

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

May is upon us and so is our celebration of our ladies as we dedicate our luncheon to them May 11th. Paul Zaentz of Saul Zaentz Productions is our speaker, and he will give us the inside scoop on his career spanning "Mozart to Goya —

A Producer's Tale." He began his career as production assistant for "Amadeus" and his last effort was as co-executive producer with Sidney Pollack for "Goya's Ghosts." In between, he was instrumental in such productions as "The English Patient," "The Unbearable Lightness Of Being," "At Play In The Fields Of The Lord," and "The Mosquito Coast." His talk is interactive so bring the questions. He has worked with such talented artists as Harrison Ford, Darryl Hannah, Natalie Portman, Tom Berenger, Daniel Day Lewis, Kathy Bates, Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin, the late River Phoenix, Tom Hulce and F. Murray Abraham, to name a few. He had a special and close association with the late director Anthony Minghella.

Ladies Day is a popular event so be sure to fill out you reservation on page 5 of this SIR CALL issue— Cost is \$28.

At our April luncheon we awarded a State Senior Sir recognition to **Bob Burley** on turning 90 and a twenty year membership recognition award to **Sal Costanza**. We inducted and welcomed new member **Steve Brodsky** and had four guests join us as prospective members. Leigh Kjeldsen, Au.D. spoke to us about the causes of hearing loss, and how to get the best results from our hearing aids.

Normal business will resume at our June 8th luncheon meeting where we will have our annual colorful shirt competition. Bring a guest or two or three to introduce to the camaraderie that SIR provides. SIR, Make Friends For Life!

Our activities list is expanding as we are introducing Pinochle and Pickle Ball as new activities. If you are interested in Pickle Ball contact **Jim Burke** to get on the list, it is a hot new sport and hopefully should be

WE ARE SIR - MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon Thursday, May 11th Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker
Paul Zaentz of Saul Zaentz Productions
"Mozart to Goya— A Producer's Tale."

Gathering time - 11:00 am Starting time - 11:45 am

Make Reservations with Steve Dawkins by May 5th Reservation form on page 5

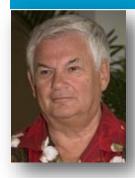


April luncheon speaker, audiologist Dr. Kjeldsen

going in July. **Pete McNeil** is leading the effort for Pinochle so let **Pete** know that you would like to play.

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.



Little Sir's Corner

Bruce Borgman

I hope that all of you were listening carefully to our speaker last month as Dr. Kjeldsen gave us an interesting talk about Hearing Problems and their Remedies. If you were not paying attention, you may need to see an audiologist! In May,

at our Ladies Day luncheon we will have as speaker, Paul Zaentz, a respected producer of a number of award winning films. Thank you Alan for arranging this – his Big Sir notes will describe Paul's career in greater detail. It will be a most interesting talk and discussion. See if you can see one of the many movies in which Paul was involved so that you may be able to ask a pertinent question. Besides Amadeus, there's Mosquito Coast, The Talented Mr. Ripley, The English Patient, Goya's Ghosts, and others.

I am also very excited about the speakers we have already arranged for in the next few months. Keep watching this space and we will reveal the speakers who no doubt will add a fascinating aspect to our monthly luncheons.

The May luncheon is always a special one as we recognize our wives and partners, as our chaplains so eloquently acknowledge, in their invocations. We are grateful for the support that they have given us especially now in our golden years when we may need an assist now and then even more. We are thankful for their love and companionship as we enjoy more leisure time in our retirement years. That last remark is tongue in cheek, as it seems that we are busier now than when we were part of the workforce. We are thankful for our SIR organization, which keeps the activities coming and has us stay active with the many fun things to do.

As the rainstorms are diminishing, enjoy the warming weather with our green hills and May flowers.

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



Membership

In April we inducted one new member, Steve Brodsky. However, Dick Bohling resigned (moving out of the area). With the recent deaths of Pete Miller and Charter Member Lynn Freeman, that drops our active membership to 289, but we are still up four from last

year. The good news is we had four guests in April; keep up the good work! Please seek out any and all of our 2017 inductees and get them involved in activities; that is the best way to build lasting relationships that will keep our branch vibrant and sustainable.

New Member Photo Additions in April 2017



Steve Brodsky



Sal Costanza (center) receives the Branch 146 twenty year membership recognition award from Award's Chairman **Doug Eisner** (right) and Big Sir **Al Elnick** (left)

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."



Sunshine Calvin Tucker

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

- Jim Saavedra
- Bob Walton
- Elmer Kaprielian
- Fred Thompson

During this past month, we acknowledged the death of Sir **Pete Miller.**

Consider contacting a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let the Sunshine Chair know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR members can be advised.

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair phone: (925) 389 6070 Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Alan Elnick
Little Sir	Bruce Borgman
Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Assistant Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term)	Steve Sprague
Director(1 st Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(1 st Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(1 st Term)	Bob Mehus
Director(± 161111)	DOD IVICIIUS

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Bob Mehus

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



Bob Burley receiving the Senior State Recognition Award from Awards Chairman **Doug Eisner** and Big Sir **Alan Elnick**



Birthday Boy Drawing Winner for a free lunch for the month of April was **Frank Pandolfi** (standing)



Branch 146 Executive Committee or BEC taking a question from the audience at its meeting in April. The BEC meets every month at 9:00 am before the start of each SIR luncheon except Ladies Day luncheons. All SIR members are invited to attend.

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.



Luncheon Chairman Rob Melrose

Attendance: We consumed 220 meals at our April luncheon. As the Branch continues to grow, our luncheons become livelier.

Next Luncheon: May is the Ladies Day luncheon which is a very special event. If you haven't made

your reservations yet, there is still time. Fill out the form on page 5 and send it in before May 5th.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 8th, 2017 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is still \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment.



Money collectors **Martin Lyle** (seated near) and **Henry Thatcher** (seated next) record luncheon payments prior to the start of the April luncheon



Before the luncheon meeting comes to order, many Sirs and many conversations



Jim Browning & Ray Spears at the April 13th luncheon



Guest Mike Long, **Ross Abbott** and **Milt Smith** in conversation before the April luncheon



Walking Group Frank Ascatigno

The Walking Group now consists of about 10 men and women who gather on Friday mornings, predominantly on local canal and Iron Horse trails.

We start off together at 9:30

am for a maximum one hour walk, each one at their own pace, distance and duration. Many walk about a half hour. We end up together at a predesignated coffee shop, always joined by another 8 to 10 "senior" members who now skip the walk but join us for coffee and conversation. Everyone is welcome to join us for friendly and healthy outings.

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **Frank** for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

An Update on New Activities!
And a call for MORE!
Pinochle (chaired by Pete
McNeill) and Pickleball (initially
chaired by Jim Burk) are both getting
underway. Please contact either of
the above Sirs to let them of your

interest and find out how the plans are progressing for meeting dates, times, and places.

Explore and Eat, a new activity co-chaired by Sirs **Jim Pope** and **Henry Thatcher** is off to a great start with over 20 Sirs (some with their spouses or friends) touring the new exhibit at the Blackhawk Museum followed by lunch nearby. Another outing is planned in early May to the Point Bonita Lighthouse. Reach out to either **Jim** or **Henry** for more information.

Bocce Ball, a dry weather sport, is starting up again in May; it has been fun for Sirs as well as some spouses for many years, and this year, there may be more players than ever. Contact Sir **Martin Lyle** for more information.

There are many more activities (46 now in Branch 146!) that all members are encouraged to find out about and join if they wish. Theatre and travel, hiking and walking, photography and fishing, singing, cribbage, pool, wine tasting, a book group, cooking, and of course golf. Even with this list, I didn't mention all the activities. Refer to the Branch website to see more, learn about each and decide if you are interested.

In some instances, many of the spots in a certain activity are full (such as poker or bridge), but often these groups use lists of substitutes to draw from. Even better, if there are enough folks who want to play, I will help them start a new poker or bridge or Mexican Train Dominoes group. Call or write me and let me know.

Do you have on your mind another Activity that is NOT now available? There is likely another SIR member among the 285 plus members of Branch 146 reading this newsletter who is thinking about an activity that they would like to participate in but haven't seen available. Please let me know of your interest (whether it is stamp collecting, writing your memoirs, or sitting across a chess or checker board and engaging in some friendly competition) and I will do my best to see if we can get it started. This is your branch. Have fun!

What did the bee say to the flower? Hello, honey!

Reservations for May 11th Ladies Day Luncheon

~Salad Course~

Gorgonzola Salad

Baby Field Greens, Candied Walnuts, Julienned Pears, Gorgonzola Cheese Creamy Champagne Vinaigrette

~Entrees~

New York Steak

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

Or

Pan Seared Alaskan Salmon

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables Summer Fruit Salsa

~Dessert~

Strawberry Shortcake

Vanilla Cake, Chantilly Cream, Fresh Strawberries, Raspberry Coulis

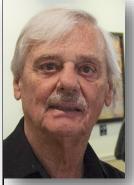
On the form below, type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill in your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address below.

Thursday, May 11 th , 2017 Number of Tickets at \$28 ea.	
Amount Enclosed \$	Entree Choices
Names	Beef Salmon

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

All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 5th. 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 listing their name & entrée.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Black Point Trail

Our next Hike will be on Friday May 12th and it will be led by Gene Schulting. This hike takes around 3 1/2 hours covering slightly more than 5 miles and has around a 1,200 ft elevation gain.

Trail starts at parking lot on Mitchell Canyon maintenance road and goes to Red Rd. then Black Point Trail (peak is 1,791') back to Mitchell Canyon Rd and to the parking lot. This hike is less used by the public; hence, is a little less maintained so long pants is recommended to minimize effects of being slapped by vegetation. There will be a couple of lunch options midway through the hike. You may want to bring your binoculars to get a good view of your home and surrounding areas with vistas ranging from Pleasanton to Antioch.

Parking is at end of Mitchell Canyon Rd complete ticket and pay \$6 less \$1 Sr. discount. I will be at the Clayton Library parking lot if anybody would like to car pool.

> Friday May 12th, 2017 Hike Starts at 10:00 am **Rich Ahlf** Cell (925) 550-4967 **Rain Cancels**



Sir Call Editor Richard Hockenbrock

We are adding a new feature to the SIR CALL this month called Apps Corner. In the Apps Corner you will find some interesting links to smartphone and computer applications that other SIR members have found useful and believe in

sharing these helpful ideas with the full membership.

This month we have added three such applications from the resourceful eye of fellow SIR member Vern Laursen. His recommendations are on the last page of this SIR CALL.

Hamilton: Those of us who were lucky enough to purchase incredibly scarce tickets to Hamilton at the Orpheum Theatre on April 25th were treated to an outstanding SIR 146 event arranged by past travel chair Ken Richter and current travel chair Milt Smith. Almost three hours in length, this show had everything; sound, lighting, chorographical dancing, and non-stop rapid fire hip-hop dialog. Phyllis Bolton, wife of Fred Bolton, was sitting next to me and captured the essence when she said, "I was almost exhausted just watching it".



(Clockwise) Rich Ahlf, Gene Schulting, Pete Gates and Bob Wedin

> Active water falls seen on a recent hike

> > SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor **Assistant Editor Proofreaders**

Richard Hockenbrock Rob Melrose Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Explore & Eat



Hosted by Jim Pope (925-699-6447) & Henry Thatcher (925-997-5032)

The inaugural event for Explore & Eat was held on April 5th where 37 SIR 146 members and guests participated in docent lead tours of "The Spirit of the Old West" exhibit at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. Lunch was enjoyed at The Prickly Pear restaurant in the Blackhawk Plaza. After lunch participants could re-enter the museum to view the fabulous car collection.







The next outing for Explore & Eat will be held on Monday, May 8th, where we will meet for lunch at 11:15 am at the Cavallo Point Restaurant (\$32 Fixed Price 4 choice menu). Following lunch we will go to the Point Bonita Lighthouse at 1:00 pm for a National Parks Service docent led tour. This event is open to SIR146 members and their guests. You can reserve your spot by sending an email to 146exploreandeat@gmail.com



Point Bonita Lighthouse



Cavallo Point Restaurant



View of San Francisco Bay

Explore & Eat at Blackhawk Museum



Sue and **Walt Busenius** enjoying the Blackhawk Museum Explore & Eat event



SIR members and guest posing questions to the docent



SIR members and guest enjoying the docent led tour of the museum exhibit



Brynn and Gary Brown taking in the exhibit



One of the tables that is enjoying the "EAT" part of the SIR event



Fishing Report Paul Dubow

In last month's fishing report, we expressed the hope that fishing would improve once spring arrived and it has. Ernie Wong and Don Mittelstaedt caught some good sized cutthroat trout fly fishing from

ladders at Pyramid Lake in Nevada. Terry Miller, Harry Sherinian, and Carl Moyer caught rainbow trout fishing between rainstorms at San Pablo Reservoir. Joe Miscione, fishing with his son, caught seven rainbows in Bass Lake. Sal Costanza of Branch 146 landed some nice stripers in New Hogan Reservoir. Hal Tatro fished in Pardee Reservoir and came home with a limit of trout, with the largest weighing four pounds. Mike Corker had a successful outing fishing for black bass in the Delta.

Sturgeon fishing is still disappointing. Tom Boltz and Rich Fiscina of Branch 146, along with Terry Miller, landed a single undersized sturgeon on one outing. However, Paul Dubow of Branch 146, Mike Corker, and Carl Moyer came up empty handed, insofar as sturgeon were concerned, on other trips. Carl did catch a small keeper striper and a catfish on one trip.

The big question mark is salmon fishing. Salmon currently feeding in the ocean were hatched in California rivers in 2014. But a far smaller amount than usual made it to the ocean that year. The season opened on April 1st, but considering the expected low quantity of adult salmon available this year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife suspended salmon fishing in our area from April 30th to May 15th and increased the minimum length requirements. **Carl Moyer** joined two friends fishing from Moss Landing on opening day and each fisherman caught a salmon. That proved to be unusual, because most of those fishing on opening day were skunked.

We remain optimistic and we are looking forward to a successful spring and summer. We have lots of outings planned. In addition to our regular trips to San Pablo Reservoir and the Delta, we have excursions planned for trout fishing at Lake Almanor, Lake Davis, Collins Lake, Bass Lake, Pinecrest Lake, and Los Vaqueros Reservoir; salmon, ling cod, and rock fishing in the ocean; salmon fishing in the Sacramento River; and striped bass fishing at New Hogan Reservoir. Our next meeting is on Thursday, May 25th, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast, starting at 7:30 am.



Photography Group Richard Hockenbrock

Six members of the photography group met at the Oak Grove library and showed pictures that were had taken at the SIR sponsored field trip to the Granada Native Gardens in Livermore on April 20th.

Several of the members brought other pictures to show as well and we look forward to this spontaneity as **John (Moose) Kelly** brought some GoPro video of his scuba driving off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Our next meeting is Friday, June 23rd. We want to fill two hours of showing photos and video of the many locations where many of you have traveled. Even if you have not been a regular attendee to our group, if you have photos that you think are interesting, please put them on a thumb drive and bring them to our next meeting.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net Cell: (925) 324-1713 Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

Where: Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subject: Showing member's photos & video of travels

When: Friday, June 23rd, at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



California native Layia Platyglossa or more commonly known Tidytips is just one of many wild flower varieties grown at the Granada Native Gardens in Livermore.



Acoustic Musicians Carl Tilchen

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 18th, at 2 pm, 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor, and walk to unit 1D.

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 I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun.



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are saddened beyond words with the passing of our director, **Pete Miller**. **Pete** directed our group for many years and was a beloved leader. **Pete** was a dedicated and faithful director and

he will be sorely missed. Besides leading our group as director, he sang the lead in our quartet, carrying the melody while we blended in with the other parts. The SongSirs will participate in **Pete's** memorial service on May 13th by singing *Thanks for the Memories* – the SIR version of the well-known Frank Sinatra signature song but with a SIR twist – it is altogether appropriate to sing as a tribute to **Pete**.

We continue to practice, as **Pete** would have wanted, the group of "Romantic Songs" selected by **Ken Donnelly** and **Steve Dinning**, which will include *You Light Up My Life*, *It Had To Be You*, *Love and Marriage*, *Embraceable You*, and others. Plans are to sing this group at the Senior Center in Concord in June or July – and perhaps even sing a few at our Ladies Day luncheon!

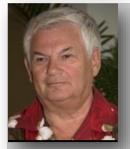
We are always looking for others who enjoy singing to join our group as we practice every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30 pm. Come and see!



Jeff Baily and **Jim Stedman** met and greet luncheon guest and potential new member Dick Lammerding



Jim Bogie, Steve Dinning, and **Lynn Shafer** from the SongSirs do some tuning up before singing at the end of the luncheon



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

After our successful March with 66 diners enjoying Zio Fraedo's Italian restaurant we are ready for a new experience.

As I mentioned at April's luncheon and in the email to our

mailing list, the Couples Dining Out event in May is taking us to a different cuisine. We have arranged to go to Alborz Persian Restaurant at 1829 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Walnut Creek. This restaurant will bring us a Middle Eastern cuisine with a Mediterranean influence - one which many of you may not have experienced. In order to taste a variety of these dishes, we will enjoy this restaurant in a buffet style which will allow you to have three different appetizers, then the serving table will (magically) change to present us with a salad, and three kabob type meats, marinated in the unique spices of this cuisine along with basmati rice with almonds, raisins, pistachio and saffron. Dessert will be home made baklava, with a scoop of Persian Rosewater ice cream. Coffee and tea is included.

[Late Update: Upon request from **Al Twyford**, and negotiated with the restaurant, we have added a lamb dish – it will be a sliced marinated leg of lamb. Also added is a dish of mini meatballs with finely crushed walnuts in a pomegranate sauce.] We will enjoy our cocktail hour again at 5:30 pm and you will be able to sit around a fire pit with soft embroidered pillows, or in the bar area, or the dining area – plenty of room to chat with old friends and new. Dinner will be served at 6:15 pm – did I mention the date? It's Monday May 22nd. The total cost for this event will be \$50 per person. We will have a slightly reduced wine price (\$7), or you can bring your own bottle for a \$15 corkage fee.

The location for this restaurant is convenient in central Walnut Creek. The parking is somewhat limited to a small lot in front of the restaurant and behind the adjoining building, as well as through the arch to another small lot or on the street. Remember that WC meters run until 8 pm so bring quarters and, as always, car pooling is encouraged. As of this writing we have 45 diners signed up — we can accommodate a bit over 50 — so sign up quickly if you wish to be included in this interesting dining experience. We especially encourage new members — this is a great way to meet your fellow Sirs and their spouses. See you there!!

Please email **Bruce** at bgborgman@aol.com to reserve. Confirm with your check payable to SIR 146 and send to **Bruce Borgman** at 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek, 94598 by May 17th.



Cooking Lunch & Wine Pete Gates

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 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch. Couples are an integral part of this group as we have two luncheons each year with our partners.



Relaxing before the March lunch are (L to R): alternate Colin Holland (with the dog Bailey), Dick Woodman, Jim Meehan, Paul Dubow, host Pete Gates, alternate Joe Barry and Frank Rockwell. Absent were regular members Syd Whalen, Bob Spellman, Bill Hartman and alternate Vince Rettew.

On this day, our wives and partners met for their lunch at the Guadalajara Grill.



Cribbage John Pearl

This month six of us gathered at the home of **Barney Meade.**

Our host, **Barney Meade**, took first place, winning <u>every</u> game he played, the Chair, **John Pearl**, was second, while the local group's "Big Fish" **Paul Dubow**

came in third, winning his ante back.

Our next scheduled event is Wednesday, May 24th.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups





Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The April Mexican Train Game Night was held on the 14th at the inviting Walnut Creek home of Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** and his wife, **Sherry**. Almost all three tables

were full with Sir **Jeff Baily** and his wife, **Alicia**, as well as Sir **Chuck Denny**, and his wife, **Mary**, filling in for some Group One regulars who could not attend.

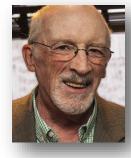
The evening's winners were - in first place, Sir Jerry Kaplan, who had a pretty good night averaging only 11.2 points per game played, followed by the evening's hosts, **Richard** and **Sherry**, who took 2nd and third 3rd, with average scores of 16.0 and 17.7.

This was the second month in a row that Sherry has come in second place, and she is in line to win a portion of the first half of the 2017 pot that is estimated to grow to about \$80 after the May Game Night. The pot is divided (60%, 30%, and 10%) among the top three finishers over the first five months of the year. The second half of the 2017 season (running six months) begins in June and runs through November.

Group One is always looking for other Sirs who may be interested in playing occasionally as a substitute. Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play and easy to learn. Several individuals who had never played before have come to our Game Night and after just one open hand, were right in the midst of the fun.



Jerry Kaplan (center) giving instructions to substitute players
Chuck & Mary Denny (far right)



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Retired Orthopedic doctor Lynn Shafer placed third, playing 9 games at table 1 and coincidentally making a few pickups from the boneyard (Ya gotta be familiar with

terms of Mexican Train Dominoes to understand this) to score an average of 18.7. Playing at the same table, there was no stopping **Judy Richmond** who skillfully went out in 4 of the 9 games played to take home 2nd prize with a 15.6 average. Sitting oh so quietly and playing oh so skillfully at table 2, **Jim Baldridge** went out 3 times and in other games scored lows like 11, 13 and 10 to walk away with an overall average of 12.0 and the grand first prize.

Congrats to the winners and thanks to **Walt** and **Sue** for their hospitality and a knockout-delicious apple pie made by **Sue**!



MTD Group 3 winners for April: Jim Baldridge (1st place), Judy Richmond (2nd place), and Lynn Shafer (3rd place)



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train Domino Group met March 31st at **Jim** and **Renie's** home and we had a record 10 couples attend (20 players). The large group added to

fun for all 3 tables and all had an enjoyable evening. The food was provided by a group made up of half of the women in the MTD group each time.



One of the tables of record setting 10 couple attendance (L to R): Lo McCarley, Barbara Thatcher, Rich Pace, Henry Thatcher, Fran Matthews, Dick DeVoe, and Yvonne Killips

The El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos group met Friday April 21st with 6 couples played at 2 tables of 6 each. Wonderful snacks were provided by several of the women in the group. The evening started outside with wine and a group photo (see below). Our next El Quattro is May 19th.





Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

This was a very special night in many respects at **Dennis & Ann Hallett's** home on April 20th. First, **Dennis** treated us to an aviary seminar featuring his Turkey

Vultures that he shares with the rest of the neighborhood. On this evening the subject was how a flock of vultures circle and then land in their favorite eucalyptus tree and set up to roost for the night. We were cautioned to keep moving so that they did not think of us as a late night snack. It worked as they were on their best behavior and bedded down like good boys and girls, at least 18 in number.

Secondly, we were treated to a spectacular performance of MTD by **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** as **Dave** went out 5 consecutive times, and **Joan**, while not consecutively, still went out a total of three times. We don't know for sure but can only assume that **Dave** set a world record for MTD with this feat. **Dave** and **Joan** tied for first, and **Doug Eisner**, while achieving a very satisfactory score, was left to be overshadowed by the **Pierce's** outstanding results coming in third.

The third special event was the cake **Ann Hallett** secured from the Alpine Bakery. It reminded some of a wedding cake and was absolutely delicious. **Dave** has clearly set the bar ridiculously high for the rest of us, but you can bet we will give it our best next month.

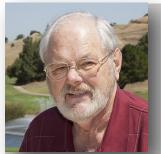
An airplane was falling from the sky. Four were aboard, a doctor, a vet, the pilot, and a man who thought he was the smartest person in the world. There were only three parachutes.

Doctor: I'm a doctor, so I should jump down first. So he took a parachute and jumped off the plane.

The smartest person in the world: Well, I'm the smartest man in the world so I should jump off next.

So he took a bag and jumped off. There were two people left. Pilot: How will we decide who jumps off next?

Vet: We don't have to, the smartest man in the world just jumped off with my backpack.



Theatre Gary Schaub

Picnic and Entertainment mark SIR 146 Theater Party for July 11th



July is a great time for an early evening picnic. Mix in a dose of an entertaining theater production under the stars and you have the components for a lovely evening. One of the American theater's most popular plays is Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* which opened on Broadway in 1944. This honored play will be SIR 146's theater party for July.

The Glass Menagerie will be performed at the open-air California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda on Tuesday, July 11th. Curtain time is 7:30 pm. Picnic-time starts at 6:00 p.m. The Glass Menagerie catapulted playwright Williams from obscurity to fame. The five-character "memory play" has strong autobiographical elements featuring characters based on Williams' early life. The play won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award in 1945, and has become a modern classic. Williams later wrote Cat On A Hot Tin Roof and A Streetcar Named Desire, and went on to be the leading playwright of post-World War II America.

In *The Glass Menagerie*, the playwright recalls scenes from his youth during the height of the Depression. Characters include: Tom, who works in a shoe factory; his mother, Amanda, always trying to retain a lost gentility in the midst of poverty; his delicate sister Laura, and Tom's friend Jim; the gentleman caller, a potential suitor, invited to meet Tom's fragile sister.

A limited number of reduced-price tickets for SIR members and guests have been set aside. Deadline for ordering is June 21st. Tickets are \$51.00 each and will be

******* (continued on next page) *******

Travel Opportunities Ken Richter



Local Day Trips:

Jun 29, 2017: Sacramento Underground. Travel by bus from Walnut Creek to Sacramento. Tour the part of Sacramento history that was built over in 1862. Trip includes bus, lunch, guided tour and tips. Cost is \$91 per person.

Contact **Milt Smith** Br. 146 to sign up now. (925) 280-0328 or miltsmith549@gmail.com

Oct 7, 2017: Blue Angels aboard SF Belle Registration begins this summer.

International Trips:

April 11-21, 2018: Tulip Time on the Rhine! 11 Days, 23 Meals. Experience the re-awakening of spring along the Rhine and Mosel Rivers. From the enchanting Keukenhof Gardens in the Netherlands, at the peak of tulip season, to the majestic heights of Switzerland. See the countryside bloom as you sail along these two historic rivers of Europe. Prices ranges from \$4,200 to \$6,000 depending on accommodations. Additional cost for single occupancy. Free Airfare from SF if you sign up before May 31st. An informational meeting will be held after the May 11th lunch. Contact Milt Smith Br. 146 ASAP (925) 280-0328 or miltsmith549@gmail.com for more information.

Late spring or early summer of 2018: Ultimate Africa. Another great trip for 2018. Let's fill this one up quickly! Overseas Adventure Travel: 17 days, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, add ons available. Approximate Price \$8,500 plus airfare. This is a great trip for just a small group of 16 people. We already have six people interested. Contact Milt Smith Br. 146 immediately so we can get our group together to finalize dates and learn more about the trip. (925) 280-0328 miltsmith549@gmail.com

October 27, 2017: Princess Cruise from SF though the Panama Canal to Ft. Lauderdale. 15 days with ports of call at Sf, Cabo San Lucas, San Juan Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama full transit, Cartagena, Aruba. Prices Range approximately \$2,300 and up. Does not include airfare from Florida. Take action and contact Milt Smith ASAP to get more info and to sign up for these trips. Cell (925) 285-2897 or 925-280-0328 miltsmith549@gmail.com

******* (Continued from previous page) *******
reserved with a check payable to SIR146 and mailed to Sir
Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek
94595. Questions? Call Gary at (925) 938-5454.

Note that curtain time is 7:30 p.m. A special picnic and gathering area will be set aside for SIR 146 in the upper area near the theater plaza. Bring a picnic or purchase food/drink at the concession plaza. You can arrive when gates open at 6:00 p.m. A pre-show talk is normally planned ½ before the play begins.

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



Book Nook Hank James

The Book Nook will be open for Ladies Day. Our ladies really enjoy browsing the Book Nook inventory, particularly the cook books; so, use this opportunity to

share those cook books you haven't opened for the past ten years with our lady guests. And share any other books in your collection that you have read and are tired of dusting.

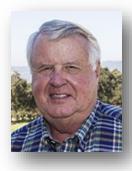
Update your book acquisition list and select your reading material for the next two months. Have a good browsing experience!



Wine Tasting Rob Melrose

Our next event is scheduled for July 26th. We are looking for a venue. If you are willing to open your home to the group, please contact **Rob**. We realize that many of the group do not have homes that will accommodate the entire group so we can limit the

attendance if you wish. (925) 228-4768 or rwmelrose@gmail.com



Cooking II Bob Yolland

Bruce Borgman hosted a great lunch Monday April 10th. He started with appetizers of Salami wrapped pickles, herring in wine sauce, and crackers with a variety of cheeses including gouda, brie, and

truffle goat cheese. For the main course Bruce served two excellent enchiladas with Mexican rice. The first was a chicken enchilada with a verde green sauce and the second was a carnitas enchilada with a home made red sauce. They were accompanied by sour cream, guacamole, sliced scallions and cilantro. Additionally he had a great guacamole and tomato salad. For dessert he served "The Perfect Flan". We enjoyed lots of wine and plenty of stimulating conversation making it a super event. Thanks **Bruce** for all your great work.

Our next event will be at **Bill Cammerer's** home on Monday, May 8th.





Table Pool Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 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 Masses 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.

A man went to his lawyer and told him, "My neighbor owes me \$500 and he won't pay up. What should I do?" "Do you have any proof he owes you the money?" asked the lawyer.

"Nope," replied the man.

"OK, then write him a letter asking him for the \$5,000 he owed you," said the lawyer.

"But it's only \$500," replied the man.

"Precisely. That's what he will reply and then you'll have your proof!"



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 had a fun evening of bridge at the Yolland's on April 19th. Several last minute changes meant that we had multiple substitutes. Thank you to all

the subs for playing.

First place with 23 points went to the team of Jim Brown and Anne Johnson. Second place was a tie at 22 1/2 points between Dave and Joan Pierce, and Margot Somerville and Penny Grey. Everyone seemed to enjoy Janet's goodies and Bob's wines and other drinks.

Our next event will be Wednesday May 17th at **Jim Brown's** home.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

April showered three couples with good fortune when **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** hosted us on the 11th. Last month's winners, **Ken** and **Elaine Richter**, were still hot

(22.5 matchpoints, 56%), but **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were hotter yet (24, 60%), while the hosts were rewarded with a top (27, 67%). One couple bid and made 6 NT but modesty prevents me from naming them. The evening ended with the usual bonhomie and **Joan's** delicious lemon pound cake. Several players were seen the next morning at the Contra Costa Bridge Center polishing their skills.



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Doug Eisner** on April 2nd. First place went to **Bob Yolland** with 6670 points, second to **Doug Eisner** with 5810, and third to **Jim Jackson** with 4880.

Our next game will be on May 1st at the home of **Rich Ahlf.**



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 three-table event was nicely hosted by **Jim Brown** on April 7th. **1st Place - Bob Yolland** was absolutely unstoppable. He won 1st half by 1

pt. with 17.5, won 2nd half by 3 pts. with 16.5, and won 1st Place overall by 5 pts.(!) with 34. Wow. In fact, only **Dave Steinberg** has had a greater margin in the <u>Forever</u> standings with 6 pts. (in April 2016).

Bob now shares a tie for 2nd place in the <u>Forever</u> standings of Most Twos (with **Tony Greco** and **Dave Steinberg)** by earning 12 today. Only **Rich Ahlf's** 13 Two's in June 2016 is better. **Bob** also tied with **Max Hinkle** for Lowest Zeros today with 2. Many kudos, **Bob!**

2nd Place - Max Hinkle had consistent showings of 2nd place in both 1st and 2nd halves (16.5 and 12.5), resulting in a strong 29 pts. for 2nd place overall. Only getting two zeros out of 24 boards didn't hurt.

3rd Place - Fred Bolton took 3rd place overall with 26 pts. by virtue of his strong 16.5 pt. showing in the 1st half.

4th Place Tie - Dick DeVoe, Dave Pierce, and Bill Schultz each had 26 pts.

In the first four months of 2017 **Max Hinkle** and **Bob Yolland** have each won a 1st and 2nd, and **Dave Pierce** has won a 1st and 3rd. The cream has already begun rising toward the top this year, so it's high time for others to make their own move upward or be left behind...!



Bocce Ball Martin Lyle

The time has come to announce the start-up of the 2017 BOCCE Season on May 8th. We look forward to many sessions of good competitive play with our regular players and any new players that wish to join us in this simple, easy to

learn game. Come out for some fun.

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

For more information contact Martin Lyle at (925) 687-4893 or mvlyle@yahoo.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The April 21st, 2017 Duplicate Bridge 3 event was nicely hosted by **Roger Peters**.

amazing today. He won 1st half by 3 pts.(!) with 18.5, tied for 1st in the 2nd half with 14.5 pts., and easily won 1st Place overall by 5 pts. (!) with 33. Great job, Dave! 2nd Place: Jim Brown took 2nd Place with 28 pts. including a 1st Place tie in the 2nd half. 3rd Place: Tony Greco easily slid into 3rd Place with 27 pts., two pts. better than the next closest player.

Most Twos- Dave Pierce had 11, three more than anyone else. Least Zeros- Max Hinkle only had two zeros in 24 boards. Highest Score Per Round- The Jim Brown/ Bill Schultz partnership was the only one garnering all 6 pts. in one round.



Duplicate Bridge 3 Group (L-R) Charlie Abrams, Bill Schultz, Tony Greco, Jim Pope, Bob Yolland, Jim Brown, Brad Hatcher, Mike Whitaker, host—Roger Peters, Dave Pierce, Max Hinkle, and Dick DeVoe



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Tony and Cindy Greco hosted us on a warm spring evening, April 4th. Cards were in a quiet April mode, unlike March's raging scoring. Of course, as is too often the case, a few makeable slams were not bid.

The **Grecos** were rewarded for their fine hospitality by placing third (2540). **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were second (2900), and **Dasha Zablocki** and **Dave Pierce** were first (4780). Over **Cindy's** delicious spring berries dessert, the talk turned to golf (where low scores are more acceptable) and the injustice done to Lexi Thompson.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 4 tables of bridge on April 17th at **Jim Stedman's** house. All players fiercely contested the morning session but **Doug Eisner** led the pack

at the lunch break with 15.5 pt. He was closely followed by **Jim Brown's** 14.5 pt and then 12.5 pt each for **Dave Pierce and Dave Steinberg**. Unfortunately, for **Doug, Jim** and **Dave**, the afternoon bridge gods turned their backs on all three players as each fell completely out of the money by the end of the day. However, **Dave Pierce** was more fortunate as he relied heavily on his partners to carry him into 1st place for the day with 43.0 pt. **Roger Peters** just eked out 2nd place over **Lo McCarley**, 42.0 pt to 41.5 pt, while **Brad Hatcher** surprised all players by taking 4th place with 39.5 pt.

Lo McCarley will host our May 15th game at his new home. This will be a 3 table game.



Book Club Chuck Campbell

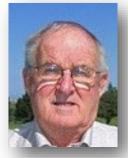
On Monday, April 10th, the SIR Book Group met at the Black Bear Restaurant to discuss *Fatal* by John Lescroart. In the first part of the book we are introduced to a cast of characters who live and work in San Francisco. Most of these characters

either knew attorney Peter Ash or are investigating his murder. While it was fun to read about events taking place in well-known parts of San Francisco, the plot seemed thin and predictable. Author Lescroart has written a number of successful mysteries taking place in San Francisco, but the previous novels had a set group of interesting characters. This book, *Fatal*, abandons his old characters in favor of a new group who failed to gain our sympathy or anger. We all agreed that *Fatal* is an easy pass.

For our next book we selected a non-fiction book titled *The Gate Keepers: How the Whitehouse* Chiefs *of Staff Define Every Presidency,* by Chris Whipple

We will meet again at the Black Bear Restaurant on May $15^{\rm th}$ at 8:30 am.

If you aren't friends, you are? Anemones!

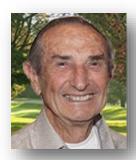


Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met April 12th at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan**. As always a good time was had by all, but the (BIG) winner was **Don Del Bene** who picked our pockets. His winnings were the most ever in our group.

Our next outing will be at the home of Al Zamora on May $10^{\rm th}$.



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.



Poker Club 3 Sig Kalteis

Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.



Poker Club 4 Chuck Bobinecz

Our next (\$10 to \$10 session – you may win or lose \$10 – rarely happens) is on April 24th at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz** and will be hosted by Sir **Rich Hanford**.

Texas Hold'em has become one of our popular poker games. We

play variations of the game and since we have a 25 cent raise limit, it changes the way the game is played. Another game we like is Omaha. In this you end up with four cards in your hand and four community cards on the board to make a high hand or go for the low hand. The confusing aspect is that you must use two cards from your hand and three from the board after you declare whether you are going high or low. Good luck!



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, 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.



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Our group met Thursday April 8th at group leader **Al Twyford's** home in Walnut Creek. Players were **Al, Brad Hatcher, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson,** alternate **Charlie Abrams,**

and alternate **Howard Charlop.** Regulars **Rich Ahlf, Frank Lucas,** and **Harvey Oxman** were unavailable. **Al** provided the favorite red wine and snacks to the players for the afternoon of poker. **Howard** became the biggest winner ever at \$24.00 (which included his original \$10.00 contribution). Adding insult to injury, **Howard** had the high card for the \$2.00 loose change contribution of the group. Needless to say, **Howard** had numerous good hands and a poker face. **Brad** had the high hand winning game with 5 kings, including a wild card.

Our next game is scheduled for Thursday, May 4^{th} , at the new residence of **Frank Lucas** in Martinez. **Frank** has been saving his money, as he has missed the past three games. We are all looking forward to getting some of his savings on May 4^{th} .

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"



GOLF Ed Marlovits

The golf committee continues to evaluate our new approach to arranging our flights by handicap only with the goal of improving payout fairness. So far so good, but with limited data, the

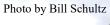
concept is still in the trial stage.

Our annual scramble and luncheon meeting on April 17th was a great success. Among other items discussed, **Pat Lucia** gave a presentation on the importance of choosing the correct tees from which to play.

Our first away golf this year will be on May 4th at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Brentwood. **Joe Fuchs** has arranged for a shotgun start.

The SIR Area 2 annual team qualifier scramble will be held May 25th at Hiddenbrooke Golf Club. The Division 4 Individual Qualifier will be on August 23rd, also at Hiddenbrooke, a challenging Arnold Palmer golf course.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities and a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow SIRS and a great way to recruit new members. We play every Tuesday morning and would be pleased to add guests to our weekly random pairings. Consider this an invitation to check us out. You can get in touch with us through another SIR golfer or simply email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.





Larry Gray, Ed Brands, Bob White, and Bill Schultz

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



Retrieving a driver on the tough 18th hole March 28th. Proof that SIR Golfers don't just play on the grass!

Q: Why did the witches' team lose the baseball game?

A: Their bats flew away.

Photos from Annual SIR 146 Golf tournament



Pete McNeill, Ray Weisz, and Steve Dawkins



David Steinberg (tournament director), Gary Brown, Ron Binder, and Ken Kratz



Doug Eisner, Rich Hanford, and Jim Burk



Bill Danzig, John Hammond, Jeff Bailey, & Dennis Hallett



Bill Klein, John Harrington, Joe Fuchs, and Mike Whitaker



Max Hinkle and Jim Passaglia

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)





The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 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 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.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

\$ums, the Area 2 Investment Activity, will meet Wednesday, May 24th at Legends Restaurant in Diablo Creek Country Club on Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

The program for May hasn't been confirmed yet, but we will email \$UMS attendees when this is known.

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

\$ums Chairman: Tom Henry (Br-174) (925) 284-5724

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

davesutn@comcast.net

My friend thinks he is smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at his face

Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group [A2CAT] announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday May 18th, 2017 starting at 9:30 am, but come early for coffee, goodies, and chat. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

This month, Frank May will be delivering us More Windows 10 Tips & Tricks. There's always something new and interesting to learn about Windows, and Frank is going to cover some of those things that we may find useful. A copy of Frank's notes should be available about a week before the meeting at: http://a2cat.sirinc2.org/

We look forward to seeing you 9:15 am, Thursday May 18th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. 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 our May meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman

A proud and confident genius makes a bet with an idiot. The genius says, "Hey idiot, every question I ask you that you don't know the answer, you have to give me \$5. And if you ask me a question and I can't answer yours I will give you \$5,000." The idiot says, "Okay." The genius then asks, "How many continents are there in the world?" The idiot doesn't know and hands over the \$5. The idiot says, "Now me ask: what animal stands with two legs but sleeps with three?" The genius tries and searches very hard for the answer but gives up and hands over the \$5000. The genius says, "Dang it, I lost. By the way, what was the answer to your question?" The idiot hands over \$5.

Apps Corner

1Password

Is your password for all of your apps and log-in password? Do you have all your passwords on a spread sheet that you can't find? Do you have a binder on your desk with all of the passwords? What is that dam password!!

You need a password manager. I would suggest 1 Password. 1Password is a fantastic app that stores and syncs your passwords and other important information across multiple devices. If you hate passwords, 1Password just might be your new best friend. It works with your iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Mac, PC (not Blackberry or Kindle products). It will create passwords for you. You can store credit cards passports and other information. The information is protected with a password and you can make the information available on your computer, phone and pad.

If you want more details you can click on the link below to see a tutorial on 1 Password.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HSxWUqwpzU

Amcrest Video Camera

At the April luncheon I mentioned the Amcrest video camera. This is a 1080 video camera that you can set up to video a room in your house. It is wireless for the video, however the camera does need a connection to an electric plug. The cheaper camera is for internal use and you can find them on sale on Ebay for about \$70. If you install a 64GB micro SD card you can record up to a month of motion. The camera is controlled by your iPhone or Android. They do have an external wireless camera that sells for about \$100.

The camera is called Amcrest IP2M-841 ProHD 1080P (1920TVL) Wireless WiFi IP Camera

If you want more details you can click on the link below to see a tutorial on the Amcrest

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bj9bB7Rsk3c&t=70s

LibreOffice

LibreOffice is a fully functioning office suite for PC or Mac, including spreadsheet, word processing and presentation programs, and the files it produces are in Microsoft Office format. This office suite isn't a webbased system and instead is downloadable and runs offline. It's compatible with Windows, Mac and Linux systems. LibreOffice is a popular product because, although there are a few missing features, you get all the basic office software and some advanced options at no cost. With LibreOffice, you get the three main programs that you'd expect. These are Writer, which is the word processor; Calc, spreadsheet software; and Impress, the presentation maker. You also get Draw, which is the equivalent of Microsoft's Paint; Base, database software; and Math, an equation formulas editor.

This free office suite is compatible with most major file types, including Microsoft Office. While the vast majority of Word files render perfectly inside LibreOffice Writer, some more complex text documents may render differently. You'll also find that the spreadsheet software from LibreOffice is a little more restrictive than some more expensive office suites' spreadsheets and lacks a few of the advanced options, such as using power pivots and adding graphics to headers or footers. However, these minor compatibility and functionality issues really aren't deal-breakers.

Search for a download site using your favorite browser.