



Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

Our 2015 membership efforts got off to a great start in January. Seven new guests visited us in January. We also had three new members join our branch: **Osmond McKenzie** sponsored by **Steve Olsen**; **Don Seaton**, sponsored by **Lo McCarley**; and **Steven Ybarra**, sponsored by **Steve Dawkins**. In addition, **Pete McNeill** returned to active status.

The 2016 Nominating Committee consisting of the three most recent past Big Sirs will be starting to recruit officer and director candidates for 2016. If you desire to become more active in our branch, whether as an officer, director or as an activity chairman/assistant make your interest known by contacting **Doug Eisner**, **Terry Marchione** or **Jim Burk**.

As many of you know the Boundary Oak clubhouse is undergoing renovations from January through April. The Branch 146 monthly luncheons will be held temporarily at the Concord Hilton Hotel during February, March and April. We shall return to the Boundary Oak for the May Ladies Day Luncheon.

Our next luncheon will be on Monday, February 16th (also known as President's Day). The deadline to email a luncheon cancellation is 12 noon on Wednesday, February 11th.

The Hilton's address is 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. The adjacent map shows two alternate routes to the Concord Hilton.

From the North follow the blue line and exit Highway 680 South at Concord Ave. Take Concord Ave East to Diamond Blvd., turn right onto Diamond Blvd., and make a left turn at the stop light in front of the Hilton Hotel.

From the South follow the red line and exit Highway 680 North at Willow Pass Rd. Take Willow Pass Rd. East to Diamond Blvd., turn left onto Diamond Blvd., and make a right turn at the first stop light in front of the Hilton Hotel.

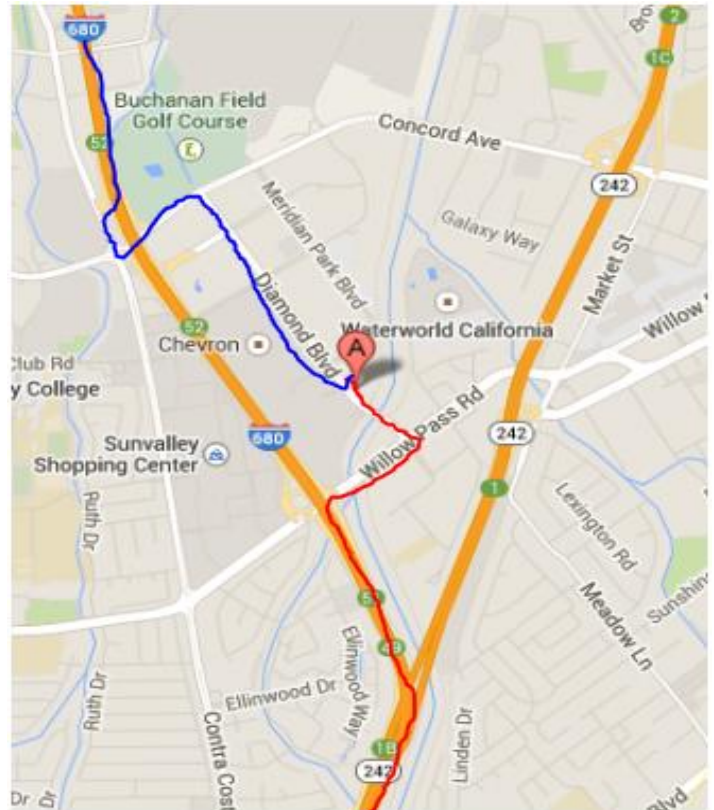
Finally, if you know someone who might be

Luncheon - Monday, February 16th
At the Concord Hilton Hotel

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Lou Bordisso

Gathering time - 11:00 a.m.
Starting time - 11:45 a.m.

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Wednesday, February 11th



interested in joining our branch, don't let the temporary move to the Concord Hilton deter you. Bring a guest to one of our luncheons.



Little Sir's Corner

Walt Busenius

We kick off our 3 months of luncheons at the Hilton in February with an inspirational speaker, Dr. Lou Bordisso, who will speak on "His Own Experiences Living with Younger-Onset Alzheimer's". Lou has suffered from Younger-Onset Alzheimer's for

almost 5 years.

After being diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Lou had to stop working as a mental health provider, stop driving, and make other changes in his life.

