



Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

Beware, The Ides of March are upon us and St. Patrick's Day looms on the horizon. We will even enjoy the traditional St. Pat's fare of corned beef and cabbage at our luncheon on Monday, March 21st at the Hilton Hotel.

We experienced another great luncheon in February as over 200 Members and guests enjoyed wonderful camaraderie and an interesting speaker. During the luncheon, we welcomed two new members. Joining our branch was **Jim Browning** sponsored by **Corrie Oranje** and **Mike Risser** sponsored by **Jim Barry**. In addition, our members sponsored six guests who we hope will soon join us as new Sirs.

Following this theme, I am reminding you again that when you see a Sir with a lightly colored yellow name tag, please try to take a few minutes to do your best to welcome him to our branch since that Sir is a recent member. Make a new friend.

Our 2015 branch audit, conducted by **Steve Siljestrom** and **Al Munayer**, was presented to the Branch Executive Committee before the February luncheon. The BEC is pleased to report that the auditors gave us a clean bill of health, discovering no exceptions or deficiencies in the handling of the general, custodial, and committee accounts.

We are still without a Travel Chairman. If you are interested in travel and either would consider being the committee chair or becoming a member of a Travel Committee, please contact me to obtain more details about what would be involved.

For many years, we have held a Dinner Dance. This has been a popular event for Sirs and their Ladies. We currently have no Chairman to organize this event. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming the Chair or willing to help in continuing this yearly tradition.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, please call and ask them to attend an upcoming luncheon as your guest. An added incentive to bringing a guest is that a sponsor whose

**Luncheon – Monday, March 21st
At the Concord Hilton Hotel**

**Guest Speaker: Muriel Smalheiser,
Medicare Health Insurance Counselor
Contra Costa HICAP Org.**

**Gathering time – 11:00 am
Starting time – 11:45 am**

**Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: (925) 979-5146
By noon Monday, March 14th**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



February's guest speaker was Joe Canciamilla, Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters

guest becomes a member is entered into a semi-annual drawing for a free lunch.

As a reminder: until we return to the Boundary Oak Clubhouse in May 2016 for the Ladies Day Luncheon, our remaining meeting dates at the Concord Hilton are Monday, March 21th and Monday, April 18th.



Little Sir's Corner

Alan Elnick

Volunteerism is what makes our branch successful and sets us apart from so many other branches with fewer members and activities. We don't often express our appreciation to our volunteers, our activities chairs and assistants who spend the time, and for a number of them, that has been quite a bit of time, to assure our success. We are all mostly retired, and certainly nobody joined here to perform another full time job, but if each of us volunteered just a little time, we could help lift the burden on our underappreciated few. Right now we need a Travel Committee. Many of you like to travel and in the past, we have had many enjoyable programs. Circumstances being what they are, we have a void in that category and need some help to assure continued opportunities for our members. Please feel free to call me (or email) if you would be interested.

Our speaker last month was dynamic, and judging by the number of questions you all asked, we provided an interesting program. In March our speaker, Muriel Smalheiser, will be answering our questions with "Everything You Wanted To Know About Medicare." It is particularly interesting for me as I become eligible in May. I have been dealing with Medicare problems for my Mother-in-Law and they can be unnecessarily challenging. Ms. Smalheiser has been a volunteer with HICAP-health insurance counseling and advocacy program for 8 years. She is registered with the State Health Insurance Department to do Medicare counseling. Like many of us, she was blindsided when her mom had a stroke, and she was left in charge of how to find the resources to manage all that comes with the severe sudden illness of a loved one. With all the changes that are set to occur next year in health coverage, it seemed an excellent time to avail ourselves of Ms. Smalheiser's knowledge.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 21st at the Concord Hilton. See you all there.

*The only time the world beats
a path to your door is if you're
in the bathroom!*



**Membership
Ben Gleason**

Branch 146 Statistics

We nearly held our own in February. We lost three members and inducted two. We now have 277 Active members. Keep up the good work in bringing guests and making an effort to meet and greet the new members. Remember, the new guys are the ones with the yellow badges. Please make them feel welcome.

