



Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



Big Sir's Notes Alan Elnick

I have to begin this month with a correction. I asked **Bruce** to announce at our July luncheon that Team Colors is the theme for our August meeting. I was mistaken and, while you can wear team colors any time you wish, the Team Colors

theme is not until our September luncheon. Kindly make a note of it.

At our upcoming Luncheon meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2017, we will be conducting our annual election of Officers and Directors for 2018. Our nominating committee (Past Big Sirs **Walt Busenius, Bill Holly** and **Doug Eisner**) presented a fine slate of candidates each of whom was introduced at our July luncheon. Nominations for other candidates may also be introduced from the floor at our luncheon. Our branch is very fortunate to have an excellent and involved membership. It is what makes our branch so successful where so many other branches have failed.

In June we had an excellent presentation from Professor Brian Hill (St. Mary's College) on the upcoming total solar eclipse that will best be visible in a narrow band in the US from Oregon to Tennessee. The eclipse will only be 75% here in the Bay Area, just another cloudy moment. Those of you anxious for the experience received the best advice for viewing it.

At our June meeting, we inducted new member Jack DeRieux, sponsored by Gary Schaub. Let's make him welcome. We also had the company of three guests. Remember, the BEC has set a policy through our November meeting this year, if you sponsor a guest (potential member, not just a visitor) the branch will pay for the guest's lunch. We have four more luncheons left to take advantage of that policy.

I was also pleased to honor **Frank Rockwell** and Little Sir **Bruce Borgman** for the extraordinary service each has provided to our Branch. Give each of them a pat on the back or a high sign when you have an opportunity to see them up close and personal. WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , August 10th At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker Tom Barnidge Sports writer and metro columnist for St. Louis Dispatch and Contra Costa Times

> "46 years in Mainstream Media: My Life as an Enemy of the People" Gathering time - 11:00 am Starting time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend? Email: nolunchbranch146@amail.com Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146 By <u>Noon</u> Friday, August 4th



July's speaker was Professor Brian Hill (St. Mary's College) who shared his excitement on the upcoming total solar eclipse scheduled for August 21st

Once again, our next meeting is August 10th. If you cannot attend, kindly advise the Luncheon Chairman by noon the Friday before. Your attendance is expected unless you inform us otherwise. If you are a no show, we have to ask you to reimburse the branch for the cost of the lunch. Remember, bring a guest or two or three. See you on the 10th.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner Bruce Borgman

I have received much positive feedback about our speaker selections this year – and our last month's speaker fell right into the mold of a stimulating and interesting speaker. The Great American Eclipse will be a once-in-a-lifetime event

and even if you don't plan to drive up to Oregon to see it in totality – seeing it here will afford you the chance to see the sun occluded by 75%. Dr. Hill brought the event to life and gave it historical perspective – and I'm confident you enjoyed his presentation. St. Mary's College is anxious to develop more relationships with the community and I am sure we will have another interesting professor speak about his or her area of expertise in the coming months.

In the next few months we will explore other areas with a set of speakers who will encourage you to not miss the luncheon and invite friends and neighbors.

Our August speaker is Tom Barnidge. Tom is an active member of SIR Branch 8 and was a respected journalist during his career that spans over 46 years. For much of that time he was a sports writer and columnist for the St. Louis Dispatch and was a managing editor for the Sporting News – a national weekly magazine. For five years he was a columnist and writer for the Contra Costa Times – no doubt Tom will have many stories and experiences to share. His topic will be: "46 years in Mainstream Media – my Life as an Enemy of the People" (Wink! Wink!)

I will not give away the names of the speakers who have been selected for the next two months – but you will want to adjust your schedule so you don't miss either of them.

If you absolutely must miss a luncheon, be sure to email or phone your absence so that you will not be liable for the luncheon cost if we've counted on you. Continue to participate in the many activities – remember what Dr. Vella told us a few months ago – keeping active and maintaining your social network will keep your brain fit! And, eat chocolate and have that cup of coffee! See you in August.



Membership Dave Pierce

In July we inducted one new member, Jack DeRieux, who probably taught some of our children at Northgate High School. Charlie Abrams resigned (moving

out of the area). **Darlo Boone**, back from his winter sojourn in Florida, returned from inactive to active status. That puts us at 289, and we had three more guests (thank you, sponsors). You perhaps noticed we had a drawing for a free lunch for sponsors during January--June; **Roger Peters** won. Be a sponsor during July--December and you may win one in January.

