



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

And now, drum roll please, our first live in-person luncheon in 17 months is scheduled for August 12th. I am hoping that all our new members who have never attended one of our luncheons will make an effort to attend this one.

I also want to appeal to all those members who stayed away because we were holding the luncheon meetings on Zoom. Now is your chance to come and meet your friends who you haven't seen in many months. If you aren't sure, call them and ask them to come and join you at a table.

Please see page 2 for complete information on the luncheon including the menu. Be aware that the meeting now requires a positive reservation, not our previous "cannot attend" notification!

Our nominees for officers and directors was presented in my column last month. You can also find the list in the July SIR-Call. You will have an opportunity to nominate others from the floor at our August meeting. We will then vote to elect the nominees.

Our speaker last month was Eve Birge, Executive Director at White Pony Express (WPE). She explained that the mission of the pioneering organization is to eliminate hunger and poverty by delivering mainly fresh food and some clothing to those in need – with love.

Eve provided a short video showing how one of the largest food rescue and delivery organizations in Northern California ensures that over 120,000 community members have food and access to clothing, books, toys, and essential items. Eve explained her role as she has over 20 years' experience administering programs and policies that protect and advance the public health, education, and rights of people who are underserved.

Check **Jerry Kaplan's** Little Sir column to learn about our



Zoom, Zoom
ZOOM Lunches Meeting
Thursday, August 12th
Zoom Session opens at 11:30am

**NO ZOOM!
WE'RE LIVE!
SEE PG 2!**

interesting speaker for August, who believe it or not will be with us "in-person".

Doug Eisner of the Branch Honoree Committee presented **Rob Melrose** with the preeminent Branch Honoree award at the July luncheon meeting for his many years of outstanding service to the branch. This is the highest award the Branch can bestow on a member.

Bob Burley was presented a 20 Year Branch Membership Certificate by **Jim Burk**.

Finally, I am happy to announce that the BEC approved the application of **Dave Kwinter** and **Mike Rothman** as the two newest members of Branch 146. Congratulations to you both.

See you at the next luncheon.



Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

Wow! A real live meeting is planned! Hope to see many of you there. I understand that some of us (including me) remain a little hesitant about getting together with over 100 people in a large setting. Everyone will be vaccinated (per Branch and SIR protocol) and all the Boundary Oak staff will wear masks in our presence. If you still feel you want to wait a little longer, I hope most all of you will be ready and able to attend one of the luncheons in the next few months.

Continued on page 3



Luncheon Co-Chairs

Bruce Borgman
Rich Lyon



Badges

Tony Greco

Attention New Members

***WE ARE EXCITED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT BRANCH 146
IS RESUMING OUR IN-PERSON
LUNCHEON AT BOUNDARY OAK
STARTING
THURSDAY AUGUST 12, 2021!***

- 10:45 AM Social
- 11:30 AM Luncheon meeting starts
- Cost: \$27, checks preferred

To attend the Luncheon, **you**

must :

- **Make a reservation** by providing your name and badge number (if you know it) by either: EMAIL: attendlunch-br146@gmail.com or PHONE: (925) 979-5721
- You must have on file or sign a liability Waiver.
- You must have on file a COVID vaccination or a COVID negative test result within the last 3 days
- If you bring a guest, the same requirements apply to the guest
- Reservations should be made as soon as you can, but no later than the **due date of Wednesday August 4, 2021**. If you fail to cancel a reservation by the due date or fail to show up and pay for your reservation, you will owe the Branch the cost of the reserved meal, currently at \$27 per meal. Vegetarian meals and some special needs meals are available upon request.

It will be great to finally be able to see everyone and enjoy lunch. We look forward to seeing all of you in person once again starting

Our last in-person monthly luncheon at Boundary Oak was 17 months ago in March 2020. Since then, approximately 28 men have joined SIR Branch 146. None of these new members have had the opportunity to participate in a luncheon, except a few that may have attended a luncheon as a guest, prior to joining SIR. I hope to see most of these new members on August 12th, our first luncheon since the onset of the COVID pandemic, or soon thereafter.

I have made badges for them, which they can pick up at the badge table on the day of the luncheon. The badges will be racked in badge number order, so it is a good idea to know and remember your badge number.

If you don't know or forget your badge number, don't panic, the badge table will have a listing of all members by last name that will cross-reference to your badge number. If anyone can't remember their last name, they're in trouble! 😂

Badges for new members will be yellow, readily signifying a new member. This alerts all seasoned members who will then hopefully engage new members and make them feel welcome. Perhaps seasoned members can extend an invitation to new members to join them at their table or assist the new member in finding another table to join.

After the luncheon, members should return their badge to the badge table rack or put them in the grey return baskets when exiting. See you soon!

SIR Mission Statement

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

Little Sir's Corner continued from page 1

At the upcoming August meeting please welcome our many new members that will be attending their VERY FIRST luncheon meeting. Remember, new members will have a name tag in YELLOW – they will know only a very few people, so please go up and introduce yourself.

Our August in person luncheon speaker will be Dr. Jon Haveman, who will offer his timely thoughts on the "Effects of the COVID Pandemic on the U.S. Economy." Dr. Haveman, a well-known leading expert in economic policy is a prolific author. He has been quoted in many newspapers, *The Economist* and other publications, as well as giving interviews to radio and television stations. Jon was a Senior Economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors and was a faculty member in the Business School at Purdue University. Dr. Haveman is a Principal at the Marin Economic Consultancy; we are honored that he is coming to address our Sir Branch.

Volunteers Always Needed

It is important that all members, and in particular, newer members, volunteer to take a role in making the branch successful and welcoming to all. The branch is always in need of people to: check in luncheon attendees, help with audio/visual setups, assist in treasurer duties, help the Sir Call editor lay out the monthly newsletter and/or proofread the bulletin, and many other "chores" that allow the branch to function successfully.

Please consider attending one of our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) meetings to see how the organization functions and how you may be able to help. The BEC

meets at 9:00 AM, prior to every luncheon. Look at the branch website <https://www.sir146.com/> to see the Administrative committees where assistance is almost always needed and especially welcomed!

During July, two new members joined our branch: **Dave Kwinter** and **Mike Rothman**. A warm welcome to both of you; we look forward to meeting you in person, hearing some of your interesting life stories, and telling you more about ourselves and the branch.

As you think about volunteering, also consider:

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." --Elizabeth Andrew AND

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth." -- Muhammad Ali



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved by the BEC in July. We welcome **Dave Kwinter** sponsored by **Paul Beretz** and **Mike Rothman** sponsored by **Moose Kelly**. Both **Dave** and **Mike** live in Walnut Creek. **Dave** was an Attorney for Union Bank. **Mike** was CFO for Presidio Trust in San Francisco.

One member resigned. **Mike Roach** moved to sunny Arizona.

The 2021 membership count is at 289.

"SIR Event Waiver and Release of Liability for Exposure to Covid-19" was mailed out to the full membership. As of July 18th, 83.9% responded.

As the Directory will be updated monthly it is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information. In July, we had 14 updates to the Directory mainly due to updating status of spouses.

Luncheon—Thursday August 12th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker
Dr. Jon Haveman
Effects of the COVID Pandemic on the U.S.
Economy.

Gather time: 10:45 am
Seating time: 11:30am

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
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Congratulations to **Pete Gates** our July Birthday winner! Remember... you have to be Zooming to WIN!, for July, but starting in August must be attending the luncheon.

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



SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

August 12, 2021

Salad

Strawberry Spinach Salad

Baby Spinach, Strawberries, Feta Cheese
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

Chicken Piccata

Sour Cream Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Sauce with Capers

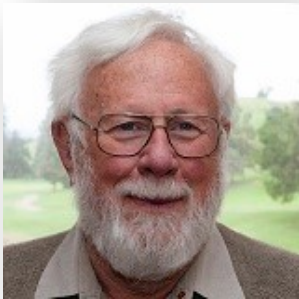
Or

Potato Crusted Cod

Alaskan Cod, Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon Chive Butter Sauce

Dessert

Pineapple Coconut Cake



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

As I was enjoying a leisurely morning on our back deck I was wondering what I could write in this August ramblings when an article in the newspaper caught my eye. It was a piece by Mami Jameson titled

A dinner party to put the pandemic in the past. It really struck a cord with me so for most of this article I'm going to quote Ms. Jameson.

"Once you feel comfortable and safe doing so vaccinated here are several ways to joyfully put the pandemic in your past...

