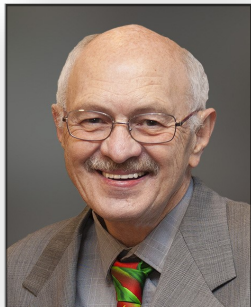




Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

Try as we might, the much anticipated and touted "In-Person" luncheon scheduled this past month had to be abruptly aborted into a Zoom meeting at the disappointment of 125 members who had signed up to

attend. The BEC was forced to take this action due to rising variant COVID cases and Contra Costa County imposing mask wearing throughout all public venue proceedings.

The BEC recognized the disdain for members having to wear a mask at future meetings that a motion was passed to not schedule any "in person" branch luncheon meetings until the county lifts the mask requirements.

With all the disruptions, the branch did accomplish some important business in August with the election of a full slate of branch officers and directors for 2022.

Big Sir	Jerry Kaplan
Little Sir	Rich Lyon
Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Assistant Secretary	John Kluesener
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Steinberg
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 2nd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 2nd Term	Bob Lucido
Director 1st Term	Bob Ford
Director 1st Term	Ed Brands
Director 1st Term	Frank Lucas

Walt Busenius on the Honoree Committee filling in for **Doug Eisner** honored **Brad Hatcher** with a Branch 146 Certificate of Appreciation award. **Brad** was Big Sir in 2020.

We added three new members in August bringing our total membership count to 291. Joining the branch were **Bud Pierce** sponsored by **John Kluesener**, **Steve George** sponsored by **Don Shaw**, and **Rick Green** sponsored by **Larry McAllister**.

[Zoom, Zoom...](#)
[ZOOM Luncheon Meeting](#)
[Thursday, September 9th](#)
Zoom Session opens at 11:45am
for Noon Meeting

Little Sir, **Jerry Kaplan** brought in an outstanding speaker in August on Zoom who was originally scheduled to talk to us in person. **Jon Haveman, Ph.D.** & Principal at Marin Economic Consulting discussed "COVID-19 Impacts on the US Economy." He also offered his thoughts about the effects that COVID has had on the local economy as well. His talk included many slides that provided excellent charts and graphs that are available for member review on the branch website.

September is the traditional month that the branch recognizes everything pertaining to sports. Although we will only be meeting on Zoom, we have a sportswriter as our speaker, (see Jerry's column following) and we are encouraging everyone to wear a piece of clothing with a logo or the team colors of your favorite sports team.

And finally, countless names were drawn from members celebrating their birthdays in August. Unfortunately, only those members who attended the meeting and stuck around for the drawing were qualified to win. **Gary Schaub** walked away with a beautiful SIR logo'd baseball hat as the ultimate drawing winner.

I hope to see more of you at the September meeting. Come support your organization via Zoom until this virus blows away.

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 Jerry Kaplan

We came so close! A real live meeting was planned and over 125 members were anxious to see their friends; they diligently emailed or called in to request attendance through a new RSVP process to ensure that everyone coming to Boundary Oak was in sync with State SIR guidance and local county COVID regulations.

As **Richard** noted in his Big Sir column, the in person meeting had to be cancelled due to the increase in Delta Variant cases. We hope to try once again to meet in person once the county lifts the mask requirement for all public indoor activities. Stay tuned! I hope most all of you will be ready and able to attend one of the luncheons in the next few months.

Our September luncheon speaker - I'm afraid only through a Zoom screen – will be Mr. Wes Goldberg. Wes is the Warriors beat reporter for the Bay Area New Group and appears several times a week on the front page of the East Bay Times sports section. He expects to speak to our membership about the latest trades the Warriors have made in the last few weeks and what he sees for the 2021-2022 NBA season. Please plan to sign on for his appearance at Noon on Thursday, September 9th.

We have eliminated the Breakout Room portion of our Zoom luncheon meetings so the meeting officially begins at Noon. Our speaker will be highlighted and begin his talk about five minutes after Noon. Bring your questions and comments about the Warriors and related sports to the meeting. He promises to provide candid responses. We are delighted that he will be attending the September meeting, although he had also hoped that he could speak to an in-person audience

Volunteers Always Needed!

It is important that all members, and in particular, newer members, volunteer to take a role in making the branch successful and welcoming to all. The branch is always in need of people to:

- check in luncheon attendees,
- help with audio/visual setups,

- assist in treasurer duties,
- help the Sir Call editor lay out the monthly newsletter and/or proofread the bulletin, and
- many other “chores” that allow the branch to function successfully.

Please consider attending one of our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meetings (even via Zoom) to see how the organization functions and how you may be able to help. The BEC meets at 9:00 AM, prior to every luncheon. Please look at the branch website <https://www.sir146.com/> to see the Administrative committees where assistance is almost always needed and especially welcomed!

During August, three new members joined our branch: **Steve George, Rick Green, and Bud Pearce**. A warm welcome to all of you; we look forward to meeting you in person, hearing some of your interesting life stories, and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

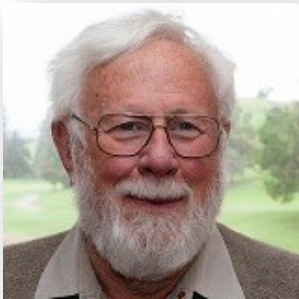
As you think about life during these days of COVID 19, consider:

“Life would be tragic if it weren't funny.”

— Stephen Hawking.

“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

— Mae West.



Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

Oh my. After our major effort to return to live meetings last month only to be forced to backtrack one wonder's when we will finally be done with all of this. It all reminds me of an annoying ad on local TV where

they run an ad for this legal firm, have another commercial, then re-run the first one again, only this time the annoying-beyond-belief-commentator starts of, "Hi, weeer baaack! Oh that I could hit the mute button on the pandemic or simply change the channel.

Well, if flog on we must, flog on we will. I find the meetings we are still able to maintain with small groups of

our fellow SIR members a most welcome break from the continuing isolation. I hope you , our readers, do too. Take a look through all of the activities and, find one you feel safe with and participate!

Deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 24th.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier —Editor SIR-Call

Cell / Text: 925.457.1489

br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
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	Dave Kwinter
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Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Hockenbrock
Little SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
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Assistant Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
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	Henry Thatcher
Director 1st Term	Bob Lucido

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Peter Plante

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

SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>



This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Congratulations to **Gary Schaub** our July Birthday winner! Remember... you have to be Zooming to WIN!, for July.

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap, modeled by our leaders on their article pages earlier in this newsletter!



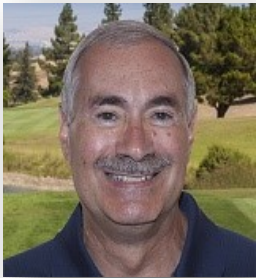
Your 2022 Nominations



Big Sir: **Jerry Kaplan**



Little Sir: **Rich Lyon**



Secretary:
Bob Wilkenfeld



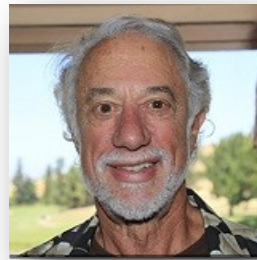
Assistant Secretary:
John Kluesener



Treasurer:
John Alexander



Assistant Treasurer:
Dave Steinberg



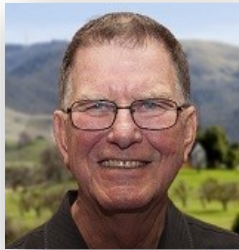
Director 2nd Term:
Bob Lucido



Director 1st Term:
Bob Ford



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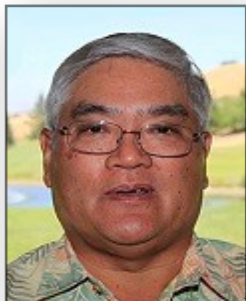
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Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved by the BEC in August. Let us welcome **Steve George** sponsored by **Don Shaw**, **Rick Green** sponsored by **Larry McAllister** and **Bud Pearce** sponsored by **John Kluesener**.

Steve lives in Lafayette, **Rick** lives in Walnut Creek and **Bud** lives in Concord. We should see **Steve** and **Rick** shooting par at the golf course and **Bud** winning at bridge.

One member resigned. **Thomas Talborg** plans to live in Europe for a year and may renew his membership upon his return.

The 2021 membership count is at 291.

“SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19” and copies of vaccination card tally as of August 20th; 85.8% responded, 253 members and 14 guest.

As the Directory will be updated monthly it is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information. In August, we had 9 updates to the Directory mainly due to updating emails and induction dates.

George Mon



Luncheon Co-Chairs Bruce Borgman Rich Lyon

As you know, after planning our in-person luncheon and return to Boundary Oak in August, the BEC decided that it was prudent to revert back to a Zoom remote luncheon.

Naturally, we as your luncheon chairs, were disappointed, primarily because we had worked out a process where our members could email, or call in to reserve their attendance at the luncheon. This was a change from our normal pre-pandemic procedure where our members would call in, or email if they were not attending. By all accounts, our new procedure worked well, and we had at last count 130 of our members responding that they would attend the in-person luncheon – a very good response, we thought!

Our leadership will no doubt give you details for our Zoom luncheon in September, and we encourage you to participate; hopefully this will be the last time we will have a remote meeting. We are all anxiously watching to see if the Covid statistics will improve so that we can resume our Boundary Oak luncheons – personally we hope it will be in October. It is likely that if we do, we will again expect you to RSVP by email or phone since that worked well.

In the meantime, we wish you good health – stay well and we will see you at the luncheon before long.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Russell E. Anderson	Richard J. Fiscina	Steve Longbotham	Charles Schreiber
Joseph G. Barry	Tony Greco	Franz J. Mair	Tony Shebanek
Jerry Benoit	Max M. Hinkle	Bob Mehus	Dave Tucker
Fred Bolton	Robert A. Johnston	Jeff Morrow	Stan U'Ren
Agnello Braganza	Charlie Kahsen	Joe Nelms	Michael Weiner
Rick Chase	Moose Kelly	John C. Pearl	Sydney Whalen
Dee DiMatteo	Bocce-ace Kersis	Rog Rivers	

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



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

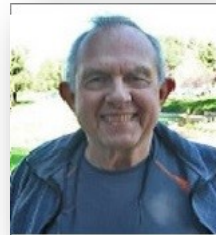
Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone (925) 324-2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



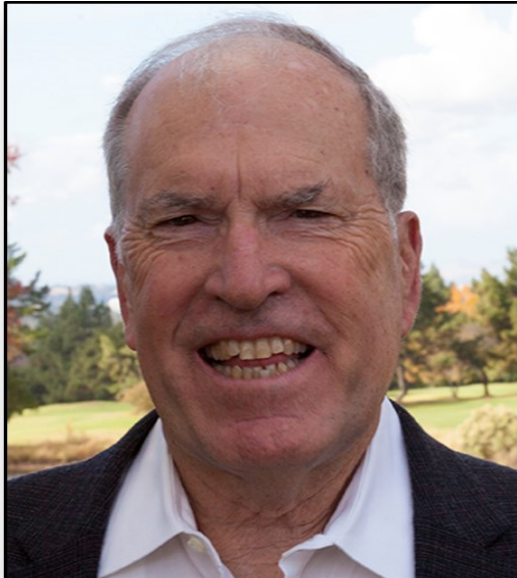
Stan Stricherz



Vince Rettew



August Certificate of Appreciation Award Presentation Honoring Brad Hatcher



At the August meeting we were honored to present the Branch's Certificate of Appreciation to **Brad Hatcher**. **Brad** is another member of our branch's native sons, having been born in the City of Angels. After High School, **Brad** entered USC. Now, before we go any further, I want to assure you that **Brad** was accepted as a Trojan solely on his own merits. The size of his daddy's pocketbook had no influence whatsoever, unlike that of some other recent applicants you may recall from the news. **Brad's** father was an LA county deputy Sheriff.

In any event, **Brad** graduated from USC in 1964 with a double major in Business and Finance; and, in that same year, married his lovely wife **Lynne** and moved to Walnut Creek.

Brad spent his entire career in the financial services industry, including 23 years with Security Pacific Bank, and shorter stints with the Union Bank of CA, Merrill Lynch and Black Rock retiring in 2012.

Brad retired and joined our branch the same year, sponsored by **Dennis Dale**. **Brad** promptly began his service to the branch, serving as Member Relations chairman for 2 years, then Director for 2 years. At this point, **Brad** was more than ready to step up to branch leadership serving first as Assistant Secretary, then Little Sir, and Big Sir from 2017 through 2020. **This year Brad** serves as the 2021 Nominating Chairman as well as continuing to chair a poker group. Wow, a busy guy.

Brad and **Lynne** have a daughter and a son and 4 grandchildren. **Brad** is an avid fisherman, bridge player, wine taster and poker player.

Please join me in congratulating **Brad** for his excellent service to Branch 146 with his receipt of the Branch's Certificate of Appreciation award!



Presenter was **Walt Busenius** at the August 12th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members



Ross Abbott and Chuck Cornell (members of SIR BRANCH 146) are looking for musicians who enjoy Dixieland music and want to have some fun.

Ross plays piano and Chuck plays the trombone so if you have an instrument and want to join us we would love to hear from you.

We'll start with Darktown Stutters Ball and see where we go from there. We might even have a beer or wine when it's time for a break.

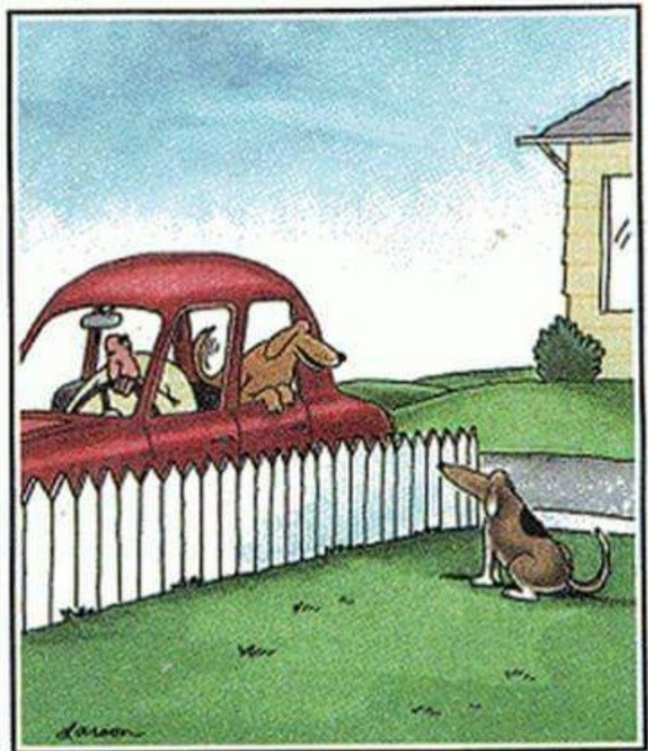
Ross Abbott
rossabbott@hotmail.com
(925) 939-1121

Chuck Cornell
cecornell93@gmail.com
(925) 933-7599

Do you use an Epson R2000 printer?

...or a similar Epson Photo printer that uses Epson T159n ink cartridges? If you do, give me a call. I recently retired my R2000 printer and upgraded to a new "tank" based printer and was left with a large number of these cartridges (all colors) that need a good home.

Clint Collier
925.457.1489
sirclint@the-colliers.org



"Ha ha ha, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."



Looking for something to do...

Activities are what makes SIR what it is. There are a great number of activities listed in the following pages. Many activities are now open for in person participation and more will soon follow.

We have so many activities, but there is always room for more. If you've got an idea, we would love to hear it, and Bob Lucido, our Activities Coordinator, would love to help you start a new activity by seeing if there is interest in it, and if so, help you set it up.



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

A number of activities, which were open, are now on temporary hold because of lack of participation due to the COVID variant. They will evaluate the status for reopening in September or October.

About 81% of our members have submitted their vaccination document, and about 85% have submitted their waiver form.

If you have only submitted your waiver form, and have not submitted your vaccination documents, you are only eligible for outside activities.

Bob Lucido
925-899-097
Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

Five stalwart members of the local SIR Cribbage group met at Rocco's Wednesday afternoon, August 25th. We tried out the latest scoring system innovations designed by our CTO **Jim Nelson**, and the concept worked

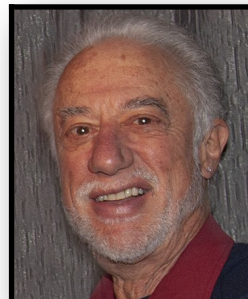
well. **Jim** will make some minor modifications to make the system even better prior to our next meeting.

