

Big Sir's Notes Pete Gates

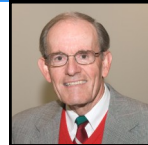
At our January luncheon, I had the pleasure of participating in a ceremony to recognize those who have been members of our Branch for 20 years. Many of these men are Charter Members. They formed the cornerstone of what, with their help, was to become one of the best Branches in SIR. On behalf of all the members of Branch 146, I thank all of them for their contributions over the past 20 years.

The BEC set some goals for the year in the interest of maintaining the health and vitality of Branch 146. We aim, with your help, to induct 26 new members which equates to about 10% of our membership. In order to achieve this goal we believe we need to attract about 40 guests (four each at our regular meetings). We got off to a good start in January with four fine men inducted while hosting five guests. We're on a roll, let's keep it going!

Thanks to all 155 of you who filled out the Member Survey at our November luncheon. The responses have been tallied by **Jack Calloway** and the other members of the Recruitment and Retention Committee. I am pleased to be able to say that all of you who responded are either Very Satisfied or Satisfied with Branch 146. In addition, you gave us your thoughts, suggestions and criticisms. We have formed a committee, headed by **Chuck Eichten**, to review and evaluate the results and to bring recommendations to the Branch Executive Committee for their consideration.

We are already working on some of the Survey results relating to the suggested luncheon speaker topics and recommended new activities. Regarding the latter, The Board approved a new activity, the Book Corner sponsored by **Ken Richter**. This one got off to a solid start as all but a few of the books that **Ken** brought found a new home. He says he will do this about every other month. Also, **Steve Dawkins**, our Activities Chairman, is out recruiting participants for a host of activities you suggested.

The February Luncheon will be a "Random Seating" Day. See you there!



Little Sir's Corner Jim Burk

Our speaker for **February** will be **DANIEL BORENSTEIN**, Columnist and editorial writer for the Contra Costa Times (Bay Area News Group). Daniel will be discussing the challenges presented by the rising cost of public employee pensions and possible solutions. Thanks to Terry Marchione for recommending Daniel after hearing feedback from numerous people regarding a presentation he made at the Concord Rotary Club.

In **March**, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear from **DICK CALLAHAN**, the public address announcer for both the A's at the Oakland Coliseum and the Cal Bears at Memorial Stadium in Berkeley. He also worked for the Golden State Warriors from 1981 to 2000. Dick lives in Moraga and our connection to this speaker comes by way of our own Ray Kan.

I am working on more very exciting possibilities for the months ahead, but don't want to prematurely discuss names until I have them confirmed, so stand by and continue to share your thoughts with me.

Branch Activities Steve Dawkins

In the recently completed Branch survey, members expressed an interest in the following new activities: Book Club, Photography, Law class/Constitution, Beginners Bridge, Mac User classes, Trap Shooting, Boating/Sailing, Biking, Tennis, Coin/Stamp collecting, Hiking, and Poetry. Along with these new activities there is always room for more poker and cooking groups.

If you are interested in participation in one of these activities please contact me at 937-9967 or E-mail me at sdawkins@astound.net and I will help to facilitate creating a new Branch Activity.



Duplicate Bridge Terry Marchione

Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch



Sir Bob Yolland hosted our January game with four tables of duplicate bridge. This month saw the return of **George Zunich** and **Bob Donahue** to the game after several months away.

Bob D. wasted no time getting back into form as he dusted the competition with a score of 46 points. Despite an unexpected side trip to the hospital, **Bob Yolland** was in fine form and finished in 2nd place with a score of 43 points. **Jim Brown** (40 pts) and **Doug Eisner** (39 pts) rounded out the winners circle.

We will give an honorable mention to **Janet Yolland** who prepared an excellent dessert.

Our next game is scheduled for Monday, February 14. **George Zunich** will host.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

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



We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Lo McCarley** on Jan 3. First place went to **Carl Johnson** with 6690 points, second to **Bob Donahue** with 4970 and third to **Doug Isner** with 4900. Our next game will be at the home of **Lynn Freeman** on Feb 7.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.



