



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big SIR's Notes Brad Hatcher

First, my sincere best wishes to you and your family for the coming joyous holiday season! I hope you will be able to celebrate the season with fun and good cheer.

Second, hopefully you were able to enjoy the festivities of Thanksgiving with all the trimmings.

Third, please let me reflect a bit on this last year and my tenure as Big SIR. It started off well with two luncheons with near capacity at Boundary Oak. Then came you know what. We were finally able to get back together via Zoom for the first time in July. We have continued to use Zoom to gather. I certainly recognize that meeting by Zoom is not close to the real thing. But I think we have improved both quality and our ability to hold a Zoom luncheon significantly since July. Our last speaker was excellent.

Despite not being able to meet face to face, we have added new members to the Branch. A preliminary look at dues collection indicates a significant number of you have seen the value of being a SIR at Branch 146 for 2021.

If you have not yet sent in your dues, please send your check, made out to SIR Branch 146 to our Treasurer **George Mon**. His address is 2484 Paddock Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583-2427

Please join us for the December Holiday Zoom luncheon. Yes, ladies are invited. Yes, you may attend alone. Yes, you may establish a table of your friends. Thanks to **Steve Ybarra** for taking on the task of organizing this event. See his sign up instructions on page 4!

Lastly, I want to thank members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) and many others for their hard work in 2020. It was not what we signed up for but I think we dealt with what was given to us effectively. I am naming names who deserve credit below.

Zoom, Zoom...
ZOOM Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, December 10
Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:00 am
Spouses Invited
See full instructions on page 4!

Specific thanks to **Richard Hockenbrock**, Little SIR, for finding good speakers and most importantly for being the go-to person for all things Zoom. **Jerry Kaplan** raised the bar on what it means to be Secretary with outstanding minutes. Your comments and suggestions were spot on. **Rich Lyon** – thanks for stepping up to be Assistant Secretary, but way more important is your work in creating a database that suits the needs of many users.

George Mon, Treasurer, kept us financially strong (along with help from Assistant Treasurer **Ross Abbott**) and offered many helpful comments on operational issues during the year.

Tony Greco officially left the Board last year. But **Tony** was gracious to take on two roles this year. He took on Assistant Secretary on an acting basis and then switched to the Member Relations Chairman. His comments and efforts in both roles were very supportive during the year.

Speaking of guys with two roles, **Bob Lucido** joined the BEC and held the Activities Chairman title as well. His help in communication to the various activity Chairmen was invaluable.

Ron Lew, in his second year as Membership Chairman, kept our membership files in good shape. He was also helpful in on-boarding new members and keeping track of member birthdays. In addition, he is the “Big Fish” for the area fishing group.

...continued from page 1

The Honorees Committee, consisting of **Doug Eisner, Jim Burk** and **Walt Busenius**, gave us the opportunity to honor various members for their contributions to the Branch. Thanks guys, for your presentations as we honored them at luncheons.

Peter Plante and **Paul Beretz** were a great tag team in Publicity and Recruitment. **Peter's** efforts with publicity enabled potential members to find us. **Paul** followed through and succeeded in bringing in new members, even in this environment. One other **Paul** is our Biographer and Fishing Coordinator. **Paul Dubow's** efforts has brought the number of member bios to a new high. He keeps us informed about the Area Fishing group's many trips.

Milt Smith, our Travel Chairman, stays positive and dealt with cancellations during the year. He does have trips lined up subject to restrictions being removed. I might add that **Milt** has taken on a similar role at the State level.

Brian McCarthy has watched over members who have found themselves in ill health. He has kept the BEC informed about those members and sent get-well wishes to them.

Jonathan Korfhage has led the Nominating Committee during the year. We thought we had the slate for 2021 in place and it was approved by member vote. However, I had to call on **Jonathan** for help recently to fill one additional BEC Board position. Not surprisingly, he was able to identify a worthy candidate who has now been approved by the BEC.

Thanks to **Vern Laursen** for your leadership of the nine-hole golf group. Special thanks to all the members of the Golf Committee who made SIR golf possible during the year. I know how hard your work has been.

As you know **Ron Plachy** is our Web Master and the man who is responsible for sending out various communications to members by E-mail. I owe him much as he has helped get my communications to you – despite my spelling errors and other glitches. Many thanks **Ron!**

Thanks also to the many Activity Chairmen who make our 50+ Branch activities happen.

As you can see, it takes many volunteers to make the Branch function. The quality of our many volunteers is what makes Branch 146 strong and one of the very best in all of SIR.

2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Brad Hatcher
Little SIR.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Assistant Secretary	Rich Lyon*
Treasurer	George Mon
Assistant Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Director 2nd Term	Milton Smith
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Ron Lew
Director 1st Term	Paul Beretz
Director Interim Term	Bob Lucido*
Director 1st Term	Peter Plante

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Tony Greco
Publicity	Peter Plante

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

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Director 2nd Term	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Henry Thatcher *
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

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SIR Mission Statement

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



Little SIR's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

If you are reading this report, give yourself a hand because 2020 may have been the toughest year of our lifetimes. The year started out fine with the stock market at an all-time high.

We had a lot of excellent speakers committed for the first six months and the first two were informative and entertaining. Okay, I will admit my January speaker from Lawrence Livermore Labs who talked to us about fusion energy was over my head and some of yours but my second speaker, Michael Butler from the Repertory Theater was spot on entertaining. Then COVID hit and we had to cancel one after the other.

We got back on our feet in July with our first Zoom meeting and our first speaker, Dr. Sara Levin—Deputy Health Officer Contra Costa County Health Department logging in via Zoom. After that we planned on a host of new speakers for the remainder of the year which we pulled off without incident.

We are not blind to the fact that a number of you have expressed disappointment in using the Zoom format for holding our meetings. I too am disappointed, but we have no better way to hold our meetings while COVID runs rampant. It is the only way we have to stay engaged with you, our members.

Now let us look to the brighter side of SIR Branch 146. I'm talking about all the existing members who have stepped forward to volunteer time and energy in fulfilling a number of new roles in the organization's hierarchy. Starting on the Branch Executive Committee or BEC we have **Rich Lyon** move into the important secretary role in 2021 replacing **Jerry Kaplan** who advances to take my current position next year as Little SIR. **Bob Wilkenfeld** volunteered to be the assistant secretary for next year and **John Alexander** volunteered to become the Assistant Treasurer. Longer term SIR member, **Ed Brands** agree to take over the all-important Member Relations position for next year as well.

George Mon, **Henry Thatcher**, and **Bob Lucido** all are

excellent choices as 1st Term Directors.

Although many of our activities are now curtailed due to COVID, **Henry Thatcher** and **John (Moose) Kelly** will bring a new perspective to the Photography Group as they take over from me in co-chairing Zoom-centric meetings starting this month.

