

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , March 9th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker
Paul Deanno
Chief Meteorologist, KPIX Eyewitness News
“We’re Out Of The Drought. Or Are We?”

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 Friday, March 3rd



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Guest speaker Dr. Jamie Boudreau (L) from Doctors without Borders with **Bruce Borgman** (C) and **Corrie Oranje** (R)

Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

Spring is getting ready to have sprung, I hope. We have had so much rain I was getting ready to consult Noah. Bruce has handled it better and is bringing the weatherman to us this month as our guest speaker. With all the rain comes all the green and our Golden State is awash in it now. Just at the right time, too. We get to express the little Irish in all of us this month as we will be sure to wear some green to our luncheon meeting. As the saying goes, “if you forget you’re gonna get pinched”, and none of us are cute enough to make that worth-while.

I am pleased to welcome four new members inducted last month... **Ross Abbott** sponsored by **John Pearl**, **Remsen Barnard** sponsored **Russ Anderson**, **Bob Greulich** sponsored by **Jim Kohl** and **Larry Kopp** sponsored by **Bruce Borgman**. I look forward to each of them having a rich and rewarding SIR experience.

Thanks to the initiative of Secretary **Jon Korfhage**, with a help from **Bob** and **Sandy Mehus**, we will have a fall dinner dance in October. Details will be forthcoming and it promises to be a stellar event, SRO!

We are making excellent progress with Explore and Eat and an emerging Pinochle activity. Volunteers making things happen is why Branch 146 is the best SIR.

I am relieved to report that our Audit Committee, **Steve Siljestrom**, **Al Munayer**, and **Bob Johnston** proclaimed another year with a clean bill of financial health for our branch. And to think, they did not even charge us!

At our luncheon last month, **Bob Mehus** was sworn in to fill the unexpired term of Director **Jim Saavedra**. Jim is still recovering and not ready to return to duty. He is rehab bound but loves to receive guests and is in great spirits. Drop by and spend some time with him, talk some sports; let's help him get back in shape! Thanks to **Bob** for stepping up!

Our next luncheon is Thursday, March 9th, at Boundary Oak. Bring a guest or two or three, and introduce them to SIR. If you can't make it, please remember to call in by the Friday deadline. Every no-show costs the branch, and adds work to the Little Sir, Luncheon Chairman, and Treasurer. Everybody is a volunteer. Remember wear that green! See you all there.

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.



Little Sir's Corner

Bruce Borgman

I am sure that you were as fascinated as I was when listening to Dr. Jamie Boudreau as she related her personal journey volunteering for Doctors Without Borders (“MSF”) at our February luncheon. Her obvious dedication in serving with this humanitarian organization was heartwarming, and the adventures she experienced while in remote areas in Africa were tales that we will not soon forget. I do have a number of copies of the “Alert” magazine, which the MSF New York office sent – contact me if you are interested in getting one of these copies which relate further on the wonderful work of this organization.

In March, we have another interesting speaker, Paul Deanno, Chief Meteorologist for KPIX Eyewitness News (Channel 5), speaking about an intriguing topic: “We’re Out Of The Drought. Or Are We?” Since we are experiencing such unusual weather, this surely is a topic foremost in our minds. The Bay Area has a unique climate and Paul is just the expert to discuss what is the 2nd most newsworthy topic - after the Washington, DC politics!

Paul is the top meteorologist in the SF Bay Area and has garnered four Emmys for broadcast excellence in this area and others. He regularly fills in for Good Morning America, the Today show, as well as the Weather Channel. During his 17-year career Paul has reported on many facets of the environment and weather technology.

Paul lives with his family in our area, and you will enjoy listening to him as he is personable, knowledgeable and an engaging speaker on this most interesting topic.

We are continuing to select speakers for the remainder of the year. Our speakers committee, which consists of **Alan Elnick, Jonathan Korfhage, Bill Holly, Jerry Kaplan**, and myself and we are always open to your suggestions – keep them coming!



Membership

Dave Pierce

In February we inducted four new members, **Ross Abbott, Remsen Barnard, Bob Greulich, and Larry Kopp**. Our active membership now stands at 287. We are off to a good start in 2017 with both new members and guests. Please help us retain the vitality and energy we so much enjoy by inviting more guests in the months ahead.

New Member Additions in February 2017



Ross Abbott



Rem Barnard



Bob Greulich



Larry Kopp



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Every six months, SIR Branch 146 has a drawing to award a free lunch to a lucky member who has brought a guest to a luncheon in the preceding six months.

Joe Stengel was the February winner



Sunshine

Calvin Tucker

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

- **Jim Saavedra**
- **Bob Walton**
- **Lynn Freeman**
- **Elmer Kaprielian**
- **Chuck Eichten**

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

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let the Sunshine Chair know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR members can be advised.

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair

phone: (925) 389 6070

Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Alan Elnick
Little Sir	Bruce Borgman
Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Assistant Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term)	Steve Sprague
Director(1 st Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(1 st Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(1 st Term)	Bob Mehus

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Bob Mehus

Refer to branch directory, accessible under members only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 Luncheon
March 9th 2017**

~Salad Course~

**Wedge of Baby Iceberg Lettuce
Hard Boiled Eggs, Cherry Tomatoes
and Thousand Island Dressing**

~Entrees~

**Classic Braised & Glazed Corned Beef
Cabbage, Boiled Carrots and Potatoes,
Horseradish Sauce**

Or

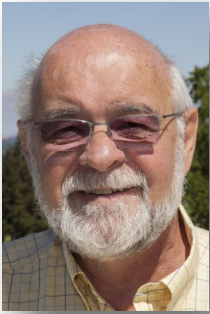
**Parmesan Crusted Tilapia
Orzo Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables
Fire Roasted Red Bell Pepper Butter Sauce**

~Dessert~

**Lemon Coconut Cake
White Cake, Lemon Mousse,
Toasted Coconut Topping**

**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

Rob Melrose

February Attendance: We consumed 197 meals at our February luncheon, which is less than our guarantee. Twenty-nine members were no-shows and we will expect a fair number of them to reimburse the branch. I hope the callers who notified us on the Thursday morning of the luncheon that they woke up ill have recovered. Don't forget, we are obligated to pay for meals up to our guarantee and, if you do not let us know you won't be attending, we assume you will be there. If you do not show and don't have a valid reason for not showing, we expect you to reimburse the branch for the cost of the meal.

March Luncheon: Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9th at the Clubhouse Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is still \$26 as it has been for over a year. 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 money guys really prefer checks so you might want to take a minute right now and write out a \$26 check payable to "SIR 146". Stick it in your wallet and you are good to go on March 9th, assuming you don't leave home without your wallet.

Opt Out Deadline for March Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the luncheon is Noon on Friday, March 3rd. We will email at least one reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an email message to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com before Noon, Friday, March 3rd. 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 leave a message with your name and badge number. 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. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No-show Notices: You should receive an email from me after I have updated the

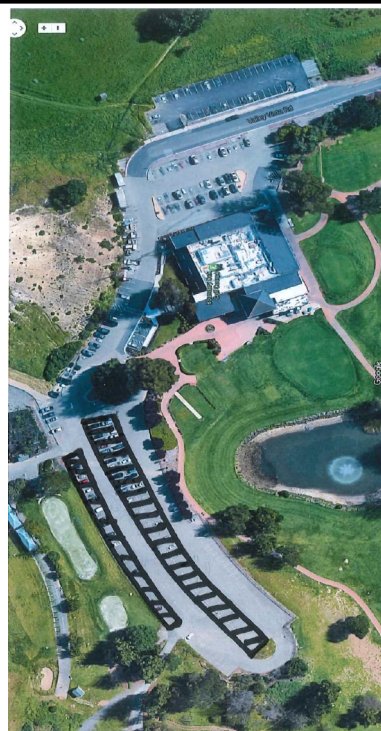
attendance records.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an email to nolunchbranch146@gmail.com on or before the opt out 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. Please advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

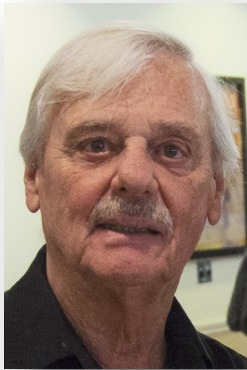
Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the opt out deadline in the manner as described above.

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.

Reminder: Boundary Oak has begun their solar power installation! The map below shows the area where parking is now non-accessible. Hopefully this will not negatively affect your decision to attend the luncheon as there will be golf carts to assist those who need it to get to the clubhouse.



L - PARKING SPACES BLOCKED BY FENCE



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On Friday, March 10th, we will be hiking 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 a 1000 ft. 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 a protected habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox, and golden-eagle sightings are frequent. The wildlife-viewing is exceptional throughout this hike. I like to do the hike this time of the year because in the summer it is too hot and, Marsh Creek will have plenty of water in it. We will be having our lunch at the highest point about half way through our hike, which will include beautiful views of 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 9:15 am. Meet at the Round Valley parking lot at 10:00 am.

Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome

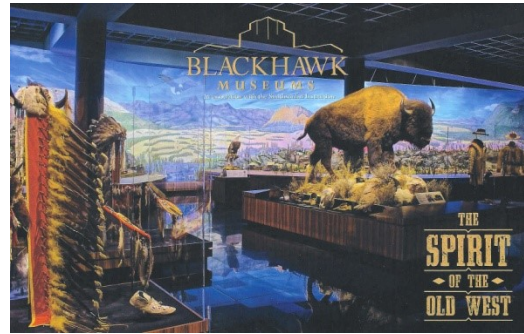
Friday March 10th, 2017

Hike starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf

Cell (925) 550-4967

Explore & Eat



"The Spirit of the Old West" at the Blackhawk Museum

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, California

The Inaugural for Explore & Eat is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5th at 10:00 am at the Blackhawk Museum where we will split our group in half and have docent-led tours of this fascinating exhibit. The docent-led tours will last just under 2 hours, where afterward you can tour the museum on your own until 1:00 pm for a "no host/order from the menu" lunch at the Fieldhouse Sports Grill located in the Blackhawk Plaza Shopping Center next to the museum. After lunch you can return to the museum.

The entry fee for the Blackhawk Museum for our group is \$8.00 per person. If you are a member of the Blackhawk Museum you can simply show your membership card for free admission. *For the entry fee we are asked to have the \$8.00 in cash in order to speed up the process for our group to enter the museum and to begin the docent led tours.*

This event is open to all SIR 146 members and their guests. Your admission charge is good for all day so after lunch you can return to the museum and enjoy the beautiful cars and/or the other exhibits.

The event is limited to 40 participants. At this time there are only a few spots left. You can reserve your spot by sending an email to: 146exploreandeat@gmail.com by Thursday, March 30th, and let us know who will be attending Explore & Eat.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Boyd & Hank James commenting on how long each of them have been a Sir

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Can you believe that fishermen would complain about too much water? But that is what has happened so far this year. Either the storms have kept us off the water or when the storms have subsided temporarily, the water is too riled or muddy for decent fishing.

As a consequence, only two of us caught fish this month. One was **Tom Kostik**, who defied the rain gods and went fishing in the Delta several times. Tom usually fishes for stripers and he did catch a few small ones but, in the process, he also caught two keeper sturgeon, one at 48 inches and the other at 45 inches. The other was **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, but he had to go to Hawaii (tough duty!) to do it, where he caught several tasty blue snappers fishing on a party boat. By the way, they don't throw parties on party boats. The boats are so named because individual persons (parties) who may not know each other can fish on the boat as opposed to a "charter" boat where a group of friends books the boat for themselves.

The weather will get better eventually and, since we are optimists, we expect that the fishing will get better as well. We have lots of plans for trout, sturgeon, and striper fishing in the coming months. If you are interested, feel free to attend our next meeting which will be on Thursday, March 23rd, at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am. For further information, call fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill Cammerer was the February Birthday Boy drawing winner



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Twelve people attended the Photography Group meeting at the library on Friday, February 24th. We almost had to move the meeting to my house when we could not get the door open to the meeting room but the cleaning crew showed up and they were able to get the door opened with a little help from WD-40.

Roy Hodgkinson and I showed various pictures taken from our respective Sony alpha cameras, 6000 and 6500 models. My picture of the street where I live using only the lone street light behind me is shown below. The picture was hand-held with a shutter speed of 1/10 sec, ISO set at 25,600, and the lens f-stop of 3.5. The Sony alpha cameras are noted for their ultra low light capability as the picture below shows little noise and good color saturation.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Our next meeting will be held on April 28th when we will show and review pictures taken from a field trip yet to be scheduled a week or so before the meeting. We will have information about the field trip in next month's Photography column. We hope you will join us.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subject: Review photos taken on field trip yet TBD
When: April 28th, at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians Group on Thursday, 2 pm, March 16th at 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D (near Ygnacio Valley Road), Walnut Creek.

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 and fun.



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are evolving as we are considering our direction since **Pete Miller** is still recovering from his medical treatment. We are pleased that **Ken Donnelly** has agreed to take over some responsibility in determining our song sets and places where we might perform. Currently we are practicing a great set of Irish songs and anticipate performing this series at an appropriate venue around St. Patrick's Day. **Ken** and **Steve Dinning** are reviewing other songs to add to the Irish song list, as well as putting together a group of romantic songs.

Our rehearsals are going well and we are pleased to have **Jonathan Korfhage** join us in the practices. We can always use more of you Sirs who are closet or shower singers, and encourage you to join us at our rehearsals on the first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.



Cribbage

John Pearl

Five of us enjoyed the nice weather to meet at **Barney Meade's** home. Other members of group were occupied with such things as recovering from hip replacement surgery and HVAC duct cleaning.

First place went to the host **Barney Meade**, who won all the games he played, while second place was taken by our co-chair **Ron Afdal**.

We meet again in March, probably on Wednesday, the 22nd.

mcpearl@astound.net

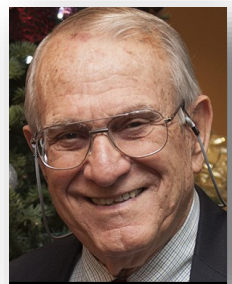


Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Monday February 13th,

Cooking II members took their wives to the Dead Fish restaurant in Crocket for Valentine's Day. We had a long table with great conversation and plenty of wine since the restaurant has a no corkage policy. Thank you **Steve Dawkins** for setting it up. Incidentally, the food was really good so we recommend the place. Our next event will be Monday March 13th at **Dennis Hallett's**.



Walking Group

Frank Ascagnano

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **Frank** for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Irish!
Irish Who?
Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out event for January was one for the books in several ways. We had planned to go to La Finestra in Lafayette – where we have gone before several years ago – and where we were able to get a great dinner for just \$34 per person. While we planned to have one night with a limit of 40-50 diners, we quickly exceeded that number and decided to add a second evening the following week. Our final total was 82 diners for the two nights – and everyone had a great time. To add a bit of drama, a huge tree next to the restaurant collapsed onto the parking lot the night before our first dinner – crushing 10 cars in the process. We were fortunate that the tree did not fall one day later (!)– and we were able to ooh and aah over the force of nature when we had our first dinner as planned on January 23rd. Both evenings went off without a hitch and we are now ready for our dining out experience in March.

After considering our options, we have decided to go to Zio Fraedo’s on Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill. This place has a long-standing reputation as an excellent restaurant that serves Continental and Italian cuisine and caters to larger parties. Many of you have recommended that we try this restaurant for our Couples Dining Out and we have gotten an excellent menu and price. We will have a single evening on Monday, March 20th and will be able to accommodate a larger number than we could for other restaurants. We have gotten a \$40 all inclusive price for a menu that includes Calamari Fritti as an appetizer, a mixed green salad, and a choice of three entrees: Chicken Cordon Bleu, New York Steak, or Grilled Salmon, with chocolate mousse for dessert, with coffee and tea.

Please email **Bruce** at bgborgman@aol.com to reserve then confirm by sending your check and choice of entrée to **Bruce Borgman** at 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek, 94598 by March 13th. It will be a fun event which you do not want to miss – see you there!



Book Club Chuck Campbell

Ten members of the SIR Book Group met Monday morning Feb 13th to discuss Cormac McCarthy’s book *Blood Meridian*. The story takes place in the mid 1800’s starting in Texas. Initially a group of drifters, including a 14 year old kid, are recruited by a self-proclaimed Captain who wants to wage war on Mexicans and claim more lands for Texas. This group is shortly attacked and beaten by a group of Apaches. The remnants of the raiding party are subsequently put into service with a new group of mercenaries under the charge of a man named Glanton. The purpose of the new group is to rid the northern part of Mexico of the Apache warriors and they are to be paid by the number of Apache scalps brought to the local governors. The last character of note to be introduced is a man called Judge. He is a big strange man (maybe mystical) in command of all sorts of knowledge that he can employ to get this group of mercenaries out of trouble.

What follows are bloody raids by the mercenaries which are initially praised by the local governments. However, later raids also kill Mexican villagers resulting in Glanton’s group being chased by Mexican soldiers. The story continues with more evil and bloody events which take place along the Texas-Mexican border. The relationship between the Judge and the kid becomes a strange focus as the story evolves.

We all agreed that McCarthy is a very talented writer particularly his descriptions of landscape settings. We also agreed that this book is not for the casual reader. Some felt that the unprovoked violence and depravity left the reader wondering what the author was trying to say.

Our next book is the classic *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway. We will meet Monday, March 13th at the Black Bear restaurant at 8:30 am.



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Couples Dining Out
La Finestra
in
Lafayette



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

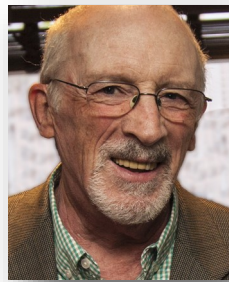
The February Mexican Train Game Night was held on the 10th at the lovely Walnut Creek home of Sir **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha**.

All three tables were full with 18 players; Sir **John Moose Kelly** was a substitute for a regular who was absent.

Martha Plante, in addition to hosting, won First Place for the February Game Night with an excellent average of only 6.4 points left in her hand after seven games played. **Martha** also took first place in January as well as in November, our last get-together in 2016, so she has taken first place for three Game Nights in a row!

In the 2½ years Group One has been playing, there have been 8 instances where a player has averaged less than 10.0 points for every game played that night. **Martha** now has done it twice; Sir **Jerry Kaplan** holds the lowest average score of 4.9 achieved in February 2015. No one else, other than **Martha**, has done it more than once.

Sue Oranje, wife of Sir **Corrie**, won second place money also with a very low average of 9.3 (also under 10!) while Sir **Sig Kalteis** grabbed a third place finish, with a 15.7 average.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Bailly

“Women Rule” was the rule at the latest Mexican Train Dominoes 3 get together. **Laurie Hoban** had an impressive start with outs in the first two games then chugged along at a modest rate going out again on the last game for a 3rd place score of 16.2. At the same table **Linda Brown** was hit with a 200 on the first game followed by 6 consecutive outs in 9 games for an honorable mention! Just ahead of **Laurie** was **Judy Richmond** with 2 outs but playing her usual conservative game to take second prize with 13.1. The night’s champion was one of our subs, **Carla Thompson**, who came through 7 games with 3 outs and a highest individual game score of 65 to take first prize money with an average of 9.3. Nice going **Carla**.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Winners, **Laurie Hoban**, **Carla Thompson**, and **Judy Richmond** display their winnings

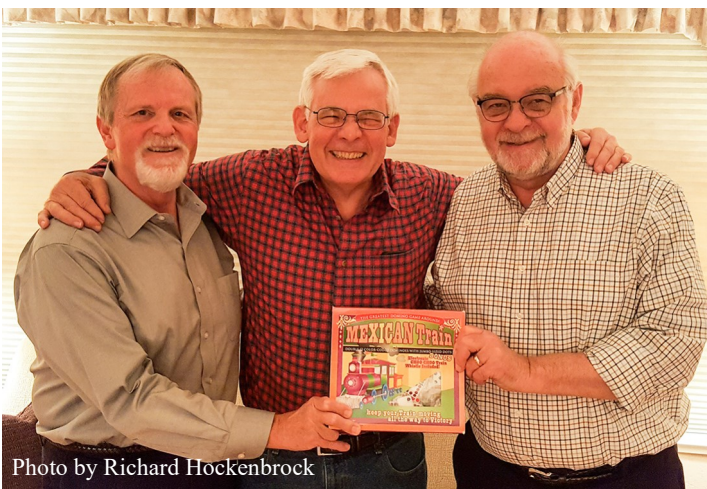


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

MTD Group 1 big losers for the night, (L-R) **Moose Kelly**, **Peter Plante**, and **Rob Melrose**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L-R) **Sue Oranje**, **Sig Kalteis**, and **Marth Plante** were the night’s top winners



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Our first game of 2017 was hosted on January 27th by **John** and **Nancy Pearl**. They were the perfect hosts for everyone, providing great playing conditions and wonderful

goodies.

Everyone had a great game night, especially **Ismini MacLean** who took home first place, **Bill Cammerer** won second place and **Helene** won third place for her first time. Congratulations to all of our winners.

Our next game night is February 24th at **Al** and **Helene Twyford's**.

Al and **Helene Twyford** hosted our February game night. They make an amazing transformation of their living space into a three table game room. It is fun to have all three tables in the same room listening to the excitement and the disappointment pass around the different tables. All the goodies and company made for a great evening.

Our first and second place winners are repeat performers from last month. Both had greatly improved scores as well. **Ismini MacLean** had an average game score in January of 18.0 and blew everyone away in February with an astounding score of 8.5 taking no prisoners at first place. **Bill Cammerer** went from an average game score of 21.3 in January to a great score of 11.2 for second place in February. **Mary Denney** had a great night as well with a score of 17.8 to take third place this month. Congratulations to all our winners. They are great competitors! Our next game night is March 24th at **Ron** and **Anne Plachy's**.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bob Lyman & Jack Harrington at the February 9th luncheon



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

In the dominoes competition portion of the evening, it is becoming commonplace for the **Halletts** to win, but as it turned out **Janet Yolland**, who had been invited along with

husband **Bob** from the substitute list, was the only person that could come between the **Halletts** and first place. However, they did not go down without a serious fight, with **Dennis** coming in second, and **Ann** third. This is starting to become a serious issue. The solution is less evident.

In addition, our group had the special opportunity and coincidence in February to not only play dominoes at the **Campbell's**, but to celebrate the birthday of one of our members, **Anne Burk**. Her husband, **Jim**, brought the dessert for the occasion so that he might earn some points on his home "report card." A rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" was sung to get the festivities underway. A delicious lemon cake from "Nothing Bundt Cakes" in Walnut Creek was enjoyed by all.



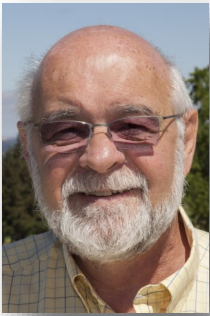
Joe Stengel, Tony Shebanek, Rob Melrose, & Jim Barry engaging in some conversation before the start of luncheon meeting on February 9th

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
Real rocks are too heavy!

Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover?
Because you shouldn't press your luck!

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?
Because they're already wearing green!



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

During a break from the rains, on Wednesday, February 22nd, 30 people gathered at the home of **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock**. We tasted US wines that were not produced in California. While most of the wines were from Oregon and Washington, we did enjoy the Gruet sparkling wine from New Mexico and a Cabernet Sauvignon from Colorado.

I would like to thank **Sherry** and **Richard** for opening their beautiful home to us. I would also like to thank the numerous people that stayed and helped clean.

In keeping with the theme, a bottle of red merlot from Long Island was presented to **Richard** and **Sherry** for hosting. Our red wine drawing winner was **Al Munayer** with a bottle of Pinot Noir from Oregon and for the white, a Riesling from Washington went to **Jim Barry**.

As always if you are not on our mailing list and would like to participate in an afternoon of friendship and wine tasting, please send an email to **Rob Melrose** at rwmelrose@gmail.com

Our next event is scheduled for April 26th. We are looking for a venue. If you are willing to open your home to the group, please contact **Rob**. We realize that many of the group do not have homes that will accommodate the entire group so we can limit the attendance if you wish.

2017 Wine Tasting Schedule

- April 26th
- July 26th
- October 25th



Book Nook

Hank James

Got Books! The Book Nook will have over 300 books displayed at the March luncheon meeting for your reading enjoyment. Drop by and browse.

Remember, the Book Nook will take those books from home which you have already read to share with your fellow Sirs. See you there.



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Pete Gates

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.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 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.



Photo by Roy Hodgkinson

Al Munayer celebrates winning the red wine drawing at the Wine Tasting on February 22nd

How can you tell if a leprechaun is having a good time?
He is Dublin over with laughter!



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Lo and Sue McCarley hosted six couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on February 15th with three tables. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and **Sue's** snacks, dessert, and wines. As for the bridge results, **Bill and Margaret Rees** came in first with 27 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** took second with 24 points. In third place were **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** with 21 points.

Margot Somerville will host the next couples duplicate bridge on March 15th.

Additional Wine Tasting Photos on this page



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Hostess **Sherry Hockenbrock** surveying the wonderful food brought by the guests as **Peter Bishop, Tony Shebanek** and **Rob Melrose** look on



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group was well hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown** on Valentine's Day. Other than one board having 11/15/13/13 cards one time, everything else went quite smoothly.

The top four couples were all within two points of each another. **Brad & Lynn Hatcher** took 1st place with 22.5 points- their second win in three months. **Dick & Christy DeVoe** ended in a 2nd place tie for the second consecutive month. Hosts **Larry & Linda** shared the 2nd place tie with 21.5 pts. **Tony & Cindy Greco** were 4th with 20.5 points. following their 2nd place tie the month before. With the return of the **Pierces** and **Richters** next month, the competition is sure to really heat up!

Written by Dick DeVoe



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Wine, food and conversation doesn't get any better than this



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Holly helps label the wines before the start of festivities



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Pete & Ann Gates sample wines as **Diana & Michael Rose** look on



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Sid Landman



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Doug Eisner

Bill Schultz hosted 3 tables of duplicate bridge on February 20th. The players were in great competition at the half-time lunch break with **Max Hinkle** and **Bob Yolland** tied for 1st/2nd place with 15.0 match points each and **Rich Ahlf** was only a half point behind with 14.5 match points.

After lunch, **Dave Steinberg** decided to turn on his afterburners, and left all eleven other players in the dust. **Dave** took over 1st place by amassing an end of game total of 31.5 match points (**Dave** was in 4th place with a modest 13.5 pts. at the half). **Jim Brown**, who had a dead average game in the first half, had a very strong second half to land 2nd place with 28.0 match points. **Max** faded to 5th place and, unfortunately, wound up out of the money.

The second half was even worse for **Bob**, who fell well back, probably going for the coveted Mr. Congeniality award. **Rich Ahlf** held on to his third place status but had to share the spot with **Charlie Abrams**. **Rich** and **Charlie** took 3rd/4th place with 27.5 match points each.

Our March 20th game will be hosted by **Dave Pierce** and directed by **Doug Eisner**.

Reported by Jim Jackson



SIR 146 Duplicate Bridge group III (L-R) **Dick DeVoe**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Roger Peters**, **Mike Whitaker**, **Charlie Abrams**, **Bob Yolland**, **Steve Dawkins**, **Max Hinkle**, **Tony Greco**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Jim Brown**, **Bill Schultz**



Duplicate Bridge I final scoring of all games with **David Steinberg**, **Jim Jackson** and **Rich Ahlf**



Duplicate Bridge I at **Bill Schultz's** house, here reshuffling the cards after the game are **Jim Brown**, **Bob Yolland**, & **Charlie Abrams**



Reilly is walking through a graveyard when he comes across a headstone with the inscription "Here lies a politician and an honest man."

'Faith now,' exclaims Reilly, 'I wonder how they got the two of them in one grave.'



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 played on Wednesday February 8th at the home of **Frank McNamee**. As always a good time was had by all. That day **Dan O'Sullivan** was the big winner. Our next outing will be held at **Pete McNeill's** home on March 8th.

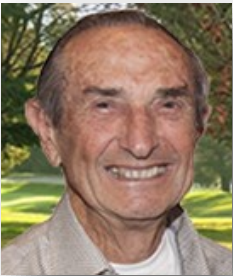


Poker Group 5

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, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.***

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

The February poker game for Poker Group #6 was cancelled for a lack of players. Sickness and out of town players was the reason. We are planning to play again on Thursday, March 2nd. Group leader **Al Twyford** will be the host at his home in Walnut Creek.



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

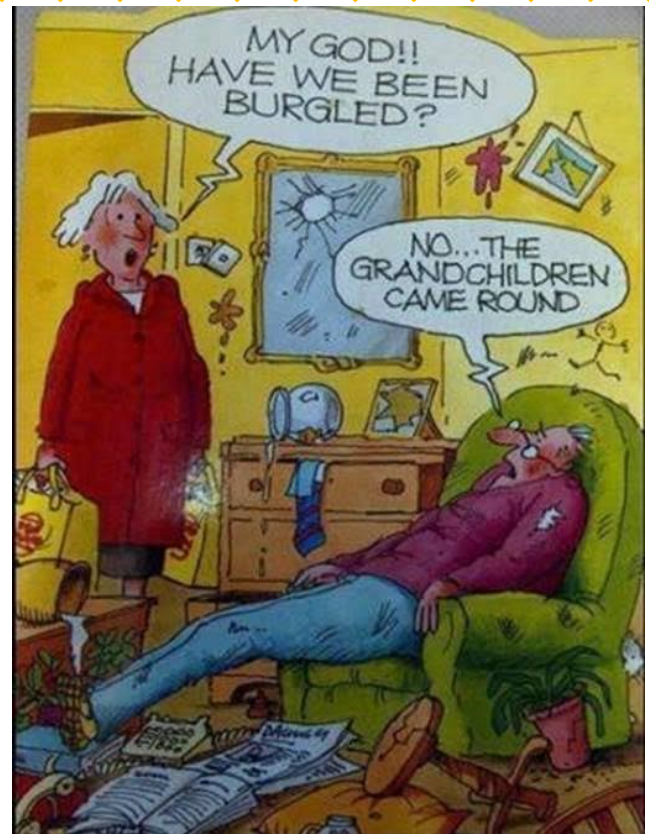
Our next session, on February 27th will be hosted by Sir **Chuck Bobinecz**. We did not meet in December due to the holidays but resumed play in January.

Now that we have paid our Christmas credit cards and income tax installment we might have a little left for poker.

Two Irishmen, Pat and Murphy, saw sign saying "Tree fellers" wanted.

Murphy said to Pat, said, 'If only Seamus had been with us we'd have got that job.'

(One of those Irish Jokes better told than written).





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

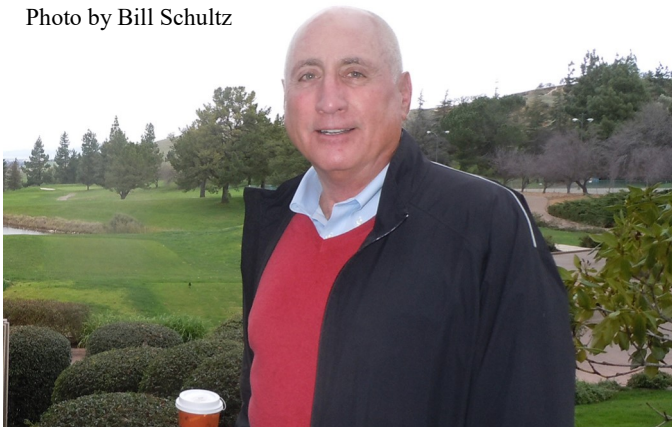
The soggy start to 2017 has continued. We have experienced more rainouts, thick fog and ongoing cart path only restrictions. Many of us are getting very rusty – half of us are on UFN. On February 24th, some of us did play but we did not attract enough golfers to meet our guidelines for a prize fund payout. We were able to play on the 31st without being limited to cart-path only restrictions but fog eliminated a view of the first fairway and the second green was entirely shrouded in fog. Nonetheless, it was a great day for golf!

The golf committee is evaluating a new approach to arranging our flights. In the past flights were first arranged according to the tees played and then separated by handicap. Flights will now be based on handicaps only. Those playing combo or white tees will get an adjustment to correct for differences in course rating. The hope is that the new approach will make payouts more equitable.

Regarding upcoming events, our annual scramble and luncheon meeting will be held at Boundary Oak on the third Tuesday of April. The SIR Area 2 annual team qualifier scramble will be in late May at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club. This is a challenging Arnold Palmer designed course well suited to a scramble format.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities and a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow Sirs and a great way to recruit new members. We play every Tuesday morning and would be pleased to add guests to our weekly random pairings. Consider this an invitation to check us out. You can get in touch with us through another SIR golfer or simply email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.

Photo by Bill Schultz



Gary Brown admires the lush greens on his way to the February luncheon



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

Photo by Bill Schultz



It was a foggy day on the golf course at Boundary Oak on January 31st as **Bill Schulz, Max Hinkle, Ben Gleason** and **Bob White** kept losing sight of their drives

Photo by Bill Schultz



Likewise, **Vince Rettew, Don Del Bene, Roger the BO starter** and **Ray Spears** also had a difficult time playing golf on the 31st

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 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 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.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

At the time of publication, chairman **Tom Henry** has notified me that he does not have a firm commitment for a presenter at the March 22nd \$ums meeting.

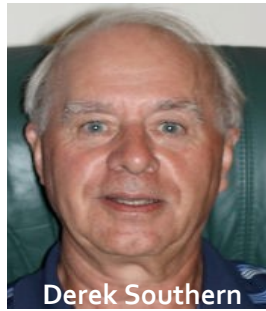
If Tom notifies me that he has a speaker, I will send an announcement via our branch 146 communications network and let the membership know the details.

Richard Hockenbrock Editor

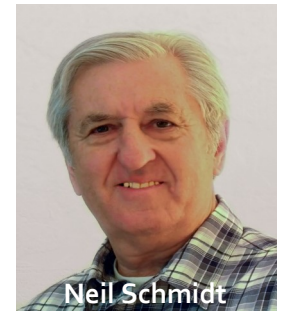
\$ums Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158
davesutn@comcast.net

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group [A2CAT] announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, March 16th at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

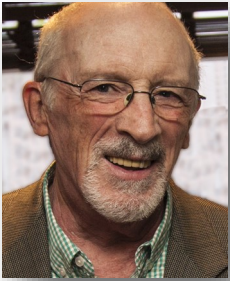
Howard Walter, a new Branch 8 member will be speaking about "How to Setup a Home Router and WiFi." If you're planning, or even thinking about modifying a home Wi-Fi system, you won't want to miss **Howard's** presentation. A copy can be downloaded about a week before the meeting by going to: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/>

The meeting starts at 9:30 am, March 16th at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. 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.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman

The Evolution of Dog Rules

1. The dog is not allowed in the house
2. Ok, the dog is allowed in the house but only in certain rooms.
3. Dog allowed in all rooms but must stay off furniture
4. Dog allowed on old furniture
5. Dog allowed on all furniture but not on bed
6. Dog allowed on the bed by invitation
7. Dog allowed on the bed anytime but not under the covers
8. Dog can sleep under covers by invitation
9. Dog can sleep under the covers anytime
10. Humans must ask permission to sleep under the cover with the dog.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

We had a great night of Mexican Train Dominoes at the home of **Linda** and **Steve Siljestrom**. Lynn Shafer went out in 2 games to secure 3rd place with 14.5 points. There was no stopping **Alicia Baily** who went out in 3 games and in the other 6 games never exceeded 18 to have a 9 game average of 7.6 and took second prize. But the star of the show was substitute, **Judy Baldrige**. Judy went out 4 out of a total of 6 games played and achieved a total of 42 for another under 10 average of 7.0. Again the **Siljestroms** were gracious hosts with plenty of delicious snacks we all enjoyed in the mid games break.



Photo by Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 winners; in the center grand winner **Judy Baldrige** with 2nd place **Alicia Baily** and 3rd place **Lynn Shafer**.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Here are the results of February 3rd four table event, kindly hosted by **Bill Schultz**.

1st Place: **Dave Pierce** won 1st place with 44 points, after taking 1st in the 1st half with a **very** strong 25.5 pts. He also had only 1 zero out of 24 boards! Congratulations, **Dave!**

2nd Place: **Bob Yolland** took 2nd place with 43 pts, only 1 pt. behind Dave. He helped his score by taking the most threes with 8. Kudos, **Bob**.

3rd Place: **Jim Brown's** 41 points slid him into 3rd place, including a tie for 2nd in the 2nd half. Good work, **Jim**.

4th Place: **Bill Schultz** had a respectable 39 pts. to take 4th place- not too shabby with 16 players. Nice going, **Bill**.

Comeback Kid: **Charlie Abrams** worked his magic once again after a slow start, amassing 9.5 points more in the 2nd vs. 1st half. (24 vs. 14.5). Great effort, **Charlie**.