New Member Photo Additions in June & July 2017



Brion Beetz



Howard Zimmerman



Jack DeRieux

Missing is John Kluesener who was inducted in June



Roger Peters winner of the 6 months Sponsor Drawing

SIR Call Newsletter GroupEditorRichard HockenbrockAssistant EditorsWalt Busenius, Rob MelroseProofreadersJeff Baily, Cal TuckerJonathan Korfhage, & Pat LuciaInternet PostingRon Plachy



Sunshine Calvin Tucker

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

- Jim Saavedra
- Bob Walton
- Malcolm Harrison
- Frank Ascatingo

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

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

> **Cal Tucker**, Sunshine Chair phone: (925) 389 6070 Email: <u>calvinctucker@gmail.com</u>

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

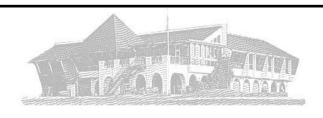
Big Sir	Al
Little Sir	Br
Secretary	Jo
Assistant Secretary	Br
Treasurer	Rc
Assistant Treasurer	St
Director(2 nd Term)	Je
Director(2 nd Term)	St
Director(1 st Term)	Da
Director(1 st Term)	Bi
Director(1 st Term)	Ca
Director(1 st Term)	Вс

Alan Elnick Bruce Borgman Jonathan Korfhage Brad Hatcher Roy Hodgkinson Steve Ybarra Jerry Kaplan Steve Sprague Dave Pierce Bill Schultz Cal Tucker Bob Mehus

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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



The ClubhousE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon August 10th, 2017

~Salad Course~

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

~Entrees~

BBQ Beef Brisket Slow Braised Beef Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Sautéed Vegetables

Or

Mahi Mahi

Herb Marinated Mahi Mahi, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Vegetables, Fresh Tomato & Avocado Relish

~Dessert~

Strawberry Mousse Cake 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.



Acoustic Musicians Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians Group. <u>We are looking for more Sirs</u> to bring their favorite Beatles songs. Thursday, 2 pm, August 17th, 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor, & walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc, . The objective will be to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses & 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 will be glad to lead this group. **Alan Elnick** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

French Trail Redwood Regional Park

Please join us Friday, August 11th for a nice <u>cool hike</u> through the redwoods of Oakland. We will be hiking the French Trail loop at Redwood Regional Park. This is a 6 mile single track

moderate loop hike that hits all the highlights of this wellshaded park nestled in the Oakland hills. This is a peaceful, hidden bowl of coastal redwoods with a creek at the bottom. Notice this hike is rated as moderate, I am allotting four hours with plenty of breaks and a lunch stop. Hiking poles are recommended as the first section is a steep uphill. After that will be a mostly level hike through the redwoods.

Take hi-way 13 to Redwood Road, turn left and drive about 4 miles to the Redwood Gate and park in the first lot on the left after the Fishway Interpretive Center. Redwood Regional Park, 7867 Redwood Road.

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

> <u>Hike starts at 10:00 am</u> <u>Rain Cancels</u> Spouses Always Welcome **Rich Ahlf** <u>rahlf@sbcglobal.net</u> Cell (925) 550-4967





Two of our newer members, **Brion Beetz** and **Jim Battersby** are seated and engaged in conversation prior to the July luncheon



Dale Haukland & Ron de Golia at the July luncheon



Rich Fiscina and Brad Hatcher share some conversation before the July luncheon



Ken Richter and Steve Ybarra checking out the Book Corner at the July luncheon



Jim Sanders and Ed Brands at the July luncheon



Dick McElroy and **Peter Plante** who volunteer to ensure the many books exchanged at the Book Corner make it to the meeting every other month



Luncheon Chairman Rob Melrose

Attendance: We consumed 197 meals at our July luncheon, which means a lot of members were on vacation, ill or otherwise busy.

<u>Next Luncheon:</u> Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10th, at the

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

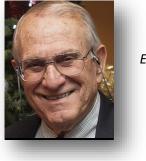
Opt Out Deadline: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the luncheon is Noon on Friday, August 4th. We will email at least one reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com before Noon on the Opt-Out deadline day. Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and leave a message with your name and badge number. Several members called my home number which is unfortunate as I was out of town and didn't get the message until I returned which was well after the lunch so if calling, please call the (925) 979-5146 number! A non-attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

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

<u>Bringing a Guest or a Visitor:</u> If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to <u>nolunchbranch146@gmail.com</u> on or before the opt out deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline, don't let that stop you. Please advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

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

<u>New Members, Guests and Sponsors:</u> 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.



Walking Group Frank Ascatigno Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales. Call Frank for current walk. Rain cancels any walk. Ladies Welcome Tel: (925) 429-2232



Pinochle Pete McNeill

After two monthly get togethers, the "regulars" are Jim Barry, Charlie Kahsen, Jeff Morrow, Frank Sonoda, (my wife) Sue McNeill and myself

We continue to actively recruit new members. We have

settled into meeting at Rocco's Pizzeria on the first Wednesday of each month at 11 am and play until approximately 2 pm. That means lunch is included as a standard part of the event. If you are interesting in joining our group, call or send me an email.

