



Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

We experienced another great luncheon in April, our last at the Hilton Hotel. We welcomed two new members to our ranks: **Joe Starkey** sponsored by **Steve Ondeck** and **Lee Clark**, and **Steve Lane** sponsored by **Rich Ahlf**. In addition, there were three guests at the luncheon who we hope will decide to join our branch in June.

Also at April's meeting, **Bill Weinberg** received the Branch Honoree Merit Award and **Jim Burk** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to Branch 146.

Our very popular May Ladies Day Luncheon is literally just around the corner on Thursday, May 12th as we return to the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. We will be entertained by Comedienne **Sandra Risser**. Our ladies look forward to this event which is by reservation only. The cost is \$28 per person or \$56 per couple. Sirs without partners are also welcome and no tickets will be sold at the door.

Please go to Page 20 in this issue for the menu options and sign-up instructions. There is not much time left to submit your reservation, as the deadline for signing-up is Tuesday, May 3rd. This means your check has to be sent right away to **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213.

The popular Book Nook will be available at the Ladies Day Luncheon. **Hank James** informs me that there will be a large selection of books for us to choose from.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, please give him a call this month and invite him to attend June's luncheon. This is our next opportunity to bring a guest.

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 12th

Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Entertainment By:
Comedienne Sandra Risser

Gathering time – 10:45 am

Seating time – 11:45 am

Make Reservations with Steve Ybarra by May 3rd
Reservation form on Page 20



She'll Tickle
Your
Funny Bone

Comedienne **Sandra Risser**

Important Reminder

After returning to the Boundary Oak Clubhouse for the Ladies Day Luncheon, all remaining 2016 luncheons will be held there on our regularly scheduled meeting date, the 2nd Thursday of the month. This also means that the deadline for reporting an absence from the luncheon to the luncheon chairman, or that you are bringing a guest, will be 12:00 noon the Friday before the luncheon.



Little Sir's Corner

Alan Elnick

Welcome back to Boundary Oak as we return to our normal schedule of every second Thursday of the month beginning with our Ladies Day Luncheon on May 12th. Our entertainment will be **Sandra Risser**, wife of our very own **Mike Risser**. **Sandra** is a comedienne of note in the Bay Area and has performed at such venues as the Original Purple Onion-San Francisco, LA Comedy Club-Las Vegas, and The Comedy Store-Hollywood. She has been a featured performer for such notables as Paul Ogata, Huck Flynn, Larry "Bubbles" Brown, and Will Durst. Appreciative of her special connection to SIR, she promises to make our luncheon special for us.

I have written before about the need for volunteerism to assure the continuing success of our Branch. With that in mind, I would like to thank **Milton Smith** who has stepped up and taken on the role of Travel Chair. It is a challenging assignment, and Travel is a popular activity for our SIR Branch. Now if you can get us a tournament at St. Andrews...

One last reminder, our next regular luncheon will be June 9th at Boundary Oak. Please make sure to call or email before the deadline if you will be unable to attend. Our commitments on the number of meals to prepare are difficult to project if we cannot get a reliable count on attendance. All active members, no matter your membership status, should honor this call-in request. See you at the lunch or on the links.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

In April we had another good month for inducting members. We added two new active members and lost none. We now have 283 active members – an increase of four for the year. **Bob Madge**, who had been inactive for two years, resigned. Keep up the good work in bringing guests and making an effort to meet and greet the new members. Remember, the new guys are the ones with the yellow badges. Please make them feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in April 2016



Steve Lane



Joe Starkey

Inactive member resigned:

Bob Madge



Bill Weinberg receives the Branch Honoree Merit Award from Big Sir **Walt Busenius**



Jim Burk is presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to Branch 14,6 by Big Sir **Walt Busenius**

Give me golf clubs, fresh air and a beautiful partner, and you can keep the clubs and the fresh air.
-Jack Benny



Photo by Bill Schultz

Sir **Jack Calloway**, center is welcomed to the April luncheon by **Pete Plante** and **Don Adolphson**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Pat Lucia & **Max Hinkle** at the April Luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Gary Schaub leans on **Bob Darius** while **Walt Schmidt** looks on. Was **Gary** actually catching a couple of ZZs while he was waiting to get his drink?



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

- **Ken Richter**
- **Roy Luoma**
- **Tom Gorman**
- **Bob Walton**
- **Lynn Freeman**
- **Bill Hansen**
- **Jim Bogue**

I am sorry to report the deaths of long-time Sir **Harry Tutton** on March 25th and Sir **Art Ainscough** on April 22nd. Please include their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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. Please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are near 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

mcpearl@astound.net

(925) 934-6920



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

April SIR Luncheon at the Hilton Hotel

SIR Happenings Newsletter

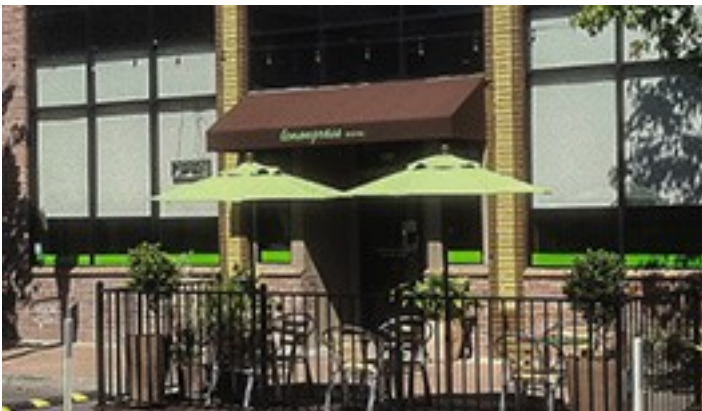
SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out event is undergoing some evolution since we have had more than 70 diners in our last two outings. It is difficult to find restaurants that can comfortably seat this large a group for dinner as well as accommodate the social hour. After an informal survey, we have decided to alternate with smaller capacity restaurants. So, for May we have decided on Lemongrass Bistro, an award winning Asian fusion restaurant in Martinez. The cuisine is Thai, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Malayan influences. We will have the event on May 16th, and will have two starters: Avocado Rolls and Chicken Skewers; a salad and a soup; and three shared entrees which include Garlic Prawns, Mango Chicken, and Pad Thai along with a special fried rice dish. It promises to be a scrumptious meal in this special restaurant.



We have sent out an email to those on our mailing list and distributed flyers at our luncheon earlier this month. With this publicity, as of this writing we are already just shy of our maximum capacity of 50 diners. If you wish to be added, send an email to me at bgborgman@aol.com, and we will add you to our waiting list if we have exceeded our capacity. We are pleased that the current sign-up list includes some new Sirs and their spouses and are looking forward to a great evening! Thank you all for your support of this fun activity!

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editors

Jeff Baily & Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Birthday Boy Lucky Drawing Winner for April—**Paul Masta**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dave Devincenzi talks with **Curley Kade** before the April SIR Luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

04.19.2016

Golfers waiting to tee off are **Walt Busenius, Jeff Baily, and Charlie Abrams**



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The big event this month was an excursion led by **Ernie Wong** to Pyramid Lake for cutthroat trout.

Rich Fiscina, Pete Gates, Tom Boltz, and Chuck Cornell of Branch 146 all attended along with **Harry Sherinian, Pedro Contreras, Ben**

LaSala, and Steve Paulick. The group fished from ladders placed just off the shore and were very successful. The expedition was topped off by dinners at **Pedro's** vacation home near the lake.

We also held our annual fishing gear auction at our last meeting. Our members walked away with some bargain booty and our treasury was nicely augmented so everybody was happy.

Delta fishing this month was good by and large. **Karl Droese** and **Dick Thomson** fished with a guide for stripers and caught limits up to 13 lbs. **Mike Corker, Terry Miller, Harry Sherinian, Carl Moyer, and Tom Kostik** fished for stripers with mixed success but, on one of the outings, **Carl** landed a keeper sturgeon. **Tom Boltz** and **Rich Fiscina** had a terrific sturgeon outing, with both landing keeper sturgeons. But **Pete Gates** and **Pedro Contreras** only picked up shaker sturgeon while fishing with **Rich** and **Tom** one week later.

On the trout front, **Jeff Sturm, Stan Wong, Mike Corker, Reggie Fromm** of Branch 146, **George Vogt, Gordon Linebaugh, and Carl Moyer** worked San Pablo Reservoir with scattered results. **George** and **Carl** limited out, but other attempts resulted in from one to four fish per venture. Shadow Cliffs Reservoir was even less productive, when two visits by **George Schulze, Lee Clark** of Branch 146, and **Carl Moyer** led to the boating of a single trout.

We have quite a few outings planned in the next few months. In addition to our regular visits to San Pablo Reservoir, Shadow Cliffs Reservoir, and the Delta, we have scheduled trout trips to Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, and Collins Lake, a striper excursion to New Hogan Reservoir, and a number of forays on the ocean seeking salmon and rockfish.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 26th at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but breakfast is available at 7:30. As always, active fishermen not presently in the group, former fishermen, and SIR members who would like to take up fishing are welcome. For further information, contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.

(See photo on page 6)



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Huckleberry Botanic
Regional Preserve

On May 13th, 2016 we will be hiking Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. This is an easy 3 mile hike on a single track trail through the deep redwoods. This small preserve sits on an unusual

deposit of shale and chert - "poor soil" that's well suited to native plants. Huckleberry is a little oasis of manzanita gorgeous woodland of madrone, California bay, ferns, coast live oak, hazelnut, and currant. This is like hiking in an arboretum.

Directions: take Exit 7A onto Fish Ranch Road, the first post-Tunnel Exit- stay in the right lane. Drive north on Fish Ranch Road about 1 mile, then turn left onto Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Drive 2.4 miles, then turn left onto Skyline Boulevard, Drive 0.6 mile on Skyline, then turn left into the preserve parking lot.

Briones Regional Park

Our next hike will be at Briones Regional Park on Friday May 20, 2016. We will meet at the Bear Creek Staging Area at 10am. This will be a 6 mile hike on the Old Briones Road, Briones Crest and Abrigo Valley trails.

We will visit the Sindicich Lagoons and then stop for lunch or a snack at Wi-Ta-Chi group camp. There are some moderate uphill's and downhill's involved, so you might find hiking poles useful. I give this a 7 SIR rating as it's about 6 miles long and only a 400ft elevation gain. *Dogs are allowed on this trail.*

To reach the staging area from Hwy 24, take the Orinda exit and turn toward Richmond/El Sobrante at the bottom of the ramp onto Camino Pablo. Follow Camino Pablo thru Orinda for a few miles and you will reach a stoplight at Bear Creek Road (on the right). Turn right onto Bear Creek Road and follow it about 4 miles to the entrance *on your right.* Turn left at the (unmanned) entrance kiosk into the lower parking lot. Make sure you're at East Bay Regional Park, not at East Bay Mud.

If you wish to carpool meet at the turnoff at St Stevens Rd off Hwy 24 at 9:30 am, turn right and park on El Nino Rd where there is plenty of parking.

Spouses always welcome

Rich Ahlf

Cell (925) 550-4967

rahlf@sbcbglobal.net

Photo is by Rich Fiscina



Fishing Group member **Tom Boltz** shows off his keeper sturgeon

A very elderly gentleman, (mid nineties) very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar is an elderly looking lady, in her mid-eighties.

The gentleman walks over, sits alongside of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Our photo field trip this month took us to downtown Walnut Creek to shoot pictures in the dark, well almost dark. We had an enjoyable time with **Rich Lyon, Roy Hodgkinson, Bill Holly, Henry Thatcher, and Harvey Oxman.**

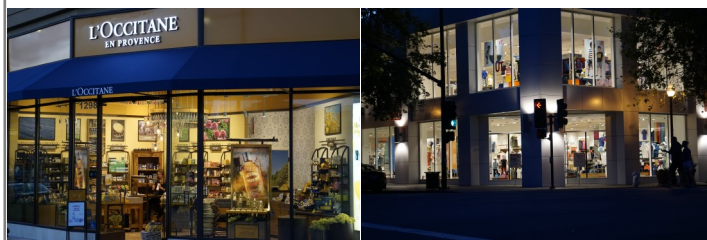
The pictures we shot provided some surprises as you can see below.



Pictures by **Bill Holly**



Pictures by **Harvey Oxman**



Pictures by **Roy Hodgkinson**

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

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Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subjects: Will be announced in the June SIR CALL

When: June 24th at 9:00 am



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II on April 11th took our wives out to dinner at Il Pavone restaurant. All eight regular members attended the early bird special dinner with lots of good conversation and wine. We had a choice of soup or salad, six entrees, and dessert for a very reasonable price. Everyone came away full and satisfied. Thank you **Bruce Borgman** for setting it up with the restaurant. Our next event will be Monday May 9th at **Dennis Hallett's** home.



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs have continued to practice the "City Songs" which include 'New York, New York', 'Pittsburgh', 'New Orleans', 'Mention My Name in Sheboygan', 'Sioux City Sue', and 'San Francisco', as well as two other favorites – 'It's a Lovely Day Today', and 'Always'.

Our quartet has been practicing separately from our regular rehearsals and will add three songs to this repertoire – 'Let me Call You Sweetheart', 'My Wild Irish Rose', and 'When You Wore a Tulip'. We will sing this full program for the VIP group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church on May 4th. Since our pianist will be traveling, we will do these selections a capella – and we sound pretty good even without accompaniment!

Then, we will start on a new selection of songs, which we will sing for the Walnut Creek Senior Center later in the summer. We are actively seeking new members for our group – we need new voices to blend with the present group. We are grateful for our pianist, **Steve Dinning**, who has not only brought his piano playing talent, but also has a tremendous library of music which we will be able to select from along with our other favorites. Join us as we practice at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masse's gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.



Sal Costanza with brother Angelo and Big Fish Paul Debow



Jim Barry, Bill Weinberg, Rob Binder, and George Mon at the April SIR luncheon

A helicopter is a collection of rotating parts going round and round and reciprocating parts going up and down - all of them trying to become random in motion. Helicopters can't really fly - they're just so ugly that the earth immediately repels them.



Luncheon Chairman

Max Hinkle

GOODBYE HILTON:

Attendance at the April luncheon was by far the lowest of any of our four luncheons held at the Hilton this year—down by 24 from the January luncheon and seven less than our April 2015 luncheon also held at the Hilton. Only 64% of our members were in attendance. That is the lowest percentage of any of our regular luncheons held during the past 16 months.

There were 74 timely notifiers for this luncheon so I was expecting a smaller than usual number of “no shows”. That was the most timely notifiers we’ve had for any luncheon during my tenure in this office—a period of 16 months. It didn’t turn out that way however, as we had 27 no shows, the most at any luncheon during that period. Because of that unexpected high number of no shows we had to pay for eight more meals than we consumed. I had guaranteed payment for 195 meals; we consumed only 187, 180 by members and 7 by non-members. However, I expect that reimbursements from no shows will more than cover the costs of those eight meals.

I am happy to report that almost all of the comments I’ve received from members about the April meal were positive. I enjoyed working with the catering staff at the Concord Hilton. I think they tried really hard to make our luncheons a success. I will miss the Hilton’s sound system and **Dick Brooks**, our friend from Branch 8, who volunteered his services and expertise in making that system work to perfection.

HELLO BOUNDARY OAK: Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY, JUNE 9th, 2016 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. I will have more to say about that luncheon in the June Newsletter. Until then enjoy your break from all of my boilerplate.

The mad scientist made a clone of himself, but something went wrong—all the clone wanted to do was stick his head out of the third-story window and shout dirty words at passersby. Embarrassed by the display, the scientist didn't know what to do. Seeing no other option, he pushed the clone out the window.

He was arrested a short time later for making an obscene clone fall.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group at 2 pm Thursday, May 19th at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 going North: (I'm sure you can figure this out from other areas) exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, straight to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood, slight left stay on Blackwood, sharp right on Ward. Alan's home is on the left. If you get lost, call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome.

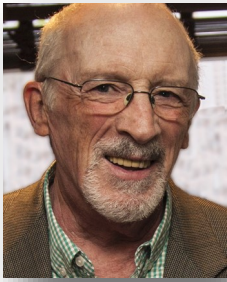
Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups, and enjoy leading this group. **Alan** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Danzig mysteriously wearing **Bill Hansen's** badge clowns with **Bob Burley** at the April luncheon



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Our April Fool's Mexican Train Dominoes group 3 games were an action packed time at the home of **Steve** and **Linda Siljestrom**. All engines were well stoked with treats

by **Linda** including this delicious & creative carrot cake.

Substitute player, **Jim Baldridge** at table two drove his train to take the lead by going out quickly. Going out at tables 1 & 3 were historic winner, **Judy Richmond** and substitute player **Lew**



Thompson. **Alicia Baily** then caught and passed the **Richmond** train to take overall 3rd place with a score of 16.8. At table 2, multi tasking **Sally Shafer**, knitting a scarf for a lucky grandchild while drafting behind the caboose of the **Jim Baldridge** train, came in an easy 2nd with 15.1 while **Jim Baldridge** drifted downhill to cross the finish line first, scoring an impressive low for the night of 10.8.

Mike & Sharon Varner hosted the 2nd and official April #3 games night on Friday the 22nd. First place was won by substitute **Lew Thompson** with an average of 13.11 going out twice and 2 low scores of 1 and 5. **Walt Busenius**, closed in on **Lew** to secure second place with a final of 13.11 including going out twice. **Alicia Baily** came in 3rd. **Alicia** never went out but did achieve the low scores of 2, 6 and 8 to earn a place in the winners' circle. Thank you **Mike** and **Sharon** for a great evening and the delicious strawberry cheesecake and munchies.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

At our gathering on April 21st, we were joined by **Jim** and **Judy Baldridge**. We met at the home of **Dennis** and **Ann Hallett** and our reception time was enhanced by a

tour of their new and quite beautifully remodeled master bath. It was spectacular! We also had the opportunity to spend quality time with everyone and get caught up on their respective life's journeys. The format of our get together has proven to result in a wonderful and rich time of sharing with each other. A special thank you to



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Al and **Helene Twyford**

hosted us at their home April 22nd. There was an abundance of delicious food which was enjoyed by all. The **Twyford's** rearrange their main

living area to comfortably accommodate all three tables which provides a competitive atmosphere because each table can hear and see what is going on at the other tables. Seventeen players gathered to play and be stunned by the low scores posted, one exceptional player at each table. **Ismeni MacLean**, at the white table, won first place with an average game score for the evening of 12.0; **Phyllis Meehan**, at the blue table, won second place with an average score of 17.3; and **Rich Ahlf**, at the red table, won third place with a score of 19.1. For comparison, the other average game scores for the evening ran from 26.6 to 49.2. Congratulations to the winners. The competition is getting tougher!

We look forward to playing at **Ron** and **Anne Plachy's** on May 27th where the results of the 2016 five-month pot for January to May are resolved.



