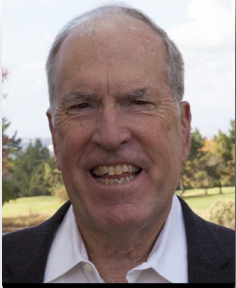




Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



Big Sir's Notes

Brad Hatcher

Leap Year is upon us as we see an extra day at the end of February. Apparently, Mother Nature has decided we like sunshine instead of rain. Let's hope we see some moisture in March or we may not be showering in August!

The Branch Executive Committee met as usual before our February luncheon. We received the report from our audit committee. The report indicated: "The auditors found no major exceptions to Article 10 and there were no deficiencies discovered in the Branch receipts and disbursements of the general, custodial and committee accounts." Article 10 is the State Sir regulation regarding Branch audits. Many thanks to **Rob Melrose**, **Jim Barry** and **Chuck Schreiber** for their efforts, time spent, and the report they presented.

The BEC approved an effort to offer rides to SIR members who, for whatever reason, cannot drive to the monthly luncheons. It will be led by **Jerry Benoit**. Please watch for a "blast" E-mail for details of this effort. Thank you, **Jerry** for volunteering for this role.

Speaking of volunteering, the efforts of those who serve as activities chairman, assistant chairmen, Branch Executive Committee Board members and Officers and the "Behind the Scenes" workers are all volunteers whose efforts make Branch 146 among the best in the State. You have my thanks for your service! Please seriously consider saying "yes" to a request for your help as a volunteer to keep the branch running well.

Golfers – The State has given notice of the State Spring Fling event in Napa Valley in late April. Please contact Golf chairman **Ed Marlovits** for more details.

We are delighted to have five new members join us in February. They are: **Jim Avila**, **Dave Tucker**, **Tom Cranmer**, **Dennis Tye**, and **Tom Noble**. Please look for these men at our March luncheon and welcome them. This is a great start in our efforts to meet our goal for new members. We can accomplish the goal if you will bring a guest to our luncheon. Remember the cost of the first lunch for the guest is zero.

Luncheon— Thursday, March 12^h
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker:

Ray Nassief

Senior Vice President of Operations
John Muir Health

"How New Robotic Technology is Changing
the Way JMH is Treating Patients"

Gathering time: 10:45 am

Seating time: 11:30 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Michael Butler, our February speaker, entertained the SIR luncheon members and guest with a short song on his harmonica and news about up-coming plays at the Leshner Center.

Don't forget to call or E-mail if you are unable to come to the March luncheon. We contract with Boundary Oak for a certain number of lunches. If you do not give us notice of your absence, the Branch still pays for your missed lunch.

And finally, wear **GREEN** and bring a guest!

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Richard Hockenbrock

Certain times of the year we celebrate festive occasions at our luncheons. March is one of those times where Irish Eyes are upon us in the form of Corned Beef & Cabbage and wearing something

Green! Wear something interesting and I'll guarantee you will get your picture in the April SIR CALL; after all, I am the Editor.

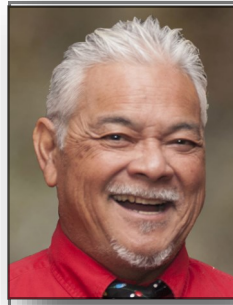
I hope you all enjoyed our February speaker, Michael Butler, especially when he began his talk with an entertaining rendition of his version of a tune called Freight Train Blues on his harmonica. While it is sometimes difficult to find excellent speakers to talk at our meetings, Michael was an exception as he wrote in an email. *"Sirs! Thank YOU for inviting me! You're a great group and I always love coming there."* Let's just say that no one was sleeping during his presentation.

The speaker at our luncheon this month is Ray Nassief, Senior Vice President of Operations at John Muir Health. He will give a presentation on "How New Robotic Technology is Changing the Way JMH is Treating Patients" in good way.

Jerry Kaplan and I attended a SIR State Town Hall meeting earlier this month in Fairfield along with more than 50 Big and Little Sirs in the region. State President Ed Benson presided over the meeting. The main theme was getting more members into SIR and having our existing members volunteer more. Think about it, there are literally hundreds of nonprofit groups in the county, and everyone has something in common; they need volunteers to make their organizations function. SIR is no different. SIR imposes very few guidelines on its members.

On our application form we ask the following of our members: 1) Be a sociable guy, 2) Participate in our activities, luncheons and events, 3) Give a shot at volunteering when asked, and 4) Bring guests and introduce them to the joys of SIR and perpetuate the organization.

And I'll repeat this one last thought—add something **Green** to your attire this month! See you at the luncheon.



Membership

Ron Lew

We had 5 new members bring much talent and wisdom in the month of February as shown below. They are also noted under our "New Members" tab under members in our SIR 146 site. Our new members met our "Big Sir" as well as a few activity chairmen. We are saddened to lose 4 past members to deaths, transfers and resignations so please continue to introduce your friends, neighbors, acquaintances and anyone who you may meet that may be interested in enriching their lives through fun activities and events, while making friends for life.

February New member Photo Additions



Dennis Tye



Jim Avila



Tom Cranmer



Tom Noble



Dave Tucker



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

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

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.


- **Hugh Ferguson**
- **Joe Hunt**
- **Jim Koeppen**
- **Jim Saavedra**
- **Bill Stevenson**
- **Dick Woodman**

If you become aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail: brimacc@comcast.net or phone (925) 324-2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. Also, if you need a ride to our luncheons or know someone who does please notify me by email.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Rich Hanford was honored with two awards at the February luncheon by Big Sir, **Brad Hatcher**. One for 20 years of dedicated service to the branch and the second was a Certificate of Appreciation. Congratulations **Rich**!



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

March 12, 2020

Salad

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

Entrees

**Classic Braised and 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 Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Co - Editors	Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose & Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



An American lawyer asked, "Paddy, why is it that whenever I ask an Irishman a question, he answers with another question?"

"Who told you that?" asked Paddy.



Branch Honoree Award

The Branch Honoree Award is the highest honor the Branch awards its members. The Honoree Award was established in 1999 to recognize active members who have made outstanding and continuing contributions to the success of Branch 146 over a period of years.

The Honorees Committee administers this Award and recommends candidates to the Branch Executive Committee for approval. Worthy candidates for this award are identified by their cumulative "Leadership Points", which are associated with each branch leadership position in relation to the position's complexity and breadth of influence.

Members earn points annually with each leadership position they hold. A minimum of 45 "Leadership Points" is required to become eligible for this award. The Honoree Committee may recommend any number of awards in any year.

In a ceremony at the February luncheon, **Bruce Borgman** received this honor for his many volunteering contributions to Branch 146, including his most recent, Big Sir in 2018. Congratulations **Bruce!**



Bruce Borgman receives the Branch 146 Honoree Award from Big Sir **Brad Hatcher** at the February luncheon.



February Greeters (L to R) : Dick Firth, Clinton Collier, Jack Menzhuber



Jack Menzhuber, Dan O'Loughlin, & Charlie Walker at the February Luncheon



Bob Spellman, Dick Richmond, Lew Thompson, and Vince Rettew at the February Luncheon

How can you tell if a leprechaun likes your joke?
How?
He's Dublin over with laughter!