Lou Bordisso not only shares his own life experiences with the disease but raises awareness about the effects of all forms of Alzheimer's. Lou is a hard working advocate who speaks with community groups and organizations and at Alzheimer's conferences.

Lou has served as an Early-Stage National Advisor for the Alzheimer's Association, runs workshops for those also suffering from the disease and serves on a variety of commissions at the local, state, and federal levels.

In December 2013, Lou Bordisso received the Diablo Magazine "Threads of Hope Award" in recognition of his efforts through volunteerism and advocacy to raise awareness of Alzheimer's, especially the form affecting people younger than 65.

We thank everyone taking advantage of the opportunity to purchase SIR apparel at January's luncheon from "Embroidery and Moore". Your orders will be ready for pick-up at the February 16th luncheon.

There are still openings for speakers and I would appreciate information from you that would help me connect with speakers whom you feel would be interesting for our group.

I look forward to seeing you and hopefully a guest at our next meeting. Please try to bring a friend as a guest to a future meeting so they too can share the SIR experience.

Future Branch 146 Luncheon Dates at Concord Hilton

Monday, March 30th, 2015

Monday, April 20th, 2015

SIR Happenings Newsletter

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



Membership

Ben Gleason

At our BEC meeting on January, we approved three new members, two of whom transferred from other branches, reinstated one previously inactive member to active status, approved three members moving to inactive status and accepted the resignation of one member. We now have 271 active members (including our seven Honorary Life Members) and 23 inactive members.

Returned to Active Status: **Pete McNeill**

Moved to Inactive:

**Tony Adduci, Rollie Nordeen,
Baha Zarah**

Resignation:

Herwig Coolins

New Member Additions in January 2015



**Osmond (Ozzie)
McKenzie**



Don Seaton



Steve Ybarra



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Big Sir **Bill Holly** reaches for his bell to ring the luncheon to order

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Luncheon Attendance

Max Hinkle

Our February SIR luncheon will be held on Monday the 16th at the Concord Hilton Hotel located at 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA. The price of our

luncheon is \$25 with a no-host bar.

Remember, we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Wednesday, February 11th, the week prior to the luncheon. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced as that is the time the hotel requires us to give them a guaranteed number of meals to prepare. Members failing to meet this deadline or “no show” for the luncheon will be required to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur with the hotel for your meal. *[Note: Only if you do not have a computer, call (925) 979-5146 by the same deadline referenced above to let me know you will not be attending. Please leave your name, badge number, phone number, and a short message.]*

Payment: Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 a.m., so please allow enough time to check-in and make payment. A check for \$25 made payable to “SIR 146” is requested for your lunch on luncheon day.

Sir Bringing a Guest: Please e-mail also by noon on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number, and spell your guest’s name.

Special Requests: If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please make that 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 the luncheon chairman before the “no show” deadline. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it.

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

Menu not available as the SIR CALL went to publication. Check your email as we get closer to the luncheon date for an update.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Deputy DA for Contra Costa County, Dotie Katague was the featured lunch speaker whose topic was fighting High Tech Crimes



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

SIR logo jackets and shirts available for sale



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

On Thursday, February 19th, you are invited to the next meeting of the Acoustic Musicians Group. You will have an opportunity to learn 2 songs.

Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right to 2177 Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dale Haukland celebrates his name being drawn as the December birthday winner



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Lo McCarley follows Dale above as the winner of the January birthday drawing



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ray Weisz is congratulated for his many years of service on the Golf Committee



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

New member Ozzie McKenzie, John Pearl, and Jim Bogue look over SIR logo clothing available for members to purchase



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker group 6 met on Wednesday, January 14th at **Sid Landman's** home in Clayton. The seven players were **Sid Landman, Al Twyford, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson,**

John Gray, Brad Hatcher and **Frank Lucas**. The big winners were **Norm \$9,** and **Brad \$6.** **Al & John** were the big losers. Everyone else was a few dollars short or even. At least **Frank** did not become a three in a row big winner. **Sid** had plenty of wine and snacks to keep us warm on a very cold and foggy day. We played a number of different games including the popular 5 card stud roll your own bottom wild card. Conversation included **Brad's** experience in Australia where his wife had emergency appendix surgery the day before they planned on returning home. **Brad** was happy with the care and the bill was very reasonable. Now, hopefully his insurance will cover expenses including an extra 12 days in a hotel. **Brad's** wife recovered and is now doing well and glad to be home. Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday February 11th at my home in Walnut Creek.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On February 13th, 2015, we will be hiking on the newly constructed George Miller Trail with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and Bay. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the trail. This will be an easy three mile hike (longer if we decide to walk to Port Costa for lunch) I will check to see how much longer this would be.

Directions: Go north on Alhambra toward downtown about 2mi, left on Escobar St, right on Talbert St. to the gate of George Miller Trail and park alongside of road.

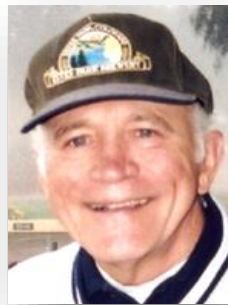
If anybody would like to carpool we could meet at the Best Buy parking lot. Let me know. Rain cancels hike. Spouses always welcome

Friday February 13th, 2015

Hike starts at 10:00 a.m.

Rich Ahlf

Cell (925) 550-4967



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session, on January 26th will be hosted by **Garth Cummings** at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz**. We did not meet in December due to the holidays but resumed play in January.

Now that we have paid our Christmas credit cards and income tax installment we might have a little left for poker.



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11:00 a.m. for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Our poker group 1 met January 7th, at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan**. There were no big winners or losers. The winners were our guest **Sal Costanza, Frank Mc Namee** and **Bill Cammerer**. Our guest **Sal** beat the host who had a royal flush, with five of a kind. I

was glad I was not going to Reno or the casinos. Our next meeting will hosted by **Don Del Bene** on February 11th.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Syd Whalen & Lew Thompson enjoy a glass of wine prior to the start of the January luncheon



Sunshine Report

John Pearl

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

**Baha Zarah
Dave Obera
Bill Baltezare
Bob Schroder**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair
mcpearl@astound.net (925) 934-6920



Book Nook

Hank James

The next Book Nook after January will be in May when we return to Boundary Oak, so stock up for the spring.



Who was that masked man who showed up to the activity tables? The Lone Ranger? (Wrong color mask). Phantom of the Opera? (Right color but only covered one side of his face). Gadzooks, it was **Jonathan Korfhage** our ever faithful greeter.

Story of a conductor

He was a mediocre conductor of a mediocre orchestra. He had been having problems with the basses; they were the least professional of his musicians. It was the last performance of the season, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, which required extra effort from the basses at the end.

Earlier that evening, he found the basses celebrating one of their birthdays by passing a bottle around. As he was about to cue the basses, he knocked over his music stand. The sheet music scattered. As he stood in front of his orchestra, his worst fear was realized; it was the bottom of the 9th, no score and the basses were loaded.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 a.m. at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.





Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

We finished 2014 in style with our annual Christmas party where 51 fishermen and their companions enjoyed good company, prime rib, and fine wine and spirits.

2015 began on a high note when **Carl Moyer** landed a 12 lb. trout fishing from the shore at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. On another outing at the Shadow Cliffs shore, **Carl** and **Gordon Linebaugh** came home with several more trout but then the lake slowed down. **Dick Thomson** caught a single trout on one foray and then, on another trip, **Dick** caught the only trout fishing with **Carl Moyer** and **Paul Dubow**. The lake is full of fish but we can't get to them because the dry weather has caused the lake to shrink, leaving the boat ramp high and dry. Pray for rain!

Tom Kostik continued his semi-weekly striper outings in the Delta, catching and releasing at least ten stripers on each occasion. **Rich Fiscina** and **Joe Karg** also fished the Delta, but for sturgeon and managed to catch and release one fish. Many of us also attended the Fishermen's EXPO in Sacramento where we found many bargains, good information, and plans for the future.

We will be very busy this winter with delta fishing for bass, catfish, bluegill, crappie, striped bass, and sturgeon; trout in the local lakes; kokanee, trout, and bass in Lake Berryessa; and steelhead fishing in the Smith River.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 26th, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. but come join us for breakfast at 7:30. For further information, contact branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a fun evening at a Mexican restaurant in Concord – the Guadalajara Grill this last Monday January 19th. Despite the fact that many of our regulars indicated they would be out of town, we wound up with 59 diners and we took up the entire Hacienda Room of the restaurant.

We started with margaritas, along with salsa, guacamole and chips which were on the tables. Next, Caesar salad preceded a choice of four entrees. We finished with a generous portion of flan. Many of our group took home doggie bags so we had plenty of food. We had a number of first time attendees, which is great, since we like to involve as many Sirs and their spouses as possible.

For our March event, **Colin Holland** and **Bill Klein** have taken responsibility for selection of the restaurant – giving yours truly a break – thanks, guys! At this point it looks like we will go to Jack's in Pleasant Hill on March 16th, but stay tuned for final details.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sue Oranje & Etta Dotson enjoying a margarita before the start of delicious Mexican dinner



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Etta & Don Dotson attending their first Couples Dining Out, event with **Helene Twyford**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Couples Dining Out guests engage in conversation before the meal



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.

NOTICE: We won't play the months of November through April, inclusive, because of weather delays and court condition. Watch this notice for details of the start of play in May. Contact me if you have questions: mvlyle@yahoo.com



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

We now have the following Photography Group schedule in place for January, February, March, and April with all meetings being held at the Oak Grove library from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please note though that the days are not always on a Friday nor are they the 3rd Friday due to internal library usage for book sales.

January 29 th	Last Thursday of month
February 27 th	Last Friday of the month
March 27 th	Last Friday of the month
April 24 th	Last Friday of the month

Photography Group members will receive an email in advance of the meetings denoting the subject that will be covered at the meeting. If you have a topic that you would like discussed, please send me an email and we will put it on the calendar. If you are interested in joining the group, email me at rhock@pacbell.net



Photo by Ethel Bitting

Can you hear me now?

- He who laughs last, thinks slowest
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 a.m. at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR's luncheon. During the 3 months that we meeting at the Concord Hilton we could play golf, but we don't like change so we will not be playing golf on those Thursdays.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Bill Cammerer's** home on January 12th. As usual, we meet at various members' homes the second Monday of each month. **Bill** started off with a variety of appetizers, and of course, some good wines. Our entrée was a delicious Crab and Shrimp Louie with very fresh sourdough French bread. We finished the meal with a Jello dessert and blackberries. We also enjoyed a lot of conversation, much of it on travel. It was decided that this year we would bottle white wine in September probably September 21st. The location is yet to be finalized.

who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The Couples Golf Group has begun planning for a busy 2015 season. The group consists of about 20 couples who enjoy playing with their spouses/significant others in fun format tournaments. We play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month

April thru October. Monthly tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We have room for new members so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group. (925) 933-3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

There are at least six members who are interested in forming a new **Poker Group**. While we already have six different poker groups going, obviously other Sirs still have money to burn! More power to

them! Please call or write to me if you also are interested in playing poker with some fellow Sirs. Best to contact me via e-mail at mtdana@aol.com or you can call at (925) 930-7076. I will help get the group started.

There is also interest from several Sirs in establishing a Branch 146 **Book Club**. Those joining would select a book to read, establish a time frame for a future get together - either at someone's home, or possibly reserve a room at a library or some convenient location and discuss the book and share each other's possible questions and thoughts about the book. **Chuck Campbell** has agreed to initially chair the group to get it going. Please call **Chuck** at (925) 947-2982 or email charmcam2@att.net if you are interested.

Pollsters have recently added another certainty in life to go along with death and taxes.
Wait for it

receiving a call from
California Renewable Energy



"I'm outta here!" and so on a cold and windy day on the last golf date of the year, **Ken Kratz** calls it a day after 7 holes.



Dick Kincaide and **Ken Kratz** quit after # 7, **Steve Olsen** in the background

See Page 14 for more golf news and pictures of this cold day

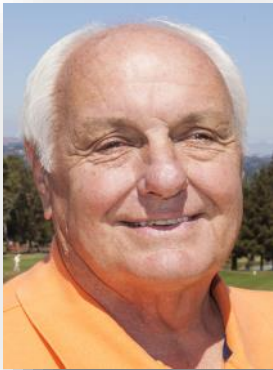


Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played four tables of bridge on January 5th at the home of **Bob Yolland**. First place went to **Max Hinkle** with 5490 points, second to **Bob Burley** with 5160 and third to **Jim Jackson** with 4530. Our next game will be at the home of **Bill Reese** on February 2nd.



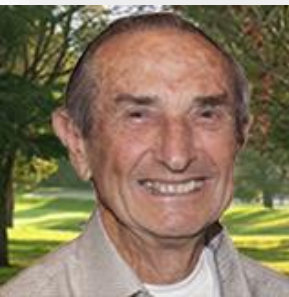
Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

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

The regular players are Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry

Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 p.m. and ends around 8:00 p.m. with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

Ron Binder hosted our January 7th poker 2 session. **Ron** provided some fine goodies for us to enjoy. The big winners were **Jim Stedman** and **Doug Cook**. The rest of us contributed small amounts to

their big winnings.

Our next meeting will be hosted by **Doug Cook** on January 26th.

One advantage of my new atheist girlfriend is that she only worships me

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

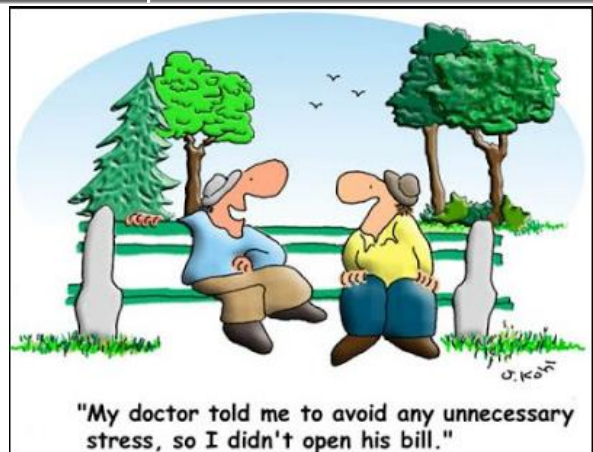
Every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at various locales.

Call John or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.



February walks planned by **Lo McCarley**

February 6th	LAZY DOG RESTAURANT SOUTH
MEET	Lazy Dog Willows Center
WALK	South on Iron Horse Trail
COFFEE	Panera Bread Willows Center
February 13th	LAFAYETTE MORAGA TRAIL SOUTH
MEET	Moraga Safeway parking
WALK	South on School St, West on Country Club Rd, South on trail
COFFEE	Terzetto
February 20th	SHADELANDS CANAL WEST
MEET	Deli Delight, South Wiget Ln
WALK	North from Deli, West canal
COFFEE	Deli Delight
February 27th	CARQUINEZ BRIDGE, CROCKET
MEET	At 10:00 at Sun Valley Bank of America for car pooling
WALK	Across Carquinez Bridge
COFFEE	Dead Fish Restaurant



"My doctor told me to avoid any unnecessary stress, so I didn't open his bill."



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Day Trips

Feb 13, 2015: Sabastiani

Wine Tour The day will begin with a tour of the historic winery and learning about the transition of

Sabastiani's wines. The tour would not be complete without tasting a "flight" of wines before your hosted picnic style lunch. Next is a stop at B. R. Cohn to enjoy a tasting of olive oils and vinegars. You will leave with a complimentary bottle of olive oil. Round trip by motor coach from Walnut Creek. Price \$93 per person. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

March 27, 2015: Day at the Races The horses are running at Golden Gate Field and the race track has dedicated March 27th to the Sons in Retirement. The cost of \$33 includes admission, reserve parking, daily program, great buffet lunch, tax and tips. Put your group together and join your fellow Sirs for a fun day at the races. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

June 7, 2015: The Book of Mormon This musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone is the winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. The New York Times calls it the best musical of this century. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in rows 13 or 14 center orchestra. Price \$144. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Longer Trips

March 10-14, 2015: Spring Training Phoenix This 5 days/4nights trip has something for everyone. Your tour begins with your arrival at the Phoenix airport. The cost includes: Round-trip airport transfer in Phoenix, all transportation and events scheduled while in Phoenix, three Spring Training Games in the best seats available, 4 nights at the Embassy Suites, 3 hosted meals per day during your stay, morning activities, escort and guide services. Cost \$1,795 double occupancy, no air. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

July 22-28, 2015: Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony This trip will include baseball games in New

York and Boston. The highlight will be the Baseball Hall of Fame and induction ceremonies at Cooperstown. Travelers will enjoy home pick-up, airport transfers, professional tour host, round trip airfare, 6 nights accommodations, all taxes and gratuities. Cost \$2,975. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence A 22 day river cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which includes airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise A 12 day cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$ 6,199 and includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br. 146) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.





Bob Yolland & Bill Schultz discussing who has the better football team, Oregon or Oregon State



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 4 tables at **Jim Stedman's** home on January 19th. What a strange, topsy-turvy game this was! At the lunch break, **Jim Brown** bolted into the lead with 14.5 pts followed closely by **Carl Johnson** at 14.0 pts for second place, and a tie for third place between **Max Hinkle** and **Rich Ahlf** at 13.5 pts. Unfortunately for these 4 players, none was able to maintain his position in the second half and 4 new players came from the rear of the pack to steal the honors. First place was captured by **Jim Jackson** at 46.5 pts. Amazingly, **Jim** picked up 77% of his total score in the afternoon session! Way back in second place was **Dave Pierce's** at 41.5 pts Third place was taken by **Tony Greco** at 40.5 pts and **Bill Rees's** 40.0 pts rounded out the money winners. It should be noted that **Bill's** 4th place finish was propelled by his strong afternoon score as he picked up 75% of his total score after lunch! Hmm, makes one wonder what **Jim** and **Bill** had for lunch?

Our next game will be held on Thursday, February 12th at **Jim Jackson's** house. This will be a 3-table game. Please note the change of date due to the branch luncheon being held on our regular 3rd Monday.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Bob and **Janet Yolland** hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on January 21st. The **Yollands** were a last minute substitute for **Susi Cherry** and **George Zunich** due to **Susi** being sick. **Rich Ahlf** became a partner for **George**. The group thanked the **Yollands** for hosting and thanked **Rich Ahlf** for substituting. As for the bridge results, **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** took first place with 38 points. Second and third place was a tie of **George Zunich & Rich Ahlf** along with **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** at 33.5 points. Fourth place was also a tie of **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** and **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 33 points.

Jim Brown and **Adrienne Morrison** will host the next bridge on February 18th.

should never give up hope because in the words of baseball great Yogi Berra - "It ain't over 'til it's over".

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce



We were so busy in December that we held our Christmas match at **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe's** in January. The hosts very graciously left all their wonderful Christmas decorations

in place for us to enjoy. Santa left coal in some stockings, and good cards in others. We welcomed back **Pam** and **George Rammell**, who placed third (3280 points). **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** took second (3560), and **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** first (4100). Was Santa mistaken about whose naughty and nice? Find out in February.

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams



It was a red letter day in January when this three-table bridge group (with all members present) played at **Ken** and **Elaine Richter's** home. In the closest match since the group was formed only 3 pts separated first and last place with tied second place teams 1/2 pt behind the winning team. **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** won 1st place with 21.5 pts barely edging out **Dasha** and **Lynn Freeman** as well as **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** who tied for 2nd place with 21 pts.

Interestingly, **Terry** and **Sharon** had been in last place playing boards 1-10. Duplicate bridge players



Theatre
Gary Schaub

Moon Over Buffalo is SIR 146 Theatre Party for June 5th, 2015

If the winter blues have you down, and you can hold out until June, you'll want to join SIR 146 members and guests to attend *Moon Over Buffalo*. The popular comedy by playwright Ken Ludwig is scheduled for Friday, June 5th at 8:00 p.m. by the Town Hall Theater Company of Lafayette.

Moon Over Buffalo is a slam-bang farce by the author of *Lend Me A Tenor*. It focuses on George and Charlotte Hay, two fading stars of the 1950s. Just when they are about to give up hope about "making it big," they receive word that filmmaker Frank Capra is coming to see their current play. Maybe he'll cast them in his next movie! Maybe not!

Like all good backstage comedies, in *Moon Over Buffalo* everything that might go wrong does in this hysterically funny comedy.

A limited number of seats for the June 5th performance have been reserved for SIR members and guests at \$15 per ticket. Early reservations are encouraged for this theater party because *Moon* is bound to be a sell-out. Deadline for reservations is April 1st ("no foolin'"), or when our allotment of seats has been exhausted.