Photo by Dick Woodman

Clockwise, **Phyllis Meehan**, **Mary Denny**, **Al Twyford**, **Ron Plachy** and **Etta Dodson** during a game of Mexican Train Dominoes

Jerry Kaplan and the groups that preceded us in setting the template for this success. We enjoyed a delicious Bundt cake from "Nothing Bundt Cake" in Walnut Creek as our evening's dessert. As for the MT dominoes competition, we played six games and the winner was **Dave Pierce**, followed by **Judy Baldridge** in second, and **Dennis Hallett** in third. As is often the case, we came up with questions for the "rules committee" to contemplate, with maybe the most interesting being; Can a player who never starts their own train legally go on to win that particular game? Stand by for the results of this research into Hispanic custom with respect to dominoes. Next month should prove very exciting as we will celebrate Cinco de Mayo.



**Mexican Train Dominoes
Group 4
(El Quattro)
Jim Pope**

El Quattro Mexican Train Domino group met on April 15th, tax day. Crying towels were available. We had a group of 14 in attendance so we had two great tables of 7. The competition was fierce and again the women dominated the scores. They are tough.

An assortment of goodies were provided - from Italian pizelle cookies, chocolate butterscotch bars, brownies, and wine by the group. The evening was enjoyed by all.



**Mexican Train Dominoes
Group 1 (UNO)
Jerry Kaplan**

The Mexican Train Group One's most recent game night was held at Sir **Jerry Kaplan's** and his wife, **Susan's** home in Walnut Creek on tax day, April 15th. That date did not seem to bother the **Hockenbrocks**, since Sir **Richard's** wife, **Sherry** won the first place prize money of \$20.00, with **Richard** placing second, taking home \$10.00. Not bad for a couple's night out! Third place went to Sir **Corrie Oranje's** wife, **Sue**.

We have only one more month to play in May before the semi-annual pot (now expected to total about \$75.00) will be divided up among the best three scorers over the five month period. Sir **Jeff Bailly**, playing for three consecutive months as a substitute, has the lowest average score, followed by **Sue Oranje** and Sir **Jim Stedman**.



Photo by Jim Pope

Group four (El Quattro) - A happy and enthusiastic group ready for their first games of Mexican Train Dominoes April 15th.



Photo by Alicia Bailly

Looking over **Marie Ascatigno** shoulder, **Sue Sheldon's** hand is ready to make a move while **Nancy Kalteis** and **Corrie Orange** look on in MTD Group 1 action

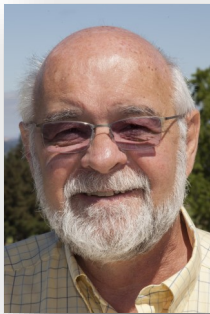


**Cribbage
John Pearl**

The Cribbage Group of Branch 146 gathered on Wednesday afternoon, April 27th, at **John Pearl's** home for another exhilarating round of cribbage and serious discussion. The winner this month was **Paul Dubow**, who never left his "lucky chair" the entire afternoon. **John George**, one of our newer members came in second. One highlight of our meeting was viewing **John George's** solid titanium cribbage board, something very unusual.

We will meet again on Wednesday, May 25th.

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen. I've changed my will three times!"



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

On Wednesday, April 20th approximately 32 SIR members and wives met at the home of **Peter and Gabriela Bishop**. We tasted white wines from Germany and red wines from Italy. As usual, the wine and the appetizers combined with the nice weather and great friends made for a very enjoyable afternoon. Instead of a drawing for prizes, we judged the wine tasting sheets as sparse as they were. **Joe Stengel** won a bottle of red wine and **Tony Shebanek** was the white wine winner. It only took a couple of right answers (guesses) to win. As always, we thanked our host and hostess with a bottle of wine. Our next event will be July 20th at the home of **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**. If you are not on the distribution list and would like to be invited, please contact **Rob Melrose** at (925) 228-4768 or email rwmelrose@gmail.com



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Longer Trips

September 13–27, 2016:

Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin

This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and, finally, 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact **Milt Smith** (Br 146) at (925) 280-0328 or email miltsmith549@gmail.com

*(Editor's Note: **Walt Schmidt** has been very active in organizing this trip and is available to answer any questions you may have about the trip. You can contact him at (925) 943-1741 or email: waltnmis@aol.com)*



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Red wine winner **Joe Stengel** is congratulated by **Rob Melrose**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Susan and Big Sir **Walt Busenius** seem to be enjoying themselves and the Bishop's beautiful backyard.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Tony Shebanek being congratulated by **Rob Melrose** on his winning the White Wine guessing game



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Rob thanking **Peter** and **Gabriela Bishop** for opening their beautiful home and hosting the wine tasting event



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Margot Somerville hosted six couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on April 20th on three tables. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge as well as **Margot's** snacks, dessert and wines. The group welcomed **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman**. As for the bridge results, **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** came in first with 23 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** took second with 21 points. In third place were **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** with 20.5 points. **George Zunich** and **Susi Cherry** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on March 16th at **Susi's** home.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

