



Branch 146



Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

Please mark your calendars for July 8th for the next monthly membership meeting using Zoom. As usual, we will start the proceedings in breakout rooms at 11:30 and begin the

business part with our speaker scheduled for noon. We will finish up around 1:00 pm.

In the meantime, the countdown has started for an in-person luncheon! **We are just over a month away from having our first live in-house luncheon meeting on August 12th.** This will mark the end of 17 months that we have been isolated from each other. Your BEC is working behind the scenes to make sure the luncheon turns out great and everyone who wants to attend can! We will however be at the mercy of Boundary Oak's catering capabilities. More details in next month's SIR-Call.

We had good success utilizing social media platforms "Patch" and "Next Door" to attract new members to the branch during the pandemic. We want to continue utilizing these platforms to highlight more of our activities in the future. This in addition to having you as members getting out and invite your friends to a free lunch and discovering the many benefits of joining SIR.

Speaking of activities, I am going to ask the BEC to approve a new Mexican Train Dominoes numero ocho or eight in English. The aim of MTD 8 will be somewhat different than the other groups. 1) I hope to attract all those members who wanted to play MTD in other groups but did not have room in their house to host. I am going to hold all the games at my house, but I will have visiting hosts who will still be responsible for bringing snacks and drink to the games. 2) I want to encourage SIR members and guests who have never played MTD to come to one of my ongoing planned training sessions. 3) this group's MTD will be open to all SIR members and guests, including singles, wives, and significant others. I am especially hoping our

Zoom, Zoom...
ZOOM Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, July 8h

Zoom Session opens at 11:15am

new members will try out MTD 8 and experience why game playing with other members and wives, partners, etc. is so much fun.

Jim Burk was presented with the Branch Honoree award by **Walt Busenius** at the June meeting for his many years of outstanding service to the branch. This is the highest award the Branch can bestow, and it was noted that **Jim** served as Big Sir in 2012.

Check **Jerry Kaplan's** Little Sir column to learn about our interesting speaker we had in June and the one coming up for July.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Nominating Committee, under the chairmanship of **Brad Hatcher**, for selecting the nominees for 2022 Branch Officers and Directors. We have a vibrant and experienced team, representing many of our branch interests. The nominees are as follows:

- Big Sir**
- Little Sir**
- Secretary**
- Assistant Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Assistant Treasurer**
- Director 2nd Term**
- Director 2nd Term**
- Director 2nd Term**
- Director 1st Term**
- Director 1st Term**
- Director 1st Term**

- Jerry Kaplan**
- Rich Lyon**
- Bob Wilkenfeld**
- Open**
- John Alexander**
- Dave Steinberg**
- George Mon**
- Henry Thatcher**
- Bob Lucido**
- Bob Ford**
- Ed Brands**
- Frank Lucas**

Please note there is still an open position for Assistant Sec-

Continued on next page

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.

Big Sir's column continued from prior page

retary, if you would like to be a candidate for this position, please contact [Brad Hatcher](#). At the August meeting we will accept nominations from the floor in addition to these committee nominations. We will then vote to elect the BEC for 2022.

One final note, in addition to having our lunch at Boundary Oak in August, it is tradition to wear a piece of clothing with your team colors to this meeting. Proudly come wearing a colorful shirt or shirt pants combination. But remember the July meeting is only on Zoom! See you there.



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.



Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

Good news! As our Big Sir **Richard H.** noted, we expect to see everyone in person at the August luncheon (August 12th). Some of you may have new hairstyles (or possibly less hair) and some may have grown a

beard and/or mustache! Even so, be nice to everyone you see (even if you don't recognize them right away) and tell them that they look great! I hope most all of you are ready and able to attend one of the luncheons in the next few months.

At the upcoming August meeting, please welcome our many new members that **Paul Beretz** and several others have invited to join over the past year. Remember, new members will have a name tag in YELLOW – they will know only a very few people, so please go up and introduce yourself.

In the meantime, we will continue to meet via Zoom. Our speaker for the July meeting will be Ms. Eve Virge, the Executive Director for the nearby White Pony Express (WPE) non-profit organization. It is likely that not very many of our members know of this hard working group. Please come to learn more about what the WPE organization has done and continues to do to help eliminate hunger and poverty throughout Contra Costa County. During the 16 months of COVID limitations, WPE continued to operate seven days a week through their Food Rescue and Recovery program. Since its founding in 2013, WPE has delivered more than 10.5 million pounds of food, equivalent to almost 9 million meals. Food and clothing are two fundamental facets of life; Ms. Virge's talk should be of interest to all.

Our June ZOOM luncheon speaker was Battalion Chief **Bryan Giambrone** from the state Cal Fire organization. Mr. Giambrone shared events and stories from his many years

Continued on next page

of experience with the third biggest fire department in the United States. In addition to talking about the many wildfires that seem to be occurring more frequently, Chief Giambrone discussed several important safety related actions that all homeowners in our area should be aware of and take as appropriate for their situation. If a SIR member missed the meeting and is interested in reviewing these important actions, they can go to the Cal Fire website: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>. All of us should be aware that Chief Giambrone noted that the general area of Walnut Creek, Concord, and surroundings communities are in the same danger from a wildfire similar to that which tore through areas of Santa Rosa and Napa in recent years.

Volunteers Needed

While our Big Sir noted that while we have an admirable group of individuals to continue carrying on Branch 146's month to month responsibilities, it is important that all members, and in particular, newer members, volunteer to take a role in making the branch successful and welcoming to all. We are always in need of people to:

- check in luncheon attendees,
- help with audio/visual setups,
- assist in treasurer duties,
- help the SIR-Call editor lay out the monthly newsletter and/or proofreading the bulletin,
- many other "chores" that allow the branch to function successfully.

Please consider attending one of our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meetings to see how the organization functions and how you may be able to help. The BEC meets at 9:00 AM, prior to every luncheon. And look at the branch website <https://www.sir146.com/> to see the administrative committees where assistance is almost always needed and especially welcomed!

During June, a new member joined our branch: **Dean Mayer**. A warm welcome to **Dean**; we look forward to meeting you in person, hearing some of your interesting life stories, and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

Remember: *"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."*

– Dale Carnegie



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

You will notice a significant change in this month's SIR-Call. Gone are the little red boxes with "Due to Covid restrictions Nothing Scheduled"! Not necessarily gone but greatly diminished are the

Zoom tags. We are opening up and I don't know about you but to me "Feels Good!" pretty much summarizes it. As I sit here writing this in preparation for the July issue I have already attended three activities... activities with live, in person SIR friends! Familiar faces, great conversation and interaction and not a mask in sight. Next month looks to be more of the same; meeting with friends, scheduling live get togethers and even scheduling a SIR cruise!

So my question to my fellow members this month is what are you doing? If an activity you are interested in isn't yet getting together, stir the pot. Talk with your activity leader and find out what needs to be done or what you can do to help get back into action.

On a different tack, two of our co-editors have left us this month for personal reasons. I want to thank **Walt Busenius** and **Rob Melrose** for their contributions to this publication over the years! I also want to thank **Bob West** who is sticking around and is a wonderful co-editor with me. But both **Bob** and I like to take vacations so we will be looking for other members of SIR who would be willing to join the newsletter team. Attention to detail and a desire to inform the membership are the prime requirements. We will train on the technicalities and provide, if necessary, the software to help us out. Call me... before I call you!

Deadline for submissions for the August issue is July 27th.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions 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 SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor
Assistant Editor
Photographer
Proofreaders
Internet Posting

Clint Collier
Bob West
Henry Thatcher
Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Ron Plachy



Membership George Mon

One new member was approved by the BEC in June. We welcome **Dean Mayer** sponsored by **Paul Beretz**. **Dean** lives in Moraga. He worked in Public Relations for Clif Bar.

We also lost a dear member, **James Bogue**. He was 90 and was a SIR member for over 10 years.

The 2021 membership count remains at 288.