Our big winner this month and in first place was **Bob Finlayson**, while second place money went to **Kirk McVean**, of Branch 116 and a regular with our group. **Roger Rivers** took third place and won his ante, and chose to roll it over for our next month meeting, which will be on Wednesday, September 22nd, at Rocco's.

John Pearl
mcpearl@astound.net



Church Mice.



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

In November we are planning a trip to Petaluma. Bob Lucido (925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

2020 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2022 Today

September 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	31	Sep 1	2	3
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>
6	7	8	9	10
<p>9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #1</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting via Zoom</p> <p>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon via Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)</p>
13	14	15	16	17
<p>8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2</p> <p>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro</p>
20	21	22	23	24
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom</p> <p>6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis</p>	<p>7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)</p>
27	28	29	30	Oct 1
<p>8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

July 30: Its going to be hot. So we rolled at 08:30. **Roger Meyer, Moose Kelley, Jim Nelson, Bill Holly, Pat Hoy. Michael Wolfson, and Larry Kaye.**

We explored some of the back streets of Alamo. Taking in the secret trails known to locals. Fun little byways. Heading South we cruised streets, trails and back streets. We visited the old nuclear reactor site in Danville, we ventured into the back entrance to the site and caught up to El Capitan. Heading west we rolled thru the streets of Danville. The heat began to rear up. We set our sights on Alamo. Soon the road took us to Peets. After using the facilities everyone grabbed some java.

Talking was next. Eventually the thoughts of air conditioned cars took over and we headed to our steel units. This was a short but well deserved ride. Our legs loved it.

August 5: The sun was shining this am. The 146 guys were going to meet the Branch 128 guys and ride with them in San Ramon.



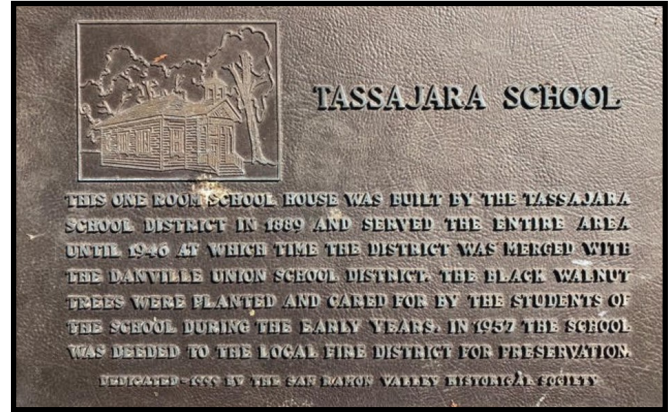
The August 5 cyclists

We all met at a site in San Ramon. It was grey, cold and windy: Typical San Ramon weather.

All told 14 hardy SIR guys joined up, we rode thru San Ramon, Dublin and ventured through various side streets, and bridges never seen before. Great fun. Heading into the outskirts of Danville we mustered at a park for a late morning relief stop. The picture is from that park. Representing Branch 146 were: **Bob Wilkerson, Ken Studer, Moose Kelley, Jim Nelson, Michael Wolfson, Roger Meyer and Larry Kaye.** The Photo was taken by **Bill Corbett** from Branch 128, the ride leader.

Back to San Ramon we rode. Hot java and good old fashioned chat time was then enjoyed by all. We made new friends today and as a bonus they all ride bikes. We planned to meet again and enjoy future rides. A great day for SIR members!

August 13: Thanks to **Moose**, four intrepid cyclists set out from Alamo this morning and headed to the one-room



Tassajara School. Despite the heat and traffic we made it safely there and back.



While at the school, we enrolled in various programs; **Moose**—BA in Fine Arts (photography) **Roger**—Teaching certificate (elementary grades) **Bill Holly**. Math, **Bob Wilkenfeld**. PhD in some esoteric science

Continued on next page



Photo by Moose Kelly

August 16th ride with Branch 128

August 16: What a day. We met up with our brother SIR guys from Branch 128 today. The ride was to Sunol. Attending from Branch 146 were **Moose Kelly, Roger Meyer and Larry Kaye**. Setting out from San Ramon we and 8 of the 128 guys headed South. Taking trails, side streets, main streets and assorted under freeway paths we navigated thru Pleasanton. Taking Foothill South we climbed some hills while enjoying the huge homes that have sprouted along Foothill. Into the Town of Sunol we rolled. The restrooms were greeted with smiles. Sunol has almost disappeared. Stores are closed, boarded up and in general gone. Following the road we turned North. Taking in the backroads to Pleasanton. So pretty. Nice quiet country. Around and about we rolled. Rejoining the Iron Horse trail we set forth North. Back to San Ramon. Java at Starbucks with our new friends. Always fun to share with like minded guys. Especially as it concerns rest stops.

August 19: Today's ride was advertised as short but hilly. Some guys were concerned with the "smoke" that had been in the air. At the start we had: **Paul Brown, Ken Studer, Bob Wilkenfeld and Larry Kaye**. The air was clean and crisp, and the temps were perfect. Off we rolled. Pedaling out into the far reaches of Danville we rode. Reaching a turnaround, we executed a U turn and set our sights for the back area of Danville. Home to hills. Navigating these rollers, we crossed over to another side street and once again surmounted hills. Following this route, we crossed a major street and once again headed to some hills. El Pintado is a street that was old ranches but now is home to some giant private abodes. These list in the 6 to 11 million range. Drooling we followed the route. Into the local park.

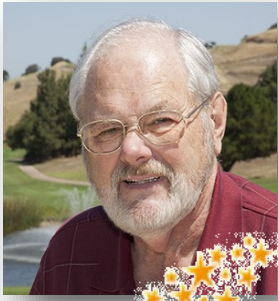
Knowing that the restrooms were there. Ahhh. What a relief that was. Back to town, spent and thirsty. Peets was our destination. Good java and hearty discussions followed. Great to be a cyclist today. Everyday!

August 23: What a day, Cool clean air and sunny. How lucky are we? The gang consisting of Bob Lucido, Roger Meyer, Michael Wolfson, Moose Kelly and Larry Kaye headed out en-route to The Canyon. We took the long way and saved some nasty climbing by going thru San Ramon and Norris Canyon. We enjoyed the scenery of the Canyon and the greenery of the trees along the way. The route took us to the end of the Canyon where we enjoyed the park and the porta potty's. Nice.

The trip home was blessed with downhills of length. Felt good to hit 25 MPH on two wheels. Arriving back in Alamo we stopped at Peets to enjoy some java and food. A truly great and fun ride. Age means sh..!

Did you know?

By replacing your potato chips with grapefruit as a snack, you can lose as much as 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.



Theater
Gary Schaub

LAST CALL FOR MAGIC CLUB & DINNER ON NOVEMBER 5



If you want to be with other SIR 146 members and guests for a fun-filled evening with a professional magic show and a gourmet dinner, then you'll want to join us for our return visit to the California Magic Club in Martinez on Friday, November 5.

The California Magic Club provides an evening of good

food, witty conversation and spellbinding entertainment with a popular professional magician. It's like a private dinner party!

The California Magic Club – located at 514 Main Street at

Alhambra Avenue in Downtown Martinez -- has been presenting magical entertainment for more than 15 years.

Dinner offers a choice of marinated chicken breast or tasty tri-tip beef, along with a fresh green salad, seasoned vegetables and rice. A tasty dessert completes the meal. A pasta vegetarian option is available if ordered in advance with ticket order. Beer and wine is available.

The magical fun begins as soon as you arrive. Close-up magic is performed right at your table. After dinner you'll be amazed by an hour-long stage show by a well-known professional magician.

The California Magic Club seats only forty patrons – so seating is limited! Early reservations are essential – no later than September 30. The group rate for SIR members and guests is \$89.00 per person which includes both dinner and show. Attendees must be on the SIR146 indoor activity vaccination list, and masking is expected.

Send checks payable to SIR146 to Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. Additional info? Call Gary at 925.938.5454.



Table Pool
Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry
Reported by Jim Barry

Table Pool is back in business and we're meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 Noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games.!!!!!!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional

information.

Bill Weinberg
(925) 682 0962



Pickleball
Jim Burk

Pickle ball has been shut down effectively for most of the month of August, 2021. This was brought about by the County's return to a requirement for players to use their face mask while playing, regardless of vaccination status.

