



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

March–April 2024



### Big Sir's Corner John Kluessener

We had another excellent month in our efforts to recruit new members as this month we added 4 new members and had 6 guests at the luncheon who are considering joining our group. That

brings our totals so far this year to 17 new members and 19 guests.

We did have 4 or 5, I believe, who joined before they came to a lunch. They were sold on the activities we have, so in reality we have had about 23 or 24 "guests" and so far 17 of them have signed up and 6 are thinking about it. Our success is mainly due to individuals having conversations with people they know as neighbors or acquaintances from church or other organizations, and then encouraging them to come to a meeting or activity to see for themselves what our group does.

I encourage each one of you to think of a friend or to mention SIR to someone you meet, telling them about the benefits you see in belonging to an organization such as ours. Three or four of the guests and new members that I met today expressed an interest in our bocce, cycling and hiking groups so these activity leaders need to get in touch with them and welcome them to an activity.

I want to thank Glenn Breslin, Randy Graham, Don

Shaw, Jim Pope and Henry Thatcher and their two groups for their efforts to help propel this program along.

We are still **struggling with our luncheon RSVP process** with a few who for whatever reason cannot make the luncheon after reserving a meal and some who apparently remembered at the last minute and became "walk-ins" with the hope of getting a meal and a seat. However today we had to squeeze 11 in at one or two tables to accommodate the attendees. This usually results in a search at the last minute for a seat which in my experience leaves the "looker" feeling less than welcomed by their fellow SIR members. So by all means sign up for the lunches but please check your schedule to make sure there is not something planned for that day that you had forgotten so you do not have to cancel. If you have RSVP'd and or something comes up that you can't make it, at least call or text or email the lunch bunch so they have a heads up.

Lastly those of us who are **Annual Payers (AP) need to also follow the rules**. Looking at the "no shows" for the last 6 months or so we have 41 no shows and 19 of them are annual payers. If you RSVP and do not show we pay for the meal whether you are an AP or not. We do not need those extra costs. Our Little Sir will be calling you to see why you missed meal. Please help us keep the costs and the workload down!

John Kluesener  
Big Sir, Branch 146



**AY, CARAMBA  
VAYAN A MIRAR LA  
PAGINA OCHO!**

**Luncheon**  
**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Boundary Oak 11:30**  
**Make a new Friend for Life!**  
A reservation is required!  
To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3. (click this box)

**Bonus Feature: "SIR Laws to Live By"**



## Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, I hope you enjoyed our March speaker from John Muir Health. Here is a recap of who we have lined up for the next few months. In April we are going to try something different.

We have had several requests to have a lunch with no speaker to allow more time for socialization at the tables. So we are going to give it a try in April. I will be interested in your feedback on how this goes. For our Ladies Day luncheon in May we have an author, Michael J. Barrington, Ph.D. who will be talking to us about his books. Here is his website: [www.mbwriter.net](http://www.mbwriter.net). In June we have Ted Clement, Executive Director, Save Mount Diablo. In July we have Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings two retired SFPD Homicide Inspectors. I hope to see you all in April. .

**Bob Ford**  
Little Sir, Branch 146

willing to assist the branch with administrative duties. Cleo is sponsored by **Jim Rowland**.

**Scott Graham** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife Linda. He was a finance manager for Safeway. His main interest is 18-hole golf. **Don Shaw** is his sponsor,

Two members decided to rejoin our branch thanks to **Dick DeVoe's** outreaching efforts with the bridge groups. They are **Sid Landman** and **Ray Bland**.

Six memberships were cancelled due to unresponsiveness after many efforts to contact them. They are **Don Dotson, Frank Barton, James Gracey, Doug Harris, Carl Pagter** and **Michael Sulyma**. These members are always welcome to return.

Sadly, we lost **Frank O'Loughlin** in February. He passed away peacefully at home.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR.

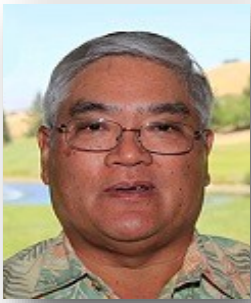
The 2024 membership count is 252.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email ([gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**  
925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Membership George Mon

Four new members were approved for membership in March.

**Jeffrey Slusarz** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Elizabeth**. He was the Marine Contingency for the U.S Coast Guard. He

heard about Sir through the Diablo Hills Golf Course. Jeff is sponsored by **Ed Brand**.

**James "Jim" Crites** and his wife **Hyun** also live in Walnut Creek. **Jim** was a Chief Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. He is interested in Ham Radio operations. His sponsor is **Randy Graham**.

**Cleo Bolen** and his wife **Ann** live in Clayton. He was a Plant Manager for Dow, DuPont and BioRad. He is

## SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events and luncheons while making friends for life.



## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

At our last luncheon we got some good reviews for having Corned Beef and Cabbage for St. Patrick's Day as well as having Apple Pie for Pi Day. We are looking at adding some lighter fare in the summer with luncheon sized meat or fish salads. We will replace either the meat entree or the fish entree with a fresh luncheon sized salad during the summer months.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. The link on the menu should bring up an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) and send us your menu choice (meat, fish, or vegetarian)..

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon

**Date:** Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Where:** Boundary Oak

**Cost:** \$36 per person

**Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

**If you do not reserve by Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.**

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

**Check-In:** 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am.

**Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

### Other matters:

**If you don't have e-mail,** you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

**Change of Plans?** If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to:

**Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> by Noon**

and you will not be charged.

Send email to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

### Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com).

### Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

## **SIR 146 April Luncheon**

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Backyard Cole Slaw

Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots, Creamy Slaw Dressing

### Entrées

#### Tailgate BBQ Ribs

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Corn Bread  
Seasonal Vegetable, Tangy BBQ Sauce

—or—

#### Lemon Garlic Cod

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese, Corn  
Bread, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

#### Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta

in a Creamy Tomato Vodka Sauce

### Dessert

Banana Cream Pie

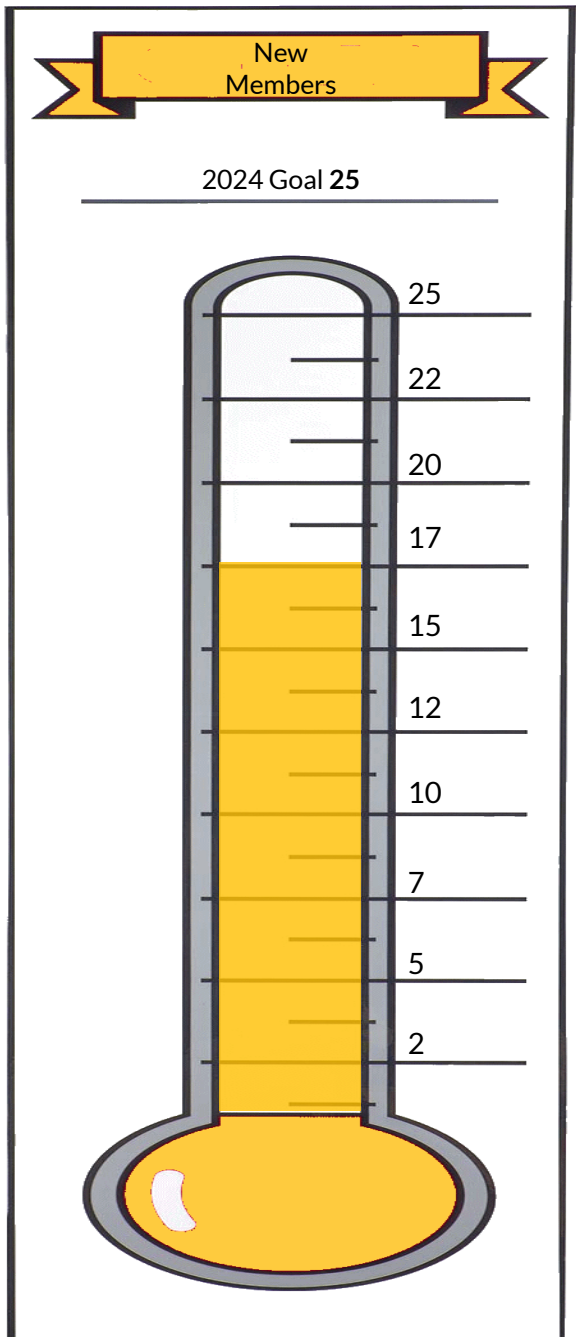
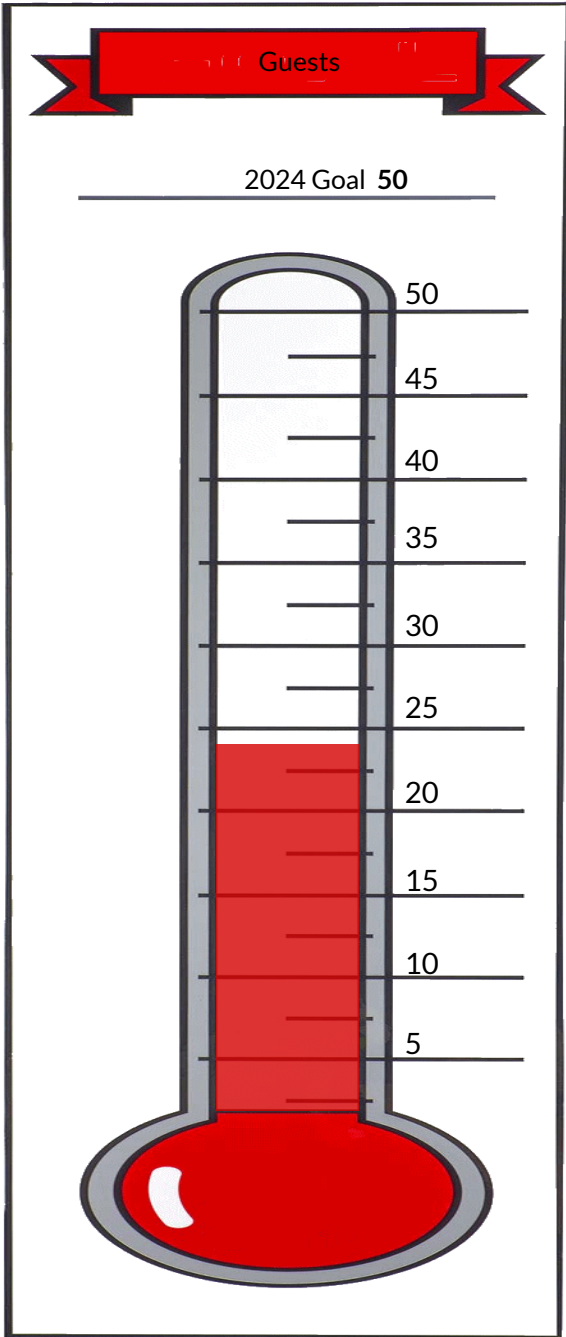
### **Lunch Reservation required!**

