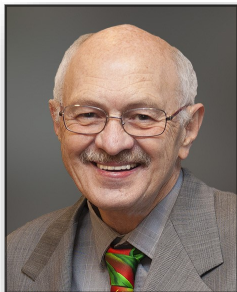




Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Notes Richard Hockenbrock

I want to thank the 52 couples and guests who attended the December 10th Zoom Ladies Day Luncheon. Forced into the confines and limitations of a Zoom meeting due to COVID, we were able to utilize a unique "breakout room" feature of Zoom to gather five or six couples and single Sirs around ten private so called tables. Here the couples had almost an hour to converse and reacquaint themselves with their SIR friends. It is the closest we have come to simulating an in-person luncheon since COVID began in early March. Many BR 146 members contributed to the success of the luncheon including **Peter Bishop, Jerry Kaplan, Ron Lew, Milt Smith, & Ross Abbott** (acting as co-hosts), **Paul Beretz** (Publicity), **Steve Ybarra** (Luncheon Registrar), **Peter Plante & Corrie Oranje** (Devil Mountain Chorus video procurement) **Cal Tucker** (Invocation), and **Bob Wilkenfeld** (Technical Support). And I would be remiss if I did not personally thank Big Sir **Brad Hatcher** who originally came up with the idea and inspired us to make it happen.

Looking to 2021, we have some major challenges ahead of us. Foremost, we will start the year possibly down 30 to 35 members from our peak of 300 members in 2019. We are currently only attracting approximately 25% of our members to our monthly luncheon meetings. Many others appear to be turned off by the Zoom meeting concept. Quite frankly, we have never entered a year with so much uncertainty as we are facing in 2021. As you are reading this, the whole state of California is in a lock down stay-at-home directive. On the positive side, two vaccines for COVID have been released and everyone is hoping that we will achieve some sort of "normality" in our lives at some point this year. In the meantime, SIR Branch 146, and I, as your Big Sir for 2021, will do everything I can to keep our members engaged in social

activities that can be utilized over the Internet. Please contact me by phone or email and let me know your concerns and possible ideas for keeping Branch 146 a healthy and welcoming place to meet and greet friends.

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary	Rich Lyon*
Assistant Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld *
Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Henry Thatcher *
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands *
Publicity	Peter Plante

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

Zoom, Zoom...

[ZOOM Luncheon Meeting](#)
[Thursday, January 14th](#)

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:15am

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 Jerry Kaplan

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that the Year 2021 will be a happy and less eventful year than the one we are just now bidding farewell.

Both **Brad Hatcher**, as Big Sir emeritus, and **Richard Hockenbrock**, as last year's Little Sir, should be commended for how well they dealt with the major upheaval that the COVID 19 pandemic caused to our Branch, our families, the country, and the world's 7.8 billion inhabitants. Think about dropping both gentlemen an e-mail or call them to let them know they are truly appreciated for their efforts in keeping the Branch running and the membership informed during these last 9 months.

Richard, now as **Big** Sir – standing at 6'2" – and I, taking on the **Little** Sir position – at 5'6" – expect to work closely together to keep the Branch membership informed of the latest developments regarding the resumption of many of our 50 plus activities, and in-person luncheons.

Many of the branch membership have learned how to use Zoom, including yours truly, and signed on in the last few months to an abbreviated luncheon get together, albeit without being able to share a glass of wine with friends and acquaintances. I hope to see many of you "virtually" at the January 14th Zoom luncheon.

One of my responsibilities is to attract entertaining speakers for the Branch during the year. Starting off in January, **Ms. Elana Mejia from Republic Services and Coordinator of the Walnut Creek Recycling Program** will get into the down and dirty of what happens when you put things into your blue can. We all remember just tossing everything into the garbage can – not realizing that somewhere a Mount Trashmore was being built higher and higher with our throwaways. Things have changed a lot since those days!

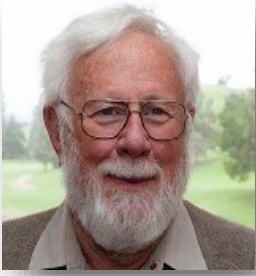
Let me know if you have suggestions for other topics and speakers as the year progresses. And, as Robert Frost once said: *"Now that I am old, my teachers are the young."* So, please, keep on learning!

For a would-be Navy SEAL, Hell Week is the worst week of the toughest military training in the world. [With]...one "special day" at the Mud Flats. The mud consumed each man until there was nothing visible but our heads. We were all exhausted, numb from the cold and desperate to hold on. The instructors told us that we could all leave the mud – if just five men quit. It was apparent that some of the trainees were about to give up. And then, one voice began to echo through the night – one voice raised in song. Those of us stuck in the mud believed that if one of us could start singing when he was up to his neck in mud, then maybe the rest of us could make it through the night. And we did.

Today, the coronavirus has thrown us all in the mud. We are cold, wet and miserable, and the dawn seems a long way off. But while we should not be cavalier about the dangers of this pandemic, neither should we feel hopeless and paralyzed with fear.

Nothing in our immediate future will be easy. The number of cases will rise. The losses will increase. The markets will stumble. But make no mistake about it, we will prevail, because the only thing more contagious than a virus is hope.

[Admiral William H. McRaven \(Ret\)](#)



Editor's Note Clint Collier

It was gratifying to hear from a number of members that they were pleased with the formatting changes made to SIR-Call. This continues with this new year issue; our jokes and other comments are now set off by small gold lines, top and bottom, no more saw teeth. This gives us a bit more room and makes it easier for your editors to move these around when formatting the final layout of the newsletter. And, two new sections debut this month. One for member comments and contributions and another one to say goodbye to the members we have lost in the past year.

Another change you can't see; we have embedded a hyperlink to each of the members' pictures used in our many activity articles. Interested in their activity? Simply click on their picture and you will get an e-mail form from your registered e-mail client to send them an e-mail!

It is frustrating for all of us, but please keep in mind when submitting articles to SIR-Call that the State SIR Organization has established that we can have **no SIR sponsored person to person meetings** in response to the pandemic and state orders. We can publish information

about past events, virtual events and other news not involving live meetings but anything that mentions or promotes a specific future meeting is "off limits" until we get this "bug" under control. So, until then, remember that Zoom is your new BFF... best friend forever!

As always, if you would like to see something, have a change you think will make SIR-Call better or just want to submit your favorite joke to share with the membership just ship it off in an e-mail!

Deadline for submissions for the February issue is January 26th.