Lo and Sue McCarley hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on January 19th, everyone had a great time. The group welcomed back **George Zunich** and **Tamara Judson**. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took first place with a whopping 43 points. **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** (37 points) came in second, while **Jim and Allison Todhunter** with 32 points grabbed third place. Fourth place with 31 points went to **George Zunich** and **Tamara Judson** (that's the way to come back and show us what you can do). **George Zunich** and **Tamara Judson** will host the next bridge

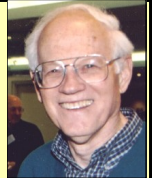
Couples Duplicate Bridge Too

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too was held at **Ken and Elaine Richter's** home in January. The hosts showed little sympathy for the others as they won easily. **Terry and Sharon Marchione** settled for second followed by **Jim and Ruth Adams**. **Dick DeVoe** did an excellent job of tallying the scores but had a hard time convincing **Christy** that they didn't have enough points to win. **Terry and Sharon** will host the February Bridge.

SIR 146 Computer Classes

Lo McCarley

Word Processing



Hey computer users! Time to ramp up your word processing skills! Bring your spouses and friends too. Great class for those with Microsoft Word 2007 and very helpful for Word 2010.

Get familiar with the **famous ribbon**.

Learn to use the Office Button, Quick Access Toolbar, Title Bar, Menu Bar, Tool Bars, and Ruler.

Learn basic features: Backspace key, Delete key, Inserting text, Highlighting, and Bold, Underline, and Italicize.

And more... Cut, Copy and Paste, Spell Check, Fonts and Font Size, and Find and Replace (if you lose it you can still find it).

Work with paragraphs like the pros: Margins, Page Orientation, Indentation, Print Preview, Text Alignment.

Other valuable features: Tab key, Bulleting, Numbering, Undo and Redo, Printing.

Switch between documents, compare open documents, use Thumbnails, and Zoom in and Zoom out.

Print envelopes and labels. Use Mail Merge.

Learn to use Word Tables (Dazzle your friends. Tables are similar to spreadsheets).

Four Classes

All on Fridays: 4/8, 4/15, 4/22, and 4/29.

Unbelievable Deal

Come to any or all of the classes for \$10...total!

Time

1:00 to 3:00 each class day.

Where

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Avenue, Walnut Creek. Room 303.

To Enroll

Email Lo at lomccarley@astound.net Or phone Lo at 935-3939

Computer classes for SIR Branch 146 members, their wives and friends.

Explore and Dine John Pearl

Explore and Dine returned to its roots with our first excursion of 2011, when we re-visited the Blackhawk Museum near Danville on Thursday, January 27th. This museum is a place where automobiles are displayed as art, and was the site of our group's first excursion several years ago. Lunch was at a restaurant in Blackhawk Plaza.

On Thursday morning, February 24th, we travel to St. Mary's College and the Hearst Museum, to take in a traveling exhibit featuring the two Civil War generals, **Lee** and **Grant**. A lunch is planned in nearby Moraga.



Garden Club Chuck Bobinecz



Sir **Bob Yoland** has arranged for our February 3rd meeting at Heather Farms to learn about rose pruning from the experts and get some hands on experience in rose pruning. We will meet at 9:30am, bring your leather gloves that protects your forearms, pruning shears and/or loppers. We will meet inside if it is raining and have a lecture and demonstration on rose pruning. Wives and guests are welcome.

Garden tip of the month: February is a good time of year to start seeds indoors for spring and summer planting. Also a good time later in the month to fertilize the lawn.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION JACK CALLOWAY

Big Sir **Pete Gates** mentions in his column that Certificates of Recognition were presented to 19 members who have completed 20 years in the Branch. We intend to continue recognizing members each January who completed 20 years in the prior year.

