

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon— Thursday, April 12th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker
Hal Ramey

Former KCBS Sports Director and Bay Area Hall of
Fame inductee

“Fifty years of Fun in the
World of Sports Broadcasting”

Gathering time: 11:00 am

Seating time: 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, April 5th



Big Sir's Notes

Bruce Borgman

I have received a number of comments about our interesting March luncheon! Thanks to our Little Sir, **Jonathan Korfhage**, we had a most inspiring speaker in Jane Flower, who related her experiences as a sightless person and the challenges of raising of Guide Dogs for the Blind. In May Jonathan has arranged for another fascinating speaker, which he will no doubt relate in his Little Sir Corner.

We were pleased welcome two new members, **Roger Rivers**, sponsored by **Steve Siljestrom** and **Stan U'Ren**, sponsored by **Jim Whitsett**. And, we had seven guests – so our membership is doing a great job in recruiting which is the lifeblood of our organization. I know that several of these guests will become members, so we continue to meet our new member and guests goals. Speaking of what makes a successful branch, I want to commend **Jerry Kaplan** for advocating for and organizing a breakfast meeting of all the activity chairs on March 2. We had over 80% of the chairs attend and success stories as well as opportunities for improvement were shared. Having a successful activity program is another aspect that makes our branch great! Elsewhere you will find a group photo of these Sirs who lead our activities.

We honored two of our members for awards in March. **Walt Busenius** acknowledged two Sirs who have achieved the 20-year membership in our branch: **Doug Harris** and **Larry Mitchell**. Because Doug is tending to his wife with some health issues, and **Larry Mitchell** has a tougher time getting out because of health, both awards were presented to these fine gentlemen at their homes earlier this month by **Walt Busenius** and me. We enjoyed visiting with these notable Sirs. You will find pictures of them receiving their awards on page two and four of this SIR CALL.

Since we are enjoying an increase in membership and excellent programs, we are seeing a larger number of

Continued on next page



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Jim Battersby** introduced our guest speaker
Jane Flower, Outreach Manager,
Guide Dogs for the Blind

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

Big Sir's Notes *continued*

our members attending the luncheons, which is also, of course, part of your obligation as a member of Branch 146. Finding seats for everyone has definitely become a greater challenge. I would therefore like to ask that you arrive for the meeting in time to find a seat with old or new friends. Also, please consider your desire to sit with your friends balanced with the need to provide seating for everyone. While you may reserve seats, you should also leave some seats at your table for newer members who may not so easily find a place.

Finally, our Ladies Day Luncheon is quickly approaching and the reservation form for the May event is on page three of this SIR CALL. Sign up early as this event sells out quickly.

We now have many activities in our branch so take advantage and join in on the fun!



Membership

Dave Pierce

We welcomed new members **Stan U'Ren** and **Roger Rivers** in March. **Al Zamolo** returned from inactive as an Emeritus member (so he can still play poker). **Jack DeRieux** and **Doug Harris** transferred to inactive, and with the deaths of long-time old friends **Chuck Bobinecz** and **Fred Kovar**, we dropped to 289. But the good news is we had seven guests in March and I have several new applications already. Thank you, sponsors! To help new member logistics, please sent signed applications to me no later than a week before the lunch.

New Member Photo Additions



Stan U'Ren



Roger Rivers



Little Sir's Corner

Jonathan Korfhage

Our speaker for this month is Hal Ramey, former KCBS Sports Director and Bay Area Hall of Fame inductee. Hal will talk about the nearly fifty years of fun in the world of sports broadcasting. During his long career, Hal served as the radio-play-by-play voice at Stanford, Santa Clara, San Jose State, and the University of Oregon, as well as the Oakland A's, San Jose Earthquakes, and the 49ers. He has now joined **Joe Starkey** and Cal Football.

If you can't find a seat at our luncheons, look for me and I will find one for you! There is a place for everyone!



Larry Mitchell receives his 20 year and Branch Honoree award at his home from Big Sir **Bruce Borgman**



Walking Group

Frank Ascatigno

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

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

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232



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.

- ◆ Rich Ahlf
- ◆ Jim Bogue
- ◆ Bob Johnston
- ◆ Art Mancini
- ◆ Larry Mitchell
- ◆ Rick Morgan
- ◆ Jim Saavedra

We note with sadness the death of **Fred Kovar** on March 4th.

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

2018 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Bruce Borgman
Little Sir	Jonathan Korfhage
Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Assistant Secretary	Richard Hockenbrock
Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Assistant Treasurer	Ben Gleason
Director(2 nd Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(2 nd Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(2 nd Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(2 nd Term)	Bob Mehus
Director(1 st Term)	Pierre Mebane
Director(1 st Term)	Tony Greco

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Pierre Mebane
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 12th, 2018

Salad

Wedge of Baby Iceberg Lettuce
Hard Boiled Eggs, Cherry Tomatoes
Thousand Island Dressing

Entrees

Grilled Breast of Free Range Chicken
Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Orange & Mint Butter Sauce

Or

Herb Marinated Cod
Confetti Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables
Brown Butter Sauce

Dessert

Chocolate Hazelnut Cake
Dark Chocolate Cake, Raspberry Sauce,
Chantilly Cream

Money isn't everything but it sure keeps you in touch with your children.

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.



Photo by Walt Busenius

Doug Harris was presented with the Branch 20 year Membership Award by Big Sir **Bruce Borgman** at his home on March 14th



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Al Munayer, whose name was picked from an Irish hat, was the March Birthday drawing winner

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor **Richard Hockenbrock**
 Co - Editors **Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose**
 Proofreaders **Cal Tucker, Jonathan Korfhage,**
Pat Lucia, and Jim Barry
 Internet Posting **Ron Plachy**

**Reservations for May 10th
 Ladies Day Luncheon**

Salad

Tabbouleh Salad
 Butter Lettuce, Baby Tomatoes, Cucumbers
 Creamy Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

New York Steak
 Roasted New York Steak, Seasonal Vegetables,
 Scalloped Potatoes Green Pepper Corn Sauce
 Or
 Pan Seared Alaskan Salmon
 Cous Cous, Seasonal Vegetables, Summer Fruit
 Salsa, White Wine Butter Sauce

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake
 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 10th, 2018
 Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Names	Entree Choices	
	Beef	Salmon

Make checks payable to SIR 146. Send to **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr. Concord, CA 94518

All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 4th. 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.

Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITY CHAIR BREAKFAST



On March 2nd, thirty-nine of the forty-seven Activity Chairs in Branch 146 arose early and came to an 8:00 am breakfast meeting. The other chairs were traveling or had a time conflict. A picture of all those in attendance is shown below.

After a delicious breakfast at Boundary Oak, the chairs heard from Big Sir **Bruce Borgman**, Regional Director **Bill Holly**, and several others who spoke about many significant issues:

- *What the SIR insurance programs covers for branch activities*
- *What activity information is provided during the New Member Orientation*
- *The importance of having an Assistant Chair or a backup to call on as needed*
- *The need for the Activity Chair to update the information available on the web site*
- *Using the SIR Call to report and promote the activity*
- *How to use the Calendar and when to use an e-blast*

It was evident during the meeting that most of the 47 activities are doing well, but a few chairs noted that they would welcome having an assistant or a “backup” to help out when they could not manage the activity. Several chairs expressed the need to have someone in the branch consider taking on the role of chair at some future point. While the average length of time that a chair has been in that position was 3 to 4 years, several chairs have been responsible for their group for 10 years or longer and are looking for some relief.

Everyone in the branch who is involved in one or more activities is being asked to find out if their activity’s chair would like some help in sharing the responsibilities, or, in fact, is looking forward to handing over the reins in the future to another person. (If the reader wants to learn more about the meeting, the full set of the PowerPoint slides used is available under the Members Only tab on the website.)

NEWER ACTIVITIES

The new activities of **Chess** and **Pinochle** are underway with monthly get-togethers happening. See columns elsewhere in this SIR CALL about meeting times and places. Beginners, as well those who have played before, are welcome.

NEW ACTIVITY– A new **Mexican Train Dominoes** group is starting with Sir **John “Moose” Kelly** taking the lead to establish the group. An initial kick-off meeting – especially for those who are interested but have never played before – is being set up sometime in April. SIR members should contact **Moose** at (610) 517-0152 or rollingstone911@yahoo.com. See **Moose’s** column elsewhere for more information.

Especially for New Members

If you still haven’t found an activity that you like, or you are on a substitute list and want to play **Poker** or **Bridge** or **Mexican Train Dominoes** on a more regular basis, let me know and I can help get another group going. I will also assist in starting up a brand new activity that may be attractive to others in the branch.





Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

SIR Day at the Races: Golden Gate Fields Friday April 20th:

We have a "go" on the trip with a group of 20 committed. The \$41 per person includes valet parking, admission to the Turf Club and buffet

lunch, racing program and tip. Gates open at 11 am, first race at 12:45. The cutoff has passed but we could accommodate one or two more. Make your check payable to SIR 146 and send it to me and note "Day at the Races" in the memo line.

Day in Sacramento Lunch and River Cruise Thursday May 24th:

We are about half-way there on the 30 needed commitments to make this trip viable. Experience the era of Mark Twain and steamboats on the Sacramento River. Enjoy a beautiful day in Old Town Sacramento seated aboard the Delta King with lunch aboard. Following lunch a short walk to the neighboring Sacramento Queen for a narrated river cruise. \$103 per person includes roundtrip motor coach, lunch, the cruise and tips. This trip should have a minimal amount of walking. We depart the standard Mitchell Drive location at 9:30 am and return by 5 pm. Deadline April 20th. Make your check payable to SIR 146 and note "Sacto River Trip" in the memo line then mail to me.

Special note: Henry Thatcher will lead this outing in my absence.

Cornerstones Sunset Garden and Marketplace in Sonoma, Wednesday June 20th:

Includes luxury bus transportation, docent tour and lunch for \$95 pp. Departure 8:30 am from Mitchell Park & Ride, return by 4:30 pm. Deadline is May 20th.

Follow that Seagull San Francisco's 49 Mile Scenic Tour Thursday, July 19th:

This initial tour began in the Fall of 1938 named for the city's 49 square mile footprint. Our group will pick up Craig Smith, a guide of some renown, at City Hall to begin following that Seagull to view Union Square, Chinatown, Ghirardelli Square, the Wharf, through Fort Point, with a brief stop at Land's End prior to lunch. We will enjoy a hosted lunch at Nick's Restaurant in Pacifica. After lunch we will find the Seagull along the Great Highway, John Muir Drive, and Golden Gate Park prior to a stop at Twin Peaks. We conclude at the Ferry Building, drop Craig off and return to Walnut Creek. Cost is \$108 per person. We depart the Mitchell Drive park & ride at 8:30 am and return at approximately 5 pm. Cost includes round trip motor coach, tour guide, hosted lunch and driver gratuity. Deadline is June 15th.

Reminder: mail checks, made out to SIR 146 with appropriate notation in the memo line or additional note, to Milt Smith, 913 Piute Ct., Walnut Creek CA. 94598

Questions? Send me an email or call using the contact information below.

International Opportunities: I am looking at trips for 2019 based on feedback from members. I will have more information at the April meeting but don't wait. If you are interested contact me via phone or email at the number below.

