



Branch 146
Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

April 2022

Call

Branch News!



Big Sir's Corner Richard Lyon

As you may have already heard, our Big Sir, **Jerry Kaplan**, resigned his position for personal reasons. **Jerry** requested his resignation be immediate. On behalf of myself and the entire Branch Executive Committee (BEC), I want to thank **Jerry** for his many efforts while serving on the Branch Executive Committee, as well as other positions he previously held within our Branch. We hope **Jerry** will remain active in the Branch and contribute as he sees fit. As a volunteer organization, our Branch benefits from the contributions of its members.

Dave Steinberg has also resigned his position as the Branch Assistant Treasurer. **Dave** has indicated his intent to continue in the role of Treasurer for the Golfing Committee and to continue participating in the branch activities he enjoys.

There is little precedent for replacing a Big Sir. In my role as Acting Big Sir, along with **Bob Wilkenfeld** (Secretary) and **John Alexander** (Treasurer) we have consulted with the State SIR secretary (**Dick Devoe**) and our Branch's Nominating Committee (Past Big Sirs: **Richard Hockenbroch, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Borgman, and Jonathan Korfhage**) on the process to be used to backfill both open BEC positions. Their consistent counsel is for the Nominating Committee to recommend candidates and have the Branch Executive Committee vote to approve. We should have these steps completed in time for the April Luncheon.

These may seem like big changes in leadership, but rest assured that management of our Branch will remain strong, regardless of whoever is at the helm for the remainder of the year.

Respectfully,
Rich Lyon Acting Big Sir

From Our Secretary

I too would like to thank **Jerry Kaplan** for his strong contributions in the many positions he has held within our Branch over the past eleven years. He is, and hopefully will continue to be, a very valuable member of our Branch.

Speakers

Our March speaker, Chief Jamie Knox, leads the Walnut Creek Police Department. Chief Knox spoke on current issues and opportunities in law enforcement. Chief Knox believes in the process of continuous improvement and quotes Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." Chief Knox arrived early and engaged our SIR members one-on-one before lunch. The Chief graciously took many questions from the floor and is a very engaging speaker.

April

For April our Branch will have the opportunity to hear from Mary Knox, a Contra Costa County Assistant District Attorney, with over 36 years of departmental and prosecutorial experience. Ms. Knox will share her experiences supervising Gang, Drug, Career Criminal, and other special units. It should be fascinating to get an insider's view.

May - Ladies Day Luncheon

The Branch will have the distinct pleasure of hosting Contra Costa County Supervisor District IV, Karen Mitchoff! Supervisor Mitchoff was first elected District IV Supervisor in 2011 and began her public service as the Executive Secretary for Sheriff Richard Rainey. Supervisor Mitchoff has helped our county evolve and has been involved in formulating the Envision Contra Costa County 2040 plan.

Our meetings are better because of your comments and speaker recommendations. So please let me know if you have any suggestions for future speakers.

Respectfully,
Bob Wilkenfeld, Branch Secretary

SIR Mission Statement

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

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, April 14th, 2022
Boundary Oak
12:00 Noon
 Speaker: Mary Knox see page 3 for details.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Once again, I want to thank Bob West, my co-editor for stepping up and doing the bulk of the editing for this newsletter as I was off cruising on the SIR sponsored cruise on the *Ruby Princess* from Ft. Lauderdale FL to San Francisco which, regrettably, turned into the "Covid Princess"

Last month we ran the first of three historical documents relating to the start of our branch. This is continued in this month's issue... under Notes from Members. Deadline for submissions for the May issue is April 26th.

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
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

Membership George Mon



We had no new members in March.

Sir **Fred Reich** passed away on February 21st. He died peacefully after a short illness.

Ben Gleason is the new luncheon chairman with **Steve Oki** as co-chair. They replace **Bruce Borgman**. **Malcom Harrison** is the new historian replacing **Gary Brown**.

The 2022 membership count is at 270. This is down from 280 members at the start of the year. The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly. There is an updated section describing the new process to opt-in for the monthly luncheons.

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.

George Mon
gckk@comcast.net

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Vacant
Little SIR.....	Rich Lyon
Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Assistant Secretary	John Kluesener
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
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

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bob Ford
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Frank Lucas

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



Luncheon Chairman

Ben Gleason

On March 10th, SIR Branch 146 enjoyed its first luncheon meeting since last November. We had 114 members, one guest and our speaker, Chief Jamie Knox of the Walnut Creek Police Department

in attendance. Although there were fewer diners than pre-pandemic levels, it was good to see familiar faces.

As a reminder, we continue to utilize an “opt-in” reservation system in order for us to give Boundary Oak a more accurate estimate and guarantee of attendance. In March, we had five members who gave late notice of their change of plans or were no-shows among those who had opted in and four who showed up without having opted in. In this case Branch 146 absorbed the cost of the uneaten meal that we had ordered. In the future we may charge members for uneaten meals. If you are bringing a guest, remember that first-time guests eat free but please reserve a spot for them when you opt in. Also, please remind guests that they must show proof of vaccination and be willing to sign a waiver of liability at check-in.

Please see reservation information below:

April 14 Luncheon

- Where: Boundary Oak
- Cost: \$32

Payment

The preferred payment method is by check at the luncheon payable to SIR Branch 146.

RSVP

- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, April 8 at Noon
- Show or have proof of vaccination on-file with Waiver of Liability
- Ways to RSVP
 - Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - If you need to call: (925) 979-5721
 - All RSVPs will be acknowledged
 - If you find that you will be unable to attend after opting in, cancel by April 8 at noon

Special Requests

If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can't consume a meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the Deadline.


Sponsors

If you are bringing a guest: please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address:

attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Guests must have proof of vaccination and sign a Waiver of Liability which will be available at the sign-in table.

Questions

If you have any questions, please call **Ben Gleason** at (925)330-0680.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

April 14, 2022

Salad

Chef's Salad
Mixed Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Onion
Red Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

Classic Meat Loaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Seasonal Vegetables

Or

Sautéed Dory Piccata
Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
White Wine Caper Sauce

Or

Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Chocolate Fudge Cake
Caramel Sauce



Start Thinking Spring!



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Spring Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday May 12th, 2022

Salad

Napa Cabbage Salad

Shaved Vegetables
Rice Wine Vinaigrette

Entrees

Boston Statler Chicken Breast

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Orange/Mint Butter Sauce

or

Teriyaki Glazed Salmon

Rice Pilaf, Glazed Carrots, Pineapple Salsa

or

Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Strawberry Shortcake

Whipped Cream



SIR 146 Spring Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 12th, 2022

Number of Tickets _____ at \$35 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ _____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Pay?" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra
142 Leonard Dr.,
Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Chicken Breast	Salmon	Vegetarian	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!



Lee Clark
 Bill Dastic
 Don Del Bene
 Bob Finlayson
 Tom Foolery
 Larry Gray
 Malcolm Harrison
 William Hartman

Brad Hatcher
 Paul Masta
 Jim Mcmanus
 Bob Soldano
 Ken Studer
 Carl Tilchen
 Donald Shaw

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday!



Congratulations to **Jim Burk** who was the March Birthday hat winner!

Remember... If our meeting is via Zoom you have to be Zooming to WIN. If we are having a live meeting you have to be present to WIN!

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap!

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



Verner Laursen



Jim Saavedra

2022 Return of Live Luncheons

Photos by Henry Thatcher



Walnut Creek Police Chief Jamie Knox and Little Sir Rich Lyon



Steve Ybarra - Guest Speaker-Chief Jamie Knox - Ron Polivka



Big Sir Jerry Kaplan and Little SIR Rich Lyon with March 2022 speaker Walnut Creek Police Chief Jamie Knox



Chaplain Jim Baldrige - offering words of prayer



Scott Simmons-Big Sir Jerry Kaplan



Dick Richmond-Ron Plachy-Chuck Eichten



John Foster-Tony Shebanek



Frank Lucas—Dave Tucker



John Moose Kelly and Jim Browning - Check-in



Top: Roy Hodgkinson

**To the Right: March 2002 Speaker - Walnut Creek Police Chief
Jamie Knox speaking at the luncheon**





March 2022 Birthday Boy - Jim Burk



Steve Denning playing with SongSirs



SIR Branch 146 SongSirs Lead by Peter Plante



Gary Schaub-Theatre Activity Chair shares information



SongSirs performing at Luncheon



The Branch Honoree Award Presented to Brad Hatcher

At the March 10th luncheon, we present the Branch's highest award, Branch Honoree, to **Brad Hatcher**. **Brad** is well qualified for this honor as he has accumulated much more than the minimum 45 leadership points.

Brad was born and raised in the city of Angels, which we can overlook this good or bad fortune since he had nothing to do with the selection of his own birthplace. However, after high school, **Brad** made a decision we cannot overlook – he enrolled at the dreaded USC –all right all you Pac 12 guys. On 3, boo!

In any event, **Brad** graduated from USC in 1964 with a double major in Business and Finance. In that same year, **Brad** married his wife, **Lynn**, and moved to Walnut Creek, where they still live today. Two excellent choices.

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

Brad retired in 2012 and joined our branch that year, sponsored by **Dennis Dale**. **Brad** promptly began his service to the branch, serving simultaneously as Member Relations Chairman and Director for 2 years each. He then stepped up to a branch management role and worked his way through the management chairs as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Little and Big Sir, and Nominating Chairman between 2017 and 2021, respectively. As if that wasn't enough, **Brad** also found time to chair a poker group during all those years. Wow, one busy guy.

Brad and Lynne have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. **Brad** is an avid fisherman, skier, bridge and poker player.

Please join me today in thanking **Brad Hatcher** for his outstanding service and dedication as he becomes our 38th Branch Honoree.



Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the March 10th Luncheon

Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to Milt Smith

At the March 10th luncheon, we were pleased to present the Branch Certificate of Appreciation to **Milt Smith**. **Milt** is our current Travel chairman and has held that role for many years. In recent years, he has simultaneously served as the State Travel Chairman.

