SIR CALL br146Sircall@gmail.com

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

At our last BEC meeting of 2017, the Board approved a budget and a dues reduction for 2018. This board, and the boards of previous years, accomplished administrative efficiencies that left our branch with a nice reserve. That created an

administrative problem for our state organization, requiring them to file long-form tax returns.

We are a social organization whose volunteers are instrumental to our success. None of us is here to create full time jobs for anyone as that would defeat our purpose. With that in mind, we have undertaken to reduce our reserve to a level that would allow the state to file the short-form. Having reviewed the annual spending of the branch and the future effects of the reduction, the BEC felt we can safely reduce our annual dues to \$15, and encourage annual advance payment for luncheon meetings at \$208. If you pay in advance you help to greatly reduce the administrative burdens on our volunteers who collect and account for our monies at each meeting. Kindly renew before December 31st. Monthly luncheon cost remains at \$26.

At the BEC meeting we discussed placing the email addresses of wives / significant others on the list for distribution of the monthly SIR CALL. Many of our members rely on our wives or significant others to assist in maintaining our calendars for branch activities and other appointments. If you feel that would be beneficial, let us know and we will make it happen. The BEC also allocated funds for a business breakfast in the coming year for our Activity Chairs. The purpose of such a meeting would be to update the status of activity participation and assure the continuance of activities in the absence of the chair.

At our November meeting we honored our veterans of all military branches and received a touching presentation from Bill Green, president of the Viet Nam Veterans of the Diablo Valley. We honored **Bob Yolland** for his service and awarded Senior Sir and Super Senior Sir Awards, respectively, to **Bill Hanson** and **Bill Boyd**.

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon Thursday, December 14th Boundary Oak Clubhouse

> Entertainment By: Devil Mountain Chorus

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

Make Reservations with Steve Ybarra by December 8th. Form on Page 3



The award winning Devil Mountain Chorus will entertain us for the Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

On December 14th, we have our Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon where we will be entertained by the Devil Mountain Chorus. You still have time to reserve your place (s) and the cost is \$28 per person. This is always a well attended event so get your reservation in soon. The reservation form is on page 3 of this SIR CALL.

As I conclude my term as Big Sir, I want to thank our membership for making Branch 146 the best SIR has to offer. So many of you give of your time, without recognition, to assure the mission of "Make Friends For Life." For our new members, volunteering to assist in an

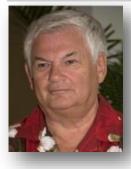
(Continued on page 2, column 1)

SIR Mission Statement

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

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

activity or administrative assignment is both a fun and educational way to meet your fellow Sirs and gain the greatest benefits we have to offer. If everyone chips in a little, no one of us should have an excessive burden. The success of our 2017 BEC was aided by the mentoring of Past Big Sir and now Area Governor Walt Busenius. Past Big Sir and now Regional Director Bill Holly is instrumental in presenting our monthly luncheon slide show. Luncheon Chair Rob Melrose is always a big assist to me and our successful luncheons. Jerry Kaplan, without much fanfare looks over our activities and moves to expand our opportunities. Our treasurer Roy Hodgkinson kept his eye on the ball, and the results are exemplified above. Roy leaves the board next year to be replaced by Steve Ybarra our assistant treasurer, who was also instrumental in the success of our Ladies day events. Rich Hockenbrock has taken our SIR CALL to a level above all others. I am passing the gavel to our Little Sir Bruce Borgman who led our Speakers Committee to provide a great line of speakers and entertainment for our monthly meetings and our Ladies Day events. Joe Stengel, Pierre Mebane and Tony Greco will be new additions to the BEC next year and we should all give them a hefty Hurrah for stepping up. Your BEC has done an excellent job, and you are assured of even better results next year. Finally, I do want to thank Joe Fuchs and Dave Steinberg for sponsoring me into Branch 146.



Little Sir's Corner Bruce Borgman

The November Luncheon is always a memorable meeting as we honor and acknowledge those of our group who served in the Armed Forces. The acknowledgment of the Missing Man table by Jim Baldridge and the slide show of our own

veterans put together by **Charlie Koeber** and **Bill Holly** also added to expressing our appreciation to those who served. Our speaker, Bill Green, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, gave a sobering talk of his experiences in the Vietnam War and the great sacrifices of this and other wars made by our men in uniform.

We are looking forward to our December

Luncheon – one of the two luncheons during the year where we invite our spouses or significant others to join us for a special occasion. As we celebrate the holiday season, we acknowledge our partners as "those who stand here beside us" -as often so poignantly said in Jim Baldridge's invocation. You will particularly enjoy this celebration as we will enjoy a performance by the Devil Mountain Chorus. This award-winning musical group of about 25 men will regale us with wonderful barbershop harmonies from songs of the season and other renditions. Two of our Sirs - Corrie Oranje and Frank Lucas are part of the ensemble, which practices long hours to bring their unique harmony to our community. If you have not already submitted your reservation to **Steve Ybarra**, do so asap and no later than December 8th use the form on page 3 of this newsletter.

