



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

January—February 2024



Big Sir's Corner

We had a good turnout of about 110 at our January luncheon, so attendance is growing, although slowly. However, we had six no-shows who were unable to cancel their reservation before the deadline. Remember

when you miss we wind up paying for the unused lunches. In this particular case three of those who missed were annual payers, so a portion of their meal was paid for through their reduced annual payment. Annual payers are still obliged to let us know if they will not be able to fulfill their reservation, so we do not waste the food.

We still have about 30 individuals who were members last year who have not informed us of their intentions for membership for this year. Those of you who are over 90 do not have to pay dues but we still need to know if you intend to remain a part of this august group. Please inform **George Mon** gckk@comcast.net of your intention and mail the check to him at 2484 Paddock Dr., San Ramon 94583 for those of you who are returning.

At our BEC meeting we discussed the need to recruit new members to maintain the integrity of our organization. A number of the SIR groups in the state have closed down for lack of sufficient membership. Attrition generally accounts for the loss of 25 or so members (10%) due to relocation, transfers or the final move. We agreed to set a target of at least 25 new members for the year and **to call on you, our membership** to assist by inviting friends/acquaintances to join us for a free lunch, to meet members and hear about activities that might be of interest. Our goal is to have at least 50 guests attend one of the 10 general lunches that we have (we had 1 new member and 4 guests in January). We need each of you to talk to friends about our organization and the many activities that we sponsor. If there is an activity they would like to participate in that we do not currently sponsor, no problem, with their help will add it to our list. We have a number

of brochures that we will set out on the name-tag table at each luncheon and we invite you to take one or more and use it to help inform a friend. Help us keep our organization healthy and vibrant with new life through new members!

John Kluesener
Branch 146 Big Sir

Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant

Luncheon
Thursday, February 8th, 2024
Boundary Oak 11:30

Courtney Webb from AMR Ambulance
First Aid Tips

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entree
go to page 3. (click this box)



Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Thanks for all of the positive feedback I got on our January speaker Janet Hoy. People liked the fact that she was very non-partisan in her presentation. In February we will have Courtney Webb from AMR Ambulance services to give us some first aid tips. In March we will be hearing from Dr. Zach Harris from John Muir Health to speak on the Future of Healthcare. We are working on a speaker from PG&E for April. I would really like your help on ideas for the Ladies Day Luncheon. Are there any suggestions from any of the ladies that will be attending? My email address is scubabob.ford@gmail.com if you have any suggestions.

Bob Ford
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in January.

Ronald "Ron" Self lives in Concord with his wife **Connie**. He was a self-employed contractor at R.G.Self Construction. He is sponsored by **Steve Knight**. Ron enjoys golfing with the SIR golf group.

One member resigned. **Carl Tilchen** moved to Vallejo. We lost a member. **Chuck Denney** passed away peacefully at home in late December. He was 85 years old.

As of this article, there are still 30 members who have not yet sent in their dues. So, this is another reminder to please do so.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. And maybe they may want to become a member.

The 2024 membership count is 250.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is 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
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Not much to say this month... so, a little contest! Spring comes a day early this year. What article mentions this event? E-mail your answer/guess to me, the editor. First one received will get a prize.

Decision of who is correct is the sole responsibility of me; determination of the first to arrive is the sole responsibility of me, selection of an appropriate prize is the sole determination of the editor (me)! One guess per person; SIRCall staff are ineligible.

Last submission date for the next issue will be February 17th. And, don't forget, 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 issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

Happy New Year everyone. We started the year off well with having 4 guests at our last meeting and one new member. We are looking to expand our membership and want to have at least 50 guests be invited

this year at our 10 regular meetings. If you do sponsor a guest, please be sure to send his name and food preference to the Luncheon group (attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) so we can make sure we have everything set up for them.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. If you find you have a problem using the links on the menu, just send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice (meat, fish, or vegetarian)..

It is always best to let us know you are coming or not even if you are late with your reservation or cancellation. All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, February 8th, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu on the right makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate link. **If you do not reserve by Friday, February 2nd by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.** Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

Check-In: 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to **SIR Branch 146** at check in.

Other matters

If you don't have e-mail, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include

your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans? If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to

Friday, February 2nd by Noon and you will not be charged. Send email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. **Steve** will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 February Luncheon

Thursday, February 8th, 2024

House Salad

Spring Mix, Grape Tomatoes, Croutons,
Ranch Dressing

Entrées

Bistro Filet

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Caramelized Shallot Jus

—or—

Citrus Salmon

Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable,
Creamy Lemon Garlic Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Penne Pasta

in a Creamy Tomato Vodka Sauce

Dessert

Molten Lava Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

2024 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 3rd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

MAKE SURE... YOU HAVE THE MARCH MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon

Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Salad

Irish Flag Clementine Cucumber Salad
Romaine Hearts, Clementines, Cucumber
Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Braised Corned Beef and Red Potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots

—or—

Creamy Herb Marinated Cod

Herb Marinated Cod, Red Potatoes,
Steamed Cabbage and Carrots, Creamy Citrus Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian Pesto Ravioli

Cheese Ravioli, Garlic Roasted Grape Tomatoes in a
Pesto Sauce

Dessert

Bailys Irish Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée!

