



Big Sir's Notes

Terry Marchione

Here we are already into the 2nd Quarter of 2013—seems like we just got started. All things considered, Branch 146 is doing well overall and we are well on our way to meeting our new member goals

for the year. Many thanks to those who have invited a guest to one of our luncheons. Our conversion rate (70%) of guests to members is also to be commended.

On the flip side we do have two issues that are being addressed—

Donations: First, a big thank you to those who have made their annual donation of \$18. Despite a recent flurry of activity, we still have slightly more than 10% of the members who have not made a donation. The BEC will be meeting in the near future to consider a variety of long term solutions .
Golf: Due to an approved upgrade to our website, some difficulties have been encountered with the golf web pages. Tuesday tee-times are being temporarily (hopefully) communicated via email. The golf committee and the web committee will be working to solve these issues.

Things continue to go well at Boundary Oak and Courseco. The lunches have been very well received and the working relationship is solid. It won't be long before it is time to begin contract negotiations for 2014. The City of Walnut Creek is evaluating a variety of options for the clubhouse and the golf course.

I as well as other members of the BEC have our ear to the ground to assure we are up to speed when the appropriate time comes.

Finally, a reminder that the May Ladies Day lunch is just around the corner. **Steve Dawkins** is working away to provide the best possible experience for us and our invitees. **Doug Eisner** has secured an excellent speaker for that lunch. Make sure you get your reservation in early—you don't want to miss it.

The April luncheon will feature Joel Bryden, Walnut Creek Chief of Police.

Gathering time 10:45 -11:00am

Seating time - 11:45am

Little Sir's Corner

Doug Eisner

We're very excited to announce that our April speaker will be Joel Bryden, Walnut Creek Chief of Police. Chief Bryden's appearance with us is doubly exciting as he announced his retirement

last November with a target date of June 2013. Chief Bryden holds a BA degree in Speech Communication from San Diego State University. He served 28 years with the San Diego Police Department in a variety of capacities, rising to the position of Assistant Chief of Police. In 2008 he accepted the offer of Chief from the city of Walnut Creek and has served in that capacity every since. The Speakers Committee has been actively working on arranging for future speakers. We have an exciting variety of speakers lined up through September and we'll preview those speakers for you as the year goes on.



Poker Club 5

Bill Roberts

Bill Roberts hosted (as usual) our poker group in March. **Charlie Koeber** returned to play after a two month hiatus and took up right where he left off, being one of two big winners. He was edged out for top spot by Big Sir **Marchione** with all other players being left in the dust. With our new policy of the big winner writing the newsletter column, it's suspected that **Charlie** dumped the last few hands so he wouldn't need to write the article. We thank **Doug Eisner** for filling in for **Ken Richter** who was laid low by some sort of bug he carried back from parts unknown.

Our next session will be held on April 10th.



Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

Our next meeting of the Mac users will be Monday April 1st from 10 AM until noon at the Casey Library on Oak Grove in Walnut Creek. We will be looking at the program FaceTime which comes with a Mac. Last month we talked about converting PDF documents to something that you can edit. I just bought an update to PDFpen and there also is an update for PDFpen Pro which can be purchased at a reduced price from the App Store.

These programs will allow you to fill in a PDF form and convert a PDF to a Word document. If you get as frustrated as I do with PDF documents, I would suggest you look at the video tutorial for PEN PRO 6 on the following URL... <http://smilesoftware.com/PDFpenPro/screencast/index.html>



Membership

Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics:
As of our Executive Committee meeting on March 14th, we have 271 active members (including our eight Honorary Life Members). This is a gain of three from the previous month! We have no applicants awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Sid Landman**
Jim Owen
Jim Pfohl
Harry Reiter
Bob Romero

Resigned: None

Moved to Inactive: **Leonard Whorton**

Transferred or Deceased: **Jack White** passed away February 13th. **Rod Sharretts** passed away February 18th.

Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 216 (80% of membership)

Guests: 6

Visitors: 2, Speaker: 1.

Total Attendance: 225

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

As noted above, **Leonard Whorton** has been added. **Jim Locker** passed away February 14th. Our inactive roster therefore remains at fifteen members.

