

## Big Sir's Notes

**Bill Holly**

As this column was being written, we had not yet had our March luncheon. Since the March and April luncheons are only three weeks apart, our Sir Call editor, **Richard Hockenbrock** was faced with the task of trying to cover the highlights of the March 30<sup>th</sup> luncheon before it happened. In order to get the Sir Call out in a timely fashion, we decided to publish our April newsletter on schedule with limited coverage of the March luncheon, and make up the missing information in the May edition of the Sir Call.

The good news is, that starting with our May Ladies Day luncheon, we will be back to our normal luncheon location at the Boundary Oak on the second Thursday of the month. In the meantime, the Boundary Oak clubhouse is still undergoing renovations.

Since I brought up the subject of the May Ladies Day luncheon, **Steve Dawkins** has submitted the menu and the application form for the Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon. Look for the application form on page 5 of this issue of the Sir Call. Remember, attendance at the Ladies Day luncheons is by reservation only. The cost of the luncheon is \$28 per person and the deadline for submitting your reservation is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

In the meantime, our April luncheon will be held as planned at the Concord Hilton on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to email a luncheon cancellation or to include a guest is 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, coincidentally also the due date for filing income tax returns.

The Hilton's address is 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. There is a map illustrating two alternate routes to the Concord Hilton Hotel on page 1 of the February issue of the Sir Call.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, don't let the temporary move to the Concord Hilton deter you. Bring your guest to our April luncheon and at the same time, celebrate the end of the tax filing season .

**Luncheon – April 20<sup>th</sup>  
At the Concord Hilton Hotel**

**Guest Speaker:  
Joseph L. Campbell, Board President,  
Contra Costa Water District**

**Gathering time - 11:00 am  
Starting time - 11:45 am**

**Bringing a guest or can't attend?  
Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)  
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146**



Sirs **Jim Stedman** and **Tanc Agius**  
ready for golf on St Patrick's Day

Photo by Bill Schultz



**Al & Joan Zamolo** with  
**Don & Mary Ann Del Bene** at Monterey Mashers

Photo by Ann Hallett



## Little Sir's Corner

**Walt Busenius**

Water has been called nature's wine. We know it is a life source for Californians and is in diminishing supply due to several years of serious drought. Appropriately, April's speaker is Joseph L. Campbell, Board President of the Contra Costa Water District. His topic is "Water, Not a Drop to Waste".

Joe Campbell was elected to the Water District's Board in 1991 and has served as Water Board President for most of those years. As Board Director for Eastern Concord, Clayton and part of Walnut Creek, he represents many of our Branch 146 members. Mr. Campbell is a policy maker with considerable expertise and skill in water management.

His passion is heavy construction and engineering. After 23 years in the heavy construction industry, Joe sold his firm in 1989 and became an independent businessman. One of his many accomplishments has been to serve as co-chairman and key fundraiser for the successful bond campaign to raise \$450 million for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir project in 1988.

He is also very active in civic activities as a former member of the Walnut Creek Child Care Task Force, former parade chairman for the Walnut Festival Association, and former board member for the American Red Cross. He is also a Board Director for the East Bay Leadership Council and a past president and founder of the Concord Economic Development Corporation.

Would you believe that we have 40 activities and most are looking for new participants? Feel free to give **Jerry Kaplan**, our activity chairman, a call to help find an activity meeting your interests or even to discuss the formation of a new activity.

I am looking forward to seeing you and a guest at April's luncheon. This is a good meeting to bring a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance.

Please remember, April is our last meeting at the Hilton Hotel before returning in May to the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak for the Ladies Day luncheon. In May and for the remainder of 2015 we return to our second Thursday of the month meeting schedule at Boundary Oak.