Milt was born in Idaho Falls, ID and no doubt developed his love of travel in early childhood, as his family lived in 6 states all over the USA in those formative years. The family finally returned to Boise, ID where **Milt** graduated high school. After high school **Milt** served 2 years in the Marine Corps and was discharged as a Sergeant. **Milt** then earned a B.A. in Communications from Boise State U. – Hooray for Buster Bronco, buckem **Milt?** - and later worked as a grant writer for the College of Southern Idaho. He later earned a M.A. in Higher Education administration from Goddard College.

In 1986 **Milt** served as Foundation President for North Bay Healthcare in Fairfield, and in 1995 moved to the John Muir Health Care Foundation in Walnut Creek where he retired as President in 2012.

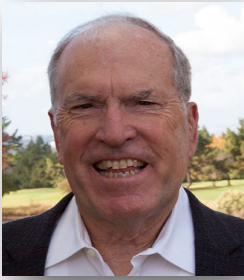
Milt joined our branch in 2016 sponsored by **Russ Anderson**. He and **Carolyn** live in Walnut Creek and have 3 daughters, 4 grandsons, and 1 granddaughter.

Milt has served as Past President of Walnut Creek Rotary and Past Commodore of the South Beach Yacht Club in San Francisco.

Please join me in thanking **Milt** for his commendable service to branch 146 as he received the Certificate of Appreciation!



Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the March 10th Luncheon



State Growth and Membership Standing Committee

Brad Hatcher

The goal of the Growth and Membership Committee (G&M) is to assist in growing the Branches and Membership through new ideas, new methods, and direct help.

I am a member of the above Growth and Membership Committee. I promised the BEC and the Branch 146 members that I would keep them apprised of the workings of this group. I will follow with updates as appropriate.

Brad Hatcher

As this is a new committee, the work and discussions have just started. However, some of the goals and ideas are already in place. Some are still in process of discussion. They include:

Universal use of the new logo with the underlying “Social Activities for Men”. The Branches are to make sure the logo is used in communication such as the newsletter, is used on the website, and consistently used in publicity.

Use of social media such as Facebook at both the State and Branch level is being explored.

Distribute the “Why I like SIR” video to the Branches.

A specific color scheme has been developed for brochures and other media. See the State Website for more information and to see the colors as well as a “Branding Guide”.

A speaker exchange, with information about speakers and availability, is in the draft stages.

There is discussion at the State level on allowing women to become members. Two branches are experimenting with this now. Each Branch will make a separate decision as to whether to allow this change. More guidance on this sensitive topic will be forthcoming.

Other ideas under consideration:

Giving help to Area Governors and Regional Directors to develop consistent communication to the Branches.

Encourage the nearby Branches to develop lines of communication among Big Sirs, Little Sirs, Activity Chairmen, etc. This will promote the exchange of ideas amongst those volunteers

Assignment of a BEC member to be the liaison between the Branch and the State to make sure the Branch is aware of State efforts as they develop.

NOTES

from Our Members

Blast from the past....

Looking Back in Branch History (Jerry Kaplan)

During the transition from **Gary Brown**, who had been the Historian for several years, to our new historian, **Malcolm Harrison**, I had the opportunity to look through the four boxes of past records that documented how Branch 146 has evolved and grown over time. The records included the earliest newsletters (then called News Notes, see below) as well as real color photographs (often printed by Long's Drugs) of activities and members at meetings. Following are a few interesting gleanings:

- Branch 146 did not become an official incorporated and chartered Sir Branch until it reached 100 members (in December 1989) although it began operating in a "probationary" status more than a year earlier.
- The branch was always looking for a more permanent home during its first decade, meeting at the Pleasant Hill Country Club, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, the Concord Elks Lodge, and Blake's Restaurant (Boundary Oak) in June 1992. Meetings were moved back to Zio Fraedo's restaurant in 1998, but came back to Boundary Oak permanently the next year. (While Boundary Oak underwent major renovations, several meetings were held at the Concord Hilton during 1995 and early 1996).
- This month, on the following pages, we take a look at one of our *NEWS NOTES* newsletters from 1990 as we were preparing to meet at Zio Fraedo's and we were listed as the Pleasant Hill branch.

NEWS NOTES

Pleasant Hill Sirs Branch 146

March 1990

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NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

We meet at Zio Fraedo's, 701 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is March 20th, 1990. If you cannot attend, please call SIR John Eliason (932-0436) at least 2 days prior to the meeting.

Social Time - 11:00 am *** Lunch - 11:45 am

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MARCH 20TH SPEAKER

(CC County Office of Emergency Services)

The Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services will provide us with a speaker for our March 20th luncheon. Either Gary Brown or Amelia Scott will be present to speak on "Earthquake before and After", and home and community preparedness will be stressed. The SES has some excellent video tapes of the November Loma Prieto quake, and every effort will be made to show them at our meeting.

This should be a real interesting program and we urge your attendance.

1990 OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN

Big SIR	Gilbert Rhodes	943-6421
Little SIR	Eugene Hackett	935-0983
Secretary	Charles Bartsch	283-0336
Asst. Sect.	Donald Merchant	933-9310
Treasurer	David Hammons	945-6333
Asst. Treas.	Charles Thompson	935-2385
Directors:	Ned Alexander	932-1835
	Oliver Holmes	228-7049
	Jack Lytle	685-8790
	John Rose	672-4061
	Walter Koop	932-2782
	William Larkins	682-8858

Attendance	John Eliason	932-0436
Bowling	Bill Ashcraft	458-5342
Bridge	David Hammons	945-6333
Bulletin	John Fontenrose	686-1016
Chaplain	Elmer Kaprielian	934-5760
Golf	Lynn Freeman	687-8654
Historian	Walter Koop	932-2782
Membership	William Larkins	682-8858
Music	John Philip	934-9441
Pianist	Walter Passante	939-9187
Radio	Charles Unfried	687-1724
Sunshine	Ellis Holland	935-4208
Wagonmaster	Rusk Riger	682-5054

NEW TEAM MEMBERS

We are happy to add four new support members to the "146" team:

- * John Eliason Attendance Chairman
- * Walt Koop Historian
- * Walt Passante Pianist
- * John Philip Music Chairman

Walt Koop will be responsible for documenting all activities of SIRs 146 since its inception, but he needs your help. Please keep him informed about any activities and provide him with any relevant data, pictures or information.

To relieve some of the work load Bill Larkins has been carrying, John Eliason has been appointed Attendance Chairman. In the future, if you cannot attend a meeting, please call John two days or more in advance so that we can notify the restaurant concerning the expected attendance. Welcome aboard, Gentlemen!!

DIVOT DATA

On February 27th, 137 golfers from the Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and Pleasanton SIRs and guests, took over the Chardonnay Golf Course, located near Napa, for a day of golf and fun. My mother told me never to get into trouble - I disobeyed!! - but from all reports I wasn't alone. However it turned out to be a nice day and the general consensus was "I'll do better next time". Schedule for March golf follows:

*	3/7	09:00 am	Boundary Oak
*	3/14	09:00 am	Boundary Oak
*	3/21	09:00 am	Boundary Oak
*	3/28	10:00 am	Boundary Oak

Winners in the "Buck-a-Week" club for February were as follows:

2/7	John Griffin	Karl Jelter
2/14	John Griffin	Bill Thorbrogger
2/21	Milt Swenson	Ernie DeRoia
2/27	Ed Leal	Elmer Silva

RADIO WAVES

On February 23rd, the Sons in Retirement Amateur Radio Club (SIRARC) held its tri-annual luncheon at Spengers Restaurant in Berkeley. 137 members and guests enjoyed an excellent talk by the Chief Engineer of Federal Communications, San Francisco. Seven members of P.H. SIRs 146 attended. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Charles Unfried, our Chairman (687-1724).

KNOW YOUR SIRs

Eugene L. Hackett - Little Sir, Branch 146

Gene is a native Californian, born in San Francisco in 1923. He graduated from Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley, in 1942 and attended Marin Junior College for one year. He received his A.A. degree from Stockton Jr. College (Navy V-12 program) and later earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from U. C. Berkeley in 1948.

Following graduation he worked as Purchasing Agent for the American Coach & Body Co. for two years, after which he joined the National Biscuit Co. (Nabisco). In 1952 he married his wife, Vera (native of Portland, Oregon), and they later had a daughter Judy and a son Paul. They are also proud grandparents of Steven Michael Hackett, age 3.

Gene was Nabisco's sales representative in the Napa area for six years. He moved to Pleasant Hill in 1960 as Sales Supervisor and later became Account Manager. He retired from Nabisco in 1985 following 35 years of service. Since that time he established the Nabisco Northern California Retiree group which he still heads.

Gene has also been active in the Donner Tract Improvement Association, a homeowners group at Donner Lake, and over the past 20 years has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-president twice, and he recently completed his second term as President. Hobbies include fishing, trailoring, reading and carpentering.

FUTURE DATES

April 17	Speaker - Sunne McPeak, Supervisor, District 4, CC County
May 15	Speaker - Elaine Corral, Channel 2 (KTVU) - Also Ladies Day!
June 19	Speaker - Stephan P. Taylor, MD

HIT THE ROAD

Following a successful inaugural caravan to Santa Cruz area, the RV'er are eager to get moving again. A meeting will be held at 1:30 pm on March 9th at the home of Walt Entelman for all interested SIRs. Anyone wanting additional information should call Rusk Rigor, the Wagonmaster at 682-5054.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

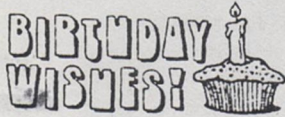
Sir Dave Hammons (945-6333) plans to host the next bridge get-together on March 26th at his home. Each player brings his own brown bag lunch and the host provides the refreshments. Dave again encourages all bridge players to contact him for further details. The usual sign-up sheet will be on hand at the March 20th SIRs meeting.

