

# SIR CALL

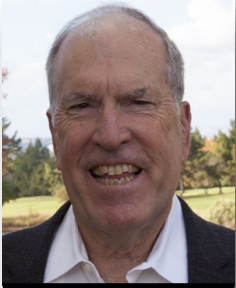
br146sircall@gmail.com

January 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Big Sir's Notes

**Brad Hatcher**

It's 2020! To you and yours, I wish you a Happy New Year and a toast to health and happiness in the new decade!

As I take on the responsibility of Big Sir, I am delighted to be assisted by the members of the team of officers and the Board. I am also indebted to **Jonathan Korfhage**, the past Big Sir, for his mentorship in preparing me for the job. As I mentioned at the Ladies Day Christmas luncheon, most of our members do not have an idea of how much intellect and leadership **Jonathan** brought to our branch. It will be tough to fill his shoes.

Speaking of the Christmas luncheon, **Steve Ybarra** and **Max Hinkle** did an excellent job of bringing us a successful first-rate event. Thank you, **Steve** and **Max**! The songs and humor from the Devil Mountain Chorus were entertaining and the participation of **Corrie Oranje** and **Peter Plant** in the group added to the enjoyment.

The 2020 dues letter is in your hands. Some comments might help in understanding the increases in both the dues and the cost of the luncheon. You may remember that the dues cost was reduced from \$18 to \$15 two years ago. The reason, at the time, was to bring down our bank balance to a level recommended by the State Sir organization. That was successful. Our current bank balance is healthy; however, it does not leave much room for unexpected needs. An additional reason for the increase in dues is because the State is increasing the amount of the assessment to cover State expenses (most of which goes to paying for insurance).

Our monthly luncheon cost is up \$2.00. Jonathan and I met with the Boundary Oak catering folks and were given no opportunity to negotiate the cost. However, the cost of the luncheon will remain at \$28 for both 2020 and 2021. If you have not mailed in your check, you may bring it to the luncheon on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Two other comments as we go to the new year. First, we ask that you continue to look for friends and acquaintances who would enjoy being a member of our

Luncheon— Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:

**Mike Carter**

Scientist—Fusion Energy Labs  
at Lawrence Livermore

**"Prospects for Fusion Energy in our Lifetime"**

Gathering time: 10:45 am

Seating time: 11:30 am

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?*

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

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, January 3<sup>th</sup>



Devil Mountain Chorus Performing at Ladies Day Luncheon

dynamic Branch 146. Bring them as guests to a luncheon and get them involved.

Second, our Branch does not run by itself. We ask that you volunteer to help manage our activities and Branch organization. We need your help.

I have recently spoken with several members who have offered ideas for improvement of the Branch. I encourage you to communicate with any of the officers or Board members with your positive ideas. We will listen and take action as appropriate.

## SIR Mission Statement

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



### Little Sir's Corner

**Richard Hockenbrock**

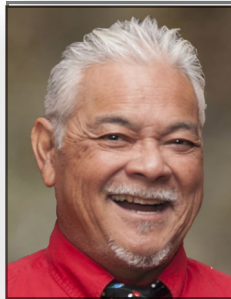
Happy New Year! I want to thank **Jonathan Korfhage** and **Brad Hatcher**, as Big & Little Sir respectively, for the masterful job they have done in guiding Branch 146 to be recognized by SIR Inc as the second best branch in the state. We have accomplished much and the credit goes to all the SIR members who have volunteered time and energy into making Branch 146 what it is today, an interesting and rewarding social organization that enriches our lives.

Looking to 2020, we have a number of challenges on the horizon that we need to address. First and foremost is the need to continually grow our organization since the average age of our membership continues to increase. Each year we lose roughly 10% of our roster of 300 members due to members passing away, moving away, or dropping out due to caretaking or other healthcare issues. In 2019, we added 32 new members or 11%.

Our primary method of introducing potential new members or guests to the branch is by inviting them to a free lunch and hear a guest speaker. While this method has worked for more than 30 years and will continue to work, we need to consider other possible alternative ways.

**Bob Lucido**, Activity Chairman writes in his column this month “..the best way to introduce new members to SIR is to bring them to an activity that they enjoy”. I want to expand on his idea by formally exploring an “Activities Open House” for guests and possibly spouses / partners to audit or sample several of our activities. These could include *Wine Tasting, Couples Dining Out, Mexican Train Dominoes, Bocce, and others*. Some of our activities are limited by space available to serve only our existing members. In that case, we might do a special quarterly group activity gathering dedicated solely to include guests and sponsoring members at a predetermined meeting place. There are still many details to work out but I wanted to acquaint you with the idea. We will be discussing this later.

The second challenge we face, which resulted from feedback we received in the annual membership



### Membership

**Ron Lew**

May you have a safe great “Happy New Year”. In Chinese it is said, “Gung Hey Fat Choy” for Happy New Year.

Please continue to send me any changes to the directory at [mooshupapa@att.net](mailto:mooshupapa@att.net). We have been updating and revising the directory and data we have to ensure SIR 146 will serve you the best in 2020 and beyond.

We did not add new members in December. We are proud to say we have 298 members at the end of the year in SIR 146.

Please continue to seek new members throughout your path. God bless you as you trudge this road to Happy Destiny.

Ronald Lew

survey, was getting more interesting speakers to our luncheons. This can be somewhat difficult since we only give the speakers a token amount of time for them to speak.

I have assembled a Speaker's Program Committee consisting of 7+ SIR members who have offered to help and give their opinions on some of the speakers we are considering. We have already booked the following speakers for the first quarter: In January, Mike Carter from Lawrence Livermore Labs will speak about the future of Fusion Energy. In February, Michael Butler, Artistic Director for Center Repertory Company will discuss the programs planned for the Leshner Center, and in March, Ray Nassief, Senior Vice President of Operations at John Muir Health, will talk about new technologies used in treating patients for improved outcomes.

It should be an exciting year and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 9th. Don't forget to invite a guest.



## Sunshine

### Brian McCarthy

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

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

- Brian Downie
- Hugh Ferguson
- Jim Gracey
- Joe Hunt
- Sig Kalteis
- Art Mancini
- Martin Lyle
- Barney Meade
- Jim Saavedra
- Bill Stevenson

Sadly we report the passing of Sir **Roland Mailhot** on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

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



**Roy Fredrickson** receiving his "Senior Sir" recognition certificate at 95 years young from Big Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**.