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

# Membership starts with

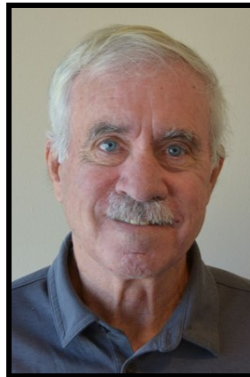


You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant



# YIPPEE!

New Members at the Meetings!



5 more years and you will be here!

## APRIL MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Clint Collier	2019	5
Bob Finlayson	2019	5
Larry Kaye	2019	5
Bruce Kimmis	2019	5
Ron Polivka	2019	5
Don Arington	2018	6
Brian McCarthy	2018	6
Byron Nelson	2018	6
Steve Lane	2016	8
Joe Starkey	2016	8
Larry Brown	2015	9
John Foster	2015	9
Rich Lyon	2015	9
Jim Barry	2013	11
Mike Conners	2013	11
Roy Hodgkinson	2013	11
John Nelson	2013	11
Frank Lucas	2011	13
Ben Gleason	2010	14
Bill Hoban	2008	16
Steve Sprague	2008	16
Joe Fuchs	2007	17
Gene Schulting	2007	17
Glen Renk	2006	18
Bob Spellman	2001	23
Syd Whalen	2001	23
Jim Brown	1990	34



## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

As you know, if you attended the March Luncheon, Bob Wilkenfeld won our little contest last month by identifying the reference to the Spring Equinox (not just spring) in the

last issue. To get to the right answer one had to first realize that another (more scientific) name for the event is the Vernal Equinox. Once you realized that, there were two ways to win: the reference in the Couples Dining Out event to this month's visit to the Three Brothers from China, or in the Sushi No Tomodachi group which was meeting 2 days after the Equinox!

Although many of you were not aware of this, last month was a bit too exciting around the Collier household. Something hit the fan at the start of the month when my wife, Bev, tested positive for Covid and, although I never did, we both went into self imposed quarantine. Speedy reaction got her onto Paxlovid and by the end of the week, all indications of that bug had disappeared. But then it was my turn. Not Covid, I came down with a severe staph infection in my arm, just as we were starting to put the SIR Call together for the last issue, that put me in the hospital and eventually led to surgery.

I want to especially thank Bob West our assistant editor! He stepped up and picked up the pieces lying around to put together the final edition. I also want to thank the many friends I have in the activities I share with them for their kind thoughts. They were the main group that knew of my situation since we had to hustle around and cancel our participation in too many activities. The good news? The *S. aureus* seems to be gone thanks to a long course of strong antibiotics and the incision on the arm is slowly closing up as intended.

Once again... proof, if you need it, of the SIR Mission, "Making Friends for Life".

A shout out to SIR member Bart who sent me a list of "laws" that has inspired me to make this issue the official "SIR Laws to Live By" issue. Look for them sprinkled around on various pages. Hope you enjoy them as much as I did. The first one can be found at the end of this article... to give you a hint of what to look for.

Last submission date for the next issue will be April 19<sup>th</sup>. And, don't forget, if you have something you

would like to say, send it in to [br146SIRC-all@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRC-all@gmail.com), putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next issue.

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIRCall  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRC-call@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRC-call@gmail.com)

**SIR Law of Logical Argument**  
Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about

### **SIR Call Newsletter Group**

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

### **2024 Officers and Directors**

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary .....	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary .....	John Rexroat
Treasurer .....	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer .....	Tom Amann
Director 3rd Term .....	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term .....	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term .....	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term .....	John Alexander
Director 4th Term .....	George Mon
Director 1st Term .....	Don Rhoads

#### **RAMP-Chair Members**

Recruitment .....	Larry Kaye
Activities .....	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations .....	Edward Brands
Publicity .....	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



## Ladies Day Luncheon

### Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 9th, 2024. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations with the below form must be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by May 1, 2024. Please use the reservation form provided in this SIR Call and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39.00 per person.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use the reservation form. The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 May Luncheon

### Ladies Day

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Sesame Ginger Salad**  
 Mesculin Greens, Mandarin Oranges, Fried Wontons, Sesame Dressing

**Entrées**

**Teriyaki Chicken**  
 Marinated and Grilled Chicken Breast, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Seasonal Vegetable, Teriyaki Sauce.  
 —or—

**Salmon Teriyaki**  
 Marinated and Roasted Salmon Filet, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Seasonal Vegetable, Teriyaki Sauce  
 —or—

**Vegetable Stir Fry**  
 Stir Fried Season Vegetables, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Teriyaki Sauce

**Dessert**  
 Lemon Coconut Cake



## SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$39 ea. amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

**Steve Ybarra**  
 142 Leonard Dr  
 Concord, CA 4518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Teriyaki Chicken	Salmon Teriyaki	Vegetable Stir Fry	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
 Reservations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*Ay! Fiesta Time!*

*Save the date for the  
First Annual SIR Branch 146  
Picnic*



**WEDNESDAY JUNE 5TH 2024  
BORGES RANCH HANNA GROVE PICNIC AREA  
1035 CASTLE ROCK ROAD, WALNUT CREEK**



**MEXICAN FOOD BUFFET  
CATERED BY: TORTILLERIA EL MOLINO**



**WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS  
BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE!**




**MAKE SURE...  
YOU HAVE THE MAY LADIES DAY  
LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**...AND YOUR SPOUSE, SIGNIFICANT  
OTHER HAS IT TOO!**


**DETAILS ARE ON PAGE 9.  
'START MAKING YOUR PLANS  
NOW!**

**SIR Doctor's Law**

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick




**Sunshine**  
Brian McCarthy



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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at [brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Bill Hartman



Lee Clark	William Hartman	Ken Studer
Bill Dastic	Brad Hatcher	Donald Shaw
Bob Finlayson	Paul Masta	Howard Goldsmith
Larry Gray	Jim Mcmanus	Jim Crites
Malcolm Harrison	Bob Soldano	



# SIR Meeting

Pictures by  
Henry Thatcher



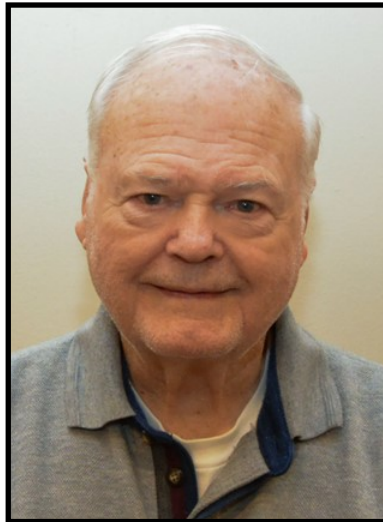
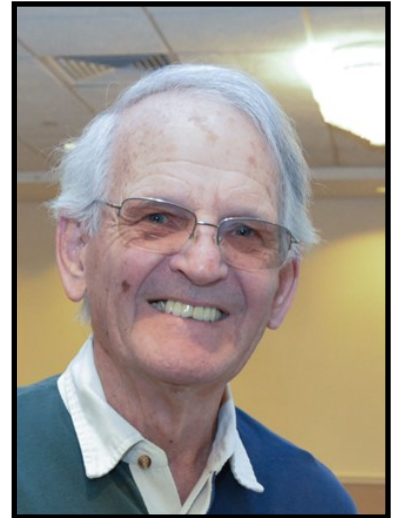
Your BEC hard at work!

