



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

Wow! In February, we continued the brisk new member/guest pace begun in January by inducting 6 new members and introducing 6 guests!

That's an excellent start to the year and my congratu-

lations to those who've sponsored a new member and/or hosted a guest. Great job! Let's keep it going!

I'm pleased to report that our new dues requirement was completed without any of the hassle associated with the voluntary contributions of the past. In fact, we achieved 100% membership renewal from our active members, reaffirming that we're meeting or exceeding the expectations of these members! Congratulations everyone! Our annual audit found no major exceptions to the State Sir audit guidelines nor deficiencies in various accounts although our auditors made 3 recommendations for improved account administration which the BEC promptly implemented.

Our branch was well represented at the annual Area 2 training session held in January at Rossmoor with 8 BEC members and 2 committee chairs attending. All 7 branches in the Area were represented. The meeting focused on member growth and retention. Attendees made numerous suggestions for increasing new member involvement which our Member Relations Committee is reviewing for possible implementation within our branch.

Sir **Brad Hatcher** presented the recommendations that were developed from the member responses to our annual survey late last year. The lead recommendation concerned more vigorous silencing of members who talk while



March 13 Luncheon
Featuring
Dr. Lawren Hicks
On Aging
Gathering time - 11:00 am
Seating time - 11:45 am
Can't attend?
email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
By noon March 6

others are conducting business or introducing guests or new members. I agree with this recommendation and intend to wield a heavy gavel to maintain order if necessary. Another recommendation suggested improvements in new member integration which the BEC immediately adopted.

You'll want to circle the date of Thursday, Oct. 9 on your calendar - that's the regular Oct. luncheon date and the day we'll celebrate the 25th anniversary of our branch! Planning for the celebration has just begun but it's bound to be a great day that you'll not want to miss. Little Sir **Bill Holly** will keep us posted as plans develop.

Have you noticed the golf carts in the parking lot before and after the meeting? For the past few meetings Courseco has provided the carts and drivers as a courtesy to members who have difficulty walking. Please feel free to use this service if you need it. Thanks to Sir **Bill Hansen** for the suggestion.

W.C Fields

*Always carry a flagon of whiskey in case of snakebite
and furthermore always carry a small snake.*

*I never worry about being driven to drink; I just worry
about being driven home.*

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Margot Somerville

hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on February 19th. Everyone enjoyed **Margot's** snacks and wines. The group thanked **Bob Yolland** and **George**

Zunich for scoring. As for the bridge results, **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** took first place with 36.5 points. **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** came in second with 36.0 points and, in third place, was **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** with 33 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 31 points were in fourth place. **George Zurich** and **Susi Cherry** will host the next bridge on March 19th.



Poker Club 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met on Feb. 12th at the home of **John Lewis** and the big winners were our guests **Al Zamola** and **Rich Hanford**. Our next competition will be March 12th at the home of **Don Del Bene**.



*I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman,
'Where's the self-help section?' She said if she told me,
it would defeat the purpose. George Carlin*

*The clever cat eats cheese and
breathes down rat holes with baited breath.
W.C.Fields*

Henny Youngman
*When I told my doctor I couldn't
afford an operation, he offered to touch-up my X-rays
My grandmother is over eighty and still
doesn't need glasses. Drinks right out of the bottle*

SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs continue their regular practices at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church every first and third Wednesday in preparation for the performance scheduled for March 15 at the Martinez Senior Community Center. We will be doing a program that features a number of Irish songs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We will be wearing our blue vests with a green bow tie and perhaps a green hat as well – should be a festive occasion!

We will also be doing a few songs from this repertoire prior to the formal start of our regular luncheon on March 13. All of you who enjoy singing are urged to join us around the piano so ably played by **Dave Obera** as we sing a few of the Irish, and some other songs. Who knows, you may enjoy the experience well enough to join us at one of our rehearsals. Ask any of the SongSirs who will be happy to tell you more.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics:
As of our Executive Committee meeting on February 13, we have 265 active members including six Honorary Life Members. We currently have two applicants awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Tanc Agius**
Chuck Cornell
Jack Gordon
Vladan Lunacek
Jim McManus
Gary Brown

Resigned: **Vern Bendsen**

Moved to Inactive: **Robert Wedin** and **Robert Van Luchene**

Changes to the Inactive Roster:
As noted above **Robert Wedin** and **Robert Van Luchene** have been added. **Dick Hilderbrand** and **Don McDonald** have resigned after two years inactive status. Our inactive roster therefore remains at twenty five members.

