

# SIR CALL

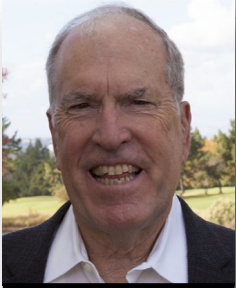
br146sircall@gmail.com

February 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Big Sir's Notes

Brad Hatcher

We are off and running for 2020. The Branch Executive Committee met prior to the January luncheon and approved several items you may want to be aware of. We approved two goals. The first is to work to increase our membership by one. While that may sound simple, it is often difficult as we lose members during the year due to different causes. So that means we need to bring at least 50 guests and initiate 30 new members in 2020.

The second goal is to have a single listing of members so both the BEC and you can know who is a member at any time during the year. We have had a few lists, maintained by different individuals over the years. The branch regulations have been updated with two new regulations. One that has a direct impact on the membership, which was advanced by Assistant Secretary **Tony Greco**, says that members who are 90 years of age are exempt from paying branch dues.

The BEC also approved three new members. They are **Dr. Bill Ross**, **Ed Hewitson**, and **Nate Mazur**. Please offer your welcome when you see them in February and in the coming months. We were delighted to see eight guests at the January luncheon. We need to continue to bring guests to achieve our goal of new members. Please explore your circle of friends and family to locate men who might participate in our luncheons and more than 50 activities. Don't forget the guest's first lunch is FREE!

Our Treasurer, **George Mon**, reported on finances and dues collection. Our finances are strong according to **George**. You should know we have an audit committee to review our financial activity for 2019. Their report will be completed soon.

During the luncheon, we were delighted to host the State President, **Ed Benson**, who helped in the ceremony to award Honorary Life Member designation to **Bill Holly** and **Walt Busenius**. This is a State honor and is based on their record of service in SIR. It was nice to see their wives in attendance at the ceremony. My thanks to **Doug Eisner** and his committee for managing the festivities.

Luncheon— Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:

**Michael Butler**

**Center REPeritory Co — Artistic Director**

Gathering time: 10:45 am

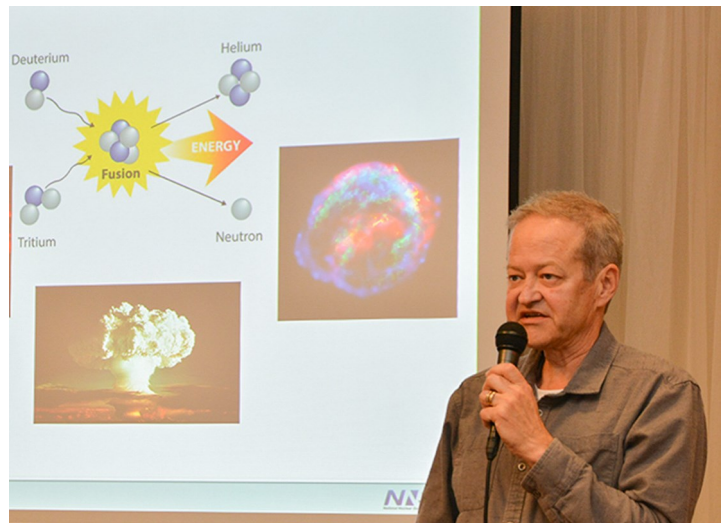
Seating time: 11:30 am

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?*

Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>



Dr. Mike Carter was our guest speaker in January who gave a talk about his Fusion Energy work at Lawrence Livermore Labs.

We heard about Fusion efforts at the Lawrence Livermore Labs. **Mike Carter**, who holds a doctorate in physics, spoke to us with informative slides and commentary. We will learn about the Leshner Center of Arts when **Michael Butler** joins us in February.

Don't forget to call or E-mail if you are unable to come to the February luncheon but if you are coming, try to bring a guest!

## SIR Mission Statement

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



### Little Sir's Corner

**Richard Hockenbrock**

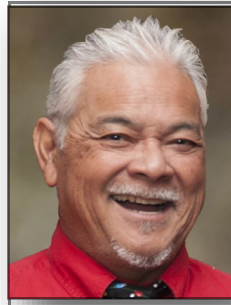
Are you making the most of your SIR membership? If you are new to SIR, I encourage you to get involved with one or two activities right away. You attended your first luncheon, so now what? Joining an activity is the best way to begin turning acquaintances into friendships. You joined a branch in SIR that has the third largest membership in the state and offers nearly 50 activities. Not all activities have openings, as some are hosted in members' homes, but with this minor inconvenience brings opportunity. You can start your own activity or replicate one that is full. All you need is another interested member to get started. Our activity chair, **Bob Lucido**, will help you get started or direct you to the activity leader of an established group; all you need to do is express your interest.

One other thing that I want to mention from my experience in being in SIR since 2012 is that being involved in activities leads to building lasting relationships with single members or couples who do other things outside of SIR, like going to dinner together or hosting each other in their homes. As our motto goes, "**WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE**"

I am looking forward to having Michael Butler as our guest speaker in February. He is Executive Director of the Center REPeritory Company which produces more than half of the events scheduled at the Leshner Center for the Arts in 2019- 2020. Michael has spoken at a Branch 146 luncheon before and is always interesting and entertaining. We have requested that he bring his harmonica to show off his musical talents as well.

We begin 2020 with a membership base of 286. Growing our branch is one of our highest priorities and we need your help. Ask a neighbor or friend to come to our next luncheon. Remember, his lunch is free!

"To love at all is to be vulnerable." -C.S. Lewis



### Membership

**Ron Lew**

We had 3 new members join us in the month of January. **Ed Hewitson** and **Nathan Mazur** were both sponsored by **Paul Beretz**. **Bill Ross**, sponsored by **Larry Kaye**, was our third new inductee. All three joined me at the new member training where any member can come after the luncheon to get updates.

Please continue to introduce your friends, neighbors, acquaintances and anyone you meet that could be interested in enriching their lives through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.

### January New member Photo Additions



**Bill Ross**



**Ed Hewitson**



**Nate Mazur**

A strained voice called out through the darkened theater, "Please, is there a doctor in the house?!" Several men stood up as the lights came on. An older lady pulled her daughter to stand next to her, "Good, are any of you doctors single and interested in a date with a nice girl?"



## Sunshine

### Brian McCarthy

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

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

- **Hugh Ferguson**
- **Joe Hunt**
- **Martin Lyle**
- **Jim Saavedra**
- **Bill Stevenson**

If you become aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail: [brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or phone (925) 324-2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. Also, if you need a ride to our luncheons or know someone who does please notify me by email.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Birthday drawing winner for December—**Jim Baldrige**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Birthday drawing winner for January—**Steve Ybarra**



# THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 Luncheon

February 13, 2020

### Salad

### **Butter Lettuce Salad**

Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments  
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Entrees

### **Bistro Filet**

Garlic Mashed Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Or

### **Rock Cod**

Herb Crusted, Rice Pilaf,  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Chili Butter Sauce

### Dessert

### **Tres Leches Cake**

Raspberry Sauce

#### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Co - Editors	<b>Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose &amp; Bob West</b>
Photographer	<b>Henry Thatcher</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>

# SIR State President Ed Benson honors Walt Busenius and Bill Holly with the award of Honorary Life Member

In a ceremony at the January 9<sup>th</sup> Branch 146 luncheon, two of our most well deserving members, **Walt Busenius** and **Bill Holly**, received the prestigious award of Honorary Life Member presented by State HLM **Dick DeVoe** and State President **Ed Benson**, respectively. **Doug Eisner**, started the event and served as MC. **Walt's** and **Bill's** service in SIR, which began when they joined in 2008, has been exemplary as required by State Policy 10 for the award.

