

SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

February 2019

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon— Thursday, February 14th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:

Alayne Balke

Falls Prevention Program Manager
for Meals on Wheels

“Take Steps to Prevent Falls Before”

Gathering time: 11:00 am

Seating time: 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, February 8th



Big Sir's Notes

Jonathan Korfhage

We welcomed four new members in January - **Dale Dalgaard**, **Jack Menzhuber**, **Earl P. Nevares**, and **Ed Smith**. We also welcomed three guests. Our goal for this year is 50 guests and 30 new members.

Please look around in your circle of friends and family to locate those retired men who might participate in our luncheons and enjoyable activities. By the way, don't forget, our guest's first lunch is FREE!

Our SIR 146 Board has formulated additional goals for this year including those in the areas of a breakfast meeting for our activity chairs, holding two Ladies Day Luncheons, as well as, recruitment, awards, and recognition programs.

It looks like our Dinner/Dance activity this month at Boundary Oak is shaping up to be a big success with a big turnout, great food, and an exciting dance band. Speaking about success, our 12-page fishing program has a terrific schedule of dates this year and you don't have to be an expert. What a great opportunity for a new or continuing adventure!

Congratulations to our Branch 146 member **Sir Dick DeVoe** who has been elected this year's State Vice President! Best wishes for a successful year **Dick**! He joins other state officers from our branch - Region 5 Director **Bill Holly**, Area 16 Governor **Walt Busenius**, and State Treasurer **Roy Hodgkinson**.

Part of being a member of an organization is that we all have certain responsibilities – pay our dues in a timely manner, submit a bio for our roster (even if it must be brief), and show up regularly for our luncheons! We look forward to our guest speaker this month.

“Our greatest glory is not in never falling,
but in rising every time we fall.” *Confucius*

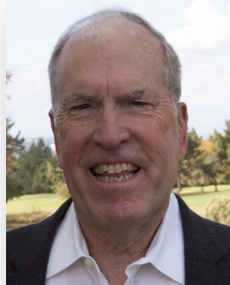
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Our January speaker was Joe Mc Donough — Private Investors Manager at Blackrock. His discussion was on “Blackrock's 2019 Investment Outlook”.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Brad Hatcher

2019 is off and running. I urge you to bring a guest to the upcoming meeting. Our Sir branch is always looking for new men to enjoy the comradery of our meetings and activities.

Our speaker for the February luncheon is Alayne Balke. Her topic is "Falls" — Not Yosemite, Niagara or Yellowstone falls. She is the Falls Prevention Program Manager for Meals on Wheels and her talk title is "Take Steps to Prevent Falls Before".

Recent rules changes by the State Sir organization has given more flexibility to our branch to set luncheon attendance policy. At the January BEC meeting, the recommendations of the subcommittee on attendance were approved.

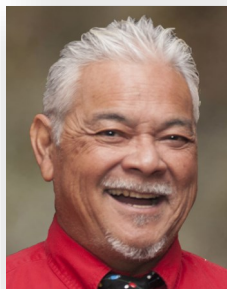
A quick summary of the recommendations: We continue to maintain the policy of having members attend at least 5 out of the 10 normal luncheon meetings to maintain their active member status. All members will pay the annual dues. There is a new "Exempt" status for those members who cannot meet the above meeting requirement and each person will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the BEC.

The BEC is working on setting policy about what action will be taken for members who have failed to attend 5 out of 10 luncheon meetings. Unfortunately, there are members who have not met that policy. Recommendations will be made at the February meeting.

While on the topic of luncheons, please E-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com if you cannot attend the luncheon. We make a commitment to the kitchen for a given number of lunches to be served. If you do not arrive, we are still required to pay for your lunch. You will receive an E-mail well before the luncheon to remind you of your need to let us know if you are not coming.

For those of you who are Activities Chairmen, please don't forget the breakfast on March 1.

See you on February 14!



Membership

Ron Lew

Another great lunch added 4 new members: **Dale Dalgaard, Ed Smith, Earl Nevares** and **Jack Menzhuber**. We had 2 birthday drawings and will have our sponsor's bi-annual drawing for a free lunch during our February luncheon. Of course, right after our lunch and guest speaker, we had our new members attend a membership training. Anyone is welcome for a review or to catch up on anything new for SIR 146. We will be reviewing our policy regarding missed lunches. If you have an opinion, please contact me, Dave Pierce, or Pierre Mebane. I encourage you to bring your friends and acquaintances to our lunches as our annual goal is to add 30 new members in 2019. With the additions in January, we are off to a good start.

January New Member Photo Additions



Dale Dalgaard



Ed Smith



Earl Nevares



**Jack
Menzhuber**

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.



