



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER BOULES NEWSLETTER



CREATING A THIRD PLACE

by Tim Channell, President, Fresno Pétanque Club

The lack of community in the United States has been discussed and written about for the past 200 years. Most Americans sense, on some level, a lack of community in their lives. It is a fact; we humans function best in a community, a group, and when those groups are not available we generally find ourselves sad.

The social scientist Ray Oldenburg, published a book in 1997 titled The Great Good Place. He argued that modern America has no social gathering places, anymore. This lack of social space has created a citizenry that is slightly edgy, unbalanced, and depressed.

Oldenburg explained that Americans have an identity in the **first place** of their life, *the family*. They are a brother, mother, husband, etc. Then, they have an identity in a **second place**, *the workplace*. We are directors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, etc.

Unfortunately though, for most Americans, we do not have a **third place**, which is a community where we can have a unique personal identity that



A Few Members of FPC Family of Boulistes

is separate from family and work. Oldenburg posited that a third place is a community space where we can just be ourselves and put our other identities and labels aside for a brief moment. So, why a discussion of Oldenburg in this

pétanque column? Good question.

Two and a half years ago, when Terry and I set out to start a pétanque group in Fresno, our goal was very simple: create a *Third Place*, a community for Fresnoans that would be multigenerational,

multicultural, multilingual, and brings people together in a fun way. We wanted to create a neutral community meeting place like the old taverns, drug stores and Main Street; a place people could reconnect to each other; a place for everyone.

Pétanque was that tool that enabled us to create a third place for almost 160 Fresnans. This number of boulistes will continue to grow, because FPC offers a dynamic third place for people to gather and play. In short, FPC offers something unique to Fresnans that other organizations have difficulty replicating - a *third place* community.



Terry and Tim

While we, alongside many of you, have trained people how to play pétanque, our goal has never been that FPC should just be a sports organization that focuses on pétanque competitions and developing a better game strategy. While these goals are laudable and important, the social aspect of FPC, that third place quality, is what keeps the club growing, and it is what keeps it going.

You know what brought you to FPC, and I doubt that it was just to win boule games. Terry and I believe that people join our club not so much to be great pétanque players, but to simply

have an easy *third place*, a place that puts them in an environment of like minded internationally-oriented adults who just want to play and have fun.

Today, FPC has a foundation that will continue to draw in new people who will want to play pétanque, but who are also looking for community in their lives. With this foundation in place, Terry and I pass on the leadership reins of FPC to other members.

We are proud to belong to an organization that Fresnans say is unlike any other organization in town. Time and again, people have told us that FPC is one of the friendliest and most

inclusive organizations in Fresno, and a place where everyone seems welcome. Other organizations in our community can learn something from the “success of FPC.” This organization is about you and community. It’s Fresno, and it’s that simple.

Keep up that positive image. Always remember why people join our club, and always strive to make FPC a fun third place for them, for you, for all of us.

We look forward to seeing the FPC organization evolve and grow in the coming years. The future looks bright for our club as we continue to reach more and more people in Fresno with the message about pétanque.

Thank you so much for your support and guidance over the past two years. The coming years are only going to get better and better.

Be positive, do good things and always remember that what we are creating is one big pétanque family.

We’ll see you on the pistes!



TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP



YES, Count Me In.
2010 WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR FRESNO PÉTANQUE CLUB

If you joined FPC prior to September 2009, it is time for you to renew your annual \$30 membership.

Please mail your dues to FPC, P.O. Box 221, Fresno 93708.

New FPC Board of Directors Elected

Over 65 members participated in our annual member's meeting in early November. The meeting was held at members Janice and Paul Bissonnette's home. A special thank you to both of them for welcoming us into their beautiful home for our meeting. It was a perfect location and the weather was great. Thanks also to those members that attended.

