

Big Sir's Notes

Pete Gates

As I announced at the luncheon, we have some changes on the BEC. **Chuck Clark** is now our Assistant Treasurer, replacing **Ron Pascoe** who has resigned from the job for health reasons. We thank **Ron** for his service to the Branch and wish him a speedy recovery. **Terry Marchione** is now our Secretary, replacing **Jim Meehan** who has been temporarily residing outside of the Bay Area waiting for a home purchase to close and renovations to be completed. **Jim** will continue on the BEC as the Assistant Secretary. Thanks to **Chuck** and **Terry** for stepping-up to serve these critical roles for the Branch.

Chuck Bobinecz has stepped down as Chair of the Garden Club. He was instrumental in starting the activity in 2000 and has been the Chair ever since. Thanks to Master Gardener **Steve Dawkins** for volunteering to assume the position.

A Committee consisting of **Chuck Eichten**-Chair, **John Harrington** and **Dale Hertweck** reviewed the results of the Member Survey which was conducted last November. You may recall that most of our members were satisfied with the Branch but the survey contained some suggestions for improvement. Among their recommendations were ways to "streamline the luncheon program". Several things have been done to make the business portion of the luncheons more efficient. I hope you have noticed. Another recommendation was that we "keep our focus and energy on ensuring that our luncheon program maintains high standards". We have been working on that too. **Jim Burk** has lined up some great speakers and the quality of the food has been good....however we did have some problems with the food service in March. Be assured we are working on that issue with CourseCo to prevent recurrence.

Special thanks to those of you who have supported our Branch by bringing guests to our meetings. So far this year we have had a total of 10 new members with the promise of more to come. Due to loss of five members we are up a total of 5. We are on a good roll and I hope we can keep the momentum going into April and beyond

to ensure the health and vitality of Branch 146. The Website Committee has grown under the stewardship of **Terry Marchione**. The members come with various levels of the skills of knowledge needed to maintain the site as the primary communications medium for our Branch. We are still looking for guys to be added to the "depth chart". If you have knowledge of HTML, Coffee Cup software, Dreamweaver software or you just want to challenge yourself a little, please let **Terry** or me know.
Pete

Little Sir's Corner

Jim Burk



In **April**, I had previously reported that our speaker would be Jeffrey Weiss from Caltrans. He has moved on to new responsibilities, but his replacement as Public Information Officer, **IVY MORRISON**, has enthusiastically agreed to step in as our speaker and will provide us with an overview and progress report on the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project.

In **May** for our Ladies Day Luncheon, our speaker will be **TERI MCKEEVER**, currently the Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach at the University of California, Berkeley and recently named the USA Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. She will give us insight into the events leading up to the games themselves and our prospects for next year. I am confident that your special lady will thoroughly enjoy hearing from Teri, so give her an early "save the date" notice. We will undoubtedly have a large audience for this luncheon.

NOTE: Following our luncheon on March 10, the sign used to reserve the parking place in front of the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak for our speaker is missing. I am hoping that someone has helpfully picked it up for safe-keeping, but has yet to let me know where it can be located. If you have information regarding the whereabouts of this important "friend" please let me know. Thank you. **Jim Burk** (925) 946-1192



Duplicate Bridge Terry Marchione

Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch



Sir **Jim Jackson** hosted our January game with three tables of duplicate bridge. **Carl Johnson** (29 points) was the clear winner with second place going to **Rich Ahlf** (26.5 points). Third place ended up a tie with **Bob Donahue, Jim Todhunter** and **Terry Marchione** sharing the honors.

Our next game is scheduled for Monday, April 18 as the group will travel to **Bob Donahue's** home in Moraga .

Sir **Dick Devoe** has elicited a certain amount of interest in a second duplicate bridge group and more details on that will be available soon.