At the January Luncheon we welcomed new members **John Hammond** sponsored by **Jim Burk**, **John Boyan** sponsored by **Dave Pierce** and **John Alexander** sponsored by **Bill Danzig**.

A "Welcome Packet" containing information about SIR and our Branch is being given to each guest who attends a Luncheon. There were five guests in January which is a good start for the new year. Please think about who you can bring as a guest to one of our luncheons.

Cribbage John Pearl



The Cribbage Group gathered again on Wednesday afternoon, January 12th, at Sir **Barney Meade's** home in Concord. We had another record turnout, with 10 of the 11 members of our group in attendance. First place money was taken by **Kirk McVean** of Branch 116, second place by **Barney Meade**, third place by **Jim Passaglia**, while fourth place \$\$\$ went to former Sir **Al Tufo**, sometimes known as the Italian Stallion. Former Big Sir **Dennis Hallett** and I continued to finish out of the money.

A good time was had by all, and we finished with a marvelous round of deserts!

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net
934-6920

SPRING CANDY SALE

It's time to order your See's Candy for the 2011 Easter season! This year Easter is April 24 so don't delay in ordering candy certificates for your wife, significant other, children, neighbors, friends, or even yourself.

The price this year will be \$13.70 for a one pound box certificate. That's \$3 lower than the retail price so it's a good deal! And there's even no limit in the number of certificates you may order! The certificates are redeemable at any See's facility and the recipient may choose any type of candy he or she wishes, including soft centers, nuts, chewies, etc.

Please make your check payable to "SIRs Branch 146". Mail your check and a stamped # 10 self-addressed envelope (the long one) to:

Douglas Eisner
909 Osceola Ct
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

I must receive your order by April 16, 2011 and I will mail your certificates to you shortly thereafter.

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ to cover the cost of _____ one pound certificates.



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 convened on January 12th at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan** with a full member table of 7 players. **Frank McNamee** again was the big winner followed by **John Lewis** and **Bob White**.

The contributors were our host **Dan O'Sullivan**, **Bob Frankland**, **Don Martin** and **Bill Cammerer**. We will gather on Feb. 9th at the home of **Bill Cammerer** to see who has had a severe change of luck.

Poker Club #2 Al Zamolo



It's getting to sound like a broken record. **Ken Kratz** hosted our Dec. session and again became the days biggest winner. Of note, we played over 30 hands and didn't notice that two cards were missing from the deck.

The last game was the event of the day. NO PEEKY was the game. **Al Zamolo** seemed to have the winning hand and kept bumping the pot. **Ken Kratz** was the last player to turn his cards. He turned over 4 aces to the shocked **Al Zamolo**.



Poker Club #4 Chuck Bobinecz

Garth Cummings will be our host for our February 28th game. As usual, let your host know a couple of weeks in advance if you cannot attend so that a sub can be arranged.

Did you know that poker's spiked at the beginning of the 21st century largely because of the introduction of online poker and the hole-card camera which turned the game into a spectator sport.

POKER GROUP #5 Bill Roberts



Our January game saw a return to our permanent location as **Bill Roberts** is back in action after his knee replacement. Italian food and adult beverages were plentiful and a grand time was had by all.

The other players are not quite sure what **Bill** was doing during his rehab but we suspect he spent a good deal of time watching old poker game reruns on television since he walked away as the big winner. **Bill's** track record has not been impressive so we'd like to know his secret. **Dean Merritt** provided most of **Bill's** winnings while the rest of the group managed to escape relatively unscathed.

Our regular date is the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon and the regular players are **Spellman, Thomas, Merritt, Richter, Koeber, Marchione, Rockwell** and **Roberts**

Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Allen Espenmiller

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on February 23rd, 2011 at 8:00am at the Diablo Creek Golf course 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker will be **Rick Ashburn**; Principal of Creekside Partners Investment Counsel in Lafayette, CA. **Rick's** presentation will be an overview of current economic and market conditions and what they mean for investment returns in the coming years. **Discussion of the crisis in municipal budgets-are muni bonds still a safe investment? A look at stocks through the eyes of a value investor- has the stock market fully recovered while the economy is still mired in recession?** Plan to attend and discuss with **Rick** these items which affect our investment portfolios.