George Zunich hosted 3 tables of duplicate bridge for DB Group 1 on April 14th. The day started well for **Dave Pierce** who scored 17.0 points to lead the pack into the lunch break. **Dave** was followed closely by **Bob Yolland's** 16.5 pt and **Lo McCarley's** 14.5 pt. The rest of the field was far out of sight at this break. In a very unusual turn of events, **Dave's** good play in the morning continued into the afternoon as he lead all challengers with a first place score of 29.5 pt. **Lo McCarley** finished in second place, one position higher than his morning ranking, with 27.0 pt. **Max Hinkle** came from out of nowhere to grab the third spot with 26.0 pt

Our May game returns to our traditional third Monday and it's scheduled for May 16th at **Jim Stedman's** house.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

It was a close match when **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** hosted us on April 12th; nearly everyone was close to average. The hosts took third (51%). It was wonderful to have **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** back with us after a short absence; they were second (55%), and **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were first (57½%). **Ken** and **Elaine** bid and made one slam; **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** bid and made two. The evening ended happily for all as we celebrated **Linda Boyan's** birthday. Many happy returns (and many more slams).

Terry Marchione [filed by Dave Pierce, 932-3877]



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

It was April Fool's Day when **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** hosted a motley bunch of bridge players. There was foolish bidding but probably no more than usual with this bunch. At the lunch-time turn, **Doug Eisner** lay 4th (54.2%), **Harvey Oxman** 3rd (58.3%), **Bob Yolland** 2nd (66.7%), and **Dave Steinberg** 1st (72.9%). We usually see a collapse by the morning leaders but perhaps the rest of us were fools to expect it today. In the final standings, **Bob Yolland** and **Tony Greco** tied for 4th (55.2%), **Doug Eisner** slipped past them into 3rd (57.3%), and **Harvey** (58.3%) retained his earlier 2nd place.

Dave Steinberg (70.8%) was the big winner, not only for this day but also for the past 15 months! No one has scored 70+% before. **Dave** also had 12 top boards, which tied him with **Tony** for highest ever. Congratulations to all. *(Filed by Dave Pierce on behalf of Dick DeVoe)*



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge at the home of **Max Hinkle** on April 4th. First place went to **Lo McCarley** with 6250 points, second went to **Bob Yolland** with 5080, and close behind for third was **Jim Brown** with 5060. Our next game will be at the home of **Jim Stedman** on May 2nd.

Engineering Conversions

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = Won ton



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

We do love our subs, but it was wonderful to have all the regulars together when **Terry and Sharon Marchione** hosted us on April 5th. The hosts were rewarded for their usual warm and tasty hospitality by coming in third with 2960 points, to recover their entry fee. Just barely ahead were **Joan and Dave Pierce** (3170); **Joan** bid and made 6 Diamonds. Not to be outdone, **Doug and Patti Eisner** bid two slams and racked up an awesome 4730. But the highlight of the evening was getting to sing Happy Birthday to a slightly blushing **Pam Rammell**.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 3

Sid Landman

SIR duplicate bridge group 3 held their April game at the home of **Harvey Oxman** on Friday, April 15th with 12 players and three tables of duplicate bridge.

First place ended up with three people tied at 28.5 points; **Bob Yolland, Bill Schultz** and **Jim Brown**. We believe this is the first time there was a three way tie for first at a SIR duplicate bridge game. In fourth place was **Roger Peters** who ended up with a total score of 28 points, only 0.5 points behind the three first place winners.

We look forward to the next game in May when we will try and get four people to tie for first place and avoid anyone having to come in second.

Kids in Church

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."



Photo by Bill Schultz

Russ Bliese, Don Rhoads, David Steinberg, Alan Elnick, and Bob Yolland ready for a round of golf



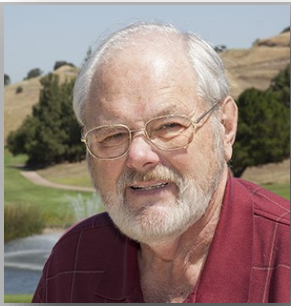
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Mike Varner and Pete Miller enjoying a good laugh at the April luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron Afdal and Ed Best enjoying the April luncheon



Theatre Gary Schaub



Baseball, summer and a family in crisis come together in *Fences*, a powerful drama by the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1987. A SIR 146 Theatre party of *Fences* is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20th at 7:30 pm at the open-air California Shakespeare Theatre in Orinda.

August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize Winning Drama is SIR 146 Theatre Party for July

Fences by August Wilson is a stunning dramatic work that has won critical acclaim. Not only did *Fences* win the Pulitzer Prize but, also, the 1987 Tony Award for Best Broadway Play, starring James Earl Jones. The Broadway play was later made into a film starring Denzel Washington. The focus is on Troy, a 53-year-old former baseball player in the 1950's, who was unable to break into the Major Leagues in his younger years. He now lives a menial, though respectable life, collecting trash with his wife and son in an Eastern industrial town.

The play centers around a father, his wife and teen-age son, and his brother, and the challenges they face in their lives with the place in society that has been given to them.

August Wilson is one of a handful of America's most prolific and respected playwrights. His productions of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson* and *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* joined *Fences* in winning critical acclaim. *Fences* is part of Wilson's Century cycle of exploring the evolving African-American experience. The playwright died in 2005.

A limited number of discount tickets have been set aside for SIR 146 members and guests. Deadline for ordering is June 15th. Tickets are \$49.50 each and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR 146, and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Questions? Call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454).



Book Group Chuck Campbell

Eight Sirs met Monday morning April 25th at the Greenery Restaurant to discuss *The Nine* by Jeffery Toobin. The author develops background information on each Supreme Court justice and weaves this information into discussions of selected court cases from the 1986-2008 era. The selected cases mostly focus on ones with conservative and liberal issues. We all found the book to be very interesting and a lot of work. Toobin appears to be a liberal thinker writing fairly about the justices' politics.

For our next book we selected *The Plot against America* by Phillip Roth. We will meet again at the Greenery Restaurant on Monday, May 23rd, starting at 8:30 am.

For future reading it was suggested we read a classic novel. We all should bring titles for our consideration at our next meeting.

Anyone interest in the book group should read our next book by Roth and come to the May 23rd meeting.



Fred Bolton and Ray Spears engaged in conversation at the April luncheon

Tickets will to be distributed at the California Shakespeare Theatre ticket office in Orinda at 7:00 pm on July 20th.

A reserved group picnic area for SIR attendees adjacent to the theatre is an ideal place to meet before the play. Bring a picnic or purchase food at the food plaza. A pre-show lecture begins around 7:15 pm.

California Shakespeare Theatre is located off Hwy 24 just west of Orinda at the Wilder Road exit (Exit 7B). Parking on-site is free.



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

NOTICE

The time has finally arrived to announce the start of the 2016 Bocce Ball Season. Our first play will be on Monday, May 9th, at the time and place shown below. New and previous players have shown much interest in the startup date, and we are looking for good turnout.

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. Ladies are always welcome.

Walking Group

John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **John** for current walk.*

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 825-3561



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met April 13th at **Bill Cammerer's** home. Our guest **Vince Rettew** was the big winner.

Our next meeting will be at **Don Del Bene's** home on May 11th.



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.***

Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford



The Old Money poker group met at **Rich Ahlf's** house on Wednesday, April 13th. We started by discussing the Warriors big game coming that night then actually

played some poker. **Norm** was the big winner with a plus \$10, **Brad** gained \$6, **Bob** contributed \$3, **Frank** gave **Harvey** \$1, and **Rich** - being the consummate host - made up the difference. There was some lively betting by **Norm** with his natural 4 threes against Brad's natural 4 nines; but **Norm** made that up when his Royal beat **Harvey's** 4 Kings. The fun time was described perfectly by **Bob's** comment that the afternoon only cost him a buck an hour. Oh.....and then the Warriors won. The next game will be at Group leader **Al's** home in Walnut Creek on Wednesday, May 10th.

Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session on May 23rd will be hosted by Sir **Pete Gates**.

At one of our poker sessions, I asked the question if anyone knew of someone who had a royal flush. One of my poker partners said yes, the queen of England and she is 90



years old.



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Frank Rockwell

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



Book Nook

Hank James

Make sure your lady date attends the Book Nook at the SIR May meeting. Sip your favorite drink while perusing the inventory. Remind her that all books in the

Book Nook are free for the picking up.

And don't forget to bring your surplus books to share with the ladies and your fellow SIR members. Cookbooks, fiction, non-fiction, sports, politics, and government in paperback or hard cover, all are welcome.



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

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 specially set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses. State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses from Reno to Solvang and points in between.

There are two competitive championship events sponsored by State SIR Golf. This year's State Individual Championship event will be held on October 17th and 18th at Laguna Seca. Area qualifying events are not yet announced but will be held in July. The Sir State Team Championship qualifying event for our area will be held May 26th at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Brentwood. The Team Championship will be August 8th at Poppy Ridge in Livermore. Last year we had three teams competing for the championship.

Coming up on May 17th, we will have a shotgun start followed by lunch and our annual meeting -- when we will have the opportunity to congratulate **Russ Bliese** and **Bill Cammerer** who have repeatedly shot their ages. Late last year **Russ** shot his age for the 6th time, and this February **Bill** shot his age for the 10th time!

Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. If you would like to join Branch 146 Golf, also contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group planned kick off of its 2016 season on April 27th at Rancho Solano was rained out. We play at local courses on the 4th Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game.

vlaursen@astound.net

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



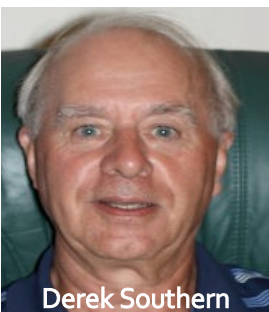
Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

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

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, May 19th, 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

After our April presentation by **Derek Southern** on "Photo Organizing and Editing", **Neil Schmidt** will follow it up with the second of a two-part photo series on "Cloud Photo Storage". There are several advantages for storing some, if not or all, of your home photos in the cloud online. A number of cloud storage systems are

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet at 8 am on Wednesday, May 25th at in Legends restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective SIR.

