



## OCTOBER BOULES NEWSLETTER



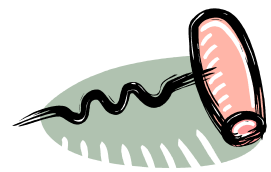
### OCTOBER IN REPOSE



After a spring and summer season chockablock full of FPC community outreach events, it was a relaxing reprieve for many club volunteers to not have a busy club schedule in October. You might be able to say this was the calm before the storm though as November is shaping up to be a busy month for FPCers.

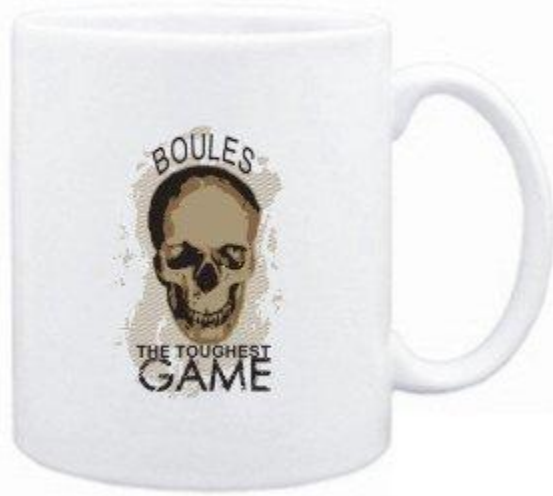
**WINE PARTNERSHIPS GROW:** While most of our club had some down time in October, there were a few members busy promoting FPC outside of Fresno. Thanks to Gloria Floyd, Janice & Paul Bissonnette, Cecelia & Al Sheeter, Terry Bond, and Tim Channell for promoting FPC at a VIP reception for the wine owners in Madera County. This was a small gathering of the key players in the wine community in Madera, and FPC members taught many of them how to play pétanque. As a result of this partnership, expect next year to be full of invitations for pétanque demonstrations at many special events at Madera wineries.

We form these partnerships with the wineries because each time FPC participates in a wine tasting event, about 5-10% of the oenophiles eventually come out to Cary Park for more pétanque with us. If we train 1000 wine drinkers how to play pétanque in 2010, we could garner 50 to 100 new members as a result. Plus, FPC receives positive publicity and develops immeasurable goodwill in the region. Our success at these events, however, ultimately depends upon members volunteering to serve a few hours as boules trainers. These are always fun events, with plenty of free wine and the opportunity to be with fun oenophiles who are active in our community.



**TOURNAMENTS ON THE ROAD:** October brought a few last tournaments of the year and FPC was there. The Sonoma Pétanque Club hosted other California boulers and eight FPCers made the journey. Thanks go to Paul Yang, By Vang, Jer Thao, Michel Yang, Fue Vang, Thomas Moua, Chong Xiong and Vang Moua for representing our club. The Sonoma Club was happy to have so many from Fresno in their tournament. Paul reported that FPC was all the talk. Our members continue to spread the word about Fresno Pétanque.

# The Holiday Season Approaches - Unusual Boule Gifts



## DANGEROUS LIVING

You gotta love this coffee mug. Recently seen on Amazon.com for \$10 plus shipping. OK, \$10 for a silly mug might be a bit too much, but where else have you seen such dramatic pétanque paraphernalia? Take a look, [click here](#). All of you know how edgy and dangerous pétanque can be, don't you? Live wild!



## FOR THOSE WITH WAY TOO MUCH MONEY

You knew it had to happen! Designer Boules by Geoffrey Parker. Stepping off her private jet, you meet on the hot tarmac with the black leather case in hand, and in a sultry voice you hear the words drip from her tongue, "let's boules." You retort, as sweat rolls down your chest, "First, let's have a dirty Tangueray martini." The night is long. Yours, for only \$1,895. [Click here](#). Oh-h go on! You know you love boules. They take credit cards. ☺



**POST MODERN BOULEISM:** The 18 foot oak French doors opened onto the verdant garden. The white silk organza curtains draping the entrance to your bedroom gently blow in and out onto the travertine marble patio. Soon a butler named Maurice, wearing a black bespoke Irish linen suit, steps through the curtains and says "Madame, your bergamot tea is served." You, still in your pajamas and barefoot, walk outside to Picasso's carved stone patio table, and look out onto the Switzerland side of Lake Como. After a deep tranquil breath, you reach down and pick up the silver Lino Sabattini boules teapot ([click here](#)) and pour yourself, and the exotic tuxedoed gentleman approaching your table, a cup of Earl Grey. Life is to be lived.