> Pete McNeill petemcgolf@gmail.com (925) 449-1942



SIR Explore & Eat Event <u>2 hour Bay Cruise/History Tour on USS Potomac</u> August 17th <u>Sign-up Now</u>



Henry Thatcher

At this time we have 49 people who have a paid reservation for our SIR 146 Explore & Eat group on the USS Potomac that is scheduled for August 17th, 2017. Good news is there some room for more sign-ups! <u>However, there are fewer than 30 tickets left for this voyage so sign-ups are based on space available</u>. This event will start with a slide show presentation of the history of the USS Potomac at 9:45 am at the USS Potomac's office located at 540 Water Street, Oakland (across from the boat dock in Jack London Square). At 10:15 we will board the USS Potomac and depart at <u>10:30 am</u>. The 2 hour cruise/tour will return to Jack London Square at 12:30 pm. We will be making arrangements for lunch in the Jack London Square area immediately following the cruise at approximately 1:00 pm.

Since we have 49 signed up, we have secured the group rate spot on the USS Potomac tour and we have the ability to sign up all future reservations (<u>based on space available</u>) for any additional people that want to go on the cruise at the discounted price. The boat holds 120 people and <u>there are less than 30 spaces open at this time</u>. There is plenty of convenient parking in a garage one and a half blocks from the boat dock and some meter street parking. More information on the cruise, parking and arrangements will be provided to all participants when we get closer to the event.



The cost to our SIR group is \$45/person or \$90/couple. If you are interested, please write a check payable to: **"USS Potomac Association"** and mail it to: **Jim Pope,** 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA. 94507. We hope you and your guest will come and sail with us on this historic vessel. Ahoy!



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

On Tuesday July 25th our 58 diners enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Benvenuti's restaurant. Many of us remember this restaurant as Salvatore – and were disappointed when it closed for some required ADA

modifications. Luckily it is back now with one of the original owners, Angela, who was pleased to welcome us back again. We had an organic green salad and then a choice of four entrees: Pollo Marsala, pan roasted petrale sole, veal with capers, and their signature lasagna. For dessert we had a house made lemon chiffon cake. We took over the majority of the restaurant, and enjoyed our

cocktail hour while chatting with our fellow diners. We've posted some of the pictures from our dining experience – check them out! This activity continues to draw a large number of our members and often the limiting factor is the size of the restaurant. The key to being able to join us for these events is to sign up early – ideally as soon as the notice is posted. Often the first to be notified are those on our mailing list – let me know if you wish to be on it, and are not already getting the notice.

Since Sue and I will be away on a road trip to Yellowstone in late September (yeah!) – we will likely have the "September" dinner in early October – Monday October 2^{nd} looks like the likely date. Mark your calendars!

We have not yet begun our search for the restaurant and always encourage you to let us know of a place you've tried and liked.

July Couples Dining Out at Benvenuti's Restaurant in Walnut Creek



(L to R): Dale & Joanne Haukland, Sue & Lo McCarley, Diane & Ron De Golia



(LS): Sandi & Ted Coggiola, Phyllis & Jim Meehan, Carl & Joyce Feil, (RS): Ken & Elaine Richter, Janice & Dick Woodman, Ann & Pete Gates



(F to B) George & Shari Carpenter, Joe & Barbara Stengel, Rich Hanford & Sandy Wagner, Bob & Wendy Lucido



(L to R) Linda Boyan, Joan Pierce, Cindy Greco, Nancy & John Pearl, Al and Diane Munayer, Tony Greco



(F to B) Dennis Hallett, Steve & Marna Dawkins, Dick DeVoe, Ann Hallett, Christy DeVoe, Jeff & Alicia Baily, Walt & Sue Busenius



Group picture of Couples Dining Out Attendees



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

On Wednesday, July 27th, about 18 of us gathered at the home of **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido**. We tasted a variety of Rosés from around the world. I think every wine production region has at least one Rosé. I'd like to thank **Bob** and **Wendy** for opening

their home and lovely yard to us! The weather was perfect for enjoying their picturesque gardens.

A bottle of Italian Rosé was presented to the **Bob** and **Wendy** for hosting. Our wine drawing winner was **AI Munayer** who was presented with a French Rosé.

As always if you are not on our mailing list and would like to participate in an afternoon of friendship and wine tasting, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at <u>rwmelrose@gmail.com</u>

Our next event is scheduled for October 25th at the home of **Joe** and **Barbara Stengel**. As we get closer we will publish wines to be tasted.



Wendy and Bob Lucido, our hosts for the July wine tasting, are toasted by Rob Melrose





Al Munayer is all smiles after his name was drawn as the July lucky winner of the event's featured wine, Rosé.



