



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

November–December 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

I was “conned” into being your Big Sir.

Let me explain... Six months after joining Branch 146, I was coaxed into taking a Director position on the Branch Executive Committee (BEC).

At that time, I knew nothing about the operations of SIR or our Branch. Even before attending my first BEC meeting, I was asked to serve as Assistant Secretary. Little did I know that the position also meant a commitment to serve as Secretary, Little Sir and Big Sir in subsequent years! During Year 1 on the BEC, I learned a tremendous amount about the “behind the scenes” operations of SIR and our Branch. Year 2, as Secretary, was going well for me until our Big Sir resigned and I was unexpectedly “promoted” to Little Sir. Suddenly, I had a “real” role to play in the Branch operations! But the experience gained in those first two years on the BEC helped me when I ascended to the “exalted” (and highly compensated) position as Big Sir.

As I transition back into the role of a member of Branch 146, I have to thank the many SIR members who helped me during the journey to become Big Sir. (Don't worry, I'm not going to provide a list, as it would be way too long.) Without the assistance of past

Branch officers, I'm not sure that I'd have done a decent job. And without the encouragement, suggestions and constructive feedback received from many members, I know my reputation as a leader would not be positive. So, to all the members who have helped me, **Thank You!** And to our incoming Big Sir (**John Kluesener**), Little Sir (**Bob Ford**) and Secretary (**Don Shaw**), I will try to be as supportive to you as my predecessors were for me..

Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.

– Voltaire

Brains, like hearts, go where they are appreciated

– Robert McNamara

United we stand, divided we fall..

– Aesop

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146

Little Sir's Corner

John Kluesener



We had a great thanksgiving holiday November gathering with turkey and the trimmings followed by pumpkin pie. Topping it off was an excellent presentation by our own John Elstead re-

counting his days as a Navy pilot on the USS Kitty Hawk where he flew some 196 missions over Vietnam. One of his flight mates was none other than John Glenn. While our **John Elstead** did get shot down over Vietnam, he did manage to get rescued rather than having to spend time as a guest of the North Vietnamese. He also spent some time as a Navy Blue Angel although he did not fly with the other famous “Blue Angel”, Tom Cruise! We recognized our many veterans and paid homage to those lost during the wars.

**SIR Semi-annual
Ladies Day Luncheon
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30**

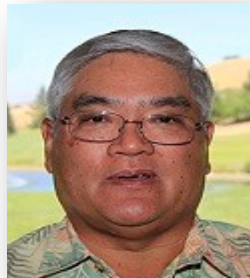
*Wonderful Entertainment!
A reservation is required!*

To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.
(click this box)

Continued on next page

At our December luncheon we will have a guitarist and singer (Duo Sonics) to provide background music during the meal and some seasonal songs. They are a local group that performs at weddings, wine tastings and local clubs. Don't forget to make your reservations early for the Christmas luncheon as it usually fills up fast. Come early so your spouse/partner can browse the books!

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

There were two new members that were approved for membership in November.

Robert "Rob" Peters lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Gayle**. He was an Instrument

Department Supervisor for Shell Oil Co. He is sponsored by **Ed Brands**. **Rob** has an interest in golf, hiking and cooking to mention a few.

Michael "Mike" Ball lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Karen**. He was a Financial Advisor for Amerprise Financial. He is sponsored by **Peter Plante**. **Mike** is retired military and is a member of the local Rotary.

2024 Dues letter was sent out in mid-October. As of this writing, about 60% have paid dues. So, this is a reminder for those who have yet to submit your dues payment, please do so.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too. The 2023 membership count is 251.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

Current Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
Secretary	Bob Ford
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 3rd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 3rd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Larry Kaye
Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

2024 Officers-Elect

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 4th Term	Edward Brands
Director 3rd Term	Mark Curtis
Director 3rd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads



Ladies Day Luncheon
Steve Ybarra

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday December 14, 2023. The cost for this event is \$39 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations with the below form must be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by December 6, 2023. Please use the reservation form provided in this SIRCall and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$39.00 per person.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



SIR 146
December Ladies Day Luncheon
 Thursday December 14th, 2023

Salad

Seasonal Salad

Entrées

Seared Marinated Bistro Fillet

Caramelized Shallot au jus

Mashed potatoes

Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Pan Seared Farm Raised Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Manicotti

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use the reservation form.
 The click to reserve menu will resume with the January Luncheon.



SIR 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 14th, 2023

Number of Tickets _____ at \$39 ea. Amount Enclosed \$_____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

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 made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra
 142 Leonard Dr.
 Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Beef Fillet	Salmon	Vegetarian Manicotti	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!
 Reservations must be received by December 6th.*



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

I want to welcome Frank Lucas to the editorial team of SIRCall. Frank has agreed to serve as one of our proof readers. This issue will be his initiation under fire. If you find any errors... it's Frank's fault! Just kidding of

course. Thanks for stepping up Frank and welcome to the team!

If you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

*On behalf of your Newsletter Group
I want to wish you all a...*



MAKE SURE... YOU HAVE THE JANUARY MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 January Luncheon

Thursday, January 11th, 2024

Salad

Boundary Oak Green Salad
Mesclun Greens, Dried Cranberries, Candied Walnuts,
Blue Cheese Crumbles, Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées

Chicken Piccata

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Garlic and
Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetable
White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—

Cod Piccata

Herb Marinated Cod Filet, Garlic and Herb Rice Pilaf,
Seasonal Vegetable, White Wine Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Creamy Tomato Tortellini

Five Cheese Tortellini in a Creamy Tomato Sauce,
Seasonal Vegetable

Dessert

Tiramisu

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée!