To reserve, send a check, payable to SIR 146, to SIR **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek, 94595. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of the Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street at Moraga Rd., in Lafayette on June 5th beginning at 7:15 p.m. Street parking is usually available nearby.



Mexican Train
Dominoes Group 1

Jerry Kaplan

The Mexican Train (dominoes) Group 1 got back on track with monthly play which began on January 9th. Some of the lead players from last year took their lumps facing stiff competition from

some of the more serious players at the tables. **Jim Stedman** threatened to run away from competition at his table winning 4 out of the first 5 while **Sharon Marchione**, also at the same table had trouble getting her train out of the station and was saddled with the dreaded double blank on at least one occasion. Her husband, **Terry** at another table was not helping his score getting stuck with his own double blank and 50 points.

The night ended with **Frank Ascagnò** in first place, **Jim Stedman** in second, and **Sue Borgman** in third.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Table 1: **Jim Stedman, Sharon Marchione, and Sue Borgman** (not shown **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Jerry Kaplan**)

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Table 2: **Frank Ascagnò, Terry Marchione, Sue Oranje, and Susan Kaplan** (not shown **Nancy Kalteis**)

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

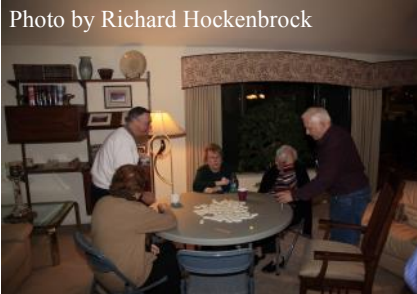


Table 3: **Marie Ascagnò, Corrie Oranje, Sherry Hockenbrock, Barbara Stedman, and Sig Kalteis**



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Tuesday December 30th started out cold and stayed cold. We had forty-three SIR golfers signed up to play, thirty-seven actually came to play but only sixteen played beyond #9. All those who played braved 40° temperatures and the worst of the 40 mph wind gusts.

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date.

For those with golfing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October. Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Bill Schultz, Steve Olsen and George Rammell on # 11 tee



Bill Schultz, Jim Stedman and Collin Holland show the ropes to new Sir, Doug Timmel



SIR golf starter **Dennis Hallett** sends out the first foursome on the 2015 golf year. **Dan O'Sullivan, Walt Busenius, Paul Masta, Russ Bliese,** and Boundary Oak starter Roger



Bill Schultz and Ken Donnelly trying to get warm in club house after toughing it out on the golf course

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



The Mac Users is back to the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

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

Do you have Generio on your computer? Come and find out. **Verner Laursen & Max Burchett**

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

Our guest speaker in February will Jason Vitucci from J. Vitucci Financial Services, Inc. Jason's topic will be Understanding the Changing Tax Landscape and Your Financial Plan, and will address many of today's tax planning questions, including:

- The Current State of Tax Planning
- The Case for Higher Future Tax Rates
- The New Tax Landscape after the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012
- Pitfalls & Opportunities in the Current Tax Code
- The Taxability of Your Net Worth and Retirement Planning.

Jason is a Certified Financial Planner professional and Enrolled Agent, specializing in wealth management, tax planning and investment strategies. He has a team of

tax and financial professionals working at his practice. He has written and produced content for various media and has been a guest on numerous radio programs since becoming securities licensed in 1997. After graduating from St. Mary's College, Jason earned a post-graduate diploma in financial planning from UC Berkeley and a master's degree from University of London.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 a.m., so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR. Co-Chairmen: **Gary Moore** (Br-174) 925-254-8742, **David Sutton** (Br-8) 925-686-0158, and **Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Computers and Technology



PC's



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all SIR and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 19th at 9:30 am. The intriguing title of the presentation is "Lies, Lies and Damn Lies and DNA Solutions"

The Computer & Technology Group (CAT) has in the past had presentations on techniques for developing genealogical family history through library research. In February, we will take these research efforts to another level through ancestry DNA testing. With DNA testing, you can get personalized details about your ethnic origins. Discover more about your story with advanced DNA science from the experts in family history.

The presenter, Jeffrey Vaillant, is a professional genealogist, past president of the California Genealogical Society and a member of numerous Genealogical Societies throughout California and other North American States.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 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. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies; other months are free.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sirs gather around the tables for thoughtful conversation prior to January's Luncheon