Remaining Branch 146 luncheon dates at Concord Hilton  
Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**Jim Stedman**, new member **Jim Pope**, and **Bill Schultz** at the March 30 luncheon



**Ken Kratz**, **Marilyn Kratz** and **Chuck Eichten** at the Monterey Mashers outing

### SIR Happenings Newsletter

*SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.*

#### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Assistant Editor	<b>Jeff Bailly</b>
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	<b>Jonathan Korfhage, &amp; Pat Lucia</b>
Labeling & Mailing	<b>Bill Cammerer</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>



## Couples Dining Out

**Bruce Borgman**

The March Couples Dining Out event was organized by **Colin Holland** and **Bill Klein** – giving yours truly a break from the action. They selected Jack’s in Pleasant Hill for the March 16<sup>th</sup> event and fifty diners

enjoyed a fun evening. We had a green salad, followed by an entree choice of steak, salmon, chicken or pot roast, and ending with a cheesecake dessert and coffee.

Many of our group wore green in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day and we all sang “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” since the lyrics were supplied at each place! Then, because we were still in a jovial mood, we also sang “Danny Boy” led by **Corrie Oranje** with his wonderful tenor voice! Our resident photographer **Richard Hockenbrock** took some incriminating pictures for this issue of the Sir Call.

Our next event will be in May, probably on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> – and **Colin** and **Bill** have done some scouting already for this month. I may be out of a job! We are considering a Thai restaurant in Lafayette – Amarin – a well known restaurant, which does a great job with Thai cuisine and has been around for 19 years. Stay tuned for details.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

L to R: **Corrie Oranje**, friend Jim Siegler, and **Bill Klein**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

L to R: **Joe Barry**, **Cindy Greco**, and **Josie Barry**

## Walking Schedule

**John Lewis**

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



April walks planned by **Lyle Martin**

### March Walks 2015

- April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Alamo Plaza South  
Meet: Alamo Plaza  
Walk: Iron Horse Trail South  
Coffee: Pascal French Oven, Railroad Ave.
- April 10<sup>th</sup>** Rosie the Riveter Museum, Richmond  
Meet: Carpool from Heather Farms middle lot at 9:30. Full directions given there or contact M. Lyle for written directions.  
Walk: Along Richmond Marina Bay Trail (Paved along yacht harbor) and visit Rosie the Riveter Museum.  
Coffee/Lunch: The “ASSEMBLE” Restaurant at 11:30
- April 17<sup>th</sup>** Alamo New Life Church  
Meet: At parking lot in back of church So. on 680, Rt. on Livorna Rd. Rt. on Danville Rd, Left at Church  
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail  
Coffee: Pascal French Oven, Railroad Ave.
- Apr. 24** Cardinet Trail Clayton Road  
Meet: Clayton Library  
Walk: Northwest from parking on first bridge Along trail by Golf Course  
Coffee: Deli Delight Shadelands Office Park, WC



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Luncheon Attendance

### Max Hinkle

Our April SIR luncheon will be held on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Concord Hilton Hotel located at 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. The price of the luncheon is \$25. As usual, there will be a no-host bar. Remember, we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) by noon Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> (“no show deadline”). If you do not have convenient access to a computer call (925) 979-5146 by the same deadline and follow the prompts given there. We need to give the hotel a guaranteed number of meals. A member who fails to meet this deadline and fails to attend the luncheon will be required to reimburse the Branch \$25 for the liability we will incur from the hotel for his meal.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: I intend to confirm via reply e-mail or phone call that your “no show” notice was received by me. Therefore, if you have not received such confirmation within three days after giving your notice please call me immediately at (925) 408-6004.

Payment: Remember that the luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check for \$25 made payable to SIR 146 delivered when you check in on luncheon day.

Bringing a Guest or Visitor: Please send an e-mail advising your intention to bring a guest or a visitor by noon on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon (the no show deadline). If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number listed above and follow the prompts given there. Please remember to spell the full name of your guest or visitor during that call.

Special Requests: If you desire a vegetarian meal or require a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch please advise me before the no show deadline in the same manner as described above. Your request will be honored and remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman.

New Members, Guests, and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with place names reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members

along with their sponsors will be asked to join our membership chair immediately following the luncheon in a room to be determined for a brief orientation session.



## Membership Ben Gleason

### Branch 146 Statistics

At our BEC meeting on March 30, we approved two new members and accepted the resignations of two active members. One member passed away. We now have 274 active members (including our seven Honorary Life Members). One of our inactive members resigned leaving 18 inactive members.

### Status Changes

New Members:

**Larry Gray and Jim Pope**

Resigned:

**Raphael Belloumini and Elliott Kapchen**

Deceased:

**Gary “Skip” Thomas**

Inactive Resigned:

**Joe Fitzsimmons**

You may have noticed that at the last two luncheons we have changed the way that we introduce guests and new members. A committee composed of **Brad Hatcher, Corrie Oranje** and I met and established goals for the introductions. They are:

Make guests feel welcome

Avoid awkward and/or overlong or inaudible introductions

Make new members feel that their induction is important and properly recognized

Give existing members a little information about each new member-especially their interests

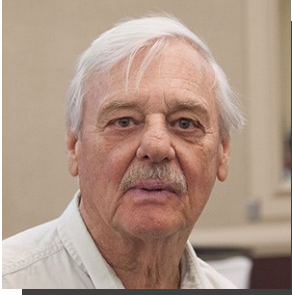
Make the introductions flow with the rest of the Sir business rather than being an interruption

We hope that you agree the new procedures meet these goals and we welcome your feedback.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Couples Dining Out, L to R: **Sue McCarley, Alicia Baily, Susan and Walt Busenius**



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

Our next hike will be at Briones Regional Park on Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Bear Creek Staging Area at 10 am. This will be a 6 mile hike on the Old Briones Road, Briones Crest and Abrigo Valley trails. We will visit the Sindicich Lagoons and stop for lunch or a snack at Wi-Ta-Chi group camp. There are some moderate uphills and downhills involved, so you might find hiking poles useful. I give this a 7 SIR rating as it is about 6 miles long and only a 400 ft. elevation gain.

To reach the staging area from Hwy 24, take the Orinda exit and turn toward Richmond/El Sobrante at the bottom of the ramp onto Camino Pablo. Follow Camino Pablo thru Orinda for a few miles until you reach a stoplight at Bear Creek Road (on the right). Turn right onto Bear Creek Road and follow it about 4 miles to the entrance on your right. Turn left at the (unmanned) entrance kiosk into the lower parking lot.

If you wish to carpool meet at the turnoff at St. Stevens Rd off Hwy 24 at 9:30 am. Turn right and park on El Nino Rd where there is plenty of parking.

### Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome  
 Cell (925) 550-4967  
[rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)



Photo by Rich Ahlf

From left to right: **Pete Gates, Todd Lockwood, Don Dotson, Ella Dotson, Bobbie Schmidt, Walter Schmidt, Ismini MacLean, and Gene Schulting**

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

## Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$28.00 each

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Names & Entrée choices:**

**S or C**

1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	
8)	
9)	
10)	

### Salad

#### Baby Iceberg Salad

Tomatoes, Bacon,  
 Crumbled Blue Cheese, Chive Ranch Dressing

### Entrees

#### Sliced New York Strip Loin

Pan Seared & Marinated New York Strip Loin Seasonal  
 Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes Green Pepper Corn  
 Sauce

Or

#### Cannelloni

Stuffed Pasta with Spinach, Ground Beef, Ricotta  
 Cheese, Tomato Basil Sauce

### Dessert

#### Napoleon

Raspberry Sauce, Crème Anglaise, Fresh Berries

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to: **Steve Dawkins**, 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 Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

### Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians Group on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm, 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. We will focus on the songs we chose at our last meeting.

Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right to 2177 Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at Alan Elnick's home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail)*

*I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.*



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group DOS Dick Woodman

March's party night was hosted by **Bill and Lynette Holly**. I know they were concerned about hosting 18 people with three tables of dominoes but after re-arranging some furniture before hand, they made everyone very comfortable. I understand **Lynette** asked **Bill** to bring home some nuts to eat as snacks and he showed up with eight different types. We had great snacks and dessert. Everyone is getting more comfortable with the game and the socializing is great. **Rich Ahlf's** significant other, **Ismini**, took home first prize, **John Pearl** left his second prize at the party (for the second time), and **Rich Ahlf** walked away with third prize.



Photo by Dick Woodman

**Rich Ahlf, Anne Plachy, Janice Woodman, Jim Meehan, Nancy Pearl, and Don Dotson**

Sometimes the thoughts in my head get bored, and go for a stroll out through my month. Never a good thing!



Photo by Dick Woodman

**Ismini MacLean, Chuck Denney, Phyllis Meehan, Bill Holly, John Pearl, and Bernice Cammerer**



Photo by Dick Woodman

**Lynette Holly, Etta Dotson, Mary Denney, Bill Cammerer, Ron Plachy, and Dick Woodman (not pictured)**



## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group 1 met March 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of **John Lewis**. We welcomed a new player **Pete McNeill**. Welcome **Pete**. As always there were winners and losers, the big winner was our host **John**, followed by **Frank McNamee**, **Pete McNeill** and **Al Zamolo**. Between good conversation and refreshments a good time was had by all. Our next meeting will be held April 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Frank McNamee**.



## Poker Club 4

**Chuck Bobinecz**

Our March 23<sup>rd</sup> poker session was hosted by **Chuck Bobinecz**. We were all saddened to hear about the passing of Sir **Skip Thomas** who was a regular in our group. **Skip** was a member of the group from its inception in 2006. We will all miss him!



## Cribbage

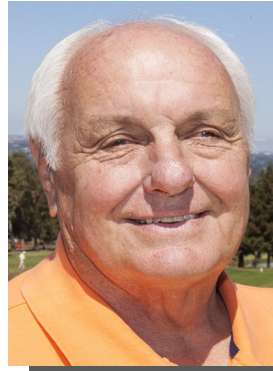
**John Pearl /Ron Afdal**

Six of us made it to the spring outing of the Cribbage Group at **Barney Meade's** home on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A good time was had by most (not the Chair, who came in last). Our group's newest member **Mike Whitaker** came in first, with a very high score of 10 for five games. Our new "Vice-Chair" **Ron Afdal** was second, and our host **Barney Mead** won his ante back. We meet again in April.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Lo McCarley, Jeff Baily and Sue Oranje** chatting at the March Couples Dining Out event in Pleasant Hill



## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell**. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 pm and ends around 8:00 pm with time out for dinner.*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Paul and Joan Dubow** at the Couples Dining Out event



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Al Twyford**

We played Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at **Frank Lucas'** home in Pleasant Hill. There were six of us: **Frank Lucas, Rich Ahlf, Harvey Oxman, Norm Baietti, Brad Hatcher, and Bob Larson**. **Al Twyford, Sid Landman, and John Gray** were noticeably AWOL. **Harvey** was the big winner with the grand sum of \$7 (over his buy-in). "Old Money" continued its tradition of combining card playing with wine tasting, and all were very appreciative of the red stuff that **Frank** served--as opposed to the SPAM-flavored Macadamia nuts he tried to get us to eat.



## Book Nook

### Hank James

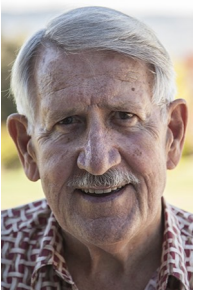
No Book Nook in March! The next Book Nook will be in May on ladies day when we return to Boundary Oak. So gather your book donations and reading lists for that date!