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

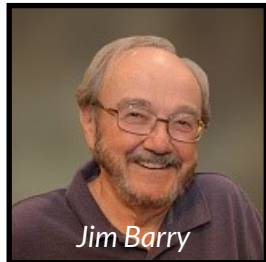


Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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



Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Jim Barry



Bud Pearce

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES DECEMBER 2023

WHAT? NO ANNIVERSARIES? THAT'S RIGHT... BY TRADITION WE DO NOT INDUCT NEW MEMBERS AT THE LADIES DAY LUNCHEON SO, NO MEMBER HAS AN ANNIVERSARY IN MAY OR DECEMBER!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Norm Baietti
Jack Baldassari
James Baldrige
Randall Becker
Gary Brown
Walter Busenius
Doug Eisner
John Gray
Mac Mcallister



George Mon
Donald Nunn
James Passaglia
Henry Thatcher
George Trabert
Gene Voelkel
Ted Ford
Clifford Tong
Frank Terzuoli
Joe Herger

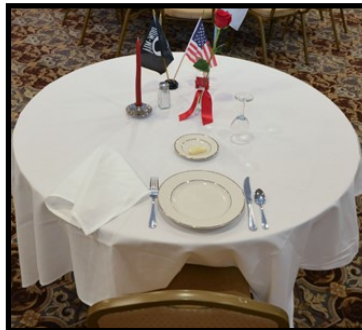
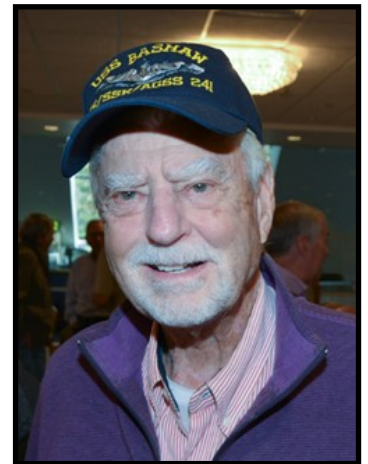
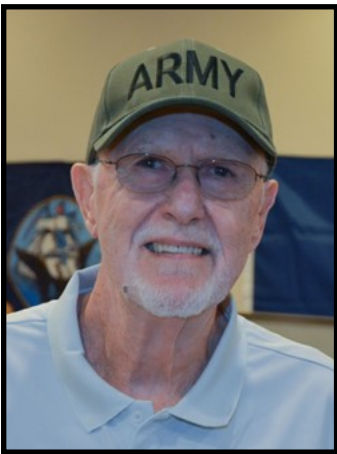
SIR Mission Statement

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

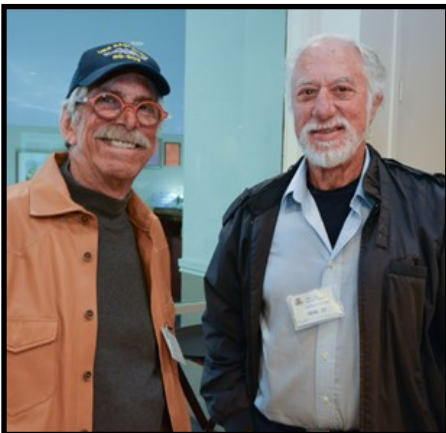
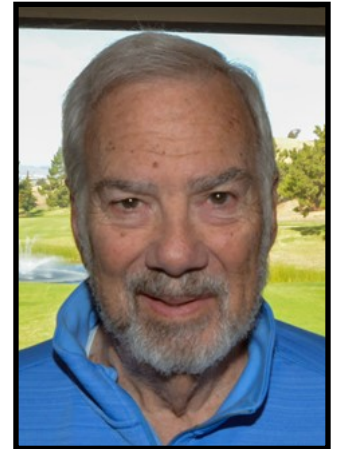
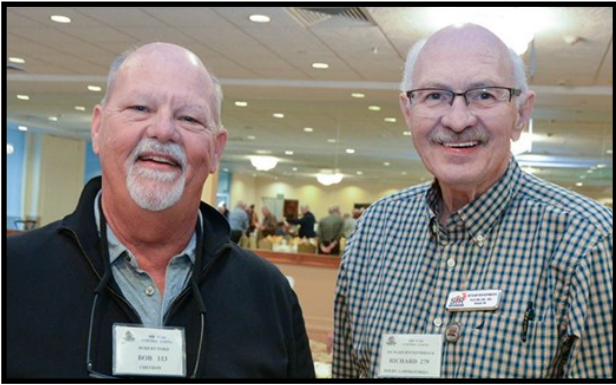
NOVEMBER

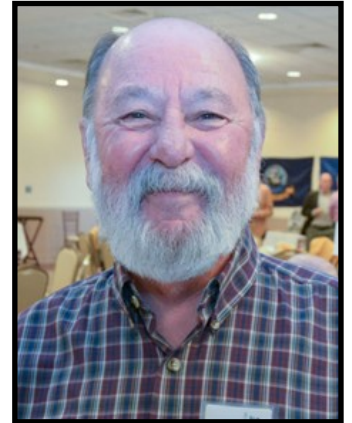
SIR meeting

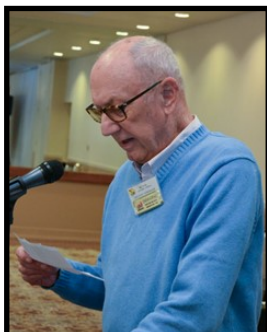
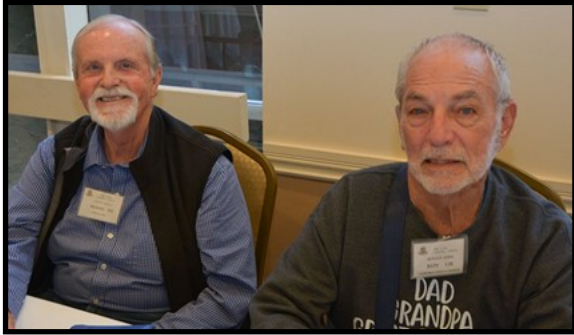
Pictures by Henry Thatcher











NOTES

from Our Members



Ron Afdal

For five years now, my year-long physical preparation has centered on my physical fitness peaking during the first 2-weeks of October for the annual senior games tournaments at Henderson, Nevada and St. George, Utah. Both offer a venue with a multitude of sports events; especially, my passion, the sport of table tennis. At Henderson, both the city and state provide separate 2 day tournaments with the Nevada state tournament having greater participation and stiffer competition. The events at St. George, known as the Huntsman World Senior Games, draw great senior athletes worldwide. The Huntsman being the concept of SIR on steroids with the various games being held over a two week period, offering forty sports categories, and drawing 13,000 senior participants. And yes, table tennis is offered!

Participation in last year's table tennis tournaments showed some personal improvement by winning a couple silver medal awards during the Henderson events capped with a gold medal award during the Nevada state competition. The Huntsman table tennis events had too many great players and my personal efforts had several fourth place finishes and one bronze award for a third place finish. This year, with high expectations, my performance at the City of Henderson event was dismal but improved enough at the Nevada state event to earn a silver medal award. And then, at the Huntsman, probably what can be called a dream come true, earning both a silver award for one event and the gold award for another. These awards are gratifying; but the comradery, friendships, and social interactions along the way, exemplify the spirit of SIR, and are the most cherished.