Club members elected a new board of directors with officers Joyce Simpson, President; Paul Yang, Vice President; and Janice Bissonnette, Secretary/Treasurer. The new board directors are Paul Bissonnette, Diane Haynes, Carl Motschiedler, and Kristy Page. Tim Channell will serve on the board as the immediate past president.



New F P C President



January 1, 2010, Joyce Simpson will become the next president of the Fresno Pétanque Club. Joyce, and husband Jimmie, are charter members of our club, joining soon after formation in 2007. From the beginning they were active members, and Joyce began taking a leadership role. She led many club outreach efforts and social events, as well as using her artistic talents to create our first banner and the scorers we use every game day. It did not take long to see that Joyce can get things done. She is one of those people you can count on. If Joyce says something will happen, it does. This is a valuable asset Joyce brings to our club. It is easy to see why Joyce will make a great FPC president.

Joyce Simpson Joyce also has a history in pétanque. Several of her family members live in the Netherlands and they are very active in their local pétanque club and national federation. One is a Dutch national boules champion. For members new to our club, it should therefore come as no surprise that Joyce was FPC's first boules champion. It's in her genes!

Over the past 7 weeks, Tim has been working with Joyce on a transition plan for her new position in our club. Joyce has many great ideas. In fact, one of those ideas has already been implemented with the new melee system we started using several weeks ago.

The next time you see Joyce thank her for serving as our new club president. You can also reach her via e-mail, joyce.simpson@gmail.com. She will need your support and feedback as we zoom into 2010. Joyce, on behalf of our club, we want to simply say "Thank You."

Thursday Boulegames Suspended

Due to colder weather and lower member turnout during Thursday games, FPC is suspending Thursday boulegames until spring. At that time a decision will be made whether to resume a Thursday game day schedule. Information will be e-mailed to members and posted on FPC's webpage.

World Federation Of Petanque Heads To Fresno



The F.I.P.J.P. - Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal is the world governing body of pétanque located in Marseille, France ([click here](#)). Part of their international role is to establish national pétanque federations around the world, just like our very own Federation Pétanque USA (FPUSA, [click here](#)). One of their other major roles is to travel the world and teach leaders of national federations how to teach pétanque to their affiliate clubs.



During the past three months, Robert Pierre, FPUSA International Liaison, has been in discussions with the International Federation and FPUSA national leadership about bringing their certified pétanque training clinic, “Teach the Trainers” to the United States. The International Federation has agreed to offer one U.S. certified trainer’s clinic in May 2010, and it will be in Fresno. FPC is proud to host this 4-day event for USA and International pétanque.

Pétanque clubs across the United States will send one or two of their members to receive this certified training. After the completion of the clinic each participant will be listed by the International Federation as a certified pétanque trainer. We are anticipating registering up to 35 FPUSA members in this clinic. Your help will be needed to coordinate this important international event. Watch for more information in the coming months.

Wine and Petanque : Twin Sisters?

It’s no wonder we continue to reach out to the area wineries. New people come to our group from our outreach efforts with the wineries. Offering pétanque demonstrations during these community events introduces our sport and our friendly people to many locals. We go where pétanque-friendly, Franco-ophile people gather, and teach them how to boule. In time, they show up at our Cary Park pétanque terrain and eventually many become regular pétanque players who join our club.



It’s a simple formula...FPC community outreach = new members.

November 14 and 15, FPC went to two Madera County wineries and introduced pétanque to hundreds of new boule-friendly people. Several of these newly trained boulistes have already shown up at Cary Park and joined our club.



Special thanks go to Joyce Simpson for coordinating this community outreach effort for FPC. Thanks also to the 26 FPC volunteers who gave a few hours of their weekend to help train hundreds of people how to play pétanque. We are spreading the pétanque message, one bouler at a time.

Area wineries have already asked FPC to join them for events in 2010. Please do your part to introduce our sport to others by volunteering with our 2010 winery outreach efforts, contact Joyce, at joyce.simpson@gmail.com for details.

Thanksbouling Day



FPC had a great turnout for our 2nd Annual “Thanksbouling Day” party. This has now become an FPC tradition.

