



## Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

As I sit down to write my last column for the SIR Call, Thanksgiving is less than two days away. So in the spirit of the holiday, I'd like to express my sincere thanks for all the help I received this past year during my

tenure as Big Sir.

First, I'd like to thank the Branch Executive Committee for their help and support this past year. Our Treasurer, **Rob Melrose**, along with our Membership Chairman, **Ben Gleason**, and our Sunshine Chairman, **John Pearl**, will be stepping down from the BEC at the end of their term; however, they will continue to remain actively involved in supporting our branch.

Next I'd like to thank the past Big Sirs who regularly came to our monthly BEC meetings to lend their advice and experience: **Jim Burk**, **Doug Eisner**, **Pete Gates**, **Dennis Hallett**, **Ray Kan**, and **Terry Marchione**, among others.

I would also like to thank the many Activity and Administrative Chairmen who have volunteered their time and effort to keep the branch running smoothly throughout the year. Without volunteers our branch could not survive.

Thanks also to those members who sponsored new guests; many of them became new members. With the sponsors' help our membership swelled from 271 to 286 as of the end of November, thereby securing the long-term viability of our branch.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the spouses and/or significant others who have supported our branch either directly or indirectly behind the scenes. They are the reason we celebrate our December Ladies Day luncheon.

As I pass the Big Sir name tag and the gavel to **Walt Busenius**, I feel confident that he will provide exceptional leadership and direction to our branch.

Remember, we will have our regular luncheons at the Concord Hilton Hotel during the first four months of 2016. The meeting dates are:

**Gala Ladies Day Luncheon**  
Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Entertainment By:  
The Vocal Quartet "*La Di Da*"

Gathering time: 10:45 am  
Seating time: 11:45 am

*Make Reservations with Steve Ybarra by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Form on Page 4*



## *La Di Da Vocal Quartet*

Four voices: Diane, Lucy, Mary and Rose sing "a cappella", specializing in close harmony and the smooth sounds of standards, jazz, and classical music

Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

If you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, be sure to bring him as your guest to our next regular luncheon at the Concord Hilton Hotel on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. If you do so, please be sure to notify our luncheon chairman by 5:00 pm. Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

I wish you all a happy holiday season!

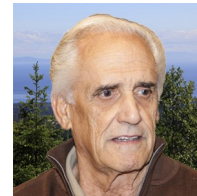


## Membership

**Ben Gleason**

Our Active membership declined by two this month. At our BEC meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, we approved one new member. Further, two members asked to become inactive and one resigned due to physical infirmity. The net result is that our Active roster is reduced to 286 members (including our seven Honorary Life Members). In addition, five Inactive members resigned or were terminated after being inactive for the maximum two years.

### New Member Addition in November 2015



**Dave Sousa**

### Status Changes

New Members:	<b>Dave Sousa</b>
Active Member Deceased:	<b>Dave Obera</b>
Active Members Resigned:	<b>Mike Cavallo</b>
Moved to Inactive:	<b>Bob Jaspas, Jim Swanson</b>
Removed from Inactive:	<b>Don Martin, Gary Parkhurst, Pablo Chavez, Jerry Duarte, and Gary McGrath</b>



## Little Sir's Corner

**Walt Busenius**

We will have a celebratory time when we bring our ladies to the Gala Ladies' Day Luncheon on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. This well-attended event is kicking off the holiday season with a special menu and program that features the very dynamic and lively musical quartet, *La Di Da*.

The four voices of *La Di Da* are Diane, Lucy, Mary and Rose who sing "a cappella" and specialize in close harmony and the smooth sounds of jazz, standards, as well as seasonal and classical music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The ladies bring diverse musical backgrounds to their performances ranging from classical piano, to opera, jazz, musical theater and rock music. A common passion for love of entertaining and singing has driven them to combine their talents for more than 5 years in the Bay Area.

Please be sure to send your reservation, entree choices, and payment by December 1<sup>st</sup> to **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213 so that you and yours don't miss this exciting event! The reservation form is found on page 4 of this Sir Call. There is not much time left. As always, singles are welcome and **Steve** will take care of seating arrangements.

At this time, I wish to commend **Steve Ybarra** and **Steve Dawkins** in advance for their hard work organizing this year's Ladies Day Luncheon. Thanks to the two **Steve's**.

I would like to thank the many members who offered speaker suggestions during the year. They made my job much easier. I hope you found the speakers to be informative and to have met your expectations. Please feel free to continue passing on your speaker suggestions to next year's Little Sir **Alan Elnick**.