Contact **Terry Marchione**(terrymarchione@yahoo.com)

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too Joe Barry

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too met at **Jim and Ruth Adams'** home on Tuesday March 8th. As usual, we couldn't begin the second round until we straightened out the playing of the first because of couples sitting in the wrong direction (yours truly). We are considering handing out compasses before play begins. After the snafu we got down to some serious bridge with **Terry and Sharon Marchione** again taking first place. **Joe and Josie Barry** came in second followed closely by **Ken and Elaine Richter**. **Dick DeVoe** claims once he gets his new bidding system down pat he and **Christy** will be unbeatable. The rest of the group is trembling in fear.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.



Bill and Margaret Rees hosted the couples bridge group on March 16th. The winners were; 1st place **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 44.5 points 2nd place **Jim Brown and Anne Johnson** with 37 points 3rd place **Jim and Allison Todhunter** with 33.5 points
Our next game will be April 20th.

Branch Activities

Even though our Branch has over 30 activities, it is not always possible to match a member's interest to an existing activity at Branch 146. As activity chairman, I have access to all the activities of all the Branches in Area 2. If your interest is coins and stamps, horseshoes or pickleball, I will do my best to put you in touch with the chairman of that activity at another branch so you can pursue your interest. Please contact me at 937-9967 or at sdawkins@astound.net so I can help facilitate your request.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact **Fred Bolton** for details. Bring a lunch*



We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Doug Eisner** on March 7. First place went to **Doug Eisner** with 6680 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 6140 and third to **Bob Yolland** with 5770. Our next game will be at the home of **Fred Bolton** on April 4.

Couples Dining Out Don Tubb

We had a really good dinner at Salvatore in March thanks to **Dick and Janice Woodman**.

Our April dinner will be hosted by **Dave and Joan Pierce** at **Bridges** in Danville on the 19th. They can take a lot of us but we have to commit by April 15th, so we can't let anyone back out at the last minute. We may give them a slightly low figure so that we can add a couple near the date. Send the money up front since **Dave's** on the hook for it.

David Pierce

2525 Corte Del Marques

Walnut Creek 94598

We hope this will work and all will hopefully applaud that the alcohol will be dealt with individually.

Publicity

SIRs with Public Relations Skills/Media Skills/Marketing Skills, we need you to be part of (or assist) our newly forming Publicity Committee. Raising the visibility of Sir Branch 146 to remain strong, healthy, and vital to at least replace our losses is our goal and we could sure use your help. Contact **Bill Hoban** (925-945-7040).

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon
Thursday, May 12, 2011

No. of tickets _____ @ \$24 each.

Enclosed \$ _____

Names:

Salad:

Mixed Green Salad with blue cheese, nuts and balsamic vinaigrette dressing

Entrees:

Grilled Chicken with a pineapple relish sauce

Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Vegetables

Mahi Mahi with a teriyaki glaze

Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert:

Pineapple Upsidedown Cake

Special requirements _____

Please make the checks payable to Sir 146 and mail to Joe Fuchs, 2116 Dover Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

We are accepting reservations until May 1st. All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 1st. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for a group or for a full table of 10, send in the full payment and list your companions and their entrée choice on an attached sheet.



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 met on March 9th at the **Bob Frankland** residence and **Bob** proved to be anything but a congenial host. For a change, he ended up as the big winner on his home court. **Dan O'Sullivan** had the only Irish luck at the table and came in as second place winner ahead of **Don Martin** and **Bill Cammerer**. It was a long day for **John Lewis**, **Bob White** and **Frank McNamee** as the contributors. We will meet again on April 13th at **Bob White's** home.

Poker Club #2 Al Zamolo



Jim Stedman hosted our February session. He and **Al Zamolo** became the biggest winners we've had in a long while. There were so many senior moments that it prompted one player to say he might be looking for a younger group to play with. Hopefully there will be fewer senior moments at our March session which will be hosted by **Al Zamolo**.

Poker Group #4 Chuck Bobinecz



Sir **Pete Gates** is hosting our March 28th meeting. As we know lady luck does not have a home. This may be a good thing because there are two kinds of luck. Good and the other kind which most of us believe we have on occasion.