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

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



# THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 Luncheon January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Salad

#### **Louis Salad**

Butter Lettuce, Applewood Smoked Bacon, Vine Ripened Tomatoes  
Feta Cheese,  
Hard Boiled Egg Crumbles  
Creamy Louis Dressing

### Entrees

#### **BBQ Chicken**

Garlic Mashed Potatoes,  
Seasonal Vegetables,

Or

#### **Baked Pacific Dory**

Chili Rubbed Marinated Pacific Dory,  
Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables  
Tomato & White Wine Sauce Vera Cruz

### Dessert

#### **Carrot Cake**

Raspberry Sauce, Chantilly Cream



## SongSirs

**Bruce Borgman**

The SongSirs will be giving a performance for the VIP group at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 12:45 pm on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We have been preparing a good repertoire that we sang recently at the Sunrise

Senior Center. We'll not sing the service hymns or patriotic songs but have added some other mostly romantic songs, and no doubt, we will have a good audience for the selections. The songs include, "It Had to be You", "When I Fall in Love", "It's a Lovely Day Today", "I Wish I was Eighteen Again", "Smiles", "Cheek to Cheek", "Get me to the Church on Time" with a solo by **Bob Yolland**, "Those Were the Days", "I'm in the Mood for Love", and, "Love" – the Nat King Cole classic. Of course, we enter and exit on Stouthearted Men and end with God Bless America.

We have also been asked to sing at a new Senior Living Facility—the Concord Royale on Clayton Road in Concord—and have tentatively scheduled to perform there on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

So, we have been busy and always looking for new singers! If you have an interest in singing, come to one of our practices at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, normally at 2:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month and 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday. Auditions not required, just an interest and love of singing!

**Bruce Borgman**

(925) 932-3961



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Winter trout fishing is off to a slow start. **Phil Scimonelli**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Joe Miscione** picked up a few rainbows at Shadow Cliffs and Lafayette Reservoirs, as San Pablo Reservoir is closed down until mid February. However, **Mario Moratorio** proved to be an exception to the bad results. He decided to fish Hidden Lakes on several mornings and limited out nearly every time.

**Rich Fiscina** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Stan Wong**, **Ken Bellinder**, **Pedro Contreras**, and **Carl Moyer**, had a good time fishing for sturgeon in the Delta with Captain Zack Medina. They caught and released four sturgeon, including two in the "window" where fish can be kept (40 to 60 inches), one in excess of the window, and one below the window. **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 and **Tom Kostik** also fished the Delta and caught some stripers and flounder.

**Lee Clark** of Branch 146, with **Stan Wong**, **Brion Beetz**, **Mario Moratorio**, **Bob Stein** and **Carl Moyer**, had a spectacular day fishing in the ocean on the Pacific Pearl. They limited out on rockfish by 11:30, with fish up to three pounds, and then set out to fish for crab. They limited out on the crustaceans and were back in the dock by 3 pm.

We celebrated the holidays with our annual Christmas party at Zio Fraedo's. There were over 50 attendees who enjoyed roast beef or salmon and the raffling of gifts. The event was once again organized by **Pete Gates** of Branch 146. We also held our year end election and **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 was elected Big Fish for 2020. **Brion Beetz** was elected secretary treasurer, and **Phil Scimonelli** was elected assistant treasurer.

All SIR members are welcome, and, indeed, encouraged, to participate in our fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. We will be emphasizing sturgeon fishing in the Delta and trout fishing in the local reservoirs during the winter. Our next monthly meeting will occur on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Legends Sport Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but come earlier to join us for breakfast. For further information, please contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



[SongSirs](#) at a recent performance

[SIR Fishing photo on next page:](#) **Paul Dubow** displays a 40 lb. sturgeon he caught and released, with Capt. **Zack Medina**



## Photography Group

### Richard Hockenbrock

The meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> was well attended and was highlighted by several smartphone comparisons from a photography perspective. The main event was the comparison of the iPhone 11 Pro with the Galaxy Note 10+ which was captured on this Your Tube video link:

<https://youtu.be/8XYS9ULASs0>

We shot this event on a field trip to downtown Walnut Creek and the pictures were taken by **Bob Wilkenfeld** (iPhone 11 Pro), **Richard Hockenbrock** (Samsung Galaxy Note 10+), & **Clint Collier** (Samsung Galaxy S9). Look at the video and see if you agree with the consensus that the iPhone 11 Pro had more accurate true to life colors while the Samsung Galaxy Note 10+ had a brighter picture with more contrast and more pronounced vivid colors.

In comparison to Clint's pictures which were not in the video, the two newer phones were demonstratively better.

Our next meeting will be March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Email: [rhock@pacbell.net](mailto:rhock@pacbell.net)

Cell: (925) 324-1713

#### Next Meeting

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

**Subject:** TBD

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

Doctor says to his patient: "Your liver results are back. And frankly, they're very surprising considering that I only allowed you one glass of wine per week."

The patient shrugs: "Do you really think you are the only doctor I am going to?"



### SIR Happenings Newsletter

<http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings> is the

statewide SIR newsletter.

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



Photo by Karina Medina



## RV Wanderers

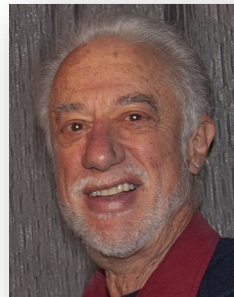
### Bob Lucido

A survey has been sent out to all the members to vote on RV sites. The sites that get the most votes will be scheduled for next year.

### Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

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



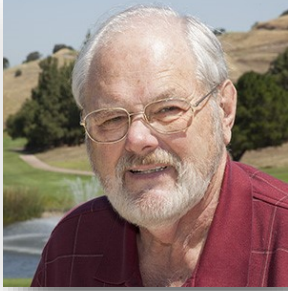
## 2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

### RAMP – Chair Members

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

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



## Theatre Group

Gary Schaub

*Based on the 1980 movie, the stage musical 9 to 5 features music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. Produced by Contra Costa Musical Theater, 9 to 5 is the SIR Theater Party that will take place at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek on Friday, April 24, 2020.*



***Dolly Parton Musical***

***9 to 5***

***is SIR Theatre Party***

*This rollicking musical centers on the trials and tribulations of downtrodden working gals, presided over by a sexist, lecherous and pompous boss. After determining “we’re not going to take it anymore,” the trio unites to make changes and let their boss know that “times have changed.”*

**The musical had a successful run after opening in Los Angeles in 2008, and moving to Broadway in April 2009.**

A limited number of reserved discount tickets for **9 to 5** are available for SIR members and guests at \$45.00 per person. Due to the popularity of this production, the deadline for ordering is March 27<sup>th</sup>, or until our allocation of discount tickets is committed. Tickets will be distributed in the Leshar Center lower lobby beginning at 7:30 p.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Reservations** – send your check for \$45.00 per person, payable to SIR 146 – will be sent to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Ct., #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Deadline is March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**The most convenient parking is in city garage adjacent to Leshar Center on Locust Street.**



## Travel

### Milt Smith

**SIR Branch 146 Grand Baltic Sea Voyage — Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel**

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

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

Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and/or Stockholm from \$1,295 each.

As noted, this upcoming great trip to the Baltic departs June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, and we have 9 Sirs signed up already, but there is still room for more if you act soon.

14 days from \$8,255 Includes international airfare from Sacramento. 14 days from \$6,695 without international airfare. Single Supplement: \$1,395.

Please mention code **GO-23630** when booking.

Reservations & Information call **(800) 955-1925**

[www.oattravel.com/crb2020](http://www.oattravel.com/crb2020)

**California Highway Patrol Academy Tour – May 13<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento** Mark your calendar for a day trip departing 10 am and home by 5:45 pm. Lunch at the Academy cafeteria followed by a guided tour and time for the museum. Tour cost between \$67 and \$97 depending on number of Sirs we sign up...more to come

**The SIR Join Narsai David. Several SIR branches are putting this cruise together.**

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

We are currently looking into trips to the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt, and Norway... will need to narrow it down. Also, I am trying to gauge interest in a trip to the WWII battlefields in France. Let me know of interest in these or any other trips.

### Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

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



## SIR 146 Hiking

### Mark Curtis

We will be hiking the Miwok / Hardy Canyon loop trail on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am weather and trail conditions permitting. Meet at Round Valley EBRP parking lot between 9:45—10:00 am. Round Valley is about 2 miles East of Deer Valley Rd cross street, about 17 miles East of Clayton on Marsh Creek Rd. This hike is about 5 ½ miles with approximately 700 feet elevation gain/drop. I would qualify this hike as moderately strenuous.

If trail conditions are poor at Round Valley, i.e., muddy, the alternate hike is at Big Break, another EBRP facility. Take Hwy 4 East to 160 North and exit from 160 to Main Street East. Big Break Rd is about 1 mile after turning left from Main Street and parking lot is on the right. This facility has approximately ½ mile of trail and most of the rest is paved. The paved portion can be walked all the way to Brentwood, which is 12 miles or so. We will only walk about 2 miles out and back. This area is totally flat. There is a great visitor center with plenty of displays related to the area along with an ample supply of maps for most of the EBRP locations.

I will send an update on Thursday afternoon, January 9<sup>th</sup>, after the luncheon to my email distribution list. If you want to be updated on the hike status, please either email me or call my cell.

Spouses always welcome

Rain day of event cancels

Dogs not allowed at Round Valley.

Leashed Dogs are allowed at Big Break on paved areas

### Mark Curtis

Cell (925) 360-3449

[mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:mocurtis1657@gmail.com)

SEE HIKING PHOTO ON NEXT PAGE



## Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rain Rain, go away. Being a group of guys who really like each other both on and off our bikes, we decided to forgo riding today. We chose instead to eat. The roads were dirty, the air cool and the

streets wet. What better way to still enjoy each other than over a meal.

We lunched at Jack's in Pleasant Hill. **Roger Meyer, Bill Ross** (to be inducted into SIR 146 in January), **Michael Wolfson**, and returning from the misplaced file, **Bob Lucido**, joined with me, **Larry Kaye**.

We solved the wine tasting dilemma, we spoke of the eyeglass business markups, and we talked about a getaway trip to sample the grape. It is always fun to be around like, yet different, mindsets. Fellowship really is a great thing. Thanks SIR!

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Thursday night, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Sirs 146 bicycling group had their Holiday dinner. We met at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. The guys all brought their wives, and everyone left their Spandex home for the night. In attendance were **John (Moose) Kelly** and his effervescent wife **Mary**, Big **Jim Nelson** former Tri Guy and his lovely wife and riding partner **Christy**, **Roger Meyer** from Chi Town with his lady **Peggy**, and **Mrs. Michael Wolfson**, our 2020 Event Chair, **Bob Lucido** with his Christmas decorating queen, **Wendy**, and **Ann Kaye** and her hubby **Larry**.

We ate and drank like sailors while telling stories from our tours. Our wives talked amongst themselves reveling in their spouses new-found comrades. As was the case in the past we closed the Club and wobbled back to our cars.

As we all age, it becomes apparent that friends are to be treasured. Time seems to be speeding ahead, and what better way to spend those hours than with friends that share health.

December 9<sup>th</sup>: Brrr. Today's ride was COLD. With promises of warmth after 10 am we headed out. Brrrr. Foggy, cold and windy and, for some extra fun, Damp.

Today we toured the Dougherty Valley. Thru Alamo, Danville, San Ramon and into what was a pristine ranch known as Gale Ranch we rode. Today there are 11,500 homes, patio homes, condos, townhouses, etc. Home to huge amounts of people, cars, you name it. We rode cold with mouths agape.



