playing where no one has played before...
A Letter From Your President

Dear Fellow Petanque Players,

2014 was a special year for me — and turning 60 years of age had nothing to do with it. (At least that is what I kept telling myself!)

I was fortunate enough to visit many clubs and members around the country — all through the good graces of FPUSA, the hospitality of some old and new petanque friends, a reservoir of airline miles, and a great degree of tolerance for my AAPA* on the part of my “better half,” Gail.

From a brief “house call” to the Las Vegas Petanque Club, to playing pick up games in New York’s Bryant Park, to the newly forming clubs on the Front Range of Colorado, to the well experienced Portland Petanque Club, to the masterfully run qualification tournaments in Lafayette, California, to my first visit to the “Pine Tree State” in “Down East” Blue Hill, Maine, and of course to the ever-popular Petanque America Open, it was a pleasure to meet so many new members, or to see familiar faces in different surroundings.

No matter where I went to play, teach or promote our game, I was genuinely impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the clubs and their volunteers. Tending to all the details of a successful event takes a lot of effort and cooperation. All of us, as players, should never lose sight of the fact that we get to enjoy tournaments and social events because of the generosity and good will of those fellow members who step up to make it all happen.

So, good petanquers, through all the ups and downs of life — both inside and outside the string lines — I hope that the year 2014 was enjoyable for you as well.

Best wishes and enjoy petanque!

Ed Porto, President
FPUSA

* Acquired Adult Petanque Addiction

IN GOOD HANDS: FPUSA’S EXECUTIVE TEAM

Christine Cragg
Vice President

Christine takes on special assignments as they come up. She is also President of La Petanque Marinière, one of FPUSA’s longest established clubs.

Frank Pipal
Secretary

In addition to membership and insurance matters, Frank assists with a host of other needs, including international communications.

John Harris
Treasurer

John was elected Treasurer in 2014. He serves on the board of Federation of Federation of Petanque, USA (FPUSA)’s最长 established clubs.

Etienne Rijkheer
National Short Director

Etienne, a certified FPUSA Regional Umpire, has developed websites and online tools for tournament information and registration.

Visit FPUSA on the web:

petpart.weebly.com
facebook.com/FPUSA.Official
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Promoting the Game: Helping at the Local Level

In 2014 FPUSA made a commitment to promote petanque in select locations that are good prospects for growth: Zanesfield, Ohio and Denver, Colorado. Both are isolated geographically, not only from most of our clubs in the U.S., but from other clubs within their respective regions. They also had two other important components: tireless club leaders with a proven dedication to the game and to FPUSA. The events were held on two separate weekends and were tailored to local interests and conditions.

Mile High Petanque Club hosted the promotional events on the weekend of July 25-27 in Denver’s beautiful Centennial Gardens. Participants came from up and down the Front Range, as well as New Mexico, Texas and California. On Friday, umpire tests and orientations were given to MHP President and Vice President, David Keil and Stephen Lessard. MHP organizers were also given pointers on tournament management by Etienne Rijkheer throughout the weekend. Technique clinics were held on Saturday morning and featured demonstrations by a visiting former French junior team member, Loris Humbert of Guitres, France.

Gary, Shirley and Zippy: FPUSA’s “beasts on the ground” in Zanesfield.

On Memorial Day weekend in Zanesfield, Friday lessons for newcomers were offered by former U.S. Men’s Team member, Ayaji “Ziggy” Kessouagni, and FPUSA Regional Umpire, Gary Jones. Saturday’s panacée tournament was offered to give local players a chance to compete with and against more seasoned competitors. An “open” doubles tournament was held on Sunday, attracting FPUSA and non-FPUSA players from Ohio and beyond.

Zanesfield Club President, Justin “Bo” Johns and his trusty volunteers did some “heavy lifting” in organizing and running this successful event. Ziggy, Gary and Shirley Jones held down the promo table all weekend long. MHPC did an excellent job as ‘hosts with the most’, and thanks goes to all the local sponsors who contributed to making the event a great success.

We can look forward to more good things from these two fine FPUSA clubs as they share the game in their communities and grow.

Gary, Shirley and Zippy: FPUSA’s “beasts on the ground” in Zanesfield.