I don't approve of political jokes. I've seen too many of them get elected.

Lo McCarley

Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club #1 met on March 13, 2013 at the residence of **Frank McNamee**. It was an early Happy St. Patrick's Day for our guest, **Rich Hanford**, who came away as the largest winner ever in our existence. His win, most probably, will not put him on the "sure, let's bring him back" list. The other winners were **John Lewis**, **Don Del Bene** and **Frank McNamee**. We will meet again on April 10, 2013 at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan**.



How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

Lo McCarley

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

Couples Duplicate started in January 2003 and still going strong as a ten year old. This month **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** hosted eight couples for an evening of duplicate bridge on March 20th. The group thanked **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** and **Daphne Merritt** for subbing and also thanked **George Zurich** and **Jim Brown** for scoring. The guests, **Dave** and **Joan Pierce**, dominated the regulars and took first place with 42.5 points with a winning margin of 6.5 points. **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** came in second with 36 points, **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** took third with 33.5 points, edging by only five points **Margot Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** who came in fourth. **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** will host the next bridge on April 17th.



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 **Bob Yolland** on March 4. **Jim Jackson** took first place with 5130 points, **Fred Bolton** was second with 4940 and **Bob Donahue** took third with 4840. Our next game will be at **Lynn Freeman's** on April 1.



Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

We played 4 tables of duplicate bridge at **Rich Ahlf's** home on March 18. **Rich** really brought his "A" game, in addition to his superb hosting abilities, as he blew away all contenders and completely lapped the field to claim first place with a score of 49.5 pts. 'Way back in second place was **Tony Greco's** 41.5 pts while **Bill Snyder** came from back in the pack to claim third place with 39.5 pts. Fourth place was shared by **Lo McCarley** and **George Zurich** with 39.0 pts. **Fred Bolton** will host our next game on April 15.



A 91-year-old man told the doctor that he was no longer able to help around the house like he used to. After the doctor had finished examining him, the man said: 'Now, doc, tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.'

'In plain English,' said the doctor, 'you're just lazy.'

'Ok,' said the man, 'now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife.'

Lo McCarley

*Local Living...
Harvest House on Monument
gives seniors a 10% discount
on Tuesdays and
Costco card holders a 10%
discount on Thursdays.*

*My accountant is worth every penny he charges
because of the time he saves me....
This year, for example, he
probably saved me five to ten years - in prison.*

Lo McCarley

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Jim** and **Ruth Adams** in March. **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** jumped into the lead early on and never let up, taking 1st place with 26 points. **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** were close behind in 2nd with 25 points. **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** increased their long run in the top three, slipping into 3rd with 20.5 points. The rest of the couples are still wondering what happened after bidding and playing so well. It's a classic example of a conundrum, right?



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Doug and **Patti Eisner** hosted three tables on March 6th. We welcomed **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** and **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** as subs but then made them the victims of poor cards. **Dick** and



Christy DeVoe scored a slam and copped third place with 3770; **John** and **Linda Boyan** put five solid rounds together for second at 3910 and our gracious hosts took first with a couple of very big rounds and a score of 4280 despite being stuck in the dining room all night. Everyone stayed long after the prize money was handed out, so they must have been having a great time.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Lo McCarley



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats: We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are posted on our web site,

www.sir146.com. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-holes group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away



Golf. Do you enjoy competing against other SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year. Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly Golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Monday March 11th Cooking II had a great lunch at the home of **John and Char Demos**. We started out with a touch of ouzo, which is an excellent, strong, Greek liqueur. This got us warmed up for several very good wines. **John** served a variety of cheese and crackers along with nuts for a starter. His cooking prowess was really shown with the entree. He fixed a great paella of Italian sausage, shrimp and clams in a risotto accompanied by an excellent green salad. Finishing the meal was a refreshing sorbet with fresh black berries. All enjoyed it very much.



Four old men went into the pro shop after playing 18 holes of golf. The pro asked, "Did you guys have a good game today?" The first old guy said, "Yes, I had three riders." The second old guy said, "I had the most riders ever. I had five." The third old guy said, "I had 7 riders, the same as last time." The last old man said, "I beat my old record. I had 12 riders today." After they went into the locker room, another golfer who had heard the old guys talking about their game went to the pro and said, "I've been playing golf for a long time and thought I knew all the terminology of the game, but what's a rider?" The pro said, "A rider is when you hit the ball far enough to actually get in the golf cart and ride to it."