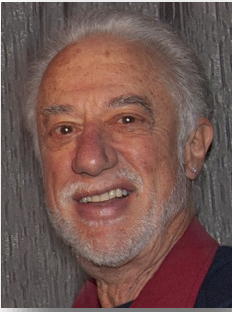
Hiking Photo (L to R): Jim Nelson, Rich Ahlf, and Ismini McClain

We visited what was a thru road called Dougherty Valley Road, now it's a trail closed to cars. Thru and into Bollinger Canyon Rd we pedaled. Brrrr. Stopped at Peets for warmth. After some chat and de-icing off we rode again, thru Blackhawk into Danville and then exploring what is a Llama farm. Unfortunately, the Llamas were not home. Brrrr. Back thru Danville town into Alamo we went. Our cars with their heaters were a welcome sight. 25 smooth cold miles. Tights, jackets, long fingered gloves were all needed. Riders today were **Jim Nelson, Roger Meyer, John (Moose) Kelly, Scott Simmons** (guest) and the icicle, **Larry Kaye**.

December 16<sup>th</sup>: After some trepidation, two of us decided to grab the day and put in some miles. **Bob Wilkenfeld**, back from almost 3 weeks of being a sloth in Florida, and I set out. We chose a coffee ride today. We rode out to Blackhawk from Alamo and back. Must say it was very relaxing. We shared our back stories and some wit. The air was crisp, but the sun allowed for some much needed warmth. The intended coffee stop was closed. Monday it seems is an off day. Who knew? So, we pedaled across the street into Starbucks, the "Evil Empire" as it was called. The warm liquids did us great and back on the roadways we went. An uneventful fun relaxing cruise was enjoyed by both of us.

The winter weather has begun its winds and cool temperatures. I suspect these rides may be somewhat different as we lose sun and gain clouds. Bottom line though, is we ride so we can eat, therefore we ride.





## Activities Coordinator

**Bob Lucido**

We are still looking for a place to play table tennis. SIR members who are not in the table tennis group have been very helpful with suggestions for places to play. There are a few sites with only one

table, which will not accommodate our group.

Keep in mind that the best way to introduce new members to SIR is to bring them to an activity that they enjoy. It can get a little overwhelming for a prospective member to come to the luncheon with such a large group of members.

There are 20 different activities that are co-ed, so stop hogging the newsletters and let the wives and girlfriends read them. You will be better off in the long run

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

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



## Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /  
Jeff Morrow**

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

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

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

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

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

**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

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

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

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



## Pickleball

**Jim Burk**

*Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.*

*The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach.*

*There is also instruction available from 1:00 - 2:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Advance reservations are needed. The cost of instruction is \$15 per player, plus the \$5 drop-in fee referenced above. A player would be allowed to play until 4:00 pm, space permitting, before or following their one and one half hour of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (8 players per hour and one half of instruction is available).*

*Call or email to learn more about the game and/or information about the facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.*



## Table Pool



**Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry**

*We meet every Monday at 11:00 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the week for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain.*

*Reported by Jim Barry*

**Jim Burk**

(925) 946-1192

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



# Explore & Eat

## Historic Benicia State Capitol Tour

### And Fischer-Hanlon House (Next Door)

### March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Friday at 10:30 am in Benicia



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

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

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

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

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

Hope to see you there.

**Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope**



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Cooking II, made up of 8 Sirs meets for lunch the second Monday of each month. Hosting rotates monthly through all the members. The host is responsible for the lunch which can be quite creative, and each member brings a bottle of wine to share with the group. We normally have a few special events each year which include our wives.

With the holidays coming in December our group decided to schedule our next event on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, hosted by **Steve Ybarra**.

Cooking II wishes all our SIR members and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## Cooking Lunch & Wine

**Paul Dubow**

September is one of the months that the LAW Group goes out to dinner with our spouses as a group. It is always a good time and September was no exception. We went to Metro Lafayette with a predetermined set of entrées that were very tasty. They have a great patio area but it was a bit cool on the 18<sup>th</sup> so we had a fairly private area next to windows overlooking the patio. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

October's regular luncheon was delayed into November because of illness. Normally, we have a vacation from luncheons during November and December so it was very unusual to meet in November. The luncheon was at **Dick Woodman's** home and was attended by all the regular members. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the Mexican Chicken entrée followed by some rich tasty brownies. We lived up to our wine portion of the group's name as usual and solved many of the world's problems.

There will be no meeting in December. The activities will continue next year. Have a great holiday season! Our tradition is to rotate the management of the Lunch and Wine Group on an annual basis and 2020 will be no exception.

As we progress into 2020, our eleventh year, **Paul Dubow** will be the chairman and will write the articles describing our activities throughout the New Year.



## Cribbage

**John Pearl**

No meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the fourth Wednesday.

For multiple reasons, SIR 146

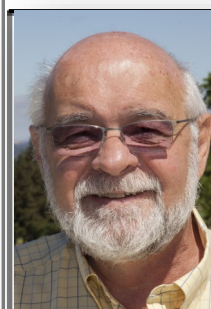
Cribbage is moving in January to Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria in the Southwest corner of the Encina Grande shopping center. Their website is: (<https://www.roccospizzeria.com/>)

We will share the space for now with our branch's Pinochle group. It is a good size room with lots of tables.

We'll continue to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting a little earlier at noon for those desiring lunch. Play will commence about 12:30, and we'll try to end at the usual time of 3:30. Of course, eating is optional and arriving at 12:30 is certainly OK.

Moving to Rocco's allows us to continue with two of our favorite activities, eating and cribbage. They have a very extensive menu, including pizza, of course, as well as sandwiches and salads, all looking excellent. Also, our group seems to be growing, so we now have room for more players, making for a larger "pot" (and perhaps more interest).

**John Pearl**, Chair  
[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)



## Wine Tasting

**Rob Melrose**

Our next wine tasting event is scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sir **Bob Wilkenfeld** in Walnut Creek. As we get closer to the event, I will send out information on the wines that **Bob** and **Judy** have decided upon.

If you are not on our distribution list and would like to be included, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at [rwmelrose@gmail.com](mailto:rwmelrose@gmail.com).



## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We are pleased to let you know that we have selected the restaurant for the January event of our Couples Dining Out activity. We will be returning to Massimo's Ristorante, located at 1604 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, and one of the oldest and best known restaurants in the downtown area having been around for over 40 years. Clearly they're doing something right – and that is the excellent Northern Italian cuisine served by a solicitous staff. We have been there with our group in 2013 and 2017 – and it's time we returned to this wonderful restaurant. Since the restaurant is closed on Mondays, we will be dining on TUESDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>.