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

SIR Mission Statement

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



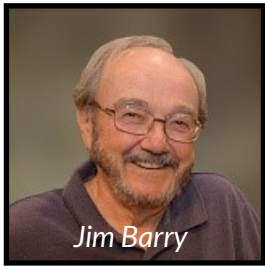
Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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.*



FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

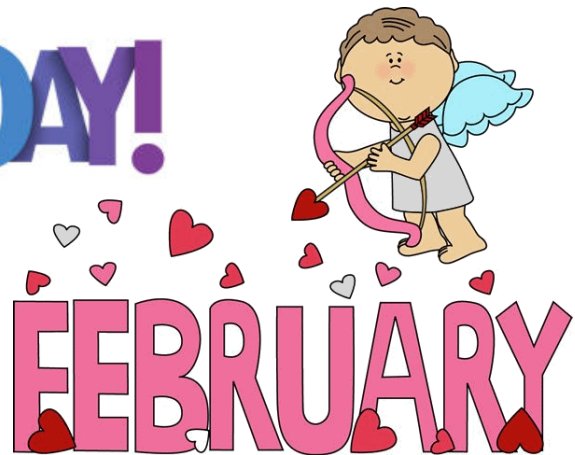
SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Joe Flannigan	2019	5
George Sabbagha	2019	5
Aubrey Moore	2018	6
Ross Abbott	2017	7
Bob Greulich	2017	7
James Browning	2016	8
Loren Delaurenti	2015	9
Jeff Morrow	2015	9
Gary Brown	2014	10
Chuck Cornell	2014	10
James P. Mcmanus	2014	10
Paul A. Masta	2012	12
William R. Dastic	2011	13
Verner R. Laursen	2011	13
David Steinberg	2009	15
Lynn F. Shafer	2007	17
Thomas J. Boltz	2006	18
Kenneth Richter	2000	24
Robert White	2000	24
Sal Costanza	1997	27

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tony Adduci
Peter Bishop
William Cammerer
Clint Collier
Dale Dalgaard
Dick Firth
Steve Loftin

Rich Lyon
Jack Menzhuber
Carl Pagter
David Pierce
Bill Rees
Walter Schmidt
Ben Smith

Ray Spears
Jim Stedman
Dave Svoboda
Bob West
Mike Davidson
Bud Pearce
Melo Piccolo





January 1, 2024

Fellow Sirs,

I am deeply honored to serve as your new President as we step into 2024. It's with great enthusiasm that I assume this role and with it the opportunity to evolve and strengthen our organization.

Our mission at SIR is clear: to enhance the lives of our members through fun activities, special events, and lunches while forging friendships that last a lifetime. **Our vision is compelling:** to be the best active senior's organization in Northern and Central California by promoting physical, mental, and social engagement which research shows will improve our quality of life and longevity.

Our number one challenge is to embrace the purpose and increase the vitality of our organization. It is clear we need to attract younger members as our older members are becoming less active. New members will play a pivotal role in leading us into an exciting new time. They bring fresh ideas and perspectives, ensuring a dynamic blend of the past with the future. In 2024, our primary goal is to reach out to our local communities and add new members and new life to every one of our branches.

I see the role of State SIR as a **Service Organization to the branches**. We offer you support for functions that 1) are needed by all branches (incorporation documents, management training, marketing material), 2) offer cost savings based on volume (liability insurance), 3) are one-time efforts unaffordable by a branch (Golden Gate Field party, travel programs), and 4) are Statewide athletic competitions to challenge to all members (Golf, Bowling). We promote these services through eMail and sirinc.org.

We need to improve the bi-directional flow of useful information between State SIR and all branches. Soon State SIR will introduce a new regular communication effort to provide informative, impactful organizational updates to Branch officers and a second effort to provide meaningful content such as innovative ideas and articles of interest to all our members. In return, we ask you to work with your Area Representatives to seek their consulting assistance on branch issues and inform State SIR on what is not working well for your branches.

I'm excited to announce that the fillable online management forms announced at the annual meeting to minimize your workload and reduce transcription errors are now being pilot-tested. State SIR will begin promoting their availability this month to the appropriate BEC members with instructions and helpful hints.

In closing, I want you to remember the sole goal of SIR is to **Have FUN with FRIENDS**. I want you to honestly evaluate how you can contribute to this legacy of SIR. As you do, remember SIR has simple expectations of its members: 1) be friendly to all, 2) actively participate in mental and/or physical activities, 3) eagerly volunteer and lead when asked, and 4) keep us vital by introducing SIR to your community and invite guests to our activities. Let's set a goal that we each bring one younger member into our branch to **Have FUN with Friends**.

Here's to a promising New Year filled with growth, camaraderie, and memorable experiences within SIR!

Warm regards,

Dale Decker

President, Sons in Retirement Inc. (SIR)

JANUARY

SIR meeting

Pictures by Rich Ahlf







God Bless America



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

I am writing about sharing SIR146 activities with our non-SIR friends. Big Sir John Kluesener-wrote in the last SIR-Call:

- “One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership.”
- “Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting.”

If you are involved in any open SIR activity, can you please consider telling your friends how much you enjoy this activity? Also, ask them if they would also like to join this activity as a guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIRs will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others’ social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum !!

To grow our branch, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests will also benefit SIR146 !!

Upcoming branch wide activities may include any of the below

- Pizza Party
- Fleet Week—day boat trip on the *SS Jeremiah O’Brien*
- Picnic

If any of these upcoming activities interest you, can you please reach out to me ?

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men’s Duplicate 1](#)

[Men’s Duplicate 2](#)

[Men’s Duplicate 3](#)

[Men’s Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2	
5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45am —3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm —10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:00am —10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am —1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm —3:00pm Hearts Rocco's W.C. 12:30pm —2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm —10:00pm MTD 1 Uno	
12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Hiking 11:30am —1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm —7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD month- ly 1:00pm —2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm —3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's 6:45pm —10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00pm —10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am —3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm —10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro	
19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Hiking 11:30am —1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm —10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm —10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	7:30am —9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm —3:00pm Hearts Rocco's W.C. 6:45pm —10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm —10:00pm MTD 3 Tres	2:30pm Mystic Pizza Leshner Theater, W.C.
26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm —4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm —3:30pm Cribbage Rocco's 1:00pm —2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm —3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's 1:30pm —3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm —10:00pm		10:00am —2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2	



Theater Glenn Breslin

The SIR146 Theater group plans to reserve seats for the afternoon performance of the Mystic Pizza and Cabaret musical shows at the Leshner Center in Walnut Creek. The Leshner Center is conveniently located and reasonably priced, especially when compared to SF Theater prices.