On Saturday afternoon, 19 players took part in an “open” singles tournament. To no one’s great surprise, the gentleman competitor, Loris, outlasted all players. Then, the first Central Inter-regional Doubles tourney was held on Sunday with 11 teams competing. Hospitality and ambience was “top shelf” all weekend long. MHP did an excellent job as “hosts with the most’, and thanks goes to all the local sponsors who contributed to making the event a great success.

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FPUSA provides printed copies of the official rules to members and distributes them through the clubs. Here are some images of rule books from the past and from around the world.

The Sport of
PETANQUE

FPUSA's 1978 edition of the international rules was underwritten by Pernod. Later editions featured other sponsors, on the back cover and on inside pages. The last edition produced in this format was in 1998.

In 2007 FPUSA adopted the handy two-leaf tri-fold format. It is printed with a desktop printer then hand-stapled, making annual releases, updates and electronic distribution easy and inexpensive.

FPUSA MEMBERSHIP BY AGE GROUP*

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*Data are from the 1,846 members who had their dates of birth on file with FPUSA as of 12/1/14.

FPUSA Membership

La Boule Cadienne de Lafayette (LA) 14
Walla Walla Petanque Club (WA) 15
Independent Members  12
Na Pua O Ko'olau* (HI) 8
Boulder Petanca Club* (CO) 12
Napatanque Club (CA) 13
Rogue Bouligans (OR) 14
Dallas Petanque Club (TX) 15
Mill Park Petanque** (ME) 16
Port Townsend Petanque Alliance (WA) 17
Lake Oswego Petanque Club* (OR) 17
San Antonio Petanque Club (TX) 18
Philadelphia Petanque Club* (PA) 18
Sunrise Petanque (CA) 20
National Capital Club de Petanque (DC) 31
Seattle Petanque Club (WA) 31
Mile High Petanque Club (CO) 30
Jetplan Petanque Club (FL) 26
Los Vegas Petanque (NV) 28
Redwood Empire Boules Club (CA) 28
Sarasota Club de Petanque (FL) 27
La Boule d’Or (CA) 26
La Boule du Desert (CA) 24
Swamp Petanque* (LA) 23
New York Petanque Club (NY) 21
Lake Tahoe Petanque Club (CA) 20
Sunrise Petanque (CA) 20
Philadelphia Petanque Club* (PA) 18
San Antonio Petanque Club (TX) 18
Lake Oswego Petanque Club* (OR) 17
Port Townsend Petanque Alliance (WA) 17
Mile Park Petanque* (ME) 16
Dallas Petanque Club (TX) 15
Walla Walla Petanque Club (WA) 15
La Boule Cadienne de Lafayette (LA) 14
Rogue Bouligans (OR) 14
Napatanque Club (CA) 13
Boulder Petanca Club* (CO) 12
Club Taunton II* (TX) 8
No Puu O Ko’ola* (HI) 8
Independent Members  12

Total 1,990

* new in 2014
** coming on board 01/01/15

Demographics:
“We’re not getting any younger…”

Most FPUSA members came to play petanque as adults — at least by virtue of chronological age! While many recognize the need to promote the game among young people, this remains a formidable hurdle for most clubs. Young adults generally have less free time and more jobs, family and activity commitments than those of older tooth. For the very young there is limited appeal for a game that takes a lot of patience to master, and that is played mostly by those who are parents and grandparents themselves.

Despite these challenges there are pockets of success around FPUSA that point to a potential for growth among youth and young adults. High school physical education programs and French clubs are the most obvious venues for youth inclusion. The participation of European talent in “open” events like Petanque America and the New York International are slowly but surely adding to the game’s appeal and profile to a growing audience.

Long term, the acceptance of the game by an increasingly younger demographic can make the game more appealing to younger and younger folks. More 40-somethings will attract more 30-somethings; more 30-somethings will attract more 20-somethings, and so on. We are not there yet but, at least in some areas, the ship is making a slow turn toward taking on a younger crew.

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Photo & D.O.B: Required in 2015

Recognize that man in the photo? Oh, right, he does not exist, but he was in his 20s/30s. If he was in his 20s/30s, he would look better. If he was in his 20s/30s, he would possibly have his photo taken, and send it to his Club President — nothing fancy, a head shot (no hat or sunglasses, please).

Also, you may be notified by our Secretary to submit your date of birth. Best to keep on file with your club as well. Thanks!