And finally after six plus years of being the Editor of the SIR CALL, I am turning over the reins to **Clint Collier** who will do an excellent job and bring a host of new ideas to the best newsletter in SIRdom.

A final reminder. There is still time to sign up to attend the December 10th Virtual Zoom luncheon. Consider the number of your friends who have already signed up. See page 4 for more details. We do not know how long the current COVID lockdown is going to last but this may be your last chance to see your SIR friends before the end of the year. Call or email **Steve Ybarra** and make your reservation!



Reservations for Ladies Day Luncheon which will be held Via Zoom

Utilizing the meeting application ZOOM combined with the presentation capability of You Tube, we will virtually create the live environment of the Ladies Day Luncheon. There will be multiple tables of ten diners sitting around socializing in virtual ZOOM Breakout Rooms with participants that you help select, much like was done in past year's actual environment at Boundary Oak.

Each table (Breakout Room) will be assigned a table leader. I have sent notices to all table leaders from our last live luncheon in December 2019, encouraging them to volunteer to lead one or more of the tables this year. It will be their role to invite SIR singles and couples to join them at their table. An optimum table will have five couples to promote all around conversation. **Steve Ybarra** has agreed to handle the reservation process which will be as follows:

- **Step 1**—Send an email or call **Steve Ybarra**, (sjybar@gmail.com, 925.676.7405) letting him know you wish to attend the Ladies Day Luncheon Zoom meeting. List your name and your wife or partner's name and any other guests you would like to join you at a table. Provide email(s) where you wish to receive your Zoom Invitation, if different. If a table leader has already contacted you to join them, than you just need to confirm with

Steve, providing any email(s) where you wish to receive your ZOOM invitation, that you will be joining the table led by the name of your leader. **Steve** will assign your table number.

- **Step 2**—You will receive an invitation to join the Ladies Day Luncheon via Zoom a couple of days before the event. Seating at your table will open on December 10th at 11 am, so you may check in at this time or any time after. The table leaders plan to start discussions at 11:15 am so don't be late.
- **Step 3**—When you click on the Zoom link, you will enter a waiting room. You will then be let into the main meeting area. Immediately upon being let into the main meeting area, you should rename your picture according to the instructions that will be provided along with the invitation. If you have difficulty, one of the co-hosts will be able to assist you. Based on the name associated with your picture you will be automatically moved to your assigned room or table.
- **Step 4**—At 12 noon, we will bring everyone back in to the main room and Big SIR will welcome you to the Luncheon and provide any announcements prior to the start of the 15 minute video featuring the Diablo Mountain Chorus singing holiday songs in their own unique stylized flair. After the video, the SongSIRS will sing God Bless America and then the meeting will adjourn.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a very....



Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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

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

are always appreciated.

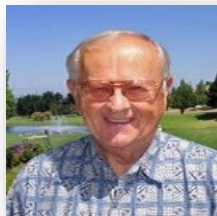
One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they "opt out" of the monthly luncheon. Since the in-person luncheons have been cancelled (at least for the time being) and we all are "sheltering at home" this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies,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

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

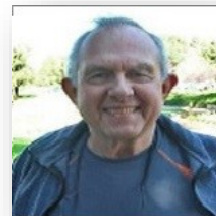
Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy

brimacc@comcast.net



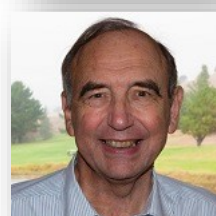
Dick Kincade



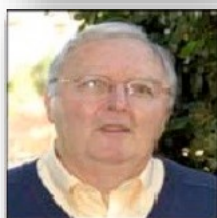
Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



"Stan Stricherz



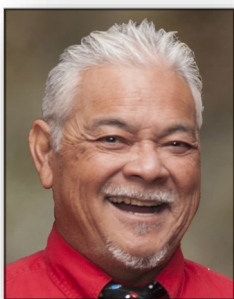
Jim Meehan



Vince Rettew



Frank Lucas



Membership

Ron Lew

The BEC approved **Bill Vizza** joining us from Branch 65. **Bill** Retired back in 2011 from his private practice as a civil engineer working with the U.S. Navy. Bill lives in Walnut Creek and is being sponsored by **Tony Aducci**.

As you can see, we are continuing to introduce friends, add new SIR members, and maintain contact with our friends and family members through this technology: ZOOM, Facebook, or Skype. We will be planning to have a Zoom Luncheon meeting in December. So you have time to help others join this great organization of SIR 146 via Zoom... while making friends for life. Many of us SIR 146 members meet through activities respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything. Have a Merry Christmas!

Ronald Lew

One day the first grade teacher was reading the Story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to The Part where Chicken Little warns the farmer.

She read "...and Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said 'The Sky is Falling, the Sky is Falling'".

The teacher then asked the class, "And what do you think that Farmer said?"

One little girl raised he hand and said "I think he said, "Holly Sh*t! A talking chicken!"

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes.

November SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Lowman "Lo" McCarley



Our newest Senior SIR **Lowman "Lo" McCarley** was born in Los Angeles and will achieve the Big 90 on December 15th. **Lo** joined our Branch 25 yrs. ago in July, 1995 and was sponsored by **Fred Bolton**.

Lo's family moved around a lot in Southern California but his home as a youth was Ventura, where he graduated from high school and attended junior college. **Lo** then finished university at UCLA with a business degree, specializing in accounting.

The Army interrupted his time as a Bruin with a draft call. **Lo** was stationed at Fort Ord in Monterey and served as a morning report clerk... Hum! Perhaps, one of his duties was getting coffee and donuts for the officers. As note, **Lo** was not sent to Korea.

After his final semester at UCLA, **Lo** was hired by Del Monte here in Northern California. Fate prevailed, early on **Lo** was sent to New York for training and fell in love forever with his

charming wife **Sue**. **Lo** and **Sue** have 3 sons and 2 grandchildren.

At Del Monte, his career spanned 31 years as a systems and computer specialist, working his way up the corporate ladder to manager and then Director of the IT department. After retirement, **Lo** served 8 more years as an IT auditor for US Leasing until permanently retiring in 1994.

For many, many years, **Lo** has been very active in his Church and in Branch 146 as a volunteer and leader. **Lo** is proud of having played in 3 SIR's bridge groups, including couples duplicate bridge; having been active in the walking and computer groups, the garden club, SongSIRS and ROMEO. **Lo** is soft spoken but has stayed busy, productive, and relevant in his senior years.

Lo was awarded the Certificate of Appreciation in 2010 and our highest award -- Branch Honoree in 2012, for his years of service as a leader, and his extensive commitment and dedication to our Branch.

Thank you **Lo** for your military service and contributions to Branch 146. Congratulations on receiving this State Award honoring not only your longevity but your love of life. You deserve a far greater show of gratitude than we can give you today.



Presenter was **Walt Busenius** at the November 12th Zoom Luncheon

November SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Russ Bliese



At our November 12th monthly meeting, we honored our newest Super Senior SIR **Russ Bliese**, who was raised in Watertown, Wisconsin: the first of 6 children, **Russ** celebrates his big 95th birthday during the holiday season on December 29th. **Russ** joined our Branch 28 years ago in April 1992, sponsored by **Don Martin**.

Russ's education was interrupted by World War II. Out of Watertown high school in June 1943, **Russ** enlisted in the Navy on the 4th of July and served as a radioman/gunner on dive and torpedo bombers on the USS Randolph and the USS Philippine Sea. He was discharged from the Navy as a second-class petty officer.

In 1948, **Russ** moved to Louisville, KY and took a clerical job with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The same year he married his wonderful wife **Opal**. and they raised 3 children and have 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. **Russ** also enrolled at the University of Louisville,

while working for the railroad, graduating with a degree in Business Administration.

In 1953, **Russ** started a 33-year career with IBM – Big Blue. This included time as a marketing representative, marketing manager, branch manager, and as President and CEO of IBM Korea from 1982 to 1985.

Russ and **Opal** moved to Moraga in 1968 and have lived in the same home ever since. **Russ** loves all sports and has participated in swimming, baseball, football, and ice hockey. **Russ** ran many 10K races and 5-half marathons, is an avid reader, and enjoyed traveling throughout the USA and 30 foreign countries. **Russ** has been continually active over the years in the SongSIRS and SIR's golf. If you ever had the privilege of playing with **Russ**, you would know that he remained extremely competitive as a Senior SIR at 90 years young and has shot his age a minimum of 4 times. Way to go **Russ!!!**

We salute you **Russ**, for your service to our Nation during World War II and congratulations on receiving this State longevity award. You earned it and truly are a member of the "**Greatest Generation**" as glorified in Tom Brokaw's book. No greater tribute can we give you today.



Presenter was **Walt Busenius** at the November 12th Zoom Luncheon

Honoring our Veterans

November 2020 SIR Luncheon Invocation

Jim Baldrige

Let us pray...Eternal and almighty God we offer you our humble gratitude for the countless blessings and advantages you bestow upon us in this most favored of all nations. We come before you today to honor our veterans who served our nation with courage, heroism and personal sacrifice. For those who have returned and for those who are still missing we offer the tradition of the Missing Man Ceremony.

I call your attention to the picture of the table with a single setting. The table is set as a symbol for those who cannot be with us...honoring those who gave their lives for our country and for the estimated 5,300 combatants who are still missing in action in North Korea.

Some fell in battle and are resting on foreign soil. Some we know were captured but never released, others are still missing and unaccounted for... but they are not forgotten.



- The table is set for one... symbolizing the frailty of one against many oppressors.
- The table cloth is white symbolizing the purity of intention and the selfless dedication of those who answered their country's call to arms.

- The single red rose represents the families and loved ones who keep the faith awaiting our missing comrades return.
- The red ribbon reminds us of the ribbons worn by those who continue to bear witness of an undying determination to obtain a proper accounting of our missing comrades.
- A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of the bitter fate of some.
- The salt beside it reminds us of the tears of families who suffered loss and of those who still wait for news of the missing.
- The glass is inverted... they cannot be here to toast with us.
- The chair is empty... for those who are not here.
- The napkin is unfolded as if used... just as the lives of our comrades were sacrificed in the service of their country.
- The solitary red candle stands straight and tall as our courageous comrades did. It is red for the blood they shed.

When lit, the candle shines forth the light of hope for the return of the missing which lives on in the hearts of their loved ones... may it light their way home... into the arms of a loving family and a grateful nation.

We remember with deep gratitude all who made the ultimate sacrifice of their very lives. May those who gave their lives in the service of our country rest in eternal peace in the loving mercy and compassion of Almighty God. They will never be forgotten nor will those who are still missing.

There is no more difficult responsibility than to command troops in combat and no more daunting task than to inform families of a comrade's injury or loss. We pray that the Lord's guidance and wisdom be with all who govern or command our armed forces. May they guard a world at peace.

And now we offer our gratitude to the veterans who stand here beside us and pray for their good health, happiness and good fortune. For it is in your merciful and loving name we pray.

Amen.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December's Birthdays!

This year we have a couple of special Birthdays... members who were born Christmas Day and two who were a fantastic tax deduction, born on the last day of the year!

Russell Bliese

Don Nunn

Lo McCarley

George Trabert

Jim Passaglia

Jim Baldrige

George Rammell

John Gray

Mike Navone

Norm Baietti

Dick Richmond

Chuck Oldham

Henry Thatcher (Xmas)

Walt Busenius (NY Eve)

Doug Eisner

Bill Roberts

Jack Baldassari

Gene Voelkel

Randell Becker (NY Eve)

Gary Brown

Keith Feiring

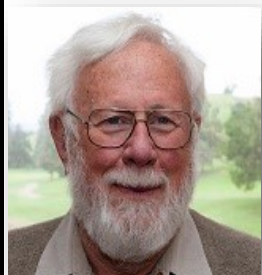
Larry Mcallister

Michael Wolfson

Marc Fong

George Mon (Xmas)

Roy Waletzko



Editor's Note Clint Collier

By the time you get to this article you may have noticed some changes in SIR-Call like the new header we are using. Not the least is a new smiling face looking out at you from this column.

A couple of month's ago I was asked if I would consider taking over the position of editor for **Richard** as he "got busy" with other things within the organization. The change over was originally going to take place in 2021 but got moved up to this month. I really want to thank **Richard** for all of his help in getting me up to speed, **Bob** and the other co-editors are a delight to work with and I look forward to this assignment and the opportunity to contribute to the organization.

Last month we added a couple of new features and I hope you are detecting some of the other changes as well... like the new Birthday column above which started last month

but got a bit of a make over for this month and going forward. If there are things you would like to see or if you have ideas about how to make the publication more useful for you, I want to hear them... drop me an e-mail with your suggestions and comments.

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Bob West**

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Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Member Relations

Tony Grecko

I'm pleased to announce that our membership renewal for calendar year 2021 is going well. Thus far 84% of our membership has renewed. There are approximately only 46 members who have not renewed yet.

We encourage those members to renew as early as possible in December. If you can't recall mailing in a check for your annual dues or have misplaced the payment envelope, please contact **George Mon**, SIR 146 Treasurer and he will assist you. Also, I thank you for checking and updating your file information including the adding of cell phone information. All changes and additions you provided will be inputted into our directory.

I'm also pleased to announce that our search for a new 2021 Member Relations chair has been successful. In response to my request in last month's article, **Ed Brands** has volunteered to take on this position. Thank you for stepping up.

