



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

February 2022

Call



Big Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

Hang in there! While we were able to hold in-person luncheon meetings in both November and December, in early January the BEC met and agreed to cancel the in person January meeting due to the significant increases in Covid cases throughout the country and in the Bay Area. The February meeting at Boundary Oak was also cancelled in advance because of the same concerns.

In place of the in-person get together in January, a Zoom meeting was held with about 50 to 60 members signed on. We all enjoyed an excellent presentation by Ms. Nancy Schlossberg from John Muir Health on the subject of colorectal cancer screening and overall gastrointestinal health. Her PowerPoint presentation is available on the website for other members who may want to review the key points that Ms. Schlossberg discussed. Look under the "Members Only" tab.

Also during the January virtual meeting, two awards were presented by SIR **Jim Burk**, a member of the Honorees Committee. One award (Twenty Years) was presented to **SIR Pete Gates** for serving in many roles, including Big SIR in 2011 during his two decades in the branch. The second award went to **SIR Hank James**, who upon achieving the age of 95, was honored with a *Super Senior Award*. Congratulations to both Hank and Pete!

As of January 1, 2022, our Branch 146 membership was reported by SIR **George Mon** (Membership Chair) as 292 individuals that represented several new members who joined the branch as well as 17 who resigned. The branch treasurer, **SIR John Alexander**, reported that the bank balance at the end of December was \$25,624. An audit of our finances for the prior year is another function that is performed in the early part of the year. The chair of the audit committee, **SIR Chuck Schreiber** is working with **SIR Ben Gleason**, to ensure that we have managed our finances properly. A report is expected to be presented to the BEC in February.

Minutes of each monthly Branch Executive Committee

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, February 10th, 2022

ZOOM

12:00 Noon

Speaker: SIR Bob Finlayson "The CCC Grand Jury"

meeting are available to all members on the Branch web site under the *Branch Information* tab. Please take a few minutes to see what other areas are discussed. Everyone is always welcome to attend the BEC meetings, either virtually via Zoom or in-person when a luncheon is held at Boundary Oak. They are scheduled to start at 9:00 AM and typically are concluded in 90 minutes.

We are expecting that we will be able to return to Boundary Oak for our March luncheon scheduled for March 10th. During the Covid limitations, we will continue to request that members who wish to attend a luncheon **make a reservation in advance**. Information about how to do this will always be available in the SIR Call in advance of the meeting as well as e-blasts sent out to the entire membership several weeks in before the meeting. Please look for these messages.

Both SIR members **Bob Ford** and **Frank Lucas** (our Recruiting and Publicity Chairs for 2022) are busy advertising our branch through various media, including the *Nextdoor* platforms in nearby communities as well as local neighborhood newsletters and the like.

As we expect to return to in-person meetings, please think about inviting a friend or neighbor to a future meeting as your guest who you think might enjoy the activities, luncheon speakers and the friendship that many of us have found in the SIR organization. The branch will pick up the cost of the guest's luncheon. Remember your friends and acquaintances need not be retired; they only need to find and enjoy the value of our activities and have some free time to enjoy them.

In a cooperating effort, Branch 8 has invited anyone from

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.

Big Sir continued from previous page

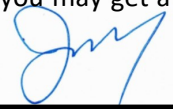
our branch to attend a "Sirs at the Game" event for Saturday, March 12th. That game, starting at 5:30 pm, will see the Warriors take on the NBA Champions Milwaukee Bucks. Anyone interested in attending with family and friends is asked to contact Steve Schramm in Branch 8 at sschramm01@gmail.com for more information. An e-blast to our membership will also be sent out shortly with more details. (Details on page 7)

As always, I ask that you consider volunteering in some way to assist our branch. Please call or write me if you would like to discuss possible areas where you can help.

Be sure to read Little SIR **Rich Lyon's** column for information regarding upcoming speakers. He has scheduled what looks to be two very interesting guests for both the February Zoom luncheon on the 10th as well as the possible in-person meeting on March 10th.

I hope you all are continuing to stay safe and healthy but enjoying what life has to offer!

And for those golfers in the branch, remember to bring an extra pair of socks next time you play; you may get a hole in one! Keep smiling!



Little Sir's Corner Rich Lyon

The SIR members at January's Zoom meeting had a lot of interesting questions for our January speaker, Mrs. Nancy Schlossberg's presentation on Colorectal Health and the Human Biome.

According to Mrs. Schlossberg, there are more individual bacteria in a healthy gut (biome) than there are stars in the Milky Way. We ran out of time for questions! The presentation is on our website.

February's speaker, **Robert "Bob" Finlayson** of our own SIR Branch 146 will share his experiences in the Contra Costa Grand Jury where he has been involved since 2015. Bob was asked to "stay on" the Grand Jury after his first year to help train incoming jurors.

Bob's training system is now being used all over the State of California. In 2020, **Bob** was elected a Director of the California Grand Jury Assn. and now also represents the Central Region of California and serves on the State training committee.

Bob Finlayson was educated in England and served in the Metropolitan Police of London prior to immigrating to the United States where, he worked in various positions in the casualty insurance industry for 50 years. Bob lives in Walnut Creek with his wife and family and two miniature dachshunds and enjoys an active lifestyle of tennis, yoga, swimming, cricket and, attending the SF symphony as often as possible.

If you ever wanted to know what our county's Grand Jury is and does, or what they have accomplished you are in for a special insider's view. The speaker's February presentation includes a five-minute video from another county. After the presentation **Bob** will take questions as time permits.

BEC:

At the BEC meeting it was decided that to protect SIR it is recommended that masks be worn during indoor activities when not eating or drinking until the end of the current Contra Costa Health Order ending February 5, 2022. The current variant's infection rate is now diminishing but because of the uncertainty, the BEC decided it to be prudent to also conduct the February 10, 2022 luncheon meeting via Zoom.

March:

In March, Branch 146 will host Chief Jamie Knox, Walnut Creek Police Dept. who will address current topics of interest. Obviously, everyone hopes that indoor masking restrictions will be lifted far enough in advance, that an in-person meeting can be held! In such a case, the luncheon will be more highly attended. Any possible restriction on the number of attendees is unknown at this time so, it would be wise to RSVP to the Luncheon Chair as soon as the March announcement goes out.

Ideas for future speakers or entertainment at the Ladies' Day Luncheon are encouraged. Our meetings are better because of your comments. I look forward to "seeing" you online in February and (hopefully) in-person in March!

Respectfully,
Rich Lyon, Little SIR



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Are you as tired of Covid this and Covid that as I am? At times it seems like take two steps forward and then three steps back.

Hopefully some the information we print for you here will help.

Several of our smaller SIR activity groups seem to be continuing their activities safely with proper caution and a level-headed approach. And, the jokes we sprinkled around hopefully will give you at least a temporary chuckle. For myself I find that what I can do in SIR is helping maintain my sanity during these insane days. With that in mind, take a look at the *Parting Shot* at the end of the newsletter. It is from an e-mail that came across my computer a week or so ago. It made me realize just how lucky, despite Covid and many, many other things, we, living in this country, really are.

Deadline for submissions for the March issue is February 23rd.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier —Editor SIR-Call

Cell / Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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Luncheon Chairman Bruce Borgman

The Branch executive Board has decided that the February Luncheon will be held as a Zoom meeting. Therefore, there is no need to RSVP for the Luncheon.

The Branch Communications team will send out the links in order to join the meeting.!



Membership George Mon

We had no new members in January.

Fourteen more members decided not to renew their membership for 2022. Health concerns due to Covid-19 and getting up in age plus

inactivity of some of our activities played a part for the reduction in membership.

SIR **George Rammel** passed away on January 4th. He passed away peacefully at home.

The 2022 membership count went from 292 to 280. However, we still need to hear from 9 members who have yet to commit on their membership renewal.

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

.George Mon

gckk@comcast.net

Solicitations for Branch Officer Candidates

Each year your branch nomination committee consisting of **Richard Hockenbrock, Brad Hatcher, Jonathan Korfhage** and **Bruce Borgman** seek out members who are interested in volunteering to serve on the Branch Executive Committee (BEC). This is your chance to make your voice heard on how the branch is run and conducts its business. If you would like to be considered as a candidate

to fill one of three open director positions, in addition to assistant secretary or assistant treasurer positions for 2023, please send me an email stating your interest.

Cutoff date for receiving your email is February 5, 2022.

Richard Hockenbrock, Nominating Committee Chair
3616 Winchester Pl.

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Text / Cell: (925) 324-1713

Email: RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM

Happy Birthday

Tony Adduci
Peter Bishop
William Cammerer
Clint Collier
Dale Dalgaard

Mike Davidson
Dave Devincenzi
Dick Firth
Jerry Kaplan
William Laws

Steve Loftin
Rich Lyon
Jack Menzhuber
Carl Pagter
Bud Pearce

David Pierce
Bill Rees
Walter Schmidt
Ben Smith
Ray Spears

Jim Stedman
Dave Svoboda
Bob West

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations to **Walt Busenius** (December) and **Pat O'keeffe** (January) Birthday winners!

Remember... If our meeting is via Zoom you have to be Zooming to WIN. If we are having a live meeting you have to be present to WIN!

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap!

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



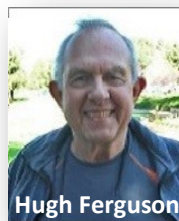
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.

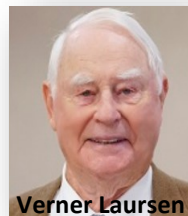
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



Hugh Ferguson



Ray Spears



Verner Laursen



Jim Saavedra

January Award Ceremony Honoring 20 Yr. Member Pete



At the January 13th zoom meeting, we recognized two members who are receiving branch anniversary awards. What are branch anniversary awards? Over the course of this year, we will be recognizing a total of 14 members who are attaining either of three milestone ages: 90..“Senior Sir”; 95..“Super Senior Sir”; and 100..“Century Sir”. We also recognize 20 years of membership in our branch, regardless of age. These are our anniversary awards

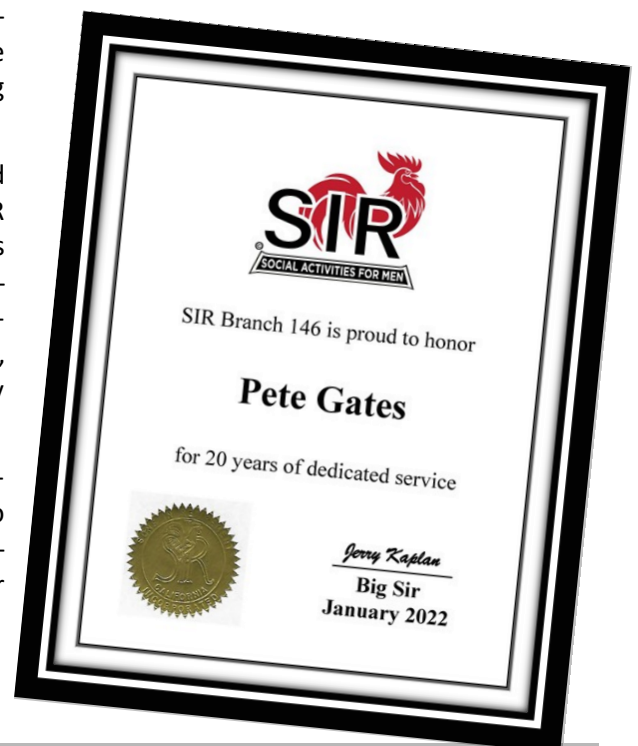
Why do we even care about recognizing anniversary awards? Well, while we are all older, it is important to recognize our oldest members to demonstrate to those who are a bit younger the fact that our branch provides activities to engage in, regardless of age and seniority. SIR friends enjoy touching base with you at monthly luncheons and at shared activities.

The first award is given to **Pete Gates** who joined our branch on January 10, 2002, and earlier this month celebrated his 20th year of membership in Branch 146. He graduated from Lodi High School in 1956 after spending a year in Sacramento. He joined a marine corps reserve unit in Stockton and soon found himself in boot camp at the marine recruit depot in San Diego, immediately after graduation. His active duty was all served in California. He rejoined the reserves in Stockton and attended Stockton JC. He entered UC Berkeley as a junior and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering in 1961. He is a very loyal “Golden Bear” I am happy to add. **Pete** joined Standard Oil of California (now Chevron) and enjoyed a 34 year career, retiring in 1995. In 1997 he took a part-time job with the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as an instructor of courses dealing with air pollution. He left that job in 2004, re-entering the life of retirement as he took on more important jobs with our branch, serving as “Big Sir” in 2011. Among his many accomplishments and service to our branch, **Pete** has served as Historian, the “Big Fish,” and he went through the so called BEC progression leading eventually to “Big Sir”.

Pete shares that he has been an avid outdoorsman all of his life and has plenty of hobbies to keep him occupied. However, he joined SIR and states that it has turned out to be one of the best things he has ever done. He has served the branch in a number of leadership positions and not only has it been good for the branch, but this experience has also been very rewarding for himself. **Pete** and his wife, **Ann**, have enjoyed many different activities and have made many good friends in SIR.

They have lived in Pleasant Hill for 44 years, and have 4 children between them. They have 10 grandchildren and are blessed with two great grandchildren. Please help me congratulate **Pete** for his penchant for volunteering when the branch has needed help, and for being a superb leader and an all-around gentleman.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the January 13th Zoom Luncheon



January Award Ceremony Honoring Super Senior Hank James



At the January 13th zoom meeting, we were pleased to recognize **Hank James** as a Super Senior. He was born on January 18, 1927 and was raised in Nashville, Tennessee. He was drafted into the Navy in World War II and spent the war fighting the battles of the USS Chicago, a Northampton class cruiser, upon which he served.