"HAVE THE DINNER PARTY

Have lots of dinner parties. You don't have to have a reason beyond 'because we can.' Hug your neighbors. Open your arms and your doors.

"COMMEMORATE THE END

Get a piece of art to commemorate this time and to remind you, art has held societies together since the beginning of civilization.

"PRACTICE GRATITUDE

Appreciate the many small moments we have long taken for granted. Walk into a store without a mask, hold a baby, take a trip, have lunch with a friend.

"GET OFF ZOOM

Zoom has served us well in holding us together but it is time to go out and see people in person. Get back to life. Hear and feel the music. Visit a museum, Enjoy live theater. Experience life apart from a two-dimensional screen."

I do not know about the rest of you, but I have already started this process and was surprised and delighted to see how closely my actions have fulfilled her recommendations. If you haven't yet started, our upcoming meeting will perhaps offer you the incentive you need. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

I'm delighted to announce that one of our newest members, **Dave Kwinter**, is joining the editorial group for SIR-Call. Welcome aboard **Dave!**

Deadline for submissions for the September issue is August 27th.

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



August is Blond Joke month

During a recent password audit, it was found that a blonde was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"

When asked why she had such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital.

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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Internet Posting

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ross Abbott
 Marion Boyd
 Mark Curtis
 Loren DeLaurenti
 Paul Dubow
 John Fitzgerald
 Randy Graham

Roy Hodgkinson
 Brian McCarthy
 Aubrey Moore
 Rick Morgan
 Dan O'Sullivan
 Glen Renk
 Gary Schaub

William Snyder
 Bob Spellman
 Robert White
 Howard Zimmerman
 Ronald de Golia



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.

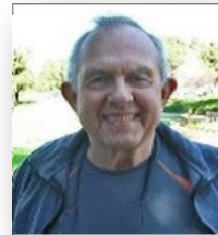
Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone (925) 324-2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Also, now that the luncheons are starting up again, if you need a ride to the luncheon or know someone who does, please contact **Jerry Benoit** by email at gsb94598@gmail.com.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

Hugh Ferguson



Joe Hunt



Stan Stricherz



Vince Rettew



July SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Rob Melrose



At the July monthly meeting, we were pleased to present **Rob Melrose** with our branch's highest award, Branch Honoree. As you know, this award is presented to members who have distinguished themselves in service to our branch over a number of years, as evidenced by their accumulation of a minimum of 45 LP.

Rob was born and raised in Michigan. His higher education and entire career have been in the computer technology field, all of which certainly qualifies him as a member in good standing of the techno-wienie club.

Rob's varied business career, all in the technology sector, included the Wells Fargo Bank after moving to CA.

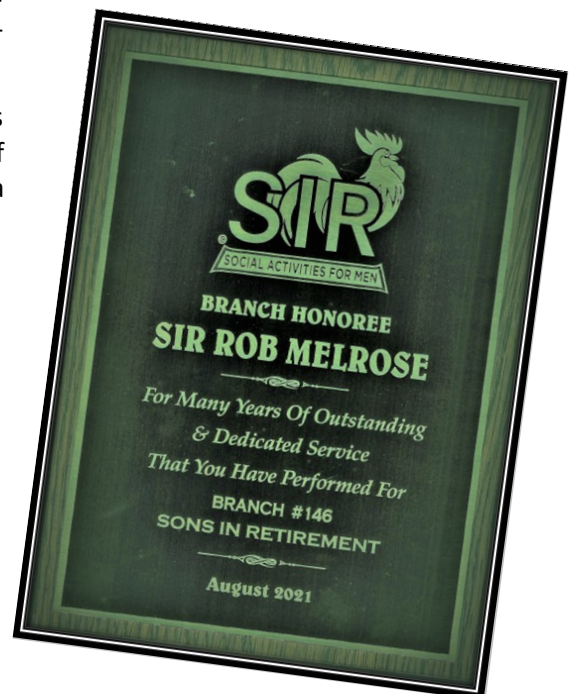
Rob joined our branch in November 2012, sponsored by **Jim Saavedra**, and immediately became active in Branch activities and volunteering.

Check out his resume: Service as Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer in 2014 & 2015, Chairman of the Luncheon Committee from 2017 to 2021, service on the Audit Committee in 2017 and 2018, Chair of Wine Tasting activity since 2015 and an Assistant Editor of the SIR-Call where he was in charge of the monthly cartoons and jokes. Wow, with such a background, I'm sure you'll agree with me that **Rob's** resume of service to our branch is second to none and he is most worthy of the Branch Honoree award.

Sadly, Branch 146 must say adios to **Rob** and his lovely wife **Carmen** as they will soon join numerous US expats as they move into their new home in Mazatlán, Mexico. As a heads up, the line to reserve a date as a house guest at **Rob's** place starts right behind me after the meeting ends.

Fellow SIR members, it's evident that Rob's service to our branch was outstanding. Please join me in congratulating **Rob** on his receipt of the Branch Honoree Award and in wishing he and **Carmen** Buena Suerte in Mazatlán.

Presenter was **Doug Eisner** at the July 8th Zoom Luncheon



July SIR Branch 146 Award Ceremony Honoring Bob Burley



At July's monthly meeting, we recognize **Bob Burley** for 20 years as a member of branch 146. This follows **Bob** becoming a Senior Sir on his 90th birthday in 2017.

Older people like us often say that during their lifetime, many things have happened and have changed, that they fondly look back on. **Bob** is certainly no exception. He was born in 1927 in a farmhouse east of Lancaster, CA with the aid of a midwife. A few days later, a country doctor came by to collect the family's \$5 to complete a birth certificate. **Bob** stayed in Antelope Valley for 18 years, attending a 4-room grade school with 4 very good teachers through the 8th grade. Then, he had a long bus ride to attend high school 11 miles away that covered a 50 square mile radius.

Growing up, the Great Depression was in full swing with no luxuries. However, his family was better off than in other parts of the country, allowing **Bob** and his siblings to be a happy lot. He relates that there are many games that can be played with little or no equipment.

His high school advisor predicted he would fail; instead, **Bob** graduated with honors and was then accepted at Occidental College. His college career was cut short by the draft. Ready to set sail for fighting in Japan, the atomic bomb was dropped, and Japan surrendered. Instead, he ended up in Korea to be a part of the occupational army. After a year in Korea, **Bob** was discharged, returning to Occidental to earn his degree. He attended dental school at USC.

In 1954 **Bob** passed the Dental Board exams and, most importantly, married **Sally Reynolds**. They moved to Walnut Creek, opened a dental practice, and never left. I am not sure how long they have lived in their home in Walnut Creek, but the word is it is a beauty. When **Bob** and **Sally** moved here, they knew no one, so they joined everything to become Walnut Creekers. This led to **Bob** joining various boards and going through their chairs. This has been rewarding. One of these organizations was our branch 146 which he joined in July 2001.

We know **Bob** was an exceptional dentist, but did you know he was also an exceptional bridge player. Bridge is one of his favorite branch 146 activities and he was consistently in the money.

Bob and **Sally** have 3 children: Brian, Steve, and Cheryl. They live in the Bay Area, and have blessed the **Burley's** with 4 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

When you next see **Bob**, please help me in congratulating and thanking **Bob** for his 20 years as a member of branch 146.

Presenter was **Jim Burk** at the July 8th Zoom Luncheon



NOTES

from Our Members



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

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

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

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

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

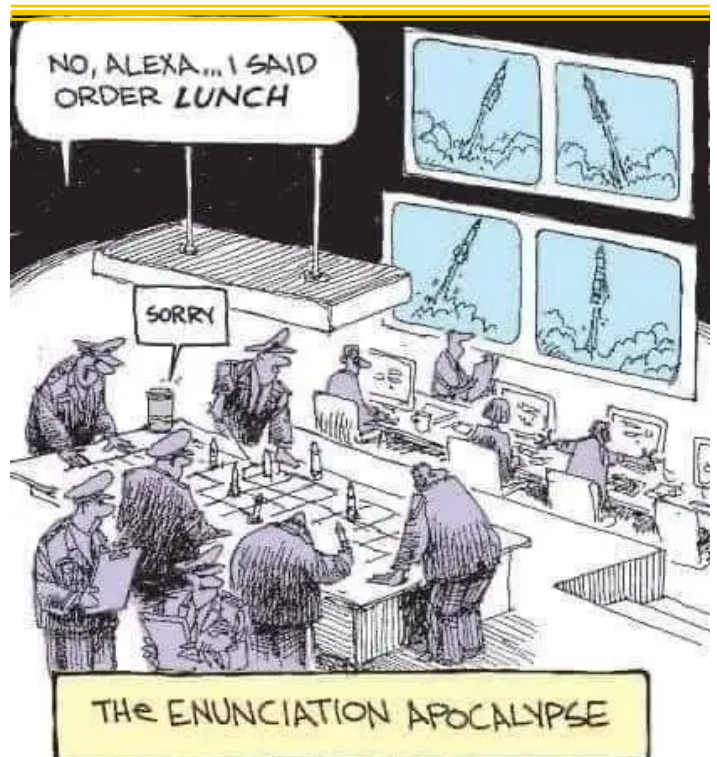
Do you need a ride to the Branch 146 Luncheons?

