

## Party Bocce-Style! Italian American Bocce Club Offers Unique Venue for Events

**H**oliday Season at the Italian-American Bocce Club means parties – Italian-style! The venerable Club has seen a noticeable uptick in rentals this fall as numerous family groups, companies, and social organizations have decided to trade in their Christmas trees, wreaths, and stockings for bocce balls, pallinos, and raffa throws. Watch out, though, there still might be some mistletoe hung about the Club!

“The renewed interest in the Bocce Club as a special event space has been most welcomed,” says Club President T.J. Stranova. “It really is a unique, fun space. In addition to our three bocce courts, we have a banquet area that can seat over 75 people, a bar, and a kitchen that can be used to prep or warm food. If it is nice outside, we can even open the large two-story doors if people want to grill food or boil crawfish outside.”

Over the past year the Club has partnered with various caterers, food trucks, and “pop-up” specialty food vendors to create memorable events. However, many groups still bring their own food to their parties. “I really like working these events,” says Stranova, “the food is amazing – especially when we have a large Italian group or family, and they bring in the homemade stuff!”

The rentals have helped to spread the word about the sport of bocce as well.



*Members of the Krewe of Pontchartrain enjoyed holding their recent event at the Bocce Club.*

“These events have assisted us in not only raising funds for needed upkeep and repairs, but they also often create passionate bocce players who come back to join our leagues and open bocce nights,” states Stranova. “That’s why we always have a friendly Bocce Club member on hand for the events to teach the game, officiate matches, or just talk about the bocce lifestyle.”

Of course, if you are just interested in playing bocce, the Club is still open for numerous “Open Bocce Nights,” and Winter/Spring Bocce Leagues will be starting in late January. The Club hopes to offer leagues on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and maybe even Sundays next year.

*For more information about the Italian-American Bocce Club and their rentals, leagues, and open bocce nights, please visit their website at [www.nolabocce.com](http://www.nolabocce.com) or send them an email at [nolabocce@gmail.com](mailto:nolabocce@gmail.com).*