

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , October 12th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker

Jack Clark

Head Coach, Cal Rugby

Topic: “Cal Rugby Values”

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 6th



Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

Boo! Yes, this is the month of ghosts and goblins and Fall is upon us. We have our annual dinner dance this month on Saturday the 21st at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. Get your tickets by October 7th as we need to commit to the restaurant. I

want to extend a thank you to **Jonathan Korfhage** and **Don Rhoads** for organizing this event. A splendid time should be had by all.

Last month our City Traffic Engineer, Rafat Raie, paid us a visit and gave an excellent presentation. He sent us a very nice note expressing his appreciation for having him and how much he enjoyed our group. We also inducted three new members, **Charles Oldham** sponsored by **Dan O'Sullivan**; **Michael Weiner**, M.D., sponsor **Dick Richmond**, and **James Whitsett**, sponsored by **John Wilhelmy**. Let us make sure we help make them feel welcome in our branch. We also had six guests. Only this meeting and November are left to bring guests and have the branch pick up the tab for their luncheon so don't be shy and introduce a friend or two or three to SIR by having them come to lunch.

I was honored to confer upon **Doug Cook** an award for achieving twenty years of membership in Branch 146. Kudos to **John Pearl** who received a Branch Appreciation Award for the exceptional service he has provided to the branch in his years of membership. Be sure to give **John** a pat on the back when you see him. The success of our branch is a direct result of the good work of our members who volunteer to do the things that make the branch run. It is a good way to meet other members and make friends for life. With that in mind, we need two auditors for our Audit Committee. You don't need to be one, but I know we have a number of CPA's out there that can help us in this role. Contact either myself or **Al Munayer** or **Steve Siljestrom** if you are interested. This is an essential role for our branch, so please step up.

This month our meeting is on October 12th and we have an exciting speaker in Jack Clark, CAL's Rugby



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Rafat Raie, Traffic Engineer for the City of Walnut Creek, was our September luncheon speaker and discussed “The Future of Transportation from a Local Perspective”

coach. I know he will keep us engaged. We will also be honoring our past Big Sirs and Honorary Life members. In November, we will honor our Veterans, so those of you who retain your service uniform are encouraged to wear them. Remember to bring a guest or two or three to introduce to SIR. I'll look forward to seeing you then, and to those of you attending a Day At The Races, I'll see you at Golden Gate Fields on the October 20th. I have been having a great handicapping year, so for those who are interested, I'll provide you a tout sheet.

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Bruce Borgman

It was great to see everyone wear their favorite team's shirt at the last luncheon – it was a colorful display of college and professional sports loyalties! You'll have another chance to dress up for November when those of you who can still fit into your service uniforms are encouraged to proudly wear them.

I know you all enjoyed the talk by Rafat Raie at the September luncheon when, as the Chief Traffic Engineer in Walnut Creek, he spoke to us about the future of transportation from a local perspective. Rafat was an engaging and interesting speaker and clearly very knowledgeable about a complex topic that is important to all of us. I think we could have kept the questions and discussion going at least another 30-45 minutes, or even longer – but unfortunately had to keep the meeting to our normal time frame.

At our October luncheon, we have yet another blockbuster speaker; Jack Clark, the Head Coach for Varsity Rugby at Cal, will be speaking about "Cal Rugby Values". For those of you not familiar with Jack, his career as a rugby coach and motivator is renown. After being an outstanding football and basketball star in high school, Jack played football at Orange Coast Junior College before transferring to the University of California where he played football and rugby. He played professional football with the Philadelphia Eagles and was in the Canadian Football League before returning to rugby.

Jack has been the rugby head coach at Cal since 1984 and has compiled the best record in collegiate rugby athletics. The number of collegiate championships his teams have won are unmatched. He also was the head coach of US National Team, as well as the All-Marine rugby team in 2007 winning the silver medal at the Armed Forces competition. He has won numerous athletic awards and honors. In addition, Jack is a frequent and sought after guest lecturer to corporate America on his expertise in team and culture building. We are incredibly fortunate that he will speak to us. This is not a luncheon meeting you will want to miss.