**Walt** served as a Branch Director for 2 years and Sunshine Chairman for 4 years before becoming Asst Secretary, then Secretary in 2014, Little Sir in 2015, and Big Sir in 2016. **Walt** served as Nominating Committee Chairman and Honoree Chairman in 2017 at the branch level before moving to the state level in 2018 where he served as Area 16 Governor for two years.

**Bill** served as Wine Tasting Chairman for six years beginning in 2009. He served as a Branch Director in 2012 and as Activity Chairman and Branch Director in 2013 before becoming Little Sir in 2014, and Big Sir in 2015. **Bill** served as Nominating Committee Chairman in 2016 and Area 16 Governor starting in the second half of 2016 through 2017. **Bill** also served as Region 5 Director in 2018 and 2019.

**Walt** and **Bill** now join a select group of current State HLMs (**Jim Stedman & Dick DeVoe**), Sr. HLMs (**Don Nunn, Jack Calloway, Dick Richmond, & Jeff Bailey**), and HLMs (**Bob Spellman, Bob Yolland, & Pete Gates**).



Bill Holly, Ed Benson, and Doug Eisner



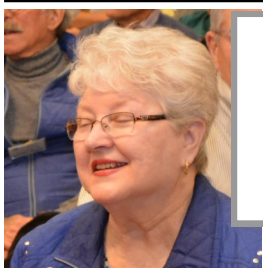
Dick DeVoe and Walt Busenius



Bill Holly, Walt Busenius, Dick DeVoe, and Doug Eisner



Bill Holly, Walt Busenius, Ed Benson, and Dick DeVoe



Lynette  
Holly

The wives of **Bill** and **Walt** look on in admiration during the event.



Sue  
Busenius



## Couples Dining Out

**Bruce Borgman**

Our January Dining Out event at Massimo's in Walnut Creek on January 21<sup>st</sup> was a great success. We had 61 diners in attendance after some cancellations due to illness.

The restaurant was most accommodating even with the last-minute changes and did not charge us for the number of diners we had already reported. This is not always the case, and thus we appreciated the restaurant's flexibility. We used both banquet rooms at the restaurant, which brought its own set of challenges as we tried to accommodate all of our diners requests for seating. You will be able to see many of our diners enjoying themselves with the pictures on the next three pages taken by **Richard Hockenbrock** – thank you, **Richard!**

We selected one of the better banquet menus with four courses. We had a choice of appetizers with either crab cakes or an antipasto plate; then a choice of either a Waldorf or Caesar salad – both reportedly excellent. Our main entrée choices were, New York steak (most popular), chicken piccata, sea bass, and veal scallopini (runner up favorite). For dessert everyone had the restaurant's signature Tuscan apple tart.

Many of our guests came early and we enjoyed one another's company during the cocktail social hour and, of course, the fine conversation during the meal. This is one of our most enjoyable SIR activities and we were pleased to have a large number of our branch members attend. We were particularly happy to have a number of new folks attend as well.

Now we will be looking for a restaurant for March. We have already received a number of suggestions which your hosts will be checking out in the next few weeks. It is a tough job, as I have pointed out before, but heck, someone has to do it and we do enjoy checking out the variety of restaurants that we are fortunate to have in our area. We will probably return to our Monday schedule and it looks like March 23<sup>rd</sup> is a likely date. Mark your calendars as we look forward to another fine dining event.

(925) 932-3961

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

You never appreciate what you have until it is gone.

Toilet paper is a good example.



## Luncheon Chairman

**Richard Lyon**

I hope everyone is well and that your teams all won!

One of the ways the Branch maintains membership is by encouraging its Sirs to invite friends interested in joining and by providing a one-time "free lunch" per friend. Just email you and your friend's names to:

[NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com).

We will arrange seating for both of you at the Guest Table and have a folder of SIR information for your friend!

Here are details for February, 2020!

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

**Cost: \$28**

**Payment: Checks are preferred**

**Opt-Out Deadline: Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Email: [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)**

**Voice Message: (925) 979-5146**

To Opt-Out, Bring a Friend, or Request a Vegetarian or Special Meal, or to attend without a meal, please send an email to: [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com).

Please include your full name and badge number with your request.

**Annual Payers:** Please, be sure to let us know if you're not attending so that the Branch can save the cost of your pre-paid meal and keep dues low. Thanks.

If you are not golfing because of the rain, here's to skiing in Tahoe or enjoying life in other ways.

**Go Niners!**

Rich

I finally did it!

I bought a pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.

No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

# Couples Dining Out 21 January 2020 Massimo Ristorante Walnut Creek

All Photos by Richard Hockenbrock



Walt & Sue Busenius



Frank Barton & Marilynn Gray-Raine



Bernice & Bill Cammerer with Elaine & Ken Richter



Bruce Borgman & Sue Sheldon



Clint Collier with Barbara & Joe Stengel



Linda & John Boyan



Joanne Haukland with Diane & Ron De Golia



**Loren & Marlene DeLaurenti**



**Diane Munayer with Sherry & Lorraine Hockenbrock**



**Chuck & Mary Denney**



**Lynette & Bill Holly with Mary & Brian McCarthy  
and Carmen Schiavone**



**Joyce & Carl Feil with Dan & Sandy Schlatter**



**Ann & Larry Kaye**



**Tony & Cindy Greco**



**Joyce & Jim Barry**



**Bob & Wendy Lucido**



**Jim & Renie Pope with Joyce Feil**



**Dick & Rachel McElroy**



**Barbara Korfhage with Lee Thomas & Barbara Rhodes**



**Carmen Schiavone & Rob Melrose with Al Munayer**



**Don Rhoads & Barbara Elenteny with Jonathan & Barbara Korfhage**



**Anne & Ron Plachy**



**Steve & Dana Ybarra with Bobbie & Walter Schmidt**





## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Mark your calendars. Our next meeting is March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Email: [RLHOCK@outlook.com](mailto:RLHOCK@outlook.com)

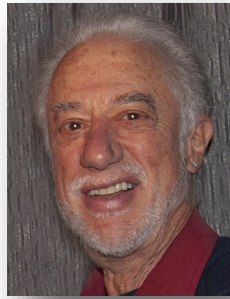
Cell: (925) 324-1713

### Next Meeting

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

**Subject:** TBD

**When:** 9 am—11 am Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## RV Wanderers

**Bob Lucido**

Our next RV trip will be the week of February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The location that was chosen is Jackson Rancheria in, where else, Jackson.

None of us are big gamblers, but the RV site is first class, with a very good restaurant.

We have a total of seven rigs, and eleven people who will participate. We have an integrated group with two from SIR 116, and one from SIR 8.

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



Photo by Henry Thatcher

January Greeters (L to R): **George Sabbagha, Stan U' Ren, John Kendrick, and Larry McAllister**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Members gather for conversation before the start of the meeting

## 2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Little Sir.....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Tony Greco</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>George Mon</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Ross Abbott</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Milton Smith</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Brian McCarthy</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Ron Lew</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Chuck Schreiber</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Activities .....	<b>Bob Lucido</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Chuck Schreiber</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

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



**SIR Happenings  
Newsletter**

[http://www.sirinc.org/  
sirhappenings](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings) is the

statewide SIR newsletter.