The restaurant has a private banquet room upstairs which will accommodate 50 diners, but the owner, Max, has agreed to also reserve the downstairs banquet room which will seat an additional 35. As of this writing, we are already close to 50 so if we get an additional 10-20 interested diners, we will split the group so that we can dine in comfort in the two rooms.

Since we received a positive response to the more upscale menu at Wence's in November, we decided to again select a special menu, which will please even the most discriminating taste! We will have a four-course dinner this time and will start with an appetizer: a choice of crab cake, or an individual Caprese antipasto plate. Then, a choice of a Waldorf or Caesar salad. For the main course, you will be able to choose from four delicious entrees - a grilled Angus NY steak, Chicken Piccata, a pan seared California Sea Bass, or their popular Veal Scalloppine. For dessert, we will all have their house-made Tuscan Apple Tart.

As usual, we will start at 5:30 with our social and cocktail hour. You will be able to take advantage of the happy hour pricing until 6 pm, with specialty drinks or house wines at \$8. Corkage if you wish to bring your own wine for dinner is \$20.

The total cost including tax and tip will be \$60 per person, reflecting a \$3 reduction from their usual price.

Parking is relatively convenient with metered street parking, or in the small lot next door; or the Locust Street Garage is directly across the street.

Please email **Bruce** at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) to reserve your spot, and follow with a check to 3611 Winchester Pl., WC 94598 with your selection for appetizer, salad, and entrée. While using the two rooms may bring an additional challenge, we are up to it and



## Book Group Chuck Campbell

On a damp and cold morning six of us met December 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss our latest book *The Guardians* by John Grisham. Like most of Grisham's works this book deals with our legal system and how our system is used and misused. Our hero, Cullen Post, is studying Quincy Miller's murder conviction. Post and his small nonprofit group are convinced that Miller is innocent and are trying to find reasons to overturn Miller's conviction. Grisham has done his homework and is able to weave into the plot legal issues, local sheriff interference and witness tampering possibilities. If you like other Grisham fiction, you'll enjoy this latest work.

For our next read we have selected *American Disruptor* by Roland De Wolk which is a detailed biography of Leland Stanford.

We will meet again at the Greenery Restaurant on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Massimo's Ristorante at 1604 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, site of Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, Couples Dining Out Event.

want to be able to accommodate all of our gourmands.  
See you all in January!

# Mexican Train Groups



## Luncheon Chairman Richard Lyon

I hope everyone is well and had a great Holiday Season!

Last month, Rob Melrose was kind enough to introduce me as his follow-on. Hats off to Rob for the years dedicated to being your Luncheon Coordinator! Many thanks are also due Rob for his diligence in helping me grasp the intricacies and details involved. He sets a high bar, which I'll do my best to achieve.

Here's the details for January 2020!

### January 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

**Cost: \$28**

**Payment: Checks are preferred**

**Opt-Out Deadline: January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

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

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

To Opt-Out, Bring a Friend, or Request a vegetarian or special meal, or to attend without a meal, send an email to:

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

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

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

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

Happy New Year!

Rich



Joe asks Peter: "Wow, so many scars. You must have had an adventurous life!"

Peter replies: "No, I have a cat."



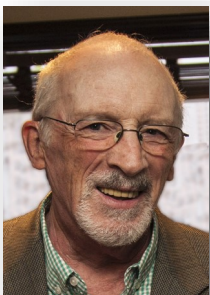
## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO) Jerry Kaplan

Our next scheduled game night is in January.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS) Ron Plachy

Our group will start up again in January.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES) Jeff Baily

Our next scheduled game night is on December 31st, New Years Eve at the home of **Jim Barry** and **Joyce**

**Wells.**

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

### CHRISTMAS EVENT

In December El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met with 14 people. We played at two tables of seven. In attendance were:

**Don and June Seaton, Bill Weinberg and Yvonne Killips, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Dick and Leslie Firth, Jonathan and Barbara Korfhage, Dick and Christy DeVoe, and Jim and Renie Pope.**

For Christmas we played for two prizes at each table, low score and second low score with each table receiving Lotto Tickets (See picture of winners). At one table the low scores were 2 points apart, very close. The evening was very "Christmas Festive" with all donning Christmas colors and head gear (see pictures). The food and sweets were prepared by **Renie Pope** and the wine was from the year's surplus from the past MTD evenings. A comment from one of the players about the food was: "The appetizers and desserts were delicious and decadent." Plus, there was also, a "Special Champagne Punch" to add to the festivities and camaraderie.

Photo by Jim Pope



Table #1: Low score winner **Ron Louis** and Second **Yvonne Killip** and Table #2: Low score winner **Dick Firth** and second **Barbara Korfhage**. Winners received 5 California Lottery Tickets with second place received 2 Lotto tickets, each with the potential of winning up to \$500



Photo by Jim Pope

MTD 4 players (L to R): Yvonne Killips, Leslie Firth, Jonathan Korfhage, Christy DeVoe, Don Seaton, & Ron Louis



Photo by Jim Pope

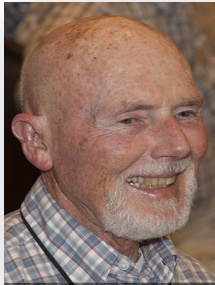
MTD 4 players (L to R): Renie Pope, Fran Matthews, June Seaton, Ron Louis, Dick DeVoe, Christy DeVoe, Barbara Korfhage, Yvonne Killips, & Leslie Firth



Photo by Jim Pope

MTD 4 players : enjoying foods and treats during break

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO) Chuck Campbell

It was a very Merry Christmas indeed when MTD Cinco gathered at **Chuck and Marty Campbell's** home for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual holiday get-together. Celebrating another year of fun and

fierce competition, we over-ate, possibly over-imbibed, and agreed our Cinco group is 'over the top' in all regards.

Annual awards were handed out, with the Ladies besting the men in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winnings. Champs were **Patti Eisner**, most First Place wins; **Chuck Campbell & Steve Sprague**, most Second Place wins, and **Anne Burk & Ann Hallett**, most Third place achievements. **Steve Sprague** had the year's best one-night total score, 31 points. In the Ladies vs. Gents challenge, the ladies outperformed the guys again with a 4-way tie for most wins all around going to **Anne Burk, Anne Hallett, Patti Eisner** and **Marty Campbell**. Not only that, **Patti Eisner** continues to be the 'score to beat' with her 28-point total in 2018.

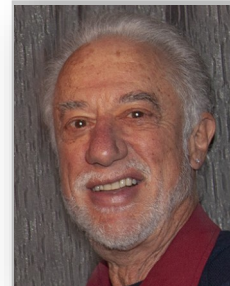
Topping off the evening with a few rounds of play, the night's winnings went to **Joan Pierce**, 1<sup>st</sup>; **Anne Hallett**, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and **Dave Pierce**, 3<sup>rd</sup>. It seems fitting that the **Pierces** dominated the night since **Dave** will take on the mantle of leadership in 2020.

Happy New Year, All!



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS) John "Moose" Kelly

Group 6 (SEIS) did not meet in December. The trains are in the roundhouse resting until we meet again in January. Wishing you a Happy New Year.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete) Bob Lucido

We are not having a regular MTD game this December. Too many people are shopping and getting ready for the Holidays.

We are having a New Year's Eve potluck and MTD game at the home of **Bob and Jane West**, and the old folks will be home by 9:00 pm.

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

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

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



An American guy, a French guy, and a Scottish guy go for a beer. All their beers, by some coincidence or other, arrive with a fly in it.

The American pushes the beer away in disgust.

The French guy fishes out the fly and drinks the beer.

The Scotsman takes the fly out by the wing and yells at it, "Spit it out, spit it out now ya little hussy!!!"





## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

**Doug Eisner**

**Dick DeVoe** and his army of Knickerbockers hosted 4 tables of Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 on Dec 16. The morning session was very competitive as **Dave Pierce**, **Bill Rees**, **Rich Ahlf**, and **Jim Brown** took the early lead with 19.0, 17.0, 16.0, and 14.0 pt, respectively. However, the target that each leader thereby put on his back was too easy an objective for the knickerbockers in the afternoon session and they successfully brought the early leaders to their knees. At the end of the day, **Brad Hatcher** came out of nowhere with plenty of help from his partners to take 1<sup>st</sup> place with 45.5 pt, followed by **Dick DeVoe** with 42.5 pt, **Bill Rees** with 41.5 pt, and a tie among **Jim Brown**, **Mark Curtis**, and **Dave Pierce** at 41.0 pt.

**Rich Ahlf** will host the January 20<sup>th</sup> Game. **Dave Pierce** will take over as Chairman of DB 1 on January 1.



## Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

**Bob West**

At our December 19<sup>th</sup> pre-Christmas meeting, **Ray Bland**, in game 1, was leading most of the way until **Brian McCarthy** "shot the moon" on the last hand. **Brian** won with 64 points, and **Ray** came in second with 69 points. **Brian** told us this was the first time he ran this year.

In another game, **Brian McCarthy** was leading almost all the way and only had 31 points at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> hand. Brian had "shot the moon" in the 6<sup>th</sup> hand. However, in the 8<sup>th</sup> hand he received 24 points. **Brian** still was ahead with 55 points but, lo and behold, **Rich Lyon** ran the last hand, and won with 64 points, leaving **Brian McCarthy** second with 81 points. This is the only time we can remember when both games were won by someone coming from behind when they "Shot the Moon" in the last hand of the game.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at Rocco's Italian Restaurant, located at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. We play from 12:45-3:15 pm with an optional lunch at noon. This is a Men's SIR 146 function with new members welcome. Our next meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup>.

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



**Men's Duplicate Bridge 1:** Above winners (L to R) **Jim Brown** 4<sup>th</sup> tie, **Brad Hatcher** 1<sup>st</sup>, **Bill Rees** 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Dick DeVoe** 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Mark O Curtis** 4<sup>th</sup>, and **Dave Pierce** (not shown) 4<sup>th</sup> tie

Below: 15 out of 16 in the group on **Dick DeVoe's** front porch

**December 19<sup>th</sup> Men's Hearts members (L to R) Bob West, Rich Lyon** winner of game 2, **Brian McCarthy** winner of game 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in game 2, **Ray Bland** 2<sup>nd</sup> in game 1





## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Bill Schultz

**Dick DeVoe** put us all in the holiday spirit by hosting four tables of duplicate bridge at his home in Walnut Creek. The tables were dispersed among numerous nutcrackers and other festive holiday decorations.

Not only was **Dick** a great host but he also tied with **Mike Whitaker** for first place among the 16 players with a 59% game. Tied for third place 2 1/2 points behind were **John Boyan** and **Mark Curtis**.

There were two perfect 6 partnerships, **John Boyan** and **Mike Whitaker** on boards 1 and 2 and **Joe Fuchs** and **John Kluesener** on boards 13 and 14. **Joe Fuchs** earned the title of come-back kid by improving his score on the first 12 boards by 10 points on the second 12 boards,

Next game will be hosted by **John Boyan** at this home in Woodland on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.



Photo by Bill Schultz

12/06/2019

Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 (L to R) top right :Partners **Ray Spears** and **Jim Brown** are strategizing on how to defeat **John Boyan** and his partner **Dave Steinberg** on the 3 NT bid



Photo by Bill Schultz

Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 (L to R) at right: Guest **John Kluesener** and host **Dick DeVoe** asking one of Dick's many nutcrackers for advice on their bridge game



Photo by Bill Schultz

12/06/2019

Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 (L to R) above: **Mark Curtis**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Mike Whitaker** and **Ed Marlovits** all trying to count to thirteen to see if they can make an opening bid at the December bridge game hosted by **Dick DeVoe**



Photo by Bill Schultz

Sirs at National Bridge Championships in SF on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Above (L to R): **Ed Marlovits** 1st place in division, **Bill Schultz** as an also ran, **Mike Whitaker** 1st place in division. To Left (L to R): **Dave Pierce**, **Joan Pierce**, **Mike Whitaker**, **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni MacLean** prepare for afternoon sessions.



Photo by Bill Schultz



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 was hosted by **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** on Wednesday evening, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, **Rich** and **Ismini**, for all the goodies and for hosting. We also thank **Larry** and **Linda Brown** for substituting. The cards were fairly good with some very interesting hands. As for results, **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini** came in first with 24 points, a 60% game. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** were second with 22 points and **John** and **Kathy Kluesener** third with 21 1/2 points. Congratulations to all the winners.

Our next event will be the third Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, hosted by **John** and **Kathy Kluesener**. Couples Duplicate wishes everyone a very healthy and prosperous New Year.

For more information please contact **Bob Yolland** at ([bobyolland@att.net](mailto:bobyolland@att.net)) or call (925) 932-4758.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Mike Whitaker

On Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Duplicate Bridge III held its monthly game at the home of the Nutcracker King, **Dick DeVoe**, in Walnut Creek. Pumpkin pie, ice cream, hot apple cider and friendly competition - what more could you ask for on a cold December day? We also played 24 hands of duplicate bridge.

At half time, **Tony Greco** led the way with **Jerry Benoit** and **Bob Yolland** right on his heels. After lunch, there were several big hands played that had a large effect on the outcome. In the end, **Tony** held on for first place. **Mark Curtis** and **Jim Pope** moved into a tie for second and the rest of the field followed in a closely contested game.

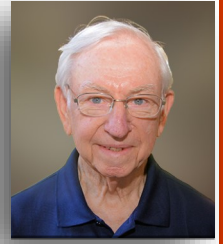
Our first meeting of the new year will be on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at **Mike Whitaker's**. Interested in joining the group? If so, call **Mike** at (925) 376-1288.

I was looking for some books on paranoia in the library. When I asked, the librarian said very quietly, "Yes. They are behind you."



## Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

On  
Monday, December  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 hopeful



players gathered at **SIR Brad Hatcher's** home for party bridge. **Brad's** goodies were scrumptious as usual.

**Dick DeVoe** finished first with 4190 points. **Brad Hatcher** was second with 4070 points and **Ray Bland** finished third with 3810 points.

Our next game is Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Fred Bolton**. Please call **Jim Pope** at (925) 699-6447 if you would like to join our party bridge group.



Party Bridge to right (L to R):: **Ray Bland** 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
**Dick DeVoe** 1<sup>st</sup>, and **Brad Hatcher** 2<sup>nd</sup>



Duplicate Bridge 3 winners (L to R): **Jim Pope** tied for 2nd,  
**Tony Greco** 1st, **Mark Curtis** tied for 2nd.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dave Pierce**

**Brad and Lynne Hatcher** hosted us on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, and before we got down to cards, most of us browsed the delightful and extensive "Snow Village" displays throughout their home. We expected all the regulars but at the last-minute **Elaine Richter's** partner **Ken** was hit with some sort of gastro-unpleasantness. Our grateful thanks to **Bob Yolland**, who gallantly stepped into the breach.

**Elaine and Bob** were rewarded with a tie for first with **Brad and Lynne** - 61%, a fine score. We also had a tie for third as **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, and **Tony and Cindy Greco**, had scores of 50%. A few other players were left conniving on how to play with **Bob** in January.

**Dave Pierce**, (925) 932-3877  
[dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

**Dick & Christy DeVoe** hosted our December 3<sup>rd</sup> event. They have traditionally been our December hosts to help kick off the holiday session. All the Christmas holiday decorations were on full display including, but not limited to, outside lights, 2 decorated Christmas trees, and their large collection of over 100 Nutcrackers throughout their home. Warm cider and wine complimented the assorted cheeses with crackers & grapes, guacamole dip, nuts and mini-chocolate treats. The evening was topped off with homemade bundt cake, ice cream and coffee.

**Dick & Christy DeVoe** and **Jerry & Christine Benoit** took a commanding lead after the 1<sup>st</sup> round of bridge play with 1810 and 1560 points, respectively; all at the expense of their opponents who had 0 points and shall remain anonymous. But the night was young and there were 4 more rounds to play. **Tony & Cindy Greco** and **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** consistently scored points with good cards and good play for the remaining rounds and were able to catch up and pass the leaders by end of play.

The official results are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE with 4600 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE with 3340 points - **Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE with 2760 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**

Next month's event will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup> and hosted by **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**, as we bring in the new year. Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and that a happy and healthy 2020 New Year is in your future.

**Tony Greco**  
(925) 934-0395  
[almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



Sir Couples Party Bridge (left): At the end of the evening all our regular players seemed to have enjoyed themselves. Clockwise are **Dick DeVoe**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Linda** and **Larry Brown**, **Tony and Cindy Greco**, **Christine** and **Jerry Benoit**, **Christy DeVoe**, **Ismini MacLean** and **Rich Ahlf**

Knock Knock.  
Who's There?  
To.  
To Who?  
It's To Whom.

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."



### Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Ray Bland** on December 11<sup>th</sup>. (One of our guests really cleaned our clock). Not to mention any names. But as always a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be held at the home of **Bill Cammerer** on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Happy New Year to all.



### Old Money Poker Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

**Rich Ahlf** hosted our December game with wine, snacks and a fire in the fireplace to warm up the game. Two of our five players really got hot with a take-home of \$15+ (including the original contribution) and two players contributed by departing with significantly lighter wallets. It was, as always, an enjoyable afternoon.

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

**Brad Hatcher**

Tel: (925) 935-1571

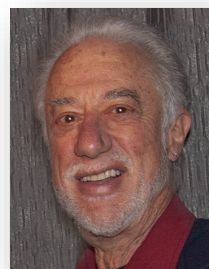
[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



### Poker Group 2

**Bob Royster**

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



### Poker Group 7

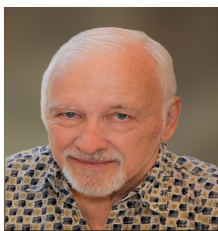
**Bob Lucido**

We are not having the regular poker game this month. All the guys ran out of money with their wives' shopping sprees.

**We meet on the 4th Monday of the month** at 6:30 pm. We are open to substitutes and would like to have more, so if you would like to participate, please contact me.