Our entire branch is run by volunteers. Won't you get involved and join us? Please contact any BEC member and they will assist you in identifying any area where we need help that interests you.

Happy trails to you until we meet again.



Luncheon Chairman

Rich Lyon

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

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

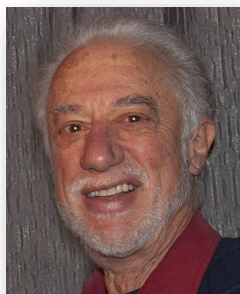
In addition to the many branch activities, the luncheon provides a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new people with whom you may already have something in common.

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

In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator



Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

Looks like the great pumpkin of doom has hit us again and restricted all of our activities, but don't despair, like all things this will come to an end.

I know some of you forgot what others in your activity look like, so send them a picture of yourself before the barber shop closes because they may not recognize you with hair down to your shoulders.

Take care, and look forward to when things get back to normal.

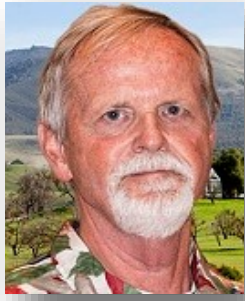
Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Tan Lines for 2020



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, December 18th from 9 AM to 11 AM via Zoom Videoconferencing.**

If you are not on our mailing and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to a meeting to see what we do, please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher and we will send you the agenda and the Zoom Meeting Link. Our contact information is shown below.

Our theme this meeting is **"Home for the Holidays"**. We are requesting that you have 5 to 10 photographs to share with fellow members that include Halloween, Thanksgiving and of course pictures from past Christmases. You can forward your pictures to John (Moose) Kelly if you are uncomfortable using Zoom's sharing feature and we will share and let you tell the story.

We are also planning to show a video reviewing the new iPhone 12 Pro Camera. We are asking if you have the new iPhone 12 Pro to take a few pictures and show the results at our December meeting. Please let Henry know if you will be sharing some iPhone 12 Pro photos you have taken.

For a photo taking challenge for our February Photography Group meeting we will be showing a video from the Great Courses "Fundamentals of Photography". Joel Sartore Photographer, National Geographic Fellow will be our guide for the "February Photo Taking Challenge".

We will forward our final agenda of the subjects we will be covering along with the Zoom link roughly one week prior to December 18th meeting.

Be safe and be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!



Email John (Moose) Kelly at rollingstone911@yahoo.com
or text/call at (610) 517-0152 or
Henry Thatcher at 1henrythatcher@gmail.com
or text/call at (925) 997-5032

Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman



Those of you who are faithful readers of this column will recall that last month's column was effectively the email that had been sent out to our Dining Out group with information on the anticipated re-start of this activity in November.

We were hopeful that we had a wonderful dinner arranged at Wence's restaurant with a choice of soups, and five great entrees, with a cheesecake for dessert – all for just \$47. At that time, the county had opened inside dining at restaurants and despite the weather having cooled to the 60's, we thought we might either eat outside in the heated patio, or inside. We did not get a lot of response, but initially wound up with about 14 diners willing to give this a try. As we got closer to the Nov. 10 date though, several of our diners had second thoughts about going. As concerns about travel and socializing increased, we finally were down to 7 diners. Sadly, we decided to cancel the event. Just about at the time that additional county restrictions were imposed, and more importantly, the State SIR leadership announced that all activities should be terminated because of insurance considerations.

So, as you all know – we have hunkered down in our socialization and are all taking increased precautions to avoid being exposed to the virus. We hope that all of you are managing all right and are limiting our Thanksgiving celebrations to those in our immediate social bubbles. We remain optimistic that we will see the distribution of the vaccine when available and will slowly start on a path to normalcy. In the meantime, I urge all of you to patronize restaurants for takeout as much as you can to enable this vital aspect of our commercial and social life to remain viable.

Our best wishes to all of you in these crazy times!

Best regards and wishes for good health!

bgborgman@aol.com

Yesterday my husband thought he saw a cockroach in the Kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The directive from State SIR put an end to our planned trips, hopefully just temporarily. We had just completed the draft of our schedule for 2021 when the ban was announced. Nevertheless, a few us managed to take a few trips before the ban was implemented and others will continue to fish on their own in small groups. Some of the pre-ban outings are described in the next few paragraphs and we are hopeful that we can resume sponsored trips in early 2021.

Ron Lew of Branch 146 had quite an adventure landing a 58-inch sturgeon, just two inches less than the limit. He was fishing in the Delta with a friend when the friend hooked the big fish. **Ron's** friend handed the rod to him and, after a nice fight, **Ron** brought the fish to the side of the boat and called for the net. It turned out that his friend only had a small net that would have been good for hauling in stripers, but not sturgeon. Ultimately, **Ron** was able to grab the sturgeon at its mouth and drag it into the boat. It was quite an effort because the fish weighed about 70 lbs. On another outing, **Ron** tried his luck salmon fishing just before the season ended and reported that he managed to land a salmon that was the size of an anchovy. However, he did boat some nice rockfish.

Rich Fiscina of Branch 146 managed two fishing outings and a crab outing on his boat. On one trip with friends, the group caught a 20-pound salmon and a ten pounder. On a family trip, six small halibut and a 16-inch striper were caught. The crab trip was very successful. A group of four bagged the limit of ten each, with 32 jumbo crabs and eight smaller ones.

Mike Browne of Branch 146 returned to the mouth of the Napa River and caught a bunch of stripers fishing from shore, but they were all shakers. **Phil Scimonelli** fished on the Martinez pier and caught a bunch of shaker stripers, but he also landed a couple of keepers. He moved on to the Pinole pier on another trip, picking up both leopard sharks and sand sharks. Out on the Delta, **Karl Droese** and **Dick Thomson** were only able to land two shakers, while **Ken Bellendir** did worse, fishing but not catching on a sturgeon trip.

Brion Beetz was our most prolific fisherman this month. He went out six times. Three of the trips were with **Carl Moyer**. The pair caught limits of rockfish, plus two ling cod and two halibut. **Brion** also landed nine halibut,

releasing some, while fishing in the Richmond Flats, and he limited out on a crab trip.

Even though we have suspended our fishing trips and monthly breakfast meetings, we are still meeting on Zoom. They are fun gatherings, as we join in breakout rooms of eight or nine fishermen and talk about fishing and life in general and then reconvene for group business and to describe our most recent trips. The next meeting is Thursday, December 17 at 8:30 am. If you wish to join us, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4156 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504 -3566. Once we hear from you, secretary **Brion Beetz** will send you a Zoom invitation.



Ron Lew and his 58 inch 70 lb sturgeon caught in the Delta.



Travel Milt Smith

As you can imagine there is still considerable uncertainty about travel. I still have the same cruises available please take a look.