Sir **Frank Rockwell** is hosting the April 25th poker session. Anyone who wants to be a sub, please call me (**Chuck Bobinecz**, 925-939-8740).

Non-Responsibility Declaration

Rule 345: All activities arranged for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

POKER GROUP #5 Bill Roberts



Our February game again saw a new venue as **Bob Spellman** graciously offered his place as our permanent host—**Bill Roberts**—was missing in action. **Bill** might want to consider a speedy return as **Bob's** culinary skills were on display and is challenging for the number one spot on the chef's depth chart.

As far as the poker game itself went, **Charlie Koeber** and **Skip Thomas** made the rest of the players look like rank amateurs as they were the only guys who came out ahead on the night while **Terry Marchione** and **Bob Spellman** managed to tread water.

Our normal date is the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon however, next month we have a conflict with the Dinner Dance so the date of the game is not yet determined. The regular players are **Spellman, Thomas, Merritt, Richter, Koeber, Marchione, Rockwell** and **Roberts**.

Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Allen Espenmiller

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on April 27, 2011 at the Diablo Creek Golf course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker will be **Greg Vogel** of GKV Capital Management. **Greg** will discuss how using International Market ETF's and Fixed Income Instruments to build a diversified portfolio with the risks of today's markets. He will discuss the benefits and pitfalls of using International ETF's, in all their increasingly varied forms to diversify a portfolio. ETF's can provide exposure to new geographies and investment classes without requiring the complexity or the same risk exposure that a direct investment might. There are pitfalls however, and investors should understand the individual characteristics of any ETF before making any Investment.

Plan to attend and discuss with **Greg** the investment opportunities of these types of funds as a way to enhance portfolio diversification.

The restaurant opens at 7:00 AM for those who would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.

Co-Chairmen: **Allen Espenmiller** (Br-174) 925-376-3977 **George Schulze** (Br-8) 925-429-1756 **Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807 **Ken Nakashima** (Br-171) (25-376-0421)



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



\$4720 to \$6057 depending on Stateroom. Contact **Bob Spellman @ 934-8428**. This trip has been very popular with over 50 people signed up.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION JACK CALLOWAY

Our newest member is **Roger Thornton** who is sponsored by **Bill Powell**. We had a near record number (10) of guests at the March Luncheon. (The modern day record is 11 at the June 2009 Luncheon.) Thanks to all the members who did the brief introductions.

From time to time we have someone who wishes to become a member, but does not have a sponsor. If you would be willing to become a sponsor should the need arise, please let me know. A sponsor is responsible for helping a new member become acclimated by meeting other members and getting started in activities of interest.

The only requirement to be a member of SIR Branch 146 is that the man be retired from full time employment. We are an organization with members ranging in age from the late 50's to over 90. Our members have a wealth of experience and varied interests which make for a dynamic group. When talking to your friends, tell them about our many activities and the great people they will meet. Our old slogan "Be a Friend-Bring a Friend" is still applicable today.

May 27-30, 2011 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee. This is a great Music Festival with over a 100 bands to entertain you. Beyond traditional jazz, there's blues, western, ragtime, salsa, and big bands. All day tickets are 20.00 to 39.00 pp depending on the day. If you enjoy music you will really enjoy this Festival. Contact **Bob Spellman @ 934-8428**

Jun 9-19, 2011 Alaska's Inside Passage. Embark on a 10 night Inside Passage cruise on board the Sea Princess sailing round trip out of San Francisco. Ports of call include: Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan and Victoria. Cost: \$2578 to \$2655 pp depending on Stateroom. Contact **Jim Lunn @ 925-551-3329 Branch #8** for more information.

JUNE 22-24, 2011 Boulder Creek Golf and Fun outing Join your fellow SIR members for our annual golf outing at Boulder Creek. It includes 3 rounds of golf on a short but challenging course, 2 nights lodging, a banquet dinner and a coupon book for food. Non golfers can just enjoy the beautiful surroundings round the pool. All this and it is only 1 1/2 hours away. Cost \$320 to \$420 depending on which package you choose. Contact **Ken Richter @ 689-6217**

Sep 11-21, 2011 The Enchantment of Lake Michigan. An eleven day trip including a Hydrofoil to Mackinac Island, Green Bay and Madison Wisconsin featuring The House On The Rock and Frank Lloyd Wright's Hillside Home School at Taliesin, a ride on the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan. Cost \$ 2885 Contact **Bob Hagler @ 925-934-7620 Branch 8** for more information.