- **Samba Cruise Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires** 10 night Crystal Symphony with optional pre-cruise to Iguassu Falls. To learn more about this trip come across the hall from lunch to hear more about it at 2pm after lunch on April 12th and bring your wife or significant other. The Crystal Cruise District Manager will be there to answer your questions. Departure January 24th, 2019.
- 8 Day **Land Tour Munich, Salzburg & Vienna** Departs mid-May 2019, with exact date TBD.
- 7 Night **Society Islands & Tahiti Cruise**, m/s Small Ship Paul Gauguin, August 8th, 2019
- 7 Night **Mediterranean Arts Cruise Barcelona** to Rome. Crystal Cruises Departure September 3rd, 2019

Each of these trips have their own special attractions. Be sure to let me know of your interest, we will choose the one or ones with the most interest...

Cheers,

Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897cell

miltsmith549@gmail.com



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs continue their regular practices, mostly singing beautiful Irish tunes. We are looking for a place to perform this set of songs in early April. Thankfully, one of our members, **Peter Plante** has agreed to look around for a Senior Living Facility where we can share our love for these melodious tunes.

We are always looking for new members – if you like to sing, come check us out at one of our practices – the first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. Hope to see you there!



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Trout fishing has died down. But it always dies down in April. Nevertheless, quite a few of us caught fish, just not as many as we did during the winter months. The lucky anglers included **Brion Beetz** of

Branch 146, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Bob Stein**, **Phil Scimonelli**, **George Vogt**, **Mike Corker**, **Carl Moyer**, **Alex Go**, **Rick Person**, **Jerry Hicks**, and **Rick Parker**. **Rick Parker** won the size trophy with a three pounder that he caught fishing from shore.

Out on the Delta, **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, fishing with a friend, caught a keeper sturgeon on his second outing. **Terry Miller** also caught a sturgeon, but it was over the 66 inch size limit and he released it. He also caught a few small stripers on the same trip. **Tom Kostik** also caught stripers on several outings, but his fishing in March was cut short by his annual trek to Giants spring training in Scottsdale.

Finally, many of the gang enjoyed a trip to Fisherman's Warehouse and Bass Pro Shop in Manteca, while **Stan Wong** traveled to Bakersfield to attend the BIG fishing EXPO.

All SIR members are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be on April 26th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. For further information, contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 1st. As is customary, we invite all attendees to bring a thumb drive with any pictures they would like to share with the group.

I'm investigating having a field trip where we can go to a location and take similar shots for comparison later. More on that later in the May SIR CALL.

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Next Meeting

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

Subject: TBD

When: June 1st, 2018, 9:00 am—11:00 am



Jim Whitsett, Peter Plante, and new member Stan U'Ren enjoying the Irish themed March luncheon



Moose Kelly, Jerry Benoit, Brad Hatcher, and Rem Bernard at the March 8th luncheon



Cribbage

John Pearl

Seven SIR members gathered at the home of **Barney Meade** on Wednesday, February 28th, for our monthly cribbage match.

First place went to our Co-Chair, **Ron Afdal**. Our host, **Barney Meade** took second place money, while **Jim Stedman** (again) got third place \$\$\$.

Jim Pope shared some pictures from his recent trip to India – amazing. We meet again in March on Wednesday, the 28th.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians Group on Thursday, April 19th at 2 pm. The address is 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 & singers are also encouraged to attend. 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 am glad to lead this group. **Alan Elnick** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun.



Pickleball

Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach. There is also instruction available on Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:00 pm and from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. The cost of the instruction is \$10 per player, plus the \$5 drop-in fee referenced above. A player would be allowed to play until 4:00 pm, space permitting, before or following their one hour of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (8 players per hour of instruction is available).

Call or email jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net to learn more about the game and/or information about the facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net



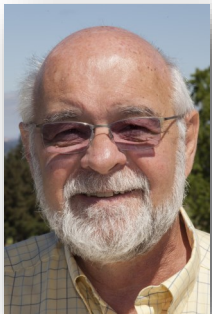
Photo by Bill Schultz

Brad Hatcher and Mike Curtis at the March 8th luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

SIR leadership at the March 8th luncheon, Big Sir **Bruce Borgman**, Area Governor **Walt Busenius**, and Little Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**



Luncheon Chairman

Rob Melrose

Tax Season is upon us. I hope everybody has all their receipts safely filed away. Get those pens ready to write some checks.

March's Luncheon

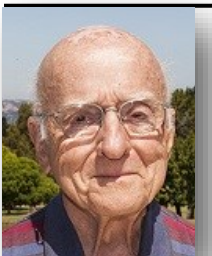
- Lunches consumed: 224.
- Members Excused: 46
- Members giving notice after deadline: 9
- Members considered "No Shows": 17, resulting in potential cost to the branch: \$442

April 12th Luncheon

- Cost: \$26
- Preferred payment method is check
- Opt Out Deadline: Apr 6th at Noon
- Email: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com
- If you need to call: (925) 979-5146

Special Requests: If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can't consume a meal, please send email to NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com before the Opt Out Deadline. If you are bringing a guest: please notify Lunch Chair with guest's name at NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com

Annual Payers: Since we have lowered the price, we really need you to let us know if you are not coming before the deadline so the kitchen isn't wasting food and we can keep the price lowered next year.



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

This is an *ADVANCE NOTICE* of the start of Bocce this year. Our first meet will be in *MAY*, not in April. We expect a good turn-out to start this year's play.

If you are new to the game, come out and see how quickly you will pick it up. The May issue of the SIR CALL will carry details of our initial meet.

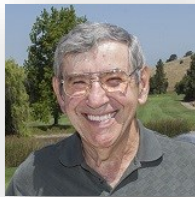
We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, May through September at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

Rain Cancel Play.

Ladies / Significant others always welcome.

Martin Lyle

(925) 687-4893



Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow**

*We meet on
the third Wednesday
of the month at*

Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group.

In our game this month we had a total of seven players, each of whom enjoyed lunch, followed by a little over two hours of card playing. It was nice to note that one of our group who had never played pinochle before last month, as well as others who last played 40+ years ago, have picked the game up quickly and were as competitive as those of us with more recent playing experience.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday April 18th. We hope to see you there.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a very nice lunch on Monday, March 12th at **Bill Cammerer's** home. He began by serving appetizers of smoked salmon, prosciutto and salami with crackers to accompany our wine. For a great winter meal he served, ham, sweet potatoes, peas and a special pineapple dressing. To end the meal, **Bill** served a slice of "sock it to me" cake which was excellent. Thank you **Bill**.

