

Big Sir's Notes

Terry Marchione

Well, 2013 is off to a great start. At the January luncheon we honored **Heino Valvur** as a Senior Sir, having turned 90. Unfortunately, **Heino** finds it necessary to leave our Branch but we thank him for his participation over the years and wish him well. We also honored three 20 year members; **Jim Stedman, Pablo Chavez** and **Ray Garavaglia**. We had a strong start to the year in meeting our membership goals as we had 7 guests. Keep up the great work and bring a guest to lunch.



In an effort to improve our branch communications, I have formed a committee headed by **Jeff Bailly** to look into ways to accomplish this. As the year moves along, you likely will see the results of the Communications Committee's efforts.

You, like I, have always been told there is no such thing as a free lunch. Guess what, it's not true. Starting with the January issue of the Sir Call, we are hiding a badge number somewhere in the Call. If you find the number and it belongs to you, a free lunch will be awarded. The first winner was **John Hammond**. We are hopeful that this program will encourage readership of the newsletter. There is a wealth of information in the newsletter.

If you have not already done so, we would appreciate you forwarding your annual contribution to **Chuck Campbell** (our Treasurer). Your 2012 BEC worked hard to maintain the contribution at \$18 and we count on 100% participation. I thank you in advance.

Finally, our nominating committee headed by **Jim Burk** will soon begin its work. You can make its job easier by stepping up and volunteering for any of the open positions. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

Note: In February, the BEC meeting will commence at 9:15 rather than 9:00.

The February luncheon will feature Tony Schilling, a docent on the USS Hornet.

Gathering time
10:45-11:00am

Little Sir's Corner

Doug Eisner

In February we'll hear from Tony Schilling, a docent on the USS Hornet, docked in Alameda. Tony's presentation will be on the colorful history of this famous ship and the men who served on her.

Although we have a March speaker all lined up and ready to go, I'll not announce that speaker at this time as we may move him to later in the year in order to accommodate another speaker on a very contemporary topic who's available only in March. Check out this space in the next SIR Call for the announcement of our exciting mystery speaker for March!



Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I'd like to get a tee time tomorrow between 12 o'clock and noon.

Staff: Between 12 o'clock and noon?

Caller: Yes.

Staff: We'll try to squeeze you in.

This month's list of actual calls at a public golf course comes to you thanks to Sir Vern Laursen



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Pablo Chavez** receiving the Certificate of Honor on 20 years of SIR membership from **Terry Marchione**



Membership

Steve Sprague

Branch 146 Statistics:
As of our Executive Committee meeting on January 10th, we have 266 active members including seven Honorary Life Members (this is a loss of three from the previous month).

We currently have no applicants awaiting BEC approval.

Status Changes:

Inducted: **Bill Klein**

Resigned: **Ben Yeraka**, and **Ed Chase**

Moved to Inactive: **Don Strong**

Transferred: **Bill Knapp** has transferred to Branch 81 (Rossmoor)

January Luncheon Attendance:

Members: 214 (80% of membership)

Guests: 7

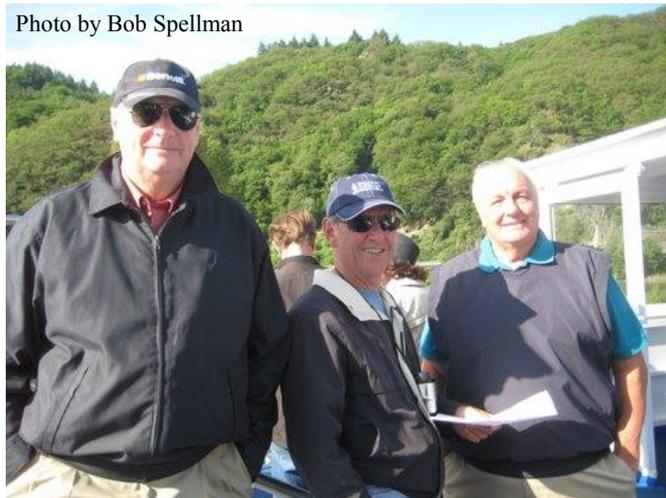
Visitors: 2, Speaker: 1.