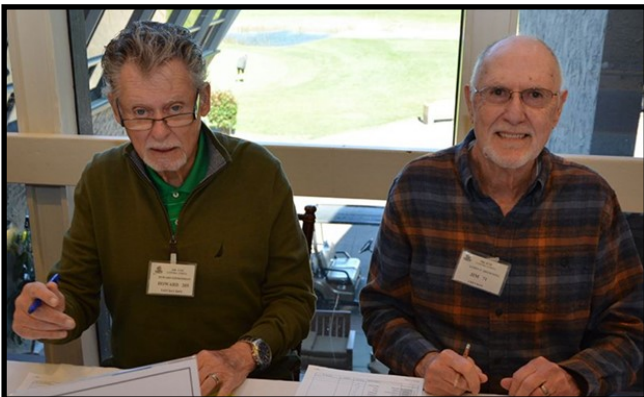
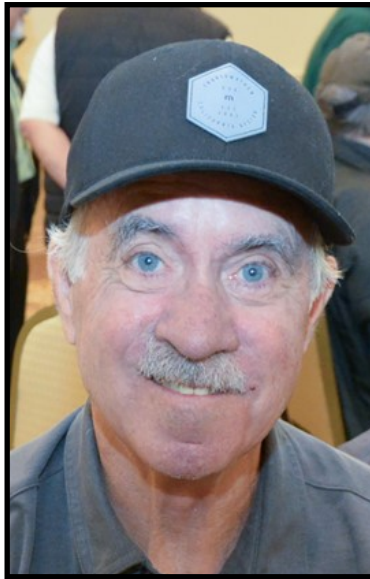
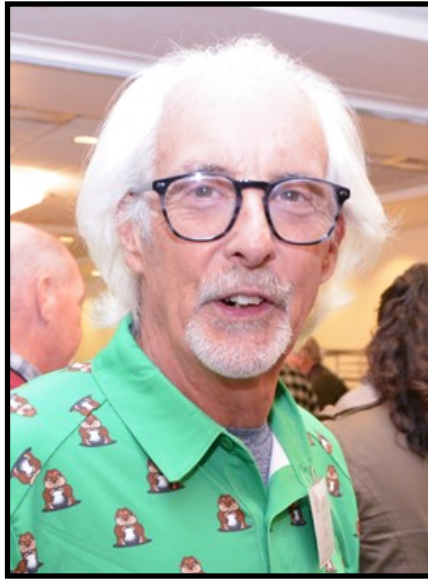


Steve Oki, March Birthday winner











Our Speaker: Jamie Elmasu  
John Muir Health



# NOTES

## from Our Members



### The greeters and sign-in crew is looking for volunteers!

We would be happy to have new volunteers join us and learn the few necessary things that make this job so much fun.

Not only do the sign in desk fellows do an important job, but they also get to say hi and talk a bit with the incoming lunch participants. We try to get most of the volunteers working the sign in table into the lunch table area before the luncheon begins, but there has to be a few of us remaining at the desk to greet late comers. This sometimes means we get to the lunch tables around 11:45am, but with enough time to get seated at the volunteers table for lunch.

Tom Amann [tamann1@yahoo.com](mailto:tamann1@yahoo.com)



A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the

dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot.

The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried, "\$150 just to tell me my duck is dead!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."

---

Today I was in a shoe store that sells only shoes, nothing else.

A young girl with a tattoo and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today, I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator."

She didn't quite know how to respond, had that deer in the headlights look.

---



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Hi to all SIR Members,
Recruiting new members is important to assure SIR146 continuity. In the recent SIRCalls, our Big SIR has written:
One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership.
Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting.
A number of the SIR groups in the state have closed down for lack of sufficient membership.
Attrition exceeds recruiting.

We agreed to set a target of at least 25 new members for the year and to call on you.

SIR146 is a wonderful organization, offering many activities and social opportunities for all of us. It enriches us in our own individual ways.

Collectively, let's take on this recruiting challenge.

- Activity Chairs, whenever possible, please open up your activities to guests.
Please ask your existing activity members to invite their friends to the activity.
Invitees may become SIR Members
SIR146 members, please invite your friends to activities that they may enjoy.
Let's share our SIR146 abundance with our friends and acquaintances.

SIR146 has shown initial strides to grow our membership. Together, we can do better I look forward to seeing you again in our shared activities!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

- Birding
Bocce Ball
Book Corner
Book Group
Bridge:
Couples Duplicate 1
Couples Duplicate 2
Couples Party
Men's Duplicate 1
Men's Duplicate 2
Men's Duplicate 3
Men's Party
Chess
Cooking:
Cooking II
Lunch & Wine
Cribbage
Cycling
Dining Out
Couples Dining Out
Explore and Eat
Sushi no Tomodachi
Dixieland Musician
Fishing
Golf-9 Hole
Golf-18 Hole
Guitar
Hearts
Hiking
Mexican Train Dominoes
Uno
Dos
Tres
Cuatro
Cinco
Seis
Siete
Ocho
Nueve
Photography
Pinochle
Poker:
Group 3
Group 4
Group 6
Song SIRs
Table Pool
Theater
Travel
Wine Tasting



# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Apr 1	2	3	4	5
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
8	9	10	11	12
10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm—7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am—10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am—1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am—1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's 12:30pm—2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm—10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm—4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 2:30pm—5:00pm Wine Tasting	12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
29	30	May 1	2	3
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



## Theater Glenn Breslin



*If you are interested in Cabaret, then please let me know at [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) ASAP  
A few tickets are still available in the SIR146 ticket block.*

14 people attended Mystic Pizza on 2/24. 10 of us continued on for a light dinner at La Scala Café. We all enjoyed the show and sharing the experience with other SIRs.

The next SIR146 theater activity will be the **Cabaret** musical show at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek (details below). Closer to showtime, I will also schedule an optional light dinner venue for after the show. 22 people have already sent in their check.

I look forward to sharing this future Theater experience with you !!

### **Cabaret**

- Date: Sat, June 22, 2024
- Time: 2:30pm
- Ticket price is **\$35**

Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW2 Germany.

### **Instructions**

As soon as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.

Some seats are much better than others.

If interested, please make out your check to SIR146 and send to me – at Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549.

Your Guests are also welcome to attend.

Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.

The Leshar Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced (especially when compared with SF Theater prices).

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments.

I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you!

Glenn Breslin  
SIR146 Theater Chair  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)

### **Sir Law of Physical Surfaces**

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug



## Travel Glenn Breslin



Please find these upcoming SIR trips – open to all SIRs and their guests.

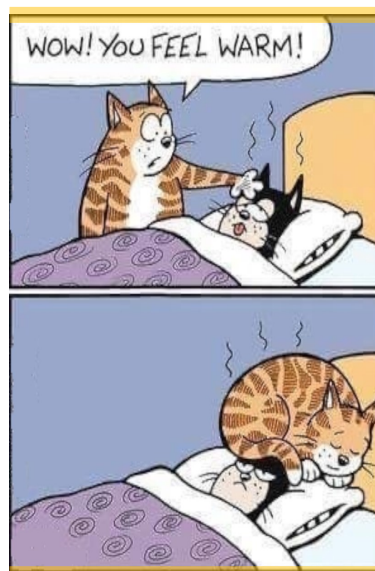
### SIR146 Trips

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
2	Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7995	Airfare and 15-day guided trip. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes Tips.	<b>10 people going on this trip. Last minute discounts may be available. Join us !</b> SIR146 - Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 <a href="mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com">glennbreslin@gmail.com</a>
3	Memorials of WW II	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10-day trip, highlighting WW II events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.	SIR46 – Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 <a href="mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com">glennbreslin@gmail.com</a>



# ...on the next page!

**SIR Second Law of Gravity**  
Any pill dropped on the floor will roll under the refrigerator. The distance being inversely proportional to the size of the pill.



