



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Notes Richard Hockenbrock

As you may have learned from the eblast that I sent out on February 18th, BR 146 has recently reopened several outdoor activities including cycling, RV travel, 9 & 18-hole golf, and hiking. The BEC has also

granted permission for the Fishing Group to take their poles and boats once again to the waters.

Stu Williams, our SIR state president, recently started touting the slogan "Immune in June" in reference to the hope that everyone who wants an immunization shot will have theirs before the end of June. Unfortunately the county and the state have to make the next move to relax indoor gatherings before we can start playing Mexican Train and other card games as well as being able to have couples dining out. Let's hope they carve out some more lenient guidelines for those of us who have already received our two vaccine shots!

At the BEC in February, the audit committee consisting of **Chuck Schreiber** and **Ben Gleason** submitted their report giving the branch a clean bill of health on our 2020 finances. There was also an accounting of our assets some of which are stored at Boundary Oak.

At our main Zoom luncheon meeting, Honoree Committee members **Doug Eisner**, **Walt Busenius**, and presenter **Jim Burk** gave long time SIR member **Ron Binder** the Branch Honoree Award. This award is the highest honor that the branch can bestow on a member and is done so on a point system as a member accumulates points for volunteering their services throughout their lifetime as a SIR member. The other member receiving an award this month was **Jonathan Korfhage** who received a Certificate of Appreciation. **Jonathan** was Big Sir for the branch in 2019. You can read more about these two men on pages 5 and 6 of this month's issue of the SIR-Call.

Our guest speaker in February was Ben Lavender,

Community Affairs Representative for the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District. Last month's speaker showed us what happens to your trash after it leaves your house and Ben showed us what happens to your s_____ after it leaves your toilet. He presented a virtual 360° tour of the facilities which, if you missed it, can be seen here at this link.

<https://www.centrsan.org/virtual-plant-tour>.

And last but not least, our branch added three new members to our roster in February – **Roger Pytlewski**, **Paul Kersis**, and **Tom Alborg**.

I invite you to attend the BEC and main luncheon meetings virtually on March 11th starting at 9 am. And as tradition has it, I ask that you try to wear something **GREEN** to the meeting in honor of St. Patrick's Day later in the month.



Zoom, Zoom...

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, March 11th

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:15am

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 Jerry Kaplan

In our Big Sir column, **Richard Hockenbrock** noted that several outdoor activities have reopened for participation by Branch 146 members. Hopefully, as the year progresses, additional activities will begin again, with a possible goal of meeting in person within a few more months. I don't think many of us thought that we would be isolated from our fellow members for over a year.

Over the last several weeks, several volunteers in the branch assisted in reaching out to the membership to determine if there were some individuals who might need help in scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine inoculation. As the Big Sir recently noted in an E-Blast to the membership, we were able to assist seven of our members who requested appointment assistance. I want to personally thank **Bruce Borgman, Jonathan Korfhage, Walt Busenius, Rich Lyon, Ross Abbott, Paul Beretz, Peter Plante, Bob Lucido, and Tony Greco**, who helped with the effort.

Our January Zoom luncheon speaker, **Ms. Elana Mejia** from Republic Services, provided answers to several questions that followed her presentation about recycling. They can found in the *Notes from Our Members* section of this month's SIR-Call.

Our March speaker will be **Dr. Adam Wallach**, a local dermatologist specializing in the treatment of skin cancer. He will provide a brief presentation that is both instructive and practical; discussing what skin lesions should get your attention and when to contact a dermatologist. **Dr. Wallach** will try to simplify the various treatments for skin cancer that are often confusing, showing photos that will help illustrate his presentation.

If there are other topics you would like future speakers to cover – sports, health, travel, learning, etc., please let me know and I'll see if I can corral someone in that area.

And most important, during February, three new members joined our branch – **Roger Pytlewski, Paul Kersis, and Tom Alborg**. A big warm welcome to all of you; we look forward to meeting you all in person,

hearing some of your interesting life stories and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

Everyone, stay safe but have fun where, when and how you can! And remember, *"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: "What! You too? I thought I was the only one."* – **C.S. Lewis**

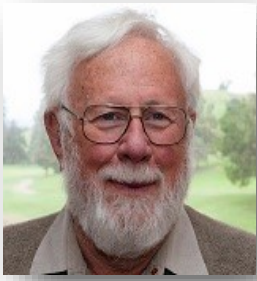
2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary	Rich Lyon
Assistant Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Peter Plante

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



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

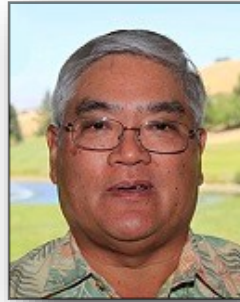
Do you have something you want our membership to know about? Something you want to say to everyone? Maybe just a favorite joke that you would like to share.

If you do I want to call your attention to a new section of your newsletter, "NOTES from our members". We will publish just about anything you would like to say as long as it isn't profane, doesn't deal with politics or religion and is of reasonable length.

Deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 24th.

So, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier —Editor SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489
br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved by the BEC in February. We welcome **Roger Pytlewski** sponsored by **Dave Steinberg**, **Paul Kersis** also sponsored by **Dave Steinberg** and **Thomas Alborg** sponsored by **Paul Beretz**. Also, three guests attended our last Zoom Luncheon meeting. They were **Jack Saller**, **Mike Sulyma** and **Sam Veneziano**. Hopefully, that they will find our branch enjoyable and interesting and would want to become members in the near future.

The 2021 membership count rose to 270, which is up from January of 266. We still have 16 members from last year that have yet to indicate if they want to remain members of our branch. Many efforts to contact them have been made.

The SIR Call Directory will be updated monthly when appropriate. In February, at least a half a dozen contacts have been updated. If there are any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, please send me an email so that we can update the directory with current information.

George Mon



Luncheon Chairman Rich Lyon

Dear Sirs !
Susan and I hope your holiday celebrations were a great time and we wish you a fun and safe New Year!

We're monitoring with anticipation that Contra Costa County is moving down the priority list for the COVID vaccine. Perhaps within a few short months we will have been vaccinated.

Until then we are playing it safe.

No contact online Branch activities are a way to regularly have fun and keep in touch with friends. The online "Luncheon" is another way to keep in touch and, the speakers have been very interesting.

If you haven't attended online, give it a try.

It won't be long until we are back to normal. In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon
Luncheon Coordinator

Is the "S" or "C" in scent silent?

The word "queue" is just a Q followed by four silent letters.

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
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



Tanc Agius
 Rich Ahlf
 John Biasotti
 Ron E. Binder
 Bruce G. Borgman
 Ed Brands
 Jim Burk

Chuck Cornell
 Chuck Denney
 Duane D. Einhorn
 Jack F. Gordon
 Bill Holly
 Dave Kingsbury
 Jonathan W. Korfhage

Todd W. Lockwood
 Al Munayer
 Steve Oki
 David Steinberg
 Joe Stengel
 Richard A. Woodman

Congratulations to **Bob West**...our February Birthday winner!
 Remember... you have to participate to WIN!

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



Let us keep the pictured 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.

One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they “opt out” of the monthly luncheon. Since the in-person luncheons have been cancelled (at least for the time being) and we all are “sheltering at home” this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, your poker or bridge buddies, etc. to see how they are

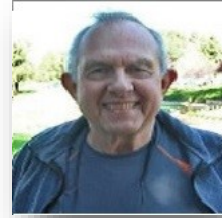
This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

Stay Healthy.
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

doing. If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness, send me an email so that we can let the membership know. This way the membership of Branch 146 can keep the SIR who is ill in their thoughts and prayers.



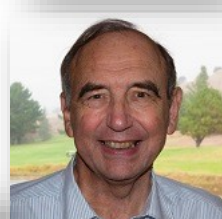
Vince Rettew



Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



Stan Stricherz



Frank Lucas

February SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Ron Binder



Your Honoree Committee feels that it is important to let you, our members, know what type award is being presented and why. You should also know that in every case the awardee and his award is approved by the BEC at a meeting held late in the year before the next year's luncheon meetings.

First, we have what could be called "quantitative" awards which the recipient is awarded for achieving one of three different age-related milestones: Senior Sir - 90 years of age; Super Senior Sir - 95 years of age; and Century Sir - 100 years of age. In addition, we award the 20 Year Membership Award to members.

The second set are "merit based" awards. One is the Branch Honoree, the second is The Branch Certificate of Appreciation and the third is HLM. The Branch Honoree is the highest award our Branch bestows on a member, and it is based on achieving points for various volunteer and leadership positions within our Branch, with 45 points being the minimum number. The second award is The Branch Certificate of Appreciation and is given to a member based on his branch involvement, regardless of points accumulated. The third merit award is the prestigious HLM (Honorary Life Member) and Sr. HLM that has its own set of State SIR rules and criteria.



This month, it is my personal honor to present The Branch Honoree award to **Ron Binder**.

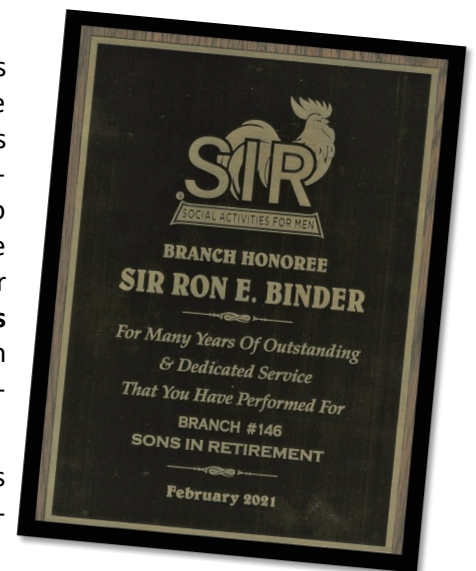
Ron is a native San Franciscan, born in March, 1939. He grew up there, spending fun summers at the family cabin in the Santa Cruz Mountains. **Ron** graduated in 1957 from Lincoln High School and immediately joined the Army. After boot camp at Fort Ord, **Ron** was sent to Fort Sam Houston in Texas. It was there that he was given advanced training to become a medic. Upon completion of active duty, Ron returned to the Bay Area and continued his military reserve status, as well as enrolling at City College of San Francisco in the Hotel/Restaurant Management program. After he obtained his AA degree in restaurant management in 1960, **Ron** joined Mannings Food Company from 1960 to 1973, and later Servomation from 1973 to 1986. During

this period of time, he also served in the US Army Medical Corps reserve for eight years, ending his military commitment in 1965. He then went into hospital management, working at Mills Peninsula Hospital, in San Jose; Sutter Solano Medical Center, in Vallejo; and John Muir Medical Center here in Walnut Creek, where he retired in 2005 having achieved the title of Director of Food Services.

He joined our Branch in March of 2006, sponsored by **Rich Hanford**. **Ron** has worked very diligently in a variety of activities since joining our Branch. Here are some facts you may not be aware of that relate to **Ron**. Over the years, **Ron** has been an avid golfer and he immediately became involved with the Golf Committee where he served as Chair for three years (2007 to 2009). He has also been the Chair of a cooking group, Tres Gourmet, serving consecutively since 2011 to now. As if that's not enough, **Ron** chaired our Recruiting Group for three years from 2012 to 2014; and also was a Branch Director in 2009. **Ron's** first wife **Cathy**, passed away, and he and his second wife, **Karen**, now live in Rossmoor and play as much golf (generally nine holes at a time) as health permits. He was presented The Certificate of Appreciation Award in 2016.

When you next see **Ron**, please express your appreciation for his many years spent on behalf of Branch 146, and for that, we today present him with the coveted Branch Honoree Award.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the February 11th Zoom Luncheon



February SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Jonathan Korfhage



Our next award is presented to **Jonathan Korfhage**, and it is a very well deserved Certificate of Appreciation Award. **Jonathan** was born in March, 1942, in Minnesota. He was the son of a Methodist preacher and his family was recreation oriented. That proved to be the basis of Jonathan's entire professional business career.

Jonathan came to California to attend San Jose State University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation, with honors.

Following college, he embarked on a career of over 50 years in the field of parks and recreation. He spent 25 years with the City of Oakland as a recreation supervisor, managing playgrounds, camps, sports and aquatics, department training, the arts programs, lake operations, and information technology, just to name some of the many activities in which he spent his time. He then served as an administrative assistant with the East Bay Regional Park District, working on a variety of special programs. During that period, he wrote a book about the history of parks and recreation in Santa Clara County. He eventually retired as superintendent of parks,

recreation, and vehicles for the City of Foster City. He still holds the title of a certified park and recreation professional.

Jonathan has been very active in the National Recreation and Park Association, in which he is a charter member and a past president. He recently served as the organization's Western Services Coordinator. He has also been a member of the California Parks and Recreation Society since the early 1960s. He served as president of the Society in 1988-89 and was the recipient of its highest recognition, the Fellowship Award. He is currently the Society's historian. He also has served as chair of the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Recreation Advisory Council and continues to participate in that organization.

He entered our Branch in March of 2012 sponsored by **Pete McNeill**. He immediately jumped into volunteer work on behalf of the branch as primary greeter for three (3) years, during which time he donned a variety of humorous and catchy costumes. He became the "court jester," if you will, during his days as greeter, often wearing apparel which was consistent with the subject to be presented by the speaker for the day. Following his days as greeter, he jumped into the infamous "rotation" of assignments with positions of Assistant Secretary (2016), Secretary (2017), Little Sir (2018), all leading to the position of Big Sir in 2019. During this same time he chaired the Valentine's Day dance for four years of 2017 thru 2020. In the now dreaded year of 2020, he chaired the Nominating Committee for the branch as well.

He and his wife **Barbara** enjoy traveling, writing, music, puppetry, theatre, and spending time with family and friends. This very active couple also frequents the golf course at Boundary Oak. Finally, he is currently on the Board of Directors of Shelter, Inc., a non-profit in Contra Costa County working to alleviate homelessness and is also writing a book about the history of parks and recreation in California.

Please help me in recognizing **Jonathan** as one of our Branch's "energizer bunnies" when you next see him, as we add to his personal accolades with The Certificate of Appreciation award.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the February 11th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members

Response from Republic Services to our questions:

At our January meeting the speaker was **Elena Mejia** Recycling Coordinator with Republic Services, the local waste collection service. Her presentation garnered a lot of questions. For any, that she did not have immediate answers for she promised to get back to us. She took these back with the promise to research them and get back to us. And so she has, these were her replies sent through Jerry Kaplan:

Q: Is the compost from Forward rated Organic and is it sold?

A: We do an annual compost giveaway for RecycleSmart residents (see attached photo of the service area) typically in May (not sure if it will happen this year due to Covid-19). Forward also does work with a commercial compost bagger to sell the compost in some hardware stores but it wont necessarily say its from Forward Compost Facility. The compost has the following certifications: CDFA (CA Dept Food and Ag), OMRI listed (Organic Materials Review Institute), STA Certified (Seal of Testing Assurance – USCC). OMRI Listed® products are allowed for use in certified organic operations under the USDA National Organic Program.

Q: Is there any enforcement for contamination in residential carts?

A: We do a little bit – our drivers keep an eye out for contamination when they are dumping carts but it can be hard to see if it's hidden at the bottom of a cart, and usually it'll be too late since it's already getting dumped. But they do note accounts that are continually contaminating with a tag and we don't service it until they remove the contamination before their next service day, or they pay for us to service it as trash 1x. It's easiest to see contamination if the customer is also overloading the cart since the lid will be propped open and some contents will be visible.

Q: Why does Mt Diablo Resource Recovery not accept any Styrofoam?

A: It is not easily recyclable (hard to find markets for it) or economically efficient to recycle Styrofoam, especially since its so light but bulky.

Q: Is the recycling facility having trouble with finding places who will take our recyclables?

A: Yes, especially since China Sword (they stopped accepting most types of materials starting in 2018), and other countries have also started limiting what they will take. This has forced the recycling sorting facility to be even more stringent, and that's why we try to do education and outreach about clean recycling.

Q: We continue to pay a deposit on containers like soft drink containers. The intent was that this was a deposit that we would get back when we "recycled" but like so many government programs it seems to have hit a brick wall. It is no longer easy to find a place that will refund our deposit. Where is the money going now?

A: This is a question for CalRecycle. I have not heard back from them yet, but their website kind of touches on this:

How are recycling funds spent? ([Fiscal Year 2016-2017 estimates](#))

Sales of CRV beverage containers in Fiscal Year 2016-17 are projected to bring in approximately \$1.2 billion in deposits to California's Beverage Container Recycling Fund. Of that total, \$1.05 billion goes toward CRV redemption payments to consumers.

When used beverage containers are thrown away instead of recycled, the unclaimed CRV refunds are used to provide:

[Competitive grants](#): \$1.5 million

[Payments to support curbside recycling programs](#): \$15 million

[Grants to local conservation corps](#): \$6.8 million

[Payments to recycling centers sited at supermarkets to ensure consumer convenience](#): \$46.7 million

[Market Development Payment Program to promote reuse of plastics discards](#): \$10 million

Notes from Our Members continued on next page

Payments to cities and counties: \$10.5 million per year for beverage container recycling and litter cleanup activities

Quality Incentive Payments: \$10 million per year to curbside recycling programs and drop-off or collection programs to promote the recycling of glass discards that meet specified quality standards for reuse.

Program administration: approximately \$51.1 million.



Oak Habitat Restoration Project

by Mark Curtis

I have been volunteering my time for several months now to the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation (WCOSF) to plant acorns at a couple of locations in Shell Ridge and Lime Ridge open space. This project has been going on for several years and is likely to continue. The mission of WCOSF is to protect and preserve these open space areas. And planting new oak trees is an important part of the mission.

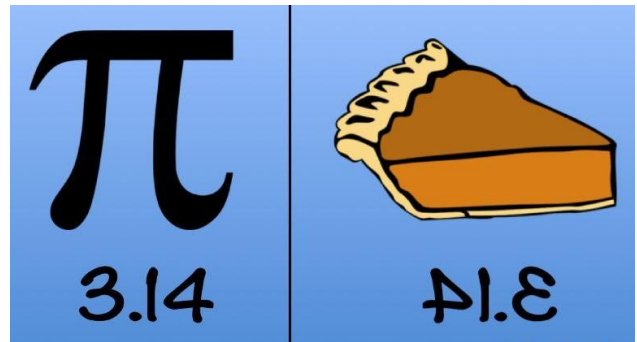
This note is a request to SIR146 members to assist with the Oak Habitat Restoration Project by delivering much needed water to the vulnerable acorns and/or new small trees during the typical long dry spell of spring and summer. This would involve up to 3 hours once per week of your time to carry 1 gallon jugs to each planting site.

Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering your time occasionally.

Mark Curtis: mocurtis1657@gmail.com 925-360-3449

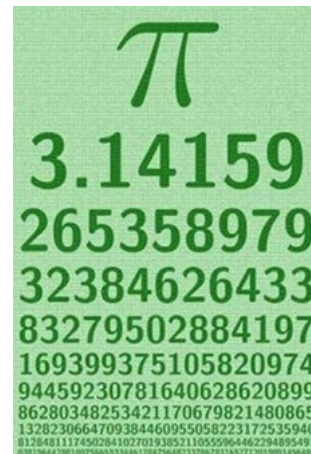
ST. PADDIES DAY NOT ENOUGH CELEBRATION FOR YOU?

ADD TO THE REVELRY OF MARCH BY CELEBRATING PI DAY WITH A SLICE OF YOUR FAVORITE PIE ON MARCH 14,



NATIONAL PI DAY!

REMEMBER... WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CUT A JACK O'LANTERN BY ITS DIAMETER? PUMPKIN PI, OF COURSE!



Feeling Lucky?

The next time your wife gets angry, drape a towel over her shoulders (like a cape) and say, "now you're SUPER ANGRY".

Maybe she'll laugh.

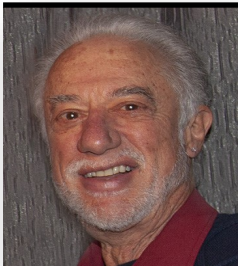
Maybe you'll die.



Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of these listed in the following pages. Some are inactive at present due to the mandated shutdowns but many are enjoying camaraderie through Zoom to help us counteract the boredom as noted by the Zoom icon to the right.

Some activities such as Hearts and Cribbage are played online, while others, like our book and photography groups have moved their activities online using Zoom. Look for this icon that designates these activities! Others like Golf, Hiking, RV Wanderers and Cycling have resumed outdoor activities. If you can't find one that is just right for you, well, start a new one! Bob, our Activities Coordinator would love to help you!



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

The sun is shining, the weather is warming, and our outside activities are opening up.

Cycling, Hiking, Fishing, Golf, & my favorite RV travel (I'm the chairman) have opened with the county restrictions in place. Wear masks, keep 6 foot away from people, and don't spit on anyone, even if you don't like them.

Everyone is hoping that by summer we can restart our indoor activities. Stay safe and healthy

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Bocce John Kendrick

I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch

146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26th, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.

In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. We will make every effort to ensure play will resume in 2021. See you then!

Under normal circumstances, we play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, through September/October at 8:30 am at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me jmkendrick23@gmail.com and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.

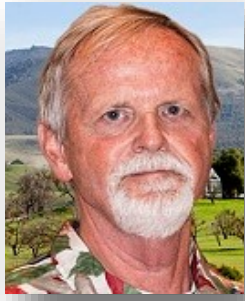
Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com

Romance novels written during Covid-19 will be like...
"And then she slowly slipped her mask down, revealing her warm red lips, and her blushed face, and as their eyes met, he gently removed her gloves."



Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

The Photography Group met on February 19th via Zoom and was well attended. For this meeting we showed two video clips reviews from CNet. The first being the new Samsung S21 Ultra Cell Phone Camera. The second CNet review was comparing the new Cell Phone cameras, the Samsung S21 Ultra vs. the iPhone 12 Pro Max. Overall, both cameras produced great results and the consensus is, if you have a Samsung you will buy Samsung and if you have an iPhone you would buy the new iPhone. A video of the new Sony Alpha 1 Camera was also shown to tempt the serious "Shutterbugs" among us.

Henry Thatcher took some pictures in Cambria and Morro Bay to compare his iPhone 10 to his wife's new iPhone 12 Pro Max. It was generally felt that the new iPhone 12 Pro Max produces better images. A picture taken of the harbor in Morro Bay with the iPhone 12 Pro Max is shown

below.

Our photographic theme for this meeting was "From the Mundane to the Extraordinary." Our members were encouraged to take what could be described as a "Mundane situation" and have it turn out to be an "Extraordinary photograph". Some of the photographs submitted are shown on the next page.

To conclude our meeting a video was shown from the Masters Photography Series – 50 Years of Story Telling with Pictures. Photographs are more than just a picture – They tell a story. For our photo challenge for our April meeting the subject will be "Planes, Trains and Automobiles". These pictures can be new or ones taken in the past. These pictures can be shown as a photograph or video clip and we bet they will have a "Story to Tell". **Moose** and **Henry** are looking forward to seeing your creativity and hearing your story.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 19th, via Zoom

Be safe and be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

Email **John (Moose) Kelly** at

rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or text/call at 610.517.0152 or

Henry Thatcher at

1henrythatcher@gmail.com

or text/call at 925.997.5032



Morro Bay Harbor
 iPhone 12 Pro Max by Henry Thatcher



Morro Bay Harbor
 iPhone 10 by Henry Thatcher

Continued on next page

February Photo Challenge:

“Mundane situation” to “Extraordinary photograph”



**Granddaughter Noodle Break
Between Swim Meet Events**
By Henry Thatcher



Eggs on a Black Stove
by Peter Plante



San Francisco Bay Sunset
By Moose Kelly



Rocks
By Peter Plante



Barbara Thatcher in Paris with friend
By Henry Thatcher



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

We are happy to report that State SIR has authorized the opening of outdoor activities provided that there is compliance with local rules regarding COVID 19 and that Branch 146 has approved fishing activity, again so long as the fishermen abide

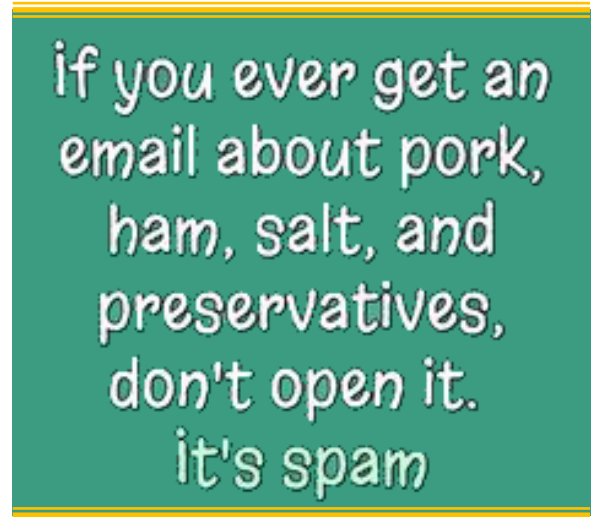
by local rules.

Prior to the opening, several of us, having received our vaccinations, did venture on their own to fish. In the last newsletter, we reported that the fish may have been social distancing as well because the bite was not very good. However, February was different, largely because of the opening of trout fishing in San Pablo Reservoir. **Carl Moyer** and **Stan Wong** limited out on one trip. **Brion Beetz** and **Phil Scimonelli** made several trips to the reservoir and caught at least three fish each time fishing from shore and **Bob Lively** caught trout from his kayak. **Phil** moved over to Lafayette Reservoir on one occasion and caught three more from shore. **Martin Steinpress** of Branch 146 also was successful fly fishing on the Stanislaus River. The only negative report came from Contra Loma Reservoir. **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 rode around the lake on his bicycle. The lake looked beautiful, there were many fishermen, but it appeared that there were no fish being caught.

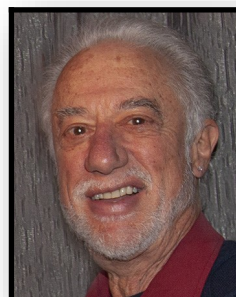
There was also activity in the Delta where **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik** fished for stripers. **Mike** landed a dozen fish, but only one was a keeper. **Tom** caught less fish, but netted four keepers. **Harry Sherinian** fished in Honkers Bay, an arm of the Delta, and caught a large number of stripers with two keepers. **Terry Miller** and his son made one trip to the Delta and snared many stripers, but all were small.

We hope that you can join us at future monthly meetings. For the moment, the meetings are on Zoom and so you can watch from the comfort of your home. We join in breakout rooms of eight or nine fishermen and talk about fishing and life in general and then reconvene for group business and to describe our most recent trips. However, we hope to restart our breakfast meetings and we are speaking with management at the Legends Bar and Grill to determine if we can convene a group on the restaurant's outside patio. So stay tuned. In the meantime, thanks to the approval to restart organized fishing trips, we have published our calendar and we plan to fish for halibut in the Bay very soon, salmon in the

ocean and rivers, kokanee at Stampede Reservoir and Lake Berryessa, cutthroat trout at Pyramid Lake, black bass and stripers in the Delta, and trout in both the local reservoirs and Sierra lakes, as well as on many other outings. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 25, at 8:30 am. If you wish to join us, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4156 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504 -3566. Once we hear from you, secretary **Brion Beetz** will send you a Zoom invitation.



Shoutout to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday.



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

Hooray, the RV Wanderers are opened for travel.

We are going to board all of our RV's on a ship and travel to Europe, so we can tour new lands...Or we will travel to Petaluma next month and stay at the KOA RV park.

I will let you know next month which trip we will decide on. We'll see if it's going to be Europe or Petaluma!

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Travel Milt Smith

I Hope you're all enjoying the queue for vaccinations and thinking about travel. Right now the only thing on our 146 schedule is the Crystal Narsai David 8 night North American Treasure Cruise September 25 – October 3, 2021 Quebec to New York City. We are still looking at other cruises but nothing definite yet.

Please see below a piece sent to me by our friend **Lisa Mittone** from TravelCenter Tours and Travel. She is giving us an update from the travel industry perspective. She also mentions a zoom meeting I will set up for Thursday March 4th, 10am. She will give us more information and answer our questions. I will send an invitation about four days in advance. In the mean time: if you have questions send them to me now. I will advance them to **Lisa**. Use subject line Travel question for **Lisa** then send to me at miltsmith549@gmail.com Can always call or text me.

Post Covid Travel

“When will it be safe to travel?” is the question I hear from most of my clients and group leaders and that answer is complex, but I will do my best to give you a quick overview. Since the beginning of the pandemic our industry has been working diligently to evolve and modify travel to follow the safety guidelines and recommendation from the CDC along with state, local and federal government agencies. Hotels and large Cruise ships are booking their vessels and properties at a lower capacity, buffets at all-inclusive properties are now table service venues or guests are being served rather than helping themselves. Organized tours are operating with less guests to allow for better social distancing between travelers and many airlines have extended their commitment to leaving the middle seat open on their aircrafts. These are just a few of the examples of how the industry is committed to bringing tourism back safely for domestic and international travels. Our local community of hospitality is also working hard to assure our “day trippers” are safe and comfortable as well. Our local motorcoach companies have committed to fogging their coaches prior to leaving their lots for day trips, our local restaurants are committed to serving lunch outside when possible or inside at smaller tables to allow for social bubbles to comfortably eat their meals together. Museums and sites of interest will continue to take reservations for our groups to be sure that their

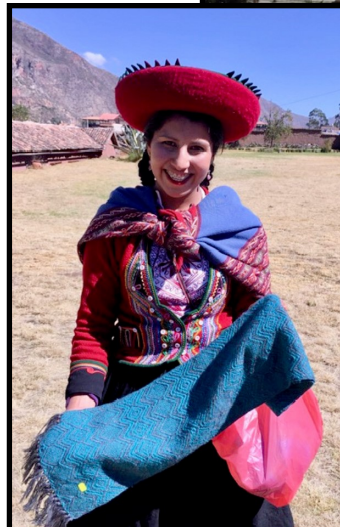
properties are following the local regulations regarding reduced capacity. Together we are all ready to serve our community in a safe and healthy way. I will be participating in a zoom meeting with the SIR group and look forward to sharing more information regarding domestic, international, and local travel with you, I hope you are able to join.

Lisa Mittone
Travel Center Tours and Travel



Contact me at:

Milt Smith
(925) 285-2897
miltsmith549@gmail.com



Memories Of Past Trips.

Photos by Milt Smith



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

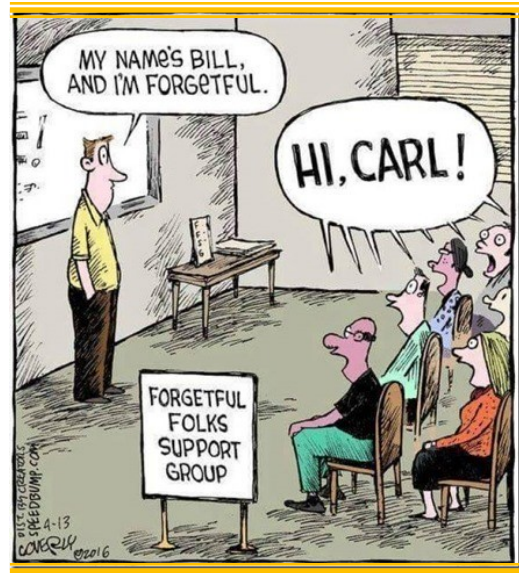
Cycling
Once a week
with no drop rides.
Exploring the entire Bay
Area.
Coed.

February 17th: Brrrr. It was cold this AM. The weather said it would be 46 at 9 am. Rules are below 45 no ride. Dressed and off we went at 9. Rode thru Alamo Diablo Danville and back to Alamo. Sunny and fun. A nice respite from being home. Riding today was : **Paul Brown, Michael Wolfson, Ken Studer, Bob Lucido** and the ever popular **Bob Wilkenfeld**.

Good to know most of the guys have been shot multiple times for covid. Hopefully face to face lunches at Sirs by July.



Larry Kaye



Pinochle Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

We meet on the 2nd and 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





Pickleball and Ping Pong

Jim Burk & Ron Afdal

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

There is no change in our status regarding the two activities in question. Jim has now received both Covid vaccinations (1/19 and 2/12). We are making personal progress. Ron and I will let you know in the next SIR-Call, the latest information we have at the time regarding the possible opening of Ping Pong and Pickle Ball. Realistically, it is beginning to look like mid-year at the earliest

Continue to stay safe and practice the protocols that we have learned to date, and keep alert for the proposed opening dates. Let's hope that this year brings an indication of dates for these two activities to open and that our interested Sirs will enjoy playing these sports on a drop-in basis.

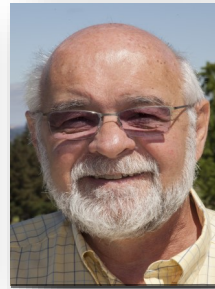
Jim Burk - Pickleball
(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong

(925) 825-4809

ronafdal@comcast.net



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

If you are interested in joining us for an afternoon of wine and appetizers and are not on my list, please send me an email.

Rob Melrose

(925) 519-2185

RWMelrose@gmail.com

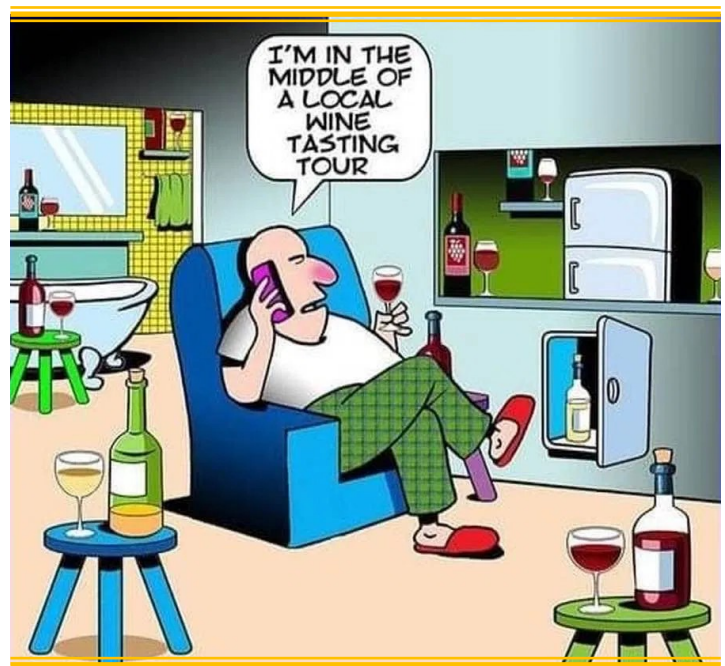


Table Pool

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Cooking Lunch & Wine

Bob Spellman

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Due to Covid Restrictions we had a Zoom meeting in place of our regular gathering. Hopefully we can get back together next month.





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We continue to see improvement in the statistics of the covid pandemic with lower incidence in the number of new cases and hospitalizations on an almost daily basis.

Even more importantly, the roll out of the vaccine is going along pretty well and hopefully, many of you will have gotten at least the first and even the second dose of the vaccine.

How is this affecting our Dining Out activity? As of this writing, Contra Costa County is still in the purple tier, which limits the opening of restaurants to outside dining only. California is actually the only state, which has not allowed inside dining at this point. Hopefully, this will change in the next few weeks and we will also be able to resume inside dining. The weather is still rather cool, although in a drive through downtown Walnut Creek recently around dinnertime, we noticed that many restaurants have pretty good crowds enjoying the outside dining areas even in the chilly weather.

Our normal Dining Out activity prior to the pandemic was every other month, and normally our dining event would have been in March. I think it is entirely possible that we will be able to restart this event as early as next month. By that time, it is likely that we will be able to resume inside dining, and in any case the weather will be warmer so that even outside dining will be quite pleasant. You will recall that we tried to organize a dinner in November of last year but had to cancel that event due to the restrictions on activities. I am hopeful that could try again if we continue to have improvements in the statistics. We may request approval from the SIR leadership for March. We would again return to Wence's restaurant in Pleasant Hill with the same menu that we had previously negotiated. We will keep you informed!

In the meantime, be sure to complete your immunizations and continue to wear your mask.

Best regards and wishes for good health!
bgborgman@aol.com

I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym
today.
That's seven years in a row now.



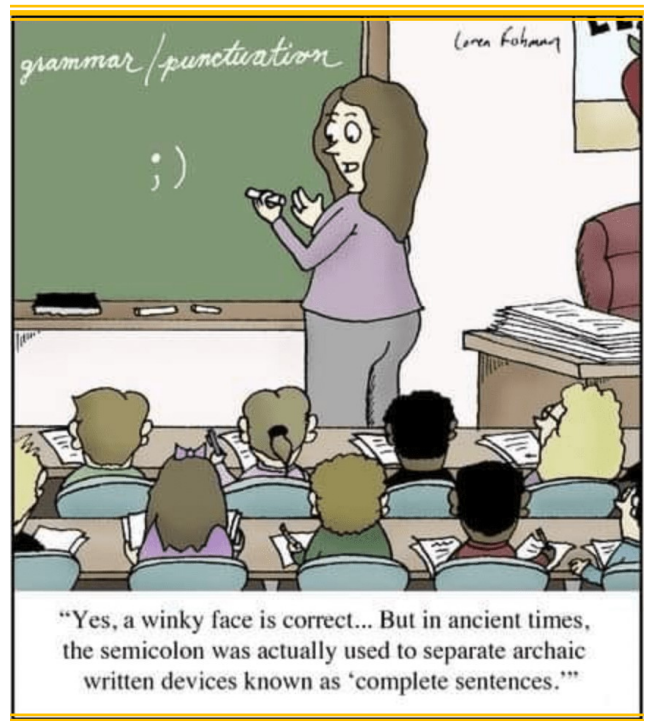
Explore & Eat Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all Sir's a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and
Jim Pope 925-699-6447





SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Well guys, It seems that we can at least resume the very normal activity of hiking and/or walking in our quasi California wilderness finally. Over the last several months while we were not allowed to meet/congregate/assemble/etc, I have been continuing to hike the EBRP and Mt Diablo trails. And there have been several of my friends that happen to be members of SIR146 who have joined me. I might leave out a few, but I want to thank **Pete Gates, Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting, Ray Martz, Mike Browne, Bob Lucido, Jim Nelson, Bob Ford,** and more I am sure. We have



Hayward Regional Shoreline
Long-Billed Curlew

all been resolute in our attitude towards hiking and will continue to do so.

Ray Martz and I, along with, I think, a prospective member, walked the Hayward Regional Shoreline trail today and observed a huge number of birds. I don't know all the species we saw but some that I was able to identify are Northern Shoveler, Long-Billed Curlew, American Avocet, and a Canvas Back duck. I have forwarded the photos I took of these species to my hiking group email contact list. If you are interested in

critters as I am, perhaps you'd like to send me your email address. And then when I, or someone in the group, take a significant photo, it will magically get sent to you.

Anyway, the next walk will be the Friday after the monthly ZOOM meeting which will be Friday, March 12 at the same venue as today, Hayward Regional Shoreline. And as usual this is a 10 AM start. This is a very easy walk and I fully expect that almost all participants would rather observe the wildlife than walk!



Hayward Regional Shoreline
American Avocets

I continue to plan on a walk each and every Friday in addition to the monthly activity that my mentor, Rich Ahlf, had established. So, if any of you want to be invited to the weekly Friday walks, please let me know and I will add you to my email distribution list.

REMEMBER THAT WALKING IS VERY HEALTHY FOR MIND/BODY/SOUL

Spouses always welcome
Drizzle causes concern & Rain cancels

Cell (925) 360-3449
Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Nothing new to report. But, we will return to our practices and performances when we're all immunized with a vaccine!

(925) 932-3961
bgborgman@aol.com

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes Jerry Kaplan

The Group One players have not been able to meet at our monthly Game Nights but have been able to get together a few times via Zoom to see what we look like and chat

about the world situation.

While we were not able to “Zoom” during February, we expect to have a virtual Friday Night get together on our regular Game Night, the second Friday of the month, on March 12th. Since this falls only a few days before St. Patty’s Day, I’m wondering if some cute green hats, bowties, and shamrocks will be displayed! Possibly even Green Beer or wine (or Midori melon?) will be seen on the screen.

We are all looking forward to seeing one another in person in 2021. All of us continue to miss the fun as well as the different treats and super snacks that have been provided by the hosts each month.

Thinking positively for the future, all Branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us – or another group - for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! We now have seven different MTD groups playing in the Branch with over 100 individuals participating.

Single SIRs as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome.



All other groups
Nada que reporter
No hay eventos.

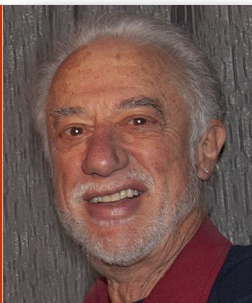
I would love to show someone from 1995 this picture and ask them what they think is happening here



#14 What Else Can Happen To Make This Day Even Worse?



Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes Bob Lucido

We are continuing to meet on Zoom once a month to keep in touch.



Bob Lucido (925) 899-0974
Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

The SIR146 Book Group met online via Zoom on Monday, February 22nd. Our Zoom Master continues to be **Mike Farrar** – thank you **Mike**.

Our chosen book for February was *Interior Chinatown*. The author was Charles Yu, a graduate of UC Berkeley and Columbia Law. Mr. Yu has a broad resume' of TV scripts, books, and newspaper articles, including this book, which is the winner of the 2020 National Book Award.

Our group gave it mixed reviews, and for some of us it was not an easy read, as the story was “brilliantly weaving in and out of screenplays and set pieces.” I found it difficult to understand until I read the reviews available on the Amazon web site.

The story focused on the main character Willus Wu and his travails as goes through life attempting to be the ultimate Asian actor, “Kung Fu Man” – yes, a stereotype that pervades the book as the author moves through his message of living under racism with all its noxious layers, and perceptions, particularly of Asian men, in this the supposed promised land.”

Of course nobody can be a “Kung Fu” Man forever (he had worked his way up from “dead body”). So, as a married man with children, he had to make his decision on what to do with his life. This decision came about as he was acting in show called “Black and White,” which stars two cops, one black and one white, where he is in the background, but the spotlight turns to him, and then he realizes that he must determine what direction his life must take.

Much of his life he and his wife lived in one of the infamous “SRO” (single room occupancy) hotels that was above the restaurant where they both worked, he in the kitchen, and she in the “front of the house.” The other residents of the multi-story hotel were and interesting and colorful cast of characters.

The author finds a way to discuss the differences between the Black and Asian life experiences and history in this country, neither he sees as exemplary as people try to become the “Generic Man” and not the Generic Asian Man.” However, at the end he seems to hold out hope that this can happen.

Our group is giving this book a “qualified” recommendation. It can be a bit of struggle (at some point read the reviews for a better understanding), but one needs an open mind to deal with the contradictions and situations in this story.

Our next book will be *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller. The March meeting will be on Zoom, on Monday, March 22nd.



John Pearl, Interim Chair



Unfortunately there is no lifeguard in the *Gene Pool*



Book Corner

Peter Plante

I hope everyone had a good Valentines Day. I have been getting books online from the Walnut Creek Library. This is a good way to get some new reads during the pandemic. Looking forward to seeing you all when we resume our meetings.!



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 1**
Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

If you have not read any of Victor Mollo's Bridge in the Menagerie books, you may be in for a treat. Mollo's stories involve personalities (including the Hideous Hog and the Rueful Rabbit) he's encountered in local bridge clubs (in England). The characters are fun, and the bridge hands are both very clever and very amusing. You can even read for free at [https://www.bridgeshop.com.au/carepack/Bridge in the Menagerie.pdf](https://www.bridgeshop.com.au/carepack/Bridge%20in%20the%20Menagerie.pdf)

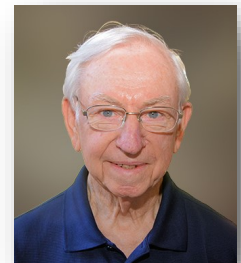
Dave Pierce
925.932.3877
dwpi@astound.net



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 2**
Dave Pierce

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Dave Pierce
932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2**

Unfortunately, **Bill Schultz**, the leader of this group, recently passed and no new Activity Director has yet been determined. If you are interested in heading up this group, contact **Bob Lucido**: bobwendy3@comcast.net



Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Couples Party Bridge continues to be placed on-hold and will not re-start until national, state, county and city governmental COVID -19 safety guidelines have been established for home based social activities such as bridge. Once guidelines are established and are considered maintainable and enforceable by Couples Party Bridge, a request to re-start will be submitted to Branch 146 BEC for approval.

Tony & Cindy Greco
(925) 934-0395
almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Match summaries: We had 3 separate matches with eleven players and major winners in each on Feb 12th. Note our Feb 26th match had not yet occurred before the submission deadline.

Steve Ybarra had 3 wins, **Bob Finlayson, Ray Bland** and **Ron Polivka** each had 2 wins.

Rich Lyon, Bob West and **Ron Polivka** all had 2 seconds.

Ron Polivka and **George Sabbagha** each had 2 'STM', and 1 of **George's** was on a hold hand. **Ray Bland** and **Frank Lucas** each had 1 STM.

Ron Polivka had the lowest avg score of an amazingly low 49, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 67.

FYI, **Jim Nelson** had the lowest score ever of 8 in the 4th game of group 2. The prior record had been 11 shared by **Steve Ybarra** and **Ray Bland**.

Addendum to January's report: **Ray Bland** was the first ever to have 3 "STMs" in one game. This was on 1/8/21. With **George Sabbagha** and **Bob West** looking on **Ray** STM on the 3rd "hold" hand. But he was not finished. He also "STM" in hands 4 and 7.

YTD Statistical peeks:

Bob Finlayson, and **Steve Ybarra** lead all players with 6 wins. **Ray** who missed one match still had 4 wins, along with **Bob West**.

Bob West is 1st in 2nds with 6. **Brian McCarthy** is 2nd with 5.

Ray Bland has 4 STM's, followed by **Ron Polivka**, **Steve Ybarra** and **George Sabbagha** with 3.

Lowest average score was **Ray Bland** with 61, followed by **Rich Lyon** with 74.

Future Meetings: Each online group plays 4 games on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our next online games, will be Friday, February 26th, March 12th and March 26th.

Please call me at 925-518-8472 or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Until we get State SIR resumption clearance, the SIR 146 Cooking II activity is suspended.

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Cribbage John Pearl

The SIR 146 Cribbage Group carries on! We continue to play on-line via the "Cribbage Pro" smart-phone app, which can be used for a single player or a pair of folks. At the time of this writing, our on-line tournament No. 9 is well underway, with 15 participants. This is all due to the efforts of our C.T.O., **Jim Nelson**, who continues to facilitate, track, and publish results as we progress through our double-elimination plus consolation brackets. Lots of games and matches are being played.

The games are usually of the friendly variety, with insults and whining allowed – all in good fun, of course.

I am amazed at the level of interest, as when I joined the Cribbage group many eons ago (thank you **Jim Stedman**), on a good day we had six, and I think I am the only member of that group still standing.

John Pearl
mcpearl@astound.net



Struggling to
get your wife's
attention?

Just sit down and
look comfortable.



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



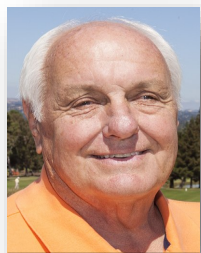
Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 4
Rich Hanford

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Group 5
Bill Roberts

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled



Poker Groups



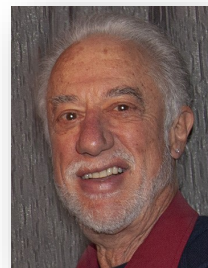
**Old Money Poker
Group 6**
Brad Hatcher

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

Poker Group Six is looking for new members when we resume play as we have lost several members recently. We meet on the first Thursday of the month starting at 12:30 PM

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 7
Bob Lucido

Due to Covid restrictions
Nothing Scheduled

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

The fact that Kansas and Arkansas are pronounced differently bothers me way more than it should.



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.

vern.laursen@gmail.com



GOLF Ed Marlovits

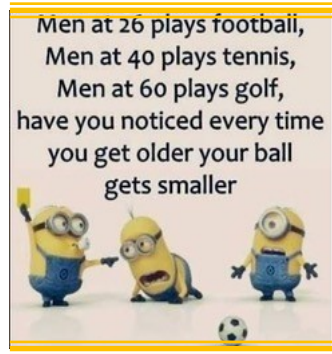
February started off on an encouraging note when the Branch 146 Executive Committee approved the resumption of our SIR Golf activity and on February 16 we resumed the branch golf activity at

our carefully preserved Tuesday tee times. The weather has been pretty good, and we initially had about 40 members teeing off and competing for our huge payouts.

Since spring is on our doorstep, Away Golf is also about to resume. Mark Curtis has signed agreements and set the dates for the following:

- Eagle Vines - April 15
- Diablo Creek – May 6
- Dublin Ranch – June 17
- Lone Tree – July 15.

This is a bit of a departure from our prior first Thursday schedule and we benefit by avoiding the Easter and July 4 weekends. It also fits nicely with Boundary Oak’s April Aerification schedule. Later venues may include Rossmoor, Callippe Preserve, and Blue Rock Springs. Stay tuned!



Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Mac



Vern Laursen

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.

Please note that Max and Verner are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let Verner know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com
Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Computers and Technology



PC



The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group will not be having a meeting in March because we have had difficulty finding volunteers to lead a discussion. A person does not need to be an expert on a subject to be a presenter. They just have to do some research and report their findings to the group. If you are willing to volunteer, send an email to: SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com

Computers & Technology Website
<https://sirinc2.org/a16cat/>

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128 (San Ramon) for their March 24th Zoom meeting at 1:30pm.

The discussion will be about the make up of Model Portfolios based on Risk Tolerance and Investing Objectives (external speaker being considered).

Contact Dave Sutton if you wish to be added to the email list.

Chair - Tom Henry - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair Dave Sutton - Br 8 davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. The current can be found here: http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001SlqWGXFPiEd0HKEtSSxcGGTxyjBPX7yZNF0IIC_5TE7EuFiPlsOARKV1D1qKjsYVWKUf99ZM3k8m6BY1ovCRFZyVe1jONWeTt5zg7sAgPuvcfolbWn0tTI3Z4BL6S9Ui7QI1TheAEOLskd004-

Those who confuse a burro and a burrow don't know their ass from a hole in the ground!

Editorial & Opinion

