

# SIR CALL

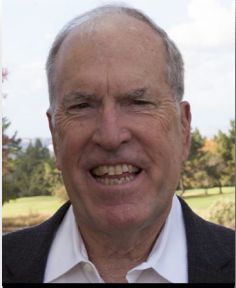
br146sircall@gmail.com

August 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Big Sir's Notes

Brad Hatcher

As I mentioned in my note to you in mid-July, we must elect the 2021 Officers and Board Directors at our virtual luncheon meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The list of those gentlemen and their roles is listed in

the table at the bottom of the next column.

Please plan to attend the meeting. We need you to exercise your vote to approve the above list of Officers and Directors. You may offer additional nominations during the meeting if you desire. Respectfully, please be sure the person you nominate is willing to serve.

We had 100 members join us last month at our virtual luncheon and as you can see in the Red column next to this note we have another interesting speaker at the coming meeting. You may expect a similar format to the meeting. We will sign on to Zoom, divide into small "breakout rooms" and chat with those in that room, come back to the main meeting and listen to our speaker, and then conduct Branch business. Our July meeting ran about one hour and thirty-five minutes.

You will see an "E-blast" note a couple of days before the meeting. It will contain the necessary information to gain access to the meeting.

The Branch Executive Committee (BEC) met on July 7th. There were several actions of note. We approved two new members. Please welcome **Cliff Sanburn** and **Martin Steinpress** to our Branch! Yes, you can bring a guest to the meeting and get him involved with Sir Branch 146. The request for restarting the Cooking – Lunch & Wine activity was approved.

The plan to offer refunds to the 89 Annual Payers was approved. You have the option to request a refund or leave the money with the Branch until we again meet in face to face luncheons. If you wish a refund, please E-mail Treasurer **George Mon** at [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net) to request your unused dollars back. If we do not hear from you by the end of August, the money will stay with the Treasurer.

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting  
Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker

David Livingston Sheriff of Contra Costa County  
"Discussion on Improving Safety in the County"

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:30 am  
Speaker Presentation: 12 Noon

Invite a guest to attend the meeting—use the email address below

Email: [attend146meeting@gmail.com](mailto:attend146meeting@gmail.com)  
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

The BEC meeting minutes are posted on the website for your review.

The Branch Executive Committee will meet on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is open to all members. If you wish to attend, please e-mail **Jerry Kaplan**. He will make sure you receive the invitation to the Zoom BEC meeting.

See you at the luncheon.

Stay safe – be well!

## 2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little Sir.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary .....	Larry Kaye
Assistant Secretary .....	Rich Lyon
Treasurer .....	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer .....	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term .....	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term .....	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term .....	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term .....	George Mon
Director 1st Term .....	Bob Wilkenfeld
Director 1st Term .....	Paul Masta

## SIR Mission Statement

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



### Little Sir's Corner

**Richard Hockenbrock**

As you read in Brad's Big Sir report, the new monthly electronic meeting we had on July 9<sup>th</sup> was a success. Sure, we had some problems which we are going to address in our next meeting on

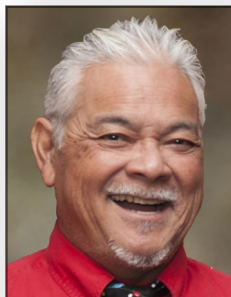
August 13<sup>th</sup> but there is one problem that we cannot improve on without your help and that is your attendance at the next meeting.

We had 100 members attend the Zoom meeting in July. This was the first full meeting using Zoom and we had no idea how many members would show up. When we were having normal sit-down luncheons, our attendance was closer to 200 members. So for the August meeting, I'm setting a goal of 150, that is half way between 100 and 200.

I want you to know that I'm really going out on limb here because I have no idea why 50 members didn't attend. Could it be that your computer wasn't working? Maybe you couldn't log on? In any case, if you are one of the **50 members who do not plan to attend the August meeting**, please send me an email at [rhock2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rhock2005@yahoo.com) letting me know your reason. This is a special email I set up to address issues relating to attendance and technical issues while we are using Zoom. There is no penalty for not attending, but when two thirds of our 300 members don't show up, I, as Little Sir, need to try to find out why. Thanks for your understanding.

I also want to add that our guest speaker for August is Contra Costa County sheriff David Livingston and he wants to talk about safety in the county. Safety should be important to all of us so this is just another reason why I think you should attend this meeting.

Now I want to address something that is very dear to me and that is the unexpected passing of my wife Sherry on July 9<sup>th</sup>. I am extremely grateful to all the support Branch 146 members showed me in my time of grief and sadness. I learned truly what it means to be a member of this organization with its outpouring of member condolences and letters. This organization is like an extended family in my time of mental anguish and I want to thank everyone for your help and friendship in getting me through this. Hope to see you all in August!



### Membership

**Ron Lew**

The BEC approved 2 new members to join our branch during our July Zoom Board meeting. We welcome the 2 new members sponsored by **Paul Beretz**. Retiring from Brown and Caldwell is **Martin**

**Steinpress** of Concord. Retiring from U.A. Local 342 is **Cliff Sanburn** of San Ramon.

We will soon have post cards available for you to send to your friends and affiliates to introduce them to SIR. Many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our software like Zoom, Facebook or Skype.

We will be having a Zoom meeting in August. Hopefully, you can bring others into this organization of SIR 146 via Zoom, while making friends for life. Many of us outside of Sir 146 meet respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything.



Dr. Sara Kate Levin, Deputy Health Officer who has been dedicated since March to the Contra Costa County's Emergency Operations Team in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. She was our first outside speaker this year using Zoom at our July 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. Her talk was very timely given the current state of the virus continuing spread.



## Couples Dining Out

**Bruce Borgman**

I wish there were more positive news to report regarding this once popular activity of our branch, but alas, there has not been a significant change in the regulation in our county regarding restaurant dining. Restaurant dining is allowed only in a patio format and prohibited for any inside dining. If you've made the rounds of our communities, particularly in Walnut Creek and Danville, you will have noted that accommodation has been made to expand sidewalk and street spaces so that the restaurants are able to set up a larger number of tables.

While we have checked out some of the restaurants, it does not seem to me that the spaces are conducive to even a small group. Most of the tables are set up for parties of two, with a few for four, so that our ability to socialize is limited. However anxious we are to socialize and see one another, most of us are limiting interactions with our friends to visiting and sharing a glass of wine in our backyards with proper social distancing.

So, for now, we will await some improvement in the covid-19 statistics and loosening of the restrictions on restaurants. In the meantime, we encourage you to utilize the takeout features of the restaurants so that they can maintain a level of revenue and survive this devastating effect on their business.

Stay well and optimistic that we will see some improvement soon!



## Sunshine

**Brian McCarthy**

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

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.

