

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , April 13th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker

Leigh Kjeldsen, Au. D.
“Hearing Loss: Causes and Remedies”

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

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146
By Noon Friday, April 7th

Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

April showers bring May flowers. Not something we have been used to the past several years during the drought, as dry winters made for beautiful days in the Spring. This year, though, the rains do not seem to want to let up.

Hopefully, the flowers will be in full bloom for our Ladies Day Luncheon May 11th. **Steve Ybarra** and **Steve Dawkins** have been at work preparing for another popular and successful event. Check this issue (page 5) of the SIR Call to find the reservation form. Best to sign up early as this event quickly sells out.

Our luncheon meeting this month is April 13th. I'll be wearing my hearing aids to listen intently to our guest speaker. See Little Sir **Bruce Borgman's** Corner to get the details. Please remember to invite a guest to have them learn of all the wonderful things SIR (especially Branch 146) has to offer. For Ladies Day we are planning to reprise Movie Producer Paul Zaentz to give the Ladies a taste of the glitz and glamour.

At our March meeting we inducted four new members. Let's give a hearty welcome to **Brion Beetz** (sponsored by **Jim Battersby**), **Roger Meyer (Bill Schultz)**, **Ray Minahan (Dan O'Sullivan)**, and **Walter Harrower (Larry Gray)**. **Brad Hatcher** and **Tony Fiorica** each sponsored a guest. We were also honored to present **Bill Holly** with a Branch Appreciation Award. **Bill** does so much that is unnoticed but essential for our Branch success. Additionally, he has taken on the role of Area Governor for our State SIR. A little thank you to **Bill** every now and then should not hurt. **Joe Suta** achieved the milestone of Senior Sir and we were pleased to present him with a State Recognition certificate acknowledging that accomplishment.

Once again, our next luncheon is Thursday, April 13th. All members are expected to attend, so if you cannot attend, please advise us by the Friday, April 7th deadline. The branch bears the cost of missed lunches or late notices. The work gets harder for our Luncheon



Chief Meteorologist Paul Deanno from KPIX Eyewitness News was the March Luncheon Guest Speaker

Chair and our Treasurer, and everybody here is a volunteer. Our respect for that keeps our branch great. See you then.

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.



Little Sir's Corner

Bruce Borgman

Last month Paul Deanno gave a fascinating talk about the weather with interesting facts and figures. He was a most engaging and personable speaker and has had some interesting experiences during his 17-year career in broadcasting.

Paul was kind enough to stay and answer many of our questions following the talk.

For our April meeting we again have a timely topic and an excellent speaker. Dr. Leigh Kjeldsen is an audiologist who will be speaking on "Hearing Loss: Causes and Remedies" – a topic that many of us are interested in – if not for ourselves, likely for our spouses or acquaintances. Dr. Kjeldsen has both a master's and doctorate degree in audiology and has a successful practice in Audiology with offices in Walnut Creek and Concord. She grew up in Moraga. Come and find out the latest technology in minimizing your hearing problems.

Our Speakers Committee has met, and we are pursuing a number of interesting topics and speakers for the rest of the year – but we are always anxious to hear your ideas as well.

On a separate topic, I would ask you again to be sure to call in if you expect to be out of town or will not be attending the monthly luncheon. As you know, we need to indicate to Boundary Oak the number of expected members attending and, if you do not attend and do not call, we will be liable for the cost of the lunch. Even if you are an annual payer, please let us know if you will not be there.

We have a good start on bringing guests, and adding new members – keep up the good work by inviting your newly retired friends and neighbors to consider Branch 146 to stay active. We have a large number of activities to keep everyone busy and active. See you at one of them!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Noah.
Noah who?
Noah body . . . April Fool's!



Membership

Dave Pierce

In March we inducted four new members: **Brion Beetz, Walter Harrower, Roger Meyer, and Ray Minahan.** Thank you, sponsors! That brings the branch to 291 members, with nine added this year. This puts us on track to meet our goal of 30 new members in 2017. We average one new member per 1.4 guests, so we'd like to see about 30 more guests. We'll need your help on achieving these goals. Meanwhile, please look for all those yellow badges and make our new members welcome at lunch and at activities.

New Member Photo Additions in March 2017



Walter
Harrower



Roger Meyer



Ray Minahan



Awards Chairman **Doug Eisner** presents **Joe Suta** with Senior SIR President's Award at the March Luncheon



Sunshine

Calvin Tucker

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

- **Jim Saavedra**
- **Bob Walton**
- **Elmer Kaprielian**
- **Bob Spellman**

Please also be aware of the death of charter member and long time friend **Lynn Freeman**.