Or maybe you don't need a ride, but you would be willing to help someone else who is in need?

Sign up for our new ride sharing service! (It's better than Uber because it is free.)

To sign up, get in touch with Jerry Benoit (925-465-4036) or at gsb94598@gmail.com and let him know if you are in need of rides or offering to give rides. You may also contact any of the Branch officers who will pass along the information to Jerry.

Please don't offer to give rides if your current driving skills are questionable and you must have appropriate auto insurance (we will ask you about your coverage).





Looking for something to do...

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

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



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

We have a number of new members joining us. At the luncheon look for the new members wearing yellow badges, welcome them, and encourage them to join an activity. Also tell them about the SIR website, and

is trying to start a new activity. More information about this game to follow

Bob Lucido
925-899-0974
Bobwendy3@comcast.net

the newsletter. Almost half of the activities are co-ed. Talking about activities is a good way to get a conversation going with a new member.

The following activities are looking for new members or substitutes:

Bocce, Book Group, Bridge, Chess, Cribbage, Cycling, Dining Out, Fishing, Golf - 18 hole Golf - 9 hole, Hiking, Mac Computer Users, Mexican Train Dominoes, RV Wanderers, Photography, Pickleball, Pinochle, Poker Group, Men's Hearts, Song SIRS, Sushi no tomodachi, Table Pool, Table Tennis.

Sam Veneziano has graciously accepted the position as Assistant Activity Chairman before I have a nervous breakdown (my wife says it's too late). He is currently in the process of contacting all the 28 new members and reviewing with them the activities that they marked on their membership form.

Attention all Dixieland band players! **Ross Abbott** is interested in starting a new activity called the Traditional Jazz Combo. So if you're a musician and would like to play, contact Ross at 925-939-1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com

See Ross note on this under "Notes from Members"
Malcolm Harrison has a new card game called Euchre. He



Cribbage John Pearl

Ten of the SIR Branch 146 Cribbage Group met Wednesday afternoon, July 28th, at Rocco's in Walnut Creek. It was our first in-person meeting in a very long time! We dined and played,

usually simultaneously, for three hours. We started by thanking our Chief Technical Officer, **Jim Nelson** for his significant efforts in running 10 on-line tournaments during our prolonged "outage."

Our winners today were **John Kendrick**, first place, **Roger Rivers** with a very close second, third place went to **Kirk McVean** of Branch 116, and fourth place to **Ron Afdal**.

Our next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of August, the 25th, at Rocco's.

John Pearl
mcpearl@astound.net

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

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

August 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
<p>9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>
9	10	11	12	13
<p>8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #1</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting</p> <p>11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)</p>
16	17	18	19	20
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2</p> <p>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Cuattro</p>
23	24	25	26	27
<p>8:30 AM Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:30 PM Sums In Retirement Via Zoom</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis</p>	<p>7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3</p> <p>11:45 AM Sushi no tomodachi</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Photography Group Thurman Casey Library Oak Grove Rd, W.C.</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos</p> <p>8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)</p>
30	31	Sep 1	2	3
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>		<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

July 1st ride: Today with nice weather and a slight headwind we rode off to explore Blackhawk, Diablo and Macedo Ranch. Joining today's ride were: **Roger Meyer, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly, Tom Alborg, Michael Wolfson, Paul Brown, Ken**

Studer, and Larry Kaye.

We braved the winds while heading East. Making the turn at Blackhawk gave us a respite. Down thru Diablo we flew. Heading towards Macedo. The road was up and down. Into Green Valley Blind we went. Up again. The Ranch finally appeared on the top of the last hill. We entered the Ranch and immediately headed to the restrooms. Been a long ride and no-one is under fifty. The remainder of the ride was downhill with a tailwind. Of course planned for by the leader.

Back to Alamo and our steel wheels. What fun being with a group of successful men who really enjoy cycling.



Left to right. **Michael Wolfson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ken Studer, Bill Holly, Tom Alborg, Roger Meyer, Larry Kaye**

July 10th picnic: Wow. The temperature read 106'. 19 strong men and women from our cycling group were due here at our home by 5.

Sure enough, the boys some with their wives began to roll

in. **Ken Studer, Jim and Christie Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld and Judy, Moose Kelley and Mary, Tom Alborg and Annette, Bill Ross, Bob Lucido with Wendy, Scott and Tina, Roger, Pat (a new grandpa) Hoy, Bill Holly and Lynette and Michael Wolfson** and the host and hostess, **Larry and Ann Kaye.**

Food abounded, all types and all delicious. The libations were enjoyed and the guys all took off into the pool. The girls, as ladies do, all gathered around and talked about the men.

The music from Jimmy Buffett was in the air. The BBQ began at 7 and the burgers as well as Dogs vanished. Various dishes were exposed and enjoyed with the BBQ. What a blast. Everyone did a magnificent job with their choices of deserts or additions to the main meal.



Bob Lucido, Roger Meyer, Larry Kaye

As the sun set (thank G.) we were able to further enjoy the comraderie of our brothers.

Charlie, our four year young German Shepard was enjoyed by all.

With the clank of glass and the ting of cans hitting the garbage containers it became obvious that this day was coming to an end. Somewhere into the dark everyone packed up and left.

Ann and I immediately jumped into the pool and just floated. What a treat. A great day with some really terrific men and women.

I'm so proud that some years ago I took the jump into SIR. Where else in today's world could one find such an honest, caring and friendly group? I wish to extend a special thanks to **Ann** for her organization skills and her tireless skill in making everything happen seamlessly. She put in a yeoman's effort.

July 16th: it was 9 am. The riders were assembled. The sun was up and the bikes glistening. Missing was today's ride leader: **Moose. Bill Holly** called him. Seems he was riding from home to get some extra miles and was late. He is after all training for a 100K ride in September. The

Continued on next page

Cycling continued from prior page



Pat Hoy, Ann Kaye .
In the pool, L to R

Larry Kaye, Michael Wolfson, Roger Met]yer, Bob Lucido

ride today was flat and relaxing. We rode South on the Iron Horse trail to Dublin and then circled back via Doughty Blvd to a Peets. Java was enjoyed as was the facilities. Remounting we headed towards home. Down Camino Tassajara and back to our cars. Riding today was **Moose Kelley, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Tom Alborg, Michael Wolfson and Larry Kaye.**



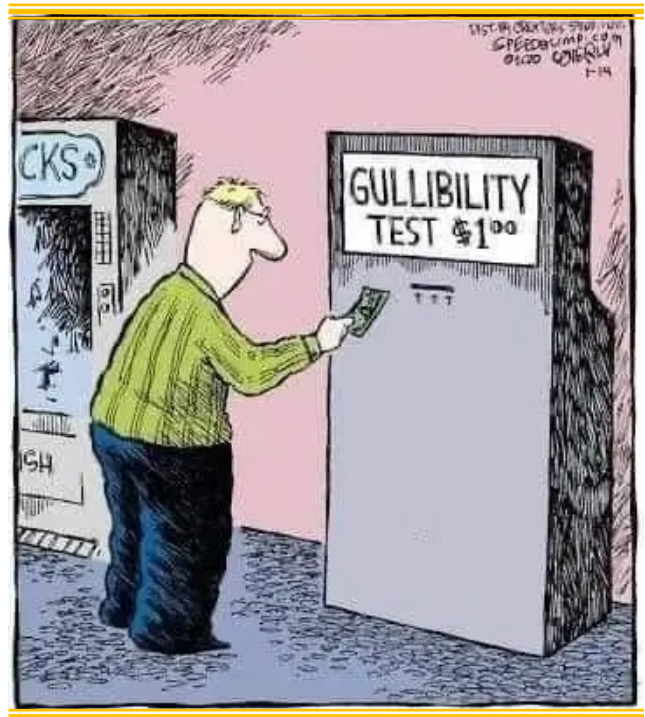
Left to right. Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Roger Meyer, Larry Kaye, Bill Ross, and Michael Wolfson

July 20: Our early morning riders consisting of SIRs **Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Roger Meyer, Paul Brown and Moose Kelly** met at Pleasant Hill Park. We started our heart thumping ride up a steady incline to Morrello Avenue where the hills were challenging for one and all. Once pass the summit, it was a clear downhill for the next couple of miles until we were on the outskirts of Martinez. We meandered the local byways of Martinez to arrive at State Street Coffee which is Roger's favorite

cafe in the local area. Quenching our caffeine addiction, we resume the ride through Martinez into the Alhambra Valley area. There were some challenging hills on Reliez Valley Road heading back to our starting destination but the ride ended with a long two mile downhill to give our cycling legs a bit of relief. The band of hill riders gave a high five as we gathered to congratulate ourselves on job well done. We will certainly be looking forward to a planned flat ride next week. Until then, stay well and keep those legs moving.