The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00am for those who would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.

Co- Chairmen: **Allen Espenmiller** (Br-174) 925-376-3977 **George Schulze** (Br-8) 925-429-1756 **Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807 **Ken Nakashima** (Br-171) 925-376-0421



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



Feb 17, 2011, Boeing, Boeing Award Winning Comedy. Start off your new year with this high flying romp that will leave you asking for more. SIR 146 has acquired a limited number of group discount tickets for this fun-filled evening. Cost \$30.00 pp. Contact **Gary Schaub** 938-5454. Order tickets before February 11th.

Mar 5, 2011, The Crafty Matchmaker. Presented in a rhythmic mixture of Cantonese and English, this production is filled with drama, action and humor. The story is set in the time of ancient China and is performed on the stage at the Buddha's Universal Church. Cost \$55.00 Contact **Bob Hagler** 925-934-7520 Branch 8.

Apr 16-30, 2011 Ancient Egypt & the Nile River. Enjoy a 7 day cruise on the Nile River and 6 days at the deluxe Cairo Marriott Hotel. In addition to touring around Cairo you will visit Aswan, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Esna and Luxor while on your cruise aboard the M/S River Anuket. The Tour includes 29 meals, 11 exclusive guided sightseeing tours, and RT airfare from San Francisco. Extensions are available to Jerusalem Israel, Alexandria Egypt, Petra & Amman, Jordan. Cost: 3095 to 3395 pp depending on stateroom. Contact **Bob Spellman** @ 934-8428. Space limited

Jun 9-19, 2011 Alaska's Inside Passage. Embark on a 10 night Inside Passage cruise on board the Sea Princess sailing round trip out of San Francisco. Ports of call include: Juneau, Glacier Bay, Haines, Ketchikan and Victoria. Cost: \$2578 to \$2655 pp depending on Stateroom. Contact **Jim Lunn** @ 925-551-3329 Branch #8 for more information.

Jun 22-24, 2011 Boulder Creek Golf and Fun Outing This is a fun couple of days with golf, food, relaxation. and good company all close to home. We wanted you to know the date early so you could mark your calendars. Contact **Ken Richter** @ 689-6217

Sep 11-21, 2011 The Enchantment of Lake Michigan. An eleven day trip including a Hydrofoil to Mackinac Island , Green Bay and Madison Wisconsin featuring The House On The Rock and

Frank Lloyd Wright's Hillside Home School at Taliesin, a ride on the Chicago River and into Lake Michigan. .Cost \$ 2885 Contact **Bob Hagler** 925-934-7620 Branch 8 for more information.

Oct 1-11, 2011 Canada & New England Cruise. Experience the colors of Fall as you sail for 10 days aboard Silversea's Silver Whisper from Montreal to New York. You will also visit Quebec City, Charlottetown, Sydney, Halifax, Bar Harbor, Boston and Newport. While aboard the Silver Whisper you will find a most accommodating atmosphere providing impeccable service and world class cuisine. Everything is included in the price, tips, fine wines, all spirits, complimentary In Suite dining , meals airfare, bus to and from airport, port charge, government fees and taxes. You will be treated like royalty. Cost from \$4720 to \$6057 depending on Stateroom. Contact **Bob Spellman** @ 934-8428. This trip has been very popular with over 50 people signed up.

The quarterly State *SIR HAPPENINGS* web site at <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappings/> offers additional SIR travel options.