- Some seats are much better than others. At this time, some very good seats are still available.
- As soon as I receive your check, I will enable you to choose your seats.
- If interested, please make out your check to SIR146 and send to me – at Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549.
- Your Guests are also welcome to attend
- Both shows: Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek. Parking in the adjacent parking lot.
- Closer to the date, I will add on an optional dinner, for those that want to socialize after the performance.



Mystic Pizza

- Date: Sat, Feb 24, 2024 - Time: 2:30 PM
- Ticket price is \$68
- The story centers around the lives of three young working-class waitresses at the Mystic Pizza shop in Mystic, Connecticut. The script includes very familiar 1980s songs by such well-known artists as John Mellencamp, Van Morrison, Melissa Etheridge and others around an engaging true to life story. The story drives the show, and the music enhances the love for the characters and their journey.

If you are interested in Mystic Pizza, then please let me (glennbreslin@gmail.com) know by 1/27. I will return all unfilled SIR146 tickets to the Leshner Center on that day.

Cabaret

- Date: Sat, June 22, 2024 - Time: 2:30 PM
- Ticket price is \$35
- Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power. The musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for ominous political developments in Pre-WW II Germany.

Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments.

I look forward to sharing these Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin
glennbreslin@gmail.com

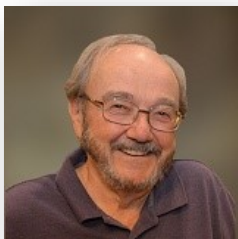


Table Pool Jim Barry

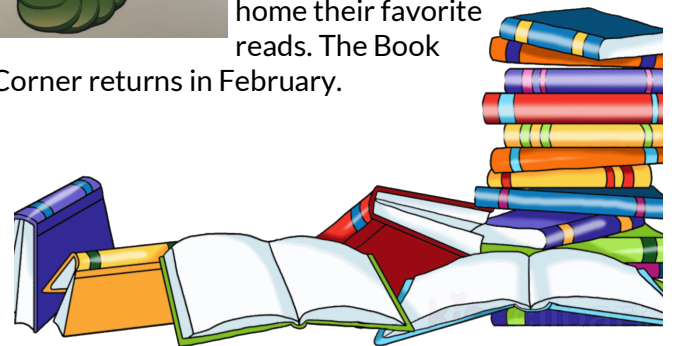
The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact Tom Amann, who is subbing for Jim as Jim recovers, for complete information. Contact Tom at tamann1@yahoo.com

Jim Barry
jbarry@sbcglobal.net



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their favorite reads. The Book Corner returns in February.





Travel Glenn Breslin



Please find these upcoming SIR trips – open to all SIRs and their guests. Rows 2 and 3 are SIR146 specific trips. Row 4 is a new Statewide SIR trip. Best of Spain and Portugal (row 2) has 10 SIR members attending. ***This trip will close out on 1/27. If you are interested, then please let me know asap.***

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
1	Alaskan Cruise	5/26/24 to 6/6/24	\$2590 to \$3322	Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway AK and Victoria, Canada.	Contact John Cardoza 209.483.7722 johncardoza@hotmail.com
2	Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7395	Airfare and 15 day guided trip. 5 dinners, 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches. Includes tips. Discounts may still be available.	SIR146 –Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
3	Memorials of WW II	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare and 10-day trip, highlighting WW II events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9 breakfasts and 4 dinners.	SIR146 –Glenn Breslin 925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
4	Prague to Budapest Cruise	11/6/24 to 11/20/24	\$3195 to \$3995. Additional \$1000 discount for early bookers.	Danube River Cruise Click HERE for trip info Multiple says at all these destinations: Budapest-Hungary, Bratislava-Czech Republic and Vienna-Austria, and others. Excursions are included.	State SIR Travel Chair: Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 925.285.2897

If you are in it up to your ears
keep your mouth shut

After my friend turned Vegan it was like I'd
never seen herbivore



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

Here we are in February 2024. To date this rainy season, I think we have done well with respect to total rainfall. This next 5 days (01/19 to 01/23) looks to be

very productive with respect to rain. But that also means it will be somewhat unpleasant to walk the single-track trails. So that means that there will be muddy boots among other things. My intention is to pick venues that have gravel, asphalt, or concrete surfaces from now until the end of February. And that presents opportunities to visit several of the bayside venues, which for the most part, are gravel or paved. This also presents some wonderful opportunities to observe shore birds and various species of waterfowl. These hard surface trails also do not present much in the way of arduous climbs. So maybe some of the couch potatoes out there might want to join us on some of these walks for the rest of the winter season.

I also have a recommendation for the “walkers” out there. East Bay Regional Parks publishes an annual “trail challenge” book which describes about 2 dozen selected hikes. These hikes are rated “easy, moderate, or strenuous”. Go to the website www.ebparks.org and search for trail challenge. You can download this entire document as a PDF file and then use it for own walking challenges. You can also visit one of the 5 EBRP visitor centers to pick up a hard copy of the book as well as a Trails Challenge t-shirt.

The other comment about East Bay Regional Parks is that there are about 40 different venues with a total area of about 125,000 acres. I have been told that this is the largest park system in the USA.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com





Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Are you tired of sitting in the house? Why don't you come out and join us for 9 Holes of golf. The course is really turning green with all of the rain. 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. I

t takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, 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



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group will be meeting at a new location on Friday, January 26th at 9 AM. We will be meeting at the Thurman Casey Memorial Library (aka Ygnacio Valley Library) located at 2661 Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek. We have met at this location in years past. The meeting room is located on the left side of the building in the back of the library. We will endeavor to have coffee and donuts available at around 8:45 AM. So come and mingle before we get started at 9 AM.

