

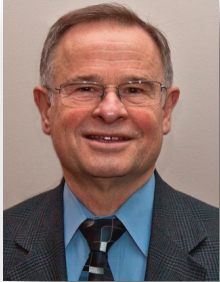
SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

March 2015

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa



Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

We had another strong membership recruitment month in February. Five new members joined our branch: **Charlie Abrams**, sponsored by **Jerry Kaplan**; **Loren DeLaurenti**, sponsored by **Pete Gates**; **Jeffrey Morrow**, sponsored by **Jim Saavedra**; **Randall Davis**, sponsored by **Alan Elnick**; and **Martin Harper**, sponsored by **Roy Hodgkinson**. In addition, six new guests visited us in February.

Our 2014 branch audit was presented to the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) before our February luncheon. It was conducted by **Ron de Golia** and **Frank Rockwell**. The audit was performed in accordance with Article 10 of the SIR Manual and includes an audit of the treasurer's report, Form 28, and the financial reports for the bowling, golf and Monterey mashers committees.

I am pleased to report that the auditors found no major exceptions to Article 10, and there were no deficiencies discovered in the branch receipts and disbursements in the general, custodial, and committee accounts.

Over 200 members and guests attended the February luncheon at the Concord Hilton Hotel. As many of you are aware, the Boundary Oak clubhouse is undergoing renovations until the end of April. Our monthly luncheons will continue to be held temporarily at the Concord Hilton Hotel during the months of March and April. We shall return to the Boundary Oak for the May, ladies day luncheon.

Due to scheduling conflicts at the Hilton, our next luncheon will be held on Monday, March 30th. The deadline to email a luncheon cancellation or to include a guest is 12:00 noon Wednesday, March 25th.

The Hilton's address is 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. The adjacent map illustrates two alternate routes to the Concord Hilton.

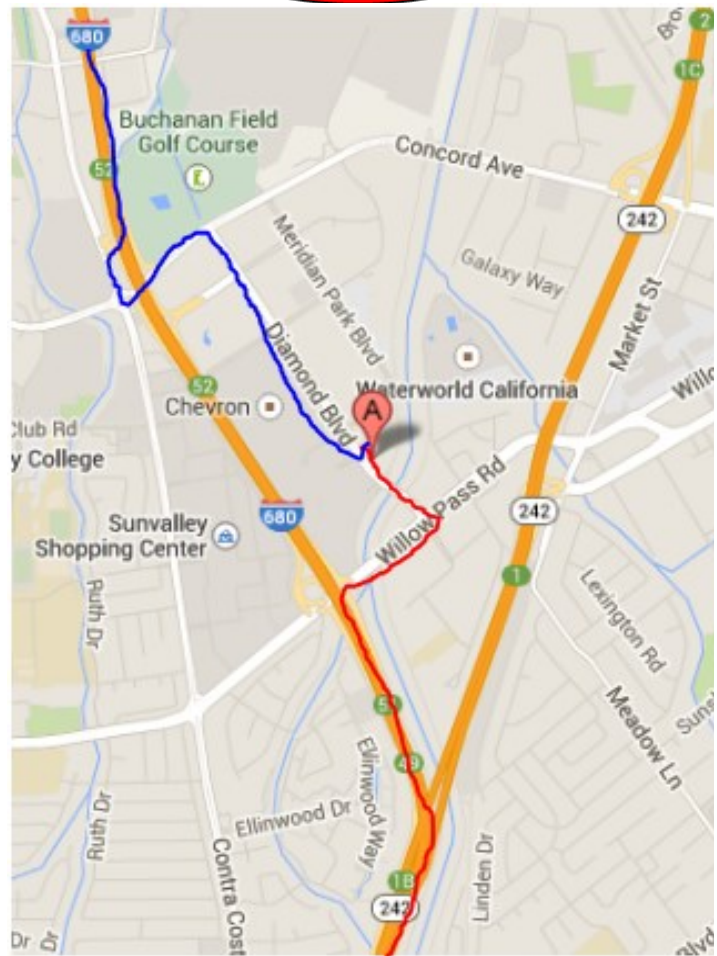
Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, don't let the temporary move to the Concord Hilton deter you. Bring your guest to our March luncheon.

Luncheon - March 30th
At the Concord Hilton Hotel

Guest Speaker:
Tim O'Keefe, Executive Director
Shelter, Inc.

Gathering time - 11:00 a.m.
Starting time - 11:45 a.m.

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Wednesday, March 25th





Little Sir's Corner

Walt Busenius

March is a busy time. The boys of summer are attending spring training, daylight savings time begins March 8th followed by St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. But the most important date this month is Monday, March 30th, our luncheon at

the Hilton Hotel.

Our speaker this month is Tim O'Keefe, the executive director of SHELTER Inc. of Contra Costa County.

Tim O'Keefe will describe the mission and outreach of SHELTER Inc. which is to assist struggling low-income and homeless families in Contra Costa County by preventing homelessness, promoting self-sufficiency and providing affordable housing.

In 2011, SHELTER Inc. was selected as one of only six non-profits from the Bay Area and one of only 85 selected nationally for a new program through the Department of Veteran Affairs to provide supportive services to veterans and their families.

Tim has over 30 years of executive management experience and is a past president of the Human Services Alliance of Contra Costa. He also serves on the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the local board of FEMA.

We are always looking for luncheon speakers that you believe would be interesting for our group. We hope you carry a few Branch 146 invitation cards in your wallets to give to men you would like to invite as guests to a future luncheon. This is another valuable tool available to help us recruit prospective members.

I look forward to seeing you and, hopefully, a guest at a future meeting. Please remember, guests who became members are the life-blood of our branch.

Future Branch 146 Luncheon Dates at Concord Hilton

Monday, March 30th, 2015

Monday, April 20th, 2015

Lend Money To Friend

If you lend a friend five dollars and never see him again, it was worth it.



Membership

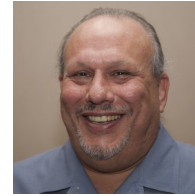
Ben Gleason

At our BEC meeting on February 16th, we approved five new members and accepted the resignation of one active member. We now have 275 active members (including our seven Honorary Life Members). One of our inactive members passed away and three were terminated after being inactive for two years, leaving 19 inactive members.

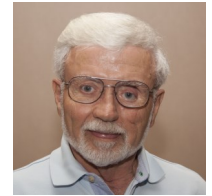
New Member Additions in February 2015



Charlie Abrams



Randy Davis



Loren DeLaurenti



Martin Harper



Jeff Morrow

Status Changes

Resigned:

Noel Roberson

Deceased:

Olof Johansson

Terminated:

Ahmed Ghoreishi, Leonard Whorton, and Don Strong

SIR Happenings Newsletter

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

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Luncheon Attendance

Max Hinkle

Our March SIR luncheon will be held on Monday the 30th in the Concord Hilton Hotel located at 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord, CA 94520. The price of the luncheon is \$25. As usual, there will be a no-host bar. Remember, we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Wednesday, March 25th (“no show deadline”). If you do not have convenient access to a computer call (925) 979-5146 by the same deadline and follow the prompts given there. We need to give the hotel a guaranteed number of meals. A member who fails to meet this deadline and also fails to attend the luncheon will be required to reimburse the Branch \$25 for the liability we will incur with the hotel for his meal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Dr. Lou Bordisso, our guest speaker, discussed his early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease which has not curtailed his spirit or love of life.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jonathan Korfhage greeting Br 146 Sirs at our temporary location at the Hilton Hotel in Concord



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On March 13th we will be hiking the Round Valley Regional Preserve. This hike is a moderate three-creek, 5 mile tour through rolling hills of oak woods and grassland. There will be about an 800 foot elevation gain and on a scale from 1 to 10, I would say it's a 7 or 8 (my SIR rating). Round

Valley is protected habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, and Golden Eagle sightings are frequent. The wildlife viewing is exceptional throughout this hike and the spring flowers should be in full bloom on the mountain. I like to do this hike this time of the year because in the summer it's too hot and Marsh Creek should have water in it. We will be having our lunch at the highest point about half way through our hike which will include a beautiful view toward the Delta and beyond.

Directions: Round Valley is about 12 miles past Clayton on Marsh Creek Road (past Morgan Territory Rd.). Anybody wishing to carpool can meet at the Clayton Library parking lot at 9:30 am. Meet at the Round Valley parking lot at 10:00 am.

Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome



Photo by Rich Ahlf



Theatre

Gary Schaub



Last Call for Tickets: *Moon Over Buffalo* Theater Party, June 5th

Moon Over Buffalo makes for a fun-filled evening in the theater—and it's the SIR146 Theatre Party event for Friday, June 5th.

June may sound like it's far off, but we need to finalize our attendance list by April 1 in order to get the special discount price. So if you're interested in going to this wacky evening of behind-the-scenes theater frivolity, this is your last call for orders.

Moon Over Buffalo by playwright Ken Ludwig is a slam-bang farce focusing on the backstage lives of George and Charlotte Hayes – two fading stars of the 1950s. Like all good backstage comedies, in *Moon Over Buffalo* everything that could go wrong does go wrong. *Moon Over Buffalo* ran for over 300 performances after it opened on Broadway in 1995. The production received several Tony Award nominations, and went on to a London production.

"*Moon Over Buffalo* packs more comic genius onto the stage than anything in recent memory," said *USA Today* when the play opened in New York.

A limited number of seats for the June 5 performance at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette have been set aside for SIR members and guests at \$15.00 per ticket. Deadline for reservations is April 1 (no foolin'), or when our allotment of seats has been reached.

Reserve now with a check, payable to SIR146, and mail to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of the Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street at Moraga Rd., in Lafayette on June 5th beginning at 7:15 pm. Street parking is available nearby.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

The SIRS Acoustic Music Group met on February 19th. We learned new songs including “Margaritaville”, “Stand By Me”, and “The House of the Rising Sun”. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 23rd at 1 pm.

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

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

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



Photo by Dick Woodman

Clockwise from bottom center: **Nancy Pearl, Ron Plachy, Janice Woodman, Mary Denney, Sue Oranje**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group DOS Dick Woodman

2015 is off with a roar and we have had two great gatherings for our new group. On January 27th we met at **Don and Etta Dotson's**. A lot of us are still learning the game but that adds to the excitement. **Chuck** and **Mary Denney** filled in for two of the regulars bringing the total number of players for the evening to 16. **Corrie** and **Sue Oranje** from the first MTD Group are close neighbors of the **Dotson's** so they joined us to help coach the less experienced players. **Dick Woodman** took home first place for the evening, **Don Dotson** followed with second place and **Mary Denney** (on her first night to play) won third place. **Don** and **Etta** provided great snacks and organization. The evening was very enjoyable.

February 27th was hosted by **Bill** and **Bernice Cammerer** and the evening was a great success. The snacks and desserts were too good to ignore and the player's experience is improving. Our group's full complement of 18 members attended the party. **Lynette Holly** won first place, **John Pearl** took home second place and **Dick Woodman**, third place. A good time was had by all.



Photo by Dick Woodman

Clockwise from bottom center: **Anne Plachy, Lynette Holly, Rich Ahlf, Helene Twyford, Don Dotson, empty chair belongs to Dick Woodman.**



Photo by Dick Woodman

Clockwise from bottom center: **Etta Dotson, John Pearl, Al Twyford, Ismini MacLean** attending with **Rich Ahlf, Bill Holly, and Chuck Denney**



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Our Poker Group met on February 11th at the home of **Don Del Bene**. It was a good time by all with good food and good conversation. As always there were some winners and some losers. The winners were **Dan O' Sullivan, Bill Cammerer, John**

Lewis and Frank McNamee. Our next meeting will be hosted by **John Lewis**.



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

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

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



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

Doug Cook hosted our January 26th poker session and provided a great variety of goodies for the group. **Doug** and **Jim Stedman** were the very big winners for the past 2 sessions. Maybe we can break

the spell at **Ken Kratz's** home when he hosts our February Poker Group 2.



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group 6 met at **Al Twyford's** house on Wednesday February 11th. Five members and one alternate were there for 3 hours of friendly poker. Members **Norm**

Baietti, Bob Larson, Sid Landman, Brad Hatcher, Al Twyford, and alternate **Harvey Oxman** were there. **Rich Ahlf** and **Frank Lucas** were out of town, and **John Gray** had the flu. **Norm** was the big winner followed by **Brad, Bob, Harvey, Sid**. **Al** lost a little or broke even. We drank a couple bottles of red wine and munched on snacks during the afternoon game. Everyone seemed to enjoy the game, especially the winners.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday March 11th at **Frank Lucas'** house in Pleasant Hill.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our February 23rd poker session will be hosted by **Pete Gates** at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz**. **Garth Cummings** was our mentor at our last session. He knew when to hold them and when to fold them and was the big winner. We all

promised not to tell his wife, **Shirley** about his newly acquired fortune. Texas Hold'em is one of the most popular poker games primarily because in draw poker there are two bets while in Texas Hold'em there are four.



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

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

NOTICE: We won't play the months of November through April, inclusive, because of weather delays and court condition. Watch this notice for details of the start of play in May. Contact me if you have questions: mvlyle@yahoo.com



Cribbage

John Pearl

Eight of our group that were not on vacation or ill met at **Barney Meade's** home on Wednesday, January 28th. As usual, there were winners and losers. Rising to the top was **Dennis Hallett**, followed by our newest member **Mike Whitaker**.

Tony Greco edged out our host for third place. The Chair did not rise to the top, but drifted to the bottom. With eight players, we had a good-size pot, and the winners went home happy. We'll do it again in February.



Book Nook

Hank James

No Book Nook in March! The next Book Nook will be in May on ladies day when we return to Boundary Oak. So accumulate your book donations and reading lists for that date!

The book inventory continues to grow with the selections expanding. The Book Nook project could use volunteers to help with the presentation, loading, unloading and storage of inventory. Call Hank James at (925) 351-7440 or hankjames@hankjames.com to volunteer.



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

We are still looking for one or two more SIRs to join a new Poker Group. There are already five or six interested folks who can't wait to start winning (or losing)! Please call or write to me if you are ready to play poker with some fellow SIRs. Contact me via e-mail mtdana@aol.com or call me at (925) 930-7076. I will help get the group started. No chair as yet, but that can be decided once everyone is in contact with each other.

A Branch 146 Book Club activity has been formed with **Chuck Campbell** as the initial chair of the group. The group has only corresponded so far by email; they are deciding what the first book should be. If you want to see what is being proposed, or if you want to suggest a book, call **Chuck** ASAP at (925) 947-2982 or email charmcam2@att.net.



Lunch and Wine

Syd Whalen

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

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

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



John Harrington, Ron Plachy, Bob White, Tom Gorman, and Chuck Eichten at the SIR Br 146 luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Kirby Narcisse and Gene Schulting engaged in a conversation before the luncheon



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

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





Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

This month has been very productive for sturgeon, stripers, and trout.

The sturgeon have been undersized. But undersized in the sturgeon world is less than three and a half feet, or about 35 lbs. The fish have been feisty and so the sturgeon fishing has been quite enjoyable. **Dick Thomson** and **Carl Moyer** picked up a couple of sturgeon fishing out of Pittsburg. **Rich Fiscina** hosted fellow Branch 146 members **Pete Gates** and **Tom Boltz** along with **Joe Karg**, **Chuck Person**, and **Carl Moyer** on several trips out of Martinez and caught and released several sturgeon.

Tom Kostik and **Mike Corker** fished the Delta for stripers and were very successful. On one striper outing, **Mike** landed our only sturgeon keeper of the month, notwithstanding that he was fishing with light gear.

We welcomed **Ernie Wong** to the trout fishing clan. **Ernie** is noted for his devotion to shad fishing but the shad are only available in June and July so **Ernie** tried his luck for trout at San Pablo Reservoir and caught a pair of rainbows. **Dick Thomson**, **Paul Dubow**, **Harry Sherinian**, **Mike Corker**, and **Carl Moyer** also were on trout outings to San Pablo and Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. Fishing at Shadow Cliffs has been somewhat sparse since we can only fish from shore because the low water level makes the launching of boats impossible. However, we can fish from boats at San Pablo and it has been more productive. On one outing, four anglers landed nine good sized trout.

There were a number of forays outside of Contra Costa County. Our annual trip to the Bass Pro Shop and Fisherman's Warehouse in Manteca was a lot of fun and many dollars were spent on equipment. We finished with a good lunch at the Black Bear Diner. On another food outing, **Ron Maciak**, **Ken Konzak**, **Craig Walton**, **Joe Peterson**, and **Carl Moyer** traveled to Barbara's Fish Trap in Princeton for a terrific seafood lunch. They also brought home pounds of crab, but it was purchased from boats in the harbor. **Paul Dubow** caught a 10 lb skipjack, fishing in Maui, but he and **Karl Droese** came up empty-handed on a steelhead outing in the Smith River in northern California.

Our next meeting will begin at 8:30 am at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord, but come earlier and join us for breakfast. For further information, contact **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

The photography group held its meeting on Friday, February 27th at the Oak Grove Road WC library. Attending were **Jeff Baily**, **Roy Hodgkinson**, **Bill Holly**, **Harvey Oxman**, **Bobbie Schmidt**, and **Larry Fitzgerald**. The topic of the meeting was evaluating camera phone photography.

Conclusions we drew from member photos taken on a iPhone 6, Samsung Note 4, LG Viper, and an older Samsung Galaxy S3 mini phone were as follows:

- Newer camera phones provide near optimum picture quality in good lighting situations
- Picture quality deteriorates if you try to zoom or enlarge a picture.
- Using the flash on a camera phone is only marginally effective .

Future Meeting Schedule

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| March 27 th | Last Friday of the month |
| April 24 th | Last Friday of the month |



Photo by Jeff Baily

Jeff Baily took this picture on Maui using his iPhone 6, demonstrating the excellent quality of the iPhone camera



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1

Jerry Kaplan

The February game night was hosted on February 13th by **Rob Melrose** and his wife **Carmen** at their lovely Martinez home. When a few of the regulars were traveling and couldn't come leaving only 12 players, **Jerry Kaplan**, the activity chair, was able to take first place – the first time he had won anything during any of the six months that the activity has been underway. Not only did he win, but had the lowest average score for any games played since the group started last July. For seven games played on Game Night, **Jerry** accumulated only 34 points, an average of 4.9 points left in his hand for each game. The previous low hands were made by **Sharon Marchione** (average of 9.8) and **Terry Marchione** at 10.9. Second place in February went to **Frank Ascatigno's** wife, **Marie** (an average of 11.7), and third was won by **Jim Stedman's** wife, **Barbara**, at 12.7.



Sunshine Report

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.

- Baha Zarah**
- Dave Obera**
- Bill Baltezare**
- Bob Schroder**
- Bill Stevenson**
- Joe Suta**
- Mike Cavallo**

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



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Steve Dawkins'** home Monday, February 9th. He started with an arugula salad topped with pine nuts, parmesan cheese and sliced avocado. Our main entree was a super paella, which included chicken thighs, sausage, mussels, clams, shrimp and peas on a bed of rice.

The meal ended with orange sherbet with chocolate milano cookies. Since one of our regulars was on a trip **Steve Dawkins** invited a guest, **Steve Ybarra** a relatively new member of branch 146. We all enjoyed great conversation, lots of good wine and a great lunch. Thank you **Steve Dawkins**.



Photo by Bob Yolland

Steve Dawkins prepares to serve paella to **Steve Ybarra** (left) and, partially hidden, **Dennis Hallett** at the Cooking II event

We also regretfully report the recent passing on February 28th of **Gary "Skip" Thomas**, a member of our branch since January, 2006

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net (925) 934-6920



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs have been working hard on a series of Academy Award songs – rather appropriate for this time of year with the Oscars just having been concluded. The songs include “Call Me Irresponsible”, “All the Way”, “Secret Love”. “Mona Lisa”, and a

few more – pulled together by our eminent pianist, **Dave Obera**. By the way, **Dave** would still love to find someone to back him up! We will likely sing this repertoire at the Walnut Creek Senior Center where we are scheduled to perform in May.

We will be singing at the Veteran’s Hospital in Martinez on March 18, the day after St. Patrick’s Day with a selection of Irish songs. This includes “My Wild Irish Rose”, “Danny Boy”, “McNamara’s Band”, and “Who Threw the Overalls in Mistress Murphy’s Chowder” – a fun collection of songs for this special occasion. In addition, for this audience we will sing our medley of service songs. This is always a place where our performance is much appreciated – and we like to honor our veterans with our presentation!

Practice again is the first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church – join us if you like to sing – no audition required!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bowling Larry Mitchell

We are now past the midpoint of the SIR winter league. At this time the team of **Larry Mitchell** and **Jim Adams** are in first place and will have a play-off with the team that wins the second half at the end of the season in June for the championship

Currently **Pierre Mebane** has scored both scratch high game and scratch high series of the season with scores of 236 and 595 respectively. **Jim Adams** still holds the season high handicap series at 706.

More information? Call me at (925) 798-5440.



Photo by Larry Mitchell

Our stalwart bowlers left to right: **Ken Donnelly, Pierre Mebane, Jim Adams, and Larry Mitchell**

Chuck Campbell (left) was the February birthday boy drawing winner



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Day Trips

March 27, 2015: Day at the Races The horses are running at Golden Gate Field and the race track has dedicated March 27th to the Sons in Retirement. The cost of \$33 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. Gates open at 11am with post time at 12:45pm. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

June 7, 2015: The Book of Mormon This musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone is the winner of nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. The New York Times calls it the best musical of this century. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in rows 13 or 14 center orchestra. Cost is \$144. Contact **Ken Richter** (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

October 10, 2015: Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle You will enjoy watching the Blue Angels perform their air show aboard the San Francisco Belle Sternwheeler. There is no better vantage point on the bay to see the show. The price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, a hosted buffet lunch aboard the Belle, free flowing champagne and background music from an onboard D.J. Cost is \$ 128.00 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$ 54.00 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Longer Trips

March 10-14, 2015: Spring Training Phoenix This 5 days/4nights trip has something for everyone. Your tour begins with your arrival at the Phoenix airport. The cost

includes: Round-trip airport transfer in Phoenix, all transportation and events scheduled while in Phoenix, three spring training games in the best seats available, 4 nights at the Embassy Suites, 3 hosted meals per day during your stay, morning activities, escort and guide services. Cost \$1,795 double occupancy, no air. Contact **Ken Richter** 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

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

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence A 22 day river cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) (925) 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise A 12 day cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$ 6,199 and include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br. 146) (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

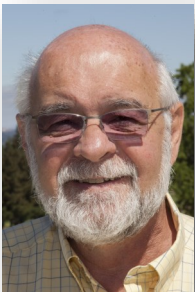


Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

January's Duplicate Bridge 2 group was hosted by **Dave Pierce**. **Bill Schultz's** bridge lessons paid off, helping him to 1st place with 31 pts. **Bob Yolland** captured 2nd with 29 pts., and **Fred Bolton** was 3rd with 27.5 pts. The "Most Two's" winners were **Bob Yolland** and **Brad Hatcher** with 7 of 24 boards. The "Least Zeros" winner also was **Bob**, with probably the best ever for the group— having only one of 24 boards.

February's event was hosted by **John Boyan**. 1st place honors went to **Max Hinkle** with 30 pts while **Sid Landman** landed in 2nd with 28.5pts. **Steve Dawkins, Bill Schultz,** and **Bob Yolland** tied for 3rd with 27.5 pts. The "Most Two's" winner was **Max** with 9 of 24 boards. **Bill, Sid,** and **Steve** were close behind with 8 each. The "Least Zeros" winners with only 4 were **Bob, Fred, Steve, Sid,** and **Max**.



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Thirty-six people attended the February 18th SIR wine tasting at the home of **Gabriela** and **Peter Bishop** (below right). We tasted two whites and 18 red wines from Spain. **Susan** and **Jerry Kaplan** won a bottle of white wine (pictured below) , and **Al** and **Helene Twyford** won a bottle of red wine. The appetizers, the wine, the mild weather, and the pleasant surroundings all contributed toward making this a successful wine tasting. The next SIR wine tasting of 2015 will be on Wednesday, April 22nd at the home of **Sue Sheldon** and **Bruce Borgman**.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

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



March walks planned by **Lo McCarley**

March Walks 2015

- March 6th** Lafayette Moraga Trail
Meet: Parking lot end of Olympic
Walk: West on Lafayette Moraga Trail
Coffee: La Scala, Civic and Locust
- March 13th** Oak Park South
Meet: Oak Park shopping center, PH
Between Putman and Keats
Walk: West on Oak Park Blvd, three blocks
South Contra Costa Canal
Coffee: Starbucks at Contra Costa Center, PH
- March 20th** Danville Iron Horse Trail South
Meet: At Railroad Museum Parking
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: Pascal French Oven, 155B Railroad Ave
- March 27th** Arbolado Park North
Meet: At Arbolado Park Parking lot
Take Ygnacio to Oak Grove (south)
Left on Arbolado Rd. Park on left
Walk: North across park to Ygnacio Canal
Lunch: Deli Delight, North Wiget



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of duplicate bridge at **Max Hinkle's** home on February 12th. In a very unusual scoring anomaly, the players in the first 3 positions at the lunch break were also the top 3 players at the end of the day, although first and second places were reversed. At lunchtime, **Jim Stedman** held down 1st place with 16.0 pts, just edging out **Doug Eisner**, who scored 15.5 pts. Third place was held by **Dick DeVoe's** 14.5 pts. However, after lunch and thanks to some magnificent play by his partners, **Doug Eisner's** 31.5 pts vaulted him into 1st place over **Jim Stedman's** 30.0 pts. **Dick DeVoe** held onto 3rd place with 27.0 pts despite a furious late charge by numerous pretenders.

Our next game is scheduled for March 12th. However, the host and number of players have not yet been determined.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge in February at **Jim Brown's** home. Nine couples came to play but we only had four tables with room for 16 people. I drew the **McCarley's** name from the envelope which excluded us for the night — Darn! As for the bridge results, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** came in first with 37 points, while **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** came in second with 34 points. Third place was a tie between **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** along with **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** at 32 points.

Lynn and **Dasha Freeman** will host the next Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 on March 18th.

Couples Party Bridge

Doug Eisner/Dave Pierce



The Couples Party Bridge group played three tables of party bridge at the home of **George** and **Pam Rammell** on February 3rd. Although the group enjoyed many of **George's** paintings on numerous walls around the house, the cards

were cool for the first half of the evening. However, they warmed up as the evening wore on. **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** emerged at the end in 1st place with 4210 pts, due mostly to two small slams. There was a battle all evening for 2nd and 3rd place between **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** and **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** but during the final round, the **DeVoe's** edged into 2nd place by a mere 20 pts, 2950 pts to 2930 pts.

Our next game is scheduled for March 3rd at **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione's** house.

Party Bridge

Fred Bolton



We played three tables of bridge on February 2nd at the home of **Bill Reese**. First place went to **Max Hinkle** with 5650 pts, second to **Bill Snyder** with 5090 pts and third to **Bob Yolland** with 4690 pts. Our next game

will be on March 2nd at the home of **Jim Stedman**.

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

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams



At the February meeting, hosted by **Jim** and **Ruth Adams**, **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** took 3rd place with 21.5 pts. while **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** placed 2nd with 24 pts.

Dave and **Joan Pierce** easily came in first with 28 pts. Board#17 was played in three different suits - clubs, diamonds and spades. **Joan** shared that she played her 3 spades contract thinking she was in three NT. Believe it or not, she took all thirteen tricks! Does this event prove that a good bridge player can excel even when playing in the wrong suit or does it illustrate that on a good bridge day even making an error can result in the partnership taking top honors?

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jack Harrington

Dan O'Sullivan



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Warm, dry and not very winter-like weather has encouraged a lot of golf so far this year. Some weeks have seen participation by nearly 70% of our 110 "Tuesday Golfers". In addition, there have been some great scores. Congratulations to **Russ Bliese** and **Bill Cammerer** who shot their ages in January and February, respectively.

Welcome to **Ozzie McKenzie** and soon-to-be inductee Larry Gray who have recently begun to play with us on Tuesdays.

SIR golfers are eligible to play in numerous Area-wide and State-wide events. While it's too late to sign up to play in the two-day Springtime in Napa event in early April, Branch 161 is hosting the Area 4 invitational at Discovery Bay on April 13. Our Branch 146 will be hosting the Area 2 Invitational at Deer Ridge in late May.

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.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs 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 receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.

Golf Partner

A fellow comes home after his regular Saturday golf game and his wife asks why he doesn't include Tom O'Brien in the games anymore.

The husband asks, "Would you want to play with a guy who regularly cheats, swears up a storm over everything, lies about his score, and has nothing good to say about anyone else on the course?"

"Of course I wouldn't," replies the wife.

"Well," says the husband, "neither would Tom O'Brien."



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR's luncheon. During the three months that we meet at the Concord Hilton we could play golf, but we don't like change so we will not be playing on those Thursdays.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The Couples Golf Group has begun planning for a busy 2015 season. The group consists of about 20 couples who enjoy playing with their spouses/significant others in fun format tournaments. We play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

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

Late Arrival

One golfer asked his friend, "Why are you so late in arriving for your tee time?"

His friend replied, "It's Sunday. I had to toss a coin between going to church or playing golf."

"Yes," continued the friend, "but that stills doesn't tell me why you are so late." "Well," said the fellow, "It took over 25 tosses to get it right!"

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

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

If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from us from time to time and I will let you know about items that are of interest to Mac users.

Do you have Generio on your computer? Come and find out. **Verner Laursen & Max Burchett**

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday March 25, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

Our guest speaker in March will be Roland Chow, Director of Business Development for *Bloodhound Research*. The title of his presentation will be: "Commonly Held Beliefs and Realities of Stock Market Investing." Roland will discuss software tools designed to simulate an investment idea prior to implementation to gain a better understanding of how it is likely to work and under what conditions. He will discuss some of the lessons he has learned while using the tool, The Bloodhound System, to evaluate various investment strategies, including those of well-known gurus. In addition, he will show examples of various approaches to stock market investing that have demonstrated superior returns over the long-term. Topics will include:

- How to validate any investment thesis prior to

putting real money into the strategy.

- How to set up and run a simulation covering any investment approach.
- How to create and manage your own portfolio utilizing advanced analytics and cloud computing.

Roland has been in the high-tech industry for over 16 years and in the financial industry for over 10 years. He was formerly a founding board member and investor of a regional business bank in the East Bay. He has experience with a number of different asset classes including real estate, alternatives, derivatives, and equities. Roland started his career at Ernst and Young LLP after graduating from the University of California at Berkeley. He is currently on the Board of Directors for Life Eldercare and the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Association of Individual Investors.

Legends Restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR. Co-Chairmen: **Gary Moore** (Br-174) 925-254-8742, **David Sutton** (Br-8) 925-686-0158, and **Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, March 19th at 9:30 am.

Barry Brown will be the presenter for the March 19th CAT meeting. His presentation will be "The Evolution of Windows" and will cover a brief review of how Windows has changed over the years and he will be demonstrating the new Windows 10 (beta). He will also be addressing the question: Should I upgrade to Windows 10 when it becomes available later this year?

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 am, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive.

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

BR 146 Sirs meandering through the Hilton Hotel lobby looking for directions in their new temporary meeting location