This meeting will conclude my year as Little Sir. I have been pleased with the speakers which my committee and I have been able to bring to you for interesting luncheon programs. I want to thank Jonathan Korfhage, Bill Holly, Alan Elnick, and Jerry Kaplan for their suggestions and often active recruitment of our speakers. I am sure that Jonathan will continue the tradition! I will move into the Big Sir slot — with big shoes to fill as Alan retires to the Nominating Committee. We are fortunate that we have many active former Big Sirs whom I can count on for advice and counsel!

Our year has been a successful one in terms of recruitment of members and participation in activities thanks to an active BEC and particularly the efforts of Jerry Kaplan. I would be remiss if I did not single out one other individual - the hard-working editor of the Sir Call, **Richard Hockenbrock** and resident photographer – kudos for a job well done. There will be other opportunities for service and leadership in the next year - I urge all of you to consider taking on roles in activities or other responsibilities. We are truly an all-volunteer organization and we will always have places for you to help. Happy Holidays to all!

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor
Assistant Editors
Proofreaders

Richard Hockenbrock Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose Cal Tucker, Jonathan Korfhage, Pat Lucia, and Jim Barry Ron Plachy

Internet Posting



Membership Dave Pierce

In November we inducted two new members: Jim Lape and Brian Downie. Once again we had a great guest turnout -- six -- and we finished the year with 46 guests (within 10% of our goal of 50).

Welcome, new members, and thank you, all eight sponsors! Robert W. White has resigned, Louis Meyer has gone inactive, and Fred Thompson died in October. With those losses our membership is 293, exceeding our goal. Our losses are only 18 so far this year, and we gained 26. We'll set new goals for guests in January, but we'd like to see 3-4 per month, so please ask your friends who are at or close to retirement if they would like to get to know us. In 2018, the first guest lunch is on us, if a guest is truly interested in learning about us.

New Member Photo Additions in November



Brian Downie

Late October Addition



Jim Lape

Ron Milligan



Bill Green, president of the Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley and highly decorated combat veteran, gave a touching personal account of his involvement in the Vietnam War in the mid 1960s. His presentation was well received.

Reservations for Ladies Day Luncheon

Salad Course

Winter Vegetable Salad

Butter Lettuce, Roasted Butternut Squash, Beets Crumbled Blue Cheese, Candied Nuts Whole Grain Mustard Honey Vinaigrette

Entrees

Pork Scaloppini

Seared Pork Loin, Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables Pomegranates, Caper Butter Sauce Or

Potato Crusted Salmon

Confetti Rice, Seasonal Vegetables Chardonnay Butter Sauce

Dessert Holiday Chocolate Cake

On the form below, type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address also below.

Thursday, December 14th, 2017

Number of Tickets at \$28 ea.

Amount Enclosed \$_____ Entrée Choices

Name	Pork	Salmon

Make checks payable to SIR Branch 146. Send to: **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213 All reservations and payments in full must be received by <u>December 8th</u>. 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.



Sunshine Calvin Tucker

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

- ◆ Jim Bogue
- **♦ Steve Dawkins**
- **♦** Ken Donnelly
- ♦ Bob Johnston
- **♦ Larry Mitchell**
- ◆ Carl Pagter
- ♦ Mike Rose
- ♦ Jim Saavedra
- Bob Walton

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

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

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair phone: (925) 389 6070 Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com



Honoree Chair **Doug Eisner** presented Sir **Bob Yolland** with a twenty year award for his commitment and service to the branch



Sir **Bill Hanson**, who recently turned 90, received the Senior SIR President's award from **Doug Eisner** upon reaching this honored milestone in life

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir Little Sir	Alan Elnick Bruce Borgman
Secretary Assistant Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson Steve Ybarra
Assistant Treasurer Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term) Director(1 st Term)	Steve Sprague Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term) Director(1 st Term)	
Director(1 st Term)	Bob Mehus

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Bob Mehus

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

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.



Acoustic Musicians Carl Tilchen

There will not be a meeting of our group in December due to the holidays.

Our next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians will be Thursday, January 18th at 2 pm. The address is 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor and walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all players of guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

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



Jim Whitsett shows his guest, Al Steunenberg, around at the November luncheon



In the third award presented at the November luncheon by Honoree Chair **Doug Eisner**, Sir **Bill Boyd** received the Super Senior President's award on reaching 95 years of life



Outgoing Big Sir **Alan Elnick** introduces Past Big Sir **Walt Busenius**, our new Area Governor, at the November luncheon



Bob Storkan & Art Mancini at the November luncheon



Luncheon Chairman Rob Melrose

I am streamlining the luncheon report moving forward to improve luncheon statistics and make it easier to locate this information which is important to the membership.



Walking Group

Frank Ascatigno

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **Frank** for current walk. Rain cancels any walk. Ladies Welcome Tel: (925) 429-2232

November Luncheon

- Lunches consumed: 220 which fell within the Boundary Oak commitment.
- Members Excused: 50
- Members giving notice after deadline: 4
- Members considered "No Shows": 28, resulting in potential cost to the branch: \$728

December is Ladies Day and is an opt-in lunch. Please see page 3 for instructions.