Sunshine

Max Hinkle

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

- ◆ Jim Brown
- ◆ Jack Calloway
- ◆ Angelo Costanza
- ◆ Dale Haukland
- ◆ Bill Klein
- ◆ Howard Nemir
- ◆ Jim Saavedra
- ◆ Joe Suta

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

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

Max Hinkle

phone: (925) 408-6004

Email: hinkle3@sbcglobal.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Helgeson receives a Senior Sir Award on attaining 90 years of age from Big Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**

SIR CALL Newsletter Group

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Richard Hockenbrock

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Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose

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and Jim Barry

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

February 14, 2019

Salad

Cabbage Salad

Napa Cabbage, Garbanzo & Green Beans, Carrots, Bell Peppers Toasted Almonds, Spicy Cumin Cilantro Dressing

Entrees

Jerk Chicken

Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Orange Glaze Pineapple Salsa

Or

Ginger Glazed Baked Salmon

White Cheddar Macaroni, Sautéed Vegetables, Lemon Butter Sauce

Vegetarian

Roasted Vegetable

Napoleon Layered & Served With Melted Plum Tomatoes, Fresh Basil Marinara Sauce

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake

Cream Cheese Frosting, Chantilly Cream, Raspberry Sauce



Cooking II Bob Yolland

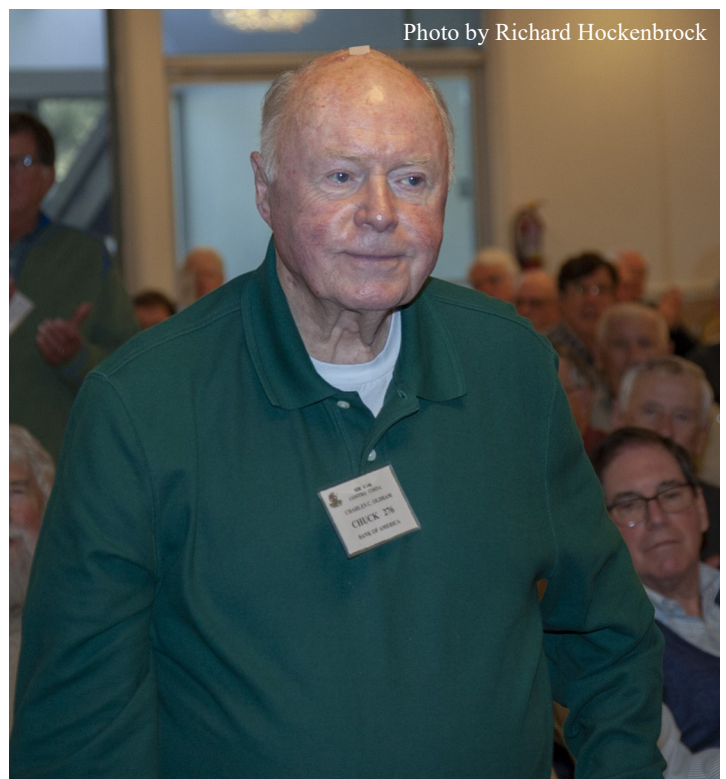
To start 2019 off well, Cooking II had a wonderful lunch hosted by **Dennis Hallett**. As appetizers he served a variety of excellent cheeses; Brie, Gouda, Cheddar and Salmon Cream Cheese on Italian tomato toast. He also included black olives, green stuffed olives, carrots, celery and a variety of biscuits. For lunch **Dennis** served two tasty individual Ham wrapped Asparagus Spear rolls with a super Shrimp wine sauce and small potatoes. This was accompanied by an excellent beet salad with walnuts, small tomatoes and lettuce, then dressed with a special sherry, walnut, garlic and mustard dressing. For dessert he served a fabulous homemade caramel and apple cheese cake with vanilla ice cream. As always, we had a variety of excellent wines and finished off with coffee plus 16, 17, and 18 year old malt whiskeys. Thank you **Dennis** very much.

Our next function will be a Valentines Dinner at Jack's in Pleasant Hill on February 21st.

Ken Richter will host our March event on March 11th.



Chuck Eichten receives a service award for being a member of SIR for 20 years from Big Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**



Chuck Oldham was the December Birthday drawing winner



Cooking Group II at the January lunch (L to R): **Bob Yolland, Ken Richter, Steve Ybarra, Bill Cammerer, Corrie Oranje, and Dennis Hallett**

I went in to a pet shop. I said, "Can I buy a goldfish?" The guy said, "Do you want an aquarium?" I said, "I don't care what star sign it is."

What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac, and an agnostic?
Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog.



SongSirs
Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs began the new year with some good practices in January. We have been asked to sing for the VIP group at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church on February 6th. We feel good about our repertoire of “Romantic Songs”, a fun series of songs that is always well received. We will be performing in our winter uniforms with white shirts, red bow ties, and blue vests. This will be quite appropriate for our performance close to Valentine’s Day.

Next month we have been asked to sing for the Senior Center in Walnut Creek again for their St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Friday, March 15th, just a few days before the actual St. Patrick’s Day. We have a series of Irish songs that we will have a chance to practice at our regular practice days on February 20th and March 6th. If you like these very melodious tunes and want to practice with us, join us on these dates at 1:30 pm at the WC Presbyterian Church.

(925) 932-3961 — bgborgman@aol.com



Travel
Milt Smith

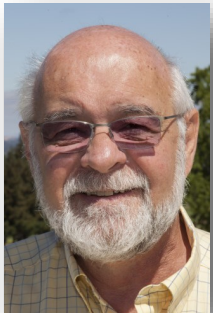
Two great Crystal Cruises: 1) Greece and Italy — Athens to Rome May 2nd - May 13th, 2019 with seven ports of call. 2) 12 Day Land and Sea Alaska Adventure August 23rd — September 3rd. Fly to Anchorage, tour Denali, and cruise to

Vancouver, with eight ports of call then fly home - Great prices! Look for email blasts from SIR 146 with more information. We have several SIR members signed up on each of these trips but I am working to get a few more. These trips are both excellent value on a great cruise line. For more information call Alamo World Travel at (925) 837-8742 or contact me at (925) 285-2897.