Here is a link to the library: <https://ccclib.org/locations/27/>

The January meeting will consist of three to five Christmas pictures of the photographer's choice. Additionally, **Bob Wilkenfeld, Frank Terzuoli, and Moose Kelly** will present roughly 10 photos each from different times of year on Iceland – the land of fire and ice!! PLUS there will be more pictures and topics for our avid photography crew.

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

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

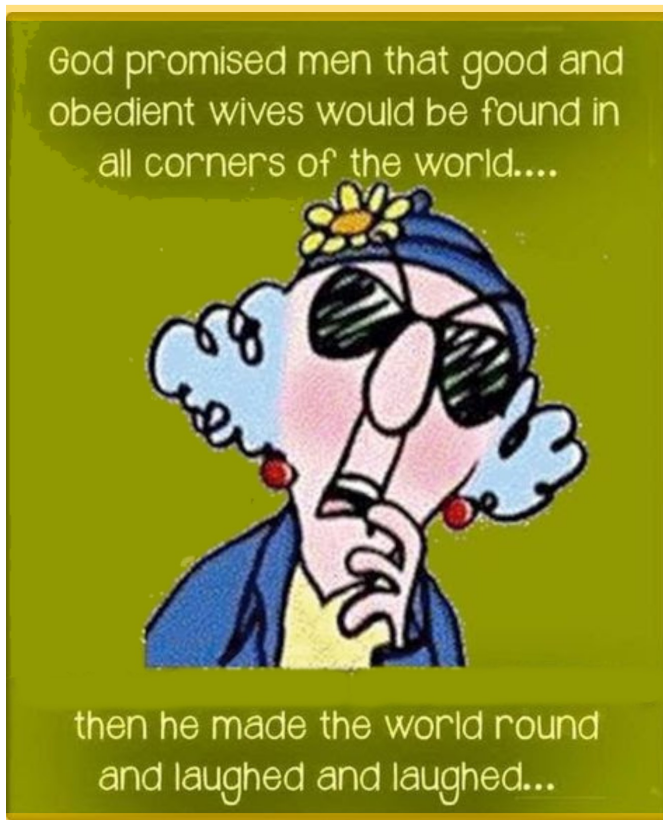
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





Birding Ted Robertson

Friday, January 12, 2024 Field Trip Report.

Our regularly scheduled field trip on the second Wednesday of each month was postponed for two days to avoid rain. At 9:00 AM, a group of 5 SIR birders met at the EBMUD Valle Vista Staging area to look for forest, chapparal, and water birds. The gentle 1-mile trail ended at a point overlooking the arm of the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. The highlight of the trip was a juvenile Bald Eagle, that was hunting ducks (unsuccessfully) and frequently perched in a pine tree near where we were standing. Quite the magnificent show. We ended up spotting 39 species of birds including Hooded Merganzers, 90 Common Merganzers, Green-winged Teal, a Spotted Sandpiper and a White-throated sparrow. The Wood Ducks were missed but we heard a female calling from her hidden hiding spot along the river. Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on February 14th. Location will be announced the week before. If interested, please email [Ted Robertson](mailto:Ted.Robertson) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.

Ted Roberson

925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



SIR members looking at ducks on the reservoir.



A juvenile Bald Eagle overlooking the reservoir. Juvenile Bald Eagles lack the white head and tail but have white patches of color scattered on the body and wings. Notice the magnificent beak. SIR members lack a white head too, until they mature into adults (or they become bald too).



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Rain in the forecast as well as wind and cold. What better way to spend the time than with some of the guys. We spent the ride time having coffee. Yes, no wind and no rain and as a bonus, it was warm inside the Java joint. We gathered and just talked. Dr. **Bob** explained the way we can harvest Hydrogen as fuel for our cars. **Moose man** reveled us with tales from his trip to Iceland, Dr. **Bill** talked about his recent tennis injury and I discussed seeing Liz Chaney at Lesher Monday night. All told , a much more comfortable day spent with the guys. Winter has its own plans and this was a way to still get together. Attending was: **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld , Moose Kelly** and myself, **Larry Kaye**.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030





AREA 16 Fishing Report

We are in a bit of fishing limbo right now because the Department of Fish and Wildlife has not yet released all its 2024 fishing regulations. In 2023, sturgeon limits were reduced, salmon fishing was banned, the halibut limit was reduced from three to two, and rockfish angling was limited to depths more than 300 feet which meant that fishermen had to sail to the Farallones if they wanted to catch rockfish.

We expect the same restrictions for 2024, but so far, only the restrictions on sturgeon have been announced. For the second straight year, fishermen will be limited to one sturgeon per year and the sturgeon that is kept must be within the slot limit, which is between 40 and 60 inches. We have not heard anything about salmon, but we expect that the 2023 ban will continue into 2024. The rockfish season ended, as usual, on December 31. Normally, it resumes around April 1, but we do not know if there even will be a rockfish season in 2024 and, if so, whether the 300 feet limitation will stay in effect. In 2023, the 300 feet limitation ended on July 1 and, to our surprise, it was reinstated on July 15. Finally, we expect the halibut limit to remain at two fish. That is a good thing as the elimination of the salmon season put tremendous pressure on the halibut population because many fishermen who normally would fish for salmon between May and October turned their attention to halibut.

Because of the restrictions described above, our efforts in January concentrated on trout and, to a lesser extent, stripers. The highlight in the trout department was the 7 lb. rainbow that **Pete Gates** landed at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. **Carl Moyer**, **Stan Wong**, and **Ken Bellindir** also landed trout at Shadow Cliffs. **Bob Lively** who, unlike the other trout fishermen, does not drop anchor and instead trolls for rainbows from his kayak, also was rewarded with some nice trout and, as a bonus, a 5 lb. catfish. **Ron Lew** also kayaked for a few trout at Shadow Cliffs.