Clint Collier — Editor SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489
br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Co-Editors	Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose, Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy





Jim Barry
 Frank Barton
 Garth Cummings
 Dick Devoe
 Charles Eichten
 Carl Feil
 Charles Gleason
 Dennis Hallett

Bill Hoban
 Colin Holland
 Hank James
 James Kohl
 Bob Lyman
 Stan Matsumoto
 Pierre Mebane
 Peter Plante

Ken Richter
 Mike Riley
 Lynn Shafer
 Steve Siljestrom
 Robert Storkan
 Steve Ybarra
 Rob McSpadden

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



Let us keep the pictured 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.

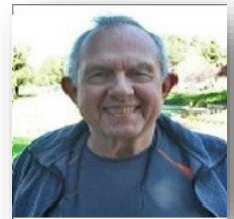
One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they “opt out” of the monthly luncheon. Since the in-person luncheons have been cancelled (at least for the time being) and we all are “sheltering at home” this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, your poker or bridge buddies, etc. to see how they are doing. If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness, send me an email so that we can let the membership know. This way the membership of Branch 146 can keep the SIR who is ill in their thoughts and prayers.

This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



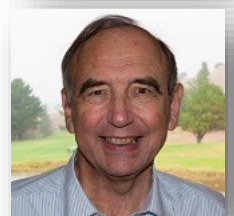
Dick Kincade



Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



Stan Stricherz



Frank Lucas



Vince Rettew



Luncheon Chairman Rich Lyon

Dear Sirs !
Susan and I hope your Holidays celebrations were a great time and we wish you a fun and safe New Year!

We're monitoring with anticipation that Contra Costa County is moving down the priority list for the COVID vaccine. Perhaps within a few short months we will have been vaccinated.

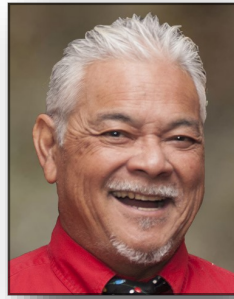
Until then we are playing it safe.

No contact online Branch activities are a way to regularly have fun and keep in touch with friends. The online "Luncheon" is another way to keep in touch and, the speakers have been very interesting.

If you haven't attended online, give it a try.

It won't be long until we are back to normal. In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon
Luncheon Coordinator



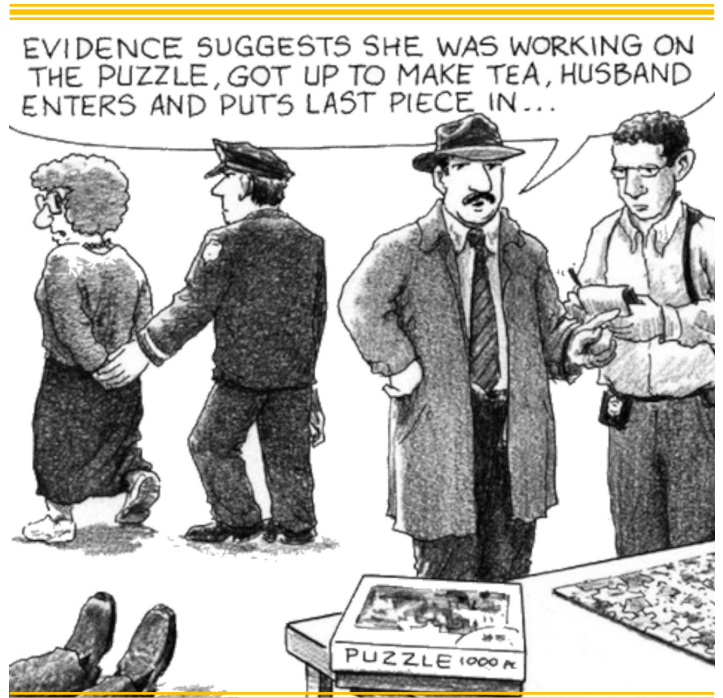
Membership Ron Lew

The 2020 year ended with added new members through this Covid-19 pandemic and not meeting in person. The SIR 146 BEC did not meet for any business in December prior to our ladies Christmas Special Zoom Luncheon. We will be approving a couple new members in January 2021 during our BEC business meeting.

Many of our new members have been introduced to our branch through activities or many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our technology like ZOOM, Facebook, or Skype... while making friends for life. I pray you all had a Merry Christmas and a Covid-safe Happy New Year.

I have been honored to serve as your Membership Chairman for the last 2 years. **George Mon** will be assuming the membership position and duties for 2021. Please contact or direct any changes to **George Mon** at 925-830-1604 or email George at gckk@comcast.net.

Ronald Lew



2020 Ladies Day Luncheon

This year's concluding luncheon, our traditional Ladies Day event, proved to be a bit of a challenge like the rest of 2020 and we had to rely on Zoom as we hunker down trying to defeat Coronavirus. A special thanks to all of the members who worked long and tirelessly on making this happen. We couldn't gather in person but we were able to join with friends in virtual rooms or tables to renew our friendships and then to gather as a group to be serenaded by the Devil Mountain Chorus and, finally to close as we always do, with God Bless America.

The pictures look different from previous years but the friendship and comradery are the same!