Machu Picchu & the Galapagos: June 1st - June 18th, 2019 **Sold Out!**

SIR Day at the Races Golden Gate Fields, March 29th. \$41 pp. Includes valet parking, buffet lunch, admission and a racing form... Send your check payable to SIR 146 to Milt Smith, 913 Piute Ct., Walnut Creek CA. 94598.

Milt Smith
(925) 285-2897 cell



Luncheon Chairman
Rob Melrose

February 2019 already! What happened to 2018? Our next luncheon will be one you don’t want to miss as it will remind you to buy a gift for your Valentine!

February 14th Luncheon

- Cost: \$26
- Preferred payment method is check
- Opt Out Deadline: February 8th before Noon
- Email: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com
- If you need to call: (925) 979-5146

Special Requests: If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can’t consume a meal, please send email to NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com before the Opt Out Deadline.

Sponsors: If you are bringing a guest: please notify Lunch Chair with guest’s name at the same email address: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com

Annual Payers: Since we have lowered the price, we really need you to let us know if you are not coming before the deadline so we can keep the low price.

2019 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Jonathan Korfhage
Little Sir	Brad Hatcher
Secretary	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Treasurer	Ben Gleason
Assistant Treasurer	George Mon
Director(1 st Term)	Max Hinkle
Director(1 st Term)	Frank Pandolfi
Director(1 st Term)	Ron Lew
Director(1 st Term)	Milt Smith
Director(2 nd Term)	Pierre Mebane
Director(2 nd Term)	Tony Greco

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Pierre Mebane
Publicity	Frank Pandolfi

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



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

If you missed January's meeting, I have links to the YouTube videos that I showed. I put forth some conclusions on which camera is best! It actually depends on what type of pictures you want to take. Below are some examples:

- Long Distance Shots — camera with interchangeable 200mm to 400mm lens
- Close up Shots — single lens camera that will zoom down to 24mm or less or camera with an interchangeable macro lens
- Fast moving Shots like a sporting event — camera that has 1/1000 to 1/2000 shutter speed and good image stabilization
- Taking shots at night or in a dimly lit area — a camera that has high ISO capability preferably better than 50,000 with low noise
- Family and Travel shots — a modern smartphone that is easy to carry on trips, stores the pictures, and is simple to learn and operate.

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Next Meeting

Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subject: TBD—

When: 9 am—Friday, March 8th, 2019



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Biasotti, Randy Becker, Frank Ascatisigno, and Dave Devincenzi pose for a picture at the January luncheon



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen / Jeff Morrow

*We meet on
the third Wednesday
of the month at*



*Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd,
Walnut Creek, CA. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and
card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.*

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

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

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

Our next game is scheduled for
Wednesday February 20th.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mark Curtis, Dave Pierce, and new member Ed Smith
enjoying some time together at the January luncheon

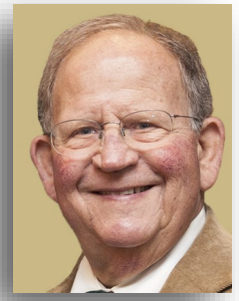
A man is walking in the desert with his horse and his dog
when the dog says, "I can't do this. I need water." The
man says, "I didn't know dogs could talk."
The horse says, "Me neither!"



Henry Thatcher



AT&T Stock Photo



Jim Pope

SIR 146 Explore & Eat

Oracle Ballpark Tour

March 21st at 10:00 am — San Francisco, California

- **Private Behind the Scenes Tour**

AT&T Park is widely regarded as one of the premier ballparks in all of baseball. On your Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the home of the three-time World Series champion, San Francisco Giants, you will step foot on the Field, you'll go places only the players and coaches go: the Giants' dugout, the Visitors' clubhouse, and experience a brand-new museum space detailing the rich and storied history of the franchise, called the **Giant Vault**.

It's the ballpark where home runs can be "splash hits." The breathtaking Bay view's rival the action on the field. It is where one of baseball's most hallowed franchises plays inside an architectural landmark. (1 hour & 30 minutes.) Lunch will be at **Public House** at the Ballpark following the tour.

There are only 30 spaces available on this Private Tour so sign up early. Please make your check for \$18 per person payable to Jim Pope and send your checks to: 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Please send your name and name of your guest with your check. No cancellation refunds after March 15th. Rather than drive, take BART and Muni Light Rail to the Ballpark. **Please get your checks in ASAP.**

We are looking forward to your participation!

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



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

Before anything else, I want to welcome and thank **SIR Bob Lucido** who has agreed to be my assistant. Bob has been in charge of the Greeters program for a while and has already proven to be a great addition to the management of the

activities program.

NOTICE - APPRECIATION BREAKFAST MEETING FOR ALL ACTIVITY CHAIRS (and their Assistants) – MARCH 1, 2019

At the January Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting, the Committee authorized and appropriated funds to also invite Assistant Chairs to the second annual Breakfast meeting to be held on **Friday morning, March 1st beginning at 8:00 am**. The purpose is to recognize the efforts that Activity Chairs and their assistants or co-chairs make throughout the year to keep Branch 146 activities fun and inviting for all members, both new and old. The breakfast will be served at 8:00 am with the meeting adjourning by 11:15. We have responses from over 95% of the activity chairs; a few will be out of town and can't make it, but the great majority of the 47 different activity groups will be well represented. **SIR Bill Holly** and **Walt Busenius** will also attend to provide everyone with an update of State SIR happenings.