Sunshine

Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net



We extend our very best wishes for continued healing to the following Sirs. They are in our thoughts and prayers as we look forward to their returning to good health:

- Sir **Bill Schmeh**
- Sir **Bob Madge**
- Sir **Bob Frankland**
- Sir **Roderic Sharrets**
- Sir **Barney Meade**
- Sir **Ron Pascoe**
- Sir **Bill Roberts**
- Sir **Jim Helmicks**
- Sir **Ed Mendelssohn**
- Sir **Joe Fuchs**
- Sir **Rob Van Luchene**
- Sir **Mitch Mitchell**

If you know a Sir who is sick, please let me know by phone or e-mail as shown above.



Luncheon Attendance

Bob Mehus

SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at "The Clubhouse" at Boundary Oak Restaurant. The price of our luncheons is \$24 with a no-host bar.

Please email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com, or call **Bob Mehus** at 510-549-2221 by Friday NOON (January 7, 2011) prior to the luncheon if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message. Please be sure you call!!!

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for **\$24.00** made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on Luncheon Day. Thanks.

A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, giving a valid reason or who attends less than five (5) meetings/luncheons within the last twelve (12) months, excluding May and December (Ladies Day Luncheons), shall be notified by the prescribed form, of termination of his membership.

SIR bringing a Guest

Please call by Friday, noon prior to the luncheon and leave your name and badge number and the name of your guest. Please spell the last name of your guest.

Luncheon Menu for February 10, 2011

Seasonal green salad w/ Italian Vinaigrette
Chicken Cacciatore

or

Pan seared Mahi Mahi w/ Papaya Buerre Blanc
Roasted Garlic Potatoes
Broccoli
Carrot Cake

Special Luncheon Requirements

If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Chairman. If for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your Luncheon Chairman.

New Members and/or Sponsors

There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share their conversations as new members of SIR146. It is voluntary and please do not feel obligated, as a new member, to sit at this table.



**Membership
Steve Sprague**

Branch 146 Statistics:

Active Members: 257 including six Honorary Life Members.

Applicant List: None.

Inactive Members: Five.

January Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 202

Guests: 6, Visitors: 2.

Total Attendance: 210.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **John Alexander**, Badge 259

John Boyan, Badge 210

John Hammond, Badge 41

Paul Guidry, Badge 51

Moved to Inactive List: **Bob Madge**, Badge 181

Resigned: **Dennis Bottaro**, Badge 125

Transferred or Deceased: None

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

Bob Madge, Badge 181, was added. Our inactive roster therefore is increased by one to five members.

Non-Responsibility Declaration

Rule 345: All activities arranged for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group



PHIL GOFF, Chairman, 831-3692,
philgoff@yahoo.com
DICK CURRY, Asst. Chairman,
376-5541,
racorinda@pacbell.net

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.)

Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invite you to their next meeting:
Thursday, February 17th at 9am

Its income tax time and **Frank Crua** will present an overview of the various tax preparation programs available for sale. He will review TurboTax, TaxCut, TaxACT and others. If you do your own income tax or just use these programs to organize your data for a professional tax preparer, you will find this to be an interesting topic.

Phil Goff will then demonstrate the power of the new CAT website and seek comments about how we can make it even better. Finally, he will show you how to make a beautiful picture collage that is very inexpensive and suitable for hanging on the wall. So dig out those pictures you took on your last trip or during the Holiday season and quickly make a picture grouping that will always be cherished.

If there is any extra time we will have a Q&A session with The Gurus of A2CAT where the advice is always 'priceless'.

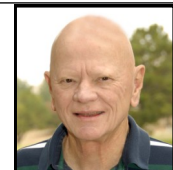
Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Thank you for supporting your Area 2 Computer and Technology Group.

Phil Goff and Derek Southern
Co-chairs



ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at selected restaurants.

We experience delightful dining while getting to better know our fellow SIRs and guests, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. It's time to relax and lift a glass.
"DJ'S BISTRO"

The ROMEO crowd has been to many restaurants, but never to one with a GERMAN menu. Why? Because no one knew of one in the East Bay, until Sir **Walter Schmidt** suggested DJ's.