Additionally, please be on the look out for a travel related poll I will be sending out in December. The purpose will be to help determine the general attitude and proclivity of our SIR members vis-à-vis travel. I have taken a look at two possible cruises for 2021 & 2022.

- A shorter cruise aboard the refurbished Ruby Princess (Princess Cruises) just to get your sea legs again; sailing from San Francisco round trip on October 17-24 ,2021 through the Pacific Northwest Coast. Ports of call are Astoria Oregon, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. and Victoria B.C. No flying required! Pricing begins at \$1,734 for a Balcony Stateroom to \$1,494 for an Ocean View Stateroom. Prices are per person, double occupancy.
- The same cruise for nearly the same price is also available April 23-30, 2022.

Our friends at Travel Center Tours and Travel are holding space for us on each of these cruises.

How about the Panama Canal, for a bit longer cruise? Leaving Ft. Lauderdale Fl. for San Francisco on March 12-27, 2022 aboard the Ruby Princess, ports of call are: Cartagena Columbia; Panama Canal (new locks), Fuerte Amador (Panama City); Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. Our friends at the Travel Center are also holding space for us on this cruise. These trips were presented to the BEC at the October for approval and if you have any interest at all in any of these please contact **Milt Smith** right away at miltsmith549@gmail.com or (925) 285-2897.

As mentioned in recent SIR CALLs, there is still extremely limited space for the Grand Baltic Sea Voyage June 5, 2021, as well as the Narsai David Cruise North American Treasures Cruise aboard Crystal Serenity in September, 2021. I also have some information about the 2021 – 2022 Broadway SF season...9 shows...more information to come.

Milt Smith
(925) 285-2897
miltsmith549@gmail.com



Pinochle Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow No Scheduled Games until Further Notice

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

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

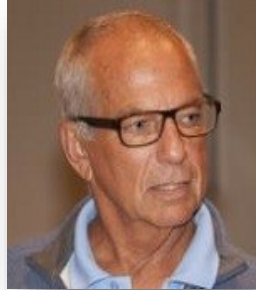
If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group.

Charlie Kahsen
(925) 943-1750
cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow
(925) 944-7009
jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com





Pickleball and Ping Pong
Jim Burk & Ron Afdal

The headline for our November SIR Call activity article stated

"GOOD NEWS IS ON THE HORIZON!"

Unfortunately, things in the world of Covid-19 have once again shown the impact on the ever changing conditions of our activities in general, and Pickleball and Ping Pong in particular. As of Tuesday, November 17 our Church's gymnasium in Alamo has once again been closed because of increased virus infections in our County. Thus, the "drop-in" plans related to Pickleball and Ping Pong have been put on hold for the time being. Please keep positive thoughts for the future and know that we will keep you posted as to our plans for re-opening.

For your information, we recently purchased a new Ping Pong table, and thus are now in possession of a total of three tables for use in the gymnasium. So even with the unfortunate news of having to temporarily close, there are reasons to envision better days ahead. As has been said, we will get through this and enjoy many hours of fun activity in the future.

Jim Burk - Pickleball
 (925) 946-1192
jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong
 (925) 825-4809
ronafdal@comcast.net

Because of Covid for the first time since
 1945 the National Spelling Bee is
 Cancil...
 Cancul...
 Cansel...
 Its been called off!



Cribbage
John Pearl

In November, the SIR 146 Cribbage Group wrapped up our on-line Tournament No. 7. Here's the stats:

We had 15 players

We played 35 matches

And we played a total of 100 games between them!

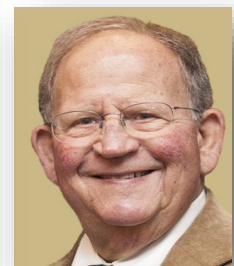
A big thank you to the ongoing efforts of our Chief Technical Officer/Tournament Facilitator **Jim Nelson** for making all this happen – we could not have done this without his help. He "discovered" Cribbage Pro, which has an on-line feature that we use in the tournament.

And the winners are: Overall First place went to **John Pearl**, and second place to his worthy opponent **Malcolm Harrison**. Consolation Bracket winners were First place to **Ron Polivka**, while second place was taken by **Jeff Baily**.

Our next tournament, No. 8, is now underway!

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

Black Diamond Mine Tour
Cancelled for Now

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours)

We are looking forward to your participation!

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim Pope**
 925-699-6447

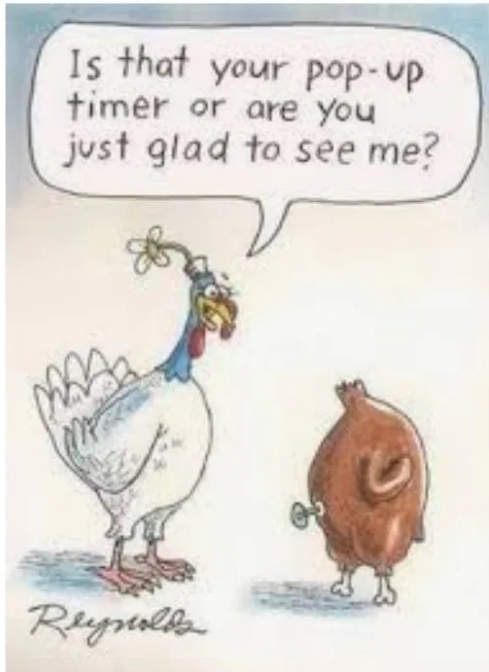
Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her
 flowers. Is that true?
 Me: to be honest, I never knew she sold
 flowers!



SongSIRS Bruce Borgman

Nothing new to report. But, we will return to our practices and performances when we're all immunized with a vaccine!

(925) 932-3961
bgborgman@aol.com



Bocce John Kendrick

ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!

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

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

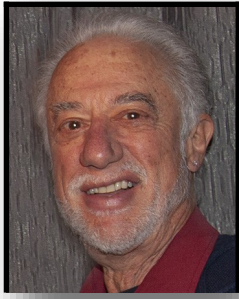
See you then!

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

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

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

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

In October we took a trip to Manchester in Mendocino county.

As you can see from the photos, we keep warm by the fire with libations, and our dogs.

If you are ever in the area, visit the Manchester Coast botanical gardens.

The garden property includes canyons, wetlands, coastal bluffs, and a closed-cone pine forest in 47 acres.

We took off our masks and held our breath long enough to take the picture before passing out.

As you can see from the photo, the dog on the left (Dugee) has muddy feet from stepping on to lily pads thinking that they were solid, and into the pond he went.

Lily (better behaved) did not go this route, and stayed clean.

Also in the photo you will notice our dogs were not in the mood, and decided to give you a rear view, go figure.

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Bob & Wendy Lucido. Bob is happy even though he doesn't look like it.



