



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

June 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

I don't feel old, and I don't think of myself as old. So why does society tell me I'm old? According to a Pew Institute survey of Americans done in 2018, on average,

adults between the ages of 30 and 49 think old age begins at 69. People who are currently 50-64 believe old age starts at 72. Responders who are 65 and older say old age begins at 74. So, since I'm only 68, I feel vindicated - I'm not old... yet!

Among the survey respondents who were 65-74, only 21% said they feel old. Even among those who are 75 and older, just 35% said they feel old. My observation as a member of Branch 146 for the past 5 years is that most of our SIR members, regardless of age, don't think of themselves as old either. They don't let a few aches and pains, mental gaps or mobility restrictions stop them from remaining active. And then there are the 80-something SIR members in the Hiking and Cycling activities, who can push me to exhaustion and keep on going. Maybe it's true, as the old saying goes, that you're as young as you feel. And being a SIR member seems to help keep us feeling young.

It's not like I mind getting older - I like it when I get a seat on BART, a discount at the theater, a door held open for me, or payments from the Federal government. I call it "reverse discrimination." Besides, I know that us old codgers will have the last laugh—by 2030, the number of people in the world aged 60 or older is projected to increase by 65%, from 901 million to 1.4 billion; and to nearly 2.1 billion by 2050. Old Guys Rule!

You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old.
—George Burns

I will never be an old man. To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am.
—Francis Bacon and Oliver Wendell Holmes

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.
—Mark Twain

The wiser mind mourns less for what age takes away than what it leaves behind.

—William Wordsworth

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146

"OLD" IS WHEN...

You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

"Getting a little action" means I don't need to take any fiber today.

Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

An "all-nighter" means not getting up to go to the bathroom.

"Getting lucky" means finding your car in the parking lot.

SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, June 8th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30
Zach Harris MPH, MBA of John Muir Health Care speaking on "The Future of Healthcare"
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Our Ladies Day luncheon entertainment with the banjo group was energetic and loads of fun. They even managed to get a few of us to join in on the singing!



In June our speaker is Zach Harris, Vice President, Ancillary Service at John Muir Health who will speak on The Future of Healthcare. In July we will have Charles Fracchia of ABC News to speak on Top Scams Targeting Older Adults.

I attended a meeting last week sponsored by our Area SIRs Representative **Jay Gordon** that included six of the 9 BIG SIRs. I sat in for **Bob Wilkenfeld** as he had other commitments. **Jay** presented a spreadsheet showing that the average of all but one of the Branches was 80 years of age. We had the most members followed closely by Branch 8 which also meets at Boundary Oaks. The average for all of the branches in attendance was 160 members. Membership dues varied from \$25 to \$40. Branch 8 uses part of their dues to defer luncheon costs. Our luncheon attendance has been about 52% of membership while others varied from 45% to 61%. Luncheon costs varied from \$30 to \$36.

The major problems cited for the low attendance was threefold: Quality of the speakers, Quality of the food (one of the groups has a buffet) and the issue of Are the Meetings Fun. Our Branch has been working on the speaker issue and the food as well as keeping the length of the meetings crisp but how do we make them more entertaining? One suggestion at the

meeting was to place a few 3x4 cards on each table and ask that members who have ideas or concerns to provide anonymous comments for the BEC to address. I will raise that point at our next BEC meeting.

Across the board, all branches are struggling with recruiting. We need to get you, our members, to contact friends, acquaintances and others who might be interested to come and have a look at us at our luncheons. I have been thinking of putting an ad in our church bulletin and perhaps a flyer with business type contact cards at the 24-Hour Fitness center I attend. Would love to hear your thoughts.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

Because May was Ladies Day Luncheon Month, there was no Branch Executive Committee meeting.

Don Dotson decided to rejoin our branch after five months' absence due to some vision and health concerns. He is now ready to continue branch activities.

Sadly, we lost **Joe Nelms** in April. He was 83 and a member for 9 years. **Joe** had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

The 2023 membership count remains at 248.

If you want to sponsor a new member please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your e-mail, phone, or address, are sent to me in an e-mail (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

May's luncheon was our Ladies Day luncheon and we had a total attendance of 147 members and their spouses.

Our lunches have been running fairly smoothly since the start of

the year. We have implemented a reservation system that will automatically create an e-mail message with your choice of menu option. Not all e-mail systems will work automatically with our automation, but if you find you have a problem, just send an e-mail to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com including your menu choice. By getting your meal choice ahead of time, we are better able to ensure that Boundary Oak has your menu choice available. All reservations are acknowledged via e-mail or voice-mail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours please send another message to the e-mail above.

We appreciate your diligence in making your reservations ahead of time. An accurate count of attendees allows us to only purchase the quantity of lunches we need for the luncheon.

Luncheon

- **Date:** June 8th, 2023
- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$36 per person
- **Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation, you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. To the right, the menu makes this easy for you to do; simply click the appropriate link.

If you do not reserve by
Friday June 2nd by Noon

We assume you will not be coming

Reservations are acknowledged by return e-mail

- **Check-In:** 11:00am The meeting starts at 11:30am.
- **Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters

- **If you don't have e-mail:** you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!
- **Change of Plans?** If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to

Friday June 2nd by noon.

Send an e-mail to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

- **Sponsors of Guests and New Members:**
If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.
- **Questions:**
If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at 925.831.9380 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 June Luncheon

Thursday June 8th, 2023

Salad

Pear Salad

Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears, Blue Cheese,
Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrées

BBQ Beef Brisket

Slow Braised Beef, Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Sautéed Vegetable Medley, BBQ Jus

—or—

Sesame Crusted Pacific Dory

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Lemon Chive Butter Sauce

—or—

Chef's Choice Vegetarian

Tortellini
Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Bailey's Irish Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Slow month for your editors. Things running along smoothly. Don't miss the Parting Shot... a bit long but a cute read on the modern man from George Carlin. Click on his name at the end to view his amazing live

performance of this memorization feat.

The deadline for submissions for the June issue is **June 23rd**. This is a couple of days earlier than usual due to an anticipated vacation starting on the 30th. 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
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
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Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

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Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

June

Thomas Boltz
George Carpenter
Mike Conners
Steve Dinning
Joe Flannigan
Richard Hanford

Ron Lew
Dick McElroy
Jim Pfohl
Ronald J. "Ron" Plachy
Jim Pope
Milt Smith

Mike Wallace
Mike Whitaker
Dean Mayer
Tom Amann
Steve Petersen



**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE JULY MEETING ON
YOUR CALENDAR**



SIR 146 July Luncheon

Thursday, July 13th, 2023

Salad

Pear Salad

Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears, Blue Cheese, Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrées

Marsala Mushroom Chicken

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes,
Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Marsala Mushroom Sauce

—or—

Parmesan Crusted Cod

Orzo Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables
Fire Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce

—or—

Chef's Choice Vegetarian

Manicotti stuffed with Ricotta and Mozzarella
Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Strawberry Shortcake
Whipped Cream

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 2023

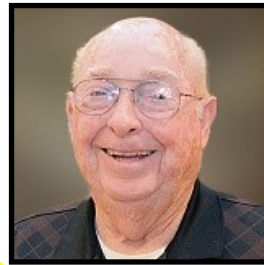


**Sunshine
Brian McCarthy**



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 member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by e-mail at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Dick Richmond

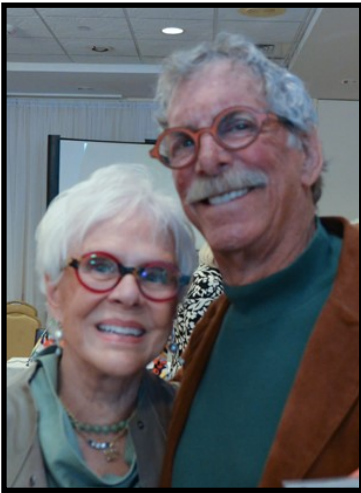
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Herb Wilson	2018	5
John Kluesener	2017	6
Howard Zimmerman	2017	6
John Kelly	2016	7
Bob Lucado	2014	9
George Mon	2014	9
Joe Stengel	2014	9
Carl Tilchen	2014	9
Colin Holland	2013	10
Phil Lendaris	2012	11
Don Rhoads	2012	11
Bruce Borgman	2011	12
Bob Soldano	2011	12
John Pearl	2007	16
Teddy Coggiola	2006	17
Dennis Hallett	2004	19
Dominic Dimatteo	1991	32
Bill Rees	1989	34

MAY 2023 LUNCH LADIES DAY!

Photos by Henry Thatcher















NEXT LADIES DAY... DECEMBER 14TH!





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin

SIR146 is a very active group with 28 unique activities. If you are looking for something fun to do with others, then please see our webpage that lists all these activities: [SIR146 Home](#). Also, please reach out to me with your activity related questions or comments at glennbreslin@gmail.com. The walking group is a new activity. Please reach out if this interests you. If you are interested in activities that are not listed on the SIR146 website, please let me know. Another SIR group may have this activity or SIR146 can start this new activity. The Poker group is looking for more players. Please let me know if this interests you.

Socializing has many health benefits. Here is one:

Socializing can provide a number of benefits to your physical and mental health. Did you know that connecting with friends may also boost your brain health and lower your risk of dementia?

If you are interested in learning about more Socializing health benefits, then link here: [Socializing Health Benefits](#).

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146 and, in some cases, through other SIR branches as well. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity.

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar June 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>Jun 1</u>	<u>2</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3	9:00am Golf		9:30am Nine Hole Golf—1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am—2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Last day for lunch reservations.
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:00am—10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am—1:00pm SIR Luncheon RESERVATION REQUIRED!	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	8:30am—1:30pm Photography Group Ansel Adams Exhibit De Young Museum, SF 9:00am Golf	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:30am Nine Hole Golf—2 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am—3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm—10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
10:00am Hiking 10:00am—3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am—1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00pm—10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am Nine Hole Golf—3	9:00am—11:00am Photography Group at Rocco's 12:00pm—3:30pm Hearts at Rocco's 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	10:00am—11:00am Birding at Rocco's 12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm—3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 6 Seis		



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

April 28th: So, out of 13 able riders we got 5 for today's ride. The weather was great and the trip South was without incident. We toured San Ramon's back streets

and Danville's corners. Riding today were **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Moose Kelley, Bob Lucado** and **Larry Kaye**. Returning to the end we bid goodbye to **Moose**, and settled in at Peets. After solving the world's problems over coffee and treats, we headed home

May 5th: What was supposed to be a Wildcat Canyon ride, then a Bears ride, turned into a later in the morning ride to points South. Five guys; **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer** and **Larry Kaye** showed up. A cool grey start. We rode South, and pierced the San Ramon limits. Then we headed East and eventually North again. The promise was no big hills, and that was delivered. A nice ride, some wind and some rollers. Java was at Peets. The universe's problems were solved. A nice simple ride.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



GOLF Ed Marlovits

SIR State Golf has scheduled a number of our 2023 events: the Team Championship, the Individual Championship, and the Summer in Reno Outing.

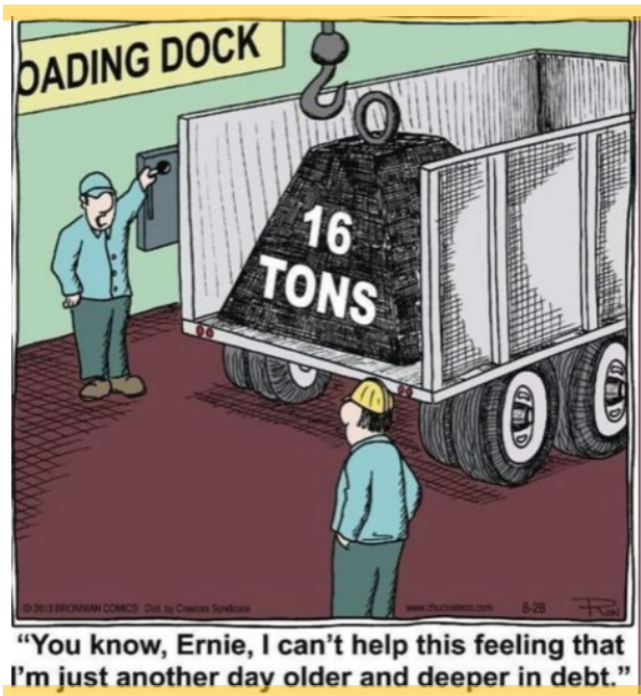
This year there will be no regional or area qualifying tournaments for the Team Championship event. The Championship will be held at the Alistair MacKenzi designed Haggin Oaks course in Sacramento. You can choose to play on Thursday, August 18 or Friday, August 19. Sign ups will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be three recommended nearby hotels if you need suggestions.

There will be a Regional qualifying event for the State Individual Championship. We are in Region 5 which includes our Area 16 and Area 15. Area 15 includes five branches from San Pablo to Fremont. This event will be held sometime in August, perhaps in Pleasanton or Livermore. Suggestions are welcome! The Individual Championship will be held in October at a location to be determined.

Summer in Reno will be September 5–8 and be based at the Silver Legacy Hotel in downtown Reno. The golf venues are Toiyabe and Wolf Run. Ladies and friends are invited. No index is required.

A Fall Classic event is planned for mid-September. Details will be announced next month.

Ed Marlovits



During a recent physical examination, an elderly Jim's doctor asked him about his physical activity level.

He described a typical day. "Well, yesterday afternoon, I took a five-hour walk through some pretty rough terrain. I waded along the edge of a lake. I pushed my way through brambles. I got sand in my shoes and my eyes. I narrowly avoided stepping on a snake. I climbed several rocky hills. I had to stop several times to relieve myself behind some big trees. The mental stress of it all left me shattered. In the end, I drank eight beers."

Inspired by the story, the doctor said, "You must be one heck of an outdoorsman!"

"No," Jim replied.
"I'm just a really bad golfer."



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



Niles Canyon Railway Tour

July 28th 10:00

Sunol Station 6 Kilkare Road Sunol, CA



A railroad museum where the exhibits come to life!

The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. operates Niles Canyon Railway as a living history museum interpreting the importance of our heritage railroads in the development of California and the nation. The purpose of the organization is to preserve the physical aspects and atmosphere of Pacific Coast railroading during the period from 1910 to 1960. Our mission is to develop and operate a working railroad museum for the benefit of the general public. Operating historic railroad equipment using standard railroad practices for train crews, signaling, block operations, and equipment maintenance.

- Preserving the atmosphere of railroads in small-town America before the 1960s by connecting the historic communities of Sunol, the Niles District of Fremont, and eventually Pleasanton.
- Providing educational programs for schools, civic organizations, and community events.
- Instructing the public in railroad history, tradition, and the evolution of rail transportation technology.

The Pacific Locomotive Association also has railroad artifacts on display and interpretive educational exhibits at the Sunol Depot.

**Signup: send a check for \$8/person (SIR146 w/ note: Railway Tour) to
Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507.**

Lunch following at [Bosco's Bones & Brew](#) 11930 Main Street, Sunol, across the street from the Niles Canyon Railway Station. Lunch details to follow.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

I want to start by welcoming our new members. We have really been enjoying this beautiful spring weather. The greens are in tip-top shape and the course is playing much better since the rains have stopped. And for those of you that like to ride there are no cart restrictions. Just let me know and I will add you to our list. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an e-mail asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an e-mail with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope

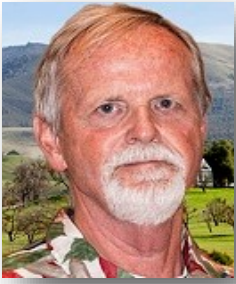
Bonus Tour

Visit to the California Independent System Operator—CAISO

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) maintains reliability on one of the largest and most modern power grids in the world, and operates a transparent, accessible wholesale energy market. The organization works diligently around the clock to meet the electricity needs of consumers, while increasing the amount of renewable energy to usher in the clean, green grid of the future. We had 13 people join the tour; **Ed and Audry Marlovitz, Steve and Susan Oki, Rih Pace, John Pearl, Dave Pierce, Jim and Renie Pope, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews.** The tour covered the history of the ISO, the how and why the California ISO was formed. And then we proceeded to an observation conference room where we all could see the many 7 X 24 hour desks and large screen (the width of the room about 200 feet across) showing the Western US electric grid operating in real time. We observed the many areas that were being monitored like electric markets and electric reliability of the State and the Western US.



"I just cleared out some space in the freezer."
Sounds so much more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream."



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, June 23rd at Rocco's. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is not the normal meeting time of our photography group. We will be meeting one week later due to changes in our schedule.

The June 23rd meeting, starting at 9:00am, will comprise of a discussion of our recent outing to the De Young Museum on the Ansel Adams exhibit: *In Our Time*. Additionally, we will have members of the group present pictures on the various contrast of lighting with our changing spring sky on landscape photography. **Peter Plante** will have a series of photographs to share on his recent trip to the England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. There will be additional subjects to display and discuss at our gathering.

Certainly, coffee and donuts will be served. We request a donation to cover the coffee that Rocco's provides for us as well as the use of the room for our meeting.

As we get closer to the meeting date, I will forward an agenda for the meeting to those that are on our mailing list. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

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

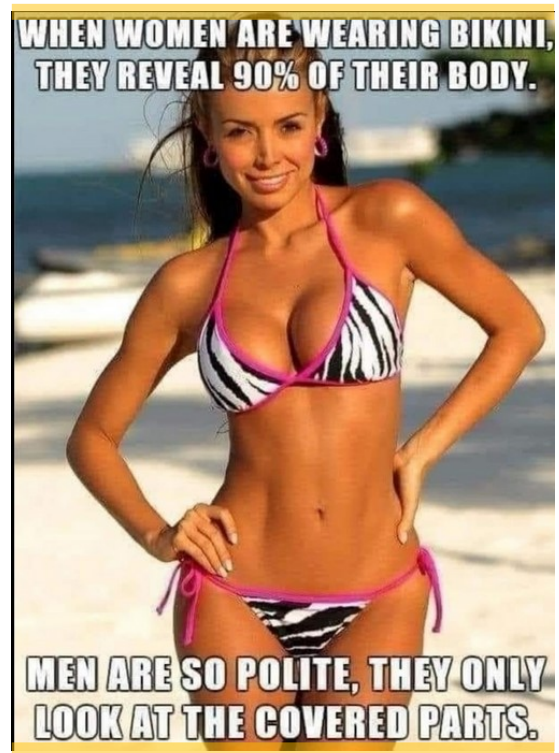
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



My doctor told me he was concerned about my high blood pressure.

I told him, well, next time don't leave me sitting in the waiting room for two hours



Travel Glenn Breslin

I very much look forward enabling SIRS to share travel experiences with other SIRS. SIR Travel **goals** are to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together !!

International Trip Planned to Spain and Portugal – April/May 2024



Based upon SIR146 questionnaire inputs, SIR146 will be going to Spain and Portugal. Many people have signed up already, it would be nice to also have you along !!

Spain and Portugal Trip Summary Information:

Dates: 4/27/24 to 5/12/24

Cities: Please see the flyer for further details: Madrid, Segovia, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Gibraltar, Costa Del Sol, Alhambra, Valencia, Barcelona

Included: Round Trip Airfare, 15-day guided tour with Travel Director, 14 nights at centrally located 4-star hotels, 5 dinners and 2 lunches including wine, All tips, transfers and baggage handling also included in the price.

Cost: Total cost depends airfare, e.g., if you choose to include airfare in the tour package and the type of airfare that you chose. Please contact see me to discuss exact fare further.

Discount: Alamo World Travel will offer a \$200 discount offer for a very limited time.

Further Info: Please reach out to me directly glennbreslin@gmail.com for more info. I will also send you the updated trip flyer.

Upcoming England and France Trip—Sept 2024

A September 2024 trip to England and France focusing on World WarII events (e.g., blitz, D-Day, Paris occupation etc.) is currently being planned. SIR146 Branch Executive Committee (BEC) trip approval is expected at the meeting on 06/11. This trip is limited to 8 people only. If you are interested, then please contact me ASAP !!

Quotes

"Life was meant for good friends and great adventures".

"There is an unspoken bond that you create with the friends you travel with".

"In life it's not where you go, it's who you travel with".

"You travel faster alone, but farther together".

"A good friend listens to your adventures. A best friend makes them with you".

I look forward to traveling with you!!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Why do I and the other hard-core hikers walk/hike 5 miles and climb about 1000 feet in the wonderful and varied trails throughout the Bay area? Yes, it's a lot of work, and we are generally tired, grimy, and covered with sweat when we are done with the typical Monday hikes. My answer, for me anyway, is that this is a time to reflect, a time to BS a bit with good friends, and a great opportunity to observe what is left of the natural world that used to be all around us. And at this time of year, after the winter monsoons, the flora and fauna are benefitting greatly. It's been several years since we have seen such a display of wildflowers and this much new growth on the many tree species native to this area. We generally see a variety of bird species, and occasionally a coyote, bobcat, or deer. Strangely enough we see turkey vultures circling over us during the hikes. Are the turkey vultures waiting for an opportunity while we senior citizens are walking in their domain?

So, **Ray Martz** and I are going to continue to organize Monday hikes in Mount Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Parks, and Walnut Creek Open Space. When you think about these 3 organizations, the total area is in the order of 30000 acres, maybe more. That's a lot of ground to cover. We should consider ourselves to be very fortunate, since this is largest area of hiking trails of anywhere in the USA!

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. We are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your e-mail address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Mark Curtis, Earl Bates, Ray Martz
Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld



Globe Lilly
native to Diablo area
and not seen too often



Pacific Red Elderberry
at Sunol. It's called a Red Elder due to the color of the berries later in spring/summer.



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Members of our area group, including **Lee Clark** and **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, had a great time in the month of May fishing for halibut.

During the early part of the month, almost everybody limited out. In addition, most of the fish were good size with very few shakers. However, as the month progressed, limits were harder to come by. There is a reason why this happened. Salmon fishing is closed this year and so all those who normally fish for

salmon in the spring are fishing for halibut and there are just so many fish in the bay. Indeed, the area next to the Alameda Rock Wall often looks like a parking lot. It has been estimated that the halibut catch this year is five times greater than last year, notwithstanding that 2022 was a very good year! The Department of Fishing and Wildlife has taken note of the fact that in 2009, the year following the last salmon closure, halibut fishing was very poor and so it has reduced the limit from three to two per day as of June 1 in order to avoid a repeat of 2009.

Although salmon fishing is closed, **Ken Bellindir** and **Carl Moyer** managed to handle quite a few salmon when they assisted the Coastside Fishing Club in its salmon stocking program. On three occasions this spring, the club filled a pen with 250,000 salmon smolt, releasing them one week later.

There was other activity on the coast. **Stan Wong** spent one week on Tomales Bay, hunting for and finding cherrystone clams. There also were some Washington clams in his catch. **Phil Scimonelli** surf fished at Sunset Beach and caught some

perch.

Moving inland, striper fishing has been decent. **Phil Scimonelli** caught a bevy of small stripers at the Antioch Pier, using anchovies as bait. But when he switched to sardines, he was able to land some keeper stripers. **Tom Kostik** made six trips to the Delta, landing 43 stripers, six of which were keepers. However, for the first time in years, one

of the trips produced no fish.

San Pablo Reservoir is being stocked regularly with trout and **Bob Lively** of Branch 146 and **Carl Moyer** both did very well there, limiting out on rainbows on several trips. **Phil Scimonelli** picked up three trout in a short time, fishing from shore, but had to



quit early because of wind conditions.

Eight fishermen, including **Brad Hatcher**, **Chuck Cornell**, and **Ross Abbott** of Branch 146, made the semi-annual trek to Lake Almanor and caught 39 beautiful rainbows over a two-day period. They also enjoyed a feast prepared by guide **John Crotty**, that included his award-winning pork ribs. **Steve Paulik** and **Ben LaSala** made two overnight trips to fish for kokanee, spending three days at Whiskeytown Reservoir and later five days at New Melones Reservoir. They caught near limits at each location and also reported seeing lots of black bass caught at New Melones. But the prize for the longest trip goes to **Mike Browne** of Branch 146. He traveled to Ohio to visit one of his sons and took some time off to fish for trout. He also landed some catfish and one turtle!

Finally, 21 of us enjoyed the semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer's** home, where we downed **Carl's** tasty rockfish and ling cod fillets, potato salad, cole slaw, and delicious brownies and lied about our fishing feats.

Continued on next page

Fishing continued from previous page

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings, even if you have never fished before. During the next six weeks, we plan to continue to fish for halibut in the bay, fish for bass, stripers, and sturgeon in the Delta, and try our luck for trout at San Pablo Reservoir and other local venues. In addition, we will be able to fish for rockfish and ling cod in local waters as of July 15 and we have scheduled several guided striper trips in the Delta and a kokanee outing at Stampede Reservoir near Truckee. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, June 22, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7 am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow



SongSirs

Peter Plante

The SongSirs are working on our new repertoire of songs for our July performance. We have included old favorites such as “Ramblin’ Rose “ and “Summerwind “ to go along with folk favorites “Where Have All The Flowers Gone” and “We’ll Sing in the Sunshine.”

A big thanks to **Bruce Borgman** and **Steve Dinning** for getting our new music set up and distributed to our singers. **Bruce** did a yeoman job in directing the SongSirs while I was on vacation.

Our next rehearsal is on June 7 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be introducing a new set of songs for a July 6 performance at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Birding Frank Lucas

Steve Loftin, Pete Gates, Henry Thatcher, and I did a go-around at the pond at Heather Farms. Not much happening there at this time, but **Henry** did a good job of photographing this new family.

graphing this new family.



Frank Lucas

925.316.6122 frank.lucas1105@gmail.com



Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in July for the Luncheon. Thanks to everyone at the Ladies Day Luncheon who took home some of their favorite authors. There’s a great selection in hardcover or in paperback. Come by and take home some terrific reading.





Book Group John Pearl, Interim Chair

In May, the members of our group could choose one of two books to read. The first was *Let the Peacock Sing—Love In a Time of Resistance, France 1942-1944*. The second available selection was *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*.

There are some distinct similarities in the two books, as they are both set in World War II, and are the stories of the “Resistance” in France and Italy.

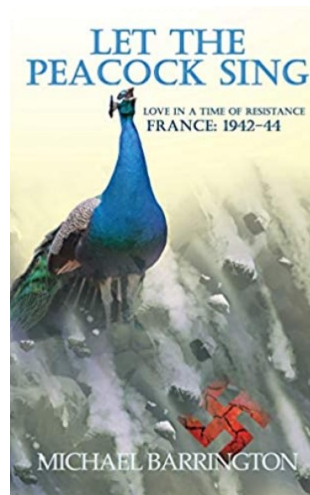
Let the Peacock Sing was written by a local author and fellow SIR, Michael Barrington, a member and former Big Sir of Branch 116. The Resistance was known in France by the name “Maquis,” and was supported by the Allies, primarily the British through the S.O.E., Churchill’s “Secret Service.”

After the surrender of the French in 1940, the country was divided into two areas, the German occupied portion in the north, and a quasi-independent area in the south that became Vichy France, named after the town that served as the capital for the area under Marshall Petain. This is the area where the Peacock story takes place and is basically a true story of the events and people of the Resistance and the authorities who attempted to end their activities.

There is also romance set in the story. Henriette, the local head of the Maquis who runs the various local Resistance cells, is a wealthy sophisticated, fashion-conscious countess who owns a chateau in southwest France. Her strong friend and love interest is the abbot who runs the local abbey. He is also one of the leaders of the Resistance. Although the abbot is fond of Henriette, his religious faith is stronger. In any event they keep their feelings to themselves and are not distracted from the tasks at hand.

However, there is young couple who do not hang back, and the young woman gets pregnant. She is a German and so circumstances separate them, but the story concludes with them reuniting after the war.

The British help move the story along by sending a



beautiful young woman to the group. She is an explosive expert and brings a radio to report to London about what she learns. The Resistance works to destroy weapons factories, interrupt rail traffic by dynamiting the railroads, and ambush a German armored column. Of course all this is done as the Gestapo works frantically to hunt them down. The book tails off as they prepare to

support the Allied landings at Normandy on D-Day.

As someone who did not know much about Vichy France and the Resistance, it was of great historical interest to me to read the stories and gain some insight as to how the French were actually able to outwit and then sabotage the German war effort. The author has great knowledge of the area and time, living in that part of France and being married to a French woman. A good read with lots of adventures woven into the actual historical story.

The other book we read was *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*, an Amazon best seller by Mark Sullivan. He is a well-known author who has received numerous awards. He also spent time in West Africa. Another one of his well-known books is *The Last Green Valley* which we read earlier and liked very much.

He was attending a cocktail party in his home town of Bozeman, Montana, at loose ends and wondering what he was going to do next. It was there that he heard the tale he researched and made into a great book. He made several trips to Italy and interviewed many people, including Pino, still alive at the time of the writing.

The book is the story of a young 17 year old man, Pino Lella, who lives in Milan, and becomes part of the Italian Resistance, known as the Partisans. His parents owned and operated a leather shop that primarily makes high-end purses. He pursues the life of a boy his age, and doesn’t worry too much about the war. He is familiar with the mountains near Milan, and spent time at a religious retreat there. He becomes an excellent skier.

The war gets to the point where the Italians are unable to uphold their end of the bargain with Hitler, and so he essentially takes over the war front in southern Italy. It

Continued on next page

is here that the real story begins. The Germans take over the security services in and around Milan, and become the ruling authority. Meanwhile, the Allies land in Sicily and then go on to the Italian mainland to begin their assault up the country.

Pino was spending time at the retreat in the mountains that was run by a Catholic Father. He soon finds himself going on serious hikes around the surrounding mountains at the direction of the Father. Later it is revealed to Pino that the Father is running a smuggling operation to move Italian Jews to the safety of Switzerland. Pino also has a good friend who is living in the area, and who is a very good driver. He shares his skills with Pino, who also becomes a very good driver, a skill which serves him well later in the war.

Pino moves back to Milan and home for a while, living with his family. However as the war intensifies, and includes heavy bombing by the Allies of Milan and the area, his father sends him back to the retreat in the mountains for his safety. There he gets seriously involved in guiding small groups of Italian Jews to Switzerland and safety.

There are also run-ins with various groups of Nazi police such as the Gestapo, who they convinced that human smuggling was not going on.

This goes on for several months until Pino gets an urgent message to return home. He does and finds out that on his upcoming 18th birthday he will become eligible for the

draft, meaning that after a short training period he will be shipped to the Eastern Front as cannon fodder. His family has some connections and strongly pushes him to volunteer and become part of the "Toft," the Military Administrations in France and Italy that were interim occupation authorities established by Nazi Germany during World War II to administer the occupied zones and thus remain in Italy as part of the German occupying force. Shortly after joining, by sheer chance he became the driver for the No. 2 German general of the occupying force in Italy who seemed to be in charge of ensuring that the defenses were in place for the Allied attacks. This section of the book is an adventure in itself.

The Gestapo runs Milan, and takes revenge on any who appears to be defying the Germans or aiding the allies, including of course the Partisans. Many were publicly killed and displayed in an effort to discourage others from misbehaving. After the Germans moved out, the Partisans exacted revenge on those they felt were collaborators, and publicly killed both the general's mistress and her maid, who was also Pino's girlfriend, but not a true collaborator.

In the end, the Germans continued to retreat, over the Brenner Pass, with surprises for reader as they travelled out of Italy into Austria.

Two good reads for people interested in the history of WWII at the ground level.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com





Bocce John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and we are always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball 2023 season is now reality. The fun

starts at 8:30am and finishes around 10:00am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from May through September.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on June 12th.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.



John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Walking Glenn Breslin

Hi to all potential SIR146 Walkers. A new walking group has just formed. We walk for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours on local trails (e.g., Iron Horse, etc.). These walks occur on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9:00am. At this time, we are accepting new members. Please contact me if you care to join. Recent picture below.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Dixieland Band Ross Abbott

So far, the band consists of **Ross Abbott** on piano, **Chuck Cornell** on trombone, **Bud Pierce** on banjo and a ring-in friend of **Ross'**, Jim Patrick, on Stump

fiddle, spoons and other sundry instruments which always guarantees a fun event.

We play stuff like, *Darktown Strutters Ball*, *Beer Barrel Polka*, *Five Foot Two*, and *Carolina*

We plan to meet again on Wednesday, June 28, and would welcome anyone who plays an instrument and enjoys this type of music.

Ross Abbott

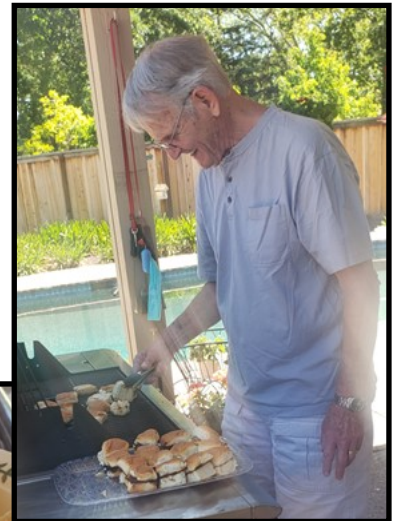
925.939.1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

All eight members of the Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group met at **Pete Gates'** home on May 17 for our monthly luncheon. **Pete** has a large grill in his backyard and so we normally gather there for a nice barbecue lunch when **Pete** is the host. And **Pete** produced as usual.

We had a choice of lamb or beef sliders as the main course (although most of us chose one of each) accompanied by potato salad and/or coleslaw. Dessert was a scoop of ice cream with butterscotch sauce and whipped cream. We

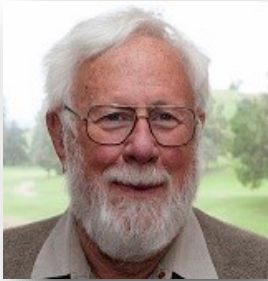


also engaged in our usual debates about world affairs and the result was as expected. No minds were changed.

While we dined at **Pete's** home, our spouses enjoyed themselves lunching at the Bistro in the Lafayette Park Hotel where, among other things, they were entertained by a singing waiter

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566

The 5 second rule doesn't work when...
You have a 2 second dog!



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Several forays in the past the Couples Dine Out group visited [Kobe in Pleasant Hill](#)

for a hibachi style Japanese dinner. I took note of the fact that they also offered an extensive sushi and sashimi menu at that time. So... I think it is time to check this out and see if their sushi is as good as the hibachi. So for the month of June we will convene at 11:30 on June 15th at this Pleasant Hill (1918 Oak Park Blvd) restaurant in anticipation of some great sushi, we know there will be great company!



This is a popular restaurant so a reservation is a must. A notice will go out the first of June to members of the group, please respond so we know how many to reserve for. If you aren't a member of our mailing list/members, shoot me an e-mail and ask to be added. We have room for only about 3 more before we either weed out or start a standby list.

Clint Collier
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



The April wine tasting was a great success. The hosts, **Larry and Ann Kaye**, opened their beautiful home and yard and did an outstanding job of welcoming the SIR wine enthusiasts. Everyone gathered under the covered deck and sipped either Pinot Noir or Sauvignon Blanc (or both). The appetizers were delicious. **Al & Diane Munayer** won for the favorite red wine and **Bob & Wendy Lucado** won for the favorite white wine (for the second time in a row). It was definitely a fun afternoon.

JULY WINE TASTING

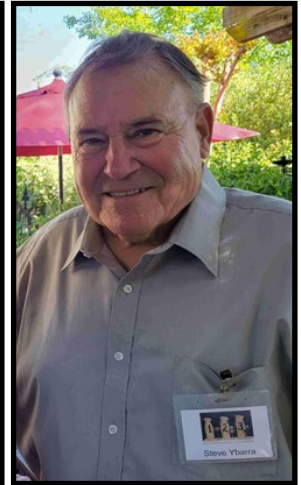
The date for the July wine tasting has changed. The new date is July 11 (the second Tuesday). It will be at the home of **Bob & Wendy Lucado**. It begins at 2:30 and goes until 5:00pm. The red wine for July will be Syrah and the white will be a Gewurztraminer. Bring either a red or a white in a brown paper wine bag plus an appetizer to share.

Don't wait to RSVP. Spots usually fill quickly. Don't end up on the "back up" list. Once you respond, if you don't get a confirmation within a few days, please let me know. The confirmation will have a recap of the information plus the form to fill out regarding the wine you are bringing.

To RSVP call **Brian @ 925.324.2463** or e-mail us at br146winetasting@gmail.com

RSVP: 925.324.2463 or Br146winetasting@gmail.com

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out just enjoyed their May Dining Out event on May 23 at La Finestra Restaurant in Moraga and, from all appearances, a good time was had by all. Pretty quickly

after the e-mail notice went out, many of our regulars signed up to attend. By the time the announcement hit the SIR-Call at the end of April—we had just six openings left to our limit of 60 diners. We did get a few more couples to fill up to our maximum of 60 diners. We took over the main part of the restaurant.

The menu consisted of a mixed green salad for all and we had a choice of four entrees—all of which turned out to be very good. Dessert was tiramisu with coffee or tea.

We were able to chat with many of our old friends and some new ones. One special treat was to see **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**, who decided a year or so ago to become ex-pat's and move to Mazatlán, Mexico. They joined us for this special occasion, and it was great to renew acquaintance with these dear friends.

We did have two couples who were not able to attend due to last minute problems, but we were able to get their complete dinners "to go" and your hosts gathered them up and delivered the meals to these folks the following morning. We were fortunate to be able to provide this special service, but our diners should understand that we must provide the restaurant with a final number several days prior to the event and if you can-

not make it, you may forfeit the cost of the meal.

We will be looking to another venue where we can enjoy a good dinner at a restaurant that can accommodate the 60 some off diners who these days join this wonderful social activity of our branch. Several suggestions were made, and your hosts will be checking them out in the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, everyone was having such great fun that no one apparently thought to take pictures of this event until it was all over. I took one of the restaurant afterwards—and will include that one.

The next Couples Dining Out event will be in July – we will likely shoot for Monday, July 17th—mark your calendars. Let us know of any new dining spot that you have liked that we can consider for this next event.

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out Hosts
bgborgman@aol.com



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Bruce Borgman hosted the Cooking II gathering in May at the Burma 2 restaurant in Walnut Creek. The group ordered a green tea salad, a lamb dish, a chicken dish, green beans and coconut milk rice which we all shared. We were assured by our waiter that this selection of dishes would be plentiful and good. We were not disappointed. Various world and local topics were discussed including the upcoming Ladies Day Luncheon which was held that Thursday. **Dennis**

Hallett will host our next lunch on Monday, June 12.

Steve Ybarra



left to right: Ken Richter, Dennis Hallett, Bruce Borgman, Corrie Oranje, Richard Hockenbrock and Steve Ybarra

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

How quickly time flies, especially as we are now starting to resume our social activities and watching our calendars fill

up once again! Mexican Train Uno met in May at **Bruce and Sue Borgman's** lovely home for another rousing game of Mexican Train.

Prior to the game, a few of us ladies were commenting on the fact that **Richard** has placed in the top three a little to regularly and felt we needed to try to change things up a bit. Someone "up there" obviously heard our comments because poor **Richard** had horrible tiles (!) and yet still placed in the middle of the pack of players. Top scorers were **Martha Plante** (1), **Sue Oranje** (2) and **Jim Stedman** (3).

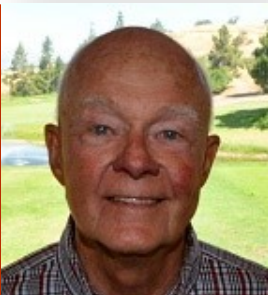
And for any of you who know **Sue and Bruce**, we were treated to gourmet treats and a bakery perfect mocha torte and a strawberry cheesecake that were works of art!

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Sue Oranje, Jim Stedman,
Martha Plante

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our April game at the home of **Mary and Chuck Denney**. We had a much smaller than normal

group of seven for only one table. We even broke the basic rules and had husbands and wives play together. Surprisingly we had no marital spats!

All enjoyed the snacks and goodies **Mary** put out... some too much as I for one might have over done it!

Coming in first was **Ismeni MacLean**, second place was taken by **Rich Ahlf**, our hostess, **Mary Denney** came in third. Our next game is scheduled for Friday, May 26th at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**.

Ron Plachy
925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

adventures at the hillside home of **Sharon Varner**. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

On April 28th, the good ole choo choo left the roundhouse and made its way to the home of **Sally and Lynn Shafer** for a friendly night of MTD's. In addition to **Sally and Lynn**, there was **Alicia Baily, Sharon Varner, Linda Siljestrom and Walt Busenius**. There were only 6 of us but everyone enjoyed the abundance of delicious desserts and treats, and the **Shafer's** charming hospitality.

We gathered around the dining room table and only played 5 games, but they were long ones. When the score sheet was tallied, you guessed it, **Alicia Baily** took home first place with the avg low score of 11.00/gm. It was not a close match, but **Sally Shafer** (avg 18.40/gm) ascended from the field to garner 2nd Place, with **Walt Busenius** (avg 21.00/gm) limping in with a smile and gratitude to grab 3rd Place.

On May 26th, the Mexican train will exit the roundhouse after the SIR-Call is published. But that will not deter us from telling you next month of our



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

On May 12th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 people. In attendance this evening were; **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace and Jim and Renie Pope**. The sweets, savories and wine were provided by several in the group. We all wished the mothers in attendance "A Happy Mother's Day". We played at two tables of five. We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Dick DeVoe and Kim Pace** (see in pictures). The individual with the high score at was **Barbara Thatcher** awarded two Lotto tickets. (Photos were taken by Jim Pope) The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on **June 16th**.



Jim Pope
jpoppe24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

The Hallett's hosted our May 18th 2023 gathering.

Sadly, the group was reduced to eight players as **Jim Burk** caught a cold and, for our sake, reluctantly stayed home with **Anne**. The **Burk's** were missed by all, and we look forward to their participation next month. Get well soon **Jim** !

Dave Pierce gave an update on recent rule clarifications and the new score sheet format was introduced. **Dave** continued to follow the rules and as a reward, finished up our winner. **Ann Hallett** and **Joan Pierce** came in second and third.

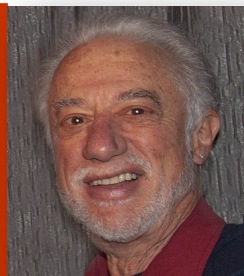
The dreaded "Double Blank" took its toll and many players reached for additional glasses of wine or extra chocolate goodies as a consolation.

Thankfully **Ann Hallett** restored hope after serving a Coconut and Cream Cake that was enjoyed by all.

Judy and **Jim Baldrige** will host our next gathering on June 15th 2023, where we expect to continue enjoying a fun evening with special friends.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucado

Bob and **Judy Wilkenfeld** hosted the MTD 7 gang this month.

Bob Lucado, for the first time in the history of MTD 7 came in first, and needed smelling salts to be revived. **Bob** had a low average score of 10.3 and was pleased to receive \$21, which he promised to use to take **Wendy** to dinner at McDonald's.

Mary McCarthy came in second with an average score of 12.75 for a prize of \$12, and **Brian McCarthy** got back his entry fee of \$3 with an average score of 15.25.

Bob Lucado

bobwendy3@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO had 19 players show up for game play on Wednesday, May 3rd, making it another month of

near capacity attendance. **Steve and Sue Loftin** were the food hosts preparing goodies for the break and snacks for the tables.

With players on four different tables, there were some incredibly low average scores. Our first-place winner for the evening was **Alicia Baily** with a score of 8.77 played over 9 games at table Red. The second-place winner at table Blue having played eight games was **Jim Barry** who also had an equally impressive overall score of 10.00. Rounding out the third-place winner was **Frank Terzuoli**, at table Orange where he turned in an overall score of 11.00 also after playing 8 games. Congratulations to all three on their outstanding play.

Our next game will be played on June 7th with **Steve Ybarra** as food host. If you would like to sign up as a substitute, send me an e-mail.



Our
Winning
Trio!

Photos by
Richard Hockenbrock

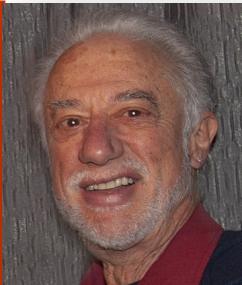


Scratcher
Winners
Susan Terzuoli
Joyce Wells



The Group!

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucado

Dale and Mary Ellen Dalgard hosted the game this month.

Although we had a small group of 8 with four at each table. **Bob Wilkenfeld** won first place with an average score of 10.7 and was rewarded with \$15. **Dave Kingsbury** came in second place with an average score of 13.6 and won a prize of \$7.

Finally, **Jane West** came in third place with a score of 20 and won a measly \$2, but was still happy winning something..

Bob Lucado
bobwendy3@comcast.net



I saw a snake that was 3.14 meters long!
I think it was a πthon!



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the May SIR-Call submission, we met on April 28th and May 12th. The big winners were **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra** with 3 wins. **Dick Wade** had 2 wins. **Ron Polivka**

led in 2nds with 4 followed by **Dick Wade** with 3.

The lowest average score was **Frank Lucas** with 67, closely followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 68. **Dick Wade** "Shot the Moon" twice and **Steve Ybarra** and **Ron Polivka** once.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** has the most wins at 14 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 7.5 and **Bill Vizza** with 6. **Frank Lucas** leads with a winning percentage of 58% followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 38%. Most Improved is **Frank** with 265% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 176%. **Rich Lyon** has the lowest avg score of 67.7 followed by **Dick Wade** with 70.3.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in June on the 9th and 23rd.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com

I wonder if the people paying \$300 for a colon cleanse even know about Taco Bell's \$4.99 deal.



Old Money Poker Group 6

May came and went for our regular first Thursday game. We were unable to get enough players to have our normal game. We look forward to June, on the first, to

resume our play. The game will be hosted by **Frank Lucas**

We are looking for players who might wish to act as substitutes for our regulars in situations like the above. Please contact **Brad Hatcher** if you would like to be a substitute or as potential regular player.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



"What is this, some kind of joke?"



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Our group met at the home of **Margot Somerville** on Wednesday evening. Two of our couples were unable to attend but we were fortunate to recruit replacements for both of them. **Ken and Elaine Richter** and **Steve and Judy Loftin** graciously filled-in. **Margot and Marilyn**

provided delicious snacks, wine and soft drinks. Play was competitive as usual. For the evening third place went to our guests, **Ken and Elaine** with a total of 22 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** took second place with a total of 23.5 points. First place went to **Christy and Dick DeVoe** who managed a total of 27 points for the evening. Thank you one and all for a fun evening. Our next meeting on June 21 will be at the home of the **Yollands**.

John Kluesener
john@klueseners.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event with three tables was nicely hosted by **Bob Yolland** on Friday, May 5.

1st Place—**Ray Spears**—31.5 pts.
2nd Place—**Rich Ahlf**—29.5.
3rd Place—**Dick DeVoe**—28.0.
4th Place—**John Kluesener**—27.0.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (3 boards, with 5.5—6.0 pts.)
Boards 22-24- **Rich Ahlf/Dick DeVoe**—5.5.