The book inventory continues to grow with the selections expanding. The Book Nook project could use volunteers to help with the presentation, loading, unloading and storage of inventory. Call **Hank James** at (925) 351-7440 or [hankjames@hankjames.com](mailto:hankjames@hankjames.com) to volunteer.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

L to R: Mexican Train Dominoes Group I players **Susan Kaplan, Jeff Baily, Sherry Hockenbrock, Ruth Lyle, Alicia Baily and Nancy Kalteis**



## Lunch and Wine

### Syd Whalen

*The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.*

*We gather at 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.*



## Bocceball

### Martin Lyle

*We play the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.*

*Rain Cancels play.*

**Bocceball Notice:** We are almost there. Our season opens next month on May 11<sup>th</sup> and we are expecting a good turnout. Watch this notice for details of the start of play. Contact me if you have questions:

[mvlye@yahoo.com](mailto:mvlye@yahoo.com)



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Carmen Melrose** adding the scores at her table in Mexican Train Dominoes



## Table Pool

### Bill Weinberg

*We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.*







## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Trout fishing continued to be our most productive activity and almost all of the successful outings were at San Pablo Reservoir. , **Pete Gates, Reggie Fromm, and Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, along with **Ernie Wong, George Vogt, Karl Droese, Terry Miller, Mike Corker, and Carl Moyer** tried their luck at the pastoral pond and all of them caught fish, mostly between one and two pounds. **Rich's** catch is pictured here. Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, the other trout locale that we regularly fish, is still too low to launch boats and thus we are obliged to fish from shore. **Carl Moyer, Ken Konzak, and Ernie Wong** did fish there but only were able to land two fish between them.

The Delta also continued to produce. **Rich Fiscina** took **Pete Gates** and **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146, as well as **Ron Maciak**, on his boat and picked up both sturgeon and stripers near the mothball fleet. **Carl Moyer** and **Terry Miller** had similar success on a gorgeous spring day. **Tom Kostik** also continued his regular practice of catching stripers near the mouth of Spoonbill Creek.

**Paul Dubow** and his wife journeyed to southwest Florida to visit family and spent a day fishing near Marco Island. They caught a bevy of sheepshead and mango snappers but, as usual, **Paul** was out fished by his wife. She even had a large dolphin, who thought that a sheepshead that she was reeling in would be a tasty morsel, on her line for awhile.

We are anxiously looking forward to April. Salmon fishing opens on April 4 in our area and April 15 is the opening day for rockfish from the ocean. Black bass fishing in the Delta is also on the horizon.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 23, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but all are welcome for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. For further information, please contact fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

The photography group held its meeting Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Oak Grove Walnut Creek library. Attending were **Jim Barry, Roy Hodgkinson, Bill Holly, and Harvey Oxman**. **Harvey** showed a training video on shooting after dusk photography using available light sources excluding flash.

I did a demonstration on using Photoshop 2014 with the camera raw filter on jpg photos. The photo below of **Rich Fiscina** from the **Paul Dubow** fishing report shows the before and after effects of the filter.

If you are interesting in learning how to use your camera or phone camera shooting night-time photography, come join us for a twilight field trip to Treasure Island on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Call or email me for more details. rhock@pacbell.net or (925) 324-1713 (cell).

### Future Meeting Schedule

9:00am	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Last Friday of the month
9:00am	May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Third Friday of the month
9:00am	June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Third Friday of the month



Why is it after I push ONE for English I still can't understand the person on the other end?



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1

**Jerry Kaplan**

The March game night was hosted on March 13<sup>th</sup> by **Bruce Borgman** and his wife **Sue** (pictured below) at their lovely home in Walnut Creek. Again, a few of the regular players were traveling and couldn't come. Two of our loyal substitutes, **Martin Lyle** and his wife, **Ruth**, came as well as two new players who will be able to substitute in the future, **Jeff Baily** and his wife **Alicia**. Alas, none of the substitutes won this time. In fact, **Jerry Kaplan** won first place again, the second month in a row. Second place went to **Rob Melrose**, with third place taken by host **Bruce Borgman**. The group is keeping a running average of scores over the first five months of the year; at that time, a small cash prize will also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd best average scores during that period. A similar award will be made for the second half of the year, from July and ending in November.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Our Cooking II March event was held March 9<sup>th</sup> at **Ken Richter's** home. All our regular members **Bruce Borgman, Bill Cammerer, Steve Dawkins, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Ken Richter, Bill Roberts and Bob Yolland** were