Tom Kostik, **Stan Wong**, **Ron Lew**, **Phil Scimonelli**, and **Harry Sherinian** all fished in the Delta for stripers, and all were successful.

We also enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner at Zio Fraedo's. For the past ten years or so, **Pete Gates** has organized this dinner, but he now has retired from this task (but not retired from fishing) and he will be re-

placed by **Rich Fiscina**. Thanks, Pete, for your great efforts over the years!

Our next meeting will be on January 25 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories. All SIR members are welcome, even if one has never fished before or has not fished for a long time and all SIR members are invited on our outings. If you have no equipment, we will lend you ours. For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.

Paul Dubow
Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Pete Gates and his 7lb rainbow at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir.





Book Group

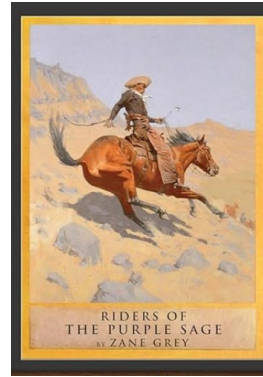
John Pearl

Riders of the Purple Sage, published in 1912, is the story of Jane Withersteen and her battle to overcome persecution by members of her Mormon fundamentalist church.

One of the local leaders of the church, Elder Tull, who already has two wives, wants to marry her so that he would then own her cattle ranch and other assets. The ostensible reason to harass Jane is her unwillingness to fire Bern Venters, a non-Mormon, who manages the ranch, and the book begins with a confrontation over this issue at the ranch. However, the leaders scatter, just before they are about to kill Venters, upon the appearance of Lassiter, a famous gunman and killer of Mormons. Lassiter comes to the ranch because he is trying to track down his sister who disappeared many years earlier. Unlike many Western novels, which are often straightforward and stylized morality tales, *Riders* is a long novel with a complex plot that develops in many threads. The story is set in the canyon country of southern Utah in 1871.

The author of this western novel is Zane Grey, who wrote many books about the west, and this one is generally considered one of the top three Western novels. He wrote almost 90 books about the rugged old west, with 110 films, and a series on Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre based on his writings. Over the years, this book was made into five different movies. After 100 years this book is still being read. Grey was also a dentist, a minor league professional baseball player, and an avid fisherman. It should be noted that in this book, the Mormons are the bad guys. We think that Grey may have disliked Mormons because of their then practice of polygamy. In that sense, Grey was a bit hypocritical because he had many extramarital affairs during his lifetime.

The book begins just as Jane has inherited a large working cattle ranch in southern Utah near a remote town, and with a home that several women keep for her. The ranch includes several very good horses that feature prominently in the story. The Mormon Church, which at this time supported polygamy, and the Mormon patriarchy had taken the position that women's place was in the home, etc., and that the men were in charge. Single women were not looked on favorably. Jane, as the owner and operator of the cattle ranch, strongly disagreed, and was constantly pressured to



marry Elder Tull.

She was faced with running the ranch and fending off the Mormon suitors who were not for her. There was also the local band of cattle rustlers, which the Mormon elders used to try to put her out of business, and these same church members pressured both men and women members to undermine her and the ranch. She was a busy woman. While Jane was a Mormon, those that helped her were not, and were called Gentiles by members of the church.

Lassiter has his own mission to find the man who abducted his sister. Jane knows who the man is but does not want to tell Lassiter. Venters, in the meantime, decides to leave the ranch and head back to his family home in Illinois in order to take the pressure off Jane. However, his trip is interrupted when he is confronted by two members of the rustler gang, one of whom is the infamous "masked rider." In the ensuing gun battle, he wounds the masked rider and kills the other rustler. He then discovers that the masked rider is a girl, Bess, who rode with the gang. He and Bess hide away in an old Native American cliff dwelling, where he nurses her back to health.

Much of the book is set in the country, its many canyons and valleys that play a major role in the story around the ranch. Zane Grey writes great descriptions, and the countryside side is beautifully described. His action descriptions are also well written, and yes, there is gunplay aplenty. Many of the bad guys end up dead, which Jane is not thrilled about, and in the end, the good guys basically win.

There are many twists and turns in this story with a lot of surprises around the corner and under the rocks. Venters and Lassiter get the girls, Bess and Jane, and they do ride off into the sunset.

There is a sequel, *The Rainbow Trail*, also by Zane Grey, and set 13 years later.

The "Good Reads" website has quite a few reviews if the reader wishes to learn more about the book: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/90160.Riders_of_the_Purple_Sage

Our next meeting is on Monday, January 22nd.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Guitar Group Curtis Young

SIR 146 Guitar Group. We have a small group of dedicated players in our Guitar Group. I am looking for more people interested in playing in a group setting.

All skill levels will get something out of our get together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Meeting time is 1:00-2:30 at my home. I encourage you to bring music you want to play, share or learn. If you are interested please contact me!

Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs will go to the Martinez Senior Center on March 7 and sing a program of Irish music for the residents. We will perform such favorites as "Danny Boy," "Harrigan" and two other favorites - "Greenfields" and "I Did It My Way." Our next rehearsal is on February 7.

We are always looking for new members.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

.Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com

Do people in Australia call the rest of the world "up-over"?



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2024 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity is always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 13.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

After a two-month hiatus, the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group resumed its activity on January 17. Our normal practice is to meet at a member's home and

enjoy his cooking.

This month, it was the turn of **Paul Dubow** to host and cook. However, at the last minute, a stove issue required a change of plans. And so, six of us journeyed to Il Pavone Ristorante for lunch. We were in luck be-



cause the restaurant was serving its famous Grandma's pasta, a delicacy that is on its menu only three or four times per year, and then only for two days each time. If any of you are dining at the restaurant when it is on the menu, order it. You will not regret it!

In the meantime, our spouses and significant others enjoyed a very nice lunch at the Revel in Danville.