Bob Lyman

Couples Golf

John Harrington

Our Couples Golf season starts April 24. We will be playing the historic Lake Chabot Golf Course. This event is being hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. Our group plays on the fourth Wednesday of the month, April thru October. We travel to different golf courses in the area and enjoy socializing and friendly competition using different golf formats. Come join the fun and meet our group.



A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson, "You are spectacular; your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?"

Mickelson replied, "The holes are numbered."

Hugh Ferguson

Cribbage

John Pearl

Six of us gathered at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, February 20th. Our ranks were decimated by illness and vacations, but we kept calm and carried on. Our big winner in February was **Dennis Hallett**. Our host, **Barney Meade**, came in second, and the chair, **John Pearl**, was third, recouping his investment for the day. We also took a moment to recognize **Barney Meade** with a bottle of his favorite liquid beverage for his willingness to continue hosting us each month and being the longest running member of our group.





THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

April 2013

Salad

Tomato and Cucumber Salad
Onions and Feta Cheese
with
Golden Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

Cider Brined Boneless Pork Chop

Potato Casserole, Seasonal Vegetables and Apple
Raspberry Compote

Or

Pan Seared Tilapia

Herb Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables lemon Brown
Butter Sauce

Dessert

Fresh Berries with Sabayon

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

Lo McCarley



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Bruce Borgman** receiving a well deserved hand after his remarks at the March luncheon.

A tribute to the men of SIR Branch 146 who have passed on in the past 14 months



**Ken Beattie... Ernie Dickson...
Bob Frankland... Dean Merritt...
Joe Schild... George Bjornsen...
Ron Gerke... Jack White... Rod Sharretts**

At the March SIR lunch, the SongSirs paid honor to the memory of Sir **Rod Sharretts**, a past Music Director of the group and a remembrance of all the men in Branch 146 who passed on in the last 14 months. This was expressed by a rendition of "Danny Boy" by the chorus, including this solo by **Corrie Oranje**.

Oh, Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen and down the mountain side
The summer's gone and all the roses falling
It's you, it's you, must go and I must bide

But come ye back when summer's in the meadow
Or when the valley's hushed and white with snow

It's I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow

Oh, Danny boy, oh, Danny boy, I love you so

But when ye come and all the flowers are dying

If I am dead and dead I well may be

You'll come and find the place where I am lying

And kneel and say an 'Ave' there for me

And I shall hear tho' soft you tread above me

And all my grave will warmer, sweeter be

For you will bend and tell me that you love me

And I shall sleep in peace until you come to me

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 branches.

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.

Non-Responsibility Declaration
Rule 345: All activities arranged



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Jim Stedman** introducing **Ron Milligan** at the March luncheon

Personal ad in an Arizona newspaper

Mint Condition: Male, 1932, high mileage, good condition, some hair, many new parts including hip, knee, cornea, valves. Not in running condition but walks well.

Steve Siljestrom



A few weeks ago I was in Palm Springs and had the opportunity to visit a date palm farm. Dates are not only the oldest cultivated crop but the hardest to grow. Planted from seed a new variety of date will always be created. The only way to perpetuate a variety is to transplant shoots or suckers from the original plant. These offshoots are transplanted at the ratio of 48 females to one male per acre. All trees must be pollinated by hand. Pollen is collected from the male and spread by hand by workers on ladders permanently attached to each tree. Once the fruit is pollinated it is thinned and covered by paper to protect the fruit from summer rains. The dates ripen from August to December and are hand picked several times as the fruit ripens. Even though the date palm is a desert plant, it requires as much water as a willow tree. Date palms must be constantly flooded and the earth kept wet at least 10 feet deep at all times. So next time you have a "date" you can appreciate how hard it was to grow.

Some upcoming club activities include trips to Navlet's Nursery in March, Heather Farms rose tour in April and the San Francisco Arboretum in May. We meet the 4th Thursday each month at 9:30 AM.