In other news, you will note elsewhere in the Sir Call that the annual Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday October 21st – I strongly encourage you to sign up for this fun event at Zio Fraedo's. Email **Don Rhoads** at pinky1938@comcast.net to let him know you are coming then follow up with your check.

Finally, if you must miss a luncheon meeting, notify the luncheon chairman at nolunchbranch146@gmail.com so that I will not need to bug you to pay for the lunch.



Membership

Dave Pierce

In September we inducted three new members: **Chuck Oldham, Michael Weiner, and Jim Whitsett**. In addition, we had six guests; that is a super turnout. Welcome, new members, and thank you, all nine sponsors! **Bob Larson** has asked to be placed on inactive status, and I am sad to report that **Curley Kade** died on August 8th; that brings us to 292 active members. We have had 35 guests so far this year; last month I pleaded to reach at least 40 (and you responded); keep up the good work. You will recall that in 2017, the first guest lunch is on us if the guest is truly interested in learning about us (not just a free lunch).

New Member Photo Additions in September



Chuck Oldham



Michael Weiner



Jim Whitsett

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editors

Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose

Proofreaders **Cal Tucker, Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia**

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



**Sunshine
Calvin Tucker**

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

- ◆ Ken Donnelly
- ◆ Jim Saavedra
- ◆ Carl Pagter
- ◆ Bob Walton

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

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

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



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon October 12th, 2017

~Salad Course~

Gorgonzola Salad
Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears,
Blue Cheese, Candied Pecans
Champagne Vinaigrette

~Entrees~

Pork Milanese
Panko Breaded Pork Loin,
Whipped Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Butter Sauce

Or

Alaskan Sole
Flour Dusted Sole, Rice Pilaf,
Seasonal Vegetables
Roasted Tomato Butter Sauce

~Dessert~

Chocolate Hazelnut Cake
Raspberry Sauce and Vanilla
Whipped Cream

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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

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.

I am starting to think that I will never be old enough to know better.



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

The next meeting of the SIR Acoustic Musicians is Thursday, October 19th, at 2 pm. The address is 1281 Homestead Ave, #1D near Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Park on Homestead Ave, walk into garage, call last name **Elnick** on communication device, enter door, take elevator to 1st floor and walk to unit 1D.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome. Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

I am a Singer/Songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I am glad to lead this group. **Alan Elnick** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

New Hike

On Friday, October 13th, we will be hiking the Lafayette Rim Trail. This hike will be 4.7 miles with lots of uphill and downhill maneuvering.

The hike should take us about 3 hours with a lunch break.

From Highway 24 westbound, take the Acalanes / Upper Happy Valley Road exit, go south under the highway, turn left (east) Mt Diablo Blvd, exit and go east 0.8 mile on Mt. Diablo Blvd. to EBMUD's Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area. Turn right and go 0.2 mile uphill on the one-way entrance road, then turn left for the main entrance. The trailhead is at the foot of the concrete staircase at the west end of parking area. This is a pay parking lot.

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

Rich Ahlf

rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell (925) 550-4967

Hike starts at 10:00 am

Rain Cancels

Spouses Always Welcome



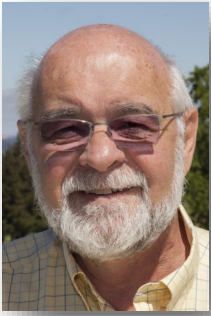
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Pearl receiving SIR Branch 146 Appreciation Award from Honorees Chairman **Doug Eisner** for exceptional service he has provided to the branch in his years of membership



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Doug Cook receiving an award for achieving twenty years of membership in Branch 146 from **Doug Eisner**, Honorees Chairman



Luncheon Chairman

Rob Melrose

Attendance: We consumed 191 meals at our September luncheon. The number of meals were slightly less than our guarantee.

Next Luncheon: Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12th, at the Boundary Oak Golf Course club house in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is still \$26 as it has been for a few years. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The money guys really prefer checks so you might want to take a minute right now and write out a \$26 check payable to "SIR 146". Put it in your wallet and you are good to go on the day of the luncheon, that is assuming you don't leave home without your wallet.

Opt Out Deadline: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the luncheon is Noon on Friday, October 6th. We will email at least one 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 to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" before Noon on the Opt-Out deadline day. 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 leave a message with your name and badge number. 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 incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: You should receive an email from me after I have updated the attendance records.

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 opt out 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. Please advise in the

same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If you or your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the opt out 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.

Report by John Kelly



Walking Group

Frank Ascatigno

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call Frank for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232



Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow**

We meet at Rocco's Pizzeria on the first Wednesday of

each month at 11 am and play until approximately 2 pm. That means lunch is included as a standard part of the event. If you are interested in joining our group, call one 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.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

*I have a condition that prevents
me from going on diet.*

I get hungry

Sons in Retirement 146
AUTUMN DINNER DANCE
Featuring a five-piece dance band



Saturday Evening, October 21st, 2017 6:00 (6:30 dinner/8:00 dancing) -10:00 pm
At Zio Fraedo's Italian & Continental Restaurant
611 Gregory Lane in Pleasant Hill \$110 per couple

Entre Choices: New York Steak, Fresh Grilled Salmon, Chicken Toscana, or Pasta Primavera
AND appetizers, mixed green salad, chocolate dessert, coffee & tea, & door prizes

Register with **Don Rhoads** at
2274 Gladwin Drive - Walnut Creek 94596

Pinky1938@comcast.net 934-7122

NOTE: Include your food choices!!! **RSVP BY OCTOBER 7TH**

Make checks payable to SIR 146



Pickleball

Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.

The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Hours are currently between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, and between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Players sign in, pay a \$4.00 fee and can play for the entire time period. Players will work out their own schedules, decide on partners, etc.

Call or email jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net to learn more about the game and/or information about the new facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net



SIR Greeters Rick Morgan, Bob Lucido, and Loren DeLaurenti

Oh! The pain of my
new diet.



Couples Dining Out



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group had a great dining experience on September 6th at MoMo's in Walnut Creek. We had a total of 54 diners, after one couple cancelled, which was balanced with a late addition. We all agreed that the dinner was very good with particular compliments on the clam chowder soup and the gumbo entrée. The restaurant has a busy active happy hour crowd so it was sometimes a challenge getting our drink orders in among the somewhat younger clientele crowding the bar. But, the pricing on the wine and beer was good and we enjoyed the happy hour. The overall price of the meal for just \$40 was a great deal – and no doubt many of our diners will return on their own – the price for the early bird dinner is only \$20 before 6pm! Pictures of most of our happy diners are shown on this page and the two that follow thanks to some great photography by **Richard Hockenbrock**.

We had some discussion about our next event which will be in November. While many of us had a great time at Vic Stewart's last year, a few of our group had a not so great experience with the service. However, we all seemed to agreed that the meal, especially the steaks, were very good. We will take a second look at Vic Stewart's before we decide to return. We will also check some of the other upscale restaurants in the area – Prima and Flemings, both in Walnut Creek, have been suggested as well. Your hosts will check these places out over the next month or so and will come up with a recommendation. Darn, we may have to try several places in order to satisfy our very discriminating group.

In the meantime, there will be a fantastic dining experience with the Autumn Dinner Dance event, which several Sirs have taken on to coordinate – the date will be on Saturday, October 21st, at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. Not only will there be a wonderful dinner, but it will be supplemented with live music from a five-piece band. No doubt many of our experienced diners will want to participate in this event as well.

Stay tuned for the final decision on our Couples Dining Out event in November!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Ann Gates, Diane De Golia, June & Don Seaton, Ron De Golia, and Sue & Lo McCarley**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Marian Pfohl, Ardith Hinkle, Jim Pfohl, and Max Hinkle**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Carl Feil, Bill Holly, Jeff & Alicia Baily, Lynette Holly, and Joyce Feil**

Couples Dining Out

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill and Patti Klein



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Julia and Colin Holland

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Dan and Nancy Schlatter



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sue Sheldon and Bruce Borgman



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sue and Lo McCarley



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Tony Greco, John Boyan, Al Munayer, and John Pearl

Couples Dining Out

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



(L to R clockwise) **Richard Hockenbrock, Sue Oranje, Bill & Bernice Cammerer, Corrie Oranje and Sherry Hockenbrock**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Nancy Pearl, Cindy Greco, Linda Boyan, and Diane Munayer**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Walt Busenius, Joe & Barbara Stengel, Wendy & Bob Lucido and Sue Busenius**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

(L to R clockwise) **Karen Dinning, Shari Carpenter, Sandy Wagner, Rich Hanford, George Carpenter and Steve Dinning**



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The best ocean salmon season in years is winding down as the silvers head up the rivers of their birth to spawn and produce the salmon that will be biting in 2020.

The larger fish have been caught north of the Gate with boats from Half Moon Bay producing slightly smaller fish.

Brion Beetz, who joined Branch 146 this year, was among those who brought some large salmon home for the table. He also caught some leopard sharks on an outing in San Francisco Bay. Other successful salmon fishermen included **Bob Stein, Stan Wong, Steve Paulick, Ben Lasala, Pedro Contreras, and Carl Moyer**. However, **Rich Fiscina** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 were not quite as fortunate. On their ocean outing, accompanied by **Phil Scimonelli** and **Gordon Linebaugh**, they failed to get a single salmon strike. But they salvaged the trip by going for rockfish and came up with near limits.

The river salmon fishing has not matched the ocean. Six members of our group tried their luck on the Feather River near Oroville, but boated only two fish, caught by **Karl Droese** and **Ken Konzak**.

Stan Wong endured some slow trout fishing in Eagle Lake and Lake Almanor, but then fared much better on the Upper Stanislaus, catching and releasing a large number of rainbows. But the biggest rainbow of all was a 31 inch behemoth that was landed by **Don Mittelstadt** fly fishing on the Kenai River in Alaska. Don also journeyed to Christmas Island in the Pacific and had a great time fly fishing for bonefish.

Karl Droese and **Romano Gnusti** made their annual pilgrimage to Baja California. They caught some yahoo and dorado, but the fishing was not as good as in prior years.

Our next meeting will occur on Thursday, October 26th, at the Legends 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 for breakfast, beginning at 7:30. New members are welcome! For further information, please contact Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6308.

I think senility is going to be a fairly smooth transition for me.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Jim Barry is organizing our next field trip before our next meeting. These field trips are informative and you can gain insights on your picture taking and be able to compare your results with the group's results later at the meeting. Please email if you would

like to be included on the photography list of activities and events. SIR members and significant others are always welcome!

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subject: Field trip presentations

When: November 3rd at 9:00 am—11:00 am
Field trip in October to be announced via email



Photo by unknown

Brion Beetz holding his salmon from a successful outing



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dennis Hallett & George Carpenter having a good laugh at the September luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Bill Cammerer slips behind **Jim Burk** on his way to collect his check for a free meal as the September Birthday drawing winner



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Wilhelmly enjoying an iced tea while he and **Bruce Borgman** discuss the SIR Veteran's Day program which is scheduled for November 9th

Reservations for Ladies Day Luncheon

Salad Course

Winter Vegetable Salad

Butter Lettuce, Roasted Butternut Squash, Beets
Crumbled Blue Cheese, Candied Nuts
Whole Grain Mustard Honey Vinaigrette

Entrees

Pork Scaloppini

Seared Pork Loin, Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables Pomegranates, Caper Butter
Sauce

Or

Potato Crusted Salmon

Confetti Rice, Seasonal Vegetables
Chardonnay Butter Sauce

Dessert

Holiday Chocolate Cake

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 14th, 2017

Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Entrée Choices

NAMES

[Pork] / [Salmon]

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

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

*All reservations and payments in full must be received by **December 8th**. 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.



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Blue Angels October 7th The crown jewel of the SF Bay. The best vantage point to see the Blue Angels is directly under the planes. Indulge in a hosted buffet lunch as you sip on free - flowing champagne and enjoy background music from the onboard DJ. Then, step onto the outer deck to relax in the sunshine and watch jaw-dropping precision of the famous Blue Angels. Depart Walnut Creek (Mitchell Dr. Park & Ride) at 11:30 am and return approximately 6:30 pm. The cost is \$144 per person and includes: Roundtrip deluxe motor coach transportation, cruise on the S.F. Belle, reserved seats, hosted Hot Buffet Luncheon, viewing of the Blue Angels and Driver Gratuity.

SIR Day at the Races October 20th We have a special discount of \$41 per person. The Turf Package includes: Valet Parking, admission and reserved seating, daily racing form, Turf Club Buffet, taxes and tips. This is a great day at Golden Gate Fields for fun, camaraderie wagers and side wagers if you like. Buffet begins around 11 am.

Sign up now for each or either of these events by emailing your intentions to miltsmith549@gmail.com , then drop a check in the mail to: **Milt Smith**, 913 Piute Ct. Walnut Creek, CA. 94598. *Be sure the check is made out to SIR 146 and put the event in the memo line.* Also include a note with the name of your companion(s) if you are paying for more than yourself. You can also call my cell at (925) 285-2897.

Ultimate Africa May 23rd 2018 We had a couple cancel for this trip so we now have room for two, traveling/ rooming together, for this great trip. Botswana, Zambia & Zimbabwe Safari, includes a trip to Victoria Falls. Add-on available to Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope. We have 14 SIR on this trip now, room for two more... we will have our own guides for our group. The current price of \$7,895pp includes airfare from San Francisco. The Cape Town / Cape of Good Hope add-on is an additional \$1,295pp. If you are interested contact me right away at miltsmith549@gmail.com or (925) 285-2897.



Stock Photo



Stock Photo



Stock Photo

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

Mexican train 1 (Uno) night was held on September 15th at the beautiful home of **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**. A good time was had by all 16 players of which five

were substitutes.

Results: 1st place went to **Corrie Oranje** with a 9.14 average. (**Corrie's** table played 7 games and he went out 5 times, which surely helped in his winning 1st place.). 2nd place (Sub) **Jim Barry** with a 11.5 average. 3rd place (Sub) **Alicia Baily** with a 18.2 average.

The next MTD will be at the **Kaplan's** home on Friday, October 13th.

Reported by Corrie Oranje



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

The group gathered at **Don** and **Etta Dotson's** home for a fun game of Mexican Train Dominoes. In addition to twelve regulars, we welcomed **Peter** and **Martha Plante** and **Corrie** and **Susan Oranje** to join us. Both couples are outstanding competitors and raise the level of the game for all of us.

The play showed the world our regular group also contains outstanding competitors as well: **Rich Ahlf** took first place for the evening with an average game score of 7.1. His significant other, **Ismini MacLean** won second place with a score of 13.6. **Corrie Oranje** stepped up to take third place with 14.7. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Our September gathering was held at **Rich** and **Ismini's** home in Clayton on Friday, September 22nd. Results will be reported in the November SIR CALL.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bob Lyman and Don Del Bene at the September luncheon



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

This month's gathering was at the **Hallett** residence where we all witnessed a special performance by **Anne Burk**. **Anne** won the first five games and finished by winning a total of 6 out of 8 games played. This brings a whole new meaning to "Girls Rule"!!! Needless to say, **Anne** now selects all the members' lottery numbers !!

In an effort to slow **Anne** down she was fed a large portion of Tiramisu during the break but it seems this only spurred her onto greater heights. Only **Doug Eisner** managed to stop a "one/two" by the **Burk** family by coming in second, inching out **Jim Burk** who came in third.

The Guys in the group have vowed to step up their training for the next gathering to avoid further humiliation. The Gals just wish them "Good luck"!!!!

Reported by Dennis Hallett



Bob West alongside **Fred Kovar** was one of six guests at the September luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



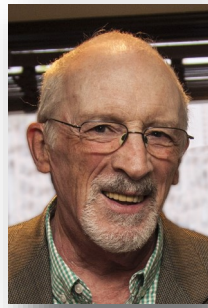
Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos group met with the Dynamic Dozen+2; **Henry & Barbara Thatcher, Don & June Seaton, Bill Weinberg & Yvonne Killips, Lo & Sue McCarley, Ron Louis & Fran Matthews, Dick & Christy DeVoe, and Jim & Renie Pope.**

We had two tables of seven and for the first time there were prizes for the low score at each table. The prize was three \$999 Lotto tickets. The winners were **Henry Thatcher** at the blue table and **Bill Weinberg** at the red table (*picture below*).

The snack team of **Christy DeVoe, June Seaton and Fran Matthews** provided wonderful "Sweets & Savories" for all to enjoy.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

The September games were held at the home of **Sharon Varner** who provided a delicious array of snacks and desserts. It was nice to welcome guests **Frank** and **Marie Ascatigno** to MTD III and they have agreed to join our list of substitutes.

Frank, Dick Richmond and **Jeff Baily** all went out in game 1 to demonstrate that this was going to be men's night to dominate. But then **Marie Ascatigno** went out 4 times out of 8 to secure 3rd place with an average of 14.0. **Linda Brown** followed that by going out 3 times in 7 games to win 2nd place with a score of 13.1. **Judy Richmond** displayed her usual impressive skill at playing MTD by going out 3 times out of 10 games and winning 1st place with a low score of 10.5.

The men accepted the ladies' victory with grace but, alas, we will have to wait for our night to shine. Congratulations **Judy, Linda** and **Marie**.



Photo by Renie Pope

Jim Pope presenting the Lotto tickets to **Bill Weinberg** and **Henry Thatcher** for El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos' low score at their respective table.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

George Mon and **Ken Kratz** pose for a picture at the September luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Chuck Bates & Tom Boltz at the September luncheon



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted the men on a blisteringly hot September 1st. At halftime, it was a tight race: **Jim Jackson** (16), **Tony Greco** (15), **Jim Brown** (14½), and newcomer **Joe Fuchs** (13½) in the lead. It's common for first-half winners to fade in the second half, but not this time. At the end we had the same four winners, but the order shifted slightly: **Jim Jackson** (32, 67%), **Joe Fuchs** (29, 60%), **Jim Brown** (25½, 53%), **Tony Greco** (24½, 51%). A score of 60% or more is an especially good day. Congratulations to all four on their consistently high performance.

Filed by Dave Pierce



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 welcomed **Brad Hatcher** as its newest regular member but the initial warm welcome cooled quickly when the scores from the AM and PM sessions were announced. The AM session continued its recent trend of punishing the AM leaders with such lousy cards, or lousy partners, that most fell out of the money by the end of the day. However, not so much for **Brad** as he and **Jim Brown** jumped off to a fast start in the AM session with 15.5 pt, each for first place, followed closely by **Bob Yolland** in third place with 15.0 pt. Ah, but for the afternoon...or perhaps it was **Ardith Hinkle's** delicious Key Lime Pie. In any event, only **Brad Hatcher** of the AM session leaders retained his grip on the money. **Brad** blew away all pretenders with 33.0 pt for 1st place. Well back in 2nd place was **Rich Ahlf's** 27.5 pt while **Tony Greco** rounded out the money winners with 26.5 pt, good enough for 3rd place.

Tony Greco will host our October 16th game.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted us on September 12th. Many thanks to **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni MacLean** for once again subbing and making a horse race of it. **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** (19½) bid and made six diamonds but that one top wasn't quite enough to win, place or show. The money went (much to **Dick's** surprise) to **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** (20), **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** (21), and the hosts (26½). Everyone was rewarded at the end with **Joan's** tasty carrot cake.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Bob Yolland

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 had an excellent evening of bridge at Margot Somerville's home on Wednesday, September 20th. As always Margot put out great snacks, good wine and coffee. We greatly appreciate all the substitutes that participated. This three table game plays a total of 20 boards where they can earn a maximum of 40 points assuming they earn 2 top points on each board. There were some really fun boards that challenged each of the couples both offensively and defensively.

We had a tie for second and third place between **Dick & Christy DeVoe** and **Jim Brown & Jim Stedman** at 21 points which is a 52.5% achievement. In first place was **Bob & Janet Yolland** with 24 points which is 60% achievement. Congratulations to all the winners.

Our next session will be on Wednesday, October 18th, at the Yolland's residence.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge at the home of **Jim Brown** on September 4th. First place went to **Jim Jackson** with 6890 points. Second place went to **Rich Ahlf** with 5100, and third to **Max Hinkle** with 4360.

Our next game will be on October 2nd at the home of **Max Hinkle**.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted two tables at the home of Cindy and Tony Greco, due to a power outage on the Pierce's court. This is the second month in a row that the Grecos helped to avoid a last minute cancellation. Once again, no good deed goes unpunished; they didn't get any cards. Dick and Christy DeVoe (3270) and Joan and Dave (4650) took home the prize money; the difference was that the Pierce's bid and made 6 NT vulnerable. Joan's delicious strawberry shortcake topped off the evening. Best wishes and many thanks to Tony, who has agreed to take over as coordinator for this activity, effective now.

Reported by Dave Pierce



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 event was smoothly hosted by Mike Whitaker on September 15th. 1st Place (Tie) Jim Brown and Tony Greco tied for 1st Place with 29 points each. Jim had a 1st half 2nd Place, 2nd half 3rd Place tie, 8 two's, and 3 zeros. Tony had a 1st half 4th Place tie, 2nd half 2nd Place, 8 two's and 4 zeros.

3rd Place- Roger Peters earned 3rd Place overall with a 1st half 1st Place to bolster his 2nd half's 6th Place. His 9 two's also helped big-time.

4th Place- Steve Dawkins came in 4th Place overall with a 1st half 3rd Place and a 2nd half 5th Place, plus 7 two's.

Most Two's- Roger Peters with 9; Least Zeros- Jim Brown with 3.

Partnership Winners

- ◆ Boards 1-3: Roger Peters / Ed Marlovits 1.5/1.5/2.0= 5.0.
- ◆ Boards 4-6: Roger Peters / Jim Brown 2.0/2.0/1.5= 5.5.
- ◆ Boards 7-9: Ed Marlovits / Steve Dawkins 2.0/2.0/0.5= 4.5.
- ◆ Boards 10-12: Dave Steinberg / Steve Dawkins 1.5/0/2.0= 3.5, Tony Greco / Bob Yolland 2.0/0/1.5= 3.5.
- ◆ Boards 13-15: Dick DeVoe / Bob Yolland 0.5/2.0/1.0= 3.5, Brad Hatcher / Mike Whitaker 1.5/2.0/0= 3.5.
- ◆ Boards 16-18: Jim Brown / Tony Greco 1.0/1.5/2.0= 4.5, Roger Peters / Mike Whitaker 2.0/0.5/2.0= 4.5
- ◆ Boards 19-21: Ed Marlovits / Tony Greco 2.0/1.0/1.5= 4.5.
- ◆ Boards 22-24: Steve Dawkins / Bob Yolland 2.0/1.5/2.0= 5.5.

Reported by Dick DeVoe



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II enjoyed a nice lunch at the Yolland's on October 11th. Bob began with a variety of goodies including brie and edam cheeses, a variety of crackers, marinated herring, smoked salmon, green and black olives, and nuts. With great weather we were able to enjoy the starters in the back yard. For the main course we moved inside for spinach and cheese Ravioli Alfredo, Caesar Salad with optional anchovies and warm Dutch Crunch bread. For dessert, Bob treated us to his made-from-scratch rich lemon chiffon tart. It all was finished with a variety of Single Malt Scotch whiskies. With lots of wine and plenty of conversation, Cooking II tried to solve the problems of the world. More work needs to be done. Since one of our regulars was away, Steve Ybarra joined us as a guest.

Our next event will be Monday, October 9th, at the home of Dennis Hallett.

Attention

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

Contact Sid Landman at (925) 673-8817 or email sidlandman@aol.com.

I can't believe how old people my age are!



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met at the home of **Frank McNamee** on Wednesday, September 13th. As always, a good time was had by all.

Our next outing will be at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan** on October 11th. Also our Group is looking for

another player. If interested, please call **Dan O'Sullivan** at (925) 685-4772.



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

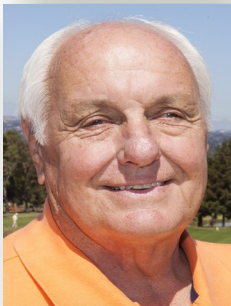
*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

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



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event.*



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

The *Old Money* poker group met at **Rich Alf's** house where we witnessed an unbelievable run of good luck. Try as he may, **Howard Charlop** just could not lose. He was

so embarrassed that he actually apologized to **Rich, Norm Baietti, Brad Hatcher, and Frank Lucas**. Oh, well. We'll get him next month.

*Reported by **Frank Lucas***



Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

October has arrived, which means we have just two more regular dates to play, October 9th and 23rd. Normally rains disrupt play after this date. We have had good turn outs this year and new players are always welcome to learn this simple game.

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. Call or write to Sir Martin Lyle for more information at mvlyle@yahoo.com.

*Rain Cancel Play
Ladies are welcome.*



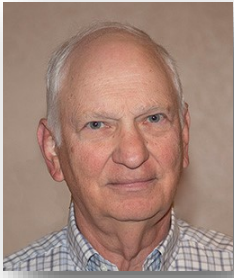
Cooking Lunch & Wine

Pete Gates

Twice each year, the members of the Lunch and Wine Group celebrate with their wives or significant others in a group dinner at a local restaurant.

In September, seven couples dined at the Yankee Pier Restaurant in Lafayette. Prior arrangements enabled the group to order from a custom menu and enjoy special service in a nice quiet room in the back of the restaurant. The food was great and a good time was had by all.





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

The most noteworthy item of the past month was **Bob White** shooting his age -- and then some -- on September 12th. He had a gross 81 and a net 62. His game is back!

On September 12th, **Chuck Schreiber** shot a gross 78 with a net 62. Gross scores under 80 are few and far between. Congratulations to both **Bob** and **Chuck** for their great rounds.

Our next Away Golf expedition will be on Tuesday October 3th at Eagle Vines in Napa. This was planned one year in advance and intended to coincide with Boundary Oak's aeration schedule in the hopes that we would get more participation in the away golf event. Then Boundary Oak moved its aeration to the following week! Oops.

Since Boundary Oak will now be aerating on Tuesday, October 10th, we have arranged for play at Pittsburg's Delta View. Let us know if you want to play.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities. We have had over 100 signed up but attendance has fallen a bit and in 2018 we expect participation to drop to about 90 members. Golf is a great way for you to have a good time while also meeting many of your fellow SIRS. We play Tuesday mornings at Boundary Oak and would be pleased to have you join us. If you like golf and haven't played with us before, feel free to join us. Get in touch with us either through a SIR golfer or simply email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

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

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



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.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Roger Thornton, Martin Lyle, and Ron Ragno enjoying the sun and breeze on the deck of Boundary Oak prior to the start of the September luncheon



Generation Gap

Area 16 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 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

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

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

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 18th, at 8 am at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

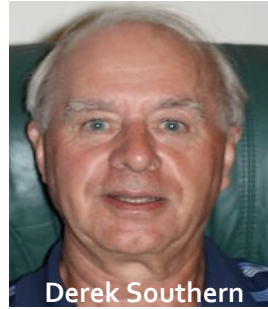
Our speaker will be a representative of the Law Office of Robert W. Ash in Grass Valley. The discussion will be about estate preservation if a spouse requires nursing care.

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

\$UMS Chairman **Tom Henry** tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** davesutn@comcast.net

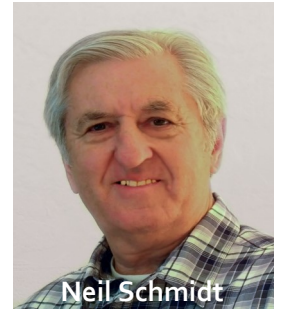
I could not hear you, so I'll just laugh
and hope it wasn't a question.

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 16 Computer and Technology Group [formerly A2CAT] announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, October 19th, 2017 starting at 9:30 am, but come early for coffee, goodies, and chat. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

The October topic will be "YouTube - How can it help you?" by **Tom Howard**. **Tom** will examine different types of YouTube content, how to find what you are looking for as well as how you can post your own YouTube stuff.

We look forward to seeing you 9:15 am, Thursday, October 19th, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee, and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if our October meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman



Sir, help me. - She's buying wine, and when she buys wine, she drinks wine and when she drinks wine she makes me wear funny clothes and she calls me her baby. She's crazy man, help!