## Other SIR Group's Trips

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
1	Alaskan Cruise	5/26/24 to 6/6/24	\$2590 to \$3322	Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada.	Contact John Cardoza 209.483.7722 <a href="mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com">johncardoza@hotmail.com</a>
2	Venice & Croatia Cruise	9/30/24 to 10/12/24	\$6,645 to \$7,145	Croatian Islands, Venice, Collie Wine Region, Kornati National Park	Bill Britton, 925.200.1062, Branch 101 <a href="mailto:bill.britton@comcast.net">bill.britton@comcast.net</a>
3	Fall Mexican Riviera-Cruise	10/15/24 to 10/26/24	\$844 to \$1424	Round Trip San Francisco Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlán, Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo.	Katherine Gervais Branch 98. 916.337.1623 <a href="mailto:Kathig@shipsandtrips.com">Kathig@shipsandtrips.com</a>
4	Prague to Budapest Cruise	11/6/24 to 11/20/24	\$3195 to \$3995. Additional \$1000 discount for early bookers.	Danube River Cruise <a href="#">Click HERE for trip info</a> Includes Multiple stays at all these destinations: Budapest-Hungary, Bratislava-Czech Republic and Vienna-Austria, and others. Excursions are included.	State SIR Travel Chair: Milt Smith <a href="mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com">miltsmith549@gmail.com</a> 925.285.2897
5	Panama Canal Cruise	1/20/25 to 2/5/25	\$4,185 - \$6,295	San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale. Includes: Mexico, South America and Panama Canal	John Cardoza Branch 143 209-483-7722 <a href="mailto:johncardoza@hotmail.com">johncardoza@hotmail.com</a>
6	Northern Lights Cruise	9/27/25 to 10/26/25	\$3797 - \$8264	London to Ft. Lauderdale Northern Lights and Norway France and Spain.	Katherine Gervais Branch 98. 916.337.1623 <a href="mailto:Kathig@shipsandtrips.com">Kathig@shipsandtrips.com</a>

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)



**New Tesla Owner Gets First PG&E Bill**

Oil on canvas by Vincent Van No-Go, 2024

Are you being told to lower you AC usage on hot days to prevent overwhelming the existing electric grid while simultaneously being told to trade in our gas cars for electric vehicles?



## Hiking Mark Curtis

It seems to me as though we have had a very wet “rainy season” in CC County. The weather experts claim that we’ve only had about 10 inches of rain to date. Maybe that’s what the experts qualify as normal. All I know is that we have had to modify or cancel hiking plans due to rain and/or muddy trails. I suspect that the golfing activities have experienced a similar situation.

Well, we are close to having the most significant rain behind us and can look forward to sunny weather and dry trails for most of the balance of 2024. We should also be able to look forward to fabulous wild flower displays from now through at least June.

The most recent hike was in Diablo Foothills and the east end of Shell Ridge. We had a total of 10 hikers including 2 relatively new members, **Frank Terzuolli** and **Jim Rowland**. **Jim** (a biologist by education) enjoys photography and works with a fabulous Sony camera. I credit him with most of the recent photography.

About 90% of the hikes, we plan are in East Bay Regional Parks with the rest in Mount Diablo State Park and Walnut Creek Open Space.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I am always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

**Mark Curtis**

925.360.3449 [Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)



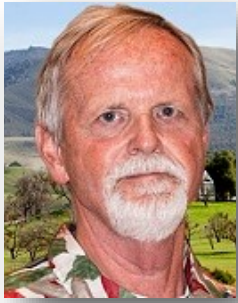
Wood Duck on walk from Clayton Library to Starbucks, Photo by Mark Curtis

3/17 Shell Ridge “Finger” Hike: (L to R): Gene Schulting, Ray Martz, Roger Meyer, Frank Terzuolli, Mike Rothman, Mark, Bob Wilkenfeld, Dave Steinberg, Dick Devoe





Mockingbird - photo taken on Lime Ridge by Mark Curtis.



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Bob Ford

The course is finally drying out and everything is very green. Come take advantage of this beautiful spring weather before it gets too hot. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at

the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

**Bob Ford**

[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)

## Photography Group

**John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher**

The theme for this month's meeting is bird photography. The photography members are joining **Ted Robertson** and his birding group on Wednesday, March 20th at Heather Farms at 8:30am. We will be meeting by the lake area. Everyone is invited to join the two groups for a fun event with identification of the birds that we photograph. Please contact the **Moose** if you need further information for this event.

As a result of the shoot, we will display our photos at our upcoming meeting which will be held at the Thurman Casey Library in Walnut Creek on Friday, March 22nd at 9am. **Clint Collier** will be providing donuts for the gang. As of this writing, we don't have anyone stepping up to purchase a caddie of coffee. If someone can do this, that would be SPECTACULAR!! Don't forget to bring your own coffee mug and condiments. We are requesting for everyone to put two to three dollars in the kitty to help offset the cost for those purchasing these two items.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

**John (Moose) Kelly**

610.517.0152 [rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)

### SIR Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know **INCREASES** dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with



## Bocce

### John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players. Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around

10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 13.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

**John Kendrick**

925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)



## Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30 AM, a group of eight SIR birders including a few photographers from the SIR Photography group met at Heather Farms Park to look for birds in the main pond and the adjacent woodlands. We ended up spotting 28 species of birds. Highlights of the trip included a pair of Green Herons that flew back and forth across the pond, including one that landed on the lawn about 60 feet from where we were meeting. Other highlights included 4 Black-crowned Night Herons perched on the island, a Great blue Heron, a female Belted Kingfisher, and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks that flew around the parking lot and perched in a nearby tree as we were entering our cars to go home. Most of the ducks that make the pond their home in the winter had left a few days earlier to fly north to find love and fine dining in northern Canada and Alaska.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:00 AM on April 17<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell Canyon to catch the birds as they migrate north to their spring nesting locations. Mitchell Canyon is on the north slope of Mount Diablo and is famous for being the best migrant bird trap in the county. I regularly see over 50 species on this trip. This will be up to a 6-hour trip with a lunch break, but participants have the option to depart earlier to head back to their vehicles. If interested, please email Ted

Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Ted Roberson  
925.899.1872 [tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



Green Heron on the lawn between the pond and the parking lot.  
(Photo by Jim Rowland)



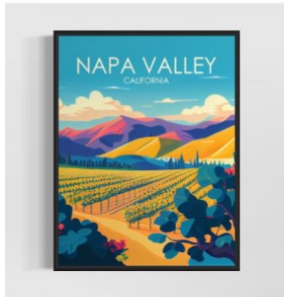
A Turkey Vultures perched in a small tree.  
(Photo by [Jim Rowland](#))



# State SIR Golf Presents

In Concert with Branches 35 & 149

## A 2 Day Golf Event



### 2024 Spring Fling in Napa

**Wednesday, April 24** at Chardonney Golf Club, a Four Man, 2-Best Ball Tournament with consecutive tee times.  
**Thursday, April 25** at Eagle Vines Vineyard & Golf Club, a Four Man Scramble with a Shotgun Start.

Ladies Welcome. Cash Prizes will be awarded for top teams and Closest-to-Pin. Entries can be for one or both days. Further details and Entry Forms will be posted later on SIR State Golf Website at <https://www.sirgolf.org>. For more information contact **Ben Gikis** (408) 802-0794, [gikisben@yahoo.com](mailto:gikisben@yahoo.com).

Reserve the Dates Today!



### GOLF Ed Marlovits

**Tuesday Golf** Eighteen-hole golf is open to all branch members. We play each week at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. Most weeks we compete in flighted stroke play competitions. Once a month, we hold a special tournament which may be individual or team competition using a format other than stroke play. In addition our weekly golf at Boundary, we arrange monthly events at other area golf courses during the months of April through October. Our golfers are eligible to participate in area and State SIR golf events.

"The cost of membership is \$106 per year which confers NCGA membership, member's lunches following certain selected golf events, a prize fund and our administrative costs.

SIR State Golf arranges a number of events each year. These are described at the State Golf website <https://www.sirgolf.org>. The next event is the annual Spring

### 2024 SPRING FLING IN NAPA

EAGLE VINES & CHARDONNAY GOLF COURSES

Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup> (Chardonnay) & Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> (Eagle Vines)

- Men Day 1 4-man team of your choice – 2 BEST BALL (net) – 8:00am Sequential Tee Times
  - Men Day 2 4-person team SCRAMBLE– 9:00am Shotgun Start
  - Ladies Day 1 4-person team of your choice – 2 BEST BALL (net) – 8:30am Sequential Tee Times
  - Ladies Day 2 4-person team, SCRAMBLE, computer selected – 9am Shotgun Start
- Ladies may play in men's competition or in ladies only.  
 Closest to Pin Contests on each Day (Both Front & Back nines)

To enter, complete the application below for you and any other playing partners and send it in with check(s) made payable to "SIR STATE GOLF" for the full amount of the Entry Fee for each player. Fees are: **Both days is \$170, only playing Day 1 is \$85 or only playing Day 2 is \$85.** Cost includes green fees, cart, range balls & prizes.