Aloha new member **Scott Golde**



Honey, our lawyer wishes us, but in no way guarantees, a Merry Christmas.

Managing your weight around the holidays just requires a little planning..

For example, I took the batteries out of my scale on Wednesday.



"Nice iron. Your wife will love it. While I wrap it, you might want to go over to sporting goods and pick out a helmet."



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

We are all passionate about something that we do and enjoy. Please consider sharing this passion with your fellow SIRs.

Starting a new activity breathes fresh air into SIR146. Activities are the lifeblood of our SIR146 organization and activities make SIR146 what it is today. To keep SIR146 vital, new activities are essential. Many SIR organizations fail when most members only participate in activities, but do not lead. When you start a new activity you not only help your fellow SIR members stay active, you also, benefit the SIR organization. Also, honing one's written and verbal communication skills is critical during retirement years to support one's mental health. The specific activity chair also expands their personal social network. You get to know members at a closer level. I would be happy to discuss an activity that you are interested in starting. Let's brainstorm your idea together.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	29	30	Dec 1
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
4	5	6	7	8
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal at W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 4:00pm Holiday Party at Yard House Restaurant 2005 Diamond Blvd., Concord	10:00am—12:30pm Photography Group Holiday Luncheon at Rocco's 12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts at Rocco's
11	12	13	14	15
10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am Birding at Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's	11:30am—1:00pm Ladies Day Luncheon	10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3
18	19	20	21	22
10:00am Hiking 10:00am—3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am—1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal at W.C. Presbyterian Church 7:00pm—10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group at Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf-2 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	12:00pm—3:30pm Hearts at Rocco's
25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's	9:30am Nine Hole Golf-3	



Theater Glenn Breslin

The Theater group has identified the following upcoming musical shows at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek, which is conveniently located and reasonably priced.



Mystic Pizza

- Date: Thu, Feb 22, 2024 - Time: 7:30 PM
- 16 seats in the Orchestra Rows L,M,N - \$48 per person. Guests are welcome.
- The story centers around the lives of three young working-class waitresses at the Mystic Pizza shop in Mystic, Connecticut. The script includes very familiar 1980s songs by such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Van Morrison, Melissa Etheridge and others around an engaging true to life story. The story drives the show, and the music enhances the love for the characters and their journey.

Cabaret

- Date: Thu, June 20, 2024 - Time: 7:30 PM
- 20 seats in the Orchestra Rows E and F - \$36 per person. Guests are welcome.

- Set in 1929-1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW2 Germany.

Both Shows

- Location: Leshner Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.
- Parking in adjacent parking lot.
- If you would like to attend, please mail your check, made out to SIR 146 to: Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, 94549

Glenn Breslin

glennbreslin@gmail.com



Me: Please bring me a screwdriver.

Wife: Flat head, Phillips, or Vodka?

And that was when I knew she was the one.



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in December for the Christmas

Luncheon. Bring back the ones you borrowed and take home some new books.





Travel Glenn Breslin



SIR Holiday Party at the Yard House, Concord

Please join your fellow SIR members at the SIR146 Holiday Party.

- Date: Thursday, Dec 7, 2023
- SIRS and their guests are welcome.
- Restaurant: Yard House Restaurant at Veranda shopping center.
- Address: 2005 Diamond Boulevard, Concord, CA.
 - 3 to 4 PM Optional Cocktail Hour at the Bar.
 - 4 to 6 PM designated table with seats and a standing area for Happy Hour appetizers buffet.
 - Food included in the price, please buy drinks at the bar.
- Park in the Veranda parking lot next to the Yard House Restaurant
- Happy Hour Buffet Menu: Caesar Salad, Fried Calamari, Sliders & Fries, Pizza, Nachos and Dessert.
- Limit 40 people
- \$38 for a SIR member and \$38 for their significant other. \$19 for guests. Limit 2 guests per each SIR member.
 - Reduced guest price is an incentive to bring your friends interested in joining SIR.
- Make Out Check to SIR146. Send check to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, 94549

Two 2024 European Trips Scheduled

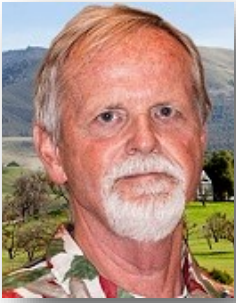
Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes
Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7395	Airfare and 15 day guided trip, highlighting the top sites in Spain and Portugal. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes Tips.
Memorials of WW 2	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10 day guided trip, highlighting WW2 events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes.

She gave me a big hug to thank me!



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group met at Rocco's on Wednesday, November 15th. The group consisted of the following: Frank Terzuoli, Michael Rothman, Dave Tucker, Bill Holly, Clint Collier, Steve Dick, Glenn Breslin, Richard Ahlf, Dean Mayer, Ron Polivka, Steve / Sue Oki, Henry Thatcher, and Moose Kelly.

I want to give a shout out to Glenn Breslin for providing donuts for the group. Thank you, Glenn!!



We were very fortunate to have Andrew from Mike's Camera Store in Pleasant Hill come to our meeting to discuss the latest and greatest camera equipment. He discussed the difference and similarities of Canon EOS R5, Nikon Z8, and Sony A 7CR. Andrew passed around the various cameras to the members to exam closely

while others were asking other questions about photography. He certainly updated us on what is hot and what is not. The club certainly appreciated Andrew presenting at our meeting since he just returned from South Dakota from his daughter's wedding.



Ron Polivka presented outstanding pictures of his recent trip to Italy and Spain that occurred from May 16th to June 10th this year. I have included two of Ron's photos, one with Ron and his wife, Victoria. GREAT photos, Ron!!

We are having our Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 8th, at Rocco's. There will be a business meeting starting at 10 AM for roughly one hour. The club will

focus on Dean Mayer's trip to Spain as well as brainstorming for photo shoots and other activities for 2024.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to one of our meetings to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher. We would be happy to send you information on upcoming meetings.

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Patio Garden, Cordoba Spain

Photo by Ron Polivka



Moorish influence on architecture, Cordoba Spain

Photo by Ron Polivka



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

When this is published, we will almost be in the winter months. I have mixed attitude towards winter. Rain is welcome for humans, plants, and critters. But with it comes damp and/or muddy trails along with the potential for cancellation of a few hikes. We have to take the bad with the good, though, don't we?

