

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bettie and Larry Mitchell enjoying their time at the May Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Gabriela and Pete Bishop at the May branch wine tasting event

Photo by Ken Kratz



Vince and Bonnie Rettew with Carla and Lew Thompson enjoying pre-seating camaraderie at the Ladies Day Luncheon

June 12th Luncheon

Featuring
John Hagen with a cool story to tell.
See Little Sir's column page 7

Gathering time - 10:30 am
Seating time - 11:45 am

Can't attend?
email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
By noon Friday June 6.
Just write "Can't make it"

New Activity - Mexican Train Dominoes

Jerry Kaplan is starting a new activity -- **Mexican Train Dominoes**. This fun, friendly game can be played by 2 to as many as 8 people at one table. Single Sirs and spouses are welcome. No prior experience is necessary since the game is easily learned. To read more about the game and some basic rules, you can refer to the website www.mexicantrainrulesandstrategies.com

Already, nine Sirs and some spouses have expressed interest and a regular monthly get together is being established. The group will be limited to a maximum of 16 people, but a substitute list will be set up as needed. The first meeting date is set for Friday evening, June 27th at 6:45 and will be held at **Jerry's** home. Those wishing to attend the first meeting should contact **Jerry** as soon as possible at 930-7076 or mtdana@aol.com

An RSVP is required so the maximum can be accommodated. Regular meetings beginning in July and following months will be on Friday, the day after the regular SIR luncheon date.

The location will be rotated among member's homes. **Jerry** will send more information to anyone who is interested in learning more about the game.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Guest **Joanne Ayres** and **Bruce Jones**
at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group # 6 group met at **Sid Landman's** home in Clayton Wed. May 14th. Six players were present; **Norm Baietti, Brad Hatcher, Jon Gray,**



Rich Ahlf, Sid Landman and group leader, **Al Twyford. Bob Larson** and **Frank Lucas** were not available. **Frank's** wife is being treated for cancer and our prayers are with Frank and his wife. **Al Twyford** attended the Memorial Service in Walnut Creek for our former group #6 member **Don Tubb**. Everyone in SIR 146 will miss **Don**, a fighter pilot, and war hero. The Song Sirs were also in attendance to sing the Air Force song in **Don's** memory.

Today's game big winner was host **Sid** followed by **Al**. Others broke about even. Big loser was **Rich Ahlf** who finished second too many times. We wish **Rich** better luck next time. Our next game will be Wed. June 11th, at **Brad Hatcher's** home in Walnut Creek. Again it was a beautiful day. and very warm in Clayton. **Sid** was a good host, with snacks and ice cold water, which hit the spot. Everyone enjoyed the game and each other's company.

Snippets on aging submitted by **Lynn Shafer**

*My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.
Also my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.*

Niners Golf Group

Verner Laursen



The SIR 146 Niners Golf Group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays except when we attend the monthly SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday 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. The lunch is almost always better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Nadine and Vern Laursen
enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon

Poker Group 3

Sig Kalteis



We played a week early this month to avoid Memorial Day.

Jim Meehan, Bob Lyman, Jim Passaglia, Bill Baltezare, Ron Plachy, Bob Weiden and myself were in

attendance. No big winners or losers, but a good time was had by all.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jim and Joyce Barry enjoying the May Ladies Day Luncheon

Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.



We've had good turnouts for the first several sessions in May. The group included some new players who quickly got on to this simple game. We extend our welcome to all new and previous players. Ladies are welcome. Note our start time has been changed again...back to 8:30 - same as last year.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Elaine Richter, Caroline Jackson and MJ Whalen with **Jim Jackson** at the May Luncheon.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact Fred Bolton for details. Bring a lunch.

We played three tables of bridge on May 5 at the home of **Bill Snyder**. First place went to **Tony Greco** with 5750 points. Second place went to **Bill Rees** with 5240 points, and third to **Doug Eisner** with 5180. Our next game will be at the home of **Jim Jackson** on June 2.

Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics:

As of our Ladies Day luncheon on May 8, we have 263 active members (including our six Honorary Life Members). We did not have a BEC meeting in May so we did not induct any new members. We currently have four applicants awaiting BEC approval.