Oct 1-11, 2011 Canada & New England Cruise. Experience the colors of Fall as you sail for 10 days aboard Silversea's Silver Whisper from Montreal to New York. You will also visit Quebec City, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport. While aboard the Silver Whisper you will find a most accommodating atmosphere providing impeccable service and world class cuisine. Everything is included in the price, tips, fine wines, all spirits, complimentary In Suite dining, meals, airfare, bus to and from airport, port charge, government fees and taxes. You will be treated like royalty. Cost from



Sunshine

Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net



We extend our very best wishes for continued healing to the following Sirs. All of these Sirs are in our thoughts and prayers as we look forward to their returning to good health:

- Sir **Ted Coggia** is rehabbing after knee surgery.
- Sir **John Denham** recovering from surgery.
- Sir **George Zunich** is rehabbing from hip surgery.
- Sir **Ron Pascoe** recovering from a leg infection.
- Sir **Bill Schmeb** continues recovering from a neck injury.

If you know a Sir who is sick, please let me know by phone or e-mail as shown above.



Luncheon Attendance

Bob Mehus

SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at CourseCo Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Club. The price of our luncheons is \$24 with a no-host bar.

Please email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com, or call **Bob Mehus** at 510-549-2221 by Friday NOON prior to the luncheon if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message. Please be sure you call!!!

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for **\$24.00** made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on Luncheon Day. Thanks.

A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, giving a valid reason or who attends less than five (5) meetings/luncheons within the last twelve (12) months, excluding May and December (Ladies Day Luncheons), shall be notified by the prescribed form, of termination of his membership.

SIR bringing a Guest

Please call by Friday, noon prior to the luncheon and leave your name and badge number and the name of your guest. Please spell the last name of your guest.

Luncheon Menu for April 14, 2011

**Salad; Mixed Green Salad with Vinaigrette
Entrée; Pan-Seared Chicken Breast
with Pesto Cream Sauce or
Baked Ham
Honey Glazed Carrots
Seasonal Vegetables
Mashed Potatoes
Carrot Cake**

Special Luncheon Requirements

If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Chairman. If for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your Luncheon Chairman.

New Members and/or Sponsors

There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share their conversations as new members of SIR146. It is voluntary and please do not feel obligated, as a new member, to sit at this table.



Membership Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics:

Active Members: 260 including six Honorary Life Members.

Applicant List: None.

Inactive Members: Eight.

March Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 186

Guests: 10, Visitors: 0.

Total Attendance: 197.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Roger Thornton**, Badge 235

Moved to Inactive List: **Bill Comley**, Badge 71

Resigned, Transferred or Deceased: None

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

Bill Comley was added. Our inactive roster therefore is increased by one to eight members.



Garden Club Steve Dawkins

For our April meeting on the 7th, Sir **Lew Thompson** has put together a wonderful field trip to the Sonoma Horticultural Nursery in Sonoma. Featured at this 8 acre nursery are azaleas, rhododendrons, clematis and shade loving hostas. Because the nursery is tucked away on a winding road, transportation will be by car-pool. April is the month to start planting for this year's crop of veggies or beautiful flowers. Plant something different for a change, like Capparis spinosa (capers). This vine is easy to grow, tolerates poor soil, little water and in the fall you can have all your neighbors over for a chicken piccata dinner made with your own, homegrown capers.

Please note the Garden Club will meet the 4th Thursday from 9:30 to 11 AM from May through October so as to not conflict with the "away golf" activity.

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group



Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.)

Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invite you to their next meeting on Thursday, April 21 at 9am

The speaker in April will be **Derek Southern** who will discuss the Impact of the Cloud! Cloud Computing is a phrase that is bandied around, but what does it mean? Is it important to regular users who are only using their computers for email? Is it for big business only? The answers to these and other questions will become clear and will help you understand the power of the concept today, and the increasing power in the future. You may be surprised at the low cost of the Cloud! Branch 8 is already investigating a move to the Cloud, come and find out what's planned.

We will also have a Q&A session with The Gurus of A2CAT where the advice is always 'priceless'.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Thank you for supporting your Area 2 Computer and Technology Group.

Phil Goff and **Derek Southern**
Co-chairs

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches.



ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as, those favorably reviewed by the media. Come join us and experience dining, while getting to better know your fellow SIR in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

"BRAVO BISTRO"

Highly recommended by Sir **Lo Mc Carley** and Sir **Ron Louis**, and given a four star rating in the Contra Costa Times, "BRAVO BISTRO" features fabulous Italian cuisine and a pleasurable dining experience. Elegant decor, artistic and flavorful dishes including crab fritters, savory pastas and exceptional desserts, as well as attentive and friendly service add up to a unforgettable meal.

Location: 1050 Contra Costa Blvd, Concord (Parking in adjacent lot)

Web Site: www.thebravobistro.com (menu, directions, photo gallery...)

Phone: 925-363-4443

Please let me know by Tuesday, April 19th, that you will join us.

Your suggestions for restaurants you would like us to try are welcomed.

Mal



Table Pool Bill Weinberg

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30am at Masse's - 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs in our area are welcome.



Fishing Paul Dubow



They say that March roars in like a lion. Well, this time the lions were nine SIRs fishermen in four boats who fished off Pittsburg one day and hauled in 45 sturgeon, including **Richard Bennett's** first sturgeon keeper. **John O'Brien** is now a certified sturgeon fisherman, having caught his first, second, and third sturgeon ever on the trip. Then he hooked a keeper of around 55 inches. Just yards from the boat, the sturgeon leaped high in the air, smiled broadly, and broke the line. But it was a great experience. **Terry Miller**, his son **Steve**, **George Schulze**, **Ron Yates**, **Dick Thomson**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Harry Sherinian** all joined in the fun that day. **Terry Miller** and **Carl Moyer** fished the same spot twice more, catching more small sturgeon and **Terry's** first keeper of the year, a 51 inch beauty. **Terry** said it grew to 53 inches by the time he got it home. The only sturgeon fisherman who was skunked this month was yours truly. **Carl** and I fished in Benicia and went home without a bite. This was the second time that this has happened this year. Was it something that I said? Moving over to the trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, **Dick Thomson** and his son **Lee** caught a limit of five each with fish up to four pounds. **Carl Moyer** also picked up a limit that day while **Joe Miscione** and a friend caught a total of four, with largest weighing three pounds. **Joe** and his son **Keith** drove up to Bass Lake in the Sierra and caught and released over forty rainbows. A group trip planned for the end of the month was cancelled when we learned that the lake will be drained in order to repair the dam. **Joe Peterson** got an early start on striped bass fishing when he trolled up two nice ones to 28 inches. That is rare for this early in the season and could be a very good omen. The striper fishing has been poor for the past few seasons. **Jerry Smith** and his son made a second trip to the upper Sacramento, fly fishing for trout and improved over last month's outing by bagging a 24 inch steelhead and three rainbows.

We will be very busy this spring with delta fishing for bass, catfish, stripers and sturgeon, trout fishing in local lakes, party boat trips for sturgeon and halibut and what looks like a promising salmon season. Once again, we invite those who put their rods away a long time ago or have never tried angling to join us. We always can lend you equipment. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 28, at the Legends Sport Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but come for breakfast at 8. For further information, call me at 415-495-6504 before April 15 or call **Carl Moyer** any time at 925-685-5243.



DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER PARTY FOR SIRs 146 AND FRIENDS

Wednesday, April 13 2011

6pm to 10pm at Zio Fredo's Restaurant

The price is \$99.00 per couple and includes hors d'oeuvres and Dinner

Live music for listening and dancing

Your choice of beef, fish or pasta

Send your check, made out to Sir Dinner 146 to:

Vince Rettew

290 Dover Drive

Walnut Creek, CA. 94508

Phone: 925-943-7962

Tables of eight are encouraged

Your name and partner



Couple 1 _____ Meal _____

Couple 2 _____ Meal _____

Couple 3 _____ Meal _____

Couple 4 _____ Meal _____

Theater
Gary Schaub



SIR 146 Theatre Party:
“Blues in the Night” -- June 15



If a toe-tapping evening with great music from the 1920's and 1930's sounds like an enjoyable evening out, then the SIR 146 theater party on Wednesday, June 15 is right up your alley.

“Blues in the Night,” featuring the blues and jazzy music of Benny Goodman, Johnny Mercer, Bessie Smith and Duke Ellington will brighten up the stage at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

A limited number of reserved seats at a special group rate have been set aside for SIR members and guests for June 15 at 7:30 p.m. for this popular musical review. The play received three Tony Award nominations including “Best Musical” when it opened in New York, and was later honored with a Laurence Olivier Award as “Musical of the Year” when it played in London.

Over two dozen memorable songs are featured in the show, including “Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out,” “Lover Man,” “These Foolish Things,” and “Am I Blue.” The outstanding cast includes Armelia McQueen from the original Broadway cast of “Ain't Misbehavin'”, Debbie deCoudreaux from Paris' Moulin Rouge, and songstress Amanda Folena.

For tickets for “Blues in the Night” send a check payable to SIR 146 for \$30.00 each to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservations in June 7.

Tickets will be distributed at the door of Leshner Center, 1601 Locust Street, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Note that the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Convenient parking is available in the City garage (\$5.00) adjacent to the Leshner Center.

Explore and Dine
John Pearl



In February, the group visited the Hearst Museum at nearby St. Mary's College that was hosting the travelling exhibit featuring the lives of Lee and Grant, the two military leaders of the Civil War. We enjoyed our lunch at a local Italian restaurant.

Our March outing is to the state-of-the-art Mt. Diablo Recycling Center in Pittsburg, with lunch in the downtown area undergoing redevelopment.

For April, we are exploring an outing to the State Railroad Museum in Old Town Sacramento. We'll take the Capitol Corridor train from Martinez to Old Town.

John Pearl

mcppearl@astound.net

934-6920

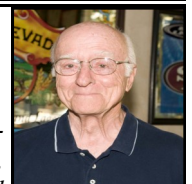
Cribbage
John Pearl



Seven of the Branch 146 cribbage group gathered at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, March 23, for another afternoon of fun and games. We welcomed two new members, **Ron Plachy** and **Art Ainscough**. Former SIR and Cribbage Group Chair **Al Tufo** took home first place money (what a surprise!), while **Jim Passaglia** got the second place \$\$\$, and **Barney Meade** cleaned up third place. The chair made a fatal error during one game, losing a close game, and was then “tutored” by **Mr. Tufo**.

We meet on Wednesday afternoons, typically later in the month. Let me know if you'd like to join our growing group, as we always have a great time.

Bocce Ball
Martin Lyle



2nd and 4th Mondays at 9 am., May through October, at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads

Keep watching this space next month for the word on the start up of Bocce Ball in May, 2011. We're looking forward to an even better season than we had last year.



Tuesday Golf Ray Weisz



The Weekly Winners are:

As of February 1, 2011 we added Gold Tee flights. These flights are for the golfers with an index of 26.4 or over, and those over age 75. The players who are taking advantage of this change are enjoying their Tuesday golf day more. Hopefully more of those who qualify will take advantage of this change.

February 1, 2011

White First Flight: 1st **Dave Steinberg 67**, 2nd **John Harrington 71**, 3rd **Bob White 73**. White Second Flight: 1st **Joe Suta 69**, 2nd **Steve Sprague 73**, 3rd **Ken Kratz 74**. Gold Flight: 1st **Ray Weisz 67**, 2nd **Russ Bliese 70**, 3rd **Rich Hanford 72**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Ernie Dickson**, Hole #12 **Ray Spears**.