28 boulers showed up at the Cary Park Pétanque Terrain on the Friday after Thanksgiving. They brought platters of Thanksgiving Day leftovers. It was feasting, laughing,

The FPC Family of Boulers

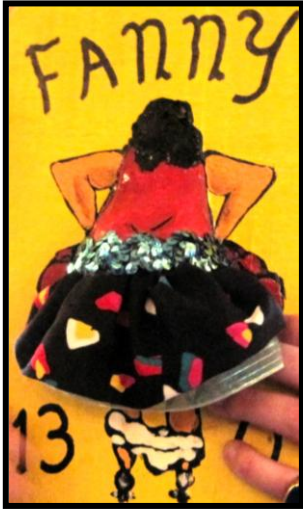
bouling and just enjoying the good things that life offers us.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on how good our lives really are today. We are so fortunate. FPC’s Thanksbouling Day celebrates that fact.

Thanks to Joyce for coordinating this event and making sure it ran smoothly. Everyone had a wonderful time. This fun event is already on our 2010 calendar.



Fanny's Back



About 6 weeks ago, Fanny Isabelle packed up her bags and moved back to France. In an interview, she said *“My bum got sore from all those FPCers needing to kiss my ~~word-censored~~. I knew there would less demand for my ~~word-censored~~ in France. Besides, I was homesick, and it was the right time for me to go. You know, the holidays were coming and, well, I just wanted to go. I don’t like long goodbyes so I left without saying a word. I didn’t tell Tim either, because he had kissed my ~~word-censored~~ so many times over the past two years I didn’t want him to try and stop me. Well, when I got home to southern France I told my many sisters about the wild times in America and Fresno. Before I knew it, my younger sister Fanny Marie (sometimes called Mirabelle) had packed her bags, cashed in her bank account, and told me I was wrong to leave those Fresno pétanque players without a proper ~~word-censored~~ to kiss.”* You can figure out what happened next. Fanny Marie packed her bags and took the first flight to Fresno. She was introduced to our

Fanny Marie members during our recent Winter Holiday Party. She’s been staying with Ed Loughmiller, who’s building her a good foundation for her stay in Fresno. Mirabelle said, “I like a handyman.” Whatever! She wanted us to tell you that she recently got to sing her favorite song while waiting for a train in Belgium, [click here](#). Look for Fanny Marie at Cary Park in a day or so and she will be in her Sunday best. Give her a peck!

Winter Holiday Party - An Amazing Success

FPC’s Winter Holiday Party called **FETE HIVERNALE de Pétanque** took three months to plan. From the start, the party planning committee, co-chaired by Chriss Dickman and Sally Eatherly, lamented over where to have a party that could accommodate up to 80 FPC members. They planned and planned and met and met with the party planning committee. Finally, the decision was made. The party would be December 5 at member Robert Boro’s home in the Tower District.



Chriss and Sally, co-chairs and performers.

The planners then developed a promotional flyer for the party, [click here](#), and discussed the idea of having entertainment during the event. Enter stage left, entertainment subcommittee chair and FPC member, “old blue eyes,” Norman Stokle. Norman got right to work on planning a one hour, old-fashioned, variety show highlighting known and unknown talents of FPC members as actors, singers



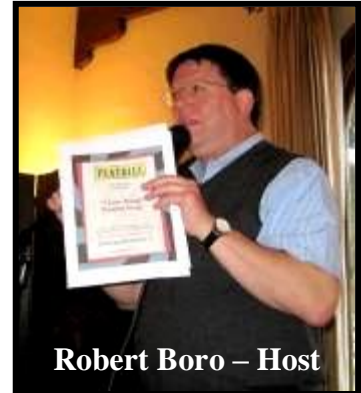
From late September to ‘til mid November, the entertainment program evolved. When final, a party playbill was created, [click here](#), and rehearsals began for the **“I Love Fanny Traveling Troupe.”** Three days before the party, a full dress **Norman Stokle** rehearsal was held and all the details for party being implemented. The planners then just had to wait.