in attendance. We had an excellent lunch with lots of wine and lively conversation. In keeping with the season **Ken** started us off with crackers topped with a soft cheese and corned beef plus a very nice sharp Irish Dubliner cheddar. This was followed by a roasted grape and feta salad, an Italian turkey, and orzo soup. To finish the meal **Ken** made his signature secret cocktail which sure is smooth. Thanks **Ken** for a great lunch and afternoon.

Our next event will be Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at **Corrie Oranje's** home.

## Sunshine Report

**John Pearl**

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during April. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

**Baha Zarah**

**Bob Schroder**

**Bill Stevenson**

**Joe Suta**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.

**John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair

[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net) (925) 934-6920

L to R: **Jerry and Susan Kaplan, Sherry Hockenbrock, Sue Sheldon, Ruth Lyle, Alicia Baily, Nancy Kalteis, Martin Lyle**, and hidden, **Jeff Baily and Sig Kalteis**



## SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs took a break from working on the Academy Award songs to concentrate on our St. Patrick's Day repertoire of Irish songs. For this program we wear green bow ties, and a green hat along with our blue vests to

commemorate the patron saint of Ireland - as you can see below. We sang the selections for the Veteran's Hospital in Martinez on March 18<sup>th</sup> where they were much appreciated and where we like to sing. As an encore, we did "God Bless America" which we sang in one of the wards. Then, we were asked by the Martinez Senior Center to do this series of songs at their annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 16<sup>th</sup> - which we were pleased to do. Before the presentation, we joined the seniors for a lunch with corned beef and cabbage. Several of our group were ill, and others were traveling, so we had a smaller group performing, but they were no less enthusiastic.

Practice is the first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church - join us if you like to sing - no audition required!



Photo by Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs performing at the Martinez Senior Center

Some days I just wish I had the wisdom of a ninety year old, the body of a twenty year old, and the energy of a three year old.



## Bowling Larry Mitchell

We are now past the midpoint of the SIR winter league. At this time the team of **Larry Mitchell** and **Jim Adams** are in first place and will have a play-off with the team that wins the second half at the end of the season in June for the championship

Currently **Pierre Mebane** has scored both scratch high game and scratch high series of the season with scores of 236 and 595 respectively. **Jim Adams** still holds the season high handicap series at 706.

More information? Call me at (925) 798-5440.



## Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Spring - when hope springs eternal. **Rich Ahlf** hosted 12 hopeful and talented bridge players on March 6<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful spring day. Weird hands seemed to blossom unexpectedly. Newcomer **Charlie Abrams** played consistently all day and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 27.5 match points (57%). Welcome, **Charlie!** **Fred Bolton**, the gardener who welcomes spring more than most of us, was 2nd at 29.0 pts (60%). The tag team of **Dick DeVoe** and **Dave Pierce** was 1<sup>st</sup> with 30.5 (64%). For the rest, perhaps it was April showers; at least, it will be April when they hope to get revenge.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Ed Marlovits, Steve Siljestrom, new member **Charlie Abrams** and **Bill Schultz**



## Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

### Day Trips

**June 7, 2015: The Book of Mormon** This musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone is the winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. The New York Times calls it the best musical of this century. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in rows 13 or 14 center orchestra. Cost is \$144.00 Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**October 10, 2015: Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle** You will enjoy watching the Blue Angels perform their air show aboard the San Francisco Belle Sternwheeler. There is no better vantage point on the bay to see the show. The price includes roundtrip motorcoach from Walnut Creek, a hosted buffet lunch aboard the Belle, free flowing champagne and background music from an onboard D.J. Cost is \$128.00 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley** The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$54.00 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

### Longer Trips

**July 22-28, 2015: Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** This trip will include baseball games in New York and Boston. The highlight will be the Baseball Hall of Fame and induction ceremonies at Cooperstown. Travelers will enjoy home pick-up, airport transfers, professional tour host, round trip airfare, 6 nights' accommodations, all taxes and gratuities. Cost \$2,975. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence** A 22 day river cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 698-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise** A 12 day cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 and include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence** A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean.** A 16 day all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea, highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona, Spain, Bandol, France and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$3,665.00 pp. Join SIR 146 on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 1:30 pm for a special cruise presentation and extra savings opportunities. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146), (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@Astound.net](mailto:KERichter@Astound.net).