Our guest speaker will be Robert Gallo, a 35+ year veteran of Merrill Lynch and one of the nation's most respected financial advisors. Bob will update us on wealth management under the new 'Fiduciary Rule' which replaces the former 'Suitability Rule'.

Bob currently holds the title Managing Director – Wealth Management Advisor. His expertise has grown through an extensive research process that has historically provided greater insight and outcomes in difficult markets. Bob's talents are brought together within the exclusive circle of Merrill Lynch Advisors, that allows Bob to manage assets on behalf of individuals and other advisors within the firm, through his actively managed portfolios. Merrill Lynch's internal research project has identified Bob in the "Top 1 Percentile" for Investment Performance among Merrill Lynch Financial Advisors nationwide. For the seventh consecutive year Bob was recognized by Barros's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors in the nation. Additionally, he can be found in Financial Times Top 400 Financial Advisors – A list recognized nationally for its credibility in electing money managers.

Co-Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724

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

relatively inexpensive (free?) and loaded with numerous features specifically designed for storing, managing and sharing photos. **Neil** will demonstrate and compare several of the most popular and interesting cloud photo storage systems. Check the CAT Web page about a week before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentations: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>.

The meeting starts at 9:30 am, May 19th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Featured SIR Event Acoustic Musicians - Video & Songs

It is not every day when you have a professional musician come to a SIR luncheon to join the organization. But so it was when Carl Tilchen joined our branch several years ago. Looking back, Carl came to his first meeting with a guitar in hand. He met Alan Elnick, now Branch 146 Little Sir, who noticed Carl's guitar and they instantly became friends. A month or two later they started the Acoustic Musicians Group as a new branch activity.

Carl began promoting their group in the Branch 146 SIR CALL newsletter and opened the group to any and all Area 2 SIR members, in addition to welcoming wives and significant others. He holds his monthly meetings in either Alan's home or another member's home in Walnut Creek. He writes, "Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy".

The Acoustic Musicians Group has been meeting for some time now and I decided to attend as SIR CALL editor to gather material for this article. Carl had his agenda ready and his first subject was "Let It Be" by the Beatles to analyze the lyrics, play the guitar, and sing the song. I learned that Carl and Alan are accomplished lyricists. On this particular day, Harvey Oxman attended with his guitar and all three of them started jamming.



Carl Tilchen discussing his most recent song he wrote, "Can You Imagine" for the refugees fleeing the War in Syria



Al Elnick singing a song he wrote while living in New York City called "Judith Ann" about a girl he met at TGI Friday's

I recorded some of the interview and songs they sang that day on YouTube which are included in the hyperlinks below. I found the session very entertaining and was amazed at the superb singing and playing talent that Carl and Alan showed. Watch the videos below and see if you agree.

Mouse Click Hyperlinks to see YouTube videos

https://youtu.be/ akRUZxk3C_M	https://youtu.be/ D8WGnUCbzus	https://youtu.be/A- HAWwhIR9Gw
Carl & Alan singing "Let It Be"	Carl discussing "Can You Imagine"	Alan playing and singing Judith Ann

*(Video & report produced by SIR CALL editor **Richard Hockenbrock**)*

SIR Branch 146
MAY COUPLES GOLF



Wednesday, May 25th, 2016 10:30 am
Rancho Solano Golf Course
3250 Rancho Solano Parkway - Fairfield, CA
\$42 each (includes cart) + \$5 /couple for prizes

NOTES:

We will be playing "Stableford Points" Game
Everyone plays their own ball (so you can post your score)
Popped cards

*Prizes are awarded for men's & women's best Stableford point scores
(more on this later)

*Prizes also for closest to the pins on 2 holes (men & women)

TO REGISTER

Email Jonathan Korfhage: Korf26@gmail.com with names & handicap –
(pay at the course)

Sign-up Deadline is Thursday, May 18th

Questions: (925) 947-1547



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon
May 2016

Salad

Baby Iceberg Salad

Tomatoes, Crumbled Bacon, Blue Cheese
Chive Ranch Dressing

Entrees

New York Steak

Oven Roasted New York Strip
Scalloped Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Green Peppercorn Sauce

Or

Pan Seared Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Tomato, Kalamata Olive, Basil, Avocado Relish

Dessert

Napoleon

Raspberry Sauce, Crème Anglaise, Fresh Berries

Reservations for Ladies Gala Luncheon

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to use this form electronically. Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill in your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address below.

Thursday, May 12th, 2016



Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Entrée

#	<u>First & Last Name</u>	<u>Steak</u>	<u>Salmon</u>
1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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6		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Make checks payable to Br 146. Send to: **Steve Ybarra**,
142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213
*All reservations and payments in full must be received by
May 3rd. There will be no tickets sold at the door.*

*If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names
and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you
when their check and form is received or you may pay for
them directly on your sheet by listing their name & entrée.*