Have questions, contact Ben Gikis at either (408) 802-0794 or at [gikisben@yahoo.com](mailto:gikisben@yahoo.com)  
**ONLY THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITH FULL PAYMENT WILL BE CONFIRMED AND ACCEPTED** (Cut here)

#### APPLICATION AND ENTRY FORM

Entry **Deadline** is Monday **April 15<sup>th</sup>** or when **Tournament is full**

Make check(s) out to "SIR State Golf", send to **Ben Gikis, 12415 Hilltop Dr., Los Altos Hills, CA 94024**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NCGA # \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (for confirming receipt of entry)

Play Both Days  Play Only Wednesday  Play Only Thursday

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NCGA # \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (entry)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NCGA # \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (entry)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NCGA # \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_ TEL \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (of entry)

Play Both Days  Play Only Wednesday  Play Only Thursday

Preferred Tee Time: Early  Mid-Morning  Late

Click on this form to get a full size-fillable version to submit.

**ELIGIBILITY:** For men, SIR member or guests must have a verifiable NCGA INDEX with any NCGA golf club. Women guests competing in the men's flight must provide a verifiable NCGA INDEX. There is no requirement if competing in the women's flight. If they do have a verifiable index, please provide it.

Fling held at Eagle Vines and Chardonnay golf courses in Napa on April 24-25. There are sixteen slots still available. The registration form is above!

#### Ed Marlovits





## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

2/24/24: We usually don't ride on Saturday but it was easy. Nice weather and a fun group. **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Larry Kaye, Bob Wilkenfeld** and from the depths of Clayton the return of **Ken Studer**.

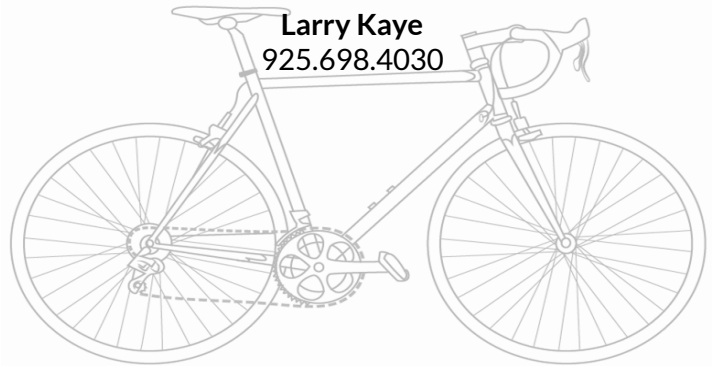
We rode to San Ramon today. Enjoyed the quiet of the Iron Horse trail. Lovely. The return took in some roads that followed the freeway but were less trafficked. Sunshine covered us all day. Back to Alamo after our jaunt south. Stopping at Peet's and grabbing some wonderful pastries from Brioche. The gang was in heaven. Great to be alive and able to ride our bikes

2/27/24: The temp read 37'. Luckily we were riding at 10am. The thermometer read 55 at 10. Much better for the Spandex guys. **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Larry Kaye** set out. Today was a workout day. Hills. Lots of hills. We found them and , yes, we conquered them. Age does not deplete your energy. It hurt but we did it. Back to town for Java and some chat. **Bob** had to ride home from Alamo with his bike. Trying to get some miles in his legs. The ride was fun, warm and very rewarding.

3/7/24: Today's ride was made up of two rides. Pleasant Hill to Moraga and then Moraga to Canyon. The attendees were: **Bill Ross, Thom Degnan, Moose Kelly, Roger Meyer, Jim Nelson** and **Larry Kaye**. We rode to Moraga via the trail, had java at Si Si's and

chatted. **Thom** is a new member and a new SIR guy. After java the boys went to Canyon. I headed home as I had another commitment. The ride to Canyon was led by our own **Bill Ross**. The ride was fun and very scenic. **Thom** had never seen this area. The trip home was all downhill and was very refreshing. A fun day of frolic.

3/19/24: four SIR cyclists took advantage of perfect weather conditions to complete a very pleasant 17 mile bike ride. Participating were **Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer** and **Jim Nelson**, who led the ride and wrote this report, from Branch 146 and **Paul Brown** from Branch 2. Three of the four wheelmen left Pleasant Hill Park under sunny skies and met up with **Roger** along the way. Riding along Alhambra Avenue and through downtown Martinez they made their first stop at the Martinez marina. Returning to the downtown area the group indulged in some good java at State Street Coffee along with enlightening conversation. The return trip to Pleasant Hill was rather uneventful, but all were grateful for to comradery and great weather.



## Jehovah witnesses training camp.



### SIR Coffee Law

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss/spouse will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

The Department of Fish and Wildlife finally issued regulations for rockfish fishing in 2024. To our surprise, fishermen will be able to angle for rockfish in depths of less than 300 feet for most of the year. The season will open on April 1 with fishing allowed in a depth of more than 300 feet. Then in May, only near-shore fishing (less than 200 feet) will be allowed, and that rule will be in effect through September 30. In October, the 300 feet minimum goes back into effect, near-shore fishing will be permitted in November, and December fishing is limited to 300 feet or more. The season will close on December 31.

We have yet to hear from the Department about salmon regulations, but the best guess is that there either will be no salmon fishing or that there will be an extremely short salmon fishing season.

We had two interesting speakers at our February meeting. Alexandria Wampler, a Ph.D. candidate at UC Davis, discussed the salmon rice land project. Rice fields north of Sacramento are normally flooded in the spring. Small entries were built in the berms that surround the field so that juvenile salmon can enter and could grow without their normal predators nearby. The program has been successful to a degree, i.e., a higher amount than the usual number of juveniles have survived. But the survival rate in the Delta and San Pablo Bay is unchanged and this needs to be addressed.

The other speaker was Rochelle Tallman, who discussed the future development of the Klamath River basin, following the removal of four dams on the river.

Turning to fishing results, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton is producing very well. Many limits and near limits have been obtained by members of the fishing group, as is illustrated by this picture.



San Pablo Reservoir has been a bit slower, but we expect it to pick up. In the Delta, **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 caught and released four undersized leopard sharks, but the striper fishing, which had been hot earlier in the

year, has tailed off. Halibut are now in the bay. The catch has not been great, but we expect it to improve and have planned four halibut trips on the Sundance in April and May.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 28, at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. This is also our annual auction where members offer some of their gear for sale at substantially reduced prices. Thus, if any of you are looking to supplement your fishing stuff or are interested in taking up fishing, this would be an excellent opportunity for you to attend. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us arrive at 7:30 for breakfast and to spin tales. And, if you miss this meeting, the next one will be at the same time and place on April 25.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566

---

**I miss the GOOD OLD DAYS**



**when you could actually  
have an opinion without  
offending anyone.**

---

### **SIR Law of the Bath**

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring

---



## Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in February and discussed our book of the month, *Fire Weather*, by John Vaillant. It is the story of the immense fire in Alberta in 2016 in and near the town of Fort McMurray. Mr. Vaillant is a resident of Vancouver, BC, and has now written several books, including the non-fiction *The Tiger* and *The Golden Spruce*.

The book itself can be considered as three books in one. The first is the history of the Fort McMurray area and geography of the boreal forest in the world. Because of the oil industry, the population of the city exploded during the last fifty years so that, at the time that the fire commenced, it was the fourth largest city in Alberta, notwithstanding its relatively remote location, a four hour drive north from Edmonton.

The second book is about the industrial side of the area, the extraction and processing of “bitumen,” (pronounced bitch-u-men) or the tar sands. This is a raw material that can be processed into a useful product, primarily asphalt, and sent to market.

This section also talks about the industrial part of the community, the scale of it (large) and the people employed there. We learn that fires in this part of the world are not uncommon in the summer. The author tells us that this is becoming more common in similar areas of the world. We also learn about the town and how it is laid out and some of the people who live there. Much of it seems to be a corporate world. The residents work hard and have a high standard of living

The third section begins with a fire that is spotted on a Sunday afternoon off in the distance, but it seems to not be a local problem, and life goes on. In fact, when the fire does finally arrive at Fort McMurray on one side of town, the people on the other initially go about their normal lives. The town is quite new and is laid out well with such things as redundant fire stations and what seems like well trained personnel. There are categories of first responders also. The people there react well when the fire starts to close in, evacuations go pretty well, and no one dies as the fire sweeps through the town. This sections details well the efforts made to stop the fire, and eventually evacuate the town, which basically has one road in each direction out of town and only one bridge over the Athabasca River, which flows

through its middle.