SIR Call Newsletter Group	
Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Assistant Editor	<b>Jeff Baily</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker</b>
	<b>Jonathan Korfhage, &amp; Pat Lucia</b>
Labeling & Mailing	<b>Bill Cammerer</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>

**A reminder:** The 2016 annual member assessment of \$18 is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. You also have the option of being an advance annual payer for \$252, which covers both the annual assessment and 10 luncheons. If you have not yet paid, please send your check now to our Treasurer, **Rob Melrose**.





Photo by Bill Schultz

Big Sir **Bill Holly** introduces the new 2016 BEC (Branch Executive Committee) from L to R, **Jerry Kaplan, Walt Busenius, Alan Elnick, Steve Sprague, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock, Corrie Oranje, Jonathan Korfhage, Bob Spellman, Jim Barry, and Roy Hodgkinson**

Senior Sir President's Award



**Frank O'Loughlin**

Senior Sir President's Award



**Rollin Nordeen**

Senior Sir President's Award



**Rus Bliese**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Gene Diana** receives a 20 Year SIR Service Award from Big Sir **Bill Holly**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



November Birthday Boy—**Ron Louis**





Photo by Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

**Carl Tilchen**

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group (*please note the new address & directions*) on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. The new address is 654 Francisco Ct, Walnut Creek, CA. Heading North follow I-680 N to Treat Blvd in Walnut Creek. Take the Treat Blvd. exit #48 from I-680 N and turn right heading East to Bancroft Rd, turn right onto Bancroft Rd, go 0.4 miles and turn right on to Lacarso Circle, go 180 feet then turn right again onto La Corso Drive, go 0.2 miles and make a left onto Via Appia, go 430 feet and turn left onto Francisco Ct. Park at end of Francisco Ct. by the pool or on Via Appia. Don't park on Francisco. 2 cars can park in driveway. 654 Francisco is the 2nd house from corner on left. If you are lost call (925) 864-2641.

At the meeting we will provide details of each song to make it easy to enjoy our music so bring paper and a pen. Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument, & any songs you enjoy.

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

## December Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

### Salad

#### **Roasted Carrot & Avocado Salad**

Baby Carrots, Avocado, Mixed Greens  
Maple Fennel Vinaigrette

### Entrees

#### **Stuffed Pork Chop**

Chorizo & Dried Fruit Stuffed Pork Chop  
Seasonal Vegetables , Fennel Potato Gratin  
Rosemary Infused Demi Sauce

Or

#### **Pan Seared Salmon**

Herb Crusted Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Vegetables  
Pomegranate Butter Sauce

### Dessert

#### **Petite Christmas Log**

Chantilly Cream, Crème Anglaise  
Raspberry Coulis

*Print this page and fill in your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send your form with your check to the address below.*

Thursday, December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2015		
Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.		
Amount Enclosed \$ _____		<b>Entrée Choices</b>
<b>NAMES</b>		Pork   Salmon
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to: **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213

*All reservations and payments in full must be received by December 1st. There will be no tickets sold at the door.*

*If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you when their check and form is received or you may pay for them directly on your sheet listing their name & entrée.*

My memory is gone, so I changed my password to "incorrect." That way when I log in with the wrong password, the computer will tell me ..... "Your password is incorrect."



## Couples Dining Out

**Bruce Borgman**

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a slightly different evening

out on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. We had not gone to a barbecue restaurant so decided to go to the Back Forty Texas BBQ – a restaurant in Pleasant Hill, which has been a popular destination for many years. We were able to have a private dining area where 48 diners had a grand time. This time we had a buffet dinner which included a number of delicious side dishes, and a choice of three entrees – or all of them – rotisserie barbecued chicken, smoked beef brisket, and the restaurant’s award winning pork ribs. We started with our regular cocktail and social hour at 5:30 and followed with the dinner at 6:15pm. We had plenty of room and we had a great time socializing and then enjoyed the generous servings of the dinner. Many of us went back for seconds, and no one went home hungry. Please admire the great bunch at the dinner in the pictures. Not pictured are **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** and **Bruce Borgman**.

Our next event will be in January, after the holiday season – most likely on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all our members to participate in what is always an enjoyable way to get better acquainted with your fellow Sirs. We particularly would love to have our new members join us!



Bill & Bernice Cammerer



Helene & Al Twyford



Mike & Sharon Varner



Bobbie & Walt Schmidt



Jim & Barbara Stedman



Pete & Gabriela Bishop



Chuck & May Denney



Lo & Sue McCarley



Ron & Diane de Golia



Dale & Joanne Haukland



John & Nancy Pearl



Steve & Linda Siljestrom



Dan & Sandra Schlatter



Joyce & Jim Barry



Sue & Walt Busenius



Diane & Al Munayer



Ken & Elaine Richter



Barbara & Bill Roberts



Dick Woodman, Dana & Steve Ybarra, and Frank Ascatigno



Jim Stedman, Jim and Renie Pope



Sue Oranje, Sue Sheldon, and Corrie Oranje

Photos by Richard Hockenbrock





## Cribbage John Pearl

Six of SIR's finest cribbage players gathered at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, October 28th. We welcomed back former branch member **Dan Meckfessel**, who has decamped to Brentwood in East County.

This month, first place money went to our Vice Chair, **Ron Afdal**, while **Mike Whitaker** was a close second. The Chair, **John Pearl**, hung in there for third and won back his ante.

Lots of fun – if you like the world's best two-handed card game, this is the place!

Photo by Bill Schultz



Duplicate Bridge Group 2 L to R, **Bob Yolland**, **David Pierce**-1st place, **David Steinberg**-Tied for 3rd place, **Tony Greco**, **Jim Brown**-2nd place, **Bill Schultz**-Host, **Max Hinkle**, **Mike Whitaker** -Tied for 3rd place, **John Boyan**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Rich Ahlf**, and **Fred Bolton**

Photo by Bill Schultz



**Ron Binder, Mike Whitaker, and Bob Mehus** enjoying conversation before the November luncheon

## Walking Schedule John Lewis

*Every Friday at 9:30 am  
at various locales.  
Call **John** or just show up.  
Rain cancels any walk.*



December walks planned by **Frank Ascatigno**  
**December walks 2015**

- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Alamo New Life Church, Danville Blvd.**  
Meet: South on Danville Blvd. to Sunnybrook Rd. Park in back of church.  
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail  
Coffee: Panera Coffee, Alamo Plaza, Alamo
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Shadelands Canal East, Walnut Creek**  
Meet: Deli Delight 322 N. Wiget Ln, Walnut Creek  
Walk: North on Wiget,, East at Canal  
Coffee: Frank and Marie's house, 907 San Simeon Dr., Directions to follow
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Oak Park North- Oak Park Blvd., P H**  
Meet: Oak Park Shopping Center, between Putman and Keats  
Walk: West three blocks on Oak Park Blvd. North on CC Canal  
Coffee: Panera, Countrywood Center, 744 Bancroft Road
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> No walk. Merry Christmas !!**

Photo by Bill Schultz



"Old Marines" L to R, **Chuck Clark**, **John Boyan**, **Steve Dinning**, **Denny O'Loughlin**, and **Ron Plachy**

### 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.*



## Luncheon Attendance

### Max Hinkle

Last Month's Attendance: There were 233 meals served at our November luncheon. There were 225 active members in attendance, equaling 79.2% of our membership. Don't

know for certain but I suspect that both of those figures are record highs. Certainly, they are the highest marks for our 2015 luncheons. The 233 meals consumed was 10 more than our guaranteed number and, I'm pleased to report, one under the kitchen's commitment. We had 16 unexcused absentees ("no shows"), representing 5.6% of our membership. This was an increase of five over the October no shows, but still better than the 10% figure historically used in calculating our meal guarantee. We requested a menu split of 60% turkey and 40% fish. I hope everyone got his choice of entree.

2015 Perfect Attendance Records: 26 members attended all ten 2015 regular monthly luncheons. They were: **Max Burchett, Chuck Denny, Tom Gorman, Dennis Hallett, Martin Harper, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bill Holly, Bruce Jones, Curley Kade, Jim Kohl, Fred Kovar, Kenneth Kratz, Steve Loftin, Byron Meade, Pete Miller, George Mon, Dan O'Sullivan, Jim Owen, Ronald Ragno, Don Rhoads, Myles Ringle, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, Roger Thornton, and Carl Tilchen.**

January Luncheon: Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2016 at the CONCORD HILTON in Concord. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check for \$26 made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO THE HILTON UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.

New Opt Out Deadline for January Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the January luncheon is NOON ON MONDAY JANUARY 18. This is an earlier deadline than what we are able to employ when we meet at Boundary. The Hilton is requiring us to give them our lunch count earlier than

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

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice, please call me at (925).408.6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed in the "no lunch" mailbox.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the no show deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL.

Special Requests: If you or your guest desires a vegetarian meal or requires a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you or he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above. Your request will be honored and remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Attendance Chairman.

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

Why did a scarecrow win an award from a farmer?  
He was out standing in his field!





## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Last year, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton was a dud, because the drought made it impossible for fishermen to launch there so they were limited to casting from a few spots on shore.

However, the reservoir is higher this year, we could launch our boats, and, as a consequence, the season at Shadow Cliffs has been off to a good start. **Pete Gates** of Branch 146, along with **Harry Sherinian, Terry Miller, Carl Moyer, Ernie Wong, Ray Pixton,** and **Ken Konzak** all caught limits or near limits of rainbow trout. Big fish honors went to **Ernie Wong**, who caught two four pounders, with one caught trolling on a fly while his partner was moving the boat from one place to another.

**Tom Kostik, Harry Sherinian, Terry Miller,** and **Mike Corker** had several good days plugging for stripers in the Delta. However, **Tom** spent a fruitless week on the Klamath River, catching only two salmon. **Carl Moyer** had an equally fruitless experience fishing for sturgeon in the Delta, but he did well on rockfish and ling cod in the ocean. **Don Middlestadt** and **Jim Andrews** had a successful fly fishing adventure on Lake Davis, landing a number of large rainbows. **Joe Miscione** and his son tested their new boat in rockfish trips out of Monterey and striper fishing in the Delta and brought back quite a few fish for the freezer.

Of course, the highlight of the month was our semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer's** home. **Carl** prepared filets of rockfish and ling cod that were cooked by **Paul Dubow** and **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146, ably aided by **Ray Pixton**. **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 contributed appetizers of smoked salmon that he caught in Alaska earlier this year.

We will be very busy this winter with delta fishing for catfish, striped bass, and sturgeon; trout in local lakes; and rockfish and ling cod in the ocean. We are also looking forward to our gala Christmas dinner at Zio Fraedo's, the Sacramento Expo, and our annual trek to Bass Pro and Fishermen's Warehouse in Manteca.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, in Legend Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course on 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast, beginning at 7:30 am. For further information, you can call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



## Book Group

**Chuck Campbell**

The Book Group met **November 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Greenery Restaurant. There were five attendees: **Jim Kohl, John Pearl, Paul Dubow,** and **Walt Busenius**.

We enjoyed To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. It is a story that is timeless and still relevant. We liked the book better than the movie, even though the movie is good. The book has many themes and symbols. We were interested in the symbolic weight of the phrase "To Kill a Mockingbird". At one point we tried to determine who were the mockingbirds. We felt four or five characters can be identified as mockingbirds -- innocents hurt or destroyed through contact with evil created by racism. Atticus, Jem and Scout's last name is Finch, similar to mockingbirds. The Finch family was particularly vulnerable in the racist world of Maycomb.

We selected 11 am Monday December 21<sup>st</sup> as our next meeting at the Greenery Restaurant. For our next book we chose the sequel Go Set a Watchman. We would like to see how the characters evolve in the sequel 20 years later. We all had experiences in the South in the fifties and sixties and would like to see how our experience in the military compare with the book.



Photo by Paul Dubow

**Pete Gates and Harry Sherinian** at Shadow Cliffs

An elderly man driving erratically was stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and was asked where he was going at that time of night. The man replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late." The officer then asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?" The man replied, "That would be my wife."





## Mexican Train Dominoes

### Group 1

Jerry Kaplan



The November Game was hosted by Sir **Rob Melrose** and his wife **Carmen** at their beautiful Martinez home on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. This was the last Game Night of 2015 and all the regular players were present, filling all three tables with six players each.

The November evening's top prizes went to **Marie Ascatisno**, wife of Sir **Frank**, Sir **Sig Kalteis**, and Sir **Terry Marchione**. The lowest average for the six month period between June and November was achieved by Sir **Terry Marchione**. at 16.9 points for every game he played. Second place went to **Marie Ascatisno.**, (her average was 19.8) with 3<sup>rd</sup> place won by **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of Sir **Richard**, with an average of 20.5. The total pot which everyone contributes a dollar to each night they play was worth \$92 for the six months.

Although everyone in the original group of 18 people played in November, we are always looking for a few more substitutes to play on the Friday night following the normal SIRS luncheon (2nd Friday of the month). Single SIRS are most welcome. Typically, during the year, there is room for another two to four people to join the fun. The game is easy to learn. Call **Jerry** at 930-7076 or send an email if interested.



## Mexican Train Dominoes

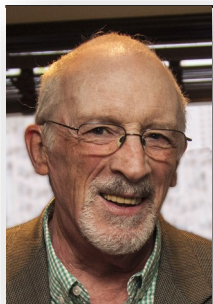
### Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Rich Ahlf and Ismini Maclean

were wonderful hosts for MTD2 at their home for our October gathering. The **Plachys** won the most money with **Anne** taking first place and **Ron** taking second place. **Janice Woodman** won third place. We appreciate **Ron** placing in the winnings since the women have been dominating our games lately. It was all great fun.

Our next gathering will be held at **Don and Etta Dodson's** on December 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Mexican Train Dominoes

### Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Bailly

An enthusiastic group of 12 players showed up at the **Busenius's** home for an evening of Mexican Train Dominoes the day after Thanksgiving. The evening was thoroughly enjoyable. **Walt** and **Sue** were gracious hosts monitoring all tables and helping out when required and providing scrumptious treats and desserts.

The lead changed five times between **Sue Busenius** and **Charlie Abrams** during the eight set match. **Sue Busenius** came from behind by 22 points in the last set and squeezed out **Charlie Abrams** by three 3 points to take first place.

At table two **Jim Stedman** stealth maneuvering outlasted **Linda Siljestrom's** charge by 1 point for third place. The scuttlebutt is that the group may end 2015 with a new year's eve MTD party. A Happy New Year to all SIRS.

*Written by Steve Siljestrom*



MTD Group 1 enjoy a fun time together following completion of the night's game play (Richard Hockenbrock [inset] a member of the group took the picture)



Photos by Steve Siljestrom

L to R: Steve Siljestrom [inset], Charlie Abrams, Sue Busenius, Larry Brown, Alicia Bailly, and Barbara Stedman

L to R: Linda Brown, Janet Abrams, Jim Stedman, Jeff Bailly, Linda Siljestrom, and Walt Busenius



**Mexican Train Dominoes  
Group 4  
(El Quattro)  
Jim Pope**

**“October Competition”**

The El Quattro Mexican Train Dominoes group met on October 30<sup>th</sup> with a Halloween theme. Four of the members dressed up in costumes (see pictures). We had a fun, competitive evening of dominoes and tasty treats provided by several on the spouses. We plan on meeting again on November 20<sup>th</sup> for MTD and tasty pies provided by the spouses at the home of **Renie and Jim Pope**.

**MTD El Quattro  
Halloween Adventures**

Photos by Jim Pope



**Ron Louis & Fran Matthews**



**Jim and Renie Pope**



**Dick and Leslie Firth**



**Jonathon and Barbara  
Korfhage**

**“November Competition”**

The El Quattro Mexican Train Dominoes group met on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Renie and Jim Pope** to celebrate the holidays and stir the competitive juices. We had 8 couples **Barbara & Henry Thatcher, Christy and Dick DeVoe, Yvonne & Bill Weinberg, Sue and Lo McCarley, June & Don Seaton, Leslie & Dick Firth, Barbara & Jonathan Korfhage, and Renie and Jim Pope** at the event. When **Jim Pope** checked the wine supply for the meeting, he found that a "surplus of riches" had accumulated from previous MTD meetings. So rather than have members bring wine for the MTD event, each member brought food to give to Shelter Inc. (See the picture). We were able to deliver over 35 cans and boxes of food to Shelter Inc. For refreshments the women brought 3 pies: pumpkin, pecan and apple and **Renie Pope** made her famous "malt-ball turkeys" (See picture). Plus we also had some cheese and crackers. Happy holidays to all from El Quattro Mexican Train Dominoes group!



Photo by Jim Pope



Photo by Jim Pope

Morris, an 82-year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doctor, 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'" The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said you got a heart murmur and be careful!"





## Travel Opportunities

**Ken Richter**

### Day Trips

#### **December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley.**

The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motor coach from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$54 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217

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

**February 3, 2016: Jersey Boys.** This is the true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. It is the story of how a group of blue-collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop groups. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in center of orchestra. Cost is \$116. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

### Longer Trips

**March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean.** A 16 day all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea and highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona (Spain), Bandol (France) and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$3,665 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**March 13-17, 2016: Spring Training, Phoenix, Arizona.** This 5 day/4 night trip has something for everyone. Included in the trip is all transportation starting after arriving at the Phoenix Airport. Your stay will be at the Embassy Suites and all meals will be hosted. There will be three Spring Training Games with the best seats available which should feature Giants and A's

games. During your stay, morning activities will be planned and escorted by our guide. Cost is \$1,795 pp, double occupancy. Air transportation to and from Phoenix is not included. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**May 3–5, 2016: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.** A once in a lifetime opportunity to view the Vatican Splendors Exhibit and tour the Reagan Library with lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Also on this trip will be a guided tour of the Mission at Santa Barbara. Included in the trip is roundtrip motor coach transportation, 2-night stay at the Pepper Tree (Santa Barbara), 6 hosted meals along the way and Driver Gratuity. Cost \$591 pp, double occupancy. 30 travelers are required for this trip. Contact **Ken Richter**, (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin.** This trip starts out with 2 nights in Prague , 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 plus air. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).



**Mike Whitaker, Colin Holland and Doug Eisner** with the USA flag in the background on the 9th green at Boundary Oak on the day before Veteran's Day



## Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

**Doug Eisner**

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 4 tables of bridge at **Bill Schultz's** house on November 16<sup>th</sup>. And what a strange day it was!