TOUR TALK

Dates to remember:

April 16-25 - American Heritage Tour
 July 12-20 - Calgary Stampede and Canadian Rockies
 September 6-17 (1991) - Dixie Jubilee
 (Contact Charles Hinkley at 935-4433).
 June 16-24 - Colorado National Parks
 September 4-16 - Alaska and the Yukon
 (Contact Dick Gretler at 934-3227).

It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Stella Silva, wife of Joe Silva, on February 23rd. The members of PH SIRs 146 send their condolences to Joe and his family for the loss of their loved one.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Joe Deas	Karl Heuer	Fred Mattson	Joe Suta
Harold Ensminger	Theodore Kammerer	Arthur Peterson	Charles Thompson
Walter Entelman	Bill Larkins	John Philip	
John Fontenrose	William Longshore	Stan Pieratt	

NEW MEMBERS

42	John Grosso (Agnes)	721 Cree Court	WC	932-4766
55	Bob Spaulding (Juanita)	7 Dublin Court	PH	933-8452
116	Bud Clark (Gayle)	3225 Lucas Circle	Laf.	384-7924

1. REGULAR MEMBERS MISSING THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THEIR ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN, OR ATTENDING LESS THAN 7 MEETINGS WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, SHALL BE NOTIFIED BY FORM LETTER NO. 4 OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION. CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AT ANOTHER BRANCH MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A CREDIT TO THE ATTENDANCE RECORD. ABSENCE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN.
 2. NON-RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: ALL TOURS, TRIPS AND OTHER 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 THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELL BEING OR SAFETY OF THE PARTICIPANTS OR IN ANY MATTERS PERTAINING TO SAID TOURS, TRIPS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.

A BIT OF SIR'S HISTORY

In August, 1958, the four founders of SIRs met to select a suitable name for the club. A list of suggested names was furnished and the pro's and con's of each were discussed. The names which were submitted included the following:

- * Ancient and Honorable Sons of Rest
- * Work Dodgers Luncheon Club
- * Faithful Old Fellows
- * The Honey Dews
- * League of Aimless Fellows (L.O.A.F)
- * Fellow Oldsters
- * Young Oldsters
- * Restful Sons
- * Sons in Retirement

Following a lengthy discussion the name "Sons in Retirement" was selected. The name originated with Claus J. Hink, who pointed out that the term could be abbreviated "SIR", a salutation indicating maturity and respect.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee of SIRs in January, 1959, thought was given to adopting an emblem which would be appropriate in promoting the pride, independence and dignity of retirement. Hink suggested the rooster as having these attributes. His suggestion was adopted and made part of SIRs identity with the rooster on the masthead of the first issue of "Yes Sir" in February. Big SIR Damian L. Reynolds further commented that: "One of the principal areas of Sons in Retirement concerns itself with the well-being, youth and happiness of the retired man. Of all the creatures on earth, none expresses independence and dignity with more sureness and aplomb than the rooster. The majesty of his presence overshadows all other barnyard creatures, and when he crows he can be heard for miles, not in a fainthearted manner, but with noise that calls attention to his majestic being".

Ed. note - "Watch out libbers"!

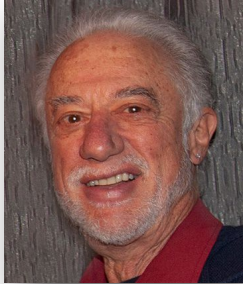
SIRS BRANCH 146
John Fontenrose
956 Bannock Ct.
Concord CA 94518
686-1016



SIR Walter Koop
3160 Broncho Lane
Walnut Creek CA 94598



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

In the future I will publish area wide activities, which are not part of our branch activities, but are open to all SIR members.

My hope is that after attending the area wide activity, someone will enjoy it so much that they will start a branch activity.

Dick DeVoe contacted me about the SIR organization losing branches. There are a number of branches that have 3 or 4 activities, unlike ours who have 44 and hope to have more. He said these small branches need help by having more activities to attract new members.

Before I knew it, I am now the State Activity chairman, and I don't have a clue how that happened. I have to go back to my statement that I made when I joined, "I am not going to volunteer for anything!" However, once you start volunteering it very rewarding and you find you can't stop.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

As I announced last month, SIR State Golf will be holding a number of events. Among them are the State Team Championship and the State Individual Championship. In order to qualify to play in those championship events, one needs to finish top two in an Area Qualifying event. Branch 146 is in SIR Area 16 and the Area 16 Qualifiers will be held at Blue Rock Springs on May 26 for the Team Qualifier and July 7 for the Individual Qualifier. These will be shotgun starts as long as we meet the course's minimum of 12 foursomes. Sign-up information will be circulated in the near future.

The *State Team Championship* event will be held Monday, August 8th, 2022 at Rancho Solano. The *State Individual Championship* will be held Tuesday, October 11 also at Rancho Solano.

SIR State Golf arranges several other statewide events each year. The next event will be the annual "Spring Fling" on April 19-20 at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines in Napa. Unlike branch events the Spring Fling welcomes ladies and guests with handicaps. Here is a link to sign up information. <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/wp-content/uploads/Flyer-Spring-Fling-Rev-B.pdf>

The next State event is the Reno golf trip which will be held June 13-17. Details are also posted on the state golf website. The Atlantis Hotel will be the host venue, and we will have events at 3 courses:

Lakeridge GC – Tuesday 6/14

Toiyabe – Wednesday 6/15

Wolf Run – Thursday 6/16

The Fall Classic event which is similar to the Spring Fling event is planned for mid-September. Details have not yet been finalized, but rumor has it that it will be held at the Foxtail North and South in Rohnert Park.

Ed Marlovits

CURRENT SIR ACTIVITIES 3.19.22 (Page 1 of 2)

Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	Open to new members, or sub	Co-Ed	Status	Remarks
Bocce	John Kendrick	*12 to 24 couples	8:30 2nd & 4th Mondays May through October	yes	yes	Active	Newhall Park, Concord, Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek
Book Corner Chair	Peter	open	Jan > every other month	N/A	N/A	NA	Before SIR luncheon
Book Corner Asst.	Dick					NA	
Book Group	John Pearl	5 to 10	variable - every 1 to 2 mo.	yes	no	Active	breakfast meeting at local restaurants
Bridge - Couples	Tony	6 Couples	Monthly	Yes	yes	Active	
Bridge Couples Duplicate 1	John Kluesener	6 Couples	7:00-10:30 PM Third Wednesday	yes	yes	Active	Only 12 people can play bridge
Duplicate 2	Pierce	6 couples	PM-10 PM	yes	yes	e	
Duplicate 1	Max Hinkle	subs	Monthly - 3rd Monday	yes	no	Mar.	
Bridge Men's	Dick	18 reg. plus	Monthly - 1st Friday 10-	yes	no	April	
Bridge Men's Chair	Mike	18	Monthly - 3rd Friday Monday	yes	no	Active	
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	Jim Pope	16 plus 4 alt.		yes	no	Active	
Chair	Jim Stedman					NA	
Cooking II	Steve	8	Monthly - 2nd Monday	no	condition	Active	
Cooking Lunch & Wine	Syd Whalen	8 plus 3 subs.	Monthly - 3rd Wednesday	no	condition	Active	*Spouses in related activities but not lunches
Cooking Tres Gourmets	Ron Binder	8	Monthly - Jan. to Oct. 12:00 - 4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	no	condition	On Hold	*Have dinner out with spouses - 2X/year
Cribbage Chair	Ron Afdal	8 to 10		yes	no	Active	Meet at Rocco's Italian Restaurant w.C.
Cribbage-Assit Chair	John					NA	
Cycling	Larry Kaye	10 to 15	every week	yes	yes	Active	Ramon.
Dining Out	Borgman	couples	Every other Month	yes	yes	Active	Six times per year
Dining Out-Assit Chair	Jim Barry					NA	
Dinner/Dance Social Chair	Jonathan Korfhage	25 to 40 couples		yes	yes	On Hold	Annual or Semi Annual DANCE - usual price - \$125
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	Thatcher					NA	outing to local museums, attractions, interesting destinations- followed by a w/ Area 2 (approx. 100 mbrs.) Ron Lew Area 16 Chairman
Fishing	Jim Pope	30 to 40	events quarterly	yes	yes	Active	
	Paul Dubow	*10 to 15 Br 146	7:30-9:30 Breakfast mtg. 4th Thurs.	yes	condition	Active	
Golf - 18 hole Chair	David Steinberg	*100 to 115 active	9:00 Every Tuesday	yes	no	Active	40 - 70 golfers at Boundary Oaks
Golf - 18 hole-away	Ed					Active	No Away Golf
Golf - 9 hole	Bob Ford	*25 members	9:30 every Thursdays	yes	no	Active	Every Thursday except the second Thursday
Hiking	Mark Curtis	6 to 12	10:00 am - varies Monday or Friday	yes	yes	Active	Both easy and moderate, some strenuous
Ladies Day Luncheon	Steve	*250 people	*Semi-annually	N/A	N/A	Activ	*Months of May and
Ladies Day Luncheon Ast Chair	Max Hinkle					NA	
Men's Hearts	Bob West	6 to 12	Meet 2X a month - 2nd & 4th Friday 12:45-3:30	yes	No	Active	at Rocco's Pizza (opt. Lunch at noon)

CURRENT SIR ACTIVITIES 3.19.22 (Page 2 of 2)