January 11th Luncheon

Cost: \$26

• Preferred payment method is check

• Opt Out Deadline: Jan 5th at Noon

Email: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com

If you need to call: (925) 979-5146

If you are bringing a guest: please notify Lunch Chair with guest's name at NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com

<u>Special Requests</u>: If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can't consume a meal, please send email to <u>NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com</u>

Annual Payers: Since we have lowered the price, we really need you to let us know if you are not coming before the deadline. This will help keep the price lowered next year as well as allow the kitchen to avoid wasting food.



Pinochle
Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow
We meet at

Rocco's Pizzeria on the first Wednesday of

each month at 11 am and play until approximately 2 pm. Lunch is included as a standard part of the event. 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.

With the assistance of **Jerry Kaplan**, our Activities Coordinator, we have reached out to several interested members of SIR Branch 8 and are hopeful that one or more will be joining our group in January.

Charlie Kahsen

Jeff Morrow

(925) 943-1750

(925) 944-7009

cwkahsen@gmail.com

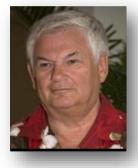
jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

How many mechanics does it take to change a light bulb?

Three. One to look at the bulb, one to go get the wrong one, and one to tell you it won't be done until Tuesday.



2018 BEC was introduced by Walt Busenius at the November luncheon. (L to R): Tony Greco, Dave Pierce, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Borgman, Jonathan Korfhage, Richard Hockenbrock, Joe Stengel, Pierre Mebane, Bill Schultz, Bob Mehus, and Steve Ybarra



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs have started to practice a new set of songs — as we all enjoy singing the wonderful melodies of the holiday season. We are familiar with much of the Christmas music but have some new arrangements of this traditional

music. Right now we are working on Let It Snow, Silent Night, Silver Bells, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, White Christmas, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and a brand new discovery of an old song found by **Steve Dinning** called It's Christmas Time Again in San Francisco.

If you enjoy singing the music of the holiday season, come join us on the first and third Wednesday at 1:00 pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church even if just to practice.

We are trying to find a time to sing some of these seasonal favorites at a local Senior Living Facility, but our numbers have dwindled because of illness and travel by our active group. Recently, **Lo McCarley** reluctantly announced his retirement from our group due to voice issues. We will miss you **Lo**!

We have a scheduled gig singing for the VIP group at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church in early February – for that performance we will do many of our "Romantic" songs. In the meantime, we will enjoy the Christmas music at this "most wonderful time of the year".



Pickleball

Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The ARC is located at 902 Danville

Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Hours are currently between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Players sign in, pay a \$4.00 fee and can play for the entire time period. Players will work out their own schedules, decide on partners, etc.

Call or email <u>jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net</u> to learn more about the game and/or information about the new facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

One thing I learned from drinking is that if you ever go Christmas caroling, you should go with a group of people.

That and also go in mid-December.



The Marine Corps once again showed up in commanding numbers at the November luncheon in this photo



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

This popular activity had its end-of-year Dining Out event at Massimo's in Walnut Creek on November 14th. We were able to squeeze all of our 52 diners into the private room upstairs. This was

quite a challenge, but we were able to accommodate some late requests to join us. We thank all of you who sat at the long table and may have had a tougher time getting into your seats!

We started at 5:30 pm with cocktails and enjoyed each other's company – the private room was particularly conducive to chatting and socializing – we don't always have that at some of our other venues. After the Caesar salad the entrees were brought out – with the choice of chicken piccata, grilled salmon or New York steak. Half of us had the steak and were amazed how the kitchen was able to prepare this excellent steak so well for a large group.

We will no doubt return in the not too distant future since this was one of our finer dining experiences. It was worthy of an end-of-year Dining Out event. On this and the next page you will find some pictures of the event thanks to **Richard Hockenbrock's** expertise in photography.

Our next event will be in January 2018 - we again solicit your input as we select the next restaurant. There have been some new additions to the Walnut Creek / Concord / Lafayette dining scene. We have received a few suggestions already and are always anxious to try new places.

We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season as you enjoy dining with family and friends!



Some of the 52 diners at the November 14th Couples Dining Out event at Massimo's



Couples Dining Out (L to R): Don & June Seaton,
Joyce Wells & Jim Barry, and (standing) Al Munayer



Couples Dining Out (L to R): Henry and Barbara Thatcher,
Jim and Renie Pope, Paul and Joan Dubow



Couples Dining Out (L to R): Steve Ybarra, Steve and Marna
Dawkins, Dana Ybarra, Mary Denney, Lynette Holly, Chuck
Denney, Bill Holly, and Barbara & Joe Stengel



Steve & Karen Dinning, Joanne & Dale Haukland, and Walt & Bobbie Schmidt



Susan Kaplan, Alicia & Jeff Baily, Steve & Linda Siljestrom, Jerry Kaplan, Ann & Dennis Hallett



Bruce Borgman & Sue Sheldon



Diane Munayer, Linda & John Boyan, Gabriela & Peter Bishop, and Al Munayer



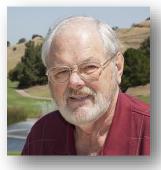
Shari Carpenter and Sandy Wagner



Rob Melrose & Carmen Schiavone



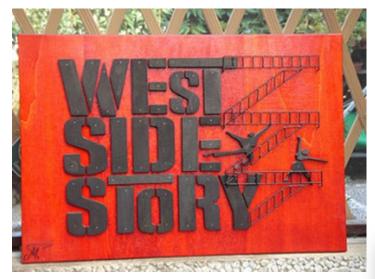
Richard & Sherry Hockenbrock



Theatre Gary Schaub

Nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical. A Broadway hit when it opened in 1957. The inspired production was revived on

Broadway twice since it first opened.



One of Broadway's finest and most popular musicals, *West Side Story*, will be the Sir 146 Theater Party on Friday, April 13 at 8:00 pm. The production at Lesher Center for the Arts by Contra Costa Musical Theater promises to be one of the most popular productions of the season.

BROADWAY MUSICAL SET AS SIR 146 THEATER PARTY IN APRIL Order Early Before the Holidays!

A limited number of reduced-price tickets have been set aside for SIR members and guests. Ticket reservations for the SIR group will be available until March 1, 2018 by contacting Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. (925) 938-5454.

Seats are \$43.00 per person, with a check payable to SIR146. Deadline for ordering is March 10, or until our discounted allotment is committed.

With music and lyrics by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, West Side Story features such popular hits as "Maria," "Tonight," "I Feel Pretty," and the everpopular "Gee, Officer Krupke." The Walnut Creek production marks the 100th birthday of composer Leonard Bernstein.

With a story of the Jets vs. the Sharks, the musical was inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet, West Side Story* features not only inspiring songs, but also exciting dance. The stage musical was adapted for the movies in 1961.

Tickets will be distributed at the lower lobby of the Lesher Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 pm on April 13th. Parking is available on the street or in the City garage adjacent to Lesher Center.

Gary F. Schaub 1400 Canyonwood Ct, #8

Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (925) 938-5454 gschaub1@gmail.com



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

Our next Wine Tasting Event is February 28th. Once again **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** have volunteered to open their lovely home to the group. As we get closer, I'll let you know what wines our host and hostess

have decided we will be tasting. One of the perks of hosting is, you get to select the region.

Last year, all our events were hosted by first timers (Hockenbrock, Lucido and Stengel). I'm hoping we can continue with new people hosting in 2018. The other events will be on April 25th, July 25th, and October 24th. If you are interested in hosting one of the events, please let me know. If you think you might be interested but are terrified, ask past hosts; we try to make hosting easy for you. If you have limited space, we can limit the number of attendees.

Husband: I love you.
Wife: Is that you or the wine talking?
Husband: It's me, talking to the wine.



Fishing Report Paul Dubow

I reported last month that the best salmon season in years had ended. However, **Lee Clark** of Branch 146 and **Raleigh Davis** managed to go out on separate trips just before the actual close and both came home with two large chinooks.

We are now concentrating on sturgeon, stripers, and trout. Our sturgeon fishermen had some unusual adventures this month. First, on a rainy day early in the month, Rich Fiscina and Tom Boltz of Branch 146 sailed out of Martinez toward the Mothball Fleet, hoping to land the big fish. Within an hour, **Tom** caught a 42-inch keeper. Then, no bites for the next five hours. Rich got bored and put his brand-new rod down to attend to other matters on his boat. Almost immediately, a sturgeon struck and the rod and reel sailed out of the boat with the sturgeon. Rich grabbed another rod and set out to grapple for the lost rod. This is normally a futile gesture, but luck was with **Rich** and he hooked the sunken rod. He pulled the rod into the boat and, to his amazement, the sturgeon was still on, notwithstanding that **Rich** never set the hook. Rich then battled the sturgeon and landed it. It was another 42-inch keeper!

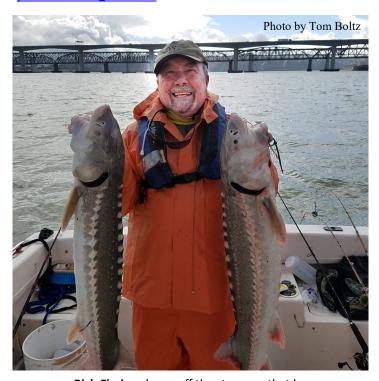
A few days later, **Carl Moyer** and **Raleigh Davis** fished in the same spot and **Raleigh** quickly hooked a sturgeon. He got the sturgeon to the side of the boat and asked **Carl** to net it. At that point, **Carl** discovered that he had left his sturgeon net at home. **Carl** tried to grab the fish but it slipped away. They estimated that it was a 44-inch keeper. **Raleigh** had some consolation, however. A few hours later, he caught a 10 lb. striper. That was no consolation to **Rich Fiscina**, **Joe Karg**, **Pedro Contreras**, and **Paul Dubow**, who were fishing nearby in **Rich's** boat. They did not get a bite all day.

On other fronts, Stan Wong, Phil Scimonelli, Bob Hilacker, Terry Miller, Reggie Fromm of Branch 146, and Carl Moyer all got in on the early trout action at San Pablo Reservoir (now closed for the winter) and Lafayette Reservoir. Phil did best with a 4-lb. rainbow. Pete Gates of Branch 146, Tom Kostik, and Mike Corker all brought home stripers for the dinner table. Stan Wong, Raleigh Davis, and Pedro Contreras completed successful crabbing trips. Chuck Vanoncini led a large group of SIR fishermen to Lake Almanor for three days of fishing and feasting that was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

We have planned a heavy schedule for 2018. In addition to the regular fishing in the Delta for stripers, sturgeon, and black bass and fishing for trout in the local

reservoirs, we have scheduled trout expeditions to Lake Almanor and Lake Davis, ocean fishing for salmon and rockfish including a trip to the Farallons, striper fishing in New Hogan Reservoir, cutthroat trout fishing in Pyramid Lake, kokanee and trout fishing in Lake Berryessa, and salmon fishing in the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. We will plan other trips as the year proceeds.

If you want to get in on the action, please come to our next meeting which will be on December 21 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but join us for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. For further information, please contact BR 146 fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at pdubow2398@aol.com



Rich Fiscina shows off the sturgeon that he and **Tom Boltz** caught at the Mothball Fleet



Chuck Schreiber & George Mon enjoying some entertaining conversation before the start of the November luncheon



Activities Coordinator Jerry Kaplan

I hope everyone has enjoyed this past year and been able to participate in one or more of the many branch activities. If you are a relatively new member, there may be an activity, a game, an outing, or something that you are interested in

but you don't see it available. Please let me know and I will help you discover if there are other SIR members who may have an interest in the same area and assist in getting the activity started.

I have been working with other nearby branches (primarily Branch 8 and 116) to see if some men in those branches would be interested in joining our members in pinochle — which is a new activity — or playing chess, which is an activity that some Branch 146 men want to get started, but would like to have a few more people to play with.

While new activities are always being considered and getting started, there are several Branch 146 activities that have more than one group, but sometimes no room for a Sir to join. We have several multi-group activities, such as Poker (6 different groups), Bridge (7 groups), Mexican Train Dominoes (5 groups), and Cooking (3 groups). There is likely one or more of you who might want to participate in one of these four activities noted but find there is no room or a waiting list. Again, my role is to help form a new group in these areas if there are enough men interested in doing do. Please contact me.

I hope you're all enjoying SIR and enjoying retirement! Hope 2018 is just as much fun!

Jerry Kaplan (925) 930-7076 mtdana@aol.com



Charlie Koeber with guest Tom O'Brien at the Veterans luncheon



John Kelly & Brian Beetz were your Greeters at the November luncheon



Book Group Chuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met on November 6th at the Black Bear Restaurant. For this period we read *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. The story follows travel reporter Lara "Lo" Blacklock as she attends a cruise on a

newly fashioned luxury ship. The book started slowly but mid way the mystery began to develop. Lo thinks the party in the adjacent cabin 10 has been thrown overboard, but no one believes her. Her frustrated search for the truth puts her life in danger. You will have to read the book to see how this mystery is resolved.

We agreed the book is an easy read but we were split as to whether we would recommend the read to others.

For our next book we chose *A Column of Fire* by Ken Follett. We will meet to discuss this book on Monday, December 11th, at the newly reconstructed Greenery Restaurant. Meeting time will be 8:30 am.

SIR Explore & Eat Event

The fourth Explore & Eat event for 2017 was to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Model in Sausalito and was attended by 16 people (*See group picture below*). The Bay Model is a three-dimensional representation of San Francisco Bay and the Delta capable of simulation tides, currents and the river inflows. The Model is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and spreads over 1.5 acres representing an area from the Pacific Ocean to Sacramento. The Model is housed in a beautiful building and is fully accessible. Admission to the Model tour was free as was ample free parking next to the Visitors Center. After



Jim Pope

Henry Thatcher

the tour we had lunch at Spinnakers Seafood Restaurant located in Sausalito on the water with breath-taking views of



Pictured (L to R): Bob Yolland, Janet Yolland, Paul Dubow, Joan Dubow, Linda Boyan, John Boyan, Etta Dotson, John Dotson, Renie Pope, Barbara Thatcher, May Kan, Ray Kan, Jim Pope, and Henry Thatcher



The model tour provided a unique opportunity to view the complete bay-delta system at a glance and to hear the story of the model from a knowledgeable U.S. Corp of Engineers docent. She regaled us with an overview of how the U.S Corps of Engineers keeps the Bay clean and free of hazards and debris. She then led us on a narrated tour of the Bay/Delta Model, demonstrating many exhibits. At the end of the tour, she conducted a tour of the "Marinship Exhibit" and she gave all of us an understanding of the many men and women who worked at the Naval Vessels Fabrication Yard in Sausalito for 3 years during WWII (1943-1945).

Explore & Eat was organized by **Henry Thatcher** and **Jim Pope**.

Mexican Train Dominoes



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The November Mexican Train Game Night was held on Friday the 10th at the inviting home of Sir **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha.** All three tables were full of 6 players

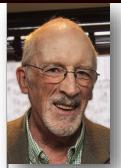
each for the evening's game playing. Guests included Sir **Jim Barry** and wife **Joyce Wells.**

We have regressed back in time – after three SIR members won last month, the women have regained superiority and won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. The hostess, **Martha Plante**, won top honors with an extra low total score that averaged only 8.4 points over the nine games she played. Second place with a very good average score of 14.0 went to **Sue Oranje**, wife of Sir **Corrie**. Third place was taken by Sir **Jerry Kaplan's** wife, **Susan** (16.3).