The book then moves on to the “message” it is meant to deliver. It is pretty much the standard message we have all read about and heard, and is widely supported by lots of data and information, some of which is claimed to be incorrect by a few of the readership reviewers. The data set is immense and the author did a lot of work digging this all up and making it relevant. However, the author seems to feel strongly that the greedy oil companies and those who drive over-size vehicles are the bad guys. The author compares the words “oil” and “gas” to fire and money, as combustion is the universal driver of much of world and economy. The world moves on energy and massive amounts of fossil fuels.

As noted, when the fire nears the industrial area and the town, the first responders do their best to respond, and do make some progress on holding back the flames. The fire fighters learn and improvise as they go. One tactic adopted was to try to save every third house, as the speed the fire traveled was such that one at a time was just too slow.

The book is paced with examples of the modern uses of hydrocarbons – they are everywhere. He refers to them as “fire in waiting.” As noted, there is lots of data and information. As one reviewer put it: “They are very much props for his narrative.”

So, enjoy the book for what it is – story of the detailed efforts to extract and process bitumen into a useful product, which as an engineer I found very interesting. The fire arrived and was fought with a huge effort that had a little success, but there was a huge success with the evacuation, in which no one died. We also find out that as the Possum said, we have met the enemy, and he is us.

For those of you who are interested in how fire begins, spreads, and is fought and how bitumen is mined, we recommend the book. For those of you who do not share the author’s view of the corporate world, it may be hard to swallow.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 21, and our book is *Oath and Honor* by former Representative Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the daughter of former Vice President Richard Cheney.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor  
[jpearljr@gmail.com](mailto:jpearljr@gmail.com)



## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed at the Martinez Senior Center on March 7 and sang a program of Irish music for the residents. We performed such favorites as "Cockles and Mussels," "McNamara's Band" and two other favorites - "Greenfields" and "My Way." The audience was enthusiastic and expressed their delight when Paul Beretz introduced their favorite songs. The director of the center was very happy and asked us to come back for other occasions.

We were also very happy to sing "[McNamara's Band](#)" at the end of the March luncheon. [If you missed the foot stomping good time, click the name... Editor]

Our next rehearsal is on April 3 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

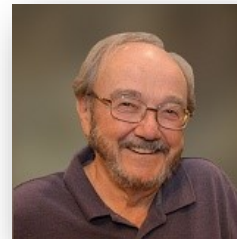
**Peter Plante**  
[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



## Guitar Group Curtis Young

SIR 146 Guitar Group. We have a small group of dedicated players in our Guitar Group and that the group is getting larger in size with some good players amongst us. I am looking for more people interested in playing in a group setting. All skill levels will get something out of our get together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Meeting time is 1:00-2:30 at my home. I encourage you to bring music you want to play, share or learn. If you are interested please contact me!

**Curtis Young**  
[cy3772@gmail.com](mailto:cy3772@gmail.com)



## Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun we meet at Masses at noon. Send me any email if any questions

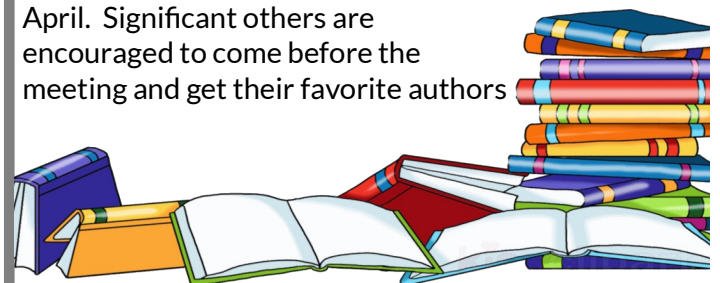
**Jim Barry**  
[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)

## SIR Law of Physical Appearance If the clothes fit, they're ugly



## Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their favorite reads. The Book Corner returns in April. Significant others are encouraged to come before the meeting and get their favorite authors





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group enjoyed a wonderful luncheon hosted by **Corrie Oranje** this last Monday March 11. We were without our eminent leader, **Steve Ybarra**, who was checking out

Major League's Spring Training in Arizona. We were pleased to enjoy the company of **Corrie**, our host, as well as **Bill Cammerrer**, **Ken Richter**, **Dennis Hallett**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, and **Bruce Borgman**. **Corrie** had prepared an excellent repast; on this beautiful almost spring day. He started with a few yummy appetizers, including truffle pate with crackers, nuts, and some ham roll-ups stuffed with cornichon pickles. Of course, **Corrie** will always have some Gouda cheese to nibble on as well. A the group brought their favorite beverage so there was an ample supply of wine.

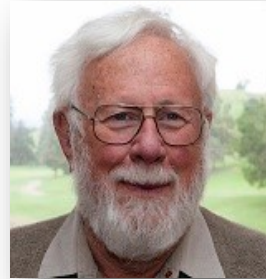


After a review of the local news events, we caught up on one another's current plans for entertainment and upcoming travel. After review of these plans, we retired to **Corrie's** comfortable dining room where we were served with a first course of a refreshing arugula salad, with strawberries, chopped walnuts, and feta cheese. After we downed this dish, **Corrie** brought out what was described as the "Best Chicken Soup You'll Ever Eat"! - a homemade nourishing healthy soup which was packed with anti-inflammatory ingredients like ginger, turmeric, and garlic, and pearl couscous in a healthy chicken broth. And I do believe that the group

was noticeably more energetic and erudite as we discussed world events and possible solutions to the problems facing the world.

After this satisfying dish, **Corrie** served us a refreshing dish of coffee ice cream with some crushed espresso beans to top the dish. All in all a most enjoyable and pleasant afternoon. Our next event will be hosted by **Ken Richter** and we will enjoy a luncheon at a local restaurant on Monday, April 8.

**Bruce Borgman** for **Steve Ybarra**  
sjybar@gmail.com



## 寿司の友達

### Sushi no tomodachi

We had a great turnout for our March lunch at Yokoso Sushi in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Pleasant Hill. Nine of us gathered to discuss,

this, that, and anything else we could think of.

The sushi was enjoyable but the special platters most ordered seem to be a bit sparse in variety of fish. Since no one ordered a la carte we didn't know if more unique items might have been



available. But it was fairly priced which seems to be becoming more important these days as some sushi establishments seem to be approaching \$100 for a meal; lunch or dinner. Bottom line, would go back but not in a rush to do so.

Our next get together hasn't been set. Each member of the group has asked to send in their suggestion, either a new location or one we have visited. We will then place them in a hat and draw the next restaurant. Stay tuned for the announcement in the next issue of SIRCall!

**Clint Collier**  
925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)



**Explore & Eat**  
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



# Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum



Theater: 37417 Niles Boulevard, Fremont CA

The first person to exhibit regular movie shows in Niles was Charles Esselstyne, under the name The Edison Moving Picture Company, in 1912. Called the Edison Theater, it opened on November 4, 1913, with a program of five reels of film and illustrated songs performed by Mr. & Mrs. George Wellington of San Francisco. The theater was licensed by the Motion Picture Patents Company to show films from its members, which included the Essanay Film Manufacturing Company. On April 29<sup>th</sup> 1914 with a one week old Essanay film, *Broncho Billy Treacherous Pal*, a two-reel Pathe film, *The Frozen Trail*, and a Keystone comedy was a hit production. Essanay personnel, including movie icon Charlie Chaplin, made films with these studios and watched his films in this theater until the Essanay studio closed in 1916.

**Signup:** Send a check for \$8/person (SIR146 w/ note: Museum Tour) to Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507. Lunch following at [The Nile Café 121 I Street, Niles/Fremont.](#) Details for lunch to follow.

## Tour on June 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00

## Signup Deadline June 14th

### SIR Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act

### SIR Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

The March meeting of the Lunch and Wine Group was hosted by **Clint Collier** at his home in Walnut Creek. The weather was great so we gathered in their beautiful backyard for appetizers and.....wine. Typically, each member brings a bottle of wine of their choosing.

We then adjourned to their Dining Room for a delicious lunch that started with Dungeness Crab bisque which was followed by a chicken rice salad with Indian Curry overtones. All leading to a dessert of **Clint's** version of individual raspberry pavlovas.



After we had solved all of the problems of the world we went back outside to enjoy more conversation and relaxation after a fine meal.

Meanwhile, **Bev Collier** had arranged for the Ladies to meet for their lunch social at the Chicken Pie Shop in Walnut Creek.

Twice per year the group enjoys the company of the Ladies for a dinner out. The next get-together will be for dinner at Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill on Wednesday, April 17th

Pete Gates  
[petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Hello Wine Enthusiasts,

The photos are from our January wine tasting. They inadvertently were left out of the March SIRCall.

Our next wine tasting will be on Tuesday, April 23, from 2:30 to 5 pm. Join us at **Steve and Nancy Schlossberg's** home in Alamo. For red, we will be tasting a Rhone blend. Examples are a GSM (Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre blend) or a Chateaufort-du-Pape . It does not have to be from France. California has some great Rhone blends. For white, we will be tasting a French Chardonnay or a White Burgundy. The white does need to be French. Your wine should be under \$30. Place your wine in a brown paper bag along with the information card. Put your name on the information card. If you are bringing a white wine, please be sure that it is chilled. And don't forget to bring an appetizer to share.

RSVP by email to [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com). Or you can call Brian at 925.324.2463. When you RSVP please indicate if you are bringing a red or white wine.

Brian McCarthy  
[br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com) 925.324.2463



**SIR Murphy's Law of Lockers**  
If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

More Pictures on follow page





# January Wine Tasting!





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Well, this is one of those times when my report of the Couples Dining Out experience for March is a mixed bag. You will recall from our last report that we had high hopes for a wonderful dinner at a local Chinese restaurant in Pleasant Hill- Three Brothers from China.

First, the good news – we were anticipating a fine group of 51 diners and had agreed with the restaurant to have six tables of eight or nine diners and just be charged for five tables. This gave us a bit more elbow room. But I received a call the night before from one of our members to ask if he could still come with three additional diners. So, we wound up with a fun group of 54. You will be able to see a few pictures of some of the tables, and it's clear that all of us had a great time.

Our cocktail hour usually starts at 5:30 – but many of our guests arrived early – even before 5pm! The restaurant only charged us \$9 corkage – an unheard-of bargain in these inflationary times. So we had more time to socialize and we decided to start the dinner early – at 6pm.

We had selected their banquet menu 1 which included 10 items for each of our tables. Therein lies my disappointment. A few of the dishes were savory and unique but several of the dishes were not of the quality that we are used to. They seemed to me to be heavy on the sauteed vegetables, tofu, and sauce, with minimal amounts of seafood or beef components. One dish was described as Dungeness Crab with ginger and scallion, but the cracked crab was virtually impossible to get to without implements to extract the crab which were not provided.

One shining dish was the Golden crispy chicken with garlic which had outstanding flavor. Also, the black bass filet was an interesting and tasty dish. Regardless of our disappointment with the cuisine, you will be able to see from the pictures of the event that we had a great time conversing and socializing with our fellow diners. All in all, I felt that the culinary component of this Dining Out experience left something to be desired.

But of course – the great majority of our Dining Out events are everything we expect them to be. So, this single experience which was less than a totally suc-

cessful event is one which we will put behind us and look forward to our next time to get together for another Couple Dining Out event. It will be in May and will likely be at Fiori's restaurant in Concord. This restaurant is also owned by Habib Jacifi. You will recall we had a wonderful time at his other restaurant in Concord – Luna's where we in January had well over 60 diners enjoying a fine meal over two days!

Watch for details of our May event. Happy Vernal Equinox!

If you are not on our mailing list to get firsthand information about our events, send me an email to be added  
If you are not on our mailing list to get firsthand information about our events, send me an email to be added – [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com).

**Bruce Borgman**  
Dining Out Host



# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno was held at Peter and Gabriela Bishop's lovely home Friday, March 15th. We

anticipated a near full house but unfortunately one of our members missed the train!

We were concerned but reassured when we discovered that "senior moments" are a real thing! With random draws from a deck of cards (to assign players to a specific table), ironically the players that drew a "diamond card" were all men; and the others who drew the "heart" card, were all women except for Bruce. As it was, the "hearts" trumped the "diamonds"!

Both tables completed playing ten hands with the lowest average of 16 going to Sue Oranje,

followed by Martha Plante with an average of 19.6, and Bruce placing third with an average of 20.3.

Peter and Gabriela provided us with delectable goodies prior to playing the game. Half time dessert was St. Patrick's Day cupcakes and who can resist a cupcake? A great evening with a great group of people!

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje

[corrieoranje@gmail.com](mailto:corrieoranje@gmail.com)



MTD 1 winners: Sue Oranje 1st, Martha Plante 2nd, Bruce Borgman 3rd.

Group Tres 3



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on the afternoon of February 23<sup>rd</sup> after The Sir Call went to press. The ole Mexican Train is always on time even though it chugged

slowly to the home of Alicia Baily in the Walnut Creek countryside.

Along for the ride were Joyce Wells & Jim Barry, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Linda & Larry Brown, Sharon Varner, Judy Richmond, Linda Siljestrom & Walt Busenius. We loved Alicia's wonderful hospitality and tasty treats.

We all played hard, but Sally Shafer was hot all night to garner 1<sup>st</sup> place averaging 18.2 per game. Larry Brown was in hot pursuit coming in 2<sup>nd</sup>, averaging 19.45 per game. Finally, Alicia Baily, our host, claimed 3<sup>rd</sup> place

and some prize money. We said our goodbyes, boarded the smoky ole train and followed the sunset home.

We will meet next on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Sue & Walt Busenius. All Aboard in Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)





### Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

With a sign of Spring in the air, Patti and Doug Eisner graciously hosted our gathering on March 21st 2024.

Sadly, we missed Marty Campbell and Joan and Dave Pierce. The men sorely missed Dave's math's skill and ended up running out of toes and fingers trying to match the ladies score keeping prowess.

Anne Burke managed to edge out Jim Baldrige for first place. Ann Hallett came third.

The ladies held onto the bragging rights for another month. However, they were no way close to matching the men's rate of dessert consumption. The delightful ice cream, strawberries and cream seemed to vanish into thin air at the men's table.

A very pleasant and entertaining evening was had by all. A special "Thank you" to our hosts, Patti and Doug.

Our next game will be hosted by Anne and Jim Burk on April 18th 2024.



Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)

#### SIR Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now



Dear Dr. Ruth

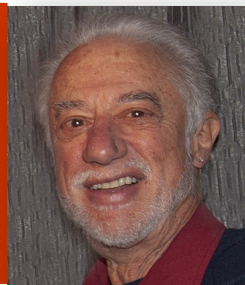
I'm writing to tell you my problem. It seems I have been married to a sex maniac for the past 22 years.

He makes love to me regardless of what I am doing ironing, washing dishes, sweeping etc. I would like to know

if there is anything you can do to help me with this problem.

Barbara

Wm



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete”

**Bob Lucido**

**Brian and Mary McCarthy** decided to spice up our otherwise mundane MTD 7 February 14th event with a Valentine's potluck.

Romance was in the air, or maybe that was just the scent of marinara sauce wafting from the kitchen. Picture this: a room filled with eager domino players, each armed with their best culinary creations, ready to conquer both the game and the taste buds.

**Bob West** placed first followed by **Brian McCarthy** and **Bob Lucido**.

The potluck dinner was a smashing success. So successful nearly everyone succumbed to the inevitable post-feast nap, sprawled out across tables and chairs like defeated adventurers after a battle.

But fear not, dear friends, for the gaming spirit prevailed! **Brian and Mary**, the valiant hosts, shook awake the slumbering warriors, reminding them to

place their domino tiles.

And what's a gaming break without some sugary sustenance? Even amidst the food-induced stupor, members found the energy to munch on the cake and other delights, proving that no matter the challenge, gamers will always find a way to keep their spirits—and their stomachs—high.

So, here's to **Brian and Mary**, the heroes of our Valentine's potluck adventure. And may we always remember in the game of potlucks, everyone's a winner... until the food coma hits.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



### SIR Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve”

**Bob Lucido**

**Breaking News:  
Husbands and Wives Unite  
for Unprecedented “Ladies**

### Payback Night”

In a surprising twist on traditional MTD game nights, couples gathered on February 14th for a unique and unforgettable experience at the home of **Bob & Judy Wilkenfeld** as husbands and wives set aside their usual roles for an evening of camaraderie and playful competition. This was an unconventional seating arrangement, allowing wives to take the reins and decide whether to harass or help their husbands during the games.

As the couples settled into their assigned seats, anticipation filled the air, wondering if this experiment would lead to heated arguments or perhaps even strengthen the bonds between the pairs. However, to the astonishment of everyone present, the

atmosphere remained surprisingly harmonious.

Contrary to expectations, there was no trace of angry shouting or resentful comments. Instead, couples engaged in lighthearted banter and good-natured teasing as they navigated through various games and challenges.

**Dale Dahlgard** placed first followed by **Bob Lucido** and **Bob Wilkenfeld**.

Attendees reported witnessing not only laughter and friendly competition but also moments of genuine affection. Some husbands even received loving comments and gestures from their wives, adding a sweet touch to the evening.

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Sixteen regular players, along with one substitute, played Mexican Train dominoes at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock** on

March 6, 2024. We had one table with five players and three tables with four..

Winning her 1<sup>st</sup>-place finish since joining the MTD Group OCHO last year, **Susan Terzuoli** played a marvelous set of games, finishing the night with an overall average of 10.7. **Bill Holly** was in second place with an average score of 17.0, and **Joyce Wells** followed up in third place with an average score of 17.1.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group OCHO wants everyone to feel like a winner even though their game playing might have fallen short of expectation. That is why we offer a California Lottery Scratcher. It's a second chance to change their luck in what otherwise might have been a disappointing evening.

For all those out there asking for  
"Father's Day" and "Mother's Day" to  
be changed to "Special Person's Day",  
there is  
already a day just for you.  
It's called "April Fool's Day".

However, as you can see, these two gentlemen with their backs turned may have seen things differently when it became time to take their picture. These two gentlemen are not used to losing.



On the right, **John Foster** was one of the top three winners last month and on the left, **Steve Loftin** won numerous games during last year's playing. Which brings us back to telling everyone who plays: it's not how good you are, but how lucky you are!

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

Richard Hockenbrock  
925.324.1713 [rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)

**SIR Law of Gravity**  
Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped,  
will roll to the least  
accessible place in the universe.



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Poker Group 4 Pete Gates

After a few months in hibernation, Poker Group #4 resumed play on February 26th at the home of **Pete Gates**. We welcomed two new members.

We played a nice variety of games, some of which were new to me. There were those were pretty "wild" and challenging, but fun. The chips flowed equitably around the table and we all ended up with just a few dollars more or less than what we started with. **Pete** and **Garth Cummings** were hold-overs from the old group which had been supplemented in recent times with **Bruce Kimmis** and **Dean Buerke**. First timers were **Frank Lucas** and **Mark Sorum**. **Dean** is scheduled to host the next game on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Yep, we still have openings for new players and alternates. .

**Pete Gates**

925.937.2035 [petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Surprises!

Our host, **Carmelo Piccolo**, surprised us by having his brother Guy join us for half of our game. Thanks "Melo" for providing another player to bring our game to seven players. Thanks also for the wine and snacks that kept us hydrated and full.

**Frank Lucas** surprised even himself as he went home with the largest bounty of funds after the game. Another surprise was the long wait for **Steve Ybarra** to win a hand. It was within 15 minutes of our game close when **Steve** finally won a pot. Tough afternoon for **Steve**.

**Steve** will host the April game on the usual first Thursday afternoon. We look forward to another spirited game.

**Brad Hatcher**

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



## Pinochle

**Pete  
McNeill and  
Stan  
Johnson**



Any one interested in joining the group should give Stan Johnson a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next event is planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1pm on 2/27/24.

**Pete McNeill**

925.858.9666 [petamole@gmail.com](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)





## Men's Hearts

**Bob West  
and  
Steve Ybarra**



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we met on February 23rd and March 8th.

The big winners were **Frank Lucas, Bill Vizza and Bob West** with 4 wins each, and **Brian McCarthy** with 3 wins. **Glenn Breslin** had three 2nds. The lowest average score was **Ron Polivka** with 30 and **Norman Cox (BR8)** with 39. **Frank and Norman** each shot the moon twice.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with 9 wins and with a 45% win rate. **Brian McCarthy** and **Bill Vizza** each have 7 wins. The 2nd highest win rate is **Norman Cox** with 42% followed by **Jim Passaglia** and **Ron Polivka** with 38%.

**Steve Ybarra** leads in 2nds with 9 followed by **Bob West** with 8. **Norman Cox** leads with 3 STM's having done them in 25% of the games he played. Most Improved are **Norman** and **Glenn Breslin** which have a 77% and 69% higher win rate than last year.

**Future Meetings:** We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in December on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Co-Directors

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

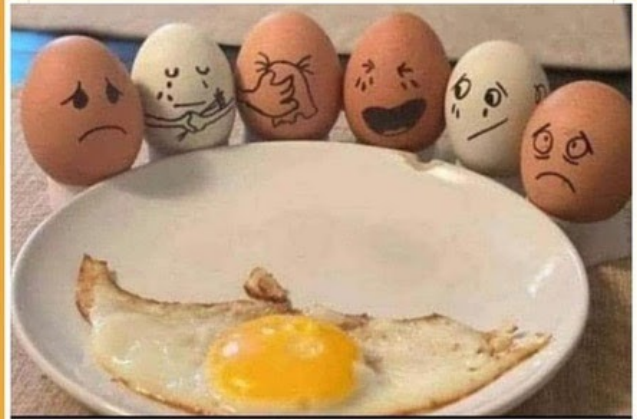
[robrtawest@aol.com](mailto:robrtawest@aol.com) & [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



Hearts group at Rocco's on January 12th, 2024

## SIR Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!



He died last fry day. Thank God he wasn't beaten. Don't worry, he went over easy. He's now on the sunny side. He's definitely in a better plate.

## Karen's 911 Call

Karen was cleaning Kyle's rifle and accidentally shot him. She calls 911.

**Karen:** It's my husband, I've accidentally shot him, I've killed him.

**911 Operator:** Please calm down, ma'am. Can you please make sure he's actually dead?

[Click]... BANG

**Karen:** OK, I've done that. What now?

## SIR Law of Results

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!





## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

Spring was in the air when **Joan and Dave Pierce** hosted us on March 12<sup>th</sup>. But no one was giddy enough to bid a slam. Everyone got to the game and made six on Board 8. Everyone got to game and made at least six on Board 11, but **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** got a top for being in no trump and making seven.

After 20 boards, **Tony and Cindy Greco** were first (55%). **Rich** and **Ismini** tied **Joan and Dave** for second (53%). We want to thank **Marilyn Miller**, and **Rich** and **Ismini**, for subbing in and making a friendly evening possible. **Rich** and **Ismini** stepped up almost at the last minute. We are grateful.

### Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Couples Party Bridge

### Tony Greco

**John & Kathy Kluesener** hosted our March 5th event. For this event, **Steve & Sue Loftin** subbed for **Larry & Linda Brown**. The last time the **Loftin's** subbed was last November where they took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Well they did it again this time. They have been put on probation until they stop finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**Dick & Maggie Chaffee** had a hot 4<sup>th</sup> round making 2060 of their 3580 total points on just two hands. One was a vulnerable small slam of 6 spades making 7 spades followed by bidding and making a vulnerable 5 club bid. Congratulations to **Dick & Maggie Chaffee** for bidding and making a small slam.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3830 points - **Steve & Sue Loftin**
- 2nd PLACE with 3580 points - **Dick & Maggie Chaffee**
- 3rd PLACE with 2960 points - **John & Kathy Kluesener**

Our next event will be held on April 2nd and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**.

### Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

### Sir Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee

Finally old enough to do anything I want....Too tired to actually do it





## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, March 1 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by Mike Whitaker.

John Boyan won 1st Place overall by being 2nd in both the 1st and 2nd halves, having the least zeros, and tying for most threes! Congratulations, John. Brad Hatcher came in 2nd, Rich Ahlf 3rd, and Steve Dinning 4th.

Dick DeVoe

[dicknchristy@comcast.net](mailto:dicknchristy@comcast.net)



## Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Bob Yolland hosted a wonderful day of bridge. As usual, he was a gracious host with good food and ambience. The players were: Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.

The high scorers were Steve Dinning with 6890 points, Brad Hatcher with 5480 points and Bob Yolland with 5370 points.

The next game will be April 1st at Jim Stedman's at Waterford in Rossmoor. Please let Jim Stedman know if you will attend.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



## Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

On Friday, March 15th, Duplicate Bridge 3 held it's March meeting at the home of Jim Pope. Twelve bridge players enjoyed 24 hands of bridge and a delicious dessert prepared by Jim and Rennie Pope.

After 12 boards, Max Hinkle led with 17.5 points. After lunch, however, he was overtaken by Bob Yolland who finished with 33 pts. Max held on and tied for 2nd with Fast Eddy Marlovits with 30.5 pts. Our next game will be on Friday, April 19th at the home of Bill Schaaf.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 [mrwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mrwhitaker@yahoo.com)



## Area 16

### \$UMS Investment Group

On the 4th Wednesday, April 24 at 1:30pm, our guest speaker will be John Gardner of Blackhawk Wealth Advisers. His agenda will be decided by the members. Suggestions welcome.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

## SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

# Parting Shot

The background image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, looking down a long aisle towards an altar. The architecture features high, pointed arches supported by columns, with light streaming in from windows on the sides. The text is centered over this image.

A lie doesn't become  
truth,  
Wrong doesn't become  
right,  
And evil doesn't become  
good  
Just because it's  
accepted by a majority