

# SIR CALL

## Newsletter

Pleasant Hill SIR Branch 146 Volume 16 Issue 1

Published For Our Members And Friends

January 2004



**Doug Cook**

### Big Sir's Notes

This past year (2003) was a banner year for our Branch. A sincere thank you to outgoing Big Sir **Bob Yolland**, the officers, directors and committee chairmen. Their fine efforts were responsible for the highly successful year we experienced.

In addition to Big Sir **Bob Yolland**, retiring officers are: Secretary **Bill Weinberg**, Asst. Secretary **Howie King**, Treasurer **Dean Merritt**, Asst. Treasurer **Bob Wheaton** and Directors **Cal Jones**, **Al Milano**, **Dick Richmond**, and **Ray Kan** (Little Sir for 2004). Retiring committee chairmen are: Attendance Chair **Dale Haukland**, Auditor **Chuck Bobinecz**, Chaplain **Bryant Fischback**. **Ralph Fowler** Hardware, **Phil Leigh** Investment, **Lang Erickson** Membership, **Fred Kovar** Nominating, **Art Trost** Veterans and **Rich Hanford** Wine Tasting. We are fortunate that many of these Sirs have accepted other positions for 2004.

Now the challenge is to maintain that high level of energy, enthusiasm, involvement and success that has made Branch 146 one of the outstanding branches of the SIR organization. Speaking for myself and the others in positions of leadership, we are committed to that goal. Please keep in mind that the Executive Committee meetings are open to all members.

Come and voice your opinion, concerns and suggestions. Our strength comes from your participation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Branch 146. The next Executive Committee meeting is on Thursday, January 8, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. Happy New Year!

Millions saw apples fall but Newton was the only one to ask why.



**Ray Kan**

### Little Sir's Corner

The speaker for the January Luncheon will be **George Fulmore**. **George** is a columnist for the Contra Costa Times and teaches at Mt. Diablo Education. Come and hear about "The Art of Retirement".

Ladies Day December 2003



SIR Branch 146 installs its officers for 2004

### Table Pool **Bill Weinberg**

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.  
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

The table pool club had only one meeting this month on Dec 1st. We had a great turn-out and some extraordinary games. Our next meeting will be on January 5th, 2004. We will go back to our twice a month meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. Happy New Year.



A string walks into a bar with a few friends and orders a beer.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Bowling **Dick Joyce**

**Pete Grelli** got warmed up a few days ago and shot 267 with a handicap and a series of 680 with a handicap.

Dave's Dudes continue to maintain their first place lead but several other teams are not that far behind. There are 3 senior leagues that our SIR's compete in at Diablo Lanes. In the Friday Hillsliders League, **Clarence Tooley's** Team, "Taz" is still on top. Other members are **Ron Morrison**, **Stan Strange** and **Dick Joyce**. There is one tournament on Jan. 19 & 21 in Sutter Creek.

**Al Zeppa** and I will be attending the SIR Bowling Association meeting in Vallejo on January 6.





## Cribbage

Al Tufo

2nd Wednesday at 12:30 hosted by different members.

The Cribbage Club was hosted in December by **Barney Meade** at his home in Concord. We had a new member join the club by the name of **Dan Meckfessel** who is presently on the waiting list of Br. 146. I don't know what it is, but every time someone joins our club he goes on a winning streak. Dan won the second tournament with **Larry Reilly** coming in second and **Langley Erickson** ran third. The first tournament was won by **Barney Meade** with **Larry Reilly** coming in second and **Bryant Fischback** taking third. It was great having three tables going on at the same time. The Italian stallion was under the weather and just couldn't get his footing. Happiest of holidays to you and yours. Ciao **Tufo**



## Cooking Too

Rich Hanford

This month **Stu Somerville** hosted a great Early American luncheon. Great job, **Stu**.

### 11<sup>TH</sup> SIR Branch 146 DINNER DANCE.

What: Branch 146 Biannual Dinner Dance  
Where: Heather Farms Garden Center  
1540 Marchbanks Dr. located north of the swimming center. Carpool best for limited parking.  
How Much: \$80 per couple  
Includes: Cocktails, Dinner, Wine, Dancing.  
When: March 3, 2002  
Cocktails: 6:00 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
Dancing: 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Our theme for this grand event is "An Evening in Paris" Colorful casual dress is encouraged.

