



JANUARY BOULES NEWSLETTER

Auld Lang Syne



The celebration of the new year is the oldest of holidays dating back 4000 years ago to ancient Babylon. Their new year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox and had its own particular mode of celebration. It is safe to say that modern New Year's festivities pale in comparison.

FPC boulistes have much in common with the ancient Babylons; they like a good party and look for every opportunity to celebrate life, drink wine and play boules. In that spirit of frivolity and community, 45 members gathered at Cary Park on January 1 for a few New Year's Day games of petanque and a few toasts to 2009. You could say FPC boulistes did their part to keep the first day of the New Year special. Many thanks go out to all who participated in the second annual New Year's Day boulegames.

After boulegames, all gathered in north Fresno for an afternoon and evening of food, conversation and champagne. Special thanks to the FPC Social Committee (Linda, Deb, Joyce, Karen and Rebecca) for organizing this lovely New Year's Day party...Santé!

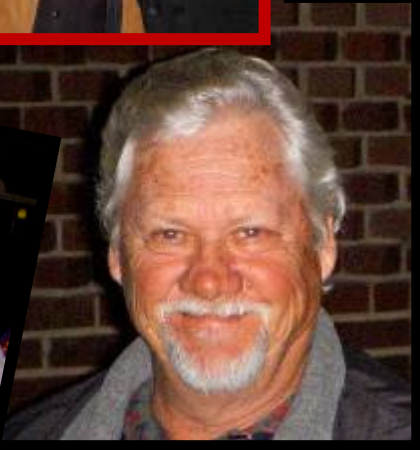
"Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?...we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne...." Robert Burns, Scottish Poet, 1788.

**BALLET POSITION 3?
FPC'S AMY ROBERTS ON POINT,
JANUARY 1, 2009**

Click this link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLAAHs1ohxg>

Recollections of FPC'S New Year's Day Festivities



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



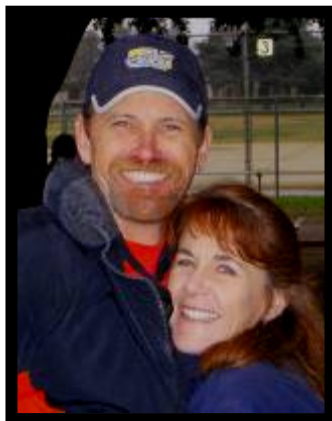
Such A Nice Fanny!



Ms. Fanny

The czar of doll surgery was called in for this highly sensitive cosmetic fanny work. That's right, Dr. "make my fanny beautiful" Mary Murray was our go to specialist. Dr. Murray tells us that the cosmetic surgery took hours to complete. After a few days of recovery over the holidays, Fanny was soon spotted at Cary Park flashing a shapely, tight, and rosy bum.

Take a peek at Fanny the next time you boule. She's beautiful. Thanks to Paul and Mary.



Mark and Linda

Have you missed fanny? That's because she took an eight week holiday break in November for a makeover. She said her fanny was starting to hurt from so much attention given by those boulistes at the Fresno Pétanque Club.

The real story? Let's just say it involves wine. You see Fanny went to the Quady Winery boules demonstration with FPC back in November. While there, rumor has it, she was drinking with Tim and fell down and smashed her bum. Actually, "smashed" might be an understatement. Our fanny plaque was cracked (no pun intended!) right down the middle and required immediate restorative surgery.

That surgery began with member and manly man, Dr. "Fix My Bum" Paul Bozinovski. Paul did a great job on getting Fanny back together and presentable, but like most major surgeries that leave a scar, further cosmetic work was needed.



By the way, our Fanny is a sculpture created by French artist Battezanti. Member Terry Bond gave her the alluring party dress. Fanny was a gift to our Club from members Mark Graves and Linda Tolladay.

Battezanti's work is sold around the world and is always presented at the La Marseillaise championship. Last year one of his Fannies became a permanent exhibit at the International Pétanque Museum in St Bonnet-le-Chateau. To view some of his Fanny sculptures click this link, <http://fannydebattezanti.wifeo.com/collection-privés.php>.

To read about the mythology of Fanny click this link, <http://www.laboulebleue.fr/en/html/fanny.htm>

Let Them Eat Cake!

On a cold Tuesday evening, January 6, a gathering of boulistes showed up at Cary Park for a few games of boules and cake. The King's Cake to be exact – *Gâlette Des Rois*, baked by FPC member Patrick Bourrel, owner and master baker at La Boulangerie.

Whether this tradition is a part of your beliefs or you just enjoy the conviviality that goes along with the cake, this French story will be just what the chef ordered. Galette Des Rois (King's Cake) is something the French do really well. But this French tradition started long before there was France.



Gâlette Des Rois – The King's Cake

The King's Cake practice is pagan in origin and can be found in ancient Roman recorded history in the month of December during a holiday called Saturnalia. During Saturnalia, people celebrated the Winter Equinox, the returning sun and Saturnus - the god of seed and sowing. The Roman territory in northwestern Europe known as Gaul eventually evolved into what we know today as France. Once pagan Rome converted to Christianity the pagan traditions of Saturnalia continued and over the years overlapped in France with the Christian practice of the Epiphany or the feast of the kings on January 6th.

This King's Cake is made of buttery, flakey pastry layers filled with frangipane, an almond cream paste. The cake is divine! On a symbolic level, the cake represents fertile ground, a nod to Saturnus. Pastry chefs today bake a tiny ceramic figurine called a *fève* (literally meaning a bean, or seed) right inside the cake. The cake is sliced and served, and the person who finds the *fève* in their piece is declared the *le roi* (king) or the *la reine* (queen) and gets to wear the paper crown that decorated the *gâlette* before it was sliced.



Queen Mary Murray

January 6 was the first time FPC celebrated this tradition at our Tuesday evening boulegames. Two cakes and two chances to reign were available for those who braved the cold evening. Jean Biscay was crowned king from the first cake and Mary Murray found the *fève* in the second cake. They proudly wore the golden paper crowns for a while, and then we ate more cake. As custom dictates, getting the *fève* will bring them luck and good health in 2009. We hope it does.



King Jean Biscay

The cake and its traditions were brought to the United States by French colonists. Today, King's Cake is eaten to celebrate "twelfth night" or the epiphany (all the way through Mardi Gras) in southwest Louisiana, particularly in New Orleans, but also in parts of Alabama. Ya'll want some cake?

Sprechen Sie Deutsch ?



**“All Our Bags Are Packed”
FPC/Munster Planning Committee**

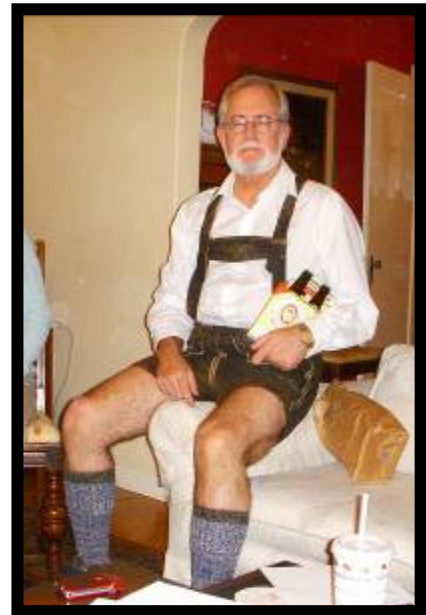
Half of our time will be spent in our host city, Munster. The second half of the trip members will visit Berlin, Dresden, Munich and maybe even Prague. Cost for the trip will cover lodging, food and transportation and is approximately \$2500 (**inclusive** of roundtrip airfare from Fresno). You must be a member of the Fresno Pétanque Club to join in. Consider going with us. It’s a diplomatic pétanque tour. Space is limit, so don’t delay. Info: BouleFresno@yahoo.com.



The creative mind of Jerry Personius

The planning for our May 14-30 Munster, Germany boules tour is progressing at a fast pace. A group of those members interested in going on the trip have met twice to develop an overall travel plan and itinerary.

Our trip, which is in cooperation with the Sister City Programs of Fresno and Munster, will include visiting historic, artistic and cultural sites around Germany. FPC also will play lots of pétanque. Our club will be the first adult U.S. delegation to visit Munster, Germany in sixteen years. They are excited about our visit and so are we!



If you have questions about the Germany trip, want to be put on the Munster travel committee e-mail list, or already know

Is that Larry in Lederhosen? you want to travel to Germany with FPC, just let Tim (352-4142) or our travel agent, Sylvia Waxman (349-6368) know. If, however, you want to know where you can buy Lederhosen, you have to ask Larry Roselle. ☺ Want to polka?

Take a look at the following fun and informative web links on Munster, <http://www.muenster.de/en/> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aO3A03DTsk>.

2009 FPC Tournaments

During the past two months our tournament planning committee has met on several occasions to discuss FPC's 2009 tournament schedule. The committee volunteers are Karen, Peter, Greg, Carl, Tim, Patrick and Paul.

After much discussion, the committee decided to organize two FPC local tournaments.

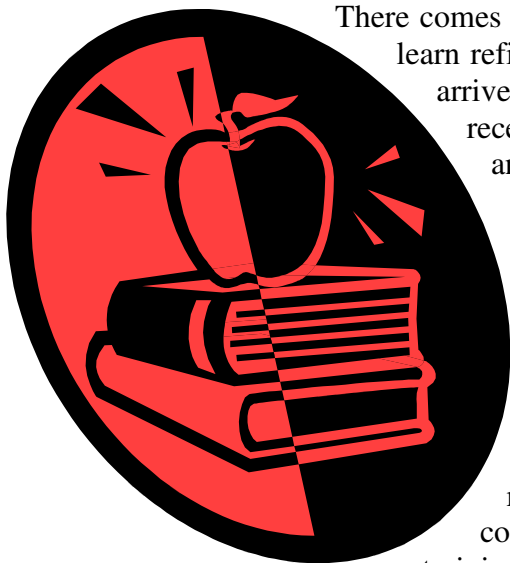
SUNDAY - APRIL 19 (ALL DAY). This will be a mixed select triplete open only to FPC members. This type of tournament requires you to have a team composed of two men and one woman or two women and one man. You will play with your team the entire tournament. There will be a registration fee and prizes will be awarded. Lunch with wine will be included in the registration fee.

Tournament Co-Chairs - Linda Motschieder and Greg Lapp. You will hear more about this tournament from them over the next few months. Start forming your triplete team so you can practice with them on a regular basis.

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 13 (ALL DAY). This will be FPC's second annual "**Fresno First**" panache tournament, open only to FPC members. In a panache style tournament boulistes play with a different team each game. This one will be a series of five games with the winner determined by the most wins.

Tournament Co-Chairs - Karen Petryna and Carl Motschieder. They will give you details for the tournament in late summer.

FPC Pétanque School Coming Soon



There comes a time in the life of any sports club when players want to learn refined strategies and techniques of the game. That time has arrived at Fresno Pétanque Club. The Board of Directors recently decided to develop a pétanque school for beginners and advanced players.

The beginners program will be composed of twenty hours of basic techniques over a four week period. The advance program will concentrate on specific master techniques of the game.

Our pétanque school will have a lesson plan, homework, and a fun final exam on the pistes. Each graduate will receive a Boules Diploma and after three months of competitive play can take the advance training course. More training programs will be developed.

Member Ranking System Coming Soon

Joyce Simpson, Terry Bond, and Paul Yang are developing a ranking system for our Club. A “how to” guide on the ranking system will be available soon.

FPUSA Board of Directors



Terry Bond

Terry Bond, a founding member of the Fresno Pétanque Club, has served as secretary/treasurer of our club since its inception. Fortunately, for us, she is a detailed person who keeps our club records in order. In that role she is a liaison between the United States Pétanque Federation and FPC.

These skills put her in good ranking to assist the national pétanque federation as it continues to grow across the United States. Terry was recently nominated and elected to the FPUSA National Board of Directors as one of three Southwest Regional Counselors. These counselors provide assistance to pétanque clubs throughout their region and work with the Board of Directors on national pétanque policies. Congratulations Terry! We are proud of you. Thanks for all you do for our club.

Now, regarding Terry’s pétanque skills, let’s just say she is an amazing pointer, and if you discount her shooting ability you might end up on the losing team. Don’t say we didn’t warn you. ☺

FPC Member Profile



Peter Woolcock

This month’s newsletter features club member Peter Woolcock.

How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?

I first met Tim at the gym and learned that he had once lived in England in a village in Cambridgeshire next to one where we used to live. Then one Saturday morning I met Tim at La Boulangerie and he told me he was on his way to play pétanque at Holmes Playground. That was how it all began!

What brought you to Fresno?

Work brought me here in 1991. I left a Cornell University field station on eastern Long Island for a position with the University of California, Davis, where I am now a Professor.

What is your profession?

I am an avian virologist working for California Animal Health and Food Safety, which is a unit of the Veterinary School at UC Davis. There are five labs serving California and I am based at the one here in Fresno.

Are there any places in Fresno that you consider hidden gems that more people should visit?

We are fortunate to live in Old Fig Garden and I think that area together with Fig Garden Village is a real treasure, including La Boulangerie!

Besides pétanque, what other sports or hobbies get your attention?

I try to keep fit at the gym where I sometimes see Tim and Terry, and enjoy swimming. My hobbies include gardening, photography, travel and philately.

What one thing would you like our members to know about you that they don't already know?

We (Lesley my wife and two sons) left England in 1986 during the Thatcher years when there were drastic cuts in higher education. Opportunities in the US have been good and in 2001 we became citizens. Since I have been in the US I have managed to visit 33 of the 50 states. A few years back before I hit 60 I hiked to the top of Half Dome.

New Members: Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members George Bedrossian, Benjamin Davis, Rebecca Dignerness, Alexandria Graves, George Vivina and Sylvia Waxman.

SUPPORTING OUR FRESNO COMMUNITY



ORANGES FROM FRESNO

Imagine getting out of bed early on a cold winter morning, when the famous Tule fog cloaks Fresno in a gossamer veil of mist like a cumulonimbus cloud on the ground. Now, visualize yourself barefoot and in pajamas walking out of your house onto the damp back lawn permeated by the fog. You walk under a fifty year old orange tree with limbs hanging heavy with bright orange Valencia orbs dripping with water. Then see yourself reach up and pluck one of those orange balls of sweetness from its mother. Standing under this evergreen tree while water droplets softly land on your head,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1C3qY4ngaI> you peel the orange right there on the spot. Orange juice drips off your hands, and the smell of orange oil reaches your senses as you slip a large



wedge of delicious California orange in your month. Listen. Soft, sweet whispers tell you this place must be heaven. It's orange harvesting time again in the great Valley of Central California.

It looks like Christmas, all over again. Trees laden with softball sized oranges fill the thousands of groves all over Fresno County, each tree offering hundreds of delicious oranges. After the January days of occasional freezing temperatures, the sugar concentrates in the oranges, and they are ready for market.

Oranges grow so profusely in this blessed part of California that Fresno gardeners easily grow them in their city gardens. Located in the heart of Central California – The world's richest agricultural region – Fresno County is home to premier orange growers that ship across the United States and around the world. Last year, according to the California Department of Agriculture, Fresno County was the single largest county producer of oranges in the United States harvesting over one million tons of Navel and Valencia oranges. The odds are really good that if you ate an orange this year it probably came from Fresno County.

Those of you, who don't live here, can order oranges directly from the growers. Or, if you have a friend in Fresno County, chances are good she has an orange tree in her garden. Maybe one morning she will fill a box with oranges that were kissed by the Tule fog, and mail them to you.

PASSING THE ORANGE

On Halloween night, the new teacher gave a party for the parents. She lined up the women on one side of the schoolroom, the men on the other, and they had a race, passing an orange under their chins along each line. The women giggled like girls and dropped their orange before it got halfway, but it was the men's line that we watched. Who would have thought that anyone could get them to do such a thing? Farmers in flannel shirts, in blue overalls and striped overalls. Stout men embracing one another. Our fathers passing the orange, passing the embrace - the kiss of peace - complaining about each other's whiskers, becoming a team, winning the race.

Leo Dangel, 1997
[Home from the Fields](#)

Another sensual harvest of food has returned to

FRESNO.

Buy a box of Fresno oranges from the following citrus shippers. The abundant supply is limited. Order now... <http://www.gofresnocounty.com/Fruit%20Trail/FruitInterest.htm>.

USA PÉTANQUE SPOTLIGHT

CAROLINA PETANQUE - <http://carolina-pétanque.blogspot.com/>



The beautiful Carolinas on America's eastern seaboard contain a growing network of boulistes that are spreading the message of pétanque. Like most pétanque gatherings the objective is to have fun, meet a few new people and win a few games – at least every once and a while.

The photograph on the left is of the original founding members of the first Carolina pétanque club. If you find yourself flying to this glorious piece of America make sure you let them know you will be visiting. As a general rule,

people from America's southern states are happy, and I bet these Southerners from the Carolinas would be glad to see you and glad to play a bit of pétanque with you. Send them an e-mail at CarolinaPetanque@yahoo.com and let them know your heading their way. Boule on!

INTERNATIONAL PÉTANQUE – One World, One Game, One Boule

SINGAPORE PÉTANQUE FEDERATION

<http://www.sportsboules.org.sg/>

Known as Sports Boules Singapore (SBS) this Federation was created in 1989 to promote the sport of pétanque to the general public. It was first introduced to Singaporeans as a recreational exercise for senior citizens in 1985 by the People's Association and the Singapore Sports Council.



It took the Federation many years to change the mindset of the public, that pétanque is a "SPORT FOR ALL AGES". Today, this Federation is coaching young people from primary, secondary, Junior Colleges and Polytechnics in this sport.

The SBS currently has 18 affiliates. Their junior members are increasing in numbers. These young members receive weekly training in preparation for the SEA Games, World Championships, Asian Championships and regional competitions.

This is a sleeping pétanque giant that is waking up and will soon be consistently ready to play the world in boules. If you visit Singapore make sure you meet a few of their boulistes and toss boules with them. International relationships are always a good thing to practice, too.

Extreme Petanque With A Tipple

Click this link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3A125m_jGQE&feature=related

RULES OF BOULES

Article 18 of the International Rules of Pétanque - INVALID BOULES

If a boule completely crosses the dead boule line it is out of play. If a boule out of play rolls back into the playing area it must immediately be removed, if it is not, it will be deemed live as soon as the next boule has been played by the opposing team.



WHO KNEW?

Photograph spotted on the web page of Les Boulefrogs of Church Hill, Virginia - <http://www.lesboulefrogs.org/1.html>

Membership in the Fresno Pétanque Club is \$30 annually. For more information, contact Terry Bond at BouleFresno@yahoo.com. Visit us online at www.FresnoPetanque.com