A "SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19" was mailed out to the full membership. As of June 18th, we have an 80.2% response.

Activity Chairmen are tasked to collect or verify that waivers are signed and proof of vaccine cards are verified at all SIR events. Once the documents are recorded as "submitted" in a master list that is maintained by the branch, then it will not be necessary to show proof again at SIR events

As the Directory will be updated monthly it is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Ron Afdal | Pete Gates | Jim Nelson |
| John Alexander | Gene Gracey | Tom Noble |
| Don Arington | James Hanck | Jim Saller |
| Frank Ascatigno | Doug Hansen | Steve Sprague |
| Jerry Baer | John Harrington | Calvin Tucker |
| Max Burchett | Craig Kauffman | Clair Weenig |
| Terry Carlin | Charles Koeber | John Wilson |
| Salvatore Costanza | James Koeppen | |
| Bob Ford | Steve Lane | |
| Reginald Fromm | Art Mancini | |
| Joe Fuchs | Edward Marlovits | |

Congratulations to **Steve Dinning**, our June Birthday winner!
Remember... you have to be Zooming to WIN!

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap, modeled by our leaders on their article pages earlier in this newsletter!



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



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

Consider contacting a sick SIR 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.

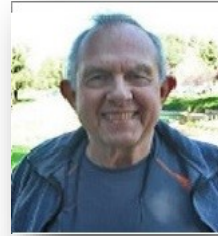
This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy

brimacc@comcast.net

Hugh Ferguson



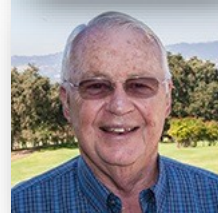
Stan Stricherz



Joe Hunt



Vince Rettew



Luncheon Chairman Rich Lyon



We are scheduled to have our luncheon on August 12th. Here's to re-starting our luncheon meetings! Yahoo!

The current unknowns, such as how many will be allowed to attend, the cost and other details will soon be known. Stay tuned for details.

Past Big Sir **Bruce Borgman** has graciously offered to transition and eventually take on the Luncheon Manager role. Thank you, **Bruce**.

Please give **Bruce** a warm welcome!

The Branch will have to work out how reservations are made and if or how attendees are checked in. If you would like to help out with organizing the first luncheon back, please let me know.

If you have any ideas or concerns about organizing our luncheons or just want to say hello, please email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com. In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

See you soon and welcome **Bruce**!

Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator

June SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Jim Burk



Today, in recognition of outstanding service to Branch 146, I am very proud to present our highest award -- Branch Honoree to SIR member **Jim Burk**. **Jim** joined our branch in April of 2006 and was sponsored by **Don Nunn**.

Born in San Diego March 19, 1939, **Jim** graduated from El Camino High School in Sacramento but not without moving numerous times because of his dad's job with Montgomery Ward's.

Jim honed his educational and life skills with a bachelor's degree from Stanford and created his own field of dreams as a student athlete playing baseball. Upon graduation, **Jim** kept kicking the dirt and probably chewing bubble gum, as he played one year of professional baseball in the Philadelphia Phillies farm system, with its minor league affiliates in Bakersfield and Salem, Oregon. With play time over, **Jim** returned to the Bay Area to attend UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Business.

Jim served in US Army Reserve from 1963 to 1969, with 6 months of active duty at Fort Ord. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

Jim was hired in 1963 by Pacific Telephone, and later joined its successor AT&T in 1981. **Jim** made a major career change in 1990 when he joined the Athletic Department at UC Berkeley. In 1994, his many talents were put to good use by the California Alumni Association until retiring in 2001. He then took a post retirement job as tournament director at the Boundary Oak golf course, serving there until 2008.

Jim's SIR accomplishments have been numerous. **Jim** was Asst Secretary 2009, Secretary 2010, Little Sir 2011, Big Sir 2012, Nominating Committee Chairman 2013, and then he stepped up to be Luncheon Chairman for several years. **Jim** currently is a member of the Honorees Committee and has served as activity chair for Mexican Train Dominos, Pickleball and Ping Pong to name a few activities in which he excels and displays his organization skills.

Jim and his lovely wife **Anne** live in Walnut Creek and are blessed with one daughter and two grandsons.

Jim is a Bay Area Sports lover, enjoys gardening, his church and golf vacations with his wife **Anne**. Let us not forget that **Jim** plays golf with our SIR golf group. We have seen his long powerful drives, majestic high iron shots, the golden touch around the green, and his low handicap. All this could make another golfer jealous unless you are on a team with him in a competition. Then it is all pure delight.

Jim has contributed to our Branch in many ways. He has always been ready to serve, bring about useful change, has the "patience of Job", and is always a gentleman.

We have been extremely fortunate to have **Jim Burk** as a member of Branch 146. We thank you for your service to our great country and your contributions to the branch over the years. Now let us recognize **Jim Burk** with this plaque -- our highest honor -- The Branch Honoree Award...

Presenter was **Walt Busenius** at the March 10th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members

I'm so confused. If
Mr. & Mrs. Potato Head
are no longer male
and female,
does this mean
there will be no
more tater tots?

Two guys grow up together, but after college one moves to Georgia and the other to Texas.

They agree to meet every ten years in Florida to play golf and catch up with each others stories.

At age 32 they meet, finish their round of golf and head for lunch.

"Where you wanna go?"

"Hooters."

"Why Hooters?"

"They have those servers with the big boobs, the tight shorts and the gorgeous legs."

"Perfect, you're on"

At age 42, they meet and play golf again

"Where you wanna go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Again? Why?"

"They have cold beer, big screen TVs, and side action on the games."

"Yeah, boy! Let's do it!"

At age 52 they meet and play again. "So, where you wanna go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"The food is pretty good and there's plenty of parking."

"OK."

At age 62 they meet again.

After a round of golf, one says, "Where you wanna go?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"Wings are half price and the food isn't too spicy."

"Good choice"

At age 72 they meet again.

Once again, after a round of golf, one says, "Where shall we go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"They have six handicapped parking spaces right by the door and they have senior discounts."

"Great choice."

At age 82 they meet and play again. "Where should we go for lunch?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"Because we've never been there before."

"OK, let's give it a try!"





Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of activities listed in the following pages. Many activities are now open for in person participation and more will soon follow.

We have so many activities, but there is always room for more. If you've got an idea, we would love to hear it, and Bob Lucido, our Activities Coordinator, would love to help you start a new activity by seeing if there is interest in it, and if so, help you set it up.



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Hurray, in person activities are opening up. Yes, face to face with real people. We now have 24 activities that are open, or scheduled to open soon.

Check the activity reports to see the status of the group you're interested in. Some groups are welcoming new members.

We still have a number of members who have not submitted their copy of covid vaccine, or their covid waiver.

You must submit the vaccine copy and waiver to participate in indoor activities, which includes SIR luncheons when they start.

Outside activities like golf, cycling, etc. only require the waiver.

Big Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** is looking into starting a new activity; Mexican Train Dominoes. That's right, we may have 8 MTD groups. MTD is the most popular activity after golf.

Richard will cater to people who have never played the game, and will guide them through the game without cheating, and looking at their tiles. If you're interested in this activity, send **Richard** an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM.

A big thanks to **Brian McCarthy** for becoming our new Wine Tasting chairman.

I was going to go through the list of 70 members to beg on my virtual knees to accept the position, but before I

started calling, **Brian** came through with **Bill Holly** as assistant.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

The Branch 146 Cribbage Group finished our latest on-line Tournament, No. 10. There were 35 matches played with over 100 games played by 15 participants! It was all done under the control of our Chief Technical Officer **Jim**

Nelson, who did another good job, as there was a lot to manage.

There were eight different winners in the 10 different tournaments – a good sign. The skill of the players has been steadily improving.

The overall winners were **Jeff Baily** in first place, and **Bob Finlayson** in second place. In the Consolation Bracket, **John Kendrick** was the first place winner, while **Peter Plante** came in second.