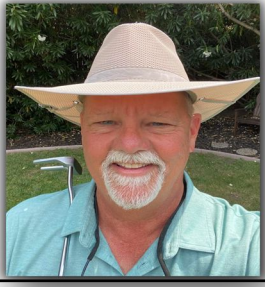
Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	Open to new members or sub	Co-Ed	Status	Remarks
Mexican Train Dominoes (1)Uno	Jerry Kaplan	16 to 18	Monthly -plays Friday eve. after luncheon	yes	yes	Active	6:45PM-10:00 PM
Mex. Train Dominoes (1) Uno Assit	Corrie Oranje					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mexican Train Dominoes (2) Dos	Ron Plachy	14 to 18	6:30-10:00PM 4th Friday	yes	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
(3) Tres	Busenius	18 to 20	Monthly - 4th Friday eve.	yes	yes	Active	members
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Tres Assit	Dick Richmond					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quattro Assit	Henry Thatcher	18 to 22	Monthly - 3rd Friday eve.	yes	yes	On Hold	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quattro	Jim Pope					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (5) Cinco	Dave Pierce	12	monthly -3rd Thursday eve.	yes	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (6) Seis	Moose Kelly	10 to 20	6:30-10:00PM 4th Tuesday	yes	yes	On Hold	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (7) Siete	Bob Lucido	14	monthly -2nd Wednesday eve.	no	yes	Active	All games played at Hockenbrock home, accepts substitutes and guests for possible SIR membership
Mex. Train(8) Ocho Dominoes (8)]	Richard Hockenbrock	18	Monthly - 1st Wednesday of every month	yes	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
Photography Co-Chair	Thatcher					NA	
Photography Co-Chair	John "Moose"	10 to 20	meets 4th Fri. of every other month	yes	yes	Active	Usually meets @Walnut Crk. Library -Ygnacio Valley Br
Pinochle Co-chair	Pete McNeill	8 to 12	2nd and 4th Wed after lunch	yes	yes	Active	meet at Rocco's Pizza (opt. lunch) 1-3 pm
Pinochle Co-chair	Stan					NA	
Poker Group #1	O'Sullivan	7	4:00	no	no	Active	
Poker Group #3	Sig Kalteis	7	Monthly 4th noon	yes	no	On Hold	Needs more members to play may shut down
Poker Group #4	Rich Hanford	7	Monthly 4th Monday 1-4 pm	no	no	On Hold	*Have 7 active & 2 substitute members
Poker Group #4-Assit	Pete Gates					NA	
Poker Group #6	Brad Hatcher	6	Mo.-1st Thurs 12:30-3-30	No	no	Active	play nickel, dime, quarter, etc. Max bet is 50 cents
Song Sirs	Peter Plante	about 20 active	Monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed.	yes	no	Active	* No auditions required
Sushi no tomodachi	Clint Collier	undecided	One a month	yes	yes	Active	
Table Pool	Bill	10 to 16	Every Monday 11:30 AM	yes	no	Active	Masses (N. Main St.)
Table Pool-Assit Chair	Jim Barry					NA	
Theater	Gary Schaub	~30 - 40 people	2 to 3 theatre parties/yr.	yes	yes	On Hold	*With a larger group can get better group rate
Travel	Milt Smith	~15 - 50 people	*As scheduled	yes	yes	Active	*Multiple trips per year, Area 2 trips also available
Wine Tasting	Brian McCarthy	~30-50 people	4th Wed. 2:30 - 5:00p.m.	yes	yes	Active	*typically Months of February April, July, & October
1 Total		0	Different Activities	34	Active	10	On Hold

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

April 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	29	30	31	Apr 1
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 1:30 PM - 3:35 PM Table Tennis at the ARC Gymnasium
4	5	6	7	8
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM - 3:35 PM Table Tennis at the ARC Gymnasium 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
11	12	13	14	15
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 4:00 PM Couples Duplicate #2 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:30 PM - 3:35 PM Table Tennis at the ARC Gymnasium 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
18	19	20	21	22
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM - 3:35 PM Table Tennis at the ARC Gymnasium 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
25	26	27	28	29
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Sums In Retirement Via Zoom 6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	1:30 PM - 3:35 PM Table Tennis at the ARC Gymnasium



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Have you been out on the golf course lately? It is the best time of year to play golf in the Bay Area. It is not too hot and the course is in great shape. 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. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery, which is the restaurant at the course.

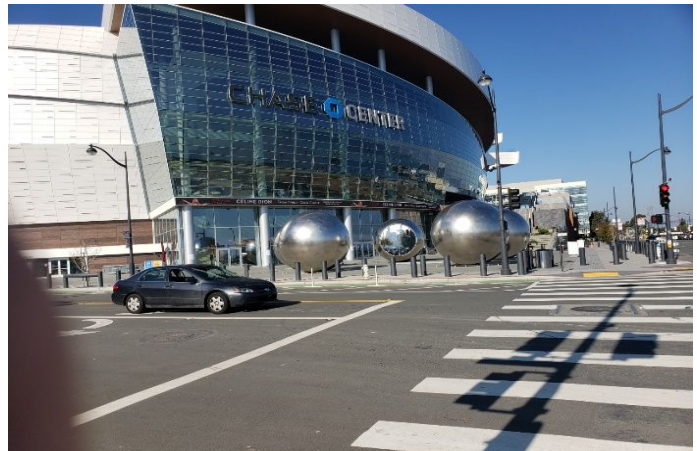
If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com

SIR 146 & 8 Warriors, March 12th Basketball Event

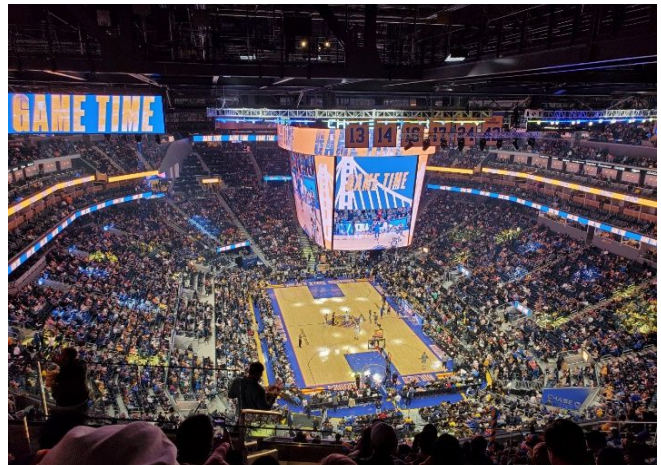
SIR Branch 146 joined together with Branch 8 to attend a Warrior basketball game against the visiting Milwaukee Bucks at the Chase Center in San Francisco. The event was put together including lining up bus transportation by Branch 8's, Steve Schramm. In all, 53 SIR members, guests and family had an exciting time including court side seats during Stephen Curry's famous warm up routine before the game began. SIR also received some recognition when our group was recognized on the huge jumbotron at center court.



We then moved to our assigned seating high above in the upper deck of the Chase Center. Seating at that level was not for the faint of heart but the game was exciting with the Golden State Warriors eventually coming out on top.

More branches in the state are making concerted efforts to organize co-branch activities in the future. Special activities like these with professional teams are held throughout the year at a number of sporting events in Northern California where SIR has branches. Most of these events are open to SIR members, families, and guests.

Support SIR, become a Facebook friend, and never miss out on an opportunity to make a new friend for life.





Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Our next wine tasting will be Tuesday, April 26 from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at the home of Larry and Ann Kaye. Their address is: 283 Livorna Hts. Road in Alamo.

The wines will be from California. Red will be Pinot Noir and the white will be Sauvignon Blanc. Please bring a bottle (under \$30) of either red or white along with an appetizer to share.

Please note that while the event is often called "couples" wine tasting, singles are more than welcome. So if your spouse is not a wine enthusiast, don't hesitate to join us.

When you RSVP let us know if you will be bringing a red or white wine.

Brian McCarthy
925-324-2463

Br146winetasting@gmail.com



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

Saturday February 26: Cold. Cloudy. Nice day for a SHORT ride. Off we went. Today's brave souls: Bill Ross, Roger Meyer, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Larry Kaye. Wrapped in warm gear we headed South. Cafe

Attila in San Ramon awaits.

Coffee and tasty treats later, we turned North. Back to Alamo. The wind was at our backs, and the cold seemed less obvious. Short ride, cold day. Exercise is important and we embraced it. Larry

Larry Kaye
925-698-4030



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2022 season of SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity starts on May 9, one short month away.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Bocce Ball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September.

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

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

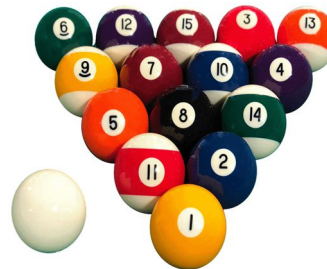


Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

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



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope



Black Diamond Mine Tour

May 31, 2022

Explore & Eat is resuming activities in 2022 with a tour of the Black Diamond Mine on May 31st. We will meet at the EB Regional Parks Office at the Black Diamond Mine in Antioch at 9:45 to get organized. Their address is: **5175 Somersville Road Antioch, CA**. There will be two (2) tours in the morning, so we will need to split the group up in half. One group will do the Hazel-Atlas Mine Tour and the other group will do the Coal Mine Experience Tour. Then we will meet up and the groups will switch tours. After both tours are complete, we will go into Antioch for lunch at Smith's Landing.

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and
Jim Pope 925-699-6447

Mine Descriptions, directions and further information is continued on the next page.



Well, maybe not.

Coal Mine Experience Tour Overview

Hazel-Atlas Mine Tour one hour

From the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s, the Hazel-Atlas Mine produced silica sand to make jars, bottles, and other glass items. Today, tour participants can take a 1309-foot walk into the mine to see mine workings, ore chutes, the shifter's office, and ancient geological features. For safety reasons, you may tour the mine only as part of a guided tour and all participants must be at least seven years old.

Coal Mine Experience Tour 30 minutes

Tour the new Coal Mine Experience exhibit to immerse yourself in the history of the Mount Diablo Coal Field. Discover the story of miners who toiled underground as you experience a replica coal mine. We'll discuss the dangers of working deep in the layers of the earth and explore the area's fascinating geology on your guided tour.

The two(2) tours cost is **\$8 per person**. The limit for the tours is **40**. Parking is **free** and located near the park offices. Please make your checks for \$8 per person payable to **SIR 146** and send your checks to: Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Please put your name and name of your guest with your check.



SongSirs Peter Plante

SongSirs are back singing in person and making a joyful noise in preparation for our first performance at the Kensington Retirement Facility in Walnut Creek on April 20. Thank you to all our returning members for your

strong participation in our music making.

We welcome new member **Curtis Young** to our group. Thank you for lending your voice to our efforts. SongSirs welcomes newcomers, no audition necessary.

Our next rehearsal is on Wednesday, April 6, at 1:30 in the rehearsal room at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. Call me, Peter Plante, at 925-457-3785 or email me at pcplante109@gmail.com for additional details.

SongSirs has lined up an additional performance on July 20 at the Concord Royale Retirement Facility on Clayton Road. We are looking forward to singing for their residents.

Bruce Borgman has an update on our piano. Walnut Creek Downtown Association is planning on having pianos throughout the downtown where aspiring piano players

can sit down and serenade their friends and passersby. We are trying to donate our piano to this venture and are waiting to hear back from them. **Pierre Mebane** suggested and posted our piano on the website called "Buy Nothing" where people post things they want to give away. No response yet.

In closing, thank you to our luncheon guests who sang a rousing God Bless America to close our meeting. See you in April.

Peter Plante



Bruce Borgman passing the SongSirs baton to **Peter Plante**. We thank **Bruce** for his many years of dedicated service to



AREA 16 Fishing Report Lee Clark

While **Paul Dubow** is on assignment in Hawaii checking fishing conditions and gathering other essential information, **Lee Clark** has stepped in to generate this report for the April newsletter.

but many have been too small to keep. As an example, **Carl Moyer, Gordon Linebaugh** and **Lee Clark** went on an 18-person charter aboard the Pacific Pearl. Of the eighteen halibut caught, only four were keepers, (one each for **Carl** and **Lee**).

A little further from home, **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 traveled to San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, on a family vacation, aka fishing trip. **Rich** reported that the weather was great and that the fishing conditions were excellent. Among the catch were three roosterfish, a 12 pound mahi mahi (landed by **Rich**) and a 40 pound hammerhead shark, intelligently released.

The start and duration of the salmon fishing has still not been announced. It is believed that the season will open



Photo at left: **Gordon Linebaugh** and **Lee Clark** show off their trout catch at San Pablo Reservoir.

San Pablo Reservoir remains the hot spot for trout fishing as many branch 146 members, including **Pete Gates, Mike Browne** and **Lee Clark**, have had good luck fishing both from boats and from shore. Two to three fish per rod have been the norm with several limits being caught. Among the largest trout caught so far was a nine pounder by **Carl Moyer**. Powerbait has been the “lure” of choice.

While striper and sturgeon fishing has been spotty, **Phil Scimonelli**, fishing on the Dragon, caught a 70-pound sturgeon. **Mike Browne** also got a keeper on the same trip. **Paul Dubow**, on a sturgeon trip aboard **Pedro Contreras’** boat, caught two stripers, one a keeper that he released. Unfortunately, they were the only two fish boated that day. While keeper stripers have been hard to come by, there has been a lot of action for smaller fish off the Antioch pier. If you are looking for a place to take the family for lots of fishing action, the Antioch pier is highly recommended.

Halibut season is now in full swing. **Ron Lew** of Branch 146 started the season catching two nice keepers. The charter fleet has been reporting a number of fish caught,

Continued on next page

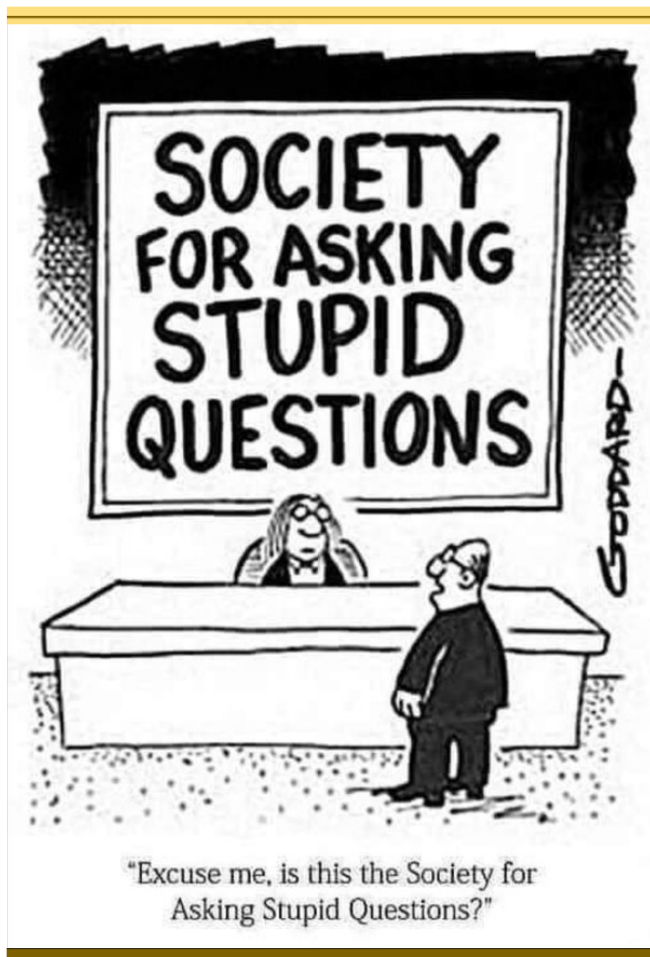


Mike Browne displays his 44 inch sturgeon with Captain Hayden Mullins of the Dragon. The photo was taken by Anthony the deckhand.

Fishing... from prior page

on April second, followed by a closed period of a month or longer duration starting around May 1. During the closed period, it is expected that the charter fleet will move into the Bay causing intense halibut pressure. Those interested in catching halibut would be wise to plan trips earlier in the season.

The fishing club's annual auction was held as part of our regular monthly meeting on March 24. Several members were very generous in donating a wide range of fishing gear. Proceeds from the auction go to support the activities of the club. For those of you that may be interested in learning about the activities of our multi-branch fishing club please feel free to join us at one of our regular monthly breakfast meetings. We meet the last Thursday of the month except for November and December when we move the meeting to the previous week. Our next meeting will be at 8:30 am on Thursday, April 28, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4. But please join us for breakfast, beginning at 7



Travel Milt Smith

Travel is building all around the globe, particularly smaller groups, as considerable savings can be had.

At the February lunch meeting a few people asked me about travel...

A word about local travel. Trips to museums, special events and other attractions are coming back. **Case in point:** Branch 7 has a bus trip to San Francisco in September to see "Oklahoma" at the Golden Gate Theater. It is already sold out at 40.

I am working to find the status of GG Fields horse racing but the following SIR trips still have room available... contact them directly if you have an interest. In the meantime, let me know of **your** interest, particularly for 2023.

ALASKA LAND & SEA May 23 June 4th. 2022 SPACE AVAILABLE 8-DAY CRUISE Aboard the Majestic Princess " Anchorage/Whittier " Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising " Glacier Bay Cruising " Skagway " Juneau " Ketchikan " Vancouver Anchorage CONTACT Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245 l.yarberry42@comcast.net Or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 info@talbottours.com Land & Cruise including roundtrip Airfare \$2995. DBL. OCCUPANCY \$4250. SINGLE SIRMtDiablo8PrincessAlaskaLandandSea.05.23.2022.pdf

8 Night Columbia and Snake River Cruise May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines. Explore the Pacific Northwest with your fellow SIR members following the path of Lewis and Clark. Unpack once and enjoy the beauty of the lush forest of the River Gorge and the high desert bordering the Snake River and Hells Canyon. Prices range from \$5,600 pp. double occupancy. For more information contact Tan Matosian Branch 128. tgmatt54@gmail.com Or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223 be sure to mention Branch 128.

Discover the Magical Rhine and Moselle Rivers Sept. 12-25, 2022 with Bill Britton from SIR 101. 14 Days 25 meals. Amsterdam, night River Cruise, Cologne, Moselle River, Cochem, Wine Tasting, Koblenz, Rudesheim, Siegfried's Music Museum, Mannheim, Speyer, Strasbourg, Lucerne, Zurich. Prices range from \$5,999 - \$9,199pp depending on cabin. Includes round trip air from San Francisco. Contact Bill Britton 925-443-9913 bill.britton@comcast.net

Milt Smith

miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897



SIR 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

For those of you who enjoy spring wildflowers, there are many venues that are spectacular in the month of April. One location that does not require much walking is in WCOSF Shell Ridge at the Sutherland gate. **Phil Johnson** has been working on restoration of native plants and wildflowers on Fossil Hill for at least 10 years. Another venue that requires a short 2 -mile walk is Huckleberry Botanical Preserve in Tilden. And how can I ignore Mt Diablo State Park? This is the time of year for the Globe Lilly to be in bloom along the Mitchell Canyon and Globe Lilly trails.

Last Monday, 3/14, **Ray Martz** led a hike at Las Trampas Regional Park and tomorrow, 3/21, the group will do a loop walk starting at Borgess Ranch with the mid-point at Fossil Hill.

I'm not going to publish any additional definitive hiking plans in this writeup. But I will continue to send out emails to my gmail distribution list about a week before each planned group hike. So, if you aren't getting notification and want to participate, please let me know via phone or email, and I will add your name to that list.

Mark Curtis

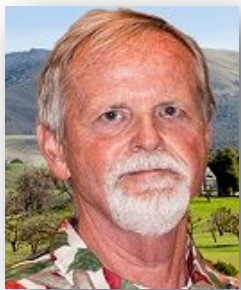
Cell (925) 360-3449

Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

Photos at Right from Mt. Olympia in MDSP. Top is Bob Wilkenfeld. Bottom : Earl Bates, and Gene Schulting.



I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one know what kale was.



rollingstone911@yahoo.com or Henry Thatcher
925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com

Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Come one, Come all to **in-person meeting** for the Photography Group at Rocco's Pizza on Friday, April 15th at 9 AM until 11 AM. We will gather at roughly 8:30 AM with a start time of 9 AM. Rocco's will provide coffee, but Moose and I request covering the cost with a two-dollar donation from each member that is represented. I will provide donuts for everyone to consume and enjoy.