Our next luncheon will be at **Bill Hartman's** home on February 21. He hasn't yet told us what he will be serving.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

Treat you Mom to a Margarita!
You're probably the reason she drinks.



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Richard Hockenbrock was the restaurant host for our January lunch at Clementine's, a New Orleans style restaurant in San Ramon. The Po Boy sandwich and the other plates ordered were good and represented

Creole style dining. Clementine's is a restaurant that serves unusual food that will not disappoint. The group will next gather with our wives and significant others for our annual Valentines dinner in early February.



Steve Ybarra



Okay, which one of you is first?



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Our first meeting or 2024 was on January 18th at Fuji in Concord. Fuji is an all you can eat buffet with sushi delivered constantly on a conveyor belt... or by special order!

belt... or by special order!



It turns out it is actually a lot more. Lots of sushi but also sashimi and other “tidbits”; I would call it a small plate Japanese restaurant with an emphasis on sushi and sashimi but they did have vegetable tempura which one of us ordered... as an appetizer, not as a main course.

The sushi was great; and in great variety beyond the usual negiri that most people think of. And if you didn't see something that caught your eye on the rotating delivery belt, all you had to do was ask one of the chefs to make it for you. And the best part? Other than our drinks everything was included in the \$26.99 price (other, of course, than the two G's... the Gratuity and the Governor)! Great sushi, great bargain!



Where will go in March? Well the venue hasn't been chosen yet but the date will be March 21st or for you Druids, two days after the vernal equinox!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out activity has just concluded as of this writing and by all accounts, it was one of our most successful Dining Out events of the last ten years.

You will recall that we had decided to go to Luna's Restaurant in Concord on Monday, January 15. This smaller, more intimate restaurant could accommodate about 45 diners, maybe up to 50. After sending out our announcement, we were fully booked in about 24 hours. We started a waiting list and soon had about 20 additional members interested in going. So, we decided to add a second evening - on Tuesday, January 16. This obviously adds a layer of complexity as we try to accommodate the requests to sit with friends on one night or the other. And, of course, your host winds up going to both evenings.

The menu for our event was very attractive - with a choice of soup or a Caesar salad, and a choice of four entrees, followed by a choice of two desserts. The soup had been advertised as a spinach soup - we were told that soup was the executive chef's specialty. But, on Monday, it didn't look like spinach soup - it wasn't green! Later I found out that it was mushroom soup. And on Tuesday, we had a light pink soup which turned out to be red pepper soup - both soups were delicious. And the rest of the meal was very good as well - the winners of the entrees, in my humble opinion, were the short ribs, and the lasagna.

With the smaller venue, we were able to have a more congenial social setting and as you can see from the pictures accompanying this report, a good time was had by all. I have received more notes of appreciation after this event than I can recall for any other Dining Out event.

We will continue with our regular schedule of the Couples Dining Out events and will plan our next event for March - likely March 19th, the vernal equinox. It's been suggested that we try a Chinese restaurant - specifically one in Pleasant Hill called Three Brothers from China. The banquet menu looks very appetizing, and the family style of service is usually less expensive. Stay tuned for additional information!

As we are looking ahead, we are planning to have our Dining Out event for May at Fiori Restaurant - a sec-

ond restaurant of our executive chef Habib El Jacifi. We've eaten there on several occasions, and always thought it was too small for our group. But our experience with having the event for two nights was so positive, even if a bit more complicated that we are planning to enjoy this excellent restaurant on May 20 and 21. The cuisine is Italian Fusion with several Moroccan dishes to pay tribute to Chef Habib's roots.

If you are not on our mailing list to get first hand information about our events, send me an email to be added.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com



MORE PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE

More Couples Dining Pictures from Luna Restaurant



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno was back in the swing of things this January.

We were welcomed to Alicia Baily's home for our first of the year game. Since we did not meet in December, it almost felt like a reunion. Everyone was happy to say hello and share holiday stories. After some yummy appetizers we were ready to play Mexican Train.

With a full group of twelve, Alicia had set up 3 tables with four players each.

The first place winners of each table were the ones that placed in the final top 1, 2, 3 winners.



From the green table, Peter Plante placed First with an average score of 13.9.

The winner of the red table was Jane Bryant. Jane's average score was 17.6, putting her in second place.

And the blue table's winner was Martha Plante, with average score right behind Jane, at 17.7.

Thank you, Alicia, for hosting and providing us with additional caloric intake with a delicious dessert of chantilly cake and ice cream.

Hosting in February will be Martha and Peter Plante .

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

Nothing to report this month.

Walt Busenius
 925.457.7428

walterbusenius@gmail.com

Welcome to adulthood, where you get irritated when they rearrange the grocery store.





Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

MTD6 does not have a report this month- we only had one get together in November/December. Due to Holidays we

only meet 11 times a year. We will be back next month

. . . Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob the Poet Lucido

Once upon a time, in the heart of the enchanted forest of Walnut Creek, there lived a charming couple

named **Bob and Jane West** who hosted the MTD 7 event.

Fairies adorned in glittering gowns emerged from the shadows as the day waned and the sun dipped below the horizon. With delicate wings fluttering, they gracefully greeted the participants. The fairies, with a twinkle in their eyes, escorted the guests through the winding paths of the forest to a massive oak tree, its hollowed-out trunk serving as the enchanting home of the Wests.

Majestically, the dwelling had accumulated all the guests, its branches reaching out like welcoming arms.

The dwarfs, residents of the enchanted forest, and close friends of the **West’s** emerged from hidden corners to serve delightful refreshments. The dwarfs, known for their culinary expertise, delighted in offering the finest treats from the heart of the enchanted forest.