Sitting in Camp **Etta & Don Dotson**



Bev, and Roxie Collier; you have to look real close to find Roxie.

Wendy Lucido found a new friend and didn't have to wear a mask.



Bob, Dugee, & Wendy Lucido. Etta, Don, & Lily Dotson. Joyce & Jim Barry. Bev Collier.

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?"



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

These are very strange and trying times for all of us! Personally, I NEED to hike/bike to keep this older body in generally good shape. That's why I continue to advertise this activity and encourage those who are capable of spending a couple of hours walking/hiking on these wonderful trails that we have in the East Bay.

On Thursday, November 12, the State and maybe CC County, and more importantly the state SIR organization, mandated that we shut down all activities that involve



potential person-to-person contact. Well, I had previously planned an organized SIR146 hike to Wildcat Peak in Tilden Regional Preserve for the next day. I notified all the folks on my email list that this was no longer a SIR146 sponsored hike, and if they chose to walk with me, they were walking as individuals without any protection from SIR with respect to injury or illness. I was very pleasantly surprised to find 3 smiling faces to greet me at the Little Farm parking lot in Tilden. I was also very pleasantly surprised that all 3 of these smiling faces belong to very new members, **Ray Martz, Mike Browne, and Cliff Sanburn**. We had a great 5 mile walk with cumulative about 800 feet of climb to Wildcat Peak. The weather was great, but I was amazed that there was so much dead and dry stuff along the trails. One spark and this whole area is going up in flames.

I did a 10 mile/1500 feet climb in Black Diamond Mines preserve several days ago and am enclosing 2 photos of the Lower Oil Canyon and Oil Canyon Trails. Very cool

place but at the most remote part of this park!

I intend to publish any hikes I plan via email to my distribution list a few days before I head out on a new adventure. I also intend that the invitation will go out for hikes on Fridays only. I do enjoy walking on local trails without any distractions. I recently did a walk in Black Diamond Mine which was totally new to me. There were no people, which for SF Bay Area, is a very special occasion.

There will be no planned official SIR146 hikes until further notice! If you are interested in the hikes that I plan for Fridays, please send me your email address. I will include you in any subsequent notifications.

Spouses always welcome
Rain (not likely!) cancels
Dogs not allowed on this trail
Cell (925) 360-3449
Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes Jerry Kaplan

Like most other activities, The Group One players have not been able to meet at our monthly Game Nights. We continue to miss the fun as well as the different treats and

super snacks that have been provided by the hosts each month.

We had our third Zoom meeting on November 13th, (ooh - Friday the 13th!) our usual day for our Game Night. Again, no money changed hands to go into the winner's pot and no scratchers were available for those players who had a bad night. However, we still got to visit virtually with many of the regulars: **Sue Sheldon**, wife of SIR **Bruce Borgman**, SIR **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**, SIR **Peter Plante**, and his wife **Martha**, SIR **Jim Stedman** as well as SIR **Richard Hockenbrock**, SIR **Sig Kalteis** and his wife, **Nancy**, **Frank Ascatigno** and his wife, **Marie**, joining in from their new home in Napa, SIR **Corrie Oranje** and his wife, **Sue**, and SIR **Jerry Kaplan** and his wife **Susan**. Nearby is a (very) candid photo of these Zoomers who didn't know their picture was being captured for display.

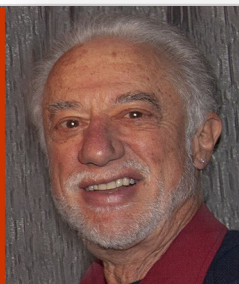
We all continued to update each other of what has been happening in their lives since we last saw each other in person in March, which what now seemed like years ago!

In looking forward to saying good-bye to the Year 2020, it was agreed that we will plan to have a December Zoom meeting sometime around New Year's to officially bid farewell to the year 2020 and hope that 2021 looks more favorably on the world and our family and friends! Plan to bring your champagne or your favorite beverage.

Thinking positively for the future, all Branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIRS as well as a SIR and his significant other are always welcome.



Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes Bob Lucido

Clint Collier has found an online application that can be used to play MTD. It has some limitations.

We will use zoom with break out rooms, and run the MTD application separately.

Clint and I plan to try it out soon and if it works well, I will pass all information to the MTD chairmen. If it blows up in our faces, you will never hear from me again.



Bob Lucido (925) 899-0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

**All other groups
Nada que reporter
No hay eventos.**



MTD 1 Zoom Meeting Oct 9th

Jim Stedman, Jerry and Susan Kaplan, Sue and Corrie Oranje, Marie and Frank Ascatigno, Sue Sheldon, Carmen Schiavone and Rob Melrose, Peter and Martha Plante, Nancy and Sig Kalteis, and Richard Hockebroch .



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Cycling
Once a week
with no drop rides.
Exploring the entire Bay
Area.
Coed.

October 28th Ride

With temperatures in the mid 40's the brave Spandex guys headed out. **Ron Lew, Michael Wolfson, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Pat Hoy (Br 8) Paul Brown (Br 2), and Larry Kaye.**

Today's goal was the back roads of Orinda. Fingers frozen, chilling thru out, we pedaled. Cruising in and out of neighborhoods some familiar some not. Heading West we went. Following the road, we eventually got to the dreaded hill. I had promised a warmth inducing nasty climb. There it was. Steep and full of sharp curves as promised.

What to do?? Well, we are the Spandex guys so up we went. Hearts in mouth, chests pounding like hammers we climbed this horrible hill. Reaching the top and seeing the road flatten was a miracle. Of course, our Brother Pat with his E Bike tooled past us like we were not moving. Sneaky guy. With a stop to catch our breaths we once again headed out. This time a long downhill was in store. Oh Boy was that nice. Thru the Orinda Country Club area,

we rode. Stopping at the hidden lake, Lake Cascade, we regrouped. Onwards downhill we went. Geppettos Java Joint beckoned. At last, we could unsaddle and use the restroom. Pheww. Java and snacks enjoyed we took to our rigs again. Crossing over the Freeway and the Orinda Bart station we joined the trail back.

Joining the Iron Horse Trail back to Alamo was a joy as the Boulevard was a mess. The sun ever present in Alamo enveloped us all as we rolled to our steel vehicles.

A nice ride. Some 1200 calories burned. Our legs are getting ready for the assault of Diablo coming soon. Age to this group means that date on a bottle of wine. Larry.

November 4th Ride

With great weather on our side the boys rode with smiles on their faces. Off we went. Today we had **Pat Hoy, Paul Brown, Ken Studer, Michael Wolfson, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye.** Thru Danville out towards Blackhawk we pedaled. Cruising past Blackhawk, we entered Diablo. Cute little Town. The homes are beautiful. Out of Diablo we rolled. Heading to Macedo Ranch in Alamo. The goal was to get to the restrooms in the park. Thank you EBRPD for making them available. Wow!!!! We discussed the many trails present here and the different vistas each had.

