

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday, January 12th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker
Joe Starkey “Reflection of a Four-
Decade Career in Sports
Broadcasting”

Gathering time - 11:00 am

Starting time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, January 6th



Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

Welcome to the New Year! We are past the solstice and the days are growing longer again. Always gives us something for which to look forward. After giving us a sterling year as Big Sir, **Walt Busenius** has passed the gavel over to me, very humbling. Now time to

get down to business.

We are fortunate this year to be able to begin our luncheon schedule at Boundary Oak. Remember the date, January 12th is our first one and the second Thursday of each month thereafter. No more confusion like the past two years as Boundary was undergoing its renovations. Nice to start from home again! PLEASE, remember to give notice by 12 Noon the Friday before the luncheon if you know you will not be able to attend. We have to project attendance to Boundary and the branch is on the hook if you do not tell us you can't make it. It also makes our Luncheon Chair's job more difficult, and we are all volunteers.

As we begin our year I would like to give a shout-out to our many volunteers, our committee chairs and members, activity chairs and assistants, our BEC members and my fellow officers. Branch 146 is one of the most successful branches in the SIR organization because so many of us step up and handle things that many other branches neglect. **Steve Ybarra** and **Steve Dawkins** gave us two wonderful Ladies' Day lunches in 2016. New member **Milt Smith** took on the Travel Chair responsibilities. New Board Member **Dave Pierce** is taking over Membership Chair responsibilities from **Ben Gleason** who served in that role for about three years. Our Luncheon Chair is now **Rob Melrose**, giving **Max Hinkle** some relief from serving in that capacity for about three years. **Al Munayer** is standing in as our Publicity Chair until **Jim Saavedra** is fully recovered (we are looking forward to having you back with us **Jim**!) **Rich Hockenbrock** has done an incredible job with our SIR Call, the BEST!

Serving as a volunteer in one or another activity or committee or even as a Director or Officer is a great way to keep this branch vibrant, and also a great way to fulfill the SIR Mission, "Make Friends For Life!" Each of us who take on a little bit makes it easier to accomplish our goals.

Let us all give a thought to inviting guests and



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

SIR members and guests listen to the "HouseBlend Quartet" at the December Ladies Day Luncheon

potential new members to our luncheons. Many people are continuing to work through their senior years these days, so the State Organization has changed our mission from seeking solely retired men. Keep that in mind. Participation in SIR is a great additional outlet to someone who still spends time in active employment. Check out our new recruitment video on the website and pass it along to some men who you think might be interested.

I'm looking forward to banging my first gavel and welcoming everybody to 2017 Sirs. I am also looking forward to hearing Joe reprise "The Play". See you on the 12th.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Bruce Borgman

It is with some trepidation that I embark on my new responsibility as Little Sir. **Alan** did such a great job last year that these are big shoes to fill indeed! But, as we all know, it takes a village – to coin a phrase – and I am relying on

all of you to assist in finding good speakers for our monthly luncheons, one of my duties as Little Sir. If you have an idea for an interesting topic or speaker, pass it along and I will follow up.

For our first luncheon of the New Year, on January 12th, we are pleased to have our own **Joe Starkey** speak to us. As most of you know, Joe has had an illustrious four-decade long career in sports broadcasting in the Bay Area and other parts of the country as well as the radio broadcaster of two Super Bowls. He was the voice of the 49ers for 22 years and has been the radio play-by-play announcer for the California Golden Bears since 1975. He was inducted into the Bay Area Radio Hall of Fame and is the recipient of many other sports broadcasting awards. He recently was honored with the broadcast booth (at Cal's Memorial Stadium) being named for him. His description of "The Play" during the 1982 Big Game is one of the most renowned broadcasts in all of sports. Joe will relate some of his experiences as an announcer. You won't want to miss it.

If you have not yet seen our new SIR recruiting video, check it out on the home page of our website. I was given a feature role but the real credit goes to **Richard Hockenbrock** who was the creative genius behind the video! Use it to recruit new guests – it's an easy way of letting potential members know what SIR is all about!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and in this new year you are anxious to participate and stay active with the many activities our branch has to offer. Happy New Year!

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.



