



HouseBlend, an a cappella male quartet from Concord and Walnut Creek, entertained the SIR membership and their guests at the May 2015 Ladies Day Luncheon Gala



Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

The May Ladies Day luncheon was an overwhelming success thanks to the careful planning and execution by **Steve Dawkins** with the able assistance of his lovely wife **Marna**. The 248 attendees filled up twenty-six tables. **Steve** has been planning the Ladies Day Luncheons as far back as I can remember, and he has gotten it down to a fine art.

Thanks to Little Sir **Walt Busenius** for arranging for the luncheon entertainment by the male a cappella quartet "**HouseBlend**". We received many favorable comments from the audience indicating that they really enjoyed that group. For those of you who were concerned about "Charlie", his "fate" is now known. He

Luncheon – June 11th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:
Matt Maiocco
CSN 49ers Beat Reporter

Gathering time – 11:00 am
Seating time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Friday, June 5th

will no longer need to “ride forever ‘neath the streets of” San Francisco because he was able to pay his BART fare and get off the train at the Powell Street station with the help of the entertainment contribution from Branch 146.

The good news is that phase one of the interior clubhouse renovations at Boundary Oak is finished. We shall have the remaining luncheons for 2015 on the second Thursday of the month. That means you will have to notify our luncheon chairman by the deadline of noon on the Friday before the Thursday luncheon if you are not able to attend or if you are planning on bringing a guest.

The theme for June is our annual colorful shirt competition. First prize is a free lunch. So, look into the dark recesses of your closet, or in the bargain sale racks for the most audacious looking, colorful shirt you can find and “vie for the prize”.

Our nominating committee consisting of **Doug Eisner**, **Terry Marchione** and **Jim Burk** have put together an outstanding slate of nominees for the 2016 officer and director positions. These will be published in the July newsletter and voted on during the August luncheon. Of course, we shall also accept nominations from the floor at the August luncheon.

During the next few months Little Sir **Walt Busenius** and I will be contacting all administrative chairmen to determine their interest in remaining in their positions for 2016. We already know that a few key positions need to be filled, so some of you may be contacted by either one of us to seek your assistance in managing our branch next year.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, bring him as a guest to our luncheon on Thursday, June 11th.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Because of the Ladies Day luncheon we had no BEC meeting this month and therefore did not induct any new members. Not to worry, we have candidates waiting in the wings. One active member resigned. We now have 276 active members (including our seven Honorary Life Members).

Status Changes in May 2015

Resigned:

Ozzie McKenzie



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

June 2015

Salad

Mixed Greens
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

Grilled Mahi Mahi

Rice Pilaf Seasonal Vegetables
Caper Butter Sauce

Dessert

Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Crème Anglaise, Chantilly Cream



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dennis & Anne Hallett enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon



Little Sir's Corner

Walt Busenius

The boys of summer are playing America's favorite pastime, baseball but the NFL and pro football are never far from the spotlight and our attention to the draft just finished. Mini camps, and other attention seeking headlines are in the

news at all times.

Our June 11th luncheon speaker, Matt Maiocco, stays busy year-round keeping current on the comings and goings of the San Francisco 49ers as the beat reporter and insider for Comcast SportsNet Bay Area.

Matt is a Northern California success story. Born in rural Corning, CA and a journalism graduate from Humboldt State, he has covered the 49ers as a beat reporter since 1995 for the Argus, the Oakland Tribune, the Contra Costa Times, the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and now CSN SportsNet.

In addition to his website and TV reporting for Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, Matt provides updates through his "Instant 49ers blog" on Facebook and Twitter. He is featured weekly on 95.7, "The Game" as the 49ers insider and is a regular contributor to the "First Take" show on ESPN.

Matt is a three-time Pro Football Writers of America award winner and has written two books about the 49ers. He is going to share his wealth of insider information and stories and will strive to answer our questions.

We have over 40 activities and most are looking for new participants. Feel free to give **Jerry Kaplan**, our activity chairman, a call to help find an activity that meets your interest.

We hope to see you and a guest at June's luncheon. The summer months are a good time to invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance to one of our luncheon meetings. We are always looking for prospective new members.