This will be exciting meeting and one that you surely will not want to miss. The theme of this meeting will be "**Open Photo Sharing**"! For the group that went on the Photography Field Trip to the Presidio in March they will be sharing some of the Photo's they took. The Presidio Field Trip was arranged for by SIR Mike Rothman, who worked for the Presidio Trust for many years, served as our host and guide to view and take photos of the Andy Goldsworthy sculptures. Along with Mike, those attending were Bill Holly, Richard Ahlf, Rich Lyon, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bobbie Schmidt, John Moose Kelly and Henry Thatcher. (See attached photo's) Bring your top 5 -10 shots on a thumb drive to present. Bill Holly will be bringing a computer, projector, and screen to display our photos.

As a special treat, SIR Ken Studer who just recently returned from a Road Scholar photography trip to Costa Rica will be telling stories from this trip and sharing photo's he took of birds, frogs, spiders, monkeys, snakes, and a lot more.

All attendees are encouraged to bring some of their favorite travel photos on a flash drive in order for all of us to take a photo trip around the world.

As a special note, SIR John Moose Kelley **will not** be attending the April meeting as he will diving and doing underwater photography in Palau. We will look forward to hearing about his trip and seeing photos at our June Photography Group meeting. **SIR Henry Thatcher will be hosting the April 15th meeting.**

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday, April 15th, at Rocco's at 8:30 AM. John (Moose) Kelly 610.517.0152



The Gang walking around the Presidio



Presidio SIR Photo Shoot, Lunch, Presidio,



Henry Thatcher



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Our group meets every other month at various Japanese restaurants to share sushi and solve the world's problems.

April is one of our "on" months so on April 21 we are headed for....



This restaurant is a bit further afield, down in Livermore, but the reviews seem to indicate it is worth it. If you want to join us you need to RSVP as such no later than



April 15th. Once we have our list of confirmed participants we will discuss car pooling... so if you respond that you are going please indicate if you are willing to drive and, if so, how many you can accommodate.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Bill Cammerer** on March 14, 2022. **Bill** provided the group with a nice spread of appetizers that paired well with several excellent wines.

Unfortunately, most of our conversation centered around the monstrous invasion of Ukraine. We then adjourned to **Bill's** dining room and enjoyed a delicious lunch/brunch of individual made omelets, hash browns, bagels and English muffins with orange juice. **Bill** then served the group a cup of peaches with a small pastry.

The Cooking II group will next meet at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock** for lunch on April 11. The Cooking group II will also be celebrating the Spring season with a BBQ tailgate and A's baseball game on April 30.

Steve Ybarra



Photo from left to right: **Bruce Borgman ,Ken Richter ,Dennis Hallett ,Bob Yolland, Bill Cammerer, Richard Hockenbrock,**
Photo by: **Steve Ybarra**

Police have confirmed, by surveillance video, that the man who tragically fell from the roof of an 18th floor nightclub was NOT a bouncer.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As announced in the last Sir Call, we have selected Montecatini Ristorante in Walnut Creek for our next Dining Out event. This restaurant is one of the oldest and best loved Italian restaurants in the East Bay and has received awards for the Best Italian Restaurant in the East Bay in Diablo magazine in 2002, 2007, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021! It has been in operation since 1989, with Chef Ermes Paulin as the executive chef at the helm. In January of this year, the restaurant was bought by two long time employees, who fell in love at the restaurant and married – a romantic story! Chef Paulin will stay on in a part time capacity thus the legacy of fine Italian cuisine will continue. While the restaurant is normally closed on Tuesday, we have agreed to “buy out” the restaurant on Tuesday, April 12 and our Dining Out group will be the only ones in the restaurant. Note this is a correction from the last Sir Call when we indicated April 5 as the date. The restaurant will be undergoing some renovations in late March, so we delayed our usual March Dining Out event to the early April date.

We will have our usual no host cocktail and social time at 5:30pm and will start with some appetizer still to be determined, followed by a choice of minestrone soup or Caesar salad. Then a choice of five entrees which you may peruse from the flyer in this issue of SIR-Call. We’ll finish with a choice of dessert. The total all-inclusive cost of the dinner is \$55 per person.

After our initial notification earlier this month, we quickly filled our capacity which the restaurant indicated to us would be 65 diners. Those of you who are the recipients of that golden ticket to attend are encouraged to confirm your participation with a check to Sir146, mailed to me and indicate your choice for soup/salad, entrée, and dessert.

As we are resuming our regular schedule of Couples Dining Out, we anticipate that we will select another restaurant on May 16, or 17. Once the restaurant is posted you will want to indicate your interest in attending quickly since it appears that we are ready to return to getting together to socialize and enjoy a good meal. There have been several restaurants which sadly have not survived the business downturn during the pandemic, but new ones are taking their place and we will be anxious to try them out. The first notification of our Dining Out event often goes to our mailing list. If you wish to be

added, please let me know by sending a note to the email at the end of this article.

We look forward to a resumption of our bi-monthly Couples Dining Out event, seeing all your bright shining faces and will raise a toast to our good fortune in returning to a healthy 2022!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon

Dining Out hosts

bgborgman@aol.com



Photos above and below of Montecatini Ristorante, site of Tuesday April 12th “Sold Out Event”. Photo by: **Bruce Borgman**



COUPLES DINING OUT

Tuesday April 12, 2022

Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

Minestrone Toscano Soup or Caesar Salad

Choice of entrée (5 choices!!)

1) Polo alla piccata (house specialty!)

Chicken, capers, lemon in white wine sauce, pasta and vegetables

2) Gamberi Scampi

Prawns, lemon, white wine, garlic, pasta and vegetables

3) Vitello scallopine con funghi

Thinly sliced veal, mushrooms, white wine, rosemary, demi-glace, pasta and vegetables

4) Lasagna Casalinga

Layers of parmesan, mozzarella, bechamel in a meat tomato cream sauce

5) Fettuccine alla primavera – (vegetarian option)

Vegetable medley, olive oil pesto, feta

Dessert choice

Tiramisu or Chocolate Cake

Coffee, or tea



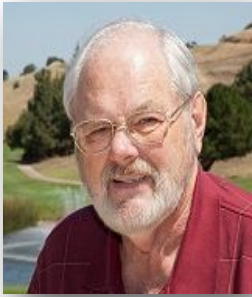
1528 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek

Cost per person is \$55 including tax & gratuity

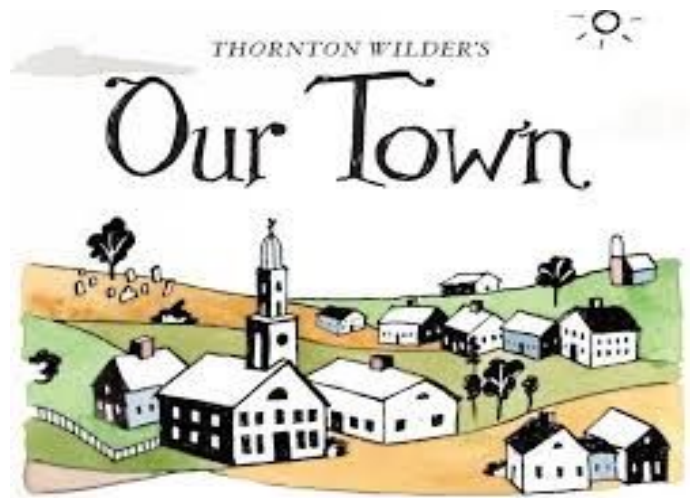
Email Bruce Borgman, confirm with check to SIR 146, mailed to Bruce at
3611 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek, 94598 phone 932-3961

Please select soup or salad, entrée, and dessert

Questions? email Bruce at bgborgman@aol.com



Theatre
Gary Schaub



**THEATER PARTY
EVENTS ARE BACK!**

After an “intermission” of almost two years, SIR 146 members and guests are invited to an in-person evening of local theater by Leshar Center’s resident professional theater company.

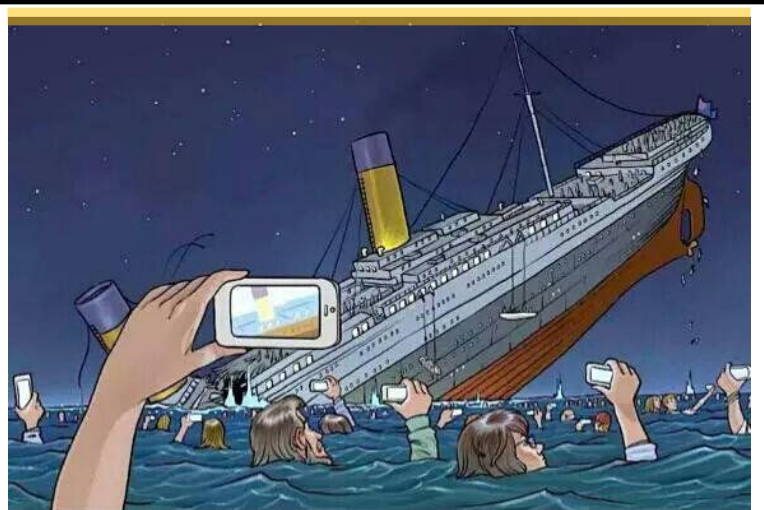
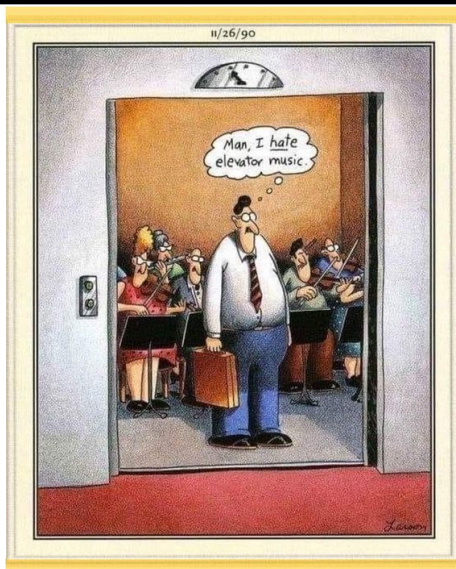
What better way to renew our appreciation for live theater than to enjoy Thornton Wilder’s Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, *Our Town* at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek on May 6.

Our Town is an American classic – set in the mythical village of Grover’s Corners, New Hampshire. This delightful production provides an allegorical representation of life in all its joys and tribulations -- timeless questions about the meaning of Love, Life and Death.

A limited number of discounted tickets is available for Friday, May 6, starting at 8:00 p.m., as the first production of Center REP’s 2021/2022 season. Tickets are \$36.00 per person (a 40% saving) and must be reserved with a check by April 15.

Forward your check, payable to SIR146, to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, Apt. 8, Walnut Creek 94595. Tickets will be distributed in the Leshar Center’s lower lobby on performance night at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available at the city garage adjacent to Leshar Center at Locust Street and Civic Drive.

Our Town was first performed at McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey in 1938. After a run in Boston, the play opened in New York later that year. Wilder received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this work. *Our Town* has been called “a true American story,” and has been revived countless times and won countless awards over the years. Wilder called *Our Town* his favorite of all his works.



If *Titanic* had sunk yesterday...

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

We are back in business! On Friday, March 11th 13 members of the Group One met at Sir **Jeff** and **Alicia Baily's** welcoming home in Walnut Creek.

It was a real pleasure to see many of our friends who had not played together for over two years. The **Baily's** provided three tables and delicious snacks before we started the game as well as a delicious Red Velvet cake and ice cream at the break. Thank you both for hosting!

Richard Hockenbrock, (average of 11.1) took the top prize barely beating out **Martha Plante**, wife of **Peter** who was right behind with an 11.9 average. Coming in third, also not far behind with a score of 12.8, was **Sue Oranje**, wife of **Corrie**. Pictures of the three winners along with all Group One players at the **Baily's** are nearby.

Alas, while there were low scores, there were also prizes for the highest scores. The team of **Bruce Borgman** and his wife, **Sue Sheldon**, were able to leave Game Night knowing that together they averaged a little over 42 points per hand (**Bruce** at 47.6 and **Sue** at a somewhat more respectable 37.0). Needless to say, both **Bruce** and **Sue** were awarded a scratcher with the chance to win \$10,000. That dream did not come through. Maybe next month. They were still happy to have a chance at winning (their smiling picture - nearby - was taken before they got out their quarters to scratch).

In April, **Richard Hockenbrock**. will be hosting Game Night on April 15th at his home in Walnut Creek.

Jerry Kaplan

mtdana@aol.com



MTD 1 Photos: Above: Winners **Sue Oranje, Richard H., Martha Plante (2)**; Below Scratchers: **Bruce Borgman, Sue Sheldon**



Group pic. Players from left: Host **Alicia Baily, Sue Sheldon, Sue Oranje, Richard H, Host Jeff Baily, Martha Plante, Bruce Borgman, Susan Kaplan, Corrie Oranje, Peter Plante, Sig Kalteis, Virginia Tygart**. All photos by: **Jerry Kaplan**



Group Dos 2

Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our February game on Friday the 25th at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. We had a somewhat small turnout of 12 players which gave us just enough for two tables.

Bill Cammerer came in 1st with a very impressive 9.5 average score. **Mary Holland**, one of our 'newbies' captured 2nd with a 19.0 average while **Ismeni MacLean** took 3rd with a 20.1 average.

We are already looking forward to our March game which is scheduled for Friday March 25th at the home of **Rich Ahlf and Ismini MacLean**.

Ron Plachy
rjplachy@icloud.com



Group Quatro 4

Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos group will resume meeting on April 22nd at 7:00 at the home of **Renie and Jim Pope**.

We are meeting on the 4th Friday because the regular 3rd Friday is good Friday.

Jim Pope



Group Cinco 5

Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

We celebrated **St. Patrick's Day** by being warmly hosted at the home of **Jim and Judy Baldrige**. Regrettably, half of

us were missing, but the good news was that we were able to have one table of six with mixed genders – unusual for us. Even more surprising, the men won all the money. After nine games, **Bob Yolland** was third (19.6 average), **Jim Baldrige** was second (13.9), and **Dave Pierce** was first by a nose (12.9). We were all winners when **Judy** served dessert – of the right **color**.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Group Tres 3

Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We were back in action on March 25th after all these months. **Sue and Walt Busenius** were our hosts. It was fun to chat and play with

each other, take a break with some sweets, and play some more. Yes, we still remembered how to play the dominoes and keep score.

Our first time back, we did not have a prize fund; but if we had, several familiar faces shined. It was a photo finish for the best score with **Jim Stedman** narrowly beating out **Judy Richmond**. Both went out 5 times.

The group gathers next month at the home of **Linda and Larry Brown** for another exciting night on the rails.

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428
walterbusenius@gmail.com



MTD 3 Photo above: Dick Richmond, Sue Busenius, Alicia Baily, Jim Stedman, Larry Brown and Joyce Wells

MTD 3 Photo bottom left: (L to R): Sharon Varner, Judy Richmond, Jeff Baily, Linda Brown and Jim Barry





Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

John "Moose" Kelly

The Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 met on Wednesday evening, March 23rd at two homes. The first was at our past Big SIR **Richard Hockenbrock**. The second was at **Peter and Martha Plante**. Battle Royal happened at both homes yielding some interesting results. My thanks to **Richard, Peter, and Martha** for hosting this month's events.

The winners at **Richard's** home were 1) **Susan Sheldon**, 2) **Jane West**, and 3) **Bruce Borgman**. There was a heated debate on the rule of how to play two successive doubles. It was only resolved by having a vote. Richard Hockenbrock is appealing to the Grand Master of Mexican Train Dominoes, Jerry Kaplan, for an official ruling that would not change the outcome of tonight's battle. Nevertheless, Truth, Justice and the American Way will prevail.

The competition among the players at the **Plante's** Castle was intense but when the dust settled the winners were announced. **Kathi Mitchell** won the evening with **Brian McCarthy** very close behind her. **Martha Plante** was a very close third. **Carol Lane** won the scratcher for high point score.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners at their respective homes!!

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com



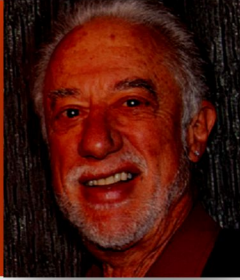
MTD 6 Winners at the home of Richard Hockenbrock: (L to R): **Jane West** 2nd, **Susan Sheldon** 1st. (Bruce Borgman 3rd is not shown. Photo by **Richard Hockenbrock**



MTD 6 Winners at the home of Peter and Martha Plante (L to R): **Kathi Mitchell** 1st, **Carol Lane** scratcher winner, **Brian McCarthy** 2nd, **Martha Plante** 3rd.



Group Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to Dale & Mary Ellen for hosting this month's MTD 7.

Congrats to Mary McCarthy for winning the MTD tournament and Clare Kingsbury for taking the consolation prize for highest score!!

Brian was out of state, so I had to email him about his wife winning big \$ and having to share it with him.

Bob Lucido bobwendy3@comcast.net

Group Ocho 8



Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, March 2nd with 16 members

and guests in attendance.

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, April 6th starting at 6:30 pm. All games are played at the home of Richard Hockenbrock, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek.

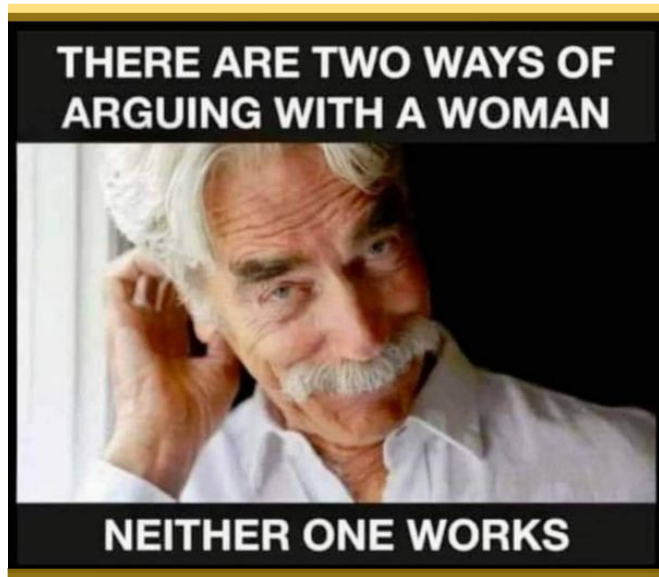
Richard Hockenbrock
RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM
Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713



MTD 7: Clare Kingsbury seated and Mary McCarthy standing.
Photo by: Bob Lucido



Top L to R: Jan Ondeck, Mary Jo Potter, Pam & Larry McAllister, Guests Kim & Bob Campbell, Virginia Tygart, Host Steve Loftin, Bill Holly, Joyce Wells, Jim Barry & Sue Loftin. To the right of the staircase, Steve & Dana Ybarra and Steve Ondeck



Winners were Steve Loftin 3rd place, Jan Ondeck 1st place and Steve Ybarra, 2nd place



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Five of our members met Monday, March 14th, and discussed the book of the month, *Silverview*, the last book from famed author John le Carre. He authored 26 novels over nearly 60 years. He died in December of 2020, at age 89, and the book was “touched up” by his youngest son, prior to its publication in 2021.

His real name was David John Moore Cornwell, and he became an Irish citizen near the end of his life because of Brexit and other policies of the British government. He had a difficult childhood, as the motherless son of a con man, and got his on-the-job training for his writing career by working for British Army Intelligence, MI5, and MI6. He used a pen name because he could not publish under his real name while working for these organizations.

