

SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

October 2020

Published For Our Members And Friends

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



Big Sir's Notes Brad Hatcher

Please note the list of activities listed below that are now open and actually operating in addition to those reported in this month's issue which play online.

- Cooking II
- Fishing
- Hiking
- RV
- Lunch & Wine
- 9 & 18 hole golf
- Cycling

I hope this note finds you well and healthy. Do your best to stay active as best you can. Please consider one easy activity: Phone a fellow Sir (or two or three) and find out how they are doing.

Turning to some business, the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) met on September 10th. Among the actions taken **Steve Longbotham** was approved as a new member. Welcome **Steve!** Yes, even in this strange time, you can bring new members and guests to our Branch.

The BEC approved the dues amount for 2021. Dues will remain unchanged at \$20 for the entire year. You will receive a request for payment in about a month. The budget for 2021 was also approved. Anticipated expenses are likely to be just over \$10,000. As we don't know when, or if, we will have regular luncheons, we have tried to make sure branch finances remain solid. Other topics discussed, and various Committee reports, are in the BEC meeting minutes which are posted on the website for your review.

Please take a few minutes to log in to the website and go to the member roster. Review the information shown for you. Verify that it is correct. If not, please contact **Ron Lew**, Membership Chairman, with changes. His E-mail is mooshupapa@att.net We would also like to have your cell phone number on file. (You will find my cell # is in my listing.) Please send your cell # to **Ron** at the address above.

ZOOM Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, October 8th

Joseph Lumello
Coping with a Loved Ones Death

Breakout Rooms Gathering: 11:30 am
Speaker Presentation: 12 Noon

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

*Email: attend146meeting@gmail.com
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146*

I was pleased to see a number of members wearing their team colors at our Zoom luncheon last month. **David Bush**, our speaker, gave his views of the changes in covering sports as a writer. I found the best part was his responses to our questions.

Our next virtual luncheon will be on October 8th. As you can see in the red square above, we have another interesting speaker at the coming meeting.

The meeting format: We will sign on to Zoom, divide into small "breakout rooms" and chat with those in that room, come back to the main meeting and listen to our speaker, and then conduct Branch business. Our meeting will run about one hour and thirty minutes.

You will see an "E-blast" note a couple of days before the meeting. It will contain the necessary information to gain access to the meeting.

The Branch Executive Committee will meet on October 8th. The meeting is open to all members. If you wish to attend, please e-mail **Jerry Kaplan** mtdana@aol.com. He will make sure you receive the invitation to the Zoom BEC meeting. See you at the luncheon.

Stay safe – Be well – Wear your mask!

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

As we look toward the last three months of the year, we have lined up two interesting speakers for the months of October and November as well as an experiment for the traditional Ladies Luncheon in December.

In October, Joseph Lumello will join us to talk about the steps you need to take when a loved one dies from a standpoint of needed paperwork, timeline for paperwork submissions, and which entities need paperwork. The second part of his talk will deal with grief and 1) how to get help, 2) healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, and 3) how does grief manifest itself. *While this is a difficult topic, it needs to be discussed. You may want to invite your spouse to listen to the speaker as well.* Although I had to deal with this personally with the passing of my wife back in July, it was **Bob Lucido** who recommended Joseph as our speaker this month.

November is our traditional time to recognize our veterans in the organization and we try to seek out someone in the military to be our speaker. Capt. Jerrod E. Devine, Officer-In-Charge of the US Pacific Fleet, Maritime Homeland Defense Detachment in Alameda, CA was recommended by **Larry Kaye**, who he knows personally. I am sure his talk will be interesting.

Now we move on to December where we as a BEC were trying to determine if we should cancel the Ladies Day Luncheon since we normally do not discuss SIR business at this meeting, and we cannot meet in person. For now, it seems the branch will plan to hold a Ladies Day Luncheon in December with some great video being provided by the Devil Mountain Chorus of some of their recorded past performances. The Chorus has entertained the branch in the past, and in fact, we have two men in the branch who are members of the group, **Corrie Oranje** and **Peter Plante**.

We are also exploring a feature in Zoom called Break Out Rooms, where we will try to replicate the idea of sitting around a specific table with your friends who would be invited to join you. Couples would make reservations ahead of time that would allow for open discussions for 20 minutes or so prior to start of the entertainment portion of the meeting. More information

about the Zoom Ladies Day will be provided as we get closer to the date.

And finally, I want to encourage all the SIR Branch 146 members to read and respond to President **Ed Benson's** email asking members to take the linked UCSF survey he has include in his email. This will show that SIR is an important partner with UCSF and the data gathering they are conducting.

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little Sir.....	Jerry Kaplan
Secretary	Open *
Assistant Secretary	Rich Lyon
Treasurer	Ross Abbott
Assistant Treasurer	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	Paul Beretz
Director 2nd Term	Brian McCarthy
Director 2nd Term	Peter Plante
Director 1st Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Bob Wilkenfeld
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Tony Greco**
Publicity	Peter Plante

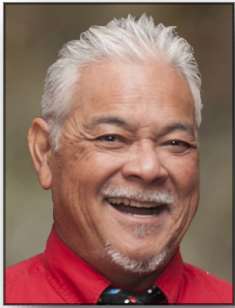
Refer to branch directory, accessible under members only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses. * *change*

** Temporary until permanent position is filled

You come from dust and you
will return to dust.

That's why I don't dust.

It could be someone I know.



Membership Ron Lew

New SIR members are being introduced to our branch through activities and many of us are still in contact with our friends and family members through our technology like ZOOM, Facebook, or Skype. We are planning to have a another Zoom

meeting in October.

Hopefully, you can bring others into this organization of SIR 146 via Zoom while making friends for life. Many of us SIR 146 members meet through activities respecting our social distancing and washing and wiping down everything.