We will meet in person on the 4th Wednesday of July. the 21st, from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm at Rocco's:.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

if it aint broke keep fixing it until it is...



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

May 21st: The gang of Spandex brothers consisting of SIR members **Paul Brown, Pat Hoy, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly** minus our fearless leader, **Larry Kaye** started on the Regional Trail in Lafayette. **Bob**

Wilkenfeld and **Bill Ross** led our notorious gang up the blustery trail to Moraga where we regrouped for the assault up the steady hill to Orinda. In Orinda, we stopped at the local coffee shop called Peet's to refresh our nerves with extremely hot coffee and a belly bomb or two. The



Lafayette Ride
Bill Holly, Pat Hoy, Paul Brown, Bill Ross, Roger Meyer, Bob Wilkenfeld

when we arrived at Shannon Park in San Ramon. I don't think anyone of us were prepared for this change of weather but....SIR members **Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Pat Hoy, Moose Kelly** and our leader for this sojourn, **Jim Nelson**, persevered to start the ride. We rode South along the windy, twisting pavement of Foothill Road. This path lead us to the town of Sunol and the railway station at Sunol. The Spandex riders took a quick break with a photo opportunity to clown around. We then mounted our trusty machines to ride on a trail through a wind tunnel parallel to Interstate 680. We continued pedaling to Pleasanton to have coffee and a pastry at the Paris Cafe. After our indulgence we returned



Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Pat Hoy, Jim Nelson, and Moose Kelly

Mooseman requested this cycling band of marauders to pose for two pictures. The first picture was to salute our absent leader, **Larry Kaye**, to let him know that he was indeed missed. Because of the naughty content of the picture, I will not be posting it with this write-up. The second picture was more of an action shot demonstrating the camaraderie of SIR cycling. I have enclosed this photo along with this commentary. After our picture taking session, we cycled up a trail that runs parallel with highway 24 towards Lafayette. Once we arrived in Lafayette, we meandered through the streets back to where our chariots were awaiting us. Another successful and fun ride to enjoy the great outdoors as well as the friendship that binds us through this sport.

June 6th: It was a very windy and cool surprise for all of us



Saluting Larry Kaye Ride
Lafayette to Orinda

Continued on next page

to Shannon Park in San Ramon to bid adieu to one another until next time. Keep riding and smiling!! Friendships come in many shapes and sizes. We all share the thrill of exercise.

Friday, 6/11/21: It was a beautiful day for a bike ride and the SIR cycling group took full advantage of the nice weather. Six hardy riders headed South from Alamo traveling down thru the San Ramon Valley. The group included **Michael Wolfson, Roger Meyer, Larry Kaye, Jim Nelson, Bob Lucido** and **Bill Ross**. After riding about ten miles on City streets the group jumped over to the Iron Horse Trail for the return trip back to Alamo. The excursion ended with coffee and treats at Peet's in Alamo Plaza. Always a pleasure being with friends that share fun.

Thursday, 6/24/21 Carquinez Scenic Ride: What a day. Sunny cool and wind from the West. Ten hearty souls, all brothers of the Spandex headed out from Nancy Boyd Park in Martinez. We assaulted Franklin Canyon road with gusto...That's until the wind slammed us in our faces. 4 miles of this greeted us. Upon reaching the top of the canyon we turned northerly, heading downhill towards the Straits. Guess again. Up we went again. Unholy climbs greeted us. Yikes. Sweat poured off our brows. Climbing for what seemed forever we finally reached the top. Pulling over to the side gasping for air. 10 guys all old enough to know better. What a sight.



Photo by Bill Holly

Tom Alborg, Pat Hoy, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Larry Kaye, Michael Wolfson, Bill Ross

Filling our lungs with fresh air we remounted our trusty two wheelers and headed down. Wow. Speed was excessive but who cared? Downwards we flew. Ocean smells filled our lungs.

Reaching the famous stop sign at the bottom while in excess of 20 mph was a thrill.

Turning East we once again encountered hills. Hills and hills. Will they ever cease to appear? Even with a tailwind we sweated. After so many miles the top was in reach. The views were awesome. The Straits were full of boats and just beautiful to behold. Dr. **Bob** filled us in on the old Texaco tanks and the homeless guy that was found fried on a power line. Fun story. Uggggh.

On we went towards Martinez. Sighting the old cemetery brought relief to us as we knew Java was close. So it was. State Street Cafe greeted us with hot coffee and cold tea. Of course Belly Bombs were enjoyed. Heck... we paid for it with caloric burn.

Catching up with each other as is always the case, was fun. Before too long the stiffness set in, signaling the need to blast-off again.

Back to our steel steeds we headed. A fun ride with high caloric burns is always joyful when it's over.

Today's crew was: **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson Paul Brown. Tom Alborg, Bob Lucido, Pat Hoy, Bill Holly, Jim Nelson, and Larry Kaye.**

Its amazing to be a part of a group of guys that are chronologically old but spiritually young. SIR brought us together.

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





SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are happy to change that small notice in previous Sir Calls saying “Nothing to Report” with some real news. In sending out a query to our singers as to whether they were ready to resume practices, the response was a rousing – yes, we are! I received enthusiastic positive responses from fourteen of our group. This is remarkable particularly since we had recently (pre-pandemic) dwindled to 6 to 8 at our practices. We have a number of our regular membership who are interested in checking out our activity, as well as some recent new members. So, hope springs eternal that we may yet revive our singing group to its former glory.

We have contacted the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, and they were most accommodating in allowing us to return so that we are able practice on our old schedule of every first and third Wednesday in the Multiuse Room from 1:30pm til about 3:00pm. We will likely wait until August 4, but if the stars align, we may try for July 21.

It will take us a few practices to work up a repertoire with some new voices, but the melodies are always familiar. And of course, we will be ready to lead our branch in “God Bless America” if we are able to have an in-person luncheon in August. Then, it will be a matter of returning to the Skilled Nursing and Senior Center Facilities to see if we are able to sing inside the Centers. Singing outside brings challenges for our eminent piano accompanist, Steve Dinning, but we will see what we can work out while maintaining a safe environment. If any of you have an interest in joining our group, contact me and I’ll give you the particulars of our practices.

(925) 932-3961 bgborgman@aol.com



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

Reported by **Jim Barry**

Masses is now open for pool and food service. **Bill Weinberg** and I went in on June 16th to talk to one of the owners about restarting our Monday pool group



gathering. He was very receptive to us starting to play again; however, he has to confer with the co-owner about the price we will be paying. At this point we are doubting that our cost to play will remain the same. Masses suffered greatly, financially, during the Covid pandemic, so we are bracing for an increase of an additional \$5 over what we have paid in the past. Considering how much money we have saved by not playing for the past year and a half, we believe our group can handle that increase! I will update the group via email when we learn more.



Pickleball and Ping Pong

Jim Burk & Ron Afdal

What can I say, FINALLY A START DATE (FRIDAY, July 2, 1 - 4PM!) Three tables and a beautiful gymnasium having spacious playing area and no objects for ping pong balls to hide under await us!

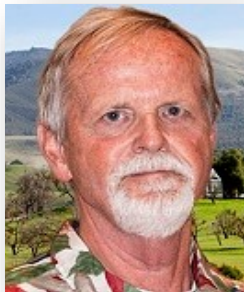
WHERE? San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Athletic Recreation Center (ARC), 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, Ca. 94507 <http://www.thearccenter.com/> Watch for a soon to follow email detailing playing formats, player and facility protocols.

Jim Burk - Pickleball (925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong (925) 825-4809

ronafdal@comcast.net



Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

The photography group met via Zoom on Friday, June 18th. We had a highly active meeting but didn't have our co-leader, **Sir Henry Thatcher**, to keep me in check. We missed you, **Henry!!!**

The meeting started with a fast pace, short clip of the best videos of 2020 from Go Pro. If any of our participants were sleepy, this segment certainly woke them up!!

