

# SIR CALL

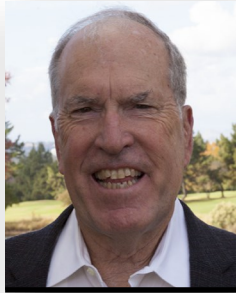
br146sircall@gmail.com

November 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Big Sir's Notes Brad Hatcher

I want to give a big Thank You to **Bob Lucido**, our Activities Chairman, for finding our October speaker. Joseph Lumello spoke on the very tough topic of "Coping with a Loved Ones Death". Despite the title, he did an excellent job of describing a number of facts and ideas we all need to know. If you were unable to hear his remarks, the copy of his slides is on the website under the "Members" section. I urge you to take a look at the important information provided.

Our next luncheon, accessible in Zoom, will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:30. We will continue our tradition of honoring our veteran members during the proceedings. See the note in the red section for information on our speaker.

The meeting format: We will sign on to Zoom, divide into small "breakout rooms" and chat with those in that room, come back to the main meeting and listen to our speaker, and then conduct Branch business. Our meeting will run about one hour and thirty minutes. Look for an E-mail a couple of days before the meeting with the Zoom link. That will give you access to the meeting.

Speaking of meetings, there will be an "electronic" Ladies Day Luncheon in December. We are asking you to consider joining a table of five couples, just like we have in the past when luncheons were "real". We will use the breakout sessions to gather your specific table members, and allow you and your significant other to chat with the others at the table. It should be a delightful way to reconnect with friends. We will show clips of music from the Devil Mountain Chorus for entertainment. You may remember they joined us last December with delightful music. If you have not heard from someone about joining a table, I urge you to volunteer to gather a group. Further information is in a note found on page 4 of this newsletter.

If you did not see a note from **Bruce Borgman**, he is already working on having a "Couple's Dining Out"

## Zoom, Zoom...

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting  
Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker: CAPT Jerry Devine,  
Officer-In-Charge US Pacific Fleet,  
Maritime Homeland Defense

He will share his experience as liaison to US  
Coast Guard Pacific Area Command

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:30 am

Speaker Presentation: 12 Noon

Invite a guest to attend the meeting—use the email  
address below

Email: [attend146meeting@gmail.com](mailto:attend146meeting@gmail.com)

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

dinner in November. Contact him for the information.

You should have received a notice of 2021 dues in the mail. Besides the request for your dues, we ask that you provide us with your telephone numbers (land line and cell numbers). It is voluntary to do so. We also ask that you verify your address. Please send in your check and information if you have not already done so.

The Branch Executive Committee will meet on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is open to all members. If you wish to attend, please E-mail **Jerry Kaplan**. He will make sure you receive the invitation to the Zoom BEC meeting.

I again urge you to pick up the phone and call Sir friends to check in. You might ask them to be sure to join us at the November meeting.

Dust off the recipes for your turkey and stuffing and all the side dishes. Thanksgiving is coming fast!

See you at the luncheon.

Stay safe –

Be well –

Wear your mask –  
and Vote!

## SIR Mission Statement

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



### Little Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

As tradition goes in SIR, our November meeting focuses on our SIR members who served in the armed forces anywhere in the world and for any country they served under. We are very fortunate that

**Larry Kaye** helped us find CAPT Jerry Devine, Officer-In-Charge US Pacific Fleet, Maritime Homeland Defense Detachment in Alameda, CA as our November speaker who will share his experience as liaison to the US Coast Guard Pacific Area Command, via Zoom.

Now I want to address our plans for the December "electronic" Ladies Day Luncheon event that the BEC (Branch Executive Committee) has approved for December 10<sup>th</sup>. This event will come complete with a series of separate breakout rooms that will mimic a table setting of 5 members and spouses or partners with up to a full hour to socialize with couples that you know and wish to engage with followed by fifteen minutes of the Devil Mountain Chorus singing holiday songs on YouTube video. See page 4 for more details on this event and how to set up your own table with guests or get invited to join a table that is already set up with seat openings.

Making it through these challenging times while maintaining contact with other SIR members, makes the journey a little easier when you have someone, in the same predicament, to talk with. That is why it is so important to continue to reach out and maintain contact with your SIR friends either on the phone, email, participating in an online game, or actually engage with them in an in-person event that we are continuing to strive to open up.

Please come to the November meeting and sign up for the Ladies Day Luncheon. Maintain 6' separation, wear your mask, and keep washing your hands to stay safe which is your most important role.

### 2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Little Sir.....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Rich Lyon*</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>George Mon</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Ross Abbott</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Milton Smith</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Brian McCarthy</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Ron Lew</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Director Interim Term .....	<b>Bob Lucido*</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

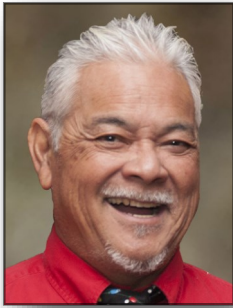
#### RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Activities .....	<b>Bob Lucido</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Tony Greco</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Peter Plante</b>

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



Recycled jokes are a sign of desperation that is 2020.



## Membership Ron Lew

The BEC approved **Steve Longbotham** of Walnut Creek with his wife **Liz**, in the month of September and **Ray Martz** living in San Ramon with his wife **Sue**, in October during our Zoom virtual Board meeting prior to our last Zoom luncheon. Both were sponsored by our SIR 146 Recruiter, **Paul Beretz**.

As you can see, new SIR members are being introduced to our branch through activities as many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our technology like ZOOM, Facebook, or Skype. We will be planning to have a Zoom Luncheon meeting in November. So, you have time to help others join this great organization of SIR 146 via Zoom... while making friends for life. Many SIR 146 members meet through activities respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything. I hope you have a safe and fun Halloween.



## Member Relations Tony Greco

It's time to renew your SIR Branch 146 membership for calendar year 2021. **George Mon**, SIR 146 Treasurer has mailed you a notice including a return envelope requesting payment. The annual fee remains at only \$20. It is one of the best investments you can make towards your future well-being and happiness by maintaining your fellow member friendships, making new friends and joining social activities. What a deal! Heck, the annual fee is less than the price of a medium combo pizza at Rocco's.

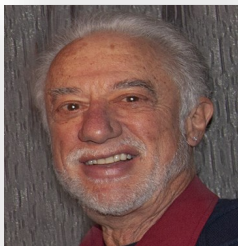
Please write a check for \$20 and mail it promptly while it's fresh in your mind and before you misplace the notice and return envelope. But before you do, make sure to check the file information we have on you and update or correct it, as necessary. Most importantly, please identify and add cell phone information. The information you provide will be used to update our directory to enhance better communications among members.

Changing the subject, we are looking for a volunteer. Our entire branch is run by volunteers. Won't you get involved and join us? We are seeking a Member Relations chair for 2021. It is not a very demanding position and is very part-time. To give you a little background, when our 2020 Member Relations chair resigned in March, I agreed to take over the 2020 position until a permanent replacement was found. Well, we haven't found one, so I'm planning on filling this position for the remainder of the year. Moving forward, for the 2021 calendar year, we are hopeful you will volunteer to be our 2021 Member Relations chair. Please step up and help out. Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested, please contact me directly for more information about this position.

Happy trails to you until we meet again.

**Tony Greco**

[almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



## Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

The new Model Railroad Train activity is still in the early stages of organizing. I have reached out to other SIR branches to see if any one else is interested in joining.

Because of our restricted activities, we all need to keep in touch during this time of isolation. Reach out to someone in your activity group and say hello.

**Bob Lucido**

925-899-0974

[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)



**SIR Happenings  
Newsletter**

<http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings> is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.







## Reservations for Ladies Day Luncheon which will be held Via Zoom

Utilizing the meeting application **ZOOM** combined with the presentation capability of **You Tube**, we will virtually create the live environment of the Ladies Day Luncheon with multiple tables of ten diners sitting around socializing in virtual ZOOM Breakout Rooms with participants that you help select, much like was done in past year's actual environment at Boundary Oak.