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

As advertised, we will have our March Couples Dining Out event on March 23rd, with our cocktail hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6:15. I am pleased to let you know that we have selected Burma Unique, located at 1375 N. Broadway in Walnut Creek, on the site of the old Le Cheval restaurant where we dined a few times.

You will remember that we dined at Aung MayLika, a Burmese restaurant in Concord, last year – and it was one of our most successful events ever, with 78 diners on two separate evenings. Burma Unique is one notch up from that experience with dishes that include blending the cuisine from some of the over 135 ethnic groups in Burma as well as importing with some of the neighboring countries’ cuisine. Because the restaurant presents these dishes in family style with plates that are shared at a table, the cost of dining is considerably less and we were able to get an all inclusive price of only \$30 per person.

But, this does not mean we’ve skimped on the variety of dishes that we have selected. We will start with an appetizer of Chicken Lettuce wraps and follow that with the uniquely Burmese Tea Leaf Salad. For entrée dishes we will have a Sesame Chicken, Lemongrass Pork, Honey Walnut Shrimp, and Country Style Beef Curry, along with String Beans. These are accompanied by Garlic Noodles and Jasmine, and Coconut Rice. For dessert, you may select mango, or coconut ice cream.

We have visited this restaurant twice in the last month or two, tried most of the above dishes – and have been pleased with all of them. We will take over the front section of the restaurant, which will seat about 60 diners. I expect that we will quickly reach that number since the cost is about half of our last few dining experiences. Send a quick email to me to secure your spot and follow it with a check made out to Branch 146. The restaurant has a full bar, with reasonable prices for wine and beer – or you may choose to bring your own bottle for a \$20 corkage charge. Parking is convenient at either the garage across the street on N. Broadway, or down the street on Duncan.

We look forward to seeing you at this next Couples Dining Out event.

(925) 932-3961

bgborgman@aol.com

Sorry, this Event is Sold Out



Luncheon Chairman

Richard Lyon

One of the ways the Branch maintains membership is by encouraging its Sirs to invite friends interested in joining and by providing a one-time “free lunch” per friend. Just email you and your

friend’s names to:

NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com.

We will arrange seating for both of you at the Guest Table and have a folder of SIR information for your friend!

Here are details for March, 2020!

Thursday, March 12th Luncheon

Cost: \$28

Payment: Checks are preferred

Opt-Out Deadline: Friday, March 6th

Email: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com

Voice Message: (925) 979-5146

To Opt-Out, Bring a Friend, or Request a Vegetarian or Special Meal, or to attend without a meal, please send an email to: NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com.

Please include your full name and badge number with your request.

Annual Payers: Please, be sure to let us know if you’re not attending so that the Branch can save the cost of your pre-paid meal and keep dues low. Thanks.

Rich



**SIR Happenings
Newsletter**

[http://www.sirinc.org/
sirhappenings](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings) is the

statewide SIR newsletter.

Click on the link to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.





Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Mark your calendars. Our next meeting is Friday, March 13th.

Email: RLHOCK@outlook.com

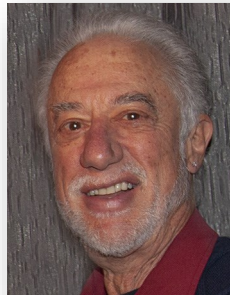
Cell: (925) 324-1713

Next Meeting

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

Subject: What's new with the Big Three Camera makers Canon, Nikon & Sony
Bring some of your photos on a USB flash drive to show the other members

When: 9 am—11 am Friday, March 13th, 2020
Spouses & Partners always welcome



RV Wanderers

Bob Lucido

Our RV trip to Jackson Rancheria, the week of February 16th was a big success.

We started night one by having a fine dining experience at TASTE restaurant in Plymouth. It's a great little restaurant in tiny downtown Plymouth. We also had a group potluck at the Rec Center. It was a good way to eat good food, and get to know each other better.

We hit the casino with high hopes, but the most rewarding experience was the great \$20 buffet which has everything from Asian to seafood to prime rib. Great food, great value.

Unfortunately, one of our RV's broke down halfway and had to return home. Hope to see them on the next trip.

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net

2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Brad Hatcher
Little Sir.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Secretary	Jerry Kaplan
Assistant Secretary	Tony Greco
Treasurer	George Mon
Assistant Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Director 2nd Term	Milton Smith
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Ron Lew
Director 1st Term	Paul Beretz
Director 1st Term	Chuck Schreiber
Director 1st Term	Peter Plante

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Chuck Schreiber
Publicity	Peter Plante

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



Photo by: Bob Lucido



Photo by: Bob Lucido

RV Wanderer Photos:

Top Right (L to R) : Don and Etta Dotson and Wendy Lucido
Bottom Right (L to R) : Etta and Don Dotson, Lewis and Kitti Rae Chapman, John and Rose Fisher, and Wendy Lucido.



Travel

Milt Smith

Narsai David Cruise. Several SIR branches are putting this cruise together.



Narsai David
KCBS Food and Wine Editor

- Eight nights North American Treasures Cruise aboard the Crystal Serenity. September 28th—October 6th, 2020
- Quebec City to New York City
- On this hosted cruise Narsai will share his numerous years of expertise in California Cuisine.
- Port Stops: Quebec City, cruising the St. Lawrence, cruising the Bay of Fundy, St. John, Bar Harbor, Boston / Newport, NYC.
- Crystal Cruises is now all inclusive. All beverages, gratuities, enrichment classes.
- Double occupancy from \$3,683 pp to \$7,283 pp depending on cabin. Airfare not included.

This trip is filling fast so if you intend to go better sign up now by calling Alamo Travel at (925) 837-8742. Be sure to mention SIR Br. 146. Let me know, too.

It is not too late to sign up for the **SIR Branch 146 Grand Baltic Sea Voyage — Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel**

DEPARTURE DATE: June 6th, 2020

- Denmark: Copenhagen, Bornholm
 - **Poland:** Gdansk
 - **Sweden:** Visby, Stockholm
 - **Latvia:** Riga
 - **Estonia:** Tallinn
 - **Russia:** St. Petersburg
 - **Finland:** Helsinki.

Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and/or

Stockholm from \$1,395 each.

Fourteen days from \$8,255 Includes international airfare from Sacramento. Fourteen days from \$6,695 without international airfare.

Call OAT (800) 955-1925 tell them you want trip GO-23630. Call me if you need for more information.

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL DAY TRIP MAY 13.

We are filling up fast, so send me a check for \$67 per person, payable to SIR 146 to secure your place. Trip includes luxury bus ride, lunch, tour and time to visit the museum on site. Depart 10 am back by 5ish... Let me know if you need information.

What are we thinking about for 2021? Please let me know if any of these are of interest!

- Land tour of Israel and the Holy Land & Timeless Cultures
- Vietnam
- African Migration Kenya
- WWII European Battlefield Tours
- Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast
- Morocco Sahara Odyssey – Suez Canal, Israel Egypt Jordan and the Red Sea

Milt Smith

(925) 285-2897

miltsmith549@gmail.com



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Jim Nelson, Bob West in a sling, and Stan U'Ren
at the February luncheon

I went out drinking on St Patrick's Day, so I took a bus home...That may not be a big deal to you, but I've never driven a bus before.



SIR 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

We will be hiking the Falls Loop trail in Mt Diablo State Park on Friday, March 13th, at 9:30 am. The earlier start is due to the fact that this hike takes longer; probably 4.5 hours.

We will meet near **Rich Ahlf's** residence at the corner of Weatherly & El Molino in Clayton, 63 El Molino. Parking along Regency Dr is problematic due to local residents' complaints about excessive numbers of people as well as visitors' cars blocking driveways!

This hike is moderate to difficult with about 1,150 feet cumulative elevation gain and about 6.5 miles. Rich and I did this hike about a month ago with 4 hours moving time and 5 hours total.

From Oak Grove/Ygnacio road take Clayton (or March Creek) Road east just past Diablo View Middle School and turn right on Regency. Then take the 1st right on Weatherly, go 2 blocks to El Molino. Then park on either Weatherly or El Molino. It's about 2 blocks from Rich's house to the trail head.

Spouses always welcome

Rain cancels

Dogs not allowed on this trail

Mark Curtis

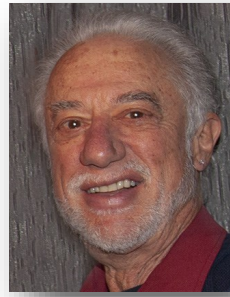
Cell (925) 360-3449

Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Photo by Mark Curtis

Hikers walking along the top of Shell Ridge



Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

The State SIR organization is encouraging SIR branches to share activities.

Kenneth Main from SIR 8 in Concord has sent me his activity list, which includes activities not available to us. If you would like more information, or are interested in participating in any of them, please contact me below.

- Arts, Crafts & Hobbies
- Astronomy
- Barbecue
- Bargain Bites
- Birding
- Car Enthusiasts
- Doctors' Office
- Heads Up Walkers
- SIR at Foreign Films
- Sir at the Games (group outing to a professional, college, or other level sports event)
- SIR at the Opera
- Wine - All About Wine
- Wine Bargains
- Woodpeckers (learn the use of power and hand tools, joinery, tool sharpening, and finishing techniques)
- Writing Life Stories

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Photo by Mark Curtis

Hikers **Rich Ahlf, Bob Wilkenfeld** & dog Bert, **Gene Schulting, Jim Nelson, and Walter Schmidt**





AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Trout fishing success has finally occurred after virtually no trout were caught during the first six weeks of the year. It started with **Carl Moyer**, who trekked down to Lafayette Reservoir one morning before breakfast and caught three rainbows in an hour fishing from shore. But the best action was at San Pablo Reservoir, which reopened on Valentine's Day. **Phil Scimonelli, Ray Pixton, Carl Moyer, Bob Hillaker, and Gordon Linebaugh** all caught some good-sized rainbows at San Pablo fishing both from shore and in boats. **Bob Lively** launched his kayak there and also landed some trout. The biggest trout at San Pablo were caught by **Stan Wong**, who limited out with fish up to five pounds.

Out on the Delta, several small sturgeon were caught by **Brion Beetz, Ken Bellindir, Pedro Contreras, and Carl Moyer.** **Tom Kostik**, who launches his boat at least once per week in the Delta and always catches something, continued his streak by landing some stripers and flounder.

Our next meeting will be on March 26 at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. This meeting is our annual auction of fishing gear. If any of you are in the market for purchasing rods, reels, lures, fishing line, nets, and anything else necessary for the catching of fish, come join us because the prices will be right! The meeting and auction commence at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am.

For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504 or Big Fish **Ron Lew** at (925) 550-4166.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Little Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** handed two free drink chips to **Ben Smith** who had his name drawn as the February Birthday Winner.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

SIR State Treasurer **Roy Hodgkinson**, enjoys a Bloody Mary along side **Rob Melrose** and **Ben Gleason** at the February Luncheon.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Ted Coggiola at the February luncheon with **Garth Cummings**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Art Mancini sitting at the February luncheon with **Bill Danzig**



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

JANUARY 30ST: With clouds in the sky but a promise of Sun we took off today on our ride South.

Heading to Dublin with hopes of a visit to a mainstay bike shop and bike legend. Thru the gloom we persevered and eventually arrived. CHUCK RITCHIE, the bike guru met us. After some chat and a few hugs we took off with Java on our minds. The local Starbucks greeted us with hot fluids and warm temps.

Realizing we were cooling off we again set out on our rigs. Exploring some back streets of San Ramon and venturing into Danville we headed North. The Sun finally made its appearance and warmed us up. Twenty Six miles later we rolled into Alamo and the end of a great ride.

Funny how a bunch of retired guys, all in great shape both physically and mentally enjoy this sport. Exercise is really the bond and path to good health as we age. Today's participants were: **Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Roger Meyer, Jim Nelson, and Bob Wilkenfeld.**

FEBRUARY 6TH: "What shall I wear"? It was cold, sort of sunny, no breeze, supposed to be in the high 50's maybe 60. Heading out on our ride this morning we made our choices. The goal was to ride into Bollinger Canyon, but do it the hard way. Some major climbs and some nasty road beds. The three of us, **Bob Lucido, Dr. Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye** swallowed hard and took



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye

off. The climbs into the Canyon were long, steep and as we found out, doable. The trip up the grade along Bollinger Canyon Rd was ugly. Rough and bumpy.

Onwards we went. Finally the end of the road came into sight. The gasps of joy were very audible. We dismounted at the nice park setting and used the facilities. That in itself was a treat.

Some chat and back we turned, A long 5 mile downhill full of holes, shadows and in general, lousy surfaces met us. We persevered and made it back to a coffee shop. Some French roast went a long way to refuel us.

Back we pedaled to Alamo. Our cars awaited and we kissed the ground. Our rears were tired and the 25 miles showed. Another Sirs adventure and fun day.

FEBRUARY 12TH: Wow — The weather was great. The Sun felt terrific. Off we went heading out thru Danville into and thru Blackhawk. The plan was to navigate onto a secret trail taking us into San Ramon and thru some beautiful country. As luck and super navigation would have it, we found the gate. It led us thru some amazing old cattle ranches into the outskirts of the Dougherty Valley. Lawrence Road was the original Ranch of The Lawrences. The first Portuguese families to immigrate to the Valley in 1889. We rode thru this splendor. Exiting on to the streets of San Ramon we climbed some nasty hills and eventually reached the top which exposed a great breath catching downhill.

Heading into Danville we feasted at a Cafe near Blackhawk. Well deserved fuel. Rested and recharged, we took off for home. The wind was kind and the downhill added to the fast trip home to Alamo. The 23 miles felt wonderful.

Today we had **Ron Lew, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, and Roger Meyers** along. It was **Ron's** first trip with the Spandex guys and he discovered the attributes of padded spandex and not wearing them. Next time after he recovers from the loss of feeling he promised to follow the suggestions.

(More cycling on next page)



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Ron Lew, Larry Kaye, Roger Meyer, and Bill Ross

CYCLING: (continued from prior page)

FEBRUARY 17TH: Today's ride was a test of our legs, and our stamina. We rode the back road from Lafayette thru Upper Happy Valley. This entailed an enormous nasty rotten horrible 9% grade. As it was, it greeted us at the end of a 6-mile climb. The Spandex guys did it. Some faster than others and some just with gritted teeth. After allowing our hearts to return to sub 120 beats per, we began a descent into the Orinda Country Club area. I promised the guys a hidden lake. Well, after two more gut buster hills, it exposed itself. Lake Cascade, full of egrets eating the fish. A nice place to stop and look. The next downhill took us into the Northern part of Orinda. We enjoyed some java and various belly bombs.

Heading out of town we enjoyed the bike path over route 24. This took us into Orinda proper. From there we took a trail back thru Lafayette into the parking area we had left hours ago. A really tough ride, but the training we have enjoyed for so long helped.

Today's Spandex guys were: **Moose, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Ross, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, Roger Meyers and Larry Kaye.**

FEBRUARY 21ST: Today was a first. Two rides in a week. After the last killer ride on Monday, we decided to do a simple easy flat ride.

Today we had **Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, Moose Kelley, Bill Holly, Ron Lew, and Dennis Tye (new), Bob Wilkenfeld, and Larry Kaye.** A large group of guys in Spandex. We rode to San Ramon and enjoyed a stop at Katy's. **Dennis**, the new guy, graciously picked up the tab. We experienced a long line of riders as we traversed the various communities. The sun and favorable winds were with us all day. A nice simple day with a bunch of great guys.

After the ride **Ron** and **Bill** joined me for a sumptuous monster burger at EJ Phair in Alamo. What a way to end a low caloric ride.



Pinochle
Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow



We meet on
the 2nd & 4th
Wednesday of the

month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never played before, as well as those who last played many years ago.

If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Asst Travel Chair **Ken Studer** & Travel Chair **Milt Smith**



What do you call an Irishman who knows how to control his wife?

A bachelor

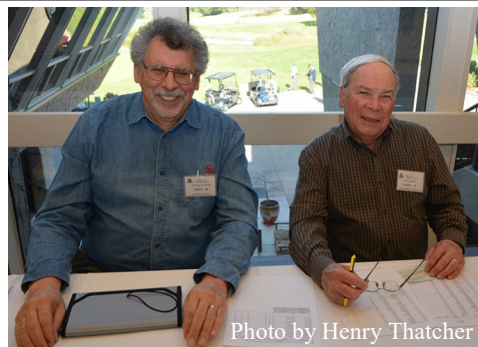


Photo by Henry Thatcher

Sign in Table—**Mike Risser** & **Larry Brown**



**Join the Slugfest
State SIR Annual Bay Bridge Series**



**SIR Day at the Ballpark
June 7, 2020, Sunday, 1pm
Oakland Coliseum, Section 106 (shaded)**

INSTRUCTIONS: Make a \$55/pp check to W. Lee Moy. Include a self-stamped return addressed envelope to W. Lee Moy, 127 N. Helm Ave, Clovis, CA 93612.

Deadline May 5, 2020.

W. Lee Moy
State SIR Sports LeeHealthStudio@gmail.com
(559) 709-9851

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO) Jerry Kaplan

The Group One players met on February 13th for our second game night of 2020 at the inviting Walnut Creek home of **Bruce Borgman** and his wife, **Sue Sheldon**. The hosts provided many delicious treats all with a beautifully displayed Valentine's Day theme, including a delicious Strawberry Dream Cake that was enjoyed by all.

We had an almost full complement of 17 players vying for the top prizes.

The **Hockenbrock** team, **Richard** (average of 14.8) with wife **Sherry** (average of 12.0) took the top two prizes just beating out **Nancy Kalteis**, wife of **Sig** who was right behind with a 15.0 average.

MTD Group One has 14 substitute players that we welcome whenever space is available. We contact these individuals when some of the regulars know they will miss a game night. Since almost all of the substitutes already play as regulars in one of the other seven MTD groups in the branch, we try to invite first those individuals who do not play frequently.

Branch members who have not played before but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIRs as well as a SIR and his significant other are always welcome.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS) Ron Plachy

Mexican Train DOS played the evening of February 28th but will report game results in next months SIR CALL.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Photo above MTD 1 Winners: **Sherry** and **Richard Hockenbrock** 1st and 2nd and **Nancy Kalteis** 3rd.

Photo Below Scratchers: High Scores but Still Happy Players are **Sue Oranje** and **Alicia Bailly**



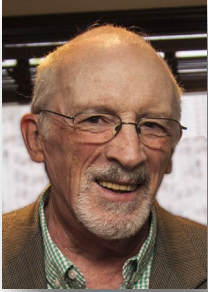
Photo by Henry Thatcher

Al Munayer & Bill Weinberg at the February Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Our February 28th games were hosted by **Jim Stedman**. We all enjoyed the many delicious desserts that **Jim** had arranged. It was nice to see sub couples **Jim and Judy Baldridge** and **Lew and Carla Thompson** joining us.

At table one **Susan Oranje** played a well thought strategy of putting down incomplete doubles and going out once to take first place at the table and third overall with an average score of 17.3.

At table two **Jim Baldridge** went out 4 times in 9 games to score an average of 16.11 winning the table and placing second overall.

At table three **Alicia Baily** put on quite a show going out 5 times in 10 games and keeping all scores at 13 and below to score an average of 7.9 and taking an overall first place.

In March, **Linda and Steve Siljestrom** will host the games on Friday, the 27th. Happy tapping!



Concerned Husband

A concerned husband went to a doctor to talk about his wife. He says to the doctor, "Doctor, I think my wife is deaf because she never hears me the first time and always asks me to repeat things." "Well," the doctor replied, "go home and tonight stand about 15 feet from her and say something to her. If she doesn't reply move about 5 feet closer and say it again. Keep doing this so that we'll get an idea about the severity of her deafness".

Sure enough, the husband goes home and does exactly as instructed. He starts off about 15 feet from his wife in the kitchen as she is chopping some vegetables and says, "Honey, what's for dinner?" He hears no response. He moves about 5 feet closer and asks again. No reply. He moves 5 feet closer. Still no reply. He gets fed up and moves right behind her, about an inch away, and asks again, "Honey, what's for dinner?" She replies, "For the fourth time, vegetable stew!"



MTD 3 (L to R) Winners: **Alicia Baily**
Jim Baldridge and **Susan Oranje**

Finnegan: Me wife has a terrible habit of staying up 'til two o'clock in the morning. I can't break her of it.

Sean: What on earth is she doin' at that time?

Finnegan: Waitin' for me to come home.

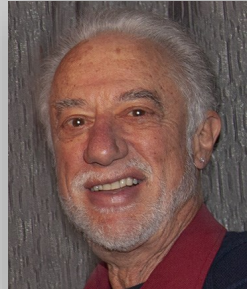
Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

Due to a cancellation the El Quattro Mexican Train group did not meet in February.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

Bob Lucido

Thanks to Clint & Bev Colliers for opening their home to host MTD Group 7 for January.

Our winner was **Bob Wilkenfeld**. A Scratcher was awarded to **Bev Colliers** for the highest average score.

Our games are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, and substitutes are welcome.

(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

MTD 7 (L to R): Scratcher **Bev Colliers**, Winner **Bob Wilkenfeld**.

MTD 7 Photo to Right: **Clint Colliers** set up all the dominoes on the table to make sure there were not any missing. When is the last time your group checked yours? Sometimes two sets are mixed together.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Dave Pierce

On a warm spring-like evening, **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** played host and served a delicious apple pie. We welcomed **Jim** and

Judy Baldrige as subs.

While the women have dominated this news article most months, this month the men found new life, led by **Jim Baldrige** (first, 12.3) followed closely by **Bob Yolland** (13.7). **Marty Campbell** (19.8) saved the women from a shutout. Marty got on a roll and went out three times in a row. Next month, the men plan to slip two or three extra double blanks into the women's pile.



Photo by Bob Wilkenfeld

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS) John "Moose" Kelly

Our 2020 **January 28th event** started off with a spirited, roaring gathering at the home of **Jim Barry** and **Joyce Wells**. Our thanks to **Jim** and **Joyce** for providing, not only their home, but the outstanding spread of snacks, assorted treats, and various assortments of wines.

Competition at our respective tables was fierce with fun intermixed. The low score winners were 1) **Bruce Borgman**, 2) **Mary McCarthy**, and 3) **Carmen Schiavone**. Our high point winners, **Rob Melrose** and **Jane West**, were awarded with "Year of the Rat" scratchers. CONGRATS to our winners!!

Our next MTD 6 gathering took place on February 24th at the home of **Kathe Mitchell** in Walnut Creek and is reported on the next page.



Photo by John Kelly

January 28th MTD 6 High Point Winners - **Rob Melrose**
and **Jane West**



Photo by John Kelly

January 28th MTD 6 Low Score Winners **Bruce Borgman**,
Carmen Schiavone and **Mary McCarthy**



Photo by John Kelly

January 28th MTD 6 —The Night Has Taken It's Toll!

O'Ryan," asked the druggist, "did that mudpack I gave you improve your wife Bridget's appearance?" "It did surely," replied O'Ryan, "but it keeps fallin' off!"

Irish lass customer: "Could I be trying on that dress in the window?"
Shopkeeper: "Well now, I'd prefer that you use the dressing room."

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 (SEIS) John "Moose" Kelly

Our **February 24th game night** was hosted by **Kathe Mitchell** at her lovely home in Walnut Creek. **Kathe** did an outstanding job of providing great wines with great food to satisfy the palate. My thanks to her for the extra effort in making the evening quite enjoyable for one and all. Thanks **Kathe!**

Our substitute players, **Jerry** and **Susan Kaplan**, provided tough competition for our regulars. Low score honors went to **Susan Kaplan** (1), **Bruce Borgman** (2), and **Jerry Kaplan** (3). There were two high point winners with the first "Year of the Rat" scratcher going to **Don Dotson**. The second high point winner "Love to Win" scratcher going to **Steve Lane**. **Steve** definitely needed some love after last night's game.

Our next Mexican Train Dominoes 6 event will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at the home of **Bob** and **Jane West** noting our hosts have requested a change from our normal Tuesday night to Wednesday night. More details to follow in a subsequent email.

Mr. & Mrs. Moose will not be at the March MTD 6 event since we will be in Micronesia on a scuba diving trip. HOORAY!!!



Photo by John Kelly

MTD 6 Low Point Winners: **Susan Kaplan** (1),
Bruce Borgman (2), and **Jerry Kaplan** (3)



Photo by John Kelly

MTD 6 High Point Winners: **Don Dotson** and **Steve Lane**

**You drop something
when you were younger,
you just pick it up.**

**When you're older and
you drop something, you
stare at it for a bit
contemplating if you
actually need it
anymore.**

**I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid,
but he says he can stop any time.**

*Last Call for Sir Theatre Party
on April 24*
THE DOLLY PARTON MUSICAL



With music and lyrics by songstress Dolly Parton, the Broadway and Movie hit **9 to 5** is set as SIR146 Theatre Party for Friday, April 24, presented by Contra Costa Musical Theater at Walnut Creek's Lesher Center for the Arts.

A limited number of reserved discount tickets for **9 to 5** for SIR members and guests at \$45 per person. Deadline for ordering is fast approaching in March, or until our allocation of discount tickets is committed.

This rollicking musical centers on the trials, tribulations and successes of three downtrodden working gals, presided over by the lecherous and pompous boss.

Request for discount tickets at \$45 per person should be sent to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595 along with a check payable to SIR146. Tickets will be distributed in the Lesher Center lower lobby beginning at 7:30 pm on April 24th.

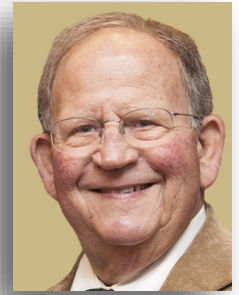
Parking is most convenient in the city garage adjacent to Lesher Center on Locust Street.



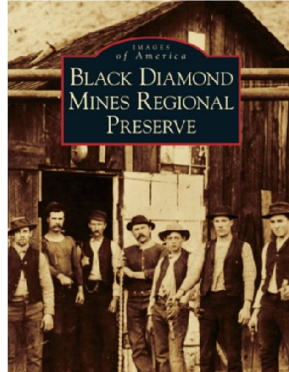
Explore & Eat

Black Diamond Mine Tour

May 18th 10:00 in Antioch



These mining operations were a colorful past history and an integral part of California's economic development after the Gold Rush and was instrumental in California's economic growth in the mid to late 1800's.



Coal Mining: From the 1860s through the turn of the last century, five coal mining towns thrived in the Black Diamond area: Nortonville, Somerville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville. As the location of California's largest coal mining operation, nearly four million tons of coal ("black diamonds") were removed from the earth. The residents of the mining towns were from all over the world, and their life was characterized by hard work and long hours. Occasional celebrations and a variety of organizations and social activities served to alleviate the drudgery of daily existence.

Sand Mining: In the 1920s underground mining for sand began near the deserted Nortonville and Somerville townsites. The Somerville mine supplied sand used in glass making by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland, while the Nortonville mine supplied the Columbia Steel Works with foundry (casting) sand. Competition from Belgian glass and the closing of the steel foundry ended the sand mining by 1949. Altogether, more than 1.8 million tons of sand had been mined.

This an outstanding opportunity to comfortably enjoy a walking tour of a mine in safe, well-lighted environment. Tour participants take a 1309-foot walk into the mine to see mine workings, ore chutes, the shifter's office, and ancient geological features. For safety reasons, you may tour the mine only as part of a guided tour. The tour will last about 90-minutes thru the mine.

After the tour we will proceed for lunch to the **Smith Landing Seafood Grill on the river at the Antioch Marina located at 1 Marina Plaza, Antioch. Parking in FREE at the entrance to mine. There are only 32 spaces available on this Private Tour so sign up early. Please make your check for \$5 per person (\$10/couple) payable to SIR 146 Explore & Eat and send your checks to: Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507.** Please send your name and name of your guest with your check. No cancellation refunds after May 11th. **Please get your checks in ASAP.**

We are looking forward to your participation!

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim Pope** 925-699-6447



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had an excellent Valentine's Day Dinner with our wives on Monday, February 10th at La Veranda in Clayton. Thank you **Bill Roberts** for arranging the meal with the restaurant. Our dinner had three

appetizers including Crab Cakes, breaded Shrimp with seafood cocktail sauce. All of which were great. This was followed with a very nice salad, then a choice of three entrees; Grilled Salmon with a lemon cream sauce, Chicken Piccata with wine lemon and capers or a Filet Mignon with a mushroom sauce. What great choices and excellent entrees. This was finished off with tiramisu for dessert and coffee.

We have a annual tradition of treating our wives to dinner on a date near Valentines Day. Of course along with the meal we had lots of conversation and good wine. This event was special and allowed us to thank our wives for all that they do to help us have great monthly lunches.

Our next lunch event will be March 9th, hosted by **Ken Richter**.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

On Monday, February 24th, **Jim Barry** sank the 8 ball on the break. This is the third time that one of our regular players has done this in the last year. The mathematical probability is nearly impossible to calculate, but professional players can make it about 5% of the time. Amateurs, only about 1 in a 1000.

We meet every Monday at 11:00 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 week 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.

*Reported by **Jim Barry***



Cribbage

John Pearl

On Thursday, February 26th, five of our group met at Rocco's in Walnut Creek, ate, and exchanged stories and a little money. As the Chair was absent, **Ron Afdal**, the Assistant Chair and Chief Enforcer filled in nicely – thanks Ron! The food service was great.

Winners in February, included **Roger Rivers** in first place, **Ron Afdal** in second place, and retrieving his ante, **John Kendrick**.

We meet again in March on the usual 4th Wednesday, the 25th, at Rocco's.

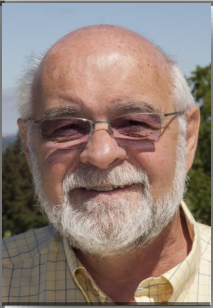
John Pearl, Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

May the wind at your back
not be the result
of the corned beef and cabbage
you had for lunch.



Happy St.Patrick's Day

I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

Maybe it was the bright summer day or the fact that Wine Tasting was being hosted by **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld** that brought out a record number of people to the February Wine Tasting. Well over forty people came out for this event. We tasted some wonderful Petit Sirahs and Dry Rieslings and the appetizers that everyone brought to go with the wines were amazing.

Larry and **Ann Kaye's** Goosecross Cellars 2013 Petite Sirah was voted the best of the reds. **Henry** and **Barbara Thatcher's** Wolff Vineyards 2015 Dry Riesling was voted the best of the whites.

I want to take a moment that thank everyone that is part of this group, the friendships that grow because of this event make me happy to me a member of such a vibrant branch. If you are interested in joining our group and are not on the mailing list, please send me an email. Please remember, the wine is an excuse to hang out with friends.

Our next Wine Tasting event will be April 22nd at the home of **Larry** and **Ann Kaye**. Once we decide upon the wines, I will send out a notice to the Wine Group.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Judy and Bob Wilkenfeld presented with a gift for hosting the event



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Barbara and Henry Thatcher being presented with gift for best Dry Riesling



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Above : Some of the wine tasters enjoying the day

Photo to Right : **Rob Melrose** presenting **Larry Kaye** with gift for the best Petite Sirah .



Photo by Henry Thatcher



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs had another successful performance at the Concord Royale Assisted Living and Senior Center on February 5. A few of our regulars were out of town and we had just seven singers, but it did not detract from this much appreciated gig. We had a good audience of 40 or more residents, and several of them would sing along with our familiar tunes. **Paul Beretz** had written a narrative for each of the songs. **Steve Dinning**, our pianist noted a few tears when we sang our melancholy "I Wish I was Eighteen Again". **Bob Yolland** did a great job on his solo singing "Get me to the Church on Time" from My Fair Lady. You will be able to see a part of our group as well a picture of our audience in the photos below.

We have continued to rehearse the Irish Songs. These are challenging tunes, not only because the musical range in several tunes is at the higher range of our voices, but the lyrics and rhythms, while fun, are often also a challenge for our group. We have requests from several Senior Living places to come and sing around St. Patrick's Day and we will likely select one after our practice in early March.

We still do need some more new singers, so if you have an interest in singing, come by one of our practices at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, at 2:30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month, and at 1:30 pm on the third Wednesday. Auditions not required, just an interest and love of singing!

(925) 932-3961
bgborgman@aol.com

Photo by Bruce Borgman



Book Group CHUCK CAMPBELL

SIRS Book Group met on Wednesday, February 19, to discuss Jack London's classic book *The Call of the Wild*. We found the book an easy read and insightfully sensitive to how a dog might think.

We then turned to a discussion of how to transfer from Chuck Campbell's leadership of the book group to a new volunteer. We decided to select a new leader at our March meeting when we will return to our regular meeting day and time, Mondays at 8:30 a.m.

Citizens of London, by Lynne Olson, is our next book selection. This is a behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, the handsome, chain-smoking head of CBS News in Europe; Averell Harriman, the hard-driving millionaire who ran FDR's Lend-Lease program in London; and John Gilbert Winant, the shy, idealistic U.S. ambassador to Britain.

We will meet on Monday, March 23rd at The Greenery restaurant, 8:30 a.m. for this discussion.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Photo Above: An Appreciative audience at the Concord Royale

Photo Left: A portion of SongSirs performing at Concord Royale Senior Facility from left to right: **Paul Beretz, Peter Plante, Ron Lew, Corrie Oranje, and Frank Lucas**.

England has no kidney bank,
but it does have a Liverpool



Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

Bob West

We had our 2nd meeting of the new decade on February 20th, but before discussing results it is important to note a correction to last months summary. **Steve Ybarra** won both games he was in whereas I had stated only one win. Steve leads YTD having placed 1st twice, and 2nd once.

On table 1, in game 1 **Ron Polivka** and **Ed Smith** were nearly tied thru 6 hands, but **Ed** was able to hold him off. **Ed** won with 27 points, and **Ron** was 2nd with 30. In the 2nd game, **Jim Nelson** "shot the moon" in the 4th hand. **Rich Lyon** barely took any points the rest of the way and won with 35 points, and **Jim Nelson** came in 2nd with 91 points.

On table 2, in game 1, thru 7 hands **Steve Ybarra** had a clear lead but in the final tally, **Bob West** won with 61 points and **Steve Ybarra** came in 2nd with 65 points. In game 2, **Frank Lucas** "shot the moon" in the 1st hand and was leading thru 4 hands before collecting material points. **Bob West** hovered in the background and ended up winning with 57 points, **Frank** came in 2nd with 82 points. The 2nd game did not end until 3:50, perhaps because of the one-handed **Bob West**. **Steve Ybarra** ended up doing most of the shuffling and dealing. Bob was out of action. **Frank** tells us many jokes, and perhaps that distracted him as we restricted **Frank** from dealing, when he ended up with 4 cards in his hand to our 1 at the end of a game, and later dealt 4 hands for the 3 of us. That would have been some blind.

Jim Nelson and **Frank Lucas** are leading YTD in that they both "shot the moon" once in January and February.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at Rocco's Italian Restaurant, located at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. We play from 12:45-3:15 pm with an optional lunch at noon. This is a Men's SIR 146 function with new members welcome. Our next meeting is Thursday March 19th.

Please call me at 925-518-8472 or email robertawest@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list.



Hearts Photo (L to R, back to front) : **Frank Lucas, Jim Nelson, Ed Smith, Ron Polivka, Steve Ybarra, Bob West, Rich Lyon**



Pickleball

Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.

The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach.

The instruction part of our Pickle Ball activity will be temporarily put on hold because of some business matters being discussed with the County. Once that is settled, we will hope to be back in business with the offering of instruction and will let you know accordingly. Please be aware that the "drop-in" pickle ball activity will continue to happen on Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Call or email to learn more about the game and/or information about the facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.

Jim Burk
(925) 946-1192

When you get a bladder infection
you know urine trouble



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Bill Schultz

David Steinberg hosted three tables of duplicate bridge on Friday, February 7th. All twelve players were regular members of Duplicate 2. In the morning sessions director **Bill Schultz** came out of the gates with a commanding lead with a 70% game. He was closely followed by **Mark Curtis** and **Max Hinkle**.

In the afternoon **Bill** took a nap and was never seen again! **Ed Marlovits** also had a 70% game in the second half followed by **Rich Ahlf** and **David Pierce**. Unfortunately for **Ed** his first half showing kept him out of the overall winner circle. However, he did earn the title of come-back kid by improving his score by ten points in the second half.

Overall winner was **Rich Ahlf** with **Mark** and **Dave Pierce** tying for second place. For the day, Mark had the most 2's with 9 and the fewest 0's with only four.

Next game will be hosted by **Ed Marlovits** on Friday, March 6th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Dave Pierce

On Presidents' Day **Rich Ahlf** hosted four tables and we played Swiss teams.

Team #1 bid and made six hearts on the first board and it was all on the high road from there. They won every match and placed first with 51 victory points. Congratulations to **Max Hinkle** (captain), **Dick DeVoe**, **Bill Snyder** and **Bob Yolland**.

Each of the other three teams won one match, but Team #3 came in second, with 28 victory points, in a close field. Congratulations to **Mark Curtis** (captain), **Jim Brown**, **Doug Eisner**, and **Joe Fuchs**. Many thanks to our five subs, we couldn't have done it without you.



Men's Duplicate 1 winners (L to R): **Bill Snyder, Bob Yolland, Max Hinkle and Dick DeVoe.**



Duplicate Bridge 2 winners: **David Pierce**, tied for second, host **Dave Steinberg** standing in for the winner, **Rich Ahlf** who made a hasty exit, and **Mark Curtis**, tied for second



Vern Laursen & Steve Ondeck at the February luncheon

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Couples Duplicate 1 had a very nice evening of bridge on February 19th hosted by **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. Thank you both for all your excellent goodies and drinks. We want to welcome and thank **Ray Bland**, his friend **Marsha** and **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** for subbing.

For results, the newcomer, **Ray Bland** and **Marsha** came in first with 25 points, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** second with 23 1/2 points and **Dick and Christy DeVoe** third with 20 points. Congratulations to all the winners.

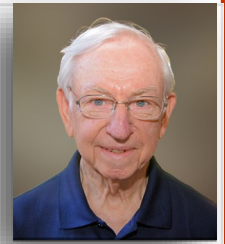
Couples Duplicate also would like to announce that **Dick DeVoe** has assumed the chairmanship of Couples Duplicate 1. Dick replaces **Bob Yolland** who chaired the group for a number of years.

Our next event will be hosted by **Margot Somerville**, on the third Wednesday evening, which is March 18th.

Bob Yolland
(925) 932-4758
(bobyolland@att.net)



Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman



On Monday Feb. 3rd 16 players gathered at SIR **Jim Stedman's** home for party bridge.

Rich Ahlf finished first with 5810 points. **Jim Stedman** was second with 5390 points and **Ray Bland** finished third with 3990 points.

Our next game is Monday March 2nd at the home of **Jim Pope**. For the six-month contest **Jim Stedman** is leading with an average score of 5290 points followed by **Rich Ahlf** with 5230 points and **Mike Whitaker** with 3890 points.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Party Bridge winners **Mike Whitaker** third place, host **Jim Stedman** second place, and **Rich Ahlf** first place.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Larry and Linda Brown hosted us on New Hampshire primary evening. While **Bernie, Pete** and **Amy** were slugging it out in the snow, we were caucusing in the **Browns'** comfy kitchen where we decimated **Larry's** magnificent cheese ball (secret recipe) by a landslide.

Suitably fortified, our loyal subs **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini McLean** were third (51%), **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** were second (55%), and **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were first (65%). For the **Richters** and the **Pierces**, who were at the bottom of the polls in January, this was a big jump in the ratings. Next month on Super Tuesday, who knows what will happen but none of us will drop out of this race.

Dave Pierce, 932-3877
(dwpi@astound.net)



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Wine Tasting Party with an excellent selection of food



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Mike Whitaker

On Friday, February 21st, Duplicate Bridge III had it's monthly gathering for three tables of advanced remedial bridge. **Bill**

Schultz hosted this meeting. His bridge skills were only surpassed by those of his cheesecake making - great dessert **Bill**. At the end of the 1st half, the field was tightly bunched with a 3-way tie for the lead (**Bob Yolland, Ray Spears, and Tony Greco**). When the dust settled at the end of the day it was **Bob** still in 1st, **Ray** in 2nd and **Bill Schultz** sneaking in for 3rd. **Rich Ahlf**, subbing for one of our regulars, managed to take away the DFL Award. Too bad he doesn't play golf. Our next game will be on March 20th at **Ray Bland's** home. Interested in joining? Call **Mike** at (925) 708-8213.



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher hosted our February 4th event. With the busy holidays behind us, all our regulars were available to play. After catching up on the year end events and solving the world's

problems, while drinking wine and munching on snacks, we began playing bridge. The soft cheddar cheese w/ horseradish and crackers was a big hit along with the M&Ms and healthy grapes. We all saved room for a chocolate pie dessert served with coffee at the end of the evening.

Our hosts, **Brad & Lynne** got off to a quick start scoring 1670 points in the first round. This was more than half of their total points which was enough for a 2nd Place finish. On the other hand, **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** saved their best round for the final round scoring 1430 points to almost double their total score for a 3rd Place finish. **Dick & Christy DeVoe** scored more consistently throughout the five rounds and took 1st Place.

On a sad note one anonymous couple, from the bottom three finishers, missed a 7 spades Grand Slam opportunity, worth 1000 extra points, during the first round. The "good news" is that even with 1000 extra points they would still only move up to 4th Place.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3460 points - **Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 3080 points - **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**
- 3rd PLACE with 2950 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**

Next month's event will be held on March 3rd and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**. We are looking forward to **Larry's** homemade non-salmon flavored cheese ball in size XXL. Lol.

(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Photo by Bill Shultz

02/21/2020

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 winners: first place **Bob Yolland**, second place **Ray Spears** and third place host **Bill Schultz** display their winnings. Also pictured is the recipient of the newly established DFL award, **Rich Ahlf**.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

California Dreaming of
a Wine Tasting Party with
SIR Branch146
February 2020



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met at the home of **Rich Hanford** on February 12th. As always a good time was had by all.

Our next outing will be at the home of **Don Del Bene** on March 11th.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our February game was hosted by **Norm Baietti** with generous snacks and a fine selection of wine. However, **Norm** was not at all generous at the start of play. He won the first three pots in a row with high hands like full-house and a flush. Fortunately for the rest of us, he did cool down during the rest of the afternoon. Thanks again **Norm!**

We are looking for both substitutes and permanent players to join in the fun.

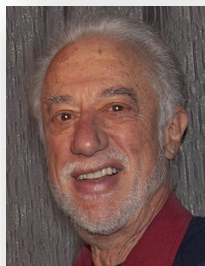
Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571 bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Bob Royster** if you would like to join our group as a member or substitute.*



Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

Poker Group 7 meets on the third Monday of the month at Bob Lucido's house at 6:30 pm

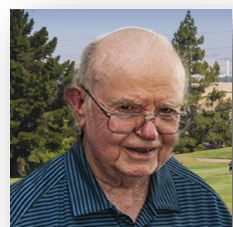
(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



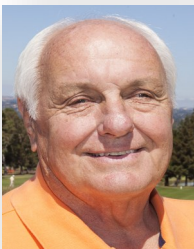
Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

*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 Group 4
Rich Hanford

Poker Group 4 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at homes of the various members.



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.*



Book Corner
Peter Plante

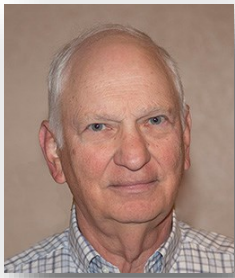
Come one , come all.

The Book Corner is open for your perusal and contributions.

Browse at your leisure and take home some fine reading material.



I am so old that, when I was a kid, we actually had to win to get a trophy.



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Our February tournament Tuesday was a four-club tournament and you might say the results were 180 degrees from our November four-club event. This time we had only one score at net par or better. In November eleven of us scored that well. Rumor has it that February's greens were a 12 on the Stimpmeter (a device used to measure the speed of a putting green). Not a good day to be above the hole.

In addition to our branch's weekly events at Boundary Oak, one of the benefits of being a SIR Golfer is the opportunity to participate in State SIR Golf events. This year we will have the traditional Springtime in Napa event in Mid-April. In June, State Sir has arranged rounds at three great courses for the annual Reno Blowout. Both events include the ladies. The SIR Fall Classic being held in mid-September will also welcome ladies.

The state team championship event will have qualifying rounds in May. The State Individual Championship will have qualifying events in August. Dates and venues have not yet been assigned. Visit <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/> for dates and details.

It was a beautiful day to tee off on February 11th, as shown in the following 3 pictures.



(L to R): Mike Wallace, Dave Steinberg, Malcolm Harrison and Mike Roach.



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. Exception is the second 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

Golf



(L to R): Rick Morgan, Terry Carlin, Larry McAllister, and Bill Schultz.



(L to R): Ron Binder, Bob Royster, Pierre Mebane and Don Rhoads.

All the toilets in New York 's police stations were stolen. As of now, it appears the police have nothing to go on.

Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



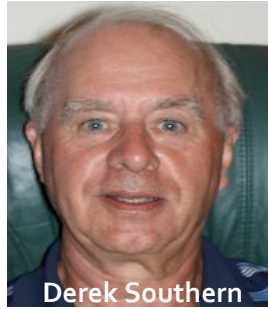
Vern Laursen

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.

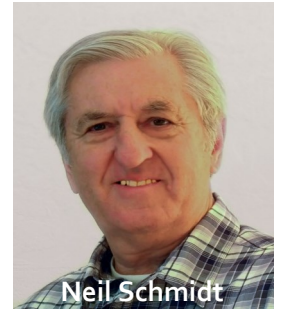
If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next meeting of the SIR Area 16 Computer and Technology Group will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge (1475 Creekside Dr., WC) on Thursday, March 19th starting at 9:30 am. SIR from all branches and their guests, including spouses, are welcome and invited to attend. Plan to come a little early and for coffee, goodies and to chat.

The March presenter will be Evan Corstorphine, founder and President of Portable CIO, a local IT Design Implementation, management and support company. Evan has made presentations to our group in the past on topics such as Computer Security, Amazon Alexa products, Internet-based backups using iDrive, etc. His presentations have always very interesting and enjoyed by our members.

Since it has been a couple years since he has visited us, we have invited him back to give us the latest updates on a variety of computer related topics.

Always checkout our CAT website at "a2cat.sirinc2.org" for information about our meetings and for info on past presentations. Note that we ask for a \$5 donation to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. We look forward to seeing you on March 19th.

Area 16 \$ums Investment Group

\$UMS in Retirement meets next on Wednesday March 25 at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4.

The presenter will be Damien Couture of Walnut Creek Wealth Management.

The Legends opens at 7 am. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - davesutn@comcast.net

I dropped out of the Communism class
because of lousy Marx



Photo by Bill Schultz

February 25th Golfers **Max Hinkle, Jim Browning, and Rick Morgan**

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2021
March 2020													
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday									
2	3	4	5	6									
10:00 AM Party Bridge 11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Mac User Group (MUG)	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #6	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2									
9	10	11	12	13									
11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 12:00 PM Cooking II	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Poker Group #8 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:15 PM Poker #5	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR LUNCHEON	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Photography Group Ygnacio Valley Library 2861 Oak Grove Rd, W.C. 10:00 AM Hiking Moderate 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)									
16	17	18	19	20									
10:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1 11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist	10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 2nd 6:00 PM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00 PM Bridge - Couples	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Computers And Technology (CAT) 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro									
23	24	25	26	27									
8:30 AM Book Group The Greenery Restaurant, WC 11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3 1:00 PM Poker Group #2 1:00 PM Poker Group #4 5:30 PM Couples Dining Out Burma Unique 1375 Broadway, Walnut Creek	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sums in Retirement 10:00 AM Bowling 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	8:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek Golf Course	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess Pleasant Hill Senior Center 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)									
30	31	Apr 1	2	3									
11:00 AM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF) Drop-in \$5 San Ramon Valley United Methodist	10:00 AM Bowling 1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #6	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2									