A draft list of topics to be covered will be sent to all chairs in the next few weeks. Feel free to suggest additional topics that could make the chairs' jobs easier. The breakfast is primarily an opportunity for the Branch 146 leadership to show their appreciation for you stepping forward to manage an activity.

CALLING NEW MEMBERS (and those that have been around for a while!)

Everyone of our 300 members in Branch 146 is invited to participate in one of the 47 different activity groups that have evolved over time. Golf, of course, is the most popular activity, but Mexican Train Dominoes, poker, bridge, and those that involve food seem attractive to many members. If you are a **new member**, or haven't had the time to look into taking part in one or more of the activities, please consider doing so in 2019! And – **don't forget** – if you have some hobby or interest that you want to share with others, and you don't see that it is available, **feel free to contact me or Bob** and we'll see what we can

do to make the Branch 146 membership aware of the idea. It only takes a few fellows to get an activity going. Some of the recent ideas that have been suggested include: **backgammon, bunko, and bargain bites** (eating out for less than \$25 per person). If you are interested in these ideas for a possible new activity, or want to suggest a new one, give us a call or send an email.

Jerry Kaplan

925 330-8832

mtdana@aol.com



Pickleball

Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach.

There is also instruction available on Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. The cost of instruction is \$10 per player, plus the \$5 drop-in fee referenced above. A player would be allowed to play until 4:00 pm, space permitting, before or following the 1 1/2 hours of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (space for 8 players maximum is available).

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

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

I have an EpiPen.

My friend gave it to me when he was dying, it seemed very important to him that I have it.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As advertised in the last Sir Call, on January 21st we wound up having a unique and fun dining out experience at **Brasas do Brazil** – a Brazilian Steakhouse. It was a popular venue, and we had 65 diners, all of whom had a great time. We started with our social hour and many of us took advantage of trying the traditional Brazilian cocktail caipirinha – a delicious blend of lime juice, and cachaca – Brazilian sugar cane brandy.

When we started dinner, we went to the abundant salad bar, which had a great variety of salads, cheeses, cold cuts and vegetables. We went in shifts to accommodate our large group. After that we were treated with many varieties of mouthwatering meats presented on skewers by the gauchos who roamed among the tables. We had six kinds of beef, three of pork, a leg of lamb, and several chicken varieties. There is no question that nobody went hungry. After we finished the meal, dessert was a delicious homemade chocolate fudge truffle, along with coffee.

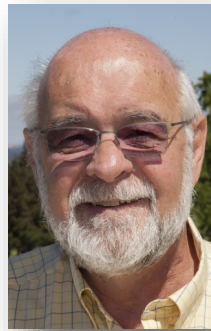
It was generally agreed that it was one of our best dining experiences, and all for a very reasonable cost of \$50, all inclusive – a great deal. (See pictures on next page)

Our next Couples Dining Out event will be in March, likely on Monday March 18th. We have already selected the restaurant and will be going to Aung Maylika, with Burmese cuisine. The Bay Area has one of the largest Burmese populations in the US and we benefit from their unique cuisine. This diverse cuisine is influenced by the myriad ethnic minorities in Myanmar, also influenced by Chinese, Indian and Thai cuisines.

The restaurant is located at 1050 Contra Costa Blvd, on the corner of Willow Pass Road and Taylor. One of the signature starting dishes is the Tea Leaf Salad; and we are still selecting the other dishes. Your hosts have already eaten here twice in negotiating the menu and price.

The restaurant will accommodate about 50 of us but wants a minimum amount for buying out the entire place – not quite as attractive for us. We may do two nights – and will let you know in the next few weeks. Mark your calendar for the March date!

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

Our next Wine Tasting event is scheduled for February 27th and will be hosted by **Brian and Mary McCarthy**

As we get closer, I will send an email with the wine selection and directions to the **McCarthy** home.

If you are not on our distribution list and would like to be included, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at rwmelrose@gmail.com.



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

The SIR Music Group will meet Monday, February 11st & 25th, 8:30 pm at Vinnie's Bar, 2045 Mt. Diablo St. Concord. Vinnie's Bar has an enthusiastic audience, a band, excellent food & drinks. It also includes an Open Mike. Each performer may sing 3 songs. All musicians with acoustic or electric instruments are welcome. Listeners who enjoy music are welcome too and there is No Cover Charge. Please write your name on the list to play. We plan to take a new photo for the Newsletter so please bring your guitars and wear a musical shirt!

A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer:
"Excuse me, how much do you charge?"
The lawyer responds: "I charge \$1,000 to answer three questions."
"Bloody hell – That's a bit expensive isn't it?"
"Yes. What's your third question?"