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



## Travel

### Milt Smith

At last month's luncheon there was considerable interest in the **Narsai David Cruise**. Several SIR branches are putting this cruise together.



Narsai David  
KCBS Food and Wine Editor

- Eight nights North American Treasures Cruise aboard the Crystal Serenity. September 28<sup>th</sup>—October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Quebec City to New York City
- On this hosted cruise Narsai will share his numerous years of expertise in California Cuisine.
- Port Stops: Quebec City, cruising the St. Lawrence, cruising the Bay of Fundy, St. John, Bar Harbor, Boston / Newport, NYC.
- Crystal Cruises is now all inclusive. All beverages, gratuities, enrichment classes.
- Double occupancy from \$3,683 pp to \$7,283 pp depending on cabin. Airfare not included.

*This trip is filling fast so if you intend to go better sign up now by calling Alamo Travel at (925) 837-8742. Be sure to mention SIR Br. 146. Let me know, too.*

It is not too late to sign up for the **SIR Branch 146 Grand Baltic Sea Voyage — Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel**

DEPARTURE DATE: June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Denmark: Copenhagen, Bornholm
  - **Poland:** Gdansk
  - **Sweden:** Visby, Stockholm
  - **Latvia:** Riga
  - **Estonia:** Tallinn
  - **Russia:** St. Petersburg
  - **Finland:** Helsinki.

Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and/or

Stockholm from \$1,395 each.

Fourteen days from \$8,255 Includes international airfare from Sacramento. Fourteen days from \$6,695 without international airfare.

Call OAT (800) 955-1925 tell them you want trip GO-23630. Call me if you need for more information.

### CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL DAY TRIP MAY 13.

We are filling up fast, so send me a check for \$67 per person, payable to SIR 146 to secure your place. Trip includes luxury bus ride, lunch, tour and time to visit the museum on site. Depart 10 am back by 5ish... Let me know if you need information.

What are we thinking about for 2021? Please let me know if any of these are of interest!

- Land tour of Israel and the Holy Land & Timeless Cultures
- Vietnam
- African Migration Kenya
- WWII European Battlefield Tours
- Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast
- Morocco Sahara Odyssey – Suez Canal, Israel Egypt Jordan and the Red Sea

### Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)

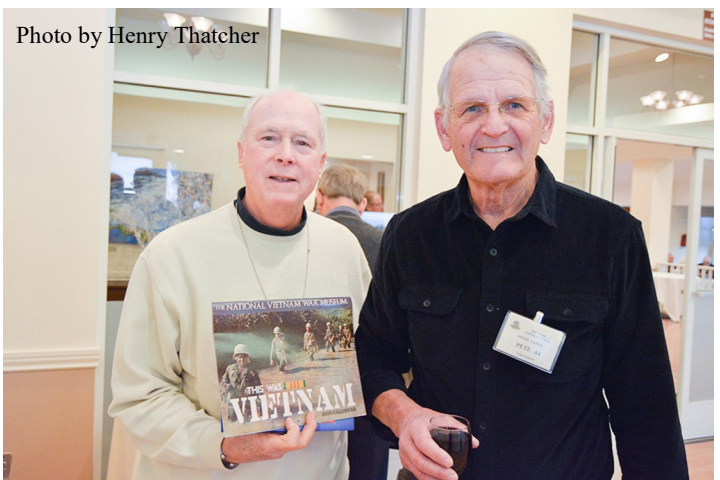


Photo by Henry Thatcher

Marine Veterans **Bill Schultz** and **Pete Gates** engaging in conversation before the start of the meeting

Try to remember, the greener grass across the fence may be due to a septic tank issue.



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Mark Curtis**

We will be hiking the Ridgetop loop trail in Shell Ridge Open Space on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. We will meet at Borges Ranch parking lot for staging. There are wonderful views from the top of the ridge of nearby populated areas nearby as well as Mt. Diablo.

This hike is moderate with about 900 feet cumulative elevation gain to the ridge top and is about 6 miles long. This is a loop hike starting with the Ridgetop trail to Fossil Hill, then India trail back to Borges Ranch. We will take a break at the highest point on the loop. We will probably take a short break at Fossil Hill to observe new plantings of California native plants. There might be opportunity to speak with a few volunteers who work on this restoration project.

From intersection of Ygnacio and Oak Grove roads, go towards Boundary Oak golf course on Oak Grove, take the round-about and exit on Castle Rock road. Proceed about 2 miles to a right turn to the entrance to Borges Ranch. From the turn it's about 1 mile to the parking lot.

Spouses always welcome

Rain cancels

Dogs on leash are allowed on this trail

**Mark Curtis**

Cell (925) 360-3449

mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Hiking group (L-R): **Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting and Mark Curtis**



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Beautiful view of Mount Diablo along the hiking path



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Frank Lucas**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Charlie Bates**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Sal Costanza**

Pictures of some January Luncheon attendees



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Our new Big Fish, **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, had a good time this month fishing for starry flounder on six occasions. Quite a few flounder are now in his freezer. On two of the trips, he fished with **Tom Kostik**, who hooked a sturgeon on each outing. He fought the first one for quite a while before it dove to the bottom and escaped after straightening the hook. **Tom** did land the second one. It was in the keeper window at 45 inches, but **Tom** released it. On the other outings, **Ron** caught several striped bass up to 32 inches, along with the flounder.

Our winter trout season is off to an extremely slow start. The total number of trout caught by the group was the grand total of one, brought in by **Phil Scimonelli**. **Joe Miscione** also caught flounder in the Delta. **Stan Wong, Brion Beetz, and Bob Stein** fished in the ocean for sand dabs and crab. There were limits of crabs and disappointment with the dabs.

Finally, a large group of us traveled to Sacramento for the annual International Fishing Expo where we picked up equipment, listened to pitches from fishing guides, and enjoyed the food.

All SIR members are welcome to join us at our monthly breakfast meetings where they can sign up for our various outings. The next meeting will be on February 27 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast, beginning at 7:30.

For further information, please contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photo taker unknown

**Ron Lew** shows off two striped bass caught in the Delta



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Chuck Schreiber & George Mon**



Photo taker unknown

**Ron Lew** with a starry flounder



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Bob Lucido & Larry Kaye**



## Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>: With a promise of Sun on this end of December, we hardy fellows of Sirs, took off on a ride. The temperature hovered at 43° at the start. From Alamo we headed toward San Ramon. The group cruised through the back streets of Danville looking for an elusive trail. It has been there for a long time but took some pedal strokes to finally locate it. Following the meandering trail we eventually reached the main thru-way to San Ramon. The air was crisp but the promise of hot coffee and homemade pastries warmed our hearts and spirits. The road eventually took us to the Cafe Attila. Upon arrival we relished the warm liquids and ate the tasty treats.

Being San Ramon, we had some nasty cold winds to enjoy on the way home. Touring some Danville streets and trails the guys finally found refuge back in Alamo.

Today's tough men were: **Bob Wilkenfeld, Jim Nelson, Michael Wolfson, John Moose Kelly, Bill Ross, Ken Studer**, and yours truly, **Larry Kaye**.



Photo by Moose Kelly

December 27<sup>th</sup> Cycling Group riders (L-R): **Michael Wolfson, Jim Nelson, Larry Kaye, Ken Studer, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Bill Ross**

JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>: Rain, fog, cold, grey skies, nothing stopped the boys in Spandex from their 2020 ride today. Off we went into the dark sky. Destination: Johnston Rd in Tassajara. Bundled up today were **Michael Wolfson, Ken Studer** and his lady, **Hedwig, Roger Meyer, Bob Wilkenfeld, Scott Simmons, and Larry Kaye**.

We made the trek to Johnston Rd and noted the vast ranch land here. This was settled by General Jose

Maria Amador from Mexico. He owned 16,500 acres. He had 20 children. As payment, he portioned land grants to his men. It was where meat was hung from trees in the sun. It then became jerky and was used as food. The remnants were left to feed the cattle. Later Clydesdales, and Norman horses were the main stock. John and Thomas Johnston were the ranchers, hence the name. Daniel Inman was also here, and the town of Danville was named for this rancher and gold miner. There is much history in our backyards.

You only need a bike to visit these great spots. Back we went to Blackhawk. It was cold Java that fueled the boys and off we went into the wind heading home. Alamo came not too soon. BR-R-RR. Hugs, kisses and goodbyes followed.

JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>: The report said “wind, cold, cloudy,” and in general, not a good day. However, the Boys in Spandex knew better. A chance to ride with the guys was not to be lost.

Off we went. **Roger Meyers, Moose Kelly, Michael Wolfson** and yours truly, **Larry Kaye**. The plan was to check out a coffee shop in the Creek. Following the Contra Costa Canal trail on a sunny cool day we headed out. The uneventful ride took us to the Cafe. We all agreed, it had lost its sparkle. The coffee was hot, but the allure wasn't. So, after enjoying some chat time we decided to explore a new frontier. With **Michael's** guidance we followed him on a new route. He took us to a trail known as the Ygnacio Canal Trail. I must say it was a great view corridor. Unbeknownst to us **Michael** had a surprise in store —A hill—, an unreal nasty climb. A guess was a grade approaching 9-10%. This allowed us each to re-enjoy our pastries. Reaching the summit of this hill we regrouped. Hearts returned to their correct locations.

After calling **Michael** some rather obscene names we descended. He guided us through this trail for miles. Eventually we saw real people. The trail exited behind John Muir hospital. From this location we navigated back to the CC Canal trail and found the Iron Horse trail. From that junction it was “get me home” time.

A great workout and a newfound trail made this another terrific ride. A deep sleep awaited. **Larry**

I find these day that most of my conversations start out with:

Did I tell you this already? Or  
What was I going to say?

— *Cycling Group Continued from previous page* —

JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>: With temperatures in the low 40's the spandex guys set out on the weekly ride.

We braved the chilling cool and toured Blackhawk and Diablo. For fun we set out and explored the old Macedo ranch in the back of Alamo. This is as good a hike site as anywhere. We stopped at the Ranch site and used the facilities. Then all of us enjoyed the one mile downhill into a breeze. Brrrrrr. Back to Peet's in Alamo for hot fluids and lots of chat.

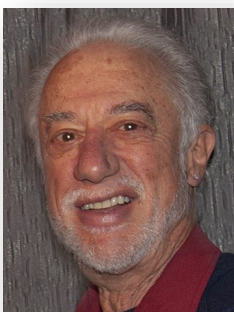
We discovered that some of our group of hardy cyclists are also certified divers. Who knew?? As it was, Bob Lucido our Sirs Activity director was along. Thought I saw him make a note. Hmmm, another activity?? Just another fun ride in the books. Today we had **Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Ken Studer, Roger Meyer** and some royalty, **Bill Holly**.

*Reported by Larry Kaye*



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Cycling Group: (L to R): **Roger Meyers, Bob Lucido, Moose Kelly, Ken Studer, Larry Kaye, and Bill Holly**



## Activities Coordinator

**Bob Lucido**

Calling all aging runners, **Larry Kaye** is interested in starting a running activity. He knows we are not in the same shape as we once were, but he has proposed an age-related run. Larry also knows where all the restrooms are along the way.

For more information, contact **Larry Kaye** at (925) 698-4030, or email him at [larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net).

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /  
Jeff Morrow**



*We meet on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday of the*

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

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

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

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

**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

[cwkahsen@gmail.com](mailto:cwkahsen@gmail.com)

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)



## Table Pool



**Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry**

*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.*

*Reported by Jim Barry*

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The Group One players met on January 10th for our first Game Night of 2020 at the very welcoming Martinez home of **SIR Sig Kalteis** and

his wife, **Nancy**. The hosts provided many delicious treats that were enjoyed by all.

Four new members of Group One joined as first timers – Steve and Dana Ybarra, who had not played much before, but did well on their first Game Night. Also, Jeff and Alicia Baily (who can't seem to get enough playing Mexican Train Dominoes) have also become regulars in our group. We had a full complement of 18 players vying for the top prizes.

**Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of **SIR Richard**, 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 7 games. The husband and wife team of **SIR Corrie Oranje** and his wife, **Sue**, took second and third place with scores of 16.3 and 16.7, respectively, good enough to win second and third place prizes of \$11 and \$4.

MTD Group One has 14 substitute players that we welcome whenever space is available. We contact these individuals when some of the regulars know they will miss a Game Night. Since almost all of the substitutes already play as regulars in one of the other seven MTD groups in



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Ron Plachy

We had a great game night at **Chuck and Mary Denney's** on January 24<sup>th</sup> which was the start of our 2020 games. The **Denneys** did a great job of providing us with snacks and drinks.

We had a total of 18 persons playing Mexican Train Dominos for the evening. First place for the evening was won by **Ismini MacLean** with an average game score of 13.9. **Anne Plachy** took second place with a score of 14.5 followed closely by **Lynette Holly** in third place with a score of 14.6.

The results of the June through November Pot were announced as well and we had to go to 3 decimal places to decide between the second and third place winners! **Rich Ahlf** finished in first place with a cumulative average of 13.561 points per game winning 60% of the Pot. **Nancy Pearl** finished in second place with 20.017 points winning 30% of the Pot. **Ismini MacLean** finished in third place with 20.048 points winning 10% of the Pot. Congratulations to all our winners!

We are looking forward to February's game. **Don and Etta Dotson** will welcome us on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

the branch, first we try to invite individuals who do not play frequently.

Branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIRs as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

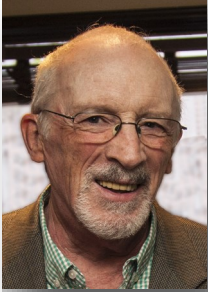


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

MTD 1 Scratchers (L-R) : Sue Sheldon & Alicia Baily

MTD 1Winners:(L-R) : Sue Oranje, Corrie Oranje and Sherry Hockenbrock

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Our December games night was held at the seasonally decorated beautiful home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**.

No question about it, **Sally Shafer** had the pedal to the metal from the get-go, going out in the first three games and a total of five times out of 8 games scoring a winning average for the night of 7.4.

**Alicia Baily** came in 2nd scoring 17.8 and **Larry Brown** was 3rd scoring 18.4. **Sally** was also in the 6-month winners' circle winning \$19.00 for third place behind **Judy Richmond** in first winning \$47.50 and **Larry Brown** in second winning \$28.50.