I have been a volunteer for the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation (WCOSF) for almost 5 years with our focus on preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat in Lime Ridge and Shell Ridge. We attempt to protect Oak and Buckeye trees from predation by deer and voles. Deer eat leaves while voles destroy the bark of young seedlings. Protection basically amounts to installing wire screens around seedlings with weeding

and watering additionally. The reason I'm including this paragraph is to ask for volunteer help from the SIR 146 members. We generally work once per week for about 2 hours throughout the year doing the above named chores. If interested in pitching in, please let me know.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group

We have had a really good year for 9-Hole Golf. Thanks to all of the guys for making it such a great activity. If you haven't joined us for a round, why don't you give

it a try. We would love to have you join us. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs will be going back to Ivy Park Retirement Home on December 7 and sing a program of Christmas carols for the residents. They

liked our performance so much on October 19 that we were asked back to sing again. Our next rehearsal is on December 6. SongSirs will also perform a rendition of " Sam and Roz are Coming to Town" at the Christmas Luncheon.

We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing..

.Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



You may not be the dumbest guy in the world,
but you better hope he doesn't die!



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

October 27: Cold. Report was for cold early. We took the advice and rode at 10. My rides of late are made up of those riders that want to ride. Putting a ride together that appeases all is never

easy. Today **Bill Ross, Bob Lucido** and **Larry Kaye** met. We rode South. Some of us have been dealing with Covid, Hospital stays, and various time-stealing events. The riders today were willing to put some miles in their legs. Get the cobwebs out. We had a very nice ride, short, flat and a comfortable speed allowing talk. We toured Danville, and her back streets. Always fun. Back to Alamo and Lever Cafe. Yum hot java. The pastries were amazing. Winter seems to dull the need for the whole group. Those that like the feeling of wind thru their helmets, watching the roadbed roll away under spinning tires, that's a rider. I admit, trying to muster most of the group has become a chore. It's become easier and way less stressful to muster those that always show Vs. asking the entire group and listening to excuses. I guess it's my advancing age. Health requires movement. Fighting that individual with his scythe is all I need to keep moving.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Guitar Group Curtis Young

SIR 146 Guitar Group. We have a small group of dedicated players in our Guitar Group. I am looking for more people

interested in playing in a group setting. All skill levels will get something out of our get together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Meeting time is 1:00-2:30 at my home. I encourage you to bring music you want to play, share or learn. If you are interested please contact me!

Thanks and Happy Holiday's

Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

Need a Christmas gift idea from Santa? Ask for your own set of Bocce Balls (not a good idea as a stocking stuffer).

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 13, 2024

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact Tom Amann who is subbing for Jim as Jim recovers for complete information. Contact Tim at

tamann1@yahoo.com

Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net

A propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane to keep the pilot cool.

When it stops you can actually see the pilot start sweating!



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The rainy season is beginning, but it has not deterred our fishermen. We had a pretty good fishing month. The only major casualty of the weather was the cancel-

lation of a three-day trip to New Melones Reservoir because of predicted wind conditions. The windstorm did not occur, but by that point the trip had been cancelled.

However, eight of us made it for the semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor. The group caught many rainbow and brown trout, falling one short of a limit. The largest catch was a 5 lb. brown trout.

Locally, San Pablo Reservoir has closed. **Bob Lively** fished there on the final day of the season. He did not catch any trout but did land one catfish. The reservoir is scheduled to reopen in mid-February. In the meantime, San Pablo has been replaced by Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton. Shadow Cliffs has been dormant for the past three years because of the drought, but it is full now and the Department of Fish and Wildlife has resumed stocking it. That was good news for **Bob Lucido, Brion Beetz, Stan Wong, and Carl Moyer**, all of whom came home with rainbow trout for dinner. But the largest trout landed this month was caught by **Bob Morris**, a new member of our group, at Lake Berryessa. The fish weighed 7 lbs. and Bob used a homemade lure to snare it.

Tom Kostik had a bit of an adventure on a trip to Pinecrest Lake in the Sierra. While he was camping, a bear attacked his cooler and managed to tear the top off even though the cooler was tied down by chains. Tom's loss of his dinner was offset by landing a 3.6 lb. black bass and many rainbows, smallmouth bass, and bluegills.

Tom also hosted some of his fellow Area 16 Fishing Group members on three trips to the Delta. He and **Nic Jacuba** caught 20 stripers, the largest at 28 inches, and two black bass on one outing. On an outing with **Mike Corker**, the pair caught 31 stripers, five on the first six casts of the day. The largest striper was 24 inches. Mike had a striper on the line that he estimated to be over 30 inches, but lost it when his line broke. On the final outing of the month, Tom and **Harry Sherinian** landed 22 stripers, of which 15 were keeper size. All the fish caught on these trips were released.

Ron Lew also made three trips to the Delta, but he was searching for sturgeon, unfortunately without success. He did catch several stripers, however.

Nic Jacuba took his grandkids to Antioch Pier, and they kept him busy. The kids caught small stripers on nearly every cast and Nic had his hands full baiting the lines and unhooking the fish.

Joe Miscione fished with his son and brother-in-law in Montezuma Slough, an arm of the Delta, where they caught and released 15 stripers, ranging from 15 inches to 23 inches. **Stan Wong** also fished in the Delta, but he encountered dirty water, probably caused by dredging. He did manage to land a pair of stripers.

The crabbing season began on November 1st. **Rich Fiscina, Pedro Contreras, and Stan Wong** ventured out in heavy fog and came home with a limit of the crustaceans. We are hoping to continue crabbing trips during December. We have three combination crab and rockfish trips set on the Sea Wolf in December and expect to hunt crabs on our own boats. More Fishing outings are also planned for the Delta and for Shadow Cliffs.

Our next meeting will be on December 21st at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, but the December meeting is on the third Thursday because of the holidays. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7:00am) for camaraderie and fish stories. All SIR members are welcome, even if one has never fished before or has not fished for a long time and all SIR members are invited on our outings. If you have no equipment, we will lend you ours. For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow**.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Book Group John Pearl

This month, the Book Club read *Sleeper Agent: The Atomic Spy in America Who Got Away*. The

agent described in the book's title is George Koval, an American-born Soviet spy who played a significant role in the Manhattan Project, the program that developed the atomic bomb during World War II. Koval gained access to top-secret information about the project and passed it on to his Soviet handlers. His contributions helped the Soviets develop their own atomic bomb much earlier than the Americans had anticipated.

