



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

Action taken by the SIR State Board on May 11th and subsequent follow up by the branch BEC in a special meeting held on May 13th, resulted in an eblast that was sent out on May 18th to all SIR members.

You can read the eblast on the next page of this month's SIR-Call as it explains how the branch is going operate in a post COVID-19 environment, at least in the short term.

There is now end in sight as the State of California and Contra Costa County are expected to remove most COVID restriction on June 15th for those who are fully vaccinated. All indoor and outdoor activities are set to start opening but some will take a slower approach depending on the wishes of their group chair. In any case, **Bob Lucido**, overall activity chair, will issue instructions and timing. Now would be a good time to sign up for some new activities. We want to try and accommodate everyone with an activity of their choice, and I might note that I am already seeing that dining opportunities are in great demand.

The next question on everyone's mind is "When are we going to start in-person luncheons?" The tentative possibility is August 2021. There are several hurdles that we need to overcome. First, is the fact that Boundary Oak needs to hire all new staff. All the servers are gone. The second obstacle is the number of people they will be able to accommodate. Our normal luncheons serve just over

two hundred members. Ladies Day luncheons max out at 270 guests, the maximum number pre-COVID could seat. Little Sir, **Jerry Kaplan** is following this closely.

Membership increased again in May with **Ned Gamsky** and **Scott Simmons** being accepted as new members by the BEC. We closed out May with a total membership of 288.

At the Zoom Ladies Day Luncheon, Tracy Dietlein, Senior Marketing Manager for Macerich Corp took us down memory lane showing us all the changes that have been made to the Broadway Plaza over the 70 years since it all began in 1950.

We closed out the meeting with **Sam Veneziano** being picked as the May Birthday drawing winner for a Branch 146 logoed cap.

Hope you had a great Memorial Day!

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.

Zoom, Zoom...

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, June 10th

Zoom Session opent at 11:15am



Policy e-Mail sent to all members
5/18/2021

To ALL Branch 146 SIR Members

On May 11st, 2021, the SIR State Board approved precautions to protect SIR (and Branches) from COVID-19 legal problems. This follows a decision by our insurer not to include coverage for pandemic diseases for any SIR sponsored function. The directive handed down to the SIR branches culminates in a document called a **Coronavirus Protocol** which each branch must follow and a **Waiver** document that each member must complete and sign to participate in all indoor or outdoor activities sponsored by SIR. This includes a separate signed **Waiver** needed for each guest speaker, visiting member from another branch, member's luncheon guest, wife, significant other, or anyone else attending a SIR event, collectively referred to as "**GUEST**".

The SIR State Board further states that for events conducted wholly or partially indoors, the branches must have each member and guest present their **Vaccination Card** or negative COVID-19 test administered within 3 days prior to an event. The branches are directed to retain a photocopy of the **Vaccination Card** along with the signed **Waiver** in its files until further notice to the contrary.

At our Branch 146 Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meeting on May 13th, we unanimously passed a motion as to how our branch would execute these new directives. According, here is list of the action items we will be following:

- **George Mon**, our branch Membership Chairman will send via US Mail, the **Waiver** document to each branch member this coming week and a second copy for his wife or significant other if they are included in our branch directory. In addition, each signer will be requested to send back a copy of the front side of their **Vaccination Card**.

Additional **Waiver** copies will be posted on www.sir146.com website for download if needed for future "**GUEST**".

Once the signed **Waiver(s)** and copies of the **Vaccine Card(s)** are mailed back:

1. The information will be recorded in an Excel spreadsheet as a checklist for future reference. Once your **Waiver** and **Vaccine Card** information is confirmed you will not need to sign or present this information again when attending a Branch 146 activity.
2. Information on the spreadsheet and stored in Branch Dropbox will be available online to activity chairs so they can determine who is cleared to participate in the activity.
3. The signed **Waiver** and photocopies of the **Vaccine Card** will be saved and only available to the Membership Chairman as a backup.
4. Activities Chairs and others who might collect **Waiver(s)** and **Vaccine Card(s)** from members and "**Guest**" will submit these to the Membership Chair either by US Mail or electronically in a timely manner for recording and record keeping.
5. Activities Chairs will have access and can visually confirm that a vaccine card was provided but will not have access to the file copies.

New Members will get a **Waiver** form in their New Member Packet. They should send the signed copy back along with their dues.

Branch 146 Big Sir
RHOCK@outlook.com

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

Good news! We may be seeing each other in person fairly soon at a Boundary Oak luncheon with good food and a chance to sit down and talk to our friends over a beverage. **Richard H**, in this month's Big Sir column, has

explained how we are working towards a full reopening, not only of the 51 activities but also planning an actual luncheon, tentatively planned for August. That will make a long 16 months since we have broken bread together. I hope most all of you are ready and able to attend one of the luncheons in the next few months.

