



Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

This month we happily celebrate the 27th anniversary of our charter. Branch 146 continues to gain membership and thrive with an abundance of activities and enthusiasm.

We are excited that three new members joined our branch in September: **Robert Beitler** sponsored by **Roger Peters**, **Jerry Benoit** sponsored by **Russ Anderson**, **Paul Beretz** sponsored by **Bill Hoban**. There were two new guests, who we hope join Branch 146 in the near future.

It was a pleasure to award the Branch Certificate of Appreciation to **John Pearl**; and the Super Senior Anniversary Award to **Dominic (Dee) DiMatteo** the next day after the luncheon at his home in Walnut Creek with his charming wife Florence at his side. **Dominic** is our Branch's first Super Senior, meaning he has achieved the wonderful age of 95 years young. You have great genes **Dee**.

The annual branch member survey is being conducted electronically again this year. Our Member Relations Chairman **Brad Hatcher** and our *Sir Call* editor **Richard Hockenbrock** have made this survey much easier for you to complete and submit over the internet. The 2016 edition has already been sent to every Sir's email address from Branch 146 Communications. Please take the opportunity to give us your feedback on how we are meeting your expectations. Your participation is truly appreciated and your input will help us formulate future plans and the direction of branch 146.

After the October 13th BEC meeting, you will be receiving a letter in the mail about the 2017 dues. As in prior years, you will have the option of either paying the annual dues or taking advantage of the discounted annual payer program that covers both the annual dues and 10 regular luncheons.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, please bring your guest to our next regular luncheon on Thursday, October 13th. As we enter the remaining months of 2016, we need your

Luncheon – Thursday , October 13th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Invited Guest Speaker:

Mark DeSaulnier

US House Representative, District 11

Gathering time - 11:00 am

Starting time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, October 7nd



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

September Greeters **Jim Sanders**, **Tanc Agius** & **Gayl Thorne**
with **Tanc** sporting a decidedly British look

help and best effort to invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance as your guest to the October or November luncheon. We are counting on you.

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Alan Elnick

I received a lot of nice feedback about September's speaker, Paul Zaentz. It is always a good feeling to receive so many nice comments. I'm thinking that the ladies missed an opportunity that they might very much have enjoyed, so I've asked Paul if he would be available for Ladies' Day next May. He's checking to see that it does not conflict with the Cannes Film Festival, and if there is no conflict he would be happy to appear again. He enjoyed our company as well.

For our next luncheon, October 13th 2016, here at Boundary Oak, our invited guest is Congressman Mark DeSaulnier. He is finishing his first term as our Congressman for the 11th District. He has served us as well in the State Senate, Assembly, as a County Supervisor and City Council Member in Concord. I know him from the days he owned TR's in Concord.

Please bring a guest to show them the benefits of membership in SIR. **SIR - Make Friends For Life.**

Remember, if you are unable to make the luncheon, to let us know by the deadline the Friday before. Each no show without notification is a cost to the branch. See you then.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

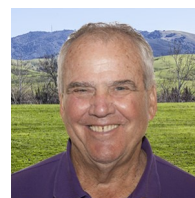
We increased our active membership to 287 in September. We inducted three new members. One member passed away and one has become inactive due to health issues. Remember to meet and get to know the new guys and if you see anyone who is sitting or standing by himself introduce yourself and chat for a while. Please make everyone feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in September 2016



Bob Beitler



Jerry Benoit



Paul Beretz

Active members resigned: **Baha Zarah**

Active members deceased: **Mike Varner**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Hank James pitching not only books, but audio and VHS tapes at the semi-monthly Book Nook

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Editors	Jeff Baily & Rob Melrose
Proofreaders	Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker
	Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

What a Deal!

What if you were able to influence the operations of Branch 146 without having to volunteer for an activity? You can! Recently, you were sent an email that had a link the Annual Survey. All you have to do is complete the survey to let the BEC know what you do and don't like about BR146. Of course we do encourage you to participate and volunteer for one of the many positions we have available.

Photo by Doug Eisner



Big Sir **Walt Busenius** presents **Dominic DiMatteo** with the Super Senior SIR President's Award, the first ever presented to a Branch 146 member on attaining 95 years of age. The award was presented at his home with his charming wife **Florence** by his side.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



John Pearl (center) receives the Branch 146 Certificate of Appreciation Award at the September luncheon from Honorees Chair **Doug Eisner** (L) and Big Sir **Walt Busenius** (R)

Life is all about perspective. The sinking of the Titanic was a miracle to the lobsters in the ship's kitchen.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon October 2016

Salad

Gorgonzola Salad

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

Entrees

Chicken Piccata

Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables,
White Wine Butter Sauce

Or

Coconut Crusted Tilapia

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Mango Compote
Lemon Butter Sauce

Dessert

Black Forest Cake

Raspberry Sauce
Chantilly Cream

SIR Happenings Newsletter

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



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group at 2 pm Monday, October 17th, at 654 Francisco Ct, in Bancroft Village. From 680 exit Treat Blvd, go east, right on Bancroft, right on La Corso Circle, immediate right on La Corso Drive, left on Via Appia, left on Francisco Ct. Park at the end of Francisco Ct. by the pool or on Via Appia. Don't park on Francisco. 2 cars can park in the driveway. 654 Francisco is 2nd house from corner on the left. If you get lost call [925-864-2641](tel:925-864-2641).

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

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

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Alexander, Ed Marlovits and John Foster engaged in conversation at the September 8th luncheon



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

- ◆ **Jim Saavedra**
- ◆ **Bob Walton**
- ◆ **Lynn Freeman**
- ◆ **Al Twyford**
- ◆ **Steve Olsen**

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 frequently near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

We also wish to acknowledge the recent passing of former member and golfer Sir **Ray Garavaglia** and Sir **Mike Varner**, whose obituary is in the Memorials section of the branch website.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Kap Kaprielian, Little Sir Alan Elnick and Travel Chair Milt Smith posing for a photo at the September luncheon



Luncheon Chairman Max Hinkle

September's Attendance: We consumed 207 and paid for 212 meals at our September luncheon. We experienced 24 no shows-quite a few more than I had expected. Six of those were advance payers. Since 6 of the timely notifiers

were also advance payers we have already been paid an amount well in excess of the five unconsumed meals that we were obligated for under our guaranty. Nevertheless, I'm not happy when we pay for meals that we don't consume. I strive to have the number of meals consumed somewhere between the number I guarantee and the kitchen's commitment which is 105% of the guaranteed number.

October Luncheon: Please note on your calendar that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY, October 13, 2016 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO BOUNDARY UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.

Opt Out Deadline for October Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the October luncheon is NOON ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 7th. We will eblast a reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" before that deadline ("no show deadline"). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "advance payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. This courtesy results in an economic benefit to our branch.

REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice please call me at 925.408.6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed or not timely displayed in the "no lunch" inbox.

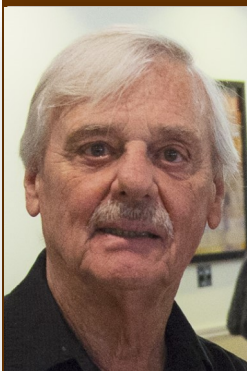
Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a guest or a visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the no show deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.



Gene Schulting, Gary Brown, and Rich Ahlf
at the September luncheon



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On Friday October 14 we will be hiking the Kings Canyon loop trail at the upper San Leandro reservoir in Moraga. This is on Eastbay Mud land and we will need to have passes (I have two). This is listed as a Moderate hike and will be about 6.5 miles mostly along the reservoir. We will meet at the Valley Vista Staging Area. We should be able to get to the staging area from Moraga road. As I have not had time to do this hike yet I will send out more info in the coming weeks.

Spouses always welcome

Hike starts at 10:00am

If you are interested, please contact

Rich Ahlf

Cell 550-4967

rahlf@sbcglobal.net



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

A number of new SLR cameras were introduced recently. We'll take a look at the specs and discuss some of the unique features of these cameras.

Walk in to Costco, Best Buy, Fry's or even Walmart or Target and what do you see? 4K televisions everywhere. Thinking of buying one? I spent half my career designing television displays for GE and Zenith. I'll talk about how high resolution photography and 4K television may soon become a loving couple. Matching an Ultra High Definition Display having 3840 pixels wide by 2160 pixels with a camera that takes 5616 pixels wide by 3744 pixels high looks a lot better than trying to display that same picture on a 1920 pixel x 1080 pixel HD TV as we do today. There are a lot of new innovations that we can talk about so plan to come to our next meeting.

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

Where : Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road

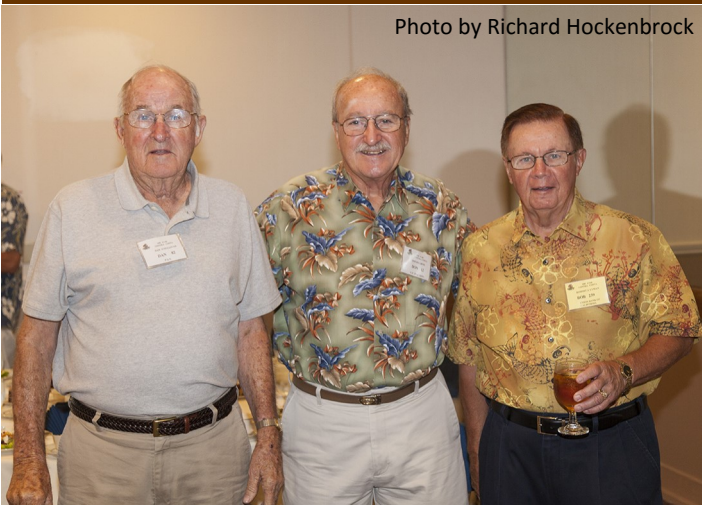
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Subjects: See above

When: October 28th at 9:00 am - 11:00 am

If you are new to SIR and interested in photography or want to take better photos with your smartphone, come to our next meeting and perhaps take away some new ideas. Spouses always welcome.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Dan O'Sullivan, Don Del Bene and recent returnee to Branch 146 from Rossmoor, **Bob Lyman**

I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Chuck Bates and Barney Meade



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II is made up of 8 Sirs which is a manageable size. All of us enjoy food, wine and great conversation. We meet at various members homes on the second Monday of each month. It's up to the host to decide the meal that he wishes to serve, however each member brings a bottle of wine of his choice. Normally our group bottles wine once a year. This year we are bottling a red wine in November. At that event the wives are included and each couple provides part of the meal. Our next event will be October 10th at **Steve Dawkin's** home.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

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



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met Monday morning September 19 to discuss the *American Heiress* by **Jeffrey Toobin**. Eleven Sirs attended including first time attendees **Dick Bohling, John Helgeson, and Jerry Kaplan**.

All of us had memories of the era (mid 1970's) and the Patty Hearst kidnapping. We found the book well written and full of new information which we did not have during the Hearst trials. In the end, Toobin did not give a final judgment as to Patty's guilt, leaving that up to the reader. We all felt the only conclusion was that Patty whole-heartedly professed the identity and morals of the group that currently held her. So yes she was guilty of many crimes and a person with less wealth and family influence would not have received the Presidential commuted sentence granted her after a short time in jail. A full pardon was granted 20 years later

For our next book we chose *Strangers in Our Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Hochschild. We will next meet Monday, October, 31st at the Greenery Restaurant at 8:30am.

2016 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Walt Busenius
Little Sir	Alan Elnick
Secretary	Bruce Borgman
Assistant Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Treasurer	Jim Barry
Assistant Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Director(2 nd Term)	Brad Hatcher
Director(2 nd Term)	Richard Hockenbrock
Director(2 nd Term)	Corrie Oranje
Director(2 nd Term)	Bob Spellman
Director(1 st Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(1 st Term)	Steve Sprague

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Corrie Oranje
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Brad Hatcher
Publicity	Al Munayer

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

If life is a waste of time and time is a waste of life, lets all get wasted together and have the time of our lives
Sign at a pizza restaurant in Washington DC

Never slap a man who chews tobacco.



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

In the past, I have regularly reported the exploits of our club members catching sturgeon. Those sturgeons are always caught in the Delta. But this month our sturgeon sightings were in very unusual places. For example, **Carl Moyer** and **Dick Thomson** were catfishing in San Pablo Reservoir. **Dick's** rod suddenly bent almost in half. He thought that he had hooked into a large catfish. However, when **Dick** finally was able to bring the fish close to the boat, a five-foot sturgeon was on the other end of his 8 lb. test line. Given that it was impossible to put the fish into the rowboat and because it was unclear whether it was legal to take sturgeon from San Pablo Reservoir, **Dick** cut the line and allowed the fish to continue to roam in the waters of the lake. Earlier in the month, **Karl Droese** was fishing in the upper Sacramento River for salmon with four other club members when he had a large strike. After a 20-minute battle, the fish leaped out of the water and spit out the hook. It was a sturgeon! It was estimated that it weighed about 70 lbs.

Karl was accompanied by **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Barry Rauchle** and **Jack Waddell** on the aforementioned Sacramento River trip and **Paul**, **Gordon**, and **Barry** each caught a salmon weighing approximately 20 lbs. **Lee Clark** of Branch 146, along with **Carl Moyer** and **Gordon Linebaugh**, fished for salmon in the ocean on the Sundance and each came home with a salmon. **Lee** had the largest, weighing about 12 lbs.

Back on San Pablo Reservoir, **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 and **Carl Moyer** caught four nice sized catfish and, on another outing, **Gene** and **Reggie Fromm** of Branch 146 caught five big cats weighing up to 11 lbs. In the Delta, **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Corker** caught black bass and some small stripers, while **Stan Wong** journeyed to Boca Reservoir north of Lake Tahoe and picked up quite a few rainbow trout.

We also held our annual summer picnic with our wives and significant others at **Rich Fiscina's** home. No fish were served, but we enjoyed the pizza that **Rich** baked in his genuine pizza oven plus barbecued pork and ribs, potato salad, and other fixings.

Our plans for the next few months include fishing for catfish and trout in San Pablo Reservoir, fishing for salmon, rockfish, halibut, and ling cod in the ocean, and fishing for sturgeon, stripers, and black bass in the Delta,

plus a trout outing to Lake Almanor in the Sierras and our semi-annual fish fry in **Carl Moyer's** backyard.

If you like to fish, would like to start fishing, or would like to resume fishing after giving it up for a while, please join us for our next meeting. It will be on Thursday, October 27th at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast and schmoozing, beginning at 7:30. For further information, contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photo by Paul Dubow

Gene Schulting and **Reggie Fromm** with their catch of catfish

A small town doctor was famous in the area for always catching large fish. One day while he was on one of his frequent fishing trips he got a call that a woman at a neighboring farm was giving birth. He rushed to her aid and delivered a healthy baby boy. The farmer had nothing to weigh the baby with so the doctor used his fishing scales. The baby weighed 21 lbs 13 oz.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The Mexican Train Group One's most recent Game Night was held on September 9th at the beautiful Walnut Creek home of Sir **Jim Stedman**. Sixteen members of the group, including two of our favorite substitutes, Sir **Jeff Baily** and his wife **Alicia**, were in attendance. As has become the norm, a few players had great nights while others seemed only to end up there for the nice treats and to socialize.

Sherry Hockenbrock, wife of Sir **Richard** (of photography fame) showed why she is becoming renowned for her MTD expertise by getting a very low average score of 7.8 per hand. In the 2 ½ years that Group One has been playing, this is only the 2nd time that someone has averaged less than 10 points per hand. (Sir **Jerry Kaplan** once averaged 4.9 per hand during a February 2015 Game Night). **Sherry** has now either won or placed second in four of the last six months that Group One has met.

The **Hockenbrocks** continued to make this a family affair with Sir **Richard** coming in second place, and **Susan Kaplan**, wife of Sir **Jerry**, placing third.

Needless to say, with two months to go in the 2106 2nd half standings, **Sherry** has a small lead, but **Susan Kaplan** and **Carmen Schiavone**, Sir **Rob Melrose's** wife, are close behind.

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



MTD Group 1 September Winners
Susan Kaplan, Sherry & Richard Hockenbrock



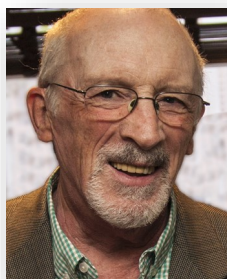
Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

Our game night on August 26th was very ably hosted by **Jim** and **Phyllis Meehan**. Our scheduling was such that this article missed the deadline for the September Sir Call but we didn't miss our fun game night. The **Meehan's** had lots of great eats and were gracious hosts as usual. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Mary Denney took first place with a very low cumulative average for the evening of 11.8 points per game. **Chuck Denney** won second place with 17.1 points per game and **Etta Dodson** was close behind with 17.8 average winning third place. **Rich Ahlf** and **Janice Woodman** were close behind the winners with 18.5 and 18.8 respectively.

Our next game will be in Clayton at **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean's** on September 23rd. That game will be reported in the November SIR Call.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Fourteen Mexican train dominoes players competed for the prize money at the **Richmonds'** on Friday Sept 23rd. Three tables played 8, 9 and 11 games. At the 11 game table **Judy Richmond** placed a close second behind the winner with a 10.5 average even though she missed 1 game to go and give a friend a ride home from BART. **Linda Siljestrom** at the 9 game table and a frequent winner came in third with a 13.4 average, but the player of the evening was one of our substitutes, **Carla Thompson** who scored an impressive 9.6 average after going out four times in eight games.

She wanted a puppy. But I didn't want a puppy.
So we compromised and got a puppy.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

The group met Friday night at the home of **Renie and Jim Pope**. Fabulous sweets and savories included chocolate vanilla "bites" that were very delicious. We had 6 couples in attendance (**Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Darlo and Mariwyn Boone, Lo and Sue McCarley, Bill Weinberg and Yvonne Killips, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Jim and Renie Pope** - see picture below). The MTD competition winners were **Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope**.



Clockwise around the table 1 starting at 8 o'clock are **Barbara Thatcher, Darlo Boone, Yvonne Killips, Lo McCarley, Christy DeVoe, and Jim Pope**



Clockwise around the table 2 starting at 8 o'clock are **Dick DeVoe, Sue McCarley, Henry Thatcher, Mariwyn Boone, Bill Weinberg and Renie Pope**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

As the Fall season begins to make itself felt, our MTD group met at **Doug and Patti Eisner's** home on September 15th. It was a somewhat small but spirited group, in that the **Halletts, Pierces, and Spragues** were on the road, but we were joined by the **Yollands**, which explains the spirited part. The group was split into 2 groups of four players each, and group 2 resembled the latest negative developments of the SF Giants. In fact, this group may have set a record for the length of time to conclude one game. Not only was it a long game, but no one went out. Apparently, the tiles were extremely well mixed as we came to a point where no one could play and there were no tiles left in the boneyard. Meanwhile, group 1 was already starting their third game! As a courtesy to the members of group 2, no names will be divulged.

A wonderful carrot cake was provided by **Patti**, and that set a great stage for the second half of the night's competition. **Marti Campbell** came out of the pack to take 1st place. **Janet Yolland** nosed out **Anne Burk** for 2nd place by one point. I know you are asking what the men were doing while these women were moving significantly ahead. There is suspicion they were watching the Giants finally find their ability to pitch and hit. Whatever- a good time was had by all. As they say in some circles, "Wait until next month." I certainly hope so.



Bill Rees and Jeff Baily sharing some good conversation at the September 8th luncheon



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 group's most recent game was held on Friday, September 16th hosted by **Dick DeVoe**. As usual the competition was sometimes intense and sometimes just good fun. **Rich Ahlf** came in first with 28.5 points or 59%. Congratulations to **Rich**. In second place with only a half point difference was **Roger Peters** with a score of 28 points or 58%. And finally, **Jim Stedman** came in third with a score of 27 or 56%. Congratulations to all for winning in this very tight game.

Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill it's ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

The group plays on the third Friday of each month at a host home which rotates among the members. We have three tables of duplicate bridge and 12 players each month. You will have a lot of fun.

Anyone who has any questions or is interested should contact me, **Sid Landman** as chair of the group. You can call me at (925) 673-8817 or email sidlandman@aol.com.



Fred Thompson holds his check high as the Birthday Boy Winner for the month of September



Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge at the home of **Bob Burley** on September 5th. **Rich Ahlf** had a nice run, scoring 4,200 points for first place. Second place went to **Bill Snyder** with 4,000 and third place to **Jim Jackson** with 3850. Our next game is scheduled for October 2nd and will be played at the home of **Lo McCarley**.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was graciously hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher** at their home September 13th. We were blessed to have 3 couples subbing for the regulars: **Don/Nancy Adolphson**, **Rich Ahlf/Ismini MacLean**, and **Bob/Janet Yolland**.

The evening was its normal routine of lots of fun and good play - at least until one spouse was found to have reneged. The other spouse and their opponents quickly and good-naturedly went into chastising mode for this grievous offense, which was certain to come up once again on their ride home together. But then - to the offending player's extreme delight - his spouse proceeded to make the same mistake several hands later! Two wrongs in this case DO make a right—the conversation homebound was decidedly more neutral than it otherwise would have been. :-)

Dick & Christy DeVoe surprised themselves (and no doubt others...) by taking 1st place with 23.5 points. **Bob & Janet Yolland** came in 2nd with 21 points, and **Tony & Cindy Greco** earned 3rd with 20 points. Nice work, folks.

Reported by Dick DeVoe

Some people try to turn back their odometers.
Not me! I want people to know why I look this way.
I've travelled a long way and
some of the roads weren't paved



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Six couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on July 20th at **Bob** and **Janet Yolland's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Janet's** snacks and dessert and **Bob's** wines. Four substitutes are **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, **Fred Bolton**, and **Bill Schultz**. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** came in first with 23 points, **Anne Johnson** and **Fred Bolton** came second with 22.5 points and tied in third place with 21 points were **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** and **Bill** and **Margaret Rees**. **Margot Somerville** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on October 19th.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Bill Rees hosted 4 tables of duplicate bridge on September 19th. At the lunch break **Dave Steinberg's** 15.5 pts got him off to a fast start for 1st place, no doubt due to the excellent play of his partners. **Dave** was trailed by **Bill Rees** with 14.5 pts, **Tony Greco** with 13.5 pts, and a 3-way tie for 4th place between **Brad Hatcher**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Jim Todhunter** with 13.0 pts. Unfortunately for **Dave**, the afternoon session was not kind. Instead, **Charlie Abrams** came from out of the depths of the morning also-rans to take first place going away with 45.0 pts! **Brad Hatcher** was way back in 2nd place with 41.5 pts, followed by **Max Hinkle's** 40.0 pts and **Bill Rees's** 38.5 pts for 4th place.

Our October 17th game will be hosted by **Charlie Abrams** and directed by **Jim Jackson**.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

In August we reported dull cards but they heated up in September when **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** hosted us on September 6th. At least they heated up for three couples. In an unusually tight match, **Joan** and **Dave** were third (3170); barely ahead were **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** (3190); they in turn were just nosed out by **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** (3230). Talk about a tight match. Who says overtricks aren't worth taking a chance at total points scoring? Any of these scores could be a top, most nights. We were all winners when it came to **Joan's** snacks and apple crunch dessert.



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

The time has come to announce that October has arrived and there are two more regular dates for Bocce play, Oct. 10th and 24th. Rain may disrupt later play. We have had good turn-outs, and invite new and regular players to enjoy easy exercise and fresh air. Call or write to Sir Martin Lyle, mvlyle@yahoo.com. For more information.

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 and Ladies are always welcome.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 meeting on September 2nd.
(L to R) **Bob Yolland**, **David Steinberg**, **Rich Ahlf**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Larry Brown**, **Steve Dawkins**, **Fred Bolton**, **Don Adolphson**, **Charlie Abrams**, and **Jim Brown**. **Bill Schultz** is missing as he is taking the picture.

Walking Group

John Lewis

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

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

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 825-3561





Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Al Zamolo** on September 14th. As usual a good time was had by all. Our next outing will be at **Pete McNeill** home on October 12th.



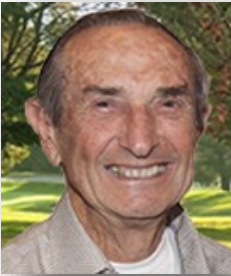
Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

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

Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like.

Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

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



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group 6 met on our new regularly scheduled first Thursday of each month which was September 1st at **Norm Baietti's** home in WC. **Norm** provided good snacks and plenty of red wine (the group's favorite) as usual. **Al** is still on the wagon, not by choice! Players were host **Norm, Al, Frank Lucas, Brad Hatcher, Bob Larson** and **Harvey Oxman**. **Rich Ahlf** and our two alternates were not there. **Harvey** was the big winner at \$10; **Bob** followed closely at plus \$8 while losers **Al** \$5, **Norm** \$2, **Brad** led everyone at minus \$12. Almost forgot **Frank** at plus \$1. **Frank** had the most interesting story to tell about renting his house for a few hours for \$300 to televise a program *Wives with Knives* which appears on the Investigation & Discovery station some time in October. **Frank** will advise on the actual date and time. We hope we get this station! We look forward to our next game Thursday Oct 6th at **Frank's** new condo in Martinez.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Well, 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 **Bob Mehus** will be our host on October 24th.

We play a lot different poker games. The favorite lately seems to be Omaha. We try not to get too wild. We haven't played baseball yet, however, Sir **Bob Mehus** usually introduces a game we have not played before.

Do you know that when a women wears a leather dress, a man's heart beats quicker, his throat gets dry, he gets weak knees and he begins to think irrationally? Ever wonder why? Its because she smells like a new golf bag!



Book Nook

Hank James

No Book Nook in October, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't prepare for November. Designate a box at home for the books you're going to accumulate to share with your fellow Sirs, and update your and your spouse's list for the books to look for next month. Good reading!



Cooking Lunch and Wine

Frank Rockwell

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

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



Couples Golf

Paul Masta

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

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



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Golf is a very popular branch activity with over 100 registered golfers. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak; players are randomly paired and scheduled. Guests are welcome so feel free to check us out. We will pair you with a member of the golf committee. Our members have handicaps ranging from 8 to 40 so you will fit right in.

On first Thursdays from May through October we schedule "away golf" at nearby courses. This year we will have played Deer Ridge, Chardonnay, Blue Rock and Paradise Valley. Next year we will add Eagle Vines to the mix. Each spring you can join the Branch 146 "Monterey Mashers" for a couple of days of golf, socializing and dining in the Monterey and Carmel areas. This is a great event for couples.

Sirs can also participate in fun events sponsored by State SIR Golf at interesting courses from Reno to Solvang and points in between. These events allow you to bring your spouse and other guests.

State SIR Golf sponsors two competitive championship events in which every Sir with a golf handicap index is eligible to participate. A team championship event is held in early August at Poppy Ridge. The 2016 State Individual Championship event will be held on October 17 & 18 at Laguna Seca. Twelve Branch 146 members participated in the Championship Qualifier tournament at the Elkhorn Golf Club in Stockton on August 24. Eight of us brought home some money. At this point, **Gary Brown, Ken Sihler** and **Max Hinkle** have qualified to play in the State Championship Tournament at Laguna Seca on October 18th.

If you would like to participate in Branch 146 Golf, contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. If you are curious, we will add you to the distribution of our weekly golf email.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

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

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



Ron Binder, Chuck Campbell, Doug Eisner, & Ron Plachy

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman



The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed two wonderful evenings as we experimented with expanding this activity to a second day because of the response for the first evening. We went to Fiore, a well known and popular Italian restaurant

in Concord for Monday, September 19, and then again with a second group for the following Tuesday. We had 36 diners attend the first night, and another 33 attending the second – so a total of 69. This is near our maximum participation as we continue to encourage new members and their spouses to attend.

We started at 5:30pm as the group enjoyed our social time and we got caught up with one another's activities. For the dinner, we started with an olive pesto dip, then a scrumptious spinach salad followed by a choice of five entrees - all of it done to perfection. Dessert followed with crème brulee and coffee or tea. The staff was very attentive to our large group and no doubt many of our diners will return on their own to enjoy one of the many other dishes on which the restaurant prides itself.

Our next event will be in November – likely on Tuesday November 15 to fit into a busy month with Thanksgiving later in the month. We've gotten a few suggestions and will be checking out the possibilities to find a unique and interesting restaurant. Plan to join us!

Reservations for Ladies Day Luncheon

Salad

Roasted Carrot & Avocado Salad

Baby Carrots, Avocado, Mixed Greens
Maple Fennel Vinaigrette

Entrees

Angus Beef Short Ribs

Braised Angus Short Ribs
Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables,
Thyme Infused Demi

Or

Grilled Salmon

Citrus Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Sauce Beurre Rouge

Dessert

Chocolate Christmas Tree Cake

Chantilly Cream, Raspberry Coulis

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

Thursday, December 8th, 2016

Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Entrée Choices

NAMES

Ribs Salmon

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

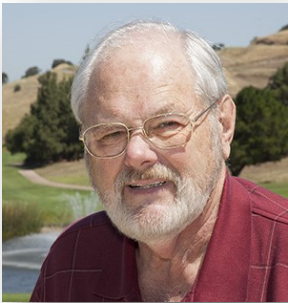
Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to: **Steve Ybarra**, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213

All reservations and payments in full must be received by December 2nd. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

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



Clockwise from 8 o'clock are **Laurie Hoban, Ann Gates, Marna Dawkins, Shari Carpenter, Eleanor and Doug Harris, George Carpenter, Steve Dawkins, Pete Gates & Bill Hoban**

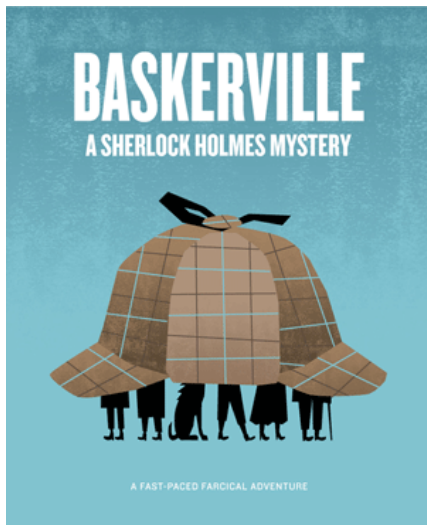


Theatre Gary Schaub

“It’s elementary” says theatre activity chair **Gary Schaub**. “The Conan Doyle fans will have to wait.” All available tickets for the SIR146 Theatre Party for Baskerville: The

Sherlock Holmes Mystery on November 16th have been committed.

**SIR 146 Theatre
Party SOLD OUT
for November 16th**



“We were given two dozen discount tickets for this fast paced comedy-mystery and they’ve all been reserved by our members and guests.”

Those who did make early paid reservations can be assured that their tickets will be held for distribution at Leshar Center for the Arts on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the theatre lobby.

How good are you at powerpoint? I Excel at it!



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs grieve along with the rest of the SIR family with the loss of **Mike Varnar** a few weeks ago. **Mike** was a longtime member of our group and rarely missed a rehearsal or performance. His friendship and fine voice will be missed. We were able to honor **Mike** at his memorial service with a rendition of “Amazing Grace” with **Lynn Shafer** singing a solo for one of the verses.

The SongSirs are working on fine tuning our rendition of the service songs, which we will sing at the November luncheon to honor our veterans. We are also practicing a few other patriotic songs – and may even look ahead to the holiday season since we all enjoy singing traditional carols of the season.



Photo by Bruce Borgman



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Local Trips

November 4th is SIR Day at the Races: Tickets are \$33 each. Tickets include valet parking, admission to the Turf Club and buffet lunch! Join your friends at the races.

Sign up now by emailing Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com Be sure to put Day at the Races in the subject line. You can also call Milt at [925-280-0328](tel:925-280-0328) but email is preferred. Deadline is Oct. 21st. Join your friends for an enjoyable day with the ponies.

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

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

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

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group meets at 8 am on fourth Wednesday of the month at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

The SIR Area 2 investment activity will meet at the Diablo Creek Country Club (North of Hwy 4 on Port Chicago Hwy) from 8:00 am to 9:30 am on October 26th, 2016. Our presenter will be Kevin Gahagan, who specializes in working with business owners, professionals and corporate executives in providing advanced financial planning and investment strategy. He has been recognized by the *San Francisco Business Times* as one of "the Bay Area's Top Twenty-Five Independent Wealth Advisors," identified as a "Top Advisor" by Reuters *AdvicePoint*, and recognized by the Consumer Research Council of America as one of "America's Top Financial Planners."

<https://www.mosaicfp.com/kevin-gahagan>

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

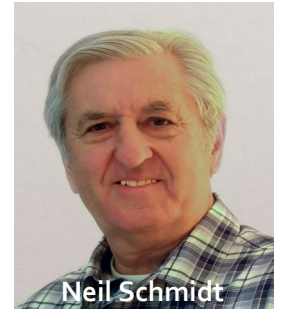
David Sutton (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



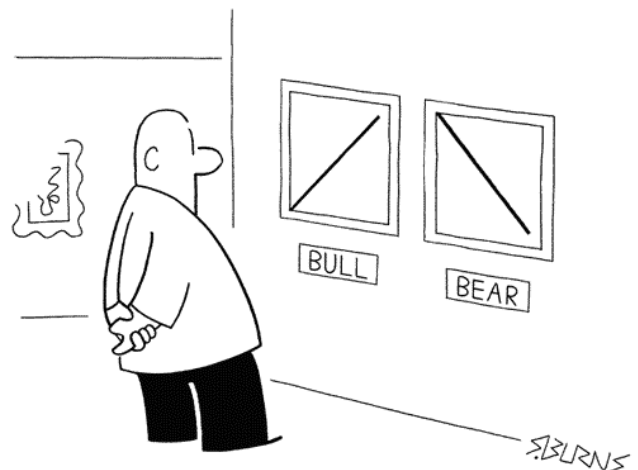
Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday October 20, 2016 at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

The October CAT presenter will be **Frank May** with "The Connected Home". He will be talking about some of the new home Internet connected devices and info/capability they provide.

Check the CAT Web page about a week before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentations: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>.

The meeting starts at 9:30 AM, October 20, 2016, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.



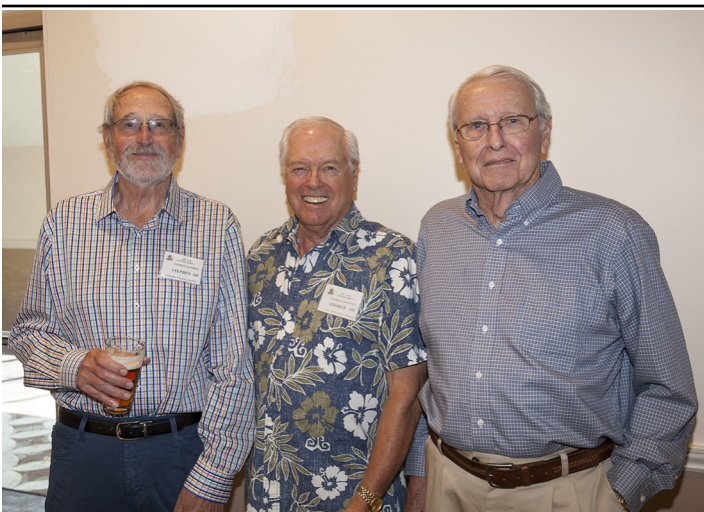
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Meeting of the Book Club at the Greenery on Sep 19th
Left to Right: **Dick Bohling, Pete Gates, Gary Brown, Walt Busenius, Chuck Campbell, Paul Dubow, John Pearl, Jerry Kaplan, Rich Ahlf, Frank Barton, and John Helgeson**



Bob Spellman & Russell Bliese



Steve Dawkins + George Carpenter & John Biasotti



Lo McCarley Bruce Borgman and Jerry Kaplan



Al Twyford & Joe Nelms



Brothers Sal Costanza & Angelo Costanza



Frank Lucas & Pete Miller



Garth Cummings & Fred Kovar



Joe Fuchs + Tom Thomson & Bob Burley



Henry Thatcher & Dick Firth



**Front to back of table Cindy & Tony Greco,
Jeff & Alicia Baily, and Sue & Walt Busenius**



**Clockwise L to R Elaine Richter, Sandy Wagner, Rich
Hanford, Carl & Joyce Feil and Ken Richter**