Each table (Breakout Room) will be assigned a table leader. I have sent notices to all table leaders from our last live luncheon in December 2019, encouraging them to volunteer to lead one or more of the tables this year. It will be their role to invite SIR singles and couples to join them at their table. An optimum table will have five couples to promote all around conversation. **Steve Ybarra** has agreed to handle the reservation process which will be as follows:

- **Step 1**—Send an email or call **Steve Ybarra** letting him know you wish to attend the Ladies Day Luncheon Zoom meeting. List your name and your wife or partner's name and any others guests you would like to join you at a table. If a table leader has already contacted you to join them, than you just need to confirm with **Steve** that you will be joining the table led by the name of your leader. **Steve** will assign your table number.
- **Step 2**—You will receive an invitation to join the Ladies Day Luncheon via Zoom a couple of days before the event. Seating at your table will open on December 10th at 11 am, so you may check in at this time or any time after. The table leaders plan to start discussions at 11:15 am so don't be late.
- **Step 3**—When you click on the Zoom link, you will enter a waiting room. You will then be let into the main meeting area. Based on your email address, you will be automatically moved to you assigned room or table.
- **Step 4**—At 12 noon, we will bring everyone back in the main room and Big Sir will welcome you to the Luncheon and provide any announcements prior to the start of the 15 minute video featuring the Diablo Mountain Chorus singing holiday songs in their own unique stylized flair. After the video, the SongSirs will sing Good Bless America and then the meeting will adjourn.

Please email or call **Steve Ybarra** at [sybar@gmail.com](mailto:sybar@gmail.com) or (925) 676-7405 to sign up and join us in your home.

## State SIR Leadership Summit



SIRs is the best kept secret...no more!  
Join us to **Converse, Connect, and Convey**  
with State Board Officers' training presentations  
November 16-20, M-F daily, 1-3 pm



Zoom Link: <http://bit.ly/3mkaKHU>  
meeting ID: 847 7081 4710  
pass code: 553379  
Please post in Branch newsletter

AG Lee Moy  
State SIR Trainer



**The Official Flag of 2020**



## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Hello Diners, here we are almost eight months into dealing with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We have had to cancel the Couples Dining Out event for the last many months, as well as most other activities for Branch 146.

But, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Various Bay Area counties are slowly opening up and in Contra Costa county, restaurants have adjusted to the new normal with outside patio seating. In the last few weeks some inside seating is allowed as well.

Anticipating that we might be able to consider restarting our Couples Dining Out, I requested approval to restart this activity at the Executive Board earlier this month, which was approved. It may be that many, or most of you are not yet ready to venture out, but here is an opportunity if you are anxious to return to a semblance of normalcy.

I have reviewed the seating at one of our favorite restaurants, Wence's in Pleasant Hill. They have set up outside dining in tables of two to four, and actually are approved for even larger groups. I would probably limit it to 6 for our group. I have tentatively reserved Tuesday, Nov. 10 with a very attractive menu at a good price. The menu has a choice of two soups, or salad, and the following entrees; fish tacos, Cajun jambalaya, grilled king salmon, chicken piccata, and grilled New York steak.

Dessert is also included - all for an inclusive price of \$47 per person. They do have inside seating as well, with properly spaced tables. We will, of course, not have a social cocktail hour - and you can choose to sit with your spouse, or one or two other couples. All seating is consistent with county regulations, of course. We will start earlier - at 5:30pm, and will watch the weather to see if we can sit outside with space heaters.

We were used to having group of 70 or more before the pandemic hit. My expectations are that we will have perhaps no more than 20 or so, if any at all, who are willing to get together. If it does not work out this month, we may re-schedule in January. Clearly, the most important thing is that you feel safe. Let me know by email if you are interested, your seating preferences and menu selections. Our current email list is quite long, and I would like to pare it to those who are interested in staying on the list. Even if you are not interested in this event, let me know if you wish to remain on the list.

Best regards and wishes for good health!  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



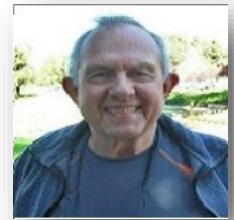
## Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

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.



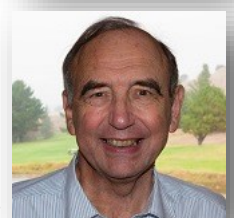
Dick Kincade



Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



"Stan Stricherz



Jim Meehan



Vince Rettew

New Feature

One of the main ways we learn of a SIR who is having health problems is when they "opt out" of the monthly luncheon. Since the in-person luncheons have been cancelled (at least for the time being) and we all are "sheltering at home" this can be a great opportunity to connect with your luncheon buddies, your golf buddies, your poker or bridge buddies, etc. to see how they are doing. If you learn that a fellow SIR is going through an illness, send me an email so that we can let the membership know. This way the membership of Branch 146 can keep the SIR who is ill in their thoughts and prayers.

This is a difficult time but with the support of family and friends this journey will be easier.

*Stay Healthy.*  
**Brian McCarthy**  
[brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net)

# October SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



At the October luncheon, **Chuck Campbell** was honored with the Branch 146 Certificate of Appreciation. This award is given to a member who has distinguished himself in service to the branch for many years. This criterion certainly describes **Chuck's** contributions.

**Chuck** was born and raised in Portland, OR and met his future wife, **Marti**, in high school. After high school, **Chuck** enrolled at the University of Oregon. However, he soon transferred upstate to Oregon State University, transforming himself from a Duck to a Beaver, and obtained a BS in Civil Engineering.

After graduation, **Chuck** moved to California and obtained a MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford. By my count, **Chuck**

can say he studied at 1/4 of the universities in the PAC 12 Conference! Pretty impressive credentials, Mr. C!

**Chuck** worked for Bechtel for 35 years and for AECOM for another 5. His career at Bechtel included tours of duty in Venezuela, Thailand, and Wales.

**Chuck** joined our branch in 2008 sponsored by **Bob Johnston**. His service to the branch included the Greeters Chair in 2011; Director in 2012; Assistant Treasurer in 2013 and Treasurer in 2014; Book Club organizer and chair in 2017 and 2018; and MTD 5 Chair in 2018 and 2019. By any standards, this is a proud resume.

Thank you, **Chuck**, for your friendship and service to Branch 146 the past 12 years!

Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom Luncheon



**Me: Please bring me a  
screwdriver.  
Wife: Flat head, Phillips, or  
Vodka?**

**And that was when I knew  
she was the one.**

People say 60 is the new  
40. The cop who just  
pulled me over didn't  
agree.



# October SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



At the October luncheon, we had two birthday celebrations to recognize. The State SIR Organization provides very special recognition, called the President's Award, when a member reaches 90, 95 or 100 years old. I am proud to present **Jack Calloway** as our latest recipient of the Senior Sir President's Award for having reached 90 earlier this month.

**Jack** was born in Chicago on October 3, 1930 and was raised in Elmwood Park, Illinois. He graduated from Fenwich High School in Oak Park, Illinois and then enrolled at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. **Jack** transferred to DePaul University, where he earned a BS degree and went on to attain a MS in Business Administration. **Jack** then spent 5 years in the Army, two on active duty, and attained the rank of Sergeant. In 1952, **Jack** joined Pure Oil and continued with its successor Union Oil, retiring in 1992.

**Jack** and his wife **Kay** moved to Walnut Creek in 1972. They have 3 children: Mary Kay, Terri and Tom, as well as 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

**Jack** lists among his many significant achievements: President of the Administrative Management Society from 1990 to 1991, and President of the Walnut Creek Men's Golf Club in 2000. **Jack** joined our branch in November 1992, sponsored by **Walter Koon**.

**Jack** has had a distinguished career in Branch 146, having served as the Big Sir and later recognized as an Honorary Life Member (HLM) of Branch 146 for exceptional service and dedication.

I (**Jim Burk**) have personally had the privilege of playing golf with **Jack** on many occasions and can personally attest to the fact that he is a "Sweet Swinger". He considered himself as a lifetime golfer until health issues required him to give up the game in 2012. **Jack** also enjoys genealogy as well as gardening with a special interest in butterfly gardening. When you next see him, ask for specifics regarding this latter activity.

Jack, happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to a special Senior Sir, who has served Branch 146 with distinction.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the October 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom Luncheon



Have you played the updated kids' game? I Spy With My Little Eye . . . Phone.