February 8, 2011

White First Flight: 1st **John Harrington 72**, 2nd **Ray Spears 72**. White Second Flight: 1st **Chuck Campbell 68**, 2nd **Walt Busenius 69**. Gold First Flight: **Ray Weisz 67**, 2nd **Rich Hanford 73**. Gold Second Flight: 1st **Bill Boyd 68**, 2nd **Al Zamolo 69**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Frank Rockwell**, Hole #12 **Ray Weisz**.

February 15, 2011

No Golf due to rain.

February 22, 2011

White First Flight: 1st **Ray Spears 68**, 2nd **Ron Binder 71**. White Second Flight: 1st **Bob Royster 73**, 2nd **Dennis Hallett**. Gold First Flight: **Rich Hanford 68**, 2nd **Russ Bliese 70**. Gold Second Flight: 1st **Don Del Bene 67**, 2nd **Ernie Dickson 69**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Ken Kratz**, Hole # 12 **Russ Bliese**.

March 1, 2011

White First Flight: 1st **John Hammond 70**, 2nd **Ed Malbeouf 72**. White Second Flight: 1st **John Alexander 71**, 2nd **Ken Kratz 72**. Gold First Flight: 1st **Bill Boyd 66**, 2nd **Rich Hanford 69**. Gold Second Flight: 1st **Al Zamolo 72**, 2nd **Ernie Dickson 73**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Ken Kratz**, Hole #12 **Dale Hertweck**.

March 8, 2011

White First Flight: 1st **Dave Steinberg 67**, 2nd **Ray Spears 69**. White Second Flight: 1st **Ron Plachy 68**, 2nd **Walt Busenius 73**. Gold First Flight: 1st **Jerry Duarte**, 2nd **Russ Bliese 72**. Gold Second Flight: 1st **Ernie Dickson 67**, 2nd **Doug Eisner 69**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Gene Diana**, Hole #12 **Russ Bliese**.

March 15, 2011

Congratulations go out to **Russ Bliese**. He had an Eagle 2 on the par 4 eleventh hole. His second shot was into the cup from 175 yards out.

This was his first Eagle on a par 4. He has had several Eagles on par fives during his golfing years. This was a spectacular feat.

White First Flight: 1st **Dave Steinberg 68**, 2nd **Joe Fuchs 71**. White Second Flight: 1st **Steve Sprague 71**, 2nd **Mike Stephenson 72**. Gold First Flight: 1st **Russ Bliese 70**, 2nd **Jim Kohl 73**. Closest to the pin Hole #2 **Doug Eisner**, Hole #12 **Jeff Baily**.

Away Golf

Rich Hanford and Joe Fuchs

Away golf will be on the 1st Thursday of the month, beginning in May and ending in October (i.e. 6 dates).

Our first date is May 5, at Deer Ridge. Cost is \$35. Here are some details:

1. Golfers will be able to optionally schedule their playing partners for carpooling purposes. Singles will be assigned to a foursome as they are on Tuesday's.
2. Players will pay at the course at check-in, like they do on Tuesdays.

Guests are welcome.

Time is running out to sign up for May 5th. Signing up is easy. You can do it now by sending an Email to Sir146awaygolf@yahoo.com, sign up at Tuesday golf, or by calling **Rich Hanford** or **Joe Fuchs**.

Future Away Golf Dates:

- 6/02/11 Lonetree \$36/\$21
- 7/07/11 Franklin Canyon \$33
- 8/04/11 Blue Rock East \$39
- 9/01/11 Delta View \$29 with bucket of balls
- 10/6/11 Deer Ridge \$35

Couples Golf John Harrington



Couples Golf resumes in April. Our coordinators for our first tournament of the year are **Ray** and **Tippy Weisz**. We normally play on the Fourth Wednesday of the month and enjoy friendly competition using different and fun tournament formats.