Our next event will be Monday, April 9th at **Dennis Hallett's** home.

A fool and his money are soon parted.

The rest of us wait until income tax time.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a wonderful Dining Out experience on March 5th at Wence's restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We had been there before two years ago and we were pleased to enjoy the dinner there again. This family-owned place goes out of their way to make sure that we are happy. When we held our event at Wence's in 2016, 70 diners attend and it was crowded. This time, we meant to keep it to about 50, but wound up with 59 – even then we had to turn several couples away. The restaurant also helped by arranging the tables, so we had plenty of room to socialize this time.

We were amazed that all the menu items were delivered promptly and prepared so well, even with the logistics of having choices for soup or salad, and a choice of five entrees. No doubt many of our diners will return on their own to sample some of the other items on their extensive menu. Our resident photographer **Richard Hockenbrock**, took a number of photos which you can see here.

Our next event will be in early May, likely May 7th. No decision has been made yet on the restaurant but mark your calendar. We will probably not select the restaurant until April since your host is out of town for a few weeks. Therefore, when we do decide, it may not make it into the May newsletter. We do maintain a mailing list of past diners and the first announcement is often made to our mailing list. If you want to be added to that list, please send a note to me at bgborgman@aol.com. And, as was evident this last time, if you are interested in joining us, send an email promptly when the notice goes out, and follow up later with a check to confirm.

We enjoy seeing all of you at these events – join us in May!



Ken & Elaine Richter with the backdrop of other diners



Janice & Dick Woodman



Dianne Munayer, Cindy Greco and Linda Boyan



Tony Greco & Bill Holly

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The Group UNO players met on March 9th for another fun Game Night at the comfortable home of Sir **Corrie Oranje** and his wife, **Sue**.

Seventeen players were on-board to try their luck at choosing the winning dominoes AND not picking the dreaded "Double Zero." The treats provided by our hosts were delicious and enjoyed by all.

The evening's big winner was **Carmen Schiavone**, spouse of Sir **Rob Melrose**, who went out first in six of the nine games played at her table. She averaged only 9.7 points over all her nine games, more than sufficient to take home the \$20.00 evening prize for first place. Second and third place prizes were won by the Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** team, of **Richard** (12.9) and **Sherry** (14.9). Between them, they took home \$14.00.

Group UNO continues to welcome other Sirs who may be interested in playing occasionally when a regular is not available. Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play and easy to learn. Several individuals who had never played before have come to our Game Night and after just one open hand, were right in the midst of the fun.

Please contact **Jerry** if you want to join a fun night out! Single Sirs as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome. **Jerry** will also help start a new Group if asked

(925) 930-7076
mtdana@aol.com



March MTD winners, **Sherry & Richard Hockenbrock** placed 3rd and 2nd respectively while **Carmen Schiavone** came in first with an unbelievable score



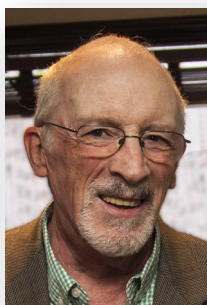
Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

February's MTD2 game night was at **Dick and Janice Woodman's**. It was a fun evening with lots of goodies to eat and very competitive Mexican Train Dominos. To compete

with the three winners you had to play with average game scores in the teens. **Ron Plachy** was even slightly below the teens with an average game score of 12.7 to take first place. **Mary Denney** took second place with a score of 15.4 and **Jim Meehan** won third place with a score of 17.2. Congratulations to all our winners.

Our next game night is March 23rd at **Chuck and Mary Denney's** home.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

The March games were held at the home of **Steve and Linda Siljestrom** on Friday the 23rd. Curiously table 1 produced the 2 winners (that's nice) and the night's highest scorer (that's not nice). **Judy Richmond** demonstrated her usual talents chugging into first place by immediately going out and repeating that four more times. **Larry Brown** displayed a keen ability to keep up with **Judy** but was hit with a 59 and 2 more scores slightly above 10. **Judy** wound up with a great 11.3 average and **Larry** followed her with an extremely close 11.6 to take second place.

As usual someone had to take the dubious honor of having the night's high score but **SS** asked us not to brag for him so we'll be discreet and only i.d. him by his initials. Table 1 had some very respectable scores but **Alicia Baily** managed to score below half of the next competitor at her table to take 3rd place overall with a 14.0. **Linda and Steve** did an impressive job as hosts providing delicious snacks and desserts which were enjoyed by all.

Why won't sharks attack tax collectors?
Professional courtesy.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

The El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos Group met on the evening of March 16th just 5 hours before the official start of St. Patrick's Day. But the group enthusiastically took up the spirit of the "Green" and came together to

celebrate the Irish Holiday with much gusto (See photo). In attendance: **Rich & Kim Pace, Dick & Christy DeVoe** (Our own leprechaun/See picture), **Dick & Leslie Firth, Ron Louis & Fran Matthews, Bill Weinberg & Yvonne Killips, Don & June Seaton, Henry & Barbara Thatcher, and Jim & Renie Pope.** We had Irish Red Ale "Smithwicks and Sons of Ireland" and wine provided by several men. Wonderful sweets and savories were provided by the women in Team 2, **Fran Matthews, Christy DeVoe, June Seaton and Leslie Firth.**

The dominos games started at three tables with three Low Score winners: **June Seaton, Rich Pace and Barbara Thatcher.** They each received six California Lottery Tickets for their low table score. El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos will meet next month on April 20th.