Membership

Dave Pierce

Our active membership remained unchanged for the month, at 285; that's an increase of six for the year. We inducted 27 members in 2016, versus a goal of 29, but we only lost 21 compared to an average of 28 over the previous three years. We hope that's because you are healthier, and happier with the branch. If we are less fortunate in 2017 and fall back to 28 losses, we will need to do better on recruiting. We had 37 luncheon guests in 2016 (thank you) but our goal was 50. The branch remains vibrant if we continue to add new (and enthusiastic) members, so please help us make our goal in 2017.

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Alan Elnick
Little Sir	Bruce Borgman
Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Assistant Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term)	Steve Sprague
Director(1 st Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(1 st Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(1 st Term)	Jim Saavedra <i>(Al Munayer acting)</i>

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Jim Saavedra <i>(Al Munayer acting)</i>

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

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Outgoing Big Sir **Walt Busenius (L)** hands leadership over to incoming Big Sir **Alan Elnick** at the gala Ladies Day Luncheon



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon January 12th, 2017

Salad

Green Bean Salad

Mixed Greens, Baby Green Beans, Tomatoes Feta Cheese, Spicy Almonds
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

Roast Beef Eye Round

Herb Dijon Marinated Eye Round of Beef,
Brown Gravy Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes
& Roasted Corn

or

Potato & Chive Crusted Cod Filet

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Tartar Sauce

Dessert

German Chocolate Cake

Whipped Cream
Caramel Sauce



Sunshine

Calvin Tucker

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

- Jim Saavedra
- Bob Walton
- Lynn Freeman
- Al Twyford
- Steve Olsen
- Ken Richter
- John Lewis
- Elmer Kaprielian

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

Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are frequently near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

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

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair
phone: (925) 389 6070
Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

This month will be an easy four mile hike on Mt Diablo. Gradually throughout the year we make our hikes a little harder. Our last hike was Eagle Peak which was our hardest to date. Next month we will be hiking on Mt Diablo and it will be about the same as our first hike last year. Many of the people who started with us in January would not have been able to do our November hike. For those of you who wish to join us, and get into shape this year, and have fun doing it, we will be starting with some easy hikes for the next three months.

Come join us at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 10 am for about a four mile hike.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road. Go about four miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end, walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome

Friday January 13th, 2017

Hike Starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf

Cell 925-550-4967



SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Rob Melrose

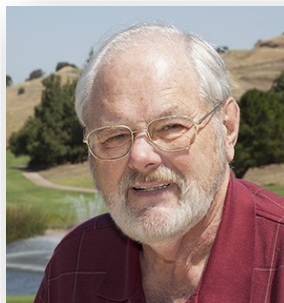
Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Theatre

Gary Schaub



MUSIC OF AN ERA

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ IS SIR 146 THEATER EVENT FOR MARCH

A musical revue that focuses on the beginnings of Rock and Blues – *Smokey Joe's Café* – is set as a SIR 146 Theatre Party on Friday, March 17th at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Reservations for SIR members and guests are available now.

While this would not normally be music for St. Paddy's Day ON March 17, *Smokey Joe's Café* will bring back memories of the 1950s and early 1960s featuring thirty plus classic R&B songs by songwriters Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller. Familiar hits like "Jail House Rock", "Keep on Rollin", "Hound Dog", and "Fools Fall in Love" are the songs that most SIR members grew up with.

"Wildly infectious," is the way the New York Daily News recalled the show that earned seven Broadway Tony Nominations including the year's Best Musical. *Smokey Joe* ran for over 2,000 performances on Broadway, the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history.

A limited number of reduced-rate tickets for *Smokey Joe's Café* have been reserved for SIR members and guests for the March 17th performance. Deadline for reservations is February 24th. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR 146, and mailed to **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. If you have any questions, call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets will be distributed in the lobby of Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street (at Moraga Road) on March 17th beginning at 7:30 p.m. On-street parking is available near the theater.