There was a discussion of all attending "shutterbugs" that are going to assist in updating Branch 146 website by photographing and videoing the various branch activities. More information to come on this project.

This meeting comprised three different videos: the first one was a Pixel 6 / Pixel 6 Pro phone camera preview; the second video was the Nikon Z II Mirror-less Camera Review vs. the competition; and the final video was an entertaining comparison of screen savers that were either \$1.00 vs. \$40.00 vs. \$80.00 for your phone. The adage of "you get what you paid for" certainly holds true particularly if you drop a brick on your phone.

The meeting pushed forward with a brief revisit to our last meeting theme of "Trains, Planes, Automobiles" with a great shot by **Dave Kingsbury** of the Endeavor fly over Boundary Oaks Golf Club on its way to its final resting place in Los Angeles. **Peter Plante** finished this segment with a number of photos; most notable photo being "Lil Cah."

Our theme for this meeting was Minimalism Photography. In preparation for our meeting, the club went on a photo shoot at the Martinez Marina in search of an array of subjects on Friday, June 11th. The group had built an incredible thirst and appetite during the process. We quenched these urges at the Firehouse Brew and Grill in downtown Martinez. The event was attended by Big Sir **Richard Hockenbrock**, Little Sir **Jerry**

Kaplan, Past Big Sir Bill Holly, Walter and Bobbie Schmidt, Clint Collier, and Moose.

As a result of the Martinez outing, the group came up with great shots on what is Minimalistic Photography. Attached are some examples!

Our next meeting will be live at the Thurman Casey Library on Friday, August 27th. Our theme will be on Sports Photography!

If you want to come to one of our meetings to see what the group is all about, then contact **Henry Thatcher** or **Moose Kelly**. We will happily send you the agenda for our next meeting.

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

Email **John (Moose) Kelly** at rollingstone911@yahoo.com or text/call at 610.517.0152 or

Henry Thatcher at 1henrythatcher@gmail.com or text/call at 925.997.5032



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Ayers Rock, Australia



Photo by Clint/Collier

June 11th Martinez Outing with **Richard Hockenbrock, Bobbie Schmidt, Moose Kelly**

[Further Photography Photos on next Page](#)

Photography Photos continued from Prior Page

Photo by Bobbie Schmidt



Old Oak Tree, Alberta Way and Ygnacio Valley Rd.

Photo by Dean Mayer



Glasses on Bridge

How do you milk sheep?

Bring out a new iPhone
and charge \$1000 for it.



**Bocce
John Kendrick**

SIR 146 Bocce Ball is back and alive. We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, May through September from 8:30 am to 10:00 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The

courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels Play. Ladies are welcome.

In July, we will be playing bocce at 830am on Monday, July 12 and again on July 26 at Newell Park in Concord.

If you are interested in playing Bocce please email me at 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



"Instead of hunting tonight, how about ordering a pizza and eating the delivery man when he comes?"



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The onset of summer heat usually ends our trout season, but **Carl Moyer** nevertheless decided to try his luck at San Pablo Reservoir on four occasions. Three of them were busts, except that on one trip, his companion, **Brion Beetz**, landed a six pound carp. One trip was successful, but only because Carl took the unusual step of using anchovies for bait and the result was a near limit. However, the prize for largest fish in San Pablo went to **Bob Lively**, who boated a 21 lb. catfish. **Phil Scimonelli** caught a 19 inch rainbow fishing from Point Pinole pier, and his big thrill came when he struggled to successfully land a 20 lb. sting ray.



Photo by Monte Smith

Pete Gates, Karl Droese, and Paul Dubow
caught these kokanee and rainbows at Lake Don Pedro

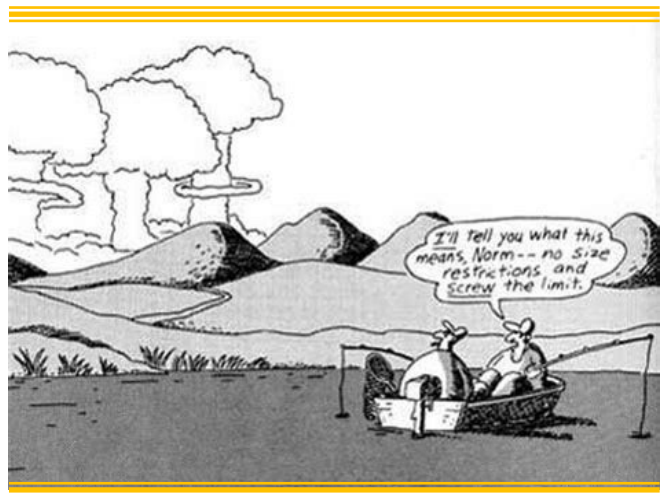
Trout still are available at higher (and thus cooler) elevations. **Chuck Cornell** of Branch 146 vacationed at Lake Almanor and caught some nice rainbows while he was there. **Pete Gates** and **Paul Dubow** journeyed to Lake Don Pedro, along with **Karl Droese**, and they picked up a combination of 13 rainbows and kokanee. **Brion Beetz** visited family in Wyoming and caught trout while he was there. One of the fish that he caught was a splake, a variety of fish hitherto not known to the members of our organization. A splake is a hybrid trout with the roe laid by a brook trout that are fertilized by a lake trout. In Wyoming, a brook trout is called a speckled trout, hence the name "splake". Also, in the travel department, **Mike Browne** of Branch 146 went to the Midwest to visit his sons and while he was in Missouri, he successfully fished for bluegill. The Delta and Bay also produced good results for us. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike**

Corker, our Delta regulars, caught and released 23 black bass on one trip. On another trip, **Stan Wong** and friends caught and released 56 black bass. **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 got his boat into the Bay after some extensive repairs and he caught some nice halibut close to the San Rafael Bridge near the end of what had been a frustrating day. **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 caught two halibut in the Bay, but his catch was dwarfed by a 36 pounder that his partner caught. Farther to the west, **Lee Clark** of Branch 146, along with **Bob Stein** and **Dave Rege**, landed halibut, shark, and stripers fishing on the Sundance in San Pablo Bay. Normally, the Sundance roams the Pacific looking for salmon, but the salmon sport fishing season has been delayed. Nevertheless, we have quite a few salmon trips booked on the Sundance for July and August.

Out in the ocean, **Carl Moyer** and **Brion Beetz** had a good day fishing for rockfish and ling cod before being driven off by the wind. **Stan Wong** motored north to Trinidad in Humboldt County and made several trips out of that port for rockfish and ling cod, catching limits on most occasions.

Joe Santone spent a week in Alaska. He caught halibut up to 50 lbs. fishing out of Homer and on one occasion, he paused to fish for rockfish on the way into port and brought home enough for dinner. He then moved to the Kenai River, landing king salmon up to 30 lbs.

Our next meeting will be held on July 22 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Club, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting officially starts at 8:30 am, but most of us meet for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am. This meeting will also be our annual silent auction and so it will be an excellent opportunity for those of you who want to start or resume fishing to pick up some supplies at excellent prices. For more information you can contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4146 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.





Travel Milt Smith

I signed the contract for the Princess Cruise Panama Canal detailed below; we have at least 14 cabins on reserve so it is not too soon to contact Lisa Mittone directly at The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill. Lisa (lisa@tctat.com 800-528-2223) can answer all questions about current Covid rules and precautions being taken by the cruise line. be sure to mention SIR 146.

PRINCESS CRUISE:

We already have four couples interested in the Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco cruise aboard the Ruby Princess sailing March 12-17, 2022 via the Panama Canal.



ports of call include Cartagena, Colombia; Panama Canal (new locks); Panama City; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. Balcony Staterooms starting at \$3,824 pp. Ocean view at \$3,369.

This cruise is beginning to fill up. All reservations are now "Princess" choice" as to what room you will be assigned. We will continue sign ups this month for this great cruise and set payment dates.