Koval was born in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1913 to Russian Jewish immigrants who immigrated to the US through Galveston, one at a time, his mother Ethel ten months after his father Abram. He grew up as a typical American boy, loving and playing baseball. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society. His parents were both socialists, especially his mother, and they instilled in their son a strong belief in social justice. The family had left Russia in 1910 to escape anti-Semitism. But Koval's parents ultimately became disillusioned about life in the United States and in 1932, when Koval was 19, the family moved back to the Soviet Union. They were lured back by the creation of an area in the Far Eastern section of Siberia called the Jewish Autonomous Region, or Birobidzhan, which was ballyhooed by Joseph Stalin and his cohorts as a home and haven for Jews. Koval quickly became involved in the Communist Party, moved to Moscow and began his study of chemistry at

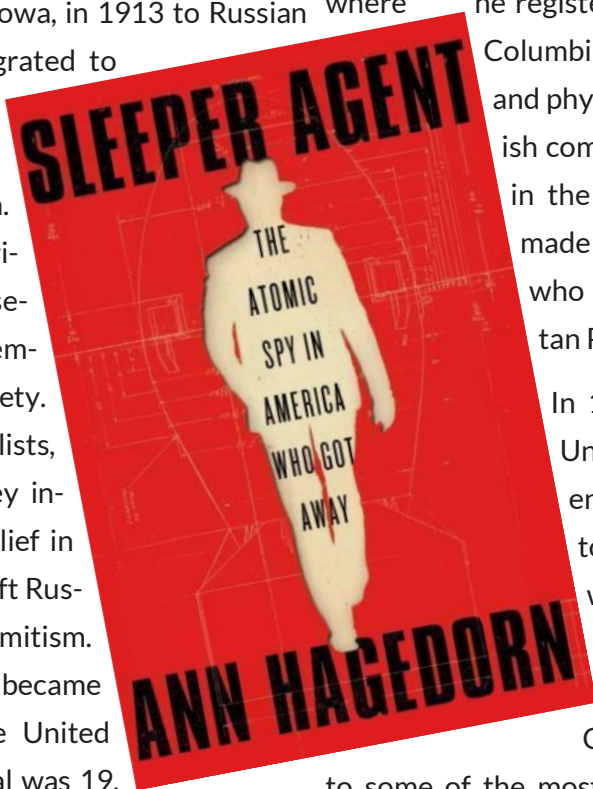
one of their prestigious universities, Mendeleev Institute. It was there he met his future wife Mila. This was at the beginning of what would become known as Stalin's Great Purge, when many millions were killed or shipped to camps in Siberia. In the spring of 1939 the recruitment of George Koval by the Soviet military intelligence agency, the GRU, began. He was drafted into the Red Army as a private, and began his training as a spy.

In 1940, Koval was sent back to the United States as a sleeper agent, code named Delmar, with a false passport. He took a train from Moscow to Vladivostok, and a cargo ship to San Francisco. Then off to New York

where he registered for the draft. He enrolled at Columbia University, studied chemistry and physics, and settled into the local Jewish community. He also became involved in the American Communist Party and made friends with several scientists who would later work on the Manhattan Project.

In 1943, Koval was drafted into the United States Army. He used his scientific background to get assigned to the Manhattan Project, where he worked on the development of plutonium and uranium for the atomic bomb, primarily at the Oak Ridge site. Koval had access

to some of the most sensitive information about the project, and he was able to pass this information on to his Soviet handlers. His position in the Health Physics Department granted him access, with his own jeep, to all the buildings on the plant site. He travelled at least once to New York on furlough and is thought to have met with his Russian handler during this time.



After returning from New York, Koval was assigned to a new post, joining other health physicists at facilities in Dayton, Ohio run by Monsanto where the work to produce the element polonium, used as an essential initiator for atomic bombs, was being done. As at Oak Ridge, he was given free rein to inspect and test at each site in the overall facility.

Koval was discharged in February, 1946. He turned down several offers to continue working for Monsanto in the initiator business, as he may have been wary of exposing himself further to the FBI. By this time, Russia was seen as an enemy, and not an ally, so the nation's fears shifted to the Soviet Union. The infamous House Un-American Activities Committee was becoming active in ferreting out alleged Soviet spies. In 1945, a cipher clerk in the Soviet embassy in Canada named Igor Gouzenko defected with what was called a "dazzling cache of stolen GRU documents," and sought asylum. This set off a firestorm of counter-intelligence search for Communist spies. Lots of familiar names began popping out of the woodwork.

Although Koval may have been nervous about exposing himself to the FBI if he remained in Dayton, he felt safe enough to return to New York. He took advantage of the G.I. Bill to return to school at CCNY in New York and progress toward a degree in electrical engineering. As soon as he graduated, he was issued a passport because he claimed to have a need to travel for his new employer, a mysterious company identified as Atlas Trading Company. He also made close friends with a young woman from the Bronx, Jean Finkelstein, who knew nothing of his "day job" as a spy. In November 1948, after a date, he started a fake argument with her. She never saw him again because on the next day he was aboard the SS America on his way back to Europe. He arrived in Moscow where he was hailed as a hero. However, as a Jew, he had to

face and deal with the "liquidation of the Jewish culture" as the Jews again were being blamed for the dark economic conditions of the post-war Soviet Union.

He continued to work for the GRU until the 1970s and he spent the last twenty years of his working life as a chemistry professor. He never faced prosecution for his espionage activities, and he died in Moscow in 2006.

The book details how the Soviet spy network and their spy craft obtained America's scientific knowledge about atomic physics, much of the work the Russian scientific community did to build their first atomic bomb, and the work the FBI did to find and try the spies they were able to discover and arrest in the US.

In 2007 Russia President Putin awarded Koval a posthumous medal, the "Hero of the Russian Federation" gold medal, for his role in the making of the first Soviet atomic bomb.

Koval's story is a reminder of the dangers of espionage and the importance of protecting classified information. It is also a story of human betrayal and the lengths to which some people will go to achieve their goals.

Our next book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride, a novel about the lives of Jews and African Americans who lived in poverty together in the Chicken Hill area of Pottstown, Pennsylvania during the first half of the 20th century. Our next meeting is on November 27 at 8:00 am at the Panera Restaurant in Countrywood Shopping Center. All SIR bookworms are invited to join us.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi
Clint Collier

Our last adventure in sushi was a visit to Lafayette's Blue Gingko Izakaya and Sushi!.



Our annual December/Christmas event will be at Mikuni, in the Veranda shopping center, where we held it last year, since everyone seemed to enjoy that spot and they offer something for the "non-sushi" significant others who are invited to join us for this gathering. Final notice will go out in December for your RSVP with time (11:30) confirmation. The date for this is December 21st which is also the Winter Solstice!