As the final scores were revealed, a hush fell over the meadow. **Bob West**, with a score of 9.1, emerged victorious. The fairies, with their shimmering wings and radiant smiles, descended from the trees to honor the triumphant hero. With a wave of their wands, they lifted Bob West into the air, carrying him around the room to the delight of the other players. Laughter and

cheers echoed through the meadow as the fairies celebrated the champion's success.

Mary McCarthy, with a score of 9.8, secured the second position. The dwarfs, renowned for their impeccable tailoring abilities, emerged from their hidden workshops beneath the roots of ancient oaks. With nimble fingers, they wove a splendid coat for **Mary McCarthy** using leaves and branches from the mighty Oak tree. The coat sparkled with a magical glow, reflecting the craftsmanship of the skilled dwarfs.

Bob Wilkenfeld, claiming the third spot, was not left without recognition. In their ethereal beauty, the fairies descended again, adorning him with a crown woven from flowers of the enchanted forest. The delicate petals intertwined to form a crown fit for a woodland prince, and as they placed it upon **Bob Wilkenfeld’s** head, the forest echoed with the sweet melodies of joy.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train 8 (Ocho)
Pictures from January 3rd
Game.



Winners (L-R) Alicia
Baily 1st Pl,
Victoria Polivka
2nd place, and Roy
Hodgkinson in 3rd
place.

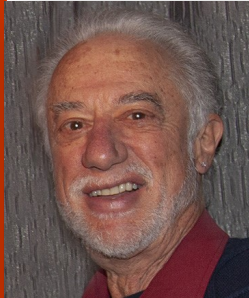
Group Photo Mexican Train 8:
Top (L-R): Ron Polivka,
Richard Hockenbrock, Sandi Foster, Steve Ybarra,
Victoria Polivka, Bill Holly, Glenn Breslin, Alicia Baily,
Joe Flannigan, Ellen Breslin, Virginia Tygart, Steve
Ondeck, John Foster, Chris Flannigan, Jan Ondeck,
Susan Terzuoli, Frank Terzuoli and Roy Hodgkinson



Scratcher tickets
awarded to the two
players with the
highest nightly scores,
John Foster,
and **Chris Flannigan**

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com

The word "incorrectly" is spelled incorrectly in
every dictionary!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Love was in the air at the
enchancing MTD 9 event.
Amidst the vibrant

atmosphere, the spotlight gracefully illuminated the
romantic tale unfolding between **Bob** and **Judy
Wilkenfeld** at the exquisite dwelling of **Bob** and
Wendy Lucido.

As the evening progressed, the stage was adorned with
an aura of inspiration, setting the perfect backdrop for
the chemistry that danced between the two. The
crescendo of emotions reached its pinnacle during the
final act, a momentous occasion culminating in a tender
kiss.

Judy triumphed in the competition, securing a
remarkable score of 13.1 and clinching the first-place
position. Meanwhile, **Bob**, the protagonist of this love
story, with a score of 19.3, showcased a performance
that beautifully complemented the rhythm of their

connection.

Amidst the cheers and applause, the spotlight shifted
to **Mary McCarthy**. Though elated by her second-
place achievement, a subtle pang of disappointment
lingered. Her knight in shining armor, who could have
swept her off her feet, was conspicuously absent.

In the tapestry of emotions woven at the **Lucido**
residence, love emerged as the true winner, leaving an
indelible mark on the hearts of those present. The
dance of romance continued, casting its spell over the
attendees, as they reveled in the magic of the MTD 9
event.

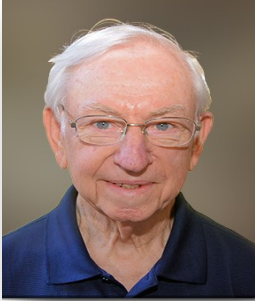


Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



CARD GAMES

...we play



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

December:

On Monday, December 4th we played at the home of **Mike Davidson**. He was a wonderful host with good snacks and wonderful desserts. Those in attendance were **Jane Bradley** (Jim Stedman's friend), **Mike Davidson**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Steve Dinning**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Bill Snyder**, **Ray Spears**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Bob Yolland**. The top three players for the day are **Steve Dinning** with 6460 points, **Bill Schaaf** with 6170 points and **Mike Davidson** with 5050 points.

We had a spirited contest for the 6 months tournament ending in December 2023. The winner that has the highest 4-month average scores of the six-month tournament are the winners. The top three winning players are **Steve Dinning** with an average of 5400 points winning \$20.00, **Bill Schaaf** with an average of 5070 points getting \$10.00 and **Joe Fuchs** with an average of 5038 points receiving \$4.00.

Our next game will be at the home of **Brad Hatcher** on Monday January 8th. This will be the first game of the 6-month contest ending in June 2024. Please plan to attend. Remember we need to play 4 games to qualify for the 6-month contest.

If you know of a SIR member who would like to play Party Bridge with us please get in touch with us.

January:

We had a delightful day of bridge at the home of **Brad Hatcher**. As usual he was a marvelous host with fine

goodies and dessert; Plus Farley. We had 12 players: **Jane Bradley** (Fill-in), **Mike Davidson**, **Steve Dinning**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Bill Snyder**, **Ray Spears**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Bob Yolland**,

The scores for the day were: The high scorers; **Bill Schaaf** with 6,210 points, **Mike Davidson** with 5,410 points and **Steve Dinning** with 3,970 points. Don't forget, there are five more games to compete for the 6-month contest with your four highest scores.

The next game will be on Monday February 5th at the home of **Jim Pope**.

Co-Directors

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



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our first game of the year was a delight as, for the first time in months, all seven of our playing group was in attendance. The game was hosted by **Brad Hatcher** on our usual first Thursday of the month. Snacks and wine were well decimated by the end of the game. As in our December game, **Rich Ahlf** managed to go home with the most profit. We will hope to change that dynamic when we meet at the home of **Frank Lucas** in February.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

At my age "friends with benefits" is someone who can drive at night.