*All SIR travel is subject to the SIR state and branch and local government Covid protocols as well as those rules put in place by the travel agencies and cruise lines.

Be on the look out (BOLO) for more information via SIR Branch e-blasts and contact me with any questions.

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



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our June Sir Call report, we have had online matches on Friday May 28th, and June 11th. On 6/25 we had our 1st in person match at Rocco's since 2/20/20. We all had a great time catching up over lunch. It was interesting playing in

person, in that we can make mistakes the computer does not. We will have to remember to count our cards from misdeals, playing cards in suit when they are not properly sorted in your hand, etc. It was hard to get in 3 games but we played till 4:30-5pm. Note: We had one new member **Ned Gamsky** who had not played hearts in 60 years, but won a game. It shows the rest of you can dust off your hearts skills and still make it against this crowd.

Summary of last three matches: **Ray Bland** won 4 games, followed by **George Sabbagha** and **Ron Polivka** with 3. **Bob Finlayson**, **Rich Lyon** and **Bob West** each had 3 seconds. **Frank Lucas**, **George Sabbagha**, **Ray Bland** and **Bill Vizza** each had 2 "Shoot the Moons". In lowest average score, **Steve Ybarra** led with 55, followed by **Jim Nelson** with 58.

YTD Statistics:

Wins: **Bob Finlayson** and **Ray Bland** are tied with 17 wins, followed by **Bob West** with 13.5 and **Ron Polivka** with 13. **Bob Finlayson** and **Ray Bland** each won 43% of their games. Lowest average score, is led by **Ray Bland** with 71,

followed by **Ron Polivka** with 73. "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray Bland** with 10, followed by **George Sabbagha** with 7 and **Frank Lucas** with 6. **Ray** "STM" in 25% of his games and **George** in 22%. 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** with 14, and **Ray Bland** and **Bob West** with 13. The best "sheriff's" are **Bob West** with having had an uncovered call in only 6% of his games, and **Rich Lyon** with 5%.

Future Meetings: In July, we will be playing online on the 2nd Friday, July 9th, and in person at Rocco's on the 4th Friday, July 23rd, both at 1pm.

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



Hearts Photo at Rocco's 6/25/20 (L to R): **Ned Gamsky**, **Rich Lyon**, **Brian McCarthy**, **Ron Polivka**, **Bob West**, **Jim**



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi
Clint Collier

Sushi no tomodachi loosely translates to Sushi Friends. We are a group of friends within SIR that enjoy both friendship and sushi and believe that both enhance the other. This is a new group and we held our inaugural lunch at Ozora Sushi in Concord on June 17th. Five of us got together to share a little sushi, a little sake and a lot of friendship.



Lunch started off with my handing out masus to everyone present. [A masu is the traditional Japanese cedar-wood box for drinking sake.](#)

Each had been branded with our group name in Japanese! Naturally the first

order of business was to make sure we had something to put in them!

To make sure we had a bit of everything for everybody we ordered two of the restaurant's deluxe sushi plates. It says each serves two but two of them for 5 was just about right as you can see from the after picture!

Everyone present though this new group was fantastic and we are looking forward to our next outing. By consensus we want to keep the group SIR members only and meet every other month. An event with wives and a trip to Morimoto's (of Iron Chef fame) in Napa look like future events as well.

Membership and attendance are both limited to preserve the ambiance of the group. Register as interested by sending an e-mail to SIRClint@the-colliers.org.

Our next lunch will be Thursday, August 26th. Time and place to be announced as we get closer to that date!

In the meantime, members who desire to learn more about sushi and its role in Japanese culture might want to look at a couple of videos. Both are available on Amazon Prime, free to prime members, at nominal cost to everyone. The first is [Jiro Dreams of Sushi](#), the story of Jiro Ono one of the most famous sushi chefs in Japan.. sushi chefs there are like rock stars here!

The second is [Prime Japan](#). This is a multipart series, each part examining an important aspect of Japanese culture. The first episode is on sushi but you may want to watch the whole series after watching the first. It is interestingly done in English and Japanese (with subtitles) based on an American's wanderings in Japan.



Photo by Bill Holly

Before...

...After



Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

Cooking II will be opening up without any Covid 19 restrictions on July 12, 2021. All seven members have been vaccinated and have signed the Sir 146 waiver. **Corrie Orange** will be hosting this activity

at noon.



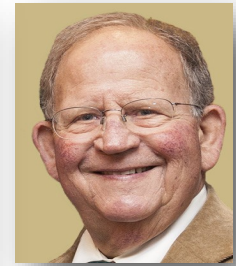


Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We are pleased that the inaugural Couples Dining Out event is on track to enjoy a wonderful dinner at Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill on Monday July 19. The sign-ups came quickly after our initial announcement last month. As we

indicated, we thought we would limit the number of diners to 40 and even though we had a total of 53 diners sign up, we decided to stick to our original limit. After several visits to the restaurant to review the space, we thought that the semi-private room we have can fairly well accommodate our original limit and also will give us adequate space to socialize during the cocktail hour. A larger number would have compromised the quality of the event despite our general desire to include all who would like to come. But, this is the first, and we will have many more dinners where we will be able to be more flexible – the next one will be in September. We will have our cocktail hour earlier than usual – from 4-5 pm in order to take advantage of the restaurants Happy Hour pricing for some specialty cocktails, beer and wine. Then, at 5:00pm we'll enjoy a meal, which will start with a choice of two soups or salad, and then a choice of six entrees. Those who are holding the golden ticket to this event will get a separate email with further details. We are sorry we could not include the rest of you this time but we will see you in September for the next dinner. We are absolutely thrilled to be able to revive this popular activity of our branch and look forward to seeing all of you.

bgborgman@aol.com



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 members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447



Couples Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Our next wine tasting will be on Tuesday, July 27th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido** at 541 Lily Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.



Red wine Sangiovese



White wine Pinot Grigio/Gris

Cooking Lunch & Wine

Bob Spellman

Our June LAW meeting was held at **Paul Dubow's** home in San Francisco with **Dick Woodman, Syd Whalen, Pete Gates** and **Bob Spellman** making the journey over the bridge. **Paul** served us a assortment of special

sandwiches along with tasty appetizers. As usual the conversation was very lively.

Please bring a bottle (under \$30) of either a red or white wine and an appetizer to share.

This is our first wine tasting since COVID-19 restrictions. All attendees must have turned in their signed SIR waivers and proof of full vaccination in order to participate in this event.

Registration is limited to the first 40 people to RSVP due to space and parking limitations.

br146winetasting@gmail.com

phone (925) 673-8881

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

Because the COVID-19 Pandemic has not been declared officially over, some of the group members remain a little cautious about all 18 regular players gathering to-

gether indoors for several hours. Therefore, we have chosen to re-start the activity at a measured pace.

For the June Game Night, and also for the July event, we are dividing into different smaller groups to keep attendance at a host's home to a maximum of six to eight people. Starting in August (if all goes as planned – never a sure thing), **Jerry** and **Susan Kaplan** will host a full contingent of players at their home in Walnut Creek. (It should be exciting!)

On June 11th, **Jeff Baily** and his wife, **Alicia**, hosted **Sig Kalteis**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Jerry Kaplan** and his wife, **Susan**, at their welcoming home for a fun night of Mexican Train Dominoes. After a few hours of play that included a mid-Game break for a delicious peach tart, mangos and coffee, **Alicia** took home the first place winnings followed by **Susan** and then **Jerry**.

On the same night, **Bruce Borgman** and his wife, **Sue Sheldon** hosted **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha**, **Corrie Oranje** and his wife **Sue**, and **Richard Hockenbrock** and his guest, **Mary Jo Potter**. Winners in this group were **Peter** followed by **Corrie** and **Martha**. The mid-Game break featured a special B-52 Cake (a triple layer decadent concoction) prepared by Sue Sheldon.