This was the last Game Night in 2017 for Group One. The overall winner for the second half of the year's Game Nights was Alicia Baily, wife of Sir Jeff. She won \$58.00 for her expert playing and an average over 39 games of 19.2. Second place went to yours truly, Sir Jerry Kaplan (20.5 over 45 games). A real scramble ensued for third place; four different players came within 0.27 of a point difference trying to grab the 3rd place prize money. Sir Sig Kalteis sneaked in with an average of 21.24, followed by Sir Jim Stedman at 21.26. These two very close scores were chased by Susan Kaplan (21.38) and Sir Bruce Borgman (21.51).

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

T: (925) 930-7076 email: mtdana@aol.com



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes III players enjoyed a night of games on the 4th Friday of November at the home of **Larry** and **Linda Brown**. It was the day after Thanksgiving and **Larry** and **Linda** came through and hosted a

great evening.

At table 1 Alicia Baily took first place, Jim Stedman a close second and hostess Linda Brown took third.

At table 2 Sue Busenius eked out a first place win in a tight struggle with Judy Richmond who placed second and Jim Barry walked away with third place.

Table 3 really showed all of us how MTD is to be played. Host Larry Brown managed to capture overall 3rd place with 7 games totaling 136 and an average of 19.4. Mexican Train first timer, Joyce Feil demonstrated fine learner's grasp of the game and walked away with overall 2nd prize marking up an impressive score of 17.6, but the big winner of the evening was veteran player Dick Richmond posting an overall score of 14.1 – remember the game is, in one way, like golf – the lowest scores are best and 14.1 was the lowest of the evening. Again, many thanks to Larry and Linda Brown for hosting a most enjoyable games night.



November winners from Group 1 MTD were (R to L) Martha Plante 1st, Sue Oranje 2nd, and Susan Kaplan 3rd



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train Group did not meet in November. Our next meeting is December 15th.



Photography Group Richard Hockenbrock

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 5th. Please bring any pictures on a thumb drive that you would like to share with the group.

I will review some of the major camera advances made in 2017 with the major brands, Nikon, Sony, and Canon.

We will also show a half hour video from the National Geographic series Fundamentals of Photography II on a subject of interest to the gathered group.

Email: rhock@pacbell.net Cell: (925) 324-1713

Next Meeting

Where: Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subject: New camera technology advances
When: January 5th at 9:00 am—11:00 am



Paul Brett, Frank Lucas, and **Corrie Oranje** pose in front of the veteran service flags hung on the walls around the room



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

Ten of our MTD players met on November 16th at **Patti** and **Doug Eisner's** house. No doubt the ladies were hoping to continue their domination of the money places

while the men were relying on their recently stepped-up training regimen to get back into the winner's circle. After socializing with some adult beverages, enjoying **Patti's** snacks, and watching the Warriors fall to the Boston Celtics, the game got underway with a lady's table and a man's table.

At the end of the evening, the MTD gods smiled on the men as **Dennis Hallett** took first place and **Doug Eisner** barely edged out **Marty Campbell** for second place. No doubt **Patti's** delicious pumpkin pecan cake at half time, rather than some training regimen, was responsible for the dramatic improvement of the men's fortunes.

The ladies vowed to take revenge during the December 7th game, scheduled for the home of **Joan** and **Dave Pierce.** Reported by **Doug Eisner**



While everyone else is enjoying the gathering time before the luncheon, **Mike Risser** & **Ron Afdal** volunteer to work this time to ensure everyone gets checked in and selects a luncheon entrée



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

The November 3rd Duplicate Bridge 2 event was warmly hosted by **Tony Greco.** *1st Place*: **Dave Steinberg** (29 pts.) scored well throughout, with 2nd and 3rd place

finishes respectively for the two halves. *2nd Place*: **Bob Yolland** missed 1st Place by only 0.5 pts., with 28.5. *3rd Place*: **Joe Fuchs** missed 2nd Place by only 0.5 pts, with 28, primarily on the strength of his 16 pt. 1st Place win in the 1st half.

Most Twos: **Bob Yolland** had 10, the fourth time since January 2016 that he had the most twos.

<u>Least Zeros</u>: **Tony Greco** had 3, the sixth time in as many months that the Least Zeros winner had 3.

<u>Comeback Kid</u>: **John Boyan's** 11.5 pt. difference from his 1st half of 4.5 to his 2nd half's high of 16 is no doubt a new record.

<u>Partner Highest Scores</u>: **Dave Pierce / Brad Hatcher** earned 5.5 of 6 pts. on Boards 4-6.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 had an excellent evening of bridge at Anne Johnson's home in Moraga Monday November 15th. Thank you Anne for all the good food, wine and

coffee especially the cookies. Also, thank you to our subs for participating.

November winners were: Jim Brown and Anne Johnson in third place with 21.5 points, Tony and Cindy Greco in second place with 23.0 points, Bob and Janet Yolland in first place just edging out the Greco's by half a point at 23.5 points. Most 2's were Dick and Christy DeVoe with 8, followed by Jim and Anne with 7. Most 0's will be kept a secret. Our next event will be at Dick and Christy's home on the third Wednesday, December 20th.

The barman says, "We don't serve time travelers in here."