Photo by Jim Pope

Jim Pope, Yvonne Killips, Dick DeVoe, Barbara Thatcher, Henry Thatcher, Christy DeVoe, Kim Pace, Rich Pace, June Seaton, Fran Matthews, Dick Firth, Leslie Firth, and Don Seaton
(Missing: **Bill Weinberg**-photographer error)

I'm not going to pay taxes. When they say I'm going to prison, I'll say 'No, prisons cost taxpayers a lot of money. You keep what it would have cost to incarcerate me, and we'll call it even.' -Jimmy Kimmel



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Chuck Campbell

Jim and Anne Burk hosted MTD Cinco on a blustery March 15th. We 'taste-tested' Anne's delicious berry cobbler, at her request, and gave it a 5-star Michelin rating. **Doug Eisner** continued his lock on the winnings, this time placing 3rd, though he lost 1st place to his own wife **Patti.** Coming in 2nd, and rightly so, was our gracious hostess **Anne.**

We gather next on Thursday, April 19th at **Steve and Sally Sprague's** new home in Rossmoor.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS)

John "Moose" Kelly

Mary and I are looking for additional single Sirs, or Sirs with spouses / significant others with little or no experience to join us on Tuesday evening, April 24th from 7 pm to 10 pm. This event will be the kick-off for

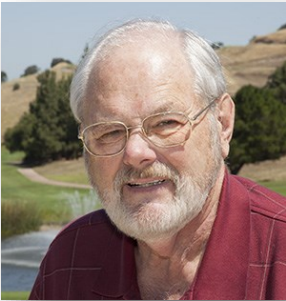
Mexican Train Dominos 6. **Jerry Kaplan,** Activities Chairman, will be joining us to explain the rules and play a few games to get the hang of it for those folks who don't have much experience.

All Mexican Train Dominos groups throughout SIR Branch 146 groups play by the same rules which are located at this link: [Mexican Train Rules & Strategies.](#) Details of time, where we are meeting will follow for those individuals who have already signed on with the group. Anyone interested in joining Mexican Train Dominos 6 for night of fun and relaxation, please contact me at (610) 517-0152 or Rollingstone911@yahoo.com.

Photo by Jim Pope



Leprechaun
Christy DeVoe
with special Irish
Glasses



Theatre
Gary Schaub

SHAKESPEARE'S
WARS OF THE ROSES

SIR Theatre Party September 6th
at CalShakes in Orinda



Once again, SIR 146 ventures to Orinda for a forceful production at the outdoor California Shakespeare Theater. This year it's *Wars of the Roses* – an adaptation of the Bard's epic Henry VI trilogy telling the story of the battles between the House of York (whose symbol is the White Rose) vs. the House of the Lancaster (symbolized by the Red Rose) for control of the English throne. The production promises to be a fitting climax for CalShakes' 27th season at the Bruns Theater off Hwy 24 in Orinda.

A limited number of reserved seats for *Wars of the Roses* is available to SIR members and guests for Thursday, September 6th. Tickets are \$53 per person. A pre-show picnic area has been reserved for SIR 146 for early arrivals beginning at 6:30 pm. Curtain time is 8:00 pm.

Reservation deadline is August 14th, or when our allotment of tickets has been committed. September seems like a far time off, but it's best to plan early for this epic event.

The *Wars of the Roses* covers a three decade civil war between the rival royal branches—from the death of Richard, Duke of York, until the eventual victory by the Lancastrians with the death of King Richard III. It promises to be a truly epic production. This compression of Shakespeare's three history plays into a single evening's production was popular a few years back with the BBC production of *The Hollow Crown*.

The performance is at the open air Bruns Theater off Hwy. 24 just west of Orinda. Free parking is available on site, with a tram to take attendees up the hill to the theater and picnic areas. Bring your own picnic, or purchase goodies at the food plaza.

Reserve seats for the September 6th performance with a check of \$53 per person payable to SIR 146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub** and the address below.

Gary F. Schaub

1400 Canyonwood Ct, #8
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
[\(925\) 938-5454](tel:9259385454)
gschaub1@gmail.com

SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Briones Regional Park



Our next hike will be at Briones Regional Park on Friday April 13th. 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 then stop for lunch or a snack at Wi-Ta-Chi group camp area. There are some moderate uphill and downhill involved, so you might find hiking poles useful. I give this a 7 sir rating since it is about 6 miles long and only a 400 ft elevation gain. **Dogs are allowed on this trail.**

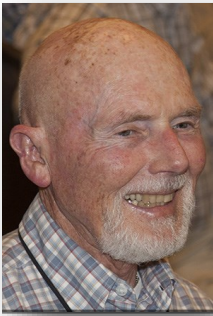
To reach the staging area from Hwy 24, take the Orinda exit and turn toward Richmond/El Sobrante at the bottom of the ramp onto Camino Pablo. Follow Camino Pablo thru Orinda for a few miles and you will reach a stoplight at Bear Creek Road on the right. Turn right onto Bear Creek Road and follow it about 4 miles to the entrance **on your right**. Turn left at the unmanned entrance kiosk into the lower parking lot. Make sure you are at East Bay Regional Park, not at East Bay Mud.

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

Spouses / Significant Others Always Welcome
Rain Cancels
Hike starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf

E-mail: rahlf@sbcglobal.net
Cell (925) 550-4967



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

Eight Sirs met last March 19th to discuss Arthur Herman's *Lenin, Wilson, and the Birth of the New World Order*.

For most of us the book filled in a lot of Russian civil war and World War I history that our earlier educations did not cover. In 1905 there was a peasant uprising that resulted in the Tsars allowing a new government body, the Duma. But the Tsars relinquished little power. This continued into WWI until lack of food and poor leadership lead to the 1917 revolution. Enter Lenin, who was exiled in Switzerland. Lenin was a leader of one of the revolutionary groups, the Bolsheviks. Remarkably, this small group was able to take control of the revolutionary government and started converting the country to communism. Lenin was single minded in his pursuit of a one party dictatorship government and was convinced that the world would follow Russia's revolution example, converting to communistic states.