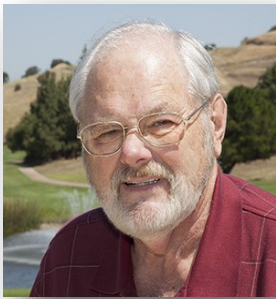
Cycling

Once a week
with no drop rides.
Exploring the entire Bay Area.
Coed.



Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."



Theater Gary Schaub

It's about time! Theater parties for SIR Branch 146 are returning!

And what better way to do this than to schedule a return visit to the California Magic Club in Martinez?



Back in April, 2019 forty SIR members and guests visited the California Magic Club for a gourmet dinner and a wonderful evening of prestidigitation by one some of the most talented magicians in the area. It was one of the most popular SIR theater parties.

SIR Branch 146 members and guests have been invited for this special evening on Friday, November 5 at 7:15 p.m. Deadline to reserve is September 30.

The California Magic Club provides an evening of good food, witty conversation and spellbinding entertainment. It's like a private dinner party. The Club seats only forty.

The magical evening begins as soon as you arrive, and the fun begins! You'll enjoy a three course dinner and signature drinks with close- up magic performed right at your table. After dessert, you'll be amazed by an hour-long stage show featuring a popular professional magician, welcomed by our host Gerry Griffin.

The California Magic Club has been presenting magical entertainment for 15 years. Dinner features a tasty fresh green salad, roasted tri-tip beef or marinated breast of chicken with seasoned vegetables and herb rice. A pasta vegetarian option is available if ordered in advance with ticket order. A tasty dessert completes the meal. Beer and wine are also available.

The California Magic Club is located at 514 Main Street at Alhambra Avenue in downtown Martinez. Street parking is available. Guests must arrive no later than 7:15 p.m.

The Club seats only forty patrons, so seating is limited! Early reservations are essential, no later than September 30. A group rate for SIR BRANCH 146 is \$89.00 per person which includes both dinner and show.

Send check payable to SIR146 to Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. For additional info, call Gary at 938-5454. Or e-mail to gschaub1@gmail.com.

IT'S MAGIC TIME FOR SIR BRANCH 146 DINNER-THEATER ON NOVEMBER 5





SongSirs Bruce Borgman

We were not able to get our ducks in a row enough to have a rehearsal in July, but the SongSirs will definitely plan to get together on August 4 to review some of our well worn songs. And, of course we will make sure we all

remember the words to "God Bless America" since we will be leading this treasured song at the in-person luncheon at Boundary Oak on August 12. This is thus also a call to all of you out there who have always wanted to sing with us. We will rehearse at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church in the Multiuse Room at 1:30pm. We encourage you to join us.

We have checked with a Skilled Nursing Facility where we used to sing, and they are anxious to have us return and put on a performance. While at this point they are still requiring masks within the facility, since we are all vaccinated, it is likely that we can be placed at a distance which will allow us to sing without masks. The requirements are evolving, and in any case we will need to have several rehearsals before we are ready to put on a performance, probably not until October.

In any case, our faithful group of singers will be returning to rehearsals on August 4, and we invite any aspiring crooners to join us.

(925) 932-3961 bgborgman@aol.com



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry Reported by Jim Barry

Massès is now open for pool. We meet every Monday at NOON. Our cost remains the same as it has been in years past;

\$5.00 for as long as you want to play.

We have been asked to park in the lot on the south side of the bushes that separates the "vacant" lot from Massès parking next to the building.

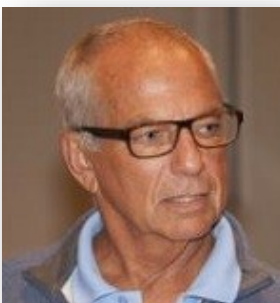


Pickleball Jim Burk

"Drop-in" Pickle ball is once again being played at the ARC at the San Ramon Valley UMC at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, 94507. All are welcome and the charge is \$5 per person per session.

The sessions are held Monday thru Friday from 9 to 1 each morning. There are 3 courts, or 12 people can compete in "doubles" format. A "wait list" is used if there are more potential users than 12.

Pickleball (925.285.3575
jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)



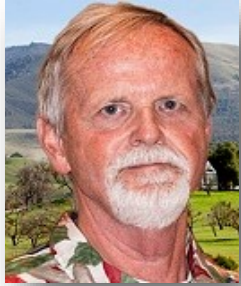
Ping Pong Ron Afdal

Table Tennis aka ping pong meets on Fridays 1 to 4 pm at the Athletic Recreation Center gymnasium, air conditioned, in Alamo. Activities started 7/9; on 7/23, 3 tables were in use

by some very active oldsters and balls were flying. There is plenty of room and available equipment for many more, so come join us if you can.

Ron Afdal (925) 825-4809
ronafdal@comcast.net





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 27th from 9 AM to 11 AM. We are meeting live and in-person at Rocco's Pizzeria located at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd in Walnut Creek. We will be following Branch 146 protocol of being vaccinated with the signed waiver for this indoor activity.

PLEASE NOTE: This location is subject to change. Ideally, we would utilize the Thurman Casey Library on Oak Grove Road as we have in the past. However, this facility is closed at present. Thus, we are going to utilize Rocco's Pizzeria. If all else fails, then we will do a Zoom Meeting.

Our theme for this meeting is Sports Photography.

The summer months have many different sports that are being played professionally and or at an amateur level. Take your camera and go photograph a swim meet, a baseball game, or whatever other sporting events that are available in your area. Since the subjects will be moving quickly, practice your photography skills with using different aperture settings. Once you have completed this assignment, put your pictures on a thumb drive and bring them to the meeting.

I will be forwarding an agenda by email roughly one week prior to our August 27th meeting.

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

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

Email **John (Moose) Kelly** at rollingstone911@yahoo.com or text/call at 610.517.0152 or

Henry Thatcher at 1henrythatcher@gmail.com or text/call at 925.997.5032

Bocce John Kendrick

On Monday, July 12, the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity had their first 2021 meeting at Newhall Park Bocce Ball Courts in Concord. In my vacation absence, **Peter Plante** was my replacement and took the role, checked for the necessary Covid-19 paperwork, and provided a few photos of the players during the games. A couple of our members included their wives in the games.



Photo by Peter Plante

Roy Hodgkinson

Rain Cancels Play.
Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick (925) 827-0585
jmkendrick23@gmail.com

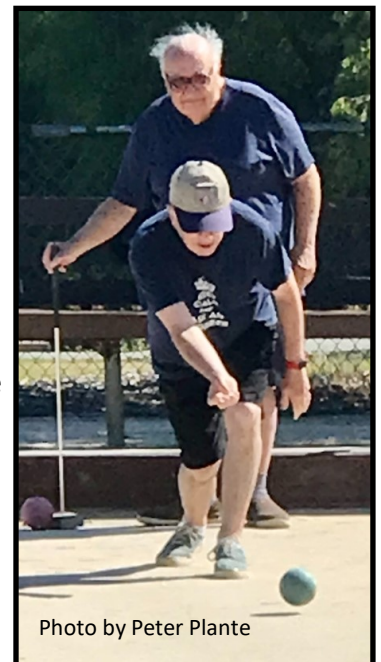


Photo by Peter Plante

**Jerry Kaplan
&
George Sabbaghe**

The blond guy is praying to God:
"Dear God, let me win the lottery."
Nothing happens so next week again
"Dear God, let me win the lottery."
Once again, nothing.
"Dear God, please, please let me win the lottery."
God: "Ok, you have to work with me on this.
Go buy a ticket."



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The biggest news of the month was the wind. What started out as a promising salmon season was decimated by substantial wind every day in July. Nevertheless, those of us who did not suffer from mal de mer did venture out into the ocean with mixed results.

Our best effort was accomplished by **Carl Moyer**, **Bob Stein**, and **Brion Beetz**, who with three other fishermen boated ten salmon fishing on the Sundance. But the poundage trophy for the month went to **Duane Einhorn** of Branch 146, who caught two 15 pound salmon on the C Gull II.

Pedro Contreras, joined by **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146 and **Steve Paulick**, bounced his boat across the Bay and through the Golden Gate, hoping for better conditions in the ocean. It was not to be, and it was a frustrating day. The trio landed a silver salmon, which was released, and a king salmon barely over the 20 inch minimum. On another occasion, **Rich** did not even bother to fish for salmon and instead picked up six rockfish and a 5 lb. lingcod.

Paul Dubow and his son and grandson sailed out of the Bay on the Diamond and encountered the roughest ocean that **Paul** has ever fished on. The boat contained three other fishermen, who had left Fresno at midnight in the hope of bringing home a salmon feed only to come up empty handed and be struck with a bout of seasickness. **Paul** and his group did a little better. **Paul** caught one salmon and his grandson scored with two salmon and a 13 lb. striper. The captain reported that it was the first striper that he had seen in the ocean this year.

Those of us who were smart enough to avoid the ocean and fish elsewhere had far more pleasant outings. **Chuck Cornell** of Branch 146 traveled to Lake Almanor and caught eight rainbow trout over two days, all in excess of five pounds. **Steve Lane** of Branch 146 caught quite a few trout in Sardine Lake. He also tried his hand at fly fishing in the north branch of the Yuba River. The fish were feeding heavily, but **Steve** could not come up with a fly to the trout's liking. **Martin Steinpress** of Branch 146 went fly fishing on several rivers in Montana and caught a lot of trout. **Phil Scimonelli** and his wife caught limits of kokanee in Boca Reservoir outside of Truckee, while **Brion Beetz** and **Stan Wong** got some kokes closer to home at Lake Berryessa.

The Bay and Delta were also productive. **Ken Bellinder** started out on an ocean trip, but then decided to stay in the Bay, where he landed a large halibut. **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 as well as **Tom Kostik**, **Phil Scimonelli**, and **Stan Wong** caught stripers in the Delta. **Harry Sherinian** made several trips to the Delta for black bass and was successful each time.

Our next meeting is at 8:30 am on August 26. But most of us assemble earlier, beginning at 7:30 am, for breakfast and good talk. If you are interested in joining our group, you can do so even if you have never fished or haven't fished in years. Just show up, or better yet, contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 beforehand and let us know that you are coming. You will enjoy the camaraderie and you will have the opportunity to sign up for the many fishing outings on our calendar.



I bet my wife a dollar I wouldn't buy another fishing rod. She wins a dollar, I get a new fishing rod, everyone's happy!

A blond man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart." "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor. "No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!"



Travel Milt Smith

Travel Opportunities

As of this writing our Branch has one trip on the books and ready for sign up, it is the **Princess Cruise from Ft. Lauderdale to San Francisco next March**, and it is listed here. If you are interested, we have one couple

signed up so far, I'd say you better hurry, these cruises are filling fast.

BLUE ANGLES / FLEET WEEK : Fleet Week and the Blue Angels will happen this year...Oct. 3-11. I am in contact with The Travel Center, they are trying to arrange a day-trip. More to come, this may require fast action so be prepared.

AND...I am looking for a SIR buddy to help out as Branch 146 Travel Co-Chair. Call me please...925-285-2897

PRINCESS CRUISE: Fort Lauderdale to San Francisco aboard the Ruby Princess sailing March 12-17, 2022 via the Panama Canal, ports of call: Cartagena, Colombia; Panama Canal (new locks); Panama City; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua; Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; and San Francisco. **Balcony Staterooms starting at \$3,824 pp. Ocean view at \$3,369** Contact Milt Smith SIR BRANCH 146 miltsmith549@gmail.com or contact Lisa Mittone, agent, directly at lisa@tctat.com 800-528-2223 be sure to mention SIR BRANCH 146

Louisville to Nashville - September 16-24, 2021

Featuring a tour of Churchill Downs and the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Including 2 nights in Louisville, Asheville, and Nashville Price \$3,995

This trip is a go at this time.

At this time vaccination or test is needed 72 hours before trip.

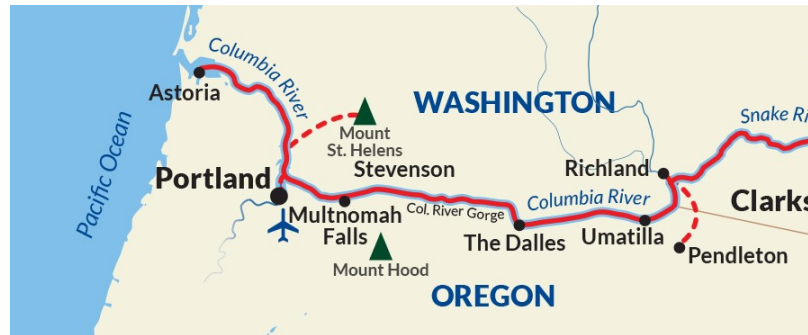
Contact Bill Stires Branch #143 at 209-988-5445 or email bstires46@gmail.com if interested in the trip.

Holland Tulip Festival Tour Featuring Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel May 12 -19, 2022 Price: \$3,895 Per Person Double Occupancy \$5,375 Single Deposit \$650 per person, final payment January 10, 2022. Contact Bill Stires Branch #143 at 209-988-5445 or email bstires46@gmail.com if interested in the trip.

Contact Bill Stires Branch #143 at 209-988-5445 or email

bstires46@gmail.com if interested in the trip

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. tmat54@gmail.com Or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223 be sure to mention Branch 128.

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





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Clint Collier

Sushi no tomodachi loosely translates to Sushi Friends. We are a group of friends within SIR that enjoy both friendship

and sushi and believe that both enhance the other.

Our next lunch will be Thursday, August 26th, 11:30 at [House of Sake](#) in Walnut Creek. Sake is an interesting word in Japanese, at least from a non-fluent's perspective. Sake is both the rice wine drink we all love as well as salmon. You have to hear them pronounced in order to tell the difference! Their name comes from the second meaning, salmon, and they specialize in dishes made from this fish. Be sure to try their Seared Salmon Nigiri sushi! Different and delicious.

If you will be joining us, please contact me; the size of our group is limited but we still have room for new members. Deadline for RSVPing is Friday August 20th! Members... don't forget your Masu!

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



A friend told the blond man: "Christmas is on a Friday this year."
The blond man then said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th."



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Corrie Orange hosted the Cooking II group's July 12th Luncheon at his beautiful Concord home. **Corrie** started us off with a fantastic appetizer spread of cheeses, salami, nuts and crackers. The appetizer hit was

the bacon-wrapped, brown sugar roasted chestnuts. The main course was a unique Facebook recipe of filleted chicken breasts covered with mozzarella cheese which was accompanied by gnocchi in marinara sauce. **Corrie** saved the best for last, serving an unbelievable Tres Leches Cake. Everyone brought a bottle of wine to share, which led to interesting conversation. Next month, the Cooking II group will be hosted by **Ken Richter** on August 9, 2021.



"Hey, bucko...I'm through begging."



Cooking Lunch & Wine Bob Spellman

We met at **Bill Hartman's** home this month and enjoyed a summer meal of appetizers, hot dogs, potato salad, along with refreshments of choice. Participates included **Pete Gates, Syd Whalen, Paul Dubow,**

Dick Woodman, Bob Spellman and **Joe Barry**. Fun was had by all.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group enjoyed a wonderful event this last Monday, July 19, at Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill. We pretty well stuck to our limit of 40 for this initial event, and wound up with 43 diners. We were sorry that we could not accommodate the additional couples. As it turned out, having somewhat fewer number of diners did make the experience more pleasant, and several of our group commented that it was a very fun time. **Henry Thatcher** took a number of pictures of the event and you will see just one in this issue of the newsletter. True to our experience in previous times with this restaurant, we had a great dinner, which started with a choice of soup or salad, and then a choice of six entrees, all of which were delicious, and finished with cheesecake for dessert.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Larry Kaye, Pete Gates, Richard Hockenbrock, Don Rhoads, Barbara Elenteny, Ann Gates, and Ann Kaye.

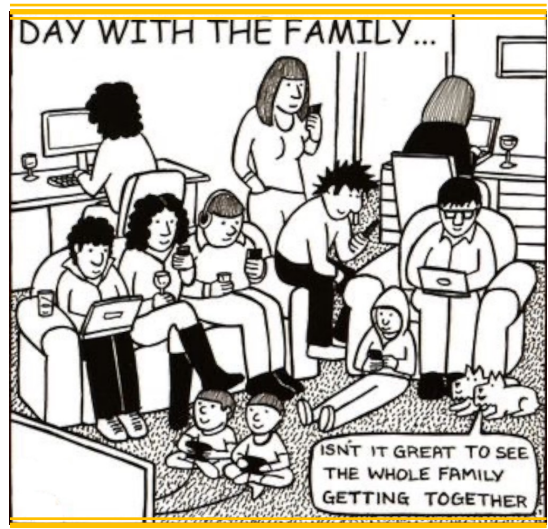
This event has given us pause on how to organize other dining events. It may be that we will stick with smaller groups and do the event over two evenings as we've done a few times in the past. We would ask a couple of our group to host the second evening. Our next Couples Dining Out event will be in September and we are already starting to look at where we might go. You may have seen a recent article in the Chronicle about the restaurant scene in Walnut Creek. While we have lost some venerable restaurants in recent months, it appears that other unique eating establishments are coming to this area.

I do want to note that we have had some new members join our branch in recent months despite the fact that we have not had luncheons in person. Many of these new

members had indicated an interest in Dining Out and we want to be sure that they have an opportunity to participate in our popular activity. To that end, we will add these new members to our mailing list. We also want to be sure that new members do not get left out and we will therefore make extra efforts to ensure that they are able to sign up for our Couples Dining Out events.

We will likely have our September Dining Out event on Monday, and maybe Tuesday Sept 20th and 21st. Watch for the announcement and we look forward to seeing you then!

bgborgman@aol.com



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

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

Co-chairs:

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and

Jim Pope 925-699-6447

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Jerry Kaplan

After re-starting the Game Night activities at a measured pace (holding three separate smaller group get togethers), we think we are ready to forge forward in an all-out

event, meeting at Little Sir **Jerry Kaplan** and wife **Susan's** home in August for all 18 players! Thanks to **Martha Plante** for arranging people and places to attend the three smaller Game Nights for the last three months!

On July 9th, SIR member **Steve Ybarra** and his wife, Dana,



Seated, left to right: **Dana Ybarra, Nancy Kalteis, Susan Kaplan, Steve Ybarra, and Sig Kalteis**
(picture taken by **Jerry Kaplan** in the mirror)

hosted one of the small groups at their inviting Concord home. **Jerry** and wife, **Susan** attended as well as **Sig Kalteis** and his wife, **Nancy**. Along with lots of munchies and nibbles, a delicious apricot cobbler with ice cream was provided at the break. We had so much catching up to do during visiting time that we only played a total of five hands. **Jerry** took home first place with an average of 12.8, followed by the hosts, **Dana** (16.2) and **Steve** with an average score of 17.

SIR member **Peter Plante** and his wife, **Martha**, hosted a second group of players, including **Jeff Baily**, and his wife, **Alicia**, as well as **Big Sir Richard Hockenbrock**. While still taking time to visit and enjoy delicious treats and a peach torte with whipped cream at the break, the group was able to play all 13 pips from the double 12 to the dreaded double zero. **Alicia** took home the first place winnings, averaging 15.8, followed by **Richard** (26.8) and then **Peter** (27.8).



Photo by Martha Plante

The evening winners were **Alicia Baily, Richard Hockenbrock, and Peter Plante**

The third group was hosted by SIR member **Corrie Oranje** and his wife **Sue** and included **Bruce Borgman**, his wife, **Sue Sheldon, Jim Stedman**, and one of our favorite couples who will soon be leaving us for the Mexican coast as ex-pats, **Rob Melrose**, and his wife, **Carmen Schiavone**. **The Oranje's** provided delicious treats throughout the evening as well as a delightful Pastel de Nata (Portuguese custard tarts) and cream puffs at "halftime." **Bruce**, who also kept score over the 8 games played, was by far the winner with a very low average score of 9.5, followed by **Rob** (19.9) and then **Carmen** (21.0).

Mexican Train Dominoes is fun to play. All SIR members are welcome, as are their spouses and partners. A new group, Ocho, is being started by our Big Sir, **Richard Hockenbrock**. Check it out!



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

Boy, it was a tough month for MTD2! First, the chairperson (oops, that's me!) forgot about the night. While I'm pumping gas at COSTCO I get a call asking where we are! Well, we got

there late but had a great time at the home of **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni MacLean**.

Then, the tiles were hot (for some!) with **Rich Ahlf** coming in 1st again with a tremendous 8.8 average for the night! Following was **Nancy Pearl** with a 12.4 average and **Bill Holly** with a 13.5. The rest of us simply enjoyed the food and drink and swore we'd get back another night!

Third, though a good news item, we had a new couple join us for the first time, **Bob Lucido** and his lady, **Wendy** have joined MTD Dos. We're still looking for one more couple but think we may have one in the wings.

Please contact
Ron Plachy (rjplachy@icloud.com)
if interested.



Grupo Quattro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes 4 Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train group met Friday night, July 16th at the **Pope's** house. We had 16 members show up: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher**,

Don and June Seaton, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Dick and Leslie Firth**, **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Ken and Carol Soult**, **Steve and Susan Oki** (New Member) and **Jim and Renie Pope**. We had not met since January 2020 and everyone was ready to get reacquainted and catch up. We had wonderful snacks provided mostly by **Fran Matthews** and **Christy DeVoe** but several others pitched in with goodies. Wine was provided by several of the men in the group. All in all, there was plenty of snacks and wine to go around. It was all very tasty.

Now the Mexican Train results. There were 3 tables of 6, 5 and 5 so the game moved swiftly. Each table declared a winner. **Christy DeVoe** had the lowest score of the three tables and received 6-\$1 Lotto tickets. **Ron Louis** and **Barbara Thatcher** were the other two winners and each received 5-\$1 Lotto tickets.

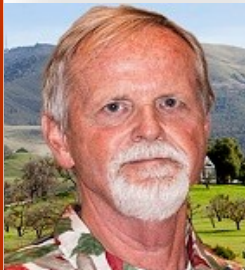
A great time was had by all and we'll be back together on August 20th to do it again..



Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Seis 6



Mexican Train Dominoes

John "Moose" Kelly

We started Mexican Train Dominoes (muy bien!!) last month in two separate locations July 28th .

Don and Etta Dotson (Thank you!) hosted 8 players. The following players were at the Dotson's household:

- Bruce Borgman and Susan Sheldon
- Bob and Jane West
- Kathe Mitchell
- Richard Hockenbrock

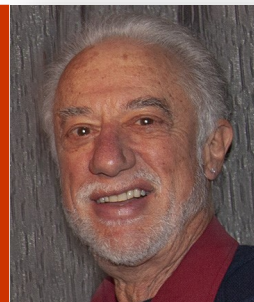
Peter and Martha Plante (Thank you!) will host 8 players as well.

- Brian and Mary McCarthy
- Steve and Carol Lane
- Mary Schmidt and Moose Kelly

Thanks for your patience in getting Mexican Train Group# 6 back up and running. I am looking forward to getting together as a total group perhaps in September. Let see how everything shakes out and go from there. Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 is in need of substitutes. Couples or single men are welcome to join. If interested, then please drop me an email at Rollingstone911@yahoo.com OR call **Moose Kelly** at 610.517.0152.



Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

Dale and Mary Ellen hosted our MTD group this month.

Dale put on soothing music, but that didn't help because all the shouting, and whooping drowned it out.



From left to right: **Jane West, Wendy Lucido, Mary McCarthy, Bob Wilkenfeld**, (who is a good sport even though all the women were making fun of the only man at the table), **Mary Ellen Dalgard, and Judy Wilkenfeld.**



From left to right **Clint Collier, Dale Dalgard, Bev Collier** (who is trying to hide her identity with domino tiles), **Bob West, and Bryan McCarthy**

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Grupo Siete 7



Jane West in smiling because she won big \$, but Bob Lucido lost big and also lost big on the lotto ticket.

Grupo Ocho 8



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 8

Richard Hockenbrock

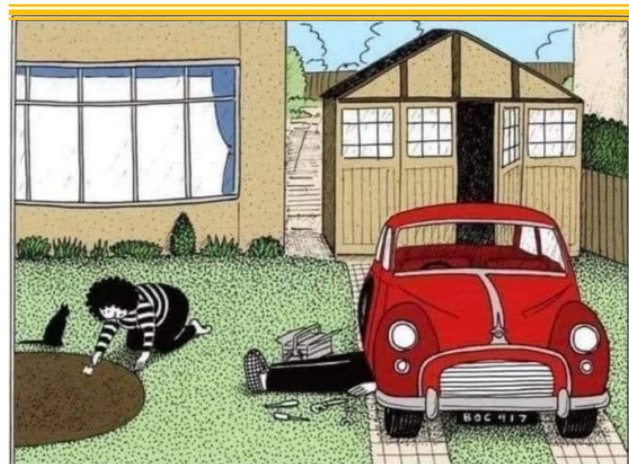
Mexican Train Dominoes numero OCHO or eight in English is taking reservations

to inaugurate game play on September 28th or 29th. The aim of MTD 8 will be somewhat different than the other MTD groups.

- 1) MTD 8 will seek to attract all those members who wanted to play MTD in other groups but did not have room in their house to host. All games will be played at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**, but he will initiate the concept of visiting hosts who will be responsible for bringing snacks and drink to the games when it is their turn.
- 2) MTD 8 wants to encourage SIR members and guests who have never played MTD to come to one of the ongoing planned training sessions.
- 3) MTD 8 will be open to all SIR members and guests including singles, wives, and significant others. MTD 8 is especially interested having new members to try out MTD and experience why game playing with other members and wives, partners, etc. is so much fun.

Cell: (925) 324-1713
email: RLHOCK@outlook.com

A blond man is in jail, the guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.
 "Just WHAT are you doing?" he asks.
 "Hanging myself," the blonde replies.
 "The rope should be around your neck," says the guard. "I tried that," he replies, "but then I couldn't breathe."



FOR MANY YEARS FRED'S SECRET SUNDAY AFTERNOON NAPS WENT UNDETECTED



SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

The featured walk/hike for August will be at East Bay Regional Park at Redwood Regional Park in Oakland on Monday, August 16. We will start at the Canyon

Meadow staging area which is accessible via the Redwood Gate at the south end of the park. My intention is to walk north on the Stream Trail and then go up the Tres Sendas trail to either the West Ridge trail or the French trail. This will be about 6 miles with almost 1000 feet of climb. For those that prefer level walks, you can just return the parking lot via the Stream trail, which is about 3 miles round trip. This route is in 90% shade, so even on a warm day in August, this should be a comfortable hike. However, please bring plenty of water! And we will start this hike at 10 AM sharp.

Directions from WC: take 24 west to 13 south, and exit on Redwood Rd. It's probably 5 miles or so on a fairly windy 2 lane road to the park entrance at Redwood gate,

Recent hikes have been to Del Valle, Point Pinole, and



Photo by: Mark Curtis

Lake Chabot for which I'm enclosing a few photos. The gentlemen who have participated in recent hikes are **Ray Martz, Earl Bates, Mike Browne, Pete Gates, Bob Lucido**, and me.

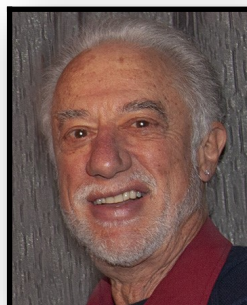
It's probably too early to tell if the change from Friday to Monday walks has increased participation. But the Monday walks will continue for the time being.

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



Photo by: Mark Curtis

group photo from recent Lake Chabot hike
Ray Martz, Mike Browne, Earl Bates, Pete Gates, and Bob Lucido



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

This Month the RV group went to Russian River to get away from the heat, but that didn't work. The river was so low the people were wading across the lake.

Don & Edda Dotson joined **Bob & Wendy Lucido** as we traded cooking dinners two nights, went out to a wonderful dinner at a restaurant overlooking the river in Rio Nido .

Bob Lucido (925) 899-0974
bobwendy3@comcast.net



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner will be back in August as well as September to honor several requests. Bring back all the books you have been saving for the last 16 months and we will have a great number of new ones to take home.





Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

Four members of the SIR 146 Book Group met Monday, July 26 th , at the Greenery in Walnut Creek. Our first order of business was to welcome our newest member, Mike Rothman, who is also a very

new SIR member.

Our book this past month was *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story*, by the local author, Michael Lewis.

This is the story of the early days and the ongoing efforts to contain and control the Covid-19 virus. The lead characters in the book were a group of seven who were experts in their various fields, and were given the name the “Wolverines.” These people were experts in their various fields, but did not enjoy major recognition by the public. From the book:

Michael Lewis: The Wolverines were a group of seven doctors, all of whom at one point or another had worked in the White House together, and who stayed in contact and kind of helped the country navigate various, various previous disease outbreaks. But they weren't in the decision making apparatus in the U.S. government.

His on-screen interview: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/michael-lewis-premonition-60-minutes-2021-05-02/>

Much of the book focused on the dysfunction of the government at many levels, with people in positions of power being political appointees who were not always equipped to handle their jobs. The major character here was a doctor named Charity Dean, who had been a public health doctor and then the public health officer in Santa Barbara County, who was recruited to be the State’s public health assistant director. She had worked long and hard to learn about Covid-19 and the treatment approaches that could work. The Covid-19 problem in California continued to worsen and the public health director resigned. Dr. Dean assumed she would be the next public health director, but our governor brought in another person with no experience in this field who had better “optics.” Dr. Dean did get an audience with the governor, who was all ears on this subject.

Apparently the most recent efforts to deal with a pandemic began when President George W. Bush read a book on the subject, *The Great Influenza: the Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History*, by John Barry, which covered the 1918 “Spanish Flu” pandemic. The President

then began the effort to prepare for another such event, but the effort faded with the next administration, and President Trump did not pick up the ball on this.

Technology problems also surfaced, with institutions that used fax machines or sometimes did not even have fax machines unable to acquire free test kits because their computers would not accept “0” in the cost field (sound familiar?).

The CDC and the WHO came in for plenty of criticism also. The CDC requirement that test kits be produced by and purchased from it stalled the testing program, while the Wolverine group’s model said that focused testing and quick turnaround time were absolutely necessary. The group had lots of data to back up its positions. One of the group reminded us of a saying in the business of putting out fires, “if you wait for the smoke to clear, it’s too late.”

I learned of the legal power and authority that the officials in the public health arena have, such as when they order a shutdown of say, schools. Yes, in California they have that legal authority. The rules vary significantly from state to state.

Most of us thought this was an easy read, and something of a page turner, and illustrated the tug-of-war between the “little people” with the knowledge doing the real work and the people who wished to present the best information without causing a panic.

The book is germane to our time, and frames the battle as it happened. If we ever do put this to bed, what preplanned responses will be in place next time something like this happens? Will the binder with the instructions be empty?

The book chosen for next month is *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell, a story of William Shakespeare’s wife and family, about which little is known. Speculation is that the son named Hamnet was the inspiration for Hamlet.

We meet next on Monday, August 23rd , at the Greenery.

A blonde man is in the bathroom, and his wife shouts: "Did you find the shampoo?"
He answers, "Yes, but I'm not sure what to do... it's for dry hair, and I've just wet mine."



Pinochle
Charlie
Kahsen &
Jeff Morrow

GOOD NEWS!



Pinochle restarted in-person play on Wednesday June 23rd and it was great to get together again after the long absence. We'll continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

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

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

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

Charlie Kahsen

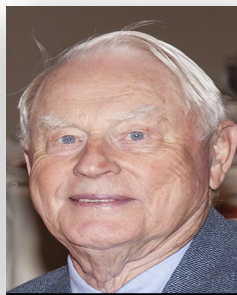
(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group Verner Laursen

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

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

vern.laursen@gmail.com



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Times have changed.

It was sad to see that the rest of this year's away golf events will be canceled. Away golf has been a long-standing branch tradition and in the past we have been successful in making group reservations without the need for upfront payments. In fact, courses have reached out and invited us to set a date. But then we had a history of showing up in the expected numbers.

In a related matter, we did not have enough members sign up for the Branch 8 challenge event on August 5. I wonder if this is less a lack of enthusiasm for golf and more a bit of a covid aftereffect.

One of Tuesday Golf pleasures is the 19th hole, and it's not just the beer. One of the subjects tackled there recently were the red marks on and around the greens at Boundary Oak. Apparently these are to prepare for a tournament. They mark a pin placement and define the desired dimensions for the greens.