Party Central

Saturday, December 5, was party day. People began arriving at Bob's house at noon to have everything in place. By 3:30 over 100 revelers, most of them crammed in to Bob's front room, were eager for the "I Love Fanny Traveling Troupe" show to begin.

Music, acting, magic, poetry, comedy, members were entertained for a full hour. Afterwards they were heard saying: "This was the party of the season in Fresno!" Other



Robert Boro – Host

comments overheard: "This was so European;" "What a cosmopolitan group FPC is;" "There's such a variety of ethnic and delicious food here;" "Our boules family is so talented;" "I have never been to such an entertaining and outrageously funny party;" "Can we have more than one of these parties a year"...and on and on it went.

A very special merci goes out from Chriss and Sally to everyone who attended the party, and to the entertainers on the party playbill. Lastly, thanks to all the party planning committee members for putting together such a delightful party for our club. FPC 2010 holiday party is already on the calendar of events for next December. It should be an "over the top" holiday party, too.

A FEW OF THE MAGIC MOMENTS AT OUR WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY...



THE PARTY OF THE SEASON...



F P C Partnership With Valley Public Television

FPC teamed up with KVPT – TV18 (Valley Public Television) a few weeks ago to help the station raise money for their TV programming. This is one of FPC’s community outreach efforts in which we give back to our community and support cultural and educational institutions in Fresno.

KVPT ([click here](#)) is a member supported, member financed TV station just like FPC is a member supported and financed boules club.



FPC Volunteers at KVPT

This is FPC’s third partnership with KVPT and each time we helped staff the telephone banks, thousands of dollars have been raised for this important broadcast institution in Fresno. Plus, many of our members are supporters of KVPT, watch its programming regularly, and even know

some of the staff. You can see why FPC is compelled to help in this important community effort. Besides, when we appear on KVPT, the message about pétanque is broadcast across the larger San Joaquin Valley. Thanks to member Karen Petryna for coordinating this event for FPC and also to each of our members that volunteered for this outreach effort.

FPC’s partnership with KVPT is already on our 2010 calendar of events. If you want to volunteer to help the next time FPC answers phones for KVPT, contact Joyce Simpson at Joyce.Simpson@gmail.com.



Sandi - KVPT Camera Technician and FPC member

F P C Member Profile



Jerry Personius

In this edition, we profile member Jerry Personius. Jerry is one of FPC’s regular Sunday boulers. He is one of our long distance boulers, who drive down from Prather to be with us almost every Sunday. He brings his faithful companion, dog wonder, expert squirrel tracker, Ms. Jill. Give Jerry, *ahem*, and Jill a big hug the next time you see them.

How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?

It was on a hike with a Sierra Club group in Kings Canyon National Park ... that I first encountered this tall guy (Tim), his somewhat shorter hiking companion (Terry)... and my introduction to boules and the FPC. I remember Tim kept talking about this new club (FPC), and this great game (French), played with metal balls (steel), and pronounced

[pay...tonka]... “like the toy truck” he said.

What brought you to Fresno ?

Two things really... the opportunity to work with one of the premier commercial pilot training operations in the U.S.... and a chance to once again live in the Sierra Nevada foothills (I grew up in Placerville). I accepted the position of Admissions Director at Mazzei Flying Service at the Fresno airport in 1999... and shortly thereafter purchased foothill property up in the Prather area.



Jill – Dog Wonder

What is your profession?

Mostly aviation...and several ancillary aspects thereof. I trained as an Air Force pilot out of college... flew F4 Phantoms in SE Asia and Europe ... then aviation consulting in Phoenix... before my present involvement in commercial pilot training began 13 years ago. My firm accepts both individual students and cadet groups sent to us by several international flag-carrier airlines... and prepares them for careers as commercial pilots.