Consider contacting a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

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

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair

phone: (925) 389 6070

Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Alan Elnick
Little Sir	Bruce Borgman
Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Assistant Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term)	Steve Sprague
Director(1 st Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(1 st Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(1 st Term)	Bob Mehus

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Bob Mehus

Refer to branch directory, accessible under members only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

April 13, 2017

~Salad Course~

Tomato & Cucumber Salad

Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Red Onions, Feta Cheese
Red Wine Vinaigrette

~Entrees~

Herb Marinated Boneless Pork Chop

Boneless Pork Chop, Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Apple Compote

Or

Tilapia Dore

Pan Seared Tilapia with Brown Butter Sauce
Herb Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables

~Dessert~

Raspberry Mousse Cake

White Cake Layered with Raspberry Mousse, Chantilly Cream

Q. What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A. Spring-time!

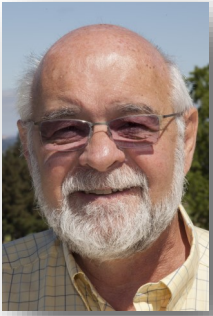
Q. Can February March?

A. No, but April May!

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.



Luncheon Chairman

Rob Melrose

Attendance: We consumed 207 meals at our March luncheon, which means that, for the first time since I have taken over, we beat our guarantee. Sixteen members were No Shows and we expect a fair number of them to reimburse the branch.

Next Luncheon: Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13th, at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is still \$26 as it has been for a few number of years. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make your payment. The money guys really prefer checks so you might want to take a minute right now and write out a \$26 check payable to "SIR 146". Stick it in your wallet and you are good to go on the day of the luncheon. That assumes you don't leave home without your wallet.

Opt Out Deadline: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the luncheon is Noon on Friday, April 7th. We will email at least one reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" before Noon on the Opt-Out deadline day. Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call (925) 979-5146 before the No Show deadline and leave a message with your name and badge number. A non-attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the Branch for the liability we incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: You should receive an email from me after I have updated the attendance records.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the Opt Out deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR

DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline, don't let that stop you. Please advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the Opt Out deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places 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 for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a wonderful lunch at **Dennis Hallett's home on Monday March 13th**. He did a great job with all the courses. His starters consisted of three cheeses: Holland Smoked Gouda, Camembert and an Extra Sharp Cheddar with a variety of crackers. **Dennis** also served a Spinach Dip and excellent hot Stuffed Mushrooms. His entree was a tasty Indian Chicken Curry served with Vegetable Biryani. To put on top of the Curry, **Dennis** had separate bowls of Chutney, Chopped Eggs, Green Onions, Grated Coconut, Diced Tomatoes, and Cucumber. This was a real treat. Dessert was a superb Lemon and Lime Paradise Pudding with Mint Chocolates and tea or coffee. **Dennis** nearly out did himself following lunch with a tasting of 5 or 6 Single Malt Scotchs. Outstanding !

Of course there was great conversation and wine before and during the meal. Thank you, **Dennis**.



Walking Group

Frank Ascagnò

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **Frank** for current walk.*

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

More new activities are getting underway in Branch 146 and even more are in the planning stages! Sir **Pete McNeill** has officially started a **Pinochle** group that will be meeting regularly to play that stimulating card game! Anyone interested in joining the co-ed group and/or just learning more about the game should reach out to Pete. Also, Sirs **Jim Pope** and **Henry Thatcher** have officially revived the **Explore and Eat** activity and scheduled their first outing on April 5th to the Blackhawk Museum followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. More "explorations" are in the planning stages.

Past issues have discussed the potential startup of a **Pickleball** activity and it is getting closer to a reality. Sir **Jim Burk**, in a nearby column, provides more information about its status.

And as reported earlier, the annual **Dinner/Dance** is returning this year and is scheduled for Saturday, October 21th. Thanks to Sir **Jonathan Korfhage** for taking over the reins from Sir **Richard Kincaide** who had overseen this popular event for many years. Please mark your calendar now and watch for more information about reserving your spot. The food should be delicious, the music appealing, and others attending will likely be someone you know. No need to be a noteworthy dancer; just come, eat, listen and enjoy the evening!

Other activities that have been mentioned by other branch members include the possibility of a **Chess** activity and possibly an additional **Bowling** activity that could be co-ed and meet occasionally for a fun social outing.

Any Branch member interested in any of the above activities, please drop me an email or call me - let me know of your interest OR if you have an idea for a new activity. As of January 1st, there are 45 different activities that a Branch 146 SIR member can participate in; over half of those welcome spouses. This is your branch. Have fun!

Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come.
~Robert H. Schuller

Reservations for May 11th Ladies Day Luncheon

~Salad Course~

Gorgonzola Salad

Baby Field Greens, Candied Walnuts, Julienned Pears, Gorgonzola Cheese Creamy Champagne Vinaigrette

~Entrees~

New York Steak

Roasted New York Steak, Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes Green Pepper Corn Sauce

Or

Pan Seared Alaskan Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Summer Fruit Salsa

~Dessert~

Strawberry Shortcake

Vanilla Cake, Chantilly Cream, Fresh Strawberries, Raspberry Coulis

On the form below, type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill in your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address below.