He achieved fame with his third book, *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*. His most well-known books thereafter were probably *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*; *The Honorable Schoolboy*, and *Smiley’s People*.

The scene is East Anglia, on the British coast, and the cast of characters is introduced, some reviewers say too slowly. A reader of the book may soon realize that one of the two lead characters is a spy (it’s a spy story!). The other lead character is Julian, who made a pile in the English stock market, and brought his money to town to open a bookstore. While an important character in the book, his role is basically one of a bystander or useful person to keep the plot moving. As a consequence, he escapes the “sturm and drang” at the end of the storm.

More spies show up, complicating the story. They join lead character Edward Avon, a possible double agent and longtime member of the “circus,” a name given to the British spy business, like those in the CIA here refer to “the company.” It turns out that Deborah, Edward’s wife, is dying of cancer, and who lives with him at Silverview (the source of the book’s title), is also a spy, focusing on a different part of the world. I am not sure if each knew the other was a spy during most of their marriage, but in the very first chapter of the book, it is clear that Deborah has become aware of Edward’s purportedly nefarious activities and is concerned by them, to the point of sending a letter to an official at M-16.

Deborah’s letter causes M-16 to suspect that Edward’s behavior is suspect and worry where his true allegiance is. Things start to look bad for Edward, and the top levels in

the spy service are now involved, and are concerned about what damage, if any, Edward has done to the organization and their personal reputations. It turns out that he has a love interest of sorts, Salma, a Palestinian activist, and that may mean he is very likely to be involved with and help other organizations that England sees as its enemies. Edward now becomes what we would call “a person of interest,” and they would like to bring him in for questioning.

It’s at about this point in the story that Edward’s wife dies, and that event is the beginning of the end of the story and the end of the book, which contains some surprises but does not leave the reader completely satisfied.

Some “notes” – although the son/publisher says that the draft of the book was “touched up,” the question remains about why the story was on the shelf for quite a while without the author doing this work. Also, while Silverview was a large house near the coast that belonged to Deborah and was curiously renamed by Edward, it appeared to have no relevance to the plot, other than it was the residence of Edward and Deborah. Those who knew John le Carre’s books thought this was not his best book and were disappointed in that they felt there was not sufficient closure. It was thought to be a good read and we gave it an overall grade of B.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 18th, and we will discuss *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich, a Pulitzer Prize winner and that is on the current Bay Area Best Seller List.

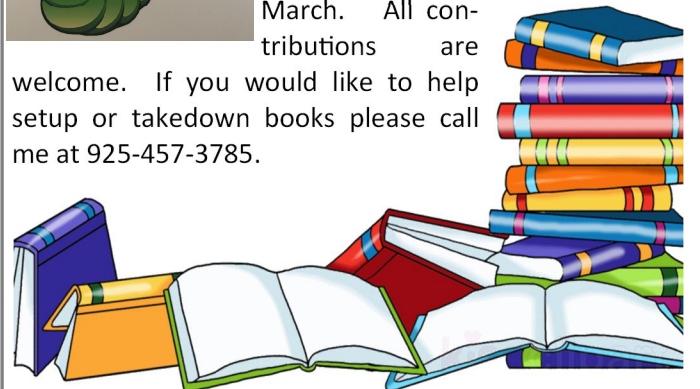
John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor



Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner will be open to receive the books you took out in March. All contributions are welcome. If you would like to help setup or takedown books please call me at 925-457-3785.





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since the last SIR-Call reporting, we have had in person matches on February 25th and March 11th at Rocco's. Our March 25th meeting will be reported next month.

Bill Vizza, Bob Finlayson and Ron Polivka each won 2 games, Ron

Polivka and Jim Nelson both had two 2nd's.

The only persons to "Shoot the Moon" were **Steve Ybarra, Bill Vizza and Ron Polivka**. Steve shot his in hand 9 which was a hold hand and the last hand in game.2 on March 11th.

Jim Nelson had the lowest average score of 71, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 72.

YTD: **Bob Finlayson** has won 5 games followed by **Bill Vizza** with 3.5 and **Ron Polivka** with 3.

Future Meetings: We are playing at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our April games, will be Friday, April 9th and 23rd at 12:45 pm., with an optional lunch at noon.

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



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Dick & Christy DeVoe hosted our March 1st event. Three of our regular couples could not participate due to schedule conflicts, temporary physical limitations or COVID concerns, so I opted to try a two table event

with 4 couples. The smaller event had a cozy feel to it and turned out fairly well.

Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean had great hands all afternoon and easily took 1st PLACE with 3650 points. They confessed to not bidding a few slams but still accepted the 1st PLACE winnings. **Tony & Cindy Greco** finished in 2nd PLACE with 3190 points. We thanked the remaining two couples for their contribution to the prize money. Lol

Next month's event will be held on April 5th and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown** at the start time of 4:00 pm. We anticipate returning to our regular three table event.

Tony & Cindy Greco
(925) 934-0395

almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our March game was well hosted by **Chuck Denney** with six players around his custom poker table. Thanks to **Chuck** for his snacks and wine selections

he took the pot with a heart straight flush! **Paul Dubow** was buffeted by many second places, but his plight and suffering was overlooked as he was departing for Maui shortly after the game. We look forward to our 1st Thursday afternoon game in April.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Two players did well during the afternoon. **Chuck** made more than 50% on his deposit. So too did **Steve Ybarra**. His claim to fame came on the last hand of the day when



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 group was hosted by **Christy** and **Dick DeVoe** on March 16, the eve of Saint Patrick's Day. **Christy** pro-

vided a plethora of goodies including cheeses, crackers, chocolates, cookies, chips, and the essential green with the guacamole. Play was very competitive with only about a five-point spread between the big winner and the low score. There was a tie between **Elaine** and **Ken Richter** and **Kathy** and **John Kluesener**, both couples with 20.5 points for the night. Winners for the evening were our hosts. **Christy** and **Dick DeVoe** with a grand total of 23.5 points. We thank **Elaine** and **Ken** for substituting for our traveling sixth couple.

Our next game will be played on Wednesday, April 20 at 7pm at the Sommerville Residence.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Photo from left to right: **Kathy Kluesener**, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** and **Elaine** and **Ken Richter** Photo by: **John Kluesener**



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

On March 8th we met for the first time in nearly two years, warmly hosted by **Ken** and **Elaine Richter**. It felt like life was almost "normal" again. How great it was

to renew acquaintances with old friends. Our bridge might have been a little rusty -- although **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** bid a successful slam in the first round -- but our fellowship was just fine. When the dust settled, **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were first (65% game), **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** were second (59%), and **Rich** and **Ismini** were third (55%). But we all felt so good just to be playing together again.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

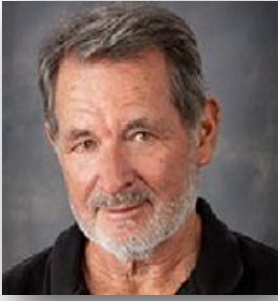
Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 for Jan/ Feb/Mar was closed due to the Contra Costa County COVID spike beginning in December. On Nov. 30, the 7-day average for new cases was 81. On Jan. 17 it peaked at 2907! By March 22, it had dropped back to 90. Whew!

Our "start-up-once-again" event is scheduled for April 4, with Brad Hatcher hosting 3 tables. Yay!

Truth in Advertising



People are usually shocked when they find out I'm not a very good electrician.



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 1
Max Hinkle**

Our Group is seeking to add new members. If you are an experience bridge player (any level above a novice) interested in joining us for a congenial game

please message me at hinklemax3@gmail.com or (925) 408-6004.

We meet at a member's house on the third Monday of each month for a 10:00 am start. Players pay a one dollar fee which is paid out in prize money at the end of the game. Our games usually end around 3:00. We take turns hosting, either a three or four table game, depending upon the host's accommodations.

The host usually provides beverages, snacks and a dessert though this is not obligatory. The coordinator takes care of all of the other game preparations. Our next game, our first this year, is scheduled for April 18. I hope to see you there around 9:30 for a little pregame conviviality.

Max Hinkle
hinklemax3@gmail.com



**Cribbage
Ron Afdal**

The cribbage group met March 23, 2022, the 4th Wednesday, 12:30 to 3:30pm, at Rocco's Pizzeria in Walnut Creek.

Peter Plante went undefeated and was the untouchable winner. Roger Rivers took 2nd place while Ron Afdal took 3rd place by narrowly beating John Kendrick by 1 game point! The others went home with pizza on their smiling faces.

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 27, at Rocco's, we hope to see you there! Ron Afdal

Ron Afdal
ronafdal@comcast.net



**Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman**

The SIR Party Bridge group will meet for the first time in about 2 years at **Jim Stedman's** abode on April 4th. We will have 16 players in attendance.

If you are interested in Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope**.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](#) or [Jim Pope](#).

**Pinochle
Pete McNeil & Stan Johnson**

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 **either of us** (contact information below) and we'll get back to you.

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

Pete McNeil
925-858-9666

petemcgo@gmail.com

Stan Johnson
925-938-7016

stanjohnson88@gmail.com

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 on Wed April 27 at 1:30 PM.

This will be a presentation by a Charles Schwab representative at their San Ramon office. You may wish to attend in person. There will also be a Web Ex link provided for remote attendance. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net

**My girlfriend asked
me to name all the
women I've slept
with.**

**I probably should've
stopped when I got
to her.**



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!

Parting Shot

- ◆ Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
- ◆ 2000 pounds of Chinese Soup = Won ton
- ◆ 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
- ◆ Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 banananosecond
- ◆ Weight a evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
- ◆ Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = 1 Knotfurlong
- ◆ 365.25 day of drinking low-calorie beer = 1 Lite year
- ◆ 16.5 feet in the twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
- ◆ Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
- ◆ 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahertz
- ◆ Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
- ◆ Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
- ◆ 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
- ◆ 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
- ◆ 1000 cc's of wet socks = 1 literhosen
- ◆ 6 nickels = 2 paradigms