February Luncheon Attendance:

A total of 211 members, five guests and two speakers from the California Highway Patrol enjoyed our February Luncheon.



Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

Have you ever gone out to the garage to get something and then can't remember why you went out there? Or you can't remember where you put something? Or you have trouble remembering someone's name?

Are you worried about your memory? Then join the crowd and maybe worry less. Come to the March luncheon and learn more about this topic, which affects us all.

Our speaker for the March 13th luncheon is Dr. Lawren Hicks, Medical Director, Senior Services, John Muir Health. Dr. Hicks is a family doctor with experience in caring for seniors. He practiced medicine in Canada for 16 years before moving to California in 1994.



Area 2 Sums Investment Group

The Area 2 Sums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday March 26, 2014 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker will be David Chee, CPA and vice president of Reverse Mortgage Solutions Inc. David will go over the concepts of reverse mortgages and discuss whether or not reverse mortgages fit into your financial planning future. Reverse mortgages are controlled by the Federal Housing Authority and there have been some recent changes to the financial assessment of this program. David will delve into the details of what to consider in order to receive the most amount of money from a reverse mortgage with the least amount of fees and lowest interest rate. Be sure to plan to attend and learn about this aspect of Financial Planning. The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 AM so plan to have a leisurely breakfast prior to the meeting with your fellow SIRs. Bring along a prospective SIR and introduce him/her to the Investment Group activity.

Co: Chairmen: Allen Espenmiller (Br -174) 925-376-3977 David Sutton (Br-8) 925- 686-0185 Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807

GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:

We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting

tee times are emailed to each player.

In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players.

There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.

All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



Photo by Ray Kan

Bill Boyd, Fred Bolton, John Demos and Russ Bliese enjoying some camaraderie prior to lunch. Was the golfing topic ride or walk, walk 9 then ride 9 or shoot your age? All four have done all three.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Best Branch 146 golfer **Joe Fuchs** points to his 2013 first-place-standing on the leader board at Boundary Oak. This just after a hole-in-one a few weeks prior!



Photo by Bill Schultz

When asked about his contraption, **Bill Schultz** replied, " You need special equipment when you are playing in a four club event".



Photo by Bill Schultz

Chuck Campbell hitting one down the middle of the 13th fairway at Boundary Oak



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

Our Lunch group gathered on Thursday the 13th for our monthly luncheon with **Frank Rockwell** as host. He prepared a superb meal including appetizers of cheeses and crackers

and a dip made with knorr leek soup mix, sour cream, mayo, spinach and water chestnuts. The main entrée was a gigantic bowl of home-made minestrone soup and for dessert we had blueberry cobbler with French vanilla ice cream.

Other attendees included **Dick Woodman, Syd Whalen, Jim Meehan, Paul Dubow, Pete Gates, and Bob Spellman.**

A good time was had by all.

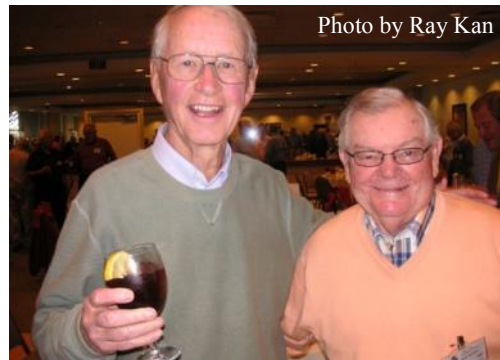


Photo by Ray Kan

Bob Mehus and **Ron Binder** chatting prior to seating time at the February Lunch.

Niners Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning.

Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Lo McCarley holding a prospective winning bottle at the January Wine Tasting with **Bruce Borgman** looking on



Photo by Ken Kratz

Everybody's Valentine, Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**, suitably done up for the occasion, welcomes members to the February 13th Luncheon



Photo by Ray Kan

Pals, **Bob Yolland** and **Joe Suta** at the February luncheon



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

March 13, 2014

Salad

Mixed Baby Field Greens

Shaved Parmesan, Crispy Croutons, Candied Pecans and Dried Cranberry Vinaigrette

Entrees

Classic Corned Beef and Cabbage

Boiled Carrots and Potatoes
Horseradish Sauce

or

Oven Baked Pacific Dory with Chardonnay

Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes
Oven Roasted Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Bread Pudding

Chantilly Cream and Chocolate Sauce

Poker Club 5

Bill Roberts

Bob Spellman brought a jumbo numbered deck of cards to the game - for those of us who don't wear glasses. The top 3 winners didn't wear glasses. Thank you Bob.

Sir **Skip Thomas** \$6, Big Sir **Doug Eisner** \$3, Sir **Bob Spellman** \$2, Sir **Bill Roberts** broke even followed closely by Sirs **Terry Marchione**, **Ken Richter**, **Charlie Koeber** and **Frank Rockwell**. A great meal of pasta with meat balls, salad and cheese cake was prepared by our host **Bill Roberts**. No cards next month because the cook is going on strike for more money. Poker rule 146 - No more of **Skip's** wild card games.





Note from the Editor

We're looking for a Branch 146 member who would like to try his hand at the job of SIR Call Co-editor (in-training). Requirements are a computer and a publishing program such as **Pages** or **Microsoft Publisher**. I will work with the candidate for as long as it takes to get up to speed to share the job of editor.

Jeff Baily SIR Call Editor

Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner will open at the March Luncheon thanks to **Hank James**. I will be traveling and no help to him. If you are a fan of the TV series "Law & Order" you are in for a treat. Dick Wolf is making his literary debut and the first in a series featuring NYPD detective Jeremy Fisk in "The Intercept". It is a must read.



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

Guy Rudberg, Chuck

Bobinecz, Elmer Kaprielian, Bill Baltezare, Don Del Bene, John Demos, Doug Cook, Elliot Kapchan, Al Munayer, Jack Calloway and Don Tubb. Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call might make his day. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Please take a minute to sign the cards across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

The next luncheon will be on Mar 13 at the same venue. Deadline for notification to Baha is Mar 7 at noon. Please try to honor this date/ time if you are not attending.

Otherwise you will still be responsible for the cost of the lunch. Baha can be reached by phone or at nolunchbranch146@gmail.com.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Sir **Rich Hanford** is hosting our February game and providing the snacks, etc. at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz** with his winnings from our previous sessions. Sir **Frank Rockwell** will have the honor of hosting the March 27th game. Some of our new branch members have expressed an interest joining a poker group. Maybe it's the time to form a new one?



Photo by Ken Kratz



A few of the movers and shakers at the February Luncheon - L to R, Honorary Life Member **Don Nunn**, Travel Chair/Book Corner Chair **Ken Richter**, Lunch and Wine Chair **Bob Spellman**, Theatre Chair **Gary Schaub**, and Mac User Chair/Niner Golf Chair/ Genealogy Chair **Vern Laursen**.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

We met at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill for our monthly Club #6 game on Feb. 12th. There were 6 players: **Al Twyford, Rich Ahlf, Norm Baietti, John Gray, Brad Hatcher** and host **Bob Larson**.

Missing members were **Frank Lucas, Sid Landman** and **Don Tubb** who is very ill and may not join us for awhile per his wife. He is in our prayers along with **Frank Lucas's** wife. **Al** and **Norm** were the big winners this month. **Bob** provided snacks and wine and everyone seemed to be in great humor during the game, even the losers. We missed your money **Frank**; hope to get some of it next game. Our March game is scheduled March 12th, 12:30- 3:30 PM, and **Al Twyford** will host the group at his Walnut Creek home.



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt



Photo by Ken Kratz

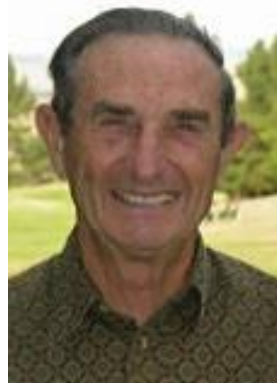
Newly inducted member **Vladan Lunacek** (L) and his sponsor **Max Hinkle** at the Thursday Luncheon

Poker 2

Al Zamolo

Our January session was hosted by **Bob Royster**. **Bob** had some good snacks from Costco. We had a few small winners along with some contributors. No exciting large pots.