Total Attendance: 224

Changes to the Inactive Roster:

As noted above, **Don Strong** has been added. Our inactive roster therefore increases by one to sixteen members.

Photo by Bob Spellman



Three friends on a river trip down the Rhine.
Dennis Hallett, Ken Richter and Bill Roberts.

Cribbage

John Pearl

Six of us braved a rainy day in January to again gather at **Barney Meade's** home on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 23rd. We did our "due diligence" on the money-exchanging protocol to determine the winners and losers. Our host **Barney Meade** took first place, **Ron Plachy** came in second, while **Tony Greco** paid for his trip by coming in third. We'll meet again in mid-February to play Cribbage, what is purported to be the best two-handed card game ever invented.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Three long time SIR friends, **Dick Richmond, Tom Gorman and Fred Bolton**



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats:

We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee

times are posted on our web site, www.sir146.com. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-holes group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date. For those with golf playing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October.

Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer Away Golf.

Do you enjoy competing against other SIR players from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly Golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. bn127 please call Jim Burk or Chuck Campbell regarding your free lunch. All of our golfers should be receiving GEMs. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome too), please let us know by emailing your request to sir146golf@gmail.com.

Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Bill Cammerer's** home Monday 1/14. He started with several appetizers including cheese, crackers, olives and beef jerky. We checked out several wines including our recently bottled Sangiovese. It was confirmed that this wine is still among the best wine our group has bottled. **Bill** followed with an excellent salmon with rosemary entree, accompanied by risotto and peas, then concluded with ice-cream and fresh berries. All Cooking II members thoroughly enjoyed the lunch and discussions primarily centering around the heritage of our members. Our February 11th lunch will be at the home of **Corrie Oranje**.



This month brings us Valentine's Day, the number one day for cut flowers in America. Being a grower, I am amazed by the fresh, wonderful blooms available at stores for unbelievably reasonable prices. The number one importer of these flowers (70%) is Colombia South America. In 1967, a graduate student from Colorado State University wrote a paper suggesting a high plateau near Bogota Colombia would be a perfect place for growing flowers. The area is a high savanna at 8700 feet near both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea and is near the equator so the temperature is mild and receives 12 hours of sunshine every day. After graduating, the student, along with 3 other investors started a cut flower business on this plateau and called it Floramerica. Over the years, other companies invested in the area and today the Colombian flower industry exports over a billion dollars of blooms worldwide.

This month on Feb. 28th at 9:30AM the garden club will meet at Heather Farms and we will all learn how to prune correctly.

A core membership group from our garden activity pruned the wall of climbing roses at the GHF on Thursday 1/24. After a brief meeting which included comments from the GHF garden manager, **Patrice Hanlon**, rose pruning and some excellent goodies (coffee and donuts) we cut the roses making them ready for spring growth. It was a great day to prune roses. Hope everyone will get a chance to see this beautiful garden in late April when all the roses are in bloom.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

L to R, **Joe Barry, Lo McCarley, John Demos, Lew Thompson, Bob Royster, Patrice Hanlon, Steve Dawkins** and **Bob Yolland** about to prune roses under the guidance of Garden Director **Patrice Hanlon**.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sirs **Heino Valvur** and **Jim Stedman** during the ceremony honoring **Heino** upon his reaching his 90th birthday

Couples Duplicate Bridge

Lo McCarley

Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.



Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on January 16th at **Lynn and Dasha Freeman's** home. We have nine couples in this couples bridge, but only eight couples (four tables) could play at a time. This month every couple wanted to play so we had to draw a couple out. **Jim and Allison Todhunter** got the short straw. The bridge results: **Bill and Margaret Rees** took first place with 40 points and **George Zunich and Susi Cherry** came in second with 39 points. **Carl and Anne Johnson** took third with 37 points and **Jim Brown and Adrienne Morrison** came in fourth place with 30 points. **Carl and Anne Johnson** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on February 20th.

*Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
Caller: Do you rent golf clubs there?
Staff: Yes, they're 25 dollars.
Caller: How much to rent a bag?*



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played four tables of bridge at the home of **Bob Donahue** on January 7. After an audit of scores the winning lineup was changed from that announced (with cash). Corrected scores were **Carl Johnson** first with 4860 points, **Fred Bolton** second with 4800, **Jim Jackson** third and **Bob Burley** fourth. Our next game will be at the home of **Bill Snyder** on February fourth.

Duplicate Bridge

Doug Eisner



We played 3 tables of duplicate bridge at **Bill Snyder's** home on Jan 21. As usual, it was a hard fought game but **Bob Donahue** really started the year off on a high note as his 33.5 pts nearly lapped the field for first place. **Carl Johnson's** second place score of 28.0 pts was well behind the winning score. Third place was awarded to Sub **Terry Marchione's** 27.0 pts.

*Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
Caller: Yes, we have a tee time for two weeks from Friday. What's the weather going to be like that day?*

Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce



Dave and Joan Pierce kicked off the new year by hosting three tables on January 2nd. It was a tight race, four couples were within 400 points of each other. In the end **George and Pam Rammel** placed third at 2520, **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were second at 2600, and **Joan Pierce** carried the hosts to victory by bidding and making a vulnerable slam.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIRS 146 Luncheon

February 2013

Salad

Baby Lollo Rossa Lettuce

Shaved Parmesan, Crispy Onions
and Cherry Vinaigrette

Entrees

BBQ Braised Short Ribs

Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes
and Seasonal Vegetables

Or

Pan Seared Marinated Chicken Breast

Seasonal Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes
Raspberry - Apple Compote

Dessert

Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Berries

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: My kids just came home with pockets full of range balls and said they stole them from your driving range. Would you like to buy them back?



Photo by Ray Kan

Pete McNeil, Joe Fuchs, Ed Malboeuf, Steve Dawkins and Dave Steinberg discussing world politics and golf at the January luncheon.



Luncheon Attendance

Jim Burk

Recap of January luncheon: Our January 10 luncheon was very well attended. 224 members were present and included 7 guests as well. We recognized **Heino Valvur** for his 90th birthday, and **Pablo Chavez, Raymond Gara-**

vaglia, and **Jim Stedman** were recognized for achieving their 20 year service anniversary with SIR Branch 146.

February 14 is right around the corner: Our SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at “The Clubhouse” Restaurant at Boundary Oak Golf Course. The price of our luncheon is \$25 with a no-host bar. Remember we assume you are coming, but if for any reason you are unable to attend, please e-mail nolunchbranch146@gmail.com by noon Friday the week prior to the luncheon. The noon deadline has to be strictly enforced as that’s the time the restaurant requires us to give them a guaranteed number of meals to prepare. Members failing to meet this deadline, or “no show” for the luncheon, will be required to reimburse the Branch for the liability we will incur with the restaurant for your meal. (Note: Only if you do not have a computer, call **Jim Burk** (925) 946-1192 by the same deadline referenced above to let him know you will not be attending. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number, phone number and a short message.)

Payment: Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45 a.m., so please allow enough time to check-in and make payment. A check for \$25 made payable to “SIR 146” is requested for your lunch on luncheon day.

Sir bringing a guest: Please e-mail also by noon on the Friday prior to the luncheon leaving your name, badge number, and your guest’s name.

Special requests: If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please make that request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman. If for medical reasons you cannot eat lunch, please notify the luncheon chairman and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it.

New members and/or sponsors: There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share their experiences as new members of SIR 146. It is voluntary, so please do not feel obligated as a new member to sit at this table.

Poker Club 1

Frank McNamee

Poker Club 1 met on January 9th at the residence of **Don Del Bene** and **Don** set an example for the hosts that will follow him this year. **Don** was a most generous and giving host seeing that his SF buddy, **Dan O'Sullivan** was the big winner followed by **Bill Cammerer** and **Bob White**. **Don Martin** will host our next gathering February 13 and we will see if he can be as benevolent as **Don Del Bene**.



Jim Todhunter, Bill Rees, Russ Bliese and Roger Linn about to enjoy some fine dining.

Poker Club 5

Bill Roberts

In December Poker Group 5 and their spouses attended a Christmas party hosted by Sir **Terry Marchione** and his wife **Sharon**. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening. Our thanks to **Terry** and **Sharon**. In January we returned to the home of our regular host, SIR **Bill Roberts**. At the end of the night Frank Rockwell ended up holding on to a few more dollars than **Ken Richter**. Thanks to **Doug Eisner** who subbed for **Charlie Koeber**.



Our regular date is the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon and the regular players are **Roberts, Spellman, Marchione, Thomas, Richter, Koeber** and **Rockwell**.

There Ain't no Free Lunch NOT!



Sir **John Hammond**
Winner of January's
Free Lunch

In a letter to the editor **John** wrote...
Hi Jeff: Contrary to popular opinion, there is a "free lunch". Wow! - what a pleasant surprise. Thank you.



Calm seas, great company and fine dining describe the evening as **Cindy** and Sir **Tony Greco** enjoy their first event with the couples dining out group.

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

Since the last meeting, **Max** and **Verner** have sent out a questionnaire to the people on our email list regarding the needs and wishes of the participants. We have reviewed them and will try to implement them in future meetings. Our next meeting is February 4th at the Thurman Casey Library from 2 until 4 pm. Please note the change in time.

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
Caller: Yes, I need to get some information from you.
First, is this your correct phone number?

Fishing Report

Paul Dubow



Shadow Cliffs Reservoir continued to be the venue of choice this month. **Paul Dubow** and **Carl Moyer** twice ventured onto the lake and limited out by 11 am, thus enabling them to enjoy a nice lunch at Jim's Restaurant in Pleasanton. Later, **Carl** and **Harry Sherinian** also limited out with fish up to three pounds. Finally, **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146 fished with his son and the pair landed six nice trout. On the negative side, **Carl Moyer** and **Terry Miller** drew a blank on the first sturgeon outing of the year. They did not even get a bite, a situation that never occurred last year.

Bill Landers and **Paul Dubow** traveled to Lake Baccarac, Mexico, for their annual bass outing in the Sierra Madre, but did not do as well as last year, when they landed over 300 bass in six days. Rain on the first day spoiled the bite and they hooked just 35 bass. However, the fish this year were much bigger. Half of them were over six pounds, with **Bill** picking up a 10 pounder and another at 9 lbs, 15 ounces.

During the month of February, we are planning two outings to Shadow Cliffs for trout and two outings to the Delta for sturgeon and stripers, plus outings to San Pablo Reservoir for trout and Lake Berryessa for kokanee, trout, and bass. Those of you who have never fished or have not fished in awhile are always welcome to join us.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 28, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am but come early for breakfast. For further information, you can contact Big Fish **Pete Gates** (925-937-2035), secretary treasurer **Tom Boltz** (925-825-5695) or fishing chairperson **Paul Dubow** (415-495-6504).

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
Caller: Do you have a dress code?
Staff: Yes, we do. We require soft spikes.
Caller: How about clothes?
Staff: Yes, you have to wear clothes.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sir **Ray Garavaglia** receiving the 20 year member honors from Big Sir **Terry Marchione**

Bowling Larry Mitchell



Prior to this Wednesday, Team No. 2, composed of **Mike McKay**, **Larry Mitchell** and **Jeff Davis** were tied for first with team No. 6. We lost all four games to them and are now in second place. There is still plenty of time left to make up the ground we lost. The winter league will not be over until early June. Our annual "**Dave Valladao Memorial Tournament**" is being held on Monday, March 18th and Wednesday March 20th this year. This is our big event of the year we usually get about 120+ bowlers from Area 2.

Member Relations

Ben Gleason

We hope and expect that SIR Branch 146 is meeting or exceeding your expectations for social activities, recreation and friendship and that the facilities and operation of the branch are efficient and user-friendly.