All Branch members who have not played before, but would like to learn how to play, please join us – or another group - for a fun evening. Please contact **Jerry** to learn how at mtdana@aol.com 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 SIR member and his Significant Other are always welcome.

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy We're Back!

After fifteen long months Mexican Train Dominoes Dos held their first game night of 2021 on Friday, June 25th. **Ron** and **Anne Plachy** welcomed 9

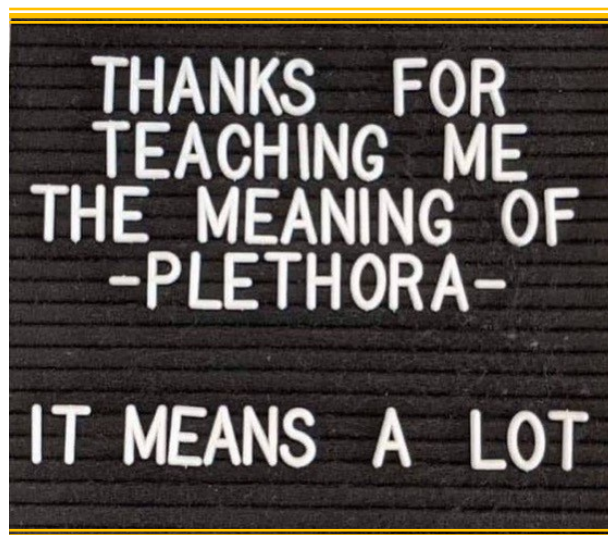
returning regulars: **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**, **Chuck & Mary Denney**, **Don & Etta Dotson**, **John & Nancy Pearl**, and **Bill Cammerer** to their home. **Bill & Lynette Holly** were not able to join us. Also playing were 6 substitutes: **Tony & Cindy Greco**, **Peter & Martha Plante**, and recently moving from regular to substitute status: **Dick & Janice Woodman**.

While we all seemed a little rusty due to the long months without playing, we still had a fun evening. The food was outstanding, the play was exciting, and getting to know each other once again was great.

Continuing where they left off in 2020 were: **Rich Ahlf** in 1st place with a 15.3 average and **Ismini MacLean** in 2nd with a 17.5 average. Coming in 3rd was **Don Dotson** with a 18.9 average.

We need players!

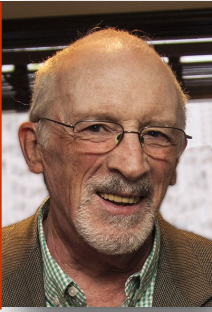
With **Dick & Janice Woodman** moving to substitute status and losing **Jim & Phyllis Meehan** with **Jim's** passing last year MTD Dos finds itself looking to add two new regulars. Please contact **Ron Plachy** (rjplachy@icloud.com) if interested.



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Jeff Baily

Lynn Shafer, Larry Brown and Alicia and Jeff Baily of the Mexican Train Dominoes # Tres met and played at the Baily's home on June 25th.

the 4 games after that **Jim Stedman** was able to go out 3 times and easily took the over all lead at game 9. In the 3 remaining games Jim gave up some of the lead and scored 102, 86 and 22 and a total 336 for the night. Close behind Jim was hostess, **Judy Richmond** going out only twice but keeping all her scores in the middle to low double digits and coming in overall with 269 for the evening's 1st prize. **Sue Busenius** had a nice showing going out 3 times but only keeping her scores in the middle to upper double digits and overall scoring an even 400 for 3rd place for the evening. **Walt Busenius**, a real steady player, was able to go out once keeping his average in the mid double digit range and scoring 412 for overall 4th place. Back to **Dick Richmond**, who was strong in the first few games, lost his touch and ended up with 516 for 5th place.

Unfortunately **Sally** and **Linda** were unable to play. **Jeff** went out in the first game with **Alicia** burdened with a 64. **Larry** kept his score down to 12 and **Lynn** to 23. Remember that like golf, the lowest score wins. In game 2 **Alicia** went out scoring zero, making up for the 1st game and the four scores tightened up a bit. The 3rd game saw **Lynn** break through the 100 mark, not a good omen, but knowing **Lynn**, he was not ready to give up. **Alicia** joined the over-100's next with 113 with **Lynn** at 130, **Larry** with 73 and **Jeff** with 86. By the 6th game all were over the 100 mark. At 8 pm we broke for desert and enjoyed a delicious fruit tart pie ala mode that **Alicia** had prepared. Then, after the break and back in the game, the Comeback Kid, **Lynn** was just beginning to strategize. For the next 3 games it was he who went out each game leaving all the others to rack up high numbers so that he easily captured 1st place at the 10 pm and nine game limit with a total score of 164 with **Jeff** in 2nd place at 207 and **Larry** in 3rd place at 257. Host **Alicia** had a few bad hands to put her in 4th place with a score of 296. We totally enjoyed the evening rejoining friends without masks.



Larry Brown, Jeff Baily, Lynn Shafer and their prize money.

The second half of MTD#3 games night took place at the home of **Dick** and **Judy Richmond**. Out of the railroad yard **Jim Stedman** didn't waste any time going out, while the 4 others had scores of 29 to 89. Host **Dick Richmond** then went out twice on the next 4 games. In

Grupo Cinco 5

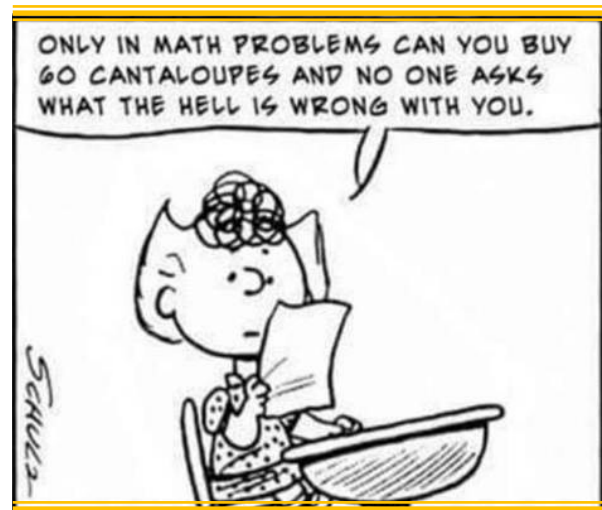


Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dave Pierce

While several couples are ready to restart soon, at least two are not, so we'll likely start later this summer while searching for critical mass.

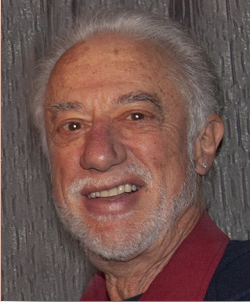
Dave Pierce
925.932.3877
dwp@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

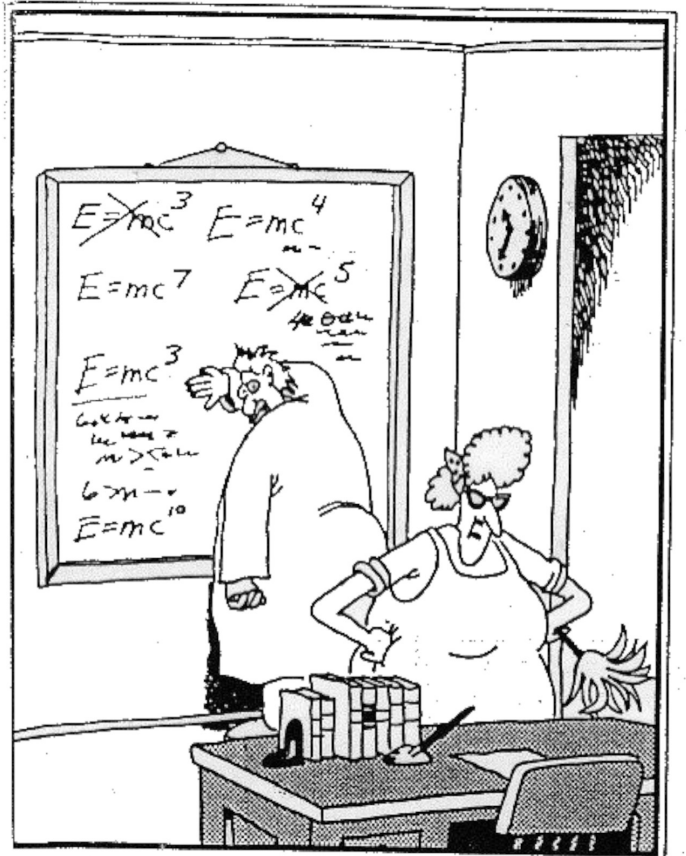
This month Bob & Wendy Lucido hosted the first official MTD game this year.