For the first time in recent memory, all 4 top scorers at the lunch break were shut out in the second half and failed to break into the money! In the first half, **Fred Bolton** and **Bob Yolland** tied for first place with 15.0 pt, barely edging out **Fred Kovar** and **Jim Stedman** with 14.5 pt each. However, the afternoon session was a complete flip-flop, with the top 4 falling back and players from the bottom half of the score sheet rising up. During the afternoon, **Tony Greco**, **Jim Jackson**, **Doug Eisner**, and **Jim Brown** came from out of nowhere to claim the money. **Tony** ran away with the match, scoring 45.0 pt for first place, followed by **Jim Jackson's** 41.0 pt for second place. **Doug Eisner** took third with 40.5 pt while **Jim Brown** rounded out the money winners with 40.0 pt for fourth place.

Since the branch luncheon meeting will move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Monday for January through April 2016, we'll move our monthly game to the second Thursday for those four months. Our next game is scheduled for Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at **Fred Bolton's** house.



## Party Bridge

**Fred Bolton**

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Bill Snyder** on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. First place went to **Bob Yolland** with 5180 points, second to **Carl Johnson** with 4140 and third to **Dick DeVoe** with 3690. Our next game

will on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Dick DeVoe**.

*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact **Fred Bolton** for details. Bring a lunch.*



## Cooking Lunch and Wine

**Syd Whalen**

*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.*



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

**Lo McCarley**

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on November 18<sup>th</sup> at **Carl and Anne Johnson's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge as well as enjoying **Anne's** snacks and **Carl's** wines. As for the bridge results, **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** came in first with 38 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** for second with 37 points. In third place with 34 points were **Carl and Anne Johnson**. In fourth place were **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** with 32 points. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on December 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Terry Marchione**

Our November game was hosted by **Elaine and Ken Richter**. It was great to have the **Richters** back playing along with our other five regulars. **Dave and Joan Pierce** ran away from the rest of the field with 30 points. Second place was shared by the **Marchiones** and the **Freemans** who had 21 points. Our next game will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the **Devoes**. **Dick and Christie** will be busy setting out their massive collection of nutcrackers for the occasion.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

**Sid Landman**

**Bill Schultz** hosted our November 20<sup>th</sup> Duplicate Bridge 3 event. **Charlie Abrams** came in first place with 29 points, which was one point higher than second place finisher, **Jim Brown** who had 28 points. Congratulations, guys!

**Dave Pierce**, who was half a point behind **Jim**, took third place with 27.5 points. **Tony Greco** ended up in fourth place with 26.5 points

Most Twos: **Charlie** scored ten 2's (nice!), followed by **Dick DeVoe** and **Bill** with eight 2's.

Least Zeros: **Charlie** and **Jim** had only three 0's; **Dave** and **Tony** also did well with four each.





## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group 1 met on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Frank McNamee**. The BIG winner was **John Lewis**, followed by a distant **Frank** who came in second.

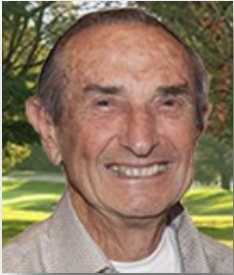
We will not be playing poker in December but we will resume play next year on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Pete McNeill**. Merry Christmas to all!



## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell**. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 pm and ends around 8:00 pm with time out for dinner.*



## Poker Group 2

**Al Zamolo**

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



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Al Twyford**

Poker Group 6 met at group leader **Al Twyford's** house in Walnut Creek on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day holiday. We had three hours of fun playing poker and drinking three bottles of red wine along with the snacks. Our group seems to be red wine only drinkers. We had 7 players; **Al Twyford, Frank Lucas, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson, Harvey Oxman, Brad Hatcher and Rich Ahlf**. **Sid Landman** was the only one who could not make it. This is the first time we had no big winner or loser. High was + \$4 **Harvey** and low was- \$4 **Al**, with the rest in between.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at **Bob Larson's** house in Pleasant Hill. We hope to see everyone there for the last game of the year 2015.



## Poker Club 4

**Chuck Bobinecz**

Our regular players are **Bob Mehus, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Chuck Bobinecz, Joe Stengel, Rich Hanford and Frank Rockwell**.

We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 to 4 pm at the home **Chuck Bobinecz**. If you would like to be a sub, call **Chuck Bobinecz** at 939-8740.

We are not meeting in December, due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January and hosted by Sir **Rich Hanford**.

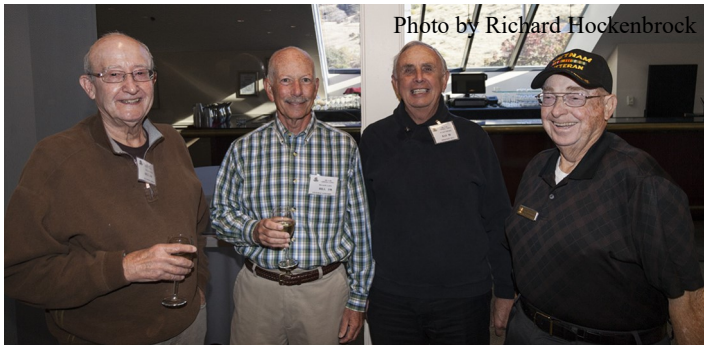


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bill Hoban, Bill Laws, Ray Spears, and Dick Richmond** enjoying the veterans recognition luncheon celebration



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**John Elstead, Paul Masta, Gary Brown, and Mike Whitaker** pose for a photo at the veterans recognition luncheon



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

In December we will be hiking up Mount Diablo to Eagle Peak starting from Regency Gate in Clayton. This will be our last hike of the year and as always it will be our toughest. We will be hiking the Bruce Lee trail up to Meridian Gap and over to the Eagle peak and back down to Regency Gate. The distance will be about 7 miles

with about a 2,000ft elevation gain. Sticks are a must as the trail gets narrow near the Peak and the Downhill is steep. Notice we will be starting at 9:00 am so that we can take our time with ample breaks. We will have lunch at the peak overlooking the best views of the East Bay and Delta. I rate this hike as Strenuous.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, Go about five miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end of Regency Dr. Walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain Cancels

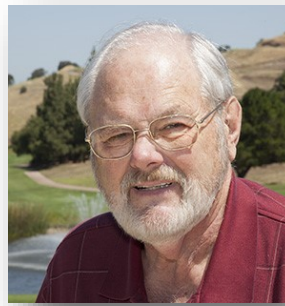
Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 9:00 am

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

E-mail [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Cell: (925) 550-4967



## Theatre

**Gary Schaub**

**Jan 14<sup>th</sup> is the LAST CALL  
FOR RESERVATIONS  
for FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>**



Not only are the holidays quickly approaching, but so is the deadline for tickets for the SIR146 Theatre Party of *Born Yesterday*. This favorite American classic comedy is scheduled for Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek.

Performed by Center REP, *Born Yesterday* is a hilarious play that was not only a Broadway success when it opened, but also a very popular film in the 1950s.

Perfect for the upcoming political season, *Born Yesterday* looks behind the scenes in Washington when junk dealer Harry Brock brings his showgirl mistress to help him lobby for special legislation.

A limited number of discount tickets for this award-winning play will be available to SIR 46 members and guests until January 14<sup>th</sup> at \$35.00 per person.

Reservations are made with a check payable to SIR 146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call Gary at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets are to be distributed in the Leshar Center lobby (1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek) at 7:30 p.m. on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Parking is available on the street or in the City garage adjacent to the Leshar Center for the Arts.



## Book Nook

**Hank James**

No Book Nook in December, but we will have it open in January at the Concord Hilton.

So, survey your bookcases and book shelves for all those books you have already read and probably will never open again. Bring them to the Book Nook in January and share them with other SIR Members. That way you make space at home for all the interesting and exciting books you pick up at the January Book Nook.

----- **Monterey Mashers-Save the dates.** -----

*Sign up form on page 17*

Save Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> thru Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for the 2016 edition of the  
**MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
in Monterey, California.

Included are three nights lodging, breakfasts, two in-house cocktail parties and a round of golf at Pacific Grove Muni & Laguna Seca GC plus an awards banquet on Tuesday evening.

There is also a non-golfer's program.

Questions? – Contact any committee member .... **Lew Thompson** 686-6880, **Corrie Oranje** 825-5772

**Chuck Eichten** 673-7215, **Dennis Hallett** 934-1447, or **Dick Richmond** 947-1167





## Bocce Ball

**Martin Lyle**

As you may recall, Bocce Ball does not meet November through April so we do not put anything in the Sir Call for those months. However, I will post a note in the April Sir Call to alert the players of the May start up, then follow with regular notices in the May SIR CALL and following months. Contact me if this isn't clear. (925) 687-4893 [mvlyle@yahoo.com](mailto:mvlyle@yahoo.com)



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

A tremendous thank you to **Dennis** and **Ann Hallett** for the super hosting job of our Cooking II wine bottling Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. This year we bottled an excellent 2013 Chardonnay from Lake County. All members contributed to the food: **Sue** and **Corrie Oranje** plus **Janet** and **Bob Yolland** for starters; **Bernice** and **Bill Cammerer** plus **Marna** and **Steve Dawkins** for salads; **Sue** and **Bruce Borgman** for a great potato dish; **Elaine** and **Ken Richter** plus **Barbara** and **Bill Roberts** for dessert; and, most especially, our host and hostess, **Ann** and **Dennis** for the great stuffed Chicken entree, beautiful vegetable dish and all the other goodies they provided. We would also like to thank **Ron Plachy** for making our SIR Vineyard, Bin 146 labels.

Our next event will be the December 14<sup>th</sup> Cooking II lunch at **Steve Dawkins'** home.



## Table Pool

**Bill Weinberg**



*We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives*



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

The next meeting of the Photography Group is scheduled below. Many of you missed **Terry Marchione's** DVD presentation in October of his trip to Africa. You'll get another chance to see the African wildlife in a slide show presentation from **Bruce Borgman** who made a similar trip in October. In addition to his pictures, we will discuss his choice of camera which he purchased specifically for this trip, the Canon SX60 DLSR. Come see why this camera was a good choice.

In January we might plan a field trip to San Francisco. Date, time, and subject matter of the photo shoot are yet to be determined. Look for a special announcement via a BR 146 Communications email.

### Next Meeting

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

**When:** February 26th, 9 am, Fourth Friday of the month

### Barbie Doll

One day a father, on his way home from work suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday. He stops at a toy store and goes in and asks the sales person, 'How much for one of those Barbie in the display window?'

The salesperson answers, 'Which one do you mean, Sir? We have: Work Out Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.95'.

The amazed father asks: 'It's what? Why is the Divorced Barbie \$265.95 and the others only \$19.95?'

The slightly miffed salesgirl rolls her eyes, sighs, and answers: 'Sir, Divorced Barbie comes with: Ken's Truck, Ken's House, Ken's Fishing Boat, Ken's Furniture, Ken's Dog, Ken's Computer, one of Ken's Friends, and a wallet full of Ken's pocket change.'

*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.*

Photo by Bill Schultz



Dedicated golfers **Guy Rudberg, Jerry Crumpler, and Bill Schultz** battle rainy weather at #18 hole at Boundary Oak on November 24th.

## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits



*Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.*

*Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).*

## Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

*The Mac Users Group (MUG) has changed its meeting time from 10 AM until noon to noon until 2PM. You will need to change your lunch schedule. This change is required because someone else has taken our earlier time at the Thurman Casey Library.*

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

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

## 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 Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday 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)*

## Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

There will be no meeting of Area 2 \$ums Investment Group in December.

For your information, the 2016 programs co-chair for the group will be **Tom Henry**, from branch 174. Tom's email address is [tomh\(925\)@icloud.com](mailto:tomh(925)@icloud.com).



# Monterey Mashers 7<sup>h</sup> Annual SIR Golf Tournament

You are invited to attend the annual Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, a SIR Branch 146 event in the Monterey area open to all members. Those who don't play golf can go on outings with others or do their own thing during the day. Those who do play may win prizes and/or bragging rights and/or a special strange and unusual award. Having fun and enjoyment is paramount!

**March 6, 7, & 8** – Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

**March 6 (Sunday)**-- Social time at the Inn. Check your welcome packet for **BYOB** cocktail party rooms. After the parties, it's a no-host dinner at a restaurant of your choice, or enjoy a 5 block walk to a downtown restaurant (Rosines). Traditionally, many of us opt for Rosines. They are very accommodating and the food is good. The big plus for Rosines is we don't have to drive after the cocktail parties and they give individual checks.

**March 7 (Monday)** – Golf with cart at Pacific Grove GC. Traditional heavy hors d'oeuvres / dessert party in the evening at the Inn. **BYOB**. Dinner is a rare occurrence after a couple hours of this feasting.

**March 8 (Tuesday)** – Golf with cart at Laguna Seca GC. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Rancho Canada Golf Club. No host bar at 6:30 and light hors d' oeuvres before dinner.

**March 9 (Wednesday)** – Breakfast at the Inn and departure for home, outlets, aquarium, etc.

**Payment must be received by January 10, 2016.** A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to: **"SIR Branch 146 – Monterey Mashers"**.

Mail to: Lew Thompson, 1830 Cleveland Ct., Concord, CA 94521

## Register

Reply by January 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you shortly after the closing date.

Make checks payable to:

**"SIR Branch 146—Monterey Mashers"**

Mail to: Lew Thompson,  
1830 Cleveland Ct.  
Concord, CA 94521

-----  
Cut Here and Mail with your Check

### Enrollment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Companion: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check boxes that apply)

A) Couples package—Two Golfers: \$720.00   
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf each - two golfers.

B) Couples package—One Golfer: \$600.00   
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf—one golfer

C) Companion to play golf Monday only, add \$72.00

D) Companion to play golf Tuesday only, add \$47.00

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Payment must be received by January 10th, 2016

Banquet Choices: (enter number of entrees)

Filet Mignon: .....

Baked Salmon: .....

Vegetarian: .....

# SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.  
[br146sircall@gmail.com](mailto:br146sircall@gmail.com)