FPUSA Head Count: Approaching 2,000!

If current trends continue, FPUSA should be over the 2,000 member mark at some point in 2015. With increased membership comes more services and better offerings for all interest groups.

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A member of FPUSA, you are connected to the organization that governs the sport of petanque world-wide, Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal (FIPJP).

Founded in 1958, FIPJP includes approximately 600,000 licensed players in over 90 national federations. With over 300,000 licensed members, France is by far the largest member federation. Federations boasting five figure memberships are Spain, Thailand, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, Algeria and Morocco. Some small countries, for instance, Monaco, have mature, well organized federations while some large countries like Russia, China and India have small federations that are just developing.

In 2007, FIPJP decided to divide itself up into five “Confederations,” modeled after FIFA, soccer’s international governing body. Coming with this partition were implications for the biennial World Championships. Starting with the

**World Championship Medal Count**

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*Beginning in 2004, no radiator scores bronze medals at world championships.

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**Confederations of the FIPJP**

- EUROPE
- AFRICA
- ASIA
- PAN AMERICA
- OCEANIA

- Sites of recent and upcoming (Men’s and Juniors’) World Championships: Confederations World Cup and the newly established Henri Bernard Singles Trophy (permanent site: Nice, France).
In late 2013 FIPJP announced the creation of a new international singles championship tournament, Le Trophée Henri Bernard, in honor of the longtime FIPJP President Henri Bernard who passed away that year at the age of 93. Mr. Bernard served as president of FIPJP from 1978 until 2004. In its inaugural edition, this event was open only to men but, going forward, there will be separate men’s and women’s tournaments sharing the same venue in Nice, France on the last weekend of January.

This development came as a bit of a surprise to FPUSA. In order to send a player, our Sport Committee established criteria to select among the top finishers in our National tournaments. After a brief vetting process, Joseph Hassoune of La Boule New Yorkaise was awarded the position as FPUSA player representative. At Joseph’s request, his good friend, Xavier Thibaud (one of our top players who coached the Mexican National Team at the 2012 Men’s World Championship), generously volunteered to accompany Joseph and guide him through a challenging field of opponents in the toughest and most unforgiving of all the game’s formats — three-boules singles.

The mid-winter dates were not advantageous to our top players who coached the Mexican National Team at the 2012 Men’s World Championship, generously volunteered to accompany Joseph and guide him through a challenging field of opponents in the toughest and most unforgiving of all the game’s formats — three-boules singles.

The tournament was eventually won by reigning FIPJP World Champion Dylan Rocher of France who maintained a perfect record throughout, and finished with a 13-1 win over Team USA.

The experience of this event was non-stop for the days leading up to the tournament in Kuala Lumpur. The hospitality of Malaysian Petanque Federation was amazingly positive, friendly and immediately helpful on so many levels during our entire stay.

The Third Women’s Confederations World Cup was a gathering of eight teams representing the various Confederations of FIPJP, formidable opponents all.

The President of the Malaysian Petanque Federation was especially welcoming to Team USA, even driving us personally in his car to our practice day at the courts in the afternoon before the tournament.

Playing against some of the best teams in the world, the tournament was very challenging and, no doubt, a learning experience for us. Our team was drawn into a pool that included Vietnam, France and Malaysia. We played them in that order on the first day. The highlight of our play had to be scoring 9 points against Team France, the highest total scored against them except for the tournament runner-up, Thailand.

After the Tournament, there was an awards dinner and the presentation of the medals. It was fun meeting players from all over the world, as well as the members of the Malaysian Petanque Federation and the Organizing Committees.

All of us on Team USA would like to thank the members of FPUSA for the honor of representing our country and for the support that was given to us.

Team USA poses with Vietnam before their opening match. Left to right: Team Captain Mary Jane Campbell-Mann (Oakhurst Petanque Club), Shannon Bowman and Holly Sammons (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club), loyal supporter Patrick Sammons and Vietnam’s coach with team.

Our team was proud to have hung 9 points on the eventual champs, France.

Team USA poses with Vietnam before their opening match. Left to right: Team Captain Mary Jane Campbell-Mann (Oakhurst Petanque Club), Shannon Bowman and Holly Sammons (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club), loyal supporter Patrick Sammons and Vietnam’s coach with team.
The 2014 edition of our Men’s National Triples Championship attracted 14 teams to Lamorinda Petanque Club in Lafayette (CA) from nearly every region in the FPUSA. Five qualifying games were played on Saturday with eight teams advancing to Sunday’s pools. The balance of the teams competed in the Federation Cup.