Our January games were played at the home of **Linda** and **Larry Brown**. Hostess **Linda** played like the champion that she is and went out 4 games of the six played at her table and never looked back. She took first place for the evening with a score of 13.1. Then, host **Larry Brown**, playing at another table, went out only once out of 11 games played but played cautiously and kept his other games scores low to rack up a nice total of 14.7. **Alicia Baily**, floored the pedal in the first few games, then eased off and coasted for a bit only to zoom again over the finish line going out 3 times out of 12 and scoring a low 16.8 for 3rd place.

Our group has dropped the 6 month pot so now if one doesn't win in the monthly games they have to wait until next month to try again.

This month we will be playing at **Jim Stedman's** place on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Happy tapping.



Photo by Jeff Baily

**Larry and Linda Brown with Alicia Baily** celebrating their winnings

*(Editor's Note) Although not revealed in the photo, this picture of the three winner was taken in the parking lot outside a Wells Fargo Bank leading this reporter to conclude that the payout was so large that funds had to be withdrawn from a bank!*

## MTD Group 7 Picture — See report on next page



Photo by Wendy Lucido

**MTD 7 New Year's Eve (L to R): Bob Lucido** scratcher winner, and **Mary Ellen Dalgaard** ,1st place.





# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

We had a rousing 18 show up to play Dominos Friday night, so we had 3 tables of six. We drank wine and ate wonderful sweets and homemade savories with outstanding camaraderie.

The group included: **Henry & Barbara Thatcher, Don & June Seaton, Bill Weinberg & Yvonne Killips, Ron Louis & Fran Matthews, Dick & Leslie Firth, Dick & Christy DeVoe, Jonathan & Barbara Korfhage, Rich & Kim Pace, and Jim & Renie Pope.**

We had three (3) low score table winners. The low table score winners were **Ron Louis, June Seaton and Henry Thatcher** (See picture). They each received California Lottery tickets with possible of maximum prize of \$1001 for each ticket. Fun was had by all and we will be back together on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

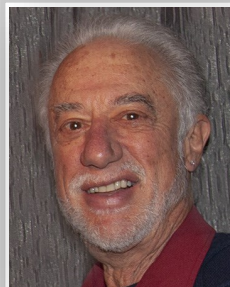


## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Dave Pierce

In January we welcomed new members **Bob and Janet Yolland**, replacing **Steve and Sally Sprague** whom we will miss.

In our group, there is pretty fierce competition between the men and the women. But, as is too often the case, the women prevailed: **Joan Pierce** was third (**20.8**) and **Ann Hallett** had a terrific evening, going out four times out of six for an amazing **7.8** score. **Bob Yolland (18.0)** kept the men from being totally embarrassed. Congratulations to all.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

Bob Lucido

We had a wonderful New Year's potluck and MTD game, but no one got drunk. But we did last until 11:30. We all felt like big kids

staying up so late.

Thanks to **Bob & Jane West** for hosting the evening. It was difficult to get the game started after dinner because everyone was socializing.

**Mary Ellen Dalgaard** was the big winner, and **Bob Lucido** was the little loser with a dud lotto ticket.

Our next game will be at **Clint & Bev Colliers** on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Our games are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, and substitutes are welcome.*

(925) 899-0974

[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 4 low score winners (L-R): Ron Louis, June Seaton and Henry Thatcher.

I don't call it getting old, I call it outliving the warranty.

PSA

February 14th is Valentine's Day

This is NOT a joke

*Last Call for Sir Theatre Party  
on April 24*  
**THE DOLLY PARTON MUSICAL**



With music and lyrics by songstress Dolly Parton, the Broadway and Movie hit **9 to 5** is set as SIR146 Theatre Party for Friday, April 24, presented by Contra Costa Musical Theater at Walnut Creek's Leshner Center for the Arts.

A limited number of reserved discount tickets for **9 to 5** for SIR members and guests at \$45 per person. Deadline for ordering is fast approaching in March, or until our allocation of discount tickets is committed.

This rollicking musical centers on the trials, tribulations and successes of three downtrodden working gals, presided over by the lecherous and pompous boss.

Request for discount tickets at \$45 per person should be sent to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595 along with a check payable to SIR146. Tickets will be distributed in the Leshner Center lower lobby beginning at 7:30 pm on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

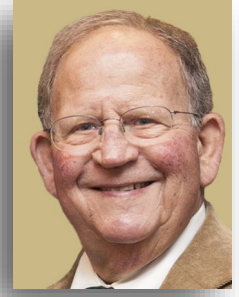
Parking is most convenient in the city garage adjacent to Leshner Center on Locust Street.



# Explore & Eat

Historic Benicia State  
Capitol Tour

And Fischer-Hanlon House (Next Door)  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Friday at 10:30 am in Benicia



The Explore & Eat event will tour the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park and Fischer-Hanlon House located next door. The tour is on **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Benicia at 10:30 am**. The Benicia Capitol is located at **115 West G Street Benicia, CA 94510**

**Benicia Capitol State Historic Park** is the site of California's third seat of government (1853-54). It is the only pre-Sacramento Capitol that survives. The original building has been restored with reconstruction period furnishings and exhibits. The interior includes a board-for-board reconstruction of the

building's original floor with ponderosa pine. The desks, three of which are originals from the Benicia period or earlier, are furnished with a candlestick, a 19th century newspaper, a quill pen and a top hat. Located next door to the Benicia Capitol State Historic Park is the **Fischer-Hanlon House**. This house had once been part of a fire-damaged, gold-rush-era hotel. Joseph Fischer, a prominent businessman in Benicia, purchased a salvageable portion of the hotel and moved it to its current location at 135 West G Street. The hotel was converted to a home for Fischer's family sometime after 1858. In 1968 the family deeded the house with its original artifacts and furnishings to California State Parks. Presently, the house interprets the lives of its upper middle-class family residents from the mid -1800's through 1968. Following the tour we are having lunch at **Sailor Jack's at 123 1st Street, Benicia CA .**

The cost of the tour is **\$3.00 per person (\$6/couple)** for the docent lead tour. We have room for 40 participants. There will be 6-7 free parking spaces saved for our tour in front of the Capitol Building. Please make your check payable to **"SIR 146"** and note on the check for **"Benicia State Capitol Tour"**. There will be no refunds after March 1st. Please send your check and the name of your guest to: **Jim Pope at 385 Bryan Drive. Alamo, CA 94507.**

Email: [jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net)

Hope to see you there.

**Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope**



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Cooking II had a great January lunch hosted by **Steve Ybarra** on the 13<sup>th</sup>. **Steve** started appetizers with a choice of three gourmet deli selection meats, Calabrese Salame, Del Duca Prosciutto, and Capocollo. These were

accompanied by an excellent rich sheep's Basque Cheese made in the Pyrenees mountains, several cracker choices, a variety of olives, nuts and, of course, some excellent wines. We began the lunch with a tasty butter lettuce salad. For the entree **Steve** made an excellent Chicken Cacciatore with a hunter sauce, served on a bed of noodles plus asparagus. He also baked and served a good homemade braided bread to go with the meal. For dessert he served a Mexican Chocolate cake with ice cream. The meal was capped off with a "dram" of excellent Glenlivet. Thank you, **Steve**, for a great lunch and afternoon.

Our next event, February 10<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Valentine's dinner with our wives. **Bill Roberts** has arranged a excellent menu for our group at LeVeranda's private room in Clayton.



## Cribbage

**John Pearl**

SIR Branch 146 Cribbage Group resumed play on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We met at our new venue, Rocco's Pizzeria and Ristorante in the Encino Grande Shopping Center. We shared space with the SIR Pinochle Group.

Seven competed for the prize money. **Paul Dubow** came from San Francisco to pick up first place money, while **Peter Plante** took home the second place prize. Coming in third was **Jim Nelson**, and in fourth place, earning his ante, was **Roger Rivers**.

We play again on Wednesday, February, 26<sup>th</sup>, at Rocco's.

**John Pearl**, Chair

[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.



## Cooking Lunch & Wine

**Paul Dubow**

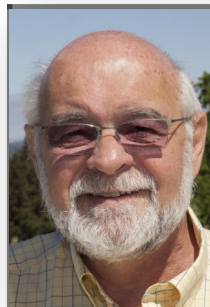
The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Cooking Group met at **Dick Woodman's** home on January 15<sup>th</sup> for our first luncheon of the year. **Paul Dubow, Pete Gates, Jim Meehan, Frank Rockwell, and Bob Spellman** were in attendance.

Unfortunately, **Bill Hartman** and **Syd Whalen** had to bow out at the last minute because of illness. At the same time, according to our custom, our wives and significant others met for lunch, this time at the restaurant at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

**Dick** served appetizers of chips, nuts, a cashew cluster, and delicious stuffed olives as we enjoyed our wine and discussed world events mixed in with discussions of sports and family life. **Dick** then brought back some nostalgia when he served spaghetti pie and salad as the main course. That was the menu at the very first LAW Group luncheon ten years ago.

**Dick** was spared the task of preparing dessert because it was a big birthday for **Jim Meehan** and so **Jim's** wife **Phyllis** supplied us with a birthday cake. After singing happy birthday to **Jim**, we happily consumed the cake with ice cream.

Our next luncheon will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> at **Pete Gates'** home.



## Wine Tasting

**Rob Melrose**

Our next wine tasting event is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld** in Walnut Creek. **Bob and Judy** suggest we taste Petite Sirah for reds and Dry Riesling's for whites. As we get closer to the event, I will send out information on and directions to the Wilkenfeld home. One of the thoughts coming from the Little Sir, **Richard Hockenbrock** is to invite possible new members to events; our wine tastings are a perfect event to bring a guest (and their partner) to wine tasting as our wives tend to be excellent recruiters!

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](mailto:rwmelrose@gmail.com).



## SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs had a successful performance for the VIP group at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church on January 8. We sang a repertoire that included "It Had to be You", "When I Fall in Love", "It's a Lovely Day Today", "I Wish I Was Eighteen Again", and others. A popular tune is "Get Me To the Church On Time" from My Fair Lady, which we sing with a solo by **Bob Yolland**. Each song was narrated with an often-humorous introduction by **Paul Beretz**.

The entire performance was over 30 minutes and was enthusiastically received by our audience, which included former SongSir member **Lo McCarley** – always fun to have him in the audience! Our talented pianist, **Steve Dinning**, started early and played for the group while they were having lunch. Since we use the church for our rehearsals, we are happy to provide the entertainment after their lunch meeting periodically.

Even though our numbers are somewhat fewer than a few years ago, our group sings with such vigor and enthusiasm that our performances are always well received. We will be singing at a new location this next February 5<sup>th</sup> - at the Concord Royale Assisted Living and Senior Home on Clayton Road - and will sing most of the same repertoire. We had a good rehearsal in January and in addition to the current set of songs, started to review our Irish songs which include such melodies as "My Wild Irish Rose", "Danny Boy", "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", and other well known Irish tunes.

We do need some more new singers, so if you have an interest in singing, come to one of our practices at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church - normally at



## Book Group Chuck Campbell

Six Sirs were able to rise and attend the Book Group's 8:30 am meeting after a long night of celebrating the 49ers playoff victory. Our book for the current period was *American Disruptor: The Scandalous Life of Leland Stanford* by Roland

Wolk.

Leland Stanford and his wife founded Stanford University in honor of their deceased son, Leland Junior. Since the 1960's the University and a number of alumni have been credited with starting and expanding the computer age. Leland Stanford died much before the 1960's without an adequate biography, according to Wolk. To write this biography Wolf gained access to letters and notes to better piece together the life and times of Stanford, information which included his role as a robber baron as well as his participation in laying the transcontinental railway.

For our next book we selected *Call of the Wild* by Jack London. PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING CHANGE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 AT 8:30 AM AT THE GREENERY RESTAURANT.

2:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month, and at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday. Auditions not required, just an interest and love of singing!

(925) 932-3961  
bgborgman@aol.com

Photo by Bruce Borgman



**SongSirs:** Steve Dinning playing for SongSirs at January 8<sup>th</sup> performance for the VIP group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

Photo by Jane Beretz



**SongSirs** January 8<sup>th</sup> performance for the VIP group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church



## Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

Bob West

On a cold and rainy January 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 SIRS found refuge in Rocco's. We had two new members this month with **George Sabbagha** and **Ed Smith**.

Before starting play we announced some statistics for 2019. For lowest average game score, **Bob Finlayson** came in 1<sup>st</sup> with an average total of 46, and **Rich Lyon** was second with 49. In "Shooting the Moon" **Frank Lucas** was 1<sup>st</sup> with 4 times, and **Ray Bland** was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3 times. The lowest game score for 2019 was by **Bob West** at 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> was **Ray Spears** with 9 points.

On this day, on table 1 in game 1 **George Sabbagha** was in the lead through 9 hands, until **Frank Lucas** ran the last hand. **Frank** won with 51 points, and **George** was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 71. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, some had to leave early so they finished after 8 hands, and **George Sabbagha** came in 1<sup>st</sup> with only 15 points, and another new member **Ed Smith** came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 28 points. These guys may be new, but they do "have game".

On table 2, thru 6 hands **Steve Ybarra**, **Brian McCarthy** and **Jim Nelson** were all near 21 points, but then **Jim Nelson** "Shot the Moon". This table was playing with 5 so it took 11 hands before someone exceeded 90 points. **Brian McCarthy** was able to overcome **Jim Nelson's** early lead. **Brian** won with 67 points, and **Jim** was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 72 points. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, **Bob West** only had 12 points thru 8 hands, and they were threatening to take the scoresheet from him. In the carnage that followed, **Steve Ybarra** was the lone survivor and won with 32 points, **Bob Finlayson** came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 41.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at Rocco's Italian Restaurant, located at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. We play from 12:45-3:15 pm with an optional lunch at noon. This is a Men's SIR 146 function with new members welcome. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please call me at (925) 518-8472 or email [robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list.



Photo by Bob West

[Hearts Table 1 to right \(L-R\)](#) : **Jim Nelson** "Shot the Moon" in game 1 and was 2nd in game 2, **Steve Ybarra** won Game 2 and **Bob Finlayson** was 2nd in game 2, **Brian McCarthy** won game 1. **Bob Finlayson** had the lowest score average of 2019 so he wore the "Hearts" wizard hat. Since table 1 left early we weren't able to get a picture of **George Sabbagha** 1st and 2nd, **Frank Lucas** 1st and **Ed Smith** 2nd.



## 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. 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.*

*The instruction part of our Pickle Ball activity will be temporarily put on hold because of some business matters being discussed with the County. Once that is settled, we will hope to be back in business with the offering of instruction and will let you know accordingly. Please be aware that the "drop-in" pickle ball activity will continue to happen on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Call or email 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](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Bill Schultz

Eight regulars and four subs journeyed to Woodland in January for a three-table duplicate game hosted by **John Boyan**.

It was close in the first half with only 1/2 point separating **Ed Marlovits**, **Ray Spears** and **Dick DeVoe** for the first three places. After lunch **Ray** left everyone in his dust as he scored 18 points for a 75% game...good job **Ray**. In second and third places were **Mike Whitaker** and **David Pierce**.

In the end Ray ran away with the game and there was a three-way tie for second place between **Dick DeVoe**, **Ed Marlovits** and **Jim Pope**. For the day, **Ray** had the most 2's and the fewest 0's, eleven and three respectively.

Both **Mike Whitaker** and **David Pierce** were comeback kids for the day by improving their second half scores over their first half scores by 5.5 points. There were no perfect six partnerships, but the teams of **Whitaker/Boyan** and **Stedman/Spears** both scored 5.5 points on boards 19-21.

Next game will be hosted by **David Steinberg** on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Dave Pierce

Our most senior men's duplicate bridge group kicked off the new year in fine style, with 15 of the 16 regulars, hosted by **Bob Yolland**.

Once the dust settled, **Dave Steinberg** and **Bill Schultz** tied for 4<sup>th</sup> (53%), **Jim Stedman** was 3<sup>rd</sup> (54%), and **Brad Hatcher** who had a fantastic 75% on the first 12 boards hung on for 2<sup>nd</sup> (57%).

**Rich Ahlf** had a truly remarkable 79% on the last 12 boards (and 10 tops, no bottoms, overall) and was 1<sup>st</sup> overall (65%). Congratulations! Honorable mention to these successful slam bidders: **Brad Hatcher & Bill Rees**; **Tony Greco & Bill Schultz**.

Next month: Swiss Teams.



Photo by Bill Schultz

01/20/2020

Duplicate Bridge 1 Group (L to R): 4th place tie between **David Steinberg** and **Bill Schultz** followed in third place by **Jim Stedman**, second place was Big Sir **Brad Hatcher** and first place went to **Rich Ahlf**



Photo by Bill Schultz

01/03/2020

Duplicate Bridge 2 Winners: Runner's up **Jim Pope** and **Ed Marlovits** and winner **Ray Spears** display their winnings. Missing from the picture is **Dick DeVoe** who also tied for second place but was halfway to Lake Tahoe to go skiing when the photo was taken .



Photo by Bill Schultz

01/20/2020

Duplicate Bridge 1 Group Director **David Pierce** and **Jim Pope** doing the computerized scoring for the game



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate 1 was beautifully hosted on January 15<sup>th</sup>, by our newest members **John** and **Kathy Kluesener**. We thank them for hosting and providing some tasty goodies to eat plus wine, soft drinks or coffee to drink. We especially thank Kathy for her super cookies for dessert. We would also like to thank **Dick** and **Maggie Chaffee** for subbing and **Dick DeVoe** for scoring. **Dick Chaffee** is an active member of Sir Branch 116.

For results, there was a tie for third place with 21.5 points between the teams of **Margot Somerville / Daphne Merritt** (both Sir Widows) and **Rich Ahlf / Ismini Maclean**. In second place was **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 23.5 points. Leading the field in first place with 26.5 points was **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**. That's an excellent 66% game. Congratulations to all the winners. Our next event will be hosted by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** on the Wednesday, February 19.

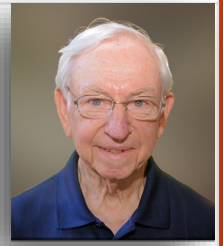
Couples Duplicate 1, our longest running couples' group, has had many changes over the years due to our older members being unable to play or passing away. We recently have been actively looking for 1 new couple to join our 3rd Wednesday fun group as a permanent member. You do not have to be great bridge players since we only have low key games. No one minds if you're worried about or just learning duplicate bridge. It's a great group with very friendly people. With six couples each needs to host a three table game a maximum of twice per year. If you have an interest or know someone that does please contact me. It is not normally hard to get one sub couple due to travels at various times but it can be difficult to get more than one couple each month. We would like to keep our bridge group healthy and going. Please help if you can.

(925) 932-4758  
[bobyolland@att.net](mailto:bobyolland@att.net)



## Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

On Monday  
January 6<sup>th</sup> 12  
players gathered at



SIR **Fred Bolton's** home for party bridge. This was the first game where the ante was \$2.00; \$1.50 of which was paid to the top three winners that day and \$.50 going in the pot for the top three average score winners at the end of six months. **Jim Stedman** finished first with 5190 points. **Rich Ahlf** was second with 4650 points and **John Kluesener** finished third with 4070 points. Our next game is Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of **Jim Stedman**.

Please call **Jim Pope** at (925) 699-6447 if you would like to join our party bridge group.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

**Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were our gracious hosts on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and they were rewarded with third place (50%). Our loyal subs, **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini McLean**, were second with a fine game (61%); and with a truly outstanding game (67%), **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were first. Both teams had 12 tops or ties-for-top, out of 20 boards.

On the final board, **Ken Richter** bid smoothly to 6NT, but **Elaine** had to play it, and she played it very well and scored all the tricks for a top because nobody else bid it. The **DeVoes** and the **Greco's** each bid and made a thin 3NT game but, otherwise, there were very few exciting hands.

(925) 932-3877  
[dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)

NORMAL  
around here is just a setting on the dryer.

Nurse came in and said "Doc, there is a man in the waiting room who thinks he is invisible, what should I tell him?"

The Doctor said, "Tell him I can't see him today."





## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

**Mike Whitaker**

Duplicate III bridge held the January game at **Mike Whitaker's** home in Moraga. After thawing out, **Steve Dinning** (he rode his bike to the game). the game started at 10 am with 10 regulars and substitutes **Steve and Joe Fuchs**. After the 1st half **Mike and Ray Spears** led the way with 14.5 points.

After a quick lunch featuring chocolate and banana cream pie from **Mike and Mary Anne's** kitchen (NOT), the 2nd half began. Both **Mike and Ray** folded like a cheap suit as Fast **Eddy Marlovits** raced to the top to finish 1st overall. **Bill Schultz** and **Tony Greco** took 2nd and 3rd. **Jim Pope** was the winner of the prestigious DFL award (pictures attached). Our next game will be on February 21<sup>st</sup> at **Bill Schultz'** home.

Interested in joining the group? If so, call **Mike** at (925) 376-1288 or email at [mrwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mrwhitaker@yahoo.com).



## Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

**Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** hosted our first 2020 event on January 7th. We thank **John & Kathy Kluesener** and **Brain & Mary McCarthy** for subbing for two of our regular couples, one of whom apparently felt eating lobster at the WCYC would be more fun (probably right), and the other was reportedly recovering from colds or was it from too much New Years Eve partying? Anyway, we started the evening munching on snacks, including cheeses and crackers, grapes, trail mix, pistachio nuts, and more accompanied by wine. For the end of evening dessert, coconut cream and caramel chocolate pies with coffee were offered.

**Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** got off to a quick start bidding and making a small slam of 6 spades during the first round of play. During the third round they, once again, bid and made a small slam of 6 spades. Congratulations to them for excellent bids and successful playing of these small slams. Needless to say, they maintained their lead through the evening and coasted into a 1<sup>ST</sup> Place finish at the end of play. **Tony & Cindy Greco** had good cards all evening and finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. They valiantly tried to catch up to **Rich & Ismini** in the last round of play where they faced off with them and outscored **Rich & Ismini** 1090 to 230 points, but fell short of overtaking them.