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton continues to produce trout but we note that, of late, the fish size is getting smaller. However, while the larger fish were still being caught, many members of the group, including **Rich Fiscina** and

Paul Dubow of Branch 146, made the trek to Shadow Cliffs and caught limits. Although the weather has been cold and we dress in layers, it has to be called gentlemen's fishing. Limits have usually been reached by 9:30 am, in time for a visit to Jim's Country Restaurant for a great breakfast and home by noon to get ready for the next fishing trip.

Out in the Delta, the sturgeon and stripers are biting. **Rich Fiscina** led several expeditions. On one outing, **Paul Dubow** caught a 50 lb sturgeon, **Rich** and **Paul** each caught a keeper striper, and **Rich** caught and released a small sturgeon. However, the highlight of the trip occurred at the very end when **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 hooked a gigantic sturgeon. **Tom** managed to get the fish to the boat, but at that point it leaped clear out of the water and spit out the hook. But it was a nice memory! **Pete Gates** of Branch 146, **Pedro Contreras**, **Joe Karg**, and **Bruce Person** joined **Rich** on other trips, during which **Pedro** caught his first keeper sturgeon after many years of trying. **Tom Kostik**, **Mike Corker**, **Terry Miller**, **Tom Boltz**, and **Ben Sala** limited their Delta activities to plugging for stripers and all came home with fish.

In other venues, **Steve Paulik** and **Ben Sala** fished on a combo boat out of Bodega Bay and returned with limits of crab, rockfish, and ling cod. **Stan Wong** did the same on a combo boat out of Emeryville. **Stan** and his grandson also picked up limits of trout fishing from shore at Contra Loma Reservoir. **Don Mittelstadt** made his annual pilgrimage to Louisiana where he caught big redfish on his fly rod.

This is starting out as a good fishing year and so those of you who used to fish, never fished, or are fishing on your own might look to join us on some of our outings. If you don't have equipment, we can lend you some. You can start by attending our next meeting, which will be at 8:30 am at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am. For further information, please contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415)-495-6504.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

The photography group takes a break over the holidays so the next meeting will be the last Friday in February.

Did you know that with a smartphone or newer camera you can download pictures you take almost instantly when you are in range of a Wi-Fi signal? If you like to share your photos, you can also instantly store them to the Cloud using a Google Drive or a Microsoft One Drive account. We'll cover this as one of the topics at our next meeting.

My wife received a, just released, mid-range Sony alpha 6500 camera for Christmas. I will compare her newer camera to my 6 year old Canon 5D Mark II, especially in lower light conditions.

If you are new to SIR and interested in photography or want to take better photos with your smartphone, come to our next meeting and perhaps take away some new ideas. Spouses always welcome.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

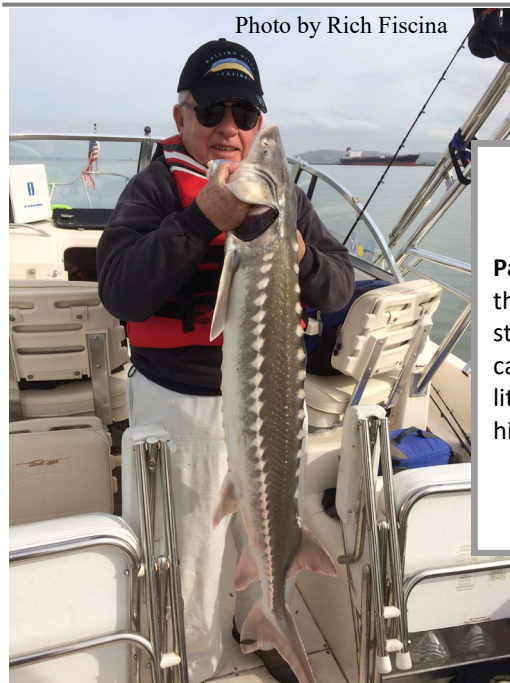
Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subject: Automatically download pictures to the cloud

When: February 24th, 2017 at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



Paul Dubow and the large sturgeon that he caught (with a little help from his friends)



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of SIR Acoustic Musicians Group. Please note new address and directions: Thursday, January 19th at 2 pm. (654 Francisco Ct, in Bancroft Village). From 680, exit Treat Blvd, go east, right on Bancroft, right on La Corso Circle, immediate right on La Corso Drive, left on Via Appia, left on Francisco Ct. Park @ end of Francisco Ct. by the pool or on Via Appia. Do not park on Francisco. Two cars can park in driveway. 654 Francisco is 2nd house from corner on left. If you are lost call 925-864-2641.

We will provide details of each song to make it easy to enjoy our music. Please bring paper & pen.



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs performed at the Carlton Senior Living facility in Pleasant Hill on December 1st with a rousing program which was well received. We sang several patriotic songs including the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "You're a Grand Old Flag", and "This Land is Your Land". **Bob Yolland** was our soloist for that rollicking song from "My Fair Lady" – "Get Me to the Church on Time". We then sang a number of Christmas carols. One of our newest singers, **Joe Starkey**, sang the Latin verse "Adeste Fidelis" after which we all joined in several verses of "O Come All Ye Faithful". We also sang "White Christmas" with **Lynn Shafer** singing an introductory solo. Other Christmas tunes were "Silent Night" and "The Christmas Song". Our audience sang along with many of the songs and it was clear that the group really enjoyed the way we started the Christmas season!



Cribbage

John Pearl

November: At one of largest meetings of the year, nine of the group motored to **Barney Meade's** home on November 30th. With nine players, we had a very large pot so it was split four ways. **Ron Afdal**, our Co-Chair, came in first. Second place was taken by **Dennis Hallett** (recently returned from sick leave), third place by **John Pearl**, and fourth place by **Paul Debow**.

December: Our final meeting of 2016 was held at the Chair's house on Wednesday, December 28th. Six members of Branch 146's Cribbage Group were in attendance. Our three winners were **Paul Dubow**, first place; **Peter Plante**, second place; and **Ron Afdal**, our co-chair, was third.

We plan to continue the fun on Wednesday, January 23rd. Check with me for time and location.

mcpearl@astound.net



Photo by Sue Sheldon

SongSirs singing at the Carlton Senior Living facility in Pleasant Hill on December 1st

We returned for an encore by singing "God Bless America". This seemed to have a particular poignancy for our audience who stood up with their hands over their hearts. Quite touching.

The SongSirs took a break from rehearsals for the rest of December and we will start again with regular rehearsals in the new year on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church's Multiuse Room. We always welcome new members.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

We ended the year of our Couples Dining Out activity with a special dinner at Vic Stewarts in Walnut Creek on November 15th. We had 53 diners and enjoyed the company of old friends and new while dining in this very elegant restaurant.

For 2017, we decided to return to a restaurant we visited almost three years ago, and which was one of the least expensive: La Finestra in Lafayette. This Sicilian restaurant offers a three-course dinner for a group for only \$34 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. We will dine here on Monday January 23rd – with our cocktail hour at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:15 pm. The menu will consist of a Caesar salad, and a choice of filet of Petrale Sole, their signature Lasagna Bolognese, or Porchetta al Prosciutto Crudo, with Cannoli alla Siciliana for dessert. Coffee or tea is included. Corkage will be \$15. Because of the limited capacity of the restaurant we must limit this dining experience to 50 diners.

While we are posting this notice in the SIR CALL, we must tell you that after we sent out the notice to our mailing list, we quickly reached our limit of 50, and are actually well above that with a waiting list. We cannot accommodate more diners on January 23rd, but will add to the waiting list and see if perhaps we can do another night.

The restaurant is located at 100 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette, so parking is in the small adjoining lot, or other lots in the area, or on the street, but it is limited, so car pooling is encouraged.

We are looking forward to another fun evening to start 2017 with a good dinner with our fellow Sirs and their spouses!



La Finestra in Lafayette



Walking Group

Frank Ascagnò

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **Frank** for current walk.*

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232

On Friday, December 16th, twenty members of SIR 146 Walking Group gathered for coffee and pastries in order to honor **John Lewis**, the founder and dedicated leader of the Walkers for over 20 years. On the occasion of his retiring as leader, **John** was presented with a plaque celebrating his leadership as well as a thank you card signed by everyone.



Book Club

Chuck Campbell

The Branch 146 Book Club met at Black Bear Diner in Walnut Creek on December 12th and discussed “Hero of the Empire” by Candice Millard.

The book chronicles Winston Churchill’s experiences in the Boer War and, in particular, his escape from a prison in Pretoria and successful journey to Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique). Although we concluded that the book started slowly, all of us liked the book. It was an adventure story and we learned quite a bit about the Boer War. The sole negative was that the book was silent about how the Boers lost the war. At the time of Churchill’s capture and escape, the Boers were regularly defeating the British in battles. But, in the epilogue, the book described the last days of the war and its effect on the Boer leaders. It would have been nice to know how the British change in fortune came about.

There was also a parallel to modern warfare because the book describes how local militias thwart superpowers who invade a foreign land in the expectation of a quick victory.

Our next book will be “Killing the Rising Sun” by Bill O’Reilly, which we will be discussing at our next meeting. It will take place at 8:30 am on Monday, January 9th at the Black Bear Diner in Walnut Creek. Further, in order to more easily select a reading for a future meeting, we decided that each member will bring the titles of two books from an assigned genre to the meeting and then the members will select the book to read from that list. The genre for the January 9th meeting will be modern classics, i.e., books written in the 20th century.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train Domino Holiday group met on December 2nd in full Christmas attire. All had on Santa hats, reindeer antlers and jingle bells (see picture).

Since we had a surplus of wine from the past meetings, we decided to have everyone bring food for Monument Crisis Center for the 2nd year. We gathered about 60 lbs. of food that will be delivered to the Center by Leslie Firth (see picture).

Our next El Quattro Mexican Train Domino Meeting will be January 20th.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

It was December and everybody was there, except Santa Claus . . . and maybe even he was there hiding in the shadows checking on who's naughty and nice.

Christmas was clearly evident as we met in the beautiful home of **Chuck and Marty Campbell** for what I suspect will become a Holiday tradition, dinner with our friends, new and old, having fun being with each other and playing MTD for the evening.

It was, as usual, a challenging and competitive series of games, resulting in **Dave Pierce** coming in first, **Dennis Hallett** coming in second, and **Anne Burk** a very close third. The two gentlemen are making a habit of being at the top of the list. I took the liberty of asking **Dave** what his personal strategy was with respect to MTD. He shared with me what that strategy was, but as the seasoned reporter that I have become, I promised him I would not divulge that to our readership. What I would like to share with you, however, is what happened during one of our games. One of our players had reason to be called away for a few moments, and asked me to draw tiles for her. Upon her return, she began to play those tiles with a significant sophistication. As it turned out **Sally Sprague** had in her possession, 6 double tiles (out of 12 in total), and for which she was able to "justify" 5 of those tiles. I don't know if 'Ripley's Believe It or Not' keeps records of things that have happened in the MTD world, but if they do we are ready to submit this as a new world record.

A final comment . . . the dinner produced by our wonderful team member cooks was outstanding! Maybe we will have to have dinner every time we meet rather than waiting for 12 months.



Photo by Jim Pope

Ron Louis, Fran Matthews, Don Seaton, Yvonne Killips, June Seaton, Henry Thatcher, Barbara Thatcher, Leslie Firth, Lo McCarley, Sue McCarley, Christy DeVoe, Dick Firth, Kim Pace, Bill Weinberg, Dick DeVoe, Renie Pope, Rich Pace, & Jim Pope



Photo by Jim Burk

MTD Group 5 Holiday Feast capping year-end play



Photo by Jim Burk



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

The last game night of 2016 was held at **Don and Etta Dotson's** and it was a great evening. Beside the usual fun of playing Mexican Train Dominoes with our friends we enjoyed the **Dotson's** decorated home and great treats. **Don's** meat ball soup and cheesecake were wonderful.

The results of our game of the month: **Bernice Cammerer** won first place for her first time, **John Pearl** took second place and **Etta Dotson** took third place.

The June - November pot was concluded with this month's play as well: **Rich Ahlf** was our big winner, **Janice Woodman** took home the second-place pot and **Mary Denney** was our third-place winner.

Congratulations to all our winners! Our next game night is January 27th at **John and Nancy Pearl's**.



Book Nook

Hank James

Good News: We Got Books!

The January meeting will include a Book Nook where you can shop for the latest novels, biographies and other special interest books. It is also a time where you can survey all those books on your bookshelves that you have read; fill a grocery bag with your books and bring them to the meeting to share with other SIR members.



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Pete Gates

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest

of the group.

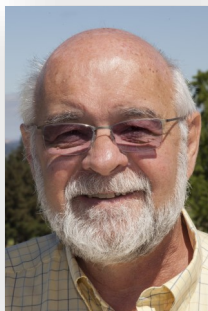
We gather at 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Our next tasting is scheduled for February 22nd. I am very excited that **Richard and Sherry Hockenbrock** have volunteered to open their home for this event. We will be tasting non-California wines from the US. Look for an email with details in mid-January.

If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events and are not on the email list, please email **Rob Melrose** @ rwmelrose@gmail.com

2017 Wine Tasting Schedule

- February 22nd
- April 26th
- July 26th
- October 25th

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Jim Brown hosted six couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on December 14th with three tables. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge along with **Jim Brown's** and **Adrienne Morrison's** snacks, dessert, and wines. As for the bridge results, **Anne Johnson** and **Fred Bolton** came in first with 27.5 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** took second with 27 points (tight race). In third place were **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** with 21 points. **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on January 18th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Jim Brown hosted 4 tables of the Duplicate Bridge Group 1 on December 19th. The morning session turned ugly very quickly for the 15 players not named **Dave Pierce** as **Dave** lapped the field for 1st place with 22.0 pts. Far behind **Dave** were **Max Hinkle** in 2nd place with 16.5 pts and **Bill Schultz** and **Fred Kovar**, who tied for 3rd place with 15.5 pts.

The afternoon session saw more misery for the 15 pretenders as **Dave** continued his masterful play, or was it his selection of partners? **Dave** finished the day with an unheard of total of 52.0 pts, a score that has not been posted for at least 3 years! In fact, **Dave** out-distanced **Max Hinkle's** 2nd place score of 41.0 pts by 11.0 pts, another metric we haven't seen in well over 3 years of play! Congratulations, **Dave**! Third place was taken by **Jim Jackson** with 40.5 pts and **Bob Yolland's** 40.0 pts. captured 4th place.

Our January game will be hosted by **Bill Snyder**.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Dick and **Christy DeVoe** and 100 nutcrackers greeted us in their festive home on December 6th. Congratulations to super subs **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** for bidding and making a small slam; that carried them all night, ending in 3rd place (2330). **Larry** and **Linda Brown** recovered from the miserable cards they held in November to place 2nd (2580). Santa was kindest to **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** (3450). We welcomed back former regulars, now subs, **John** and **Linda Boyan**, who finished a mere 70 points behind the Browns. Once play was over, the socializing went on well into the evening. Stories were told. Laughter and gaiety ensued. The nutcrackers approved.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

The halls were appropriately decked when **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** hosted us on December 13th. **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, who were hot in November, continued in the money (3rd, 21.5 match points, 54%). **Dick** opened one spade on five to the 10, contracted for two, made four, in a 5-2 fit, missing the AKQJ of trumps, and with only 16 high card points between the two hands. Every possible break and finesse worked for him, so he's used up all his good luck for the next several meetings. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were second (22, 55%); **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher**, back from New Orleans, were first (23, 58%). The Hatchers had 10 tops (out of 20) and 7 bottoms; an exciting and volatile evening. **Joan** (aka the Christmas baking angel) had cookies galore to top off our merry evening. Happy holidays to all!

Jim: Did you hear that Bob won't be going to any more bridge tournaments because of his arthritis?

Joe: Has he seen a doctor?

Jim: Yes, he's been to many doctors.

Joe: Can't they eliminate the pain?

Jim: Oh, sure. But they also eliminated all his money.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 event was hosted by **Dick DeVoe** on December 16th in the middle of the Merry Christmas season. **Bob Yolland** finished the year on a high note with 31 points and 1st place overall today. **Bob** is one of our more consistent players in the branch, finding a way to end up higher than most, in spite of the different skill levels of his partners within each event. Congratulations, **Bob!**

Mike Whitaker had a very good day by earning 2nd place with 30 pts.; his 17 pts. 2nd half score was highest of all 1st and 2nd half scores. Mike also tied for the most two's with 8, along with **Fred Bolton** and **Harvey Oxman**. Nice going, **Mike**.