Status Changes:

Resigned:

Steve Dexter and Vladan Lunacek

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

Doug Timmons has moved from our area and resigned. We now have 25 inactive members.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Nancy and Max Burchett seated at the May Ladies Day Luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jim and Ruth Adams enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Dick and Christy DeVoe

graciously hosted our regulars on May 6th. Cold cards all winter finally warmed up, at least for some of us. Half a dozen slams were made, although none were bid (lucky lie of the cards in most cases). In the money once again were **Terry and Sharon Marchione** at 2530. The gracious hosts were well ahead, at 4010, but **Doug and Patti Eisner** had an even finer evening at 4890. Nice to see some high scores for a change, and nice to enjoy each other's company, win or lose.



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, July 17th at 9:30am. There is no meeting in June.



THE CLUBHOUSE AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

June 12 2014

Salad

Mixed Green Salad

Artichoke Hearts, Orange Segments, Garlic Croutons, Parmesan Cheese
Tarragon Vinaigrette

Entrees

Mango Glazed Pork Tenderloin

Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Mango Compote
Red Wine Reduction

Or

Traditional Chicken Piccata

Pan Seared Breast of Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Herb Butter Sauce

Dessert

Pound Cake

Summer Berries, Crème Anglaise
Chantilly Cream



To watch them playing at our May luncheon click on <http://youtu.be/-mh5Oksizug>

Photo by Ken Kratz

The very popular East Bay Banjo Club entertaining at the May Branch 146 Ladies Day Luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Hazel and Hank James enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Brad and Lynne Hatcher at Ladies Day Luncheon



Any questions?
Just kidding

Photo by Charlie Koeber

Bill Roberts sitting with "his winnings"? at the May Poker Club 5 games

Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the Sir luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter** and **Frank Rockwell**.

Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 and ends around 8:00 with time out for dinner.



Photo by Lew Thompson

Dick Richmond, having narrowly avoided a bad lie behind an old oak tree, assesses his next shot at the 2014 Monterey Mashers event



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Shari and George Carpenter enjoying the branch Ladies Day Luncheon in May

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Donna and Dale Lindholm raising their glasses perhaps in a toast to SIR Branch 146 at the May Ladies Day Luncheon.

Sunshine

John Pearl

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

Elmer Kaprielian, Ron Pascoe and Bill Dastic. Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair
mcpearl@astound.net
925-934-6920



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

There was no game in May due to the Memorial Day holiday. The June 23rd game will be at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz** and be hosted by **Pete Gates**.

We solved a lot of problems at the April session and some left with lighter wallets which I am sure was offset by refreshments provided by **Bob Mehus**.



Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner has been a continued success over the past years because of the willingness of our members to share their books. We anticipate this participation will continue. The Book Corner will be open the following months in the future. January, March, May, July, September and November.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate 2 Bridge group was hosted by **Terry & Sharon Marchione** with three tables on May 13. The range of scores looked like a tight-knit Amgen pelaton going up Mt. Diablo. **Dave & Joan Pierce** led the pack from start to finish with 24.5 pts., followed by **Terry & Sharon's** 2nd place finish with 22 pts. The **Marchiones** have been in the top 3 for three straight months, a fact not lost on the other players. **Jim & Ruth Adams'** 20 pts. edged out **Tony & Cindy Greco** for 3rd in a photo finish. The rest of the group found the wine a worthy hydration choice as a consolation prize. They plan to sprint by the leaders at the June stage of the race.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill and Margaret Rees at Ladies Day



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

How about a shout-out to some members for another tremendous Ladies Day! First, to **Steve Dawkins** for another super Ladies Day Luncheon! Great table decorations! Second, to Little Sir **Bill**

Holly for arranging entertainment by the East Bay Banjo Club. Great change of pace by a fun group! Third, to our soloist, **Russ Bliese** and his pianist, **Dave Obera** for the special song dedicated to the ladies. What a way to start the festivities! Thanks, guys.

June is our annual colorful shirt competition so rummage through your closet to find one of those wild shirts your wife would never let you wear anyplace else. Wear it to the luncheon and you just might take home first prize in the competition, a future free lunch!

Terry Marchione and his nominating committee have presented the BEC an outstanding slate of nominees for the 2015 officer and director positions. We will publish the slate of candidates in the July newsletter and vote on them at the August meeting. Of course, we will accept nominations from the floor at the August meeting.

During the next few months Little Sir **Bill Holly** and I will be contacting all administrative chairmen to determine their interest in remaining in that capacity for 2015.