The official results are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE with 3980 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE with 3510 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE with 2360 points - **Larry & Linda Brown**

Next month's event will be held on February 4th and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**.

(925) 934-0395

[almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz

01/17/2020

[Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Photos: to Left](#)

[Photo Top Left:](#) **Jim Pope** holding new DFL award.

[Photo Bottom Left \(L-R\):](#) **Ed Marlovits** 1st, **Bill Schultz** 2nd, **Tony Greco** 3rd.



## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group #1 met January 8<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Bill Cammerer**. As always a good time was had by all. We have a new member joining our Group, **Vince Rettew**. Welcome **Vince**, just bring a lot of money.

Our next meeting will be at the home of **Don Del Bene** on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Old Money Poker Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

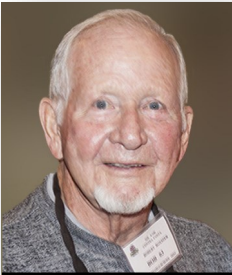
We were due to play on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due a variety of excuses (hangover?), the game did not proceed. We look forward to our February game at the usual date and time.

We are looking for both substitutes and permanent players to join in the fun.

**Brad Hatcher**

Tel: (925) 935-1571

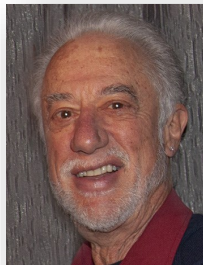
[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



## Poker Group 2

**Bob Royster**

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Bob Royster** if you would like to join our group as a member or substitute.*



## Poker Group 7

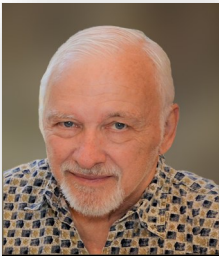
**Bob Lucido**

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

We would like to have more substitutes, so if you would like to participate, please contact me.

(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Poker Group 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.*

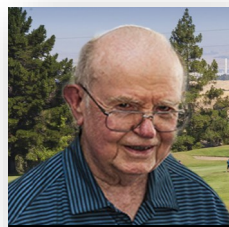


## Book Corner

**Peter Plante**

Thank you to all who came to January's Book Corner and exchanged old books for new ones to read.

Our next Book Corner will be at the March Luncheon. All donations gratefully accepted.



## Poker Group 4

**Rich Hanford**

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

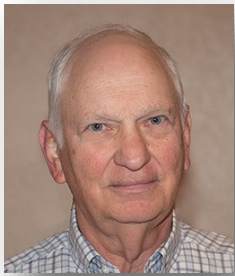


## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

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

I am so old that, when I was a kid, we actually had to win to get a trophy.



## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

The new year started with a couple of nice Tuesdays for golf. Nonetheless, we had six no-shows on the 14th giving our starter an opportunity to practice his juggling.

Days like that demonstrate the need to have a person filling the starter roll. It is a job we all rotate through. When we had more golfers it would be our turn every eighteen months, but now it looks like starter duty will be an annual event.

**Mark Curtis** has agreed to continue managing the Tournament Tuesdays this year and has decided to schedule them on the Tuesdays following our monthly Branch 146 luncheons. January's tournament was a blind bogey format which most of us have only played at corporate outings. Perhaps fortunately, he didn't include a long drive contest in the event!

At the beginning of 2020, the powers that be have implemented the new World Handicap System and we are seeing a few immediate and interesting changes. The NCGA will monitor course conditions every day and if you post the day you play, it is possible for your score to be adjusted up or down to reflect those conditions. Equitable Stroke Control is history. It has been replaced by the Maximum Hole Score, which is a net double bogey. That means we have to actually be aware of the number of strokes we get on each hole. Handicaps are recalculated and distributed the day after we post. Follow the links in your email from NCGA to get a nice update and links to some explainers.

Finally, **Ed Brands** and **Jim Barry** have decided to leave the golf committee. They have been valuable contributors to the golf activity and will be missed.



## 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](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Pierre Mebane, Jim Barry, and Rob Melrose**

Photo by Henry Thatcher



**Vince Rettew, Dick Richmond, Ron Plachy, and Dick Kincaide**

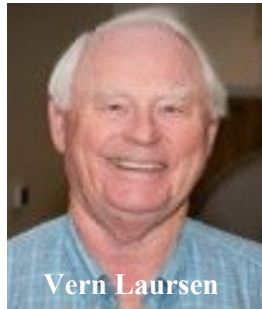
Instead of a sign  
that says 'do not disturb'  
I need one that says  
'already disturbed  
proceed with caution'



GOLF

## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)

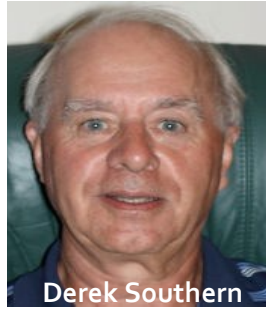


The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

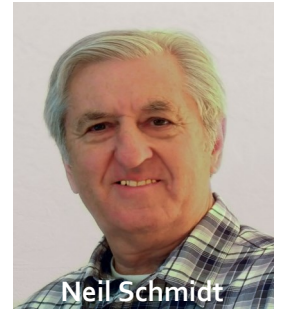
**Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various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

### Computers and Technology



PCs



The next meeting of the SIR Area 16 Computer and Technology Group will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge (1475 Creekside Dr., WC) on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests, including spouses, are welcome and invited to attend. Plan to come a little early for coffee, goodies and to chat.

February's presentation topic will be "Editing Photos with Your Mobile Devices" by **Derek Southern**. **Derek** will show you how to edit your own pictures on your smart phone. By using just a few simple sliders you can quickly make your pictures look incredibly better, you will wow and impress your friends. He will demonstrate a free app (for Android and Apple phones) called SNAPSEED. He will also mention the free version of Adobe's Lightroom for smart phones. Your phone may include a photo editor, but you'll see that Snapseed offers many more capabilities while being simple to use. Load Snapseed onto your smart phone and edit your own images, as you watch **Derek's** live onscreen presentation.

Always checkout our CAT website at "[a2cat.sirinc2.org](http://a2cat.sirinc2.org)" for information about our meetings and for info on past presentations. Note that we ask for a \$5 donation to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. We look forward to seeing you on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

\$UMS in Retirement meets next on Wednesday, February 26th at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. The presenter will be Jamshed Gandi, our own CPA, who will talk about how the new Secure Act will affect your retirement plan.

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

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

So if a cow doesn't produce milk,  
is it a Milk Dud or an Udder Failure?

Last night the internet stopped working  
so I spent some time with my family.

They seem like nice enough people.

# SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

2019 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2021

## February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	10:00 AM Bowling		
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10:00 AM Party Bridge 11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Mac User Group (MUG)	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist	10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #6	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 12:00 PM Cooking II	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Poker Group #6 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:15 PM Poker #5	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR LUNCHEON	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)
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
10:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1 11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist	8:30 AM Book Group The Greenery Restaurant, WC 10:00 AM Bowling 11:00 AM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30 PM Song Sirs 2nd 7:00 PM Bridge - Couples	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 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sums in Retirement 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	8:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek Golf Course	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 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)