Wilson finally agreed to the United States entering WWI in 1917 on the side of France and England. Wilson believed his mission was to allow all countries, the chance to self-determine their own form of government. His solution was to form a 'League of Nations' to oversee international disputes. To guide the formation of the new League of Nations, Wilson drafted the preamble and other parts the international league's charter. However, his language was judged too restrictive and not supported by key countries, including the United States. Some believe that a weak League of Nations may have allowed WWII.

Our next book will be *Carrying The Fire* by Michael Collins. We will meet April 16th, at the Greenery Restaurant, starting 8:30 am



Sir Call Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

We encourage our members to provide feedback about the SIR CALL or comments of interest to the branch.

This month, **Jeff Baily** provides some insight on his experience dining at Boundary Oak - The Restaurant.

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have discovered a perhaps hidden treasure close by that we think needs kudos. The Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course opens the eating area adjacent to the bar overlooking the 18th green for dining on the fourth Friday of every month. Alicia and I really appreciate the first-class quality of the food and service of this restaurant to begin with but let me list some of the other things that we enjoy when we choose to dine there.

The location is away from traffic congestion and easy to get to. There is ample parking. There are a number of tables that comfortably seat from four to 6 or 8 people that have an impressive view of the beautiful golf course and a splendid view of Ygnacio Valley and the ridges of Mount Diablo. Oh yes - and it's not noisy! – very important when you're our age. Too often at other places we have dined, the noise level is awful due to tables being crammed together making conversation difficult. Not so at this restaurant. Plenty of room, bar service and buffet style so you dine at your own pace. When finished dining, you may just want to linger a while. That's the way it is. Call Robert Ellison, the Food and Beverage Director at 925-934-4775 x20 for reservations or simply to get on their mailing list.

Jeff Baily

Senior Citizen Remixes

- "You're So Varicose Vein" by Carly Simon
- "How Can You Mend A Broken Hip?" by the BeeGees
- "I Can't See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash
- "These Boots Give Me Arthritis" by Nancy Sinatra
- "Once, Twice, Three Trips to the Bathroom" by the Commodores
- "Talking 'Bout My Medication" by the Who
- "You Can't Always Pee When You Want" by the Rolling Stones

An elderly woman from Brooklyn decided to prepare her will and make her final requests. She told her rabbi she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Bloomingdales.

"Bloomingdales!" the rabbi exclaimed. "Why Bloomingdales?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate 1 had a fun evening of bridge at **Rich Ahlf's** on Wednesday, March 21st. It was a special event since it turned out to be **Rich's** birthday. **Ismini McClain** made him a delicious birthday cake which we all enjoyed at the end of the evening. As for results, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** plus **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini** tied for first at 23.5 points. Third place went to **Jim Brown** and his partner **Jim Stedman** with 20 points. The rest of us finished out of the money but all had a great time.

Our next event is Wednesday, April 18th, at the **Yolland's**.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

It was a dark and stormy night when **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** hosted us on March 13th— a good time to stay inside, play some cards, and enjoy the **Hatchers'** wonderful snacks and dessert. We welcomed first-time subs **Roger** and **Cathy Peters**, and they tied for second place with **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** (55%). Our subs often do well and we are especially happy to see newcomers do so. A well-earned first place went to **Larry** and **Linda Brown** (59%). Congratulations, winners. Overbidding Dept.: three slams were bid; none made. Better luck next month.

(925) 932-3877

dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Tony & Cindy Greco hosted the March 6th event. An assortment of wines, including a bottle from our **George Rammell** collection, was served and complemented the cheeses, and crackers, and grapes along with other snacks. **Cindy Greco's** homemade Raw Apple Cake (a la mode) for dessert was well received and served with coffee.

All the regular players participated except **Jerry Benoit** who was recovering from a severe neck sprain and had his friend **Rem Barnard** fill in for him at the last minute. There were a few "pain in the neck jokes" told throughout the evening, but not worth repeating here (you're welcome).

Scores were lower than last month with 3RD PLACE going to **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** with 2630 points, beating out **Cindy & Tony Greco** by a mere 40 points (boo hoo). 2ND PLACE went to **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** with 3100 points. Their attempt to three-peat was dashed when, out of nowhere, **Dick & Christy DeVoe** bid and made a small slam (6NT making 7) during the 4th round of play, taking the lead and hanging on through the 6th and final round. **Dick & Christy DeVoe** wound up with 3340 points for their 1ST PLACE finish. When asked how they pulled off this "major upset", they said that they kept telling each other to "stay focused".

Next month's event will be held on April 3rd and hosted by **Jerry & Christine Benoit**. I will be sending out timely emails identifying the available regular players and subs. If anyone is interested in playing couples party bridge and is interested in subbing occasionally, give me a call or catch me at the next SIR luncheon.

Tony Greco

(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is still looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill its ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

Contact **Sid Landman** at (925) 673-8817 or email sidlandman@aol.com.

An elderly gentleman who had had serious hearing problems for a number of years went to the doctor to be fitted for a hearing aid that would return his hearing to 100%. The elderly gentleman went back for further tests a month later and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group's March 9th event was smartly hosted by **Jim Brown**.

- ◆ 1ST PLACE: **Bill Schultz** with 31.5 points, after 2nd Place finishes in both the 1st and 2nd halves. His 10 two's (tied for high) helped as well.
- ◆ 2ND PLACE: **Max Hinkle** with 29.5 pts., having a 3RD and 4TH Place for the two halves, coupled with 9 two's.
- ◆ 3RD PLACE: **Jim Brown** with 28.5 pts., including 17.5 pts. (the highest) in the 2nd half.
- ◆ 4TH PLACE: **Dave Pierce** with 27 pts., showcasing a blowout 19 pt. 1st half, tie for most two's, and highest total pts. with 4 different partners for the first 12 boards.
- ◇ MOST TWO'S: **Bill Schultz** and **Dave Pierce** with 10 each.
- ◇ LEAST ZEROS: **John Boyan** with 3.
- ◇ COMEBACK KID: **Jim Brown** easily won this award, increasing 6.5 pts. from 1st half (11.0) to 2nd half (17.5).
- ◇ HIGHEST PARTNER SCORE (5.5 PTS. OF 6 PTS. MAXIMUM): **Bill Schultz / Dave Pierce** (Bds. 10-12) and **Max Hinkle / Jim Brown** (Bds. 13-15).