Hank's education includes a bachelor and a master's degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and the University of Louisville, respectively. This was followed by his being licensed as a California real estate broker; a California general contractor; and a California professional engineer. **Hank** retired from Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation in 1982 after 28 years with the firm. In his career with Kaiser, his positions included chief engineer of a major division; general purchasing manager; and project manager on the design, construction, and operation of numerous chemical plants around the world. He was maintenance superintendent in the largest aluminum reduction plant in the country; and he was operations manager at a major real estate development project in southern California.

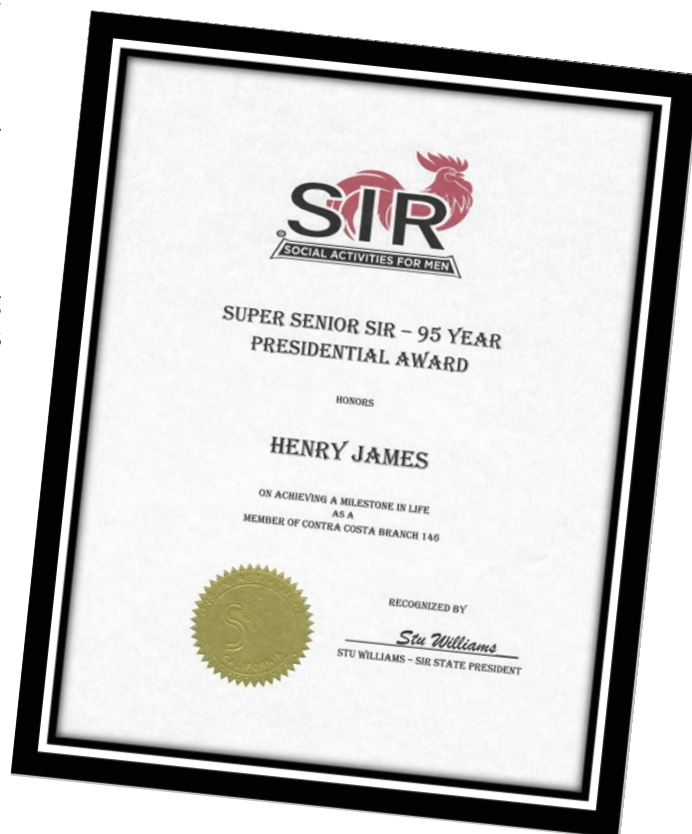
However, **Hank** shares with us (albeit a bit tongue-in-cheek) that among his most memorable experiences were when he was in high school as the head cheerleader, and the editor of the yearbook. I will let you each judge for yourself the satisfaction he gained from these latter positions, as compared with those from the significant positions he held in the corporate world.

Hank and his wife **Hazel** were married in 1948. They have 4 children: 6 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

His hobbies are gardening and treasure collecting at garage sales.

Help me recognize **Hank James** as a Super Senior, for turning 95 years of age on January 18th. We are proud of you on this auspicious occasion and for being here today to celebrate on zoom with your friends from Sirs. Congratulations **Hank** and we will keep positive thoughts regarding the future for when you become a Century Sir.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the January 13th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members

How about some hoops with Steph Curry and Klay Thompson?

SIR at the Games of SIR Branch 8 is excited to present a great opportunity for members, family, and friends to attend a Golden State Warriors game at the Chase Center in San Francisco. Our group will attend a weekend game against the NBA Champion Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday, March 12, at 5:30 pm.

The weekend game and the early start time provide the opportunity to bring family and even grandchildren to this game. In addition, we will provide bus transportation to and from the game. Our bus will depart from Sun Valley Mall in Concord on Saturday afternoon. Group transportation means that we do not have to deal with BART, MUNI, or drive into San Francisco on our own.

Beginning February 1, events at the Chase Center will require all attendees to be fully vaccinated including booster shots. You and your guests will need to provide proof upon entry to the game. More information on this requirement will be provided later.

The total cost for a ticket and transportation will be around \$140-\$150 per person. The exact cost will be determined when all the details are finalized.

If you are interested, please contact Steve Schramm with your name, email address, phone number, and the number of tickets needed. Your signup is requested by Friday, February 18. Signup with an email to Steve at "sschramm01@gmail.com".

We will contact those members who sign up with the final details and the payment process in early February.

interested in attending with family and friends?
Contact Steve Schramm in Branch 8 at
sschramm01@gmail.com for more information.

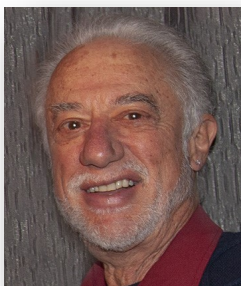
LET'S  WARRIORS



Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of activities listed in the following pages. Many activities are now open for in-person participation and more will soon follow.

We have so many activities, but there is always room for more. If you've got an idea, we would love to hear it, and **Bob Lucido**, our Activities Coordinator, would love to help you start a new activity by seeing if there is interest in it, and if so, help you set it up.



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

We have now 89% of our members fully vaccinated.

This may encourage members to feel more confident in participating in an activity.

We may not get to 100%, but we're getting close.

I assume that most of the remaining members have not participated in any SIR activity, and thus have not submitted their documentation.

Most of the activities are now open. We only have seven that are still on hold, but hopefully they will open soon. Unfortunately, nine activities have closed due to lack of participation.

Ladies:

If you have a separate email that is different from your spouse, and would like to know what co-ed activities are coming up next month, send me your email address and cellphone number.

I will send you information about these activities once a month. I have currently over 50 ladies' emails.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net

If you can't think of a word say, "I forgot the English word for it" That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Our membership count has been updated and we now have a golf membership of sixty-eight.

We had another nice January for golf at Boundary Oak. Not a single snow day, although I sometimes felt like I needed a parka at tee time.

One thing to look forward to this year will be the SIR State Individual and Team Championships. We have not yet established dates or venues for any of the events but information will be forthcoming. For those of us who have not participated in these events, the process begins with flighted qualifying tournaments hosting a field of golfers from branches in our SIR Area. Qualifiers go on to the Championship Events. Our branch has often done well in these events.

Ed Marlovits



SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

February 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
31	Feb 1	2	3	4
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
7	8	9	10	11
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting via Zoom 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon via Zoom	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
14	15	16	17	18
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 12:00 PM Sushi no tomodachi Tatsu 1837 Ygnacio Valley Rd, WC 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
21	22	23	24	25
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Sums In Retirement Via Zoom 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
28	Mar 1	2	3	4
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

Monday, January 10: With a forecast of 60' and the Sun shining we set about for a short but rewarding ride today. The ride was a chance to get rid of the flat spots on our bike tires from loafing.