We already know of a few key positions that need to be filled so you may be contacted by one of us to seek your assistance in managing the branch next year. This is an all-volunteer organization so please consider helping out next year.

I've sure gotten old! by **Lynn Shafer**

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes.

I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

Have bouts with dementia.

Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

Thank God, I still have my driver's license.

Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

For those of you who love golf and/or aspire to be a better golfer, June's luncheon speaker is dedicated to you.

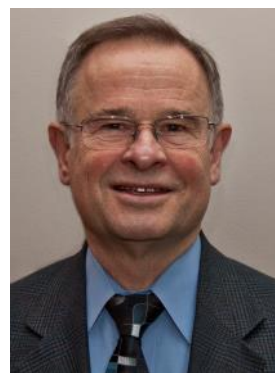
In a business career spanning over forty years, John Hagen has developed numerous residential real estate projects and provided marketing and economic consulting services to a wide range of international organizations.

John has a passion for golf and it has led him to play at numerous golf courses in the U. S. and abroad. In 2001 he embarked on a golfing odyssey which is the subject of this month's presentation.

The title of the presentation is "Play Away Please." A tale of the sale of golf's greatest icon – The St. Andrews old course starter's box.

John has served on the Nike Golf Player Staff from its inception in 2001 through program closure in 2007. He is a founder of the Friends of St Andrews which was established by the St Andrews Links Trust to assist in the preservation and maintenance of the historic golf courses at St. Andrews, Scotland, including the Old Course. His website is: www.playawayplease.com.

"Victory anywhere is always sweet, but to win at St Andrews is so special it rises above everything else." - Steve Ballesteros, three time golf Open Championship winner (1984 at the St. Andrews Old Course).



Judy and Dick Richmond
at the June Ladies Day Lunch.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



All smiles at the Ladies Day Luncheon, L to R, Frank and Marie Ascatigno with Nedra and John Biasotti

Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter



Sept. 10, 2014: Santa Cruz Follies

“ Moments in Time”. At the Follies you will be entertained by talented dynamic dancers and singers as they perform music from the 1920’s to 2000’s, from Al Jolson to Andrea Bocelli, Judy Garland to Barbara Streisand and many more. The day will include the Follies, round trip deluxe motor coach transportation from Walnut Creek, and a hosted lunch. The price is \$92.00 pp with 30 passengers and \$80.00pp with 40 passengers. Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217

Sept.12-30, 2014: The Essence of China.

19 day tour of China featuring Beijing, Zhengzhou, Xi’an, Chengdu, Guilin, and Shanghai. Trip features include R/T air, and motor coach, 4 star hotels, meals, national guide, and local English speaking guides, Chinese visas and all departure taxes. Tour price \$5,890.

Contact **Dick Schally** Br. 8 925-260-5534.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage.

14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a Superior First Class Hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call,

with 12 orientation walking tours with Program Manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available.

Contact **Bob Spellman** Br 146, 934-8428

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France.

A River Journey From Normandy to Provence A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which includes airfare, 22 nights accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sight-seeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers luggage handing overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and Post trips are available.

Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy.

A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe MS River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 which includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips.

Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways:

Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the MS River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649.

Trip includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips.

Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock
 Friends, **Paula Bruin** and **Sir Fred Kovar**
 at the May Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock
Shirley and Garth Cummings
 stop for a photo at the Ladies Day Luncheon.



GOLF
Ray Weisz
 Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:
 We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting

tee times are emailed to each player.
 In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players.
 There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.
 Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.
 Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.
 All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock
Doug and Eleanor Harris pause
 for a photo at the May Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock
Anne and Carl Johnson enjoying
 the May Ladies Day Luncheon

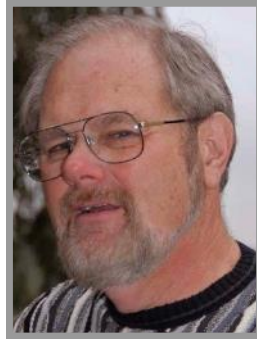
Photo by Ken Kratz



Madelyn and Don Nunn at the Ladies Day Luncheon

Theatre

Gary Schaub



JOIN US FOR *PYGMALIAN* UNDER THE STARS ON AUGUST 20

An evening under the stars is a great place for a lovely summer theatre experience.

SIR 146 has reserved a limited number of reserved seats for *Pygmalion* at California Shakespeare Theatre for Wednesday, August 20. It'll be a "lovely" theatre-party evening as SIR members and guests enjoy this popular George Bernard Shaw play that was later transformed into the popular Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*.

Directed by Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathon Moscone, *Pygmalion* tells the famous Cinderella story of the Cockney flower girl who is transformed into a genteel princess by phonics professor Henry Higgins. All the ingredients are there for a delightful evening with a story that has been turned into a movie, a musical, and a movie musical. Only one thing is missing? Maybe there's no happy ending!

The play begins at 7:30pm in the outdoor theatre just off Hwy 4 in Orinda. California Shakespeare Theatre is an ideal location to bring along a pre-show picnic and attend a

pre-show introduction to the play by a Cal Shakes staff member. Food is also available for purchase from their concession. Most folks arrive by 6:00 p.m.

Tickets for *Pygmalion* are \$46.50 per person, and may be reserved with a check (payable to SIR146) and sent to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595 (note new address). Our deadline is July 10, or until our allocation has been reached. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

A very elegant Ladies Luncheon was held by the Branch on May 8 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course. About 250 Sirs, their spouses, guests and others attended the event.

Entertainment was provided by about 15 members of the East Bay Jazz Band who played oldies that were popular among the attendees.

The next branch luncheon will be on June 12 with a deadline of non-attendance notification of noon Friday June 6.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Ron Louis and Fran Matthews enjoying Ladies Day

Photo by Ken Kratz



Ladies Day Luncheon attendees, LtoR, **Kirby** and **Ramona Narcisse** and **Bob Darius**.

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

All SIR members are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 26th, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am. However, you are welcome to arrive prior to that time for breakfast and additional conversation.



During the last month, trout has been the main catch. **Gordon Linebaugh** and **Carl Moyer** caught 2 just a bit under 8 pounds each. **Barry Rauchle**, **Mike Corker**, **Terry Miller** and **Carl** all enjoyed a hot bite with limits being normal. **Gordon** and **Carl** even limited in the recent rain. Shadow Cliffs and San Pablo reservoirs were the hot spots. **Harry Sherinian**, **Terry Miller**, **Joe Peterson** and **Craig Walton** got nice fish at Lake McSwain. **Joe Miscione** and son caught limits at Lake McClure. **Raleigh Davis**, **Mike Corker**, **Terry Miller**, and **Carl Moyer** all caught sturgeon, some of which could have been kept but were released in hopes of filling one's tags with bigger fish. Meanwhile **Tom Kostik** continued to catch large numbers of stripers near Pittsburg. **Brad Hatcher** vacations in Hawaii where he caught and ate a 40 lb. Wahoo (Ono). Salmon in the ocean

have been hit and miss so far and our blue water anglers are waiting for the bite to become consistent.

We will be very busy this spring and summer with: Delta fishing for bass, catfish, sturgeon; trout in the mountain and local lakes, salmon from the ocean, and halibut in the bay. We live in a fisherman's paradise.

For further information, please contact **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was ably hosted by **Harry Reiter** on May 2.

Tony Greco won 1st Place with 29.5 pts. **Tony** also tied for 3rd in April and took 2nd in March-wow! **Sid**

Landman was 1/2 point behind with 29 points for 2nd place, and **John Boyan** took 3rd with 27.5 points. **Bill Schultz** and **Dave Pierce** tied for 4th with 25 points. The next event is at **Sid Landman's** home.



SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders

Dick DeVoe and **Cal Tucker**

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Alice and **Bill Schultz** enjoying a respite in the activity at the Ladies Day May Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joe and Kathy Nelms arriving at the May Ladies Day Luncheon

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac Users meet the first Monday of the month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10am. We finish by noon.

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac. We will also cover the return on your investment in Apple Care. In May the return for **Verner Laursen** was over \$1000. If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. When on the list, you will receive an email from me from time to time and I will let you know of items of interest to Mac users.