Off we went again, heading east. Taking some of the great backroads of Alamo and then enjoying the Livorna Hill, we finally joined the Iron Horse Trail. Heading South we rolled. Back to Peets and some Java. Why do we ride? For Java. Great ride.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group enjoyed a pleasant late afternoon get-together in the Backyard of Dennis Hallett on Monday, November 9th. We again opted for appetizers only, instead of our normal monthly cooking activity. We did

however consume some excellent wine and of course were treated by Dennis to some of his top shelf scotch. **Ken Richter** could not attend, but the seven other members all enjoyed the fall weather in **Dennis Hallett's** expansive backyard setting.

The attending members enjoyed substantial appetizers which included, puff pastry wrapped sausages and antipasto tray provided by **Dennis Hallett**. **Bob Yolland** contributed delicious smoked salmon with cream cheese, red onions and capers on French bread appetizer. We finished off the mini feast with lemon squares and raw apple cake.

Our discussions covered a recap of the recent elections which included several propositions. Regarding the national elections, it is clear to us that we have a divided country, unlikely to change anytime soon. Until we get State SIR resumption clearance, the SiIR 146 Cooking II activity is suspended.



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry Pool Play on Hold!



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

Pool Play on Hold!

Reported by Jim Barry



Cooking Lunch & Wine Paul Dubow

Because face to face meetings are not permitted for the time being, we cancelled our backyard meeting at **Pete Gates'** home that was scheduled for this month, as well as the gathering in **Bob Spellman's** veranda that was set for January. If things ease up, we will meet in February, but the venue has not yet been decided.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Cooking II
Bob Yolland, Steve Ybarra, Dennis Hallett and Corrie Oranje.

**If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock.
Now, that's humerus!**

**Whenever my wife uses the phrase "I was thinking."
That means I either have to move, build, paint, or buy something.**



Book Group John Pearl

Five members of the SIR 146 Book Group, on-line version, met via Zoom on Monday, November 9th. Our Zoom Master continues to be **Mike Farrar**. One member, **Paul Dubow**, joined us virtually from his

rented Maui condo, and has indicated that he intends to stay there until the pandemic is over. He will travel back and forth virtually to the Mainland as needed. The view he shared from Napili was magnificent, with the island of Lanai in the background – not a bad way to self-quarantine!

Our selection for this month was *The Darwin Affair*, by Tim Mason. The reviews in the front of the book are simply endless and all are extremely laudatory – this pretty well says it all. The book is set in Victorian England, primarily London, and is full of historical characters such as Charles Dickens and Charles Darwin. It is an historical mystery and suspense novel. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are also featured. The question in hand seems to be should Charles Darwin receive a knighthood? There are two strong and opposing sides to this question, and resorting to murder and assassination are not out of the question. There are both societal rank and financial issues around this questions, IE, creationism vs. evolution. We learned that Charles Darwin did not publish his book, *The Origin of the Species* until several years had passed since he wrote it, due to the controversy he knew it would ignite.

The leading villain is a real villain, maybe even a sociopath, and highly skilled at his trade as a surgeon, which is part of the plot. His pursuer is patterned after “Mr. Bucket,” a Dickensian character, and he is often being called that by those around him. He is actually quite competent as you would expect a Chief Inspector in London. His pursuit as he uncovers the plot, also uncovers many characters, including someone who plays the role of Typhoid Mary!

We learned about the underside of London life, including the sale of the newly dead as cadavers for the use of medical students – it was a regular business! Everybody made money. Many young people lived in very poor circumstances, such as a young boy who lived in a barrel on the bank of the River Thames, and stayed alive by scouring the river bank for items of value, as well as other nearby “opportunities” to make a few pence.

Oxford had its turn as a setting for a lecture on the Darwin book, with one of the Oxford Dons playing a part. Some of the setting was in Germany, the ancestral home of Prince Albert, a husband who truly loved his wife the Queen. A market in London also held part of the “action,” with a central place where many of the book’s characters came and went. The author’s skill wove the various plot lines together very well.

The book seemed to start slowly, and end at a mighty pace. We agreed that it was well written, an easy read, and while having a lot of characters, it was not hard to follow. We’re thinking that Mr. Dickens was a major source for our author. The SIR 146 Book Group definitely recommends this book.

Our book for our December meeting will be *Greenlights*, by the actor Matthew McConaughey, also seen often on TV as the Lincoln driver. We also have another assignment for next month, and that is to peruse a list of well-known early 20th Century American authors, choose one to discuss and then to suggest one of his or her books for the group to read. We will meet next on Monday, December 14th. Report edited by **Paul Dubow**.



John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net



Book Corner Peter Plante

Our books are waiting in storage for the day they can be lent out again. I hope you are all finding something that spurs your imagination. *War and Peace* is an ongoing read for me. Chapter 39 and still going!! . Maybe we could share some of our other favorites classics. Happy reading!!

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





**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 1**
Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Why is it that experts *avoid* the use of Blackwood, and novices use Blackwood with a *void*?

Dave Pierce
932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 2**
Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce
932-3877
dwpi@astound.net

**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2**

No Games Scheduled

Unfortunately, Bill Schultz, the leader of this group, recently passed and no new Activity Director has yet been determined. If you are interested in heading up this group, contact Bob Lucido: bobwendy3@comcast.net



Photo by Bill Schultz

Holiday Greetings from Men's Duplicate Bridge 1: Picture forwarded by **Max Hinkle**, taken by our recently departed 16th player **Bill Schultz**. Photo taken 12/16/2019.



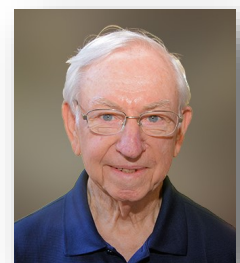
Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

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

Tony & Cindy Greco
(925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



"I'm working on pants for old guys. They'll combine the comfort of Dockers, with the protection of Depends. I'll call them Dry Dockers."



Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

No Games Scheduled



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Each group plays 4 games on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. However, because of Christmas, for December, our next online games, if you are interested, will be Friday, December 4th and 18th at 1pm. November summaries are displayed in the table below. The big winners for the month were **Bob Finlayson** and **Ray Bland** both with 3, and **Frank Lucas** and **Bob West** both with 2. **Ray Bland** "Shot the Moon" 4 times and **Jim Nelson** 2 times.

We have been working on our "sheriffing responsibilities in ensuring those we pass to do not "Shoot the moon". You can see below that there were 7 uncovered passes in October as compared to 12 in October, so at least for last month the 'sheriffs' fared a little better. We affectionately label the runners "shooters" and those that

endeavor to stop them "sheriffs".

YTD Statistics: YTD Wins: In their year-long battle **Ray Bland** leads with 37, **Bob Finlayson** is 2nd with 34.5 and **Frank Lucas** 3rd with 29.5. Win %: **Ray Bland** is leading with 40.7, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 40.6 and **Frank Lucas** with 31.4. **Frank Lucas** is "Most Improved" in that his YTD winning % is 314% of his 2019 percentage. Lowest Avg. Score: **Bob Finlayson** is leading at 70.1 points, **Bob West** is 2nd with 70.7, and **Ray Bland** 3rd with 71.9. YTD STM: **Frank Lucas** leads with 36 followed by **Ray Bland** with 33 and **Rich Lyon** with 14. **Jim Nelson** is the "best sheriff" since July with no uncovered passes. **Steve Ybarra** leads with YTD 2nds of 33.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472)
or email robtawest@aol.com

if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list.

November Summaries							
First Name	Bob	Ray	Frank	Bob	Steve	George	Jim
Last Name	Finlayson	Bland	Lucas	West	Ybarra	Sabbagha	Nelson
Wins	3	3	2	2	1	1	1
2nd	3	1		4	3	0	0
STM	0	4	1	1	0	1	2
Avg score	76	85	63	72	79	69	98
Uncovered passes	4	1	0	0	1	1	0

SIR 146 Men's 2020 Hearts Statistics														
Date	Group	Game	Bob Finlayson	Bob West	Brian McCarthy	Frank Lucas	Jim Nelson	Rich Lyon	Ron Polivka	Steve Ybarra	George Sabbagha	Ed Smith	Ray Bland	
YTD WINS			34.5	25.5	1	29.5	4.5	14	14	20.5	14.5	1	37	
WIN %			40.6%	29.7%	6%	31.4%	17%	30.0%	16%	23%	20%	25%	40.7%	
WIN %: 2020/2019 Avg			71%	107%	n/a	314%	78%	36%	16%	163%	n/a	n/a	142%	
YTD AVG			70.1	70.7	93.3	75.7	78.1	78.6	84.9	78.6	78.9	73.1	71.9	
YTD STM			9	8		36	7.0	14	10	8	5		33	
YTD STM % games			11%	9%	0%	38%	27%	31%	11%	9%	7%	0%	36%	
YTD 2nds			22.0	29.0	3	26.0	7.5	10.5	23	33.0	15.5	1	25.5	
UC pass since 7/10; Best Sheriff			5	1	4	7	0	2	10	4	5	n/a	7	
			Game Key Chart								FL 2nd 4 of 4 winner 9/25			
			1st											RB 1st 4 of 4 winner 9/11
			2nd											BF won 4 of 5 on 8/15
			3rd											RL, won 4 of 5 on 7/10
														Steve Y. won 4 of 5 games on 6/5
														Ray B. won 3 of 3 on 4/24
														Bob F. won 3 of 3 on 5/15



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

No Games Scheduled



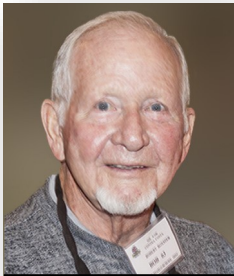
Old Money Poker Group 6
Brad Hatcher

No Games Scheduled

Brad Hatcher

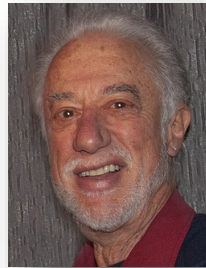
Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

No Games Scheduled

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

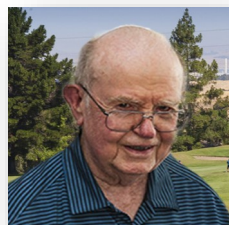
(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



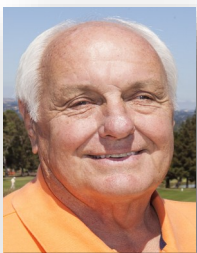
Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 4
Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 5
Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled





Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

We cannot play as a SIR's activity because of the Corona Virus, but if you wish to join us after we are released to play please contact me. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at Diablo Hills Golf Course most Thursdays, except for the 2nd Thursday when we are scheduled

to be at the SIR's meeting.

If you are interested in playing with us, please contact me and I will put you on the list of players. On Mondays I will sent out an email asking who will be playing, walking or riding, and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who showed up or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch at the Greenery is better than our golf game.

vern.laursen@gmail.com



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Since SIR146 Golf is paused along with many other SIR activities, here is something resurrected from an old GEM.

Dear Abby,

I've never written to you before, but I really need your advice. I have suspected for some time now that my wife has been cheating on me. The usual signs. Phone rings but if I answer, the caller hangs up. My wife has been going out with "the girls" a lot recently although when I ask their names she always says, "Just some friends from work, you don't know them."

I always try to stay awake to look out for her coming home, but I usually fall asleep. Anyway, I have never broached the subject with my wife. I think deep down I just didn't want to know the truth, but last night she went out again and I decided to really check on her. Around midnight, I decided to hide in the garage behind my golf clubs so I could get a good view of the whole street when she arrived home from a night out with "the girls".

It was at that moment, crouching behind my clubs, that I noticed that the graphite shaft on my driver appeared to have a hairline crack right by the club head. Is this something I can fix myself or should I take it back to the pro shop where I bought it?

Signed,

Perplexed

**I THOUGHT THE
DRYER MADE MY
CLOTHES SHRINK.
TURNS OUT
IT WAS MY
REFRIGERATOR.**



**I swear if my
memory was
any worse, I
could plan my
own surprise
party.**

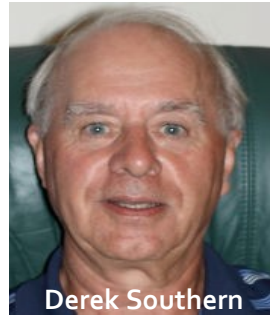
Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

Computers and Technology



Mac



PC



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

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

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

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, December 17th starting at 9:30.

In December, the Computer & Technology presentation will be on "Residential Solar, Batteries and Generators" by a guest speaker Don Willoughby. Don recently evaluated and eventually had installed a residential solar system plus batteries on his Walnut Creek home. Being a good engineer, Don did an elaborate analysis of different solar, battery and generator options. He will share his analysis and the economics of the various options. Do you want to save money and/or do you want to avoid Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) by PG&E at your home? If so, join us on December 17th

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SI-RArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

\$UMS is not meeting these days. We did have a Zoom meeting in June, but that was a one off. We will let you all know if anything else happens. Occasionally we will send out links to investment websites that might be of interest to our members, but not on a scheduled basis.

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - davesutn@comcast.net



SIR Happenings Newsletter

<http://www.SIRinc.org/SIRhappenings>

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