



Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

Bravo! Speaker **Eric Ting**, the Artistic Director from Cal Shakes, was well received at July's meeting. His storyline about the evolution of their current production *Fences* was especially interesting. By coincidence, our Sir's theater outing the next week was to see *Fences* at their amphitheater near Orinda. It was a riveting performance.

We are pleased to acknowledge four new members who joined our branch in July: **Dick Bohling** sponsored by **Jonathan Korfhage**, **Paul Remack** sponsored by **Bill Klein**, **Michael Rose** sponsored by **Joe Stengel**, and **John Fitzgerald** sponsored by **Rich Fiscina**. Welcome aboard new Sirs. In addition, three new guests visited with us and we hope they will join our ranks as soon as August.

It was a pleasure to award our prestigious Branch Honoree Award to **Dennis Hallett** and the Certificate of Appreciation to **Lew Thompson**. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these two Sirs for years of service and leadership to our branch. Perhaps you'll recall that **Lew** received his 20 Year Anniversary Award in February.

Our 2017 slate of branch officer and director candidates was introduced during July's luncheon. If you missed that luncheon, please review the Big Sir Notes in the July Sir Call where their names were published. During our August luncheon, we shall accept nominations from the floor before voting to elect our officers and directors for 2017.

The August luncheon is the traditional time when we display our team colors. So, don't be shy or consider holding back. Dress up in your favorite team colors, as this is the season to show support for your favorite school, college, university or pro team. You may even wish to dress up in multiple team colors or gear. Go for it!!

We held our annual evacuation drill last month under the skillful direction of Director **Steve Sprague**. As a reminder, the emergency evacuation plan is posted on

Luncheon – Thursday , August 11th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:
Elliot H. Kallen

7 Deadly Financial Sins in Retirement

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

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146
By Noon Friday, August 5th



Dennis Hallett (L) receiving the Branch Honoree Award from Big Sir **Walt Busenius** at the July luncheon

“Wear Your Team Colors” is the theme of the August Luncheon!

our website under the “Branch Information” tab.
 Finally, please remember that it is always an excellent time to invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance as your guest to our next or future luncheon meeting.



Little Sir’s Corner
Alan Elnick

The summer market rally is apace and this month Elliot Kallen will advise us on the “7 Deadly Financial Sins in Retirement.” Elliot is President of Prosperity Financial Group, Inc. He has twice been listed in the International Who’s Who of Professionals. He is a licensed Series 7, 24, 63, 65 and 66 financial advisor. He has been the recipient of the NRCC Business Advisory Council 2003 Businessman of the Year in Washington, D.C. (featured in the Wall Street Journal), and the 2006 Ronald Reagan Gold Medal Award. In 2011, he was named one of the top 300 Advisors to the Defined Contribution 401 (k) Industry. He provides substantial support to non-profit and philanthropic organizations. Bring your pens, calculators and pie charts.

Also, bring your cash and checkbooks and show your SIR Pride by purchasing some hats, shirts, jackets, and mugs emblazoned with the SIR logo. Kristin from Embroidery and Moore will be stationed with her merchandise in the hallway just after you check in for the luncheon. Support SIR and those who support SIR.

August is “Wear Your Team Colors” so wear the colors of your favorite sports team to August’s luncheon. I just returned from Cleveland where I had the opportunity to visit the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame. I’ll be wearing my Jets Green.

It is also the month we will be electing next year’s slate of officers. On that note, you might consider offering some time to volunteer to help us. Our Lunch and Membership Chairs could use some assistance. Don’t be shy, it is a great way to meet other SIR members, and the work is not overbearing and can even be fun.

Of course, now all you have to do is remember the next luncheon date, Thursday, August 11th, 2016 at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Bring a guest and show him what SIR has to offer.



Membership
Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

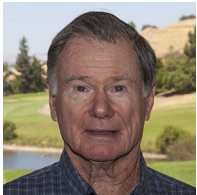
We increased our active membership to 284 in July. We inducted four new members, and lost three including two who have moved out of our area. Sadly, we lost one long-term member who had been inactive for some time. We had three guests at the July luncheon. Keep up the good work. Remember to meet and get to know the new guys. They are the ones with the yellow badges. Please make them feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in July 2016



Dick Bohling



John Fitzgerald



Paul Remack



Michael Rose

Active members resigned: **Ed Best, Bob Adams and Terry Marchione**

Inactive member deceased: **Frank Mathos**

<u>SIR Call Newsletter Group</u>	
Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Editors	Jeff Baily & Rob Melrose
Proofreaders	Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker
Internet Posting	Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia Ron Plachy



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

- Jim Saavedra
- Roy Luoma
- Tom Gorman
- Bob Walton
- Lynn Freeman
- Al Twyford
- Steve Olsen

I am sorry to report the recent deaths of former members **George "Buddy" James** and **Jack Patton**. Please include their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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

Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

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

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair
mcpearl@astound.net
(925) 934-6920



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon August 2016

Salad

Mediterranean Green Salad
Baby Green Tomatoes, Red Onions
Feta Cheese, Black Olives
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

BBQ Tri Tip

Grilled Tri Tip, Garlic Mashed Potatoes &
Sautéed Vegetables
Or

Pan Seared Salmon

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Mango Ginger Salsa,
White Wine Butter Sauce

Dessert

Chocolate Cheesecake

Vanilla Whipped Cream
Raspberry Sauce

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.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils? ·



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

Our July Dining Out experience turned out to exceed our expectations! It was one of the best that we have had. We had 50 diners turn out to enjoy dinner at Faz restaurant in Danville on Tuesday July 19th. The food was fantastic – the cuisine had a Persian and Mediterranean twist and we were able to choose entrees, which included pomegranate chicken, Sicilian style pot roast, and wild mushroom ravioli. This was after a great Caesar salad – and we finished with a chocolate torte, which was rich enough to satisfy the most avid chocoholic. Our cocktail hour was in the Fireside Lounge, which gave us ample room for socializing. The dinner was in the Redwood Gallery, a private dining area, which was very comfortable. The service was excellent and everyone agreed we had a wonderful outing. In fact, it was one of the best Couples Dining Out events we have had.

We were also pleased to have a number of diners who had not come before and we are always glad to share this SIR activity with new people. If you have not come before, join us for our September event. It will probably be on Monday September 19th. We have received several suggestions and will be checking out these restaurants in the next few weeks. Stay tuned!



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group at 2 pm Thursday, August 18th at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 going North: (I'm sure you can figure this out from other areas) exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, straight to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood, slight left, stay on Blackwood, sharp right on Ward. Alan's home is on the left. If you get lost, call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome.

Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

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



Photo by Bruce Borgman

One of the couples attending Couples Dining Out for the first time were **Carl Feil** with wife **Joyce** sitting with **Frank Ascatigno**



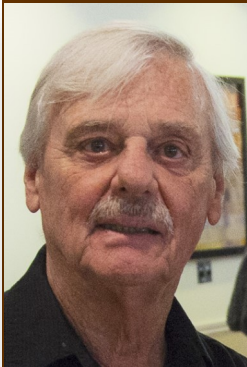
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Big Sir Walt Busenius presenting **Lew Thompson** with a Certificate of Appreciation



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Max and **Ardith Hinkle** with **Bill** and **Laurie Hoban**



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Harbor Bay Isle

This month on August 12th we will be hiking on Harbor Bay Isle along the Bay trail. Beautiful views of San Francisco and Bay. Mostly level, 5 miles, restrooms limited at start of hike. Bring a windbreaker, as it can get windy.

Dogs welcome.

Directions Take 880 to High St. turn right and go almost to the end, turn left on Otis (61). Cross bridge, veer to the right on Island Dr. and immediately take a right on Veterans Ct. Park at end of the street. If anybody wishes to carpool we'll meet at El Nino road just off the St. Stevens turn off on Hwy 24/680 at about 9:15 am.

Rain Cancels

Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00 am

August 12th, 2016

E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell (925) 550-4967

Tilden Regional Park

On August 19th we will be hiking in Tilden Regional Park. This will be in Wildcat Canyon and will be about 5 miles. We will hike to Wildcat Peak. This hike is rated moderate (SIR rating about 8). This scenic loop hike takes you from the Tilden Park Environmental Education Center to the summit of Wildcat Peak via the Jewel Lake, Sylvan Peak and Laurel Canyon Trails. Terrific views of the Bay Area with a variety of plants and birds keep this well shaded route interesting throughout. From Wildcat Peak we can see the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges and San Pablo Dam Reservoir. Great picture taking.

Directions: From Highway 24 just east of the Caldecott Tunnel, take the Fist Ranch Road exit and go 2 miles uphill to a junction with Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right and go 5.4 miles to the intersection with Wildcat Canyon Road, Turn right here for the Nature Area, Little Farm and Wildcat Canyon. Go downhill 0.3 miles to a junction with Central Park Dr. Turn left and go 0.1 Mile to a large parking area. We will meet in the parking lot. If anybody wishes to carpool we'll meet at El Nino road just off the St. Stevens turn off on Hwy 24/680 at around 9:15 am.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

On July 9th, Rich Ahlf was the photographer for the prestigious Westpoint Regatta on San Francisco Bay sponsored by Mount Gay Rum. Over Sixty boats competed in the race. Pictures were taken from the race committee boat. This race started by Treasure Island, across toward San Francisco and down to finish at the Sequoia Yacht Club in Redwood City. Over two hundred pictures were taken and shown after the race at the club about three hours after the start. He will show some pictures, explain camera settings, equipment used and the software (Lightroom and Photoshop) programs. He also will exhibit some of the past prints from racing on the bay.

Below is just one example of the pictures Rich will be showing at the meeting.

Photo by Rich Ahlf



Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subjects: Photos & Instruction by Rich Ahlf of SF Regatta

When: August 26th at 9:00 am

Rain Cancels

Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00 am

August 19th, 2016

E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell (925) 550-4967



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Lee Clark of Branch 146 established a personal milestone when he went fishing on a party boat in the bay and caught his first ever halibut. It was a decent sized one too as you will be able to see on page 16! He was also the only

member of the fishing group to catch any fish in the Bay Area since my last report.

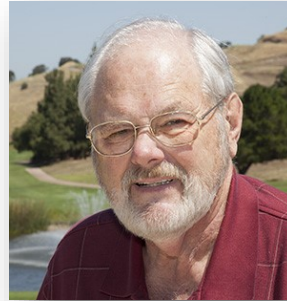
However, we did much better out of town. **Pedro Contreras** embarked on an eight-day boat trip out of San Diego and caught many yellowtail and a big grouper, fishing off the Baja California coast. Ernie Wong made several shad trips to the Sierra foothills and caught and released over 400 of the shiny silver fighters, mainly from the Yuba River. **Gordon Linebaugh** took his grandkids fishing while staying at his cabin in the Sierras. They caught bluegill in Round Valley Lake, and a nice trout in Lake Almanor. In addition, members of our group made two separate trips to Alaska and both groups returned with lots of salmon and halibut. **Rich Bal, Ed Dijkman, Romano Gnusti, and Karl Droese** were in one group. The other group consisted of **Pete Gates, Tom Boltz, and Steve Loftin**, all of Branch 146. They were joined by three friends from the State of Washington.

Closer to home the fishing has continued to be dismal. With the exception of **Lee Clark's** foray on the bay, constant wind and unruly ocean kept us all at home. But the salmon fishing will be superb when the ocean calms.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 25th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast at 7:30 am. For further information, contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



“Wear Your Team Colors” is the theme of the August Luncheon!



Theatre

Gary Schaub

FAST-PACED COMEDY-MYSTERY IS SIR 146 THEATRE PARTY FOR NOVEMBER 16th

“The Game’s afoot” Holmes tells Dr. Watson. The famous detective is out to solve

“The Hound of the Baskerville” in hilarious ways you’ve never seen before.



A new play by comic playwright Ken Ludwig is on tap for SIR146 members and guests on Wednesday, November 16th. *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* will be performed by Center REP at Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Curtain time is 8:00 pm.

So, get your deerstalker caps on, and be ready for a madcap evening in the theater from the writer of such award-winning hits as *Lend Me Tenor* and *Moon Over Buffalo*. While loosely based on Conan Doyle’s 1902 novel, this *Baskerville* has five actors portraying nearly 40 roles in this fast-paced comedy about everybody’s favorite detective cracking one of his most notorious cases – before a family curse dooms its newest heir!

SIR members will want to join in the fun and see how far from “elementary” the truth can be as the intrepid investigators try to work through a dizzying web of clues.

A limited number of reduced-price tickets have been set aside for SIR members and guests. Deadline for ordering is October 20th.

Tickets for *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* are \$25.00 each, and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR146, and mailed to SIR **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call Gary at (925) 938-5454

Tickets will be distributed at the Leshar Center for the Arts, 1600 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 pm on November 16th. Parking is available on the street or in the City’s garage adjacent to the Leshar Center for the Arts.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Bruce Borgman's** home on July 12th. We began on the patio outside with special Dutch herring, two nice cheeses and crackers, an excellent dip with chips, nuts and pickled onions on toast. **Bruce's** lunch was perfect for summer, featuring mouth watering Sloppy Joes and two excellent salads. The first was a fresh super sweet white corn salad with home grown tomatoes and other goodies. The second was a green salad with home grown cucumbers and tomatoes with a choice of home made dressings. The meal was complete with an excellent Strawberry Shortcake. With plenty of good wine and conversation as usual we tried to solve many serious world issues. Unfortunately we did not make significant progress so we will have to try again next month.



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The Song Sirs are currently practicing a new repertoire with songs from our pianist's **Steve Dinnings'** vast music collection. These include *It's A Good Day*, *All The Way*, *You Make Me Feel So Young*, *Jeepers Creepers*, *Almost Like Being in Love*, *It Had To Be You*, and *I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face*, among others – quite a list. Our next gig is in August when we have been requested to sing at the Walnut Creek Senior Center, so we'll have a short time to practice these new fun songs. Our quartet will continue to practice separately to add to a program of music that is enjoyable for our audience.

We wish to again put out a call for any of our Sirs who like to sing and get together for comraderie and fun to join us – we would like to increase the number of singers in our ensemble. We practice every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church's Multiuse Room. Come and see what we are all about!



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

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



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The Book Group met last July 11th at the Greenery Restaurant to discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. There were seven of us, including **Rich Ahlf**, a first time attendee.

We all thought the book lived up to its classical rating. The tale of the Joad family trying to find a new life in California after losing their farm in the Oklahoma dust bowl era was sad but also uplifting regarding the strength of the human spirit trying to cope with a series of very difficult problems. Steinbeck is a socialist thinker and he definitely was trying to show the plight of the poor and downtrodden. The ending seemed to be abrupt and without much of a conclusion. However some felt the ending was appropriate because the lives of the principal characters had come full circle regarding their outlook on life.

Our next book will be the *Tribe* by Sabastian Junger. We will met again at the Greenery Restaurant August 15th at 8:30 am. All SIR members are invited. If you are interested, read the next book and join us at the Greenery Restaurant.



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!



Luncheon Chairman

Max Hinkle

July's attendance: We consumed and the Branch paid for 218 meals at our July luncheon. Happily, that was 5 more than those for which we guaranteed payment and 6 under the kitchen's commitment. Like last month,

my underestimation of the meals we would be consuming at this luncheon was the product of the low number of "no shows". We had only 11 of those, representing 4.6% of our membership. I think that speaks well for the conscientiousness of our membership. We understand that there will always be some thing at the last minute that prevents a member from giving timely notice of his unavoidable absence. A good reason for an unexcused absence is grounds for waiving the reimbursement requirement.

August Luncheon: Please note on your calendar that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY, AUGUST 11th, 2016 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO BOUNDARY OAK UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.

Opt Out Deadline for August Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the August luncheon is NOON ON FRIDAY AUGUST 5th. We will e-blast a reminder of this deadline a day or two in advance of it. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send a message to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com before that deadline ("no show deadline"). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. This courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after

communicating your notice please call me at (925) 408-6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed or not timely displayed in the "no lunch" Inbox.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com on or before the no show deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.

2016 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Walt Busenius
Little Sir	Alan Elnick
Secretary	Bruce Borgman
Assistant Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Treasurer	Jim Barry
Assistant Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Director(2 nd Term)	Brad Hatcher
Director(2 nd Term)	Richard Hockenbrock
Director(2 nd Term)	Corrie Oranje
Director(2 nd Term)	Bob Spellman
Director(1 ST Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(1 ST Term)	Steve Sprague

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Corrie Oranje
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Brad Hatcher
Publicity	Al Munayer

Refer to Branch Directory, Accessible Under Members Only Tab Heading on our Website, for phone numbers & email addresses.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The Mexican Train Group One's most recent Game Night was held on July 15th at the attractive home of SIR **Sig Kalteis** and his wife **Nancy** in Martinez. Two players, SIR **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha** came for their first Game Night; they have become regulars in the group replacing **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione**, who are missed, but have left the area for sunny and even warmer Tucson.

Carmen Schiavone, SIR **Rob Melrose's** wife, had a very low overall score (averaging only 11.9 points after playing 8 games) and took home a first place prize of \$19. She was followed by SIR **Richard Hockenbrock** (16.0) and then SIR **Jim Stedman** (17.1).



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Chuck and Mary Denney

hosted our July game night and a good time was had by all. Lots of goodies, fun, and friendly competition added to the enjoyment. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** joined us as alternates for the first time and were welcomed by all.

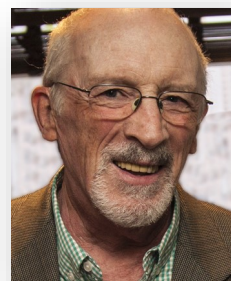
Dick Woodman won first place with 14.3 average points per game. **Anne** and **Ron Plachy** won second and third places for the second month in a row but reversed places this month. **Anne** won second place with 18.3 average points per game and **Ron** took third place with 18.6. **Janice Woodman** was right behind them with 18.9 average points.

Next month our game night is at **Jim and Phyllis Meehan's** on August 26th.



MTD Group 1 all gathered around for a group picture

***NOTE:** All five of the Mexican Train Dominoes Groups have a substitute list so people can fill in when some of the regular members cannot play. Each of the 5 chairs is asking their current substitute list if they are interested in subbing in another group if they are available. This will allow more Sirs to meet other branch members and play more often. If there is sufficient interest in forming a sixth MTD group, I will be happy to help get it organized.*



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

We gathered at the home of **Larry & Linda Brown** on Friday July 22nd. At table 3, **Walt Busenius** came in with the top winning score of 12.25, followed by **Lynn Shafer**, 2nd place, with a score of 15.14 and then **Sue Busenius**, 3rd place, with a score of 15.25. This was a good start for the 2nd half competition for July through December.

Next we gather on August 26th at the home of **Walt & Sue Busenius**.



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!

When you look up, causing an awful shot, you will always look down again at exactly the moment when you ought to start watching the ball if you ever want to see it again.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train Domino group met on July 22nd at the home of **Jim** and **Renie Pope**. We had 8 couples and set up 3 tables. The competition was intense. The snacks were provided by three of the women in the group and they were fantastic! We will meet again on August 19th.



Photo by Renie Pope

MTD Group 4 players **Marilyn Boone, Ron Lewis, Leslie Firth, Dick DeVoe, Yvonne Killips, and Lo McCarley**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

Our Cinco Group met on Thursday, July 21st for another evening of good fellowship and a spirited round of Mexican Train Dominoes. We had two couples who were travelling, and two who were momentarily under the weather. Having the “substitutes” available was most helpful and necessary. We met at the **Burk’s** and were joined by the **Campbell’s, Ondeck’s, and Joan Pierce**, who came as a single when **Dave** was momentarily placed on the “DL”. Joan was her normal steady self as she proceeded to come in second. However, the evening belonged to **Steve** and **Jan Ondeck**, who took first and third respectively.

It was a beautiful summer evening and thus our social time began with our libations and nibbles in the back yard. We soon moved inside to commence our games. **Steve** was on fire as they say at “Baja Fresh,” once the hot sauce is applied, and he went on to record three consecutive winning games out of the six we played. **Anne** served him, as well as the rest of us, Strawberry Peach Tart in an attempt to distract him from his very adept and focused play, but he still went on to do quite well in the last two games to take home the “Numero Uno” label and the prize money to go with it.

August 18th, we will return to the **Hallett’s** home to try to do better with whatever tiles we happen to draw.



Photo by Renie Pope

At another table MTD Group 4 players **Barbara Korfhage, Darlo Boone, Renie Pope, Christy DeVoe, and Bill Weinberg**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The ever present SIR Greeters whose guard change each month are represented this month by **Lee Clark, Bob Larson, Harvey Oxman, and Jeff Morrow**

Shortest distance between two jokes = A straight line



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Six couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on July 20th at **Lo and Sue McCarley's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Sue's** snacks and dessert and **Lo's** wines. As to the bridge results, **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** came in first with 22 points followed by **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** who were second with 20.5 points. In third place with 20.0 points, it was a tie between **Anne Johnson** and **Janie Sweeny** coupled with **Bill** and **Margaret Rees**. **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on August 17th.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Dave Steinberg

hosted 3 tables of the Duplicate Bride Group 1 on July 18th. The morning session ended in a first place tie between **Rich Ahlf** and **Bill Rees** with 14.5 pts which barely edged out **Jim Brown** and **Lo McCarley** who tied for third place with 14.0 pts. However, as is usually the case with this group, the afternoon session turned the leader board upside down. At the end of the day, **Jim Jackson** walked away with first place with 31.0 pts, well ahead of **Lo McCarley's** second place score of 28.0 pts. **Charlie Abrams** squeezed into third place with 25.5 pts.

Our August 15th game will be hosted by **Jim Jackson**.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** on July 12th. The scores were very close for the top winners. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** showed great prowess as subs, taking first place. **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** placed second, while **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** slipped into third. The next event will be at **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman's** home.

*(Written by **Dick DeVoe** on behalf of Coordinator **Dave Pierce**)*



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our July 8th Duplicate Bridge 2 event was hosted by **Dave Steinberg**. This tourney was the most competitive in 2016, with only 9 points separating 1st and 12th place. The spread has been as high as 18 (June), and the lowest prior spread was 12.5 (Jan.). Nice going, guys.

1st Place: **Brad Hatcher's** 3rd place finish in both 1st half AND 2nd half resulted in 1st place overall with 28 pts. Congratulations, **Brad!**

2nd Place: **Charlie Abrams** was 2nd, only 1 pt. behind **Brad**, with 27 pts.

3rd Place (Tie): **Larry Brown** and **Tony Greco** tied for 3rd with 26.5 pts., only 0.5 pts. ahead of **Harvey Oxman**.

Brad Hatcher now has won 2 of the last 3 months! The only top 3 winner in the past two months is **Larry Brown** with a 3rd and 3rd place tie, respectively.

Most Two's: **Brad Hatcher** had 9 two's.

Least Zeros: **Larry Brown** and **Harvey Oxman** tied with 4 zeros each for the 24 boards.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We cancelled our July 4th game. The only problem was that I had to eat all the Peach Pie! Our next game will be on August 1st. I will announce the host when I make the schedule.



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!

One particular four-year-old prayed:

"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

What good sports are **John** and **Linda Boyan**, who hosted the regulars on July 5th. They had just returned from Woodland where they were inspecting their new home to be (circa July 14th).

Unfortunately, they were not rewarded with good cards. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were third (2700), **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** second (2830), and **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** first (3610) on a night when no one really dominated. We wish **John** and **Linda** Godspeed, but not farewell, as we expect to see them at some SIR events (at least in the daytime).



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Local Trips

FLEET WEEK WITH BLUE ANGELS
OCTOBER 8TH

There still remain some slots open for the Fleet Week trip on October 8th. Price is \$141 and includes bus round trip transportation to SF, Hornblower Cruise, hot buffet luncheon, music entertainment, special viewing of the Navy's Blue Angels, and a souvenir photo.

Bring your spouse/kids/grandkids for this exciting outing. Seats are on a first come/first served basis.

Contact info: **John George**: (925) 999-6645;
jgeorge.lafayette@gmail.com



Longer Trips

September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and, finally, 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact **Milt Smith** (Br 146) at (925) 280-0328 or email miltsmith549@gmail.com

*(Editor's Note: **Walt Schmidt** has been very active in organizing this trip and is available to answer any questions you may have about the trip. You can contact him at (925) 943-1741 or email: waltnmis@aol.com*

Sign in a store window: No Senior Discounts. You've had twice as long to get the money!



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 3

Sid Landman

Duplicate Bridge Group 3, which met on Friday, July 15th, was hosted by **Mike Whitaker**. As usual the competition was intense leading to a two way tie for first between **Charlie Abrams** and **Jim Brown** with each scoring 28 points or 58%. Congratulations to **Charlie** and **Jim** for their wins. Close behind in third place was **Roger Peters** with a score of 27.5 or 57%, barely 1% less than the tie between the first place winners. Finally, **Mike Whitaker** our host came in fourth with a score of 26.5 or 55%. Congratulations to both **Roger** and **Mike** for their close games behind the winners.

Further analysis showed that **Charlie** scored a maximum score of 2 in 10 of the 24 boards, a significant achievement while **Bob Yolland** and **Jim Brown** each had 2 boards with a zero, another achievement.

Thank you to our host **Mike Whitaker** for providing a fine venue for an enjoyable game.



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met on July 13th at Frank McNamee's home. As always there were more losers than winners, but a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be August 10th at Dan O'Sullivan's home.



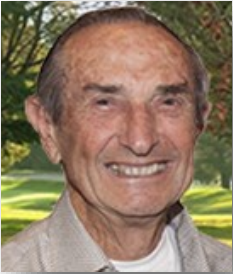
Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter,***

Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.

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



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

Poker group 3 is still up and running. Since we play on the fourth Monday, the news deadline for the newsletter has just passed and the month after it is old news.

The following are our regular players: **Jim Barry, Bob Lyman, Harvey Oxman, Jim Passaglia, Ron Plachy, Bob Wedin** and myself. We usually play at my house and a good time is had by all.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

The "Old Money" poker group met at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill Thursday, July 7th. Guests **Frank Lucas, Brad Hatcher, Harvey Oxman, Rich Ahlf,** and

Howard Charlop played cards, drank some excellent wine, and had some lively discussions. Topics ranged from poker strategy, like never drawing more than one card to fill inside straight, to the best way to fill in an in-ground swimming pool. **Rich** was the big winner this time! The next game is scheduled for August 4th at **Brad Hatcher's** home in Walnut Creek.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

At our July session we solved a lot of the world's problems as well as some of the local ones. A number of our players left with lighter wallets too! However, this was offset by the refreshments and snacks provided by the host Sir **Pete Gates**.

Our next session is August 22nd. The host will be Sir **Rich Hanford** and will meet at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz**.



Book Nook

Hank James

The Book nook will be closed in August. Develop your book list for September. Stockpile the books you have already read and bring them to the September meeting to share with your fellow SIR members.

Aviation 101

When one engine fails on a twin engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.

Blue water Navy truism: There are more planes in the ocean than there are submarines in the sky.

It takes longer to learn to be a good golfer than it does to become a brain surgeon. On the other hand, you don't get to ride around on a cart, drink beer, eat hot dogs and art if you are performing brain surgery!



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Frank Rockwell

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

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



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

*We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.*



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Golf is one of our most popular Branch activities with over 100 registered golfers. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak; players are randomly paired and scheduled.

Starting tee times and pairings are emailed to all players Sunday evenings. We encourage guests. Come and check us out! Let us know you are coming and we will pair you with a member of the golf committee. Our members have handicaps ranging from 8 to 40 so you will fit right in.

In addition to regular stroke play, every month we change it up from normal stroke play with a "Tournament Tuesday." On first Thursdays from April to October we schedule "away golf" at nearby courses. In the spring you can join our Monterey Mashers for a couple of days of golf, socializing and dining in the Monterey and Carmel area.

SIR golfers are eligible for fun events sponsored by State SIR Golf at interesting courses from Reno to Solvang and points in between. These events allow you to bring your spouse and other guests.

There are also two competitive championship events sponsored by State SIR Golf. The 2016 State Individual Championship event will be held on October 17th & 18th at Laguna Seca. This year the qualifying tournament for that event will be held August 24th at the Elkhorn Golf Club in Stockton. Every SIR with a golf handicap index is eligible to participate. Last year one Branch 146 member, **Mike Whitaker**, qualified for the individual championship.

The Sir State Golf Team Championship will be held on August 8th at Poppy Ridge in Livermore. The qualifying event for our Area was held May 26th at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Brentwood. Last year three Branch 146 teams qualified for the Championship event. This year



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

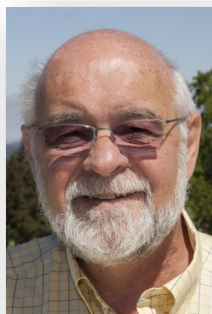
If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments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



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!

one Branch 146 team, led by **John Harrington**, has qualified for the Championship event – that is the second year in a row for **John** and his crew.

Since we have so much going on, we circulate a weekly golf email outlining upcoming events and results from past events. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. If you would like to join Branch 146 Golf, also contact us at the same email address.



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Approximately 24 people attended the July 20th SIR Wine Tasting event at the home of **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**. We tasted a variety of wines from Chile.

Our next wine tasting will be at the home of **Tony and Jean Shebanek** on Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 when we will be tasting California wines from Monterey south to the Mexican Border.

As we are always looking for new venues, I just wanted to let the group know that if you can't or don't feel like you can accommodate a large group we can limit the number of participants.

If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events and are not on the email list, please email Rob Melrose @ RWMelrose@Gmail.com



Cribbage

John Pearl

Eight of us braved 100 degree heat on Wednesday, July 27th to meet at the Chair's house for a round of cribbage. **Roger Peters** brought his brother **Ron**, a SIR from Sacramento who also likes to play cribbage. First place went to **Roger**

Peters who had two "skunks." The Chair was a very strong second and the Co-chair **Ron Afdal** was third. A regular from Branch 116, **Kirk McVean** came in fourth.

We meet again on the fourth Wednesday of August.



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

Weather is getting hotter and so is the competitive spirit. This is an easy game to learn and play, with much good cheer resulting. There is always room for more players, so come join us.

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

Rain Cancels Play and Ladies are always welcome.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Gary Schaub and **Cal Tucker** enjoying some refreshments prior to the July SIR luncheon



"Wear Your Team Colors" is the theme of the August Luncheon!

Walking Group

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **John** for current walk.*

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

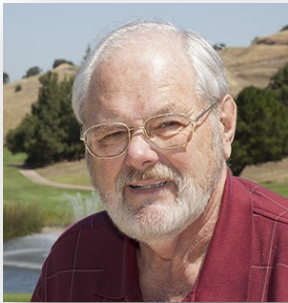
Tel: (925) 825-3561



A recent study found the average American golfer, walks about 900 miles a year.

Another study found American golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means, on average, American golfer get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you feel proud.



Theatre Gary Schaub

Photos from the California Shakespeare SIR 146 Theater Party for *Fences* on July 20th



Among those enjoying a pre-show picnic in the Grove before *Fences* at California Shakespeare Theater on July 20th were (clockwise) **Sharon and Michael Varner**; **Jim and Renie Pope**, and **Susan and Walt Busenius**



Lee Clark catches his first ever Halibut in the Bay



Steve and Linda Siljstrom brought their picnic along for the pre-show gathering



Ready for the show -- the SIR146 gang at Cal Shakes awaiting the start of August Wilson's drama, *Fences*

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 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 we 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

No meeting in July or August. The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group meets at 8 am on fourth Wednesday of the month at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Co-Chairmen: Tom Henry (Br-174) (925) 284-5724

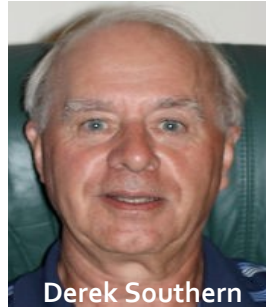
David Sutton (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



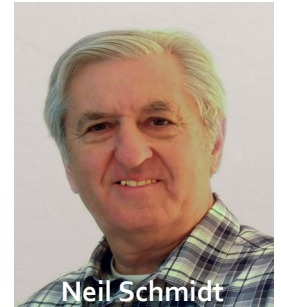
Corrie Oranje won free lunch for recruiting SIR members

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, August 18th at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Evan Corstophine will be discussing "Serious Security & Identity Threats." This is a subject of continuing importance to everyone as hackers are constantly developing new threats to our Web connected devices.

Arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies Thursday, August 18th 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 this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

July Birthday Boy Drawing Winner—Barney Meade



Photo by Bruce Borgman



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Couples Dining Out at FAZ Restaurant in Danville



Photo by Bill Schultz

06.28.2016

Joe Jaeger and David Steinberg introduce new member Ken Sihler to SIR golf on June 28th



Photo by Bill Schultz

07.12.2016

Early morning SIR golfers meet at the first tee with George Mon, Jim Browning, Alan Elnick, David Steinberg, Jim Sanders, and Ray Spears



Photo by Bill Schultz

07.05.2016

Pete McNeill, Ken Kratz, Colin Holland, and David Steinberg celebrate the completion of their round of golf on the 9th green July 5th



Photo by Bill Schultz

07.05.2016

Gary Brown {R} shows Pete McNeill {L} his brand new "Weapon" before golf on Tuesday, July 5th.