If you have a dietary restriction, we can get a vegetarian meal by advance request. Make a note on your coupon. To assure a spot, send the reservation coupon below

.....

■ Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

■ Lady's first name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

■ We need \_\_ vegetarian \_\_ beef \_\_ chicken.

■ Send check payable to SIR Br. 146 for \$80 per couple.

■ To:

■ **Sir Don Nunn**

■ 2127 Seccombe Court,

■ Walnut Creek CA 94598

■ This is always a sellout so hurry and reserve early!

■ (If you don't want to tear your Sir Call, just print on a piece of paper)

.....



## Cooking

Don Nunn

1st Monday at various members' homes.

No meetings for December or January due to the holidays. The next meeting will be held at **Dan Hungerford's** home on the first Monday in February. Be sure to call **Dan** and inform him of your intention.

## Area 2 Computer Group

Floyd Skelton & Dick Curry

Our next meeting (none in December) will be January 15, 2004. Our guest speaker, **Ms. Peggy Johnson**, will talk on Genealogy and the Internet. Additionally, we will address your computer questions and problems and will identify some cool sites to visit on the Internet. All SIR members are invited to attend these informative sessions.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer Users Group are held at the Social Hall of the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., (off N. Main - one block north of the Treat/Geary/N. Main intersection). Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. For more information please visit our web site at: <http://home.att.net/~area2computer/> >

Happy Holidays!

## Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley



Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge at **Lo and Sue McCarley's** on December 15. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took first place with 39 points, **Bob and Janet Yolland** (37 points) placed second, **Bill and Margaret Rees** (34 points) came in third, followed by **Lo and Sue McCarley** with 32 points. The next meeting will be at **Bob and Janet Yolland's** home on Wed. January 21, 2004.

## Duplicate Bridge

Bob Donahue.



SIR **Jim Jackson** hosted four tables of duplicate bridge in December. **Lynn Freeman** was first with 41.5 points and **Jim Stedman** was second with 40.5 points. **Bob Donahue** was third with 38 points and **Jim Brown** was fourth with 36 points.

## Garden Club **Chuck Bobinecz.**

1st Thursday at 9:30 am at Alamo Safeway conference room unless otherwise announced.

The Garden Club will not meet in January due to the New Year's holiday. We will meet on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at the Alamo Safeway conference room. **Lo McCarley** is arranging a speaker with expertise on camellias.



Ladies Day December 2003



The lights went out but the event didn't miss a beat

Police Station Toilet Stolen. Cops have nothing to go on.



## Tuesday Golf **Walt Barabash**

### Latest Weekly Tournament Results

November 18 First Flight: **Jeff Baily, Joe Suta and Bob Mehus.** Second Flight: **Al Milano, Frank Mandic and Warren Boero.**

Closest to the Pin: **Doug Cook.**

November 25 First Flight: **Joe Suta, Rich Hanford and Jack Calloway.** Second Flight: **Walt Barabash, Pablo Chavez and Bob Madge.**

Closest to the Pin: **Bill Knapp.**

December 2 First Flight: **Bob White, Frank Marcon and Lewis Thompson.** Second Flight: **Bill Becker, Ernie Dickson and Garth Cummings.**

Closest to the Pin: **Ernie Dickson.**

December 9 First Flight: **Frank Marcon, Rich Hanford and Larry Sheerin.** Second Flight: **Dan O'Sullivan, Bill Becker and Pablo Chavez.**

Closest to the Pin: **Joe Lamanna.**

The bartender says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve strings here."

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## Health Matters Physical and Mental

The following articles were copied with permission from the *Aviation Medical Bulletin* published by Harvey W. Watt & Co. 1-800-241-6103

*These articles are not intended to provide specific medical advice. That should be obtained from your physician.*

### AMALGAM DENTAL FILLINGS

Silver colored or amalgam dental fillings were the standard for years because they were a cost-effective and long-lasting way to fill cavities. Then it was rumored that they were not safe. Recently, large scale studies by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have found no relationship between these fillings and health problems.

Source: *ACSM's Health & Fitness Journal*, November/December 2002

### WHAT YOU OAT TO BE EATING

Oats, in the form of oatmeal can lower blood pressure and lower LDL (bad) cholesterol levels. A 12 week study found that 73% of people who ate 5 ounces of oatmeal a day (12 grams of oat fiber) lowered their blood pressure enough so that they could reduce their blood pressure medications, and at the same time lowered LDL cholesterol levels by an average of 16%.

Source: *Journal of Family Practice*, Vol.51, pg. 353

### EXERCISE, EXERCISE, EXERCISE

In real estate, it's "location, location, location". In weight loss it's "exercise, exercise, exercise".

Studies show that those who are successful at losing weight are those who incorporate exercise into their dieting regimen. And the really successful ones are those who exercise an hour a day.

You can get into shape exercising an half hour a day. But its been shown that to lose weight, it takes an hour a day.

Source: *Hope Health Letter*, November 2002

### PEANUT BUTTER NEWS

If you read the label on a jar of peanut butter, you'll see that it contains hydrogenated oil. It's there to keep the peanut oil from separating from the peanut butter. You probably know that hydrogenated oil (also called "trans fat") can be damaging to the arteries.

But in peanut butter, the tiny bit that is used is negligible. Peanut butter is quite healthful. It contains 25% oleic acid, an unsaturated fat that can help raise levels of beneficial HDL cholesterol.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

### REPLACE FLUID IN COLD WEATHER

It's obvious that you need to replace fluids lost through perspiration in hot weather. But exercising in cold weather can also be dehydrating. You have to warm and moisten inhaled air in cold weather. That can deplete fluid stores.

Source: *UC Berkeley Wellness Letter* December 2002



## Know Your SIR Barney Meade

My official name is **Byron**, but I have gone by the nickname of **Barney** since I left high school. I am a native son, born in San Fernando in 1928, but I spent my growing up years in the state of Washington.



At the start of the depression, my parents moved back to central Washington and at various times we lived on the Canadian border, in the Okanogan Valley and in Yakima, a large agricultural and fruit growing community. I went to high school in Yakima and worked in the fruit orchards in the summers thinning fruit, and in the cold storage warehouses.

The US Navy was offering a two year enlistment with full GI benefits in 1946. I enlisted 2 weeks after I graduated from high school and subsequently did a 9 month tour in China in 1947-48.

In the fall of 1948 I entered Washington State College and graduated in 1952 with a B.S. in civil engineering. One summer I worked for the Alaskan Road Commission on the Glen Allan Highway 150 miles inland from Anchorage. That job convinced me that I didn't want to build dams and bridges in the wilderness. I then interviewed with Std. Oil of California. They offered me a job as a refinery engineer at their Richmond refinery and so started a 40 year career with Chevron.

I worked for 10 years in Engineering and then transferred to the Purchasing Department in San Francisco. Purchasing had a group of engineers who were responsible for the quality of the process equipment and other critical materials that Chevron purchased. The next 30 years were spent traveling around the country with occasional trips overseas to Europe and Japan performing inspections and expediting assignments.

My wife of 39 years passed away in 1991 and I took early retirement the following year from the San Ramon Office. Since I had done a lot of traveling in my work, I have continued that in retirement. I have a son and granddaughter in New York City, a son and 2 grandsons in the Portland, OR area and a daughter and 2 grandsons in San Jose. I try to visit them at least yearly as well as several women friends around the country, all of whom knew my wife for 35 to 50 years and are all over 70! We POSSLQ (Persons of the opposite sex sharing living quarters) on trips, cruises and tours.

The SIRs have given me much enjoyment with the golf, cribbage, cooking, pool and billiards and dinner dances. I hope to continue to participate and pass along this feeling of fellowship and goodwill to others.

Ladies Day December 2003



Fifty-fifth wedding anniversary celebrants **Russ & Opal Bliese** with **Molly & Bill Boyd**

## Investment\$

**Ben Smith**

4th Wednesday 8:00 am at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4, Concord.

**Ben Smith** (925)820-5403 bjsssmith@Aol.Com

The feature presentation will be made by Mr. **Tom Kopas**, Principal of the Pring-Turner Capital Group of Walnut Creek. He will present his outlook of where to invest in 2004 and discuss strategies to support retirees' portfolios. Mr. **Kopas** is a very knowledgeable financial advisor with many years of experience in the investment world. You will not want to miss his insight and ideas for the coming year. We also plan to review our past year portfolio results and plan to make our stock picks for 2004. No reservations are needed. Just come on out, have breakfast, and bring your questions and ideas.

Ladies Day December 2003



Guests enjoying the singing of the Clayton Valley High School's Women's Ensemble

The string walks away a little upset and sits down with his

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Attendance

Bill Root

SIR's Luncheon 2nd Thursday of every month at Blake's Restaurant, Boundary Oak

Call me by Friday noon prior to the Luncheon at 943-6194 if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If I am not home, press 3 and leave your name, badge number and telephone number.

Be sure you call.

### Waiting List:

If you are going to attend, you must call by Friday prior to the Thursday Luncheon.

### SIRs bringing a guest:

Call by Friday prior to the Thursday Luncheon and leave your name and the name of your guest.

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than 6 meetings in the last 12 months shall be notified by letter of their pending membership termination. Certification of another Branch meeting will be considered as credit to attendance record.



Ladies Day December 2003



Barbara Stedman, Alicia Baily & Sharon Varner



## Luncheon

Jerry Bellows

This month's luncheon menu

*Salad* - House salad  
- Freshly baked rolls and butter

### *Entrees including vegetables*

- Chicken Monterey with tomato, avocado and jack cheese on a bed of rice pilaf
- Marinated flank steak

### *Dessert*

- Daily dessert special
- Regular or decaffeinated coffee and tea



## Theatre

Bill Hansen

Next outing for the Theatre Group is February 21st. We will be seeing "Wigged Out" at the Victoria Hair On Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd. The Show begins at 7 pm. Tickets are \$32. We are limited to 30 seats. Make Check out to SIR Branch 146 and mail to **B. Hansen** 3098 Manzano Drive, Walnut Creek, 94598

## Party Bridge Fred Bolton



1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Bring a lunch.

The Party Bridge group met on Dec.1 at **Fred Bolton's** home for four tables of bridge. First place went to **Lynn Freeman** with 7,260 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 6,750, third to **Bob Yolland** and fourth to **Doug Carlson**. Our next game will be at **Jim Brown's** on January 5.

## Song Sirs Chris Satterthwaite



Practice is held at the WC Presbyterian Church normally at 3:00 pm Wednesday.

Dates to be commensurate with SongSirs entertainment obligations.

The SongSirs ended its very successful 2003 season with performances at the Walnut Creek Senior Manor and at the Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton. The latter was for the benefit of our sister Sir Br.19. Special thanks to Br 146 members for their support of SongSirs. All 18 SongSirs members are to be congratulated for their dedicated Efforts especially **Rod Sharretts**, director, **Dave Obara**, pianist, **Jim Helmick**, harmonica, **Don Nunn**, narrator and **Mike Varner**, communicator. The SongSirs already have requests for performances next year and are working on the 2004 master plan.

Ladies Day December 2003



I love Ladies Day.

Peg & Fred Kovar with Lynn Kratz and Betty Dunne

friends. A few minutes later he goes back to the bar and

(Continued on page 8)

## Membership Jim Jackson



Branch 146 statistics: Members 210, HLM 4, Waiting List 31. September attendance: Members 135, Honorary Life Members 3, Waiting List 14, Guests 4. Attendance: 156 Sirs





## Travel Opportunities

**Charlie Kiser**

Feb 13, 2004 Valentine's Day-Santa Cruz Mountains. Motor coach to the famous Brookdale Lodge with a brook running through the dining room. Includes lunch. Enjoy America's most loved folk songs by a former member of the New Christy Minstrels. Cost \$89 p/p.

Contact **Fred Stammen** Br. 171, 283-1956

March 18, 2004 Day at the Races. Our annual trip to Golden Gate Fields to visit our money we left last year. Includes Turf Club admission, lavish buffet lunch and program. Cost \$32 with r/t bus transportation and \$19 on your own. Contact **Charlie Kiser**, 274-1575

Mar 29-30, 2004 Debbie Reynolds. Includes r/t deluxe bus transportation, overnight at Reno Hilton, show tickets, casino stops with a bonus value of \$35 and a hosted cocktail party. Cost \$110 p/p d/o, single supplement \$17.

Contact **Fred Stammen** Br. 171, 283-1956

April 17-24, 2004 Steam boating on Columbia, Willamette & Snake Rivers. Cruise on the three great rivers of the Pacific Northwest aboard the Queen of the West Steamboat. Cost \$2840 p/p d/o. Contact **Bob Hagler** Br. 8, 934-7620

April 30-May 5, 2004 Ramona Pageant. Deluxe motor coach transportation throughout. 4 nights accommodations in Bakersfield, Desert Hot Springs, Ventura and the Ramona Pageant in the Mt. San Jacinto foothills. Includes 8 meals. Cost \$987 p/p d/o.

Contact **Fred Stammen** Br. 171, 283-1956

May 7-23, 2004 Portugal and Spain pending Board approval. A 17 day tour featuring Salamanca, Oporto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, Granada, Valencia, Barcelona and Madrid. Daily breakfast and 9 dinners Cost \$3175 p/p d/o \$670 single supplement. Contact **Bob Spellman** Br. 146, 934-8428

May 16-17, 2004 Camelot Musical Motor coach transportation, Sunday Matinee performance of Camelot w/accommodations at Sand Regency in Reno. Cost \$79, Contact **Carl Raaka** Br. 8, 254-0482

October 3-10, 2004 National Parks of the Southwest. Includes r/t air SF to Las Vegas and motor coach throughout tour. Visit Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National Parks as well as Lake Powell cruise, Sedona pink jeep tour, wagon ride and steak fry in Mesquite and sights along the way. Includes 7 breakfasts and 6 dinners as well as all admissions. Cost \$1450 p/p d/o.

Contact **Charlie Kiser**, 274-1575

Ladies Day December 2003



Jill & Bill Root and Jane & Hank James

## Away Golf

**Jim Baldrige**



Flyers are out for a Crow Canyon Country Club 9:00am shotgun. Moraga Br. 171 is hosting the event: Br. 146 has been offered 25-30 SIR member slots. Space is limited, so sign up early. Date is Monday, Mar 1, 2004. Cost is \$50, including cart. Flyers are also out for our annual Silverado Country Club event. Date is Friday, Apr 2, 2004. 12:00 shotgun on the North Course. Cost is \$45 for SIRs and \$43 for guests, including cart. Wives and guests are welcome. P.S. Both of these courses are private and are cart path only unless you have an auto handicap placard. Questions: **Jim Baldrige** 689-9232 or **Dick Richmond** 947-1167.

Ladies Day December 2003



Kay & John Rose

## Fishing

**Sal Costanza**



4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4, Concord.

A great fishing schedule has been set up for 2004. Trips to the Upper and Lower Sac, Eagle Lake, New Melones, Yuba and Feather Rivers and many more. Come to our next meeting and get the full schedule. Some great fish stories too.

State President Region Director Area Governor	2004 SIR State Officers	James Faverman Dan Gilmore Art Miller
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### Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR	Doug Cook	939-4327
Little SIR	Ray Kan	376-2023
Secretary	Garth Cummings	820-0745
Assistant Secretary	Jim Stedman	932-1636
Treasurer	Lew Thompson	686-6880
Assistant Treasurer	Frank Rockwell	943-7743
Director	Chuck Bobinecz	939-8740
Director	Ralph Fowler	939-2953
Director	Dale Haukland	820-0189
Director	Howard Harvey	933-4112
Director	Stu Somerville	944-0738
Director	Ed Wojnar	933-9248

### Committee Chairmen-2004

Attendance	Bill Root	943-6194
Audit	Ron Pascoe	937-0161
Badges	Dick Richmond	947-1167
Bocce Ball	Al Milano	933-3492
Bowling	Dick Joyce	672-8193
Bridge-couples	Lo McCarley	935-3939
Bridge-duplicate	Bob Donahue	376-4527
Bridge-party	Fred Bolton	932-1580
Bulletin	Jeff Baily	906-0521
Candy Sales	Bob Spellman	934-8428
Chaplain	Roy Fredrickson	284-5623
Cooking	Don Nunn	934-5214
Cooking Too	Rich Hanford	933-9237
Cribbage	Al Tufo	798-4129
Fishing	Sal Costanza	689-7647
Gardening	Chuck Bobinecz	939-8740
Golf	Joe Jansen	935-6691
Golf Scheduling	Tom Gorman	685-9721
Away Golf	Jim Baldrige	689-9232
Greeters	Bob Madge	939-4037
Historian	Jack Calloway	933-7998
Honorees	Dick DeVoe	932-5546
Investment	Ben Smith	820-5403
Luncheon	Jerry Bellows	376-3352
Membership	Jim Jackson	687-7052
Nominating	Bob Yolland	932-4758
Pianist	Dave Obara	932-2584
Radio	Bill Moresi	837-4645
Social	Don Nunn	934-5214
SongSirs	Chris Satterthwaite	939-7826
Director	Rod Sharretts	372-6566
Sunshine	Chuck Smith	944-4949
Table Pool	Bill Weinberg	682-0962
Theatre	Bill Hansen	939-4951
Travel	Charlie Kiser	274-1575
Asst Travel	Bob Spellman	934-8428
Walkers	John Lewis	825-3561
Wine Tasting	Bob Burley	934-5816

### Past Big SIR's

- 1989 Charles Unfried
- 1990 Gill Rhodes
- 1991 Gene Hackett
- 1992 Walt Entelman
- 1993 Kap Kaprielian
- 1994 Joe Jansen
- 1995 Bob Walton
- 1996 Dick DeVoe
- 1997 Warren Boero
- 1998 Don Nunn
- 1999 Dave Valladao
- 2000 Jack Calloway
- 2001 Bill Hansen
- 2002 Fred Kovar
- 2003 Bob Yolland



## Walkers

John Lewis

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.  
Call **John** or just show up.

Jan 2 - Willows Br. Of Iron Horse Trail north. Meet at trail near El Torito Restaurant parking.

Jan 9 - Lake Temescal Trail (Oak). Take 24W to 13S to Broadway Terrace exit. Turn left at stop to quickly turn extreme left to park entrance.

Jan 16 - Concord Canal Trail east from Cowell Rd. Meet at Concord Comm. Park on Cowell Rd.

Jan 23 - Iron Horse Trail south from Osage Park. Take

680S to Sycamore Valley (east) to 1st rt. on Camino Ramon to left on El Capitan to left at 1st stop sign past Iron Horse Trail.

Jan 30 Willows Br. of Iron Horse Trail south. See Jan 2 instructions above.

Thanks to **Rich Hanford, John Lewis, Bob Madge,** and **Chris Satterthwaite** for folding and labeling, to **Ken Kratz** for photography, **John Lewis** for mailing, and **Dick DeVoe** for proof reading.

Thanks also to the Rector and staff at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek for the use of their facilities.

### In My Humble Opinion

*Ladies Day Luncheon, December 2004 was a rousing success. The room was filled to capacity with SIRs and their lady guests and Big Sir **Bob Yolland** set an upbeat mood for the event. The Clayton Valley High School Women's Ensemble was marvelous. Thanks to **Doug Cook** for the booking. The day also happened to be the 55th wedding anniversary of Russ and Opal Bliese and they were congratulated by all. Big Sir **Bob** acknowledged and thanked all those committee chairs who served in 2003. Things were going great and everyone settled in for the first course of what was to be a delicious lunch. Then the lights went out... literally. Due to an outside electrical failure, Boundary Oak Golf Course and Blake's Restaurant lost one of three phases of electrical current. After the first hour or so on reduced power, all electricity was lost.*

*So you're **Jerry Blake** and you've got 300 guests all dressed up and awaiting the great service that is expected at such a gala event. What do you do?*

***Mr. Blake** and his crew were on the scene immediately, managing the situation. They were invisible to us guests but they were there. They brought out flashlights to keep the kitchen, which was in pitch black darkness, operating. And they distributed and lit table candles to help set the mood, if nothing else, in the dining area which benefited somewhat from the light coming in from hallway windows.*

*The meals were served without so much as a small delay and the food was, in this writer's opinion, hot and delicious.*

*Blake's Restaurant operated on the duck principle. Let 'em see the duck gliding smoothly across the pond but make sure that all the required activity below the surface is functioning well and remains unseen.*

*Congratulations to Blake's on a job well done!*

*Jeff Baily, Editor*

### January Birthday Boys

**Garth Cummings, Dick DeVoe, Gene Diana, Ernie Dickson, Chuck Eichten, Art Gagnon, Dennis Hallett, Dale Haukland, Wes Hauschildt, Buddy James, Kap Kaprielian, Bill Knapp, Jim Kohl, Frank McNamee, Ron Morrison, Ray Nordstrom, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, Bill Thorbrogger, Heino Valvur**

# SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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Branch 146 Walking Group on a December walk around "Ralph's Ramble" in Alamo

Ladies Day December 2003



Big Sir Doug & Georgia Cook and Carla & Lew Thompson

orders a beer. The bartender, looking a little exasperated, says, "I'm sorry, we don't serve strings here." So the string goes back to his table. Then he gets an idea. He ties himself in a loop and messes up the top of his hair. Then he walks back up to the bar and orders a beer. The bartender squints at him and says, "Hey, aren't you a string?" And the string says, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."

*Sorry...ed*