# Guest Editorial



## THE UNBEARABLE EARNESTNESS OF PÉTANQUE

by Alain Efron, Member, La Pétanque Marinière

The game of pétanque was invented by a few bored French Southerners, and everybody who has sojourned in France knows that in the South, kidding comes as naturally as breathing.

**Alain Efron** It is understood that a casual game of pétanque without a good measure of “galéjade” is not pétanque! Double exclamation point!!

I definitely have a bone to pick with les “pisse-froids” who play this convivial game like officiating a Latin mass!

Pétanque is full of little arcane rules that are usually tossed aside when friends meet for casual games. The main thing to keep in mind when playing this game is that you came to the field to have fun.

If you are the type of fellow who must rigorously observe every little rule of the game you are probably not suited for this form of entertainment. I suggest instead “Kenjutsu” or Japanese Sword Fighting. This sport is highly ritualized and might be better suited to your austere attitude.

I belong to a pétanque club, and the unspoken rule of the club is that you should include in your games whatever member happens to show up on the field. This is a commendable philosophy, but I reserve the right to refuse to play (except in a tournament) with “strictly by book” type of people.



So Puritan Players (and you know who you are) beware, be flexible or be ostracized! The choice is yours. Have fun with our game or suffer the consequences!

*Thanks to Bob Boro for bringing this article to our attention. Printed with permission from the author who was born in France and currently resides in Marin County, California. He can be reached via e-mail: [lutecemeister@gmail.com](mailto:lutecemeister@gmail.com).*



**CARPE DIEM:** Scale back your long hopes to a short period. While we speak, time is envious and is running away from us. Seize the day, trusting little in the future.

**--Horace, Roman poet and philosopher,  
65 B.C.E., Odes.**

# FPC Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 22: Fête du Beaujolais Nouveau** Sunday, November 22. This new wine tasting is sponsored by Alliance Française de Fresno and will be held at La Boulangerie in Fig Garden. Admission is \$20 for Alliance members, \$25 for non-members and \$30 at the door. **RSVP by November 18.** Contact "Florence Cassel" [fcs411@yahoo.com](mailto:fcs411@yahoo.com), 224-0419. [Click here](#) for the Alliance promotional flier.

**Friday, November 27: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FPC's Thanksbouling Petanque.** The day after Thanksgiving, FPC members gather at Cary Park for a few games of boules and to give a ceremonial toast to pétanque. Bring your Thanksgiving leftovers to share with other members who show up for a few games of boules. Bring your favorite beverage, too. FPC will provide paper plates, plasticware, cups and napkins. For more information contact our event coordinator, Joyce Simpson, 431-5944.

*"In October 2009, FPC had over 3,000 hits on our [www.FresnoPetanque.com](http://www.FresnoPetanque.com) webpage."*

**Saturday, December 5: FPC's Winter Party, "Fete Hivernale de pétanque."** 666 E. Home. This is a potluck event. Please bring a dish or two and your favorite beverage to share with members. RSVP to Chriss, 924-8964 or Sally, 435-5023. Flyer, <http://www.fresnopetanque.com/WinterHolidayParty.pdf>.

**Friday, January 1: 2nd annual "Boules and Bubbly" New Year's Day Party.** We play pétanque first and then party later. Another FPC potluck party. For more information contact Janice, 447-8610 or Deb, 787-2321. More details will be e-mailed soon.

## F P C Member Profile



**Ann Robertson**

FPC profiles member Ann Robertson this month. Ann is an active leader in our club and serves as the Game Day Coordinator for Wednesday boulegames. She is an engaged club volunteer and helps in the planning for many of our special events. Ann typifies the type of volunteer who help create a dynamic, community-oriented pétanque club.

### *How did you find out about Fresno Pétanque Club?*

I was "invited" (aka strongly encouraged) to participate in a pétanque demonstration at the Vineyard Farmer's Market by club members. In addition to my fruit and vegetable purchases that day, I picked up many new friends and a sport I thoroughly enjoy playing.