We encourage your suggestions, criticism and requests. Also, let us know if there is something that you especially like that we could do more of. Please contact me with any of the above.

bgleason@sbcglobal.net





Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman

Mar 2, 2013: Turmoils at Professor Ming's Mansion.

Join fellow SIR at Buddha's Universal Church in San Francisco, doors open at 1:30pm. Prior to the performance there will be a tour of the

Terracotta Warriors exhibit at the Asian Art Museum. Price of \$85pp also includes hosted lunch in Chinatown and bus transportation. Contact **Dick Schally** Br 8, 260-5534 for more information.

Apr 14-22, 2013: Tulip Time Cruise. Discover the beauty & history of the Dutch and Belgium waterways in springtime. Cruise ports include, Amsterdam, Arnhem, Antwerp, Bruges, Middelburg, and Rotterdam. Prices range from \$3225 to \$5080 and include airfare, complimentary beverages, many guided tours, tips and gratuities. Contact **Jim Lunn** Br 8, 925-551-3329 for more information.

Jun 1-9, 2013: Memphis Blues to the New Orleans Jazz on the American Queen. A 7 night cruise on board the American Queen down the Mississippi with a pre-cruise stay in Memphis and a optional 2 day post trip in New Orleans. Cruise features RT motor coach to airport, RT airfare, all meals, including wine and beer with dinner, daily lectures, nightly entertainment, shore tours, and port charges, transfers, and baggage handling. Prices start at \$3658 to \$6486 depending on accommodations. Space is now very limited, so all future reservations will now be on a first come first serve basis. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you still want to go and we will try to secure space for you.

Aug 28-Sep 7, 2013: SIR 55th Anniversary Alaska Golden Age Cruise. Save the date for a celebration! We will leave out of San Francisco and visit the ports of Juneau, Skagway, Tray Arm Fjord, Ketchikan, Victoria and return to San Francisco on the Grand Princess. The cost of the Cruise is from \$1579 to \$3300 depending on accommodations and includes: Gratuities on the ship, Ship board Credit, Cocktail Party, Hospitality Suite, Transportation by Motor Coach to and from the Pier, Wine, Gifts and a Alaska Salmon Bake excursion. We currently have over 360 SIR members signed up for this trip. Special sale Feb 18-25, 2013 or Mar 11-18 2013. Book cabin during sale period and get coupon booklet valued at approximately \$380.00. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 if you want more information.

May, 2014: Hidden Gems of the Dalmation Coast & Greece. A 16 day cruise aboard a privately owned Grand Circle small ship with a maximum of 50 passengers. Ports of Call include Zagreb, Split, Hvar,

Korcula, Dubrovnik, Montenegro, Butrint, Albania, Corfu, Delphi and Athens. Prices range from approximately \$4595 to \$6170 depending on accommodations and airfare. Trip also includes 37 meals, 12 exclusive tours with personal headsets, home hosted dinners, and resident Grand Circle Program Director. Contact **Ken Richter**, 689-6217.



Photo by Jeff Bailly

Sirs **Bruce Borgman, Corrie Oranje and Walter Schmidt** prior to sitting down to a delicious dinner at the Walnut Creek Yacht Club restaurant in January.

Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group had a grand time at the Walnut Creek Yacht Club on Monday January 21. We had a private room on the aft deck where the evening started with the no-host cocktail hour, lots of mingling and good

conversation. The dinner this time included soup or salad, three choices of entrees, and two choices for dessert. The executive chef Kevin came out to welcome the group. Everyone agreed it was a fun event.

We had 19 SIR couples, plus one single for a total of 39 diners, and had to turn away several other interested couples. Be sure to get your reservation in early for our next event! **Bill Holly** will assist the chair, **Bruce Borgman**, in selecting the restaurant for the March event. No date has been set yet, and following our last two successful evenings it will no doubt be another fun time of enjoying one of the other excellent restaurants in the greater Walnut Creek area!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sirs **Dale Haukland** and **John Boyan** have a good laugh over a glass of wine at Bill Holly's Wine Tasting.

Wine Tasting

Bill Holly

Thirty people attended the January Branch 146 Wine Tasting at the home of **Bill and Lynette Holly**.

We popped the corks on eleven sparkling wines including two California style Champagnes, five Spanish Cavas, three Italian Proseccos plus one Muscato

D'Asti as well as six Spanish red wines from the North-Eastern Rioja region of Spain. **Dale Haukland** celebrated his birthday at the tasting. Dale is now a year younger and lighter on his feet than he was last year at this time .

The appetizers were plentiful and the wine flowed freely, so everyone left with smiles on their faces.

Mark your calendar for the next Branch 146 Wine Tasting on May 1st.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Glen and Mary Renk at the Wine tasting event in January

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bill Baltezare and Dennis Dale at the Branch Wine Tasting in January

SIR Call Newsletter Group	
Editor	Jeff Bailly
Proofreader	Dick DeVoe
Assistant Editor	Rich Ahlf
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Webmaster Jack Hockel

SIR Happenings Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.

Non-Responsibility Declaration
Rule 345:All activities arranged

for or by Sons in Retirement Inc. and its branches are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The group began its happy New Year with three tables at kind and gracious host **Tony Greco's** home. Our designated instructor **Ted Gunn** summarized the Jacoby 2 No Trump convention, although the boards this day didn't justify its use. **Carl Johnson** and **Bob Yolland** tied for 1st @ 28.5 pts. each,

with Bob improving on his 2nd place finish in December. 3rd place went to **John Demos** with 27.5 pts., duplicating December's 3rd place finish. He was followed by **John Boyan** in 4th @ 26 pts., who - not to be outdone by **John Demos** - also duplicated his December finish. Host **Tony** established a unique record by earning the greatest number of high points while collecting the greatest number of zeros. Try beating that if you dare!



Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
 Caller: How much to play golf today?
 Staff: 25 to walk, 38 with a cart.
 Caller: 38 dollars?
 Staff: No, 38 yen.

Sunshine

Walt Busenius
 945-0715

Busenius@astound.net

We keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers, asking for continued healing and a return to good health.

Jack White
John Lively
Reggie Fromm
Elmer Kaprielian
Dominic DiMatteo
Baha Zarah
Rod Sharretts
Charlie Kiser
Jim Helmick
Bob Van Luchene
Tom Morgan
John Denham
Jim Burk

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is always welcomed. If you are aware of a sick Sir, please let me know by phone or e-mail, as shown above, so that the Sir membership can be advised.



Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
 Caller: Yes, do you have a driving range there?
 Staff: Yes.
 Caller: How much for a large bucket?
 Staff: Four dollars.
 Caller: Does that include the balls?



Photo by Ray Kan

Don Martin, Carl Johnson, Ken Kratz and John Demos relaxing after figuring out the direction of the market.

Book Corner

Ken Richter



The next time the Book Corner will be open will be the SIR Luncheon in March. Due to the great support of our members there will be extra tables added to display the books. A question came up... Can I pick up books for my wife? The answer is yes. One of our members at the last meeting did have a list of books that his wife wanted. Keep the books coming.

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
 Caller: Can I get a tee time for tomorrow?
 Staff: Sure, what time would you like?
 Caller: Something between 9 o'clock and 10 o'clock.
 In the morning, if possible.

Photo by Ray Kan



At the January luncheon Sir **Ken Richter** minding his popular and growing Book Corner where he places a huge amount of books out for the picking each luncheon. And of course, the price is right - free! Maybe occasionally you can make a contribution.

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?
 Caller: Yes, I'd like some info about your golf course.
 Staff: OK, what would you like to know?
 Caller: I don't know, that's why I called.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Fran Matthews and **Sir Ron Louis** enjoying the couples dining out dinner at the Walnut Creek Yacht Club restaurant.

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams

The group began the new year kindly hosted by **Ken and Elaine Richter**. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took 1st place, confirming once again that getting less zeros and more 2's in board scores is a laudable plan. After calling in the group's mathematical wizard, it was (finally) determined that there was a 2nd place tie between **Dave & Joan Pierce** and **Dick & Christy DeVoe**. The other 3 couples were allegedly practicing the Jacoby 2 No Trump and Reverse Drury conventions between hands preparatory to next month's event. Is that even legal? Director!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

SIR Past President **Jim Stedman** being congratulated on his 20 years of membership by Big Sir, **Terry Marchione**



Phil Goff



Derek Southern

Area 2

Computers and Technology Group

Phil Goff and **Derek Southern** Co-chairs

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group invites all Sirs and their guests to our next meeting at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 21st at 9am.

At our next meeting on February 21 we will be presented with a review of the new operating system, Windows 8 being introduced by Microsoft. There has been a lot of criticism leveled at this new OS prior to its official launching, especially relative to its use with PCs. Our guest speaker, Mr. **Ron Ogg** who is the chief technical guru for DVPC (Diablo Valley Personal Computer Users Group), believes there are many interesting features incorporated into Windows 8 that will be popular with PC users. You will not want to miss **Ron's** presentation on Windows 8. Time permitting, **Dick Curry** will then lead a Q&A discussion to address current computer issues that you identify. So please bring your questions and join us for a fun and informative session. As always there will be coffee and cookies available before and during the meeting. Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies.

See you there.



Photo by Ron Louis

Branch photographer **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** as the camera was passed to **Ron Louis**.

**Monterey Mashers
Golf Tournament March 24-27, 2013**

You are invited to attend the annual Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, a SIR Branch 146 event in the Monterey area open to all members. Those who don't play golf go on outings with others or do their own thing during the day.

March 24, 25, 26 – Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.
 March 24 (Sunday)-- Social time at the BWM Inn prior to no-host dinner at restaurants of couples' choosing.
 March 25 (Monday) – Golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course (West Course). Traditional heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party in the evening at the Inn. BYOB.
 March 26 (Tuesday) – Golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Rancho Canada Golf Club. No host bar before dinner.
 March 27 (Wednesday) – Breakfast at the BWM Inn and departure for home, outlets, aquarium, sea lions etc.
 Reply by February 17, 2013. A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.
 Make checks payable to: SIR Branch 146 – Monterey Mashers.
 Mail to: **Dick DeVoe**, 109 Terrace Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 no later than February 25, 2013.

Name _____ Companion _____

Couples package- Two Golfers: \$653 _____
 Room, Banquet, Party. 2 golf rounds ea- two golfers.

Couples package- One Golfer: \$560..... _____
 Room, Banquet, Party. 2 golf rounds- one golfer.
 Companion to play golf Monday only: add \$46. _____
 Companion to play golf Tuesday only: add \$47. _____
 Total enclosed..... _____

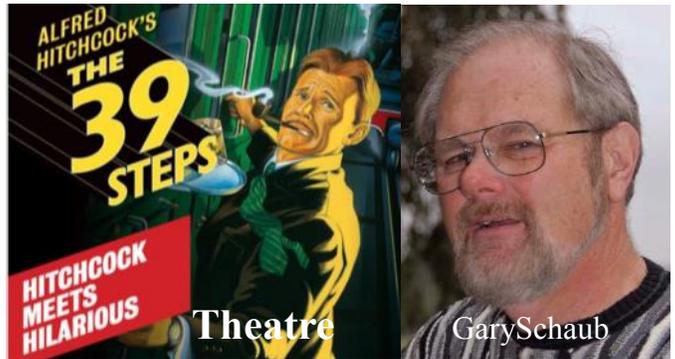
Banquet Choices:
 Filet Mignon with Fresh Vegetable Medley..... ____
 Baked Salmon with Fresh Vegetable Medley..... ____
 Vegetarian..... _____

Deadly Eight Iron

*Off the seventh tee, **Dick** sliced his shot deep into a wooded ravine. He took his eight iron and clambered down the embankment in search of his lost ball. After many long minutes of hacking at the underbrush, he spotted something glistening in the leaves. As he drew nearer, he discovered that it was an eight iron in hands of a skeleton!
Dick immediately called out to his friend, "**Ron**, I've got trouble down here!"*

Cont'd top of next column ↗

*"What's the matter" **Ron** asked from the edge of the ravine.
 "Bring me my wedge," **Dick** shouted. "You can't get out of here with an eight iron!"*



Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash or two of Monty Python humor and you have the makings for The 39 Steps. This fast-paced whodunit is the SIR146 Theatre Party for April.

The 39 Steps, a Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is produced by Center Repertory Company, and will be at Leshner Center in Walnut Creek beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17.

This wild evening in the theater is packed with non-stop laughs. Although the production has over 150 zany characters, it is played by a talented cast of 4! Oh, did I mention the on-stage plane crash? And, some good old-fashioned romance? It's a long way from the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock movie.

**ZANY COMEDY
 THRILLER
 SIR146
 THEATRE PARTY
 FOR APRIL 17TH**

A limited number of discounted tickets at a group rate of \$25.00 for the April 17 performance have been set aside for SIR146 members and friends.

For reservations send a check -- payable to SIR146 -- for \$25.00 each to Sir Gary Schaub, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598. Deadline for reservation is March 14, or when our allotment has been reached.

Tickets will be distributed in the ground floor lobby of the Leshner Center, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek at 7:00 p.m. on performance night. Paid parking is available in the garage adjacent to Leshner Center.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am. (at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

We usually have three or four pool games going when we meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 11:30am at Masse's 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. The cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. We also have SIR members from other branches joining us and we usually play about 2 hours, but not everyone stays for the final curtain. Haven't played in years? Come join us. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

Co-Chairmen:

Allen Espenmiller (Br-174) 925-376-977

George Schulze (Br-8) 925-429-1756

Leary Wong (Br-8) 925-457-0807

Coordinator: **Ken Nakashima** (925-376-0421)

The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday February 27, 2013, 8:00 am at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our speakers Brent Cunningham and Cory Silva, portfolio managers with Merrill Lynch in San Francisco, will present a history of real estate investment trusts (REITs). As an investment option, the types of REITs, how they fit into your portfolio(s) and how you can use them to increase portfolio value and growth will be discussed. So you can be prepared for the meeting, I am sending you a .pdf file in a separate e-mail called "BofAML REIT Primer, 3rd Edition - A Peek into the Industry." This 48 page booklet will give you a complete picture of this type of income producing equity.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so plan to have a leisurely breakfast along with your fellow members. Bring along a prospective member or two to hear this timely talk. Let's support the restaurant and its excellent staff.



Walkers

John Lewis



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales. Call **John** or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.*

February 2013 walks planned by **Frank Ascatigno**

February 1: Walden Park West, Oak Rd., Walnut Creek

Meet : At Walden Park Parking

Walk: West along Contra Costa Canal, Paved, Level

Coffee: Panera Bread, Bancroft Shopping Center Walnut Creek

February 8: Alamo New Life Church, Danville Blvd., Alamo

Meet: South on 680, right on Livorna Rd., right on Danville Blvd., left at Church across from Sunnybrook Rd. Park in back of church lot

Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail, paved, level
Coffee: Peets Coffee (formerly YellowWood) Alamo Plaza, Alamo

February 15: Pleasant Hill south, Morello at Taylor Pleasant Hill

Meet: At shopping center parking on Morello

Walk: East on Taylor to south on Contra Costa Canal, paved, part sidewalk, some incline

Coffee: Panera Bread, Willows Shopping Center Concord

February 22: Newhall Park, Turtle Creek Rd. Concord

Meet: East on Ygnacio Valley Rd., left on Ayers Rd., left on Turtle Cr. Right to parking

Walk: South on Park Trail, left at street, left on Park trail, return past bocce courts. Gravel Trail, part sidewalk, some incline

Coffee: Deli Delight, Shadelands Kaiser Office Park, Walnut Creek



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Steve and Marna Dawkins,, Betty and Jim Wyrick and Diane and Ron DeGolia at the WCYC on Couples Dining Out night sponsored by **Bruce Borgman**

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

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