Today joining was: **Moose Kelly, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Tom Alborg, Bob Lucido, Ken Studer, Pat Hoy, Larry Kaye, Scott Simmons,** and Steve Schlossberg (a Guest).

A tour of Danville and lots of chit chat made this an enjoyable short easy and warm ride.

We finished at Lever, a new coffee shop in Alamo on the creek. Hot java and more catch up was enjoyed. The display of Holiday gifts was present as well on some riders.

Wednesday, January 19: Fog? What fog? Cold? 37' isn't cold. So the guys showed up. The cold was something else. Some of us wore mittens, some garden gloves, and some short fingered gloves. The clothing went from warm and toasty bike jackets to the stuff you wear in your garden. Off we went. Moraga the destination. Today's brave souls were: **Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, Pat Hoy, Paul Brown, Moose Kelly, Jim Nelson and Larry Kaye,** tagging along Steve Schlossberg a friend.

Taking the back roads and jumping onto the Lafayette Moraga Trail we rolled along. Dodging people, dogs, runners, four abreast folks, etc. Got to love trails. I do not. We made it to the trail head and used the facilities. Continuing, we arrived at the java joint which was our target. Grabbing hot java and a chair the group settled in. The sun was shining and all the cold evaporated. Felt good.

After sitting around the rear yard and solving the latest dilemmas in the world, we re-mounted our trusty steeds and motored homeward.

The trip home was nice and warm and mostly downhill and felt great.

Uneventful as it was we finally arrived at our steel vehicles. A truly memorable ride. What's this "olde crap"??

Wednesday January 26: The car felt so toasty. The outside temp read 37' when I rolled out of the barn. Yikes. At the start site it was 46'. Hated to leave the cabin of my truck. Black spandex with long pants coupled with gloves and

assorted scarfs met me. Brave troops these SIR guys. **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Pat Hoy, Bill Holley,** and **Larry Kaye.**

Off we went. The cold air permeated our clothes. The thought of hot java out in the Dougherty valley propelled us. As we rolled along the route the air warmed a bit. Our fingers returned and the chill abated. Going thru Danville into the Tassajara Valley and the newest developments along the way we arrived ready for Java. Peets was closed. "No help". Off we then rolled to Safeway and its in house Starbucks shop. The facilities were used as is the case with older guys.... And the java was ingested with the obligatory belly bombs. Yummy. Chat time and discussions were held. Finally as the clock ticked along we up anchors and headed home.

The trip home was mostly downhill and so almost no-one griped. Its so much fun cycling with fellow athletes. The trip home was un eventful and warm. As we approached Alamo, our start spot, you could hear the sighs. " My butts sore", "my nose is running", "I have to get to a Zoom meeting", me?, lunch was waiting. Another fine ride by some really fine guys. Age is like fine scotch....old is better.

Larry Kaye

925-698-4030



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

We had planned to resume our regular schedule for rehearsals in January, but with many activities in a hold pattern, we decided to also cancel our rehearsals for the month. Since the number of sing-

ers has diminished recently, it is not productive to hold a rehearsal with just a small number.

We will re-assess the Covid statistics in February and make a decision on whether we should have the rehearsals. Stay tuned!

Bruce Borgman

925.932.3961 bgborgman@aol.com

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

During the past month, our main interest has been striper fishing. Many stripers were caught. Unfortunately, the great majority were small and were returned to the deep in order to gain some weight and length. Fishermen who

sailed out into the Delta and caught and released the small fish included **Mike Browne** of Branch 146, **Brion Beetz**, **Bob Lively**, and **Ken Bellindir**. In addition, **Phil Scimonelli** and **Carl Moyer** fished for stripers from the Antioch Pier and caught over 20, but not one over ten inches!

However, a few of us did manage to land some keepers. **Tom Kostik** made six trips to the Delta and averaged a catch of ten fish on each trip. Most were undersized, but he did catch and release eight keepers. **Stan Wong** hooked a big striper, but after a decent fight, he lost it as it approached the boat. A friend who accompanied him on the trip caught two fifteen pounders. **Harry Sherinian** also caught a keeper on his lone trip to the Delta this month.

Although the crabbing season is still on, success has become more difficult once crabbing opened for commercial fishermen. Nevertheless, **Ken Fischer** and **Stan Wong** recorded limits on separate crab trips. **Dave Rege** journeyed to Tillamook, Oregon and came back with 36 crabs.

Ben LaSala made two trips to Folsom Lake and caught a salmon on each trip. **Brion Beetz** got a last ocean fishing

trip for rockfish in before the season closed on December 31 and limited out on a trip to the Farallones. It is unclear when the Department of Fish and Wildlife will reopen ocean rockfishing. Normally, the season begins in April, but it could be as late as June, if at all. However, one can fish for rockfish from shore all year round.

We are looking forward to the opening of San Pablo Reservoir on February 4. San Pablo is one of our favorite haunts for rainbows. In the meantime, a few of us caught trout elsewhere. **Chuck Vanoncini** and his sons went on a guided fly fishing trip on the lower Sacramento River and caught quite a few good sized trout. **Stan Wong** fished in several local reservoirs and averaged from two to five trout on each trip. **Mike Browne** and **Phil Scimonelli** both caught some trout at Lafayette Reservoir.

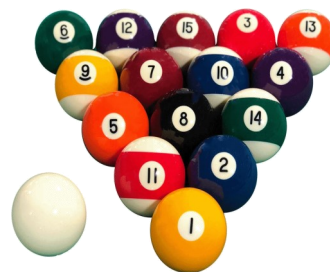
All SIR members are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend monthly breakfast meetings. The meetings begin at 8:30 am and are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The next meeting is on February 24. But please join us for breakfast and conversation, beginning at 7:30 am. We have quite a few outings planned for 2022, including some overnight out of town trips to Lake Almanor and New Melones Reservoir, plus local fishing for trout in the reservoirs; sturgeon and stripers in the Delta; halibut in the Bay; and salmon in the ocean. If you are interested, please call Big Fish **Bob Lively** at 925-383-5193 or branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry *Reported by Jim Barry*

Table Pool is back in business and we're meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 Noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional information.



Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962



Travel Milt Smith



Time to go see some more stuff...

Some good news about Travel, people are traveling, particularly land trips even cruise ships...a word about Crystal below...**Some bad news...our SIRs, for whatever reason, are not traveling even though others are...here is an update.**

America's Musical Heritage with extended stay in New Orleans, SOLD OUT, NOT TO SIRs BUT TO OTHER TRAVEL GROUPS.

Rail and Red Rocks Adventure. Salt Lake City to Denver, CANCELLED FOR SIRs. No interest.