2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



Table 5



Table 6

2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



Table 7

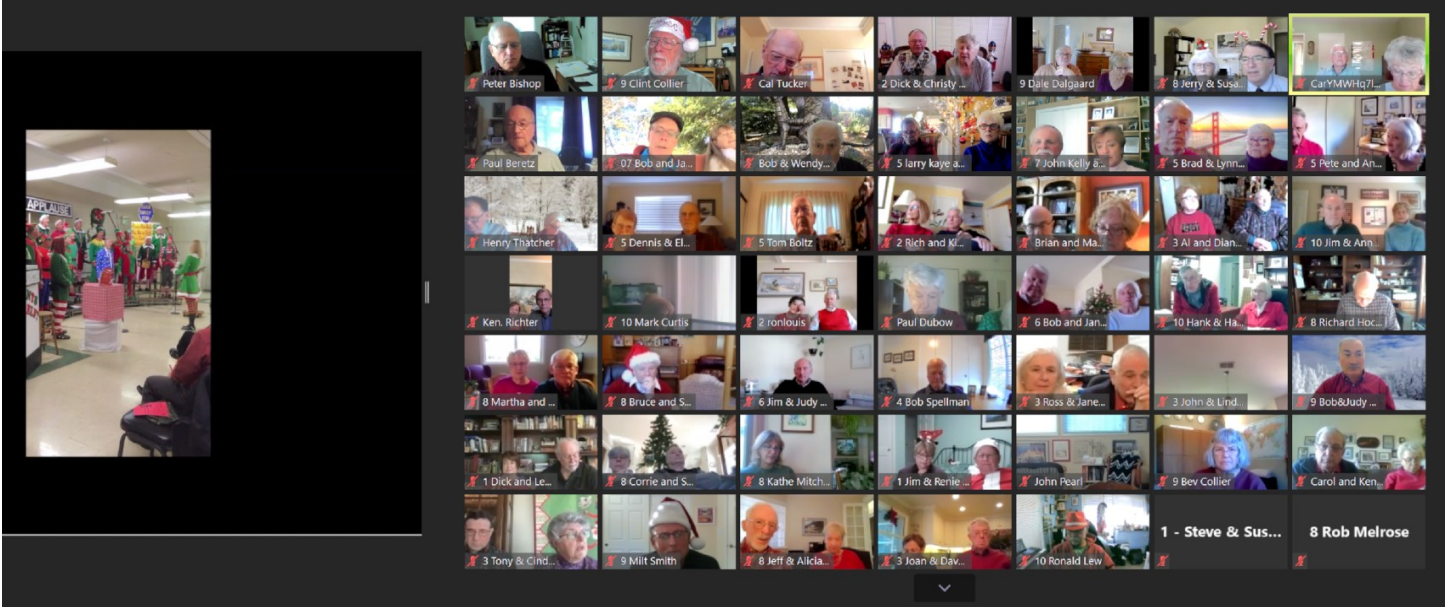


Table 8

2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



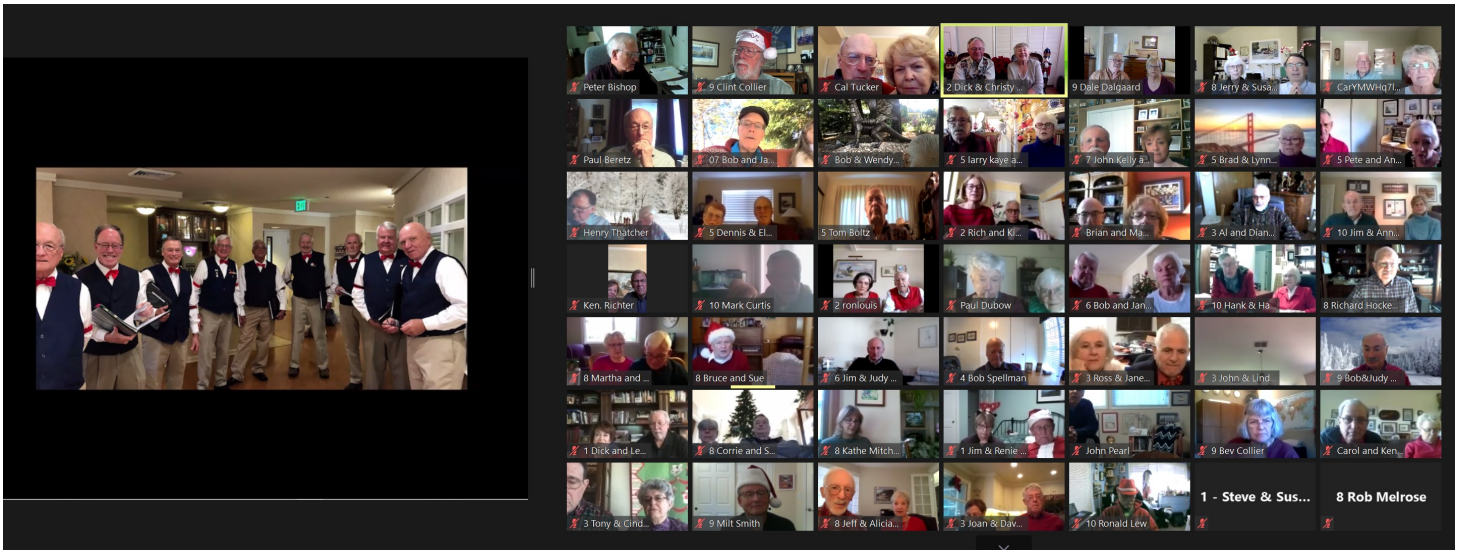
2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



Entertainment by the Devil Mountain Chorus



2020 Ladies Day Luncheon



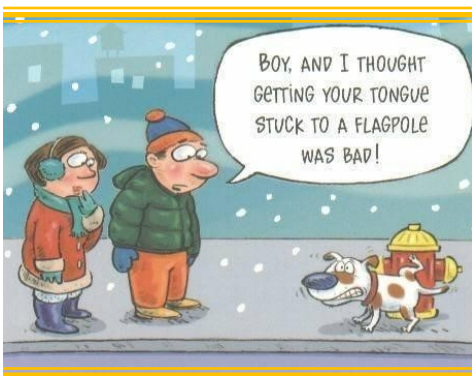
...as always, we conclude with the SongSirs and God Bless America!

GOODBYE
2020

NO ONE
will miss
you

HELLO
2021

WE'RE
SO GLAD
YOU'RE
HERE



Splenda Daddy
A man who wants to be a Sugar
Daddy but just doesn't have the
funds to pull it off

It's hard to turn the
Page when you know
Someone won't be in the next chapter,
But the story must go on.



We pay tribute to those fellow Sirs we have lost in 2020



Joe Jaeger – January 30, 2020



Frank Rockwell – February 5, 2020



John Bates – June 29, 2020



Joe Suta – September 18, 2020



William (Bill) Schultz – September 30, 2020



Dave Wynstra – December 1, 2020



Robert (Bob) Royster – December 15, 2020



Jim Meehan – December 23, 2020



Charles (Chuck) Campbell – December 26, 2020

NOTES

from Our Members

I enjoy playing Scrabble.

I have written a fun song about this very popular word game and I have uploaded my song to YouTube where you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWwvc2PXGNg>.

I think all our members would enjoy my song.

...from SIR Carl Tilchen

Because of my "nautical" background and interests I often get comments from friends around the world that in some way or another reflect this nautical theme. I thought this one, which landed in my in basket last week, particularly poignant since I often hear the comment these days when we are all locked down that "we are all in the same boat."

We are all not in the same boat.
We are all in the same storm.
Some of us have yachts, some boats,
some rafts, and some are drowning.
Just be kind and help whomever you can.

...from SIR Clint Collier

Points to Ponder

What happens if you get scared half to death
twice?

Who would've thought one day we'd be smoking
weed at a family gathering, but the illegal part
would be the family gathering?

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the
other: "Does this taste funny to you?"

Congratulations... you have just found the newest section to your newsletter, SIR-Call. What is it? It is a section for you the members! Have something you would like to say or pass on to your fellow SIRS? This column is for you. Sort of a "letters to the Editor" I guess you could say. So, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

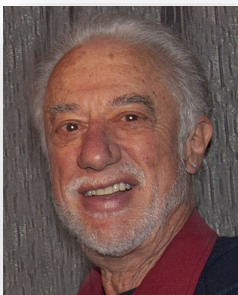
Clint Collier, Editor



Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of these listed in the following pages. Some are inactive at present due to the mandated shutdowns but many are enjoying comradery through Zoom to help us counteract the boredom.

If you can't find one that is just right for you... well, start a new one! Bob, our Activities Coordinator would love to help you!



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Clint Collier has found an online application that can be used to play Mexican Train Dominos.

It can be used by splitting the screen with half of it using zoom and the other half with the on-line game.

If you use the Branch146 Zoom license, the only time limit will be when everyone gets tired, or falls asleep.

It does have breakout rooms so you can divide people up who don't like each other.

I encourage all chairmen to look for on-line games that they can incorporate with Zoom, because it looks like it will be a while before we can get together.

Remember to stay 6 feet away from people who have the cooties.

If you have any questions about the Branch146 license or how to use it with an on-line game, let me know, and if I don't know the answer I will just make one up.

Bob Lucido
925-899-0974
Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Bocce John Kendrick

ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!

I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch 146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26th, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.

In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. We will make every effort to ensure play will resume in 2021.

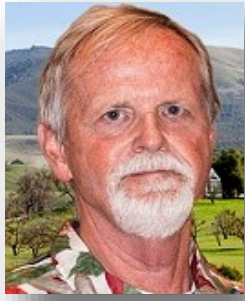
See you then!

Under normal circumstances, we play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, through September/October at 8:30 am at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me jmkendrick23@gmail.com and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.

Rain Cancels Play.
Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585
jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met on Friday, December 18th via Zoom Videoconferencing. The theme of this month's meeting was "Home for the Holidays". There were 9 SIR members on Zoom with great photographs to focus on the theme. Those attending were: **Jim Barry, David Kingsbury, Steve Oki, Clint Collier, Jim Pope, Peter Plante, Bill Holly, John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher.** Theme photos were shared by Sir Steve Oki, Sir Henry Thatcher, Sir John "Moose" Kelly and SIR Bob Wilkenfeld who was unable to attend in person.

Below and on the next page are some of the "Home for the Holidays" pictures that were shared.

We also showed two videos reviewing the new iPhone 12 Pro Camera. While no members attending have the new

iPhone 12 Pro Cell Phone, we are looking forward to hopefully seeing some pictures taken by members at a future meeting.

For our photo taking challenge at our February 2021 Photography Group meeting we showed a video from the Great Courses "Fundamentals of Photography." We are asking members to focus on taking pictures from the "Mundane to the Extraordinary." For this challenge, go to the most visually uninteresting place you can think of and make an interesting picture. For this picture you can take a friend or a pet with you, so you can have a subject. Just think of that boring place as a stage and hopefully a great photo will only be a click away. We will be looking forward to seeing your photos at our February meeting.

All in all, it was a great meeting to wrap up 2020 with our fellow SIR members. If you are not on the Photography Group mailing list and would like to join us at future meetings drop us an e-mail. All skill levels and photography interests are welcome. Our next Photography Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2021.

Be safe and be well and be sure to "Say Cheer"!

John (Moose) Kelly at

rollingstone911@yahoo.com (610) 517-0152

Henry Thatcher at

1henrythatcher@gmail.com (925) 997-5032



Henry Thatcher

Cambria Scarecrow Festival
Granddaughters Gia and Gabby are assisting the bride
in an impromptu moment.



Henry Thatcher

Cambria Scarecrow Festival

Photography Group Photos



Bob Wilkenfeld
Bob and his Granddaughter



Moose Kelly
Poet's Corner



Moose Kelly
A Christmas Wish



Peter Plante
Homemade Gingerbread House



Steve Oki
Hawaii Sunset



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Like every other SIR function, we are unable to get together in person although we continue to meet monthly on Zoom and swap stories. Nevertheless, a few of us have ventured out on our own in small groups looking for the big one.

Our efforts have been limited to stripers, sturgeon, and crabs. The striper results have been good. **Phil Scimonelli** took his wife with him in **Ron Lew's** boat and the husband and wife duo picked up four keepers, including one close to 30 inches. **Ron** caught some stripers, too, but they were not keepers. **Harry Sherinian** fished in **Tom Kostik's** boat and caught and released 13 stripers, including nine that were keeper sized. His biggest fish was 24 inches. But **Tom** landed the biggest fish, when he caught and later released a 27 incher. The rest of **Tom's** catch were not keepers. **George Vogt, Stan Wong, and Brion Beetz** also had successful striper outings.

On the other hand, the sturgeon results have been awful. **Ron Lew, Brion Beetz, Ken Bellinder, Carl Moyer, Brion Beetz and Rich Fiscina** all tried their luck and the result was a single sturgeon that **Ken** landed. **Ken** was fishing with **Rich** at the time and he was kind enough to let **Rich** hold the fish for a picture.

The crab fishing has been decent, aided by the commercial season not starting until December 23 which allowed sport crabbers to have the water to themselves. **Ron Lew** limited out on one trip, catching both Dungeness and rock crabs. Although many crab aficionados rate Dungeness as a delicacy, **Ron** is in the camp of those who think that rock crabs taste better. **Pedro Contreras** and **Ron Gaumont** traveled to Half Moon Bay and dropped six pots, ultimately hauling in nine Dungeness crabs and a very large rock crab. **Brad Hatcher** sailed out on the *Warrior* and came home with five crabs.

Our Zoom meetings are fun gatherings. We join in breakout rooms of eight or nine fishermen and talk about fishing and life in general and then reconvene for group business and to describe our most recent trips. The next meeting is Thursday, January 28, at 8:30 am. If you wish to join us, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4156 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504 - 3566. Once we hear from you, secretary **Brion Beetz** will send you a Zoom invitation.



"Rich Fiscina displays a big sturgeon, but it was **Ken Bellindir** who caught it".





Travel Milt Smith

As you can imagine there is still considerable uncertainty about travel. I still have the same cruises available please take a look.

Additionally, please be on the look out for a travel-related poll I will be sending out in December. The purpose will be to help determine the general attitude and proclivity of our SIR members vis-à-vis travel. I have taken a look at two possible cruises for 2021 & 2022.

- A shorter cruise aboard the refurbished Ruby Princess (Princess Cruises) just to get your sea legs again; sailing from San Francisco round trip on October 17-24, 2021 through the Pacific Northwest Coast. Ports of call are Astoria Oregon, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. and Victoria B.C. No flying required! Pricing begins at \$1,734 for a Balcony Stateroom to \$1,494 for an Ocean View Stateroom. Prices are per person, double occupancy.
- The same cruise for nearly the same price is also available April 23-30, 2022.

Our friends at Travel Center Tours and Travel are holding space for us on each of these cruises.

How about the Panama Canal, for a bit longer cruise? Leaving Ft. Lauderdale Fl. for San Francisco on March 12-27, 2022 aboard the Ruby Princess, ports of call are: Cartagena Columbia; Panama Canal (new locks), Fuerte Amador (Panama City); Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. Our friends at the Travel Center are also holding space for us on this cruise. These trips were presented to the BEC at the October for approval and if you have any interest at all in any of these please contact **Milt Smith** right away!

As mentioned in recent SIR CALLs, there is still extremely limited space for the Grand Baltic Sea Voyage June 5, 2021, as well as the Narsai David Cruise North American Treasures Cruise aboard Crystal Serenity in September, 2021. I also have some information about the 2021 – 2022 Broadway SF season...9 shows...more information to come.

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



Pinochle Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

We meet on the 2nd and 4th 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.

Charlie Kahsen
(925) 943-1750
cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow
(925) 944-7009
jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch & Wine Bob Spellman

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Because face-to-face meetings are not permitted for the time being, we cancelled our backyard meeting at **Pete Gates'** home that was scheduled for this month, as well as the gathering in **Bob Spellman's** veranda that was set for January. If things ease up, we will meet in February, but the venue has not yet been decided.



Pickleball and Ping Pong

Jim Burk & Ron Afdal

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

As most of us are aware, all SIR Activities are locked down until further notice. Ron and I will let you know in the February SIR-Call the latest information we have at the time regarding the possible opening of Ping Pong and Pickle Ball.

Continue to stay safe and practice the protocols that we have learned to date, and keep alert to the proposed opening dates. Let's hope that the New Year brings an indication of dates for these two activities to open and for our interested SIR members to enjoy playing these sports on a drop-in basis.

Jim Burk - Pickleball
(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong

(925) 825-4809

ronafdal@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

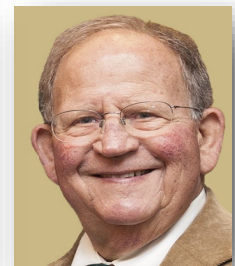
The SIR On-Line Cribbage Group continues its play using "Cribbage Pro," with on-going facilitation by our C.T.O., **Jim Nelson** – could not have done it without him!

In December we completed Tournament No. 7, which had 15 members playing. Second place overall was taken by **Malcolm Harrison** with **John Pearl** the winner. In the Consolation Bracket, **Jeff Baily** took second place, while the first place winner was **Ron Polivka**. Lots of fun ("trash talk") was the order of the day.

We then started Tournament No. 8, and this time we again have 15 members playing. The results will be announced in the February Sir Call.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

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

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

At this time, we still are not able to anticipate a date whereby we will be able to restart our Couples Dining Out activity. We are now in the throes of distributing the vaccine, and hopefully many of our members will fall into one of the early categories of getting the vaccine. I am hoping that we will start to see better statistics on the prevalence of the virus, and that we will have some relaxation on the opening of restaurants in our area. Being the eternal optimist, I am hoping that by the end of January, we will be able to make some plans to re-start our Dining Out activity.

In the meantime, I continue to urge you to utilize the restaurants for take-out and to help them to maintain their business in this manner. Most importantly, of course, keep yourself safe by wearing masks, keeping your social distance when you do go out, and limit your social interaction. It's tough to do during this holiday time, but in the long run, we will be able to return to some degree of normalcy in early 2021.

We wish all of you a Happy New Year! Best regards and wishes for good health!

bgborgman@aol.com

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

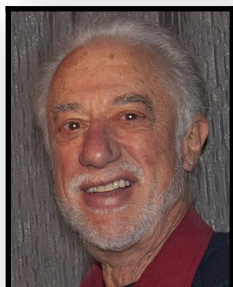


SongSirs Bruce Borgman

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Nothing new to report. But, we will return to our practices and performances when we're all immunized with a vaccine!

(925) 932-3961 bgborgman@aol.com



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

If you are interested in joining us when things get better, call or e-mail me.

(925) 899-0974 bwendy3@comcast.net



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

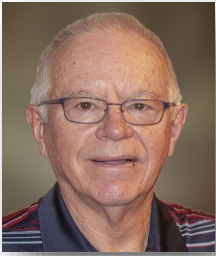
Until we get State SIR resumption clearance, the BR 146 Cooking II activity is suspended.

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry Reported by Jim Barry

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

We look forward to having SIR sponsored hiking again sometime in 2021 when government stay-at-home orders are lifted and we receive the go ahead from the State SIR organization. In meantime, we are encouraged

by the number of members who have expressed renewed interest in our hiking activity.

I plan to continue to walk solo in the great trail system we have here in the East Bay; East Bay Regional Parks, Mt Diablo State Park, and Walnut Creek Open Space and I encourage you to do likewise. If you have questions regarding my opinions on where you and your family and friends might go for an easy or challenging walk, please contact me via phone or email.

To encourage you to get out and walk, here are some pictures from hikes we have taken in the past. I may not remember everyone, but I will give it my best shot. **Cliff Sanburn, Ray Martz, Mike Browne, Gene Schulting, and Bob Wilkenfeld** participated in the Tilden Wildcat Peak

walk. The Briones walk included **Pete** (I don't like hills) **Gates, Ray Martz, Bob Wilkenfeld,** and **Mike Browne.** The Lime Ridge hike included **Bob** and **Sheila Ford, Ron** and **Victoria Polivka, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ray Martz,** and **Gene Schulting.** And the last hike planned by **Ray Martz** was attended by **Gene Schulting, Dick Devoe, Ron Lew** on the Rocky Ridge loop trail at Las Trampas in San Ramon.

If we get enough rain and the corona virus starts to get under control to the point that the restrictions on SIR gatherings are lifted I hope there will be a walk on the Mt Diablo State Park Falls trails. This would most likely in March or early April so think good thoughts.

Without rain, it's still a nice walk but not nearly as beautiful. And maybe a chance to see the famous Ladybug rock where they hatch each year.

Take care everyone and I hope we have a better 2021 than 2020. Can't possibly be worse.