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

Not really. I am quite sure there are some gems in Fresno that I would consider worthy of a visit... but they mostly remain hidden from me. I can however offer some foothill gems... like the San Joaquin River Gorge... where FPC has scheduled two “**Boules and Blossoms**” outings on April 10 and October 16. This will be an easy FPC “hike and boule” outing that Pierre-Paul and I will lead for our club. You do not have been in shape to go on this hike, because we are only going to take a short stroll through the wildflowers below Squaw Leap and play pétanque amid the poppies. You’ve got to like that idea. If anyone wants more information they can contact me at 322-3121. We are expecting a large FPC “hiking and bouling” group for this outing. So go ahead and put this in your calendar.

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

I learned to fly fish when I was a boy... and enjoy day hiking and outdoor photography... 3 things I can do individually... or all at the same time. I have been an avid cyclist for many years.



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

I have a helipad at home... on my driveway... used by our students to practice “off airport” approaches and landings... while I photograph the looks of rapt concentration on their faces... which they then send to all their friends as proof they can really fly a helicopter!

Jerry is FPC’s official club photograph

NEW FPC MEMBERS – Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members
Terry Allen, Claudia Barton, Leon Catchatoorian, Sharon Dale, Jerald Dilley,
Sam Gallego, Larry Lindberg, Rosana Rimper, Charlotte Showers.

FPC Upcoming Events

[Click here](#) for FPC 2010 Calendar of Event. [Click here](#) for FPUSA 2010 Calendar

Join FPC's Facebook page to get the latest information, [click here](#)

Friday, January 1: 2nd annual “Boules and Bubbly” New Year’s Day Party. We play pétanque first and then party later. Another fun FPC potluck party. For more information contact Janice, 447-8610 or Deb, 787-2321. [Click here](#) for party invitation.

Tuesday, January 5: Gâlette Des Rois (King’s Cake) Boulegames. *King’s Cake is pagan in origin, something about the SUN. The Christians adopted it to fit with their SON, but mostly today, it’s just about FUN.* Eating the Kings Cake is an old French tradition. **This is FPC’s 2nd Annual “Cake Date.”** So bring a friend and share some King’s Cake with us. Boulegames start at 5 p.m. At 5:30, we slice the cake and crown a King and Queen for the evening boulegames. “Let Them Eat Cake!” The cakes are baked by Patrick at La Boulangerie, and provided to FPC by Terry & Tim. For more information contact Tim, 352-4142.

Wednesday, January 27: FPC Board Meeting. Location and time will be e-mailed soon. Club members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important club business meeting.

Sunday, January 31, La Chandeleur (Crepes Festival), L’Alliance Française event at La Boulangerie, 6:30 p.m., contact Norman for more information on this event, 274-1233 or NormanStokle@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 14: FPC Valentine’s Party. We will play boules first and then go to the Valentine’s Day Party. Event Coordinator: Kristy, 228-3206. Promotional information on the party will be e-mailed soon.

Monday, February 15: This is the last day to reserve a seat for yourself on FPC’s September 2010 boules tour of Provence, France. Seating is limited on this trip so reserve your place now. [Click here](#) for more information. FPC’s France Travel Committee Co-Chairs are Gloria Floyd and Estelle Boro. You can reach either of them at gopetanquefresno@gmail.com. Go with us to France!



Just For Fun

- ♥ Boules turn up in the most unusual places, [Click here](#).
- ♥ French Art Exhibit at the Norton Simon Museum: [Click here](#)



SUPPORTING OUR FRESNO COMMUNITY



TWEE

1302 N. Wishon
(Tower District)
559-441-0427

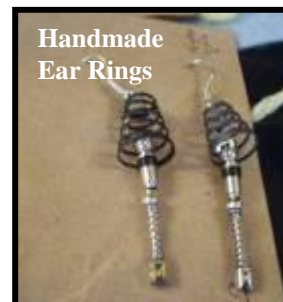
[Click Here](#)

What is a Twee? It is a term of endearment used by the British that usually means excessively sweet and dainty. When you apply that definition to hand

made merchandise, you have “one of a kind” items that would make great gifts for someone special.