Wine Tasting ... Bill Holly

Our next wine tasting will be on Wednesday, April 27th from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the home of **Dale and Joanne Haukland** at: 148 Santiago Drive, Danville, CA 94526

Directions: Take Highway 680 South from Walnut Creek to the Danville exit at El Cerro Blvd. Go East on El Cerro Blvd. past Akerman Dr. El Cerro Blvd. becomes Diablo Rd. Continue on Diablo Rd. and turn right on El Cajon Dr. Make an immediate right onto Santiago Dr. and proceed to 148 Santiago Dr.



Italian red wine



Italian white wine



Please bring a single bottle of either the red or the white (under \$20) in a brown paper bag plus an appetizer to share. Spouses are invited to attend.

Please RSVP by April 20th to **Bill Holly** by either telephone (925) 691-5337 or email at bill.holly@comcast.net

All non-league Bocce Ball players using Newhall Park will now be required to furnish their own equipment. Previously the Concord Bocce Ball league had let us use their Bocce balls.

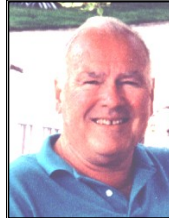
This means we will need to locate and bring the Bocce balls to our Monday morning meets.

If you know of any used sets of Bocce balls that we could obtain (hopefully, as a donation) but, if not, for a nominal fee, please contact me or **Ron deGolia** as shown below:

Martin Lyle mvlyle@yahoo.com (Now until Mar.27, and after April 16.)

Ron deGolia ron944@gmail.com (Mar. 28 to April 16)

Martin Lyle



Walkers
John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales. Call **John** or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.*

Walks in April Planned by **Joe Schild**

- April 1** Alamo New Life Church South: Danville Blvd., Alamo
Meet: South on 680 Right on Livorna Rd.
Right on Danville Blvd.
Left at Church Across from Sunnybrook Rd.
Park in Back of Church Parking
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level, Some Shade
Coffee: La Scala, Civic and North Main, Walnut Creek
- April 8** Osage Park, Iron Horse North, Danville
Meet: 680 South to Sycamore Exit
First Right on Camino Ramon
Left on El Capitan
Right at Orange Blossom Way
To Osage Parking
Walk: South on Orange Blossom Way
West on El Capitan Dr.
North on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level, Some Shade
Coffee: Pascal French Oven 155 B Railroad Ave.
- April 15** Contra Costa Center North Monument & Buskirk, Pleasant Hill
Meet: At Parking by Starbucks
Walk: Four Blocks East on Hookston
Then North on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level, Some Shade
Coffee: Starbucks, Contra Costa Center
- April 22** Good Friday: No Walk
- April 29** Oak Park South: Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill
Meet: Oak Park Shopping Center
Between Putnam & Keats
Walk: West on Oak Park Blvd. to
Three Blocks to South on CC Canal
Paved level, Some Shade
Coffee: Starbucks, Contra Costa Center, Pleasant Hill
Rain cancels walks, but meet for coffee.

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer** for folding labeling and mailing and Editor **Rich Ahlf** for photography.

SPRING CANDY SALE

It's time to order your See's Candy for the 2011 Easter season! This year Easter is April 24th so don't delay in ordering candy certificates for your wife, significant other, children, neighbors, friends, or even yourself.

The price this year will be \$13.70 for a one pound box certificate. That's \$3 lower than the retail price so it's a good deal! And there's even no limit in the number of certificates you may order! The certificates are redeemable at any See's facility and the recipient may choose any type of candy he or she wishes, including soft centers, nuts, chewies, etc.

Please make your check payable to "SIRs Branch 146". Mail your check and a stamped # 10 self-addressed envelope (the long one) to:

Douglas Eisner
909 Osceola Ct
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

I must receive your order by April 16, 2011 and I will mail your certificates to you shortly thereafter.

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to cover the cost of _____ one pound certificates.



Sirs Area 2 Pool Group