

## Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

A few reminders:

One, our annual Ladies Day celebration, May 8, is right around the corner.

This is one of two special luncheons we hold each

year and you must prepay for it to reserve your seats. The cost for this year's luncheon is \$28 per person. It's not too late to get your reservations and meal choices in to **Steve Dawkins** but the cut off date is May 1 so you need to act quickly. In honor of the ladies, **Steve** has planned a special menu for the day and Little Sir **Bill Holly** has arranged for some exciting entertainment so this is a luncheon you'll not want to miss! Sign up as a single, couple, or reserve a table of 10 or any combination up to 10, but sign up soon!

Two, the BEC will not meet in May but will return to its regular meeting schedule on June 12 at 9:00 am in the Lakeview Room at Boundary Oak. Come see what your elected representatives are up to - it might surprise you!

I know a number of you were as disappointed as I was at the AV system failures during last month's luncheon. Fortunately, Dan Borenstein, our speaker, is a real trooper and made the best of a bad situation. Soon after, I shared my frustrations with Courseco management and was pleased to learn that they're committed to providing us a first class experience.

To that end, Courseco tells me it will do what it takes to ensure a solution by next month, including renting an AV system from an outside vendor if necessary.

Ladies Day Luncheon  
Featuring  
East Bay Banjo Club.  
Gathering time - 10:30 am  
Seating time - 11:45 am  
*Make reservation with Steve Dawkins.  
Reservations form and menu on page 12*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bill Roberts** displaying the Certificate of Appreciation award presented to him at the April Luncheon. A member since 2004, **Bill** has been badge chair for 6 plus years, Poker 5 chair for over 5 years and served as Branch Director in 2011 and 2012

## Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

There will not be a speaker for the May Ladies Day luncheon. Instead there will be a live performance by the East Bay Banjo Club.

The EBBC was founded in 1963 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the spirit of playing "Happy Music". Currently, there are about 30 members who meet every Tuesday night from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Luigi's Deli #1, located at 537 Main Street in Martinez, CA.

The club has performed at hundreds of venues during their 50 year history. Almost anywhere people want to "happy music", Banjo Club has the delight of all ages. The traditional played on the excites and those who have never before experienced it.



celebrate with the East Bay performed to audiences of group performs American Jazz banjo. It both delights even

So, if you love banjos, happy music and fun, join us at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Ladies Day Luncheon. If you have not already done so, mail your check for \$28/person payable to Branch 146 to **Steve Dawkins** at 117 Alegra Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. All checks must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hurry!

Photo by Bill Schultz



**Don Del Bene** and **Ron Binder** at the "free lunch" put on for the Tuesday golfers at the Tuesday April 15th Boundary Oak tournament

## Poker Club 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met April 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Frank McNamee**. The big winner was **John Lewis**. There was not enough room on the board for his chips! The other winner was our host **Frank** and the rest were not so lucky. Our next competition will be hosted by **Dan O'Sullivan** on May 14<sup>th</sup>.



Golf committee members L to R, Br'er rabbit, **Steve Conte**, **Dick Richmond** and **Joe Fuchs** after a meeting and before the April Luncheon

## Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman



After an adventurous ride on BART to San Francisco and then on Muni we arrived at **Paul Dubow's** condo, which is located across the street from AT&T Park. Following a

few glasses of wine on the patio with mini- pepper halves and goat cheese with crackers and lobster mousse, Paul gathered us in for a super lunch of asparagus soup, curried chicken salad over a cantaloupe ring and a bed of lettuce with strawberries and grapes and key lime pie dessert. Those attending this month were **Dick Woodman**, **Frank Rockwell**, **Pete Gates**, **Syd Whalen**, **Bob Spellman**, **Jim Meehan** and **Paul**. We're still working on solving all the problems of the world but we continue to make progress.

## Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac User Group is back to the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

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 us, from time to time and we will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users.

**Verner Laursen Max Burchett**

### Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

**Bob** and **Janet Yolland** hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on April 16th. Everyone enjoyed **Janet's** snacks and **Bob's** wines.