Thanks to our fellow members like **Paul Beretz, Peter Plante, Henry Thatcher, and John Kendrick**, who have been publicizing the several branch activities that have been allowed over the past year in the *Patch*, and the *Nextdoor* websites. Because of their efforts, at least 10 to 15 new members have agreed to join Branch 146. Please be sure to welcome these new members (look for the Yellow Badges) when you see them at our August luncheon.

Our Big Sir will keep everyone informed of the status in the upcoming months of when our first meeting will be held.

In the meantime, we will continue to meet via Zoom. Our scheduled June ZOOM luncheon speaker will be Battalion Chief **Bryan Giambrone** from the state Cal Fire organization. Mr. **Giambrone** will share with us events and stories from his many years of experience with the third biggest fire department in the United States. In addition to fighting the many wildfires up and down the state that seem to be occurring more frequently, Cal Fire plays a major role in teaching the community fire prevention techniques such as brush clearance, vegetation management, and emergency evacuation planning. I have also learned that Cal Fire may respond to the scene of an auto accident, hazardous material spills, a swift-water rescue, civil disturbances, floods, earthquakes, and more. The June Zoom luncheon should be very informative and interesting.

If branch members have some early questions for **Bryan**, please submit the questions to me prior to the meeting; I will gather them and have them ready when he arrives.

Our speaker at the May meeting was **Ms. Tracy Dietlein**, the Senior Manager for Marketing at the Broadway Plaza Shopping Center in Downtown Walnut Creek. With her excellent photographs, she provided an outstanding historic review of the 70 year old center and brought us up to date how Broadway Plaza has survived the effects of the COVID 19 shutdown as well as plans for reopening.

If there are other topics you would like to see covered by future speakers – sports, health, travel, learning, etc., - please let me know and I'll see if I can locate someone in that area.

And most important, during May, two new members joined our branch—**Edward Gamsky** and **Scott Simmons**. A warm welcome to both of you; we look forward to meeting you in person, hearing some of your interesting life stories and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

Everyone, stay safe but have fun where, when and how you can!

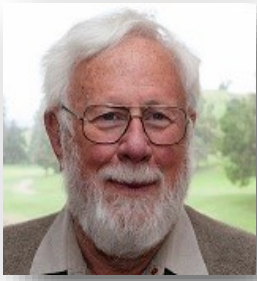
This month, I have quotes from two famous American psychologists.

The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance.

Nathaniel Branden

When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves.

Viktor E. Frankl



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Things are starting to look up folks. After suffering through over a year of pandemic curtailments many of our groups are starting to get back to some form of normalcy. You can see it in the

change of tone of the articles the activity leaders are submitting.

This is great news for an organization such our ours that is built around social interaction. With this coming opening up, there is renewed interest in new activities as well as old standbys and we are trying to group together similar activities to make it easier for readers to find the type of activities they are most interested in, so this month look for a new subsection, appropriately, I hope, called *Foodies*.

Deadline for submissions for the July issue is June 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
br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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



Luncheon Chairman Rich Lyon

Dear SIR members,

The news of the lifting of some restrictions in Contra Costa County give hope that SIR 146 will likely have luncheons in-person some-

time this year perhaps even in August or September. Much will depend upon Boundary Oak's ability to recruit staff as well as the State SIR insurance guidelines. Their is is now light at the end of the tunnel!

The Branch needs someone who would like to meet our members help coordinate our Luncheon reservations. Luncheons will be a little simpler through the end of 2021 but it's still a great time. It would be great to get some one to initially assist and eventually to manage the Luncheon program. It's a great opportunity to collaborate with the branch leadership and to get to know each other, and find out some of the reasons why our branch is so successful.

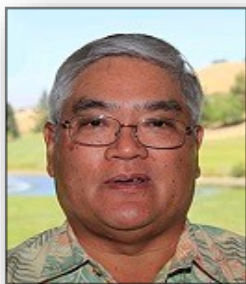
In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon
Luncheon Coordinator



Honk if you love Jesus!

Text while driving if you wish to meet him!



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved by the BEC in May. We welcome **Edward “Ned” Gamsky** sponsored by **Paul Beretz** and **Scott Simmons** sponsored by **Larry Kaye**. **Ned** lives in Walnut Creek and **Scott** lives in

Castro Valley.

The 2021 membership count rose to 288 which is up from April of 286.

“SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19” was mailed out to the full membership. Members and significant others were asked to sign the waiver and mail back a copy of their vaccination card

along with the waiver to the Membership Chairman. A “Waiver” spreadsheet checklist will reside in a Dropbox accessible by branch officials only. Great care was taken to protect privacy issues.

As a matter of routine, the SIR-Call Directory will be updated monthly to reflect our new members contact information, elimination of members who have resigned and known changes of current members contact information.

If there are any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, please send me an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon



Congratulations to **Sam Veneziano** our May 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.

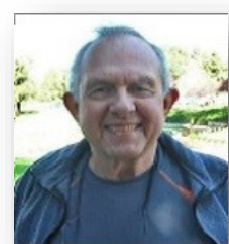
Consider contacting a sick SIR to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

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.

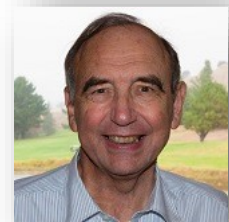
This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

Hugh Ferguson



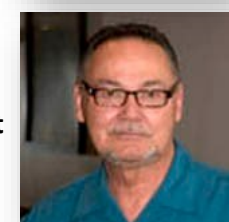
Stan Stricherz



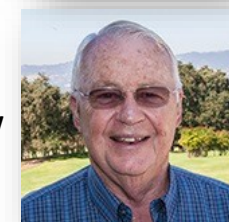
Ed Marlovits



Joe Hunt



Vince Rettew



NOTES

from Our Members

1. **ARBITRAITOR**
A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonald's.
2. **BERNADETTE**
The act of torching a mortgage.
3. **BURGLARIZE**
What a crook sees through.
4. **AVOIDABLE**
What a bullfighter tries to do.
5. **COUNTERFEITER**
Workers who put together kitchen cabinets.
6. **LEFT BANK**
What the bank robbers did when their bag was full of money.
7. **HEROES**
What a man in a boat does.
8. **PARASITES**
What you see from the Eiffel Tower.
9. **PARADOX**
Two physicians.
10. **PHARMACIST**
A helper on a farm.
11. **RELIEF**
What trees do in the spring.
12. **RUBBERNECK**
What you do to relax your wife.
13. **SELFISH**
What the owner of a seafood store does.
14. **SUDAFED**
Brought litigation against a government official.



Looking for something to do...

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

ONLINE

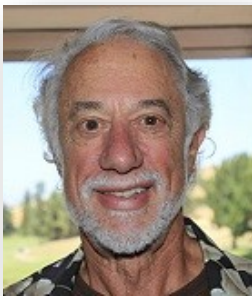


ACTIVITY

Some activities such as Hearts and Cribbage are played online, while others, like our book and photography groups have moved their activities online using Zoom. Look for this icon that designates these activities! Others like Golf, Hiking, RV Wanderers and Cycling have resumed outdoor activities. If you can't find one that is just right for you, well, start a new one! Bob, our Activities Coordinator would love to help you!



zoom



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Clint Collier, our glorious SIR-Call editor, has proposed a new eating activity called Friends of Sushi or Sushi no tomodachi. 寿司の友達.

That is right, eating raw fish.

SIR members will meet either once a month or once every other month, to have lunch at a predesignated sushi restaurant to evaluate the quantity and quality of their "product," and to enjoy lunch together!

If it is not worthy, the group can chase the chef with chop sticks.

We will have to wait for the State SIR to open indoor activities to start this activity and others.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

The Cribbage group for Branch 146 soldiers on by continuing to play online, under the guidance and tutelage of our C.T.O. **Jim Nelson**. Tournament No. 10 is moving toward its finish with only one member, **Jeff Baily**, still undefeated. Several other contestants are vying to play him for the overall championship.

We started the tournament with 15 participants, meaning that a strong interest in cribbage continues in our branch. One reason I personally was interested in this branch is when my sponsor, **Jim Steadman**, pointed out to me that one of the activities was cribbage, and I have played with the group ever since.

Stay tuned for next month's column and learn who the winners were in this latest tournament. All the players' skills are improving, and the competition is at a new high.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

The fact that there's a road to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

May 7th: With the sun high and bright and for a change no wind the boys rode.

From Danville out to the far South of Danville to Windermere. The new community way out in the boonies.

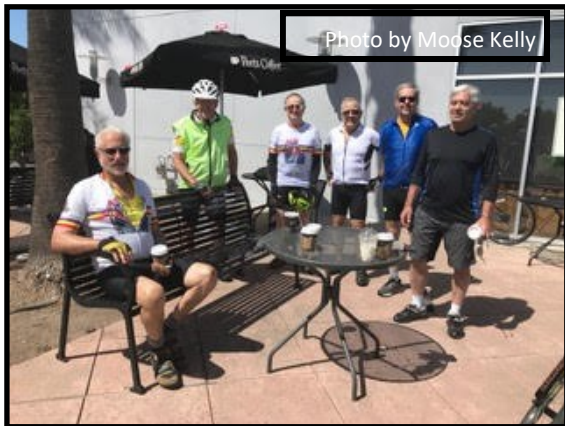
Riding today was **Bob Lucido** on his new chariot, **Bill Holly**, **Tom** (finally) **Alborg**, **Doc Michael Wolfson**, **Roger Meyer** ,**Big Jim Nelson** todays leader, and of course the Moose man, **John Kelly**.

The outline showed 850 feet of climb but it was more like 1250. Java at Peets with some massive belly bombs to coat the tummy.

Back to Danville after a great and warm ride. Todays ride was formulated by **Moose** and **Jim**. I thank them both for doing this as I await some medical information

May 18th: The wind said 'no' but we said "go". Off we rode to Blackhawks Eastern edge. We explored Lawrence Road and took it to the end. Very bucolic and scenic. Homes that are on huge properties as well as the newer smaller units.

We went to the terminus of Lawrence road and then headed back. As luck had it, we enjoyed a tail wind back to Danville. Riding today were: **Bob Lucido**, **Bill Ross**, **Pat Hoy**, **Paul Brown**, **Steve Schlossberg** (friend), and **Larry Kaye**.



(L to R): **Bob Lucido**, **Jim Nelson**, **Bill Holly**, **Tom Alborg**, **Michael Wolfson**, **Roger Meyer**

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



Pickleball and Ping Pong

Jim Burk & Ron Afdal

We will let you know when the Yellow Tier is achieved. Speculation would say that Tier will most likely be achieved approximately by June 15, 2021. That would allow doubles play. Or, the Governor may remove all restrictions on the same date. We will inform you of the proposed opening dates and specific protocols when they are known.

Jim Burk - Pickleball
(925) 946-1192
jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong
(925) 825-4809
ronafdal@comcast.net



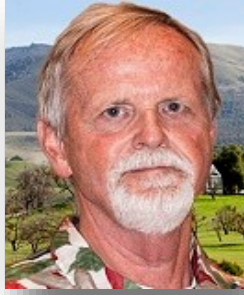
Table Pool

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



LEGO Unveils New Genderless Bricks With No Male/Female Connectors





Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 19th from 9 AM to 11 AM, via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Our theme for this meeting is "Minimalism."

Minimalist Landscape Photography. In photography almost always, less is more. The fewer elements in a photo the clearer the story and the more impact your photo will have. Song writers tell powerful emotive stories with very few words, imagine if they were rambling on "and then this happened and then that and blah blah blah.....". They use as few words as possible to tell the story, yet how often do we feel the emotion of the lyrics.

It's the same with landscape photography; we should only include the elements that directly help to tell the story we are trying to communicate.

Now, the challenge for our June meeting is to take landscape photographs with Minimalism as the goal to tell the story.

We will continue our "Photographic Theme" from our April meeting of "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" with pictures from **Henry Thatcher** and **Peter Plante**. Additional pictures from the April theme are welcomed as well.

You can forward your pictures for both the April and June themes to **John "Moose" Kelly** if you are uncomfortable using Zoom's sharing feature but you will tell the story.

We are also planning to discuss the Pixel 5 Camera Phone from Google and to solicit ideas from the group for a photo field trip to practice Minimalism Photography and to take pictures of other items of interest to share at our August Photo Group meeting.

If you are not on our email mailing list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our Zoom Meeting to see what the club is all about, please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda as well as the Zoom Meeting link.

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



Bocce
John Kendrick

As of April 1, 2021 and following the Bocce Federation guidelines, our 2021 Bocce Ball season is still on hold.

In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain

that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus.

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

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

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com



SongSirs
Bruce Borgman

Due to Covid restrictions
 Nothing Scheduled

Nothing new to report. But, we will return to our practices and performances when we're all

immunized with a vaccine!

(925) 932-3961

bgborgman@aol.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Virtually, all of us are vaccinated and able to fish in any venue we choose. And the fishing (and catching) has been terrific. Nearly every one of our haunts has produced results this month.

Lets start with San Pablo Reservoir, our favorite local lake for trout. Except that trout are not the only fish in the lake. There are sturgeon there and both **Ray Pixton** and **Carl Moyer** hooked, landed, and released one of these big fish. In addition, **Phil Scimonelli** caught two catfish, one weighing eight pounds, casting from the shore. Not to say that trout fishing was ignored. **Bob Lively** (a kayak fisherman), **Terry Miller**, **Tom Kostik**, **Harry Sherinian**, **Carl Moyer**, **George Vogt**, **Phil Scimonelli**, **Brion Beetz**, and **Ray Pixton** all caught limits or near-limits on the lake.

Lakes outside of the Bay Area are also producing. **Chuck Vanoncini** led a group of eight fishermen that included **Chuck Cornell** of Branch 146 on our semi-annual pilgrimage to Lake Almanor. The group enjoyed great weather and camaraderie and, as a bonus, landed fifteen rainbows as well as five brown trout that were each in excess of five pounds. The brownies, all females, were released. We are looking forward to the second installment of Almanor fishing in October and are considering an extra trip in July, **Martin Steinpress** of Branch 146 caught a large black bass fishing on a private pond and, on a river outing, caught a 19 inch rainbow on a #16 midge fly. **Ben LaSala** caught some big bass in Amador Reservoir and limited out on rainbows in Lake Camanche. **Steve Paulick** heard that fishermen were nailing lots of crappie in Clear Lake and he decided to try it. He could not catch any crappie and so he switched to bass gear and limited out. **Tom Kostik** spent three days at Pinecrest Lake and caught just under 100 trout plus a few black bass. All, except for a few for the freezer, were released. **George Saks** of Branch 146 fished in Lake Berryessa but, unfortunately, came away empty handed.

In the Bay, a group that included **Lee Clark** of Branch 146 caught ten halibut plus six stripers. **Duane Einhorn** of Branch 146 caught and released two small halibut on a different trip while **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 and **Harry Sherinian** caught both halibut and shark on still another outing.

Tom Kostik and **Mike Corker**, who fish the Delta nearly every week, continued to catch stripers. However, while

fishing the Spoonbill Bay arm of the Delta, they caught a bevy of catfish. **Paul Dubow**, with two of his sons and three of his grandchildren, fished for stripers not far from where the Sacramento River empties into the Delta and they caught seven keeper stripers and two shakers.

We still have yet to do much ocean fishing, largely because the opening of the salmon season has been delayed until June 26. However, **Phil Scimonelli**, who was on a camping trip near Bodega Bay, decided to do some surf fishing, even though gale conditions prevailed. He was the only fisherman on the beach, but he still enjoyed himself, and he did catch and release a small striper. We are looking forward to fishing on the ocean in the coming months. We have three charter trips planned on the Sundance, a possible trip to the Farallones, and individual trips led by members who have their own boats.

We have resumed our monthly in person breakfast meetings. The next meeting is at 8:30 am on June 24 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord . But many of us assemble earlier, beginning at 7:30 am, for breakfast and story swapping. If you are interested in joining our group, and you can do so even if you have never fished or haven't fished in years, you can just show up, or better yet, contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 beforehand and let us know that you are coming.



Martin Steinpress displays the large black bass that he hooked on a private pond



Travel Milt Smith

I have signed the contract for the Princess Cruise 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 will be able to answer all questions about current Covid rules and precautions being taken by the cruise line.

Lisa will be able to answer all questions about current Covid rules and precautions being taken by the cruise line.

lisa@tctat.com 800-528-2223 be sure to mention SIR 146

SIR activities are beginning to open up...we are looking at one cruise so far in 2022



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, 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

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 do not hesitate to contact Milt Smith with questions...miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897c

Contact me at:

Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

miltsmith549@gmail.com

What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast?
A synonym roll!



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our May Sir Call report, we have had online matches of 4 games in 2 groups on Friday April 23rd, and May 14th. May 28th results will be reported next month.

Bob West won 4 games in the last two matches, followed by **Ray Bland** and **Steve Ybarra** who each won 3. **Frank Lucas** gained a record 6 seconds, followed by **Ray Bland** with 4. **Frank Lucas** and **Ray Bland** each had 2 "Shoot the Moons". In lowest average score, **Frank Lucas** led with 62, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 71.

In YTD wins, **Bob Finlayson** leads with 16 wins followed by **Ray Bland** and **Bob West** with 13, and **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** with 10. **Bob Finlayson** won 44% of his games and **Ray Bland** won 41%. Lowest average score, is led by **Ron Polivka** with 71.2, followed by **Ray Bland** with 72.2. YTD "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray Bland** with 8, followed by **George Sabbagha** and **Ron Polivka** with 5. **Ray "STM"** in 25% of his games and **George** in 21%. YTD's 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** with 13, followed by **Ray Bland** with 12. The best "sheriff's YTD" are **Bob Finlayson** and **Bob West** with only 1 uncovered call each.

Future Meetings: Each online group plays 4 games on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our June online games will be Friday, June 11th and 25th at 1pm.

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





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi
Clint Collier

If you like sushi, if you enjoy lunches with friends then this new group is for you!

We're going to form a small group with intent of meeting once a month or so and going out to different sushi restaurants in the area to enjoy our company and to find the best sushi in Contra Costa... or even beyond. If you are interested register now by e-mail to SIRClint@the-colliers.org. Hopefully our first foray will be in July or earlier and will give us a chance to discuss details on how we want to handle future meetings as well as have a great lunch!



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Bob Spellman

Members Syd Whalen, Dick Woodman, Joe Berry, Paul Dubow and Bob Spellman met in Pete Gates backyard where Pete served us a delicious meal. It was great to finally be able to meet in person

again.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

As promised, we sent out a survey to our Couples Dining Out mailing list to gauge the level of interest in resuming this popular activity. The list has about 89 Sir members (including spouses and significant others) and we were pleased to get a very good response of over 30.

We asked questions regarding how soon people wanted to resume the Dining Out, whether they preferred indoors, or out, how many diners they would be comfortable dining with (20, up to 50), what city they would prefer to eat; and the price range they would prefer (less than \$40, to any amount is ok).

The responses of the great majority of the group were overwhelmingly: soon!, anywhere, indoors or outdoors, and any price – indicating a pent-up demand to resume our activity.

So, we have started discussions with the last restaurant we had planned to patronize – Wence's in Pleasant Hill - and have set a date of Monday, July 19 as our first Dining Out event. We have visited the restaurant and they have some added attractive private space and expect to be at 100% capacity starting June 15. The new space can easily accommodate 40 diners and so we will likely limit this initial dining experience to that number. As you know, any participants of SIR activities will have to have on file the waiver and evidence of vaccination. We will likely stick with the menu we had planned to have in November and will have choice of soup or salad, a choice of 5 excellent entrees, and dessert.

FLASH!
WE'RE BACK! NEGOTIATIONS WITH WENCES HAS RESULTED IN OUR FIRST DINING OUT IN OVER A YEAR! SEE THE NEXT PAGE!

Details of the menu and the final negotiated price will be sent to our email list. If you are not of the list, send me your email address and I will add you.

We are excited to re-start this popular activity and look forward to seeing all of you!

bgborgman@aol.com

COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday July 19, 2021

Cocktail Hour: 4:00 -5:00pm

Dinner: 5:00pm

Cup of Chicken Enchilada Soup or Lobster Bisque or Mixed Green Salad

Choice of Entrée (6 choices)

3 Mahi mahi Fish Tacos grilled or battered mahi mahi, organic corn tortillas, cabbage, avocado cumin salsa, guacamole, pico de gallo, green onions

Cajun Jambalaya – penne pasta with chorizo, prawns, bell pepper, onions, asiago cheese with Cajun saffron sauce

Chicken Marsala – penne pasta, chicken, mushrooms, green onions, marsala wine sauce with asiago cheese

King Salmon - wild charbroiled king salmon with lemon corn dill relish, mashed potatoes and broccolini

Chicken piccata - free range grilled chicken breast, white wine lemon caper sauce, mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables

Grilled New York Steak, all natural USDA grilled steak with au jus sauce, roasted garlic, bleu cheese Yukon mashed potatoes, and asparagus

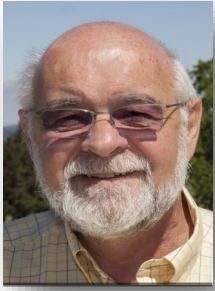
Dessert: Seasonal Cheesecake



1922 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill

Cost per person is \$50 including tax & gratuity Email Bruce (bgborgman@aol.com)
confirm with check to SIR 146, mailed to 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek,
94598 phone 932-3961

Please select soup or salad and entrée



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

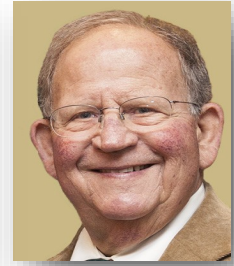
Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of wine and appetizers and are not on my list, please send me an email.

Rob Melrose

(925) 519-2185

RWMelrose@gmail.com



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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

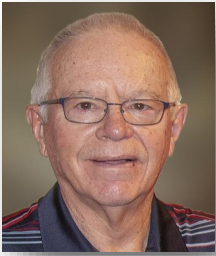


Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

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

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

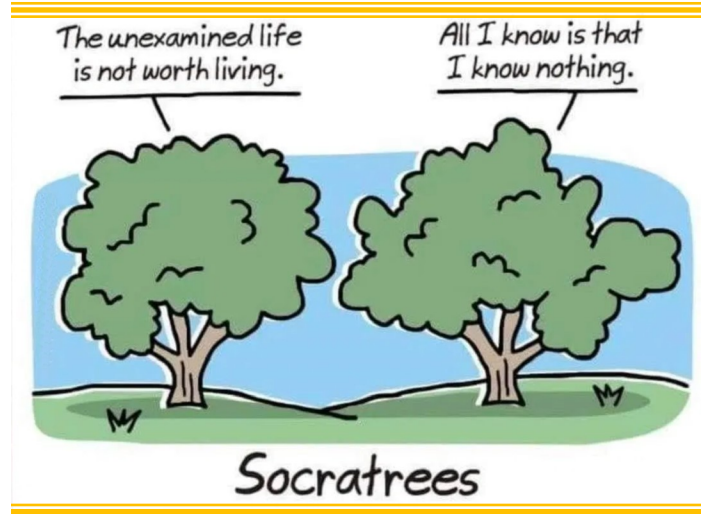
We've been walking somewhere every Friday with between 3 and 10 people in attendance. The most recent hikes were at Carquinez Regional Shoreline (**Bob Lucido, Ray Martz, Earl Bates, & Mike Browne**) and the most recent at Del Valle Regional Preserve (**Ray Martz & Earl Bates**)

The Friday, June 11 hike will be at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland. We will walk north on the Stream trail, climb to the West Ridge trail via Tres Sendas, and return to the parking lot at Canyon Meadow staging area via the West Ridge trail.

A point of caution is that for those that want to join SIR146 hikes from this point forward, you must sign and return the COVID waiver to **George Mon**. These documents will be kept by our BEC.

Directions to the trailhead are: from Walnut Creek, take Hwy 13 south and merge on Hwy 580. Take the exit at Redwood Rd and follow it east to the Redwood Gate entrance. You will have passed the MacDonald gate staging area on the right side of the road about 1 mile before Redwood Gate.

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



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes One Jerry Kaplan

With the State SIR Board providing recent guidance on restarting our branch activities, Mexican Train Group One is ready to get

together for more fun and exciting Game Nights. It's been a long 16 months since we have had that opportunity.

Because the COVID-19 Pandemic has not been declared over, some of the group members remain a little cautious about all 18 regular players gathering together indoors for several hours. Therefore, we are choosing to re-start the activity at a measured pace.

For the first two months of our restarted Mexican Train Dominoes Game Nights (June and July), we will divide into three different groups to keep attendance at a host's home to a maximum of six people. We are planning this approach assuming that everyone is vaccinated and have submitted the waiver form required by the State SIR Board and their proof of vaccination to the Branch's membership Chair, **George Mon**. (**George** is tracking the receipt of the documents in a data base which will be available to each activity chair).

We expect and hope that all 18 members of MTD Group One will be able to meet together at **Jerry** and **Susan's** home for the August Game Night. We are all looking forward to re-starting our Friday Game Nights soon!

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 significant others are always welcome.

Grupo Cinco 5



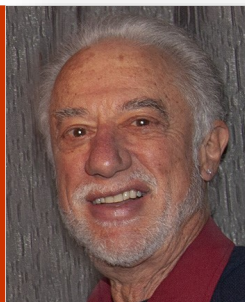
Mexican Train Dominoes Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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

Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes Bob Lucido

We are continuing to meet on Zoom once a month to keep in touch.



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

**All other groups
Nada que reporter
No hay eventos.**



Book Group
John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Five members of our group met on-line on Monday, May 24. **Mike Farrar** continues as our “Zoom master,” which is much appreciated.. We hope to resume our in-person discussions next month, shortly after the magic date of June 15th.

Our book this month was by Bill Bryson, a pretty prolific writer, and titled *The Body*, a recent best seller. It is subtitled *A Guide for Occupants*. In it, he applies a major research and review effort of the medical field over the years to describe what the various systems in body do to keep us going. There are lots of amazing facts, and some of our group thought that there were too many.

He adds lots of history about how many of the discoveries came about that we take for granted today – many of these were the result of the early practitioners, often working on themselves.

He does add humorous “bits” to help carry the reader through some fairly dry material.

The book is divided into 23 chapters, each describing one of the aforementioned systems that comprise us. There are several pages setting the stage for further analysis, hitting the reader with facts about cells, DNA, the various (59 found in us so far) atomic elements that we need to survive, and it becomes clear that there is a lot more learn and discover how we really work. Partial quote from the book: “That is unquestionably the most astounding thing about us – that we are just a collection of inert components, the same stuff you would find in a pile of dirt. I’ve said it before in another book, but I believe it’s worth repeating: the only think special about the elements that comprise you is that they make you. That is the miracle of life.”

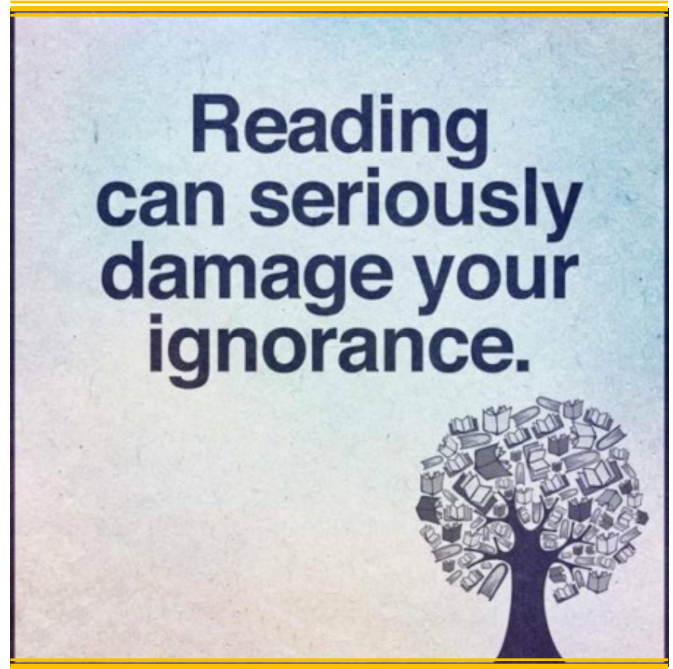
The group’s recommendation is that if this book could be of interest to a reader; consider choosing the specific parts of the body that may be of interest to you for your study session. I see this as a book for non-medical students, and not for doctors. It does become a bit of a slog as you near the end, and I do mean the end.

For our next book, we have chosen *ZERO FAIL, The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service*, by Carol Leonng, a recently published book. The runner-up, which could be our next book, was *Premonition*, by Michael Lewis, which was

featured recently on 60 Minutes.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 21, hopefully in person at the Greenery restaurant at 9:00 AM, but if on-line at 8:30 AM.

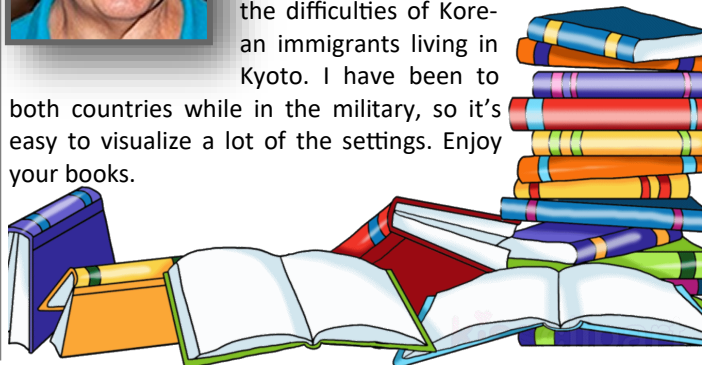
Report edited by **Paul Dubow**
John Pearl, Interim Chair



Book Corner
Peter Plante

I hope you are reading some good stories. My current book is called *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. It’s set in Korea and Japan in the 1920’s. Japan had taken over Korea at that time, and the book details the difficulties of Korean immigrants living in Kyoto. I have been to

both countries while in the military, so it’s easy to visualize a lot of the settings. Enjoy your books.





Pinochle
Charlie Kahsen
&
Jeff Morrow



We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

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

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

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

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Charlie Kahsen

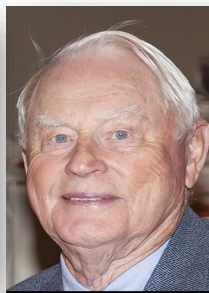
(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

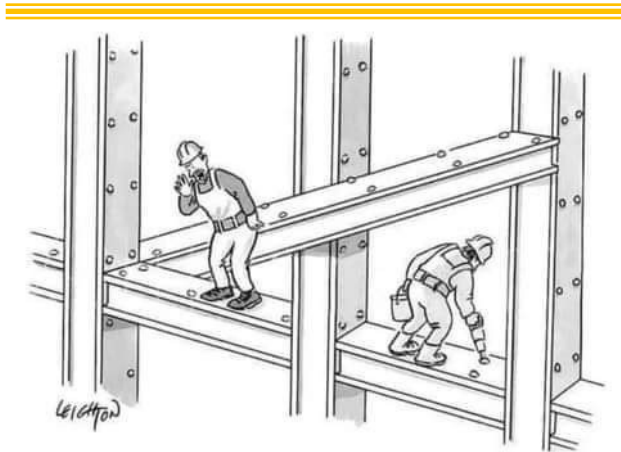


Nine Hole Golf Group
Verner Laursen

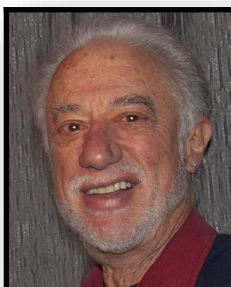
The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. Exception is the second Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

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



“Escher! Get your ass up here.”



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 Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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

Tony & Cindy Greco

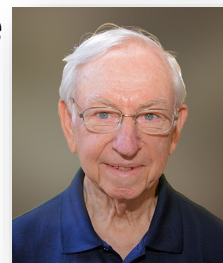
(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

Jim Pope & Jim Stedman



Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Dick DeVoe

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



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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



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.

I found \$20 in a parking lot and thought to myself, "what would Jesus do?"

So... I turned it into wine.



Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



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**: bobwendy3@comcast.net

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Poker Group Six is looking for new members when we resume play as we have lost several members recently. We meet on the first Thursday of the month starting at 12:30 PM

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

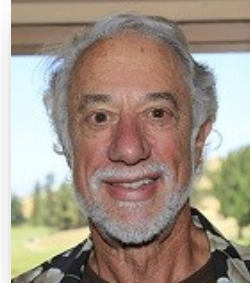


Poker Group 3 Sig Kalteis

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Poker Group 7 Bob Lucido

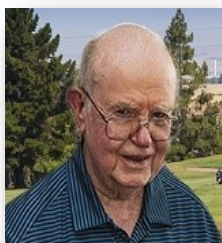
Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



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

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 4 Rich Hanford

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Poker Group 5 Bill Roberts

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



During labor, the pain is so great
that a woman...
Can almost imagine what a man feels like when
he has a cold.

Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group



Computers & Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

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

The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, June 17th starting at 9:30 AM.

The June discussion will be "Surfing the Net More Safely" by **Tom Farr** from Branch 174. Topics including VPN Services, managing passwords, phishing and malware will be discussed.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SI-RArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list. sirarea2cat@gmail.com

rphelon@juno.com
925.254.8338



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!

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their 4th Wed, June 23, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.

Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list. Contact **Dave Sutton** to be included if you're not already.

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



Editorial & Opinion

Have You Earned Your Tomorrow



By Edgar Guest

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
This day is almost over, and it toiling time is through,
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word to you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along?
Or a churlish sort of "Howdy" and then vanish in the throng?
Were you selfish pure and simple as you rushed along the way,
Or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said,
Does a man whose hopes are fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it, was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
As you close you eyes in slumber do you think that God would say,
You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?