We've been getting together one a month on Zoom just to socialize.

All other groups
Nada que reporter
No hay eventos.



Jane West, Mary Ellen Dalgaard are laughing because Bob Lucido forgot how to add.



"Now that desk looks better. Everything's squared away, yesslr, squaaaaaaared away."

Bob Wilkenfeld was the big winner of hundreds of dollars, look closely at the picture, and Dale Dalgaard was the big loser and awarded a lotto ticket.



Bob Wikendeld, Dale Dalgaard

Bob Lucido
(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net

If you answer the phone with
"Hello! You're on the air!"
Most telemarketers will quickly hang up.

Nine (9) Things I know about you -

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter 'P' without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
- 6) You are laughing at yourself,
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person & everyone does it too.



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

We will be walking/hiking at East Bay Regional Park at Point Pinole on Monday, July 12, starting at 10 AM. This is a loop hike of about 4.5 miles and minimal elevation gain. If the day is warm elsewhere, you will find this walk to be very pleasant as it is very close to the bay and marshlands with the normal on-shore breeze of 5 to 10 mph. If 4.5 miles is too much for some, it is extremely easy to shorten the loop for a return to the parking lot. There should be a few opportunities to observe waterfowl near the pier or on the bay side of the point. We may also walk the about 1000 feet to the end of this fishing pier. Most of this walk is shaded via fairly mature eucalyptus trees.

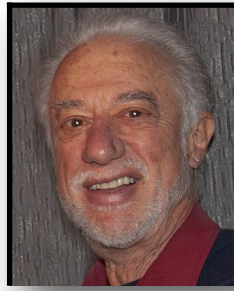
On a historical note, this property was formerly used to make dynamite by Giant Chemical in the 1850's and then later by Atlas Chemical until the early 1900's. There is 1 piece of equipment on the Marsh trail donated by Hercules Chemical that formerly was used to manufacture dynamite.

All restrooms are open. However, the water fountains may still be turned off, so bring an appropriate amount of water, and maybe snacks, for your own needs.

We will meet in the Giant parking lot which is accessible via Atlas Road. From I-80 westbound, take Richmond Parkway towards Richmond bridge and after about 3 miles, take a right on Atlas Road. At the 4 way stop intersection take a left and go about maybe 1+ miles to the Giant parking lot. Please plan on arriving at the Giant lot between 9:45 and 10:00 AM.

One final comment is that I changed the published hikes from Fridays to Mondays, still starting at 10 AM. I canvassed those on my email distribution list, and all of those that responded indicated that they would prefer Monday hikes. I typically send out an email a week or so before the next hike indicating the particulars and then follow up the day before the hike with any relevant information including, weather, trail conditions, and any special hiking venue rules.

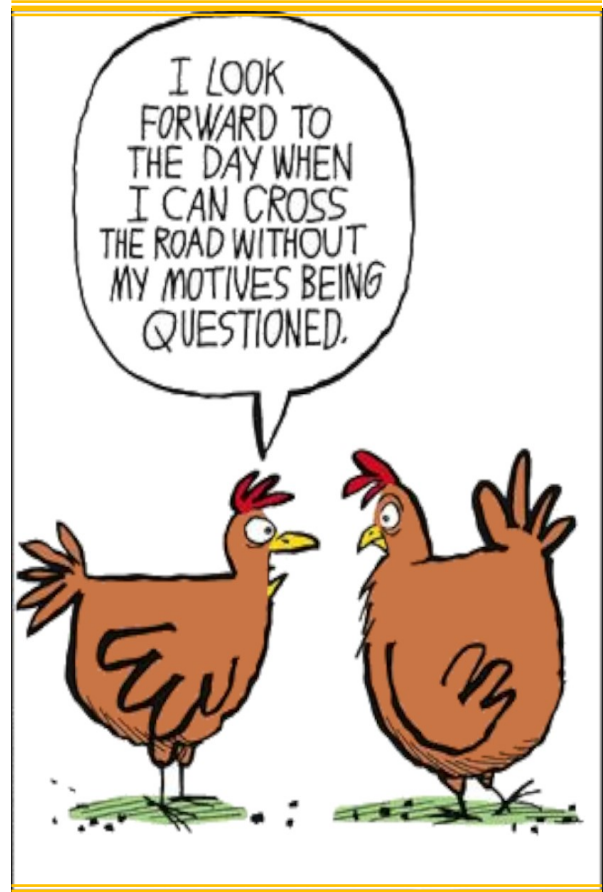
Spouses always welcome
Dogs on-leash allowed on this trail
Cell (925) 360-3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

The next RV trip, has not been scheduled yet but stay tuned for updates.

(925) 899-0974
bobwendy3@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Couples Duplicate Bridge #2 will resume early in the fall, perhaps in September. That seemed to be the consensus comfort level. We expect all six regular couples to return.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877
dwpi@astound.net



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

The SIR146 Book Group met in person on Monday, June 21st, at the Greenery Restaurant. Six of us ate breakfast and then moved to the

heavy topics of the day.

The book we chose for our June meeting was *Zero Fail*, by Carol Leonning, a writer for the Washington Post who has covered the Secret Service since 2012. The book covers the time period beginning with the presidency of John F. Kennedy through that of Donald J. Trump.

The book is filled with the stories of many of the people who worked in the organization, both the good and bad about them. Some were memorable, as the stories that came out of the unflattering escapades in Cartagena that were widely reported in the press. While the Secret Service agents did a lot of crazy things, they also often worked many hours in miserable conditions to safeguard those to whom they were assigned. We often think of the job of the Secret Service is to protect the President. However, he is but one among many. The number of those assigned Secret Service protection has continued to grow over the years, and the Service, with a budget, just like any other organization, is continually stretched to successfully fulfill its responsibilities.

While it is folded into the Department of Homeland Security, it continues to operate as a semi-autonomous group, with oversight by the US Congress.

It was operated a bit like a “good old boys” club, staffed with many former police and military members. Getting ahead – climbing the promotional ladder was a fairly constant “vocation” for those who wanted to get to the higher ranks and many were not loath to leak negative information about a rival to members of Congress or the

press. A person who was at a particular post for a short time was said to have “come by for a cup of coffee.”

There were lots of stories of great work by those “in the trenches,” and who were truly dedicated to providing the correct level of protection.

The agents’ relationship with the Presidents they guarded was certainly all over the map. Both of the Bush families were among their favorites. Not all fared as well. Some were difficult to protect, i.e., did not want to be seen in the company of a group of armed men, but preferred the optics of being open and with “the people.” Two of the most notable were in the younger and “vigorous” group, Jack Kennedy and Bill Clinton. Keeping these high-testosterone men safe was very challenging, to say the least. Obama was easier to work with, but he preferred to promote agents with whom he was “comfortable”, and would ignore the recommendations of professionals. Each of the Presidents posed their own set of challenges.

The book goes through the Presidents after Kennedy, and usually includes something about their campaigns as well as their lives in the White House. The author spends the large-sized chapter at the end on President Trump, his life style, his travel, the expense of protecting him and his family, and in particular, the author’s belief that he made too many weekend trips to Mar-a-Lago and Bedminster, and did not go to Camp David, thus extending the Service’s budget.