Harvey Oxman had the most consistent rankings - 3rd place overall (28.5 pts.), 3rd place for the 1st half, and 3rd place for the 2nd half. Good work, **Harvey**.

It was a great year for Duplicate Bridge 3, as it was for all Branch 146 bridge groups. One bridge group alone provides at least 12 players x 12 months=144+ friendship opportunities for a good time!

*(Reported by **Dick DeVoe**)*



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played two tables of Party Bridge at the home of **Jim Jackson** on December 5th. First place went to our host, **Jim**, with 5290 points, second to **Bob Yolland** with 5250 and third to **Bob Burley**. Our next game will be at the home of **Bill Snyder** on January 2nd.

Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill its ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

The group plays on the third Friday of each month at a host home which rotates among the members. We have three tables of duplicate bridge and 12 players each month. You will have a lot of fun.

Anyone who has any questions or is interested should contact me, **Sid Landman** as chair of the group. You can call me at (925) 673-8817 or email sidlandman@aol.com.



Dick DeVoe announcing instructions to the Bridge 3 players before start of play



Roger Peters, Jim Stedman, Charlie Abrams, Tony Greco, Brad Hatcher, Harvey Oxman, and Fred Bolton listening to **Dick DeVoe's** instructions

New Year's is just a holiday created by calendar companies who don't want you reusing last year's calendar.

Every New Years I resolve to lose 20 pounds, and I do. The problem is that I gain 30.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met December 14th at the home of **Bill Cammerer**. As always a good time was had by all,-- good food and conversation. The big winner was **John Lewis**. Our next outing will be at the home of **John Lewis** on January 11th.

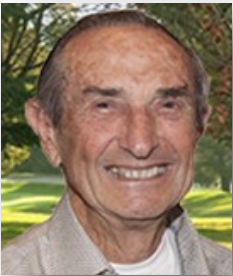


Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.***

Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

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



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our last session, on November 28th, was hosted by Sir **Garth Cummings**. At our session in October, our host Sir **Bob Mehus**, contributed the beer and snacks. We are not meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January when the host will be Sir **Pete Gates**.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

The Old Money Group [**Al Twyford, Bob Larson, Harvey Oxman, Frank Lucas, Howard Charlop, Norm Baietti, Rich Ahlf**] met at **Rich's** home in Clayton on

Thursday, December 1st, for another afternoon of friendly poker. It did not take long to see where the afternoon was going to go. **Bob** thought his 4 nines were a shoo-in for a winning hand until Frank displayed his 5 sixes. After that we decided to play some real poker until **Al**, once again, surprised **Norm** with two wild cards to make six of a kind to beat **Norm's** 5 of a kind.

During our spirited games, **Rich** provided lots of trail mix and good red wine to top a great afternoon. Our next game is scheduled for Thursday, January 5th at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill. This will be the first game of the New Year. Our 2017 resolution is not to discuss politics at our Poker games.

5 Signs You Might Have A Poker Problem...

1. You can stack \$10.00 worth of quarters into 8 perfect stacks of 5 quarters each in three seconds flat
2. You yell, "Ship it!" at the ATM when you withdraw cash.
- 3 You use the phrase "bad beat" when lending a sympathetic ear to a friend.
4. Your kids are named Check and Raise
5. You are having such a bad day at hold 'em that you decide to take a break... and play Omaha

Q: What's the difference between online poker and live poker?

A: You can cry after a bad beat online and no one will laugh at you.

Q: What kind of shark is always gambling?

A: A CardShark



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

As 2016 has drawn to a close, we reflect on a successful year of golf at Branch 146.

Bill Cammerer shot his age for the 10th and 11th times this year

and **Russ Bliese** just missed shooting his age for an eighth time -- by just one stroke -- in April. Well-done gentlemen. Most of us would be thrilled to shoot our decade!