ALASKA LAND & SEA May 23 June 4th. 2022 SPACE AVAILABLE 8-DAY CRUISE Aboard the Majestic Princess " Anchorage/Whittier " Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising " Glacier Bay Cruising " Skagway " Juneau " Ketchikan " Vancouver 6-DAY " 1 Nights Fairbanks " 2 Nights Denali National Park " 1 Night Mt. McKinley Lodge " 1 night Anchorage CONTACT Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245

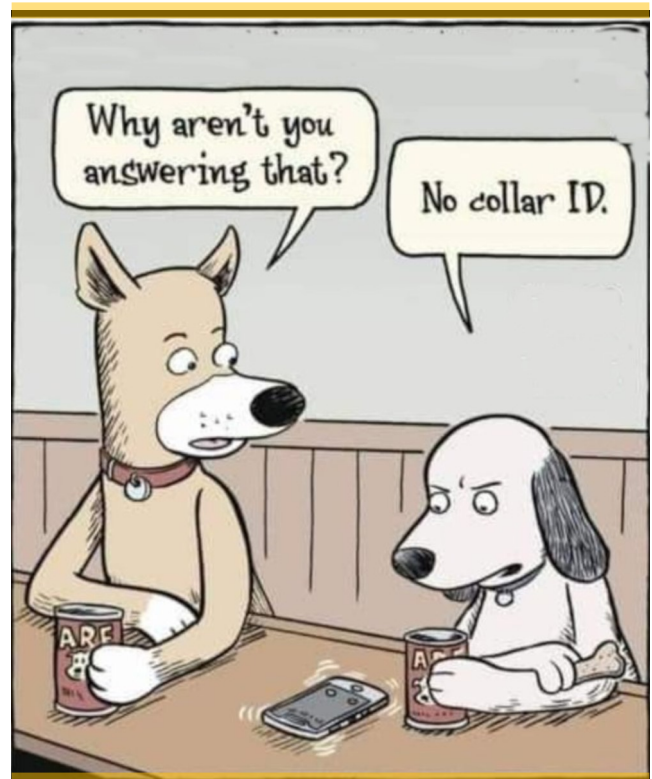
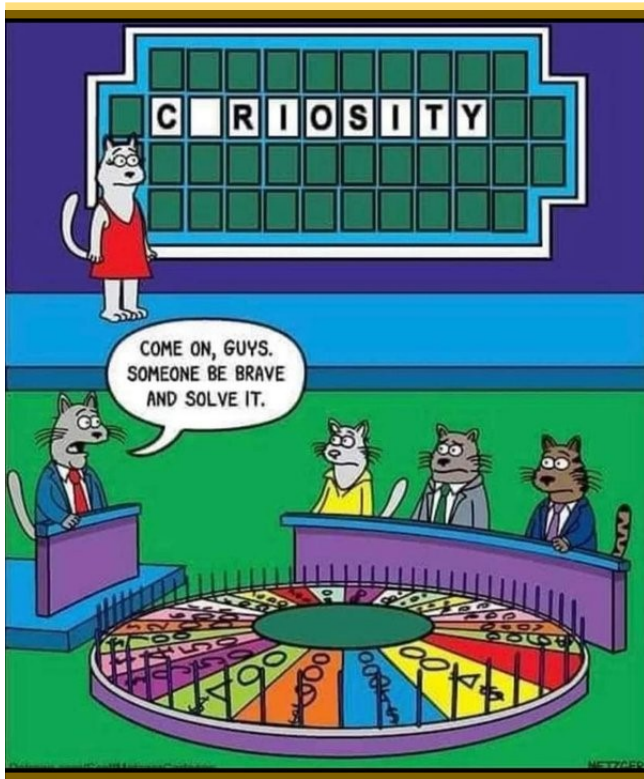
l.yarberry42@comcast.net Or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 info@talbottours.com Land & Cruise including roundtrip Airfare \$2995. DBL. OCCUPANCY \$4250. SINGLE SIRMtDiablo8PrincessAlaskaLandandSea.05.23.2022.pdf

8 Night Columbia and Snake River Cruise May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines. Explore the Pacific Northwest with your fellow SIR members following the path of Lewis and Clark. Unpack once and enjoy the beauty of the lush forest of the River Gorge and the high desert bordering the Snake River and Hells Canyon. Prices range from \$5,600 pp. double occupancy. For more information contact Tan Matosian Branch 128. tgmatt54@gmail.com Or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223 be sure to mention Branch 128.

The holding company of Crystal Cruises Lines is in receivership however Crystal has a buyer and are expected to continue per usual, more to come...

Golden Gate Fields, Horse Racing No groups as of yet but the Turf Club is open to Sat.& Sun. 100 people at a time. \$20 for admission and parking, lunch optional from the menu, bar open. Must sign up in advance. I will send an eblast to see if there is any interest.

Milt Smith
miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897.





SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

It seems that we have a core group that participates in this hiking activity very regularly. And I think the attendance has been marginally better for Monday

walks, so most of the planned outings will be on Mondays. The most recent walks were in (1) Diablo Foothills on Stage Road, Little Yosemite, and Briones trails, (2) Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Nature Area, and (3) the Bob Walker Loop at Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. All 3 of these walks were in the order of 5+ miles and slightly less than 1000 feet of climbing. For the Diablo Foothills walk, the trails were a bit muddy which made it a bit more difficult. For the other 2 recent walks, the trails were ideal. I look forward to more rain because we need it, even though wet trails make the hiking a bit more difficult.

Future plans include Lime Ridge starting at BO golf course, Shell Ridge starting from Borges Ranch, and the highlight of the spring will be a more difficult hike in MDSP on the Falls Loop trails. I need to mention names of the guys that love hiking as much as me; Dave Steinberg, Earl Bates, Mike Browne, Pete Gates, Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting, Jim Nelson. I'm including a photo taken by Bob W. from

the Wildcat Canyon hike.

I'm not going to publish any definitive hiking plans in this writeup. But I will continue to send out emails to my distribution list about a week before each planned group hike. So, if you aren't getting notification and want to participate, please let me know via phone or email, and I will add your name to that list.



Dave Steinberg, Mark Curtis, Ray Martz, Earl Bates, and Mike Brown.

Mark Curtis

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Do you like to play golf but think it takes too long? Then you should try the 9-Hole golf group. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month

when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. We play the nine-hole course then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. The fairways are drying out nicely and you can drive your cart on them. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2021 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity was a huge success. There were several new players and their wives who joined the Bocce Ball activity. Per the calendar on the wall, the 2021 Bocce Ball activity has ended. Rest up because

the 2022 Bocce Ball activity will start the second Monday in May 2022.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and you and your family have a safe and healthy 2022.

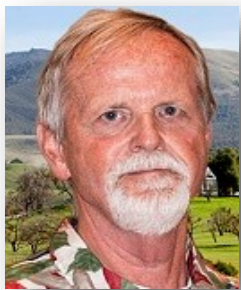
Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

We have a few jokes about unemployed people but none of them work



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 18th from 9 AM to 11 AM. The SIR Branch 146 Photography Group will be doing a Zoom Meeting due to the Omicron variant surge. Additionally, we will have the SIR Branch 8 Photography Group join us for this particular meeting.

Our theme for this meeting is Black and White Photography.

We are very fortunate to have William Helsel who is the photography teacher at Acalanes Adult Education. Mr. Helsel will be presenting on "Infra-red Black and White Photography" as well as his top tips and tricks in Landscape Photography.

We will be sending the photography group three articles: 1) Black and White Photography, 2) Complete Guide to Black and White Photography, and 3) How to take better Black and White Landscape Photographs. Reviewing these articles before our meeting will assist you in taking better black / white photos as

well as understanding our presenter's topic more in-depth.

Your assignment IF you choose to accept is the following:

There are two areas to focus on your assignment in black and white photography. 1) Winter time is a great period for photographing landscape. Particularly now in the morning with the rising fog from the valley floors. 2) You can also photograph in free lance style around your home or in your local neighborhood. Once you have completed this assignment, pick your best 5 – 10 pictures. Have them open in a folder and ready to share through Zoom. If you are uncomfortable in this function, then you can forward your pictures to me.

We will be forwarding the Zoom link and an agenda by email on Friday, February 11th.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman



While many activities of the Branch have been curtailed, we decided to go ahead with the Dining Out event on Jan. 24 as we had planned. We had selected La Fontaine, a relatively

new restaurant located on N. Broadway. It had a French and Italian cuisine. We had very good response from our mailing list and within 36 hours were above the limit of 40 we had set for the dinner. We actually wound up with 43 diners on the evening of the event. The menu had been selected to include some passed appetizers. Then a choice of minestrone soup or a green salad. The entrée selections included short ribs, cordon blue, ravioli, almond crusted sole, and meatballs. There was a choice of two desserts. Everyone was pleased to be able to get together again and the overall consensus on the food was excellent. Many of our diners indicated they planned to return to sample some of the other items on the menu. We will start our search for a restaurant in March soon and we are looking forward to continuing with this popular activity.

We have solicited some of the comments about the restaurant from our diners...

- ✓ *Fun time. Great to get out with the gang. Food was good not great.*
- ✓ *Great to return to dining with SIR couples. Food was delicious and a restaurant worth trying again.*
- ✓ *Great food, good service, this is a keeper!*
- ✓ *Everyone was having a delightful time dining but more so visiting with their SIR friends.*
- ✓ *We found the food to be excellent in portion, taste, and hotly prepared. What a treat with so many guests to be served hot dinners.*
- ✓ *My wife and I had a fabulous time. The company was excellent we got to know a new couple. The food was superb.*
- ✓ *We both enjoyed our excellent meals at La Fontaine Monday evening. In addition, we really enjoyed the group at our table.*

I know everyone on my table had a great time. The food was very good and everyone has plenty of room to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon

Dining Out hosts

bgborgman@aol.com



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Walnut Creek has a new sushi restaurant with the opening of Sakimoto, self proclaimed as Walnut Creek's hottest new sushi restaurant. There were

several suggestions that that restaurant should be our next adventure. Unfortunately, however, it turned out that they are currently open only for evening dinner service.

So, our first lunch of 2022 will be a visit to Tatsu Japanese Restaurant, 1837 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.



Grab your masu and join us at 11:45 on Thursday, February 17th as we continue our discussions on how to save the world while enjoying some of its best sushi — Japanese food! Oh, and a little sake.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org





Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime, we are on Covid-19 hold, and we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all SIR members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and
Jim Pope 925-699-6447



I thought growing old would take longer.



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II activity members met on January 10th at the Home of SIR **Dennis Hallett**. All seven members attended and greeted **Dennis** with a bottle of wine. **Dennis** started the luncheon with a welcoming spread of appetizers, including various cheeses, summer sausage, selection of crackers, olives and pickles. After some discussion of how the California State Budget surplus should or should not be used, the topic of interest switched to the San Francisco 49er's Sunday overtime win over the Los Angeles Rams. The consensus opinion was that the 49er's good running game and strong defense would be a challenge for teams facing them in the playoffs. The group then assembled in **Dennis'** formal dining room, where the group sat down to a plated 1st course of shrimp cocktail with home made sauce, butter lettuce, tomato and avocado slices. The main course followed with ham and asparagus rolls with shrimp sauce and a twice baked potato. For dessert we were treated to apple cake with vanilla ice cream. **Dennis** then served coffee and a selection of single malt whiskey for the non drivers!! The group will next meet at the La Veranda restaurant in Clayton, on February 15th, at 6:00 pm, for a Valentines Dinner with our Ladies.



Ken Richter, Corrie Oranje,
Dennis Hallett,
Richard Hockenbrock and
Bruce Borgman

Group Photo by **Steve Ybarra**
Entré Photo by **Richard Hockenbrock**

Steve Ybarra

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

We keep trying to have a full-fledged Game Night where all of our regular players can get together for the first time in over 18 months to share stories, partake of some beverages and munchies, and play

some "cut-throat" dominoes.

However, that is not to be as the latest Covid variants have made several of us sufficiently uncomfortable to wait a little longer to get together with up to 18 people in our home.

As reported before, during the now almost two years since we last played together in March 2020, a few members have felt comfortable enough to get together now and then in groups of 4 or 5 or 6 and keep their Mexican Train Dominoes play at a high level. We continue to hear, however, of a few instances where someone forgot to tap! Practice, practice, practice!

Wishing everyone a continued safe, healthy, and wonderful 2022! Expecting to get together in March.

Grupo Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We are holding off until March before returning to the tables again out of a sense of Covid caution. We are anxious to play but must follow county protocol rules. The choo choo will be leaving the roundhouse soon. Be patient...

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

Grupo Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

El Quattro MDT will not meet in February awaiting issues on the Covid 19 virus. Will contact the group as the CCC Health departments gives reports.

Jim Pope

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We will play our 1st game of 2022 on Friday 1/28 so there is no report of results for this month. All regulars have confirmed they will be playing so we'll have a full complement on

the 28th.

One of the new couples reported on last month has backed out but fortunately our SIR-Call editor and his wife, **Clint** and **Bev Collier**, have joined us. A bit of good news too is that **Etta Dotson** has decided to play, sans **Don**. This brings us back to full strength of 18 players.

Ron Plachy

rjplachy@icloud.com

Grupo Cinco 5



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

During the Omicron surge we cancelled the January event. Our next MTD will be at the Yollands on Feb. 17th.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net

You wanna see social distancing?
Loan somebody some money!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

John "Moose" Kelly

The group pulled the plug on a planned December meeting due to the current "surge". Future plans remain fluid.

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO kicked off its first meeting with 14 players showing up on January 5th at **Richard Hockenbrock's**

home. After a half hour meet and greet, the group spread out to three tables of 5, 5, 4. Since this was the first ever meeting, no prize money was collected, and scores were not counted toward future play.

Our plan is to play the 1st Wednesday of each month so our next meeting will be February 2nd starting at 6:30 pm. If you would like to get on the waiting list to play or be a substitute single or couple, send me an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM.

Overview

1) The charter of this group is to seek out all those members who wanted to play MTD in other groups but did not have room in their house to occasionally host. In most circumstances, all games will be played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, but he has initiated the concept of visiting hosts who will be responsible for bringing any food or snacks to the games when it is their turn.

2) MTD 8 wants to encourage SIR members and guests who have never played MTD to come to one of the ongoing planned training sessions. Call or email the contact information below to arrange a training session.

3) MTD 8 will be open to all SIR members and guests including singles, wives, and significant others. MTD 8 is especially interested having new members to try out MTD and experience why game playing with other members and wives, partners, etc. is so much fun.

Details: Play is scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of each month. Players should plan to arrive between 6:30 – 6:45 pm. After a meet and greet, play will begin at 7:00 pm – 10 pm with a break at 8:30 pm. Those interested in playing, please send me an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM or call me at (925) 324-1713. I can accommodate 18 players around 3 tables.

So a husband and wife were sitting on their couch watching TV. Suddenly the wife hears that she's got a text on her phone that she had left in the kitchen. She gets up and goes to the kitchen to check it and it's a text from the husband:
Please bring the chips on your way back!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Bob & Wendy Lucido** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

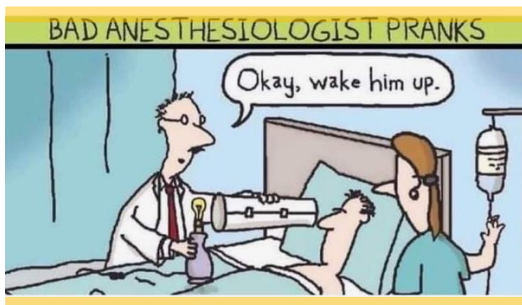
Congrats to **Jane West** for winning the MTD tournament and Dale **Dalgaard** for taking the consolation prize for highest score!!



Dale, that's two months in a row. You must like those lotto tickets. **Mary McCarthy** had the most average points per game for the year and won the grand price of \$40, and promised not to share it with her husband.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net





Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

The SIR 146 Book Group combined the December and January meetings because of the Covid outbreak, and six of the group met on-line via Zoom on January 10th, hosted by our latest iteration of

Zoom Masters, **Paul Dubow**.

Our book this time was *The Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole, a professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, the city home to the protagonist of the story, Ignatius J. Reilly. The book gets its title from a quote by Herman Melville that “when a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by the sign that the dunces are all in confederacy against him”. However, Ignatius is not a “true genius” but rather an over-educated and overweight buffoon who has no redeemable unforgiving qualities and believes he knows it all.

The story of the book is really two stories, one about the author, and the other about the story he wrote. The short story about the author is that after he wrote the book, he could not find a willing publisher, and became so discouraged he eventually committed suicide. His mother, who apparently was a very controlling person, found a copy of the manuscript, and hounded a friend of hers in the book business until he read it, liked it, and got it published, which led to the book getting the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Ignatius lives at home with his mother in a section of New Orleans where the streets then were still gravel. His mother waits on him hand and foot without appreciation and encourages him to get a job. He finds work, but he has a hard time holding down a “position.” He basically creates chaos wherever he goes.

He meets and interacts with a wide range of New Orleans “characters,” which is one reason to read the book, but the chief character is Ignatius. There is a life size statue of Ignatius on Canal Street – he’s famous!

He has a former (on-going?) girlfriend, Myrna Minkoff, a socialist/activist who lives in New York City and with whom he corresponds. He has only left New Orleans once, to study at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, but he lasts there only a few months. The highlights of his stay in Baton Rouge are meeting Myrna and writing a threatening letter (something that he was very good at) to a professor.

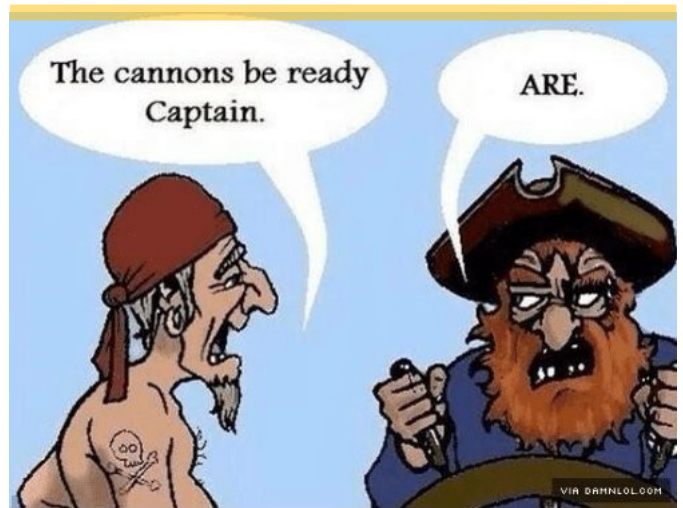
Ignatius’ mother finally can’t take it anymore, and commits

him to a state mental hospital. His girlfriend comes to New Orleans to rescue him, and as they drive away on their way back to NYC, they pass the ambulance coming to pick him up. He is off to NYC to raise havoc there.

We do not recommend this book to the SIR audience. It seems to be written for the “Literati” and those with a particular interest in New Orleans and, indeed, it paints a very good picture of the city. Tennessee Williams once said that there are only three cities in the US – New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans, all the rest are Cleveland. (Cleveland is a more attractive city now than when Williams penned his remark.)

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 7th, and if the Covid situation is not significantly improved, we will meet on Zoom. Our book for this month is *The Torqued Man*, by Peter Mann

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor



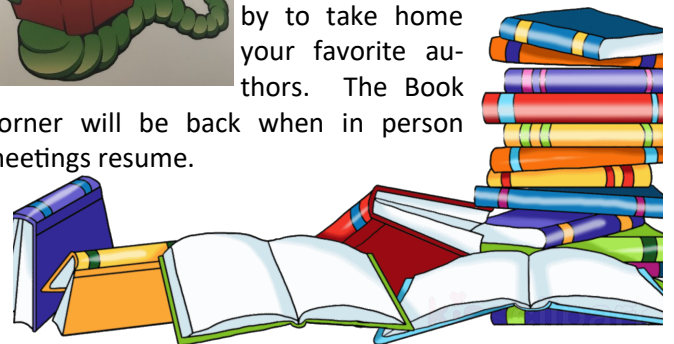
Grammar Pirates



Book Corner

Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who came by to take home your favorite authors. The Book Corner will be back when in person meetings resume.





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

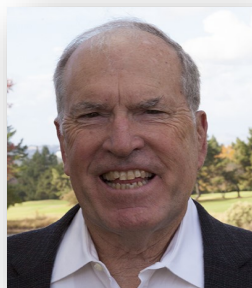
As of this writing, we have had our first meeting in person on January 14th at Rocco's. Our January 28th meeting will be reported next month.