MOST TWO'S
Ray Spears- 11.
Rich Ahlf- 10.

LEAST ZEROS
Ray Spears and **Rich Ahlf**—4 each.

Richard Devoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net



"I warned you about pulling out gray hairs."



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

It was another beautiful spring day when **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** hosted us on May 9 th They were rewarded for their excellent hosting (not to mention their bridge skill) by coming in first with a 61% game. You may recall that they came in first in March as well. We'll see in June if

a dynasty is in the works. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were second (58%); **Joan and Dave Pierce** were third (50%).

Nobody was below 42% so it was a competitive match all around. We're all looking forward to doing better in June.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Dick & Christy DeVoe hosted our May 4th event. In contrast to last month when only 4 regular couples attended a 2-Table, all six regular couples attended our May event. Coordinating the event

becomes a lot easier when all or most of our regular couples attend. Good job regulars!

Picking up where they left off last month, **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** came in with cards ablaze. **Tony & Cindy Greco** took an early lead after round 1 with a healthy 1920 points, but lost it in round 2 when playing against **Rich & Ismini**. And the rest is history with **Rich Ahlf & Ismini Maclean** scoring a record total of 5360 points at the end of play. Historically, I can't recall a couples party bridge final score higher than that. Congratulations!

As an aside, a review of the score sheets shows that there were 7 hands played where 6 or 7 tricks above book were made implying a potential for slam bids were missed. Be brave and bid those slams!

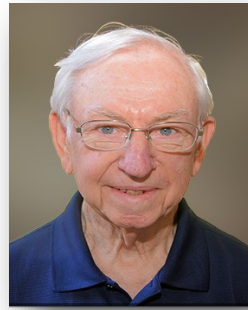
The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 5360 points—**Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**
- 2nd PLACE with 3320 points—**Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 3rd PLACE with 3020 points—**Brad & Lynne Hatcher**

Next month's event will be held on June 6th and hosted by **John & Kathy Kluesener**.

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

What did one casket say to the other?...
Is that you coffin?



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a spirited three table game at the home of Brad Hatcher on Monday May 1st. As usual Brad was a wonderful host. The following were in attendance: **Rich Ahlf, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Snyder, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman and Bob Yolland**.

The high scores were **Joe Fuchs 6300, Steve Dinning 6060 and Jim Stedman 4920**.

Please note that for those who have played 5 games only their 4 highest monthly scores are eligible. There is an opportunity to get into the 6-month winning column with a high score in June. Let's all play and give it a try.

The next game will be at the home of **Bob Yolland** on Monday June 5th. Good luck.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](#) or [Jim Pope](#).





Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

On Friday May 19, 8 players from Duplicate Bridge III played 21 hands of bridge at Boundary Oak. The game was hosted graciously by **Steve Dinning** and **Joe Fuchs**. In the morning, after 12 hands, it was **Tony Greco** in the

lead with 16 pts. After a sunny lunch break on the deck at Boundary Oak, we played the final 9 hands. **Tony** held his lead and finished 1st with 27 pts. overall. **Steve Dinning** was 2nd with 25 and **Dick DeVoe** 3rd with 23. Our next game will be on May 19 at Boundary Oak.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com

Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

The pinochle group continues to attempt to add new members to the group which currently averages between ten to twelve players per session. We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Area 16 Activities



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wednesday, June 28 at 1:30pm. The topic will be International and Emerging Markets.

E-mail Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

Guys, I need a little help here. I just had an argument with my wife and she told me I was right.

What do I do next?

Parting Shot

Are you a Modern Man...

I'm a modern man, a man for the millennium. Digital and smoke free. A diversified multi-cultural, post-modern deconstruction that is anatomically and ecologically incorrect. I've been up linked and down-loaded, I've been inputted and outsourced, I know the upside of downsizing, I know the downside of upgrading. I'm a high-tech low-life. A cutting edge, state-of-the-art bi-coastal multi-tasker and I can give you a gigabyte in a nanosecond!

I'm new wave, but I'm old school and my inner child is outward bound. I'm a hot-wired, heat seeking, warm-hearted cool customer, voice activated and bio-degradable. I interface with my database, my database is in cyberspace, so I'm interactive, I'm hyperactive and from time to time I'm radioactive.

Behind the eight ball, ahead of the curve, ridin the wave, dodgin the bullet and pushin the envelope. I'm on-point, on-task, on-message and off drugs. I've got no need for coke and speed. I've got no urge to binge and purge. I'm in-the-moment, on-the-edge, over-the-top and under-the-radar. A high-concept, low-profile, medium-range ballistic missionary. A street-wise smart bomb. A top-gun bottom feeder. I wear power ties, I tell power lies, I take power naps and run victory laps. I'm a totally ongoing big-foot, slam-dunk, rainmaker with a pro-active outreach. A raging workaholic. A working rageaholic. Out of rehab and in denial!

I've got a personal trainer, a personal shopper, a personal assistant and a personal agenda. You can't shut me up. You can't dumb me down because I'm tireless and I'm wireless, I'm an alpha male on beta-blockers.

I'm a non-believer and an over-achiever, laid-back but fashion-forward. Up-front, down-home, low-rent, high-maintenance. Super-sized, long-lasting, high-definition, fast-acting, oven-ready and built-to-last! I'm a hands-on, foot-loose, knee-jerk head case pretty maturely post-traumatic and I've got a love-child that sends me hate mail.

But, I'm feeling, I'm caring, I'm healing, I'm sharing-- a supportive, bonding, nurturing primary care-giver. My output is down, but my income is up. I took a short position on the long bond and my revenue stream has its own cash-flow. I read junk mail, I eat junk food, I buy junk bonds and I watch trash sports! I'm gender specific, capital intensive, user-friendly and lactose intolerant.

I like rough sex. I like tough love. I use the "F" word in my e-mails and the software on my hard-drive is hardcore—no soft porn.

I bought a microwave at a mini-mall; I bought a mini-van at a mega-store. I eat fast-food in the slow lane. I'm toll-free, bite-sized, ready-to-wear and I come in all sizes. A fully-equipped, factory-authorized, hospital-tested, clinically-proven, scientifically-formulated medical miracle. I've been pre-wash, pre-cooked, pre-heated, pre-screened, pre-approved, pre-packaged, post-dated, freeze-dried, double-wrapped, vacuum-packed and, I have an unlimited broadband capacity.

I'm a rude dude, but I'm the real deal. Lean and mean! Cocked, locked and ready-to-rock. Rough, tough and hard to bluff. I take it slow, I go with the flow, I ride with the tide. I've got glide in my stride. Drivin and movin, sailin and spinin, jiving and groovin, wailin and winnin. I don't snooze, so I don't lose. I keep the pedal to the metal and the rubber on the road. I party hearty and lunch time is crunch time. I'm hangin in, there ain't no doubt and I'm hangin tough, over and out!

[Thanks to](#)
[— George Carlin](#)