



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

25th Anniversary Celebration:

As October approaches, we're getting closer to Oct 9, the date we celebrate our branch's 25th anniversary! Little Sir **Bill Holly** has planned a special meal and a very special program for that occasion

and you'll not want to miss it. Additionally, we've invited special visitors from the State SIR organization to help us celebrate! These gentlemen include **Maynard Rudland**, Sir State President, **Dean Steichen**, Sir Region 6 Area Director, and **Robbie Robinson**, Sir Area 2 Governor. Please check out the Little Sir's Corner elsewhere in this newsletter for more details on our celebratory plans.

2015 Dues: As a heads up, dues for 2015 are due October 1st and delinquent December 31st. We don't know the dues amount at this time because the BEC has not approved the 2015 budget but expects to do so at its October 9th meeting. We'll announce the 2015 dues amount at the October luncheon.

Clubhouse Renovation Update: The latest news from the City of Walnut Creek is that contractors' bids have been received and evaluated by City staff and a contractor has been selected. Staff plans to seek City Council approval of the contractor's bid at the Council's October 7th meeting. We hope to learn the construction schedule shortly thereafter. In the meantime, the BEC is soliciting input from members on whether to temporarily relocate to the Concord Hilton during construction. Please share your opinion on this important matter with any member of the BEC.

Member Survey: It's time for our annual survey of member satisfaction and those of you whose last names begin in the H – O range are targeted this year. **Brad Hatcher**, or someone on his committee, may soon contact you and we ask that you take this opportunity to give us feedback on how well we're meeting your expectations. We appreciate your participation and your input will help us formulate future plans.

Luncheon—October 9th
25th Anniversary Celebration Branch 146

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

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Before noon Friday, October 3rd

SIR Happenings

Newsletter

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

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Big Sir Doug Eisner presents
20 Year Service Award to Jim Baldrige



Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

What do you know about our branch? Well for one thing it had its provisional start after a few members got together to form a new SIR branch in May of 1988. On December 19, 1989 it received its charter as SIR Branch 146. As a result, in December

of this year our branch will be 25 years old.

We have chosen to celebrate our branch's 25th anniversary at the October luncheon. That's because we recognize our veterans in November and we have our Ladies Day luncheon in December.

For the occasion we will forgo having a guest speaker in October so we can take a trip down memory lane and recall a few of the highlights of the past 25 years. To do this we will utilize some of our past Big Sirs, with each of them briefly covering a 5 year period.

While this is going on, we will have a PowerPoint presentation flashing in the background with the pictures of our members arranged according to the year they joined the branch.

There will be an upscale luncheon menu followed by a champagne toast to the past, present and the future of our branch. The luncheon cost will be the same despite the enhanced luncheon menu. What a deal! You won't want to miss this special occasion!

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Big Sir **Doug Eisner** presents President's award to **John Wilhelm**



Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

At our BEC meeting on September 11th, we approved three new members, increasing our membership to 273 active members (including our six Honorary Life Members).

New Members added in September



Jerry Crumpler

No Photo

Joe Jaeger



Don Dotson

Member Losses in September

None

Inactive Members

Bruce Benzler and Dan Hungerford resigned and George Harkin was dropped after being inactive for two years.

Photo by Bill Schultz



Bob Mehus, Mike Whitaker (guest), and **Bill Schultz** enjoy a conversation with **Bill's** guest before the luncheon..

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders

Dick DeVoe and Cal Tucker

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

*Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

Thank you very much for making our meetings a big success. I give all of you a big loud hand of applause. The next meeting of The SIR Acoustic Musicians Group is 1pm October 16th, Directions: from 680 work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, East on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., Right on Blackwood Dr., Slight Left staying on Blackwood Dr., Sharp Right on Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost. Please bring a potluck dish to share for lunch.

Below are two musical gifts for you: please click on the links for my recordings, produced by Scott Mathews. Scott has produced Grammy winning recordings for Barbara Streisand & The Beach Boys.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caccXQ2Fjby>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr-iDKEH-TA>



SIR 146 & Friends 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Wednesday, October 8th, 2014
 6 pm to 10 pm at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant
 Price is \$99 per couple and includes
 hors d'oeuvres and dinner
 Live music for listening and dancing

Your choice of:

- Beef
- Fish
- Pasta

Please write your check to SIR 146 Dance and mail to:

Richard Kincaide

10750 Inspiration Cr.

Dublin, CA. 94568

Phone: (925) 479-9935

Tables of eight are encouraged

Your Name and Your Partner	Meal Desired
Couple 1 -	Meal -
Couple 2 -	Meal -
Couple 3 -	Meal -
Couple 4 -	Meal -

Got in a fight with my wife last night which was my fault.
 She asked me what was on the TV and I said: dust.
 Didn't go too well after that.

Photo by Bill Schultz



Jim Sanders, Doug Eisner, and Walt Busenius at Away Golf

25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE
 WE STILL HAVE ROOM!

FINAL CUTOFF DATE: OCTOBER 1ST

That's right—only eight days away—call (925) 479-9935 for your reservation for the Silver Anniversary SIR Dinner/ Dance on October 8th for a grand evening affair the night before our SIR 25th Anniversary Luncheon on October 9th.

PLEASE CALL NOW!

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



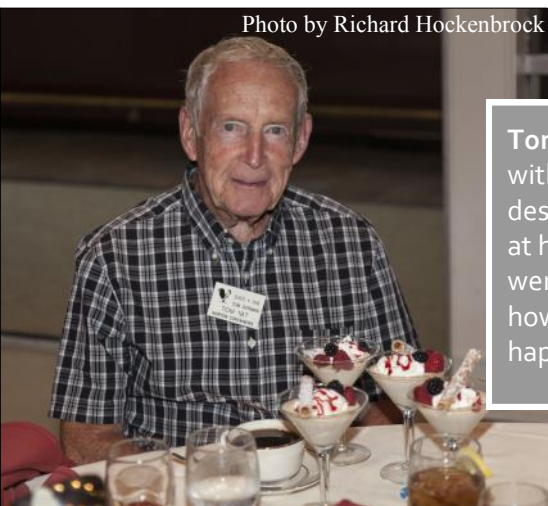
Birthday Boy Carl Johnson holds up his cane to let everyone know he is the first of two September birthday names drawn from a hat.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Birthday Boy Pete Miller is all smiles as his name was drawn as the second September birthday winner.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Tom Gorman with four desserts. Sirs at his table were mum on how it happened.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIRS 146 Luncheon

October 2014

Salad

Gorgonzola Salad

Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears
Crumbled Blue Cheese, Candied Pecans
Champagne Maple Vinaigrette

Entrees

Surf And Turf

Braised Short Ribs, Garlic Prawns
Whipped Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Red Wine Sauce

Or

Pistachio Crusted Mahi Mahi

Confetti Rice Pilaf
Seasonal Vegetables
Chardonnay Caper Butter Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheesecake
Crème Anglaise, Whipped Cream

You don't stop having fun when you get old....

You get old when you stop having fun



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met September 10th at the home of **John Lewis**. The big winners were our guest **Doug Cook** and **Dan O'Sullivan**. There were other small winners, some broke-even, while others lost. As always it was a fun

outing. Our next meeting will be hosted by **Frank McNamee** on October 8th.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

Jim Stedman hosted our August session. Our big winner was **Jim Brown** who had two very unusual hands. In five card draw poker Jim first drew 4 fives then later drew 4 aces, each time the hole card was

the fourth card he needed. All players were really shocked. **Ken Kratz** will host our September session.



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

It was a wonderful sunshine filled afternoon in Clayton as **John Gray** hosted the Old Money Poker Group 6. Fortunately, the A/C was working fine in the house as the

temperature outside soared to 97°. We only had 4 regular players, **Frank Lucas, Sid Landman, Brad Hatcher, John Gray**, and one substitute, **Harvey Oxman**. Last month we had eight players, our largest group ever. While those eight players consumed two bottles of wine, this month's group of five also consumed two bottles along with some unexpected entertainment from **Frank** who concluded the festivities by supposedly dancing on the poker table. He said he was just happy to have won a couple of dollars.

As usual, the winner was **Sid Landman**. We all concluded that he is a card shark after learning that he works part time in Pacheco and Emeryville in the card houses. He tells us that he is just trying to make ends meet since he is on a fixed income but he did go home with 8 bucks of our money in his pocket. **Sid** also conveniently volunteers to 1) count the poker chips to be distributed, 2) count the money out, 3) pay out the winner, 4) restack the chips into the chip carrier which is a genuine silver container, all the while texting his wife and taking incoming calls. There is also a rumor that **Sid** plays duplicate bridge in another Sir group while blind-folded but none of us could verify that.

Our newest member, and probably the youngest, **Harvey Oxman**, only contributed a dollar by losing but made up for it by consuming his fair share of **John Gray's** wine at \$150 a bottle! The favorite game seemed to be Texas hold 'em.

*Respectfully submitted by **John Gray** who broke even but left the table very happy indeed.*



Photo by Bill Cammerer

Susan Oranje, Richard Hockenbrock and **Bernice Cammerer** at the Couples Dining Out dinner



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Alicia Baily, Steve Siljestrom and his wife **Linda** prepare to sit down to enjoy their Couples Dining Out dinner at Kobe Japan restaurant in Pleasant Hill



Sunshine Report

John Pearl

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

- **Howie King**
- **Bob Donahue**
- **Dick Richmond**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings. If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.



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 go to the SIR's luncheon.

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



Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner has been a continued success over the past years because of the willingness of our members to share their books. We anticipate this participation will continue. The Book Corner will be open the following months in the future: January, March, May, July, September and November.



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

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 for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.

Our lunch group along with our ladies enjoyed dinner and cocktails at The Cooperage Restaurant in Lafayette September 17th. It was a delightful evening with lots of conversation and fellowship. Those sharing the evening were **Dick and Janice Woodman, Jim and Phyllis Meehan, Pete and Ann Gates, Syd and MJ Whalen, Frank and Carol Rockwell, Joe and Josie Barry, Bill Hartman, Paul and Joan Dubow and Bob and Jo Spellman.** Our next LAW lunch will be on October 22nd at the home of **Jim Meehan.**



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

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

It's time to announce the arrival of October, which means this is the last month of Bocce play for the year. We play on the 13th and 27th, and then go into winter hibernation until next May. Come and join us for this enjoyable activity. Ladies are welcome.



Cribbage

John Pearl

On the afternoon of September 17th, eight of us gathered at the home of our usual host, **Barney Meade**, who promptly showed us how the game is played. **Dennis Hallett** took home second place money while enlightening us on the future of Scotland post-election. A future member, **Ron Afdal**, came in third, just edging the chair, **John Pearl**, who managed to win back his ante. We all enjoyed a boisterous outing complete with snacks.

mcppearl@astound.net

(925) 934-6920



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Since we have all made our quarterly estimated federal and state tax payments, there might be a little amount left for our next poker session. Sir **Rich Hanford** will be our host for our September session at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz**. Last month we enjoyed having a new member of SIR as a substitute player, Sir **Joe Stengel**.

General Rules: Any time during a betting round, if one player bets and no opponent chooses to call" (match) the bet and instead "folds", the hand ends immediately, the bettor is awarded the pot, and no cards are required to be shown.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Away Golf - at Blue Rock West on 8-7 with **Dick McElroy, Joe Fuchs and Jim Barry**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ron Ragno and Roger Thornton enjoy a lively conversation at the luncheon.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bob Bogardus with guest **Rich Deyoe**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Hank James finds plenty of books to exchange at the Book Corner.



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Although the fishing has been pretty good in the Bay Area this past month, quite a few of us traveled elsewhere for our angling.

Jack Waddell went on a family outing to Priest Lake, Idaho, but took the time to catch ten

mackinaw weighing up to fifteen pounds. Closer to home but not in the Bay Area, **Brad Hatcher** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Karl Droese**, **Al Brunner**, **Joe Karg**, and **Dave Carlson** caught smaller mackinaw in Lake Tahoe. **Raleigh Davis** journeyed to Alaska and brought back some nice halibut. **Don Mittelstadt** also traveled to Alaska and had a lot of fun fly fishing for salmon. **Kent Cremolini** caught salmon and steelhead on the Klamath River in northern California. Finally, **Karl Droese** and **Mario Moratorio** flew to the east cape of Baja California and landed quite a few dorado (known elsewhere as mahi mahi) in the Sea of Cortez. They also caught trigger fish, puffers, and needlefish fishing from the beach. On the last day they had quite an adventure when stormy weather caused the portable dock on the beach to break loose, thereby preventing their boat from landing. Fortunately, they found a dock several miles away and their hotel sent a van to fetch them so they avoided spending the rest of their days at sea.

Locally, **Raleigh Davis** found some salmon to catch, fishing out of Bodega Bay. **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Harry Sherinian**, and **Terry Miller** caught lots of rockfish in the ocean while fishing with **Carl Moyer**. The same group also got many catfish up to twelve pounds in San Pablo Reservoir. **Raleigh Davis** and **Gordon Linebaugh** caught salmon out of the Golden Gate, fishing with **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146. **Bill Karr** got lucky on a party boat out of Berkeley, catching two large salmon.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 23, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but come early and join us for breakfast. Veteran fishermen, former fishermen, and those who have never fished but would like to try it are invited. For further information, call branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.

What did the fish say when it hit a concrete wall? Dam!



Theatre
Gary Schaub

DEATHTRAP is SIR 146 Theatre Party in November.

Audiences love a good “whodunit.” *Deathtrap* combines all the right elements for a thrilling and enjoyable evening in the theatre.

SIR 146 has reserved a limited number of tickets for Wednesday, November 19th at 7:30 p.m. for the Center REP production of this Ira Levin theatrical classic at the Leshner Center in downtown Walnut Creek. Deadline for reservations is October 20, or until all our allocation has been reached.

This ingeniously constructed thriller with gasp-inducing surprises combined with spontaneous laughter has made *Deathtrap* an audience favorite since it first opened in 1978. *Deathtrap* promises twists and turns and sudden shocks in such abundance that the audience will be held spellbound until the very last moment.

In the play, playwright Sidney Bruhl has had several successful plays, along with a few recent flops. To help get his creative juices going, he invites one of his students, who has just completed a mystery play, over to offer suggestions. This leads to questions of Bruhl’s intent to steal his student’s – or was he just kidding?

Reduced price tickets for *Deathtrap* at \$25 per person may be reserved with a check (payable to SIR 146) and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub**, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595 (note new address).

Convenient parking is available in the City Garage adjacent to Leshner Center. Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Note that this show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Q: Why don't stage managers get breaks?

A: Because it's too hard to re-train them.



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each

player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date.

For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October. Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.



This is no joke!

Congratulations to **Bill Dastic** for getting his first Hole in One on Tuesday, September 16th at Boundary Oak. This extraordinary occurrence was witnessed by his foursome mates: **Bob Yolland, Bill Laws** and **Bob Mehus**.

The shot heard around the course was a 164 yard 5 wood on the 17th hole. **Bill** enjoyed his shot but the rest of SIR players enjoyed the celebration in the Grille. It was a costly shot but I'm sure **Bill** didn't mind paying the tab.

Written by **Joe Fuchs**



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II met at **Ken Richter's** home for a great lunch on the second Monday, September 8th. With the weather still beautiful **Ken** was able to have both the starter and lunch outside. Being in their yard and listening to the waterfall

was really a treat.

To start and accompany the wine, **Ken** served an excellent tuna and cheese dip, plus a pub cheese dip, and a variety of crackers. For lunch we had barbequed to perfection scallops, rice pilaf and a seasonal salad of sliced fully ripe tomatoes, blue cheese, olives, capers and bib lettuce. Finishing off, **Ken** fixed his signature after-lunch drink which tastes and goes down like a milkshake but is highly potent.

Attending were our regular members, **Bruce Borgman, Steve Dawkins, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Ken Richter** and **Bob Yolland**. Missing this time due to travel were **Bill Cammerer** and **Bill Roberts**. Our next lunch will be at **Bill Roberts** on Monday October 13th.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

We had three people attend the photography meeting on Friday, September 19th, **Bill Holly, Al Munayer**, and **Bobbie Schmidt**. We watched a 1.5 hour video titled "Getting the Most from Your DSLR" from Popular Photography which was quite informative.

