

Resume - Geoff Ball, Ph.D.

Geoff Ball works in a variety of settings with a wide range of clients in situations that are often complex, technical, conflict-laden, cross-organizational and involve varying numbers of people from small working groups to large conferences and public meetings.

His new work, under the brand SmartGroups® GuideBook Programs, enhances the ability of people to work together in groups.

He continues his work in facilitation of key meetings; strategy and strategic planning; priority setting, conflict resolution and team building for boards and senior management teams; and in leading organization development processes to address complex organizational issues.

Geoff often brings in other associates and colleagues to create the mix of capabilities needed for specific project situation.

Geoff coined the phrase 'Group Memory,' and often uses large wall charts to enable people to see the big picture and relationships among diverse elements.

He uses a computer with data projector to enhance the capabilities of groups working together to produce quality results in a condensed period of time. For example, an excel spreadsheet with projects to be prioritized can be projected and then rearranged to give a management group a continuously 'clean picture' to work from in setting priorities.

Geoff received his formal education at Harvard University (B.A.) and Stanford University (M.S. and Ph.D.). He has taught Cybernetics Systems at San Jose State University, and Communications/Management Skills at the University of San Francisco. At Stanford Research Institute he developed computer approaches to pattern recognition and data analysis. He is published in technical and professional journals, and is on the board of Aikido West.



"There is method and, yet, NO magic - except the magic of a group of people seeing they can accomplish more by working together than they can achieve alone."

Geoff Ball -- Master Facilitator

Geoff Ball & Associates
164 Main Street, Suite 210, Los Altos, CA 94022.
Ph: 650-941-1497;
Fax: 650-948-3067;
email: gball@aol.com
website: <http://www.geoffballfacilitator.com>

WHAT I BRING TO A PROJECT

By Geoff Ball, Ph.D.

Experience	Experience as a facilitator and process consultant, of over 30 years, in various settings for a wide range of clients in situations that are often complex, technical, controversial, multi-jurisdictional, and involving varying numbers of people from small working groups to large conferences and public meetings.
Skills combined with competency in using these skills in a wide variety of settings	Mastery level competence as a facilitator in these varied settings. I have a broad knowledge of various participation tools and approaches and the skills to implement these various approaches. This includes the ability to empower others to be effective group leaders -- both through the design of the process for a workshop and by coaching and training them for the specific event.
Ability to integrate and summarize	I am told by others that I have unusual abilities to integrate and summarize ideas; in seeing the specifics in their context; and in being able to pull things together. The tools that I use in doing this include: Group graphics, system diagrams of various sorts and 'WorkMaps' that enhance the ability of people to improve their working together. Sometimes quite simple graphics enable disputants to 're-frame' their conflict and to develop a way of resolving it. Other times graphics provide the 'icon hooks' that allow people to review large numbers of alternatives in relationship to each other.
Excellent listening and reflecting skills	My early experience as a group recorder, wide ranging interests in many topics, and other training has led to what I am told are excellent listening and reflecting skills, that I am able to discern underlying issues, to hear what is in back of what is said, to be a 'quick study' on a topic.
Effective use of Technology to support the work	My experience in artificial intelligence and system theory and an interest in complex issues when combined with the need for group efficiency as well as effectiveness have led me to explore ways that technology can support collaborative work. I currently use a laptop computer with data projector to show the computer screen onto a large viewing surface for a working group. The computer greatly assists in such tasks as priority setting, agreement drafting, and testing alternative "what if's" using a spreadsheet.
Conflict Resolution Skills	Much of my experience has been working in chaotic and conflicted situations. During this time I have developed skill in conflict resolution using both facilitation and mediation. I believe that my ability to stay calm and centered in midst of conflict and chaos has been of considerable help to groups I've worked with.
Easy to work with Fun as part of the work	My desire is to be 'easy to work with,' to make my interaction with the client as effective and efficient as possible. Part of this is my solid commitment to outstanding results -- and to a project that has 'fun' as part of the work.