Member Relations Tony Greco

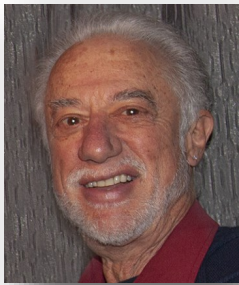
Regarding the SIR 146 Directory update, we have come up with a process for all members to update their phone numbers. Within the next few months our treasurer will be mailing you the annual dues payment request letter. Within this letter we are planning to duplicate your current phone number information from our directory. We ask that you verify and or correct this information. As you know we have added a space in the directory for you to add a 2nd phone number for cell numbers. Since there are now two spaces for phone numbers, we are anticipating receiving two phone numbers. Clearly indicate which number is a landline and which is a cell number. If you have no landline or cell number, please indicate "No Landline" or "No Cell Number". If you don't have a landline number, you may add a second cell number and indicate "Second Cell Number".

Why are we doing this? Simply put, our goal is to improve our relations with our fellow members by providing the quickest and easiest way to reach each other. This goal has become increasingly more meaningful during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your cooperation and support. Also, if possible, we may include your email address in the dues letter for you to verify.

As always, if you are concerned with privacy issues, we will respect your decision to decline providing us with any requested information. Happy trails to you until we meet again.

Tony Greco

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

Because of our restricted activities, we all need to keep in touch during this time of isolation.

Reach out to someone in your activity group and say hello.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



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



Stephen King has a son named Joe

I'm not joking, but he is.





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As we are approaching October, we are finally anticipating some loosening in the regulations regarding businesses, including restaurants. As of this writing, we are hoping that Contra Costa County could move from the “purple” tier to the “red” tier next week – which would be the last week in September. This would include restaurant dining rooms. We will be watching this development closely and will see if this will allow us to approach restaurants about some group dining. If they can accommodate a small group, we will see if there is enough interest in our Couples Dining Out group to revive this activity. Undoubtedly it would be quite limited – probably no more than 20 or 30, but it would be a start to seeing some of our friends and enjoy a fine meal.

We have been distressed with the loss of some of our favorite restaurants in our area. You are probably aware that Prima and Scott’s in Walnut Creek have permanently closed. Last night, we thought we would order a pizza from one of our local pizza restaurants – Sorrento’s. The phone message at the restaurant indicated that they were taking a “rest” day – a rather ominous sign. We then thought to order a pizza from Tulio’s in Walnut Creek, and we discovered that this family restaurant had closed over a year ago in July 2018. We are anxious to participate in the recovery of our once vibrant restaurant scene and hope that you will join us once we are able to again have our monthly Couples Dining Out activity.

In the meantime, stay well and patronize those restaurants which have a take-out option!



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

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

- Dick Kincaide
- Hugh Ferguson
- Joe Hunt
- Sig Kalteis
- Jim Meehan
- Rick Morgan
- Vince Rettew
- Stan Stricherz

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

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

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy

brimacc@comcast.net

BYO
BRING YOUR OWN
CONTAINER




**SIR Happenings
Newsletter**

[http://www.sirinc.org/
sirhappenings](http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings) is the
statewide SIR newsletter.

*Click on the link to read the current issue. You may enjoy
reading about the activities of other branches.*

SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



On September 10th, **Jerry Kaplan** was presented with our branch's CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION. This award is presented to members who have distinguished themselves in service to branch 146. **Jerry** exemplifies and defines this award.

Jerry was born and raised in Massachusetts for his first 14 years before moving to the city of Angels. He still is a Red Sox fan. He met and married his lovely wife **Susan** in 1967. They moved to San Jose where **Jerry** earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University.

Jerry then worked for the U S Dept. of Transportation and helped to complete America's Interstate Highway System. **Jerry** has lived in Walnut Creek for over 30 years. In 1986, J Kaplan and Associates was formed, specializing in public transportation and system analysis. And **Susan** worked with **Jerry** for 26 years in their consulting business before closing the doors in 2012. Wow! **Susan** is a Saint and deserves an award too.

Jerry is a man with loads of energy, and a desire to make his community better. For more information, it is suggested you read his complete Bio on our branch website. It is interesting and worth reading.

Jerry joined our branch in July 2011, sponsored by **Terry Marchione** and immediately became super active in branch activities and volunteering.

Take note of this, **Jerry** served as an Assistant Treasurer in 2013, as a BEC Director in 2014 & 15, and Branch Assistant Secretary in 2019 and Secretary this year (2020). He served as Activities Coordinator from 2014 through 2019 and the number of branch activities grew from 35 to 51. **Jerry** helped start the first Mexican Train Dominoes group in SIR. Now we have 7 groups and it is one of our most popular coed activities with more than 100 participants.

Jerry organized two successful Activity Chairmen Appreciation Breakfasts in March 2018 and 2019. Also in 2019, **Jerry** created the Behind The Scenes Program to recognize members who volunteer behind the scenes to keep our branch running smoothly.

Jerry's is truly an impressive resume, but the beat goes on. Next year **Jerry** will be our Little Sir. So, we can look forward to more of his unlimited energy and enthusiasm, as he strives to make our branch even better in the future.

Branch 146 extends a heartfelt thank you to **Jerry Kaplan** for his leadership, dedication, and large commitment to our branch with the receipt of this CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.



SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony



On September 10th, we honored our newest **Senior SIR Don Nunn**, who was raised in Vallejo and celebrates his big 90th birthday in December. **Don** joined our branch 26 years ago in July 1994, sponsored by Dan Hungerford.