Wendy's & Bob's amazing back yard along with good conversation and Rosé wine made this July afternoon a special occasion. Notice the enhancing view of a large mirror on a section of their fencing (*right side*)

More July Rosé Wine Tasting Photos



(L to R): Jean Shebanek, Lynette Holly, Carmen Schiavone, Wendy Lucido, (*hidden*) Barbara Stengel and Diane Munayer



(L to R): Rob Melrose, Al Munayer, Jean Shebanek, Tony Shebanek, Bob Beitler, Joe Stengel, Brad Hatcher and Richard Hockenbrock



Wendy Lucido with the Rosé she received for hosting the Wine Tasting Event



Bob Lucido giving a tour among his tall redwoods



As the blind tasting began, there was discussion on some of the Rosé wines tasted so far. Picture here are **Joe Stengel** with **Rob Melrose** and **Brad Hatcher**

Travel Opportunities Milt Smith



<u>Blue Angels October 7th</u>. The crown jewel of the SF Bay. The best vantage point to see the Blue Angels is directly from under the planes. Indulge in a hosted buffet lunch as you sip on free - flowing champagne and enjoy background music from the onboard DJ. Then, step onto the outer deck to relax in the sunshine and watch jaw-dropping precision of the famous Blue Angels. Depart Walnut Creek (Mitchell Dr. Park & Ride) at 11:30 am and return approximately 6:30 pm. The cost is \$144 per person and includes: Roundtrip deluxe motor coach transportation, cruise on

the S.F. Belle, reserved seats, hosted Hot Buffet Luncheon, viewing of the Blue Angels and Driver Gratuity.

SIR Day at the Races October 20th. We have a special discount of \$41 per person. The Turf Package includes: Valet Parking, admission and reserved seating, daily racing form, Turf Club Buffett, taxes and tips. This is a great day at Golden Gate Fields for fun, camaraderie wagers and side wagers if you like. Buffet begins around 11 am.

Sign up now for each or either of these events by emailing your intentions to <u>miltsmith549@gmail.com</u>, then drop a check in the mail to: **Milt Smith**, 913 Piute Ct. Walnut Creek, CA. 94598. *Be sure the check is made out to SIR 146 and put the event in the memo line*. Also include a note with the name of your companion(s) if you are paying for more than yourself. You can also call my cell at (925) 285-2897.

<u>Ultimate Africa May 23rd. 2018</u>. We had a couple cancel for this trip so we now have room for two, traveling/ rooming together, for this great trip. Botswana, Zambia & Zimbabwe Safari, includes a trip to Victoria Falls. Add-on available to Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope. We have 14 SIR on this trip now, room for two more... we will have our own guides for our group. The current price of \$7,895pp includes airfare from San Francisco. The Cape Town / Cape of Good Hope add-on is an additional \$1,295pp. If you are interested contact me right away at <u>miltsmith549@gmail.com</u> or (925) 285-2897cell.









Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The salmon season has been the best in years. **Carl Moyer** and **Bob Stein** scored on trips out of the Golden Gate and Half Moon Bay. **Rich Bal, Ed Dijkman, Karl Droese, Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, and **Rick**

Fend traveled to Gustavus, Alaska and fished in the Gulf of Alaska for salmon and halibut for a week, catching limits of both species each day. Four halibut were over 200 lbs., but they were released and only fish in the 40 lb. category or under were kept. In other travels, **Karl Droese** and **Dick Thomson** fished the Columbia River and caught and released 99 sturgeon, while **Pedro Contreras** and **Steve Paulick** boarded a long range boat out of San Diego and fished the Baja California coast for yellowtail, dorado, and grouper, filling their freezers to capacity.

Closer to home, **Carl Moyer** caught halibut in the bay, rockfish in the ocean, and bluegill and crappie in the Delta. **Ernie Wong** ended a solid season for shad with 20 landed and released on his final day on the American River. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** worked the Delta successfully on several black bass outings.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, August 24th at the Legends Bar and Grill, Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but come for breakfast at 7:30! All experienced and wannabee fishermen are welcome! For further information, contact **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Paul Dubow holds the final catch of the Alaska trip---a 38 lb. halibut



Photography Group Richard Hockenbrock

Our August 25th meeting will be headlined by **Bruce Borgman** showing pictures from his recent trip to Egypt. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. In addition, we plan to show pictures of the photography group field trip to Martinez earlier in the month. If

we have time, we'll show a short video from one of the *Great Courses on Photography* series.

Richard Hockenbrock Email: rhock@pacbell.net Cell: (925) 324-1713 Home Phone: (925) 935-7464 <u>Next Meeting</u> Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library



Jonathan Korfhage and Jim Baldridge at the July luncheon

2661 Oak Grove Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598 Subject: Presentation by Bruce Borgman documenting his recent trip to Egypt. When: Next meeting, August 25th at 9:00 am—11:00 am Field trip to Martinez to capture town photos.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO) Jerry Kaplan

The July Mexican Train Game Night was held on July 14th at the very nice home of Sir **Sig Kalteis** and his wife, **Nancy** in Martinez. All three tables were almost full for the evening's game playing. Guests

included Sir **Chuck Denney** and wife **Mary**, as well as a semi-regular group sub, Sir **John Moose Kelly**.

The first place winner for the July Game Night was **Susan Kaplan**, wife of Sir **Jerry Kaplan** with an average score of 11.0, followed by Sir **Jim Stedman** coming in a close 2nd with an average of 11.3. **Martha Plante**, wife of Sir **Peter**, finished in 3rd place with 15.9.

Followed closely but out of the money were Sir **Bruce Borgman** at 16.9 and also finishing with an average score under 20 points were his wife, **Sue Sheldon** at 19.2.