The group thanked **Bob Yolland** and **George Zurich** for scoring. As for the bridge results, **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** took first place with 41 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** came in second with 38 points and, in third place was **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** with 34 points. **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** with 30 points was in fourth place. **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** will host the next bridge on May 21st.



### Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge on March 31st at the home of **Fred Bolton**. First place went to **Rich Ahlf** with 5520 points.

Second went to **Max Hinkle** with 4520 and third to **Carl Johnson** with 4380. Our next game will be at the home of **Bill Snyder** on May 5.

### Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The May event for the Couples Dining Out activity will be held at one of downtown Walnut Creek's popular dining spots – Le Cheval, a restaurant with Vietnamese cuisine at 1375 N. Broadway. The restaurant incorporates French, Chinese and Southeast Asian cooking concepts in preparing wholesome, nutritious and special dishes that emphasize quality with quantity. We will dine on Thursday, May 22nd, starting with our social hour at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6:30pm. As a special incentive to our group, the restaurant has offered us a complimentary well drink, or a glass of wine. We will have a menu that will include their well-known shrimp rolls as appetizer, cabbage salad with grilled pork, and five additional dishes, which include an orange chicken, their signature cubed beef dish, a salt and pepper prawn dish, and a noodle and vegetable dish. Also included are rice and a dessert, and tea.

The all-inclusive cost is \$38 per person. To reserve your spot, mail a check made out to SIR 146 to **Bruce Borgman**, 3611 Winchester Place, WC, 94598. This will again be a special evening – we particularly invite those who have not joined us previously, and those who would like to get to know your fellow Sirs and their spouses in a pleasant social setting. For additional information call **Bruce** at 932-3961, or email at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



## Bocceball

Martin Lyle

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



Well, we have gone through the winter months, and spring is finally here. We wanted to get word out a month early to prepare for the Bocce Ball season which will commence for us on the 2nd Monday of May. This is also called May 12. Ladies are welcome.

Photo by Bill Schultz



**Terry Marchione and Steve Dawkins** ready to play in the scramble formatted tournament on April 15th at Boundary Oak

## Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

**John and Linda Boyan** (our snackmeister) hosted us on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Cards remained in their winter doldrums; lots of part scores, few games, low scores. In the money were **Terry and Sharon**

**Marchione** at 2730, **Dave and Joan Pierce** at 2800, and in first place **George and Pam Rammell** with 3040. But we were all winners because **John** had won a case of 2008 Silver Oak Napa Cabernet in a church raffle and opened a bottle with the snacks. Delicious (91 --95 pts)! **John** said it was way too oakey for



him and **Linda** so he gave the rest of the case away: 4 bottles to the winners, then 3, 2, 1 and 1 to the field. Who says you need cards to win? Hosts extraordinaire!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Paul Dubow** at the Activities table with impressive pictures of fish caught by Br 146 fishermen and others. **Paul** is growing the fishing activity and reporting and photographing the many interesting catches in the SIR Call Newsletter (see next page)

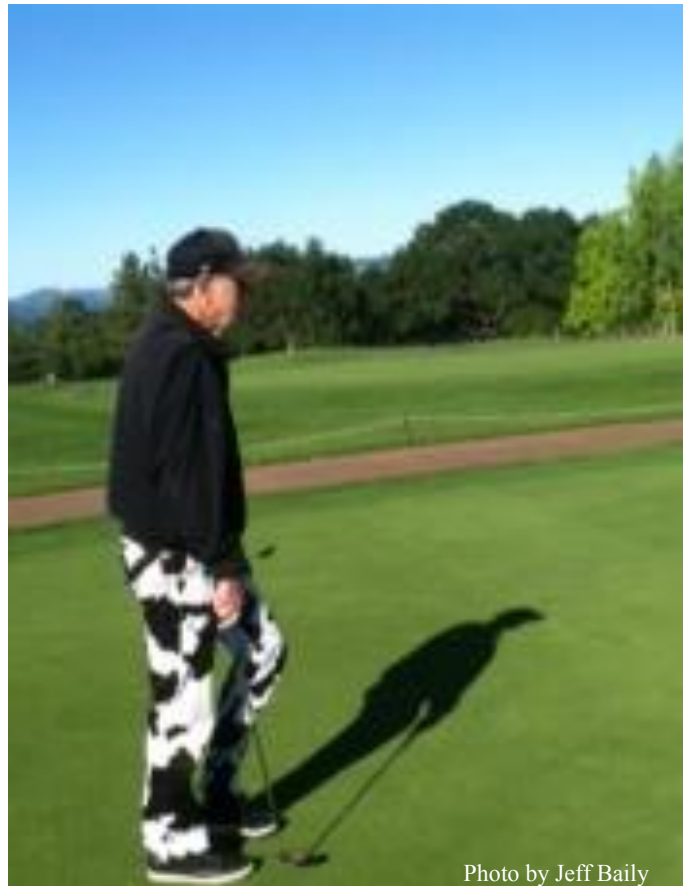


Photo by Jeff Bailly

**Steve Dawkins** warming up on the putting green

## Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

We have had a very successful month. It began with our monthly meeting where we conducted our annual silent auction and many of our anglers were able to purchase lots of gear at a reduced price.



Sturgeon fishing remained strong. **Gordon Linebaugh, Terry Miller, and Carl Moyer** caught several keepers on one trip, but released them in the hopes of tagging larger ones, given that the day limit is one fish and the annual limit is four fish. **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 caught a 60 lb sturgeon fishing on **Rich Fiscina's** boat on April 15. **Rich** wanted to be sure that this event made this month's SIR Call article and so he immediately called in from the boat. However, he had to interrupt the call when a 54 pounder struck his line. **Rich** landed the fish and then released it.

Striper fishing also picked up. **Mike Corker** landed a keeper striper while fishing for sturgeon with **Carl Moyer**. **Tom Kostik**, who fishes only for stripers and is quite expert at it, took **Terry Miller** out on his boat in a rainstorm. They ignored the rain and landed 38 fish, with 10 keepers up to 10 lbs. All but two were released. **Joe Karg** went fishing for sturgeon on a party boat. He did not catch any sturgeon but he did land a striper and came home with some sturgeon meat given to him by a kindly stranger. **Joe Miscione, Mario Moratorio, and Karl Droese** landed a bunch of stripers in Montezuma Slough as well as a near keeper sturgeon.

Trout fishing was also active. **Chuck Vanoncini** and his son fly fished at Henderson Springs Resort and caught and released over 50 trout weighing from four to seven pounds. Fishing at San Pablo Reservoir, **Terry Miller** caught a nice limit. His companion, **Harry Sherinian**, did not catch a limit but did land three fish between five and eight pounds. On other trips to San Pablo, **Mike Corker** caught a four pounder while **George Vogt, Gordon Linebaugh, George Schultz, Carl Moyer, Ron Maciak, and Barry Rauchle** caught near limits.

However, **Paul Dubow** and **Carl Moyer** came home empty handed fishing from shore at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir.

The salmon season began on April 5 and **Carl Moyer** commenced it on a high note, catching a 10 pounder fishing out of Moss Landing.

Finally, **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 and his son caught a mess of catfish on the Delta.

We will be very busy this spring with Delta fishing for sturgeon, stripers, and catfish; trout in mountain and local lakes; and salmon from the ocean. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 22, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but most of us arrive for breakfast at 7:30. All Sirs who have never fished or who have not fished for years are welcome. For further information, please contact branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at (415)495-6504.



Photo by Pete Gates

**Tom Boltz and Rich Fiscina** hold **Tom's** 60 lb. sturgeon



### Note from the Editor

We're looking for a Branch 146 member who would like to try his hand at the job of SIR Call Co-editor (in-training). Requirements are a computer and a publishing program such as **Pages** or **Microsoft Publisher**. I will work with the candidate for as long as it takes to get up to speed to share the job of editor.

**Jeff Baily** SIR Call Editor

### Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was delightfully hosted by **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** on April 8. The competition was out in force, evidenced by the relatively low scores and closeness of scoring results. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were noticeably shocked to learn they won first place, and with only 23 points. Subs **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** slipped into 2nd with 22.5 pts., while **Terry and Sharon Marchione** took 3rd with 21 pts.



### Book Corner

Ken Richter

Ladies, the SIR Luncheon on May 8, 2014 is your lucky day. The Book Corner will be open at 10:30 am and will remain open after the luncheon.

You are encouraged to bring books to share with others. This will also be a good time to pick up a few books for your summer reading.



### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday May 28, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Hwy Concord.

Our guest speakers will be Stacey L. Velez and Eswar C. Menon of Geneva Investment Management of Chicago, LLC. Their topic will be "Investment Opportunities in Emerging Markets." They will discuss growth, quality, valuation and the favorable demographics and emerging consumer in emerging markets around the world and Geneva's approach to investing in those markets.

Stacey is a financial advisor, with 14 years experience in providing investment management services and advice to high net worth individuals. Eswar is a Portfolio Manager on the Geneva Emerging Markets Equity and Geneva International Small Cap Strategies. Prior to joining Geneva, Eswar was a portfolio manager and equity analyst at WHV Investment Management. Previous to that, he founded Denahi Global Investments, LLC an investment advisor that managed a long-short hedge fund, the Denahi Asia Focus Fund LP. He also held portfolio management positions at Loomis Sayles & Co., L.P. and Nicholas-Applegate Capital Management.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 a.m., so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

Co-Chairmen:

Gary Moore (Br-174) 925-254-8742

David Sutton (Br-8) 925-686-0158

### 12 inches from an Ace



**Bill Laws** walking up to his par 3 tee shot.

Rumor has it that he missed the birdie putt.

*Just kidding*



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

## Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, May 15th at 9:30 am.

Our May presentation will be "Migrating from XP". As many of you already know, on April 8, 2014, Microsoft stopped their support for their Windows XP software and there are several ramifications of this move to individuals who still have an XP computer.

The basic question is: "How does this impact me and what should I do?" There are three basic options: 1) Continue to use your XP with perhaps some software modifications, 2) Convert your existing computer to Windows 7 or 8.1, or 3) Buy a new Windows 7 or 8.1 computer and transfer your stuff over to the new machine.

The three presenters, **Neil Schmidt, Phil Goff** and **Dean Steichen** will delve into these issues and explain how you can smoothly transition via each of these options. These presentations will also be a valuable learning experience for those who have already transitioned out of Windows XP.

Following the presentation, time permitting, there will be an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individual will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group. Bring your own Tips & Tricks to share with the group.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 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. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, other months are free.

## Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Our last game on Wed. April 16 was hosted by **John Gray** in Clayton. Six members attended; Host **John Gray, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson, Frank**

**Lucas, Brad Hatcher and Al Twyford**. It was another enjoyable afternoon of poker, especially for **Bob Larson** and **Norm Baietti**, who were the big winners. **Frank** is still on a losing streak, along with **Al** and **John**. **Brad** was a little loser this time. **John** provided snacks and a good red wine for us to enjoy along with our poker game for three hours on a beautiful day in Clayton. **Rich Ahlf** and **Sid Landman** could not join us this time. Our next game is scheduled at **Sid Landman's** house in Clayton on the second Wednesday in May, on the 14th. The May calendar has 5 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays which is very unusual. For this reason our normal game on the second Wed. will not be the day before our SIR May Ladies Luncheon. Just a little trivia for SIR members and our poker group. Along with poker, our members have plenty of jokes and stories to share with our players. As always, we look forward to the next game and the camaraderie in our group. **Al Twyford**

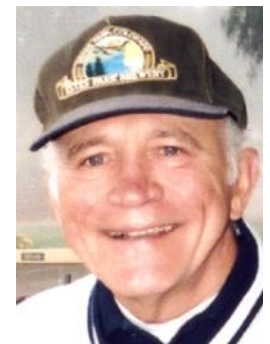


## Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

I was looking at past inputs to the Sir Call(over 80) and realized that Poker #4 has been in existence since October 2009 with the same members. The idea for a poker group came during an impromptu poker game with **Stu Somerville** and other Sirs when we were cruising down the Danube River. We discussed having a poker group in Branch 146.

There are now six poker groups in our branch. The May 26<sup>th</sup> poker game is hosted by Sir **Garth Cummings**.



*If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?*

## Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter



### May 13-25, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmatian Coast & Greece.

A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of call will include Zagreb, Split, Hvar, Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinner, and resident Grand Circle program director. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146, 689-6217.

### Sep 19-Oct 3, 2014: Grand Norwegian Coastal Voyage.

14 night trip starting in Bergen, Norway with a stay at a superior first class hotel before boarding your working Norwegian coastal vessel designed for comfortable cruising. You will visit 34 ports of call, with 12 orientation walking tours with a program manager. Additionally cost of \$4649 includes accommodations, 36 meals, audio headsets, all transfers and baggage handlings. Post trip to Copenhagen, Denmark also available. Contact **Bob Spellman** Br 146, 934-8428 for more information.

### Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to

**Provence** A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe MS River Venture and the MS River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$ 6499 to \$ 8299, which includes **airfare**, 22 nights accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 698-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

### Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise.

A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe MS River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The

prices range from \$3699 to \$ 6199 which includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French waterways: highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence.** A 12 day river cruise on the MS River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy regions. The prices range from \$ 3999 to \$ 6649. Trip includes 10 nights accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).



## Genealogy

Verner Laursen

The Genealogy group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Concord Family History Center at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. We start at 1:30 and go for about 2 hours. We have assistance from the staff at the Family

History Center. At the Center we have access to many sites that might have the information you are seeking.

The attendance has been low and we need more people to come to the meeting to keep this group going.

We are here to help those who are beginners and those who have some or a lot of information about their family. You do need access to a computer to enter your information. If you are a beginner we will help you avoid our mistakes. This is one of the functions where spouses are welcome. You do not need to come as a family.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and I will put you on my mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to genealogists.

Verner Laursen

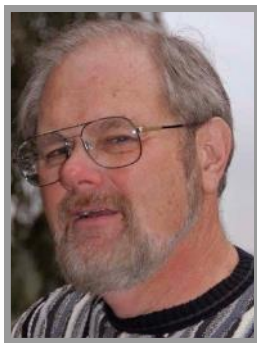
[vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)

*I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use. Toothpicks?*



## Theatre

Gary Schaub



What better way to spend a “lovely” summer evening than to sit under the stars at California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda for a production of George Bernard Shaw’s classic tale of communication and social status, *Pygmalion*.

SIR146 has reserved a select group of seats for this popular tale of the Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, who is transformed into a gentile young lady by phonetics professor Henry Higgins. If the names and the story sound familiar, that’s because Shaw’s 1912 play, *Pygmalion*, was adapted into the famous Broadway musical *My Fair Lady* in 1956.

*Pygmalion* was George Bernard Shaw’s most popular play, and it remains extremely popular today. Directed by Cal Shakes artistic director Jonathon Moscone, the SIR 146 theatre party evening with *Pygmalion* will be on Wednesday August 20 at the outdoor theatre just off Hwy 24 in Orinda. The play begins at 7:30 pm but the setting is an ideal location for a pre-show picnic and pre-show introduction to the play by a Cal Shakes staff member.

Tickets are \$46.50 per person, and may be reserved with a check (payable to SIR146) and sent to SIR **Gary Schaub**,

1400 Canyonwood Court #8, Walnut Creek, CA 94595. Deadline is July 10 or until our allocation has been reached.

Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.



### GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:

We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player.

In addition to regular stroke play, we have many

Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players.

There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf. Do you enjoy competing against SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events.

All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.

## Membership

Ben Gleason



### Branch 146 Statistics:

As of our Executive Committee meeting on April 10, we have 265 active members including our six Honorary Life Members.

We currently have two applicants awaiting BEC approval.

### Status Changes:

Inducted: **Todd Lockwood**

Moved to Inactive: **Bob Madge** and **Bob Wheaton**

Transferred or Deceased: **John Demos** passed away on March 27

### Changes to the Inactive Roster:

As noted above, **Bob Madge** and **Bob Wheaton** have been added. **Don Tubb** passed away March 22 and **Wiley Gilvin** resigned.

Our inactive roster therefore remains at 26.

*Why is it that when you transport something by car its called a shipment but when its transported by ship its called cargo?*



## Sunshine

John Pearl

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

**Elmer Kaprielian, Ron Pascoe, Chuck Cornell and Charlie Koeber.**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir membership can be advised. **John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair.

## Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

SIR Branch 146 luncheon was held on April 10 at the usual venue of the Boundary Oak Golf Club. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal of seared pork chops and filet of tilapia. The attendees numbered 217 including six guests, one visitor, one speaker and 208 members. The attendees listened to the guest speaker who gave an eye opening presentation about pensions of public employees in California. The next luncheon is Ladies Day on May 8.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Cooking II wine bottlers **Corrie Oranje** and **Bill Cammerer** bottling the 2014 vintage



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Martin Lyle**, bocce ball chair, doing luncheon duty at his table explaining the ins and outs of bocce ball, a SIR activity gaining in popularity

## Niners Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exception is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday when we go to the SIR lunch.



If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesday 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. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game.

Verner Laursen

[vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Corrie Oranje** and **Bob Yolland** talking with **Ray Kan** and **Elliott Kapchan** seated at the April luncheon.



## Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

*1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.*

*(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)*

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.

## Cribbage

John Pearl

Six of Branch 146's finest met at **Barney Meade's** home on a fine spring day, April 16th. We were quite busy exchanging pleasant-ries and then money. The big winner this month was past Big Sir **Dennis Hallett**. **Jeff Baily**, another former Big Sir was second while **Tony Greco** took home enough to cover his ante.



## Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The 3-table event was graciously hosted by **Brad Hatcher** on April 4. Congrats to **Dave Pierce** and **Max Hinkle**, who tied for 1st Place with 30 pts. A tie for 3rd went to **Tony Greco** and **Bill Schultz** with 28.5 pts. Last month, **Dave** won 1st and **Tony** 2nd, both wittingly or unwittingly now beginning a run for dynasty status in the months ahead. Hmm. Good luck with that!...



SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

**Jeff Baily**

Proofreaders

**Dick DeVoe** and **Cal Tucker**

Labeling & Mailing

**Bill Cammerer**

Internet Posting

**Ron Plachy**

## Photography

Richard Hockenbrock

**Jim Barry, Roy Hodgkinson, Bill Holly, Bill Klein** and guest **Bobbie Schmidt**

attended the photography meeting where we discussed bounce flash vs direct flash and outdoor fill in flash. The other subjects we discussed were shutter priority, aperture priority and ISO settings when taking pictures and why we should move away from the tendency to only use the "automatic" setting on our cameras. There are many free sites on the internet that deal with these subjects including this excellent one from Nikon... Go to <http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/Article/h0ndz86v/bokeh-for-beginners.html> if you are interested in learning more.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Here is a picture of my niece. A demonstration of how I made the background out-of-focus when I took her picture.

The next meeting of the Photography group will be held at our usual meeting place at 9am May 16th, Walnut Creek Library on Oak Grove Road. Members and guests are welcome.

Print this sheet, fill in and send  
or see alternate method below.

# Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$28.00 each

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Names & Entrée choices:

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### Salad

Caprese

Heirloom Tomato, Home Made Mozzarella  
Cheese

Basil Infused Oil, Balsamic Reduction

### Entrees

Grilled Marinated New York Steak  
Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes, Green  
Pepper Corn Sauce

Or

Grilled Mahi Mahi  
Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables and  
Grilled Pineapple Salsa

### Dessert

Red Velvet Layer Cake  
Berries and Crème Anglaise

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to:  
**Steve Dawkins**, 117 Alegra Lane,  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

All reservations and payments in full must be  
received by May 1st.

There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for any size group up to a full table of  
10, you can also send in full payment and list your  
companions and their entrée choices on an  
attached sheet.



## Walkers

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am at  
various locales.

Call **John** or just show up.

Rain cancels any walk.

May walks by **John Lewis**

May 2 Newhall Park, Concord

Meet: East on Ygnacio Valley Rd. Left on  
Ayers Rd. Left on Turtle Creek Rd. to park on  
right.

Walk: South around park. Return past Bocce  
Courts.

Coffee: Deli-Delight, Shadelands, Walnut  
Creek

May 9 Heather Farms Walk off Ygnacio  
Valley Rd.

Meet: Heather Farms Swim Club parking

Walk: Trail around Heather Farms

Coffee: Sweet Affair, Ygnacio Plaza

May 16 St. Mary's Walk, St. Mary's Rd.  
Moraga

Meet: Parking lot across from St. Mary's

Walk: St. Mary's Campus

Coffee: School Cafeteria

May 23 Shell Ridge Open Space

Meet: End of Marshall. From Ygnacio Valley  
Rd. south on Homestead to left on Marshall.

Walk; Shell Ridge out and back

Coffee: Countrywood Panera, Bancroft and  
Treat

May 30 Lafayette-Moraga Trail

Meet: Parking lot west end of Olympic Blvd.

Walk: West on Lafayette-Moraga Trail

Coffee: Walnut Creek Panera on Locust St.

*What is Celibacy?*

*Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition  
imposed by circumstances.*

*While attending a Marriage Weekend, Frank and his  
wife Ann listened to the instructor declare, "It is  
essential that husbands and wives know the things  
that are important to each other."*

*He then addressed the men.*

*"Can you name and describe your wife's favorite  
flower?"*

*Frank leaned over, touched Ann's arm gently, and  
whispered,*

*"Gold Medal-All-Purpose, isn't it?"*

*And thus began Frank's life of celibacy.*

*Steve Siljestrom*

## Bowling

Larry Mitchell

The annual Branch 146 tournament was completed on March 19 but the results were not available before the April deadline had passed. Branch 146 bowlers in the competition were **Baha Zarah**, who did doubles with **Bill Pope** and **Jim Adams** with his wife **Ruth**. Sad to say, none of the branch 146 bowlers finished in the money; however I think it's worth mentioning that a couple of our local lads made good. **Dean Lucas** (Br. 19) took first place in singles and **Bill Reading** (Br. 123) came in second. The high game in the tournament was bowled by **Wiley Bobo**, a sterling 278. He got one spare and the rest were strikes!

Sir league continues with **Larry Mitchell** and **Jim Adams** in second place. **Dean Lucas** and **Jay Verlinden** are in first.



## Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a super wine bottling function at the beautiful home of **Bruce** and **Susan Borgman** on Monday April 14th. This year we bottled a very nice California Chardonnay. As usual the wives were included and everyone contributed to the meal with significant appetizers, vegetables / starch dishes, and super desserts. Our hosts cooked an excellent chicken and wine sauce entree. Each Cooking II member received 14 bottles of wine which put the cost at about \$5 per bottle. A special thank you goes to **Bill Cammerer** and **Corrie Oranje** for picking up the wine in Half Moon Bay, and **Don Nunn** for making the customized labels. Upon ample sampling of this year's chardonnay and last year's Sangiovese, everyone agreed that both were excellent vintages. On a special note, Cooking II would like to welcome **Steve Dawkins** to our group as a permanent member.



*Dana Perino (FOX News) describing an interview she recently had with a Navy SEAL. After discussing all the countries that he had been sent to, she asked if they had to learn several languages?*

*"Oh, no ma'am. We don't go there to talk."*

## Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan



Over the last few months I have been asking members if there are some additional activities they would enjoy and there are.

I have heard from several different Sirs who would like to be part of a group that does one of the following:

Meet regularly to play Mexican Train Dominoes. Several members have already expressed their interest.

Get together periodically with members playing musical instruments. Interest has already been expressed by members with guitars, brass horns i.e. trumpet, etc., possibly piano, keyboard, etc..

Study and discuss the subject of Astronomy.

Play board games such as Scrabble, Strat-O-Matic baseball game, Risk, etc..

Hold seasonal BBQ cooking get-togethers.