However, we expect to start up again after Labor Day on Tuesday the 7th of September. The need to wear a mask will be revisited as that date approaches. Our most popular drop-in sport is expected to be played on Monday thru Friday in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the ARC located at 902 Danville Blvd. in Danville. We look forward to your return to play of this most enjoyable game. It is coed and women are most welcome.

Jim Burk
(925) 285-3575 or jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Who hates speeding tickets?
Raise your right foot!



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs were ready to resume our practices on our regular schedule in August – but, at the August 4 rehearsal we were disappointed that only one of our regular group (**Bruce Kimmis!**) showed up, along with two new members, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Brad Hatcher**. Of course our faithful pianist, **Steve Dinning** was there as well as yours truly. At that time we were starting to experience some worsening of the Covid statistics and our members may have had some reservations about resuming this activity. And, some had other conflicts. We thus cancelled that rehearsal with our appreciation for those who came. We had put together a list of some of our tried and true songs, and we were able to distribute copies of these. Our next rehearsal would have been August 18, but we have decided to hold off on rehearsals for August and September. We remain hopeful that we will see improvement of the Covid statistics, which will allow us to get back to the various activities of the Branch. In the meantime, be sure you’ve gotten your first shots of the vaccine and watch for availability of the booster shots. Stay well!

Bruce Borgman

(925) 932-3961 bgborgman@aol.com



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco’s Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you’re interested in joining our group, or if you’d like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email Charlie Kahsen (contact information below) and he’ll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com

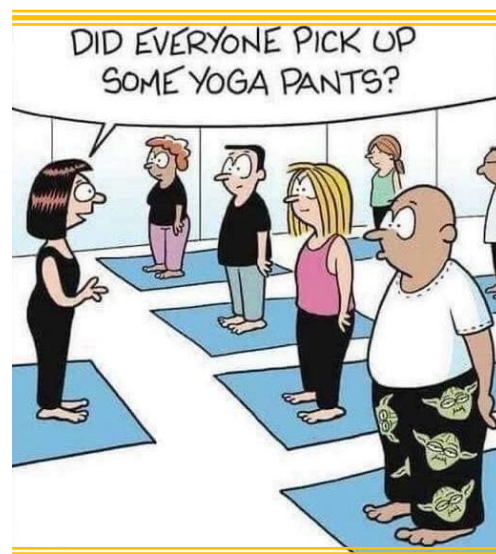


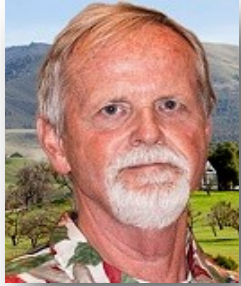
Ping Pong Ron Afdal

The Friday Ping Pong activity has been cancelled since August 6 due to covid virus concerns for our indoor activity; especially the masking at all times requirement. The activity restart date has been set for Friday, September 10, noon to 4pm: unless any unforeseen covid mandates are imposed. Hope to see all then,

Ron Afdal

(925) 825-4809 ronafdal@comcast.net





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 27th from 9 AM to 11 AM. Unfortunately, we decided to cancel our live meeting at Rocco's due to the surge of the Delta variant of COVID 19.

Our theme for the August meeting was Sports Photography. We will keep this theme but will incorporate another new theme "Using the Rules of Composition" for our October 22nd Meeting.

Sports Photography - The coming months have many different sports that are being played professionally and or at an amateur level. Take your camera and go photograph a baseball game, a football game or whatever other sporting events that are available in your area. Since the subjects will be moving quickly, practice your photography skills with using different aperture settings.

Using the Rules of Composition – I will forward out a few articles and instructions on this additional theme in mid-September. Thus, we will have a double theme meeting in October.

I will reach out in the beginning of October to see whether we are comfortable meeting in person at Rocco's. Hopefully the Delta variant surge will be behind us at that point.

If you are not on our email mailing list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to one of our meetings to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher. We would be happy to send you the information.

Be safe, be well, and be sure to "Say Cheese!"

John (Moose) Kelly

text/call at 610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

text/call at 925.997.5032 henrythatcher@gmail.com

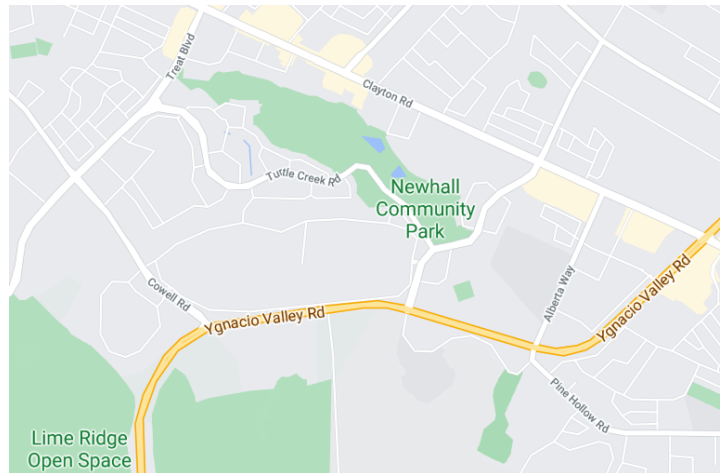


Bocce John Kendrick

. Reminder - SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and looking for new players.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday, 8:30 am to 10:00 am,

May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park,



Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585

jmkendrick23@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

It is said that the great salmon highway opens each August. This is when the silver salmon decide that it is time to leave their ocean habitat and swim toward the Golden Gate and the rivers where they were born.

The highway was open this year and although there were a few detours, many of us enjoyed some pleasant days on the briny hauling in good sized salmon. A group led by **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 sailed out on the *Sundance* before the highway opened and so they opted for rockfish. Not only did they limit out on rockfish, but they caught four ling cod and two nice sized halibut, one of which was landed by **Larry Kaye** of Branch 146. Two weeks later, **Paul**



Larry Kaye, "just for the halibut"

led another *Sundance* group that came home with eleven silvers, including a 33 pounder hooked by **Gordon Linebaugh** and four others over 20 lbs. **Gordon's** catch broke the 2021 high set only the day before by **Carl Moyer**, whose fish weighed in at 32 lbs. **Gordon's** record didn't last long. A few days later, **Rich Fiscina**

of Branch 146 picked up a 35 pounder. He also caught one at 25 lbs. before he headed for home. A *Sundance* trip that included **Carl Moyer**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Phil Scimonelli**, and **Bob Fieber** netted ten large silvers. On another *Sundance* trip, a group led by **Gordon Linebaugh** boated eight salmon, several of which exceeded 20 lbs. It was an odd trip in that they caught two fish during their first hour on the ocean and caught the other six in their last hour. The only highway detour involved **Pedro Contreras**. He and **Steve Paulick** fished on **Pedro's** boat and landed only a single 22 inch salmon, which they released.

Ocean fishing was not limited to salmon. **Carl Moyer** sailed on the *Sea Wolf* to the Farallones where he limited out on rockfish and ling cod. The fish were much larger than the ones that we usually pick up within a mile of the mainland, our usual rockfish venue. As a consequence of **Carl's** report, the group chartered the *Sea Wolf* for a trip on September 14. Eighteen of us will be on board. **Steve Paulick** and **Ben LaSala** fished on the *California Don* out of Berkeley and limited out on rockfish. They also caught several ling cod and halibut. **Steve's** 10 lb. halibut won the pot for the trip. This boat also serves food and so **Steve** and **Ben** advise that if you get hungry while fishing (and who doesn't?) and you don't want to carry your own lunch, you can enjoy good snacks and barbecue on the *California Don*.

Alaska was a lure for some of us. **Pete Gates**, **Steve Loftin**, **Chuck Connell**, and **Lee Clark** of Branch 146 journeyed to Kodiak Island for four and one half days of fishing. Unfortunately, the silver salmon fishing was spotty, although they caught a few. But they limited out on rockfish and caught some halibut and grey cod and each fisherman came home with two boxes of fish. **Raleigh Davis** fished at a lodge about 80 miles outside of Juneau and also experienced limited silver salmon fishing. But he caught and released a 109 lb. halibut and also picked up some sockeye salmon. **Tom Chapman** traveled to Seward and confined his activity to halibut, limiting out every day.

We did not ignore the inland waters on our outings this month. **Ken Bellindir** made several trips to the Delta for black bass, averaging 20 fish per trip. **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik** made three joint trips to the Delta, catching 30, 40, and 44 bass respectively. **Tom** also fished on Spoonbill Creek, an arm of the Delta, and caught a 30 inch sturgeon, several small stripers and six catfish. **Terry Miller** and his son caught 25 stripers in the Delta, but only one was a keeper and they released it. **Joe Miscione** and his son caught approximately thirty stripers at Belden Landing in the Delta, but only three keepers. They also caught six catfish. All the fish were released. **Stan Wong** caught four keeper stripers in the Delta, releasing three. The largest was eight pounds. **Stan** also fished for two days at Boca Reservoir in the Sierras and limited out on kokanee before noon on each day. **Ray Pixton** fished at Icehouse Reservoir in the Sierra foothills and caught four trout.

Pier fishing is another venue that is available to fishermen in the area. There are piers in Pinole, Martinez, and Antioch. **Mike Browne** of Branch 146 and **Phil Scimonelli**

Continued on next page

continued from prior page

tried all of them. The fish were small, but there was lots of action. **Phil** also surf fished in Pacifica and caught a batch of ocean perch. **Bob Lucido** of Branch 146 recently joined our group and fished at Antioch after years of not fishing. Although his catch was small, he is ready to go again.

We also held our annual picnic at **Brion Beetz'** home. About twenty members and their significant others attended had a wonderful time with delicious barbecue plus salads prepared by **Brion** and his wife **Christie** and pizza appetizers prepared by **Rich Fiscina**.

One note of sadness. For the past six years, we have been making two trips each year to Quail Lodge on Lake Almanor where owner **John Crotty** guided us on great rainbow trout outings and his wife **Deb** cooked terrific meals, followed by fireside camaraderie. 29 of

us enjoyed their hospitality over the years. Unfortunately, the Dixie fire destroyed the lodge on August 5. **John** and **Deb** probably will not rebuild and are not sure what they will do next. A number of us have contributed to a GoFundMe account for them.

Our next meeting is at 8:30 am on September 23. But most of us assemble earlier, beginning at 7:30 am, for breakfast and good talk. If you are interested in joining our group, you can do so even if you have never fished or haven't fished in years. Just show up, or better yet, contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 beforehand and let us know that you are coming. You will be subject to tales of our fishing exploits but you will have the opportunity to sign up for the many great fishing outings on our calendar.



Travel Milt Smith

We now have two great cruises scheduled for 2022 - Take a look and let Milt Smith know if you'd like to go or if you have any questions.

PRINCESS CRUISE: Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco aboard the Ruby

Princess: sailing **March 12-27, 2022** via the Panama Canal;

ports of call: Cartagena, Colombia; Panama Canal (new locks); Panama City; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. **Balcony Staterooms starting at \$3,824 pp. Ocean view at \$3,369** Contact Milt Smith SIR146 - miltsmith549@gmail.com or contact Lisa

Mittone, agent, directly at lisa@tctat.com 800-528-2223 be sure to mention SIR 146.

8 Night Autumn in the Northeast - CRUISE ABOARD THE CRYSTAL SERENITY QUEBEC CITY TO NEW YORK CITY October 5-13, 2022. Ports of call: The Bay of Fundy, Saint John, Bar Harbor, Boston, Newport, NYC. *Crystal Cruises are all inclusive!* Pricing from **\$4898 pp dbl. occupancy, including airfare.**

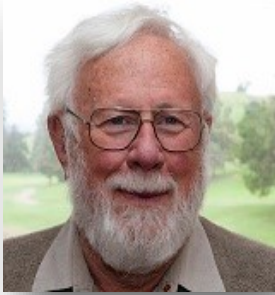
Contact Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897.



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

**Don't miss
Panama!**





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Six SIR members gathered together on the 26th of last month to indulge in that Japanese delicacy, sushi. Our restaurant of choice for this foray was



Cherry Blossom Sushi

House of Sake in Walnut Creek. We, of course started out with a little sake, the liquid, to get things going. Appropriately prepped we moved on to a couple of great nigiri sushi platters before rounding things out with a fine selection of custom rolls, maki. One of the more popular ones was called "Cherry Blossom". All were delicious.

Conversation was all over the map and solved most of the

world's problems with the exception of Afghanistan, the covid pandemic, the California recall, the terrible fire situation, global warning, the heartbreak of psoriasis... hmm, maybe we didn't solve as many as I thought.

Well, at least we decided that we will try to have a Christmas sushi outing to Morimoto's in Napa on December 16th, wives invited.

And, we set the date for our next sushi adventure, October 21st, the anniversary of Admiral Lord Nelson's death at the battle of Trafalgar... but that is another story.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Bob Wilkenfield, Bruce Borgman, Clint Collier, Bill Holly, Brian McCarthy



Photo by Clint Collier

Ready for some sushi?

Bill Holly, Brian McCarthy, Bob Wilkenfield, Jerry Kaplan (aka Little Sir) and Bruce Borgman



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

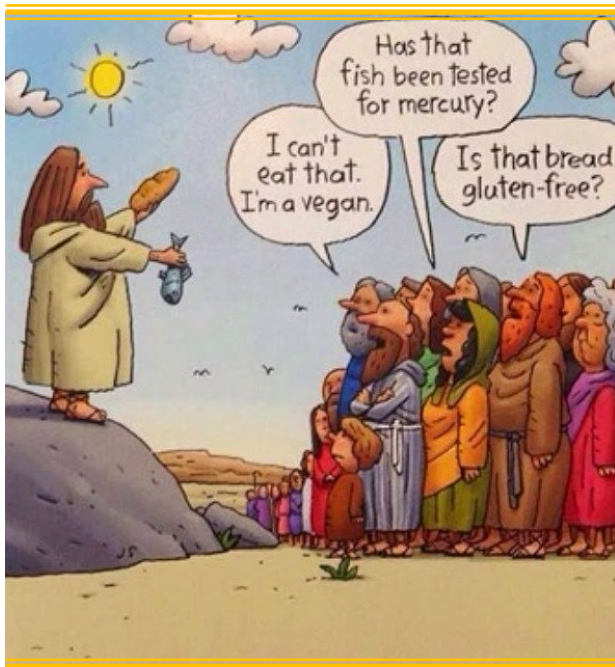
We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime, we are on Covid-19 hold, and we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all SIR members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavoring, and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?



Cooking Lunch & Wine Syd Whalen



The LAW Luncheon Group enjoyed a delightful luncheon hosted by Sir **Dick Woodman** at his home in Walnut Creek on August 18th. Sir **Dick** served wonderful Margaritas and beef and chicken tacos and a green salad.

In addition to Sir Dick, in attendance were Sirs **Bob Spellman**, **Paul Dubow**, **Joe Barry** and **Syd Whalen**. Sir **Bill Hartman** did not attend in person as he unfortunately has Covid, but we did include him by telephone.

A good time was had by all.

We are looking forward to dinner out with spouses, or significant others, or alone on September 15th.

Syd Whalen

(925) 332-5230 sydwhalen@aol.com



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group thought we were pretty well on our way to re-starting our popular activity with a wonderful dinner for 43 diners at Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill on July

19. We had a private room and were able to enjoy a great dinner. We had hoped to have our next event in September – in fact we were so optimistic that we thought we would probably have the Dining Out event over two evenings- on Sept. 20 and 21st. We had several couples who were willing to host the second evening so that we could limit the attendance at each of the evenings to about 40 diners.

Sadly, since the Covid statistics worsened, over the last several weeks and many of the Branch activities have been cancelled or scaled back, we have also decided to skip the September event for now. We had started to check out some suggestions for restaurants in the last few weeks, but think that getting a group of 40 together in a restaurant is not the most prudent action at this point.

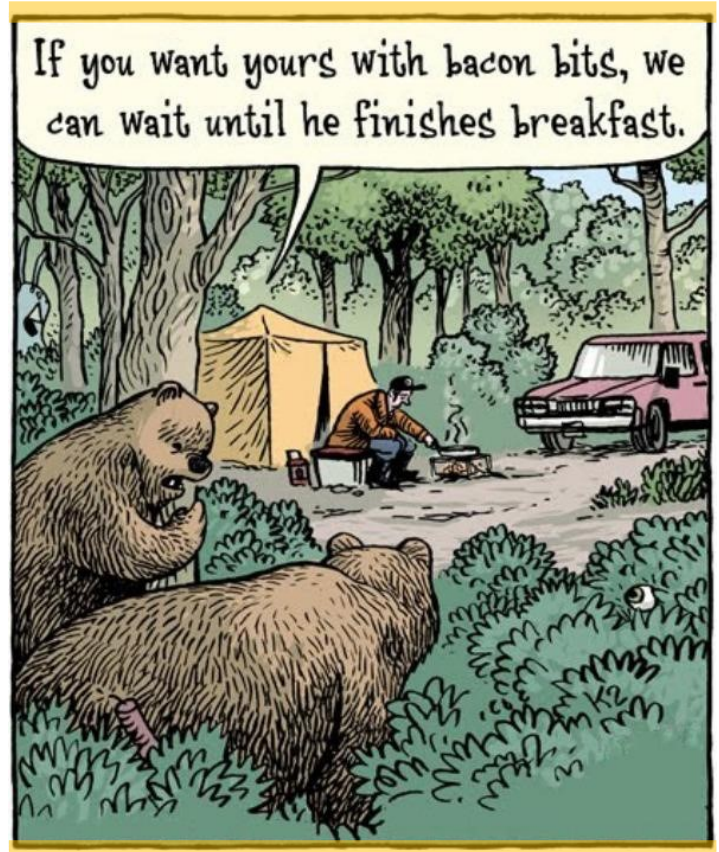
We have added our new members who are interested in the Dining Out activity to our mailing list so that these new members will be able to join us when we do get together.

We hope to continue our search for the next restaurant – if the county regulations have relaxed some in the next few weeks, we may even be able to have a dinner in October. We are anxious to enjoy your company again and are sure you are anxious to join your fellows SIR members and spouses as soon as possible.

In the meantime, stay well, and get your booster vaccine when you can!

bgborgman@aol.com

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?



Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday!
Believe me... that is a lot of coloring!



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Ken Richter hosted the Cooking II luncheon on August 9th. **Ken** started us off with appetizers in his beautiful backyard setting of water falls, pool and lush vegetation. Everyone brought a bottle of wine and lots of good

conversation. The main course was a welcome chicken and coleslaw sandwich. For desert **Ken** served his famous Rum, Coffee and ice cream drink concoction, which had us asking for more. Next month, the Cooking II group will be hosted by **Steve Ybarra** on September 13, 2021.



Couples Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



After a long COVID hiatus we were able to pull out and dust off the wine glasses for our first wine tasting in 17 months! It was a great tasting at the

home of **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido**. Their beatifically decorated yard welcomed 34 wine enthusiasts on July 27th, 2021.

It was a fun time but there was a sentimental moment. Everyone bid **Rob Melrose and Carmen Schiavone** 'adios' as they move on to their next exciting adventure in Mazatlán, Mexico. **Rob** with **Carmen** at his side was the chairman of the wine tasting group for over five years. They will be missed.

26, 2021 at the home of **Bob** and **Judy Wilkenfeld**. **Bill Holly** and I will be sending out the chosen wine varietals and other information. So if you're not on the mailing list and would like to join us for a fun afternoon tasting wine, please let me know:

br146winetasting@gmail.com
phone (925) 673-8881



Carmen Schiavone, Rob Melrose,
Brian McCarthy



Bill Holly, Rob Melrose



Wendy & Bob Lucido, Brian McCarthy

Rob and **Carmen** were also the winners of the best white wine—pinot gris. **Bruce Borgman** was the winner of the best red wine—sangiovese. Congratulations to both winners.

Our next wine tasting is scheduled for Tuesday, October



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Jerry Kaplan

Well, we tried! We had to cancel our big get together scheduled for August 13th - on a Friday the 13th, no less - with potentially 16 or 18 players eager for a three table, all

holds barred exciting Game Night with as much as \$35 riding on every round. COVID 19 stopped us again.

Nevertheless, we hope that in the next month or two those in the group that feel comfortable in an indoor group setting will reach out to others to play some Mexican Train Dominoes, even if with only one or two other couples. We don't want to lose our edge in the game.

We'll let September go by and see after a few weeks if an October Game Night for all Group One members will work. We'll keep you posted.

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

Ron Plachy

We had a small (12 players) but enthusiastic group last night, Friday 8/27. We met at the home of **Bill and Bernice Cammerer** who put out a wonderful spread of goodies to

munch on.

We welcomed a new substitute couple, **Kirk and Nancy McVean**. If that name escapes you, it may be because **Kirk** is a member of SIR 116. Seems the large number of MTD groups in SIR 146 is limiting availability of new players or substitutes.

Unfortunately, we said farewell to another of our substitute (once regular) couples, **Dick and Janice Woodman**. They've decided to drop out of MTD play. The two tables seemed very quiet last night. I don't know if it was because we were concentrating so much or too full of the goodies provided.

Ismi MacLean came in 1st with a 15.2 average. **Anne Plachy** took 2nd with a 17.7 average. Your humble scribe, **Ron Plachy**, captured 3rd with a 20.7 average.

Please contact

Ron Plachy (rjplachy@icloud.com)

if interested.

Grupo Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes 4

Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train group will be on Covid-19 hold for several months because of the recent Delta Variant.



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Cinco 5



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

Various venues including the American Contract Bridge league have suspended face to face games for the time being, and I am following their lead. The case rate in

Contra Costa County continues to rise, albeit slowly, and is about what it was in late January. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

My favorite source for factual reporting is The Economist. Here's what they have to say about the declining efficacy of the vaccines.

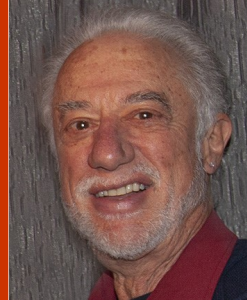
<https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/08/21/jabs-mostly-fend-off-the-delta-strain-but-breakthroughs-are-infectious>

Bottom lines:

- Vaccine efficacy declines with time.
- It declines faster for older people.
- Vaccines have less efficacy for delta than they did for alpha
- The good news: they are still likely to keep you out of the hospital.

Not addressed: how effective are vaccines at preventing "long-COVID." Little is known (not many data exist because not many breakthrough cases have lasted six months or more) but cases of long-COVID in breakthrough infections exist. I would like boosters to be available, although if the current surge dissipates, I'll poll members to see how they feel about resuming.

Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Clint and Bev Collier hosted our MTD group this month.

The Colliers provided us with a special dinner which included baked beans, coleslaw, & dessert in their backyard.

Chef Clint BBQed hamburgers cooked to everyone's liking. To complete the dinner they provided beer, wine, and soft drinks.

Brian McCarthy was the big winner and Dave Kingsbury was the big loser.

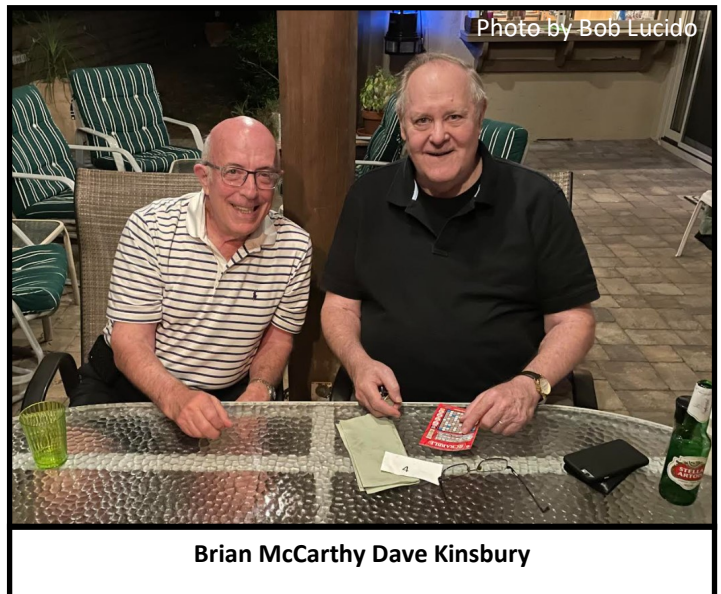


Photo by Bob Lucido

Bob Lucido

(925) 899-0974

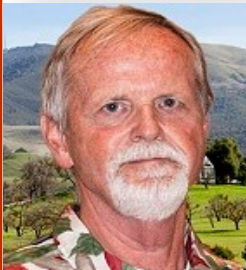
Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Seis 6



Mexican Train Dominoes

John "Moose" Kelly

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 split into two segments of eight individuals at two different homes. Here is a summary of the results of the two groups that played on Wednesday evening, July 28th.

At the **Dotson** mansion, the winners were 1) **Kathe Mitchell**, 2) **Bruce Borgman**, 3) **Susan Shelton**, and high point winner for the scratcher was **Don Dotson**. I understand that **Kathe Mitchell** was on fire with 6 out of 7 wins for the evening. YOU GO GIRL!!!

At the **Plante** castle, the winners were 1) **Moose Kelly** (yes, I win once in a blue moon), 2) **Brian McCarthy**, 3) **Carol Lane**, and high point winner for the scratcher was **Peter Plante**. **Peter** literally had the double blank 5 out of the 8 games he played. UGH!

Thanks to the **Dotsons** and the **Plantes** for hosting the festivities at their respective homes.

We will not be playing in August due to the Delta Variant surge. We will reassess everyone's comfort level in September to determine if we should move forward with play at the end of the month.

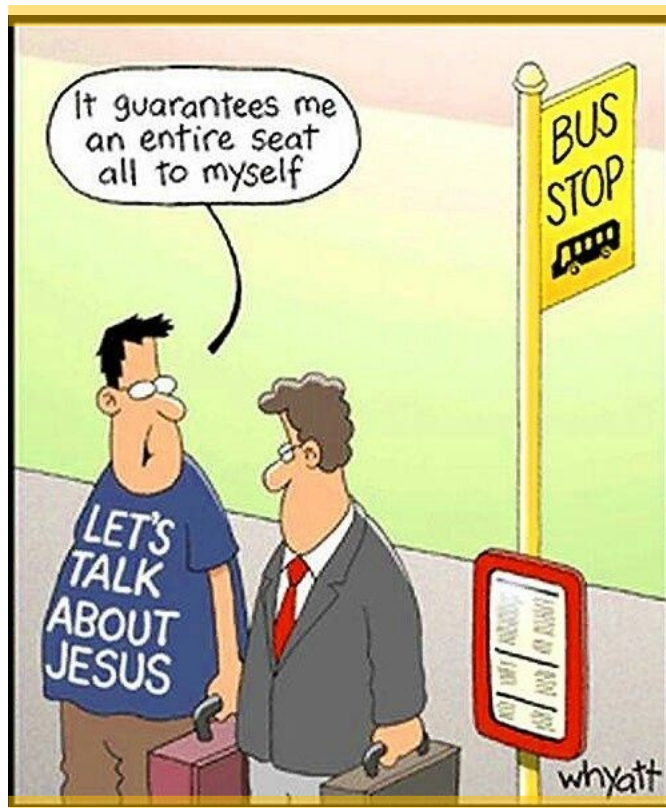
If you are interested in playing in Group 6 as a substitute, then please contact me at 610.517.0152 or through email at rollingstone911@yahoo.com. Be well.

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone911@yahoo.com



Bruce Borgman, Susan Shelton, Don Dotson, Kathe Mitchell



Brian McCarthy, Carol Lane, Moose Kelly



CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our August SIR-Call report, we have had two online matches, Friday August 13th and August 27th which was too late for publication. We are playing both matches online due to the recent indoor mask requirements due to

the Delta variant. We will revisit this in October.

Match summaries: **Bill Vizza** and **Ron Polivka** each won 2 games, followed by **Steve Ybarra**, **Bob Finlayson** and **George Sabbagha** with 1. **Steve** and **Brian McCarthy** each had 2 seconds. **Ron Polivka**, had 2 "Shoot the Moons" followed by **Bill Vizza** with 1. In lowest average score, **Steve**, **Bill** and **Bob Finlayson** tied with 60.

YTD Statistics:

Wins: **Bob Finlayson** leads with 19 followed by **Ray Bland** and **Ron Polivka** with 17 and **Bob West** with 16. **Ray Bland** won 43% of his games, followed by **Bob Finlayson** at 37% and **Ron Polivka** at 36%. Lowest average score, is led by **Ray Bland** with 71, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 73. "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray Bland** with 10, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 9 and **George Sabbagha** with 7. **Ray** "STM" in 25% of his games and **Frank** in 21%. 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** with 18, and **Bob West** with 17. The best "sheriff's" are **Bob West** with having had an uncovered call in only 4% of his games, and **Rich Lyon** with 5%.

Future Meetings: In September, we will be playing online on the 2nd Friday, September 10th at 1pm, and on the 4th Friday, September 24th, at 1pm.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Happily, we were able to see old friends and play for the first time in over a year!

Rich Ahlf, **Norm Baietti**, **Chuck Denney**, **Frank Lucas** and **Brad Hatcher** were joined by new play-

ers **Paul Dubow** and **Steve Loftin** at Brad's house for our afternoon game.

Most of the snacks and wine disappeared, and for some of us, so did the dollars. Both **Rich** and **Frank** left with more than their original deposit.

We look forward to the game in September at **Frank's** home in Martinez (subject to health directives).

925.935.1571

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Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge # 1 is on temporary hold for the month of September with fingers crossed that Delta will release its unwanted grip on our lives! We

now have a full house of 6 couples in the group with interested back-ups for the days when someone is travelling. **Bud Pearce** who joined Sirs in August and his wife Gloria have agreed to join the group.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 2
Dave Pierce**

The ACBL has suspended all its face-to-face games and I am following their lead for now. The case rate in Contra Costa County continues to rise, albeit slowly, and is about what it was in late January. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2
Dick DeVoe**

The Duplicate Bridge 2's September event has been cancelled due to the recent COVID delta variant's surge in the Bay Area and in CA. Hopefully the surge is close to its peak and will be dropping back sufficiently for us to start up again in October.

Our August 6 event was nicely hosted by Rich Ahlf.

Highest Scores:

- #1- Bob Yolland 29.5.
- #2- Mark Curtis 25.5.
- #3- Joe Fuchs 25.0.

Most Twos:

- #1- Joe Fuchs 8.
- #2 Tie- Bob Yolland and Jim Pope 7.

Least Zeros

- #1- Bob Yolland 2.
- #2- Mark Curtis 3.

Best Partners (6.0 pts. is maximum):

- #1- 6.0 pts. Ahlf/DeVoe (Bds. 1-3).
- #2- 5.5 pts. (tie) Yolland/Pope (Bds. 7-9) and Yolland/Fuchs (Bds. 16-18).

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?



**Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco**

The Couples Party Bridge activity re-activation scheduled for August 3rd was cancelled after two additional regular couples dropped out due to COVID Delta variant concerns. I understand and am in total agreement with their decision. We all need to take into consideration our age and health when make decisions regarding activities that can be impacted by COVID.

The next scheduled event of September 7th has also been cancelled due to availability issues around Labor Day and continuing concerns regarding COVID.

Our re-activation event is now re-scheduled for October 5th. As we get closer to this event, we will re-evaluate and make a decision on whether to proceed with this event. I remain hopeful.

We are actively looking for subs to fill in, when needed. If you currently or previously played bridge with your partner, and would like to occasionally join us, then please contact me or one of our regulars for more info. If you are a new member to SIR then this would be a good way to meet fellow members. The event is 50% bridge and 50% social and is only mildly competitive. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the evening. The host provides beverages (wine & soft drinks), snacks and dessert. A sub will never be asked to host. Give us a try.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

The change from Friday to Monday hikes has been very well received. I/we have seen a notable increase in the number of smiling faces on the Monday hikes for several weeks. Recent participants have been **Ray Martz, Bob Wilkenfeld, Earl Bates, Pete Gates, Mike Browne, Bob Lucido, Bob West, Gene Schulting,** and maybe a few others that I don't immediately remember (CRS syndrome!).

I want to thank **Ray Martz** for leading the hikes on July 5 at Point Pinole and July 12 at Briones. **Ray Martz** and **Bob Wilkenfeld** are great assets in assisting the planning of these hikes. Most recent walks have been in Tilden Nature Area to Wildcat Peak, Redwood Regional via a loop on Stream trail and French trail, and most recently, Diablo Foothills via a loop on Stage Road, Dusty, Wall Point Road, and Little Yosemite. Believe it or not, we say water along the Little Yosemite trail (probably from an underground spring).

The next "featured" monthly hike will be on the Mitchel Canyon trail with the hope of observing Tarantula spiders in the late afternoon on Monday, September 13, starting at about 3 pm. The change in time from the normal 10 am is with the hope that we will actually be able to observe these magical creatures during their annual mating excursions. The actual starting time will be published in future emails after I confirm the best time of day to make the observations.

I've attached a couple of photos from recent walks; one of the Redwood walk with beautiful Redwoods in the background, and the other of the Diablo Foothills walk.

Spouses always welcome
Dogs on-leash allowed on this trail
Cell (925) 360-3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Bob West, Gene Schulting, Mark Curtis, Earl Bates, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ray Martz



Ray Martz, Earl Bates, Mike Browne, Bob Wilkenfeld

Why do people order double cheeseburgers,
large fries, and a diet coke?





Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi, I am **Bob Ford** and I have recently taken over the SIR Branch 146 Thursday 9-Hole golf group. I would like to start by thanking **Verner Larsen** for organizing this group for many years. Thanks **Vern!!!** Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the

Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. If you haven't been to Diablo Hills lately you will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of work they have done on the course. It is in the best shape I have seen it in for many years. After we play most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there.

Scubabob.ford@gmail.com.



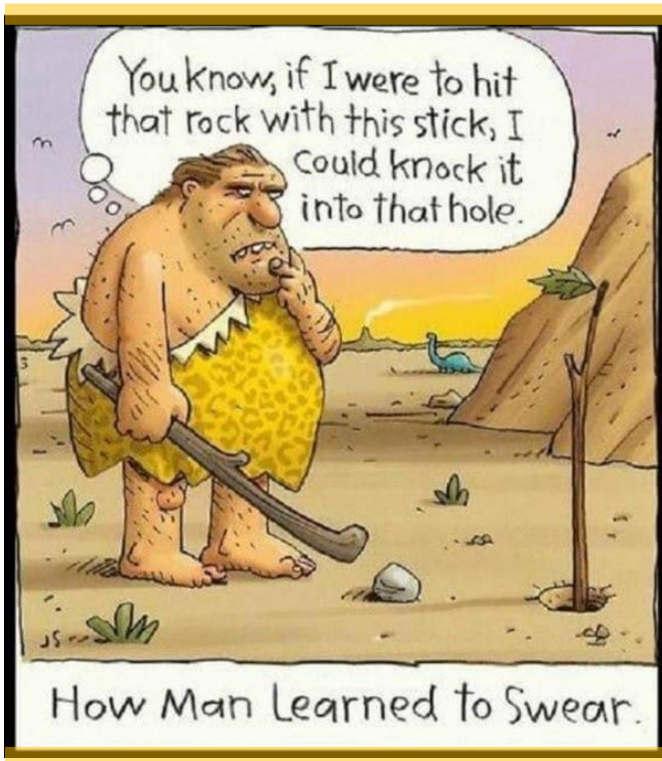
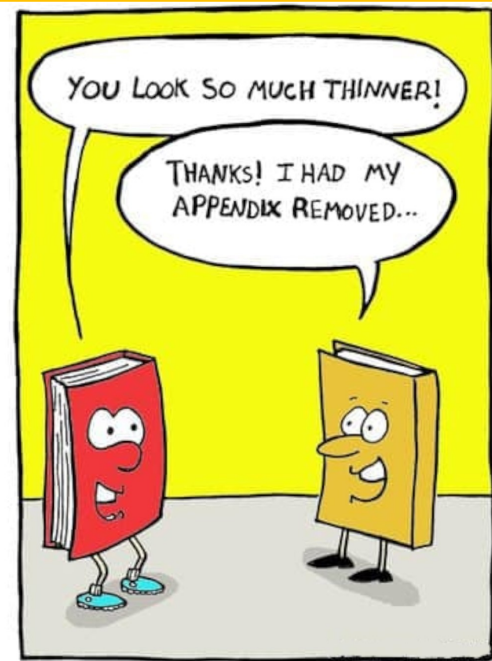
Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Five members of the SIR 146 Book Group met Monday, September 30th, at the Greenery restaurant, convening at an outside table. Our book for September was *Hamnet*, an historical novel about

Shakespeare's family, by Maggie O'Farrell. At the end of the discussion we gave it a grade of B+.

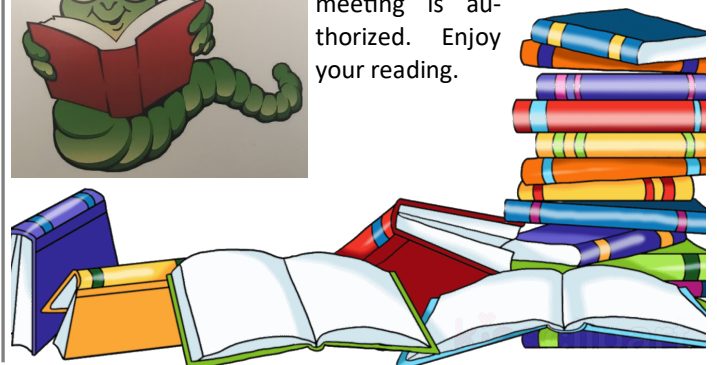
Our book for next month will be *The Guest List*, by Lucy Foley. We meet next on Monday, September 27, at 9:00 AM, at the Greenery.



Book Corner Peter Plante



The Book Corner will return as soon as the next in person meeting is authorized. Enjoy your reading.



Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group

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.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their 4th Wed, September 22, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.

The topic will be announced. Zoom instructions will be sent out later to those on the email list.



Chair - **Tom Henry** - Br 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** - Br 8 davesutn@comcast.net



Computers and Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

At our August 19th meeting, **Frank May** discussed the coming Windows upgrade. Some of the questions that **Frank** addressed were: why is Microsoft moving away from providing updates to Windows 10 and to requiring us to move to Windows 11? What will that mean to individual users of Windows? Much of the known new Windows 11 functionality revolves around the need to beef up security. What is being added and why is it important? What additional functionality and features can we expect? And, most importantly, why many recent PC's may not run Windows 11 because of its processor requirements. **Frank** provided us with the latest information on the basic hardware requirements for the new OS 11. His slides for the presentation are available at: <https://sirinc2.org/a16cat>

As we went to press, there were no further "CAT" programs scheduled. If you know of someone who might have a subject to discuss, please let us know. One need not be an expert on a subject to be a presenter. They just have to do some research and report their findings to the group. If you have an interest in something "tecie" and are willing to volunteer, please email us at: SIRArea2CAT@gmail.com

Although there is nothing new to report, you may still view past slide show notes at the CAT web page: <https://sirinc2.org/a16cat> Take a look. You may find something interesting!

NOTE: To attend our Zoom meetings, you will need to be on the CAT mailing list. A few days before each meeting, a Zoom web link is sent to the members on our list. If you're not already on our email list, please send an email request to: sirarea2cat@gmail.com

SIR Bill Phelon
rphelon@juno.com
925.254.8338

Parting Shot

It's September. We're back to wearing masks... covid seems relentless.. the state is on fire... no water... what else can go wrong?

So we leave you with a groan and the hope that things will get better...

A duck walks into a bakery, and asks the astonished baker "Hey man, you got any grapes?"

After getting over his surprise at a talking duck, the baker is able to reply, "No, this is a bakery and I only sell bread." Seemingly satisfied with this answer, the duck turns and leaves without a word.

The very next day, the duck returns and asks the baker, "Hey man, you got any grapes?"

Mildly annoyed now, the baker replies, "No, I told you yesterday this is a bakery and I only sell bread!"

This goes on for the better part of the week, with the duck coming in to ask for grapes on a daily basis. Finally, the baker has had enough, and he screams at the duck: "For the last time, no means no! This is a bakery, and. I... Sell... Bread! Got it? Bread and only bread. If you ask me one more time about grapes I am going to nail your little webbed feet to the floor! Now get out of here!"

Stunned, the duck takes a step back and says "Chill, man." He then turns and waddles out the door.

However, the next day the duck is back again. Growling, the baker asks the duck, "And now what do you want?"

"Do you have any nails?"

"What? Nails? No, this is a bakery. I don't do hardware"

"Okay, cool. Do you have any grapes?"