Don had hoped to attend college after graduating from Vallejo high school, but the Korean War intervened. After 4 years in the Navy as Electronics Technician First Class and 3 years on the USS Bataan, a converted cruiser aircraft carrier, **Don** attended UC Berkeley, graduating with an electrical engineering degree.

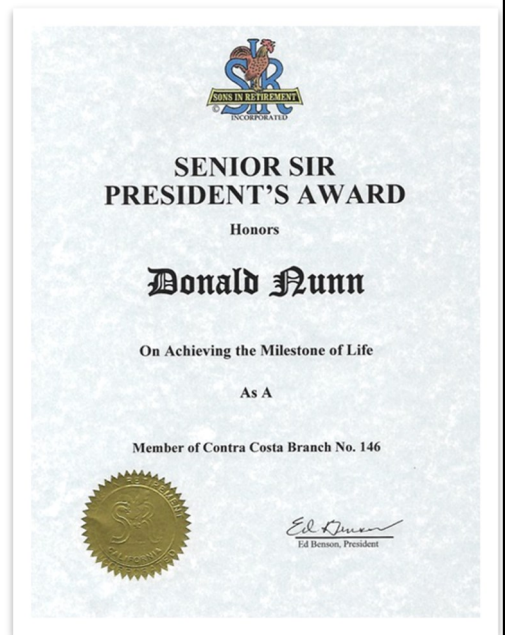
While in the Navy, **Don** reconnected with **Madelyn**, a high school classmate, and they were married in 1951. **Madelyn** helped **Don** work his way through Berkeley with two children, Doug and Lisa in tow. After Berkeley, he went into the lighting and ceiling business

with a company before starting his own business Nunn and Schneider Co.

Don has been a highly active and respected leader in our branch. **Don** was Big Sir in 1998 and was awarded our branch's highest award -- Branch Honoree -- in 2001 for his commitment, dedication, and outstanding service to Branch 146. In 2003, **Don** was awarded SIR's highest honor, Honorary Life Member, HLM. To put the icing on the cake, **Don** became a Senior HLM in 2013.

To quote from his Bio on our website, "**Don** considers his years in the branch as the highlight of his retirement."

In return, Branch 146 thanks you **Don** for your military service during the Korean War and your many contributions to Branch 146 spanning 26 years. Congratulations on receiving the State Senior Sir Award honoring not only your longevity but you love of life. **Don**, you deserve a far greater show of respect and gratitude than we could have hoped to give you at the September 10th zoom meeting.



My friend asked me if I wanted to hear a really good Batman impression, so I said go on then. He shouted, 'NOT THE KRYPTONITE!' and I said, 'That's Superman.' He said, 'Thanks, man, I've been practicing.'

You know how you buy a bag of salad and it starts getting brown and has gross water in it...

Donuts never do that!



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 16th from 10 AM to Noon via Zoom Videoconferencing. Branch 146 will be joining Branch 8 this coming month with the theme being "Story Telling with Your Photo Images."

I will forward by email three attachments to those members that are part of the Photography Group: 1) Six Fundamentals of Story Telling in Photography, 2) Telling Stories with Photos, and 3) Eight Tips on How To Do Story Telling with Your Images. If you are not on the photography list and would like to join us for this joint meeting with Branch 8, then contact **John (Moose) Kelly** by email at rollingstone911@yahoo.com or text/call **John** at (610) 517-0152.

I will forward an agenda of the subjects we will be covering along with the Zoom link roughly one week prior to October 16th. Be safe and be well out there!!!

Email: RLHOOCK@outlook.com

Cell/Text: (925) 324-1713



Pinochle

**Charlie Kahsen /
Jeff Morrow**

We meet on
the 2nd and 4th
Wednesday of the



month at *Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.*

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

If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

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

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

2020 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Tony Greco
Publicity	Peter Plante

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



“The vaccine should be tested on politicians first. If they survive, **the vaccine is safe.** If they don't, then **the country is safe.**”

—**MONIKA WISNIEWSKA**
Polish Author





Travel
Milt Smith

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

Prices are per person double occupancy.

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

Pricing begins at \$1,734.00 for a Balcony State Room to \$1,494.00 for an Ocean View Stateroom.

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

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

I will be presenting these trips to the board in October for approval, however, if you have any interest at all in any of these please contact Milt Smith right away at miltsmith549@gmail.com or 925-285-2897.

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

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

Milt Smith
(925) 285-2897
miltsmith549@gmail.com

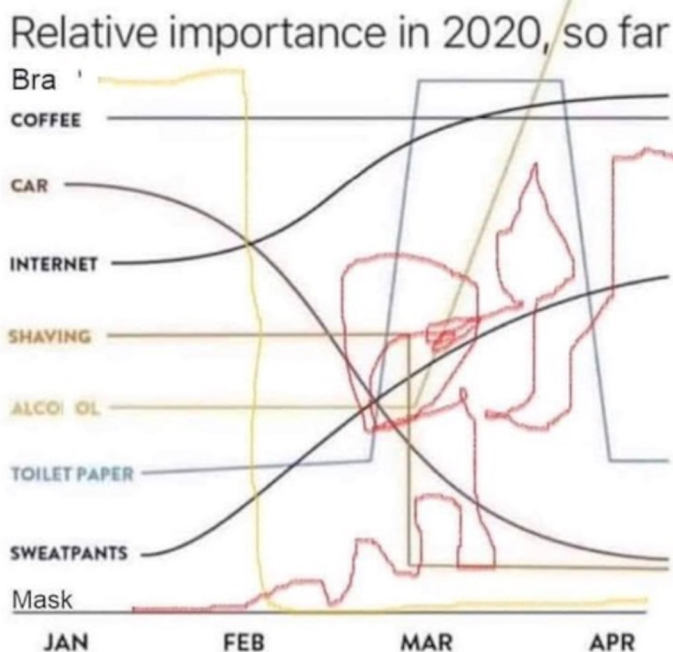


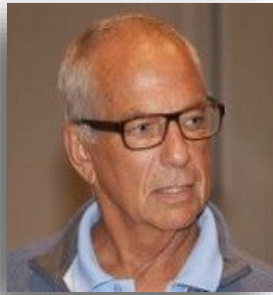
AREA 16 Fishing Report
Paul Dubow

The salmon season ends at the end of October. Although we have had a number of salmon outings since the last report, the catch has definitely dwindled. Rockfish outings have filled the gap and were highlighted by three trips to the Farallon Islands on the Sea Wolf where we filled our sacks with rockfish and ling cod. The average total weight of a catch for each fisherman on these outings was 50 lbs.