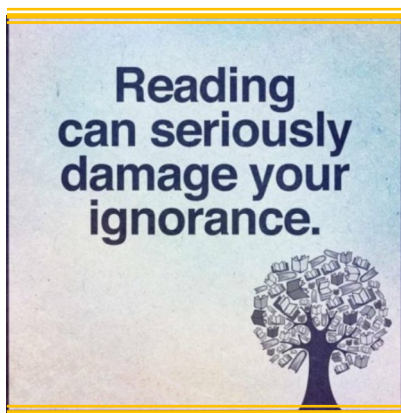
The book is filled with facts and stories, many of them gleaned from personal interviews with former and current Service members, several of whom did not want their names appearing in the book.

In summary, the Secret Service seems to be a dysfunctional organization with little accountability, but with many of its personnel so very dedicated. Some would say it sounds like a “toxic” organization, with lots of inside “battles.” In general, the group thought it to be a good story and a good book.

Another book on the Secret Service, read and suggested by **Pete Gates** is *The President’s Secret Service* by Ronald Kessler.

Our next read is the book that came in second for the month of June, *Premonition*, by Michael Lewis. It discusses the government’s reaction to the threat of the COVID 19 pandemic. We meet again on Monday, July 26th, probably at the Greenery.

Report edited by **Paul Dubow**
John Pearl, Interim Chair





Pinochle
Charlie Kahsen
&
Jeff Morrow

GOOD NEWS!



Pinochle will restart with in-person play on Wednesday June 23rd. We'll begin with a training session for those who haven't played in the past year and a half.

We'll continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encina Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you're interested in joining our group, or if you'd like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email **Charlie Kahsen** (contact information below) and he'll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen

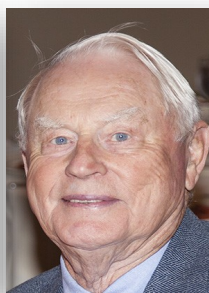
(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group
Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. 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.

vern.laursen@gmail.com



GOLF
Ed Marlovits

Branch 146 Tuesday golf remains one of the most popular Branch activities. Pairings for weekly Tuesday play are hovering in the mid-thirties and Away Golf events are a little more than half of that. A big thank you to **Joe Fuchs, Mark Curtis** and **Dave Steinberg** for managing the weekly pairings, away golf, and Tuesday Tournaments before, during, and after pandemic restrictions.

A fair amount of effort and dedication are required to keep the golf activity going smoothly. The golf committee could use some help. If you are enjoying the activity and would like to get more involved, please contact **Gary Brown** or one of the other committee members to learn more about it.

The next away golf event will be July 15 at Lone Tree in Antioch. This is one of our more convenient away golf venues and, if memory serves, has particularly good after-golf dining.



"Of course you feel great. These things are loaded with antidepressants."



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

I'm pleased to announce that Couples Party Bridge is scheduled to re-activate on August 3rd and will be hosted by **Tony & Cindy Greco**. It will be 1 year and 5 months since Couples Party Bridge last played. All

of our regular players listed below have indicated their continued desire to play again:

Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean

Jerry & Chris Benoit

Larry & Linda Brown

Dick & Christy DeVoe

Tony & Cindy Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher

Unfortunately our substitute list has been depleted so we are actively looking for subs to fill in, when needed. If you currently or previously played bridge with your partner, and would like to occasionally join us, then please contact me or one of our regulars for more info. If you are a new member to SIR then this would be a good way to meet fellow members. The event is 50% bridge and 50% social and is only mildly competitive. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the evening. The host provides beverages (wine & soft drinks), snacks and dessert. A sub will never be asked to host. Give us a try.

Tony & Cindy Greco

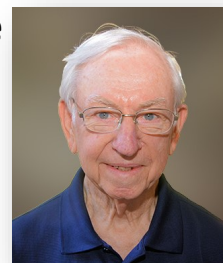
(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

**Jim Pope
&
Jim Stedman**



The SIR Party Bridge group will resume activities with 12 hearty bridge players: **Rich Ahlf, Larry Brown, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Bob Ford*, Joe Fuchs, Ned Gamsky*, Jim Pope, Bill Snyder, Ray Spear, Jim Stedman and Dave Steinberg, (* New Members)** We will meet at **Jim Pope's** house.

Our normal meeting date is the first Monday in the month but with the July 4th Holiday falling on the first Monday of the month, we will meet on Monday, July 12th, We will resume meeting on the first Monday of the month on August 5th.

If you are interested in joining SIR Party Bridge Group,



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Dick DeVoe

New Activity leader! Click on his photo to contact him about activities.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

New Activity leader! Click on his photo to contact him about activities.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 3

Mike Whitaker

New Activity leader! Click on his photo to contact him about activities.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

Watch this space – we hope to greet old friends face-to-face and restart our too-long-idle game in the near future.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877

dwpi@astound.net



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan



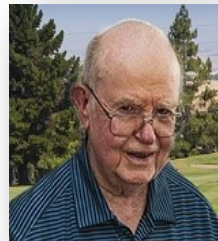
Poker Groups

Poker Group 2

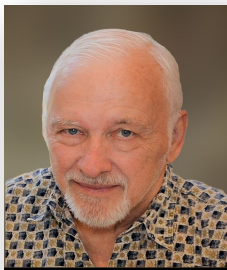
Unfortunately, **Bob Royster**, the leader of this group, recently passed and no new Activity Director has yet been determined. If you are interested in heading up this group, contact

Bob Lucido
925.899.0974

: bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 4
Rich Hanford



Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis



Poker Group 5
Bill Roberts



Old Money Poker Group 6

I'm trying to revive the poker group, but I don't have enough returning players.

If you don't want our group to fold, like a deck of cards, please join our poker group.

Bob Lucido
925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

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

Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group



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.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net



Computers & Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

As we went to press, there were no further programs scheduled. If you know of someone who might have a subject to discuss, please let us know. One need not be an expert on a subject to be a presenter. They just have to do some research and report their findings to the group. If you have an interest in something "techie" and are willing to volunteer, please email us at: SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com

rphelon@juno.com

925.254.8338

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their 4th Wed, July 28, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.

The topic will be announced. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list.



Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 davesutn@comcast.net

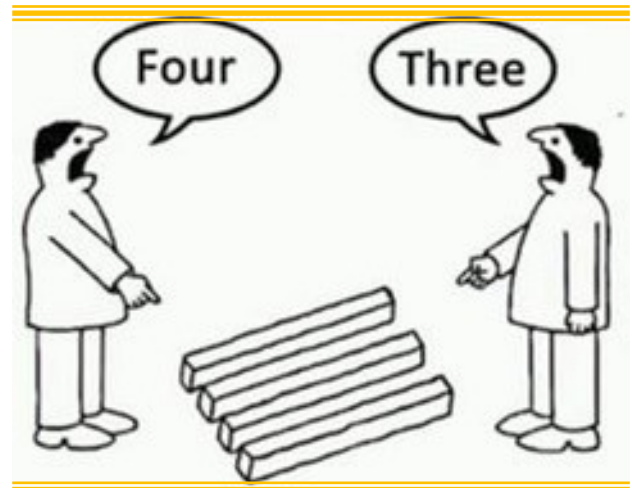


SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There is also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!



SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

2020 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2022 Today

July 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	Jul 1	2
	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	
5	6	7	8	9
	9:00 AM Golf		9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting via Zoom 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon via Zoom	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
12	13	14	15	16
8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
19	20	21	22	23
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 4:00 PM Couples Dining Out Wence's Restaurant, Pleasant Hill	9:00 AM Golf	6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete 7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
26	27	28	29	30
8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	

Parting Shot

Compassion for animals is intimately connected with goodness of character; and it may be confidently asserted that he who is cruel to animals cannot be a good man.

-Schopenhauer