We have had days when a net 74 has won a flight and a net 78 has won some money, so it is definitely worth mentioning that **Max Burchett** shot a net 60 in February, just eclipsing our three musketeers, **Corrie Oranje**, **George Carpenter** and **Ben Gleason**, who had net 61's this year. No one in recent memory has shot a net 59 but we are not giving up hope.

We wouldn't know this if it were not for **Bill Laws** who compiles the results and the winners each week. **Bill** came back to this task, which he had been doing for many years, after **Terry Marchione** became ineligible for the job because he moved to Tucson.

Bill has also taken on the task of overseeing handicaps. This would usually mean seeking out sandbaggers, but in Branch 146 golf, the much more likely crime is "forgetting" to post bad scores.

Thanks are due to **Joe Fuchs** who compiles the pairings most weeks; **Paul Masta** who arranges Tournament Tuesdays and **Dave Steinberg**, the golf committee treasurer, who provides the blue plastic envelop with our prize fund checks each week.

Dave also did most of the work setting up our very successful April and October scrambles and lunch meetings. **Joe** spearheads our away golf effort in the summer and, more importantly, the holiday gift collection for Kathy and Fabiola in the grill.

Finally, thanks to every Branch 146 golfer for being great playing partners and fine friends in 2016 and every year!

If you are new to Branch 146 and would like to participate in a great activity, contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. If you are curious, we will add you to the distribution of our weekly golf email.

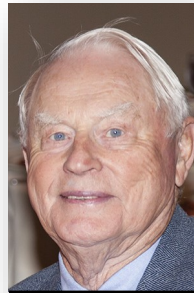


Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

*We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.*



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

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

It was a sunny Sunday morning, and Murray was beginning his preshot routine, visualizing his upcoming shot, when a voice came over the clubhouse loudspeaker. "Would the gentleman on the ladies' tee please back up to the men's tee."

Murray remained in his routine, seemingly unfazed by the interruption.

A little louder: "Would the man on the women's tee kindly back up to the men's tee!"

Murray raised up out of his stance, lowered his driver, and shouted, "Would the announcer in the clubhouse kindly shut up and let me play my second shot?"

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



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

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

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

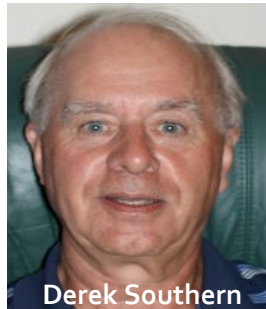
The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group meets at 8 am on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 25th, at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord. Our speaker will be Michael Young JD - an Elder Law specialist. He will be speaking about Living Wills, Health Care Directives, Portability and other end of life issues.

Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158
davesutn@comcast.net

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, January 19th, at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

The topic for our January CAT meeting will be “Smartphones & Artificial Intelligence” presented by Neil Schmidt. He will delve into some of the popular Artificial Intelligence (AI) apps as well as demonstrate some very interesting new ones. He will also talk about some future possibilities currently being developed where your smartphone or smartwatch is used as a source of information, the data evaluated via AI techniques, and action is automatically taken on your behalf. Check the CAT Web page about a week before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentations: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>.

The meeting starts at 9:30 am on January 19th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Money can buy a House.....But not a Home
Money can buy a Bed.....But not Sleep
Money can buy a Clock.....But not Time
Money can buy you a Book.....But not Knowledge
Money can buy you Medicine.....But not Health
So you see money isn't everything. And it often causes pain and suffering. I tell you all this because I am your Friend, and as your Friend I want to take away your pain and suffering. So send me all your money.....
And I will suffer for you

December Ladies Day Luncheon

Photos by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill Schultz, Pete McNeill, Cheryl O'Connor, Sue McNeill, Debbie Hammond, John Hammond, Kaaren Binder, Ron Binder, Brynn Brown, and Gary Brown



Donald & Nancy Adolphson



Russ & Carolyn Anderson



Tanc Agius & Doreen Ainscough



Frank & Marie Ascatigno



Jeff & Alicia Baily



Bob & Penny Beitler



Paul & Jane Beretz



Ron & Kaaren Binder

Editors Note: See these and more pictures full size on our website under the special events tab or click on this link.
http://www.sir146.com/ladies_day_december_2016.html