Some changes are coming. We meet every other month and we started in February two years ago so we have been meeting on the same months for two years. With the coming of 2024 we're going to change that... our first meeting will be in January and then every other month after that; same good sushi, same good fellowship but a different month for a while.



So, come January plan on joining us at Fuji in Concord on the 18th at 11:30. It should be interesting, Fuji is

an all you can eat buffet with sushi delivered constantly on a conveyor belt... or by special order! Come hungry!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

Bruce Borgman took the group on a culinary experience to exotic India on a beautiful fall day in November. **Bruce** began the meal with a spread of delicious appetizers. The star of the show was a baked date

stuffed with goat cheese which was then wrapped with a perfectly cooked slice of hickory smoked bacon. The group then proceeded to the first course. A salad was served containing chopped cucumber, tomatoes and red onions seasoned with Indian spices that made for a mildly spicy experience. Next up was the main course, Murgh Makhani (Indian butter chicken). The dish tasted rich and creamy but it also was vibrant and complex. In addition to the more usual ingredients of onions, garlic and tomato paste this dish included some unusual ingredients of garam masala, coriander, cumin, Serrano chili, Greek yogurt and chopped fresh cilantro. **Bruce** finished the meal with an amazing light and creamy cheesecake. **Dennis Hallett** will home host our next lunch on December 11.



Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock, Steve Ybarra and Corrie Oranje.

Photo by Sue Sheldon

Steve Ybarra



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group had their long-anticipated dining experience at San Dai restaurant this last Wednesday November 15. You will recall that we had gotten a special menu prepared by Chef Nora. With some small changes in our signups for the dinner, we wound up with 45 diners, which turned out to be just right for the size of the restaurant. The restaurant has taken over the space formerly occupied by Prima Restaurant – and the renovation took almost two years. From all appearances – it was a very successful effort as the restaurant presents a sleek and modern interior.

We started our festivities with our cocktail hour. We had encouraged our group to try the specialty cocktails which had some unique ingredients from this part of the world. I had the Pandan Slushie which included coconut cream, pineapple juice, rum, curacao and Pandan extract – the latter being a panda leaf extract which is floral, nutty and sweet – the end result was wonderful!

The restaurant had reduced the corkage for our group from \$25 to \$15, which several of our guests took advantage of.

The dinner started with a choice of a Farmers Market Indonesian salad or a unique lentil curry soup.

The entrée choices were similarly great examples of the Nusantara cuisine with our diners opting for the Ayam Percek, or the Nasi Goreng. For dessert we had a choice of a pumpkin tart, or the decadent chocolate avocado cake. From all appearances, our group appreciated this culinary adventure into a somewhat unusual cuisine which pays tribute to aspects of Indonesian, Malaysian, Thai, and Philippine cuisines.

You will be able to see several of our diners enjoying the companionship of our fellow Sirs and spouses or significant others – always the best part of this activity.

Our next event will be in January and no decision has been made on where we will decide to go. As always, we solicit your input. With the rapidly changing culinary landscape with several new restaurants, we will have a choice of some of the excellent places to eat. In looking at the calendar, we likely have our next event on the Monday or Tues, Jan. 22nd or 23rd. Since we

have had this more unusual cuisine this last time, we will likely pick a restaurant that is more conventional.

We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and meaningful celebrations with family and friends!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon Dining Out Hosts





Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Bob & Judy Wilkenfeld did a fantastic job as hosts for the October wine tasting in their newly remodeled backyard. The weather was perfect. The appetizers were outstanding (as always). We tasted 13 different Merlots and 5 different Viogniers. The favorite Merlot was brought by first-time attendee, **Gene Schulting** and the favorite Viognier was brought by **Brian & Mary McCarthy**. Everyone had a great time and is looking forward to the next wine tasting.

Speaking of the next wine tasting, it will be held at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock** on January 24, the fourth Tuesday. Wines have not yet been selected. Check the Dec/Jan SIRCall for more details.

And last but definitely not least, I want to thank **Bill Holly** for overseeing everything while **Mary** and I were in Japan.

See you In January!

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463



Special
Editor's Award Wine
The wine brought by
Bob Wilkenfeld



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met at Corrie and Sue Oranje's station last November 10th for the last game of year 2023. We missed the

Plante's and Bishop's but were introduced to Jane, a friend of Jim Stedman. Jane fit into the group well, and succeeded in securing the number two spot in the winner circle.

Alicia Baily had the low score, 8.2% average, for first place and Richard Hockenbrock coming in third.

Half time snacks was simply cookies and ice cream!

Our group does not meet in December. We will resume in January, on the 12th, at Alicia Baily's.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy holiday(s)!.


Corrie Oranje

corrieoranje@gmail.com




Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on October 27th after The Sir Call went to press. The ole Mexican Train slowly chugged to

the home of Sue and Walt Busenius in Walnut Creek. Our group now meets in the afternoon. Sally & Lynn Shafer, Sharon Varner, Judy Richmond, Jim Stedman & guest, and Alicia Baily enjoyed the train ride, the hospitality, and were glad to be back competing and chatting.

In the end, Sally Shafer averaged 13.25 per game and garnered the grand prize with Sue Busenius coming in 2nd, averaging 17.42 per game. Finally,


Walt Busenius hobbled across the finish line to claim 3rd place. We said our goodbyes, boarded the ole train and headed for home before darkness set in.

We will meet next on November 17th at the home of Alicia Baily. All Aboard in Walnut Creek!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

On November 17th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 14 people. In attendance this evening were: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Ken and Carol Sault, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope.** Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of seven. We paid the player at each table with low table score 7 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Jim and Renie Pope.** There were two high scoring players. **Ken and Carol Sault** were awarded one each Lotto ticket. The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on **January 19th.** Photos by **Steve Oki.**

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

On November 16 th 2023, the **Hallett's** hosted a lively gathering.

Judy and **Jim Baldrige** were unable to attend due to a prior commitment in Los Angeles.

Once again, the ladies were triumphant with **Ann Hallett** and **Anne Burk** taking first and second prizes. **Dennis Hallett** was a distant third, saving the men from a clean sweep by the ladies.

However, the men did better on the consumption volume of the Pumpkin Spice Cake and Ice Cream served by the **Hallett's** during a welcome midway coffee break.

Judging from the noise level, everyone had a fun evening. **Joan and Dave Pierce** kept a close eye on the proceedings and **Doug Eisner** made sure the numerous

tiles in the Mexican Train did not fall off the table or collide with the wine glasses!!