The local lakes are too warm for trout planting and crab fishing on the ocean does not commence until November 1. Our Delta experts, **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik**, continue to reel in lots of stripers and black bass and they were joined on several outings by **Harry Sherinian** and **Stan Wong**.

Because of the pandemic restrictions, we cannot meet in person, but we still are able to conduct some remarkably interesting Zoom meetings. The next one is scheduled for October 22. If you are interested and wish to join us on future outings, please contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 and we will arrange to have a Zoom invitation sent to you.





Pickleball and Ping Pong

Jim Burk

The location where the two activities are to be held, namely the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507, remains closed considering the current Coronavirus situation. The Church is targeting to open the gymnasium for Basketball and Volleyball activity conservatively no earlier than January 1, 2021, with the Ping Pong activity being targeted for later in the 1st Quarter of 2021.

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

Jim Burk– PickleBall

(925) 946-1192

jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Ron Afdal - Ping Pong

(925) 825-4809

ronafdal@comcast.net

Luncheon Chairman

Rich Lyon

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

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

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

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

In the meantime, play it safe and stay healthy.

Rich Lyon

Luncheon Coordinator

Editor’s Note

Richard Hockenbrock

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

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

Richard Hockenbrock—Editor SIR CALL

Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713



Sometimes all you need is one friend, a cold beer and five million dollars.

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Co-Editors	Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose & Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

Do not let them take the temperature on your forehead as you enter the supermarket because it erases your memory.

I went for macaroni and cheese and came home with two cases of beer



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs led the God Bless America finale for the September virtual luncheon meeting and were able to add some harmony to the presentation. We plan to use that same version for the October

meeting.

We wish that we could practice in person and put together a version that would include a larger number of singers but we are still limited by the restrictions on singing that the pandemic and health regulations have placed on us. So, for now we will await improvements in the statistics and hope that we can once again resume our well loved SongSirs activity and presentations at Senior Centers, and Skilled Nursing Facilities. Stick with us!

(925) 932-3961

bgborgman@aol.com



Explore & Eat Black Diamond Mine Tour

Cancelled Now

(To be rescheduled when the County opens their tours)

We are looking forward to your participation!

Co-chairs: **Henry Thatcher** 925-997-5032 and **Jim**

Pope 925-699-6447



Bocce

John Kendrick

ATTENTION ALL BOCCÉ PLAYERS!



I am very sorry to report that the 2020 Bocce season has been cancelled. Our hands were forced on this issue because the Bocce Federation has suspended all play this

year at both the Newhall, and Baldwin Courts. As such, your Branch 146 BEC, in a special meeting on May 26th, voted to suspend all play for us at the Newhall Courts where we hold our Bocce activity.

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

See you then!

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

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

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome.

Come and join us.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com

**MY FRIEND WENT BALD
YEARS AGO BUT STILL
CARRIES AROUND AN
OLD COMB WITH HIM**

UnKNOWN PUNster ©2019

**HE JUST CAN'T PART
WITH IT**



SIR 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

The hike for Friday, October 9th, will be in Diablo Foothills park starting from the Orchard parking lot. We will walk east on the Stage Road trail to the base of Little Yosemite trail, then up the hill on Yosemite to Wall Point road, and west to Fairy Lantern and back to the lot. This is about a 6 mile walk with up to 500 feet of elevation gain/loss.

Access to the Orchard parking lot is via Oak Grove Road east, then to the end of Castle Rock Road past Northgate High School. The lower lot at Diablo Foothills is closed, but there is plenty of parking in the Orchard lot.

I will be in the parking lot by 9:45 with my light silver Silverado pickup truck. And we will begin the walk at 10 AM sharp. Part of this planned walk goes thru Mt Diablo State Park. For those who attend with their puppy, this is an out and back walk exclusively on Stage Road. Part of Yosemite trail is inside of MDSP where dogs are not allowed.

The planned September hike was postponed 1 week due to very poor air quality in the general Bay area. So on Friday, September 18th, there were 5 guys and 1 puppy that did this walk. Bob Lucido & puppy, Gene Schulting, and 2 of our newest members of SIR146, Ray Martz and Mike Browne participated.



From left to right **Gene Schulting, Mike Browne, Bob Lucido, and Ray Martz**

Spouses always welcome
Rain (not likely!) cancels
Dogs allowed on leash
Cell (925) 360-3449
Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

The biggest lie I tell myself is
"I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."



Recruitment

Paul Beretz

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

If so, please contact **Bob**

Lucido.

Activity Chair

bobwendy3@comcast.net



RV Wanderers

Bob Lucido

We are all set for our next RV trip on the week of Oct. 26th. This will be to the Manchester KOA, which is on the Northern coast.

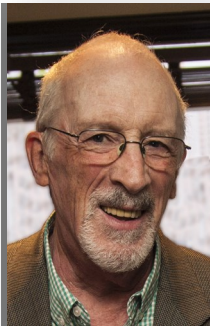
The site is only a long walk to the beach. The plan was to start the trip in September, but the RV sites were full.

