



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

March 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

We Heard You

The COVID pandemic set off a chain of events that changed many things in our lives. Apparently, for many of our members that included their view on attending the Branch's monthly luncheons. Since our founding, Branch 146 has required members to attend half of the regular lunches; and members gladly complied. At the start of the pandemic, in the interest of our members' health, our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) suspended this rule. Late last year, with the pandemic waning, the BEC reinstated the requirement. However, our transition back has not gone smoothly—a fair number of members complained about being required to attend lunches, some members were confused by the change back and some just ignored the longstanding requirement. (The confusion and latter act of defiance has resulted in a financial loss of roughly \$1,400 to our Branch.) So, our BEC has acted...

What is Changing

Starting this month, our Branch will no longer require attendance at our monthly luncheons. Members (including Annual Luncheon Payers) wishing to attend a luncheon will need to make a reservation (i.e., opt-in) by Noon on the Friday before the luncheon. (For example, this month the deadline is Noon on Friday, March 3.) Members who attend, without a prior reservation will not be guaranteed a meal. Members (including Annual Luncheon Payers) who make a reservation and then find they cannot attend must cancel their reservation by noon on the Friday before the luncheon. Members cancelling after the deadline will be asked to reimburse the Branch for their meal. This reservation-based approach will provide us with a more accurate headcount and prevent the Branch from paying for unused meals.

What is Not Changing

There are no changes being made in the date (2nd Thursday of each month), time (doors open at 11am and the meeting starts at 11:30am) or location

(Boundary Oak Clubhouse) of our luncheons. You are encouraged to attend any or all monthly lunches to meet up with friends, hear interesting speakers, honor deserving members and receive important information about our Branch. Attendance at the August and September lunches is especially important as next year's Officers and Directors are nominated and elected at these meetings.

As we have in the past, announcements regarding the upcoming lunch will be sent by email and published in the monthly SIR-Call. These notices will contain information regarding how to make a reservation, choice of entrees, invited speaker and the deadline date.

Our BEC will continue to fine-tune our luncheon agendas and the selection of invited speakers in order to maximize the "fun-factor" of our meetings. In addition, we will continue to work with Boundary Oak to control costs and right-size meals while providing tasty and nutritious selections.

I hope to (still) see you at future luncheons!

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails

– William Arthur Ward

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, March 9th, 2023
Boundary Oak
11:30

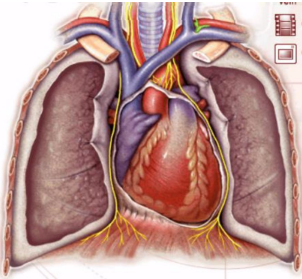
Ms. Deddie Le Vine
Director of Infrastructure and Contracts CAL ISO
To make your reservation: [CLICK HERE](#)
by March 3rd and reserve your meal choice



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

For our February Valentine's Day luncheon we had an excellent presentation on the heart by Dr. Murali Dharan, a cardio-thoracic surgeon. He discussed heart bypass surgery, heart

valve function and replacement and the placement of stents in arteries to reduce the effects of blockages.

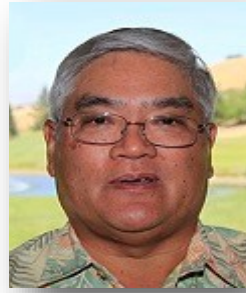


The presentation included some forty slides and a short video. His presentation itself was very enlightening and entertaining as well. I never knew that my healthy aortic valve looked like a Mercedes insignia but when it was under duress it looked more

like a Chevy insignia! We thank our own **Larry Kaye** who underwent cardiac surgery last fall with Dr. Dharan for recruiting him while he was in recovery after his own heart surgery. Dedication!! Slides from the presentation have been posted on the SIR 146 website.

Our speaker for March will be Ms. Deddie Le Vine, Director of Infrastructure and Contracts for the California Independent System Operator or CAL ISO. This organization was established in 1998, driven by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to manage the transmission system serving electricity to some 90% of California and part of Western of Nevada. Their goal is to match the power demands of the region with suppliers at the lowest cost. For our region, base load is met with green energy including solar, wind, geothermal and nuclear. When demand exceeds this base load other sources are brought on-line beginning with the lowest bid cost for power for that day. Our speaker will describe this state-wide regional process and provide insight on the plans to develop local sub-regional networks of power producers to meet demands in the future in our state.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership George Mon

There were three new members in February. **Vernon Roohk** lives in Concord with his wife Bonnie. He was a Biomedical Device Consultant. He owned his own company. **Aaron Needel** lives in Walnut Creek

with his wife Beth. He worked for VWR International. **Frank Terzuoli** lives in Alamo with his wife Susan. He was a Banker-Data Scientist Consultant with KPMG.

Sadly, we lost **Bill Hansen**. After breaking his hip, his health deteriorated. He was a member for 26 years and was 95 years old.

Six members decided to resign for various reasons. They are **Cornelius Buys, Hank James, Dave Kwinter, William Fritz, Jim Solomon, and Ray Bland**.

The 2023 membership count is at 240.

If you want to sponsor a new member please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon



SIR Mission Statement

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



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

By the time you receive this notice, you should have been informed via regular mail of the change for requirements for our SIR Luncheons. We are going to a RSVP (Opt-In) reservation system.

The Branch will no longer require attendance at the luncheons. Therefore, it is very important that you RSVP before the Friday, March 3rd Noon deadline if you want to attend the luncheons. If you do not RSVP, we can not guarantee that you will have lunch available. Even if you are an annual payer, you must RSVP as Boundary Oak will only create the lunches we ask for.

Last month (February) we did have a good member attendance of 152 with 7 guests and 2 new members acknowledged at the meeting. We hope that you all continue to attend the luncheons as it is important that we get together to socialize and meet each other.

- **Where:** Boundary Oak.
- **Cost:** \$36 per person.
- **Payment**
The preferred payment method is by check at the luncheon payable to SIR Branch 146.
- **RSVP**
If you want to attend the luncheon, you must RSVP (Opt-In) by Friday, March 3rd at Noon.
- **Meal Preference**
 - Let us know Let us know your meal preference. In the past, we have been using a set percentage of fish entrees to meat entrees. In order to get a better count of each type of meal, please include in the RSVP your preference for lunch entree. Your cooperation will help us get you the meal you want (See menu for entree choices)
Specify
 - ✓ Meat
 - ✓ Fish
 - ✓ Vegetarian
- **Ways to RSVP**
 - Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - If you don't have email access, call: [925.979.5721](tel:925.979.5721) and leave a message.
 - All RSVP's will be acknowledged

- If you find that you will be unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, via one of the methods above. You will be asked to pay for your lunch if you do not inform us before the Friday deadline at noon.
- **Sponsors**
If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with the name at via e-mail: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Please be sure to notify by the Friday deadline and if possible determine their meal preference.
- **Questions**
If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at [925.831.9380](tel:925.831.9380) and leave a message with your question or request. **Steve** will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 March Luncheon
Thursday March 9th, 2023

Salad
Organic Mixed Greens Roasted Beets, Goat Cheese, Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette.

Entrees
Grilled Heritage Pork Chop
Sweet Potato Puree, Brussel sprouts, Natural Jus
or
Local Petrale Sole
Sweet Potato Puree, Grilled local Asparagus
Meyer lemon butter sauce
or
Vegetarian
Curried Vegetable Stew, Jasmine Rice

Dessert
Apple Spiced Cake, Vanilla Cream



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Can't remember to RSVP for the lunch? Check out the message/form on [page 11](#) at the end of the February meeting pictures. We make it quick and simple and easy for you to send us an e-mail to

confirm your attendance and to reserve your meal! And, remember, RSVP, stands for "respond please"... so if you aren't coming let us know that too!

A quick comment on submitting items for SIR-Call. Our preferred mode for your submissions is in a Microsoft Word file. A second choice would be a plain text file. Lastly, is just embedded in an e-mail. When using Word it is best if you select and use the SIR font, Lato and set the font size to 11. This is the default for SIR-Call and you will get a file that will give you a rough idea of the amount of space your final version will take up when entered into SIR-Call. **Please do not send us PDF files...** generally speaking, these can not be edited,. For those of you who might be interested, we use Microsoft Publisher to format the final product you are reading. Although not widely publicized, it is part of the Microsoft Office suite of programs; if you have Office installed you most likely have access to it. For table-like material, we can also accept Microsoft Excel files... although they usually need to be converted to Word documents prior to putting them into SIR-Call.

As far as pictures, we can accept almost any picture format but you (and we) will get better results if you send your pictures as attached files. Embedding pictures in a Word document works but generally results in a lower quality image because we nearly always edit (crop) the pictures to emphasize the subject and conserve space in SIR-Call.

The deadline for submissions for the April issue is **March 24th**. Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call 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
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
Secretary	Bob Ford
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 3rd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 3rd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Larry Kaye
Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to branch directory, accessible under Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka, Bruce Borgman Hank James
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

March

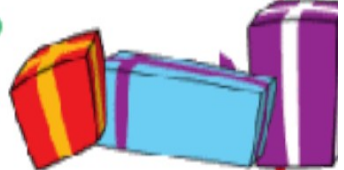
Rich Ahlf
John Biasotti
Ron Binder
Bruce Borgman
Ed Brands
Jim Burk
Chuck Cornell

Chuck Denney
Ned Gamsky
Bill Holly
Paul Jones
Dave Kingsbury
Jonathan Korfhage
Al Munayer

Steve Oki
Larry Ribarich
Scott Simmons
David Steinberg
Joe Stengel



Happy Birthday!



**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE APRIL MEETING
ON YOUR CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 April Luncheon
Thursday April 13th, 2023

Salad

Organic Mixed Greens
Asparagus, Kalamata Olives, Shaved Parmesan,
Aged Sherry Vinagrette

Entrees

Grilled Filet Mignon
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potato, Roasted Beets
Red wine jus

or

Loc Duarte Salmon
Saffron Cous Cousins, Broccolini

or

Roasted Beet and Goat Cheese Risotto

Dessert

Lemon Coconut Cake

March MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

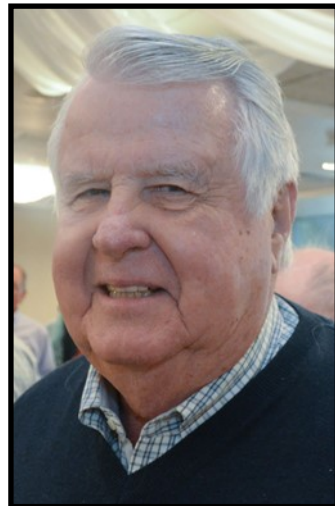
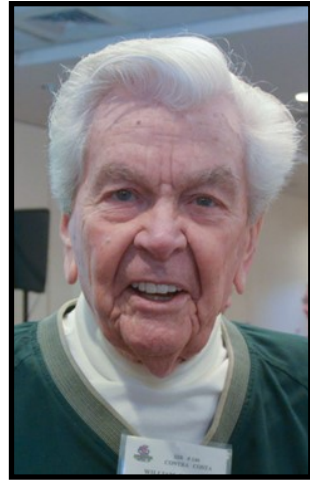
SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Roger Rivers	2018	5 Years
Roger Meyer	2017	6
Carl Feil	2016	7
Milt Smith	2016	7
Gene Voelkel	2016	7
Larry Gray	2015	8
Jim Pope	2015	8
Jim Pfohl	2013	10 Years
Jack Baldassari	2012	11
Jonathan Korfhage	2012	11
Calvin Tucker	2009	14
John Aaro	2008	15 Years
Ron Binder	2006	17
Gary Schaub	2004	19
Richard Hanford	2000	23 Years
Dick Richmond	1998	25 Years

February '23 Lunch

Photos by Henry Thatcher













Super Senior SIR Presidential Award
Bill Rees



Bill Cammerer



Bill Cammerer and Doug Eisner
Our Birthday Boys!



**Are you joining us for lunch on March 9th?
YOU MUST RESERVE BY MARCH 3rd! RSVP here!**



Yes! I will be there! Click on your menu choice to RSVP...

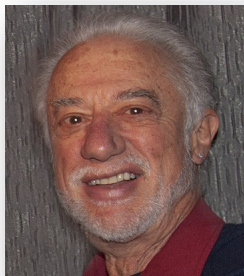
[Meat-Pork](#) [Fish-Sole](#) [Vegetarian-curry](#)



Oops, I'm not able to make this meeting: [Click Here.](#)



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido with Glenn Breslin

We have a new activity. If you are a Disneyland musician... no I mean a Dixieland... musician who enjoys playing with a group this is for you. Come join us for the fun. Check out the details on SIR 146 website by clicking on the Dixieland icon or contact **Ross Abbott** at 925.939.1121 or rossabbott@hotmail.com.

We now have 47 activities and are sharing 8 of them with other branches.



Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in Branch 146 and, in some cases, SIR. Click on the link (the activities that are underlined) to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if your are interested in participating.

Birding

Bocce Ball

Book Corner

Book Group

Bridge:

Couples Duplicate 1

Couples Duplicate 2

Couples Party

Men's Duplicate 1

Men's Duplicate 2

Men's Duplicate 3

Men's Party

Chess

Cooking:

Cooking II

Lunch & Wine

Tres Gourmet

Cribbage

Cycling

Dining Out

Couples Dining Out

Explore and Eat

Sushi no Tomodachi

Dixieland Musician

Fishing

Golf - 9 Hole

Golf - 18 Hole

Hearts

Hiking

Mexican Train Dominoes

Uno

Dos

Tres

Quatro

Cinco

Seis

Siete

Ocho

Nueve

Photography

Pinochle

Poker:

Group 1

Group 3

Group 4

Group 6

Song SIRs

Table Pool

Theatre

Travel

Wine Tasting

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar March 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	Mar 1	2	3
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Massés 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	6:30pm - 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am - 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
6	7	8	9	10
9:45am - 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Massés	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm - 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm Poker Group #1 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am - 10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am - 1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm - 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Hiking 11:30am - 1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Massés	9:00am Golf 10:00am - 1:30pm Explore and Eat 1st Tour Shadelands Ranch Lunch at the Greenery	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00pm - 10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-2 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am - 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Hiking 10:00am - 3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am - 1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Massés 5:30pm Couples Dining Out Sichuan House	9:00am Golf	10:00am - 11:00am Birding Rocco's Italian Restaurant 12:30pm - 3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm - 2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm - 3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am - 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3	12:00pm - 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30pm - 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm - 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
27	28	29	30	31
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Massés 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 10:00am - 1:30pm Explore and Eat 2nd Tour Shadelands Ranch Lunch at the Greenery			



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



Shadelands Ranch Tour

March 14th Tuesday at 10:00 FULL

Second Tour March 28th 10:00

2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek



A site on the National Register of Historic Places, the Shadelands Ranch Museum is a time capsule of turn-of-the-20th-Century Walnut Creek. Completed in 1903, the Museum was originally the ranch home of **Hiram Penniman**, an early Walnut Creek pioneer who came to Walnut Creek in 1850 and eventually owned some 500 acres of fruit and nut orchards in the Ygnacio Valley. Penniman and his second wife, Carrie Morris, raised four children, two sons and two daughters. Penniman built the large redwood-framed Colonial Revival house on the ranch to provide for the future security of his unmarried daughter, Mary. The house is furnished with many original family furnishings and treatments. The Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum is operated by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The building also serves as the Society's headquarters. **Send a check to Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507 for \$7.50 per person made out to SIR 146 Branch. Maximum 30 people.**

After the tour proceed to lunch at **The Greenery Restaurant in Walnut Creek, 1551 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. More details to follow.**



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Even though we had a bunch of very welcome wet weather in December and January, and the trails were in marginal shape, the guys showed up anyway! I learned a long time ago that the

secret to success is to just show up! I am not going to be able to lead this fabulous bunch of guys through March, so Ray Martz (my lieutenant), Bob Wilkenfeld, Gene Schulting, and maybe Mike Browne will take on this chore. This old body is going into the medical shop for an adjustment, and I will not be capable of participating thru March.

We've done Big Break, Marsh Creek, Hayward Regional Shoreline, Diablo Foothills, Brushy Peak, and Point Pinole recently. Plans for the next couple of months will include those venues which historically have fabulous wildflower displays and/or opportunities to observe wildlife.

As to plans for 2023, I think we can all look forward to

plentiful wildflowers and swollen creeks for at least a few months, and maybe even into early summer. We will do a Falls Loop hike in MDSP sometime this spring. And there will be at least 1 bird watching walk at Hayward Regional Shoreline.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

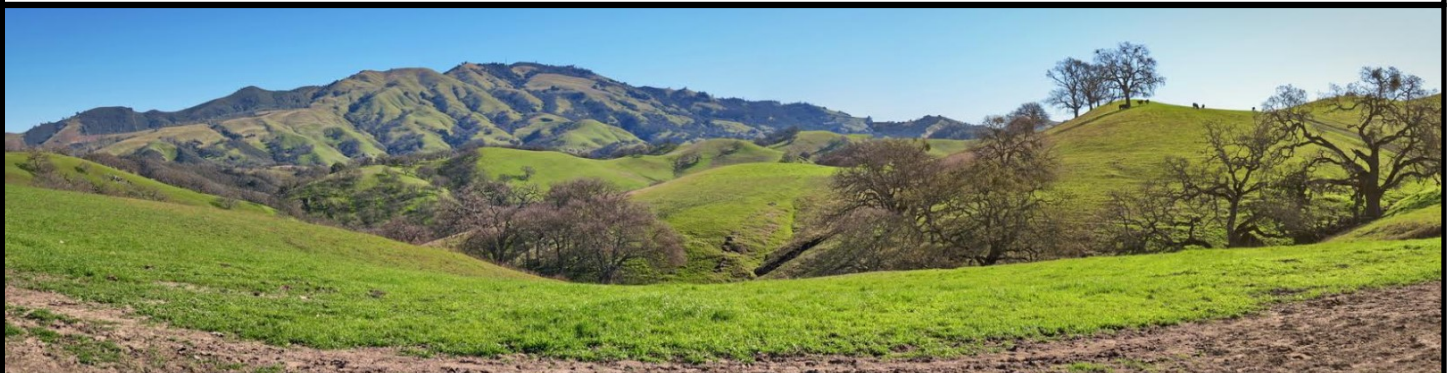


Ray Martz, Roger Meyer, Mike Browne, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Mike Wolfson, Mike Rothman, and Gene Schulting



Blue Heron on Marsh Creek trail.
Photo by Earl Bates

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood! Photo by Earl Bates





AREA 16 Fishing Report

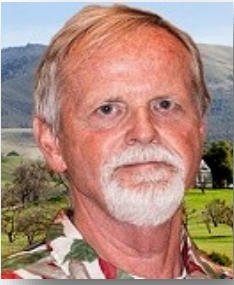
Paul Dubow

While we finally got started on our winter trout fishing, the rain and wind not only muddied some of our favorite reservoirs but made it impossible for Fish and Game to meet their fish planting schedules. Close by reservoirs such as Lafayette did not get planted due to flooding. Los Vaqueros Reservoir is completely closed until further notice due to impassable roadways and flooding. On a brighter note, because of the limited ability of Fish and Game to make the above-mentioned scheduled fish plantings, excess plantings have been made in Contra Loma Reservoir leading to excellent fishing for many SIR fishing club members. **Mike Browne** of #146, caught a nice six-pound trout leading the way. He also caught a leopard shark fishing from a pier in the bay. Striper Fishing in the Delta has been productive at times. On one trip to Pittsburg, club members caught 25-30 stripers with six being keepers. Sturgeon fishing has been very slow with only one to two legal fish being caught on guided trips. The first signs of halibut have been reported in the South Bay near Oyster Point. Halibut fishing should pick up, weather permitting in March.

SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are **Bob Lively** 925-383-5193 or **Carl Moyer** 925-685-5243. Our next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, March 23rd at 8:30am. Come early as we will be having our annual fishing gear silent auction.

Lee Clark for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR Photography Group met on Friday, February 17th at Rocco's. Those that attended the meeting were Rich Ahlf, Mike Rothman, Sue Oki, Clint Collier, Glenn and Ellen Breslin, Dave Tucker, Walt and Bobbie Schmidt, Ron Polivka, Frank Terzuoli, and the Moose.

There were four items on our meeting agenda: The first item was a 2022 compilation of the best videos from Go Pro. These were quick snippets of action pack events from around the world. The second item was a video from David Pogue who is the technical correspondent on CBS Sunday Morning entitled "Creating a Lie Detector for Deepfakes." The relevance of this video is the creation of an "I" icon that will be on the upper right side of every photo to prove that the picture has not been tampered. The third item was a focus on our theme for the month which was bird photography. We had five SIR photographers and three SIR birders that meet in Martinez Marina (Picture attached). The photographers presented their best shots to the group. The top photos are attached to this article. We also watched a video from Matt Kloskowski on "Making a Great Bird Photography" that offered excellent advice on photographing birds in general. The final item were the African pictures from **Bill Holly** and **Bobbie Schmidt**. They were in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda in August of 2022. There were a vast array of wild life shots that were just great! Our next theme is plant photography. We will be taking an excursion to the Japanese Gardens in Hayward to photograph the spring flowers. We will show our results at our next meeting at Rocco's on April 21st.

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Rich Ahlf, Glenn Breslin, Bill Holly, Frank Lucas, Henry Thatcher, Steve and Sue Oki, Pete Gates.
Photo taken by Moose Kelly



Egret Reflection. Photo taken by Sue Oki

More Pictures on follow page



African Lilac-Breasted Roller.
Photo taken by **Bill Holly**



Lunch is Served,
Photo by Rich Ahlf



Egret. Photo by **Henry Thatcher**



Calm Waters, Photo by Moose Kelly



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

With the beckoning of our saddles calling, we rode. Cold start. Headed towards Moraga. **Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelley, Pat Hoy and Rich** from branch 8. The trail seemed so

long. We haven't been on our bikes enough due to the rain and then the cold. This was a task. We arrived at Si Si cafe and had our java. The roundtrip was fast and downhill. You do not realize how fast one loses. The endurance at least at our ages. Suffice it to say we did the trip. Great to be back in our vehicles.

On Thursday, 2/16/23, six SIR cycling group members enjoyed picture perfect weather for a 30 mile ride on the American River Bikeway. Participants included **Roger Meyer, Scott Simons, Ken Studer, Michael Wolfson, Jim Nelson and Paul Brown** (Branch 3). Starting at River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova they rode on nearly deserted trails to Old Town Folsom.

Along the way they passed the fish hatchery at Nimbus Dam and rode along the south side of Lake Natoma. At the halfway point the riders stopped for lunch at Karen's Bakery and Café. The return trip took them by Folsom Powerhouse State Park where they crossed to the north side of the American River. After riding west along the north shore of Lake Natoma they re-crossed the American River at Hazel Avenue and re-traced their route back to the ride's starting point. Everyone enjoyed the ride and agreed that they should ride it again later this year.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Travel Glenn Breslin

Intro

Hi to all potential SIR Branch 146 Travelers. I love traveling. Yes, I do love everything about it. I very much look forward enabling

SIR to share travel experiences with other SIR members. SIR Travel **goals** will be to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together!

Travel Questionnaire

I have received many filled-out SIR Travel Questionnaires. Thank you so much !! I enjoy reading through your travel desires. Using everyone's questionnaire input, I will soon be either selecting national or international trips for late 2023 or for 2024 dates. I will keep everyone posted.

If you have not returned your questionnaire, then please reach out to me glennbreslin@gmail.com and I will send you one to fill out.

Day Trip Announced

Date: Wednesday, April 19

Where: California State Railroad Museum



Sacramento, CA

Co-Ed: Yes

Details: Take the Amtrack train from Martinez to Sacramento. Visit the Train Museum. Eat Lunch with all. Return to Martinez on the Amtrack train. Please see the flier that I will send out to all or email me for details. RSVP to me by March 30th. Attendee numbers may be limited.

Quotes

"Travel opens your heart and broadens your mind"

"Travel makes you realize that no matter how much you know, there's always more to learn."

"Dare to live the life that you always wanted."

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Book Group John Pearl, Interim Chair

The SIR Branch 146 Book Group met Monday, February 20th, and discussed our book of the month, *The Passenger*, by Cormac McCarthy, a long-time and well known writer, with a

very large following.

The setting for the book is primarily the New Orleans area, but it ventures off into other areas in the country, i.e., Knoxville, Tucson, Idaho, and Chicago. The main characters are Bobby Western and his sister Alicia, both brilliant and quite quirky, especially Alicia, who is much younger than Bobby. The sister is his major true love interest, but he never tells her of the depth of his feelings for her.

This book is the first of two, so the story, which is minimal, is not complete, and the reader never learns the outcome. The title “character” does not have any identifying attributes that just might let you know who he or she is, except that it was a person who disappeared from a private plane that was found intact underwater near New Orleans, with all of the other passengers deceased. The pieces and parts of the plane that might lead you to know more about the “passenger” have also been removed.

How does one know this? The main character, Bobby Western, is a deep sea diver, who was hired by a person yet to be revealed to visit the wreck and report. Thus begins the portion of the story that is a sort of a series of clues of whom the passenger might be.

In some ways, the book actually starts much earlier, with the Manhattan Project, in which the parents of the two main characters participated. Is this the reason the federal government takes a strong interest in the life and times of Bobby Western, and dogs him throughout the story? I’m calling this a very opaque clue.

Bobby is probably the only deep sea diver who went to Cal Tech. This allows the author to drift off into discussions about physics and related matters. Note: do not try to make much sense of much of what is written in this section unless you have a good knowledge of quantum physics.

There is also a small portion of the book devoted to the Kennedy assassination in Dallas. Much of it made sense to me, and further reinforced the theory that Lee Harvey Oswald did not do it.

Also making the reading difficult is the lack of punctuation with a significant portion in italics. You’ve been warned.

Bobby Western’s sister, Alicia, a very brilliant mathematician, started at the University of Chicago at the age of 13. She learned nearly everything there was to know about violins and made mathematical models of acoustics, culminating with a model that told you how to make the perfect violin. She used her inheritance to buy a very expensive violin.

She spends her time contemplating the meaning of life, suicide, and many other esoteric ideas. She also has a friend, Kid, who visits with her quite often in certain parts of the book. He was a thalidomide baby, with flippers rather than arms and hands, but does manage very well. He is quite intelligent and speaks well.

As part of the “Feds” push to get Bobby to answer questions, they “turn off” his passport, but not all agencies know this yet. Bobby has made friends with Kline, who advises him on how to live his life within these “constrictions,” and after a while Bobby is able to use his now invalid passport to leave the country and move to northeastern Spain, where he will spend the rest of his days, living in an old windmill on the coast. I mentioned that *The Passenger* is the first of a two-part series. Here is a quote from a review of the second book of the series *Stella Maris*: “Told entirely through the transcripts of Alicia’s psychiatric sessions, *Stella Maris* is a searching, rigorous, intellectually challenging coda to *The Passenger*, a philosophical inquiry that questions our notions of God, truth, and existence.”

One of the main criticisms of the book is that there is no there there, i.e., too many loose ends, no conclusion, no this, no that. The writer is extremely creative and his descriptions are very complete, but the reader is definitely left hanging. Lots of characters come into the story and then leave. Some quotes from reviews on the Amazon web sites: “his descriptive prose is matchless,” “be aware the story goes nowhere,” and “one of the best novels written in years.” Another of his books, *Blood Meridian*, is a book that did well and frequently referenced as one of his best.

We are not recommending this book—a hard and occasionally interesting read. If one chooses to tackle it, I would recommend reading several reviews for various viewpoints about the book and I would also commit to both books in the series.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



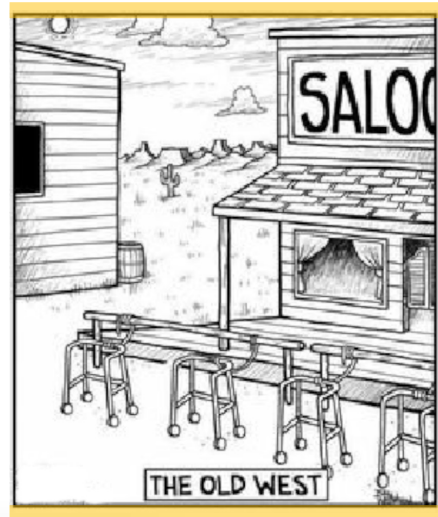
Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

I would like to welcome our two newest members **Steve Knight** and **Frank Terzuoli**. I hope you guys enjoy playing with the group as much as I do. If you are interested in joining us, let me know and I will put you on our mailing list. Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



SongSirs

Peter Plante



The SongSirs are working on a selection of Irish songs for our next performance at Montecito Retirement Home in Concord. We will sing such favorites as "Molly Malone", "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," and "Who Threw The Overalls in Mistress Murphy's Chowder." There's also "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head" by the honorary Irishman Burch Bacharach.

Our next rehearsal is on March 1 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

Come join us for a rollicking good time as Hennessy Tennessee tootles the flute as McNamara's band is the finest in the land..

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Bocce

John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek

and Ayers Roads in Concord. This is a co-ed activity and welcomes new members. Rain cancels play.



John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

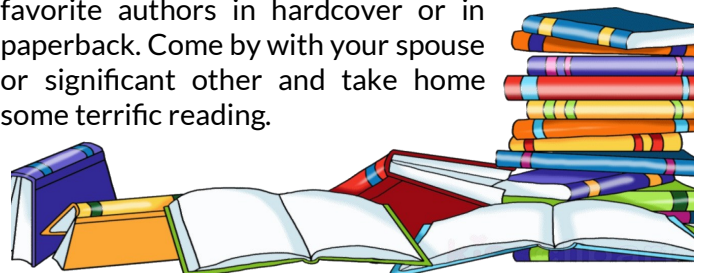
Book Corner

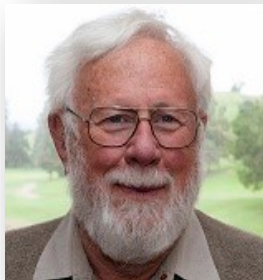
Peter Plante



The Book Corner returns in May for the Ladies Day Luncheon. There's a great selection of your

favorite authors in hardcover or in paperback. Come by with your spouse or significant other and take home some terrific reading.



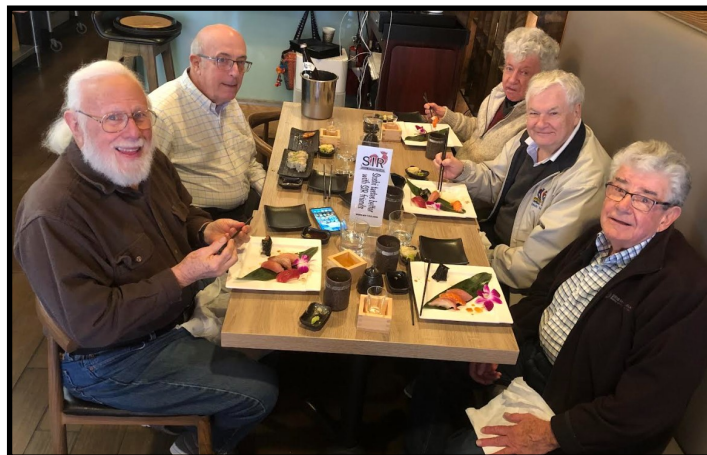


寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Five members of the sushi lunch group including our newest member, Fletcher

Tyler, got together this past month for a visit to Toyosu in Walnut Creek. We each ordered the Omakasi (chef's choice of best fish) except for Brian McCarthy who is more a roll man.



Our next get together will be on April 20th. The plan is to continue looking for and trying local (Walnut Creek) establishments by going to Oishi on Newell St.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Wine lovers, just a heads-up to mark your calendars for the first wine tasting of 2023. The date is Tuesday, April 25. Look for details in the April SIR-Call. **Bill Holly** and I are looking forward to seeing you then. In the meantime just remember that the best wines are the ones we drink with friends.

Brian McCarthy

925-324.2463



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Paul Dubow

The LAW Group met at **Bill Hartman's** home on March 15 for its second luncheon of the year. **Bill** prepared a delicious lunch consisting of indoor bar-

becued ribs, potato salad, and beans. The dessert was crunchy brownies. The ribs are dubbed "indoor" ribs because you don't need a barbecue grill to prepare them. Just place them in the oven! But it does take five and a half hours to cook them. If you are interested in the recipe, let me know and I can email it to you.

While the members of the group were engaged in their usual discussion of world events, their spouses and significant others enjoyed a pleasant lunch at Creekside Grill in Rossmore.

We also welcomed **Henry Thatcher** as the eighth member of our group, and we are looking forward to seeing **Henry** at our next luncheon at **Clint Collier's** home on March 15. Since that date is the Ides of March, the anniversary of Julius Caesar's assassination, **Clint** has informed us that he will be preparing a Roman meal, whatever that is.

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

We are fortunate to live in an area where we can find many ethnic and other unique restaurants. We are always on the look-out for a new culinary experience and solicit the help of our diners in recommending that special place you've discovered which we otherwise might not have found.

Such is the case for our Couples Dining experience in March. Some time ago our eminent SIR-Call editor **Clint** suggested we try The Sichuan House— located in the Countrywood Shopping Center in Walnut Creek. So, about a week ago we stopped and dined in this simple, but classy and clean establishment and had dinner. I had been skeptical since the cuisine is reputedly known for its pungent and spicy flavors resulting from the liberal use of garlic and chili peppers. While I'm a fairly adventuresome diner, I thought that this type of cuisine might not agree with many of our diners.

Well, let me tell you that we were blown away with the complexity of the flavors of this unique cuisine. As it turns out, virtually all dishes can be ordered in a mild or medium (or spicy!) style. The mild dishes we had were very flavorful but still with the intensely fragrant and aromatic style of the Sichuan dishes. I think those of you who are ready to enjoy this dinner will be very pleased.

Chef Zang comes from the Sichuan province and has been a chef for 38 years. He was the main chef at several big-name restaurants in China and a mentor to many outstanding and famous chefs in China. He is uniquely qualified to introduce us to this delicious and authentic cuisine.

We will effectively take over the restaurant on Monday, March 20—and the seating will be around tables seating 8 to 10. We have selected a variety of dishes which will be served family style as is common in Chinese restaurants. The restaurant serves just wine and beer, but at very reasonable prices. We will follow our normal format of having our no host cocktail social hour at 5:30pm and will start the dinner at about 6:15. We will start with some appetizers and then enjoy six of the best dishes of the Sichuan cuisine. We have requested that the dishes be mild—you can up the spice on your own. We will be able to accommodate 60 or more diners. Parking is convenient in the shopping cen-

ter. The total cost of the dinner is \$37 per person. As usual, send me an email indicating your interest, and follow up with a check made out to SIR146. Since this type of meal is prepared based on the number of diners, be sure you will be able to attend since we will not be able to refund your check as we have done in most of our events. The flyer with details of our dinner will be found in this issue of SIR-Call.

We look forward to seeing all of you—I have no doubt that this event will be one of our most memorable this year!!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out Hosts
bgborgman@aol.com



COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday March 20, 2023

Social hour / no host Wine & Beers 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

Menu

Appetizers: Pork Pot Stickers, Vegetarian Spring Rolls

Hot and Cold Salad

Assortment of Chicken, Prawns, and Mushu Pork. Lightly spiced with a Mild Mustard Sauce with Fresh Shredded Cucumber, Carrots, Shitake Mushrooms, Scrambled eggs, served over Clear Pea Noodles

Classic Hot and Sour Soup

Specialty Plates

Changsha Beef Clay Pot

Thinly sliced beef stir fried with Snow pea, Zucchini, Water Chestnut, Mushrooms and Carrots in a special Spicy Brown Sauce, topped with Fresh Shredded Ginger, Green onion and Cilantro

Sichuan Style Crispy Sweet and Sour Fish Filet

Traditional Sweet and Sour sauce with Deep Fried Crispy Fish Filet, topped with Shredded Scallions, Cilantro, and Red Bell Pepper

Hunan Smoked Pork with Green Bean

5 Spice Chinese Green Tea smoked Lean Pork Belly, Stir Fried with Green Bean, Sliced Jalapeno Peppers

Lemon Chicken Breast

Classic Mongolian Lamb

Prawns with Honey Glazed Walnuts

Veggie Fried Rice

Dessert: Eight Precious Ingredients Rice Pudding

SICHUAN HOUSE 宜川園

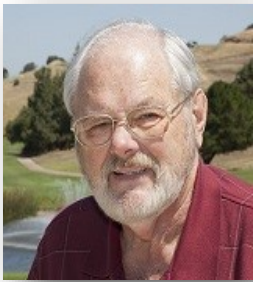
Authentic Sichuan Cuisine

2064 H Treat Blvd, Walnut Creek

Cost per person is \$37 including tax & gratuity

email **Bruce Borgman**, confirm with check to SIR 146, mailed to **Bruce** at 3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, 94598
phone 925.932.396

Questions? email **Bruce** at bgborgman@aol.com



Theater Gary Schaub

LAST CALL FOR MAGIC CLUB THEATER PARTY & DINNER ON MAY 5

Response has been strong for our Theater Party return to the California Magic Club planned for Friday, May 5. Seating is limited – the Club only seats forty for the show and dinner. We'll likely fill the place with Branch 146 members and guests, and we're getting closer. **Reservation deadline is March 30.**

The California Magic Club provides an evening of good food, witty conversation, and spellbinding entertainment by professional magicians.

The California Magic Club has been presenting magical entertainment for 17 years. It is located at 514 Main Street at Alhambra in downtown Martinez. Street parking is available.

The group rate is \$99 per person which includes dinner, show and related tax. Guests must arrive no later than 7:15 p.m.

Dinner features a green salad, your choice of tri-tip beef or marinated breast of chicken and herb rice, A vegetarian option is available if ordered in advance. A tasty dessert completes the meal. Beer and wine is also available.

If you plan to attend, send a check payable to SIR146 to **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group celebrated Valentines Day with their better halves on February 14 at Fiore Restaurant in Concord. Only seven of us were able to attend. The flu bug prevented the others from attending. Fiore provided a three

course, plus dessert, fixed menu that was enjoyed by all. The star of the meal was the first course Lobster bisque soup, which was absolutely delicious. Next month **Ken Richter** will be hosting a restaurant lunch on March 13 at 11:30am.



Bruce Borgman, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Sue Oranje, Dana Ybarra and Ann Hallett.
Photo by Steve Ybarra.

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno was hosted by SIR member Jim Stedman on February 10. We almost had a full house with the addition of

Peter and Gabriela Bishop joining the group. We are always spoiled with the goodies that are provided, this evening with a mousse chocolate cheesecake and fresh baked cookies and coffee! Both tables were able to complete 10 games.

Coming in first was Richard Hockenbrock (average score 17.1), second went to Sue Oranje, and placing third was Virginia Tygart. But wait! The good news and the bad news. The bad news: In reviewing the score sheets, an error was detected! Richard's 17.1 score was recorded incorrect. The good news: Richard's average score was really 16.1! Luckily, it didn't change the standings and we didn't have to take away Richard's winnings!

Next stop: March 10 at SIR Corrie and Sue Oranje's home.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



MTD 1 Winners: Richard Hockenbrock, Sue Oranje, and Virginia Tygart



Peter Bishop, Bruce Borgman, Sue Sheldon Richard Hockenbrock, Virginia Tygart, Gabriela Bishop, Sue Oranje, Corrie Oranje, Martha Plante, Peter Plante, Jim Stedman





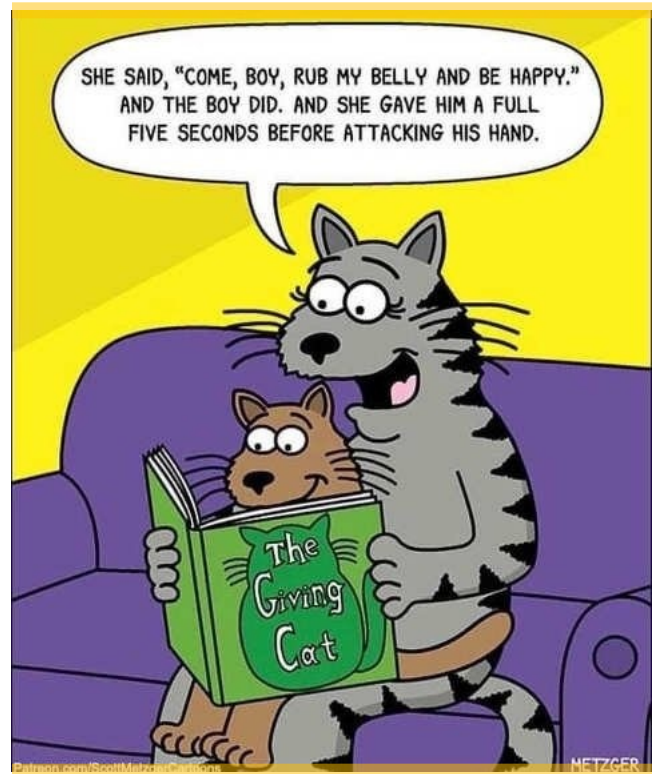
Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

In February, the good ole Mexican choo choo train will leave the roundhouse after the SIR-Call is published. But that won't deter us from telling you next month of our adventure in the hills of Concord and the battle of MTD titans at the wonderful home of **Judy and Jim Baldrige**. Who will be our champion? Not me. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

In February, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 people. We began with festive Valentine decorations and colors. In attendance this evening were; **Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Ken and Carol Sault, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope**. The lovely sweets and savories were provided by several women in the group and wine by several men in the group. We played at two tables of five. We paid the player with low table score at each table. The winners were **Steve Oki and Jim Pope**. (See top photo). They each received five \$888 Scratcher Lotto Tickets. We also paid one (1) Lotto ticket to the individual with the highest score for the evening. The winner of the highest score was **Ken Sault** (See bottom photo). (Photos were taken by **Ron Louis**)

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

On Thursday February 16th 2023, Janet and Bob Yolland hosted a very enjoyable game. Although just six players were available, the attendees were as competitive as ever (and loud !!) In answer to last month's embarrassing loss by the men, **Bob Yolland** came out fighting and claimed first place. However, the ladies were close with **Anne Burk** claiming second and **Janet Yolland** third. Sadly, **Dennis Hallett** and **Jim Burke** were last seen still at the table counting their tiles in disbelief!!

Although just six players were available, the attendees were as competitive as ever (and loud !!) In answer to last month's embarrassing loss by the men, **Bob Yolland** came out fighting and claimed first place. However, the ladies were close with **Anne Burk** claiming second and **Janet Yolland** third. Sadly, **Dennis Hallett** and **Jim Burke** were last seen still at the table counting their tiles in disbelief!!

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Janet Yolland, Bob Yolland, Ann Hallett, Jim Burk and Anne Burk.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

Kicking off the New Year with our wonderful hosts **Peter** and **Martha Plante**, it was game on for the MTD6 players on January 25, 2023. Attendees were **Peter** and **Martha Plante**, **Brian** and **Mary McCarthy**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**, **Kathe Mitchell**, and **Steve** and **Carol Lane**.

Attendees were **Peter** and **Martha Plante**, **Brian** and **Mary McCarthy**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**, **Kathe Mitchell**, and **Steve** and **Carol Lane**.

In the winner's circle were **Kathe Mitchell** (11.9) followed by **the McCarty's—Mary** (12.0) and **Brian** (13.3). And sadly, the **Lanes** got to share the losers circle, with **Carol** having the pleasure of drawing the double blank 6 out of the 11 games. Could this be a MTD record??

We look forward to our next get together on February 22, 2023, at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mary and Brian McCarthy and Kathe Mitchell—Winners, Circle



The Lanes – a bad night



When you draw the double blank six times—a bottle of wine helps



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to us, Bob & Wendy Lucido for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Congratulations to Clint Collier who won \$24 with a low average score of 16, and the person who is hiding (Mary Ellen Dalgaard) who had the highest score winning a lotto ticket.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



Bet you're thinking where's Ocho?
Well, they did so much it takes a full page to report on them! Keep reading!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to Brian and Mary McCarthy for hosting this month's MTD 9.

Congrats to the Dalgaards who are a couple who do everything together including having the Lowest (Dale 13.1) and the highest score Mary Ellen 32.9).

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



My spouse says I have two faults. I don't listen and... something else.



"What airlines think humans look like"



GROUP OCHO 8

Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 8 (OCHO)

Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, February 1st with 15 players attending. **Ron and Victoria Polivka** were our food and refreshment hosts for the evening.

With 15 people present, we spread across 3 tables of 5 each. Beforehand, I encouraged each of the regular members to try and find some of their non-SIR friends who might like playing or learn who play MTD and invite them to our game provided we had room. **Ron Polivka** took me up on this offer and invited his former neighbor, **Frank Terzuoli** and his wife Susan, to play. Frank subsequently joined SIR 146. More amazing was the fact that **Susan Teruoli**, after playing with our rules, came in 3rd place for the evening. The overall winner for the evening was **Ron Polivka** with an average score of 12.5, **Pam McAllister** in second with an average score of 14.6, and **Susan Teruoli** in third place with a score of 16.3.

If you were to look at the scores from each of the tables you might wonder if some players were trying to beat the other for the highest score. When the dust settled, **Steve Ondeck** had the highest average score of 39.8. **Larry McAllister** was right behind him with 35.8.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

MTD 8 Low Score Winners (L to R)
Pam McAllister 2nd, **Ron Polivka 1st**,
 visiting new player **Susan Teruoli 3rd**.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Scratcher Recipients:
Steve Ondeck and Larry McAllister



February 1st MTD OCHO Players: (Top to Bot/Left to Right) **Steve Ondeck, Richard Hockenbrock, Steve Ybarra, Jan Ondeck, Ron Polivka, Frank Terzuoli, Victoria Polivka, Susan Terzuoli, Virginia Tygart, Mary Jo Potter, Pam McAllister, Bill Holly, Larry McAllister, Jim Barry, and Joyce Wells.**



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the February SIR-Call submission, we met on January 27th and February 10th . The big winners were **Frank Lucas** with 3 wins and **Bill Vizza**, **Ron Polivka** and **Bob West**

all with 2 wins. **Glenn Breslin** led in 2nds with 4, followed by **Bob West** with 3.

The lowest average score was **Steve Ybarra** with 76, closely followed by **Bill Vizza** with 78. **Ron** "Shot the Moon" twice and **Steve**, **Brian McCarthy** and **Frank Lucas** once.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with a winning percentage of 44% followed by **Ron Polivka** with 39%. Most Improved is **Frank** with 222% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Ron** with 180%.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in March on the 10th and 24th.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com

Why are hallways in psychiatric hospitals called "hallways" ? Shouldn't they be called psycho paths?



Old Money Poker Group 6

Norm Baietti hosted our February game on the usual first Thursday of the month. All six regular players enjoyed the snacks and wine generously provided by **Norm**.

Thanks **Norm!** At the end of the game, there were the usual "takeaways". The player leaving with the thickest wallet was **Steve Ybarra** for the second month in a row.

Our next game will be hosted by **Brad Hatcher** on March 2.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our latest 3-table Duplicate Bridge 2 Event was nicely hosted by **Bud Pearce** on Friday, Feb. 3. **Mike Whitaker** kindly did most of the pre-game administrative work this time- e.g., player numbering, computer scoring table setup, bidding box placements, player movement sheets, table scoring sheets- plus partnering with me to record 144 scores at lunchtime and 144 more at the end.

1st Place- **Max Hinkle**, 30.0 points. **Max** also was 3rd in the 1st half and 1st in the 2nd half!

2nd Place- **Tony Greco**, 29.5. **Tony** also had a high (highest) score in the 1st half that helped him big-time!

3rd Place (tie)- **Jim Pope** and **Dave Steinberg**, 27.0. **Dave** was 2nd in the 1st half, and **Jim** was 2nd in the 2nd half!

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (3 boards with 5 to a maximum 6 points)

Boards 4-6: **Max Hinkle/Tony Greco**, 5.0 pts.

Boards 10-12: **Ed Marlovits/Bud Pearce**, 5.0 pts.

Boards 16-18: **Max Hinkle/Joe Fuchs**, 5.5 pts.

Richard Devoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met on the 15th of February at the **Kluesener** residence with two guest couples, **Maggie and Dick Chaffee** and **Nora and Mike Davidson** challenging the "old guard". This was the first time **Nora and Mike** ventured into the SIR duplicate grouping and all of us were very thankful that they could join us for an evening of card games. It is always great to meet new SIR couples and expand our group contacts. As usual the games were competitive. Third place honors went to our guests the **Chaffees** with a combined score for the night of 20. Second place was captured by **Marilyn**

and **Margot** with a total of 22 points. **Christy and Dick** managed to again get into the money, taking the first place prize with a total of 26 points including the most 2's and the fewest scores of zero. Well Done!!

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

The Couples Duplicate Too Bridge group met on Valentines Day 2/14/23 at host **Dick and Christy DeVoe's** home. It's always great to get together for a fun social time. This 3-table event had the following results:

Rankings

1st Place—**Bob/Janet Yolland**, 25.0 points.

2nd Place—**Dick/Christy DeVoe**, 24.5 pts.

3rd Place—**Brad/Lynne Hatcher**, 20.0 pts.

Most High Boards

Brad/Lynne Hatcher with 7.

Least Low Boards

Bob/Janet Yolland and **Dick/Christy DeVoe** with 2 each.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Tony & Cindy Greco hosted our February 7th event. All our regulars played which hasn't happened since June 2022. Initially one of our regulars planned to be out of town and couldn't play, so a sub was

recruited. Unfortunately, our sub cancelled on the morning of the event when one of the partners fell sick. As luck would have it, the subbed regular had changed their plans to be out of town and were able to play. Additionally **Larry & Linda Brown** completed the roster of all regulars after not playing since June 2022.

Based on the Score Pads, it looked like one slam was missed and quite a few hands were underbid as partials, where game level was made. **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** were competing with **Dick & Christy DeVoe** for 1st place throughout the event with only a 160 point difference between them after 4 rounds of play. During the 5th and final round **Rich & Ismini** outscored the **DeVoes** by 400 points to capture 1st place.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3450 points—**Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**
- 2nd PLACE with 3210 points—**Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 3rd PLACE with 2650 points—**Larry & Linda Brown**

Next month's event will be held on **March 7th** and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**. Bring your party face with you!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

Bud Pearce was a gracious host for our game at his home on Monday February 6th. The food was outstanding and the accommodations comfortable. The players in attendance were: **Rich Ahlf, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Bill Synder, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman** and **Bob Yolland**.

The February winners were: **Joe Fuchs** was the player with most points followed by **Steve Dinning** and **Jim Pope**.

Starting in March, Party Bridge will move to a new bridge scoring format. We will be using the Chicago Bridge scoring format rather than the Game Scoring format. This new format will make play more like Duplicate scoring but in a Party Bridge format.

The next game will be on Monday, March 6th at the home of **Bill Schaaf**.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) or [Jim Pope](#).



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

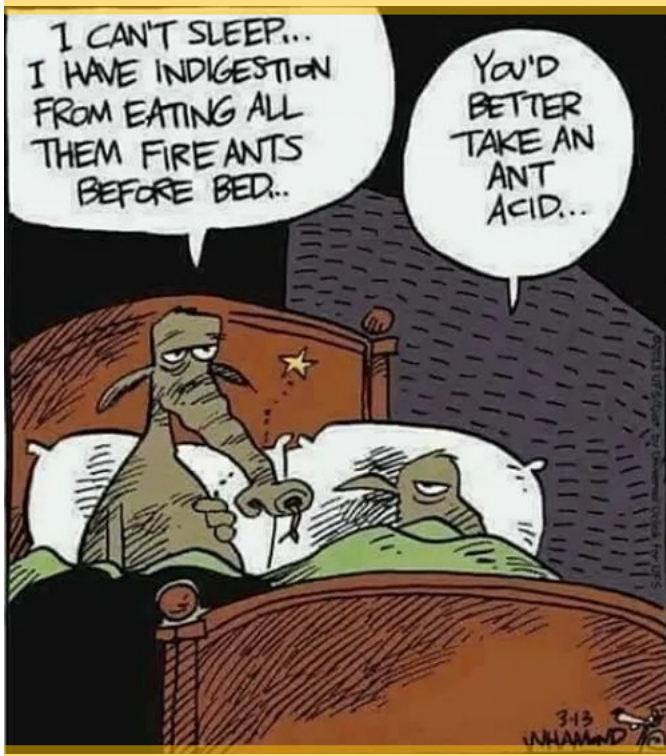
On Friday Feb. 17 Duplicate Bridge III held it's monthly game, this month hosted by **Mike Whitaker** at Rossmoor. Eleven other hopeful players tried in vain

to keep up with **Dick DeVoe**. **Dick** was the eventual winner on this day with **Ed Marlovits** and **Max Hinkle** in 2nd and 3rd. **Jim Pope** was our Come-Back-Kid as he was in last place in the 1st half before lunch and tied for 1st in the 2nd half. Our next game will be on Friday, March 17 at Boundary Oak. Interested bridge players should call Mike Whitaker

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com

Area 16 Activities



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed March 22 at 1:30 PM. The topic will be Industrial Stocks and Metals. E-mail **Dave Sutton** to be included.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

Branch 161

Friendship Golf Tournament

Branch 161 invites all SIR golfers and guests to a Friendship Tournament on March 6, 2023 at Discovery Bay Golf & Country Club

Click on the button below to read the UPDATED flyer with all the details.

[Click for Flyer](#)



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 state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Parting Shot

Have A Slice of Pi

Are you in need of something to celebrate? Of Course you are. At our ages every day should be a celebration so here is a special day, just for you... March 14 is recognized in several countries around the world as **Pi Day** [or to many of us, **Pie Day**]. It's a celebration of that most famous transcendental number, π (pronounced pie), in which 3.14 are the first digits.

In the United States, the designation of Pi Day started in 2009. Ten years later, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed March 14 as the International Day of Mathematics.

Pi is the ratio of a circle's circumference to the diameter. Ancient civilizations like the Egyptians and Babylonians not only knew about the existence of pi, but also found its approximate value. We're talking about 2000 B.C. here!

Standing on the shoulders of those civilizations, Archimedes created an algorithm to approximate π in 250 B.C. The earliest known use of the Greek letter π to represent the ratio is by Welsh mathematician William Jones in 1706, possibly as shorthand for the word, periphery.

Regardless... Pie [Pi] Day now offers us yet another reason to celebrate. And it's easy.

Just Have a Slice of Pie

It can be pizza pie, shephard's pie, cherry pie, chicken pie, apple pie.
Whatever you chose. Just be sure to have some on this special day.

