

## Fantastic Weather for Terrific Competition: The New Year Begins

A gorgeous day of sunny winter sky and crisp air welcomed a good-sized field of players to the January 10 *panache doublette* tournament. Lured also by enhanced top-winner rewards that included medals and gift certificates to Soleil Westwood, the rotating teams all played with vigor to ensure a challenging and enjoyable event. The addition of cash games and prizes donated from our growing list of club sponsors appears to be sparking renewed interest in LAPC tournaments, with the continued appearance of players from other areas of California, and beyond. Adding to the fun was the lunchtime celebration of Felix Legrand's birthday with a luscious cake and cheerful singing. Making the list of winners were:

1. John Tschirky
2. Violeta Hug
3. Emil Hug
4. Sandra Bonneville
5. Michael Baughn
6. Lucy Nguyen
7. Gordon Waxman
8. Judy Scott
9. Ly Nguyen
10. Hung Quach



Photos on this page are by Mark Greenberg

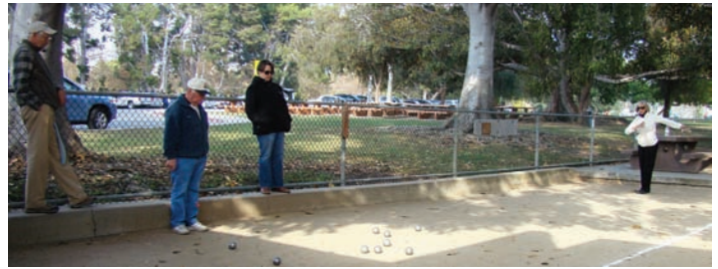


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**APRIL 10 and 11**  
*San Pedro Tournaments*  
**JUNE 12 and 13**  
*FPUSA Southwest Regional Select Doublette*  
*FPUSA Southwest Regional Select Triplette*

# December Chills and Warmth

It was almost winter, what did we expect? December 5 was a very cold day, and the tournament attracted a small field of competitors, but the playing was terrific, and a fun group of players had a great time. An added twist to the December tournament is the announcement of the winners at the holiday dinner. In contrast to the chilly tournament day, the holiday dinner was a warm and festive event hosting a full-capacity group of LAPC members. A time of feasting and toasting the end of another good year, the group cheered the winners of the December tournament, and celebrated in honoring the top male and female players of 2009: **Ly Nguyen** and **Violeta Hug**. Also honored for dedication to the club was **Diana Jacobs**, and thanked for fifteen years of tireless work and generosity, **Steve Bush**. The annual raffle was supported by prizes donated by club members, and was managed by **Diana Jacobs** and **Sandra Bonneville**. The event was a great time to connect and celebrate with friends despite some glitches with the menu, in a less rustic setting than the Rancho Park piste. The top winners in the December 5 tournament were:

1. **Karen-Michele Bull**
2. **Emil Hug**
3. **Rodolphe Vallee**
4. **Ben Bull**
5. **Gordon Waxman**
6. **Violeta Hug, Serge Almeras (tie)**
7. **Serge Lefranc**
8. **Gerard Commarieu**
9. **Martin Colman**
10. **Robert Bonneville**



## LAPC COMMITTEE

President .....	Max Legrand
Vice President .....	Bruce Marcus
Treasurer .....	Diana Jacobs
Secretary .....	Carol Marcus
Tournament Organization .....	Emil Hug
Grounds .....	Scott Hirotsu
Maintenance .....	Steve Bush
Publications and Web Site .....	Ben Bull
.....	Karen-Michele Bull
Landscape Engineering .....	Scott Hirotsu
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Sponsorships .....	Tiaré Ferrari
.....	William Widmaier
Food Management .....	Felix Legrand
Training .....	Artem Zuev
President Emeritus .....	Robert Breidenstein

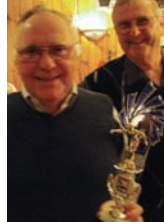
[www.losangelespetanque.com](http://www.losangelespetanque.com)  
[news@losangelespetanque.com](mailto:news@losangelespetanque.com)

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Editor: Ben Bull  
 Photojournalist: Karen-Michele Yates Bull  
 Contributing Editor: Tiaré Ferrari  
 Contributing Editor: Chuck Rapoport  
 Sage Advice: Steve Bush



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 Fédération of Pétanque USA and the Fédération  
 Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal



# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT: *Steve Bush*

By Barbara Tawil and Rachel Tarses

Steve's life is an adventure. Although he was born into a family that could offer him a very comfortable life, that isn't what interested him. His father was a doctor and a quiet man. His mother, 20 years younger was a beauty, and a social debutante. Steve spent his early youth in Southern Pines, North Carolina for half the year. Then he and his sister were piled into the "Hupmobile", a touring car with jump seats, and spent the summer months in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. There are childhood memories of his mother taking him to see Eleanor Roosevelt at the Carthage County seat. She was there to dedicate a library. While she patted his head photographers captured the moment. Steve's dad drove the first Franklin automobile off the assembly line. It was a grand car and now is displayed in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Steve also recalls playing tennis in his back yard as a little 4 year-old boy, with Bill Tilden, a very famous professional tennis player. This seasonal North-South life style ended when he and his sister were sent to Notre Dame Academy back in North Carolina. His sister rode the bus to school but Steve chose to get up at 3 AM, exercise the horses and walk to school, four miles out of town. He did this in exchange for riding lessons.

When his parents were divorced he stayed with his father in NC. He gradually stopped attending school and had a tendency to "run away". As a little boy he would jump a train to go to a swimming hole. He would go for a few days, then a week at a time. The hobos would take him under their wings and into the camps to sleep. He never felt scared and they never mistreated him. At this time there was a circus coming through a neighboring town, an annual event, and he got to know a gypsy kid named Justin whose family traveled with the circus, along with about 20 other people. Justin gave Steve the job of feeding the animals. He also helped take the tent poles up and down. In exchange, he slept in a truck fitted out for sleeping. As the circus traveled to the next town, Steve thumbed his way back home to Southern Pines, but the next year he followed the circus through three other towns. Steve's dad believed Steve was incorrigible, but this defined Steve as a person who always believed in himself and made his own life.

At this point, Steve got into "mischief" and failed seventh grade. He ran away again, this time to his mother's home in Washington, DC where his mother enrolled him at the prestigious Sidwell Friends School. This was a turnaround for Steve and the first time he took an interest in school. This lasted a year and then back to public school where he finished his education.

In 1947 he went to Raleigh, NC to enlist in the Navy and was sent to San Diego. On the train, there was a four-hour layover in El Paso. Steve, still in his "civvies", and two other guys decided to go over the bridge into Juarez, Mexico. Apparently that was a big mistake because all three of them ended up in a Juarez jail. After three days, the shore patrol found them and "escort-

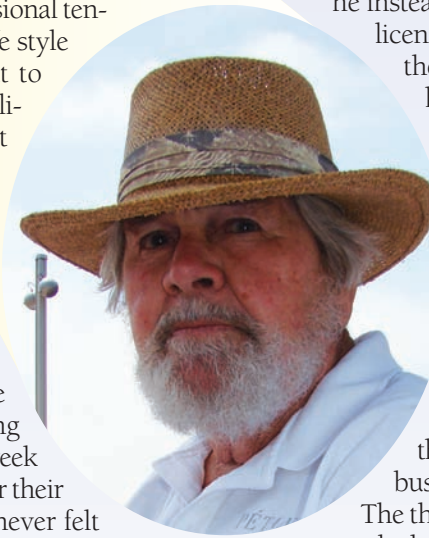
ed" them back to El Paso and then on to San Diego in handcuffs. Steve was enough of a "mischief maker" to never get a single day of liberty while in boot camp. He made one trip to Japan and China where his ship escorted the English freighter "Black Arrow" which was being attacked in the Yangtze River. When he went back to San Diego he requested and was accepted at Radar and Sonar school. The school was on Yerba Buena Island in the middle of the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge, where the 1936 World's Fair was held. During his time in radar training school, his ship the USS John R Craig DD885 returned to Japan. Upon graduation he was loaded onto a military transport ship, the USS General Mitchell.

After being released from the Navy in 1951 with an honorable discharge, Steve came to San Pedro intending to get his maritime mates papers. For various reasons that didn't happen and he instead worked at Tidewater Oil. He took his FCC license and worked at Lockheed Manufacturing on their flight line, testing radar equipment. Shortly after that, still the adventurer, Steve headed for Milwaukee to study engineering. He got a job winding motors for Allis-Chalmers making \$52.00 a week. His rent was \$125.00 a month so there was no plus in going to school. He had already met Dolores so he gave up the "Milwaukee notion" and went back to San Pedro. Steve worked in the fish packing industry and when the sardine season was over, Steve went to work for Sun Lumber Co. He worked his way up to running the mill and became the fourth partner in the mill business. Soon he bought two of the partners out.

The third partner owned the land the mill was sitting on and when that partner wanted to raise the rent and put Steve on a yearly lease instead of a three-year lease, Steve smelled something fishy and it wasn't fish. So Steve took the equipment and shed and stored them leaving the ex-partner's land empty. Eventually this equipment was sold and Steve started a driving school in San Pedro called E-Z Driving School. At the same time he had the opportunity to become a Longshoreman. It was 1963. Steve loved the work and camaraderie of the job and continued there until retiring 18 years ago.

Dolores and Steve, with Dolores' daughter Patricia, whom he adopted in 1953, would go to France every other year. Dolores had never played petanque until Steve took an interest in it. It was during those visits to her family in the South of France that Steve found himself wandering around the villages and observing men playing the game. Eventually he was invited to join them and he proceeded to buy two sets of boules, returned to LA and built a court in his back yard. Sometime after that, he heard about the LA Petanque Club and he and Dolores became valued members.

Since Dolores' passing last year, Steve remains in his home, which he lovingly built over the years. Steve seems to be very satisfied with his life. He swims daily for exercise. He wouldn't trade anything for his youth. That is done and now he enjoys his life, gardens, home and friends.





## DU PRÉSIDENT

Dear Fellow Club Members,

The coming year holds opportunities for continued success of the LAPC, and we eagerly await positive changes and renewal of our commitment to exciting competition and convivial relations among club members and within the larger pétanque community. The LAPC membership seems to change every year, and this year also brings change to the Executive Committee—we say *adieu* to Steve Bush and Chuck Rapoport, and we thank them for all they have done, and will continue to do. We welcome new EC members, Artem Zuev and William Widmaier, who bring fresh ideas and energy to the club. I sincerely appreciate and thank all the members of the Committee for their continued individual and group effort in keeping the club running and successful. An addition to the club events is the experiment Diana Jacobs is spearheading: weeknight league tournaments—sounds like fun for the local folks—stay tuned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon Waxman and Dolly Gillin for their continued quiet generosity and support of the club and its activities. The Committee shares deep gratitude and appreciation for Rudi Hertig who could not be with us this year to host his tournament, but sent us a large donation anyway. Appreciation and commendation are also due Bruce Marcus for his role in working with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks as we negotiate new contracts and relationships. It has been a great privilege to serve as your president, and I am honored to continue in that role for 2010. The Executive Committee and I work hard to bring you a great choice of activities and events, incorporating suggestions from all club members, and adjusting from our experiences, and all the while trying to keep things interesting and fun.

As a member of the FPUSA Board, I enjoy watching the sport grow in this country, and am proud of the example and leadership displayed by LAPC members. The club offers a place for players of all skill levels to come together, enjoy the game, and be part of something greater. With your continued support and help, we will continue to prosper.

I wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy year ahead.

—Max Legrand

## Thank you!

The LAPC Executive Committee deeply appreciates the efforts and generosity of the people who donated gifts for the raffle at the Holiday Dinner. It is people like you, and those who stimulated the raffle ticket sales that helped make the raffle so much fun. The raffle this year netted the club a very fine bonus and added money to the LAPC treasury for the benefit of all members. Thank you!

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## LOS ANGELES PÉTANQUE CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

**2010**

**JANUARY 10 (SUN)**  
Panache Doublette

**FEBRUARY 21 (SUN)**  
Select Doublette

**MARCH 14 (SUN)**  
Memorial Panache Triplette

**APRIL 10 (SAT)**  
San Pedro Panache Triplette

**APRIL 11 (SUN)**  
San Pedro Select Triplette

**MAY 16 (SUN)**  
Mothers Day Select Doublette Plus One

**JUNE 12 (SAT)**  
FPUSA Southwest Regional  
Select Doublette

**JUNE 13 (SUN)**  
FPUSA Southwest Regional  
Select Triplette

**JULY 18 (SUN)**  
Family Day Panache Triplette

**AUGUST 15 (SUN)**  
Belgian Panache Triplette

**SEPTEMBER 12 (SUN)**  
Panache Doublette

**OCTOBER 17 (SUN)**  
Los Angeles Open Select Triplette

**NOVEMBER 14 (SUN)**  
Panache Triplette

**DECEMBER 4 (SAT)**  
Panache Triplette

**DECEMBER 5 (SUN)**  
Holiday Banquet

Registration is typically 8:30-9:00 a.m. with play beginning at 9:30 a.m. Entry fees and prizes vary by type of event. Casual games all day on non-tournament Saturdays and Monday and Thursday evenings on the lighted courts.

*Bring a friend!*



## IN MEMORY OF

The LAPC Memorial Tournament Fund honors and remembers those friends and family members who have enriched our lives, passed on, but are not to be forgotten. Our grateful acknowledgement goes to these donors:

- Steve Bush in honor of:  
**Jean Triay** “A champion—with or without his wheelchair.”

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEMORIAL PANACHE TRIPLETTE ON MARCH 14  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN THE FUN!**