Thursday, May 11th, 2017

Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.

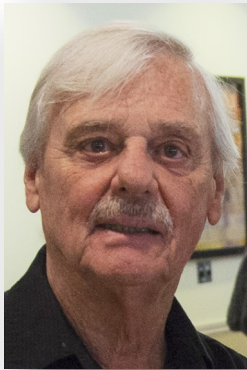
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Entree Choices

Names	Entree Choices	
	Beef	Salmon

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to **Steve Dawkins**, 117 Alegra Lane, Walnut Creek 94598
All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 5th. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you when their check and form is received or you may pay for them directly on your sheet listing their name & entrée.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On Friday April 14th, we will be hiking Mount Diablo Falls. Everything is drying up nicely and the weather should be warm Friday. This hike should be about four hours and a little over six miles with about an 800 ft elevation gain.

I recommend sticks and plenty of water. We'll find a place on the top to eat lunch. This is a tough hike. We'll be starting at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 10:00 am sharp. The Falls are the best they been in years and with this hot weather they will disappear quickly.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, Go about five miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end of Regency. Walk down the hill to the gate.

Friday, April 14th, 2017
Hike Starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf

Cell: (925) 550-4967



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Doug Eisner presents **Bill Holly** with Branch Appreciation Award at the March Luncheon

In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

~Mark Twain

Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'

~Robin Williams

Explore & Eat

Point Bonita Light House



Our 2nd event is scheduled for Monday May 8th at 11:30 am for lunch at Cavallo Point (\$32 Fixed Price 4 choice menu [Cash]). At 1:00 pm we will move to the Point Bonita Lighthouse where we will meet with National Parks docents who will lead a one hour tour of this amazing venue on the Bay.

The Point Bonita Lighthouse tour is FREE. Some light hiking will be involved. Parking is limited at the lighthouse so carpooling is advised. Valet parking is FREE at lunch. This event is open to all SIR 146 members and their guests. The event is limited to 40 participants. You can reserve your spot by sending an email to: 146exploreandeat@gmail.com by Monday, May 1st, 2017 and let us know who will be attending Explore & Eat.

Hosted by **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and
Jim Pope 925-699-6447



Cavallo Point



View SF Bay

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The rains have subsided but the waters are still muddy and that means fishing still is not very good. There is more debris in the waters than fish. Nevertheless, we expect matters to improve during the spring months.

We did have one excellent result in March. **Terry Miller** landed a 13 lb. striped bass, fishing in the Delta. Others fished for stripers, but caught very few, and those that were caught were small and below the minimum length. We have given up on trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, although that body of water had fabulous results in December before the rains came. San Pablo Reservoir is usually better than Shadow Cliffs in the late winter and early spring, so **Carl Moyer** decided to give it a try. He managed to catch a small carp and that was it.

On the other hand, we had another successful annual auction of fishing gear at the March meeting. Our club does not collect dues, so the auction is basically the sole source of our income.

Notwithstanding the dark winter, we believe that the future is bright and we have lots of outings planned. In addition to our regular trips to San Pablo and the Delta, we have trips planned for trout fishing at Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, Collins Lake, Bass Lake, and Los Vaqueros Reservoir; salmon, ling cod, and rock fishing in the ocean; salmon fishing in the Sacramento River; and striped bass fishing at New Hogan Reservoir.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, April 27th, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast starting at 7:30 am.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Spring is in the air and the photography group is planning an early April field trip to catch beautiful scenery alive with vibrant colors. I'll be announcing a location for the field adventure in the next two weeks with a branch wide email announcement. Hope you will be available to come and join us as we plan to show the pictures we take at our regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, April 28th.

In the meantime, the photo below was taken on a vacation my wife and I took to Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah a few weeks ago. We caught the winter time atmosphere with snow on the ground but relative warm weather to walk around and enjoy the crimson-colored hoodoos, which are spire-shaped rock formations shown here.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subject: Review photos taken on field trip yet TBD

When: Friday, April 28th, at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



Bryce Canyon National Park—Utah



Tablecloths Drying at La Guarida—Havana, Cuba



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

Our next meeting is Friday, April 14th, at 2 pm, 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor, and walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

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.

We wore our blue vests, but added some Irish color with our green bow ties, and a green hat. [See the picture below.]

We will now be practicing a group of “Romantic Songs” selected by **Ken Donnelly** and **Steve Dinning**, which will include, *You Light Up My Life*, *It Had To Be You*, *Love and Marriage*, *Embraceable You*, and others. We plan to sing these numbers at the Senior Center in Concord in June or July – and perhaps even sing a few at our Ladies Day Luncheon on May 11th!

We are always looking for others who enjoy singing to join our group as we practice every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30 pm. Come and see!



Photo by Ross Hallberg

SongSirs performing at the Walnut Creek Senior Center on March 17th



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are pleased that **Pete Miller** has returned to the active duty roster and was able to direct us for our most recent performance at Walnut Creek Senior Center on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th. **Ken Donnelly** had arranged for us to sing our series of well known Irish songs, which included among others, *My Wild Irish Rose*, *Danny Boy*, *Too-La-Roo-La-Roo-Lal*, *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*, and a few new ones – *We’ll Meet Again*, and *Mr. Sandman*.

Wonderful solos were performed by **Corrie Oranje** and **Jim Bogue**. The audience sang along for many of the better-known melodies and it was a much-appreciated performance. Several us stayed for the lunch afterwards, and were drafted again to perform one more time after the lunch.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Nine of us gathered at the home of **Jim Stedman**, our March host. We were at four tables scattered through his lovely home.

Lots of winners this month. **Ron Afdal**, our group’s capable Co-Chair was first (**Ron** had three “skunks” out of five games). He was followed by the Chair **John Pearl** in second place, our “teacher” and usual winner **Barney Meade**, and our host, **Jim Stedman**, who was fourth and won back in ante.

Our next scheduled event is Wednesday, April 26th.

mcpearl@astound.net



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We enjoyed a fine evening for our March Couples Dining Out event at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. We negotiated a good menu with a choice of four entrees, including NY Steak, Grilled Salmon, and Chicken Cordon Bleu – and a Veal Parmigiana which was added when **Carl Feil** used his personal influence with the owner. Thanks **Carl!** Attendance was great with 66 diners, which included a number of Sirs who had not been to one of our events before. The service was top notch and we enjoyed the extra elbow room that this restaurant can provide with its large banquet rooms. We will enjoy this venue again when we go here in October for the dinner dance event. Be sure you have that on your calendar. **Jonathan Korfhage** will be leading this event. Check with him for any early details.

Our next Couples Dining Out event will be in May – the date and restaurant are still to be determined – but it will be another not-to-be-missed dining experience. We have a few suggestions, but are always open to new ones. Our attendance is running in the 60s these days so that limits our choices since many Sir couples prefer to have a single evening event. Alternatively, we may limit the group size, which can be accommodated by the restaurant. The take-home lesson is to be sure to sign up early when we make the announcement – likely by the next SIR luncheon.



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (L to R) **Alicia Baily, Jeff Baily, Sue Busenius, Walt Busenius, Shari Carpenter, and George Carpenter**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (L to R) **Gary Schaub, Maria Gounaris, Diane De Golia, Ron De Golia, Ismini MacLean & Rich Ahlf**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **Dana Ybarra, Steve Dawkins, Steve Ybarra, Rich Hanford, Sandy Wagner, Cornelius Buys, Dennis Hallett, Anne Hallett, and Marna Dawkins**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (L to R) **Barbara Stengel, Gabriela Bishop, Pete Bishop, Diane Munayer, Al Munayer, Bob Lucido, Wendy Lucido, and Joe Stengel**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **Sandy Schlatter, Dan Schlatter, Ken Richter, Elaine Richter, Barbara Roberts, Bill Roberts, Bernice Cammerer, Bruce Borgman, and Bill Cammerer**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **Dan Rhoads, Barbara Elenteny, Bruce Borgman, Jonathan Korfhage, Barbara Korfhage, Mary Owen, and Jim Owen**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **Henry Thatcher, Eleanor Harris, Doug Harris, Bruce Borgman, Carl Feil, Joyce Feil, Renie Pope, Jim Pope, and Barbara Thatcher**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **John Pearl, Nancy Pearl, Linda Boyan, John Boyan, Bruce Borgman, Cindy Greco, Tony Greco, Joann Haukland, and Dale Haukland**



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out (Clockwise) **Jerry Kaplan, Susan Kaplan, Harry Borgman, Sandy Wagner, Bruce, and Karen Dinning**

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The March Mexican Train Game Night was held on the 10th at the friendly Concord home of Sir **Frank Ascatigno** and his wife, **Marie**.

The home was beautifully decorated for St. Patty's day, albeit a week early. All three tables were full with 18 players; Sir **John Moose Kelly**, a regular substitute for the group, brought his significant other, **Mary Schmidt**, who was playing for the first time.

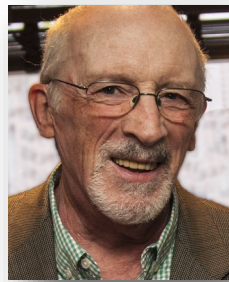
Martha Plante, wife of Sir **Peter**, once AGAIN won First Place with an average of only 9.4 points left in her hand after eleven games played. **Martha** has won First Place money in November, January, February, and now March. **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of Sir **Richard**, won second place money with a very low average of 10.1 (almost joining **Martha** as someone scoring under 10 more than once in Group UNO –see below). **Marie Ascatigno**, wife of Sir **Frank**, and our gracious host for the evening, won third place with an average of 16.3.