(925) 899-0974

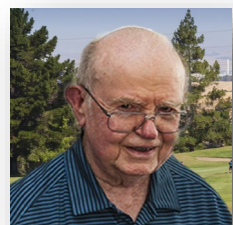
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



### 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*



### Poker Group 4

**Rich Hanford**

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



### Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

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



### Book Corner

**Peter Plante**

The Book Corner will be open for our January luncheon. It's a great opportunity to start out the new year with some new fiction or nonfiction books. All donations gratefully accepted. Come one, come all.





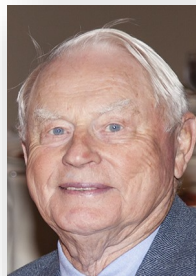
## GOLF

**Ed Marlovits**

As part of an effort to add some interest and variety to Tuesday Golf we have been having more tournament Tuesdays. In December we had a Par-Point tournament. While it was not the best of conditions, we had twenty-seven participants in three flights and in each flight the winner was determined by a back-nine tie-break. We had our usual 'closest to the pin' opportunities on the par threes, but, sadly, it seems that the winner on number 6 could not be found.

Our annual golf sign-ups have concluded and the final count for 2020 stands at seventy-six golfers. This is down from well over one hundred golfers just five years ago.

We have been busy arranging away golf events for 2020. On the first Tuesdays when Boundary Oak is resurfacing its greens, we will play at Diablo Creek and Chardonnay in April and October, respectively. Other selections include Rossmoor with a noonish start time and Dublin Ranch. Those are new courses for us, but both come highly recommended. We also have a commitment for Lone Tree in Antioch which is a course we have not played in many years. We will have one event at old reliable Blue Rock as well.



## Nine Hole Golf Group

**Verner Laursen**

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

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

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

GOLF



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Above:** Jerry Baer, Pierre Mebane, Bob Royster and Joe Barry on the first tee.

**Below:** Also on the first tee are : Dan Holland, Bob White, Larry McAllister and Pete McNeill



Photo by Bill Schultz



- Photo by Bill Schultz

**Gary Brown, David Steinberg, Collin Holland, Paul Masta and Ron Binder** plan their strategies for bringing Boundary Oak Golf Course to it's knees!!

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

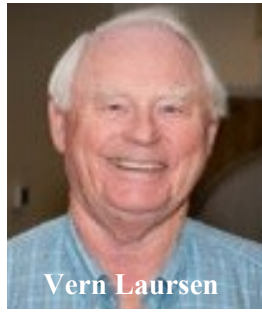
A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump.

## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



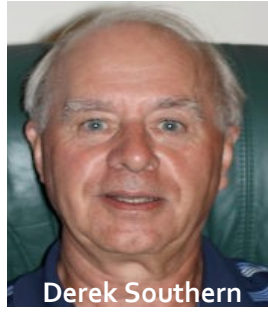
Vern Laursen

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

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

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

### Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next Computer & Technology meeting will be Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. The presentation topic for this meeting will be "Home Security Cameras/Systems" by Bob Testa. Bob will explore reasons for needing a security camera, options available and things to consider when buying.

The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group meetings are fun and informative where we discuss applications for computers and technology. At each meeting we have a presentation on a topic covering everything from antivirus programs, ways to back up your data, digital photography, genealogy research, smart phones and many other topics. It's a great way to learn about new technology and to also get answers to your computer questions or problems.

### Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

\$UMS in Retirement's next meeting is on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8 am at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. Back to our usual fourth Wednesdays.

The presenter will be Andrew Parrott of Edward Jones. He will be giving us his firm's outlook on investing in the election year.

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

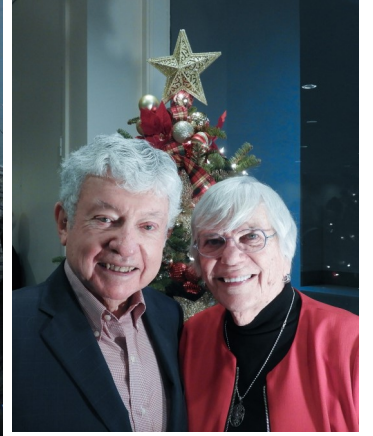
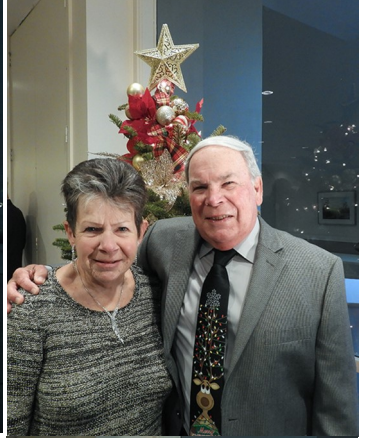
Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

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

To right: **Ben Smith** trying to keep warm on coldest golf day of the year at Boundary Oaks on December 17<sup>th</sup>



# 2019 December Ladies Day Luncheon



# 2019 December Ladies Day Luncheon





# 2019 December Ladies Day Luncheon



# 2019 December Ladies Day Luncheon



# 2019 December Ladies Day Luncheon



*Happy  
New Year*

# SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2021
January 2020													
30	31	Jan 1	2	3									
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Pickleball (T-Th) Instruction \$20 (Reservation Required) San Ramon Valley United Methodist 6:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres) 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #6	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2									
6	7	8	9	10									
10:00 AM Party Bridge 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Mac User Group (MUG)	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Pickleball (T-Th) Instruction \$20 (Reservation Required) San Ramon Valley United Methodist	10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Poker Group #6 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:15 PM Poker #5	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM SIR LUNCHEON	10:00 AM Hiking Moderate 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)									
13	14	15	16	17									
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 12:00 PM Cooking II	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Pickleball (T-Th) Instruction \$20 (Reservation Required) San Ramon Valley United Methodist 7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	10:00 AM Bowling 11:00 AM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30 PM Song Sirs 2nd 7:00 PM Bridge - Couples	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Computers And Technology (CAT) 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro									
20	21	22	23	24									
8:30 AM Book Group The Greenery Restaurant, WC 10:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Pickleball (T-Th) Instruction \$20 (Reservation Required) San Ramon Valley United Methodist	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sums in Retirement 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:00 AM Area 16 Fishing Breakfast Meeting Diablo Creek CC	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)									
27	28	29	30	31									
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Pickleball (T-Th) Instruction \$20 (Reservation Required) San Ramon Valley United Methodist 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	10:00 AM Bowling											