Here you have the best of German and Western European cuisine. Their menu features a wide selection of schnitzels as well as pork dishes, sauerbraten, bratwurst and a Bavarian chicken dish.

Come hungry because the portions are BIG.

Location: 1825 C Sutter Street, Concord, Ca (parking lot adjacent)

Phone: 925-825-3277

Web Site: www.djsbistro.net/index.html (menu, driving directions and color)

Please let me know by Tuesday, February 15, if you will join us.

Your suggestions for favorite restaurants are welcomed.



Table Pool Bill Weinberg

*1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)*



We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30am at Masse's - 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5.00 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All SIRs in our area are welcome.



Fishing Paul Dubow



4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Hwy

The weather got the best of us in January. Some of the regulars such as **Joe Karg, Paul Dubow, Joe Peterson,** and **Karl Droese** did the impossible. They did not go fishing once this month. However, **Joe Miscione, Don Mittelstadt, Harry Sherinian,** and **Don Mittelstadt** braved the elements, making some early morning travels to Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton and were rewarded with quite a bit of good sized trout. On the other hand, the aforementioned stay at home quartet, joined by eight others, did journey up to Sacramento to attend the International Sports Exhibition in order to spend their hard earned cash on some really fine fishing gear.

We are looking forward to better weather in February and so there are plans to go delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon as well as trout fishing in Shadow Cliffs and other local lakes. Those of you who rarely fish or want to begin new careers as avid anglers, let us know, and we will be glad to take you along with us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 24, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30am, but come one half hour earlier and join us for breakfast. **Guy Brown** of the Sacramento SIR Jolly Hookers will talk to us about trolling for trout. For further information, call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER PARTY FOR SIRS 146 AND FRIENDS



Wednesday, April 13 2011
6pm to 10pm at Zio Fredo's Restaurant
The price is \$99.00 per couple and includes hors d'oeuvres and Dinner
Live music for listening and dancing
Your choice of beef, fish or pasta
Send your check, made out to Sir Dinner 146 to:



Vince Rettew
290 Dover Drive
Walnut Creek, CA. 94508
Phone: 925-943-7962

Tables of eight are encouraged
Your name and partner

Couple 1	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 2	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 3	_____	Meal	_____
Couple 4	_____	Meal	_____

Away Golf

Rich Hanford and Joe Fuchs

Rich Hanford and **Joe Fuchs** are now the co-activity chairmen for away golf. Below are the plans for 2011.

Away golf will be on the 1st Thursday of the month, beginning in May and ending in October (i.e. 6 dates).

1. Golfers will be able to optionally schedule their playing partners for carpooling purposes. Singles will be assigned to a foursome as they are on Tuesday's.
2. Players will pay at the course at check-in, like they do on Tuesdays.

So far, the following courses and dates have been secured:

- 5/05/11 Deer Ridge \$30
- 6/02/11 Lonetree \$36/\$21
- 7/07/11 Franklin Canyon \$33
- 8/04/11 Blue Rock East \$39
- 9/01/11 Delta View \$29 with bucket of balls
- 10/6/11 In Process

You may contact **Joe Fuchs** or **Rich Hanford** if you have any questions.

If you want to sign up for a particular date, you can do it now by sending an Email to Sir146away-golf@yahoo.com

Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

2nd and 4th Mondays at 9 am., May through October, at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads



Our Bocce Ball players continue with their winter hibernation.

See you next spring

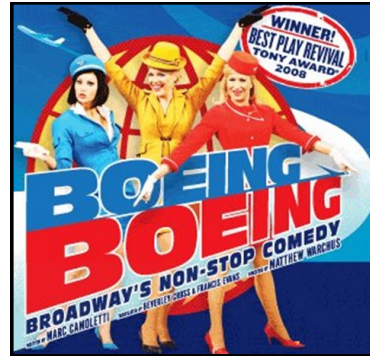
SIR Happenings

Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches.