There have been nine instances in the almost three years Group UNO has been playing where a player has averaged less than 10.0 points for every game played that night. **Martha** has done it three times; no one else in MTD Group UNO has accomplished it more than once.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 winners for March, **Martha Plante**, (R), **Sherry Hockenbrock** (C), and **Marie Ascatigno** (L)



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Bailly

Mexican Dominoes Group Tres enjoyed a fast moving evening of games at the home of **Bill and Laurie Hoban**. It's the table or so it appeared. **Larry Brown**, **Linda**

Siljestrom and **Sharon Varner** all seated at table two were on a tear; Both **Linda** and **Sharon** managed to score winning averages without ever going out – **Sharon** in third place with an 18.6 average and **Linda** in second with a 12.9 average. The hero or villain – depends on your attitude ;-) – was **Larry Brown**. **Larry** was doubly motivated to produce a winning score; until this evening his wife **Linda** had held the record of outs at 6, even though her average that night hadn't qualified for a place in the winners' circle.

This night **Larry** went out in 6 of the seven games tying **Linda's** record but setting another all-time record low average of 1.4 by allowing only a 10 for the one-time score where he didn't go out! Sadly, the other players at table two have agreed to attend night school classes in Mexican Train Dominoes and will be back next time to set the record straight.

All the players enjoyed the delicious array of dessert and snacks that **Laurie** and **Bill** provided and Group Tres is looking forward to playing again on April 28th hosted by **Walt** and **Sue Busenius**.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

L to R, MTD 3 Winners, **Sharon Varner**, record holder **Larry Brown** and **Linda Siljestrom** flash their prize money at the March games night



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Thanks to **Ron and Anne Plachy** for a great game night on March 24th. They had three tables in their living areas which always makes for a fun evening as you listen

to the different tables go through the evening. This night the three groups were exceptionally eager to sit down and get started playing. Throughout the evening they were concentrating so hard that it was much more quiet than usual. The goodies the **Plachys** served were so tasty it provided a nice break in the middle of the evening from the "heavy" concentrating. It really turned out to be a fun evening with excellent scoring by the winners, not so much for the rest of us.

Our hostess, **Anne Plachy**, took first place with an average game score of 8.2, which I believe is the lowest for our group to date. Second place went to **Ismi MacLean** with a score of 15.9. **Ismi** has been our first place winner for the first two months of the year and now earns a third month to her winning record. **Martha Plante** took third place with a score of 16.8. Congratulations to all our winners.

Our next game night is April 28th at **Dick and Janice Woodman's** home.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

Our group met on March 16th at **David & Joan Pierce's** home where creativity abounds. On this night we played two tables of 6 each. One for the Women, and one for the

Men. The jury is still out on whether this format will gain favor and have another opportunity for "show time." One element of the evening which definitely gained favor was **Joan's** homemade chocolate cake with whipped cream and raspberries.

On the game front, a personal best for our group was achieved competitively with each table playing eight games. All too familiar results prevailed in some individual cases with **Marty Campbell** coming in first, and **Ann Hallett** coming in second. The big surprise for the evening, however, was that one of our men surprised the group by coming in third. This was all very quickly attributed to the "Luck of the Irish" one day in advance of St. Patrick's Day. An immediate "House" sub-committee was established to get to the bottom of how this result was possible without serious amounts of foul play. Consequently, the publishing of the results for this remaining spot will be held until such time as the investigation can be completed.

Standby for future format creativity such as 3 tables of 4 players each (two men and two women) in which the men would rotate every two games to another table so as to allow for maximum socialization. Some of the details of this arrangement are still being worked out, not the least of which is whether an available small table is large enough to accommodate the display of domino tiles adequately.

Jim "O'Bourke"

Q: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

A: Pilgrims!

Photo by Anne Burk



MTD Group 5 (CINCO)

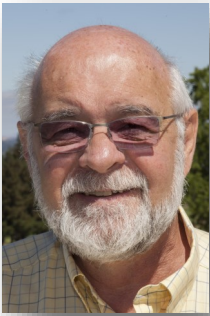
Men

vs.

Women

Photo by Anne Burk





Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Our next event is scheduled for April 26th. We are looking for a venue. If you are willing to open your home to the group, please contact **Rob**. We realize that many of the group do not have homes that will accommodate the entire group so we can limit the attendance if you wish. If we don't find a venue by the end of day on April 5th, we will be forced to cancel the April event.



Book Nook

Hank James

The Book Nook will not be open for the April Meeting. Continue to accumulate your book donations and your reading list for the May meeting when we will be open again.



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Pete Gates

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.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dick McElroy and **Roy Hodgkinson** enjoying some sunshine on the patio before the start of the March luncheon



Table Pool

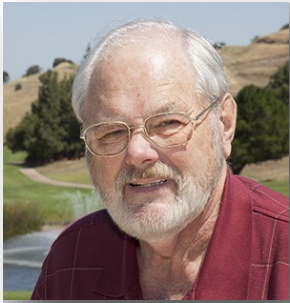
Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 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 at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are 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.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jerry Kaplan and **Jim Pope** displaying their "Irish" greens at the March luncheon



Theatre Gary Schaub

Prize-Winning Drama is SIR
146 Theater Party
for July 11th



One of the American theater's most popular plays is Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* which opened on Broadway in 1944. This honored play will be SIR 146's theater party for July.

The Glass Menagerie will be performed at the open-air California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda for Tuesday, July 11th. Curtain time is 7:30 pm.

The Glass Menagerie catapulted playwright Williams from obscurity to fame. The five-character "memory play" has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on Williams' early life. The play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945, and has become a modern classic. Williams later wrote *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and went on to be the leading playwright of post-World War II America.

In *The Glass Menagerie*, the playwright recalls scenes from his youth during the height of the Depression. Characters include Tom, who works in a shoe factory, his mother, Amanda, always trying to retain a lost gentility in the midst of poverty, his delicate sister Laura, and Tom's friend Jim, the gentleman caller -- a potential suiter -- invited to meet Tom's fragile sister.

A limited number of reduced-price tickets have been set aside for SIR members and guests. Deadline for ordering is June 21st.

Tickets are \$51.00 each, and will be reserved with a check payable to SIR146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

We had a great trip to Mare Island on March 1st. 38 of us, on a beautiful day, toured the Chapel and were able to see the large collection of Tiffany windows, toured the Admiral's home, saw the dry docks, and spent time in the museum. Our docent was excellent and I think we all learned a good deal about Mare Island and it's important role in the Naval history of the USA. If you have not been there, I'd recommend a trip on your own. There will be more trips coming up but for now be sure to mark your calendar for Fleet Week and the Blue Angels on Saturday October 7th. I am in the process of gathering the details.



Some the SIRS and guests who traveled to Mare Island



Rosie the Riveter

Note that curtain time is 7:30 pm. A special picnic and gathering area will be set aside for SIR 146 in the upper area near the theater plaza. Bring a picnic or purchase food/drink at the concession plaza. You can arrive when gates open at 6:00 pm. A pre-show talk is normally planned ½ hour before the play begins.

California Shakespeare Theater is located off Hwy 24, just west of Orinda at Wilder Road. Exit 7B. Parking on-site is free.

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



MTD Group 1 in mid-play, **Corrie Oranje, Alicia Baily, Richard Hockenbrock, Rob Melrose and Martha Plante**

Photo by Gary Schaub



Smokey Joe's Café
Tony & Cynthia Greco, and Chuck & Mary Denny

Photo by Gary Schaub



Smokey Joe's Café
Jeff & Alicia Baily, and Bruce Borgman & Sue Sheldon

Photo by Gary Schaub



Smokey Joe's Café
Corrie & Susan Oranje, and Bob & Wendy Lucido

Photo by Bill Schultz



Smokey Joe's Café
**Doug Cook, Chuck & Mary Denny
& Marian & Jim Pfohl (back row)**



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Smokey Joe's
Café**
(Back row) **Don & June
Seaton, (Front Row) Al &
Joan Zamolo**



Alicia and Jeff Baily outside the theatre



Gary and Brynn Brown, Bill and Alice Schultz, Mary Ann and Mike Whitaker

More photos taken in the lobby at Town Hall Theater in Lafayette before the performance of "Smokey Joe's Cafe" on Friday, March 17th.

We had 35 SIR members and guests for this high-powered revue of the music of Jerry Lieber & Milke Stoller. (Songs like: "Lovng You," Jailhouse Rock," "Stand By Me," and "Yakety Yak.").

Gary Schaub



Maria and Gary Schaub



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 had a great evening of bridge at **Margot Somerville's** home on March 15th with 3 tables. First we would like to thank **Lo McCarley** for organizing and chairing our group for nearly 15 years. Over that period of time we have had many changes of players and thank all the members and subs who have participated in this fun activity.

Everyone enjoyed great cards which were either feast or famine as well as **Margot's** goodies and beverages. As for results: **Margot Somerville** and her partner **Vince Rettew** took 3rd with 22 points. In 2nd place were subs **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** with 24 points and edging them out for 1st were **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 24 1/2 points.

Our next event will be at the **Yolland's** on April 19th.



Book Club

Chuck Campbell

Eight Sirs met March 13th to discuss Ernest Hemingway's classic *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. The story takes place in the mountains north of Madrid, regarding a small guerilla unit fighting in the Spanish Civil war. The two warring factions were the Republic (left leaning or communist) and the Nationalist (right leaning or fascist). An American Spanish teacher who joined the Republic side is first introduced as he makes his way through the mountains to meet up with the small guerilla unit. His assignment is to dynamite a key bridge in the area. The story covers only three days, ending with the blowing up of the bridge. But don't be fooled: Hemingway uses the three days to present the other five main characters regarding their personal histories and reasons for fighting in the civil war.

Hemingway is known for his efficient writing style (short sentences and common English words) compared to last month's author, Cormac McCarthy, who specialized in using a vast vocabulary and many run-on sentences to complete his scenic descriptions. The group consensus was that *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is a good read.

For our next book the group has chosen *Fatal* by John Lescroart. We will meet at the Black Bear restaurant at 8:30 am on April 10th. In the future, we will consider reading *Hillbilly Elegy* and *The Circle*.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

On a wonderfully mild spring evening, March 14th, **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** treated us first to their views of the green hills and valleys of south Walnut Creek, and then to some good competition at the table. In a tight race, super subs **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** were 3rd (20½ points, 51%), our gracious **hosts** were 2nd (22, 55%), and **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** were hot all night (24, 60%). They had 9 top boards out of 20, and 60% is a fine score. Congratulations.

Dave Pierce, 932-3877



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

The time for BOCCE has almost arrived. This is advance notice of Bocce start-up next month on Monday MAY 8th. Judging by the number of Sirs requesting information, we should have good turnouts. See below for details on time and location of play.

We play 2nd and 4th Mondays at 8:30 am May through October at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain cancels play. Ladies always welcome.

We play the 2nd and 4th 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.

Only a true genius can say these four words four times really fast without getting tongue-tied.

Eye, Yam, Stew, Peed



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge Group #3 met for 3 tables of duplicate bridge hosted at **Harvey Oxman's** home on March 17th.

In first place, with a score of 34 points or 70.8%, was our score keeper **Bill Schultz**. We are auditing the results to validate his score keeping. **Bill** had a great first half and then sealed the win with an even better second half. Congratulations!! It just proves that anyone can win on any given day.

In second, with a score of 30 points or 62.5%, was **Fred Bolton**. **Fred** had a superb first half ending in first place at mid-point and just losing out to end up in second overall. **Fred**, great game.

Finally, our guest, with a score of 28.5 or 59.4%, was **Mark Curtis** who joined us at the last minute so we had enough players to have the game at all. Thank you **Mark**.

Thanks to our host **Harvey Oxman**, who kept the coffee going even when he had to make one cup at a time. We appreciate your hospitality.

We look forward to another rousing battle ending in fun for all next month.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of bridge on March 20th at **Dave Pierce's** house. The first half was fiercely contested by all players but **Bob Yolland** led the pack at the lunch break with 16.0 pt. He was closely followed by **Fred Bolton's** 15.5 pt and **Fred Kovar's** 14.5 pt. Unfortunately, the "A L" hex, for "after lunch", struck all three players hard. So hard, in fact, that **Fred Kovar** fell completely out of the money while **Bob** and **Fred Bolton** just barely retained their grip on some money. However, bragging rights for the day belonged to **Jim Jackson**, who came from the depths of the also-rans to claim first place with a score of 29.5 pt. **Dave Pierce** was right on **Jim's** heels with 28.5 pt. for second place, and **Bob Yolland** was forced to share 3rd place honors with **Fred Bolton** and **Bill Rees** with 26.0 pt.

Our April 17th game will be hosted by **Fred Bolton**.



In Men's Duplicate Bridge 1, host **Dave Pierce**, and **David Steinberg** check the scoring being done by **Doug Eisner** and **Jim Jackson**



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Bob Yolland** on March 6th. First place went to **Bob Yolland** with 7050 points, second to **Fred Kovar** with 5430 and third to **Bill Snyder** with 5400, a one trick difference! Our next game will be hosted by **Doug Eisner** on April 3rd.



Couples Party Bridge Dave Pierce

Spring was in the air, or something certainly was, when **Joan and Dave Pierce** hosted on March 7th. Everyone had some cards. The low score for the night was 2730, often high enough to take money home. Four scores were between 3230 and 3310. often enough to be first. Everyone should feel they did well;

however: **Larry and Linda Brown** bid 6 NT, making 7, and sprinted in with 3300; barely ahead of the **hosts**, 3310; and **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** scored 4090. They were helped by this auction: **Lynne**, 2 diamonds (weak); **Brad**, 6 NT making 6. Risk rewarded. Congratulations to all, and to **Joan** for a wonderful new chocolate cake recipe.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group # 1 met March 8th at the home of **Pete McNeill's**. As always there were some winners and losers, but a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be at home of **Dan O'Sullivan** on April 12th.