Emerging from Sunday’s pools, and entering the semifinals, were teams that featured players from California, Oregon and Illinois. The semifinals were uneven affairs, going 13-11 and 13-1. Former U.S. Champion Pascal Corchia of Palm Desert with Bob and Joe Cortright of Portland Petanque Club played tough but were eventually out gunned in a well-played final in front of an appreciative gallerie.

Congratulations to the winners, and to all participants! * Winners will represent the FPUSA in the FIPJP 2015 Men’s Confederations World Cup, or other international tournament to be determined.

As Sunday’s shadows grew longer, John, Thomas and By got stronger, prevailing in a hard-fought game over their worthy opponents.

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A women’s petanque continues to grow in both skill level and number of players, the annual qualification tournament serves as FPUSA’s greatest measure of female competitive achievement. In the triples format, both team dynamics and individual ability are put to the test, and teams possessing both have the best chance of success.

In a format that mirrored the men’s tournament, all teams played five qualifying games on Saturday. The top eight teams split into two Sunday pools. (Two teams entered the Federation Cup.) After the pools, two close semifinals took place: the team of Mary Campbell-Mann (Oakhurst, CA), Teri Sirico (Petaluma, CA), Chia Yang (Fresno, CA) lost to the eventual champs; and Shannon Bowman, Holly Sammons (both of Sonoma, CA) and Nicole Coughlin (Ukiah, CA) lost in a nail-biter to the eventual runners-up.

Thanks to all competitors for their good sportsman/womanship!

***

Team Seattle gets ready to rumble. Lee Harris, Greg Conyers and John Hunt warm up for one of Saturday’s qualifying games.

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Time out for a measurement. 2012 Champions (l. to r. in orange) Erin McTaggart, Barbara Hall and Narin Garrett played well but ran into a buzz saw in the final match.

Fresno’s May Lis Yang was one of many first-time qualifier contestants.

Crunching numbers: Tournament Director Etienne Rijkheer had some help at the control table from FPUSA Vice President Christine Cragg.
**Mid-America Junior Inter-regional medal winners**

Host: Zanesfield Petanque Club
Gold: Taylor Hodges, Monica Martz (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
Silver: Matt Beatty, Ryan Perry (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
Bronze: Nick Holzman, Wesley McClain (Zanesfield Petanque Club)

**Southwest Regionals**

- **NorCal Inter-regional Men’s Doubles**
  April 26, 2014 (10 teams)
  Host: Fresno Petanque Club
  Gold: Nick Holzman, Nate Hollis (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
  Silver: Roger Arpaia, Gerard Galliano (Oh La La Petanque Association)
  Bronze: Philippe Menier (New York Petanque Club)

- **SE Inter-regional Doubles**
  May 18, 2014 (11 teams)
  Host: La Boule New Yorkaise and New York Petanque Club
  Gold: Boris Devi, Andre Pellerin (Mill High Petanque Club)
  Silver: Ed Porto (PCP), Jim Schwab (Heart of Texas Petanque Club)
  Bronze: Jeff Goodheart, Dave Carter (Mill High Petanque Club)

- **Central Regionals**
  **Central Inter-regional “Open” Singles**
  July 26, 2014 (19 players)
  Host: Mill High Petanque Club
  Gold: Boris Devi
  Silver: Peter Mathis (VOMPC)
  Bronze: Erin Boujouki, Joseph Housneau (La Boule New York)

- **NorCal Inter-regional Mixed Doubles**
  April 27, 2014 (30 teams)
  Host: Fresno Petanque Club
  Gold: Mickey Coughlin, John Coughlin, Trevor Fisher (Redwood Empire Boules Club)
  Silver: Mike Cooper, Narin Garrett (Valley of the Moon Petanque Club)
  Bronze: Taylor Hodge, Monica Martz (Zanesfield Petanque Club)

- **NorCal Inter-regional Triples**
  June 1, 2014 (13 teams)
  Host: La Boule New Yorkaise
  Gold: Rob Kraft, Frank Ehrlich, Scott Hardy (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
  Silver: Michael Volk, Robert Lindsey, Robert Lindsey (Zanesfield Petanque Club)
  Bronze: David LeBlanc, Henry Boulet, Henry Boulet (Zanesfield Petanque Club)

- **NorCal Inter-regional “65 Over/Under” Doubles**
  February 23, 2014 (9 teams)
  Host: Mill High Petanque Club
  Silver: Roger Arpaia, Gerard Galliano (Oh La La Petanque Association)
  Gold: JP Heraux, Guy Labouyrie (South Florida Petanque Club)

- **SE Inter-regional Singles**
  January 18, 2014 (18 teams)
  Host: Boca Petanque 2000
  Silver: Claude Laulhe, Bernard Martin (Boca Petanque 2000)
  Gold: Driss Darainj, Ahmed Chafi (Zanesfield Petanque Club)

- **SE Inter-regional Mixed Triples**
  February 1, 2014 (15 teams)
  Host: Boca Petanque 2000
  Silver: JP Heraux, Claude Laulhe, Bernard Martin (Boca Petanque 2000)
  Gold: BF Horne, Claude Laulhe, Bernard Martin (Boca Petanque 2000)

- **SE Inter-regional Mixed Doubles**
  January 25, 2014 (14 teams)
  Host: South Florida Petanque Club
  Silver: Claude Laulhe, Bernard Martin (Boca Petanque 2000)
  Gold: BF Horne, Claude Laulhe, Bernard Martin (Boca Petanque 2000)

- **SE Inter-regional “65 Over/Under” Doubles**
  February 23, 2014 (9 teams)
  Host: Mill High Petanque Club
  Silver: Roger Arpaia, Gerard Galliano (Oh La La Petanque Association)
  Gold: GB Loi, GB Loi (South Florida Petanque Club)

- **SE Inter-regional Singles**
  October 5, 2014 (28 players)
  Host: Boules de Leon Petanque Club
  Silver: GB Loi, GB Loi (South Florida Petanque Club)
  Gold: Philippe Tripiol (Oh La La Petanque Association)

- **SE Inter-regional Women’s Singles**
  October 5, 2014 (12 players)
  Host: Boules de Leon Petanque Club
  Silver: GB Loi, GB Loi (South Florida Petanque Club)
  Gold: Joanna Wollyson (South Florida Petanque Club)
Most of the time players know what to do when a questionable situation arises during play. When there is agreement among players, the problem vanishes. Oh, but other times there are either blank looks or players at odds with each other. Then, most go to the FPUSA International Rules of Petanque for an answer. But sometimes they find that they are led down a rabbit hole.

Our umpires are there to plug this hole and get things back on track. Even if not all are happy with the ruling, the game resumes and tournament play is restored.

Here are two instances that occurred in a recent game. The names have been changed to protect those who disturbed the rabbit!

1. Team “Confident Shooters” is playing Team “Precision Pointers” in a triples game, when...

In a new end, one of the Confident Shooters points first. The Precision Pointers then play their first boule, and it coops tightly to the Confident Shooters’ boule that the distance from each boule to the jack is deemed the same by measurement and agreement by both teams. So, tied boules.

The Confident Shooters’ captain says “Everyone knows when there is a tie, the team that played the last boule plays again and we alternate.” (Spoiler alert: Article 28, Paragraph 3.)

There is much nodding and mumuring in agreement, so the Precision Pointers play again and get a boule closer to the jack than the tied boules.

Now the tie is broken and Confident Shooter steps into the circle, unleashes a shot and both boules end up farther away than the two tied boules. With a loophole of supreme confidence he looks over at the Precision Pointers and says, “OK, I played, now you guys go.”

Is this the correct call? (Oops… mistake!)

One of the Confident Shooters points right up to the jack, as at the Henri Bertrand Trophy, International Singles Championship, January 24-25, 2015 in Nice, France.

For more details and up-to-date listings of all 2015 FPUSA Regional Tournaments, please check petpart.weebly.com.
All year long, clubs and members submit their photos for posting by FPUSA's trusty Smugmug custodians, Dan Feaster and Nan Walter. Visit fpusasmugmug.com to conveniently view images of our members in many different settings — from national tournaments to club gatherings. Thanks to all who sent in their photos!

Parting shot...

by Jeed Chaiboonruang,
Eugene Petanque International Club