Theater

Gary Schaub



Last Chance

for Tickets for

SIR February 17

Theatre Party

Here's a fun-filled high-flying evening in the theatre that you won't want to miss.

A limited number of specially-priced tickets have been reserved for SIR members and friends for Center Repertory Company's production of the Broadway play "Boeing-Boeing." The theatre party is planned for Thursday, February 17 at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek.

Deadline for ticket reservations is February 10.

"Boeing-Boeing" was a hit in London, and then received the Tony Award as "best revival" for its Broadway reprise in 2008. It is adapted from a film version starring **Tony Curtis** and **Jerry Lewis** in the mid-1960s.

This laugh-filled evening tells a story of an architect living in Paris who is dating three very attractive flight attendants – one is German, one is French, and one is American. All goes well until he gets his calendar dates confused, and can't keep the ladies' flight schedules straight! Oops! "Houston, we have a problem!"

For reservations send a check payable to SIR 146 for \$30.00 each to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservations is February 10.

Tickets will be distributed at the door at Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:30 p.m. on Performance night. The show starts at 8:00 p.m.

Convenient paid parking is available in the city garage adjacent to the Leshar Center.

MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

March, 27 – 30, 2011

You are invited to attend the Monterey Mashers, Golf Tournament, a SIR Branch 146 event open to all members.

March, 27, 28, 29 – Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

March 28 (Monday) – golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course (East Course). Traditional heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party in the evening at the inn. BOYB.

March 29 (Tuesday) – golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Rancho Canada Golf Club. No host bar before dinner.

March 30 (Wednesday) – Breakfast at the inn and departure for home, outlets, etc., etc.

Since we are limited by the number of rooms, number of tee times, and space for the Monday night party, we may have to invoke a first replied – first served policy. Do not delay!! Reply by January 14, 2011. A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

-----Cut Here-----

Name _____ Companion _____

Approximate cost per couple, subject to final pricing confirmations:

Couples package- Two Golfers:
Room, Banquet, and Golf for two both days. \$ 585

Couples package- One Golfer:
Room, Banquet for two and Golf for one both days \$492
Companion will play golf Monday only: add \$44 _____
Companion will play golf Tuesday only: add \$49 _____

Total enclosed _____

Banquet Choices.

New York Steak with garlic whipped potatoes and grilled veg _____

Petrале Sole Dore with baby shrimp, wild rice and grilled veg. _____

Vegetarian _____

Make checks payable to: SIR Branch 146 – Monterey Mashers.
Mail to: **Dennis Hallett**, 38 DeLaurenti Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
No later than January 14, 2011

BRANCH WEBSITE TERRY MARCHIONE—WEBMASTER

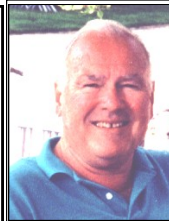
The first month of using the website to post the SIR CALL went very smoothly. Thanks to Sir **Jim Burk's** committee (**Bill Cammerer, Dick Woodman, Jeff Baily, Rich Ahlf, Steve Sprague and Terry Marchione**) for their hard work to make this a successful transition.

Hopefully as you visited the site to read the SIR CALL you had the opportunity to check out some of the other features. While the site is still (and always will be) a work in progress, there is a great deal of useful information there. This month I'd like to review the "Branch Information" link. When you click on that link you will be taken to a new page that allows you to access several different web pages. For example, if you are interested in how the Branch stands financially you simply click on the "Branch Financial Statements" link and you will be able to review the monthly treasurer's reports as well as the Form 28 which is submitted to the state. Outgoing treasurer Sir **Ron DeGolia** instituted this practice and incoming treasurer Sir **Dick Woodman** will be providing this information as we go forward.

If you want to know what the Branch Executive Committee is up to and you can't (or don't care to) make the BEC meetings, just click on the "BEC Minutes" link. You will find other links there as well and I will review those in the future.

If you have suggestions or comments regarding the website you can contact me or one of our committee members (Sir **Joe Fuchs**, Sir **Ron Louis**, Sir **Dick Richmond**, and Sir **Dave Pierce**).

terrymarchione@branch146webmaster@yahoo.com
925-708-1046



Walkers
John Lewis



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

Walks in February Planned by Mitch Mitchell

- Feb 4 Mitch's Trail: Clayton Road
Meet: At Clayton Library
Walk: East from Parking Lot to Marsh Creek
South along creek
Paved Mostly level
Coffee: Deli Delight Shadelands Office Park
- Feb 11 Pleasant Hill North: Morello & Taylor Pleasant Hill
Meet: At Shopping Center Parking Lot
Walk: North along Contra Costa Canal
Fairly Level Some Shade
Coffee: Panera Bakery in Willows Shopping Center
East on Taylor Blvd. Toward I-680
Left at stop light on Diamond Blvd left at stop light into shopping center.
Panera is straight ahead
- Feb 18 Danville Railroad Museum South Railroad & Prospect
Meet: At Railroad Museum Parking Lot
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level
Coffee: Pascal French Oven 155-B Railroad Avenue
- Feb 25 Heather Farms West Ygnacio Valley Road WC
Meet: At End of Heather Farms Parking Lot
Walk: West along Contra Costa Canal
Paved Level Some Shade
Coffee: Sweet Affair Ygnacio Plaza

Rain cancels walks but meet for coffee



Chess Group Joe Fuchs

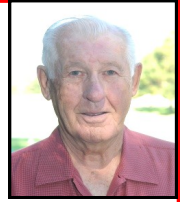
A chess group is now being formed. Players at all levels are welcome.

Please contact **Joe Fuchs** at JBF@astound.net if you are interested.

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer** for folding labeling and mailing and Editor **Rich Ahlf** for photography.



Tuesday Golf Ray Weisz



The Weekly Winners are:

December 21, 2010

The Tuesday Golf was rained out.

January 4, 2011

First Flight: 1st Dale Hertweck 71, 2nd Russ Biese 79, 3rd Ron Binder 79. Second Flight: 1st Rich Hanfor 76, 2nd Ray Weisz 76, 3rd Bob Royster 76. Third Flight: 1st Ken Richter 77, 2nd Bob Spellman 78, 3rd Mitch Mitchell 78. Closest to the pin Hole #2 Ken Kratz, Hole #12 Bob Mehus.

January 11, 2011

First Flight: 1st Jack Calloway 70, 2nd Chuck Campbell 75, 3rd Dick Kincaide 78. Second Flight: Bob Royster 71, 2nd Mike Stephenson 73, 3rd Ray Weisz 75. Third Flight: Doug Eisner 73, 2nd Ernie Dickson 74, 3rd Ben Gleason 77. Closest to the pin Hole #2 Ron Plachy, Hole #12 Jack Calloway.

January 18, 2011

First Flight: 1st Dale Hertweck 66, 2nd Ray Spears 72, 3rd Ron Binder 75. Second Flight: 1st Joe Suto 71, 2nd Bob Royster 73, 3rd Rich Hanford 75. Third Flight: 1st Ernie Dickson 74, 2nd Jim Passaglia 77, 3rd Bill Boyd 77. Closest to the pin Hole # Dick De Voe, Hole #12 Bill Weinberg.

January 25, 2011

First Flight: 1st Dale Hertweck 71, 2nd Dave Steinberg 71, 3rd Ron Binder 74. Second Flight: Dick Kincaide 65, 2nd Walt Busenius 71, 3rd Bob Royster 72. Third Flight: Ernie Dickson 70, 2nd Mich Mitchell 72, 3rd Al Zamolo 72.



SIRS Branch 146 Honors Twenty Year Members

“We thank you for all your many contributions to Branch 146's success”