Thankfully the rain held off and everyone had a dry journey home.

The next gathering on Thursday December 7th 2023 (1st Thursday) will be hosted by **Marty Campbell**, which we are all looking forward to.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Richard Hockenbrock's** beautiful Casa on October 25. Thank you, **Richard**, for hosting.

Finally, the **Lane** gang won something – with **Carol Lane** (15.44), and **Brian McCarthy** (16.0) winning first and second place at a table with **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Ann Kendrick**, **Martha Plante** and **Jim Nelson**.

Steve Lane—that's me (17.4) came in third at a table with **John Kendrick**, **Mary McCarthy**, **Christie Nelson**, and **Peter Plante**.

MTD 6 will be taking November off due to the holidays. We are looking forward to our next get together on Thursday, December 14, at **Kathe Mitchell's** home with **John "Moose" Kelly** and **Mary Schmidt** hosting.

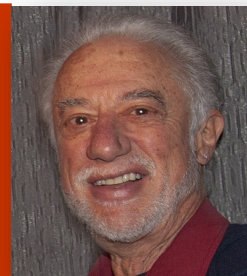
We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families.

. Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Coming in December...



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob the Poet Lucido

Bob & Jane West hosted our MTD 7 this month.

Jane came in first with an average score of 9.1 for a

prize of \$21, **Clint Collier** came in second, but not even close to **Jane** with an average score of 16.3 and won \$12, and **Wendy Lucido** got back her entry fee of \$3 with an average score of 17.28.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

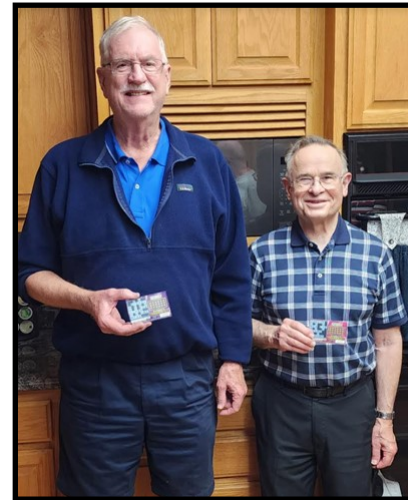
After taking the month of October off, we had a full house of twenty regular players show up to play on November 1st. **Bill Holly**

provided a variety of tasty snacks for the group, and you could tell by the abundance of candy available, that Halloween had just occurred.

The top two money winners on this beautiful Fall evening were a family affair as **Sue Loftin** and husband, **Steve** placed first and second respectively in the winner’s circle. **Steve Ybarra** was in third place.



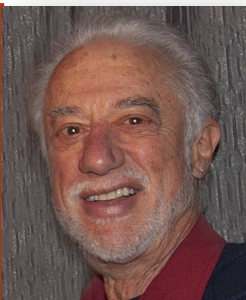
Next column, starting at the top L to R: **Glenn Breslin, Richard Hockenbrock, Steve Loftin, Sandi Foster, Sue Loftin, Pam McAllister, Steve Ondeck, Larry McAllister, Victoria Polivka, Jan Ondeck, Ron Polivka, Steve Ybarra, Virginia Tygart.** On the lower floor, **Steve Dinning, John Foster, Frank Terzuoli, Karen Dinning, Susan Terzuoli, and Bill Holly.**



These two gentlemen, **Steve Dinning**, and **Bill Holly** are usually in the winner’s circle, but as we noted many times, Mexican Train Dominoes is mainly a game of chance and not skill. Here they are proudly showing off their reward for the two high scores for the evening.

Our next game will be December 6th.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rhock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” Bob Lucido

The game was canceled this month because most members left town.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the prior SIR-Call submission, we met on October 27th and November 10th. The big winners were **Jim Passaglia** (our newest member) with 5 wins and **Bob West** with 3 and **Norm Cox**

with 2 wins. The lowest average score was **Jim Passaglia** and **Bob Finlayson** with 65, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 69. **Steve Ybarra** had 2.5 2nd place finishes, and **Glenn Breslin**, **Norm Cox** and **Bob West** had two. **Jim Passaglia** had 3 STM's, and **Norm Cox** had 2.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 19 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 16 and **Bill Vizza** with 15.

Jim Passaglia who has only played 7 games but won his last 4, leads with a winning percentage of 71%, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 39%. Most Improved is **Steve** with 210% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 176%. **Jim Passaglia** has the lowest avg score of 61.2 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 73.2. **Steve Ybarra** leads in 2nds with 17 followed by both **Frank Lucas** with 13. **Ron Polivka** leads in "Shoot the Moons" with 8 followed by **Bill Vizza** and **Dick Wade** with 7.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in December on the 8th and 22nd.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robertawest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Six players gathered at **Norm Baietti's** home for our usual first Thursday game. **Norm** plied us with wine and various snacks—delicious!

Rich Ahlf earned a 100% return on his initial deposit as the overall winner for the day. There was one memorable hand of a straight flush (not for **Rich**).

We are looking for substitutes as our band of 7 often has other plans. If interested, please contact me!.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

Duplicate Bridge III held its October game on Friday the 20th at the home of **Max** and **Ardith Henkel**. 12 bridge players played 24 duplicate boards. At the end of the day,

Ray Spears was on top with **Bob Yolland** and **Tony Greco** close behind. We all had a great time, but the highlight of the day was **Ardith's** apple pie. Our next game will be on Nov. 17 at **Dave Steinberg's**.

Duplicate 3 Bridge held it's November game on Fri., Nov 17 at **Dave Steinberg's**. 12 regulars played 24 hands of bridge. **Dick DeVoe** was the overall winner by a comfortable margin. **Ed Marlovits** was 2nd and **Mike Whitaker** came in 3rd. **Dave** was a most gracious host and an enjoyable time was had by all. Our next meeting is on Dec. 15 at **Dick DeVoe's**.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, October 6 with three tables was hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning** at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Many thanks to **Mike Whitaker** for coordinating the event that day.

Joe Fuchs won 1st Place overall with 29 points, on the heels of his win last month as well! Congratulations, **Joe!** **Tony Greco** took 2nd Place overall, with **Ed Marlovits** in 3rd Place.

Richard Devoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher hosted our November 7th event. For this event we had 4 regular couples and 2 subbing couples. We thank **Bob & Janet Yolland** and **Steve & Sue Loftin** for subbing for **Larry & Linda Brown**

and **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**.