- **Hugh Ferguson**
- **Joe Hunt**
- **Tom Boltz**
- **Bob Greulich**
- **Vince Rettew**
- **Stan Stricherz**
- **Rick Morgan**

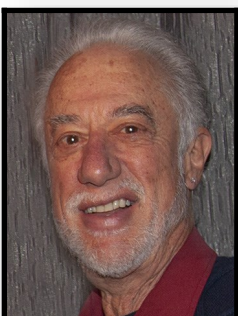
One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they "opt out" of the monthly luncheon. Since the in person luncheons have been cancelled (at least for the time being) and we all are "sheltering at home" this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, your poker or bridge buddies, etc. to see how they are doing. If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness, send me an email so that we can let the membership know. This way the membership of Branch 146 can keep the SIR who is ill in their thoughts and prayers.

This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.

**Brian McCarthy**

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



## RV Wanderers

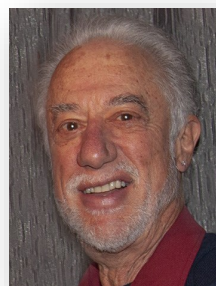
**Bob Lucido**

We had to change locations for our trip to Manchester because of the restrictions at that site. They wouldn't let people cross over to other campsites even with masks and 6-foot distances. We are now at the 49er Village RV Park in Plymouth where they let us sneak over to other campsites but keep our distance.

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

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



## Activities Coordinator

**Bob Lucido**

The Cooking and Wine Activity has been approved to reopen. The following conditions will ensure the safety of members:

Meeting will be held in an outside area of a member's home while seating six feet apart. If the host cooks inside, he will wear a mask. Disposable plates and utensils will be used.

Book Group, Cribbage, Men's Hearts, and Photography activities are using Zoom and online card games to continue to meet.



# SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



**Bob White** was honored belatedly on July 9<sup>th</sup> for his 20 years of membership which took place in March but was delayed because we did not have lunch meetings until now because of COVID.

**Bob** was born in Iowa and served in the Navy during the Korean War. After discharge **Bob** obtained a BA degree in history from Park College in Missouri and a subsequent scholarship to the SF Theological Seminary. While at the seminary in 1965 Bob, and several classmates, accepted an invitation to join Doctor Martin Luther King and others in their historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. **Bob** later moved to Concord and began a 32-year teaching career at Campolinda High School in Moraga.

Bob was sponsored by **Doug Pedersen**. He enjoys reading, yard work, and, as our golfers can attest, hitting a golf ball about a mile and a half down the fairway.



**Ken Richter**, like **Bob White** was honored belatedly and received his 20 year award for March on July 9<sup>th</sup>. **Ken** is a northern Californian through and through. He was born, raised, and educated in San Francisco at Polytechnic High School, CCSF, and SFSU.

After college **Ken** joined the Richmond School District where he remained for his entire career, serving in a variety of teaching and administrative capacities. He retired in 1998.

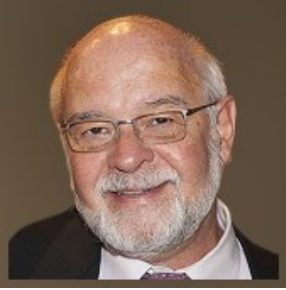
**Ken** was sponsored by **Dean Merritt** and promptly became involved in branch affairs. He served for many years as our Travel Chairman and Asst. Chairman. More recently he founded and served as the first chairman of the popular bimonthly Book Exchange.

In 2016, **Ken** was awarded the Branch's highest honor, that of Branch Honoree.

**Ken** and **Elaine** have lived in Walnut Creek since 1998. Ken enjoys travel, golf, bridge, and poker.



# SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



**Rob Melrose** was presented today with the branch's **Certificate of Appreciation** which he actually earned back in April but like the rest of the Awardees, his presentation was delayed due to COVID. The award itself is presented to members who have distinguished themselves in service to branch 146. **Rob** is a living, breathing example of a SIR who meets this criteria.

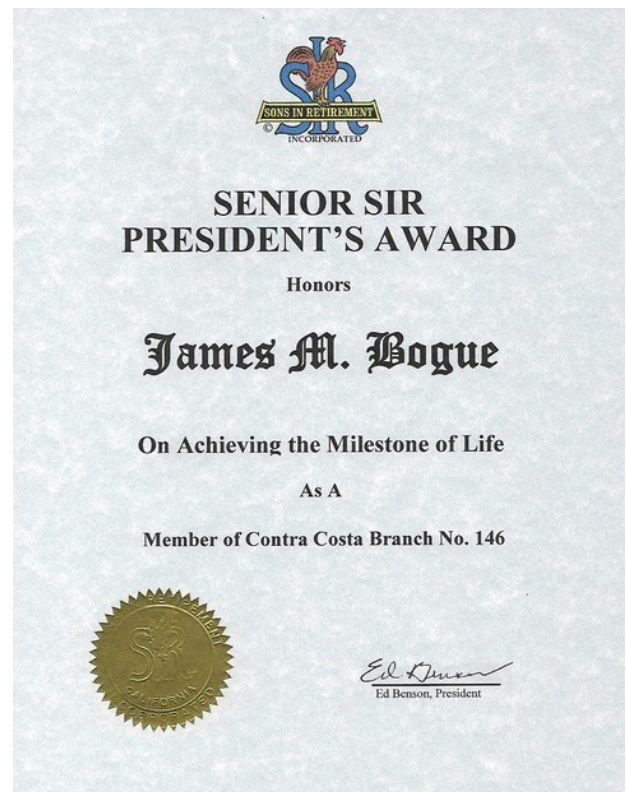
**Rob** was born and raised in Michigan and his higher education and entire career has evolved around computer technology. **Rob** affectionally calls himself a technology or computer geek. He is an IT Pro. **Rob** had a varied business career, all in the technology sector which included Wells Fargo Bank after moving to California.

**Rob** joined our branch in November 2012, sponsored by **Jim Saavedra**, and immediately became active in Branch activities and volunteering. Along with his outgoing wife **Carmen**, he has been very active.

**Rob** served both as Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer in 2014 & 2015. He chaired the Luncheon Committee from 2017 to the start of this year. Also, in 2017 and 2018, **Rob** served on the Audit Committee. **Rob** has continued to chair the Wine Tasting activity since 2015 and serves as an Assistant Editor of the SirCall. We can thank **Rob** for all the humorous jokes and cartoons every month. In the world of SIR, **Rob's** resume is truly impressive. We thank him for his commitment and dedication to Branch 146 in receiving the **Certificate of Appreciation**.



**Jim Bogue** reached the age of 90 years old on June 2020 making him eligible to receive the Senior SIR President's Award which was presented to him in absentia. Since BR 146 didn't have a luncheon meeting, in June, his award was presented by **Jim Burk** at the July 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon. Congratulation to **Jim** for reaching this milestone in his life.





# SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



**Dave Steinberg** was presented with the Branch 146 **Certificate of Appreciation** at the July 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting. This award is presented to members of our branch who have distinguished themselves in service to Branch 146.

**Dave** was born and raised in New York City and came West when, according to **Dave**, he entered the witness protection program. That is his story. Along the way, he graduated from "The Ohio State University", arriving in Northern California in 1974 where he spent considerable time working for The Wells Fargo Bank.