"Hold these. I have to go back for my Wife"

Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco



I'm pleased to announce that Couples Party Bridge is scheduled to re-activate on August 3rd and will be hosted by **Tony & Cindy Greco**. It will be 1 year and 5 months since Couples Party Bridge last played. All of our regular players listed below have indicated their continued desire to play again:

Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean
Jerry & Chris Benoit
Larry & Linda Brown
 (John & Kathy Kluesener subbing for August)
Dick & Christy DeVoe
Tony & Cindy Greco
Brad & Lynne Hatcher

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

Tony & Cindy Greco

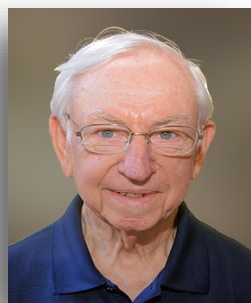
(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



"You're fired, Jack. The lab results just came back, and you tested positive for Coke."



**Party
Bridge**
Jim Pope
 &
Jim Stedman



SIR Party Bridge is meeting on August 2nd at **Jim Stedman's** place, at Waterford in Walnut Creek. We meet monthly at a SIR member's house that they host for the game with 12 players and 3 tables.

If you are interested in playing Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope** to get signed up and put on the email list.

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





Men's Duplicate Bridge 1 Dave Pierce

Duplicate Bridge 1 which historically has played on the third Monday of each month recommenced its games in June. **Max Hinkle** is serving as interim coordinator until **Dave Pierce** is

able to reassume that role. **Rich Ahlf** hosted this game where the winners were **Ed Marlovits** in first place, **Jim Stedman** in second and **Brad Hatcher** in third. Due to the inexperience of the interim coordinator no picture was taken of these winners.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group began playing post-COVID once again, with three tables at **Dick DeVoe's** home on May 27. We used this time to get reacquainted with the game as well as each other! We then began bragging rights once again, with the following results:

Best Partners (maximum 6 pts.):

- #1- **Tony Greco/Brad Hatcher** (5.5 pts., Bds 22-24).
- #2- **Tony Greco/Doug Eisner** (5 pts., Bds. 4-6).

Highest Scores-Total:

- #1- **Tie- Rich Ahlf, Dick DeVoe** 29.5 points,
- #3- **Ray Spears** 28.0.

Most Twos:

- #1- **Tie- Rich Ahlf, Dick DeVoe** 10.
- #3- **Brad Hatcher** 9.

Least Zeros:

- #1- **Rich Ahlf** 4.
- #2- **Tie- Dick DeVoe, Joe Fuchs, John Kluesener, Ray Spears** 5.

Best Partners (maximum 6 pts.):

- #1- 6.0 pts. **Tie- Ahlf/Whitaker** (Bds 4-6) and **DeVoe/Hatcher** (Bds. 22-24).
- #3- 5.5 pts. **Tie- Spears/DeVoe** (Bds. 1-3) and **Ahlf/Hinkle** (Bds. 10-12).



Photo by Jim Pope

Rich Ahlf, Jim Stedman, Dave Steinberg

Our July game was hosted by **Bob Yolland**. Winners there were **Jim Stedman** in first place and in a tie for second were **Dave Steinberg** and **Rich Ahlf**. Our next game will be hosted by

Jim Pope on August 16.

If you are an experienced bridge player and interested in playing some duplicate bridge with our group please contact me at hinklemax3@gmail.com or on my cell at 925-408-6004.

Max Hinkle



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com

Couples Duplicate Bridge #1 met for the first time on July 21 after a 17 month hiatus. Hugs and

handshakes were aplenty! **Margot Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** were the hosts, serving an array of snacks along with nice wine and soft drinks. Lots of chat about the "lost 17 months".

A new couple to SIR, **Bud and Gloria Pearse** were guests to the group and took a solid third place with 21.5 points for the night and hopefully will join us at future gatherings as permanent members. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** took second place with 22 overall points. First place honors went to the hosts, **Margot and Daphne** who had a total of 24 points including 6 twos.



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since our July Sir Call report, we have had online matches on Friday July 9th, and in-person on July 23rd.

July match summaries: **Bill Vizza** and **Bob West** each won 3 games, followed by **Frank Lucas, Bob Finlayson and Ron Polivka** with 2. **Bob Finlayson** had 4 seconds, followed by **Frank Lucas** and **Bob West** with 3. **Frank Lucas**, had 3 "Shoot the Moons" followed by **Bob West** with 2. In lowest average score, **Steve Ybarra** led with 77, followed by **Bob West** with 74.

YTD Statistics:

Wins: **Bob Finlayson** leads with 19 followed by **Ray Bland** with 17 and **Bob West** with 16. **Ray Bland** won 43% of his games, followed by **Bob Finlayson** at 40% and **Ron Polivka** at 35%. Lowest average score, is led by **Ray Bland** with 71, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 73. "Shoot the Moon", is led by **Ray Bland** with 10, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 9 and **George Sabbagha** with 7. **Ray "STM"** in 25% of his games and **Frank** in 23%. 2nds, are led by **Brian McCarthy** and **Bob West** with 16, and **Frank Lucas** with 15. The best "sheriff's " are **Bob West** with having had an uncovered call in only 4% of his games, and **Rich Lyon** with 5%.

Future Meetings: In August, we will be playing online on the 2nd Friday, August 13th at 1pm, and in person at Rocco's on the 4th Friday, August 27th, at 12:45pm.

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



Poker Groups

Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan



Poker Group #1 will start playing August 11th . We will meet at my home, 3340 McKean Dr. Concord. We have 1 player who is on vacation, I will call for a sub .

Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher



We will play on 8/5 with some oldies and some newbies. But we have survived the Covid shutdown. Enjoy!

Tel: (925) 935-1571

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



An Italian tourist asks a blond man: "Why do scuba divers always fall backward off their boats?"

To which the blond man replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group



Computers and Technology Bill Phelon Chairman

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

The SIR Area 16 Computer & Technology Group will be having a Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 19th at 9:30 AM. (The Zoom doors will open at 9:15 AM so come a little early to chat with friends).

The August presentation topic will be Windows 11 by CAT Director Frank May. His presentation will discuss the current functionality and status of Windows 10 and the move by Microsoft to Windows 11. Why is Microsoft moving away from providing updates to Windows 10 to requiring Windows 11 and what does that mean to individual users of Windows? Much of the new functionality revolves around the need to beef up security. What is being added and why is it important? What additional functionality and features can we expect? At this point it looks like many recent machines may not run Windows 11 because of processor requirements. Will try to give the latest on what are the basic requirements for the newOS.

To attend the Zoom meeting, individuals need to sign-up for the CAT's mailing list by sending an email to SL-RArea2CAT@gmail.com. A few days before the meeting, a Zoom web link that is needed to connect will be sent to members on the mailing list.

rphelon@juno.com
925.254.8338

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their 4th Wed, August 25, Zoom meeting at 1:30 PM.

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



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

SIR State Information

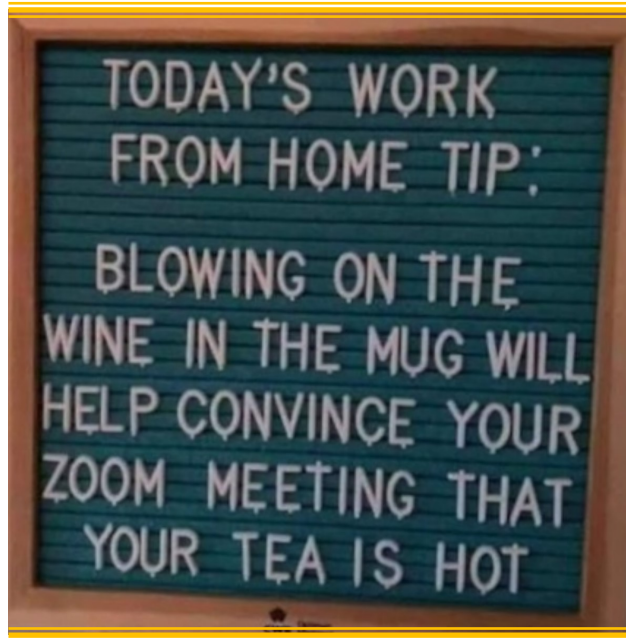


<https://sirinc.org/>

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



Hopefully, this will be our last Zoom joke!

Did you find them all?
Hope you enjoyed all of our blonde jokes.
Probably not quite what was expected but it
does demonstrate that we are an equal
opportunity offender.