Q. What did sick people do on the Mayflower? A. They went to the dock!

# October SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



It seems like only yesterday that **Denny O'Loughlin** was presented with an award for 20 years of service in Branch 146. But at the October luncheon, **Jim Burk** had the pleasure to recognize **Denny** again as he approaches the young age of 95 years and to present him with the Super Senior Sir President's Award. **Denny** was born in November 1925.

**Denny** and **Jim** share some professional background as they both worked for Pacific Telephone. He worked in what was once called the plant department and now is installation and repair. He also worked in the construction department and retired in 1984 before later joining Branch 146 in November 1999.

I am pleased that **Denny** found companionship in SIR, particularly with his fellow Marines which in November is when their service to our country and Veteran's Day will be celebrated at the luncheon. It is observed that he often attends our luncheons with **Dee DeMatteo** and makes it a point to give **Dee** a ride. Surely, they trade stories about military service and life in the utility world among other things. **Dee** worked for PG&E in his professional life.

**Denny** came to Walnut Creek in 1961 with his wife **Eleanor**, who unfortunately died several years ago. He has a daughter, Noelle, living with him and two sons: Brian and Mitchell.

**Denny**, we are pleased you have enjoyed your activities with SIR and have reached this milestone age. You will soon reach the Super Senior Sir status. We all would love to know your secret for longevity.

Congratulations **Denny** and Happy Birthday!



Charles: What is a turkey's favorite dessert?  
Mary: I haven't a clue.  
Charles: Peach gobbler!

Danny: Why did the cranberries turn red?  
Jake: Beats me.  
Danny: Because they saw the turkey dressing!





## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group joined the SIR Branch 8 Photography Group on Friday, October 16th via Zoom Videoconferencing. The theme of this month's meeting was "Story Telling with Your Photo Images." There were 24 SIRs on the call with great photos to focus on this theme. SIR **Ross Abbott** was first up with his story of his life journey from the "Wonder Down Under," Australia. SIR **Jerry Kaplan** told his story on his trip to China along with other artistic shots. SIR **Moose Kelly** presented his story about his trip to Antarctica focusing on the wild life of this barren, cold wasteland. SIR **David Kingsbury** literally wrote a "Tale of Two Kitties" with accompanying pictures. SIR **Peter Plante's** story was on the animals of the Serengeti Plains in Tanzania. SIR **Bob Wilkenfeld's** story was about the markets of Bangkok. SIR **Roy Hodgkinson** presented a picture of a poster of two women with the caption "Grab 'em by the ballot box." There were a number of great presentations from Branch 8 Photography Group ranging from extending a plane runway in Diego Garcia in the 1980's to travel photography to re-climbing the Eastern Sierra Mountains roughly 40 years later. All in all it was a great meeting with our fellow SIR members.

If you are not on the photography list and would like to join us for future meetings, then contact SIR **John Kelly** by email at [Rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:Rollingstone911@yahoo.com) or text / call SIR **Moose** at (610) 517-0152. Our next photography meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, December 18th at 9 AM. More details to follow. Happy Thanksgiving to you and all. Be well and be safe out there.

Email: [Rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:Rollingstone911@yahoo.com)

Cell/Text: 610.517.0152



## Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

*We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.*

*All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never played before, as well as those who last played many years ago.*

*If you are interested in joining our group, call one*

**Charlie Kahsen**

(925) 943-1750

[cwkahsen@gmail.com](mailto:cwkahsen@gmail.com)

**Jeff Morrow**

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)

*of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.*

*If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group. **No Scheduled Games until Further Notice***



## Hang tight...

Due to doom, gloom and boredom, a laugh track has been added to my life!



## AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

October was a very productive month for our group, and we did lots of fishing and catching in many different venues.

The highlight of the month was our annual trip to Lake Almanor. Eight fishermen stayed at the LaQuinta Motel in Canyon Dam and enjoyed

the hospitality of John and Debbie, the owners. Two days were spent fishing on the lake and not only did the group limit out, but the fish, both rainbows and German browns, were big. The highlight was an eight-pound German brown landed by **Pete Gates** of Branch 146.

The most unusual hook up of the month was experienced by **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146. Rich was fishing for halibut in the Bay and was about to call it a day when his rod bent. At first, he thought that he had hooked a large halibut, but then the rod bent virtually in half, as if a sturgeon was on the other end. Rich could not budge the fish for quite a while, but after about fifteen or twenty minutes, he managed to get it to the surface. Rich was using light tackle, normal for halibut fishing, and so the line broke as he tried to maneuver the fish toward the boat. He did get a picture, however. It turned out that the fish was a guitarfish, a species that is rarely hooked in the Bay, and it certainly was the first of its kind ever hooked by a club member. Rich estimates that the fish weighed about sixty pounds. Its head is similar to that of a skate, but it has a long and slim body which is supposed to be quite tasty.

**Rich** also went salmon fishing with **Pedro Contreras** and **Ken Bellindir** on **Pedro's** boat. **Pedro** landed a 22 pounder not long after they reached the Duxbury reef. Later, in the day **Ken** and **Rich** had simultaneous hits. With only one fisherman available to handle the net, it proved difficult to land both fish and **Rich** lost his. But **Ken** was able to boat his fish, which weighed in at 18 pounds. One more fish was caught before the day ended.

**Martin Steinpress** of Branch 146 journeyed to the upper Sacramento River near Dunsmuir for some fly fishing. The trip was successful and was topped by a good-sized rainbow.

**Carl Moyer** and **Stan Wong** signed on for halibut fishing on a party boat. Not long after fishing commenced, **Stan** caught a nice one. Their rods then went silent for almost the rest of the day, but just before the captain announced that it was time to quit, **Carl** landed a halibut. But they enjoyed the pleasant weather.

**Ron Lew** of Branch 146 was more successful on a halibut outing in his own boat. He caught his limit of two, and one was over 10 pounds. On another trip, **Ron** caught a limit of two salmon and picked up a couple of rockfish on the way out.

**Mike Browne** of Branch 146 fished on Suisun Bay at the mouth of the Napa River and caught flounder and shaker stripers. On another trip to the Trinity River, he hooked an eight-pound salmon and some native steelheads.

**Phil Scimonelli** fished on the Pinole Pier and hooked a 26-inch halibut. No net was available, but **Phil** gingerly hauled it in by hand once it got close to the pier and landed it. He also caught smelt and shaker stripers on the same outing. Later, he fished on the Martinez pier and landed some shaker stripers, and he had a pleasant day surf fishing on Sunset Beach, although he did not catch anything.

**Brion Beetz** and **Carl Moyer** fished out of Pacifica on **Carl's** boat and brought home a nice catch of rockfish and ling cod. On another outing, **Brion** and **Stan Wong** caught ten stripers. Eight were shakers and two were keepers.

Our group continues to do lots of fishing. The salmon season is over, and halibut are now few and far between. But there are plenty of opportunities for sturgeon, stripers, trout, shark, flounder, black bass, and crab. Because of the pandemic, we have suspended our monthly breakfast meetings. Instead, we are meeting on Zoom. The next meeting is Thursday, November 19 at 8:30 am. If you wish to join us, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4156 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566. Once we hear from you, secretary **Brion Beetz** will send you a Zoom invitation.



**Biff:** Why did the turkey cross the road?

**Bob:** I don't know.

**Biff:** It was Thanksgiving Day, and he wanted people to think he was a chicken!



[See Fishing Photo on next Page](#)



## Travel Milt Smith

The interest in cruises is picking up and some are already filling up. Cruise lines are doing a number of things to prepare their ships; things like fewer passengers, and more cleaning. As you can imagine they are anxious to get their customers back as soon as they can. I have taken a look at two possible cruises for 2021 & 2022.

A shorter cruise aboard the refurbished Ruby Princess (Princes Cruises) just to get your sea legs again; sailing from San Francisco round trip on October 17-24, 2021 through the Pacific Northwest Coast. Ports of call are Astoria Oregon, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C. and Victoria B.C. No flying required!

Pricing begins at \$1,734 for a Balcony State Room to \$1,494 for an Ocean View Stateroom. Prices are per person, double occupancy.

The same cruise for nearly the same price is also available April 23-30, 2022. Our friends at Travel Center Tours and Travel are holding space for us on each of these cruises.

How about the Panama Canal, for a bit longer cruise, leaving Ft. Lauderdale Fl. for San Francisco on March 12-27, 2022 aboard the Ruby Princess, ports of call are: Cartagena Columbia; Panama Canal (new locks), Fuerte Amador (Panama City); Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. Our friends at the Travel Center are also holding space for us on this cruise as well.

These trips were presented to the BEC at the October for approval and if you have any interest at all in any of these please contact Milt Smith right away at [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com) or (925) 285-2897.

As mentioned in recent SIR CALLs, there is still extremely limited space for the Grand Baltic Sea Voyage June 5, 2021, as well as the Narsai David Cruise North American Treasures Cruise aboard Crystal Serenity in September, 2021.

I also have some information about the 2021 – 2022 Broadway SF season...9 shows...more information to come.

**Milt Smith**  
(925) 285-2897  
[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)

Fishing Photo from Article on prior page



Photo by: Unknown

Ron Lew's Halibut

**Had I known in March that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant, I would have ordered the dessert**





**Pickleball and Ping Pong**  
**Jim Burk & Ron Afdal**

**Good News is on the horizon!**

My church, namely the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church located at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo is targeting first to open our gymnasium for Basketball and Volleyball Youth Leagues Activity on Monday, November 2, 2020.

We have decided to be conservative so as to protect the health of our users, and are planning a “phased opening,” with the Ping Pong and Pickleball activity being targeted later for early in the 2nd Quarter of 2021 (tentatively April 5, 2021). Our thinking is that this “phased” opening will give us an opportunity to test our planned Coronavirus “protocols” on the younger participants so as to keep them safe. If that works, we will feel more confident with the protocols we would use on our senior participants.

We will keep you up to date on opening dates as soon as the County Health Department gives us clearance.

**Jim Burk - Pickleball**  
 (925) 946-1192  
[jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)

**Ron Afdal - Ping Pong**  
 (925) 825-4809  
[ronafdal@comcast.net](mailto:ronafdal@comcast.net)

**Luncheon Chairman**  
**Rich Lyon**

*I hope everyone is playing it safe and staying healthy! The branch will publicize the details when it is permitted to resume the monthly luncheons. Please stay tuned for details.*

*Once the monthly luncheons are restarted, friends who are interested in joining should be invited for a one-time “free lunch” per friend.*

*In addition to the many branch activities, the Luncheon provides a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new people with whom you may already have something in common.*

*We don’t know when the luncheons will resume or under what rules and restrictions but, sometime after the shelter in place order is lifted.*

*In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.*

**Rich Lyon**  
 Luncheon Coordinator



**Editor’s Note**  
**Richard Hockenbrock**

*If anyone still needs training on how to log in on Zoom, please send me an email at [rhock2005@yahoo.com](mailto:rhock2005@yahoo.com) that I specifically set up to address training and attendance issues. I will try to help you out.*

*Since using Zoom is the only way we can meet as a group now, it is important that we try to have all our members actively participating in our monthly electronic meetings.*

**Richard Hockenbrock**—Editor SIR CALL  
 Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713

**SIR Call Newsletter Group**

Editor	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Co-Editors	<b>Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose, Clint Collier &amp; Bob West</b>
Photographer	<b>Henry Thatcher</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage</b>
	<b>Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Ron Plachy</b>





### SongSirs Bruce Borgman

For the November virtual Zoom meeting, the SongSirs were asked if we could sing a medley of the service songs as has been our tradition for many years. In this new world of singing remotely, we thought about how we might be able

to have the group sing each of the songs – Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. We thought that it would be difficult for each of 6 to 8 SongSirs sing each of those at home, and record each one. Then, we’d have to synchronize each clip – and sadly we decided that it was too complex.

The next proposal was for the group to get together outside somewhere, my backyard and **Richard Hockenbrock’s** backyard were considered. We polled the SongSirs whether they would consider singing together, but, there were just three willing to risk this endeavor, and eight who thought that in this was not a safe enough practice. So, again sadly, we decided that we would not be able to continue our standing tradition. We suggested that perhaps finding a clip on You-tube would be a possible solution to still have the service songs performed as a tribute to our members who served in the Armed Forces.

But, we will return to our practices and performances when we’re all immunized with a vaccine!

(925) 932-3961  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



### Explore & Eat



### Black Diamond Mine Tour

Cancelled Now

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours)

**We are looking forward to your participation!**



### Bocce John Kendrick

**ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!**

*I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch 146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.*

*In addition, our primary concern is for the health of our players and at this time it is not certain that we can provide a playing environment which will sufficiently protect everyone from the COVID-19 virus. **We will make every effort to ensure play will resume in 2021.***

*See you then!*

*Under normal circumstances, we play the 2nd and 4th Mondays, through September/October at 8:30 am at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.*

*If you are interested in playing Bocce when we resume play again with your fellow SIR members and guests, please e-mail me [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com) and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us last year.*

*Rain Cancels Play.  
Ladies are welcome.  
Come and join us.*

**John Kendrick (925) 827-0585**

[jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

**I've started  
investing in stocks:  
beef, chicken, and  
vegetable...  
One day I hope  
to be a boullonnaire.**



## SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Recent hiking activities have been: Huckleberry Botanical Preserve: with **Bob** and **Sheila Ford** and **Larry Gray** on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This was a fairly short walk of about 2 miles with 300 feet elevation gain. I would

recommend this walk to anyone as the trail is very well marked to point out 21 species found in the Oakland hills. And I think that spring time would be fabulous with most of these species in bloom!

Diablo Foothills: attended by **Gene Schulting** and **Ray Martz** on October 9<sup>th</sup>. We did a 5-mile loop hike with 600 feet elevation gain which included the Little Yosemite Trail.

Due to weather conditions that caused closures of hiking venues in the Oakland hills, previous plans to hike to Wildcat Peak were postponed. So, we will try again to hike the Wildcat Peak trail in the Tilden Nature Area on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM. Wonderful views from the top of the peak to most of the bay, including all the bridges, SF skyline, Oakland shipping port, Mt. Tam, etc.

This hike is moderate with about 700 feet elevation change to the peak and is about 4 miles in length. This is a loop hike starting with the Packrat trail to Jewel Lake, then Sylvan trail to hook up with Wildcat Peak trail. After a break at the top of the climb to consume snacks and water, we will make our way down the hill with a brief stop at the Rotary Club Peace Grove. From there to Laurel Canyon trail, Pine Tree trail, back to Laurel Canyon trail, and finally to Little Farm. Unfortunately, Little Farm and the associated parking lot is closed, so park at the lot immediately adjacent to the closed gate. This hike should take about 2 hours at a brisk pace or more like 3 with many breaks.

From Highway 24 west bound at Orinda, take Fish Ranch Rd to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and turn right. Continue on Grizzly Peak through the Berkeley hills until you reach the intersection of Spruce St., Wildcat Canyon Dr. and Canon Dr. Turn right onto Wildcat Canyon Rd, then immediately make a sharp left turn on Canon Dr. At the bottom, turn left on Central Park Dr. and follow road to the parking area near the closed gate at Little Farm. The address for GPS users is 600 Canon Dr, Berkeley.

Spouses always welcome  
Rain (not likely!) cancels  
Dogs not allowed on this trail  
Cell (925) 360-3449  
[Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)

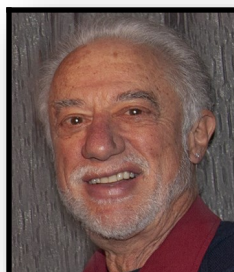


## Recruitment Paul Beretz

*Hey Branch 146 members. Is anyone interested in Model Railroading, trains, planes, military or even dollhouses?*

*If so, please contact **Bob Lucido**.*

Activity Chair  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

We will report on our October RV trip that started the week of October. 26<sup>th</sup> in the December SIR CALL. This was a trip to the Manchester KOA, which is on the Northern coast.

The site was only a long walk to the beach. The plan was to start the trip in September, but the RV sites were full.

Everyone and their dogs were ready to get out of town.

(925) 899-0974  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

**Jerry Kaplan**

Like most other activities, The Group One players have not been able to meet at our monthly Game Nights. We continue to miss the fun as well as the different treats and super snacks that have been provided by the hosts each month.

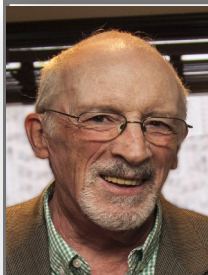
We had our second Zoom meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the same night as we would usually get together for Game Night. Alas, no money changed hands to go into the winner's pot and no scratchers were available for those players who had a bad night by achieving a high score (NOT the object of Mexican Train Dominoes). However, we still got to visit virtually with several of the regulars: **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**, **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone**, **Peter Plante**, and **Martha Plante**, **Jeff Baily** and **Alicia Baily**, and **Jerry Kaplan** and **Susan Kaplan**. See candid photo of these Zoomers at bottom left of page.

We all shared experiences that we have had during the pandemic and offered our expectations as to when we may see one another in person around a MTD game table.

Everybody who has joined a meeting seems like they enjoyed it, so we will do it again. LOOK FOR A LINK A DAY OR TWO BEFORE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM.

Hope everyone is well and are looking forward to resuming "normal life," whatever that looks like in 2021 and beyond.

Thinking positively, and assuming we will see each other in person around a dominoes game, ALL BRANCH MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PLAYED BEFORE, BUT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING, PLEASE CONTACT **JERRY** TO LEARN HOW. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single Sirs as well as a SIR and his significant other are always welcome.

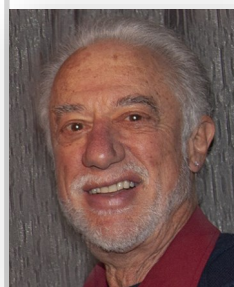


## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

**Jeff Baily**

*No Events Planned.*

*Dear Sirs; As soon as we open up playing MTD#3 will be running to meet and play.*



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

**Bob Lucido**

We all continue to get together with Zoom once a month on the same date as our MTD game. We still have fun keeping in touch while keeping virtual distance.

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 1 Zoom Meeting Oct 9<sup>th</sup> : **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**, **Jerry** and **Susan Kaplan**, **Carmen Schiavone** and **Rob Melrose**, **Peter** and **Martha Plante** and **Jeff** and **Alicia Baily**.

Luke: What did the turkey say to the computer?

Will: What?

Luke: "Google, google, google."



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

October 7<sup>th</sup>: The boys looked at the AQ and off we went. Clean and fresh air. What a treat. We met **Paul Brown** from SIR Branch 2 today. He joined us as we rode out to the Tassajara Valley. What a nice day. Lots of sun and chat as we pedaled

our bikes out to the country. Scenic and reminder of what was. The Old school house was open to us as we sat around her grounds enjoying social distance and chat. After some discussions we mounted up and headed back to Danville. The tail winds were great and the downhill were terrific. Cruising at 16-20 MPH is always a thrill. Especially so when you are our age. Back thru town and returning to Alamo we rode. Great ride by all and we met a new friend in Spandex too. What a Treat. Joining today was **Paul Browne, Ron Lew, Jim Nelson, Michael Wolfson, Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Bob Wilkenfeld**, and **Larry Kaye**.

October 15<sup>th</sup>: The forecast was gusts to 50 mph, who cares? The Spandex guys from 146 plus the Br2 Guy all said, "let's go". Today we rode from Martinez up Franklyn Canyon to McKuen Road and then rocketed down to Snake Road. Along the Carquinez Straights, on the George Miller trail we cruised. The views were spectacular. Reminds one why we live here. Along today was the famous BBQ judge from Sirs BR. 2 Paul Browne. He swears he was powered today by his wife's famous cheesecake. That was his breakfast, really.

Keeping pace was **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Ron (Big Fish) Lew, Larry Kaye** and **Paul Brown**, the cheesecake guy. Onward we rode. No wind and no heat wave yet. Stopping for a view and to down some water we pedaled. No cars make's this trail magnificent. Onwards we went heading to State Street Cafe in Martinez. Finally, after some expenditure of calories the downhill appeared taking us to the Cafe. Boy was that a worthwhile trip. Refreshments and belly bombs away. Yummy.

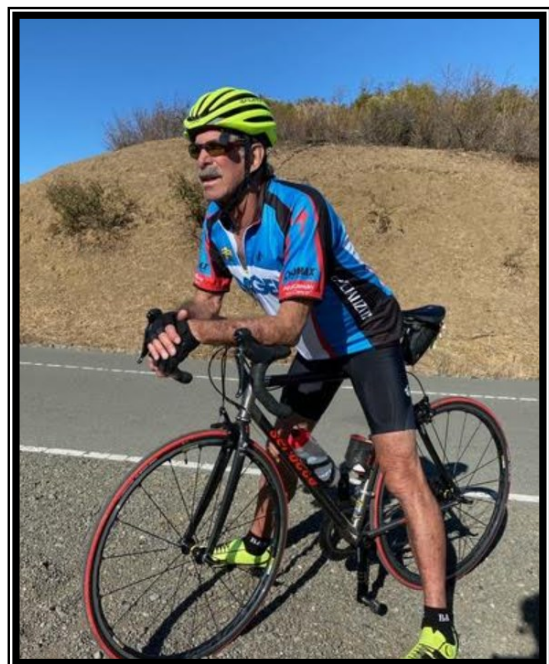
October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Cool. Really cool. Wow. It was really cold this AM. The boys in Spandex met for a nice flat ride today. Everywhere we looked, neon yellow was the uniform. Some guys wore long pants, missing only balaclava hats. Off we rolled to Dublin. Nice and flat. We rolled through Danville, enjoying the road work, we rode into San Ramon enjoying the road work. Hopefully real soon all this wet tar will be a memory. Then we hit Dublin. Yikes, more tar, more road work. Our destination was Deneca's cafe. The thought of hot java, and tasty belly bombs helped our pedaling.

Suddenly, it appeared. We dropped anchor and immediately ran for .....the restrooms. Hey, we are all advanced seniors. Coffee and chat and of course the humongous cookies filled the bill. Finally, the road beckoned. Heading North we rolled. This time the Iron Horse Trail beacons us. Warmth flooded our bodies as the sun warmed us. Yummy. We solved the world's problems and discussed the aging process. All as we headed North. Fun chatting with similar people.

Soon enough we returned to our steel vehicles and after distanced hugs and air kisses we pointed to home. Today's brave souls were: **Bob Lucido, Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, Ken Studer, Pat Hoy (Br 8), and Larry Kaye**.



Rest stop on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> trip: (L to R) **Ron Lew, Ken Studer and Bill Ross**, and **Paul Brown** from Branch 2.



**Larry Kaye** at same stop





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group enjoyed a pleasant late afternoon get-together in the Backyard of **Bill Cammerer** on Monday, October 12. We again opted for appetizers only, instead of our normal monthly cooking extravaganza.

Fortunately, our consumption of fine wines and other delightful liquids was not curtailed. **Bill Roberts** and **Corrie Oranje** could not attend, but the six other members all enjoyed the clear warm fall weather in **Bill Cammerer's** beautiful backyard setting.

The attending members enjoyed substantial appetizers which included BBQ and teriyaki chicken wings, mini beef franks wrapped in puff pastry with three kinds of mustard, mini-tacos with salsa, an antipasto tray and three types of delicious sausages provided by our host **Bill Cammerer**.

Our discussions covered several upcoming local non-partisan races and many of the local tax measures and statewide propositions. All the discussions were civil, thoughtful and clear headed. We of course avoided any mention of the presidential race. In addition, several members discussed their many past world travels...all of us wondering when we would be able to safely travel.

And finally, **Bob Yolland** shared his reflections of his Navy service aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Bennington*. With an Admiral aboard, his perspective from the bridge and the seriousness of naval maneuvers was captivating.

**Dennis Hallett** will host our next get-together on November 9th.



Photo by Bruce Borgman

**Dennis Hallett, Bill Cammerer, Bob Yolland, Ken Richter & standing, Steve Ybarra.**



## Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

**Pool Play on Hold!**

*We meet every Monday at*



*11:00 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 week 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.*

*Reported by Jim Barry*



## Cooking Lunch & Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Cooking Group met in **Joe Barry's** backyard on November 18. We still are not cooking because of the pandemic but each of us brought our own lunch and **Joe** supplemented our rations with a nice spread of vegetables, cheeses, and cookies. As always, we had interesting conversations about a variety of subjects and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We are completing our eleventh year as a group. Our pattern has been to hold eight lunches per year, one each at a member's home, and go out for dinner with our spouses and significant others in March and September and suspend activities in November and December. This year, we did not meet in March, April, May, and June because of the pandemic or smoke and we did not have our dinners with spouses. In order to make this up a bit, we have decided to hold meetings this year in November and December. Thus, we will meet in **Bob Spellman's** backyard on November 18<sup>th</sup> and **Pete Gates'** backyard on December 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition, **Bob Spellman** has agreed to be the chair for 2021.





## Book Group John Pearl

The SIR146 On-Line Book Group met Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Our “Zoom Master” was **Mike Farrar**, who introduced a new voting feature to us. The editor of this review was **Paul Dubow**.

The book that we discussed this month was *The Whiskey Rebels*, by David Liss. It is a historical novel which starts its tale about 10 years after the Revolutionary War. Whiskey played a major role in the story, but the famous Whiskey Rebellion starts well into the book, which itself covers a several year period.

Like our previous month’s read, it is a tale of revenge, as the two main characters seek revenge against those who harmed them personally, financially, and socially. While they were fictional people, the backdrop includes some of the famous people of the time, such as Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, and George Washington. The US capital was located then in Philadelphia, where much of the story takes place. The other main locations were the “west,” which is now (and then) known as Pittsburgh, and New York City.

The two main characters are a strong and educated woman who moves from New York City to the Pittsburgh area with her husband who had served in the Continental Army during the war and was paid in scrip. A speculator convinces them to sign away their scrip at a discounted price for a piece of land near Pittsburgh, which it turns out, they had only leased.

Her husband invents a better way to make good whiskey, which was essentially a “trade good” as money was scarce and difficult to earn. This puts him into conflict with a villain who represents the New York speculator in the Pittsburgh area and this person ultimately kills the husband and their unborn son, and burns their cabin, as well as the novel the woman was nearly finished writing. After the villain is killed by one of his cohorts, she raises money from the group of friends who had gone into the whiskey business and moves to Philadelphia, with the mission of seeing the original speculator destroyed.

The other main character is a former captain in the Continental Army who was a spy for then General Washington and was excellent in collecting information and returning it to the general. He and his compatriot were falsely charged with being double agents and helping the British cause. They were both summarily discharged from the army. He also wants to extract

revenge from those who had falsely caused him to become something of an outcast.

Mr. Hamilton’s role was as treasury secretary, and one of his tasks was how to cover the debts incurred during the recent war, including what was owed the soldiers who held the scrip, which was eventually paid in full to those who held it. His solution was the whiskey tax, and the Congress passed it. This did not sit well with the folks that made the whiskey, primarily in the west, and Hamilton became a “bad guy” in their eyes, and they did not pay when the tax man came around.

There were lots of interesting characters, which included many of the villains, in the book. We learned that even Hamilton had his flaws, but he did work awfully hard to establish a national bank, which was later abolished by President Jackson.

The story is told in chapters devoted to the two main characters over a period of time, and often do not overlap so the reader needs to be cognizant of that. The two finally do converge near the end of the book. We learned that the “trading floor” for various securities was the tavern!

There were a lot of misdirection's in the book, so one is never quite sure where it is going next. Con jobs were the order of the day, whiskey was traded, and not so much was sold. The whiskey rebellion was more of a protest and not a military campaign, the blacks were both slaves and freemen, and again, no one is perfect and all are flawed.

We wondered if such a strong woman as the main character could possibly exist and succeed in that time.

The author, who has written several books, is a good writer and this was a fairly easy read. There were lots of characters to track and gaps in the timeline to manage. If you are interested in that part of our time as a country, we would recommend it.

We used Zoom to vote on the book for our next read. Mike has learned how to use the “Ballot” feature of this application. We were all surprised when it came time to vote a list in ballot form popped up on the screen – easy to see the vote count.

While several interesting books were proposed for next month, we picked *The Darwin Affair* by Tim Mason. We meet next on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

John Pearl, Interim Chair  
[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)



**Cribbage**  
John Pearl

The Branch 146 Cribbage Group continues its foray into the online world with Tournament No. 7, shepherded by our Chief Technical Officer (CTO) **Jim Nelson**. The enthusiasm continues to grow, and we have 15 entrants in our double elimination format with a consolation bracket also added. Nearly 77 games are scheduled and in progress as this is being written, and the tournament is in the home stretch.

The number of participants encompasses the majority of the Cribbage Group – quite a success.

John Pearl

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

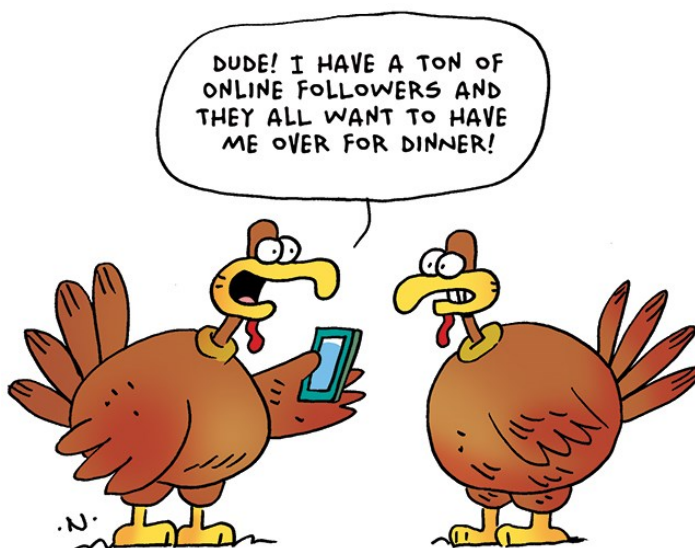
**Members with November Birthdays**

With in person luncheons we usually have those with Birthday's in that month stand and have a drawing for a free prize, usually a hat. Well, there is no drawing since we are not having in-person luncheons, but we felt it would be a good idea to publish the names of those with Birthdays in the monthly newsletter. Below are those members with Birthdays in November.

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| FRANK O'LOUGHLIN | DON DOTSON          |
| RON ROUSE        | PETE MCNEIL         |
| LEW THOMSON      | BOB GREULICH        |
| HUGH FERGUSON    | SIG KALTEIS         |
| JOHN AERO        | RICH PACE           |
| JAMES OWEN       | JAMES BROWNING      |
| ED HEWITSON      | KEN SOULT           |
| CLIFF PERKINS    | JIM SOLOMON         |
| MICHAEL ROSE     | RICHARD HOCKENBROCK |
| JOHN BOYLON      | DAN HOLLAND         |
| FRANK LUCAS      | JOHN KENDRICK       |
| JIM SAAVEDRA     | BOB WILKENFELD      |
| MICHAEL ROACH    | DOUG ALLEN          |
| DAN SCHLATTER    |                     |

**MAYBE IF WE  
START TELLING  
PEOPLE THE BRAIN  
IS AN APP, THEY'LL  
START USING IT.**

OLDTIMERS





### MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Each group plays 4 games on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. However, because of Thanksgiving, for November, our next online games, if you are interested, will be Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. October summaries are displayed in the table below. The big winners for the month were **Frank Lucas** with 4.5, **Bob West** with 3 and **Bob Finlayson** with 2.5. **Frank Lucas** "Shot the Moon" 4 times and **Bob West** 3 times.

We have been working on our "sheriffing responsibilities in ensuring those we pass to do not "Shoot the moon". You can see below that there were 12 uncovered passes in October as compared to 5 in September, so at least for last month a lot of people could

say they "shot the sheriff". We affectionately label the runners "shooters" and those that endeavor to stop them "sheriffs".

YTD Statistics: YTD Wins: **Ray Bland** leads with 40, **Bob Finlayson** is 2nd with 31.5 and **Frank Lucas** 3rd with 27.5. Win %: **Ray Bland** is leading with 41.0, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 40.9 and **Frank Lucas** with 30.6. Lowest Avg. Score: **Bob Finlayson** is leading at 69.4 points, **Bob West** is 2nd with 70.6., and **Ray Bland** 3rd with 70.7. YTD STM: **Frank Lucas** leads with 35 followed by **Ray Bland** with 29 and **Rich Lyon** with 14. **Jim Nelson** is now the "best sheriff" since July with no uncovered passes. **Frank Lucas** is "Most Improved" in that his YTD winning % is 306% of his 2019 percentage.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email [robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list.

October Summaries								
First Name Last Name	Frank Lucas	Bob Finlayson	Bob West	Ray Bland	Ron Polivka	George Sabbagha	Brian McCarthy	Steve Ybarra
Wins	3.5	2.5	3	2	2	1	1	
2nd	2.5	3.5	1	4	1	2		1
STM	4	1	3	1	2	1		
Avg score	66	85	84	84	83	76	103	99
Uncovered passes	1	0	1	2	4	1	2	1

SIR 146 Men's 2020 Hearts Statistics														
Date	Group	Game	Bob Finlayson	Bob West	Brian McCarthy	Frank Lucas	Jim Nelson	Rich Lyon	Ron Polivka	Steve Ybarra	George Sabbagh	Ed Smith	Ray Bland	# hands
YTD AVG			69.4	70.6	93.3	76.2	74.5	78.6	84.9	78.6	79.5	73.1	70.7	9.7
2020/2019 Scoring Avg			135%	105%	104%	82%	90%	131%	91%	113%	n/a	n/a	94%	
YTD STM			9	7		35	5.0	14	10	8	4		29	
YTD STM % games			12%	9%	0%	39%	23%	31%	11%	10%	6%	0%	35%	
YTD WINS			31.5	23.5	1	27.5	3.5	14	14	19.5	13.5	1	34	
WIN %			40.9%	28.7%	6%	30.6%	16%	30.0%	16%	23%	20%	25%	41.0%	
WIN %: 2020/2019 Avg			72%	103%	n/a	306%	72%	36%	16%	163%	n/a	n/a	143%	
YTD 2nds			19.0	25.0	3	26.0	7.5	10.5	23	30.0	15.5	1	24.5	
UC pass aft 7/10; Best Sheriff			1	1	4	7	0	2	10	3	4	n/a	6	
Games played			77	82	18	90	22	45	89	84	69	4	83	
			Game Key Chart			Avg hands in game			FL 2nd 4 of 4 winner 9/25					
			1st			Classic hearts		10	RB 1st 4 of 4 winner 9/11					
			2nd			Jack Diam -10 opt		16	BF won 4 of 5 on 8/15					
			3rd									RL, won 4 of 5 on 7/10		
					Records of year			Steve Y. won 4 of 5 games on 6/5, 1st 4 time winner						
					2nd best records of year			Ray B. won 3 of 3 on 4/24						
								Bob F. won 3 of 3 on 5/19						





**Men's Duplicate  
Bridge 1**  
Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled



**Couples Duplicate  
Bridge 2**  
Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce  
932-3877

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

Why is it that experts *avoid* the use of Blackwood, and novices use Blackwood with *a void*?

Dave Pierce  
932-3877  
[dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



**Men's Duplicate  
Bridge 2**  
Bill Schultz

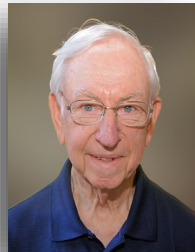
No Games Scheduled

*Unfortunately, Bill recently passed, no new Activity Director has yet been determined.*



**Party Bridge**  
Jim Pope &  
Jim Stedman

No Games Scheduled



**Couples Party Bridge**  
Tony Greco

*Couples Party Bridge continues to be placed on-hold and will not re-start until national, state, county and city governmental COVID -19 safety guidelines have been established for home based social activities such as bridge. Once guidelines are established and are considered maintainable and enforceable by Couples Party Bridge, a request to re-start will be submitted to Branch 146 BEC for approval.*

**Tony & Cindy Greco**

(925) 934-0395

[almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



Josh: What do you get when you cross a turkey with a centipede?  
David: Tell me.  
Josh: Drumsticks for everyone on Thanksgiving Day!

A man buys a parrot, only to have it constantly insult him. He tries everything to make the parrot stop, but nothing works. Frustrated, the man puts the parrot in the freezer. After a few minutes the insults stop. The man thinks he might have killed the parrot, so he opens the freezer and takes the parrot out. The parrot is shivering. It stammers, "S-s-sorry for being r-r-rude. Please f-f-forgive me." Then, after a moment, the parrot softly asks, "W-w-what exactly d-d-did the turkey do?"



**Poker Group 1**  
Dan O'Sullivan

No Games Scheduled



**Old Money Poker Group 6**  
Brad Hatcher

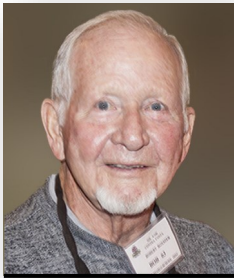
No Games Scheduled

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)

Poker Groups



**Poker Group 2**  
Bob Royster

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 7**  
Bob Lucido

No Games Scheduled

*Poker Group 7 meets on the third Monday of the month at Bob Lucido's house at 6:30 pm*

(925) 899-0974

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



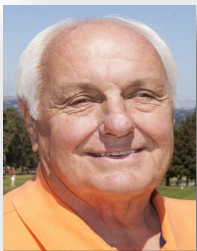
**Poker Group 3**  
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 4**  
Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



**Poker Group 5**  
Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled





## Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

**Come Out! We are playing!**

*The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. Exception is the second 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](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



## GOLF Ed Marlovits

October's Branch 146 Golf neared its close with a Tuesday Tournament in Memory of **Bill Schultz**. We had 14 foursomes, 56 golfers, sign up to play including participation by members of the Swingers and a group formed by **Bill's** Marine friend, Greg Grebe. We were pleased that Bob O'Connor was able to participate. Bob was also Bill's buddy since their Marine days, his longtime bridge partner, and primary recipient from Bill's collection of ProV1's. Each golfer was also offered a sleeve of balls from **Bill's** remaining collection of rescued balls, a nice reminder of the joy **Bill** brought with his participation in Branch golf.

We raised \$1,450 which will be donated to the Marine Heritage Foundation. They will place a brick with the following inscription, which was based on his obituary:

**Capt William Schultz**  
1944 – 2020 War Hero  
SIR 146 Golf Buddy

We had a fine turnout of 31 for our final away golf of 2020 at Chardonnay, including two guests. This was among the highest non-Boundary Oak events we have had in recent years. (We might have done better at Rossmoor had COVID not interfered.) This was played as a normal Tuesday golf day and there will be payouts from the normal prize fund.

Golf

Pedro: What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day?

Ordep: What?

Pedro: "Quack! Quack!"



## Book Corner Peter Plante

*Our books are waiting in storage for the day they can be lent out again. I hope you are all finding something that spurs your imagination. War and Peace is an ongoing read for me. Chapter 39 and still going!! . Maybe we could share some of our other favorites classics. Happy reading!!*

*All contributions are welcomed and we have plenty of books for your next installments.*



**I hate it when I see an old person and then realize that we went to high school together.**



# My Saga of the recent PG&E Power Shut Down

By SIR Richard Hockenbrock

My saga began the week Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, when PG&E sent out emails and text messages to those households that were going to be included in a suspected wind-weather related shut down of power from 8-10 pm on Wednesday, Oct 14th through Friday, Oct 16th up to 10 pm. On Wednesday evening, I made sure to eat dinner early and got on my computer to download any email and financial data for that day. I also made sure I had my six propane tanks filled earlier in the day with fuel to run my generator on which I can power about half my house with priority on my garage freezer and refrigerator plus the main refrigerator/freezer in my house. I also offered **Sue Sheldon, Bruce Borgman's** wife, use of any spare space in my freezer for her expensive food she might be afraid of losing.

The power went off soon after 8 pm on Wednesday night. Remember I said I could supply half of my house with power, but it is a random distribution using only one side of two phase line system, so I had no lights downstairs and only a few lights upstairs that worked. I went to bed early that night as I was tired. About 2:30 am I awoke to a buzzing sound, sure enough, almost like clockwork, the first tank of propane was empty and needed changed. This is the first indication how long a tank would run with the generator running constantly - it turned out to be 6 hours. Going down stair and outside, I changed out the first tank which only took about ten minutes and I came back upstairs and went back to bed.

Thursday morning was uneventful except around 8:30 am I had to switch out the second tank of propane. My microwave was showing the correct time so I assumed it was getting power, so I decided to heat up one of those Jimmy Dean's Egg / Sausage sandwiches that I had in the freezer. I wrapped it in a paper towel and hit start .... Everything in the house shut down. Ok, I guess I did not need that sandwich after all but why did it shut everything down? I concluded I was on the hairy edge of supplying half the house with power and the 1500-watt microwave was too much and it tripped the circuit breaker. I just had to reset the breaker and I was back in business.

It was then I remembered that this was Thursday morning and I was scheduled to play 9-hole golf this morning at 9:30 am at Diablo Hills across from John Muir

Hospital. Checking my watch, I concluded I could make it there in time. Opening my garage door by hand, since there was no power, I jumped in my older Lexus car which had my golf clubs in the trunk and proceeded to turn the key to start the car. NOTHING!!! The battery was dead. Ok, I thought, I'll just transfer my clubs over to Sherry's car (now known as my second car) and I'll be good. Pushing the button to open the trunk on my old car, NOTHING!!! Now I cannot open the trunk to get my clubs. Grabbing my Black & Decker battery charger which I had laying around just for these types of emergencies, I looked around for a moment to see where I could plug it in. No plugs with power were to be found. I thought for a second and said to myself, "The freezer won't miss having power for a few minutes." So, I unplugged the garage freezer and plugged in the battery charger. There was no



way I could hope to recharge the battery to start the car in time but all I needed was just a small charge to open the trunk. Sure enough, after about ten minutes, the trunk was able to be opened and I was off to play golf in my second car.

Later Thursday afternoon, I had an appointment with my financial advisor in Pleasanton. After reviewing my investments, we went to dinner at an outdoor restaurant in downtown Pleasanton, called BACI. It was a Italian restaurant with seafood specialties. About halfway through dinner I received a call on my cell from my next-door neighbor, Steve Samuals. He called to tell me that the power had come back on earlier in the evening at 5 pm and he wanted to know if he should shut off my noisy generator, half joking, hopefully. I told him NO that I would be home in an hour or so plus it should run out of propane soon anyway. Indeed, when I arrived home around 8:30 pm, the generator was off and everyone on the block had power. I also had a text message from PG&E telling me that my power was now on.

At this point, I was feeling pretty happy and was glad to put away all my cords and plugs that I had taken out. I reset all the clocks and got my solar panels turned back on and my house alarm and camera monitor all reset. I finished out the night by reading my email and went to bed at 10:45 pm.

At 10:58 pm, the POWER WENT OFF AGAIN!!! This time, No warning, no emails. I look out the window of my bedroom and sure enough, the power as far as I could see was off. Now, I'm searching in the dark, "Where did I put those flashlights?" I'm back down at the generator changing the expired propane tank and pulling out all the cords and plugs that I had painstakingly put away just a couple of hours earlier. I crawl back in bed at 12:30 am but can't sleep. I think I got to sleep around 4 am. It is now around 5:30 am and I'm awakened to that now familiar buzzing sound again, just like the one from the night before. The propane tank needs changed.

Friday Oct 16th, it is honestly a blur to me. I can't remember much what happened on that day other than the power came back on again around 5 pm. I remember unhooking the cords again but unlike last time, they still are out on the garage room floor.

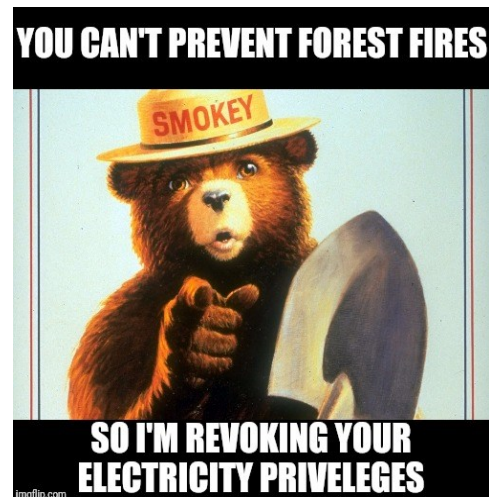
Saturday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> I was prepared for the final clean up from the power shut down and to turn on my 22 solar panels which I had turned off again during the 2nd shutdown or did I. A few minutes into the startup, a red light began blinking on the solar panel converter box. "This is not good" I thought. A closer inspection shows no amperes coming from the converter box then I saw these frightful words at the bottom of the screen ..."Electrical Arc Detected". A call to SunPower, my panel supplier, confirmed the worst after running some tests; "We'll have someone contact you next week and determine when they can come out to inspect the problem; COVID has affected our support staff", the support person said.

On Wednesday, October 21st I received a call back from SunPower from Sammy in the Philippines. The very soonest he could get a technician out to fix my converter would be November 19<sup>th</sup>, one full month after having my problem. And so I wait!

Then today, October 24<sup>th</sup>, as I put the finishing touches on this long missive. Can this be déjà vu all over again?



*Best Wishes to you and yours for a  
Wonderful  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
From your  
SJR Call  
Editorial Staff*

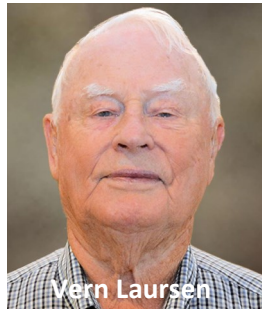


## Area 16 Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

**Max Burchett and Verner Laursen** are long time Mac users (1978) and members of the Diablo Mac User Group. We are available to help you with your Mac questions and problems. If we cannot help you, we will direct you to someone who can help with your Mac questions. If you are planning to buy Apple products, we can provide information on what and where to buy.

In the past we have had meetings at the Thurman Casey library, but the attendance was sparse, so we discontinued those meetings. Then came Zoom and we are now planning to have meetings using Zoom. We do have a list of Mac users within SIRS and we will use that list to inform members of the date and time of Zoom meetings. If you wish to be added to our list, please let Verner know of your desire. We do have attendees from other SIRS groups. We do plan to announce our meetings to all member of SIR 146.

**Verner** in the past, led a genealogy meeting at DVMUG that was disbanded for a lack of attendees but is going to start that up again with the use of Zoom. (His family in My Heritage has over 30,000 names.) If you are interested in genealogy and want to be added to that group, please let Verner know

Verner Laursen [Vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:Vlaursen@astound.net)  
Max Burchett [Meburchett@astound.net](mailto:Meburchett@astound.net)

---

### Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

\$UMS is not meeting these days. We did have a Zoom meeting in June, but that was a one off. We will let you all know if anything else happens. Occasionally we will send out links to investment websites that might be of interest to our members, but not on a scheduled basis.

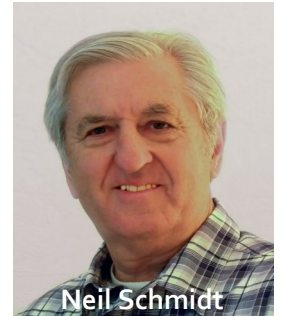
Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 [tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)  
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - [davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

### Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30.

In November Computer & Technology presentation will be on "Microsoft Access" by Dan Weller. "Access" is a program included in the Microsoft "Professional Office". It provides the tools for creating Windows applications. This presentation will explain and demonstrate the main functions of Access: a relational database, a clever data query function, a form creation tool, a report creation tool, a user-friendly macro tool, and the ability to read and update data in Word, Excel and external databases. Dan will also discuss when it is a good time to use Access and when you should avoid using Access.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.



---

6:30 is the best time on a clock  
Hands down

---