Jim Stedman will host our February session.



Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

Sirs and guests... Our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, March 20th at 9:30 am.

Our presentations will be Part 2 of our "Finance Management and the Internet" series.

The first presentation, by **Dennis Lowe**, will address "Personal Finance Software & Apps". He will explore various personal finance options, advantages/disadvantages as well as security issues.

The second presentation, by **Phil Goff**, will be on "Internet Money (Bitcoin)". **Phil** will talk about how this new type of money, which bypasses the typical bank controlled process, works. Bitcoin is a market value controlled money so individuals may invest in it as well as use it to buy things. There are articles in the news almost every day about Bitcoin and **Phil** will take the mystery out of this new-fangled money.

Following these two presentations, time permitting, there will be an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individuals will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group.

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

Start every day off with a smile and get it over with.

W.C. Fields

Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Mar 21, 2014: SIR Day at the Races.

The horses are running at Golden Gate Field and the race track dedicates March 21st to the Sons in Retirement. It's a very popular day trip as well as a good value. The cost of \$29 includes admission, reserve parking, daily program, great buffet lunch, tax and tips. Put your group together and join your fellow Sirs for a fun day at the races. Who knows? You might even win some money.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.

May 13, 2014: Hidden Gems of the

Dalmatian Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle Program Director.

Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217.

Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian

Coastal Voyage. 14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a superior first class hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with Program Manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. This trip will sell out fast.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.



Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

Please note that in April we will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month because the room is not available on the 1st Monday.

The Mac Users meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

Next month we will cover how to reset your DNS. If you don't know how, you will have to come to the meeting on Monday March 3rd. There also will be a quiz to find out how many attendees read this information.

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 and we will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users. **Verner Laursen, Max Burchett**

Photo by Ken Kratz



L to R,
George Zunich,
Bill Snyder
and
Walking Chair
John Lewis
at the February
Luncheon

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Jeff Baily
Proofreaders	Dick DeVoe and Cal Tucker
Assistant Editor	Rich Ahlf
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Jack Hockel

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow



So far, this has been a year of contrasts. Fishing in the Delta for stripers and sturgeon has been sensational and fishing in the local lakes for trout has been dismal.

First, the Delta. **Paul Dubow** and **Carl Moyer** ventured out and landed four sturgeon in about three hours. One of **Paul's** fish was just under the limit. It is hard to believe catching a 35 lb. fish that is too small to keep! On the following day, **Rich Fiscina**, **Pete Gates**, and **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 did even better, landing a bevy of sturgeon with **Rich** also landing a near keeper in the 35+ lb. area. They also pulled in a few stripers, including a 42 inch specimen that **Pete** caught. **Dick Thomson** and **Bruce Persons** also caught "undersized" sturgeon on separate trips-about 20 lbs. each. **Tom Kostik** hosted **Barry Rauchle** and **Joe Miscione** on different outings on **Tom's** boat and they landed twenty stripers on each excursion. **Barry** kept two of the fish for a nice supper but the rest were released.

Second, and far less exciting, the trout fishing. **Carl Moyer** caught a five pounder and two pounder at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, but that was his total catch in seven trips. Many others in our group fished both Shadow Cliffs and Lafayette Reservoirs, only to return empty handed. But we remain hopeful. San Pablo Reservoir has just opened for the season and has been heavily stocked. Fishing will get better!

Several of our fellows ventured far away from the Bay Area with good results. **Paul King** and **Karl Droese** tried their luck on the Kona Coast in Hawaii and boated some delicious yellow fin tuna. **Raleigh Davis** and his wife vacationed at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, but took some time for fishing and caught bonita, skipjack tuna, and jack crevalle.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 27, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago

Highway, Concord. This will be the occasion of our annual silent auction and there will be lots of goodies available so please feel free to join us. The meeting begins at 8:30, but most of us arrive for breakfast between 7:30 and 8 am.

Photo by Paul Dubow



Branch 146's **Rich Fiscina** and a 35lb sturgeon

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group was graciously hosted by **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** Feb. 11.

This quite friendly but quietly competitive group was involved in the most tightly contested event in over four years! Only 4.5 points separating 1st from last place (the average gap over time= 9.5; the largest gap=13; the smallest gap=2).

Lynn & Dasha Freeman took 1st with 23.5 pts; **Jim & Ruth Adams'** 21 pts. placed 2nd; and **Terry & Sharon Marchione** slipped into 3rd with 20 pts. The other 3 couples were close behind with 18-19.5 pts. It's like the Olympics - only one bobble/slip and the coveted bragging rights slip away. Fortunately we don't wait 4 years for another try!



Bowling

Larry Mitchell

The Branch 146 bowlers are rolling right along. (sorry) We just finished the 21st week of this summer season. As mentioned before, Team No. 6, composed of **Pierre Mebane** and **Ken Donnelly**, won the first half. Currently Team No.1, composed of **Jim Adams** and **Larry Mitchell** are in first place with 21 weeks to go in the winter league.

High scores and averages belong to: **Pierre Mebane**, with a high game of 225, **Larry Mitchell** with a high series of 544 and **Jim Adams** with a high handicap series of 669. I know there must be some more ex-bowlers in the branch. Why don't you come down to Diablo Lanes on any Wednesday at 9:30 AM and join us. Your score need not count for league play if you just want to practice. We welcome anyone interested. You need not have bowled before. We have a good instructor available with 57 years experience. (moi) Give me a call at [925-798-5440](tel:925-798-5440)



ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Malcolm Hendry

The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday, usually at 6:30 pm. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as those favorably

reviewed in the media. Come join us in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow Sirs and other male guests.

Stanford's Restaurant and Bar

Billed as "Your Neighborhood Restaurant and Bar", this classy and comfortable setting has an atmosphere surrounded with the warmth of wood and intimate lighting and with service that is aimed to delight you. The menu selections will satisfy your craving, whether it be for fresh seafood, a gourmet hamburger, a perfectly prepared steak, or other delicious offerings. Separate checks are provided for your convenience.

Location: 1300 South Main, Walnut Creek

Web Site: www.stanfords.com

Phone: 925-944-0895

Please let me know before Tuesday March 18th, that you will join us.

Your suggestions are welcomed.

Mal



Apple Computer whiz **Max Burchett** briefing Honorary Life Member **Dick DeVoe** on some Mac tech complexities.



Branch Bowling team, L to R, **Baha Zarah**, **Ken Donnelly**, **Larry Mitchell**, **Jim Adams** and **Pierre Mebane** ready to bowl

Calls Received at a Public Golf Course

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Do you have a dress code?

Staff: Yes, we do. We require soft spikes.

Caller: How about clothes?

Staff: Yes, you have to wear clothes.

Hugh Ferguson



New

Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.

(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us.
All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.

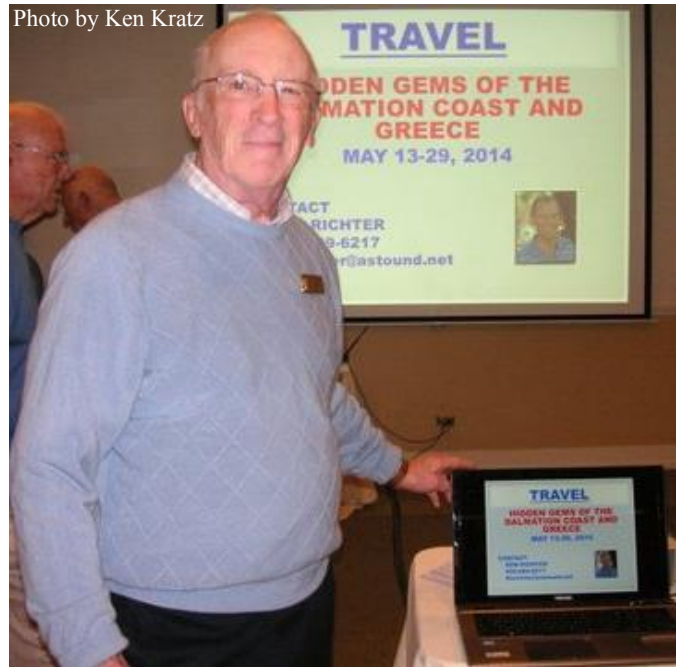


Photo by Ken Kratz

Jeff Baily tending the luncheon slide show on the various activities available to our members

Photography

Richard Hockenbrock



The Photography Group held its first meeting on January 17th at the Oak Grove Walnut Creek Library. We had eight members and three spouses attending. Several members brought thumb drives with pictures they had taken and these were shown and discussed in relation to the primary topic of the day, photo composition.

We learned that the four elements to a good photo composition are; 1) clearly defined subject & background, 2) sense of balance, 3) point of view, and 4) degree of simplicity. We also learned that the rule of thumb for taking portrait pictures is different from landscapes and examples were shown of doing it the right way and the wrong way.

We had planned to discuss other topics such as how to move photos from your iPhone or Android phone to your computer and how to enhance photos with computer software but we ran out of time. These topics will be covered in future meetings.



Photo by Jeff Baily

Bill Holly and Susan Oranje discussing newly learned info at the Photography meeting chaired by branch photographer Richard Hockenbrock

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

.After a very successful January event at the Blackhawk Grille with 48 Sirs and spouses attending, we scoured the area restaurants to come up with yet another popular spot. And, so we did.

The March Couples Dining Out event will be at La Finestra, a Lafayette restaurant with Sicilian cuisine that is a gem of a place. It is tucked away among the eucalyptus trees at the end of Lafayette Circle (#100) and is a charming and intimate small restaurant. With just 55 seats, we will have most of the restaurant to ourselves.



The menu will be bit more fixed, with a Caesar salad to start, and Tiramisu to end the meal. We will have a choice of three entrees – a Petrale sole with lemon caper butter sauce, a braised chicken breast with a Marsala wine cream sauce, and an oven baked lasagna topped with provolone over a light cream marinara sauce – all excellent dishes. You will need to choose one with your reservation. The price is only \$34 per person inclusive of tax and tip – our most economical meal yet! Parking is fairly readily available in the small parking lot – or, car pool if you can.

The dinner is set for Monday, March 17 with cocktails / social hour at 5:30pm, and dinner at 6:30pm. Especially if you have not enjoyed the company of your fellow Sirs, you will want to try this activity which is always a great way to spend time with old friends and new. To reserve your spot mail your check made out to SIR146 with entrée choice to Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Place, WC 94598.



Walkers

John Lewis



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

March walks by **Ralph Fowler**

- March 7 Arbolado Park, Walnut Creek
Meet: Arbolado Parking Lot
Walk: South of park to trail
Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands
- March 14 Lafayette Moraga Trail, Olympic Blvd., Lafayette
Meet: Olympic Blvd. Staging Area
Walk: Walk west on trail
Coffee: Panera, Downtown Walnut Creek
- March 21 Tassajara Trail, Sycamore Valley, Danville
Meet: Sycamore Valley & Camino Tassajara Blvd. Pk'g lot on right
Walk: East along Camino Tassajara
Coffee: Pascal French Oven, Danville
- March 28 Walnut Creek Civic Center North: Civic Dr., W/C
Meet: Civic Arts Parking Lot
Walk: North to Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: La Scalla, Walnut Creek



Photo by Ray Kan

L to R,
Branch Secretary
Walt Busenius,
former Big Sir
Jim Burk
and former
Membership
Chair
Steve Sprague
before the
February Lunch



Photo by Ray Kan

BEC Director and Couples Dining Out chair **Bruce Borgman** and Activities chair **Jerry Kaplan** setting up the display table for members searching for activities they might want to take part in.

Cribbage

John Pearl
Six of our finest players met up at Sir **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, February 19th. After lots "cribbage talk," such as "15 two and the rest won't do," and "two pair for four and the rest won't score," we determined who won the money. Our host, **Barney Meade** had a great day, finishing first, **John Boyan** was second, and **Tony Greco** was third and made his ante. A good time was had by most all.



Photo by Jeff Baily

Cribbage in action... Clockwise, **Dennis Hallett**, winner **Barney Meade**, partially hidden **John Boyan** and **Tony Greco**.

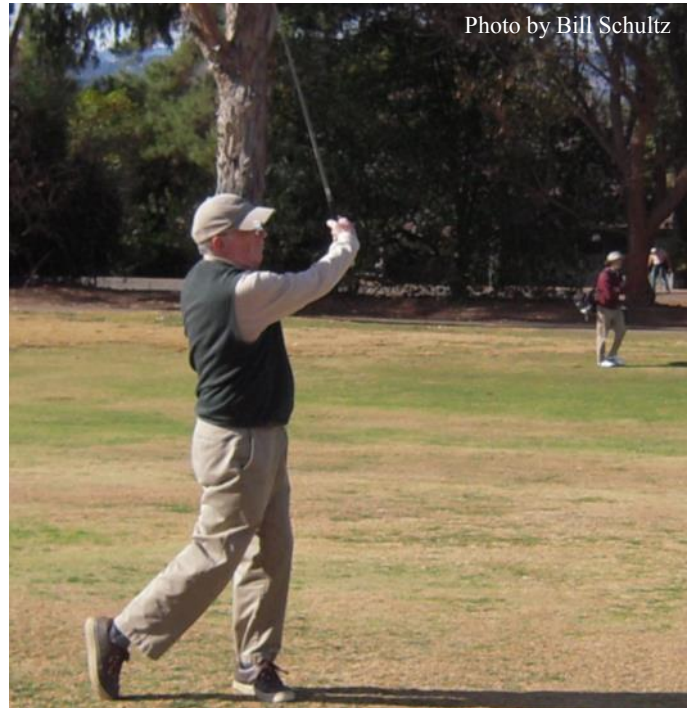


Photo by Bill Schultz

Jeff Baily trying to rip one down the 14th fairway at Boundary Oak



Genealogy

Verner Laursen

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

from the staff at the Family History Center. At this center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking.

We are here to help those who are beginners and those who have some or a lot of information about their family. You do need access to a computer to enter your information. If you are beginner we will help you avoid our mistakes. This is one of the activities where spouses are welcome. You do not need to come as a couple.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists.

Verner Laursen
vlaursen@astound.net

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Feb. 7 event was graciously hosted by **Tony Greco**, and the play was as interesting as ever. **Terry Marchione** leaped out in front of everyone by at least 3.5 points in the 1st half, and then held on by 1/2 point at the end as **Max Hinkle** surged ahead of everyone for the 2nd half. **Terry's** 31 pts. included the best-ever performance of only one zero in 24 boards! **Max** had 30.5 pts., capturing 2nd place as he did the month before and taking the most high boards (10). **John Boyan** slipped into 3rd with 26.5 pts., followed closely behind by **Sid Landman** with 26 pts.



Photo by Ken Kratz

Jim Brown, Former Big Sir **Bill Hansen** and **Bob Royster** at the February Luncheon

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Terry and Sharon Marchione hosted February's event. Cards had not warmed up much since January, but just as in January, **John and Linda Boyan** (2960) edged our gracious hosts for 3rd place, **Dave and Joan Pierce** were second (3500) and super subs **Tony and Cindy Greco** were first (3920). Congrats to all. When all was said and done we warmed up around the fireplace and enjoyed **Sharon's** delicious cookies while dreaming of spring.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge on Feb. 3 at the home of **Jim Stedman**. **Lynn Freeman**, a long time member of this group, announced that this was to be his final game with us. Over the years **Lynn** has been a leader in sportsmanship when it comes to bridge, as well as an excellent player. Thanks **Lynn**, for this support. Too bad you didn't win today! **Jim Brown** did win with 5260 points. **Bob Yolland** was second with 4890 and **Bill Rees** was third with 4700.

Our next game will be on March 3 at **Carl Johnson's** home.

Calls Received at a Public Golf Course

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
Caller: How much to play golf today?
Staff: 25 to walk, 38 with a cart.
Caller: 38 dollars?
Staff: No, 38 yen.

Hugh Ferguson

Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge played 24 hands at **Fred Kovar's** home on Feb 17. **Lynn Freeman** had a tremendous second half as he came from the middle of the pack at lunch time to take 1st place overall with a score of 46.5 pt. A fitting end for a fine gentlemen who announced his resignation from the bridge group. **Lynn** was one of the original players when the group was started over 20 years ago. Second place was won by substitute **Brad Hatcher** with 45.5 pt, a score that likely reduces **Brad's** chances of being asked to return anytime soon. **Jim Jackson** took 3rd place with 42.5 pt and **Carl Johnson** took home the 4th place prize with 41 pt. Our next game will be played at **Jim Brown's** house on Mar 17.



Doug



Photo by Ray Kan

Bill Cammerer, Honorary Life Member **Dick Richmond** and **Lew Thompson** discussing 4 club golf strategies 4 days ahead

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Ken and Elaine Richter's** home Monday February 10th. Ken started us off with smoked salmon and cream cheese on crackers plus a nice Brie cheese with apple wedges and crackers. Unfortunately **John Demos**, one of our original members, was a late cancellation and not able to join us. Naturally we enjoyed a fair amount of good wine with both the starters and lunch. **Ken** opened his last bottle of Sir's Sauvignon Blanc, from Lake County, that our cooking group bottled a few years ago. It had aged well as did last year's Sir's bottling of Sangiovese from Amador County. For the main course **Ken** then served a fine hamburger soup with plenty of vegetables, a nice Caesar salad and hot French bread with melted cheese. This was an excellent meal for a cool February day. For dessert **Ken** treated us with his signature drink which looks and tastes like a fabulous milk shake with a touch of one or several fine after dinner liqueurs. Thank you Ken for an excellent lunch.

Our March lunch will be held at **Bob and Janet Yolland's**, on Monday March 10th. For our April 14th. event we will be bottling a yet to be determined white wine at **Bruce and Susan Borgman's**. Our wine supplier, La Nebbia Winery, only announces that the wine will be either red or white on their bottling schedule but not the variety until two or three weeks prior to availability.



Ever wonder what the contraption is behind the chain link fence by the 17th tee at Boundary Oak? It is an evapotranspiration monitoring station. The purpose of this device is to monitor the temperature, solar radiation, rainfall, relative humidity and wind speed, and from these measurements an hourly and daily assessment of water needs is calculated. These estimates are used by greens keepers to care for the turf grasses. Plants, like humans, are mostly water. Plants lose water through transpiration which is a loss of water in the form of vapor from the plants' stomata. Along with water loss from transpiration, water is lost from the soil through evaporation. The combination of these two events is evapotranspiration (ET). Through the use of these sophisticated monitoring devices golf courses and other businesses that need to scientifically ration water can better utilize this essential resource.

So the next time you see ET on the 17th hole at Boundary Oak, tell him to "call home."



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Gathering of the Wine Tasting Group... L to R, **Gabriela Bishop**, **Lynette Holly**, the chandelier, **Brad Hatcher**, sommelier **Bill Holly**, **Chuck Bates** and host **Bob Burley**

Oh, the drums go bang and the crystals clang
 And the horns they blaze away
Oranje pumps the old bassoon while **Shafer** toasts the day
 And Hennessey Tennessee tootles the flute
 And the music is something grand
 A credit to branch 1-4-6, is **Dave Obera's** band

Oh, I wear a bunch of shamrocks and a uniform of green
 I'm the funniest looking Swede that you have ever seen
 There's O'Sullivans and O'Loughlins and Meehans and Sheehans
 They come from Ireland
 Yet **Mike Varner** is the only Swede,
 in **Dave Obera's** band

Oh, the drums go bang and the crystals clang
 And the horns they blaze away
Oranje pumps the old bassoon while **Shafer** toasts the day
 And Hennessey Tennessee tootles the flute
 And the music is something grand
 A credit to branch 1-4-6, is **Dave Obera's** band

Photo by Ray Kan



Oh, me name is **Dave Obera**,
 I'm the leader of the band
 Although we're few in numbers
 we're the finest in the land
 We do play wakes and weddings
 and every fancy ball
 And when we play SIR Luncheons
 we're featured in the CALL

Music sheets for everyone

Hennessey Tennessee tootles the flute and its **Dave Obera's** Band!
 Just a bunch of guys, including some SongSirs, hooting it up at the February Luncheon

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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