If you would like to join one or more of these activities or have another activity that the branch is not currently offering – or you are interested in a current Branch 146 activity where limited or no space is available, please contact me by e-mail or phone (see Directory for contact info). Let me know what interests you.

I will follow up with you to see if a new activity and/or group might be organized and help determine the best day and time to meet for those who are interested.

This is your SIR Branch – I can help you to get involved as much as you want! Please contact me asap so these or other possible activities can move forward.

*Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?*

## ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry



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

THE COOPERAGE AMERICAN GRILLE

Just recently opened in the former location that "Petars" had for many years, the remodeled dining room features a glass encased rotisserie oven to slow-cook meat to perfection using the freshest organically grown and locally sourced ingredients. The owners/management come from a long line of operating successful national restaurants under the name McCormick and Schmick's and including Spengers.

Separate checks provided for your convenience.

Location: 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette CA

(valet parking optional and suggested)

Website: [www.thecooperagelafayette.com](http://www.thecooperagelafayette.com)

Phone: 925-871-4099

Please let me know before/on Tuesday may 13th, that you will join us. Your suggestions are welcomed.

## Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group played 4 tables of bridge on Apr 21 at **Jim Todhunter's** house.

**Fred Kover** was mired in the middle of the pack at the lunch break but then found some

helpful partners or some hot cards and streaked into first place at the end of the day with a score of 44.0 pt. **Carl Johnson**, on the other hand, played a very steady game and his 42.5 pt edged out **Bill Rees's** 42.0 pt for



second place. Fourth place was claimed by one of our subs, **Brad Hatcher**, with 39.0 pt. Our next game is scheduled for May 19 at **Bill Snyder's** house. This game will be a 3 table game.



If you haven't been yet, you need to go to Heather Farms and see the roses. They are spectacular right now. Roses are the "queen" of all flowers and there are many, many kinds. The most common and the center of attraction at Heather Farms are the hybrid tea roses. They typically have one flower on each stem, bloom most of the summer and grow 2–6 feet high. On the north side of the rose garden is a climbing rose called "Polka". It looks just wonderful this year and it is the product of the SIR Garden Club pruning project. Each January the Garden Club vigorously cuts the rose back, removes all the dead wood and ties the canes to their supports. That is what makes gardening so enjoyable as the plants never fail to reward.

Probably the most popular plant we all grow are tomatoes. The Contra Costa Times had a recent article on how to succeed at this endeavor. In summary, here are their tips... Plant deep. Cut off lower leaves and bury plant in ground leaving five inches above the ground. This makes the plant stronger. In the hole before planting, throw in bone meal, organic material and a couple of aspirin. This lowers the plants blood pressure during stressful times. Just kidding! The aspirin does boost the plant's immune system. Finally, water thoroughly, stake the plant immediately or use a cage and once the tomato flowers and sets fruit, fertilize once a week. No planned meetings or activities for the Garden Club this month.

*Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?*

## Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On May 9th we will be hiking Redwood Regional Park. This is an easy 4.1 mile loop which drops into a redwood canyon and then climbs back to a nearly level trail and returns to the trailhead. Hiking time about 2.5 hours. We will meet at the Skyline Gate Staging area at about 10:00 am. Bring a lunch and water. Trail surface: Dirt fire roads and trails. Exposure: Shaded in the canyon, partial sun on the ridges. Driving directions; take CA 13 south. After about 3 miles, take the next left and then go straight onto Joaquin Miller. Drive uphill about 1 mile, then turn left at a light onto Skyline Boulevard (look for the brown park sign before the turn). Drive about 3 miles (you'll pass the Chabot Space Center) and turn right into the parking lot and staging area. There is a \$5.00 fee, so I recommend we carpool. Please let me know if you intend on coming so I can arrange a meeting point. See you there. Spouses welcome.  
rahlf@sbcglobal.net



## Tuesday Scramble



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



Photo by Bill Schultz



## Activities Tables at the April Luncheon

Where newcomers find out about some of the many activities that SIR Branch 146 offers. They visit such tables as Fishing, Hiking or Bocce Ball, ask questions, find out how much fun can be had, sign up and start meeting many other Sirs. Develop friendships.