Please remember, we have returned to the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak for June so the rest of our 2015 luncheons and our regular second Thursday of the month meeting date will be here.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Brynn & Gary Brown at the Ladies Day Luncheon

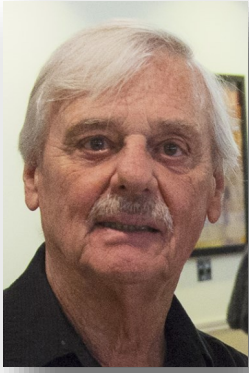


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Guest **Yvonne Killips** and **Bill Weinberg** enjoy a glass of wine before the Ladies Day Luncheon festivities begin

SIR Call Newsletter Group

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Editor | Richard Hockenbrock |
| Assistant Editor | Jeff Baily |
| Proofreaders | Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker |
| | Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia |
| Labeling & Mailing | Bill Cammerer |
| Internet Posting | Ron Plachy |



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Our June hike will be at Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. This will be our shortest hike to date (2.5miles). We will be hiking on a very narrow single track trail that does not have many level sections. Of all the hikes I've done this one rates in my top ten as one of the most beautiful hikes.

Huckleberry is a little oasis of manzanita barrens, scads of huckleberry bushes, and gorgeous woodlands of madrone, California bay, ferns, coast live oak, hazelnut, and currant. This is an arboretum-quality collection with an ever-changing palette of colors, textures, and taste. About half way through the hike we will arrive at a peak with views that range northwest to Round Top, one of the highest summits in the Oakland and Berkeley hills, and east to Mt Diablo, the highest peak in the East Bay

Directions: From Highway 24 just east of the Caldecott Tunnel, take the Fish Ranch Road and go uphill 1 mile to a junction with Skyline Blvd. Turn left and go 0.5 mile to a parking area, left. The trailhead is on the southeast side of parking area.

If you wish to carpool, meet at the turnoff at St Stevens Rd off HI-Way 24 at 9:30 am. Turn right and park on El Nino Rd where there is plenty of parking.

Let me know if you wish to carpool.

Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00am

June 12, 2015

E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

*Every Friday at 9:30 am
at various locales.*

*Call **John** or just show up.*

Rain cancels any walk.



June walks planned by **Martin Lyle**

June Walks 2015

- Jun 5** Walnut Creek Civic Center North
Meet: Civic Center parking
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: Panera Bread, 1140 Locust, WC
- Jun 12** Contra Costa Canal North
Meet: Shopping Center parking lot on Morello
Walk: North along Contra Costa Canal
Coffee: Panera Bread Willows Shop Ctr, Con.
- Jun 19** Bancroft Canal Walk East
Meet: Bancroft parking near Panera Bread
Walk: East on Contra Costa Canal
Coffee: Panera Bread, Countrywood Center, Bancroft & Treat, WC
- Jun 26** Arbolado Park WC
Meet: So. on Oak Grove Rd. Left on Arbolado Dr
Walk: North on trail to Boundary Oak Golf Course along canal
Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands Office Park

OCTOBER 22, 2015

SAVE THIS DATE!

SIR DINNER DANCE

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

SIR Happenings

Newsletter

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock
Madelyn & Senior Honorary Life Member **Don Nunn** enjoy a relaxing moment before the Ladies Day Luncheon



**Luncheon
Attendance
Max Hinkle**

Our June SIR luncheon will be held on Thursday the 11th at the Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$25. As usual, there will be a no-host bar. Remember, we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Friday, June 5th ("no show deadline"). If you do not have convenient access to a computer call (925) 979-5146 by the same deadline and follow the prompts given there. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced to enable us to meet our deadline to give the chef our guaranteed number of meals. A member who fails to meet this deadline and fails to attend the luncheon will be required to reimburse the Branch \$25 for the liability we incur for his meal.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: I intend to confirm via reply e-mail or phone call that your "no show" notice was received by me. Therefore, if you have not received such confirmation within three days after giving your notice please call me immediately at (925) 408-6004.

Payment: Remember that the luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check for \$25 made payable to SIR 146 delivered when you check in on luncheon day.

Bringing a Guest or Visitor: Please send an e-mail advising your intention to bring a guest or a visitor by noon on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon (the no show deadline). If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number listed above and follow the prompts given there. Please remember to spell the full name of your guest or visitor during that call.

Special Requests: If you desire a vegetarian meal or require a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch please advise me before the no show deadline in the same manner as described above. Your request will be honored and remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman.

New Members, Guests, and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with place names reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members

along with their sponsors will be asked to join our membership chair immediately following the luncheon in a room to be determined for a brief orientation session.



**Theatre
Gary Schaub**

**Tennessee Williams' classic is SIR
146 Theater Party on September
11th**

Arguably one of the major classics of the American Theatre, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, has been scheduled for the next SIR 146 Theater Party. The Tennessee Williams drama, performed by Role Players Ensemble in Danville, is planned for Friday, September 11th at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Theater in downtown Danville.

Streetcar was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1948 after its Broadway debut starring Marlon Brando and Kim Hunter. It went on to become a blockbuster film in 1951, also starring Brando and actress Vivian Leigh. Any short list of finest American plays places *A Streetcar Named Desire*, alongside *Death of Salesman* and *A Long Days Journey into Night*.

A Streetcar Named Desire tells the story of a schoolteacher from Laurel, Mississippi, Blanche DuBois, who arrives at the New Orleans apartment of her sister Stella Kowalski and her husband Stanley. Following the death of their remaining relatives, Stella admits that she has lost *Belle Rive*, their ancestral home. The great magnetism between Stella and Stanley Kowalski is the centerpiece of the play. Brando's famous line "S-t-e-l-l-a! ..." helped make Brando famous.

A limited number of reserved tickets for the September 11th performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire* has been set aside for SIR 146 members and guests. Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and will be available until August 13th or until our allotment has been reached. Early reservation is encouraged.

Tickets will be distributed in the lobby of the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville beginning at 7:30 p.m. on September 11. Free parking is readily available in the area.

Reserve tickets with a check payable to SIR 146 and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call **Gary** at 925-938-5454.



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Our members did quite a bit of traveling last month. The star was **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, who caught a dozen ono (also known as yahoo) during his Hawaii vacation. **Brad Hatcher** of Branch 146 also traveled to Hawaii and caught and released a 30 lb. skipjack on the Kona Coast.

Don Mittlestadt enjoyed a trip to Campeche, Mexico, where he caught and released a baby tarpon. **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 joined seven friends in the Florida Keys to fish for tarpon. **Paul** did not get a single bite. But his friends caught and released five tarpon, ranging from 110 to 165 pounds. **Paul** also watched his boat-mate catch a 150 lb. nurse shark and a 30 lb. Atlantic sharp nosed shark. But it was not all for naught. He did manage to catch an Atlantic sharp nosed shark, also around 30 lbs. In addition, one morning the group fished for yellow-tailed snapper and caught about 80 fish. They kept just enough for a delicious lunch cooked for them at a local restaurant.

Pete Gates and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Dick Thomson, Ron Maciak, Mike Corker,** and **Carl Moyer** journeyed to New Hogan Reservoir in the Sierra foothills on a rainy day and caught eight stripers. **Paul** also picked up a good sized catfish.

Ernie Wong and **Ken Konzak** made two trips to Pyramid Lake in Nevada, taking **Carl Moyer** with them on the second trip. They caught and released a bevy of beautiful large Lahontan cutthroat trout there.

Locally, fishing in the Delta was very successful. **Joe Karg** landed a keeper sturgeon fishing from a party boat. **Harry Sherinian, Terry Miller, Mike Corker,** and **Carl Moyer** caught small stripers and sturgeon on one outing, and, on another outing **Carl Moyer** and **Gordon Linebaugh** caught some small stripers and rescued a baby goose that had swum out too far. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** caught lots of black bass farther up the Delta. Trout fishing was decent. **Carl Moyer** and **Paul King** caught three nice trout in San Pablo Reservoir, then **Carl** and **Ken Konzak** caught five rainbows on a rare day that a boat could be launched in Shadow Cliffs Reservoir.

Finally, **Carl Moyer** fished the ocean for rockfish and caught some on one of the few days so far this year that the ocean was calm. However, rockfish that **Carl** caught earlier this year were the main course at the semi-annual fish fry that was held at his home and attended by 24 members of the club.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

After the Ladies Day Luncheon, I forgot to stop in at the library to get the key for the next day's photography meeting. As a result the attendees, **Jim Barry, Roy Hodgkinson,** and **Bill Holly** met at my house.

The assignment for this meeting was to photograph fast moving objects. Jim did the best job by shooting at 1/1000 speed catching close up shots of his dogs on Pismo Beach. I, on the other hand, had slow moving ships in Oakland's harbor. However, I did include some trailer scenes from Russell Crowe's movie "Master and Commander" that had loud noise in the ship's battles!

At the next meeting we will concentrate on portrait photography similar to the photos I take for the Sir Call.

Future Meeting Schedule

June 19th	Third Friday of the month
July	No meeting
August 28 th	Switching to fourth Friday

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 25, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast at 7:30 am. For further information, feel free to contact branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Dick Thomson, Mike Corker, Carl Moyer, Ron Maciak, Paul Dubow, and **Pete Gates** with the stripers caught at New Hogan Lake



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

The next meeting of the Acoustic Music Group is scheduled for Friday, May 29th at 2:00 pm. We will continue to practice “Act Naturally” for a performance at a future SIR luncheon.

Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right to 2177 Ward Drive. Call 925-864-2641 or 925-786-7909 if you get lost.

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick’s** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

*I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. **Alan** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.*



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group DOS

Dick Woodman

As previously reported, the April gathering of MTD2 was at **John** and **Nancy Pearl’s** home. It was a great success and the winners were: **Ismini MacLean**, guest of **Rich Ahlf**, won \$20 for first place, **Ron Plachy** won \$10 for second place, and **Rich Ahlf** won \$4 for third place. The May gathering will be at **Al** and **Helene Twyford’s** home. The tension is building as May is the last month of our first semi-annual pot. It is a tight contest for the first four months of the year. The cumulative average score so far this year shows **Dick Woodman** in first, **Rich Ahlf** in second, and **Ismini MacLean** in third place with several others close behind. It will be fun and the results of May and the first semi-annual pot will be announced in the July Sir Call. The winnings aren’t big money but the fun getting there is great. It is a good game and we welcome the potential of adding two additional MTD game groups in the near future.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Ten of us descended on **Barney Meade’s** home on Wednesday, April 29th for more fun and games. First place honors (and money) went to **Art Ainscough**, with former Big Sir **Dennis Hallett** a very close second. Third and fourth places were occupied by **Barney Meade** and **Mike Whitaker** respectively, who nearly tied. We’ll try again in May 27th.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Chuck Bates with guest **Polly Fleischer** sitting next to **Melanie** and **Bill Baltezure** waiting for their lunch entrees



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Frank & Donna Lucas at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met at the home of **Pete McNeill** on May 13th. The "BIG" winner was **Bill Cammerer** and **Frank McNamee**, who closed the gap but was a distant second. Our next gathering will be at the home of **Bill Cammerer** on June 10th.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

We played Wednesday, May 13th at **Norm Baietti's** home in Walnut Creek. In attendance were **Frank Lucas, Harvey Oxman, Norm Baietti, Brad Hatcher, and Bob Larson. Al Twyford, Sid Landman, and Rich Alf** were otherwise occupied. **Frank** was the big winner with the grand sum of \$6 (over his buy-in). "5-card draw", "Chicago", and "Roll Yer Own" were the most called-for games, which we can understand, but "Omaha"? Where did that come from?



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Carol & Frank Rockwell at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

Jim Stedman hosted our April meeting. There were small losers and winners in the group except for **Al Zamolo**, who had his largest winning ever in Poker Group 2. The May meeting was held at **Al Zamolo's** home on Monday, May 25th.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinez

Our May poker session was rescheduled from the fourth Monday in May to Wednesday May 27th due to the Memorial Day holiday. Sir **Rich Hanford** was the host.

Ever wonder why we have all the activities in our branch? The idea for

a poker group came about from an impromptu poker game with **Stu Somerville** and other SIR members while we were cruising down the Danube River. We discussed having a poker group in our branch. There are now six poker groups in the branch.



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug***

***Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell.** Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 pm and ends around 8:00 pm with time out for dinner.*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Charlie & Cinda Koeber pause for a moment to have their picture taken at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1

Jerry Kaplan

The May Mexican Train Dominoes Game Night was hosted on May 15th by Sir **Jim Stedman** and his wife **Barbara** at their beautiful home in Walnut Creek. A full contingent of 18 players attended and all three tables were full of hopeful MTD players. Competition is getting a little stiffer each month as the players are learning a few more strategies to employ in attempts to thwart their neighbors. Nonetheless, as **Terry Marchione** said, winning a round of MTD is really 80% on what tiles you draw, 10% your strategy, and 10% paying attention to what's going on at the table.

For the May get-together, **Sherry Hockenbrock** was the big winner (she came in second last month), with Sir **Rob Melrose** taking second place. Our host that evening, **Jim Stedman**, won back his \$3.00 entry fee, plus a dollar!

The big winner in the first half of 2015 semi-annual play (based on five months) was **Sherry Hockenbrock**, the wife of our hardworking SIR Call editor, **Richard**. **Sherry** collected \$46.00 for her efforts. Sir **Terry Marchione** finished second barely edging out Sir **Rob Melrose**, with an average of 18.38 to 18.48. A similar award will be made for the second half of the year, starting in June and ending in November.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Mexican Train Dominos players after a tough night of competition, **Jerry Kaplan, Jeff Baily, Terry and Sharon Marchione, Sue Sheldon, and Corrie Oranje**

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were taking a walk one fine March day.

One remarked to the other, "Windy, ain't it?"

"No," the second man replied, "It's Thursday."

And the third man chimed in, "So am I. Let's have a coke."



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

The May Cooking II luncheon was hosted by **Dennis Hallett** with only half of the members in attendance due to family summertime commitments.

The luncheon started with a selection of cheeses including gouda, bleu, extra sharp and chili flavored smoked cheddars. In addition, there was a crab and bacon dip.

The main course consisted of asparagus spears wrapped in ham with a cream sauce of shrimp and white wine plus new potatoes. This was accompanied by a sweet spinach salad which included fresh spinach leaves, mandarin oranges, cherry tomatoes and mushrooms with a special sweet dressing.

For dessert we enjoyed a chocolate and fruit trifle consisting of devil's food cake, whipping cream, strawberries, raspberries, and kiwifruit.

The luncheon conversation continued until the wine ran out. Then everyone returned home for a short nap !! The next event will be hosted by **Bob Yolland** on Monday June 8th, 2015.



Sunshine Report

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.

Baha Zarah

Bob Darius

Joe Suta

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 SIR membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The gourmand of Branch 146 enjoyed a night out at reputedly the best Thai restaurant in the East Bay this last May 18 – we went to Amarin in Lafayette, which was recommended by **Colin Holland** and

Bill Klein. There were a total of 42 diners, with one couple forgetting that it was on Monday! But, the restaurant packed up a to-go dinner with very generous portions which was hand delivered to the forgetful couple. Maybe not such a bad deal – a great meal in the comfort of your own house! But, really – the best part of our gathering is not just the food, but the camaraderie and socializing of our fine group.

We took over the entire restaurant and the restaurant cleared out the center of the place for our cocktail hour. We then enjoyed the fine Thai cuisine – starting with some appetizers, a unique coconut lemongrass chicken soup, three entrees, and finishing with fried bananas and coconut ice cream for dessert. A good time was had by all.

We will be searching for a restaurant for our next Couples Dining Out event in July – the 20th looks good right now – but will depend on the restaurant. A number of suggestions have been made, but you can always contact **Bruce** to give him your suggestion of a must-try restaurant. We had a number of first timers at our last event – if you’ve not joined us – put it on your calendar for an enjoyable evening out.



Photo by Alicia Baily

Susan Kaplan, Big Sir Bill Holly, and Carmen Schiavone at Couples Dining Out



Bowling

Larry Mitchell

The winter bowling league is over with **Jim Adams** and **Larry Mitchell** taking first place. Well, actually, it was **Jim** who got the job done by himself because **Larry** did not show up. For the information of non-bowlers, this is possible because

the absent bowlers average is used.

The short summer league started two weeks ago with 7 teams. This causes a problem because one team must bowl with no opposition. We are therefore looking for two more bowlers to form another team. No experience necessary! Women are welcome. Join us now and beat the rush. Call me at 925-798-5440 for more information.



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The new Book Group had its first meeting on April 20th at **Chuck Campbell's** house. Attending were **Peter Gates, Paul Dubow, and Walt Busenius**. We discussed the Bill O'Reilly book "Killing Patton". We all agreed that Patton was an incredible

field commander but O'Reilly's conspiracy theory was a stretch; however, there was insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the idea.

For the next read the Book Group will select one of the following :

- "The Bully Pulpit" by Kerns Goodwin
- "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed
- "Phantom" by Jo Nesbo

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact **Chuck Campbell** charmcam2@att.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Monnie and Chuck Eichten at the Ladies Day Luncheon



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Day Trips

October 10, 2015: Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle

You will enjoy watching the Blue Angels perform their air show

aboard the San Francisco Belle Sternwheeler. There is no better vantage point on the bay to see the show. The price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, a hosted buffet lunch aboard the Belle, free flowing champagne and background music from an onboard D.J. Cost is \$128 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$54 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Longer Trips

July 22-28, 2015: Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony This trip will include baseball games in New York and Boston. The highlight will be the Baseball Hall of Fame and induction ceremonies at Cooperstown. Travelers will enjoy home pick-up, airport transfers, professional tour host, round trip airfare, 6 nights' accommodations, all taxes and gratuities. Cost \$2,975. Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

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 Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing 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) 925-698-6217 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 and include 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) 925-689-6217 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) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean. A 16 day all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea and highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona Spain, Bandol France and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$ 3,665.00 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.



Lunch and Wine

Syd Whalen

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

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

A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found golfers drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means, on average, golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud.

I almost feel like a hybrid.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 4 tables at **Bill Rees'** home on May 18th. **Jim Jackson** jumped out to a 1.5 pts lead at the lunch break with 19.5 pts over **Rich Ahlf's** 18.0 pts. **Max Hinkle** was in third place with 16.0 pts and **Fred Bolton's** 15.5 pts was fourth place. However, a strong second half by some players changed the overall standings when the dust settled at the end of the day. **Jim Jackson** increased his lead and took home first place with a score of 48.5 pts while **Rich Ahlf** held on to second place with 45.0 pts. **Doug Eisner's** 42.0 pts and **Bill Rees** 40.5 pts pulled them into third and fourth places, respectively.

Our next game will be hosted by **Fred Kovar** and is scheduled for June 15th.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on May 20th at **Lo and Sue McCarley's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Sue's** snacks and **Lo's** wines. The group thanks **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** for substituting for **George Zurich** and **Susi Cherry**. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne Johnson** came in first with 40 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 39 points came in second. In third place were **Margot Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** with 33.5 points. In fourth place were **Tony and Cindy Greco** with 33 points. **Carl and Anne Johnson** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on June 17th.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

Our May game was hosted by **Dave and Joan Pierce** on Wednesday the 12th. In addition to the bridge, we celebrated **Jim Adam's** 82nd birthday by singing Happy Birthday and partaking of **Joan's** cake for dessert. As far as the bridge game goes, The **Marchiones** (24.5) edged out the **Pierces** (23.5) with **Adams** finishing in third place (20.5). Also, a big thank you to **Cindy and Tony Greco** for filling in for the **Freemans** at the last minute. Our next game will be on June 9th. **Marchiones** will host.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

It was May 5th, right after the Kentucky Derby, when all the regulars showed up at **Dick and Christy DeVoe's**. **John and Linda Boyan** overcame any distractions created by the Warriors game showing on the tube to show (3rd, 2730), although their scores declined as the game progressed without the Warriors catching up. **Dave and Joan Pierce** (3180) placed (2nd) by a length. The hosts (4150) leapt out of the gate and scored 2860 on the first two rounds to lead by 10 lengths down the back stretch and held on coming home for a comfortable win, even though **Dick** was playing one-handed. They are such warm and welcoming hosts, they deserved it; the rest of us had **Christy's** wonderful guacamole polished off by the time we got to the clubhouse turn. **Dave Pierce**, 932-3877



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Lo McCarley** on May 4th. First prize went to **Max Hinkle** with 6120 points, second to **Jim Brown** with 6020 and third to **Dick DeVoe** with 4990. Our next game will be on June 1st, location will be advise.

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



Doris & Harry Reiter enjoying the Ladies Day Luncheon



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

On April 3rd the Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Dave Steinberg** with 4 tables. **Terry Marchione**, playing consistently throughout, took top honors with 48.5 points, followed closely by **Dave Pierce** with 47.5. **Max Hinkle** was 3rd with 43 pts., and **Bill Schultz** came in 4th with 42.5 pts.

On May 1st, **Steve Dawkins** hosted 3 tables, resulting in the closest top scores ever! **Carl Johnson** took 1st place outright with 27 pts. **Steve, Rich Ahlf,** and **Tony Greco** were 1/2 pt. behind, all tying for 2nd with 26.5 pts. And only one-half point behind them were **Charlie Abrams** and **Fred Bolton** with 25.5 pts, tying for 5th place. The next event will be at **Bob Yolland's** home on June 5th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Group had its inaugural event with 3 tables on May 15th, hosted by **Dick DeVoe**. The group plans to meet the 3rd Friday of each month.

Final Rankings—**Charlie Abrams** and **Jim Brown** tied for 1st place with 30 pts., consistently scoring high in both halves. Congratulations, guys! **Dick** was hot on their heels with 29.5 pts. to earn 3rd place. **Harvey Oxman** took 4th with 27 pts.

1st Half — **Dave Pierce** took 1st place with 16.5 points, **Jim** was 2nd with 16, **Harvey** 3rd with 15, and **Charlie** 4th with 14.5.

2nd Half — **Charlie** and **Dick** tied for 1st with 15.5 points, **Jim** was 3rd with 14, and **Doug Eisner** was 4th with 13.5.

Most Two's — **Charlie** had 11(!) two's, followed by **Jim** and **Harvey** with 9.

Least Zeros — **Dick** and **Jim** only had 3 zeros.



Book Nook

Hank James

Our next Book Nook will be at the July Meeting (no Book Nook in June). So accumulate your reading lists and your books for donation in July.

Wondering what SIR activity to participate in? Talk to **Hank James** and be a member of the Book Nook Team.

Contact **Hank James**: hankjames@hankjames.com or 925-351-7440 to volunteer.



Kicking off the new Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 3 are **Doug Eisner, Tony Greco, Jim Brown, Bill Schultz, Brad Hatcher, Dick DeVoe, Dave Pierce, Charlie Abrams, Mike Farrar, Mike Whitaker,** and **Harvey Oxman**. **Sid Landman** will coordinate the group.

The bride was escorted down the aisle. When she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side.

She said: "What are your golf clubs doing here?" He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

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





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

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. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.

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 receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at sir146golf@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. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On 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, most of the time, is better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net

If you need help with lining up your putts, look for the app, [Breakmeter](#), for your phone.



Tournament Director **Terry Marchione** awards prizes to the first place team, Captain **Joe Fuchs**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Russ Bliese**, and **Sal Costanza**



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

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

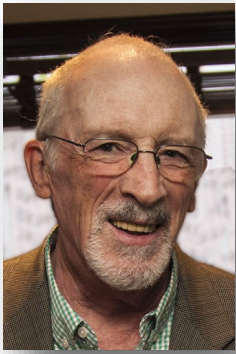
*We have room for new members so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group. 925-933-3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.*



George Mon, **Bill Hansen**, and **Ken Kratz** admiring their fine shot to the green on Boundary Oak # 15



Doug Eisner, **Ed Marlovits**, **Joe Lamanna** and **Frank Rockwell** point out new golf member **Steve Ybarra**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes 3 pulled out of the station on May 22nd at the home of **Jeff and Alicia Baily**. Experienced Mexican Train engineers, **Jerry and Susan Kaplan** and **Bruce and Sue Borgman** oversaw the other less experienced train crews making sure no one derailed.

At the table 1, **Jim Baldrige, Sue Borgman, and Jeff Baily**, watched in awe as **Marian Flosi** kept full throttle into the turns and came out the table winner. At table 2, **Susan Kaplan, Sharon Varner, Alicia Baily, Steve Siljestrom, Bruce Borgman**, stoked their locomotives as newcomer and first time train driver, **Larry Brown** demonstrated unerring skill passing slower trains (some on the same track yet!) in taking his train into the winners' circle.

At table 3, **Jerry Kaplan, Mike Varner, Linda Brown, Linda Siljestrom** and **Tom Flosi**, tightened their seatbelts as **Judy Baldrige** blasted through two train depots without touching the brakes to take honors at the table.

A lot of smiles and meeting new friends and a commitment by every player to stay in MTD3 and all look forward to the next meeting on July the 24th.



Pictured L to R: **Alicia Baily, Steve Siljestrom, Linda Siljestrom, Bruce Borgman, Marian Flosi, Mike Varner, Susan Kaplan, and Jim Baldrige**. Players and substitutes on MTD3 hidden or not in this picture are **Charlie Abrams, Janet Abrams, Jeff Baily, Judy Baldrige, Larry Brown, Linda Brown, Walt Busenius, Sue Busenius, Tom Flosi, Jim Pfohl, Marian Pfohl, Dick Richmond, Judy Richmond, Lynn Shafer, Sally Shafer, and Sharon Varner**



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

On Friday, May 22nd the SongSirs performed to an appreciative audience at the Walnut Creek Senior Center. There were 60 to 70 folks in the audience, and several of the SongSirs wives also wanted to see what we'd been up to lately. We started shortly after noon and performed the Academy Award songs we had been practicing for several months. **Harry Tutton** had prepared an interesting narrative describing the movie or the details of the songs. Sometimes the movie was not well known, but the song, which received the Academy Award was always memorable. The songs included "Call me Irresponsible", "Days of Wine and Roses", "All the Way" – Frank Sinatra's signature song, "Three Coins in the Fountain", "Over the Rainbow", "Mona Lisa", "When You Wish Upon a Star" and several others. The quartet sang "Let me Call You Sweetheart" and we finished with "Thanks for the Memories", singing both the original lyrics, and then our SIR version. All the songs were well received with much applause. Below is a picture of us performing.

A number of our SongSirs were off traveling so we had a slightly smaller group, but the remaining faithful members sang with no less enthusiasm. We will be working on a summer repertoire. Again, we practice at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church every first and third Wednesday and any of you closet or shower crooners are invited to join us for a fun time.



SongSirs singing at the Walnut Creek Senior Center



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We are off to a good start this season with two or three courts in use each meet and always have lively group of players. There is plenty of room for new players. Come out for some fun with this popular game. Ladies are welcome.

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.

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Martin Lyle surveying up the placement of the Bocce balls before he makes a decision on scoring



Sir Call Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

This month's issue of the Sir Call has expanded to 18 pages due to the large number of pictures from the Ladies Day Luncheon, the addition of a third Men's Duplicate Bridge Group, and a third Mexican Train Dominoes Group. Don't forget to look for additional pictures of special events on www.sir146.com under the heading "Special Events" or click on the link to go directly to it.

http://www.sir146.com/ladies_day_may_2015.html

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Lo McCarley, Martin Lyle, and Jim Barry standing over "3 points for the red team."



Karen & Cliff Perkins at Ladies Day Luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

New member John & Sandi Foster attend the Ladies Day Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group is back to the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 am. 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 in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

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 us from time to time and I will let you know about items that are of interest to Mac users.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The June meeting of the Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will be on Wednesday June 24th, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

Our guest speaker in June will be Matt Weaver, of Bedell Frazier Investment Counselling LLC. Matt's topic will be "Managing Risk without Being Left Behind." Bedell Frazier is a local registered investment advisory, headquartered in Walnut Creek. The firm was founded in 1975 and is celebrating 40 years in service this May. Matt joined Bedell Frazier in 2014 as a Portfolio Manager. Prior to joining Bedell Frazier, Matt was an Investment Strategist at Wells Fargo Private Bank where he worked with clients to create allocation strategies and build portfolios to meet client investment objectives.

Matt received his bachelor's degree in business from Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. He holds professional designations of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Financial Risk Manager (FRM). Matt spent 2 years teaching Operational and Investment Risk Management at the University of San Francisco.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that there will be no meeting in June; our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday July 16th at 9:30 am. Sirs and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

As always, coffee and cookies are available before and during the meeting. In addition, there is Barry's Nifty Freebies Raffle. Odds of winning are better than one in ten.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, while other months are free.

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 3-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?"

"Yes" says the woman.

"Did you hit him with that golf club?"

"Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face.

"How many times did you hit him?"

"I don't know -- put me down for a five."

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

Co-Chairmen: **Gary Moore** (Br-174) 925-254-8742

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

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

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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