January 21st Couples Dining Out

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Wendy Lucido, Jane & Bob West, and Bob Lucido

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sandy Wagner & Rich Hanford with May & Ray Kan

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sue Oranje, Sue Sheldon, and Etta Dotson

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Paul & Joan Dubow, Diana Rose, Bobbie Schmidt (hidden), and Dana & Steve Ybarra

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Don Seaton, Bill Holly, Tony Greco, Joan Pierce, Lynette Holly, June Seaton, and Kirsten Ellinger

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Steve & Karen Dinning with Ann & Pete Gates

What's red and moves up and down?
A tomato in an elevator

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

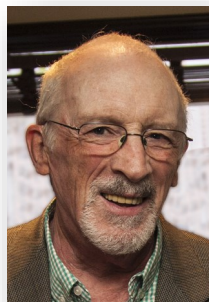
The Group One players met on January 11th for our first Game Night of 2019 at the welcoming Martinez home of **SIR Sig Kalteis** and his wife, **Nancy**. The hosts provided several delicious treats that were

enjoyed by all.

Two new guests who hadn't played much MTD before helped make up a full complement of 18 players, **SIR Bob Lucido** and his wife **Wendy**. Everyone at the three tables tried their luck at choosing the winning tiles. Some did better than others!

Susan Kaplan, wife of **SIR Jerry** easily beat everyone and ran off with the top prize of \$21.00 with a very low average of only 10.6 points left after playing 9 games. **Carmen Schiavone**, wife of **SIR Rob Melrose**, took second place with a score of 16.0, but good enough to win a prize of \$11. Third place was grabbed by **SIR Frank Ascattigno** with a score of 16.6, winning \$4.

MTD Group One now has 12 substitute players that we welcome whenever space is available. Between the six different MTD groups, there may be enough substitutes to start a new group. If other SIR members are interested in playing on a more regular basis, contact **Jerry** or Assistant Activity Coordinator **Bob Lucido** to get help in establishing a new group. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIRS as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

New Years Eve was a delightful time spent playing Mexican Train Dominoes at the home of **Larry** and **Linda Brown**.

Three themes prevailed through the evening; 1st the games and scores – Your humble correspondent took 1st place going out 3 of 11 games and scoring 14.2. **Jim Barry** placed 2nd starting by going out the first game and two other times and racking up 20.5 points overall. **Judy Richmond** was in familiar territory of winning 3rd prize by going out only twice in 11 games but keeping her score down to 21.9. Second theme of the evening was our celebration of welcoming the year 2019 delayed a bit by a visit by the Contra Costa Fire Department. Three firemen came in, ladder and all, to put out a smoke alarm that was mischievously celebrating its own New Year Eve by blasting its alarm. Once that was over the third theme was **Walt Busenius's** Birthday. We all wished **Walt** a happy birthday and had a slice of birthday cake and finally a sip of Champagne and wished each other a Happy New Year at midnight (NY time)!

The winners of the last 6 months of 2018 were determined when all scores were entered into the computer... 1st place prize of \$48 went to **Linda Siljestrom**, the \$24 second prize went to **Jeff Baily** and 3rd prize of \$15 went to **Jim Stedman**.



MTD 1 January Winners: **Susan Kaplan** 1st, **Carmen Schiavone** 2nd, and **Frank Ascattigno** 3rd with **Jim Stedman**, **Bob Lucido**, and **Sig Kalteis** looking on in the background



MTD 3: Can you spot the two firemen?

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro) Jim Pope

We had a rousing 16 show up to play Dominos Friday night, January 18th. We drank wine and ate wonderful sweets and savories with outstanding camaraderie.



Photo by Jim Pope

Bill Weinberg, Dick DeVoe, Henry Thatcher, Fran Matthews, Ron Louis, Jonathan Korfhage, Barbara Korfhage, Don Seaton, June Seaton, Rich Pace, Christy DeVoe, Kim Pace, Yvonne Killips, Barbara Thatcher, Jim Pope, & Renie Pope

We had three tables and 3 winners. They received California Lottery tickets with possible of maximum prize of \$888 for each ticket. Fun was had by all and we'll be back together on the 22nd of February.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

The low scoring table winners were **Renie Pope, Jim Pope** and "1ST TIME WINNER" **Yvonne Killips**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO) Chuck Campbell

Our better halves began the new year impressively. **Marty Campbell** was first (average 8.75, a fine score); **Ann Hallett** was third (18.6). **Chuck Campbell** prevented a total whitewash (13.3). In eight games **Marty** went out five times; **Chuck** and **Steve Sprague** (20.1) each went out four. The other four women took 5th through 8th, leaving the other four men dead last. Women are good at networking; it showed. Congratulations to the **Campbells** for taking home most of the honors (and the money); and to our better halves who were, well, better.

Reported by Dave Pierce



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS) John "Moose" Kelly

A "BIG" thank you to **Jim Barry, Joyce Wells**, and cat Bandit for welcoming and hosting the Mexican Train Dominos Group 6 at their Clayton home on Tuesday evening, January 22nd. There was lively and spirited banter throughout the evening with 18 contestants competing for our double jackpot for low number awards plus two "Year of the Pig" scratchers for high point awards. The low score winners were **Richard Hockenbrock** (1), **Bruce Borgman** (2), and **Moose Kelly** (3). All three winners were score keepers at their respective tables. An emerging theme ... HHHMMMMM!!!! The high point winners for the scratchers were **Joyce Wells** and **Sue Sheldon**. CONGRATULATIONS to the winners!!!!