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

The pinochle group has been returning from holiday travel. We had eleven players at the last gathering of the group. Any one interested in joining the group should give Stan Johnson a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next event is planned for Rocco's Pizza (12PM) on 1/24/24.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Called Walmart today to see when my W-2 would be in and they gave me a 1-800 number. I called and after giving the lady all my information she still couldn't find me.

She asked me what my employee number is and I told her I didn't have a clue.

She asked me what my supervisor was and I told her I'm not sure.

She asked me what department I worked for and I told her I was a Walmart self check out clerk.

She hung up on me!!

Corporate office is so rude nowadays.



Suddenly, Father Schober was not sure whether he really should have bought the new crucifix at Ikea.



Men's Hearts

Bob West

Since the prior SIRCall submission, we met on December 22nd and January 12th. The big winners were **Ron Polivka** and **Jim Passaglia** both with 3 wins, and **Steve Ybarra** with 5 2nds. The lowest average

score was **Glenn Breslin** with 50 and **Jim Passaglia** with 51. **Norm Cox** (BR 8) had 2 STM's.

YTD: For 2023 **Frank Lucas** had the most wins at 21.5 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 17 and **Brian McCarthy** with 16. **Steve Ybarra** had 20.5 2nds.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in February on the 9th and 23rd.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

How can we explain the volatility of results, when **Tony and Cindy Greco** warmly (and so tastily) hosted us on January 9th? Most pairs either had a really good night or a really disappointing one. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** only needed a 48%-game to place third. Hosts **Tony and Cindy** had a 60% game and only came in second. They deserved better. **Joan and Dave Pierce** had a surprising 74% game for first.

Our wish for more slams in 2024 is yet to be fulfilled. One ambitious pair, each with strong hands, did bid 7 NT, but the hands only made five. Bravo for the attempt. **Jim Stedman** opened a modest weak two; his partner **Jane Bradley** gave him a wonderful dummy (making six) but they had stopped at five (they still earned a top score). Pretty hard to bid a slam after you open a weak two. And pretty rare to make one.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Due to the proximity of our usual first Tuesday of the month event to New Year's Day, we didn't play in January. Our next event will be held on **February 6th** and hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**.

If anyone is interested in occasionally subbing for this monthly event, please check us out on our SIR146 website and contact me.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event met on Friday, January 5 with four tables and 16 players and was nicely hosted by **Ray Spears**.

Dave Steinberg was the strongest and most consistent player, hugely bolstered by 0 (**ZERO!**) zeros in 24 boards and the most 3's (13!). Congratulations

1st Half

Bds. 1-12)

1st Dave Steinberg

2nd- Dick DeVoe

3rd- Ray Spears

4th- Dick Chaffee

2nd Half

(Bds12-24)

Dick DeVoe

Dave Steinberg

Brad Hatcher

Bud Pearce

Final

(Bds. 1-24)

Dave Steinberg 51.0.

Dick DeVoe 8.5.

Ray Spears 38.0.

Dick Chaffee/

John Boyan (tie) 36.0.

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net

Area 16 Activities



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

We still haven't decided on a meeting date for Feb. Either 4th Wed or last Thurs, so stay tuned.

February's meeting discussion will be:

Does the economy influence the election and the markets, or does the election influence the economy and the markets?

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

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!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

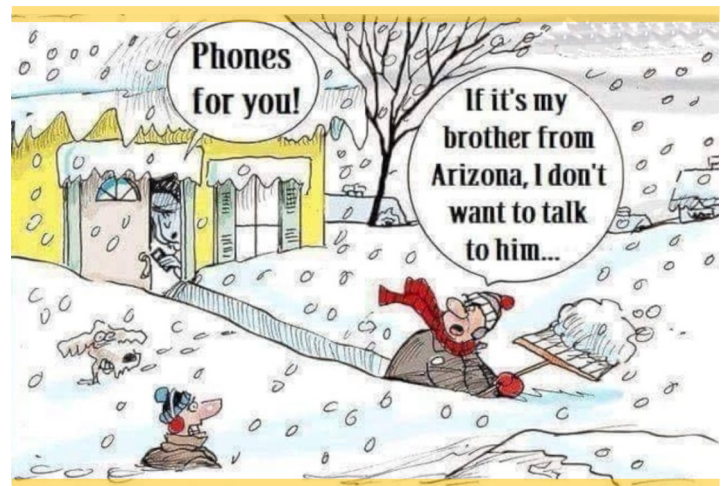
We gathered at Margot's Somerville's home for a night of cards and camaraderie. Our guests for the evening were Elaine and Ken Richter and Maggie and Dick Chaffee. Margot and Marilyn provided a sumptuous spread of cheeses, chips and salsa, salami slices, cracker and delicious brownies along with wines, soft drinks and coffee. Honors for the evening went to Nora and Mike for third place with 21 points, our hosts Margot and Marilyn for second place with 22 points and Kathy and John Kluesener snuck away with the first-place loot with a total of 22.5 points. Our next gathering will be at the home of the Klueseners

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Margot and Marilyn, John and Kathy Kluesener, Nora and Mike Davidson



Parting Shot

One evening my mother made dinner after a hard day's work. She put a plate of eggs, salad and burnt toast in front of my father ...

I immediately noticed, the burnt toast And, I was waiting to see if he was going to complain about it, but my father started to eat them, smiling and asked me how I spent my day at school ...

My mom apologized to my dad for the burnt toast. I will never forget his response to her: "Honey, I love burnt toast!"

Later when I went to bed and my dad came over to kiss me goodnight, I asked him if he really liked the burnt toast.

He hugged me and said, "Your mother has had a difficult day and she is really tired. She went out of her way to prepare this meal for us, why blame her and hurt her?"

Burnt toast never hurt anyone; but words can be very painful! "

We have to know how to appreciate what others do for us, even if it's not perfect, because it's the intention to do well that counts, and no one is perfect ...