A time traveler walks into a bar.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Dave Steinberg hosted 3 tables of the Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 on November 20th. Mark Curtis, a first time substitute, jumped off to a huge lead at the end of the

morning session. Mark scored 19 pt, well ahead of second place Dave Pierce's 14.5 pt and the third place tie between Max Hinkle and Lo McCarley at 13.5 pt. Unfortunately for other 11 players, Mark continued his domination of the scoring in the afternoon session. Mark's final score of 34 pt outdistanced second place Bill Schultz's 31.5 pt, and Max Hinkle's 27.5 pt for third place.

Bill Rees will host 3 tables for our December 18th game.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Parity. The 49ers can only wish for it but we nearly achieved it at the table when **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** hosted us November 14th.
From last to first, six couples were

only four matchpoints apart. **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** (weary travelers) and **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** tied for second, at 21 (52.5%). Much to **Dick's** surprise, **Dick** and **Christy** were first with 22 (55%). Even last (**Pierces**) scored 45%. This is a competitive crowd. **Christy** outdid herself on snacks and dessert, so we were all winners in the end.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge at the home of **Bill Rees** on November 6th. First place went to **Jim Jackson** with 5450 points, and second to **Jim Brown** with 4350. Third place went to **Max Hinkle** with 3930 points.. I will

announce the next host at a later time.



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Jerry and Christine Benoit hosted the November 7th event. Actually, since Jerry was sick and confined to the bedroom, Christine did the hosting chores. We are all thankful

the event wasn't cancelled. **Christine** provided great appetizers, several wines and other refreshments. She topped off the evening with an assortment of delicious ice cream from the Cream plus assorted cookies and coffee.

Christine played bridge with a new partner Rem Barnard and finished in 1st Place with 2860 points. We are hoping Jerry didn't lose his "starting position"! Lol. 2nd Place went to Tony and Cindy Greco with 2720 points. Bob and Janet Yolland squeezed into 3rd Place by 10 points with a score of 1710 points after an addition error was corrected on a score sheet. Once again a few slams were missed, so we all need to practice being brave before our next event.

In fact, next month's December 5th event will be hosted by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**. We are hoping that the **DeVoe's** spectacular display of Nutcrackers will be up in time for us to enjoy. No pressure **Dick!** I will be sending out an email reminder shortly before the event.

Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is still looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill its ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

Contact **Sid Landman** at (925) 673-8817 or email sidlandman@aol.com.



Joe Fuchs & Steve Dinning share conversation before the November luncheon



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge Group 3 played 3 tables of duplicate bridge hosted at **Jim Brown's** home on November 18th.

In first place, with a score of 29 points, or 60%, was **Dick DeVoe**. **Dick** displayed his extraordinary skill at bridge coming in at 1st in the first half and a tie for 2nd place in the second half. This masterful display of bridge yielded his first place overall finish. Congratulations to **Dick**. We anticipate his repeat of these results sometime in the future.

In second, with a score 27.5 points or 57%, was our guest Jerry Milano. Jerry also had the most tops of two than anyone else with 10 out of 24 boards. We expect to have Jerry play with us again in the future and next time to place first.

Finally, we had a tie for third between **Max Hinkle** and **Fred Bolton** with a score of 26.5 points or 55%.

Thanks to our host **Jim Brown** who made sure we had coffee, munchies and delivered a magnificent dessert including ice cream for lunch. We appreciate your hospitality, **Jim**. We look forward to next month with another rousing battle and fun for all.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 (L to R): **Brad Hatcher**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Bob Yolland**, **Max Hinkle**, **Tony Greco**, host **Jim Brown**, **David Steinberg**, **John Boyan**, **Rich Ahlf**, **Fred Bolton**, **Bill Schultz**, and **Dave Pierce**

Honey, I have good news and bad news about the car.

Give me the good news first.

The airbags work.

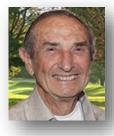


Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Al Zamolo** on November 8th. As always, a good time was had by all.

Our next outing will be at the home of **Bill Cammerer** on December 13th. Also our group needs another

player. If you are interested, please call **Dan O'Sullivan** at (925) 685 4772.



Poker Group 2 Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3 Sig Kalteis

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



Poker Group 5 Bill Roberts

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



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

The *Old Money* Poker Group met at **Howard Charlop's** home on Thursday and had another fun time. **Brad Hatcher, Frank Lucas, Howard,**

Rich Ahlf, and Norm Baietti were joined by Howard's neighbor, Keith Fering, who just might become a SIR. Brad and Frank were tied for first place, each having taken in \$4 over their buy-ins. Next game will most likely be at Norm's house. We are looking for new players. Come join us.

Reported by Frank Lucas



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Pete Gates

The Lunch and Wine Group does not meet during the Holiday months of November and December.

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 are an integral part of this group as we have two luncheons each year with our partners.