Susan won four of the nine games played at her table, while **Jim** had zero points in five of the 12 games he played, including the last three in a row!

Group One is always looking for other Sirs who may be interested in playing occasionally as a substitute. Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play and easy to learn. Several individuals who had never played before have come to our Game Night and after just one open hand, were right in the midst of the fun. Please contact **Jerry** if you may want to join for a fun night out! Single Sirs as well as a SIR member and his Significant Other are always welcome.



MTD 1 July Winners (Center) 1st place Susan Kaplan, 2nd place (L) Jim Stedman, and 3rd place Martha Plante



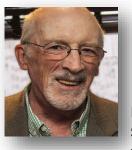
Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS) Dick Woodman

Bill and **Bernice Cammerer** always have such a great spread of goodies to go with a great evening of Mexican Train on June 23rd. It was a beautiful night and the final treat, as

we enjoyed their backyard on our break, was the special fruit ice cream goodies.

Peter Plante was the big winner for the evening with an average game score of 12.9. **Martha Plante** was next with 18.8 and **Ismini MacLean** was close behind at 19.3. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Our next gathering is at **Jim** and **Phyllis Meehan's** on July 28th. The results from that night will be reported in the September SIR CALL.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes III held their July games at the home of **Steve** and **Linda Siljestrom**. Even with East Bay temperatures hovering

close to 100 degrees, we were able to enjoy the **Siljestroms'** lovely patio setting and many delicious goodies and ice cream.

As the games got underway **Sue Busenius** went out as did **Larry Brown** at the same table to set the stage for taking first and second prizes for the evening which they did in fine style – **Sue**, going out twice but keeping her score low with an incredible 10.1 and **Larry** close behind, going out twice but limiting his point count to 13.9.

At another table occupied with the three winners of the 1st half of 2017 – **Judy Richmond, Lynn Shafer** and **Laurie Hoban, Jeff Baily** managed to overcome that intimidation and go out a respectable four times to take 3^{rd} place with a score of 16.3. High score of the night (23.7) was accomplished by an unidentified player.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro) _{Jim Pope}

The El Quattro Mexican Dominos group met with 20 of our group in attendance. We had 3 tables of Dominos competition, 2 with 7 and 1 with 6. The competition was great and the

laughs were very loud. The refreshments for the El Quattro Group were wonderful and required 6 bottles of wine to be consumed. The photo below shows the group before we started the Dominos.



(L to R) Dick DeVoe, Don Seaton, Henry Thatcher, Bill Weinberg, Dick Firth, Leslie Firth, Yvonne Killips, Ron Louis, June Seaton, Lo McCarley, Christy DeVoe, Sue McCarley, Renie Pope, Darlo Boone, Barbara Thatcher, Mariwyn McComb, Fran Matthews, Kim Pace, Rich Pace, and Jim Pope (not pictured) Jonathan & Barbara Korfhage as Jonathan is on the DL)



Cooking Lunch & Wine Pete Gates

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

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



Activities Coordinator Jerry Kaplan

MORE POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES? Branch 146 has continued to add activities; in fact, in the last five years, the number of fun opportunities has increased from 35 to 46 for Branch members (and, in many cases, also for their spouses) to

get together at activities that are in addition to the monthly luncheons.

Some of those that have been added in the last few years include: Hiking, Mexican Train Dominoes, Book Club, Book Corner, another Bridge group, and the melodious Acoustic Musicians. Recent additions in the last few months include Pickleball, Pinochle, and Explore and Eat.

There may be even MORE activities that SIR 146 members want to participate in but haven't been started as yet; with that in mind, I have reviewed activities that another branch offers which may be of interest to our Branch 146.

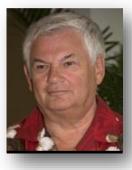
Several of these from a nearby branch (Branch 8) are listed below. But only the activity title is listed. Background on the specific activity can be found on the SIR Branch 8 website at <u>www.sirbr8.com</u>.

If you see any activity on the list that you may be interested in, please call or email me and I will do what I can to see if others may want to participate and we can get it started in our Branch!

- 1. Barbecue
- 2. SIRs at the Opera
- 3. Car Enthusiasts
- 4. Arts, Crafts, and Hobbies
- 5. Astronomy
- 6. Birding
- 7. Dine Out-Single SIRs
- 8. Model Railroading
- 9. SIRs at the Games
- 10. Writing Life Stories
- 11. Geocaching
- 12. Wine Bargains

In some cases, we may want to explore joining another branch in their activity, or possibly invite members from other branches to join one of our activities, if that works best. While golf is a great game and pastime, there are many other ways to meet and join with fellow Sirs as we all enjoy retirement!

We have all joined this great group of men to meet others who have similar interests, and to Have Fun! Let me know how I can help.