Walkers

John Lewis



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

June walks by **John Lewis**

June 6- Clayton Stream Trail, Clayton
Meet: Clayton Library, Clayton
Walk: North along stream trail
Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands, Walnut Creek

June 13- Alamo New Life Church, Danville Blvd.
Meet: Alamo New Life Church, turn west into parking lot
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: Peet's, Alamo Plaza, Alamo

June 20- Lime Ridge Open Space, Treat Blvd.
Meet: Parking north side of Treat Blvd. between San Miguel and Cowell Rd.
Walk: Trail goes up around back of hill back of park
Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands, Walnut Creek

June 27- Pleasant Hill, Morello & Taylor
Meet: Shopping Center parking lot
Walk: North along Contra Costa Canal
Coffee: Panera Bakery, Willows Shopping Center



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Doreen and Art Ainscough enjoying the moment at the Ladies Luncheon



Marge Burns and Sir Barney Meade
at the May Luncheon

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Bill Cammerer's** home on Monday May 13th. **Bill** started us off with munchies and an excellent guacamole dip. His theme for the day was Mexican. Our entree consisted of really good chile rellenos, a beef taco, Mexican rice and refried beans. On the table **Bill** had several condiments and garnishes to put on the tacos. Along with the salad everything was very nice. For dessert we had a choice of chocolate cake or chocolate sundaes. Of course we had a good deal of conversation and excellent wine. **Ken Richter, Dennis Hallett and Steve Dawkins** left early as they readied for the next day's SIR trip to the Dalmatian Coast and Greece.



Poker 2

Al Zamolo

Ron Binder hosted our April session and must have had some marked cards because he had four natural sevens twice during our session. Needless to say he was the biggest winner we have ever had in our group. Our next session will be hosted by **Jim Brown** on May 26.



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group #1 met May 14th at **Dan O'Sullivan's** residence. Our guest **Sal Constanza** was the BIG BIG winner, probably one of the biggest winners since we started playing poker. Good going **Sal**. Other players won some but not like **Sal**. (There was no money left to distribute.) Our next outing will be at **Al Zamolo's** on June 11.



Genealogy

Verner Laursen

The Genealogy Group meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. We start at 1:30 and go for about 2 hours.



We have assistance from the staff at the Family History Center. At this Center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking. There has been a lack of attendance but I will be at the Family History Center in May. This will be the last meeting unless there are 3 or more in attendance. If the group is disbanded in June, Sirs can call me about genealogy questions. If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists. vlaursen@astound.net



Al and Helene Twyford enjoying the Couples Dining out experience in May.



Photo by Ken Kratz

Ladies Day luncheon chit chat with **Dorothy Powell, Holly Oddson,** with **Janie** and **Howie King**

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday June 25, 2014 at 8:00am at The Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course 4050 Port Chicago Highway Concord.

Our guest speakers will be Jim King and Scott Horton, of J.P. King Advisors, Inc. Their topic will be "State of the Markets: Positioning your Portfolio for Lower Returns Ahead." Jim and Scott will discuss why it's unlikely that returns in various markets will continue their recent trends indefinitely and how investors can prepare themselves for the relatively low returns in the years ahead.

Jim King CFP is the President of JP King Advisors Inc., which he founded in 1981. The firm serves approximately 210 client families and advises on about \$330 million of investment assets. He holds B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Stanford University, and has been a Certified Financial Planner since 1984. He was named one of the "Best Financial Advisors in America" by Worth magazine from 1996-2002.

Scott Horton CFP is a Principal with JP King Advisors, Inc., having joined the firm in 2008 after 12 years with Fidelity Investments where he personally advised over 500 client families with over \$1 Billion of investment assets. He holds a B.S. degree in Managerial Economics from U.C. Davis and a M.S. in Finance from Golden Gate University.

The Legends Restaurant opens at 7:00 a.m.,

so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective Sir.

\$ums Investment Group Co-Chairmen:

Gary Moore (Br-174) 925-254-8742

David Sutton (Br-8) 925- 686-0158

Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of bridge on May 19 at the home of **Bill Snyder**.

This was one of the more topsy-turvy rounds in recent memory as many players saw their fortunes rise after lunch while others fell precipitously. In fact, only **Jim Brown**, of the 5 players in the money at the lunch break, was still there at the end of the day. Perhaps the upside-down nature of the game accounted for its close scores as the day ended in ties for 1st place and 3rd place. The first place tie at 27.5 pt was between **Jim Brown** and **Doug Eisner** while third place was shared by **Bill Rees** and **Jim Todhunter** with 26.5 pt. Our next game is scheduled for June 16 at **Rich Ahlf's** home.