Handcrafted is a dying word in a mass production society, because anything made by hand requires more time, detail and creativity to produce. It's an old world idea. This is why merchandise made by human hand is so unique and sought out by many. If you are looking for dainty, delicate, cute handmade merchandise, mostly made right here in Fresno, then TWEE is where you need to shop.



Twee Boutique & Gallery is owned and operated by two fashion mavens Melanie Davis and Patty Cappelluti. They even know about pétanque – go figure! Twee is open 7 days a week.

If you visit Twee by the end of December 2009 you will receive a free pétanque-related gift. Go take a look. Buy something. Support Fresno...*Twee-e-e-e-e.*

F P C Helps Feed Fresno Homeless

While FPC is a dynamic national petanque organization, just being an impressive petanque club is not enough. We are a community organization, composed of a diverse cross section of our larger Fresno community, that is committed to Fresno.

Our club has worked very hard over the past two years to build community partnerships that spread the word of petanque and help our community at the same time. One of our recent partnerships was with the CSU/Fresno Farm Market “Give a Gobbler” program, [click here](#). During Sunday boulegames, December 20, FPC raised enough money to buy turkeys that helped feed the homeless this holiday. Our community outreach effort was coordinated by member Kristy Page. *Thanks Kristy!* Special thanks go to FPC members who made donations for the purchase of 5 turkeys. *Merci Beaucoup.* Thank you for supporting our community.



USA Petanque Spotlight



Boules Larchmontaises Larchmont, New York

[Click Here](#)

Boules keeps growing in the United States. One of the most recent U.S. pétanque clubs is Boules Larchmontaises located just north of New York City. If you find yourself heading to “The City” try to include some time bowling with the boys and girls at Boule Larchmontaises. Give Pierre a telephone call (914) 320-0096.

International Pétanque - One World, One Game, One Boule



CZECH REPUBLIC

Zebetinsky Pétanque Club

[Click here](#)

East of Germany and North of Austria is the country known as the Czech Republic ([map](#)). Pétanque is played throughout their country.

As most of you know, FPC travelled to Prague, Czech Republic this past May and played a few games with the Prague Pétanque Club, [click here](#). What a delightful experience it was.

Just north of Prague is Zebetinsky. They are fans of pétanque too. Maybe we should go play boules with them one day ☺ For more information on Zebetinsky Petanque Club, jakub.rendla@seznam.cz

FPC in France: September 2010

Life Well Spent! See the video, [click here](#).

Go with us...[click here](#). Reserve a space by February 15.

For More Information: Gloria or Estelle, gopetanquefresno@gmail.com

Rules Of Boules



REMOVING OBSTACLES FROM A PISTE

International Rules of Pétanque, Article 10

It is strictly forbidden for any player to remove, move or flatten any obstacle whatever on the playing area after the game has started. However the player about to throw the jack is allowed to test a landing spot by tapping it no more than 3 times with one of his or her boules. The player who is about to play or one of his teammates may fill any one hole, and only one, that was caused by the impact of a boule played at any

time previously. December and January are acorn season at Cary Park. We play under oak trees that have thousands of acorns. The chances of an acorn falling on your pistes are very high this time of year. Article 10 clearly states that you cannot pick up that acorn (obstacle) and toss it off the piste until the game is over. Prepare to be *acorned*!



**Holmes Playground...it started here with 2 boulers.
The original home of Fresno Pétanque Club, March 2007.**

Membership in Fresno Pétanque Club is \$30 annually. Join America's largest and fastest growing boules club. Join FPC. For more information contact Terry, 559/352-4129 or BouleFresno@yahoo.com.

Photo Credits: George Bedrossian, Terry Bond, Christine Lemor-Drake, Jerry Personius. Merci Beaucoup!