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

On Friday, July 14th, the SongSirs put on a performance of "Romantic Songs" arranged by Sir **Ken Donnelly** at the Concord Senior Center. While we had a few less singers than usual, we wound up with about twelve (*See picture*)

below). Despite the fewer number, those who were there sang with great gusto and enthusiasm. The performance was narrated by yours truly with the history of the songs which added a little story to each of the numbers. The songs included "You Light Up my Life", "You'll Never Know", "Love", "It Had to be You", "You Make me Feel so Young", "Love and Marriage" and others. It was so well received by our audience, that we are thinking about doing this same set of songs elsewhere, perhaps in September. One 91 year old gentleman stood up at the end of our performance and said, with some emotion, that he could not remember when he enjoyed himself as much. It reinforced why we sing at these places!

In the meantime, the SongSirs are starting work on a set of patriotic songs – to include the service songs, as well as "America the Beautiful", "This is my Country", "Men of Harlech", and others. We will sing some of these at our luncheon meeting in November.

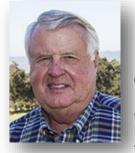
We are pleased that a new member, **Ron Lew**, will be joining the SongSirs – and we encourage others to come to one of our rehearsals at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church held every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm.



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone for your support and exchanging your old books for new ones to read.

We will be back in September with more books to choose from. See you then.



Cooking II Bob Yolland

We had a great lunch at **Corrie Oranje's** home Monday, July 10th. **Corrie** started the lunch with excellent hors d'oeuvres on a beautiful day outside on the deck. He followed that with some of his

favorite Dutch cheeses which including Cumin, aged Edam, and Brie with Pita Crackers. He also had a delicious Salami and Swiss cheese platter, stuffed olives and delightful Dutch marinated Herring. For lunch he made excellent Rueben sandwiches which were served with a nice fresh green salad with lots of goodies and a choice of dressings.

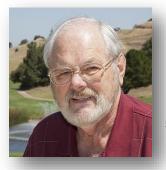
Since it was summer with some members out of town, we had a relatively small group. We heard all about **Corrie's** and **Bruce's** recent exciting European trip. **Corrie** finished lunch by serving vanilla ice cream topped with a Limoncello liquor. With plenty of good wine and conversation it was a great afternoon.



(L to R) Peter Plante, Bob Yolland, Lo McCarley, Paul Beretz, Bill Rees, Frank Lucas, Ken Kratz, Corrie Oranje, Russ Bliese, and Joe Starkey

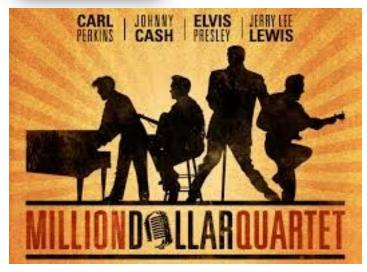


At the July luncheon are SongSirs Bruce Borgman, Ken Donnelly, Frank Lucas, Corrie Oranje, Steve Dinning (pianist), and Lynn Shafer. Standing left of the SongSirs listening are Martin Harper and Bill Stevenson



Theatre Gary Schaub

Gary reports that our limited number of reserved seats on October 5th for "Million Dollar Quartet" at Lesher Center is "SOLD OUT."



Gary F. Schaub 1400 Canyonwood Ct, #8 Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (925) 938-5454 gschaub1@gmail.com





Table PoolBill Weinberg

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



Book Club Chuck Campbell

Six Sirs gathered last Monday, July 17th to discuss J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy.* Vance takes us through his life as a transplanted hillbilly living in Middletown, Ohio. His young life is extremely troubled mostly due to his mother's many failed marriages and her

addictions. He somehow survives these problems primarily through the care from his maternal grandparents and other extended family relatives. These relatives exhibit the hillbilly culture, independently taking care of their own without outside help. While the hillbilly culture seems to have its many advantages and disadvantages, Vance is ultimately saved by his 3-year stint in the Marines. After leaving the Marines he attends college, culminating in a law degree from Yale. Our group was expecting that Vance's hillbilly memoir would provide another perspective on the poor white population favoring Republican policies as presented in Strangers in Their Own Land by Arlie Hochschild, which we had read earlier. But Vance's book was simply a personal memoir with only weak references to poor white class attitudes.

For our next book we chose *Giant of the Senate* by Al Franken. We will meet at the Black Bear Restaurant August 28th starting at 8:30 am.



Couples Party Bridge Dave Pierce

The Couples Party Bridge met for an abbreviated session on July 18th with several participants absent. The bidding was spirited and the play was elevated. At the end of the evening the fortunes of

Christy and **Dick DeVoe** were increased as a result of their first place finish by a margin of nearly 1,000 points. **Lynne** and **Brad Hatcher**, our hosts, came in second and **Linda** and **Larry Brown** were "in the money" for third. As usual, the beverages and dessert were well received.

Reported by Brad Hatcher

Three seniors are out for a stroll. One of them remarks, "It's windy." Another replies, "No way. It's Thursday." The last one says, "Me too. Let's have a soda."



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 had a great evening of bridge on July 19th hosted by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**. The food and wine were really good with **Christy** serving her

renowned guacamole, several cheeses with crackers, nuts, chocolate kisses and chocolate chip cookies.

Congratulations to all the winners. When the boards scores were added up our hosts, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, came in first with 24 points. A close second was **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 23 1/2. Third went to **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini Maclean** with 21 1/2. Thank you **Dick** and **Christy** for a pleasant evening and thank you to our subs for coming.

August 16th will be our next game at the home of **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** in Moraga.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Doug Eisner

Fred Bolton hosted 4 tables of Duplicate Bridge 1 on July 17th. **Sid Landman** started the day by relying heavily on his partners to carry him into first place in the AM session with

17.0 pt . Sid was followed by Roger Peters with 16.0 pt, and Brad Hatcher and Dick DeVoe at 14.5 pt each. However, the PM session was a different matter as Sid's partners rudely deserted him and he and Roger barely hung on for a prize at the end of the day. Meanwhile, Brad Hatcher ramped up his game and came out of nowhere to claim first place with 47.0 pt. Tony Greco was way back in second place with 44.0 pt, while Sid and Roger shared 3rd place with 43.0 pt.

The group welcomed **Tony Greco** as the newest regular member, replacing **Charlie Abrams**. **Bob Yolland** will host our Aug 21^{st} game.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge Group #3 met for 3 tables of duplicate bridge hosted at **Bob Yolland's** home on July 21st.

In first place, with a score of 29.5 points or 61%, was **Tony Greco**. **Tony** was also in first place in both the first and second halves. **Tony** has been a consistent winner in the top 4 for many months. We are checking to see what he has up his sleeve. Congratulations!! It just proves that you can be up there consistently month after month.

In second, with a score of 28 points or 58%, was **Max Hinkle**. Max placed 3rd in the first half and 2nd in the second half. Consistency wins every time over brilliance. **Max**, great game.

Finally, **Steve Olsen** was in third place with a score of 27.5 or 57.3%. **Steve** had a superb second half after placing way down in the first half. This is an example of the power of the come-back kid and never giving up. **Steve**, wonderful game and finish.

Thanks to our host **Bob Yolland**, who made sure we had coffee, munchies and delivered a magnificent dessert for lunch. **Bob**, we appreciate your hospitality and have voted you as the host of the year as long as you host for all twelve months. Not gonna happen, right?

We look forward to another rousing battle and fun for all, next month.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Dick and **Christy DeVoe** hosted all the regulars on a pleasant evening, July 11th. In a spirited contest, **Ken** and **Elaine Richter**

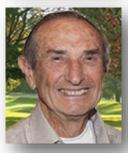
were third (19.5 match-points), **Cindy** and **Tony Greco** were second (22), and hosts **Dick** and **Christy** were rewarded for their usual excellent hospitality (and guacamole) with first (24, 60% game). The hosts almost <u>never</u> win. How could it happen: were the sun and the moon aligned? No, that comes on August 21st. Congratulations, **Dick and Christy**!

Dave Pierce (last place), 932-3877



Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met July 12th at the home of **Don Del Bene**. As always a good time was had by all, good food, good conversation, and winners and losers.



Poker Group 2 Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3 Sig Kalteis

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



Poker Group 5 Bill Roberts

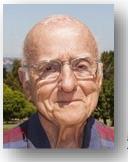
Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Rich Alf, Bob Larson, Norm Baietti, and Howard Charlop met at Frank Lucas' house for another fun afternoon. Not much money changed hands, as Rich Alf was the

high winner with a plus \$3.00. (Filling his inside straight to get a natural probably had something to do with it.) We meet next at **Rich Alf's**, and if you want to join us, we are holding auditions. If interested, Call **Brad Hatcher** at (925) 935-1571. Reported by **Frank Lucas**



Bocce Ball Martin Lyle

Well, we have almost reached the mid-point of the 2017 Bocce season. We have welcomed a number of new players and have seen good improvement in the regulars. There is plenty of room for new players, so come and join us. Time

and location listed below.

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 Cancel Play. Ladies are welcome.



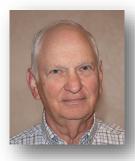
Bowling Larry Mitchell

The short summer bowling leagues will be over in a few weeks and now would be excellent time to explore joining a regular winter League. No experience necessary! Call

Larry (925) 798-5440) and tell him how excited you are about joining in on the fun.



Bruce Jones, Larry Mitchell, and **Pierre Mebane** are the only active members of the SIR Branch 146 bowlers. Larry says "We need more members who would like to come and bowl with us. We are currently feeling kind of lonely."



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Results for May's SIR Area 16 annual team qualifier at Hiddenbrooke were announced. Two of our foursomes, teams led by **Dick DeVoe** and **John Harrington**, have qualified for the finals at Poppy

Ridge. It is worthy of note that **John Harrington's** teams have qualified three years in a row!

Bill Cammerer is still on a roll -- he shot his age for the 14^{th} time on July 18^{th} .

There was no July Tournament Tuesday event but on August 1st we will have a match play event. Normal Match play tournaments are very difficult to implement at Branch 146 because travel and other activities often prevent players from playing their next matches in a timely way. It is not much fun to win your bracket because your competitor couldn't make it. Thus the August event will be a nine-hole match play in which the competition will reside entirely within the foursome. The two front nine winners will play off on the back nine. One alternative was to have 18-hole matches with winners playing off in the afternoon. We didn't think there would be any participation in such an event.

Our next Away Golf expedition will be on August 3^{rd} at the popular and convenient Blue Rock East in Vallejo.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities. With over 100 signed up, its a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow SIR members. We play Tuesday mornings at Boundary Oak and would be pleased to have you join us. Get in touch with us either through a SIR golfer or simply email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



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. <u>vlaursen@astound.net</u>



Cribbage John Pearl

On the fine summer day of July 26th, a group of the branch's finest cribbage players gathered at the home of **Barney Meade**.

The Brit, **Dennis Hallett**, repeated his win for the <u>third</u> consecutive month, again winning

first place money. **Jim Stedman** joined us this month coming in a close second, with two "skunks." Third place was taken by our chair, **John Pearl**, winning his ante back. A good time was definitely had by all this month.

Our next scheduled event is Wednesday, August 23rd.

"Away Golf" at Mare Island on July 6th, **Jim Barry**, **Joe Fuchs**, and **Alan Elnick**



Branch 146 welcomes back Jim Saavedra to the July luncheon after a lengthy illness



Pickleball Jim Burk

Here is a simple status report following two different sessions of pickleball at our new facility in Alamo.

On Wednesday, July 5th, our Branch 146 attendance was 12 out of the 40 who had previously expressed an interest. On Wednesday, July 12th,

the numbers were 8 of 40. Following the two gettogethers, three (3) individuals have indicated they do not feel comfortable continuing from a physical standpoint.

I would like to continue our collective experiment into the world of pickleball, and give it more time to determine whether we, in fact, have sustained interest in learning and enjoying the game. One approach that we are implementing is to have separate morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and not assign particular organizations to each of them (e.g., Walnut Creek Pickle Ball Club; the Rossmoor Pickle Ball Club, and the Sir Branches 146 and 128). Thus, they would truly become "drop-in" sessions according to what days and times of the day you personally prefer. This allows for more flexibility and opportunity to play when you want to.

On Wednesday, August 2nd we will NOT play (there is a Church Basketball Camp that will be in progress that entire week).

On other Wednesdays, the times will be from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and also from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the ARC Center which will be reserved for Sir Branches. The ARC Center is located within the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church campus.

I hope you can make it to one of our future sessions and that your interest in pickle ball is still at a high level.



ultinate

A gas station has become quite a landmark in Gauteng, South Africa for what is written daily on a chalkboard. Some people say they deliberately travel this route just to read the quote which brightens their day. Look here and pages 21 & 22 for samplings.

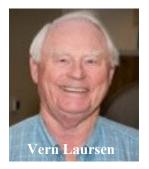


Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

Computers and Technology





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

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

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



We will have no meetings in July and August. Back again on Wednesday, September 27th.

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



PCs



The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group [formerly A2CAT] announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday August 17th, 2017 starting at 9:30 am, but come early for coffee, goodies, and chat. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Phil Goff is going to focus on getting organized and show us some of the basic functionality of Photoshop Elements. People often ask how to get photos off their smart phones, or how can to find photos that are currently on their computer. Well, **Phil** is going to help with that and more at our August 17th meeting. His presentation notes should be available on the CAT Web page (a2cat.sirinc2.org) several days prior to the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 am, Thursday, August 17th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our August meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman







Under the Wire SAVE THE DATE FOR

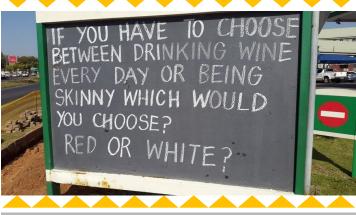


Our Sons in Retirement BR146 AUTUMN DINNER DANCE featuring a fivepiece dance band on <u>Saturday Evening</u> <u>October 21st 2017 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm</u> at Zio Fraedo's Italian & Continental Restaurant in Pleasant Hill for \$110 per couple. Your entre choices are steak, fish, or pasta. Bring your dancing shoes! By Jonathan Korfhage



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We cancelled the July game due to the holiday. Our next game will be announced via phone. Look for result of our August game in the September SIR CALL.



Apps Corner

Google Duo is a one-to-one video calling app for everyone – designed to be simple, reliable and fun so you never miss a moment. For both Android and iOS. Click link to learn more.

https://duo.google.com/

Submitted by Verner Laursen

Eclipse Safari is your comprehensive interactive guide to the August 21st, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse of the Sun, visible along a narrow path spanning the USA from the West coast to the East coast.





Submitted by Verner Laursen

SnoreLab Do you have Sleep Apnea?. Only a physician's sleep study will tell for sure but this app may give you a clue. It will record an entire night of your breathing sound and gives you a snoring loudness curve. To learn more, go to <u>www.snorelab.com</u>

Submitted by Richard Hockenbrock