### *What brought you to Fresno?*

I grew up in Toronto, Canada. In 1960 my husband and I moved to Southern California. After 40 years Rod and I retired to Fresno where my son and his family lived. Six months later my daughter, Heather and family also re-located to Fresno from San Diego. My sister Margaret has joined us in Fresno, too. My favorite saying is, "Isn't it great we all live in Fresno!"

***What is your profession?***

I retired after 40 years with Pacific Bell. I started my career working as a telephone operator and finished in the accounting department.

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

I love the Christmas Fete each year in Fresno. If you want to really see a hidden gem you must attend FPC's December 5<sup>th</sup> winter holiday party just so you can see Bob Boro's beautiful home!

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

I've practiced Tai-Chi for several years. I have even taught it at the Senior Center. Between five grandchildren living in Fresno and playing pétanque who has time for other sports!

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

I'm a goal setter who enjoys a challenge. I completed two Los Angeles marathons as a race walker after the age of 50. At age 65, I hiked to the top of Half Dome in Yosemite. My latest challenge-pétanque! I look forward to seeing everyone on the pistes. Isn't it great we all live in Fresno!

**NEW FPC MEMBERS – Fresno Pétanque Club welcomes new members  
Valentina Dugan, Tony Jaurique, Barbara Kaiser, Lynne Kerr, Lea  
McAndrews, Dan Nadaner, Chris Olson, Ida Parrott, Levi Young, Fred  
Zumthurn. FPC has 153 members.**

**“NOW YOU FRES-KNOW”**



**Downtown Fresno**

The next year, four San Francisco school teachers led by Miss Minne Austin, who had planted a small vineyard a few miles south of downtown, marketed 30 twenty pound boxes of raisins. These Fresno raisins met with such buyer enthusiasm that soon more and more larger plantings were made until over the years eastern Fresno County became primarily devoted to raisin growing. Today more than 325,000 tons of raisins are raised annually in Fresno County.

In 1873 Francis T. Eisen started a winery a few miles east of downtown Fresno. The grapes flourished, but the summer of 1877 was extremely hot and his muscats dried on the vine. To salvage them he picked, packed and shipped them to San Francisco as raisins. They were marketed as Peruvian imports, but the truth soon leaked out that they were from Fresno.

# USA Petanque Spotlight



## San Diego Pétanque Club

<http://www.sandiegopetanque.com/>

Southern California has great year round weather for boules players.

The boulistes that live in San Diego and La Jolla regularly meet in beautiful Balboa Park for friendly conversation and lots of pétanque. The next time you find yourself heading to San Diego make sure you e-mail Club President, Georges Mealha, [mrgeorges68@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgeorges68@yahoo.com) and see if you can play a few boulegames with the San Diego Club.

# International Pétanque - One World, One Game, One Boule



## Lithuania Boulistes

Lithuania is a case in point. With almost 1000 licensed boulistes in 13 clubs you can understand why pétanque is quickly becoming a national sport in this small country.

If you have plans for visiting Lithuania, try to get in a game of boules. It's sure to bridge the language barrier. For more information on Lithuania pétanque e-mail Tautvydas Alenskas, [tauvis@gmail.com](mailto:tauvis@gmail.com). He's the young man on the left in photograph above, and he can get you in contact with clubs. *Kalby niekad nemokėsi per daug.*

## LITHUANIA

<http://www.boules.lt/galerija/foto/view/47>

The great thing about pétanque is that it is played in over 80 countries around the world, but has only one set of universal rules. This means most countries you travel to are probably going to have boules clubs. In most cases, the boulistes in those countries will be delighted to have Fresno boulistes show up on their pistes for a few games. Boules is an international language.



# Rules Of Boules



## Boules Out-Of-Play

International Rules of Pétanque, Article 18

Any boule that goes entirely outside the white boundary line of the playing area is considered out of play and therefore not a valid boule (dead).

A boule straddling the boundary line is valid. In other words, if any part of the boule is still touching the white boundary line then the boule is still in play.

A boule only becomes dead and out of play after having *completely* crossed the boundary line, that is to say when it is situated entirely beyond the white boundary line when viewed from directly above.



Boules rumor has it that **Fanny Maria** packed her bags and moved back to France. FPC just received a telegram that her twin sister **Fanny Mirabelle** is en route to Cary Park. Status updates will be dispatched as Ms. Fanny gets closer to Fresno.

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