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

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups

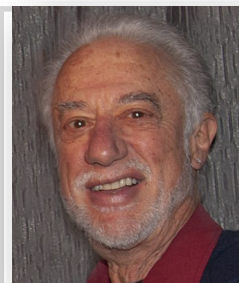


Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

No Events Planned.

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



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete)

Bob Lucido

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

Bob Lucido
(925) 899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

Like most other activities, The Group One players have not been able to meet at our monthly Game Nights. I'm sure we continue to miss the fun and some polite yelling at each other that occurs, but we also likely miss the different treats and munches that are provided by the hosts each month.

After several months of not seeing the entire group in person, we decided to set up a Zoom meeting and let all the regulars know about it. Well, we pulled it off on September 11th, our regular Game Night that occurs on the Friday after the Thursday Branch "luncheon." A few of us were not available to join in but a total of 14 Group One regulars Zoomed for an hour or so, discussed what they had been doing, or not been able to do. Several of us had to cancel a scheduled trip overseas or elsewhere. **Rob Melrose** and **Carmen Schiavone** told us in more detail about being in Spain when the pandemic hit that country and how they were able to catch one of the last planes back to the States. Others shared some of their experiences during the almost six month period since we were together.

It seems like everybody would like to try another Zoom meeting, so we'll set up another in October. Maybe some of us will surprise the group and wear a Halloween mask!

Hope everyone is well and are looking forward to resuming "normal life," whatever that looks like in 2021 and beyond. Thinking positively, and assuming we will see each other in person around a dominoes game, all branch members who have not played before, but would like to join us for a fun evening, please contact Jerry to learn how. The game is entertaining to play and easy to learn! Single SIR members as well as a SIR and his Significant Other are always welcome.

I took my 8-year-old to the office on Take Your Kid to Work Day. As we were walking around, she starting crying and getting very cranky, so I asked her what was wrong. As my coworkers gathered round, she sobbed, 'Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?!

Asked my date to meet me at the gym,
but she never showed up.

Guess the two of us aren't going to work out.



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

September 3rd Ride

Smoke? What smoke? Heat? What heat? The boys in Spandex lucked out today. The weather was spectacular. No smoke no heat. We rode: **Jim Nelson, Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Michael Wolfson, Bob**

Wilkenfeld ,Bill Holly and Larry Kaye

Today's rather circuitous route meandered thru Danville and into the Dougherty Valley. We headed towards Peets in the Valley. After some nice flat roads the destination appeared. Java at the half way point in a ride somehow seemed fabulous. Enjoying our respite was nice. The return beckoned and so after some caffeine time we mounted our bikes and headed home. The trip back to Alamo was downhill and fast. Aside from an earth mover nearly taking me out it was an un-eventful trip.

At 16 MPH the miles vanished fast. Our re-entry ride was completed and without fear of smoke and heat, it turned out great.

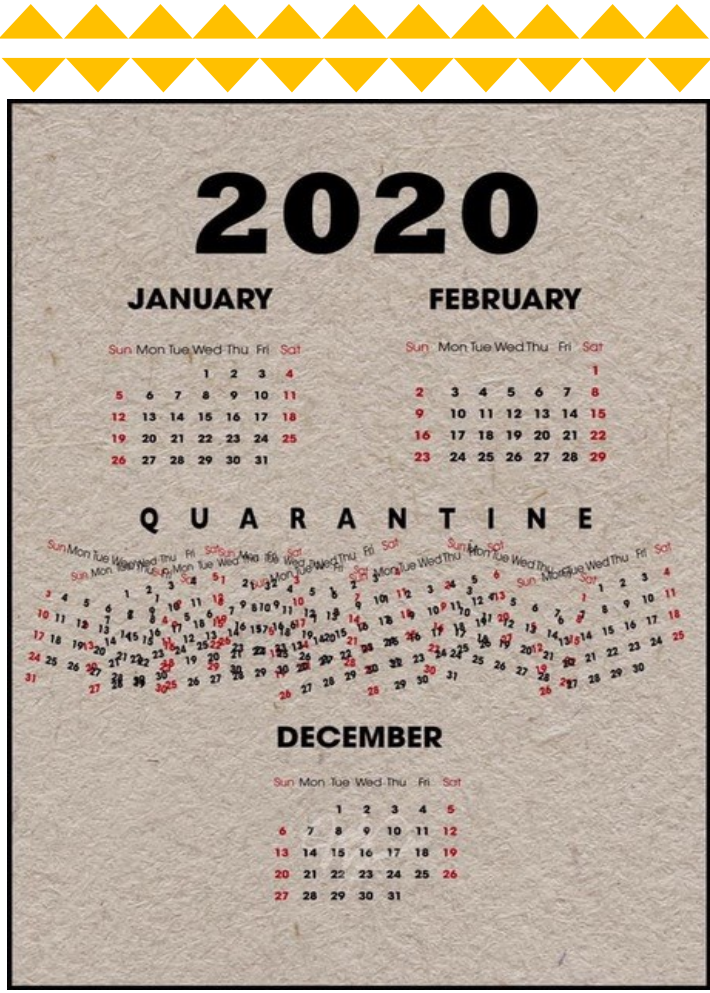
September 27th Ride

The sky cleared , the air was non toxic and the temperature was fantastic. We took off today on a ride that was short but a bit rolling. The object was to reacquaint our legs to bicycling. Off we went towards Blackhawk. As promised we stopped at Starbucks about half way for some guy talk and of course, Java.

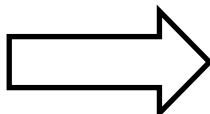
The facilities were available and that took a bit of weight off of some of us.

Navigating the rolling hills that surround Blackhawk we entered Diablo. Always a treat to see such large homes. Continuing the trek we headed into the El Pintado area of Danville. Climbing the El Rio road is always a fun experience. The remainder of our ride was downhill, flat and very peaceful. Back to our waiting steel machines we went.

It's always a good feeling to bond with similar guys that love exercise. Age has no meaning here amongst the men in Spandex. Sharing today's trip was: **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ken Studer, Ron Lew, and Larry Kaye.**



Someone is really an optimist





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group again enjoyed a smaller version of our usual monthly get-together with a cocktail hour with a number of appetizers brought by the five members who were able to attend

on September 14th. Of course, we had plenty of wine, as well as other beverages and enjoyed the fine weather in the comfortable backyard of **Bruce Borgman**. Three of our members had escaped the somewhat smoky air that was still the consequence of the devastating fires in the Bay Area... **Steve Ybarra** to San Diego, **Ken Richter** to Tahoe and **Corrie Oranje** still sequestering at home.

But the rest of us thoroughly enjoyed the snacks and appetizers, which included prosciutto wrapped melon, mini-tacos, an antipasto tray, marinated shrimp, and mini-quiches. Besides snacking and wine tasting, we covered all of the major happenings (except politics) and had good insight into the 49er defeat and how to handle the pandemic. We always spend time reminiscing earlier days several of us grew up in San Francisco and invariably agree that we are truly fortunate to be retired during these trying days. A picture of our lounging around is included in this issue of the Sir Call check out the five of us enjoying a glass of wine or beverage.

We will get together again on October 12 which will be hosted by **Bill Cammerer**.



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry Pool Play on Hold!



We meet

every Monday at 11:00 am at Masses, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the week for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain.

Reported by **Jim Barry**



Cooking Lunch & Wine Paul Dubow

Because of pandemic restrictions, we are not meeting at members' homes to cook and enjoy wine. Instead, we are meeting in members' backyards, wearing our masks and social distancing, bringing our own lunch, and continuing our tradition of debating about world events, politics, and sports.

On September 16, seven of us gathered in **Pete Gates'** backyard on a beautiful day for a delightful three-hour session. We are planning another get together at **Joe Barry's** home on Wednesday, October 21st.



Photo by Sue Shelton

Cooking II (L to R): **Bruce Borgman, Bill Roberts, Dennis Hallett, Bob Yolland, and Bill Cammerer.**

Food for thought...

Wouldn't it be ironic if Popeye's
Chicken was fried in Olive Oil?



Book Group

John Pearl

The On-Line Book Group of SIR Branch 146 met on Monday, September 14th. Our Zoom Master was Mike Farrar.

Our book selection for September was a classic, *“The Count of Monte Cristo”*, by Alexandre Dumas. This book and *“The Three Musketeers”* are his most famous works.

We tackled this rather large and complicated volume in several different ways, including not only reading the book but using “Cliff Notes,” Wikipedia, Amazon reviews, and the movie of the same name (there are several). This is a book that focuses on the revenge visited on his enemies by Edmond Dantes. The story begins in Marseille, France, at the time that Napoleon was in exile on the island of Elba in the Mediterranean, where by Mr. Dantes becomes the victim of four people who conspire to see him locked up, as he poses a threat to their ambitious futures. After a stay of 14 years where he is locked in a dungeon of a cliffside prison, he manages a most daring escape. While in the prison he makes a close friend with another prisoner who he contacts through a tunnel his new friend had been working on for years.

Mr. Dantes next appears as the Count of Monte Cristo, which is a small island off of Italy which just happens to have a large treasure hidden there and described to him by his friend in prison. The people to which he hopes to wreak revenge upon are in and around Paris, so he takes up residence there and proceeds to manipulate their lives in such a way they either commit suicide or are ruined financially or socially in a city that highly values both.

Naturally, at the end he sails off into the sunset with a young lady he has befriended.

In the forward, we learn that the author was paid by the word, partially explaining the book’s great length, which was also helped along by a ghost writer/ collaborator, Auguste Maquet, who expanded the plot and story line greatly. The length, the French names, and plot’s complexity, made it both an interesting and lengthy read.

The book was initially published in serial form in 1844 & 1845, and chapter groupings lend themselves to this.

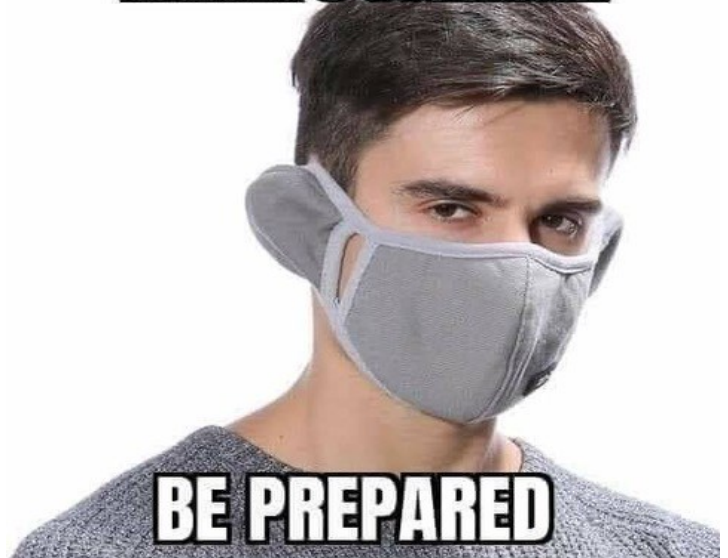
We see this book as a possible subject of a literature class, and an interesting but complex lengthy read.

We have selected *“The Whiskey Rebels”*, an historical novel set in western Pennsylvania and Philadelphia in the years following the Revolutionary War. We meet again, presumably on Zoom, on Monday, October 5th.

John Pearl, Interim Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

WINTER'S COMING...



BE PREPARED

**A SLICE OF APPLE PIE
IN JAMAICA IS
\$2.00. IT IS \$2.50 IN
THE BAHAMAS. THESE
ARE THE PIE RATES
OF THE CARIBBEAN**

UnKNOWN PUNster @2018



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

We have played at least 4 weeks a month since 4/16 on Friday at 1-4 pm, however we are now switching to twice per month. Our next online games if you are interested will be Friday October 9th and 23th at 1pm. September summaries are displayed in the table below. The big winners for the month were **Ray Bland** with 5, **George Sabbagha** with 4 and **Frank Lucas** with 4. Worth special mention is that **Frank Lucas** won 4 of 4 games on 9/25 and **Ray Bland** won 4 of 4 on 9/11 in their groups.

We have been working on our "sheriffing responsibilities in ensuring those we pass to do not "Shoot the moon". You can see below that there were only 5 uncovered passes in September as compared to 12 in August. We affectionately label the runners "shooters" and those that endeavor to stop them "sheriffs".

This last Friday we had 3 online groups playing for the 1st time.

There is one match on 9/25 in particular that merits special mention. I had labeled this match as the

"Clash of the Titans". **Ray Bland** and **Bob Finlayson** had been dueling for having the highest winning percentage throughout the year. **Ray** had been leading all year until **Bob** took the lead on 8/14. After our September 11th match they were both tied at 43% winning percentage. The group leader in this match was **Ron Polivka**, who I had not really mentioned as one could assume it is hard to win against **Ray** and **Bob**. However, perhaps the match should have been called "David vs the Goliaths" as **Ron** proceeded to win 2 of 4 games. Also twice he surprised them by "Shooting the Moon" near the end of a game. Congratulations **Ron**, and the rest of you be careful to not underestimate **Ron** or for that matter the rest of us, as in hearts anything can happen and the cards can go your way or sometimes not.

YTD Statistics: Lowest Avg. Score: **Bob Finlayson** is leading at 68.6 points, **Ray Bland** is 2nd with 69.5., and **Bob West** with 70.1. Win %: **Ray Bland** is leading with 42.1, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 42.0 and **Rich Lyon** with 30.0. YTD STM: **Frank Lucas** leads with 31 followed by **Ray Bland** with 28 and **Rich Lyon** with 14.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robrtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list, or want to play on the 2nd or 4th Friday at 1 pm.

September Summaries										
First Name	Ray	George	Ron	Jim	Frank	Bob	Brian	Bob	Rich	Steve
Last Name	Bland	Sabbagha	Polivka	Nelson	Lucas	Finlayson	McCarthy	West	Lyon	Ybarra
Wins	5	4	3	1	4	1	1	1		
2nd	1	1	3.5	2	3	2.5	1.5	1.5	2	3
STM	2		2		2					
Avg score	69	58	65	71	71	72	89	72	108	94
Uncovered passes	1						2		2	





Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

A young woman who plays a lot of bridge was told by her doctor that she was pregnant with twins. "That's just like my husband," she said, "doubling me when I'm vulnerable."

Dave Pierce
932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

No Games Scheduled

Dave Pierce
932-3877
dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Bill Schultz

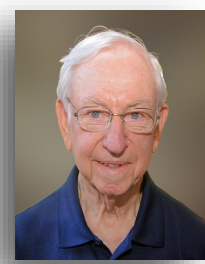
No Games Scheduled



Party Bridge

Jim Pope &
Jim Stedman

No Games Scheduled



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

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

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Nothing's better than being 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, or 97 years old.

Those are the years you're in your prime.

Laughing at your own mistakes
lengthens your life.
Laughing at your wife's mistakes
shortens it.



Poker Group 1
Dan O'Sullivan

No Games Scheduled



**Old Money Poker
Group 6**

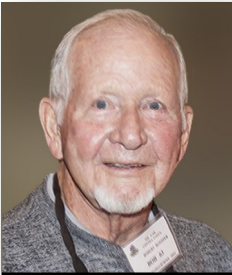
Brad Hatcher

No Games Scheduled

Brad Hatcher

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 2
Bob Royster

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 7

Bob Lucido

No Games Scheduled

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

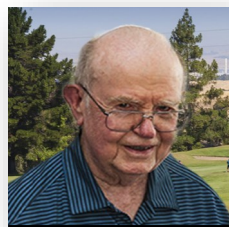
(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Poker Group 3
Sig Kalteis

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 4

Rich Hanford

No Games Scheduled



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

No Games Scheduled

FUNNY DAD JOKES

- What does a zombie vegetarian eat?
"GRRRAAIINS!"
- To the man in the wheelchair that stole my camouflage jacket... You can hide but you can't run.
- How did Darth Vader know what Luke got him for Christmas? He felt his presents!
- Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? Because they're so good at it.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.



Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

Come Out! We are playing!

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

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

vlaursen@astound.net

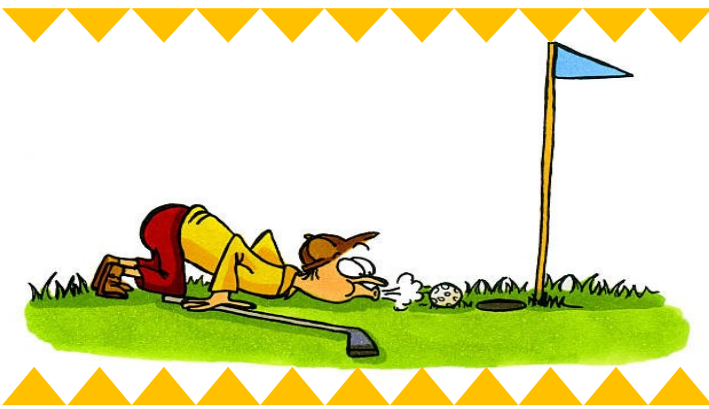


GOLF Ed Marlovits

May you live in interesting times” is a widely repeated Chinese curse that probably originated in late 19th century England.

While it has certainly been “interesting times” for the past few months, most lately with lots of 100+ degree temperatures and very bad air days. SIR 146 Golf has so far only been impacted by the cancelation of August’s Tournament Tuesday due to bad air quality. In September, when we have experienced high temperatures and the worst string of bad air days in memory, we were not shut out of Tuesday golf. Even on our warmest day, the temperature only reached the low 90’s by the time we finished golf. It did seem a bit touch and go with regard to AQI on the 15th but it turned out to be a near perfect golf day. It was such a good day for golf that the local TV news featured an interview at Boundary Oak with our masked general manager, Mike Ash.

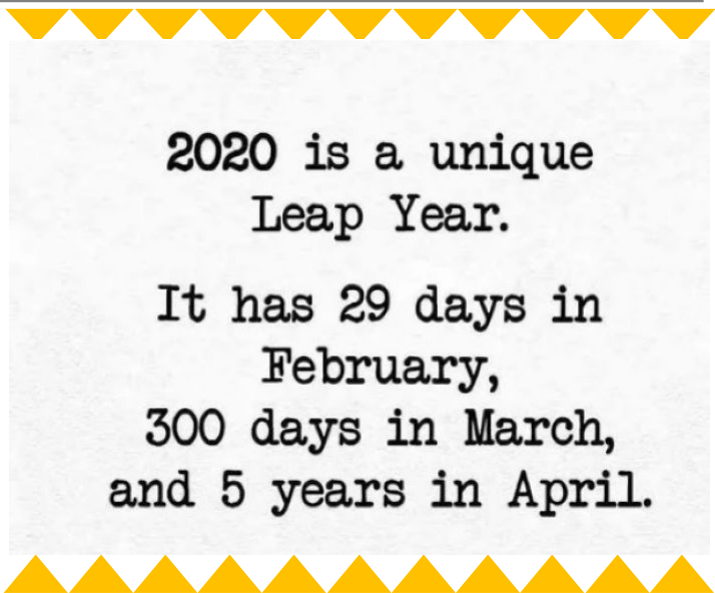
One near-perfect day presented itself for our away golf event at Dublin Ranch. We had a good turnout of 23, a big improvement over the intrepid four who ventured to play at Blue Rock Springs in August. There was a bit of haze in the sky but it was a fine day for us. Even the drive up 680 was a breeze for those of us to the north of Dublin. This was a great venue for a relaxing, fun day of golf.



Book Corner Peter Plante

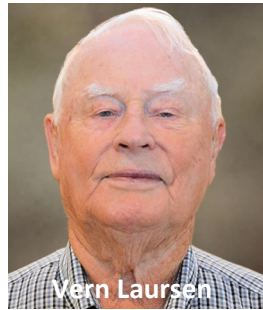
Our books are waiting in storage for the day they can be lent out again. I hope you are all finding something that spurs your imagination. War and Peace is an ongoing read for me. Chapter 39 and still going!! . Maybe we could share some of our other favorites classics. Happy reading!!

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



Area 16 Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



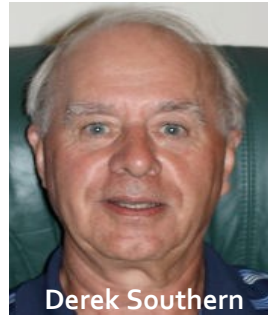
Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are long time Mac users (1978) and members of the Diablo Mac User Group. We are available to help you with your Mac questions and problems. If we cannot help you, we will direct you to someone who can help with your Mac questions. If you are planning to buy Apple products,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

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

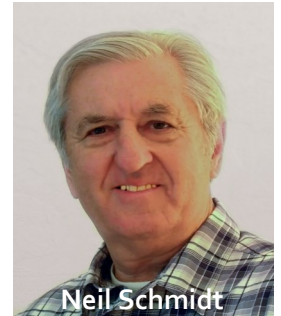
Verner in the past, led a genealogy meeting at DVMUG that was disbanded for a lack of attendees but is going to start that up again with the use of Zoom. (His family in My Heritage has over 30,000 names.) If you are interested in genealogy and want to be added to that group, please let Verner know

Verner Laursen Vlaursen@astound.net
Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Computers and Technology



PCs



The next Zoom SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology (CAT) Group meeting will be Thursday, October 15th starting at 9:30 AM (The Zoom "Doors" will be open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with friends).

In October the Computer & Technology group is going to have the second of a 2-part CAT series on "Television Entertainment". Last month we learned from Phil Goff about "Broadcast vs. Internet TV" and in October Neil Schmidt is going to be discussing smart TV's, streaming devices, streaming sites and how to find good programming. Members will also be asked to contribute their favorite sites and programs.

There is a tremendous amount of television programming available beyond your standard cable or satellite service. Numerous interesting documentaries, Academy Award movies, classic movies, TV series, etc. are available via Internet streaming. In addition, some of these services are free.

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

Always checkout our CAT website at "a2cat.sirinc2.org" for information about our meetings and for info on past presentations. NOTE THAT YOU NEED TO BE ON THE COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY MAILING LIST TO RECEIVE THE NECESSARY ZOOM WEBLINK TO ATTEND THE MEETING. Send your request to join our mailing list to: sirarea16cat@gmail.com

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 - davesutn@comcast.net

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