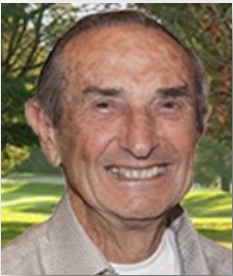
Poker Group 5

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, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter,***

Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.

Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

The Old Money Poker Group met at **Brad Hatcher's** home on March 2nd. Our fearless leader **Al Twyford** could not join us but six folks did attend. As host, **Brad**

provided snacks and the usual red wine but had the crowd turn against him as he came away as the big winner. Contributing to **Brad's** winnings were **Rich Ahlf** and **Norm Baietti**. However, **Rich** had the hand of the day. Playing 5 card draw poker, he kept two kings and drew three cards. Bonanza! He added another king and a pair of jacks to handily beat the remaining players with his full house.

We missed you, Al.

Hope this will help. **Brad Hatcher**



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

The March 27th game was hosted by **Joe Stengel** at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz**. If you want to be a sub, contact **Chuck Bobinecz**.

We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm. Our regular members are **Rich**

Hanford, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Frank Rockwell, Joe Stengel, Chuck Bobinecz and Bob Mehus. We don't have a regular winner.

I bought one of those tapes to teach you Spanish in your sleep. During the night, the tape skipped. Now I can only stutter in Spanish.

Q: What did the buffalo say to his son when he left for college?





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

In a valiant attempt to beat 1983's record water year, 2017 continues to impress. Our first Tournament Tuesday was dissolved by rain. So far this year, between total rainouts and diminished turnout, we have managed only three payout-qualified days of play. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. While half of us are still on UFN, a significant number of us have canceled UFN status. It won't be long before we are back at full participation.

However, Boundary Oak has scheduled its spring aeration for the first week of April so we will not have scheduled play on April 4th.

The golf committee is evaluating a new approach to arranging our flights with the hope of improving payout fairness. Flights will now be based on handicaps only. Those playing combo or white tees will get an adjustment to correct for differences in course rating. So far so good, but with limited data, the concept is still in the trial stage.

With regard to upcoming events, our annual scramble and luncheon meeting will be held at Boundary Oak on the third Thursday of April.

The SIR Area 2 annual team qualifier scramble will be held May 25 at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club. The Division 4 Individual Qualifier will be on August 23rd, also at Hiddenbrooke. This is a challenging Arnold Palmer designed course at a very nice facility.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities and a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow Sirs as well as a great way to recruit new members. We play every Tuesday morning and would be pleased to add guests to our weekly random pairings. Consider this an invitation to check us out. You can get in touch with us through another SIR golfer or simply email us at Sir146golf@gmail.com.



What's the best thing about living in Switzerland?



I don't know, but the flag is a big plus!



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 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays 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. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game.

vlaursen@astound.net



Photo by Bill Schultz

Bill Schultz, Malcolm Harrison, Gary Brown, and Pete McNeill pause from the rain on # 4 fairway



Photo by Bill Schultz

Steve Sprague and Ed Brands on # 18 green

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

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 time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

\$ums, the Area 2 Investment Activity, will meet Wednesday, April 26th at Legends Restaurant in Diablo Creek Country Club on Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

The video program will start at 8:00 am with the topic of "Karl Marx-Master of Money". This BBC presentation should help us understand why Vladimir Putin says: "The collapse of the Soviet Union was the worst catastrophe of the Twentieth Century". Come and learn why some believe economies can be managed successfully by governments, even though no country has done it.

Legends opens at 7:00 am so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

\$ums Chairman: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724
tomhenry925@gmail.com

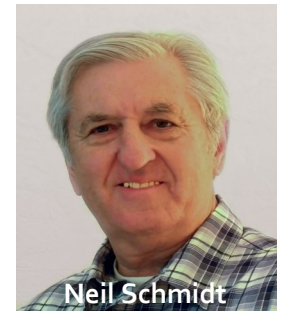
Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158
davesutn@comcast.net

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group [A2CAT] announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 20th, starting at 9:30 am, but come early for coffee, goodies, and chat. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Barry Brown will be discussing "Putting Together Your Own Desktop Computer." He will demonstrate how you can save money and get precisely what you want by personally configuring your own desktop, as opposed to buying online or from the big box stores. A copy of Barry's notes can be downloaded a few days before the meeting by going to: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/>

We look forward to seeing you 9:15 am, Thursday, April 20th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our April meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman



Photo by Biff Schultz

New member **Ray Minahan**, his sponsor **Dan O'Sullivan**, and new member **Roger Meyer** standing next to **Doug Eisner** at the March 9th luncheon