I told you that I do not have Alzheimer's .  
I have Sometimer's.  
Sometimes I remember and sometimes I don't.





## Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

**Doug Eisner**

We played 4 tables of duplicate bridge on March 12<sup>th</sup> at **Bob Yolland's** home. The morning session was very competitive as **Max Hinkle** threatened to run away with first place with 16.0 pts. He was followed closely by 6 players who tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 13.0 pts, **Bob Yolland, Fred Bolton, George Zurich, Jim Brown, Doug Eisner,** and **Carl Johnson**. However, all but one of these 7 players fell short of the money during the afternoon session. As a result, **Sid Landman** stormed into first place with a score of 44.0 pts, followed by **Bill Rees** with 41.0 pts for second. **George Zurich**, the lone survivor from the first half, took third place with 40.5 pts and 4<sup>th</sup> place was captured by **Jim Jackson's** 39.5 pts. The players were left wondering what these 4 guys had for lunch!

Our next game will be played on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The host will be announced later.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

**Lo McCarley**

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge in February at **Jim Brown's** home. Nine couples came to play but we only had four tables with room for 16 people. I drew the **McCarley's** name from the envelope which excluded us for the night — Darn! As for the bridge results, **Bob and Janet Yolland** came in first with 37 points, while **Dave and Joan Pierce** came in second with 34 points. Third place was a tie between **Carl and Anne Johnson** along with **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** at 32 points.

**Lynn and Dasha Freeman** will host the next Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Jim Adams**



Because of the change to daylight saving time it was still daylight at 7 pm when the bridge players arrived at **Dick and Christy DeVoe's** home. This enabled them to see and enjoy the **DeVoe's** extensive cactus collection. The sun was not the only thing shining brightly that March 10<sup>th</sup> evening; so were the players who filled in for the absent members! Substitute **Doug Eisner** and his partner **Terry Marchione** easily won 1<sup>st</sup> place honors with 26.5 pts. Substitutes **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** tied with **Dick and Christy DeVoe** for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 21.5 pts. The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group appreciates substitute players which seems to bring out the best in them.

The next meeting will be at **Lynn Freeman's** home on April 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Couples Party Bridge

**Dave Pierce**

It was good to find all the regulars present when **Terry and Sharon Marchione** hosted the group on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The hospitality and comradeship were warm but not the cards. Players with low totals were surprised to find themselves in the money, especially **Dick and Christy DeVoe** with 2310 pts and **Joan and Dave Pierce** with 2650 pts. **Terry and Sharon** were rewarded for all the good food and drink (especially that yummy dessert) by running away with first place at 3570 pts. Nice to have them back from Down Under. Perhaps emboldened by their success, **Dick and Christy** played duplicate at the Bridge Center as rookies the next morning and beat all the other Sirs present. Congratulations! (925) 932-3877



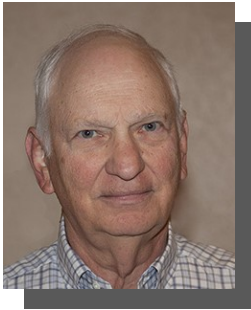
## Party Bridge

**Fred Bolton**

We played three tables of bridge on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of **Jim Stedman**. First place went to **Doug Eisner** with 7740 points ( a record for the group ), second to **Carl Johnson** with 4850, and third to **Bill Snyder** with 4770. Our next game will be at the home of **Fred Bolton** on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

The secret to happiness is a good sense of humor and a bad memory.



## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

Congratulations to **Bob White** who celebrated St Patrick's Day by shooting his age. This was the fourth time Bob has accomplished this feat since he first shot his age late last summer!

Welcome to new member **Charlie Abrams** who recently started to play Tuesday golf.

This year Branch 146 will host the Area 2 Invitational at Deer Ridge Golf Club in late May. We expect ten foursomes from Branch 146 to compete.

A group of 50 members, wives and partners attended the 2015 Monterey Mashers annual golf tournament and non-golfers activities program from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect and the golfers enjoyed rounds of golf at the Pacific Grove and Laguna Seca courses. The non-golfers participated in a conducted tour of the Salinas Valley agriculture industry and visited many other Monterey attractions. The program ended with a banquet dinner at the Rancho Canada Golf Course club house where the tournament winners received their prizes and everyone celebrated another successful Mashers gathering.

*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 emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.*

*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 receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com)*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

More Couples Dining Out, L to R  
**Phyllis Meehan, Elaine Richter, and , Joanne Thorne**  
Sirs **Pete Gates and Jim Meehan** in the background



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Verner Laursen

*The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday when we normally go to the branch luncheon. During the three months that we meet at the Concord Hilton we could play golf, but we don't like change so we will not be playing on those Thursdays.*

*If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game. [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)*



## Couples Golf

### Paul Masta

The SIRS Couples Golf group will kick off the season at Rancho Solano in Fairfield on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have 14 couples signed up for the event hosted by **Ken and Elaine Donnelly**.

*We play at local courses on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the Golf Course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.*

*We have room for new members so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group. (925) 933-3612 or [pamasta03@yahoo.com](mailto:pamasta03@yahoo.com)*



Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so I'm going to concentrate on getting taller!



## Area Two Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group is back to the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 am. We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from us from time to time and I will let you know about items that are of interest to Mac users.

Do you have Generio on your computer? Come and find out. **Verner Laursen & Max Burchett**

### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Our guest speaker in April will be Brian Pretti, Partner and Chief Investment Officer of Capital Planning Advisors, in Walnut Creek. Brian's topic will be "Through the Global Financial and Economic Wormhole". On the surface, the general economy and markets appear as if all is well. But Brian will discuss how underneath we are watching one of the most anomalistic economic and financial market cycles we have ever seen. Just what is the character of the current domestic and global economies and what are the key points we need to watch as investors?

Brian has been an investment management professional for over three decades. Prior to joining Capital Planning Advisors as Partner and Chief Investment Officer, he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Investment Officer for Mechanics Bank Wealth

Management since 1990 where he was instrumental in growing assets under management from \$150 million to over \$1.4 billion. Brian is a sought-after public speaker on the topics of the financial markets and economy and has been quoted in Barrons, the Financial Times, San Francisco Business Times and Comstock's. Brian was the founder, publisher and editor of [ContraryInvestor.com](http://ContraryInvestor.com), a subscription-based investment research website serving institutional, private and retail investors from 1998-2012, and continues to write for numerous well known investment websites such as ZeroHedge and Financial Sense.

Brian holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP(r)) designations as well as having earned an MBA in Finance from San Francisco State University, a BS in Economics and BA in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco.

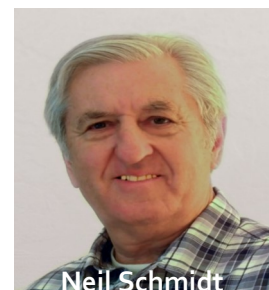
The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR.

## Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Sirs and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Our speaker will be Nick Klowski and he will discuss 3D Printing! It's amazing the range of products which a 3D printer can produce; from biological items such as bones to replicas of archeological treasures or fossils. Some uses are more trivial, exact models of bride and groom to adorn a wedding cake for example! When did this technique start? What other uses lie in store for the printer? Come and find out.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive.

# SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.  
br146sircall@gmail.com