Please mark your calendars for our next MTD event for Tuesday, February 26th at the home of **Don and Etta Dotson** in Clayton. More details to follow. Thanks everyone for a great kick-off for the 2019 series of Mexican Train Dominos 6. (See pictures on next page)

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



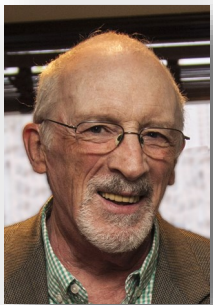
Photo by Mary Schmidt

MTD 6 Winners: 3rd **Moose Kelly**, 2nd **Bruce Borgman**,
1st **Richard Hockenbrock**



Photo by Mary Schmidt

~~Biggest Losers~~ (Editor's correction) High point winners were
Joyce Wells and **Sue Sheldon** who received Lottery tickets



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

This is the second report from Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 in this month's issue. We met on January 25th, at the home of **Walt** and **Sue Busenius** on a chilly Friday evening. At the end of evening we learned that the chilliness must have migrated over to players at table 3. There was no overall prize winners although **Sharon Varner** came in first at her table scoring 19.1 which missed the money by just 1 point in the overall scores. Other scores at her table ranged from 23 to 51.6.

Raising the room temperature slightly, table 1 let everyone know that they were having a great time and out of the ruckus and laughter, **Carla Thompson**, our substitute, emerged with a table-first-place and an overall 3rd place score of 16.4.

Real heat, however, was generated at table 2 this evening. **Judy Richmond** played a scorcher going out 6 times in the 10 games played and scoring 13.6 for the overall 1st place prize! **Steve Siljestrom** refused to let this table cool down by keeping his games scores warm in the low double digits for an impressive 18.5.

Thanks to **Walter** and **Sue** for providing a fun night with delicious munchies, tiramisu, and strawberry cake for dessert. We wish **Jim Barry**, **Joyce Wells**, and **Linda Brown** a quick recovery as they had to be excused from attending due to colds.



MTD Group 3 winners of the January Games. (L to R) **Carla Thompson**, **Steve Siljestrom**, and **Judy Richmond**



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

This is the bleakest report that I have written since I have had the privilege of being the Branch fishing chair. The rain and the wind that we have endured since the year began virtually destroyed fishing prospects. A few hardy souls ventured out into the stormy weather, but nobody caught anything. In lieu of fishing, several of us enjoyed a trip to the Sacramento sportsman's exposition, spending the family dollars on new equipment and a hardy lunch. We also heard a talk by John McManus of the Golden Gate Salmon Association at our January meeting, where he described the prospects of sport fishing for salmon in the next few years and the continued fight for water in the Delta between farmers and fishermen.

Fishermen are always optimists and so we are looking forward to better times. That begins with San Pablo Reservoir, which opens for the season February 2nd. We also have plans for many trips fishing for sturgeon and stripers in the Delta and later trips to Don Pedro Reservoir, Lake Berryessa, Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, and others. If you would like to learn about them, please come to our next meeting, scheduled for February 28th, in the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. For further information, you can contact me at (415) 495-6504.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Nine members of SIR 146 gathered at Senior Sir **Barney Meade's** home for the kick-off of the 2019 cribbage season. It was good to see so many shining(?) faces on a beautiful day.

First place money went to **Paul** (aka Big Fish) **Dubow**, who edged out the Chair, **John Pearl**. Our host, **Barney Meade**, was third, while the Co-Chair, **Ron Afdal**, came in fourth. I think a good time was had by all.

Our next meeting is on the fourth Wednesday of February, the 27th.

John Pearl, Chair

mcpearl@astound.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

January 11th luncheon photo of **Bill Stevenson & Gayl Thorne** sharing some interesting conversation



"One senior discount for the six o'clock show, and could you fill this prescription, please?"



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Max Hinkle hosted 3 tables of Duplicate Bridge 1 on January 21st. The first half of the day was very competitive as 50% of the players scored within 1.5 pt of first place.

However, **Doug Eisner**, **Fred Bolton**, and **Bill Rees** with 14.5 pt, 14.0 pt, and 13.5 pt, respectively, occupied the money positions at the lunch break. The afternoon session was marked by 3 players distancing themselves from the pack, 2 of whom turned the tables on their morning effort and jumped into the second and third places at the end of the day. **Doug Eisner** walked away with first place money with 29.5 pt, **Rich Ahlf** took second place with 28.5 pt, and **Jim Brown's** 28.0 pt rounded out the money winners.

Tony Greco will host our February 18th game.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group proudly awards **Jim Brown** the coveted 2018 Player of the Year, who received a framed certificate of achievement "in recognition of your outstanding performance" over the twelve events. **Bill Schultz** and **Mike Whitaker** tied for 2nd Place.

Our "New Year" event January 4th was smartly hosted by **Ed Marlovits**. One of our members could do no wrong...

1st Place, 1st Half: **Bill Schultz** (16.5 points).

1st Place, 2nd Half: **Bill Schultz** (17.5).

1st Place Overall: **Bill Schultz** (34.0).

Most Twos's: **Bill Schultz** (11).

Least Zeros: **Bill Schultz** (2).

We've been recording Duplicate Bridge 2 scores since January 2015. **Bill's** 34.0 score tied with **Bob Yolland** (April 2017) for the highest ever! Congratulations!

2nd Place: **Brad Hatcher** with 27.5.

3rd Place: **John Boyan** with 26.5.

Comeback Kid: **Mark Curtis**, scoring 7 pts. higher in the 2nd half vs. 1st half.

Best Partnership (maximum 6 pts. for 3 boards): **Bill Schultz/Tony Greco**.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 winner were: 1st **Bill Schultz**, 2nd **Brad Hatcher**, and 3rd **John Boyan** (not shown).

Chair **Dick DeVoe** is displaying **John Boyan's** winnings since he had to leave early.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

Here are the results of our January 18th event hosted by **Jim Stedman**.

- 1st Place (28.5 points)-**Fred Bolton**, who was in 1st in the 1st half and held on in the 2nd half to win overall.
- 2nd Place- (27.5 pts)-**Brad Hatcher**, who was 2nd in the 1st half and held on through the 2nd half..
- 3rd Place (26.0 pts.)-3 way tie between Tosh Kuritsbo, **Doug Eisner**, and **Ed Marlovits**,
- Most Twos- **Fred Bolton** with 11.
- Least Zero's-**Brad Hatcher** with only 4.



Duplicate Bridge 3 Winners (L to R): **Ed Marlovits**, **Fred Bolton**, **Brad Hatcher**, and **Doug Eisner**

Why can't you hear a pterodactyl go to the bathroom?
Because the "P" is silent!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

We began the new year at **Ken and Elaine Richter's**. They were rewarded for their gracious hosting and fine food and drink by coming in third (50% game). **Max Hinkle**, subbing for **Joan Pierce**, was second (51%), and emergency subs **Bob and Janet Yolland**, who played with only two hours notice, were rewarded for rescuing us by claiming first place (61%, a fine night). **Elaine's** Bailey's Irish Cream cake rewarded everyone at evening's end. Thank you, subs, for helping create an enjoyable evening.

Dave Pierce
(925) 932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Our scheduled event for January fell on New Year's Day and was consequently cancelled. We'll start off the new year with our first event being held on February 5th hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**.

For those of us who haven't decided on a New Year's Resolution, I offer the following suggestion. Try out one new activity this year, or If you are already saturated with activities you already joined, then encourage a fellow SIR, especially a new "Yellow Badge" member, to try one out.

Note: If you can't think of one for yourself, I suggest you ask your partner or friend. I'm sure they'll have a few in mind for you. Lol

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Tony Greco

(925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate 1 cancelled its game Wednesday night January 16th scheduled for **Anne Johnson's** home in Moraga due to very stormy weather and a forecast for it to get worse. This was difficult to do since four of our long time members are retiring from the group. We would like to thank **Bill and Margaret Rees, Anne Johnson** and **Jim Brown** for their many years of participation, great bridge playing and hosting many fun events over the years. We wish each of them the very best for the future and will miss them greatly.

Our next event will be hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe** at their home February 20th. **Dick** has kindly arranged for two sub couples who will fill in until permanent replacements are found.



Party Bridge

Byron Nelson

After 18 years **Fred Bolton** stepped down as director of the SIR 146 Party Bridge Group. New director, **Byron Nelson**, hands out the winnings for the January game hosted by **Bob Yolland** to third place **Joe Fuchs**, second place **Bill Snyder** and first place **Dick DeVoe**.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The Song Sirs ending the January luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

01/07/2019

Left to right: **Byron Nelson, Joe Fuchs, Bill Snyder, Dick DeVoe**



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Ray Bland** on January 9th. As always, a good time was had by all. We had a couple of winners and a few losers (no names please). Our next outing will be at the home of Bill Cammerer on February 13th.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our host, **Norm Baietti**, moved the snack selection level to new heights with extraordinary efforts along with his nice selection of wines. As usual there was good conversation, some even printable.

Chuck Denney was seemingly unstoppable with many winning hands to top the result of our play. Hopefully, in February, some of us will have an opportunity to get some dollars back from him.

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

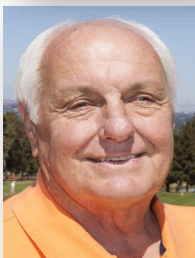
*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Poker Group 4

Rich Hanford

Poker Group 4 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at homes of the various members.



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.*



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Dick Woodman

2019 got off with an inauspicious start. The first meeting was to be at the home of **Syd** and **MJ Whalen** but they were spending some time at their Monterey Bay beach house when **MJ** came down with an unusual sickness. She ended up in the hospital in Walnut Creek for a few days. We're all glad she is okay and at home resting. That all happened at the last minute so **Syd** had to cancel the lunch. We'll meet again in February at **Frank Rockwell's** home.



Book Corner

Peter Plante

Thank you all for your participation in January's Book Corner. Enjoy your reading and we will be back in March with more selections. All donations gratefully accepted.

What's a pirates favorite letter?
You think it's R but it be the C.

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes.
That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.

GOLF

Ed Marlovits



We missed two weeks of Tuesday Golf because the holidays fell on Tuesday. Then 2019 got off to a very slow start as we had only sixteen players on January 8th and only three players trudge out on the 15th. **Doug Eisner** captured that determined threesome below.

Photo by Doug Eisner



Rain soaked golfers (L to R) **Ed Brands**, **Gary Brown** and **Malcolm Harrison**

As we start 2019, Branch 146 Golf has 86 golfers, 80 of whom participate in the prize fund. To put this into a bit of perspective, we had 112 members in my unofficial membership list from January 2013.

In last month's Sir Call report I said our last under 80 round was in 2017 but we are pleased to stand corrected! **Joe Fuchs** shot a 79 on August 7th. He did not, however, shoot his age.

New member **Mike Roach** has advised us that Green Valley country club is open to limited non-member play and offered to facilitate an event at Green Valley on either June 27th or July 25th, which are Thursdays. Green Valley limits such events to 23 non-members and charges \$100; that includes a \$25 food and beverage allowance. In 2018 we had between 20 and 32 away golfers attend the five away golfing events so this could be a nice replacement for the July away golf. If you have not

Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen



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

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

vlaursen@astound.net



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the week for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 16 are welcome.

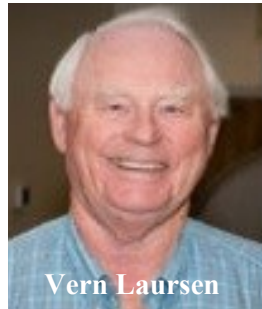
already done so, let us know if you would like to play and whether you prefer the June or the July date.

Our first Away golf will start on the first Thursday in May. Our venues this year are Rancho Solano, Napa at Kennedy Park, Blue Rock Springs (twice), and Chardonnay in Napa.

Tim Roberts, Walnut Creek's Arts and Rec department's Liaison to Boundary Oak, informed us that the Grill renovation will be completed on time and within budget. He expects a soft opening in mid-March and a grand opening in mid-April.

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



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

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

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

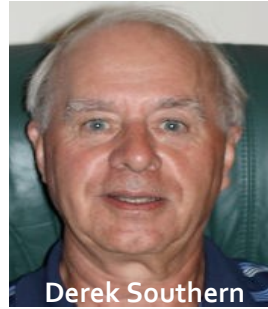
\$UMS in Retirement meets again on Wednesday February 27th at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

Our speaker will be Jamshed Gandhi, CPA. He's the Branch 8 member who spoke to us last January about the new tax law. A significant amount of Jamshed's services are related to income and estate taxes, retirement planning, wealth preservation and business valuations. He will update us on the law and help us prepare for the 2018 tax filing season.

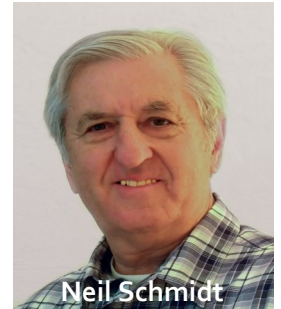
The Legends opens at 7 am so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome, too.

\$UMS Chairman **Tom Henry** tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chairman **Dave Sutton** davesutn@comcast.net

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 16 Computer and Technology invites you to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 21st starting at 9:30 am. Come early for coffee, goodies, and chat.

The February 21st presentation will be "Smart Home Starter Kit" by **Neil Schmidt**. There are many new and creative smart home devices that may be added to an existing home for added convenience, improved home security and increased energy efficiency. Neil is going to present some examples of devices available, their cost and "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) steps needed to implement both a simple, as well as a fully integrated, smart home ecosystem. Using automation, motion detection, geofencing, and other control techniques, smart home systems can be fun to implement and extremely useful.

Note that 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!

This is reported to have actually happened to an Englishman, in France, who was in his car totally drunk.

A French policeman stops the Englishman's car and asks if he has been drinking. With great difficulty, the Englishman admits that he has been drinking all day, that his daughter got married that morning, and that he drank champagne and a few bottles of wine at the reception, and many single malt scotches thereafter.

Quite upset, the policeman proceeds to breath test the Englishman and verifies that he is indeed completely hammered.

He asks the Englishman if he knows why, under French law, he is going to be arrested. The Englishman answers with a bit of humor, "No sir, I do not! But while we're asking questions, do you realize that this is a British car and my wife is driving on the other side!"

SIR 146 Activities Calendar February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Jan 27	28 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	29 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	30 10:00 AM Bowling	31	Feb 1 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 9:30 AM Walkers	2	
3	4 10:00 AM Party Bridge 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mac User Group (MUG)	5 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	6 10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st	7 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #8	8 9:30 AM Walkers 10:00 AM Hiking Moderate 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)	9	
10	11 8:30 AM Book Group Greenery Restaurant 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 12:00 PM Cooking II	12 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	13 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Poker Group #8 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:15 PM Poker #5	14 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM SIR LUNCHEON	15 9:30 AM Walkers 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Cuattro	16 6:00 PM - 11:59 PM VALENTINE DINNER DANCE Boundary Oak	
17	18 10:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	19 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church	20 10:00 AM Bowling 11:00 AM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Song Sirs 2nd 7:00 PM Bridge - Couples	21 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Computers And Technology (CAT) 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	22 9:30 AM Walkers 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)	23	
24	25 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	26 9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	27 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sums in Retirement 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting	28 9:00 AM Area 16 Fishing Breakfast Meeting Diablo Creek CC	29	Mar 1 8:00 AM - 11:15 AM Activity Chair Appreciation Breakfast Boundary Oak 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 9:30 AM Walkers	2

[Click here to get the most recent calendar update on Branch 146 website](#)