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

Here are the results of our game on March 16th hosted by **Sid Landman**.

- ◆ 1ST PLACE: **Mark Curtis** with 30 points or 63% based on 15 pts. in the 1st and 2nd halves, and the lowest no. of zeros (3).
- ◆ 2ND PLACE: **Mike Whitaker** with 29 points or 60% with a 1st half high of 18 pts.- 3 pts. above the next best score and a 2nd half of 11. He was saved by the highest no. of two's (10) which helped him big-time.
- ◆ 3RD PLACE (Tie): **Ed Marlovits** and **Sid Landman** tied with 26.5 pts. or 55% each.
- ◇ SECOND HALF COMEBACK KID - Our host, **Sid Landman**. Apparently preparing the coffee for the 1st half hurt his concentration, so he made up for it with a 5.5 pt. jump to 16 pts. (high) in the 2nd half.

Everyone had a good time and is looking forward to next month.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Jim Brown hosted Duplicate Bridge 1 on March 19th. The leader board at the end of the morning session was closely grouped as **Jim Jackson** and **Bill Schultz** were tied for

1st place with 14.5 pt, and **Dick DeVoe** was third with 14.0 pt. The afternoon session, however, saw **Bill** and **Jim** stumble. falling completely out of the money, no doubt due to sub-par performances by their partners. On the other hand, the afternoon session was highlighted by **Doug Eisner**, who rejuvenated his game, and **Dick DeVoe**, who elevated his game above all expectations, tying for 1st place with 27.0 pt. **Dave Steinberg** came from well back in the pack to capture 3rd place with 26.5 pt.

Roger Peters will host our April 16th game.



Photo by Bill Schultz

David Steinberg, Doug Eisner and Dick DeVoe with their winnings.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played three tables of party bridge at the home of **Dick DeVoe** on March 5th. First place went to **Jim Brown** with 5470 points, second to **Jim Stedman** with 5090 and third to **Mike Whitaker** with 4230. Our next game will be on April 2nd at the home of **Rich Ahlf**.

To be old and wise, you must first be young and stupid.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Frank McNamee** on Wednesday, March 14th. We welcomed a new participant **Ray Bland**. As always, a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be at the home **Dan O'Sullivan** on April 11th.



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.*



Poker Group 4

Frank Lucas

Frank begins this month as chair of *Poker Group 4*. Stay tuned for more information in next month's *SIR CALL*.



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.*



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Poker Group 6 met on the first day of March at the home of **Howard Charlop**. **Howard** graciously provided us with snacks and beverages. We were missing two regulars but our newest member **Rem Barnard** joined us for the first time. As usual, play was spirited. One of the interesting hands saw a straight flush bested by five of a kind (yes, we do play wild card games)! **Rem** proved to be a skilled player in his first outing as he went home with the largest sum when we totaled up the winners and losers at the end of the game



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Bill Hartman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 4th 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. Couples are an integral part of this group as we have two dinners each year with our partners which are scheduled for March and September.



Book Corner

Peter Plante

A big thank you to all who took home books at the March luncheon. We will be back in May for Ladies Day. There are great cook books and novels by Maeve Binchi and Nora Roberts, so spread the word.

Q: How do you know your old enough to retire?

A: Instead of lying about your age you start bragging about it!

An elderly couple go to church one Sunday. Halfway through the service, the wife leans over and whispers in her husband's ear, "I've just let out a silent fart. What do you think I should do?"

The husband replies, "Put a new battery in your hearing aid."



GOLF Ed Marlovits

We finally have had a month with two rain days! Four intrepid, or perhaps stubborn, golfers played on the first rainout day. The following week, twenty-four of us unpacked their rain gear, but only thirteen finished as the rain persisted.

While the rain is good for the golf course, it comes just ahead of the semiannual green renovation on April 3rd so we won't have sufficient qualifying rounds in March and we will lose a possible make-up day. Qualifying play will therefore be extended into April. Semifinal matches will be on April 17th and the finals will be the following week.

The past few weeks the GEM has had notices about the Discovery Bay invitational sponsored by Branch 161. Signups were due by the end of March. Also upcoming are the Springtime in Napa tournament at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines and the Reno Tournament in late June. These events are both worthwhile and include ladies, but our branch does not actively promote them. For those interested in State SIR golf events, this is a reminder that you can check them out at <http://www.golf.sirinc2.org>.



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. Exception is are the second 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

Golf



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 week 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 Bill Schultz

Jim Browning, Paul Masta, Ray Spears and John Elstead on a cold and rainy tee #1

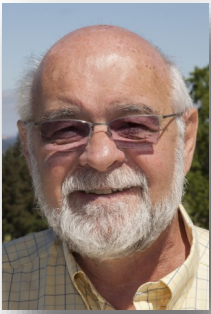
Q: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

A: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Pierre Mebane, Joe Barry, Corrie Oranje, and Ken Kratz on March 6th



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Our February Wine Tasting event was held at the home of **Richard and Sherry Hockenbrock**. We were lucky to have good weather as there were a total of 35 tasters at this event making it one of the larger events in recent history. I guess it was the Napa white wine that brought everyone in or it could have been the red wine from Sonoma. Either way, it was a huge success.

We had a couple of new members join us, in fact, **Bill and Lynette Holly** brought prospective new member, **Brian McCarthy** and his wife **Mary**. **Richard and Sherry Hockenbrock** were presented with a bottle of Nichelini Muscadelle for hosting. Instead of a drawing for wine, we tried something new. We had a vote for the best white and best red wine at the event. The white wine winner was **Rob and Carmen** who brought a 2015 King's Pass Chardonnay and the red wine winner was **Joe and Barbara Stengel** who brought a 2014 St. Francis Old Vine Zinfandel.

The contest needs some refining as both winners were labeled #1 and being first out may have skewed the results. We are working on refinements for the April 25th tasting. Speaking of April, I am happy to announce that our April event will be at the home of **Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon**. If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to **Rob Melrose**.

We are still looking for venues for July and October. As **Sherry Hockenbrock** said, we really try to make hosting as easy as possible.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Richard and Sherry Hockenbrock seem to be enjoying the wine they received for hosting



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joe Stengel appears to be happy with the red wine he won for bringing the 'Best Of' red wine



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mary Schmidt, Moose Kelly, Pete Bishop and Richard Hanford discussing the quality of the wines

I'm having fruit salad for dinner.

Well, it's mostly grapes.

Actually, it's all grapes.

Fermented Grapes.

Ok, I'm having wine for dinner.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Al Munayer and Bob Lucido were admiring the pond in the backyard



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Lynette Holly, Joanne Pierce, Sandy & Dan Schlatter and Dave Kingsbury enjoying the wine tasting



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Brian & Mary McCarthy, Sandy Wagner & Rich Hanford have **Brad Hatcher** wondering about the uncovered bottle



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Around the warm firepit, **Pete Bishop, Sherry Hockenbrock, Bill Holly, Mary Schmidt and Moose Kelly**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

After the covers are removed, **Bruce Borgman, Rich Hanford and Ross Abbott** examine the wines while **Joe Stengel** looks on



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

As the wine tasting comes to an end, everyone wants to examine the bottles to make note of their personal favorite

If you have to choose between drinking wine everyday or being skinny, which would you choose?

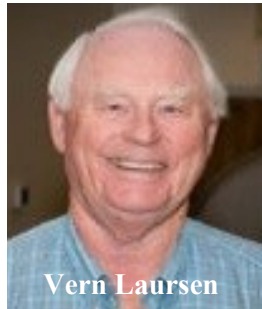
Red or White?

I was sat with my wife while she sipped on her glass of wine, when she said, "I love you so much, you know. I don't know how I could ever live without you."

I said, "Is that you or the wine talking?"
She said, "It's me talking to the wine."

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



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

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 25th, at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

We have a speaker tentatively lined up, but won't have a commitment until after April 1st. Stay tuned. \$UMS attendees will be notified by email.

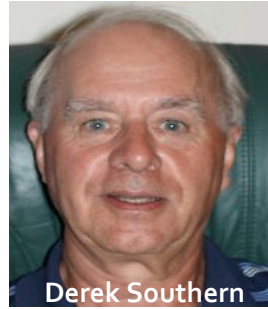
The Legends opens at 7 am. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

\$UMS Chairman **Tom Henry** tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** davesutn@comcast.net

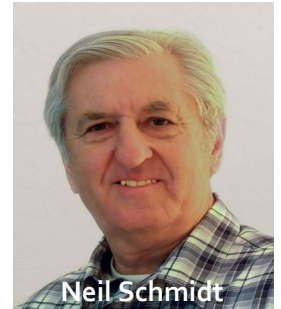
Q: Why do Retirees smile all the time?

A: Because they can't hear a word you're saying!

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 19th, 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.

The topic for the April CAT meeting will be "Computer & Technology Information 'Potpourri'". How do you keep abreast of advances in technology? Our CAT meetings provide some information about new and interesting technology but there are numerous other sources available. The April CAT meeting will look at some of these supplemental sources and members will also be encouraged to contribute their favorite sources as well (Hint: One great source is on our new CAT web site located at <http://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>.) In addition, some articles, such as "What Google and Facebook Knows About You" and "Highest Rated and Free Antivirus Software" will be discussed. Come to the meeting to learn and contribute.

We look forward to seeing you at 9:15 am, Thursday, April 19th, 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 free attendance day. All SIR members and their guests (spouses included) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman

Q: When is a retiree's bedtime?

A: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 1	2 9:00 AM Party Bridge 10:00 AM Golf 11:00 AM Table Pool 1 12:00 PM San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Misc User Group (MUG)	3 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	4 9:00 AM Bowling 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:30 PM Song Strs 1st	5 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	6 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 9:30 AM Walkers	7
8	9 11:00 AM Table Pool 1 12:00 PM Cooking II	10 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	11 9:00 AM Bowling 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Poker Group #6 4:15 PM Poker #5	12 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM BEC Meeting Walkers 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM SIR LUNCHEON Hiring Moderate 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 1 (UNO) 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM CCMV Production - "The West Side Story"	13 9:30 AM Walkers 9:30 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 9:30 AM Walkers	14
15	16 9:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1 11:00 AM Table Pool 1	17 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church	18 9:00 AM Bowling 11:00 AM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Proche Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Song Strs 2nd 3:00 PM Bridge - Couples	19 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Computers And Technology (CAT) Walkers 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 5 (Cros)	20 9:00 AM Walkers 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 11:00 AM SIR Day at the Races Golden Gate Fields 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos - El Quattro	21
22	23 11:00 AM Table Pool 1 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Mexican Train Group Six Kick-off Meeting	24 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Six Kick-off Meeting	25 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sun's in Retirement 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cabbage 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting	26 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM Fishing 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	27 9:30 AM Walkers 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominos Dos 8:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominos Group 3 (Tres)	28
29	30 11:00 AM Table Pool 1	May 1 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Prokeball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	2 9:00 AM Bowling 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 1:30 PM Song Strs 1st	3 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	4 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 9:30 AM Walkers	5

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