The winners were **Bob Finlayson, Ron Polivka, Jim Nelson and Steve Ybarra**. Garnering a 2nd were **Brian McCarthy, Frank Lucas, Steve and Ron**.

The only person to "Shoot the Moon" was **Brian McCarthy** in the 8th hand of the 2nd game which was a hold hand. **Ron Polivka** had the lowest average score of 53, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 62. All were good sheriffs, as the only "STM" was on a hold hand.

Future Meetings: We are playing at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our February games, will be Friday, February 11th and 25th at 12:45 pm., with an optional lunch at noon.

Please call me at 925-518-8472 or email robertawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brand Hatcher

Six players attended the nicely hosted game in the first week of January. Norm Baietti supplied both snacks and tasty wines and players were appropriately masked.

Several of the players were still in a holiday giving mode while two, **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra**, took home substantial winnings. **Steve** "blamed" his success on his lucky penny and **Frank** just got lucky.

We look forward to joining again on February 3.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean hosted our January 4th event starting off the 2022 year. For the second time we tried an earlier start time of 4:00 pm which seemed to work fairly well. Henceforth, until further notice, we will continue with the 4:00 pm start time.

This was our third consecutive event since the onset of COVID. We are hopeful we can continue the streak as we deal with Omicron. It would be a good thing to get back into a steady routine with some sense of normalcy.

This event is half social and half bridge. The social half of this event was an enjoyable success, whereas the bridge half was less so. The cards didn't cooperate with few games being bid and consequently many part scores.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 2890 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 2270 points - **Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 2150 points - **John & Kathy Kluesener**

The first place points are one of our all time lows. The only other lower score was 2600 points in September 2019 and 2860 points in November 2017. I'm suggesting that **Rich & Ismini** throw out their cards and get new sets with more honors.

Next month's event will be held on February 1st and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown** at the start time of 4:00 pm.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

When my great grandfather went bald they built a machine to weave him a hairpiece. When he died, he left it to my grandfather who in turn left it to my father. One day I will inherit it. It's my family hairloom.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met on Wednesday January 19 for an excellent evening of cards hosted by **Kathy and John Kluesener**. **Kathy**

outdid herself baking some delicious goodies to go along with the crackers and spread, cheeses and chips. Thanks to **Elaine and Ken Righter** for joining us in a friendly, competitive evening of cards. Third place honors for the evening went to **Kathy and John Kluesener** with 21.5 points. **Elaine and Ken** took second place honors with a total of 22 points. The grand prize for the evening was a run-away victory by **Ismini and Rich**, gaining a total of 27



Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

The January gathering of the SIR Party Bridge was cancelled due to covid concerns. We do not anticipate trying to reconvene until sometime in March. Stay tuned.

If you are interested in Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope**, Co-directors If you are interested in playing Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope** to get signed up and put on the email list.

Co-Directors

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



Photo by: Bob Yolland

Kathy and John Kluesener, Elaine and Ken Richter, Ismini Maclean and Rich Ahlf.

points on 8 twos and only one zero. **Dick DeVoe and Bob Yolland** did the hard math of scoring for the evening. Our next gathering is scheduled for Wednesday February 16 at the **DeVoe** residence.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

We've played Duplicate 2 bridge sparingly in 2021, and only when the 7-day average of new COVID cases in Contra Costa County has been about 100 or lower. For example, we held our last event on Dec. 3, but the caseloads increased dramatically through December and well into January.

The peak has once again taken place, but it will take more time before getting down to the Duplicate Bridge 2 comfort level. Maybe we can start up again in March- or not...



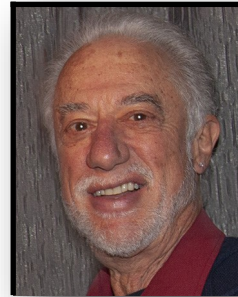
Lying about my age is easier now that I have trouble remembering what it is.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

Men's Duplicate #1 remains suspended during the current pandemic, including no game in February. We'll be watching **closely to see how the pandemic is doing.**



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

Our next trip is to the beautiful coast of Mendocino, which will be on the last week of February.

We are still looking for more members, so if you know anyone with an RV, tell them they can join us as a guest. After I get them drunk around the campfire, I will convince them to join SIR

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Couples duplicate #2 has been suspended due to the pandemic, but we hope to have a go at it again on February 8th at Ken and Elaine Richter's. If we do, we will experiment with an afternoon

game starting after lunch at 1:00 pm. Hopefully this time will serve members who prefer not to drive at night, and/or stay out past their bedtimes.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you're interested in joining our group, or if you'd like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email **Charlie Kahsen** (contact information below) and he'll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Cribbage

Ron Afdal

Our 14 cribbage players were polled re: an in person match at Rocco's Pizza on our regular 4th Wednesday of the month schedule. 10 were against, 3 were for and 1 did not reply.

So our January match was cancelled and the February schedule will be reconsidered mid-February.

Ron Afdal

ronafdal@comcast.net



Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group

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.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com
 Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their Zoom meeting – on Wed February 23 at 1:30 PM.

Topic to be announced.

A Zoom invitation will be sent out later for those on the email list. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
 Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
Little SIR.....	Rich Lyon
Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Assistant Secretary	John Kluesener
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Steinberg
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 2nd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 2nd Term	Bob Lucido
Director 1st Term	Bob Ford
Director 1st Term	Ed Brands
Director 1st Term	Frank Lucas

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bob Ford
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Frank Lucas

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



SIR State Information



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

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Parting Shot

Points to Ponder

The population of Earth is around 7.8 Billion. For most people, it is a large figure, so large it is impossible to fully comprehend. However, if you condensed 7.8 billion into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of the 100 in our reduced sample...

- 11 are in Europe
- 5 are in North America
- 9 are in South America
- 15 are in Africa
- 60 are in Asia
- 49 live in the countryside
- 51 live in cities
- 75 have mobile phones
- 25 do not.
- 30 have internet access
- 70 do not have the availability to go online
- 7 received university education
- 93 did not attend college .
- 83 can read
- 17 are illiterate.
- 33 are Christians

- 22 are Muslims
- 14 are Hindus
- 7 are Buddhists
- 12 are other religions
- 12 have no religious beliefs.
- 26 will live less than 14 years
- 66 will die between 15 - 64 years of age
- 8 will achieve 65 years or older.

If you have your own home, eat full meals & drink clean water, Have a mobile phone, can surf the internet, and have gone to college, You are in the miniscule privileged lot. (in the less than 7% category)

Amongst 100 persons in the world, only 8 live or exceed the age of 65. **If you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Cherish life, grasp the moment.** If you did not leave this world before the age of 64 like the 92 persons who have gone before you, **you are already the blessed amongst mankind.**

Take good care of your own health. Cherish every remaining moment.