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

The April game will be hosted by **Chuck Bobinecz**. And the May game will be at the home of **Skip Thomas**. If you want to be a sub contact **Chuck Bobinecz**. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from one to four pm. Our regular members are **Rich Hanford, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Frank Rockwell, Skip Thomas, Chuck Bobinecz and Bob Mehus**. We don't have a regular winner.



As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang.

Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on the I-10 Interstate. Please be careful!" "It's not just one car," said Herman. "It's hundreds of them!"

Steve Siljestrom



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Inducted new member Sir **Harry Reiter** being introduced by **Bob Spellman** at the March Luncheon

Benny: "Now you take my grandpa, he knew the exact day of the year that he was going to die. It was the right year too. Not only that, but he knew what time he would die that day, he was right about that too."
Louie: "Wow, that's Incredible. How did he know all of that?" Benny: "A judge told him."

Lo McCarley

Book Corner

Ken Richter

The March SIR luncheon had a lot of activity from our members. We will be adding another table to spread the books out for better viewing. The Book Corner will be open at the May Ladies Day luncheon. There is a large selection of books I think the ladies will enjoy.



Encourage your lady to stop by and have a look.

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Trout fishing was our best endeavor this month with San Pablo Reservoir being the best spot. On one occasion, **Paul Dubow** and **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, fishing with **Carl Moyer**, picked up a dozen rainbows. Truth be told, however, **Paul** caught only two of the fish, while **Rich** and **Carl** limited out. Nearby, a boat with **Terry Miller**, **Al Brunner**, and **Romano Gnusti** aboard, also landed a dozen. **Carl** limited out on two other trips, once by 8 am fishing with his daughter **Leah** and once with **Barry Rauchle**. Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, which had been producing nice trout all winter, suddenly turned problematic. **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 and **Carl Moyer** had a nice day on the water but on our quasi-annual chili feed, a group consisting of **Corrie Oranje** and **Pete Gates**, **Terry Miller**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Karl Droese** thoroughly enjoyed the chili but that was their only bites.

Wind and cold limited the Delta fishing, but **Mike Corker** did land a keeper striper in Honker Bay, and **Joe Peterson** released a giant sturgeon in Rio



Photo by Paul Dubow

Vista. **Joe Karg** caught two nice stripers fishing on a party boat in the bay.

We will be very busy this spring with delta fishing for bass, catfish, and sturgeon, continued trips to San Pablo and Shadow Cliffs Reservoirs for trout, and forays to Lake Berryessa for kokanee. A planned highlight is a shad fishing excursion on June 5 led by **Don Mittelstadt** especially geared for those who have never tried shad fishing before. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 25, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill, Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast. As always, those who have never fished

or rarely fished are welcome. For further information, please contact **Pete Gates**, our Big Fish (925-937-2035), secretary treasurer **Tom Boltz** (925-825-5695) or branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday at 6:30pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those favorably reviewed in the media. Come join us to experience dining in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests.

Stelle Bistro

Sir **Max Burchett** has recommend this bistro that is a fusion of traditional and modern Italian cuisine with internationally known dishes. The attractive ambience coupled with their thirty one years of experience which focuses on quality and fresh ingredients makes this a dining destination. A wide selection of fine wines and spirits are available. Separate checks will be provided for your convenience.

Location: 1403 Locust St., Walnut Creek, Ca 94596 (PublicParking Garage Validation)

925-988-0604 www.stellebistro.com

Please let me know by Tuesday, April 16, that you will join us.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**, Branch 146's Greeter Committee chair, introducing luncheon guest **Jim Owen**.



Sultan and Panguian **Spellman** kneeling with their band of travelers at a remote oasis on their way across Egypt? Ok, Sir **Bob** and **Jo Spellman** are shown on a SIR travel cruise aboard the MS River Aruket on the Nile River.



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman

Apr 12, 2013: SIR Day at the Races. It's that time again to enjoy horse racing at Golden Gates Fields. Cost is \$29pp which includes admission, reserve parking, daily race program, great buffet lunch and tax & tips. Contact **Bob**

Spellman 934-8428.

May 24/27, 2013: Sacramento Music Festival. This is the top music festival in the country with over 70 bands to entertain you. Beyond the traditional jazz, there are blues, western, ragtime, salsa, zydeco and big bands - something for everyone. Prices range from \$17 to \$95 depending on the days you choose. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428.

Jun 1-9, 2013: Memphis Blues to the New Orleans Jazz on the American Queen. A seven night cruise on board the American Queen down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and an optional two day post trip in New Orleans. Cruise features RT motor coach to airport, RT airfare, all meals, including wine and beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, shore tours, and port charges, transfers, and baggage handling. Prices range from \$3658 to \$6486 depending on accommodations. Space is now very limited so all future reservations will now be on a first come first serve basis. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you still want to go and we will try to secure space for you.

Jul 10-17, 2013: The Canadian Rockies and the Calgary Stampede. A seven day tour starting with a

flight to Calgary to attend the Stampede Rodeo. After two days you will head to Banff for two nights including Lake Louise, then on to Jasper, Athabasca Glacier and Edmonton before returning to San Francisco. Cost \$2856 pp, Contact **Dick Schally** Br 8, 925-260-5534.

Aug 28-Sep 7, 2013: SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Golden Age Cruise. Save the date for a celebration! We will leave out of San Francisco and visit the ports of Juneau, Skagway, Tracy Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria and return to San Francisco on the Grand Princess. The cost of the cruise is from \$1579 to \$3300 depending on accommodations and includes gratuities on the ship, ship board credit, cocktail party, hospitality suite, transportation by motor coach to and from the pier, wine, gifts and an Alaska salmon bake excursion. We currently have over 360 SIR members signed up for this trip. Special sale Feb 18-25, 2013 or Mar 11-18 2013... Book cabin during sale period and get coupon booklet valued at approximately \$380. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you want more information.

May, 2014: Hidden gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle program director. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217.

The Sir who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

Lo McCarley

Member Relations

Ben Gleason

We hope and expect that SIR Branch 146 is meeting or exceeding your expectations for social activities, recreation and friendship and that the facilities and operation of the branch are efficient and user-friendly.



For useful and interesting Branch 146 and State SIR information check out the “Branch Information” link on our homepage. That link will connect you with links to Branch Regulations, State SIR Site, Branch Financial Statements, BEC Minutes, SIR Happenings, Branch Calendar, Memorials and the Emergency Evacuation Plan from the Clubhouse Restaurant at Boundary Oak. We encourage your suggestions, criticism and requests. Also, let us know if there is something that you especially like that we could do more of. Please contact me with any of the above.

bgleason@sbcglobal.net

Acupuncture is a job well done
Lo McCarley

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Jeff Bailly
Going forward we publish letters to the editor	
Proofreaders	Dick DeVoe and Cal Tucker
Assistant Editor	Rich Ahlf
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Webmaster Jack Hockel



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Inducted new member Sir **Sid Landman** being introduced by sponsor, **Al Elnick** at the March luncheon.

Print this sheet, fill in and send or see alternate method below.

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Number of Tickets _____ \$28.00 each

Enclosed \$ _____

Names & Entrée choices:

Salad

Baby Lettuces
Shaved Parmesan, Baby Tomato, Carrots
and Sun Dried Cherry Vinaigrette

Entrees

Herb Crusted Leg of Lamb
Yukon Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Red Wine Balsamic Reduction

Or

Pan Seared Pacific Salmon
Confetti Rice, Seasonal Vegetables
White Corn and Avocado Relish

Dessert

Chocolate Tart with Fresh Berries
and Crème Anglaise

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to:
117 Alegra Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.
All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 1st.
There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for any size group up to a full table of 10, you can also send in full payment and list your companions and their entrée choices on an attached sheet.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir Max Hinkle introducing inducted new member Sir Jim Pfohl at the March luncheon

Sunshine

Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net

We keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers, asking for continued healing and a return to good health.

Chuck Bobinez
Reggie Fromm
Elmer Kaprielian
Dominic DiMatteo
Guy Rudberg
Jim Kohl
Baha Zarah
Jack Calloway
Charlie Kiser
Jim Helmick
Bob Van Luchene
Tom Morgan

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is always welcomed.

If you are aware of a sick Sir, please let me know by phone or e-mail, as shown above, so that the Sir membership can be advised.

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged.

A student nurse found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet. He insisted he didn't need her help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let the nurse wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down she asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said, "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."



Megan refuses to get out of bed. "I can't go to school," she wails. "The kids make fun of me, the teachers hate me, and I have way too much work!" "Megan, you have to go to school," her mother says. "You're the principal."

Wine Tasting

Bill Holly

Our next wine tasting will be on Wednesday, May 1st from 2:30pm to 5:00pm at the home of **Pete and Gabriela Bishop**, 827 Deer Spring Circle Concord, CA 94521-5427.

Directions:

From the intersection of Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove Road take Ygnacio Valley Road North-East 2.4 miles. Turn right at the second stop light at Crystal Ranch Road. Continue on Crystal Ranch Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Deer Spring Circle. Take the first left to stay on Deer Spring Circle. 827 Deer Spring Circle will be on your left.

Red: Pinot Noir



White: Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris

Please bring a single bottle of either the red or the white wine (under \$20) in a brown paper bag.

Put information about the wine on a piece of paper inside the bag. Also, please bring an appetizer to share. Spouses are always invited to attend.

Please RSVP to **Bill Holly** before April 8th by email at bill.holly@comcast.net.

Note:

I will be on a river cruise from April 9th through April 27th and I'm not sure if I will have email available.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir Doug and Eleanor Harris enjoying their evening at the Bridges Restaurant with the Couples Dining Out group in March.

Bowling Larry Mitchell



Phil Goff



Derek Southern

Area 2

Computers and Technology Group

Phil Goff and Derek Southern Co-chairs

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. See you there.

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invites all Sirs and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 18th at 9am.

This month we offer a ‘double header’. **Phil Goff** will discuss ways of remembering passwords because it seems that building good passwords and protecting them is becoming increasingly important to thwart hackers. We can all build complex passwords but remembering them can be quite a problem. That is where password organizer programs are of value. **Phil** will show you how to use some of the most popular ones to make your internet experience safe and a little easier.

Derek Southern will follow up with a review of today’s most popular browsers and will explain why you need to update your version regularly. Each browser offers something different and if you don’t know how old your current one is, he’ll show you how to find out and how to update. Browsers are our entry into the world of the internet, but some are better than others. Come and find out how a good browser and better passwords make for a safer experience on the web.

Time permitting, **Dick Curry** will then lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues that you identify. So please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.

*Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine
Lo McCarley*



Photo by Larry Mitchell

The branch bowling contingent - **Pierre Mebane, Jim Adams, Larry Mitchell, Bruce Jones** and **Ken Donnelly** ready for competition. Missing is **Baja Zarah** who is ailing.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The **Renks, Buseniuses, Stedmans, Bailys** and **McCarleys** enjoying the night out with the Couples Dining Out group at Danville’s Bridges Restaurant.

Luncheon Attendance

Jim Burk

Recap of March luncheon:

Our March 14 luncheon enjoyed the continued improvement in the food prepared by Chef Arturo Ponce as both the corned beef and the Pacific dory were excellent. In addition, the attendance was perhaps the largest ever for our Branch with a turnout of 225 including guests and new members. Our speaker Tom Ehman did a terrific job of educating us about the America's Cup race coming later this year to San Francisco Bay.

Next up is our April 11 luncheon date and spring is now in full swing, allergies and all. Our SIR luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at The Clubhouse restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course. The price of our regular luncheon, as opposed to the Ladies Day Luncheon, is \$25 with a no-host bar. Please take note of this change in price over last year. Remember we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Friday the week prior to the luncheon. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced as that's the time the restaurant requires us to give them a guaranteed number of meals to prepare. Members failing to meet this deadline, or "no show" for the luncheon, will be required to reimburse the branch for the liability we will incur with the restaurant for your meal. Note: Only if you do not have a computer, call **Jim Burk** at (925) 946-1192 by the same deadline referenced above to let him know you will not be attending. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message.

Payment: Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 a.m., so please allow enough time to check-in and make payment. A check for \$25 made payable to "SIR 146" is requested for your lunch on luncheon day.

Sir bringing a Guest: Please e-mail also by noon on the Friday prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number, and your guest's name with proper spelling.

Special requests: If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please make that 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 the luncheon chairman and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it.

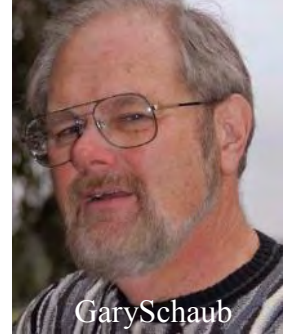
New members, guests, and sponsors: There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors as well as guests and sponsors with place cards prepared so that you will be assured of a seat.

New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair in the Lakeview Room after the luncheon for a brief orientation session that is both informative and helpful to your acclimation to the Branch.



Last Call for SIR 146 Theatre Party on April 17

Theatre



Gary Schaub

It's wild ride in the theatre when Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* takes to the stage on Wednesday, April 17 at Leshar Center for a SIR 146 Theatre Party.

The Center Repertory Company production is the thriller adapted from the 1935 Hitchcock movie. It mixes a juicy spy novel with zany non-stop laughs that make for a fast-paced evening. To make it more fun, the nearly 150 characters in the production are portrayed by a talented cast of just 4 actors!

This may be a long way from the 1935 Hitchcock movie, but it promises to provide a great evening of good old fashioned fun. The play will keep you guessing and laughing. It plays at breakneck speed, and is played for laughs all the way.

The 39 Steps was chosen as "Best New Comedy" for its London production, and was described by the New York Times reviewer as "throwaway theatre at its finest."

A limited number of discounted tickets at a group rate of \$25.00 have been set aside for SIR members and guests for the Wednesday, April 17 performance. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets, send a check payable to SIR 146 for \$25.00 each to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservations is March 14 or when our allotment has been reached.

Tickets will be distributed in the ground floor lobby of Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Paid parking is available in the City's garage adjacent to the Leshar Center.



Dinner at the Bridges Restaurant...The **Hockenbrocks** (Richard missing-taking the photo), **Borgmans, Gateses, Hauklands** and the **Pierces** during pre-dinner chit chat.



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 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 2 are welcome.



Sir **John Aaro** introducing guest **Pete Katches** at the March Luncheon.



Walkers

John Lewis



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

*April walks planned by **John** and **Flo Lewis** to honor the women who have long been part of our group.*

- April 5 **Adelaide Chavez** walk--Treat Blvd. Foot Bridge
Meet: Walden Park off Oak Road, Walnut Creek
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail to foot bridge over Treat
Coffee: Panera's at corner of Treat and Bancroft
- April 12 **Mari Schild** walk--Shell Ridge Open Space
Meet: Take Ygnacio to Homestead, turn left on Marshall to end of street
Walk: Shell Ridge, mostly flat terrain
Coffee: La Scala near Civic and N. Main
- April 19 **Sue McCarley** walk--Arbolado Park
Meet: Take Ygnacio to Oak Grove to left on Arbolado to left at park entrance
Walk: North from Park to tunnel under Ygnacio
Coffee: Deli Delight off Wiget in Shadelands
- April 26 **Dorothy Powell** walk--Lafayette-Moraga Trail
Meet: Parking lot near end of Olympic Blvd
Walk: Lafayette-Moraga Trail west of parking lot
Coffee: La Scala near Civic and Main
Bn 52 please contact Jim Burk or Chuck Campbell to claim your free lunch.

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman



The "Couples Dining Out" group enjoyed a fun evening on March 18 at Bridges restaurant in Danville for our March activity. The arrangements were handled by **Bill Holly** who did an excellent job getting us a good price and several choices for the salad, entrée, dessert and coffee – all for a prix fixe cost of \$36. The social hour before the dinner and the seating arrangement allowed for good conversation and socializing. We had a grand total of 46 attendees! Thanks, **Bill**, for doing the planning!

Our chair, **Bruce**, will again take over the planning for the May activity and the search for a good restaurant has begun in earnest – knowing the desire of the group for good value and excellent food! The date has not been determined but will likely be in the middle of May – around May 16 or 17.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
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