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

(925) 360-3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

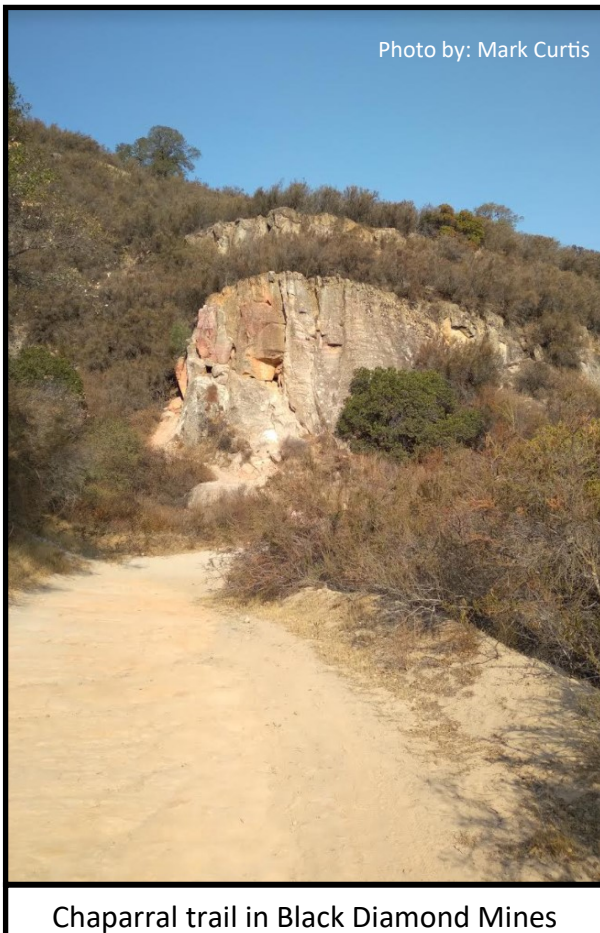


Photo by: Mark Curtis

Chaparral trail in Black Diamond Mines



Photo by: Mark Curtis

left to right: **Ray Martz, Jim Nelson, Mike Browne, Bob Ford, and Pete Gates**



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes Jerry Kaplan

Like most other activities, The Group One players have not been able to meet for our monthly Game Nights. We continue to miss the fun as well as the different treats and

super snacks that have been provided by the hosts each month.

At our last Zoom meeting in November, a total of 15 MTD Group One Players signed on, then unmuted, and then squinted to see what our fellow players all looked like after nine months of mostly home confinement. It was suggested that we would have a Year-End get together (via Zoom again, I'm afraid) to toast in the New Year and wish Good Riddance to the year 2020 finally ending. (I write this with another seven days to go before January 1st, 2021— hopefully, these days will go quietly). We expect to sign on with our champagne or favorite beverage to toast the occasion. Some may bring a warm glass of milk, which will also work.

We are all looking forward to seeing one another in person in 2021 and trying to regain our skills in the game that brought us together on the second Friday night of each month for about the last six years.

Thinking positively for the future, all Branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! We now have seven different MTD groups playing in the Branch with over 100 individuals participating.

Single SIR members as well as a Slir and his Significant Other are always welcome.



Grupo Cinco 5

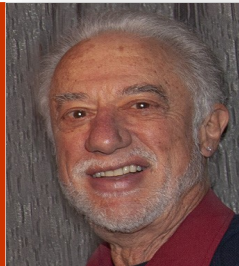


Mexican Train Dominoes Dave Pierce

What a bummer this pandemic is. We only played twice in 2020. For the record, in official games scored, **Bob Yolland** was first (average

7.9), **Ann Hallett** was second (9.5), and **Dennis Hallett** was third (11.8), just edging **Marty Campbell** (12.3). **Ann, Joan Pierce, and Bob** each went out four times, in 12 games scored. The rest of us greatly enjoyed the fellowship around the table, and likely we'll have had more than a year to heal our scars, before we meet again.

Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes Bob Lucido

Clint Collier has found an online application that can be used to play MTD. It has some limitations.

We will use zoom with break out rooms, and run the MTD application separately.

Clint Collier & Bob Lucido have tried it out, and after a few glitches, got it running. The only big glitch was that **Clint** won with 8 points and **Bob** with 126. I will trouble shoot this problem and fix it later.

Bob Lucido (925) 899-0974
Bobwendy3@comcast.net



You know you're getting' old when you can't walk past a bathroom without thinking, "I may as well pee while I'm here."

All other groups
Nada que reporter
No hay eventos.



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Cycling
Once a week
with no drop rides.
Exploring the entire Bay
Area.
Coed.

What a year. Who would of ever thought 2020 would be so full of sadness? The boys of the Rooster however; the Spandex guys, had a memorable year.

We mounted Mount Diablo. We survived the Relize Valley death hill, The Bears came and went, Snake road and its hills became a memory, Wildcat canyon was tamed. We explored the back roads , the front roads, and all sort of byways. To top off these great accomplishments the guys went to Clyde. Yes, Clyde. We followed the great philosopher from Orinda, **Dr. William of Ross** when he said "keep upright and do not stop pedaling". The famous words of **Bob, PhD Wilkenfeld** , " Who wants to share an Apple Fritter"? The fashion forward **Dr. Michael Wolfson** showed us how to wear leather gloves and still look chic. We all recall the **Mooseman** and his yellow jacket always amongst us. **Ron Lew**, our in house minister bringing his flock to our rides. **Big Bob Lucido** and his success with an experimental drug. **Jim Nelson** whose help with our jerseys was amazing. **Ken Studer** the plant guru. Always ready to help with a gardening question. **Pat Hoy**, our new guy from Branch 8. The ever-present buzz of his E Bike, **Paul Brown**, (Branch 2) the BBQ judge of fame. Always into his sauce. **Bill Holly**. Bought a new bike so he could better enjoy the hills.

We had a great year. We rode almost every week , we survived the heat, the cold and the fog. We curtailed our SIR member rides as we were advised to and followed the correct protocols.

As the group leader I am proud of these guys. From around the block cyclists to seasoned road warriors.

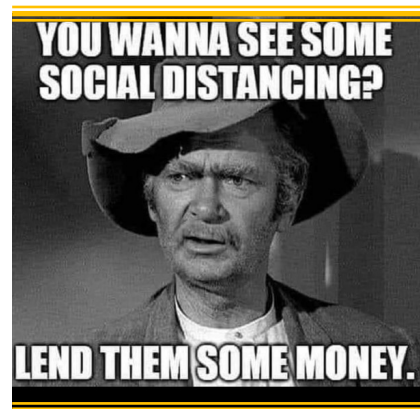
We took falls, we saw road rash, we enjoyed many Java Joints and we survived. 2020 is gone. 2021 is ahead. Lets keep the wheels turning.



Pat Hoy.(BR. 8), Larry Kaye, Bob Wilkenfeld, Paul Brown (Br. 2). And Bob Lucido.



The award from the Spandex guys. Art and design and plaque from **Bob Wilkenfeld**.



Doc, I can't stop singing "The Green,
Green Grass of Home."
"That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome."
"Is it common?"
"Well, It's Not Unusual."



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Five members of our on-line book group met Monday morning, December 14th. Our Zoom Master

continues to be **Mike Farrar**. Thank you **Mike**. One item of interest is the availability of used books at such places as "Friends of the Library" book stores, with Pleasant Hill's being cited as an example. They have a temporary store in the Downtown in a storefront. Most libraries with Friends groups have used books for sale. Also we heard that the Pleasant Hill City Hall is temporarily housing the library's collection while the new building is being constructed.

We started the conversation about our chosen read for the month, *Green Lights*, by well known actor and Lincoln driver, Matthew McConaughey. It is a recently written autobiography of sorts, that while chronicling his life, also presents his thoughts on a life well lived, at least from his perspective. He has done many things in his life, sort of a "wild thing," but has done serious thinking about life. One reviewer called it "part memoir, part life guide, and part ethic." He was born in East Texas into a family headed by an oil country worker, and was raised in the school of hard knocks. His time there started him on the path to turn difficult situations into green lights. The diaries he kept for the past 35 years provide much of the source material for this book.

Some of his philosophy says to take the green light and don't take life too seriously.. He is a pretty smart guy, and a true Texan. He has had an amazing story, doing things we have only thought about, traveling with his dog, expeditions to South America and Africa (not to the tourist spots). This book was written on another expedition to the desert.

After embarking on an acting career in Hollywood, a place where he did not fit in, he chose to live a different life style, continuing his travels and meeting lots of women. He received an Oscar for *The Dallas Buyers Club*. He deliberately moved away from making the movies he calls "rom-coms" that paid his bills, and was able to get artistic roles in movies, a change that did not come easily in a town that had him type cast.

He finally did find the woman whom he has now been with for years, having three children with her, and doing things some would call "giving back" with a foundation

and teaching a college class in Austin.

We then moved to a discussion about the greatest American authors of the 20th century. One comment was that Steinbeck was an author who was easy to read. Another was that Hemingway was kind of a fascinating guy, with some excellent lesser-known books to his credit. *Farewell to Arms* was mentioned as a good book to read.

Other authors' names that were mentioned as excellent were Doris Kearns Goodwin, Kurt Vonnegut, Richard Wright, Barbara Kingsolver (*The Poisonwood Bible*), Davis McCullough, and for volume, James Michener.

Paul Dubow told us of a book, *Interior Chinatown*, by the local author Charles Yu, a National Book Award Winner, as a possible future read. He also edited this report!

Our voting "process" led us to *The Reivers* by William Faulkner, for our next book. We meet again on Monday, January 18th, at 8:30 am.



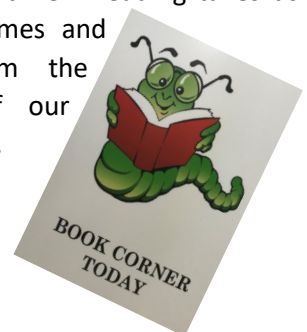
So, I was at Walmart earlier and
A lady was looking at frozen turnkeys
but she couldn't find one big enough.
She asked the stock boy, "do these
turkeys get any bigger?"
He replied with a straight face, "No
ma'am, they're dead"



Book Corner Peter Plante

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year inspite of this topsy turvy time. Reading takes us to other times and places from the comfort of our own homes.

Stay safe and enjoy your books.





**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 1**
Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 2**
Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

925-932-3877 dwpi@astound.net

As of 1 Jan 2021, there are new alert/announcement procedures. Here's a couple of the common ones:

- After a 1NT opening, a 2D bid showing hearts: Announce "Hearts." [Not "transfer."] Same for any other transfers.
- After a strong 2C Opening, a 2H Response showing 0-3 HCP: "Alert."

You can find all the ACBL alert and announcement rules here but you aren't likely to encounter most of them at the level we play at. It says "tournament specific" but I am assuming these would apply at club games as well. Perhaps club directors will be announcing what's up.

932-3877 dwpi@astound.net

**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2**

Unfortunately, **Bill Schultz**, the leader of this group, recently passed and no new Activity Director has yet been determined. If you are interested in heading up this group, contact **Bob Lucido**: bobwendy3@comcast.net



Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

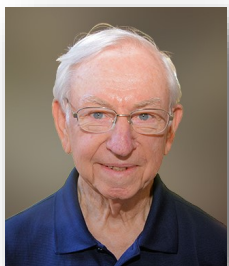
Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Couples Party Bridge continues to be placed on-hold and will not re-start until national, state, county and city governmental COVID-19 safety guidelines have been established for home based social activities such as bridge. Once guidelines are established and are considered maintainable and enforceable by Couples Party Bridge, a request to re-start will be submitted to Branch 146 BEC for approval.

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



**Party
Bridge**
Jim Pope & Jim
Stedman



Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled





MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Well, 2020 started out with us meeting in January and February at Rocco's playing 8 games. However, in March we cancelled because of Covid. Then I was lucky enough to find Trickstercards.com and we resumed playing in Mid-April.

Playing virtually allowed us to play 4 games in 2 hours whereas in person we could only get in 2 games. We also decided to play online weekly rather than monthly at Rocco's, as most activities were now closed. This allowed us to play 136 games thru July when we switched to twice per month. For the full year we were able to play 222 games in 2020 as compared to 31 in 2019. We had a lot of fun and really honed our skills.

What follows is a summary of the winners by category for 2020. Some people say the only point of hearts is to win. However, there are many of these categories that help you win.



Steve Ybarra

YTD 2nd's: **Steve Ybarra** won the YTD 2nd place title with 34, **Bob West** was 2nd with 33.

Lowest Game Score of Year: The lowest game score was 11 which was achieved by **Ray Bland** on 5/1 and Steve Ybarra on 5/15. The 2nd lowest score of 12 was achieved by **Bob West** on 4/16 and **Bob Finlayson** on 12/4.

Of course, we should give a hand to our team leaders who have led online groups. **Ron Polivka, Rich Lyon, Steve Ybarra** and **Bob Finlayson**. Without your leadership we would not have been able to play all these games. Thanks for all your writeups and support.

Future Meetings: Each online group plays 4 games on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our next online games, will be Friday, January 8th and 22th at 1pm.

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



Ray Bland

YTD Wins: In their year-long battle **Ray Bland** won with 40, **Bob Finlayson** is 2nd with 37.5 and **Frank Lucas** 3rd with 29.5.



Bob Finlayson

Win %: **Ray Bland** won 44% of all games

he played, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 40% and **Frank Lucas** 31%.

Frank Lucas is "Most Improved" in that his YTD winning % was 314% of his 2019 percentage.



Frank Lucas

Lowest Avg. Score: **Bob Finlayson** won with

69.1, **Bob West** is 2nd with 70.1, and **Ray Bland** 3rd with 71.9.



Rich Lyon

YTD "Shoot the Moon" (STM): **Frank Lucas** won with 36 followed by **Ray Bland** with 35 and **Rich Lyon** with 16. Both **Frank** and **Ray** had "YTD Shoot the Moon" percentages of 38% and **Rich's** was 26%.

"Best Sheriff": **Jim Nelson** and **Bob West** are tied since July with only having someone having "Shot the Moon" on only 5% of their passes, in 2nd place were **Bob Finlayson** and **Steve Ybarra** with 10%.





Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Old Money Poker Group 6
Brad Hatcher

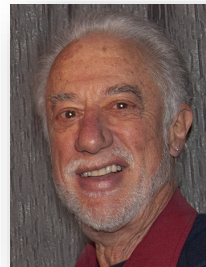
Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

(925) 935-1571
bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Poker Group 7 meets on the **third** Monday of the month at **Bob Lucido's** house at 6:30 pm.

(925) 899-0974 bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 4
Rich Hanford

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 5
Bill Roberts

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled





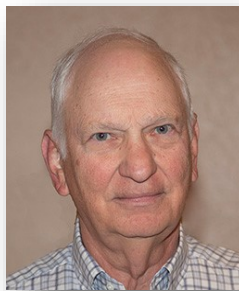
Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

We cannot play as a Sir's activity because of the Corona Virus, but if you wish to join us after we are released to play please contact me. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at Diablo Hills Golf Course most Thursdays, except for the 2nd Thursday when we are scheduled to be at the Sir's meeting.

If you are interested in playing with us, please contact me and I will put you on the list of players. On Mondays I will send out an email asking who will be playing, walking or riding, and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who showed up or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch at the Greenery is better than our golf game.

vern.laursen@gmail.com



GOLF Ed Marlovits

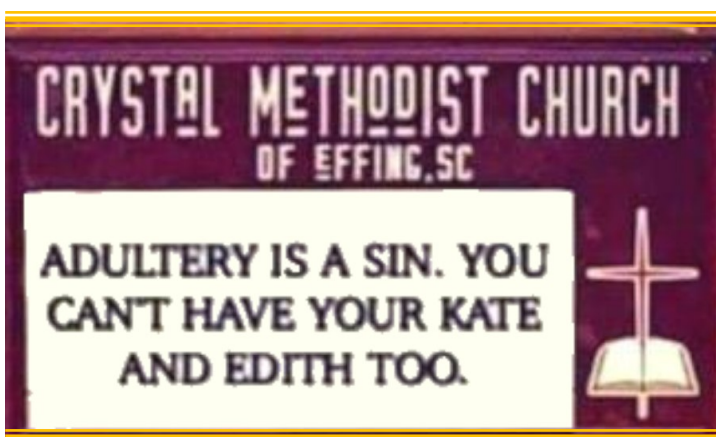
As the calendar turns to 2021 with many SIR activities, including SIR 146 Golf, suspended, we have been preparing for a better, robust golf year. **Dave Steinberg** has collected signups from sixty-six members for the Golf activity. The cost covered

just our individual NCGA memberships. There is sufficient prize fund money left in our bank account for payouts after we resume our normal activities.

Mark Curtis has agreed to take over the Away Golf activity from **Joe Fuchs**, who managed it for over a decade. Normally agreements for setting up venues and dates would be almost complete by this time of the year. But new agreements would be contingent on SIR allowing us to resume the golf activity. Once SIR golf officially resumes, **Mark** may have to scramble a bit to set up dates for new outings. Fortunately he knows ALL of the courses in the area and is well positioned to get things rolling again.

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Golf



Anyone know how
much vodka goes in
scrambled eggs??

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



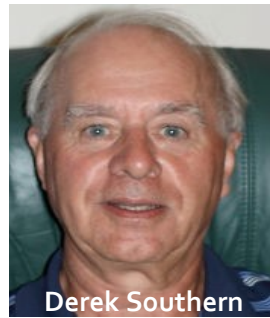
Mac



No report received for January. If you are interested in this group contact...

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

Computers and Technology



PC

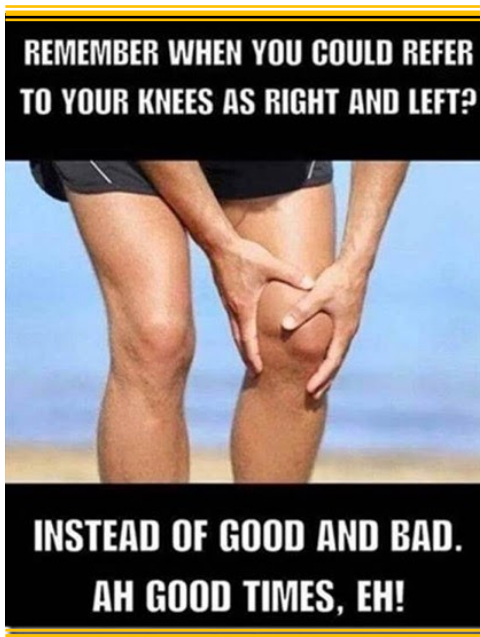


The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, January 21st starting at 9:30.

The January presentation topic will be "Photo Editing on Your PC & Mac - Basics to Advanced". Photo editing via smartphones has greatly improved in the last few years but so has PC & Mac photo editing software. There are a wealth of new features now available, often using AI techniques, that can help you make detailed photo adjustments. Neil Schmidt will talk about two excellent editing programs available and demonstrate some simple as well as some advanced methods to improve your photos.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

Computers & Technology Website
<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

SUMS participated in another Branch 128 (San Ramon) Zoom meeting in Dec. There were two presentations: What to Look for in an Investment Advisor and an update on Income Taxes by our own Jamshed Gandhi, CPA, followed by a group discussion.

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



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.