (Sactown) (lower right)



Silver: Suzie Lee & Krystal Pulsipher (Sactown), left pic, (pictured with Peter Wellington, VOMPC)

Bronze: Janice Bissonnette (Fresno) & Christine Fadden (Port Townsend)

Bronze: Rebecca Runze (Los Angeles) & Kaya Wiant (Local 718 Petanque)

A Note of Appreciation:

Thank you to the members who contributed articles to this newsletter. Your contributions to the **Pétanque Pulse** are invaluable as your stories and insights help keep our community informed and connected. The FPUSA thrives on the talents and diverse voices of our members. If you have a story to share or news to report for future newsletters, please reach out to your Regional Counselor. Your input helps shape the future of pétanque in the U.S.

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