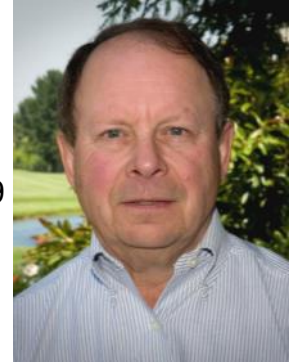
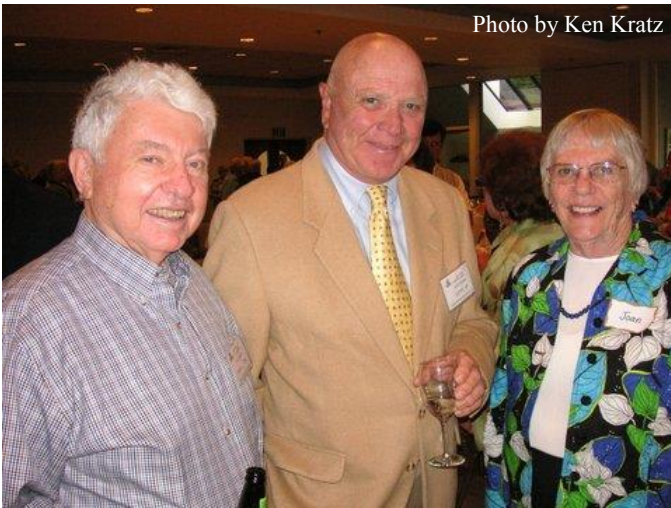


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sue and Todd Lockwood enjoying the May Ladies Day Luncheon



Sirs **Paul Dubow** and **Lynn Shafer** and **Jean Dubow** at the Ladies Day festivities

Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

We held our regular scheduled meeting with **Jim Barry** and **Roy Hodgkinson** in attendance. The theme of the meeting was foreign travel pictures and **Roy** showed his pictures of his recent travels to Portugal while **Jim**, who recently purchased a Canon D60, showed interesting pictures of horses. I showed pictures of China; my visit to the Bird Nest Stadium during the Olympics in 2008 and the Great Wall to the North of Beijing in 2005. On a technical topic, I demonstrated how to construct an HDR or High Dynamic Range photo using Photoshop. The idea is take three photographs of the exact same subject at three different exposure settings, one under exposed, one just right, and the other over exposed. A normal camera can only take 16 bits of information per color but with HDR, you can print a 32 bit color photos. Many calendar photos you buy use this technique to get surrealistic looking photos generally with vivid color and super high resolution. To learn more about HDR which can be taken with any camera, go to <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/Article/gltv4gwv/in-camera-hdr.html>

Look for email from me to learn when the next photography meeting will be held. Members and guest are welcome.



Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Our next hike will be on Friday the 13th of June. We will be hiking Walnut Creek Shell Ridge Open Space. This will be an easy 5 mile hike which, with our lunch break, will take about 4 hours. Our route begins at the end of Marshall Dr. near Indian Valley School. From there we will walk the single track ridge trail through occasional easy switchbacks enjoying the nice views on this quieter N.E. side of the ridgeline. We'll then take the Briones-to-Diablo trail to Old Borges Ranch to have our lunch break. From there we will loop back to the Indian Creek Trail. It's cooler and quieter in this part of the loop as you walk around and under wonderful twisted oaks, along pond shorelines and past white limestone rocks containing the remains of sea shell fossils.

We will be starting this hike at 8:30am so we should be finished about noon.

Directions; Turn off Ygnacio Valley Rd. onto Homestead Rd. and turn left at Marshall Dr. and go to the end, there should be plenty of parking. See you there. Spouses welcome. If there's a problem please call my cell.

Rich Ahlf

rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell [925-550-4967](tel:925-550-4967)



Ladies Day attendees **Barbara** and **Reggie Fromm**

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman



On May 22, forty diners of the Couples Dining Out group enjoyed their bi-monthly restaurant experience with a fun evening at Le Cheval, a place with Vietnamese cuisine in Walnut Creek. We took over the back section of the restaurant and the family style service was conducive to great conversation. As a special incentive to our group the restaurant offered us a complimentary cocktail or glass of wine, which was enjoyed by all the diners, and brought the effective cost of the dinner down to about \$30 per person – a very good deal. The dinner included a shrimp roll appetizer, a cabbage salad with grilled pork, and five entrée dishes of spinach noodles, orange chicken, cubed beef, prawns and green beans with rice. For dessert, a banana pastry dish was flambéed at the table and served with gelato. In all, we agreed that it was one of our better dinners. The portions were so generous that several took home leftovers with doggie containers. We will be having our next event in July, probably the week of July 21. We are soliciting suggestions for a restaurant to top even this month's fine experience. Several have suggested a fish restaurant so we will explore that, but others may be checked out as well (sigh) – such a problem for your coordinator who must go out to dinner so much (!). We encourage all our Sirs and spouses to join us for our next Dining Out activity – we will announce it at our luncheons and list it in the SIR Call.