Scoring was very tight throughout the 5 rounds of play. Four of the six couples lead at some point after each round:

- After 1st Round: **Yollands** lead by 160 points
- After 2nd Round: **DeVoes** lead by 100 points
- After 3rd Round: **Grecos** lead by 230 points
- After 4th Round: **Loftins** lead by 110 points

- After 5th Round: **Loftins** lead by 150 points

The total point difference between 1st and 6th place was only 610 points (2980 vs. 2370). The official results are as follows:

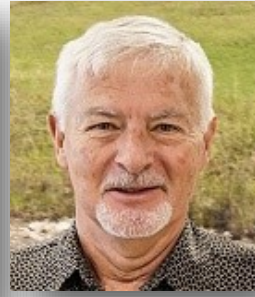
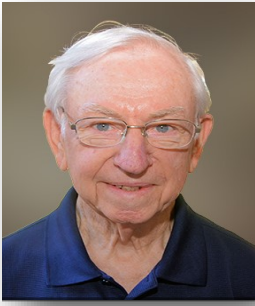
- 1st PLACE with 2980 points—**Steve & Sue Loftin**
- 2nd PLACE with 2830 points—**Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 2680 points—**Brad & Lynne Hatcher**

Our next event will be held on December 5th and hosted by **Tony & Cindy Greco**.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Our group met at the home of the DeVoës for an evening of comradery, bridge and good fun. Christy and Dick provided a grand setting of cakes, chips and cheeses along of course with fine

wine and soft drinks. Maggie and Dick Chaffee were kind enough to sub for one of our missing regulators and it was great to catch up on their latest travels. Honors for the evening cards went to Kathy and John Kluesener for a third-place finish with a total of 19.5 points followed closely by Margot and Marilyn with 22.5 points for a second place finish. Christy and Dick took the top score with a total of 24.5 points for the night.

Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had an enjoyable day at Jim Pope's home. Jim's hospitality, goodies and dessert were outstanding as usual. The players were: Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.

The winner was Bill Schaaf with 6150 points followed by Bill Snyder with 5800 and Dick DeVoe with 5470 points. Max Hinkle continues to lead the 6-month contest with a 6-month average of 4955 points.

The next game will be on Monday December 4th at the home of Mike Davidson. His address is 216 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek.

This will be the players last chance to move into the winners circle for the 6 month contest. Good luck.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Kathy and John Kluesener, Marilyn and Margot Somerville and Christy and Dick DeVoe



Area 16 Activities



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

Due to the holidays, we will meet early in December. We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Thursday December 7 at 1:30 PM. Please adjust your calendars. The topic will be year-end tax planning.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

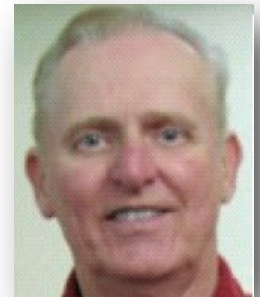
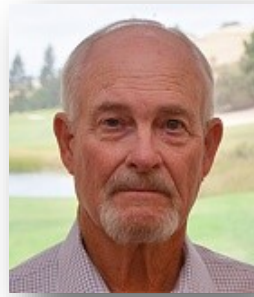


SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

Thinking back to when a new hip joint meant someplace I wanted to go on Friday night...



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

If anyone has been thinking they might like to take a look at this card group, now would be a good time, as summer travel plans have typically created several openings at recent gatherings on the second and fourth Weds. of each month.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill

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Stan Johnson

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Parting Shot

American economist Milton Friedman rose to prominence in the second half of the 20th century as one of the leading critics of the prevailing economic theories of John Maynard Keynes. He won the Nobel Prize for his contributions to economic science. He continued writing and speaking publicly through various mediums—magazine columns and television, academic journals and newspaper op-eds—until his death in 2006. The Economist has described him as “a giant among economists” and “the most influential economist of the second half of the 20th century.”

Here are 12 things he said to serve as food for thought:

“Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.”

The Relation Between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom, 2002

“I’m in favor of legalizing drugs. According to my values system, if people want to kill themselves, they have every right to do so. Most of the harm that comes from drugs is because they are illegal.”

As quoted in If Ignorance Is Bliss, Why Aren’t There More Happy People? (2009)

“With some notable exceptions, businessmen favor free enterprise in general but are opposed to it when it comes to themselves.”

Lecture “The Suicidal Impulse of the Business Community” (1983)

“It’s a moral problem that the government is making into criminals people, who may be doing something you and I don’t approve of, but who are doing something that hurts nobody else.”

America’s Drug Forum interview (1991)

“One of the great mistakes is to judge policies and programs by their intentions rather than their results.”

Interview with Richard Heffner on The Open Mind (Dec. 7, 1975)

“You must distinguish sharply between being pro-free enterprise and being pro-business.”

Big Business, Big Government (1978)

“The society that puts equality before freedom will end up with neither. The society that puts freedom before equality will end up with a great measure of both.”

From Created Equal, an episode of the PBS Free to Choose television series (1980)

“Governments never learn; only people learn.”

As quoted in The Cynic’s Lexicon: A Dictionary Of Amoral Advice? (1984)

“We have to recognize that we must not hope for a Utopia that is unattainable. I would like to see a great deal less government activity than we have now, but I do not believe that we can have a situation in which we don’t need government at all.”

As quoted in The Times Herald, Norristown, Pennsylvania (Dec. 1, 1978)

“The great virtue of a free market system is that it does not care what color people are; it does not care what their religion is; it only cares whether they can produce something you want to buy. It is the most effective system we have discovered to enable people who hate one another to deal with one another and help one another.”

“Why Government Is the Problem” (February 1, 1993), p. 19

“The case for prohibiting drugs is exactly as strong and as weak as the case for prohibiting people from overeating. We all know that overeating causes more deaths than drugs do.”

America’s Drug Forum interview (1991)

“There are four ways in which you can spend money. You can spend your own money on yourself. When you do that, why then you really watch out what you’re doing, and you try to get the most for your money. Then you can spend your own money on somebody else. For example, I buy a birthday present for someone. Well, then I’m not so careful about the content of the present, but I’m very careful about the cost. Then, I can spend somebody else’s money on myself. And if I spend somebody else’s money on myself, then I’m sure going to have a good lunch! Finally, I can spend somebody else’s money on somebody else. And if I spend somebody else’s money on somebody else, I’m not concerned about how much it is, and I’m not concerned about what I get. And that’s government. And that’s close to 40 percent of our national income.”

Fox News interview (May 2004)