Since our next meeting is scheduled for October 3rd (note new date), we decided this might be a good month to take our first field trip. I'm looking into the Old Borges Ranch or Diablo Ranch as venues. I'll contact Photography Group members by email to firm up our plans. If you are interested in joining the group, email me at rhock@pacbell.net



Photo by Bill Schultz

George Mon

Ray Kan



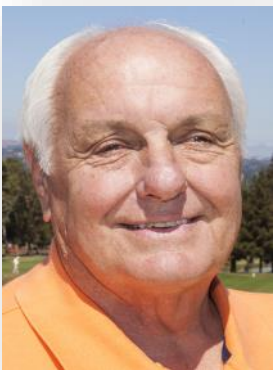
Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played two tables of bridge on Labor Day at the home of **Bob Burley**. First place went to **Rich Ahlf** with 3810 points, second to **Lo McCarley** with 3800 and third to **Dick DeVoe** with 2800.

Our next game will on October 6th at the home of **Lo McCarley**.



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 are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken***

***Richter and Frank Rockwell**. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 and ends around 8:00 with time out for dinner.*



Luncheon Attendance

Baha Zarah

The September Branch 146 Luncheon was held on September 11th at the usual venue of the Boundary Oaks Country Club. There were 195 attendees

including 5 guests, two new members, one speaker and 187 members. All enjoyed meals of baked salmon or roast pork. Please refer to the next Sir Call (October) for the menu of the next luncheon to be held on October 9th.

The speaker was Professor Ron Olowin of Saint Mary's College in Moraga CA who gave an attention-getting and interesting presentation about the cosmos and some of the theories about the origin of the Milky Way in which we reside. There were several comments indicating more such science presentations would be desired.

The cut-off date to notify me that you are not attending the next lunch is Oct 3rd. Email nolunchbranch146@gmail.com or call (925) 207-4344. The same deadline holds if you are bringing a guest.

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **John** or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.*



October walks by **Flo Lewis**



October 3rd	Moraga Trail, Moraga Road
	Meet: Moraga Safeway
	Walk: West to trail
	Coffee: Terzettos
October 10th	Walnut Creek Canal Trail
	Meet: Deli Delight parking off Wiget
	Coffee: Deli Delight
	Walk: East on Canal Trail
October 17th	Danville Railroad Museum
	Meet: Railroad Museum parking, Railroad Ave.
	Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
	Coffee: Pascal's French Oven on Railroad Ave.
October 24th	Heather Farms Park
	Meet: Parking lot nearest Canal Trail
	Walk: Canal Trail East
	Coffee: Sweet Affair at Ygnacio Plaza
October 31st	Iron Horse Trail from Willows Shopping Center
	Meet: South end of Willows Shopping Center
	Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail
	Coffee: Panera's in the Willows



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Oct 27, 2014: The 2nd Levi Stadium Tour. The tour will include a visit to the Verizon Press Level, Suite Tower, Premium Club Spaces aka "Millionaire Row", 50 yard line Patio, Visiting Teams and Cheerleaders Locker Rooms, and the Solar Terrace and

Garden. There will be a visit to the Official 49ers Team Store and Museum. The day will include roundtrip motor coach transportation from Walnut Creek, tour of the Stadium, and a no-host lunch at Applebee's before our return home at approx. 4:30 pm. Cost is \$57. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 KERichter@astound.net

Dec. 8, 2014: McHenry Mansion and Duarte Farms Tours. The McHenry Mansion is Modesto's only original Victorian home. The Mansion will be decorated in all of its Christmas finery, inside and outside. After the tour of the Mansion the group will enjoy a hosted family style lunch at Concetta's Restaurant. The group will then visit Duarte Farms to view its amazing Holiday Poinsettias. Return to Walnut Creek about 4:30 pm. The cost is \$64. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence. A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include **airfare**, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handing overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and Post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day Beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 which include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus Pre & Post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br. 146 (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

On the Sirs' Tour of Levi's Stadium, a look down on the field from 10 floors up in the Press Box



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

On the Tour of Levi's Stadium, SIR members and wives take in the view from the roof top



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Steve Siljestrom shows off his athletic agility in the Gold Rush Cheerleader's locker room at Levi's Stadium



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out had a special evening out for the September event on the 22nd when we dined at Kobe Japan in Pleasant Hill, thanks to a suggestion from Pete and Ann Gates. We had a good crowd of 44 diners, and after enjoying cocktails and socializing we were seated around two large cooking tables. We had soup and salad; then were regaled by the antics of the chefs who cooked the delicious meal right in front of us, creating spewing volcanoes from an onion, and flaming a variety of vegetables and entrees along with vegetable fried rice. Everyone had a choice of two entrees, all of it very good – and many went home with doggie bags since the portions were generous. We agreed it was a fun night with our fellow SIRS and spouses.

The next Dining Out event will be in November, likely on November 17th. We received a number of good suggestions for the next restaurant and will be checking out one worthy of our patronage. It will no doubt be another enjoyable evening – join us when we have the details!



Jerry Kaplan, Pete Gates and wife Ann enjoying the food and festivities at the Couples Dining Out event.



John Gray with fiancée Paula Azeltine and Al Twyford with his wife Helene at the Couples Dining Out September 22nd.



Bruce Borgman (center) welcome Myra and Jack Gordon to their first Couples Dining Out event.

How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis?
Raise my hand.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people
appear bright until you hear them speak.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Doug and Patti Eisner hosted the group on September 3rd. Last month's subs, **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** (who finished out of the money in August) showed up full of energy to seek revenge. They found it, scoring 4060 including 6 NT bid and made on the last round to pull ahead of **Terry and Sharon Marchione** (2910). **Dave and Joan Pierce** (2870) were third, a mere two tricks behind. **Patti's** delicious cheese cake dessert made winners of us all.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of bridge on September 15th at **Fred Bolton's** house. **Doug Eisner** shot out of the blocks during the morning session and found himself in 1st place at the lunch break with 16.5 pt. Super sub **Dave Steinberg** was alone in second place with 14.0 pt, followed closely by **Jim Brown** at 13.5 pt. **Bill Snyder** and **Fred Kovar** were hot on the leader's tails with 13.0 pt. The morning's 3 top scorers continued their torrid pace in the afternoon session and the day ended, mercifully for the other 9 players, as it began with **Doug Eisner** in 1st place with 33.0 pt, **Dave Steinberg** solidly in 2nd place with 30.0 pt, and **Jim Brown** taking 3rd place with 25.5 pt.

Our next game will be held on Oct 20th at **Terry Marchione's** house. This game will be with 3 tables.



Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Bill Schultz** on September 5th. **Rich Ahlf** and **Max Hinkle** took 1st place in a tie, with 29.5 points. **Sid Landman** was 3rd with 28 points, and host **Bill** took 4th (25.5 points), with **Steve Dawkins**

lurking closely behind.

- ◆ The 1st and 2nd halves were won by **Brad Hatcher** (17.5 points) and **Dick DeVoe** (17.0 points), respectively. However, **Brad** (2nd half) and **Dick** (1st half) both were LAST place in those halves with 5.5 points each. Yikes!
- ◆ Other rankings in the 1st half: **Rich Ahlf** took 2nd with 15.5 points and **Sid Landman** 3rd with 15 points. Other rankings in the 2nd half: **Sid Landman** was 2nd with 16.5 points and **Rich Ahlf** 3rd with 14 points.

The next event will be hosted by **Rich Ahlf** on October 3rd.



Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on September 17th at **Dave and Joan Pierce's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Joan's** snacks and **Dave's** wines.

The group thanked **Jim and Allison Todhunter** again for substituting and the group thanked **Dave Pierce** for scoring. As for the bridge results, **Margot Somerville** and **Vince Rettew** came in first with 40 points. **Lynn** and **Dasha Freeman** with 34 points came in second. In third place were **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** points with 33 and in fourth place with 32 points were **Lo** and **Sue McCarley**. **Bill** and **Margaret Rees** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on October 15th.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 a.m. at Masse's - 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary.

Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masse's gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're 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 our Area 2 are welcome.





SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs had one of our best performances on September 3rd when we sang for the VIP group at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. It was a most appreciative audience and we marched out to our usual "Stout-hearted Men" while the group clapped in sync. We are

scheduled to do this entire program again on Sept. 25 at Byron Park Retirement Residence. This was re-scheduled from an August date due to our pianist **Dave Obera's** surgery. We're happy to have **Dave** back but continue to look for someone to help **Dave**!

We have put together a fall program of Academy Award songs including Days of Wine and Roses, All the Way, Mona Lisa, Over the Rainbow and other favorites. We will be practicing these great songs in October and November for a possible performance in November. We will also be doing our medley of service songs for the November luncheon. And, we were asked to put on a performance for Branch 8 at their November luncheon. It will include the service songs and other selections to wow this branch, which does not have an activity like this with the talented singers we have. We are fortunate indeed!

If you are interested in considering joining us – we practice every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 2:30pm – come hear us!



Mexican Train Dominoes

Jerry Kaplan

Another thoughtful, enjoyable, and at times, exciting evening of Mexican Train Dominoes at the lovely home of **Frank** and **Marie Ascatigno** in Concord was held on Friday night, September 12th. The evening's

big winner was **Corrie Oranje** with second place going to **Terry Marchione** and his wife, **Sharon**, coming in third.

A total of 17 people played that evening at three different tables. A new group may be forming in the next few months because of the continued interest in this new SIR activity. If interested, please contact **Jerry**.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Corrie Oranje, seated third from the left, with - in clockwise order - **Frank Ascatigno**, **Jerry Kaplan**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Ruth Martin**, and **Barbara Stedman**

What's the name of the restaurant?

Two senior couples are walking along, wives in front, husbands in back. Herb says to Sam: "Gee, we went to a new restaurant last night and had the best meal ever. Good prices too." Sam says, "Well, we like to eat out too. What was the name of the restaurant?" Herb says: "You'll going to have to help me out here a little. What's the name of that pretty flower, smells sweet, grows on a thorny bush?" Sam says, "How about rose?"

"Yes, yes, that's it!" cries Herb, then calls ahead to his wife.

"Rose. Hey, Rose. What was the name of the restaurant we ate at last night?"



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Song Sirs singing at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

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

This month we will cover the updating to IOS 8 and the future system software to Yosemite. We would like the PC users to realize that the cost of these updates is free.

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Legends Sport Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our guest speaker in October will be J. Wesley Smith, a principal at Buchman Provine Brothers Smith LLP in Walnut Creek. His topic will be **"Updates on Revocable Planning and Common Irrevocable Planning to Minimize Estate Tax."**

Mr. Smith is an attorney specializing in estate and tax planning, business, real estate and litigation. After graduating from the University of California, Davis (BA, 1990), Mr. Smith attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law with a concentration in Business and Estate Planning. He graduated with distinction in 1994 and was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award in Business Planning and Dev.

Join us for this timely discussion. The Legends

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

Co-Chairmen: Gary Moore (Br-174) 925-254-8742

David Sutton (Br-8) 925- 686-0158 & Leary Wong (Br-8)

Computers and Technology Group



Derek Southern

PC's



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all SIR and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, October 16th at 9:30 am. The subject for discussion in October is Cloudy but Foggy. There is a surfeit of choices for cloud storage - Microsoft Windows and OneCloud; Google Chrome and Google Drive; Apple Maverick and iCloud. Each is more or less coupled to its own ecosystem. Then there are the established independents like Box, DropBox, Amazon's Cloud Player and AWS. There are also a slew of smaller outfits trying to gain traction, like Cubby, IDrive, MiMedia and Mozy.

Frank May, our October presenter, will be discussing "All Things Cloud," including selecting a cloud storage provider and the features, costs and limitations of each company's offering. Frank, a member of our CAT Group, is an independent retail IT consultant who has worked in the industry for over 40 years. His last engagement was helping Microsoft implement a new POS (Point of Sale) solution in their newly opened retail stores.

If there is time following the presentation, there will be a Q&A with the gurus, and possibly an informal "Sharing Tips & Tricks" segment where individuals will be asked to share some of their computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. tips with the group.

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, other months are free.

Tour of Levi's Stadium inside the United Club