**Dave** joined our branch in February 2009, sponsored by **Joe Fuchs** and immediately became active in golf and bridge – both are his recreational passions. **Dave** has been a leader and advocate for all Sir Golfers on our branch's Golf Committee for at least 10 years. **Dave** has served as the ever diligent and important Golf Treasurer for at least 5 years, handling the job with trust and dispensing the winnings with efficiency.

**Dave** enjoys travel, bridge, reading and playing golf. I hear from reliable sources that **Dave** is a cracker-jack bridge player.



**Ray Kan** became a member of Branch 146 back on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000 sponsored by **Jack Calloway**. At the July 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting this year, he was awarded his 20th year service award.

**Ray** graduated from UC Berkeley with a BS and Master's in Optometry in 1958 and had a successful private practice until retirement in 1997. **Ray** has been highly active in Moraga community affairs and his Optometry organizations. A man obviously with lots of energy and a desire to make his community better. We suggest you read his Bio on our branch website.

In 2005, **Ray** was our Big Sir after having been little Sir in 2004. **Ray** has also served on the Travel, Nominating and Honorees Committees. We gleaned from our branch history on the website, that the year **Ray** was Big Sir, Branch membership was increased from 210 to 240 and a moratorium was placed on the Waiting List. Those were the days!





## AREA 16 Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

This has been an odd fishing year so far and not only because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

When the year began, the predictions were that it would be a good one for halibut fishing in the bay because there was only a limited supply of anchovies in the ocean and that it would be a great year for salmon fishing in the ocean because the heavy rains three years ago produced a substantial amount of baby salmon that made it to the Pacific.

Let us discuss the halibut first. Our first foray in the Bay for the flat fish produced a nice batch of rockfish, two undersize stripers, and no halibut. Later, another group, denied access to salmon fishing in the ocean because of bad weather, tried their luck fishing for halibut in the bay. The result was two halibut!

But then we discovered the reason for our lack of success. A large school of anchovies could be found just outside of the Golden Gate. And so, a group consisting of **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 plus **Brion Beetz**, **Karl Droese**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Phil Scimonelli** set out for them on the Sundance and did quite well. They caught 17 keepers, one less than the limit. In addition, they were good sized. All but one was well over the 22-inch minimum size with an average of 10 lbs., topped by a 22 pounder that **Brion** landed. In fact, we only hooked three fish (two by yours truly) that were under the limit and released. Normally, about half of a catch are undersized and must be released.

Salmon has been a different story. Normally, the season begins in April, but the virus restrictions prevented sport fishing (outside of a boat with two family members only) until mid-June. At first things went quite well, with fishermen returning from outings with catches near or at the limits. It culminated with an outing on the Sundance with **Carl Moyer**, his daughter **Leah**, **Brion Beetz**, **Phil Scimonelli**, and **Dick Thomson** that limited out by 8:14 am (after about an hour and one half of fishing) and were back home for mid-morning coffee. Since then, the bite has been sporadic. For example, **Rich Fiscina** and **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 ventured out on **Pedro Contreras'** boat and managed to land just one keeper and two shakers, although they did hook but could not land three other fish. A group consisting of **Brion Beetz**, **Carl Moyer**, **Bob Stein**, and **Jack Waddell**, fishing on the Sundance, did somewhat better one week later, hooking eight keepers, but still less than the limit.

Nearby, the fishermen on **Pedro Contreras'** boat landed a 14 pounder as soon as the lines were dropped, but only could land two shakers after that, while the fishermen on **Rich Fiscina's** boat came up empty handed.

There have been other activities besides salmon and halibut fishing. **Stan Wong** had a very successful kokanee outing on Lake Berryessa, **Phil Scimonelli** enjoyed catching bluegills on the shore of San Pablo Reservoir, and **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** kept up with their regular forays in the Delta, catching both stripers and black bass

It is still fun to fish and we hope that some of you will join us at our monthly meetings and sign up for our many outings. Because of the virus restrictions, our meetings are on Zoom and the next one is scheduled for 8:30 am on Thursday, August 27. For more details, feel free to contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 or Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166.



Photo by member of Sundance crew

Halibut catch outside Golden Gate on Sundance. (L to R): Gordon Linebaugh, Paul Dubow, Karl Droese, Carl Moyer, Phil Scimonelli, and Brion Beetz.





## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 21st from 9 AM to 11 AM via Zoom. We will continue to utilize Zoom Video for the foreseeable future.

Richard Hockenbrock will have a You Tube Video on the newly released Canon R5 and R6 cameras that are creating quite a buzz in the photography world. If there any other topics that you want to present, then please notify me at your convenience.

If you are new to the SIRs organization and are interested in joining our photography group meeting or sharing a subject that you are interested in, then please contact Moose Kelly at [Rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:Rollingstone911@yahoo.com) or call me at (610) 517-0152.

I will forward an agenda of the subjects we will be covering along with the Zoom link roughly one week before the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Stay safe and be well out there!!!

Email: [RLHOCK@outlook.com](mailto:RLHOCK@outlook.com)

Cell/Text: (925) 324-1713



## Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /  
Jeff Morrow**

*We meet on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday of the*



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

*All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never played before, as well as those who last played many years ago.*

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

*If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group. **No Scheduled Games until Further Notice***

**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

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

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)

## 2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Little Sir.....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Larry Kaye*</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>George Mon</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Ross Abbott</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Milton Smith</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Brian McCarthy</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Ron Lew</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Open*</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Activities .....	<b>Bob Lucido</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Tony Greco</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

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

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?"

"You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife.

Delighted, she opened it to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams."



### SIR Happenings Newsletter

[http://www.sirinc.org/  
sirhappenings](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings) is the

statewide SIR newsletter.

Click on the link to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.







## Travel Milt Smith

We have two trips scheduled for 2021.

### 2021 Grand Baltic Sea Voyage

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 departure...

**Denmark:** Copenhagen, Bornholm **Poland:** Gdansk

**Sweden:** Visby, Stockholm **Latvia:** Riga **Estonia:** Tallinn

**Russia:** St. Petersburg **Finland:** Helsinki

**Pre-trip: Denmark:** Copenhagen

**Post-trip: Sweden:** Stockholm

COUNTRIES: **7**

CITIES: **9**

DAYS: **14**

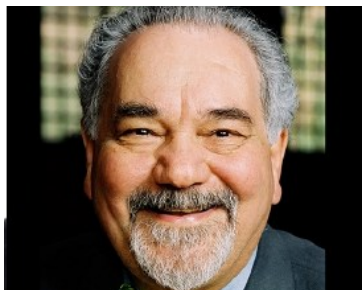
**10** nights aboard our privately owned **89-PASSENGER**  
M/V CLIO

Average group size: **22** travelers

SIR 146 has 11 signed up for this trip now, still room for more... Price aprox...\$8,500pp. A great Trip!

Call **Milt Smith** directly for more information at 925-285-2897. This cruise was originally scheduled for this year, postponed one year.

**2021 Narsai David Cruise.** Narsai David is the renowned Bay Area restaurateur and also serves as the KCBS Food & Wine Director. Several SIR branches are putting this cruise together. **It has been postponed to the same time next year...late September, exact dates yet to come.**



Narsai David  
KCBS Food and Wine Editor

- Eight nights North American Treasures Cruise aboard the Crystal Serenity. September 28<sup>th</sup>—October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Quebec City to New York City
- On this hosted cruise Narsai will share his numerous years of expertise in California Cuisine.
- Port Stops: Quebec City, cruising the St. Lawrence, cruising the Bay of Fundy, St. John, Bar Harbor, Boston / Newport, NYC.
- Crystal Cruises is now all inclusive. All beverages, gratuities, enrichment classes.
- Double occupancy from \$3,683 pp to \$7,283 pp depending on cabin. Airfare not included.

*This trip is filling fast so if you intend to go better sign up now by calling Alamo Travel at (925) 837-8742. Be sure to mention SIR Br. 146. Let me know, too.*

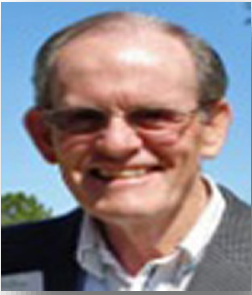
Not much more to report. All trips have been cancelled or postponed. The Baltic Capitals and the Quebec City to NYC Crystal Cruise are postponed one year...more to come on both...

I am looking at international travel for 2021 - 22 to the Mediterranean, Africa and South America. Also looking at USA trips and Panama Canal. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these or have other ideas with which I can help.

In the meantime, below and on next page are some photos you might enjoy.

**Milt Smith**  
(925) 285-2897





## Pickleball and Ping Pong

### Jim Burk

The location where the two activities are to be held, namely the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507, remains closed considering the current Coronavirus situation. The Church is targeting to open the gymnasium for Basketball and Volleyball activity conservatively no earlier than January 1, 2021, with the Ping Pong activity being targeted for later in the 1st Quarter of 2021.

We will keep you up to date on opening dates as soon as the County Health Department gives us clearance.

### Jim Burk– PickleBall

(925) 946-1192

[jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)

### Ron Afdal - Ping Pong

(925) 825-4809

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

## Luncheon Chairman

### Rich Lyon

*I hope everyone is playing it safe and staying healthy! The Branch will publicize the details when it is permitted to resume the monthly luncheons. Please stay tuned for details.*

*Once the monthly Luncheon is restarted, friends who are interested in joining should be invited for a one-time "free lunch" per friend.*

*In addition to the many Branch activities, the Luncheon provides a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new people with whom you may already have something in common.*

*We don't know when the Luncheons will resume or under what rules and restrictions but, sometime after the shelter in place order is lifted.*

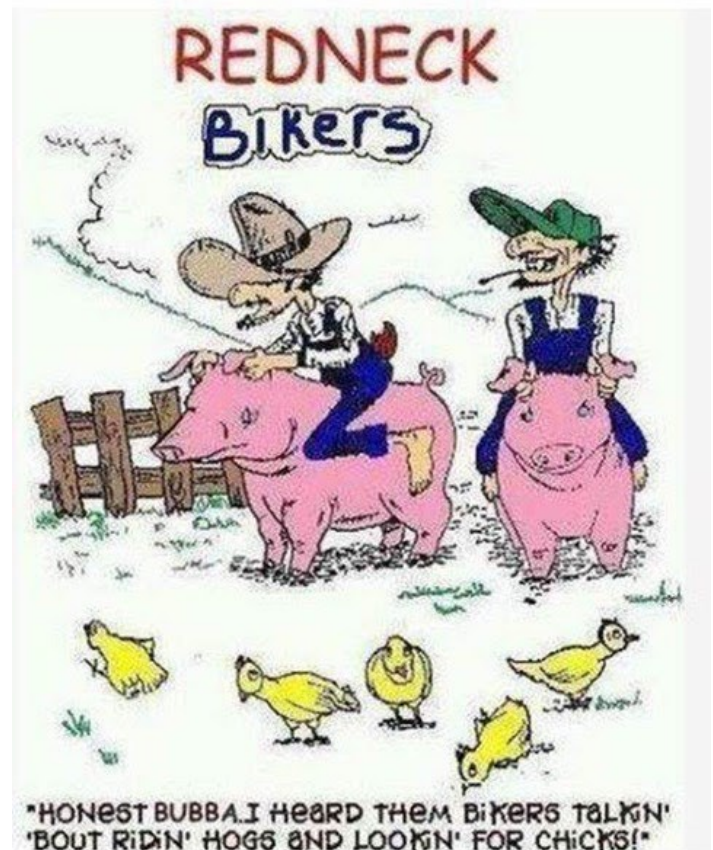
*In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.*

### Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full, are missing the point.

The glass is refillable.



### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Co-Editors	<b>Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose &amp; Bob West</b>
Photographer	<b>Henry Thatcher</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>





## SongSirs Bruce Borgman

All of you who participated in the Zoom virtual “luncheon” meeting this last July 9, hopefully enjoyed the SongSirs in the final moments of the meeting leading our group in our traditional “God Bless

America”. It had taken us a few practice Zoom sessions to discover how complex it is to have several people sing at the same time in different locations. Because of the variety of internet connections and the band width of our individual computers, we could not get the song to synch well enough for a well sounding performance.

So, what you did see was three of us (**Corrie Oranje, Ron Lew,** and yours truly) singing along with our eminent pianist, **Steve Dinning,** accompanying us in one location. We started with our processional “Stouthearted Men”, and then the three of us led with “God Bless America”. There were still some glitches as many of you sang along from home and this again did not synch very well with our performance.

But it was a reasonable performance for our first attempt! We will be working on improving the technical aspects for our singing of our final song at the end of the August virtual Zoom. In the next week or so, we will gather our SongSirs in a Zoom session and see if we can put together a coordinated sound.

We still have not re-started any practice sessions because singing produces aerosols, which extend further than even speaking, and coughing and so it is unlikely we will be able to have our conventional rehearsals anytime soon. Also, as you know, our ability to perform at the Skilled Nursing Facilities is banned for the time being since these facilities are bearing the brunt of the increasing virus infections. But we anticipate that at some point we will be able to resume our practice sessions, and our performances.

In the meantime, see you at the Branch Zoom Luncheon! Stay well!

(925) 932-3961

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



## Member Relations

### Tony Greco

As a follow-up to last month’s article regarding the SIR 146 Directory update, I have good news to report. The reformatting is now complete. The new format makes the directory more user-

friendly. When you get a chance, go to our website and check it out. We were able to add a space for a 2<sup>nd</sup> phone number (cell number) that potentially will improve the ability to connect with our fellow members which is becoming increasingly important in our COVID-19 environment.

Now our new issue is how to efficiently capture the cell number information from our membership. We are seeking suggestions from our membership, especially those with IT expertise. We are looking for a user friendly, efficient, automated way for members to submit additions/updates to their phone numbers. Also, all phone numbers will need to be identified as landline or cell.

Please submit any suggestions to me and I will compile and submit them to our directory team for evaluation. Thank you for your cooperation and support. Happy trails to you until we meet again.

Tony Greco

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



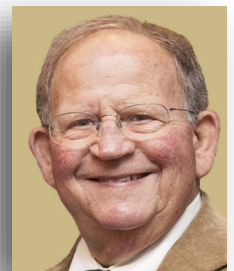
## Explore & Eat **Black Diamond Mine** Tour

**Cancelled Now**

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours

**We are looking forward to your participation!**  
Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim**

**Pope** 925-699-6447







## SIR 146 Hiking

**Mark Curtis**

We will be hiking the Hayward Regional Shoreline on Friday, August 14 starting at 10 AM sharp. This is a mostly roundtrip walk on relatively flat ground. Although if you do the short loop at the end, there is some elevation gain/loss. The total length of this walk is a bit more than 6 miles. But you can return to the parking lot whenever it suits you. I expect that the temperature will be moderate as we are walking along the shoreline of the south bay. Bird watchers generally enjoy this walk.

From Highway 24 west bound proceed to Hwy 880 south and take the Washington Avenue exit. Head south on Washington to Grant Avenue and turn right on Grant. The staging area is on the right side of the road about 100 yards from the end of Grant Avenue. For GPS users, the address is 2639 Grant Ave, San Lorenzo.

I intend to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> August walk in Redwood Regional park on Friday, August 21. This walk is for those who like to get a workout! We will start at the Orchard Staging area which is at the east end of Redwood Rd. at 10 AM. Address is 7867 Redwood Rd, Oakland.

For either of these hikes we will observe 6 feet social distancing minimum, and we will wear face coverings if we cannot meet the 6-foot criteria! However, I am not a policeman!

Spouses always welcome  
Rain (not likely!) cancels  
Dogs allowed on leash

**Mark Curtis**

Cell (925) 360-3449

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



7/10 Point Pinole hike: Craig Kaufman, Jim Whitsett, Bob Lucido and Sally Whitsett.



7/10 Point Pinole Hike: Pete Gates by Dynamite press on loan to EBRP from Hercules Chemical.



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

7/10 Point Pinole Hike: Jacki Curtis, Pete Gates, Bob Ford, Mark Curtis, Natalie Seidt and Jim Nelson

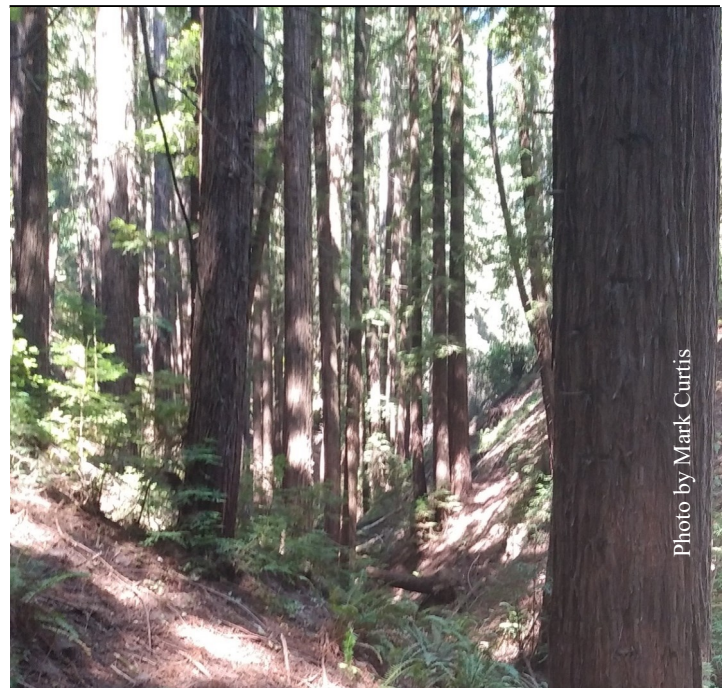


Photo by Mark Curtis

Photo of Redwood Park site of upcoming August 21st hike





**Bocce**  
**John Kendrick**

**ATTENTION ALL BOCCE PLAYERS!**

*I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch 146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.*

*In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. **We will make every effort to ensure play will resume in 2021.***

*See you then!*

*Under normal circumstances, we play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, through September/October at 8:30 am at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.*

*If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com) and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.*

*Rain Cancels Play.  
Ladies are welcome.  
Come and join us.*

**John Kendrick** (925) 827-0585  
[jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

If you are paying \$3.00 for a bottle of Smart Water, it isn't working.



**Editor's Note**  
**Richard Hockenbrock**

If anyone still needs training on how to log in on Zoom, please send me an email at [rhock2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rhock2005@yahoo.com) that I specifically set up to address training and attendance issues. I will try to help you out.

Since using Zoom is the only way we can meet as a group now, it is important that we try to have all our members actively participating in our monthly electronic meetings.

**Richard Hockenbrock**—Editor SIR CALL  
Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713



**Recruitment Mailing**  
**Paul Beretz**

During the last week in July, 280 large post cards like the one you see below were sent to selected residents in Walnut Creek. The mailing list was created by the State SIR organization and purchased by our branch 146. The process could not have happened without the support and help of our team of **Brad Hatcher, Paul Dubow, Larry and Ann Kaye, Rich Lyon, Peter Plante, Milt Smith** and my wife, **Jane**. Also, special mention to **Jerry and Sue Kaplan** for their advice, prepping the mailing lists and IT expertise. Thanks to you all!

On the cards, our branch 146 website was also written in the spaces provided. It's early for any responses, but we'll keep you posted. We are hopeful that we will add new members to our branch.

**Paul Beretz**  
[pberetz@pacbizsolutions.com](mailto:pberetz@pacbizsolutions.com)

*Escape Your Lock Down Loneliness*

**Live Longer**  
Social Activities  
Physical Activities  
Mental Activities



**Live Happier**  
Meet New Friends  
Spouses/Partners  
welcomed



Contact Information  
[www.WeAreSIR.com](http://www.WeAreSIR.com)  
925-788-5503



**Live Longer,  
Live Happier,  
Join SIR!**

**SIR** a social activities group for men.

Is SIR the key to your escape?



[www.WeAreSIR.com](http://www.WeAreSIR.com)

Golfing, Hiking,  
Walking *now*  
underway!

Wine tasting, book reviews, investment and computer events online *now!*

Coed events too.

Front Side of 280 post cards mailed to Walnut Creek residents

Back Side of postcard mailed to 280 Walnut Creek Residents



## Cooking Lunch & Wine

**Paul Dubow**

The Lunch and Wine cooking group was given permission to restart with in person meetings, provided that it met outside and met governmental and SIR restrictions. Consequently, we decided to start

initially by engaging in an activity that included only part of our name, to wit, the lunch and wine part.

We decided to forego cooking for the time being and we met in **Bob Spellman's** backyard, where each attendee brought his lunch and beverage. But we had lots of things to talk about and enjoyed seeing each other after a long hiatus. Our next meeting will be at **Pete Gates'** backyard on August 19.



## Table Pool

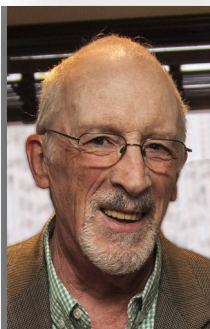
**Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry**

**Pool Play on Hold!**



*We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the week for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain.*

*Reported by Jim Barry*



## Mexican Train Dominoes

**Group 3 (TRES)**

**Jeff Baily**

No Events Planned.

Dear Sirs; As soon as we open up playing MTD#3 will be running to meet and play.



Not to get technical....

But according to chemistry, alcohol is a solution.



## Mexican Train Dominoes

**Group 7 (Siete)**

**Bob Lucido**

We all continue to get together with Zoom once a month on the same date as our MTD game.

We still have fun keeping in touch while keeping virtual distance.

As you can see **Clint** in picture below, is well protected against the virus but has a hard time kissing his wife.

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)



**MTD 7: Clint Collier virus protection with wife Bev.**





## Cycling Group

### Larry Kaye

July 1<sup>st</sup>: The call of the Canyon calling, we headed out this glorious cool sunny morning to Bollinger. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Michael Wolfson, Moose Kelly, and Larry Kaye.** To get into this beautiful slice of old San Ramon one needs to surmount a few nasty hills. Without a whimper this finely honed group of Sirs cyclists did just that. We climbed the steep gut busters and reveled in the feat. Six miles of canyon road lay ahead. All uphill. We talked and shared stories while our muscled legs did what we taught them to do. Finally, with the old Nike Missile silo site nearby we entered the park at the canyons end. Whew. The surprise was that the restrooms were closed. Four guys all over 60 and no restrooms? Yikes. The solution to this dilemma was easily solved.

We shared some food, drank our beverages and with a sigh we headed out. The payback here is a six-mile downhill. Yippee. A kid again.

Retracing our entry path, we climbed some short hills on the return to San Ramon. After a roadside confab it was agreed that a stop at the local donut shop would be ok. After all, we were burning over 1200 calories on this route.

The taste of hot coffee with a huge belly bomb was just what the doctor did not order. Yummy anyway. Homeward we turned and home we arrived. Another fun filled Sirs ride.

July 16<sup>th</sup>: "Canyon", what is that? Where is it? Retracing our original route of some months ago the Boys in Spandex headed out this glorious day towards Canyon. We rode the old train track trail from Lafayette to Moraga. Somewhat quiet today. After checking out the facilities at the end of the trail we headed South West towards Canyon. We saw the ongoing construction of the new Bridge being built connecting Moraga to Canyon. Rode thru the twisting quiet roads into Canyon. The one room schoolhouse, kids playing outside; the Post Office with some beautiful and huge redwoods surrounding it. What a spot.

Some photos and off we went again. **Ron Lew, Michael Wolfson, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye** the tour guide. Back thru Moraga and on to the trail. Lafayette our goal. Navigating the ever-present dog walkers, walkers, runners, baby carriages et/al, we managed to get back in one piece. Another nice safe Sirs 146 ride in the books.

July 21<sup>st</sup>: Monte del Diablo. A 2 million year young and growing mountain. Our landmark. Today the boys in Spandex once again mounted her flanks. **Ron Lew, Bill Ross, Moose Kelly, Perry Allen, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld and Larry Kaye** rode her roads. Up we went. Through the clouds into sunshine. What a treat. The views are commanding. This hill was explored in 1851 and most of the land surveys of California were done from her summit.

We pedaled our bikes up and around the many turns. The air was crisp and clean. The junction ranger station was our goal today. Its sighting was something to behold. At the junction we re-grouped and snacked and enjoyed getting our hearts back into the correct location. Phew.

We took in the view.... Wow. Then it was time to head down. Carefully navigating the many hairpin turns and keeping our speeds under control we eventually returned to the base.

Our cars were a welcome sight. Of course, after burning all those calories it was donut time. So, off we went. Java and donuts. Yummy.

Another ride in the books. We may not be fast anymore but how many guys in our age group would even attempt to ride the rock lady?



July 16th Canyon ride (From left): Michael Wolfson, Bob Wilkenfeld and Larry Kaye.

Please see another cycling photo on next page

Cycling continued from prior page.



Photo by Moose Kelly

July 1st Bollinger Canyon cycling ride (from left): Bob Wilkenfeld, Larry Kaye, and Michael Wolfson.



## Cooking II Bob Yolland

Cooking II thanks the BEC for approving our group to meet outside with social distancing. Although we were approved for July we collectively decided to wait and take a look at Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> for our restart.

We have decided to meet for wine about 4 PM in the **Yolland's** back yard instead of lunch. Our plan is to maintain social distancing, enjoy catching up with everyone, have some great wine and tell lots of tall tales. We all look forward to the event and getting our group together again.

## SIR – Branch 146

We are men who enjoy our leisure time with friends and activities. We meet for lunch in Walnut Creek on the second Thursday of the month at the Boundary Oak Golf Club. We would be pleased to have you join us.



My Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Above: top side of recruiting card mentioned by **Paul Beretz** in article to the left.

Below: back side of card.

### What do we do?

We have a monthly meeting with a speaker. We have Golf, Ladies Day Events, Fishing, Bridge, Poker, Travel, Hiking, Cooking, Investments, Computers, Photography, Book Exchange, Mexican Train Dominoes, Bocce Ball, Walking, Live Theater, Couples Dining Out, Explore and Eat, Wine Tasting, Singing, Acoustic Musicians, and more.

**What we don't do?** We have No Fund Raising, Political or Religious Agendas. There are No Surprises!

Visit us at [www.sir146.com/](http://www.sir146.com/)

## Recruitment Paul Beretz



Since we have not had luncheons for a while, I wanted to give you the opportunity to obtain some recruitment cards, as shown on photos to the right. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions most people are getting bored and now might be an opportune time to mentions SIR 146. We do have the Zoom meetings and some activities are now open.

If you are interested in obtaining any of the cards to hand out to prospective members please send me an email and I will mail some to you. Let me know how many you would like.

**Paul Beretz**

[pberetz@pacbizsolutions.com](mailto:pberetz@pacbizsolutions.com)

Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?"

Student: "Meat!"

Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?"

Student: "Bacon!"

Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"

Student: "Homework!"

My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face.





## Book Group

**John Pearl**

Five members of the SIR 146 On-Line Book Group met on Monday, July 13, via Zoom. Our “Zoom Master” continues to be **Mike Farrar**.

We discussed our “Book of the Month Club” selection, *Just Mercy*, written by Bryan Stevenson. It is essentially a narrative of his life and his experiences as a lawyer in the south who is providing no-cost legal services to people, who are primarily black, that are in prison and are on death row. He went from being an intern who got his first exposure during a summer with his first visit to someone on death row, to the head of a large law group who provides these services.

The thrust of the book is how badly the people he is working with have been treated by the justice system in some of the southern states. Many were locked up when the evidence was completely contrary to the verdict handed down. His efforts centered on using the appeal routes available in the states, to try to reach a court that would agree with his findings of what was wrong with the cases presented by the prosecution. In many of the cases, the black man was the “default” guilty person who was then sentenced to prison and often death.

One of our discussion group members who has spent his life on the West Coast found the book “eye opening,” and actually “scary.” We all found it amazing to learn what happened as these accused moved through the system, that was supposed to protect them as well as prosecute those who were truly found to be guilty by the facts and testimony in the case.

Bryan and then his group achieved some remarkable successes in their work, overturning many verdicts that were improperly reached either by the facts or the legal procedures employed at the various trials. Many of the accused were poor and had very poor or nonexistent legal representation. Some had (and still today have) language barriers to overcome as well.



## Cribbage

**John Pearl**

The Cribbage Group of Branch 146 continues its on-line presence and has just completed Tournament No. 5. Our Chief Technical Officer, **Jim Nelson**, has designed a double elimination format, with the addition of a Consolation Bracket as well. All this work has resulted in multiple opportunities for more matches for more players. Jim is also the facilitator of the tournaments, keeping track of the results and posting updated bracket information and next match assignments.

We had 14 entrants in our latest tournament! The overall winner and tournament champion is **Jim Steadman**, with **Malcolm Harrison** the runner-up. Congratulations gentlemen. The Consolation Bracket saw **Paul Dubow** as the winner and **Jeff Baily** the runner-up.

More to come, and the next tournament will start in about two weeks. We are using “Cribbage Pro” for our matches, an app that resides (mostly) on our smart phones and can handle both multi-player games and games against their computer.

Several of us saw the movie, currently available on Amazon Prime, which we felt captured the essence of the book, the initial start of Bryan’s career, setting up the office in the south, and one case in which he prevailed, at the State Supreme Court level. The family of the accused (and jailed) person played a large role as did the local prosecutor and sheriff. We felt the movie was quite true to the book and was well acted.

The book is a little dated and may not reflect the actual conditions on the ground today. We do not know how the justice and prison systems in these areas has changed, if at all.

We also noted the parallels between this book and one we read recently, *The Guardians*, by John Grisham. While fictional, it came about because of the author’s experience in learning of the problems in the southern justice systems. While his main character, a lawyer, was white, he faced the same trials and tribulations that Bryan Stevenson, who was black, faced in doing this work.

Yes, we would recommend this book, especially in these times. It is a good insight into what happened in the not too distant past, and what some have done to mitigate the damage that was inflicted.



## MEN'S Hearts

### Bob West

We have played at least 4 weeks a month since 4/16 on Friday at 1-4 pm. Our next online games if you are interested will be Friday 8/7 at 1pm.

#### YTD Statistics Summary:

- Still leading in YTD wins are Ray Bland in 1<sup>st</sup> with 25, and 2<sup>nd</sup> is **Bob Finlayson** with 21, and 3<sup>rd</sup> is **Bob West** with 19.5.

**Ray Bland** has won an amazing 42% of the games he has played, followed by **Bob Finlayson** at 40% and **Bob West** at 31%.

I have added another statistic for "Most Improved Player". This statistic shows the 2020 winning percentage divided by the 2019 winning percentage or "WIN % 2020/2019 Avg". **Frank Lucas** is 1st with 242% as he won 24% of his games in 2010 and 10% in 2019. 2nd is **Steve Ybarra** with 183%, as he won 26% in 2020 and 14% in 2019. 3rd is **Ray Bland** at 148%, as he won 42% in 2020 and 29% in 2019.

**Steve Ybarra** leads for most seconds at 24. **Bob**

**West** is 2nd with 20.5, and **Ray Bland** is 3rd with 16.5.

Our YTD average low score leaders are **Ray Bland** with 68.0 points followed by **Bob West** with 68.3 points and **Bob Finlayson** with 68.9.

I have added a new comparison, dividing the 2020 Avg score by 2019. YTD best improved in scoring is **Brian McCarthy** who is 80% of his 2019 average. In 2nd are **Frank Lucas** with 85% and 3<sup>rd</sup> is **Ray Bland** with 90%.

**Ray Bland** is the leader in "shooting the moon" having done it 25 times. **Frank Lucas** is 2nd with 24 and **Rich Lyon** 3rd with 14.

I have also added another YTD stat that is "YTD STM % of games". Total STM divided by games played. Be aware of these statistics and pass and watch carefully when you play those with good ones. In 1st is **Ray Bland** who "Shoots the Moon" in 42% of games played. 2nd is **Frank Lucas** with 36.4% and 3rd is **Jim Nelson** with 35.7%.

**Steve Ybarra** leads the most games played this year at 67, followed by **Frank Lucas** at 66 and **Ron Polivka** at 63.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email [robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list, or want to play some Friday at 1 pm.

SIR 146 Men's Hearts Statistics																
Date	Group	Game	Bob Finlayson	Bob West	Brian McCarthy	Frank Lucas	Jim Nelson	Rich Lyon	Ron Polivka	Steve Ybarra	George Sabbagha	Ed Smith	Ray Bland	# hands	STM Pass From	
YTD AVG			68.9	68.3	72.2	78.9	76.2	75.7	88.8	74.4	83.1	73.1	68.0	9.7		
2020/2019 Avg			134%	101%	80%	85%	92%	126%	96%	107%	n/a	n/a	90%			
YTD STM			8	4		24	5.0	14	4	7	2		25			
YTD STM % games			15%	6%	0%	36.4%	35.7%	34%	6%	10%	4%	0%	42%			
YTD WINS			21.0	19.5		16	3.5	13	7	17.5	9.5	1	25.0			
WIN %			40%	31%	0%	24%	25%	30%	11%	26%	20%	25%	42%			
WIN %: 2020/2019 Avg			71%	113%	n/a	242%	113%	37%	11%	183%	n/a	n/a	148%	2020 Most Improved		
YTD 2nds			13.0	20.5	1	17.5	6.5	6	16	24.0	8.5	1	16.5			
Games played			52	62	2	66	14	41	63	67	47	4	59			
			Game Key Chart			Avg hands in game			RL, won 4 of 5 on 7/10							
			1st			Classic hearts		10		Steve Y. won 4 of 5 games on 6/5, 1st 4 time winner						
			2nd			Jack Diam -10 opt		16		Ray B. won 3 of 3 on 4/24						
			3rd									Bob F. won 3 of 3 on 5/15				
					Records of year											

Above is a snapshot of the 2nd page of our hearts statistics summary thru 7/24, which is further discussed above.





### Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce  
932-3877



### Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce  
932-3877

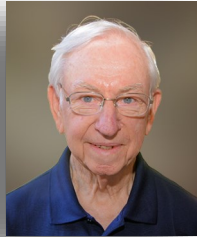
[dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



### Party Bridge

Jim Pope &  
Jim Stedman

No Games Scheduled



### Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Bill Schultz

No Games Scheduled



### Couples Party Bridge

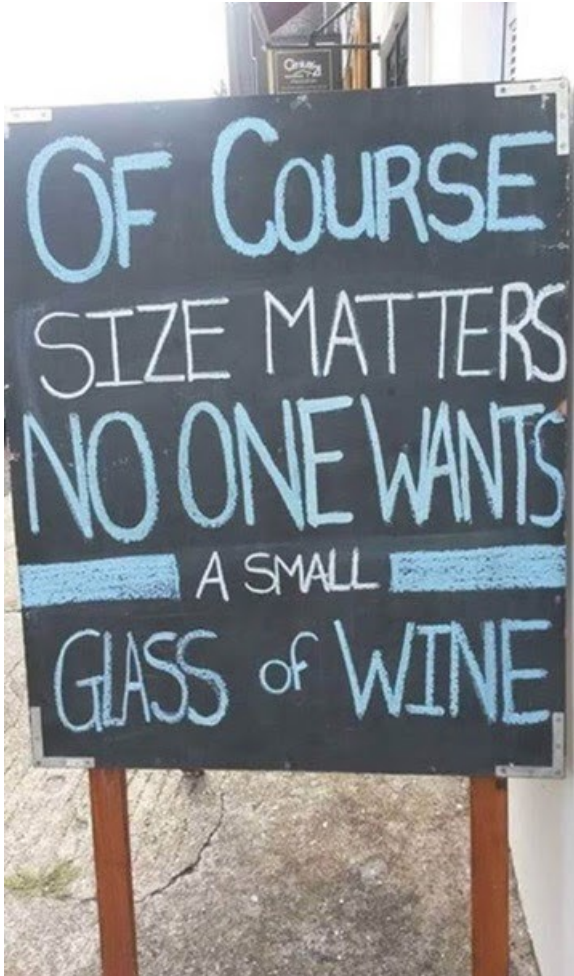
Tony Greco

*Couples Party Bridge continues to be placed on-hold and will not re-start until national, state, county and city governmental COVID -19 safety guidelines have been established for home based social activities such as bridge. Once guidelines are established and are considered maintainable and enforceable by Couples Party Bridge, a request to re-start will be submitted to Branch 146 BEC for approval.*

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395

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



A man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbor owes me \$500 and he won't pay up. What should I do?"

"Do you have any proof he owes you the money?" asked the lawyer.

"Nope," replied the man.

"OK, then write him a letter asking him for the \$5,000 he owed you," said the lawyer.

"But it's only \$500," replied the man.

"Precisely. That's what he will reply and then you'll have your proof!"



**Poker Group 1**  
Dan O'Sullivan

No Games Scheduled



**Old Money Poker Group 6**

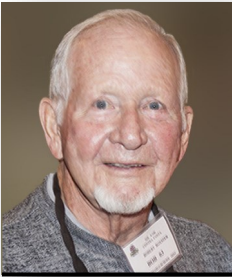
Brad Hatcher

No Games Scheduled

Brad Hatcher

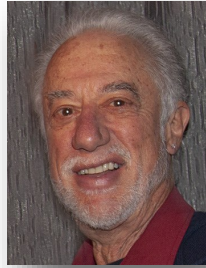
Tel: (925) 935-1571

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



**Poker Group 2**  
Bob Royster

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 7**

Bob Lucido

No Games Scheduled

*Poker Group 7 meets on the third Monday of the month at Bob Lucido's house at 6:30 pm*

(925) 899-0974

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



**Poker Group 3**  
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 4**

Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 5**

Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?"

The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

If you ever get cold, just stand in the corner of a room for a while. They're normally around 90 degrees.





## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

At long last on July 14 we started Tuesday Social Distancing Golf. Our turnouts were in the mid-thirties for the two sessions so far and we have had very good luck with perfect golfing weather. Due to social distancing constraints we no longer have a starter. We want each golfer to proactively opt-in each week if he wants to be paired for Tuesdays. Instead of turning in scorecards, someone in each foursome will email their front and back nine scores to Colin Holland, who has volunteered to take over the job of scoring coordinator. We can't post scores in the pro-shop. Posting is most easily done with the MyNCGA app or on the web at <https://www.ghin.com/login>.

The grill is not yet open so the most disappointing thing about restart is that we cannot gather there for a beer and fries after our rounds. While there does not seem to be much to talk about nowadays, that certainly is a part of Tuesday Golf we all miss. Despite carts being limited to one man, there isn't much difference in how we interact as we play. Also, pace of play may have improved.

Our first away golf event of the year will be August 6 at Blue Rock Springs. Next comes Dublin Ranch on September 3. These have always been opt-in events. In the past most of us have carpooled, an unlikely option this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes."



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Verner Laursen

**No Play Scheduled until Further Notice**

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

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

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

GOLF



## Book Corner

### Peter Plante

I hope you are all reading your favorite summertime stories-pot boilers, spy novels and international intrigue or good murder mysteries. We can be vicariously transported to wherever the author takes us. Enjoy your backyard beach time.

All contributions are welcomed and we have plenty of books for your next installments.



Q: What did the duck say when she bought lipstick?

A: "Put it on my bill."

## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

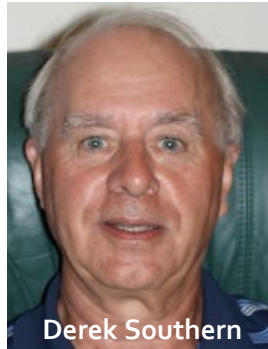
*Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are long time Mac users (1978) and members of the Diablo Mac User Group. We are available to help you with your Mac questions and problems. If we cannot help you, we will direct you to someone who can help with your Mac questions. If you are planning to buy Apple products, we can provide information on what and where to buy.*

*In the past we have had meetings at the Thurman Casey library, but the attendance was sparse, so we discontinued those meetings. Then came Zoom and we are now planning to have meetings using Zoom. We do have a list of Mac users within SIRS and we will use that list to inform members of the date and time of Zoom meetings. If you wish to be added to our list, please let Verner know of your desire. We do have attendees from other SIRS groups. We do plan to announce our meetings to all member of SIR 146.*

*Verner in the past, led a genealogy meeting at DVMUG that was disbanded for a lack of attendees but is going to start that up again with the use of Zoom. (His family in My Heritage has over 30,000 names.) If you are interested in genealogy and want to be added to that group, please let Verner know*

Verner Laursen [Vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:Vlaursen@astound.net)  
Max Burchett [Meburchett@astound.net](mailto:Meburchett@astound.net)

### Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting, via Zoom, will be Thursday, August 20th starting at 9:30 AM. The Zoom "Doors" will be open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with friends.

The presentation topic for the meeting will be "Personal Security" by Alan Baker. This topic of vital interest to all our members. Alan has a wealth of information about technology having worked as a Senior Information Technology Specialist at IBM. Before that he was a USAF pilot and ran a small business. In retirement, he enjoys helping nonprofits with their technology needs. He was webmaster of his SIR Branch and currently serves on the SIR State Information Systems team helping branch webmasters around the state. He also designed the new State SIR website at [sirinc.org](http://sirinc.org).

*To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT mailing list. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom weblink that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.*

*Always checkout our CAT website at ["a2cat.sirinc2.org"](http://a2cat.sirinc2.org) for information about our meetings and for info on past presentations. **Note that you need to be on the Computer & Technology mailing list to receive the necessary Zoom weblink to attend the meeting.** Send your request to join our mailing list to: [sirarea16cat@gmail.com](mailto:sirarea16cat@gmail.com)*

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### Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

No Meeting until further notice

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)  
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

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A teacher asked her students to use the word "beans" in a sentence. "My father grows beans," said one girl. "My mother cooks beans," said a boy. A third student spoke up, "We are all human beans."

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