Cooking II Bob Yolland

On November 6th Cooking II had its annual wine bottling party at **Bob** and **Janet Yolland's**. This year we bottled a very nice Lodi Chardonnay Reserve. **Bill Cammerer** picked up 20 gallons of wine at La

Nebbia winery. This gave us each 14 bottles at a reasonable price. Of course you have to subtract the amount we consumed that day. For this event everyone brings part of the meal. Bill and Bernice Cammerer plus Bob and Janet Yolland supplied excellent appetizers. Corrie and Susan Oranje plus Bill and Barbara Roberts brought great salads. Bob and Janet BBQed a couple of Tri-tips. Bruce and Sue Borgman plus Dennis and Ann Hallett provided yummy desserts. With excellent conversation and Steve and Marna Dawkins fabulous flowers which they provided for all our members, a great time was had by all. Unfortunately Ken and Elaine Richter were traveling but Bill Roberts bottled Ken's wine.

Due to the holiday's we do not have any event in December. Our next lunch will be Monday, January $8^{\rm th}$ at Bruce Borgman's home.



Book Nook Peter Plante

Thank you to all who took some books in November. Enjoy and see you in January.



GOLF Ed Marlovits

The highlight of the month was when **Don Rhoads** used his trusty 7-iron to make a hole-in-one on #2 on Tuesday of Thanksgiving week. Unfortunately, **Don** lost sight of the ball and did not actually see it

go in the hole. The ball's pitch mark was two inches from the hole. This was the second hole-in-one by a Branch 146 member this year after **Bill Cammerer's** at the SIR State Scramble in May.

Since 1988, the State SIR Golf Committee has been giving Feather-in-the-Cap awards to members, in SIR sponsored events, who shoot their age or make a hole-in-one. This year four branch members will have earned this award: **Bob White** and **Jim Burk** for shooting their ages and **Don Rhoads** and **Bill Cammerer** for making their hole-in-one. Congratulations to all!

Attendance on Tuesdays tends to fall off a bit this time of the year, but we have been having great weather for golf. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and consider coming and taking advantage of nice playing conditions. You will also be assured of completing your round in faster time.

Get in touch with us either through a SIR golfer or simply email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Ken Kratz, Gary Brown and **Corrie Oranje** on the first tee with the flag at half mast in the background

Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

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

If you are interested, let me

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





Table Pool Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the 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. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.

The man approached a very beautiful woman in a large supermarket and asked,

"You know, I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?"

"Why?"

"Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman, my wife appears out of nowhere."



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Christmas Hike in San Francisco YERBA BUENA COVE, TELEGRAPH HILL & CHINATOWN

On Friday December 15th, at 10:00 am we will meet at SF Ferry Bldg. (Embarcadero Bart). This is essentially Hike #1 in Adah B's book "Stairway Walks".

Interesting neighborhoods; including the original site of Bank of America. Lots of hills and staircases (most with handrails), and the 400-plus Filbert St. Steps (we descend them). Will the Wild Parrots be there? We will stop at Levi Plaza for lunch and continue on to China town. You will see buildings that were erected on the edge of the shoreline along the middle third of Yerba Buena Cove and now the financial and commercial section of San Francisco. You walk toward Portsmouth Square, which was the center of the Pueblo of Yerba Buena and now is the center of Chinatown; you continue to the slopes of Telegraph Hill where the 19th-century waterfront workers lived. You may feel you are traveling through a land of plaques in this walk. The northeast part of the city is a small, concentrated area where the early Spanish commercial history of San Francisco began. The wellwritten plaques don't overburden you with a multitude of facts; they include just enough to stir up your imagination. Let's admire together the amazing beauty of San Francisco at Christmastime! About 5 miles.

Recommend taking Bart (I get on at Concord station just before 8:00 am, no problem parking and plenty of seats available, by Lafayette usually standing room only and limited parking). Get off at Embarcadero station and walk to Ferry Building with plenty of time to have a cup of coffee and a pastry. If Bart works out well for everybody there's some other nice hikes in San Francisco I like to do including the Bay trail from the Cliff House to Golden Gate Bridge.

Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00 am
December 15th, 2017
(Day after Ladies Day at Boundary Oak)
E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net
Cell 925-550-4967

Hike starts at 10:00 am

<u>Rain Cancels</u>

Spouses / Significant Other — Always Welcome



Joe Barry, Russ Bliese, and Ron Binder on # 2 tee at Boundary Oak



Alan Elnick, George Mon, and **Ed Marlovits** after tee off on # 4 at Boundary Oak

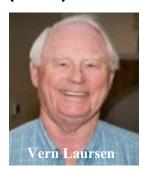


Norm Baietti, Joe Barry, Dave Steinberg and Ron Binder discussing their good shots in the club house after golf

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

Max Burchett



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

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

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

There is no meeting in December. Back to 4th Wednesday of the month starting January 24th.



Computers and Technology



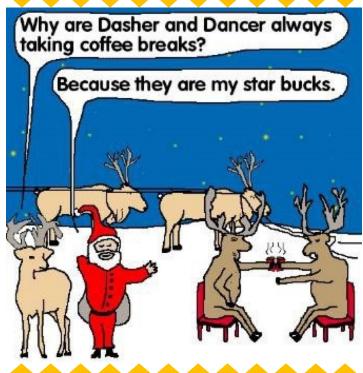
PCs



There will be no Computers & Technology meeting in December.

We look forward to seeing you around 9:15 am on January 18th at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive for our 9:30 meeting. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our January meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses and significant others included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman



Q: What do the elves call it when Father Christmas claps his hands at the end of a play?

A: Santapplause!