company of your fellow Sirs, and male guests, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

SORRENTO

Sir **Jack Hockel** recommends this Italian and pizza restaurant that has been in Walnut Creek since 1975 and has been operated by the same family. The new generation of the Sorentos holds on to the old world traditions including home made recipes made with the finest ingredients. The large menu has pasta dishes that come in all forms and include sea food, chicken and veal. Separate checks are provided for your convenience.

Location: 2064 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek, Ca (Country Wood Shopping Center, Treat & Bancroft)

Website: www.sorrentowalnutcreek.com

Phone: 925-938-3366

Please let me know by Tuesday June 17th, that you will join us. Your suggestions are welcomed. Mal



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bruce Borgman and his brother **Harry** from Wisconsin, at the May Couples Dining out event



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Steve & Linda Siljestrom at the Couples Dining Out event in May



ROMEIO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry

The ROMEIO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30PM. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as, those favorably reviewed by the media. Come join us and experience dining while enjoying the

SongSirs

Bruce Borgman



On May 10 the SongSirs sang at **Don Tubb's** Memorial Service at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church – singing the Air Force song to honor **Don's** years of service as a fighter pilot in the Air Force. Also featured was a rendition of "Amazing Grace" which included a solo by **Jim Bogue**.

Don was one of the early members of our SongSirs group and was our leader in organizing our performances and repertoires. His presence and contribution will be sorely missed.

The SongSirs practiced a spring repertoire this last month, which included April Showers, April in Paris, Someone to Watch Over Me, Cheek to Cheek, and Pretty Baby, as well as a barbershop version of When You Wore a Tulip. Also included was a fun version of Lerner's "I'm Glad I'm Not Young Anymore" – from the film Gigi. We always enter and finish with "Stout hearted Men", and also sing the SIR version of "Thanks For the Memories". We sang the repertoire at the Manor Care Healthcare Facility in Walnut Creek on May 21 where our presentation was enthusiastically enjoyed by the residents and patients.

Harry Tutton always introduces each song with a humorous tidbit, which engages the audience and makes our presentation even better.

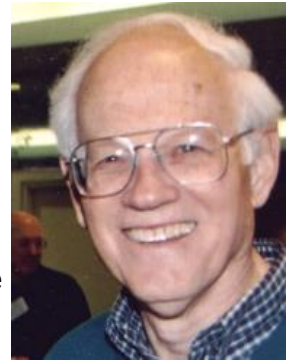
We will be practicing a series of songs appropriate for summer, and plan to sing it at selected venues in the area. Any of our Sirs who enjoy singing is invited to visit a practice to see if this is an activity you would like to participate in. We continue to look for a pianist to assist our **Dave Obera** – let us know if you know of someone!

And finally a Burma Shave sign from **Lynn Shafer**...

*Brother Speeder
Let's rehearse
All together now
Good Morning Nurse
Burma Shave*

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley



Six couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on May 21st at **Jim Brown's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed

Adrienne Morrison's snacks.

Couples Duplicate Bridge usually has eight couples playing but two couples were out of town and **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** didn't attend because the birth of their grandbaby was expected about that day. As for the bridge results, **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** came in first with 25 points. **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** with 23 points came in second. In third place with 20 points were **Bob** and **Janet Yolland**. **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on June 18th.

Cribbage

John Pearl



Six of the G.O.(C.)P. (Grand Old Cribbage Players) gathered in May at **Sir Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, May 21. Along with the usual BS and the nearly continuous use of the cribbage lingo, we managed to get in five games and exchange money. First place went to the Chair, **John Pearl**, while our host and cribbage ace, **Barney Meade**, took second. **Art Ainscough** took third place money. We get to try it again in June. Join us if you'd like.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

SongSirs performing at Manor Care senior living and retirement community in Walnut Creek on May 21st.

The Crowd Gathers at the Branch 146 Ladies Day Luncheon May 15, 2014



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock