



Published For Our Members And Friends

Volume 24 Issue 5



Big Sir's Notes Jim Burk

LADIES DAY LUNCHEON IN MAY: RSVP DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 3

If you have not already submitted an RSVP for our May 10 Ladies Day Luncheon, please contact **STEVE DAWKINS** and let him know that you would like to attend. You may put together your own table of 10 or be assigned to a table.

GUESTS AND THEIR SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER ARE WELCOME IN MAY, SPACE PERMITTING

If space allows, guests and their spouse or significant other are welcome at the May Ladies Day Luncheon

LONG RANGE PLANS FOR BOUNDARY OAK

Some of you have asked me about what happens to Branch 146 and our meeting and luncheon space should the City of Walnut Creek and Boundary Oak move forward with either a Clubhouse remodeling project, or the complete tear-down and rebuilding of the Clubhouse/Pro Shop, etc. [See 4/12/12 article in the Contra Costa Times "Walnut Creek looks at possible improvements to Boundary Oak"] In January, **TERRY MARCHIONE** and I visited Branch 8's BEC Meeting and luncheon at the Concord Hilton for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was to experience the set-up, service, and food quality. We wanted to do some contingency planning in case we either decided to initiate a change for our Branch in 2013 (our contract with Boundary runs through December, 2012); or Walnut Creek were to decide that they were going to make major physical changes in the Clubhouse that would cause us to have to change our location. Following that visit, **Terry** appointed **DIRECTOR BILL HOLLY** to head up a "Study Team" that would come back to us in the summer (tentatively July) with his team's findings and recommendations. That plan is still being worked. Once the results have been reviewed by the BEC, you will be informed as to the direction being recommended.

EARLY FEEDBACK ON NEW SPACE ARRANGEMENTS

The early feedback from many of you would indicate that the new expanded space for our luncheon reception time

and new bar location was well received. Hopefully, with improving weather in May, the arrangement will be even further enjoyed by having the opportunity to step outside onto the balcony patio that overlooks the practice putting green to take in the sunshine, if you wish.

ACTIVITY GROUP PARTICIPANTS IN MAY

In May we will have **TRAVEL (BOB SPELLMAN)**; **BOOK CORNER (KEN RICHTER)**; and others yet to be determined present for the Ladies Luncheon. Alert your guest that she might find a nice SIR trip to take you on or a good pre-owned book she has not yet read for her consideration.

Little Sir's Corner Terry Marchione



You won't want to miss our Ladies Day speaker in May--**Michael Hingson**. **Michael** and his guide dog **Roselle** were on the 78th floor of tower #1 on 9/11/2001 when it was struck by American Airlines flight #11. Working as a team, **Roselle** led **Michael** and others on their floor down the darkened stairwell moments before the building collapsed.

Michael has written a book about his experiences and we have asked him to bring along copies of the book. If you happen to be interested, the book is available for \$22 and **Michael** will sign your copy. There is no obligation on your part.

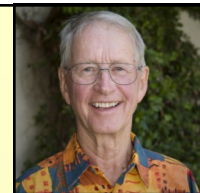
A special thanks to **Corrie** and **Susan Oranje** for lining up this speaker.

Our June speaker is **Mrs. Stephanie Asker** whose father was **Albert Einstein's** CPA and tax preparer. **Bedside's** being a CPA he was also an avid photographer who took several movies of his days with **Albert Einstein**. This relationship spanned 14 years and **Mrs. Asker** accompanied her father and mother on these outings. Be sure to attend this most personal view and recollections of the most influential scientist of the past century.

In July we are very pleased that **Jim Barnett** will speak to our group. Jim is a former NBA star and is the current color broadcaster for the Golden State Warriors.



Luncheon Attendance
Bob Mehus
LADIES DAY LUNCHEON



SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at “The Clubhouse” Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Club. The price of our luncheons is \$27 with a no-host bar.

Please email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com, or call Bob Mehus at 510-549-2221 by Friday NOON prior to the luncheon if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message. Please be sure you call!!!

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for **\$27.00** made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on Luncheon Day. Thanks.

A member who misses three (3) consecutive meetings without notifying the Attendance Chairman, giving a valid reason or who attends less than five (5) meetings/luncheons within the last twelve (12) months, excluding May and December (Ladies Day Luncheons), may be notified in writing of the pending termination of his membership.

Salad

Mixed Green Salad

Spring Vegetables, Caramelized Shallots and Citrus Vinaigrette

Entrees

Slow Roasted New York Strip Loin

Seasonal Vegetables, Smashed Red Potatoes and Thyme Infused Demi Glace

Or

Pan Seared Alaskan Halibut

Pineapple and Papaya Relish, Wild Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Tort

Raspberry Sauce and Mint Chantilly

SIR bringing a Guest

Please call by Friday, noon prior to the luncheon and leave your name and badge number and the name of your guest. Please spell the last name of your guest.

If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Chairman. If for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your Luncheon Chairman.

New Members and/or Sponsors

There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share their conversations as new members of SIR146. It is voluntary and please do not feel obligated, as a new member, to sit at this table.



Duplicate Bridge Doug Eisner



*Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR luncheon at various homes.
Bring your lunch*

Carl Johnson was really on his game as he blew away all pretenders to take first place with a score of 47.5 pt. **Lynn Freeman's** score of 45.5 pt placed him solidly in second place. **John Demos**, one of our subs, eked out third place over **Bob Burley**, another sub, by the score of 40.5 pt to 40.0, respectively.

Our next game will be hosted by **Jim Stedman** on May 14.

There's still time for bridge players to sign up as partnerships to represent Branch 146 in the SIRs Area 2 Duplicate Bridge Tournament which will be held on Saturday, Apr 28, from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$13 per player which includes a directed game and prize fund. Find a partner from Branch 146 and notify **Doug Eisner** that you'll play.

COUPLES PARTY BRIDGE

Dave Pierce
932-3877



John and **Linda Boyan** hosted three tables on April 17th. Scores were low this evening but spirits were high. **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** took the bronze with 2670, **Doug** and **Patti Eisner** the silver with 3140, and super subs **Ben** and **Helen Yeraka** the gold with 3790. The evening ended on a sweet note with **Linda's** tasty cake. The next event will be June 6th.

Dave Pierce, 932-3877

The SIRS Area 2 Duplicate Bridge Tournament was held Saturday, April 28, at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center in Walnut Creek with competition from 11 teams representing 3 of the Area's branches. Branch 146 was represented by **Jim Brown** and **Carl Johnson**, **Rich Ahlf** and **Pete Boss**, and **Fred Kovar** and **Doug Eisner**. I'm pleased to announce that **Jim Brown** and **Carl Johnson** raised the bar on Branch 146 Bridge as they took 5th place in the tournament! Congratulations, **Jim** and **Carl**!

Party Bridge Fred Bolton



*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes.
Contact **Fred Bolton** for details.
Bring a lunch*

Our group played three tables of party bridge at **Jim Brown's** home on 4/2 the first Monday of April. **Bob Burley** was the big winner with 5,860 points, followed by **Tommy Thompson** in second place with 5,520. Our host **Jim Brown** placed third with 4,450 points, narrowly edging out **Carl Johnson** by 30 points. Congratulations to all the winners.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

*Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month
starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes.
Couples play as partners.*



Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on April 18th at **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman's** home. The group thanked **Bob Donahue** and **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** for filling in. As for the bridge results, **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** took first place with 41 points. But for the first time in the group's eight years, three couples tied for second place. **Lo** and **Sue McCarley**, **Carl** and **Anne Johnson**, and **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** all had 33 points. **Carl** and **Anne Johnson** will host the next bridge on April 16th.

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches.

Explore and Dine

John Pearl



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee



Explore and Dine is off to the Tao House in Danville, a location we are repeating at popular request. We are going Thursday morning, May 31st, meeting at the San Ramon Valley Museum in downtown Danville, where the National Park Service van will transport us to the actual site of the Tao House, the home of author and playwright **Eugene O'Neil**. Private cars are not allowed through the residential neighborhood leading to the Tao House.

As of April 27, we have 16 people signed up for the tour. The van holds 18, so we do have room for two more, and I would like to have a waiting list to fill from if someone cancels. This is quite a place, up in the hills west of Danville, where you can see how **O'Neil** and his wife **Carlotta** lived and where many of his most famous works were written.

We meet at Bridges in Danville for lunch following the tour. If you would like to join us for the lunch portion only, please let me know.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920



Cribbage John Pearl

Seven of us gathered on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 18, for our monthly cribbage "money redistribution party." We welcomed back Professor **Al von Tufo**, a long-time SIR and former Cribbage Chair. Even with his goatee, he still knows his stuff, leading the charge to first place money! Our host for the day, **Barney Meade**, took second place, and **Ron Plachy** came in third.

Play was extended by record-setting game between **Dennis Hallett** and **Art Ainscough**, who played the longest game in the group's memory (which is not very long).

A good time was had by all – why not join in?

John Pearl, Chair

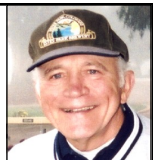
mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920

Poker Club #1 met on April 11th at the home of **Bob White** and we all agreed that we shouldn't have told **Bill Cammerer** where we were playing on this day. He finished as one of the all time big winners and we were sure that he most probably took **Bernice** out to dinner with the days winnings. **Frank McNamee** and **Dan O' Sullivan** celebrated a delayed St Patrick's Day by coming in a distant second and third place. Our next gathering will be at the **Don Del Bene** residence on May 9th.

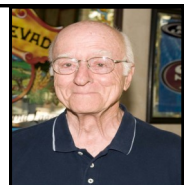


Poker Group #4 Chuck Bobinecz



We will be skipping the May poker session since our scheduled date for play falls on Memorial Day. We will be resuming our poker play in June with the location to be announced in next month's Sir Call.

Bocce Ball Martin Lyle



2nd and 4th Mondays at 8:30am., May through October, at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads

May has arrived and the first session of Bocce Ball will be on Monday, May 14. We are expecting a good turnout of returning players, and we always welcome new players. It's a very easy game to learn. Ladies are welcome. Rain cancels play.



Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



May 25-28, 2012 Sac Jazz Festival & Jubilee. This is a top Music Festival in the country with over a 100 groups to entertain you. Beyond the traditional Jazz, there's blues, western, ragtime, salsa, rydeco and big band music. Something for everyone. Cost is \$35 for Friday, \$45 for Saturday or Sunday and \$94 for all 4 days. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428.

May 19-Jun 3, 2012 Romance of the Rhine & Mosel. Cruise aboard a private Grand Circle river ship starting in Basel, Switzerland ending in Antwerp, Belgium. The ship will make stops at Strasbourg, France, Speyer, Baden-Baden, Boppard, Koblenz, Cochem, Bernkastel, Trier, Bonn, Germany, Nijmegen, Kinderdijk and Antwerp. The price starts at \$3895 to \$5295 plus air. The trip includes, 12 exclusive guided sightseeing tours plus personal headsets, Captains welcome dinner, 42 meals with complimentary wine with dinner. Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217. Pre and post trips are also available to Lucerne, Switzerland and Bruges, Belgium. Rooms will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Oct 5-7, 2012 The Great Italian Festival. Reno's Great Italian Festival is among the nation's largest and most famous events. Celebrate the food, culture, music and tradition of Italy. Free activities and entertainment highlight the festivals main focus. The cost is \$308.00 pp and includes motor coach transportation, 2 night stay at the Eldorado with hosted seafood dinner and a show by the Jersey Boys. Contact **Bob Hager**, Br 8, 934-7620 for more information.

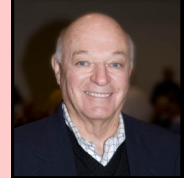
Oct 6, 2012 Blue Angels & the San Francisco Belle. Enjoy the best aviation show in the country featuring the US Navy Blue Angels. Join us on the Hornblowers "San Francisco Belle" a Bay Area landmark and the largest private charter yacht on the West Coast. We will board at 1:30pm and cruise around the Bay, stopping in a great spot to view the aviation show between 3:00- 4:00pm. Cost is \$128.00 pp which includes: Bay Cruise, Motorcoach transportation, Hosted All- You- Can- Eat Lunch Buffet.

Complimentary FREE champagne, coffee, tea, juice, tips and taxes. Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428.

Oct 6-21, 2012 Cruise to Hawaii from San Francisco. A 15 night cruise sailing round trip from SF on the Star Princess. Ports of call include, Hilo, Honolulu, Nawiliwili, Lahaina and Ensenada, Mexico. Cost is \$2100 to \$3590 depending on cabin which includes transfer to and from airport, all meals, fee and taxes, tips for drivers and skycaps. Contact **Harry Reiter** Br. 19, 709-2820 for more information.

Oct 26- Nov 11, 2012 Canada & New England Aboard NCL Norwegian Dawn. Beautiful scenery is always on display when cruising down the east coast during the peak weeks of autumn. Along the way visit an exciting array of east coast ports including Quebec City, Portland, Boston, New York, Key West and Tampa. Package price includes RT airfare, transfers, driver and stevedore tips, gov't fees, and taxes, all meals. Prices start at \$2335 to \$3475. Contact **Jim Lunn** Branch 8 @ 925-551-3329 for more information.

Membership Steve Sprague



Branch 146 Statistics:

Active Members: 271 including seven Honorary Life Members.
Applicant List: One.
Inactive Members: Ten.

March Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 201.
Guests: 11, Visitors: 0, Speaker: 1.
Total Attendance: 213.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Carl Pagter**, Badge 43
Transferred- in from Branch 116: **Ed Walker**,
Badge 280

Moved to Inactive List: **None**

Resigned: **None**

Transferred or Deceased: **None**

There were no changes to the Inactive Roster.



BIRTHDAY BOYS MAY



Vern	Laursen	1
Dave	Obera	1
Mal	Hendry	3
Vince	Rettew	11
Jim	Adams	12
Dan	Costello	13
Joe	Lamanna	13
Leon	Wyrick	16
Bill	Powell	17
Bob	Burley	19
Jeff	Baily	21
Dean	Merritt	23
Darrell	Parcher	24
Alan	Elnick	25
Tom	Morgan	30
Corrie	Oranje	31

Couples Golf John Harrington



Couples Golf started off our new season at Lone Tree GC on April 25th. We had a great day and great turnout with 28 golfers participating. We played golf and enjoyed a wonderful buffet afterwards. The big winners were **Lew Thompson** and **Margot Somerville**. Also having good days and sharing in the winnings were **Anne Burk**, **Pat Meehan**, and **John Harrington**. Our next outing will be at Paradise Valley hosted by **Ron** and **Anne Plachy**. Attached photo shows our group enjoying themselves on the clubhouse veranda at the end of the day.





Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invite all Sirs and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, May 17th at 9am. The topic will be Home Automation, organized by **Neil Schmidt**.

Steve Lee, National Training Manager for INSTEON, will be discussing home automation techniques. INSTEON (www.insteon.com) is a leader in development of innovative cost-effective and reliable home automation technology. From lighting control to integrated security systems, they provide ways to manage your home the way you want and there are endless control applications such as HVAC control, lighting control, camera monitoring, water leak detection, motion triggers, cell phone control and the list goes on and on. See www.smarthome.com/learningcenter.html for more examples of what you can do with INSTEON products. Mr. Lee will not only be discussing products and techniques but he will also be discussing how these devices can not only be controlled by central controllers but also how they can be controlled by the outside world via a peer to peer by USB or Serial Power line Modules (PLM) or network controller gateways.

Time permitting; **Dick Curry** will lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues that you identify. So please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. See you there.

The next meeting will be on July 19.
Phil Goff and **Derek Southern**
Co-chairs



Sunshine

Walt Busenius
945-0715

Busenius@astound.net



We offer our condolences and prayers to the family of **Sir Earnest "Ernie" Dickson** on the passing of **Ernie** Sunday morning, April 15th.

We further offer our condolences and prayers to the family of **Sir Bob Frankland** on the passing of **Bob** Friday evening, April 20th.

Please keep the following Sirs in your thoughts and prayers as we hope for continued healing and look forward to their recovery to good health:

Sir Chuck Bobinecz
Sir Jim Locker
Sir Jack Calloway
Sir "Loui" Nemeth
Sir Jim Helmick
Sir Joe Schild
Sir Rod Sharretts
Sir Bob Van Luchene
Sir Fred Bolton
Sir Ron Pascoe
Sir Tom Morgan

Please try to contact a Sir in this report to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is always welcomed.

If you are aware of a sick Sir, please let me know by phone or e-mail, as shown above, so that the Sir membership can be advised.

Book Corner Ken Richter

Jan Mar May July Sept Nov

The activity at the BOOK CORNER was extremely heavy at the last SIR Luncheon. This is a good sign that our members are enjoying the selection of books. The BOOK CORNER will again be open for the Ladies Day Luncheon in May. We will continue to have the BOOK CORNER located in the hallway.



Bowling Larry Mitchell



Our annual Dave Valladao Memorial Tournament was held in March but the results did not get tabulated in time for the April issue so this news is a little overdue. Although participation has been dropping somewhat each year, we had a turnout of about 120 bowlers. What used to be a three day event is now two days.

Money winners from Branch 146 are as follows: **Jeff Davis** paired with **Mike McKay** (Branch 19) to take sixth place in the doubles event which was good for \$47.50 each. **Pierre Mebane** took home \$25.00 for seventeenth place in "all events". By the way, **Jeff** and **Pierre** were inducted into our branch just this year.

We had a rare and welcome event in the singles division. **Gary Kaufmann**, of Branch 19, Bowled a 300 in the first game of the event! This is the first 300 bowled in any tournament that I have been a part of. **Gary's** other games in event were 230 and 255 which placed him fourth in the event. Gary's average is 220, which is the highest I have seen in SIR bowling and explains why he did not place first. If this were golf he would be a scratch player.

The winter SIR bowling league is winding down and will be over in a couple of weeks. As it stands now the three man team of **Jim Adams**, **Larry Mitchell** and **Jacky Luke** are in first place.



ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday, usually at 6:30 PM. We select eclectic restaurants in the East Bay recommended by you, as well as, those favorably reviewed in the media. Come join us and experience dining in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with your fellow SIR and other male guests.

"CELIA'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT"

Located in Lafayette where the Cape Cod House used to be, CELIA's is part of a chain of restaurants, which have been family operated for over 35 years. Their goal is to serve natural fresh home style Mexican food of the highest quality. They pride themselves for their fresh daily salsa, guacamole, hand-made tamales and tortillas made without lard. Arrangements have been made for separate checks for your convenience.

Location: 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 94549 (private parking lot)

Web Site: www.celiasrestaurants.com/lafayette.html

Phone: 925-283-8288

Please let me know by Tuesday, May 15th, that you will attend.

Your recommendations for restaurants you would like us to try are welcomed.

Mal

Mac User Group

The SIR Mac User Group meets the 2nd Monday of the month at the Thurman Casey Library on Oak Grove Road from 3 to 5pm. The leaders are **Jeff Baily**, **Max Burchett**, and **Verner Laursen**.

From time to time we email suggestions to the people on our list, so if you use a MAC computer and are not receiving emails from us, please join the group and let us know what your email address is. At our monthly meetings we discuss Mac user issues. This is not a class in the traditional sense but rather a discussion group wherein the leaders don't have all the answers and the solutions sometimes originate from the attendees.

We welcome new attendees. If you have a Mac question or would like to be on our email listing, please contact one our leaders. We are here to help you.

Non-Responsibility Declaration

Rule 345: All activities arranged for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.



Table Pool

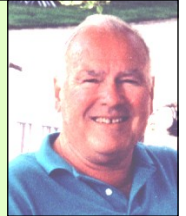
Bill Weinberg

*1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)*



**Walkers
John Lewis**

*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various
locales. Call **John** or just show up.
Rain cancels any walk.*



May 2012 Sir Walks
By Bob Madge

May 4 Railroad Museum North Walnut Creek

Meet: At Railroad Museum Parking
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
Paved Level Some Shade
Coffee: Pascal French Over

May 11 Heather Farms East Walnut Creek

Meet: At end of Heather Farms Parking
Walk: East along Contra Costa Canal
Paved Level Some Shade
Coffee: Sweet Affair Ygnacio Plaza

May 18 Lafayette Moraga Trail

Meet: At end of Olympic Blvd Parking
Walk: West on Lafayette Moraga Trail at end
of Olympic Blvd
Paved Level Some Shade
Coffee: La Scala Civic & Locust W.C.

May 25 Markham Tree Walk Treat & Clayton Concord

Meet: At Coco's Back Parking
Walk: Starts at back west corner of Parking
Mostly Paved Level Some Shade
Coffee: Coco's Treat Blvd

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group



The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday May 23, 2012 at 8:00 AM at the Diablo Creek golf course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speaker **Gary Gardner**, President of Life Wealth Advisors of Walnut Creek. His presentation "**Life Changing Events as Opportunities**" and **the Economic and Financial considerations you need to consider**. Gary will be delivering a lively interactive talk on how significant life changes may provoke questions and concerns about whether the course you are on needs to change as well. **Gary's** discussion backed by 30 years of Financial Planning and Investment Advisory experience provides hope, inspiration, humor, motivation and techniques to determine your personal best course and how to enjoy the journey.

The timeliness of this presentation is one all will enjoy. The restaurant at the course opens at 7:00am for those who would like to enjoy breakfast with your colleagues.

Co-chairmen:

Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) 925-376-3977

George Schulze (Br-8) 925-429-1756

Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Ken Nakashima (Br-171) Coordinator 925-376-0421

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer** for folding labeling and mailing and Editor **Rich Ahlf** for photography.

SIR CALL

Newsletter

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
63 El Molino Drive
Clayton, CA 94517-1723

sircall@hotmail.com

<http://www.sir146.com>

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**Sir 146 Romeo Group
Dinning at the Creekside Grill in Rossmore**