New Member Additions in February 2016



Jim Browning



Mike Risser

Status Changes

- Active Member Out: **Bob Bogardus** transferred to Branch 8
- Active Member
Becoming Inactive: **Randall Davis**
- Inactive & Active
Member Resigned: **Jim Swanson** is moving out of the area
Ralph Fowler



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Lively receives the Branch 146 Award for 20 Years of Outstanding Service from Big Sir **Walt Busenius**



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The next event for the Couples Dining Out group will be on Tuesday, March 15th at Il Fornaio in Walnut Creek.

This upscale restaurant is one of the best in Walnut Creek with spacious dining areas and authentic Italian cuisine. We were able to get a very good menu selection for only \$45.50 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. This menu would normally be over \$55 for the dinner but we were able to get this special price. We will have a choice of soup or salad, a choice of four entrees including a chicken pasta dish, spinach ravioli with sausage, grilled salmon and a rotisserie herb chicken, with an almond hazelnut chocolate cake for dessert. Yum!

Photo courtesy Yelp



As of this writing we are already at 73 diners leaving us with just 6 seats left! We will be seated in the East Loggia area, which can accommodate additional people – but be sure you sign up quickly. Parking is convenient in the adjoining garage. We will start our evening with our normal no-host bar at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:15 pm. This will be a special dinner which you will not want to miss!

*It used to be only death and taxes.
Now, of course, there's shipping and handling, too.*

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Editor	Jeff Baily
Proofreaders	Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker
Internet Posting	Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia
	Ron Plachy



Hilton Hotel—Lunch Menu 21 March 2016

Entrees

**Corned Beef and Cabbage
with Boiled Potatoes
or
Grilled Salmon with Sauce**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Lew Thompson receives the Branch 146 Award for 20 Years of Outstanding Service from Big Sir **Walt Busenius**



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group on Wednesday, 2pm, March 16th at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 going North: (I'm sure you can figure this out from other areas) exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, Straight to San Miguel Dr. Right on Blackwood, Slight Left stay on Blackwood, Sharp Right on Ward. Alan's home is on the left. If you get lost call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

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 & fun for all.



February Greeters **Frank Sonoda, Bob Lucido, and Martin Harper** standing outside the Hilton Hotel directing arriving SIR members to the correct meeting room



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.

Ken Richter

Roy Luoma

Hank James

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

(925) 934-6920

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Ken Richter accepts the Branch 146 Honoree Award for the many years of outstanding & dedicated service that he has performed for the branch. Presenting the award is Big Sir **Walt Busenius**

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.



Luncheon Chairman

Max Hinkle

Bad Fish/Good Fish:

From my exit and later interviews I found that this time no one was displeased by his fish entree—or the chicken entree for that matter. I want to put a good word in here to

the catering managers and the chef at the Hilton for their dedication to making your meal tasty and your luncheon experience pleasant. They responded with alacrity to our complaints about the fish entree served at the January luncheon. They even went so far as to serve the Big and Little Sirs and me a “test” luncheon of the salmon they intended to present at the February luncheon. I have found all of the Hilton personnel to be pleasant, responsive and cooperative in my dealings with them.

February’s Attendance: By my count there were 211 meals served at our February luncheon, six less than our guaranteed number. There were 202 active members in attendance including the two new members inducted at this luncheon. That number equals 73% of our membership, a bit above our average monthly attendance figure over the course of the last year. Member attendance at our February luncheon held at the Hilton last year averaged 68.9%. Nevertheless, there were 23 unexcused absentees (“no shows”), representing 8.3% of our membership. That’s a bit more than we have been averaging the past several luncheons, but still better than the 10% figure historically used in calculating our meal guarantee. I ordered a menu split of 50% fish and 50 per cent chicken. In hindsight, it appears that a 55-45 split would have been more in accord with the diners’ preferences.

March Luncheon: Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 21st at the Concord Hilton in Concord. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly 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 made payable to “SIR 146” delivered when you check in on luncheon day. *REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO THE HILTON UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.*

Opt Out Deadline for March Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the March luncheon is Noon on Monday, March 14th. We will e-blast a reminder of this deadline a day or two in advance of it. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, send an email message to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com before that deadline (“no show deadline”). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the “Advance Payers” who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. This courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each “no show” notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice please call me at **(925) 408-6004**. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed or not timely displayed in the “no lunch” Inbox.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com on or before 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. If your Guest decides to come after the deadline don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a Guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If you or your Guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you or he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places 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 for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Our sturgeon catching had been spotty this season but that ended this month. The champ was **Romano Gnusti**, who landed (and released) a 74-inch sturgeon in the Delta. According to the sturgeon chart, the fish weighed approximately 120 lbs. It was **Romano's** first sturgeon and biggest fish ever. On the very next day, **Carl Moyer** caught and tagged a 53-inch sturgeon. Finally, **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** picked up several keeper sturgeon while fishing for stripers. **Mike** also had a very large sturgeon on his line for about fifteen minutes, but it got away.

Conversely, the trout fishing has been dismal. Several days of fishing by various anglers at our usually reliable winter pond, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, produced not a single bite. But there is hope. San Pablo Reservoir opened on Valentine's Day and on our first outing there, **Reggie Fromm** of Branch 146, along with **Terry Miller** and **Carl Moyer**, came home with limits.

Paul Dubow had an excellent fishing day in Maui. He landed a 15 lb. ono, an 8 lb. red snapper (which is different from the red snapper in California), and a bevy of tasty blue line snappers.

We also made our annual treks to the Sportsman's Expo in Sacramento and the Bass Pro Shop and Fisherman's Warehouse in Manteca. Both events were well attended. In the next month, we are planning outings for catfish, stripers, sturgeon, and trout. All are welcome to join us on these excursions as well as our monthly breakfast meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 24th at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am and the meeting begins at 8:30 am. For further information, please contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On March 11th we will be hiking on the newly constructed George Miller Trail with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and Bay. Meet at 10:00 am at the start of the trail. This will be an easy three mile hike. This hike is entirely on a paved road so the recent rains will not be a factor. If you wish to bring your dogs, no problem. If anybody wishes to have lunch afterwards there is a nice Mexican restaurant in Martinez.

Directions: Go north on Alhambra toward downtown about 2mi, left on Escobar St, right on Talbert St. to the gate of George Miller Trail and park alongside the road.

If anybody would like to carpool we could meet at the Best Buy Parking lot about 9:30 am. Let me know.

Friday March 11th, 2016

Hike Starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf Cell (925) 550-4967

On Friday March 25th we will be hiking the Falls Trail on Mt. Diablo. I have not hiked this trail yet so I will get back to you on the length and height of this hike. I heard that this is the best it has been in years. This is a moderate hike. We will be starting at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 10:00 am.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, Go about five miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end of Regency, walk down the hill to the gate.

Friday March 25th, 2016

Hike Starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf Cell (925) 550-4967

Rain Cancels All Hikes

Spouses always welcome



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

Our next meeting is on Monday, February 29th at the Greenery Restaurant, 8:30 am. Look for our report in the April issue of the SIR CALL.

Walking Group

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call John for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 825-3561





Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

Would you believe that there could possibly be a 6th group forming of Mexican Train Dominos' players among the Branch 146 members?

Over the last few months, I have been approached by a few more Sirs who are interested in participating on a more regular basis in the Mexican Train Dominos fever that seems to be sweeping through the branch. Sir **Chuck Denny** and his wife **Mary**, who have been substituting in one of the other groups, would like to play on a more regular basis. **Chuck** is willing to take on the responsibility of chairing the new group, at least for a time to get the group organized and underway. A group can be started with any number of players but the social aspects of having a bunch of people getting together add to the fun of the game nights. Most of the five established MTD groups have between 6 and 9 Sirs and usually their wives, but single Sirs are playing in some groups and they are most welcome to join the new group or sign on as a substitute to an existing one.

If you are interested in possibly joining the new group, or just learning more about the game, feel free to call or write me at mtdana@aol.com, or call **Chuck Denny** or write to him at cdenney@astound.net.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dee DiMatteo, Frank O'Loughlin, and Richard Lyon pose for a picture prior to the start of the February luncheon

I knew I made a mistake when I told a one armed man on the phone who later came to pick up flowers for his mother that delivery might cost an arm and a leg



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

We had a great turnout to the Photography meeting when sixteen members and guests arrived for the 9:00 am meeting, Friday, February 26th.

Bruce Borgman, dressed in safari clothing, (*see below*) kicked off the meeting with an entertaining slide show of his October 2015 safari to the southern part of Africa. Bruce explained his choice of the compact, lightweight Canon SX 60 DSLR for the amazing shots of wildlife that he captured.

Roy Hodgkinson followed **Bruce** with a demonstration of his recently purchased Sony A6000 mirrorless camera. Thinking for a moment that we may have erroneously let a Sony rep through the side door of the library, **Roy** did an incredible job of describing the myriad features that his camera had to offer. He followed up his demonstration with movies and photos that made many of us in the audience wonder whether he was showing us a camera or a sophisticated computer, especially when he starting taking pictures with his camera zooming, focusing, and viewing his shots of the darkened room through his remotely connected smartphone.

Next on the program were discussions and demonstrations of converting old 8mm movies and 35mm slides to DVDs through Costco processing. While I had the easier task of simply taking reels of 8mm film to Costco for processing, **Jerry Kaplan** showed the tedious task and hours needed to go through the numerous boxes of slides that he had accumulated over the years of his life before sending them off for processing. Just finding a projector to sort out the slides was a major endeavor.

Next Meeting

Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subjects: To be Announced

When: April 29th at 9:00 am to 11 am



Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 1

Jerry Kaplan

The second game night of the New Year was hosted by Sir **Corrie** and **Susan Oranje** at their welcoming Concord home on a warm Friday, February 12th. Twelve regular players were present with **Jeff** and **Alicia Baily** filling in as subs. There were two tables of five and one table of four. The evening's top prize went to **Marie**, wife of Sir **Frank Ascatisno** who averaged just 10.4 points in all the games she played. Second and third place went to Sir **Jeff Baily** and **Jim Stedman**, who averaged 11.8 and 11.9 respectively. **Corrie Oranje** was fourth with 12.0.

Even though everyone in the original group of 18 people played in January, we are always looking for a few more substitutes to play on the Friday night following the SIR luncheon. Single Sirs are most welcome. Typically, during the year, there is room for another two to four people to join the fun. The game is easy to learn. Call **Jerry Kaplan** at 930-7076 or send an email if interested.

(written by Corrie Oranje)



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

As reported in the February SIR CALL, our January game night was at **Phyllis** and **Jim Meehan's** home. Not only did they put together a very successful hosting evening, **Phyllis** cleaned house by winning first place. **Chuck Denney** won second place and **Anne Plachy** won third place. Congratulations to all three winners!

Our February game night will be at **Bernice** and **Bill Cammerer's** home on the 26th. The results of that game will miss the deadline for posting in the March Sir Call and will be reported in the April newsletter.



Mexican Train Dominoes

New Group 5 (Cinco)

Jim Burk

Our group last met on Thursday evening, February 18th, at the home of **Jim** and **Anne Burk**. Our group is smaller than most, and on this evening we were even smaller in that three couples (**Eisners**, **Piercess**, and **Spragues**) had other important activities in which they were involved thus unavailable to participate. However, the **Halletts**, **Campbells**, and **Burks** had a very enjoyable evening becoming even more experienced with MTD. The highlight of the evening was **Anne Burk's** homemade apple pie with ice cream for our dessert. You can see that we have our priorities assigned properly.

As for the game itself, **Anne** was the winner with **Chuck Campbell** coming in second. No IRS agents have been alerted regarding their winnings, but the others have vowed to do better in March.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The three winners of MTD Group 1 were **Jim Stedman** (3rd place), **Jeff Baily** (2nd place), and **Marie Ascatisno** (1st place)



Photo by Bill Schultz

Lunch break for Duplicate Bridge 1 Group with **Fred Kovar**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Lo McCarley**, **Charlie Abrams**, and **Jim Brown**



Photo by Sue Busenius

Sirs **Jeff Baily**, **Tony Shebanek**, **Jim Pfohl**, **Vern Laursen**, and **Miles Ringle** relax with their iced teas after completing Nine Holes of Golf

Photo by Gary Schaub



Joanne and Dale Haukland with Joan and Al Zamolo
at the SIR *Born Yesterday* event

Photo by Gary Schaub



Ken and Marilyn Kratz & Sally and Steve Sprague
attend *Born Yesterday*

Photo by Gary Schaub



Elaine and Ken Richter at the Leshler along with Cindy and Tony Greco attending the event *Born Yesterday*

Travel Opportunities

Longer Trips

March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean A 16 day all-inclusive cruise across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea and highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona (Spain), Bandol (France) and Monte Carlo. Cost from \$3,665 pp. Contact **Bob Spellman**, (Br 146) at (925) 934-8428 or email bobjo@astound.net.

May 3–5, 2016: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library A once in a lifetime opportunity to view the Vatican Splendors exhibit and tour the Reagan Library with lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Also on this trip will be a guided tour of the Mission at Santa Barbara. Included in the trip is roundtrip motor coach transportation, 2-night stay at the Pepper Tree (Santa Barbara), 6 hosted meals along the way and driver gratuity. Cost \$591 pp, double occupancy. 30 travelers are required for this trip. Contact **Bob Spellman**, (Br 146) at (925) 934-8428 or email bobjo@astound.net

September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and, finally, 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact **Bob Spellman**, (Br 146) at (925) 934-8428 or email bobjo@astound.net

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Frank Rockwell and Jim Barry at the February luncheon



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Bill and Margaret Rees hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on February 17th. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also loved

Margaret's snacks and dessert and **Bill's** wines. As for the bridge results, **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** came in first with 38.5 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** took second with 38 points. In third place were **Tony and Cindy Greco** with 34 points and fourth place was a tie: **Lo and Sue McCarley** and **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** with 30 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on March 16th.



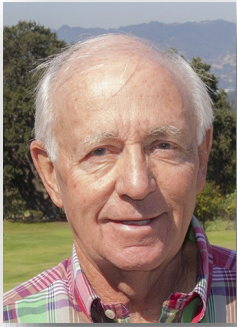
Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

Fred Bolton hosted 4 tables of duplicate bridge on February 11th for the members of Duplicate #1. At the lunch break, the top 4 scores were rather

closely packed, with **Carl Johnson** in the lead with 16.5 pt, followed by a tie for second place between **Jim Jackson** and **Jim Brown** with 15.0 pt. **Max Hinkle** was alone in fourth position with 14.0 pt. However, the afternoon session had some surprises in store. **Carl Johnson** held his lead to remain in first place although by a much narrower margin than the morning session. **Carl's** 42.0 pt barely eked out the win over the surprising, and surprised, **Bill Schultz** whose 41.5 pt. captured second place. Third place went to **Jim Brown** with 41.0 pt while **Jim Jackson** and **Fred Kovar** tied for 4th place with 39.5 pt.

Rich Ahlf will host our March 10th game and **Jim Jackson** will be the game's director.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

Competition was fiercer than the New Hampshire primaries when **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** graciously hosted a very tight match the same evening, February 9th.

Four couples ended within one match-point: **Doug and Patti Eisner** (22.0, 55% game), **Dave and Joan Pierce** (22.5, 56%), and tied for first were **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** and **Tony and Cindy Greco** (23.0, 57.5%). The caucus elected **Dasha** as the true winner for her bountiful snacks and tasty dessert.

(written by Dave Pierce)



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 group was very nicely hosted by **Max Hinkle** on February 19th. 1st place went to **Jim Jackson** with 30.5

points. In the first and second halves, **Jim** also ranked 3rd and 1st. Congratulations, **Jim!**

The 2nd place finisher was **Harvey Oxman** with 29.0 pts., who showed strong consistency with 2nd's for both halves. **Steve Dawkins** took 3rd place with 26.5 pts.

Most Twos: **Steve** had 9, followed with 8 by **Harvey** and **Jim Jackson**.

Least Zeros: Tie with 2 each- **Harvey** and **Jim**.

(written by Dick DeVoe)



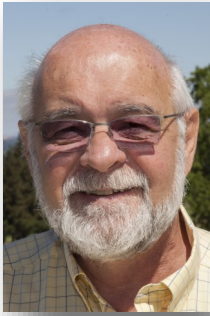
Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Doug Eisner** on February 1st. **Jim Brown** took top honors with 5620 points, **Jim Jackson** was second with 4900, and **Dick DeVoe** was third with 4879.

Our next game will be at the home of **Rich Ahlf** on March 7th.

*Be who you are and say what you feel,
because those that matter, don't mind,
and those that mind, don't matter!*



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Approximately 28 people attended the February 24th SIR Wine Tasting event at the home of **Bill and Lynette Holly**. We tasted a variety of sparkling wines and numerous Bordeaux wines. Not knowing that we would have summer weather, the number of attendees were limited to 28 on a first response basis. As it turned out, the weather and the surroundings made this a perfect opportunity to taste fine wines and get to know our fellow wine tasters. I couldn't decide on how best to set up the Wine Guessing Game and instead had a drawing for wines. **Bruce Borgman** won a bottle of Bordeaux and **Brad Hatcher** won a bottle of Prosecco. **Bill and Lynette Holly** were presented with a bottle of Cava sparkling wine in appreciation for opening their lovely home to us.

Our next wine tasting will be at the home of **Peter and Gabriela Bishop** on April 21st when we will be tasting red wines from Italy and white wines from Germany. If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events, please email Rob Melrose @

RWMelrose@Gmail.com



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bordeaux Reds



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Carmen Schiavone and Gabriela Bishop enjoying wine tasting



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bruce Borgman, Rich Hanford, Bill Holly and Tony Shebanek are really into the Bordeaux



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Barbara Stengel and Lynette Holly take time to smell the flowers



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Larry Brown, Jean Shebanek, Peter Bishop, Walt Busenius and Rob Melrose enjoying the appetizers and wine



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Crowned Birthday Boy winner for February was **Dave Devincenzi**

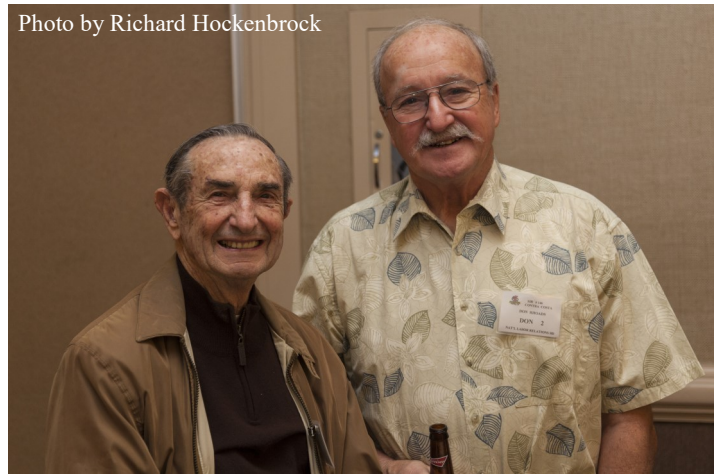


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Al Zamolo with **Don Rhoads** at the February luncheon



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met February 10th at the home of **Al Zamolo**. **Al** was the big winner along with **Bill Cammerer**.

Our next meeting will be at **Dan O'Sullivan's** residence on March 9th.



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 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.*



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group #6 met on Wednesday, February 10th at **Norm Baietti's** home in Walnut Creek. We had 6 players; host **Norm, Al Twyford, Brad Hatcher, Bob Larson, Frank Lucas** and our newest regular player **Harvey Oxman**. **Sid Landman**, our alternate, and **Rich Ahlf** were missing. **Brad** was our big winner \$18. This is the most anyone has won since our beginning over two years ago. **Al, Norm** and **Bob** all lost \$3. **Frank** was our big \$9 loser. **Harvey** broke even. As usual, we enjoyed our host's good red wine and lively conversation during our afternoon game.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Due to holidays and temporary changes to the SIR luncheons, our usual schedule, the fourth Monday of the month, was changed. We will resume our usual schedule in March.

The host for our March 28th session is Sir **Bob Mehus**.

Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at **Harvey Oxman's** house in Walnut Creek.



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Bob Rockwell

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 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



Book Nook

Hank James

The Book Nook will be open at March's luncheon meeting. Assistant Chairman **Dick McElroy** will be substituting for **Hank**. **Dick** will need the help of a few Sirs to transport and set up the Book Nook for this meeting. Please call or email **Dick** at (925)-672-5612 or dmcelroy1827@astound.net if you are able to help.



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses. State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.

Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

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

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

vlaursen@astound.net



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group will kick off the season on April 20th.

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 player's contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We are actively seeking new members, so please contact Paul Masta if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.



Photo by Bill Schultz

02.23.2016

This foursome (*Bill Schultz* was taking the picture) had five chip-ins at Boundary Oak and **Ed Marlovits** had four of them. **Dave Steinberg**, **Ed Marlovits** and **Joe Fuchs** check the bottom of the cup for **Ed's** ball



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II is made up of eight Sirs who enjoy great food, conversation, and wine. We meet the second Monday of each month at various members' homes.

As is customary with the group, we bottle wine once a year, either red or white, and include our wives at the bottling. This year we are making this event a special evening meal with our wives.

When members are unable to attend we reach out for a substitute. Our next lunch will be at **Corrie Oranje's** home on March 14th.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are 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.

An elderly lady called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the radio, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator! She cried.

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard." He says.

"She got in the back-seat by mistake."



Webmaster

Ron Plachy

When accessing the branch web site on a smart phone, the menu becomes a button to reduce the space taken on the screen.

This is the view in landscape mode, note the Show Menu button.



Hide/Show Me

Who we are and what we do...

As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bons temps Rouler". Let the good times roll. Fun is what we're all about.

Activities

[Click an Icon for more Information](#)

Selecting the button expands the menu below the heading and changes the button to Hide Menu.

Each category, when selected, expands to show the sub-categories as shown below:



Hide/Show

- › Golf
- › Special Events
- › Newsletters
- ▼ Branch Information
 - Branch Regulations
Amended 11/13/2014
 - Branch 146 History
Revised 02/21/2015
 - Branch Financial Statements

Selecting the Hide Menu closes the menu and switches the button back to the Show Menu.

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)

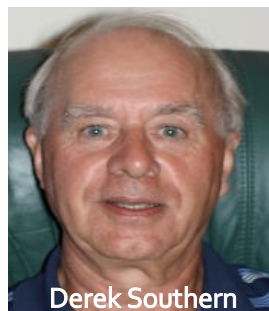


Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the 1st Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

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

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, March 17th at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

We are planning a presentation by a representative from Lawrence Livermore labs. The subject and speaker will be announced so please watch the Area 2 CAT website (A2cat.sirinc2.org) for an announcement of the details. They have a tremendous scope of research there, from super computers for weather forecasting to developing diagnostic tests for a wide range of ailments. They are leaders in many fields, so come to hear a very interesting talk.

We look forward to seeing you 9:15 am, March 17th at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The planned speaker for March has cancelled and the chairman is looking for a replacement. Branch 146 Communications will send out a branch wide email when the \$ums meeting plans for March are firmed up.

		Comparing	
		1966	2016
		vs	
1	Long hair		Longing for hair
2	Hoping for a BMW		Hoping for a BM
3	Going to a hip new joint		Receiving a new hip joint
4	Moving to California because it's cool		Moving to Arizona because it's warm
5	Rolling Stones		Kidney Stones
6	Disco		Costco
7	Passing the driver's' test		Passing the vision test

Featured Yearly SIR Event Day at the Races

Each year Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley invites all the SIR branches in the area for a Day at the Races. The larger SIR branches in attendance were paired with one of the races and Branch 146 was paired with race #5, where as members and guests we were invited to go down on the track to have a picture taken with the winning jockey of that race (shown below).

At the event we were welcomed to the Turf Club, which is situated on the highest level of the track providing sweeping views of the entire race. If you

wanted close up views of the horses, television monitors were at every table. The buffet had various assortments of food and desserts and was open the entire time of the races.

Although the weather as overcast with occasional drizzle, it was a thoroughly enjoyable way to spend the day.



Photo by Vassar Photography

Above: **Bob Royster**, Abel Cedillo (the winning jockey), **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Tony Shebanek**, and new member **Howard Charlop** down on the track



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

You can tell there is some serious discussion here between **Bill Weinberg** and **Alan Elnick** about the first race



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Above: **Al Munayer** has his own field glasses to follow the race

Below: & *Left:* **Jo & Bob Spellman** who were at the same table as **Vince & Bonnie Rettew**, had a wonderful time



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock