



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

# Call

July–August 2024



## Big Sir's Corner

We continue to grow our membership with 3 new members added this July bringing our total for the year to 29 new members. The average age of these new members is 65+, which is close to the average of all

our recent additions. We now have a couple of “kids” who are in their 50s!! I am not sure I can remember back to when I was in my 50s! I think we need to make sure that we have the right set of activities in place to attract and keep our younger members. Some may even be only in partial retirement, so we may need to look at activities like golf, bocce, cycling, hiking, etc. to make sure we have activities that meet their timing constraints like evenings and weekends.

Which brings me to the results of a recent STATE SIR ZOOM meeting that was focused on the Way Forward for SIR. As I mentioned before, statewide, our membership is way down and this presents problems for the organization. Our overhead costs are mostly fixed tied to insurance, annual business license costs, and state taxes. We have something like 100 or so Branches and 8400 members so the average branch has about 84 members. Our branch is among the five largest with 269 members and our membership is increasing. Only about 1/3 of the branches are increasing, 1/3 are static and 1/3 are decreasing. If our current downtrend in membership continues at its current pace the state estimates that we will be out of business in 5 to 10 years. Given the physical, health and emotional benefits of an active lifestyle, that would be a disaster for men as they transition from an active business-oriented lifestyle to one with too much free-time. This problem is not limited to SIRs: the Elks, VA organizations, Kiwani, churches are all are experiencing the aging issue of members and lack of interest from potential new members. The State SIR team is looking at a Way Forward to mitigate these

problems and to rejuvenate the organization and is looking for insight from the branches to make that happen. Here are some of the ideas they are considering and my understanding of their their reasoning (or my insight).

- Change the name of SIRs. Outsiders are not sure what SIR means (are we British aristocracy?) and it is too restrictive (men only?) State is proposing a contest for a new name with a \$500 prize
- Our Rooster is outdated-we need a new logo. State is also looking to invest \$500 in prize money to the winner of a new [logo](#)

Continued on next page

## Activities for you...

- [Explore and Eat: Oxbow](#) Page 28
- [99 bottles of beer on the wall](#) Page 29
- [Bocce is a ball!](#) Page 23
- [Fleet Week](#) Page 42
- [Take a Hike!](#) Page 21
- [Take me out to the ball game](#) Page 43
- [Need a good read?](#) Page 25

**Luncheon**  
**Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Boundary Oak 11:30**

Fernando Ramirez  
CA Department of Water Resources

A reservation is required!  
To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3. (click Here!)

contest. (Is Rooster too male?)

- Current membership averages 80+ years and we 80+ folks feel we have volunteered enough. Need the new, younger members to step up.
- Delete *retirement*. If we want to attract younger men retirement in our by-laws may be an impediment.
- Consider scheduling some activities on weekends to make activities more available to non-retirees.
- How do we attract younger members???
- We need to get our brand out to the community so they recognize its benefits. Hire an outside advertising agency? If so, we need a new source of \$\$.
- Change our filing to a 501c3 vs our current filing as a male only organization. If not male only we would be eligible for charitable donations that are tax deductible rather than the current system where we are not tax deductible for grants, therefore donors are less likely to support us. (I think we should first check to see if we have ad expertise among our 8400 members; and if so, see if we can use their expertise. Alternatively, we could ask each member to donate \$5-\$10 for an ad campaign (Again my thoughts).
- Make our mission statement **Quality of Life Through Activities**-or some such new slogan-no big change in my view
- Change Branches to Chapters so we become Chapter 146. Not a big deal except I was thinking of a new logo as the TREE OF LIFE with the branches representing our activities.

My goal is to ping these issues off of the BEC and now you, the members, and within a week or two send a response to the State as to where Br146 stands on the issues. Your thoughts?? Hit me at [John@klueseners.com](mailto:John@klueseners.com)

**John Kluesener**  
Big Sir, Branch 146



## Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone, our speaker in August is Fernando Ramirez from the CA Department of Water Resources. Our speaker for September fell through so we are looking for a replacement. Please let

me know if you have any suggestions. For October Emily Boyd from Brookfield Development will join us to talk about the Concord Naval Weapon Station Plans. I am very pleased to say we now have a speaker for our Veteran's Day luncheon in November, Chuck Kohler, a Pearl Harbor survivor, will join us. He will be escorted by Jim Etherington who works with the Veteran's Affordable Home Ownership Program. And to wrap up the year a Quartet from Diablo Vista Chorus will cheer us with some holiday music. I hope to see you all in August.

**Bob Ford**  
Little Sir, Branch 146

## 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.**



## Luncheon Chairman

Steve Oki

In August's meeting, we are having the last of our luncheon-sized salads instead of one of the luncheon entrees. This month we will replace the meat entree with a **Sunburst Salad** (Grilled Chicken Breast, Mesclun

Greens, Mandarin Oranges, Berries, Blue Cheese, Poppy Seed Dressing). Please let us know if you have enjoyed and liked the salad option so we can pass it onto the BEC and Boundary Oak.

Please note that August 8<sup>th</sup> for our luncheon date is very early in the month. Please get your reservations in early by noon on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is the last time to reserve for the luncheon. If you have to cancel your reservation after the due date and time, please let us know as soon as possible. If you let us know before Boundary Oak has our final numbers, we do not waste food orders and there will not be a cost to you.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com). Be sure to include your menu choice!

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon

Date: Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

**If you do not reserve by Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.**

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

Check-In: 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am.

Payment: The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

### Other matters:

If you don't have e-mail, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans? If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to:

**Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> by Noon**

and you will not be charged.

Send email to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

### Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com).

### Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Salad

Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins, Candied Walnuts, Balsamic Vinaigrette

### Entrées

#### Sunburst Salad

Grilled Chicken Breast, Mesclun Greens, Mandarin Oranges, Berries, Blue Cheese, Poppy Seed Dressing

—or—

#### Breaded Filet of Sole

Breaded and Fried Filet of Sole, Herbed Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Zesty Tartar Sauce

—or—

#### Vegetarian

#### Asiago Stuffed Gnocchi

Asiago Stuffed Potato Gnocchi, Seasonal Vegetables, Creamy Tomato Sauce

### Dessert

Key Lime Pie

### **Lunch Reservation required!**

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

## SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

**MAKE SURE...  
YOU HAVE THE  
SEPTEMBER  
LUNCHEON  
ON YOUR  
CALENDAR**

## 2024 Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary .....	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary .....	John Rexroat
Treasurer .....	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer .....	Tom Amann
Director 3rd Term .....	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term .....	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term .....	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term .....	John Alexander
Director 4th Term .....	George Mon
Director 1st Term .....	Don Rhoads

### RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment .....	Randy Graham
Activities .....	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations .....	Edward Brands
Publicity .....	John Alexander

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.



THE CLUBHOUSE  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

## **SIR 146 September Luncheon** Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Salad

Fiesta Salad  
Iceberg Lettuce, Corn, Tomatoes, Cheddar and Jack Cheese, Salsa Verde Ranch dressing

### Entrées

#### Chicken Fajitas

Pollo Asado, Sauteed Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas  
—or—

#### Shrimp Fajitas

Citrus Marinated Shrimp, Sauteed Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas  
—or—

#### Vegetarian Fajitas

Sauteed Mushrooms, Peppers and Onions, Spanish Rice, Corn, Flour Tortillas

### Dessert

Dulce De Leche Cake


### **Lunch Reservation required!**

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.

# AUGUST MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES


WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Ben Smith	2018	6
Mark Curtis	2017	7
Dave. Kingsbury	2017	7
Bob Lyman	2016	8
Rich Pace	2016	8
Lee Clark	2015	9
<b>Peter Plante</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>10</b>
Tony Greco	2012	12
Max Hinkle	2012	12
Charlie Kahsen	2011	13
Siegfried Kalteis	2008	16
Rich Ahlf	2004	20





## 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](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ross Abbott  
Mark Curtis  
Loren Delaurenti  
Paul Dubow  
John Fitzgerald  
Roy Hodgkinson  
Brian Mccarthy  
Aubrey Moore  
Glen Renk  
Gary Schaub  
William Snyder

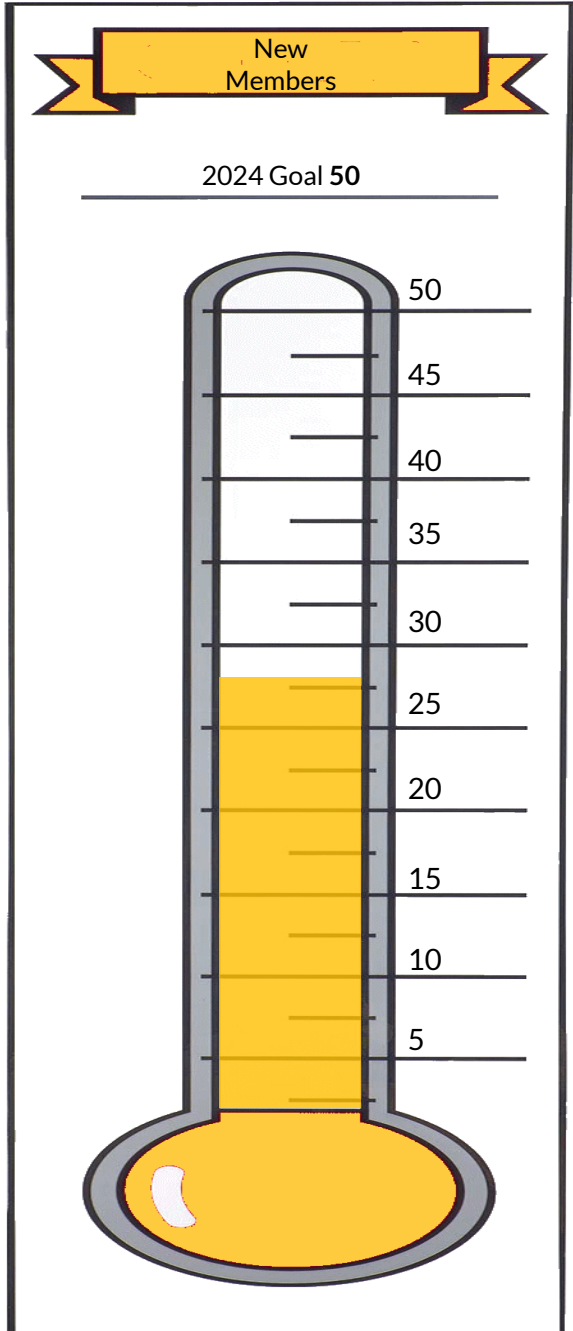
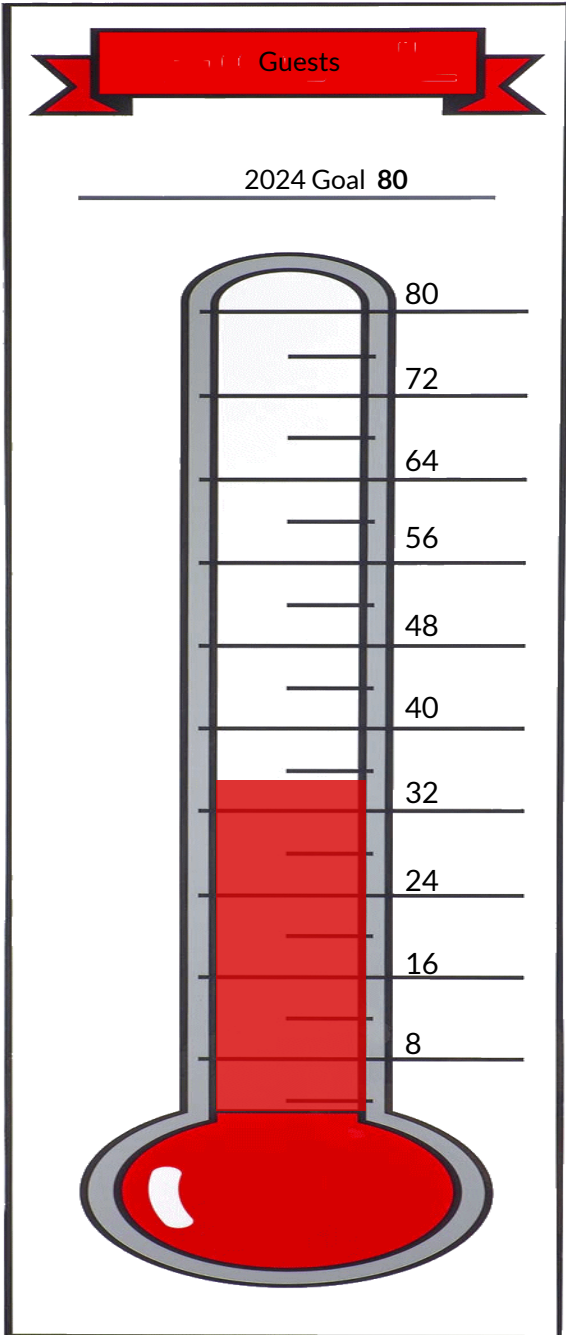
Bob Spellman  
Howard Zimmerman  
Randy Graham  
Curtis Young  
Steve Schlossberg  
Nick Jabuka  
Charles Ward  
Stephen Dick  
Mike Ball  
Tom Stucker

# August

# Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant





## Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in July.

**Brian Lotter** lives in Clayton with his wife **Sandi**. He was in International Sales for Siemens. He is interested in Ham Radio and AI Intelligence. Brian is sponsored

by **Ken Studer**.

**Philip “Phil” Lee** lives in Lafayette with his wife **Christine**. He worked in Health Insurance for the Blis Corp. He is only 90% retired. He participates in our 18-hole golf. Phil is sponsored by **Glenn Breslin**.

**Eric Finson** and his wife **Patricia** live in Pleasant Hill. He was the Director of Product Management for Matheson Gas. He also worked for DuPont for 20yrs. He is sponsored by **Jim Rowland**.

We lost 2 members. **Bob White** passed away on May 28<sup>th</sup>. He was 90 and passed away peacefully at home. **Bill Hartman** passed away on June 26<sup>th</sup> due to esophageal cancer.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends

and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a Sir.

The 2024 membership count is 262.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is 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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**

925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)



## Editor’s Ramblings Clint Collier

Last month I attended a statewide online discussion about the future of SIR and where we want to go. You will be hearing much more about this soon, I am sure. But there were a

couple of points made that I want to pass on.

- We are no longer Sons in Retirement. This changed 6 years ago. We are SIR, a change we have been enforcing in SIRCall for some time now.
- We need to eliminate the use of “retirement” in our publications, especially in recruiting and membership: keep the articles upbeat and emphasize the “things we do”.
- We need a new logo but we need to stop using

any of the old ones immediately. The one and only correct logo is what you see on the front page of SIRCall and is the only one we allow in SIRCall.

This is a fairly straightforward list of action points from State and, actually, points we have been following and enforcing for the past year or more. So remember it is SIR, not Sir, not Sir’s but SIR members,

Last submission date for the next issue will be August 18<sup>th</sup>. And, don’t forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com), put “Member Note” in the subject line

**Clint Collier**—Editor SIRCall

925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)



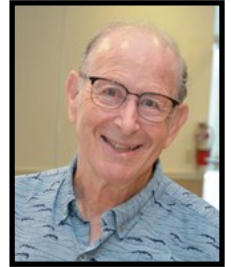
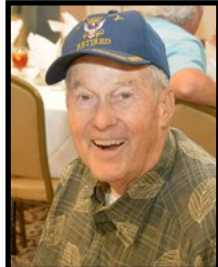


# MEETING

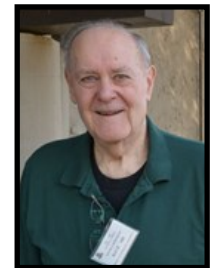
PHOTOS BY HENRY THATCHER







# *The Faces Of* **SIR**





Leave this page in until  
Proofing changes are made



*Happy Birthday Boy  
Glenn Baslin  
in his new hat!*



# NOTES

## from Our Members

### SIR146 CPR Training Class

Thom Degan.

On June 21st, SIR146 held a CPR Training Class, provided under the expert direction of Capt. Jesse Ingram, EMS of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. With some 30 members, spouses and family members in attendance, we reviewed what is CPR, what are we looking to accomplish, how do you start, how do you do it, what are the best techniques, with an ongoing Q & A session. The CCCFPD also provided mannequins to each person for practicing CPR techniques. We were very pleased with the professional approach of the EMS team, and came away with a good update on what to do if you are put into a situation to have to provide CPR. If we can assist just one individual with this knowledge, then it was more than worth it.

Attending the class were **John & Kathy Kluesener, Larry & Ann Kaye, Thom & Diane Degnan, Roger & Peggy Meyer, Bill & Diane Holly, John Kelly & Mary Schmidt, Bruce Borgman & Sue Sheldon, Ron Louis & Fran Matthews, Jim Rowland, Bill Ross, Scott Simmons, Bill Hoban, Mike Rothman, Ken Richter, David Paulson, Bob Spellman, George Denny, Paul Beretz, Larry Ribarich and Rich Lyon.**

I wanted to thank the staff at the Ygnacio Valley Library on Oak Grove Road for the use of the Community Meeting room, and The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for their very professional instruction for the class. There was no cost to anyone for attending the class.

Special thanks to **Bruce Borgman** for remembering to take some pictures during the session!





# Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

I am writing to request sharing SIR146 activities with our non-SIR friends. John Kluesener, Big Sir, wrote:

- “One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership.”
- “Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting.”

If you are involved in any SIR activity, can you please consider telling your friends how much you enjoy this activity? Also, ask them if they would also like to join this activity as a guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIR members will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others' social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum !!

To grow our branch, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests will also benefit SIR146 !!

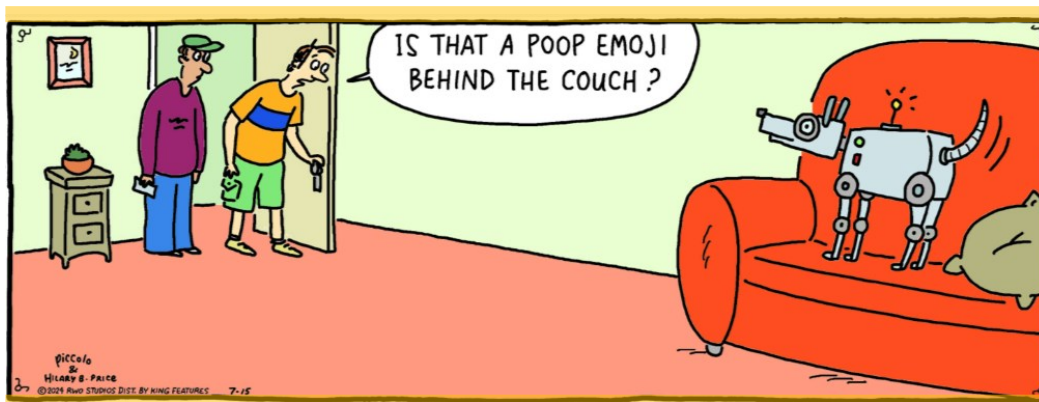
Upcoming branch wide activities may include any of the below:

- 07/29: SIR Travel. For SIR members, interested in traveling with others SIR members, please see questionnaire to be distributed to you.
- 08/24 7:30pm: Piano Man: Generations - Elton John and Billy Joel Tribute Concert (Leshler).
- 09/28 2:30pm: Arsenic and Old Lace (Leshler).
- 10/13 9:00am: Fleet Week event all day aboard *SS Jeremiah O'Brien*.
- MTD #10 forming – Training can be provided.
- Poker Group #8 forming. Other Poker Groups looking for players.

If any of these upcoming activities interest you, can you please reach out to me?

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)



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## SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

**Bridge:**

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

**Cooking:**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

**Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

**Mexican Train Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

**Poker:**

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

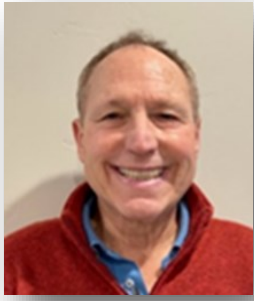
[Wine Tasting](#)



# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar August 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	31	Aug 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
5	6	7	8	9
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am–1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am–1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm–2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
12	13	14	15	16
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm–7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses   Sun 18 1:00pm SIR Day at the Ballpark!	9:00am Golf	11:00am Explore & Eat Oxbow Market in Napa 11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres   Sat, 7:30pm Theater Group Elton John & Billy Joel Tribute Concert Leshner Theater
26	27	28	29	30
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm–3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 6 Seis		





## Travel Glenn Breslin

A major point of the SIR Branch 146 objectives is to facilitate SIR members who would like to travel with other members. We have recently collaborated with SIR Travel groups in Branches 8, 116, and 146 and will be distributing a travel questionnaire to identify where our members would like to go and how they would like to travel. If many people share both the travel location and how they like to travel, then a SIR trip will be planned. Multiple SIR trips can also be scheduled.

If you are interested in joining with other SIR members to travel, whether within California, in the United States, or internationally, please fill out this upcoming SIR travel questionnaire. The questionnaire will be emailed out to you on July 29. Please respond by completing the questionnaire and returning it by email to me at [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) by August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Also, please plan to attend a planning session on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm at the Las Trampas Room at the Walnut Creek Main Library to further clarify your travel interests.

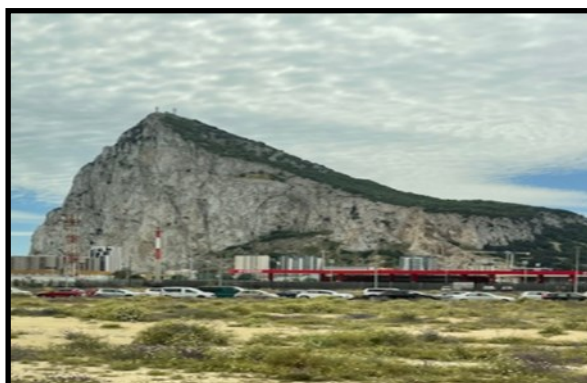
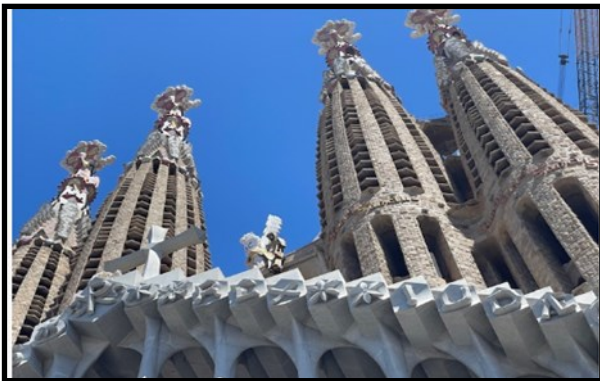
### Travel Quotes

“Travel far, travel wide, but always travel with a friend by your side”

“You can pack for every occasion, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring!”

**Glenn Breslin**

925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





## Theater Glenn Breslin



Theater Events at the Leshar Theater

### **Piano Man: Generations - Elton John and Billy Joel Tribute Concert**

- **Date:** Sat 8/24 7:30 pm
- **Price:** \$66 per ticket - discounted group rate.
- **Description:** "PIANO MEN: GENERATIONS," a sensational celebration of the legendary **Billy Joel and Elton John**, brought to life by the extraordinary father and son piano duo of Terry and Nick Davies. These two virtuosos are about to take you on a mesmerizing journey through the timeless hits that have captured the hearts of music lovers for decades. You'll be transported through time, witnessing the evolution of two incredible careers. Terry and Nick, accompanied by their exceptional band, deliver a high-energy performance that will leave you breathless. Get ready to sing along and tap your feet to Elton John and Billy Joel's mega-hits.
- **Deadline:** On or before Sat 7/28, please make out your check to SIR146 and send it to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549.

### **Arsenic and Old Lace**

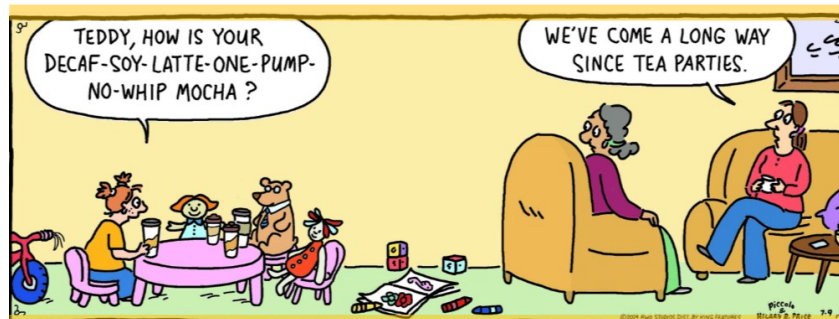
- **Date:** Sat September 28 2:30 PM
- **Price:** \$43 Per ticket - discounted group rate.
- **Desc:** The grandmother of dark comedies gets a mischievous and campy makeover. The lead actor, discovers his two elderly Aunts are harboring some killer secrets, just as his estranged brother descends upon the family home, upending everything he thought to be true in his life. To save his family, his fiancé, and his own sanity, he must learn to navigate a new world gone mad. Deliciously macabre, classically winsome, and utterly delightful, get ready for a new vision for one of theater's most enduring comedies.
- **Deadline:** On or before Sat 8/17, please make out your check to SIR146 and send your check to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St, Lafayette, CA 94549.

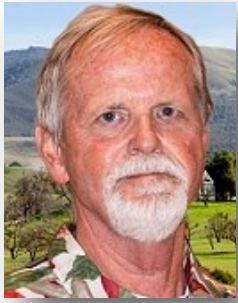
Shows at Leshar Theater - Walnut Creek

- Location: Leshar Theater, 1601 Civic Dr. Walnut Creek.
- Parking in Adjacent Parking Lot.

Please reach out to me should you have any questions or comments. My contact information is below. I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!

Glenn Breslin  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The Sir Branch 146 Photography Group met at the Thurmond Casey Library in Walnut Creek on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme of our July meeting was "Tip & Trick" using Adobe Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop. Our presenter was our own **Rich Ahlf**, a master photographer with many years of experience. Those in attendance to hear Rich's amazing talk along with computer images were **Peter Plante, Clint Collier, Frank Terzuoli, Rich Pace, Susan Oki, Steve Oki, Steve Dick, Mike Rothman** and **Bill Holly**. Now we all are anxious to apply what we have learned to our photographs.

Our other theme was the sharing of travel photos taken since our last meeting in May. We called this segment "Road Trip photo's"!

**Frank Terzuoli** went to the Mendocino coast and Humboldt County and took many interesting photo-

graphs of the Redwood's and Fern Canyon.

**Clint Collier** went to the desert at "Four Corners" and visited silos, now abandoned, in New Mexico that once housed Atlas ICBM s.

**Henry Thatcher** for his road trip went to Mackinaw Island, Michigan to visit the Grand Hotel and to take in the annual "Lilac Festival" when takes place in the month of June.

A big shout out to **Steve & Susan Oki** for bringing tasty donuts and to **Clint Collier** for delicious coffee. Your contributions were much appreciated!

Our next meeting will be Friday, September, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Las Trampas Room at the Walnut Creek Library in downtown Walnut Creek beginning at 9 AM. **Please note this is a location change for the September meeting.**

**Moose Kelly**, who was on a scuba dive trip in Micronesia, will share stories and show photographs of his experiences.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting!

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

**John (Moose) Kelly**

610.517.0152 [rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)



High Desert Storm  
Photo by **Clint Collier**

More pictures on the Following Page

Photo Group continued from previous page



North Coast Redwoods  
Mendocino-Humboldt Coast  
Photos by Frank Terzuoli

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Joshua Forest  
Photo by Clint Collier

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## Birding Ted Robertson

Wednesday, July 10, 2024  
Field Trip Report.

During the second Wednesday morning of July, a group of four SIR birders plus 2 spouses explored the Corteva Wetland Preserve heading west from the City of Antioch Marina.

This was a fun trip since there is a boardwalk through the middle of the marsh. We spotted and heard 21 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included two White-Tailed kites, a male Northern Harrier, Great-tailed Grackles, and several Marsh Wrens and Common Yellow-Throats (males are a bright yellow warbler with a black face mask). Another exciting highlight were sightings of river otters swimming in the channels. This is a great area to look for otters, the boardwalk was covered with lots and lots of otter scat (poop).

Our next field trip is scheduled for September 11th (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday). We are skipping the August field trip date since birding hits a summer lull and many of our birders will be out of town. Birding really picks up in September as thousands and thousands of birds are migrating south through California. Many of the shorebirds and ducks stop once they reach California, so they can overwinter in our great climate including such songbirds as Yellow-Rumped and Townsend's warblers and our White-Crowned and Golden-Crowned sparrows. Look for details about the September field trip in next month's SIRCall newsletter.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting group, please email me, Ted Robertson ([tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list and receive precise meet-up locations.

**Ted Robertson**

925.899.1872 [tedr@berkeley.edu](mailto:tedr@berkeley.edu)



SIR birding group at Corteva Wetland Preserve  
Photo by  
**Ted Robertson**



## Hiking Mark Curtis

It's been an interesting past few weeks. All of the local parks closed with Red Flag warnings during the July 4 week so that theoretically, humans could not start a fire. I cancelled 1 event

because we seniors are less likely to be able to deal with the heat. And on those days that were over 100F, I drove to Sun Valley Mall and walked a few miles in the air conditioning. And I also took advantage of the few flights of stairs to get in some exercise.

The most recent hike was at Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park on Monday, July 15. A total of 9 SIRs including 1 spouse participated. It was glorious from the standpoint of temperature; 62 to start and 70 when we finished at 12:30. This park is my favorite by far because it's 95 percent in the shade of Redwood trees.

Probably until late August we will only select venues that are comfortable. So, there will be a few walks along bayside venues when warm and a few inland when the weather forecast indicates that temperatures won't be too extreme.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

**Mark Curtis**

925.360.3449

[Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)





## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

June 25<sup>th</sup>: Today **Bill Ross, Bill Holly and Bob Wilkenfeld and myself** went to the Lafayette Moraga trail early. To beat the heat was the idea. We rode to Moraga and had Java at Si Si cafe.

A nice cool ride all uphill. Heading home was a treat. 6 miles down to our cars. Yummy. Fun ride and we did beat the heat.

June 28<sup>th</sup>: Today's ride was a backwards ride. Visiting a familiar route but from the opposite direction. We left Alamos Livorna Park and headed out towards Blackhawk. The weather was really nice. **Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Bill Ross and Larry Kaye** were the riders. We navigated our first hill right away. Really wakes you up. The route was all hilly. As we rode thru Danville and approached Blackhawk, the grades hit 7%. That hurts. Onwards we pedaled. Up and up we rode. Legs screamed, butts yelled but we kept up the pace. Starbuck was our goal at the turn junction. The java was great as was the belly bombs. A quick remount and off we went towards home. The last part of our jaunt was downhill. Ahhhhhh. Finally the cars were located and goodbyes shared. Always fun to ride with your brothers. Age is a word. Health rules.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: What do you do with a group of energetic cyclists that want to ride but its too hot? You have a team chow down. With the impending temps looking like 100PLUS we decided to grab a team spandex lunch. The Greenery was selected for this occasion. Ten hungry guys showed up. We took over a table for 10. Lunch was great. Conversation was fun and we all stayed cool and enjoyed each other's presence. Attending was: **Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Larry Kaye, Bob Lucido, Jim Nelson, Roger Meyer, Bill Ross, Ken Studer, Dave Paulson and Jim Crites**. Not a wasted day. Good friends and brothers of SIR.

July 9<sup>th</sup>: Let's beat the heat. So we rode at 8 am. Weather was cool and fresh. **Jim Nelson, Dave Paulson, Thom Degnan, Bob Lucido, Jim Crites and Larry Kaye**. We toured some back streets and some old familiar ones. Did some hills and rode some downhills. Nice riding day. The 6% grades were met with some grunts but everyone did them. Java at the end was the icing on the cake.

July 16<sup>th</sup>: Good turnout this morning. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Jim Crites, Ken Studer, Bill Holly, Thom Degnan, and myself, Larry Kaye**. Off we went to Tassajara and a

visit to a spy site. Hills, lots of hills. Country roads that were smooth and not busy. We rode over some killers and down some long ones. The wind began to let us know of its existence. Onward. The site was seen and from a distance. No idea who patrols this base. More hills and then some more downhills. Finally we got back to our java joint in Blackhawk. Wow was that nice. A real seat and some soothing java. Country rides are the best. We are so close yet never explore old roads and buried history. When your our age a ride like this really counts. Great exercise and super comradship. SIR is truly a place for guys to stay young

Larry Kaye  
925.698.4030

Day 78. Still no tomatoes.





## **Bocce John Kendrick**

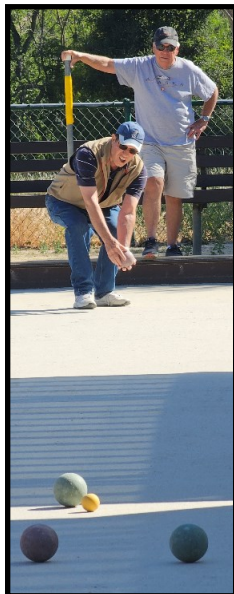
Reminder - SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and looking for existing and new players. As an added bonus, there is plenty of free parking adjacent to the courts.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Our next court appearance will be August 12, 2024. Ladies are welcome.

**John Kendrick**  
925.827.0585

[jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)



## **Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford**

We are having some really good turnouts for our golf outings on Thursdays. We are getting into a really nice time of year to play so why don't you come join us. 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. On Fridays, 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](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



## **SongSirs Peter Plante**

The SongSirs performed a program for the residents of Byron Park Retirement Home on June 22. We sang such favorites as "Stout Hearted Men," "Beyond The Sea," and

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" for a 40 minute performance that is always well received. Thank you to the residents of Byron Park. We enjoyed your singing along with us.

Our next rehearsal is on August 7 Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

We are always looking for new members. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

**Peter Plante**  
[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



**Steve Dinning on piano, Paul Beretz, Brad Hatcher, Bruce Borgman, Ron Lew, Bruce Kimmis and Peter Plante directing.**

**Autopsy Club meeting this Saturday.  
It is open Mike night!**



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

Fishing continued on a high level this month. Unfortunately, your reporter wasn't part of it because the COVID bug finally struck him after avoiding it for five years. In addition to limiting my ability to prowl around for fishing news, I could not perform my monthly role as the fishmaster on the Sundance. My five companions who were scheduled for the July trip---**Al Grabenstein, Brion Beetz, Dave Havlik, Sam Oomen, and Gordon Linebaugh**--- discovered that they could do quite well without me as they limited out on both halibut and stripers. They were kind enough to bring me two fish for dinner, however. On another trip on the Reel Addiction, a boat that we have not fished on before, **Phil Scimonelli** and his wife each caught a limit of two halibut.

**Ron Lew** had a great month fishing on his boat on the lower Sacramento for stripers. He limited out on stripers on every trip, highlighted by this 20 lb. whopper.

The Delta produced excellent striper fishing for **Phil Scimonelli, Stan Wong,** and **Gary Palhegyi** as well as good black bass fishing for **Stan, Ron Lew,** and **Tom Kostik.**

**Stan Wong** took his boat up to Lake Berryessa where he was joined by **Brian Beetz** and they had a good time catching a limit of kokanee.

Although the ocean is not available for salmon fishing this year, **Lee Clark, Carl Moyer,** and **Sam Oomen** ventured out and picked up a bevy of lingcod and rockfish.

The mileage trophy for the month goes to **Ken Bellindir.** He traveled all the way to Indiana to catch some black bass (known as largemouth bass in that neck of the woods).

Our next two meetings will be on July 25 and August 22 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. You are welcome to join us, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time. The meetings begin at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories.

For further information, please call me at 510.504.3566.

**Paul Dubow**  
510.504.3566



## Table Pool Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested in joining the fun we meet at Masses at noon. Send me an email if any questions

**Jim Barry**  
[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)







## Book Group John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group met in June to discuss our current selection, *The Demon of Unrest: a Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*, by Erik Larson. This book has been No.1

on the Bay Area Nonfiction Best Seller List. We are recommending it.

The book is the story of the people, including Abraham Lincoln, places, and politics of the time period between the election of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency and the very beginning of the Civil War, also called the War Between the States by the people in the Southern states. It starts with the situation at Fort Sumter in November 1860 (with emphasis on its commander, Robert Anderson, a Southerner who was a Unionist) and then discusses the background of Lincoln's rise in Illinois politics, and how the candidates in the presidential election diffused the vote in a way that resulted in Lincoln's victory.

Normally, when we read a book of this nature, it is like reading a history text. But this is one that focuses

on a narrow area in great detail, and reveals much more than what we learned in our history classes. The research done by the author was enormous, with the pictures of the characters fully drawn. I would label some of these characters as important to fully understanding the times even though they may not have made the big decisions. These included Major Anderson; Edmund Ruffin, a Virginian and prominent soil scientist, who was almost insanely focused on secession and who purportedly fired the first shot at Fort

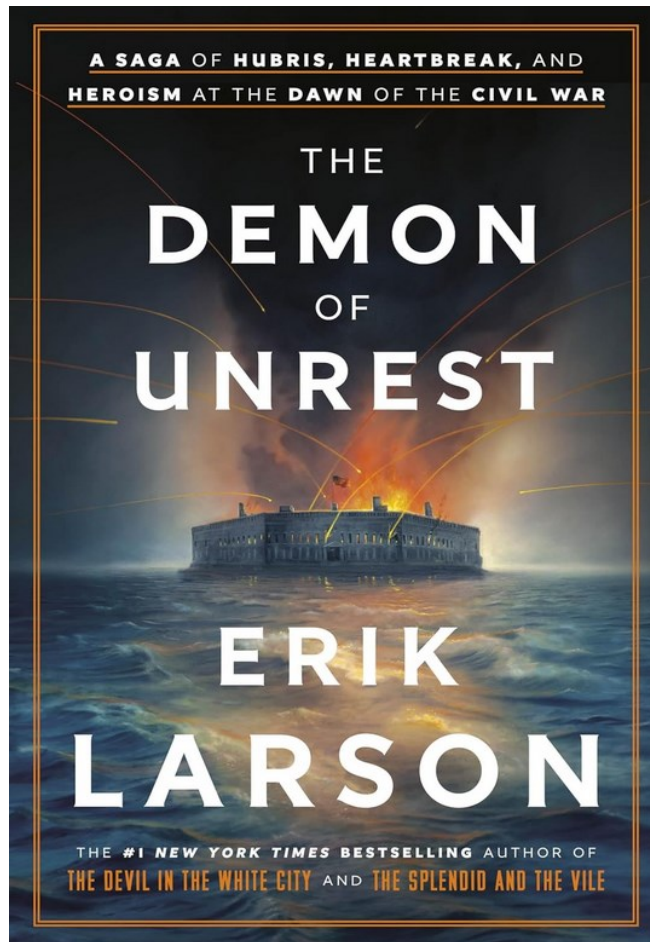
Sumter; and Mary Chesnut, the wife of James Chesnut, a U.S. senator before the war and a Confederate officer during the war, who was a perceptive diarist; and many others mentioned in supporting roles.

The President that Lincoln was "relieving" was James Buchanan, whose main and seemingly overriding wish and need was to leave Washington and return home to Pennsylvania before any hostilities broke out. The book also discusses how Lincoln took the threats to his life prior to the inauguration seriously and employed

the Pinkerton Agency to allow him to virtually sneak into Washington at the end of his trip from Illinois, an entrance that later proved to be quite embarrassing.

Washington had some similarities of today, in that while it did not contain much in the way of magnificent monuments and museums or good streets, it was filled with feuding politicians. Then it was the South vs the North in the belief of how the country should be governed and that of states' rights vs direction from the feds. Today, while some of these thoughts are the same in our divided country, it is not the geography that separates us as much as the ideas held about the issues of the day.

Mr. Lincoln came to town to try to calm the waters of these divides, against slavery, but above all wanting to maintain the Union. The Southerners could point to the Constitution as providing a means for the individual states to secede from the union, which several actually did before Fort Sumter fell. Lincoln nominated a strong cabinet, many of them not in agreement with him. One in particular, William Seward, thought that he should have been selected as president and not Lin-



Continued on next page

coln. And so, while very talented, he was one of many in the cabinet who would often pull in different directions.

Meanwhile, Major Anderson, the commander of Fort Sumter, received either no directions or conflicting directions from Washington and so was unsure of what he should be doing to protect the sole federal asset in Charleston Bay. He had only a small group of officers and men to defend the fort. Including Abner Doubleday, the alleged inventor of baseball. Also, most of the officers of the Confederate army knew and were friends with the fort's defenders, having gone to West Point and/or served with them. Mary Todd Lincoln had two brothers who served in the Confederate army, and this was not an unusual situation among family members on both sides.

South Carolina was a small state but had a lot of the agitators ("fire eaters") who wanted and pushed hard for the separation of the south from the north. Edmund Ruffin, who traveled throughout the south encouraging secession, spent a lot of time agitating in South Carolina because he was angry with his native Virginia's delay of a secession vote..

The book's story is basically the timeline of events with excellent descriptions of them. And as the events came and went, each contributing to the boiling of the pot, the situation became harder to contain. The "main event" happened when the Confederates manning the gun batteries around Charleston harbor told Major Anderson that the deadline for surrendering Fort Sumter had passed, and they opened fire upon the fort. The fort's personnel bravely returned the fire, but they were significantly out-gunned, and after a few days, conditions at the fort finally convinced Major Anderson that the time had come to surrender, as he did in April 1861. The War Between the States, i.e., the Civil War had begun.

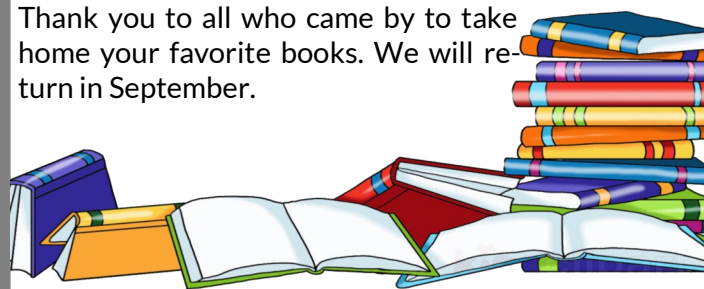
Our book for July is another best seller, *James*, by Percival Everett. It is a fictional account of the adventures of Jim, a character in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn*, after he departed from Huck's raft. Our next meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor  
[jpearljr@gmail.com](mailto:jpearljr@gmail.com)



## Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to all who came by to take home your favorite books. We will return in September.





## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

On Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>, the Cooking Two group had lunch at Sailor Jack's in Benicia

As Steve Ybarra, Corrie Oranje and Ken Richter were enjoying Baltic Sea and Mississippi

River cruises, the attendance was reduced by half. However, the few that did attend, namely Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock and Dennis Hallett maintained the tradition of selecting the best from the menu and wine list, while discussing and solving local and world issues!!!

A Delta breeze provided some relief from the severe hot weather, so all appreciated the restaurant location and view of the water.

Everyone chose popular seafood entrees- Crab Melt, King Prawns and Shrimp Louie. One hungry member even had a cup of their famous Clam Chowder soup which went down well even on a hot day!!

The next group meeting is on Monday August 12<sup>th</sup>, when Richard Hockenbrock kindly hosts lunch at his home.

Steve Ybarra  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates



Joe Barry hosted the July luncheon in the backyard of his home. It was a warm day but Joe has a shady patio with a table set-up nicely for the seven of us in attendance. One of our first official acts was raise a glass in honor and memory of one of our members, Bill Hartman, who passed away recently. Bill's wit and wisdom will be missed. He was always willing to pitch in and help us solve the problems of the world.



Joe put together a fine selection of appetizers followed by a meal of grilled pork loin, potato salad, Cole slaw, French bread and all the fixin's. Members brought a nice variety of red and white wines to accompany the meal. An ice cream treat was just the ticket for a warm afternoon desert.

Janice Woodman, widow of Dick, arranged for the ladies to gather for lunch at Melo's in Walnut Creek.

Syd Whalen will host the luncheon in August. September will feature our dinner-out night for members, spouses and participants of the Ladies lunch group.

Pete Gates  
[petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



**Explore and Eat**  
**Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope**



# OXBOW

PUBLIC MARKET

**Tour on Wednesday August 21st**

**Event is FREE**

610 & 644 FIRST STREET  
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94559

Sign up via email  
[by clicking here!](#)

The August Explore & Eat event will be something new and a little different. We're planning to go to the Oxbow Market in Napa. The event will be on August 21st and will start at 11:00. We will meet at the Market on the deck overlooking the Napa River and the Oxbow bend in the Napa River. Then we will have a brief overview of the Oxbow Market by the General Manager, Gabe Carlin. He will cover the market's history and several points of interest about the Market. Then he will provide a short walking tour for those that would like to do so. Then you will be on your own to shop at one of the 12 shops and have lunch at one of the 8 restaurants.

This will be a true "Explore & Eat Event".

Please respond your RSVP to attend the event to [jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net) by August 16<sup>th</sup> so we can plan the events logistics. There is no charge for the event but will pass a "Thank You" hat for Gabe.

Next page... another Explore & Eat Event!

# SIR 146 Beer Tasting

## At Danville Brewing Co. in Danville

Led by “New Member-Scott MacDougall  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, early lunch, exact time, TBD



### Our First Ever Beer Tasting

Come join the group at **Danville Brewing Co. 200 Railroad Ave. in Danville** to taste and learn about different beer styles with the Brew Master at Danville Brewing Co. and “amateur beer expert” Scott MacDougall. Tour the brewing equipment and learn how they brew the different styles of beer. Then sit down to lunch with a **Flight of 4 beer styles: a Belgin Triple, an Imperial Stout, a double Western IPA and Blonde Lager**. Order and pay for lunch off the Danville Brewing Co. menu.

Limited to 30, To RSVP, send a check made out to **SIR146, Memo: Beer Tasting, for \$14/person for your Flight of 4 different beers**. Couples can order one flight per couple but please add a note to let us know you will be two for lunch.

**Scott MacDougall, 254 Cameo Drive Danville, CA 94526**



## 寿司の友達

### Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Six of our little group of sushi aficionados gathered for our June meeting at Hakashi in downtown Walnut Creek.

Interesting place compared to many of the local sushi restaurants and a bit on the pricy side but good sushi! Unlike most sushi restaurants, Hakashi serves nigiri sushi, the sushi most people think of as sushi, by the piece rather in the Japanese traditional pair. So, right away the cost of a serving is doubled! And everything is separate, there were no combination lunches nor sushi platters even though their online menu clearly showed some. But we forged ahead, ordering six servings (1 piece) of six different nigiri and a couple of tasty rolls. It all disappeared upon hitting the table! Then, at the end we were hit with a 20% service "gratuity" for mediocre service but in the end we got out for around \$40 per person. This appears to be a restaurant geared for the younger dinking set rather than a family style Japanese restaurant; they have an extensive bar, although we stuck with more traditional saki.



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

On the highway of life, once in a while we hit a speed bump. That's the same on the highway to wine tasting. The "speed bump" is that for the October wine tasting the date is changing. Instead of the fourth Tuesday of October the wine tasting will be on the third Tuesday. Therefore, **THE OCTOBER WINE TASTING WILL BE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15.** I want to let you know early so you can adjust your calendar. I will mention it again in the September SIRCall. In the mean time stay cool and enjoy your summer.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)



Our next regular bi-monthly gathering will be on September 19<sup>th</sup>, however the location has not yet been set. Check next month's SIRCall for details! If you are interested in joining us shoot me an e-mail so we can include you!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)

UNBELIEVABLE HOW  
GULIBLE SOME  
PEOPLE ARE!

JUST LISTEN TO THIS:





## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As we indicated in our article in the last SIRCall, we anticipated returning to La Veranda Café in Clayton for our July Dining Out experience. This restaurant is also managed by the Moroccan

family which owns Luna and Fiore restaurants in Concord and where we have had such wonderful dining events earlier this year. We have been to La Veranda three other times in the last eleven-some-odd years and had a very enjoyable dinners for our Dining Out events, but it had been six years since we last scheduled our dinner there. Of course Nick, the general manager remembered our group and again put together for us a wonderful menu. We will enjoy our dinner there on Monday, July 22 but you will have to wait until the next SIRCall to see pictures of the event. The menu for the dinner will be included in this article, and as of this writing we have 60 diners signed up. This restaurant has good capacity so that we have been able to accommodate this larger number. The menu includes two appetizers – a fruit and cheese plate, a choice of a soup or Caesar salad, and then a choice of four entrees. For dessert we will enjoy a carrot cake. At this restaurant, coffee, tea, or sodas are included as well – not always the case at other restaurants. To make the dinner even more attractive, the wines are a more reasonable cost and Nick has reduced the cost of a bottle of wine to \$20 – from the usual \$28. Corkage will just be \$15. The total cost for this dinner, including tax and gratuity, is just \$58 per person. Parking is convenient in the small adjoining lot, or on the street.

If you missed signing up for this event, we will be planning another Couples Dining Out event in September. We keep a mailing list of those who are interested in this popular activity – this group usually gets early notification of our dinner plans, but notification in the SIRCall, or at our monthly luncheon will give all our members an opportunity to join this activity. If you wish to be added to the mail list, let me know at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com).

**Bruce Borgman**  
Dining Out Host  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



As you age, "drink responsibly" means  
don't spill it

# *COUPLES DINING OUT*

*Monday July 22, 2024*

*Social hour/ no host cocktails 5:30pm*

*Dinner: 6:15pm*

## **Appetizers**

### **Fruit and cheese plate**

**Scampi y Pancetta** – grilled prawns wrapped with Italian bacon

### **Choice of**

### **Butternut squash cream soup**

or

### **Caesar Salad**

Romaine hearts in a classic Caesar dressing with Parmesan cheese, and croutons

## *Entrée choices*

### **Polo Caccitore**

Chicken Breast with sauteed bell peppers and mushrooms, marinara sauce

### **Salmon**

Grilled Filet of Salmon with Lemon Cream sauce

### **New York Steak**

Grilled New York steak served with porcini mushroom cream sauce

### **Capellini Alla Cecca**

Capellini pasta with roasted tomato, marinara sauce, garlic and basil

## *Dessert*

### **Carrot Cake**

Coffee Tea or Sodas included

# La Veranda Cafe

Inspired Italian cuisine, blending simplicity with the best seasonal  
6201 Center Street, Clayton

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com), Confirm with check to Sir 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598 \$58.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. Please Indicate your choices of soup/salad and entrée with your reservation!



# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

could be taken.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Kirk and Nancy McVean.

Ron Plachy  
925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)

We played at the home of Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti for our June game. Clint and Bev Collier were not able to



join us do to a last minute COVID infection. Substituting for them was Tony and Cindy Greco. Also missing were Dan and Mary Holland but we were not able to get substitutes for them so we played with two tables of five.

All enjoyed the many snacks and goodies Marlene provided.

Coming in first and winning \$12 was John Pearl. Second place at \$6 was taken by Anne Plachy. Tony Greco took third winning a full \$2. High score for the night was claimed by Kirk McVean closely followed by Cindy Greco. Show are our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, Tony, skipped out before the picture

Group Tres 3



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

score of 15.55 ppg. Less than 2 ppg separated the 3 placeholders. Well done.

We all had fun, gained some gossip, said our goodbyes, boarded the ole Mexican Train and followed the hot sun home.

We will meet next on Friday afternoon, July 26<sup>th</sup> at Sharon Varner's. All Aboard for Rossmoor!!

Walt Busenius  
925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)

We met on the afternoon of June 28<sup>th</sup>. Our private, eco-friendly Mexican Train car chugged its way over the golden hills and hot roads of



Clayton to the lovely home of Joyce Wells and Jim Barry. Along for the ride were Sue and Walt Busenius, Sally and Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily, Judy Richmond, Susie and Larry Brown. Joyce and Jim treated us like royalty with delicious sweets and wonderful hospitality.

Bringing her Quality Street game was Alicia Baily coming in first place with a great score of 13.66 ppg and going out 4 times. Lynn Shafer played very well all afternoon, even going out 4 times as well, coming in second place with a very good score of 14.14 ppg. I cannot say the rest of us fought for third place. Clearly, Joyce Wells claimed that honor with a good



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cuatro”

**Jim Pope**

On July 19th, the El Cuatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope’s** home with 16 people. In attendance this evening were:

**Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Ken and Carol Soutl, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Scott and Marie Claire, Steve and Susan Oki, and Jim and Renie Pope.** Sweets, savories, and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at three tables: 2 of five and 1 of six.

We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 or 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The 3 table winners were **Christy DeVoe, Susan Oki and Marie Clare MacDougall** (see in pictures). There were three high scoring players: **Dick Firth, Carol Soutl and Jim Pope** were awarded one Lotto ticket each.

The next El Cuatro MTD will meet next on **August 16th** (see in pictures). (Photos by Jim Pope)

Jim Pope  
[jpoppe24@comcast.net](mailto:jpoppe24@comcast.net)



MTD 4 High Scorers: **Dick Firth, Carol Soutl and Jim Pope**



MTD 4: Winners: **Christy DeVoe, Susan Oki and Marie Clare MacDougall**



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco”

**Dennis Hallett**

Our hearty band of players met at **Hallett’s**, who hosted the evening’s games, on Thursday July 18th 2024.

**Jim and Judy Baldrige** and **Jim Burk** were unable to attend due to certain ailments. They were missed and we wish them a speedy recovery.

The men suffered from the absence of the two Jims! After six games, **Joan Pierce** and **Patti Eisner**, with scores of 64 and 85 respectively, claimed first and second places.

**Bob Yolland**, with a score of 101, saved the men from a complete wipe out, by claiming third place.

However, the men did better when a homemade Chocolate Peppermint Cheesecake was served at half time. Plates were cleaned in record time. There was no strain on the performance of the dishwasher

whatsoever.

Fun was had by all, and we look forward to our next gathering on August 17th 2024 hosted by Patti and Doug Eisner.

Dennis Hallett  
[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)





Group Cinco 55

### Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

On Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, our evening hosts were **Joan and Dave Pierce**. Pregame, they were most generous, serving numerous refreshments and treats, which resulted in starting the games a little later than usual!

Sadly, **Judy and Jim Baldrige** were unable to attend our gathering due to Judy still experiencing the lingering aftereffects of Covid. We all wish Judy a speedy recovery as we missed their company.

After playing six games, it was the Ladies who came out best with **Janet Yolland** securing first place with 87, beating out **Dave Pierce** with 96 and **Dennis Hallett** with 101, who settled for second and third places.

During a break in play, our hosts served a delicious slice of Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese and Chopped Nuts Frosting, which appeared to be vacuumed up by the Men. There was almost a fight over the remaining

few crumbs!! The men promised to behave themselves next time

The players all had a very enjoyable time and were reluctant to leave. **Joan and Dave** were complimented on their hospitality.

The next gathering will be on Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the home of **Ann and Dennis Hallett**. In the meantime, the Men vow to secretly practice, at an undisclosed location, so they can regain the bragging rights.



Dennis Hallett  
[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)



Group Seis 6

### Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Kathe Mitchell's** beautiful home on June 26 ,2024, with **Moose Kelly and Mary Schmidt**

hosting for our June MTD6 get together. Thank you, **Kathe, Moose and Mary** for hosting.

At table one we had - **Carol Lane, Moose Kelly, Kathe Mitchell and Richard Hockenbrock**. Our second table was manned by **Bruce Borgman, John Kendrick, Steve Lane, Mary Schmidt, and Virginia Tygart**.

The winners were **Kathe Mitchell (11.3)- Mary Schmidt (18.7)- and Bruce Borgman (18.9)**. As for the loser's circle, well they are in the picture and refuse to identify themselves!

We look forward to our next get together on July 24, 2024, at **Richard Hockenbrock's** home.

. Steve Lane  
925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).



A book hit my head and  
I've only my shelf to blame



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In the heart of the enchanted forest, where the thick mist hung and whispers of ancient magic

filled the air, stood **Dale & Mary Ellen Dalgard's** grand and eerie mansion. Tonight, it hosted a gathering unlike any other, a game of Mexican train dominoes among the realm's most renowned witches and wizards.

With his flowing silver beard and eyes that sparkled with mischief, Wizard **Clint Collier** sat confidently at one end. Beside him was Witch **Wendy Lucido**, her emerald robes shimmering as if woven with starlight. At the other end of the table was Witch **Jane West**.

The game commenced with a wave of **Bob Lucido's** hand, a spectral figure with a smile as warm as the flickering flames. He floated, near his presence a comforting reminder of the mansion's storied past.

The game began with a light-hearted air, each player strategizing their moves while sharing tales of their latest magical exploits.

Wizard **Brian McCarthy** played with calculated precision, his moves were swift and sure. He built his train with a rhythm that spoke of centuries of experience. Witch **Mary McCarthy**, not one to be outdone, matched his pace, her train growing steadily as she employed clever tactics and playful trickery. Though enjoying the camaraderie and banter, Wizard **Bob West** found himself in a tighter spot, his train lagging behind the leaders.

At the break, the table was laden with magical delicacies that danced and sparkled under the candlelight. Stories were shared, laughter echoed through the halls, and the bond between these magical beings grew ever stronger.

Finally, as the last domino was played, it was clear who had triumphed.

**Bob Lucido** floated down, his ghostly form shimmering in the candlelight, and declared the winners First place Witch **Bev Collier** leaned back with a satisfied grin, her train a masterpiece of strategic play. Second Wizard **Brian McCarthy**, though narrowly bested, wore a smile of admiration and respect. Third Wizard **Clint Collier**, ever the good sport, clapped heartily, his laughter echoing through the grand hall.

The room erupted in applause, the spirits joining in with an eerie, harmonious chorus

**Bob Lucido**

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)





## Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho”

**Richard Hockenbrock**

On one of the hottest days of the year (107F), sixteen brave souls ventured to **Richard Hockenbrock’s**

home on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to play Mexican Train Dominoes. Thankfully the air conditioner inside the house kept the temperature to a pleasant 77F. Play began at three tables. The overall winner for the evening was **Jim Barry** with an average score of 12.8. In second place was **Mary Jo Potter** with a score of 14.0, followed by **Virginia Tygart** in third place with an average score of 14.5.

**John Foster** and **Jan Ondeck** were on the receiving end of scratcher tickets but unfortunately there was no winnings there either.

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in

August, the 7th. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

**Richard Hockenbrock**  
925.324.1713 [rlhock@outlook.com](mailto:rlhock@outlook.com)



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” **Bob Lucido**

The Inaugural Mexican  
Train Dominoes  
Championship

In a groundbreaking moment, the Mexican Train Dominoes competition debuted as an official Olympic event.

These dedicated athletes honed their skills for the past year, practicing the intricate art of Mexican Train Dominoes. Once a month, they engaged in intense matches, perfecting their moves, reading opponents, and mastering the rhythm of the tiles.

The colossal **Brian & Mary McCarthy Stadium**, pulsating with anticipation, hosted the championship. Thousands of spectators filled the stands, their cheers echoing through the air. The dominoes lay ready, their dots poised for destiny.

🔍 **Brian McCarthy:** The Maestro of Tiles **Brian’s** precision and foresight propelled him to

victory. The gold medal adorned his chest, a testament to his unwavering focus.

🔍 **Dave Kingsbury:** The Silver Strategist **Dave’s** calculated moves and tactical brilliance earned him second place. His dominoes danced gracefully, weaving intricate patterns. The silver medal gleamed—a tribute to his tenacity.

🔍 **Claire Kingsbury:** The Bronze Dynamo **Claire**, with her unwavering spirit, claimed third place. Her dominoes cascaded, forming bridges across the table. The bronze medal hung proudly—a symbol of her resilience

**Bob Lucido**  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)





# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Men's Hearts

**Bob West  
and  
Steve Ybarra**



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we met on June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>. Due to technical difficulties results of July 12<sup>th</sup> were not available by publication so they will be reported next month.

The big winners on June 28<sup>th</sup> were **Glenn Breslin** and **Jim Passaglia** both with 3 games. **Frank Lucas** and **Bob West** each had three 2nds. The lowest average scores were **Glenn Breslin** with 50 and **Bob West** with 58. **Frank Lucas** "shot the moon" 3 times.

**Future Meetings:** We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Co-Directors  
**Bob West** and **Steve Ybarra**

[robtawest@aol.com](mailto:robtawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)



## Poker Group 4 Pete Gates

Poker Group #4 gathered at the home of **Garth Cummings** on June 24<sup>th</sup> to get back on our "4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month schedule". Garth provided a nice selection of beverages

and snacks for the group.

We welcomed a new player, **Pat Tidmarsh**, to our table of six. In addition to the normal games of Draw poker, 7 Card Stud and Omaha, we mixed in a few different games such as Two-toed Pete, Follow the Queen, Jacks or Back and Low Chicago. Everyone got their share of the action and not much money changed hands at the end of the day.

Our next game will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, hosted by **Bruce Kimmis**.

We are still looking for players to fill out our roster. If interested, contact **Pete Gates** at:

[petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com) or 925-586-2321.

**Pete Gates**

925.937.2035 [petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



Me: It's not about how many times your fall, its about how many times you get back up!

Cop: That's not how field sobriety tests work!



**Party Bridge**  
**Jim Pope and Jim Stedman**

On a very warm day on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we had a spirited 12 players on three table game hosted by **Max Hinkle**. The snacks were great but the ice cream dessert by **Max's** wife was welcomed and just wonderful for this warm afternoon. The comradery and conversations were great and friendly. Fun was had by ALL.

The players were: **Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Max Hinkle, John Kleusener, Ed Marlovits, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Ray Spears** and **Mike Whitaker**.

The top scorers on **July 1<sup>st</sup>** were first, **Joe Fuchs** with 6010 points \$6, second, **Mike Whitaker** with 5490 points \$4 and third **Dick DeVoe** with 5370 points \$2.

Plus, we handed out the winnings from the first six months contest for the individuals with the highest average points per months for the first half of 2024: First, **Steve Dinning** with 5673 points winning \$27, second, **Bob Yolland** (not in picture) with **4663** points winning \$11, and third, **Max Hinkle** with 4558 points winning \$4. And **Ed Marlovits** 2<sup>nd</sup> place winnings in May with **4930** winning \$8.

Due to the early SIRCall deadline in June, here are the winners for June, they were **Steve Dinning** first with 7110 winning \$10, **Joe Fuchs** Second with 4550 winning \$6, and **Brad Hatcher** third (not in picture) with 4550 winning \$2.

The next game will be on Monday August 5th, 2024, game will be at **Mike Davidson's**.

Co-Directors

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



Left: June winners  
Below: July 1st players





## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dave Pierce**

We escaped the heat on June 10<sup>th</sup> when **Cindy and Tony Greco** hosted us. Thank goodness for air conditioning. We were further blessed with a dining room table loaded with wonderful treats and munchies.

No slams were bid, but two pairs made six on Board 4. Unfortunately, they only bid two (they got the perfect fit). Several others made 6 or 7 in various part scores and games.

We had one score that looks like a slam: 1120. How do you get that score? **Tony and Cindy** played in one spade doubled and redoubled, not vulnerable, making four. You get:  $4 \times 30 = 120$ , +300 (game bonus), +100 (the "insult" bonus), +3x200 (overtricks). Not bad for a one level contract.

The hosts were rewarded with third place (53%). **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were second (59%), and **Dave and Joan Pierce** were first (61%). There will be no games in July.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



## Couples Party Bridge

**Tony Greco**

**Tony and Cindy Greco** hosted our July 2nd event. For this event, **Howard and Connie Herbert** subbed for the first time for the **Hatchers**. They fit in well with our group and will remain on our active sub list. We look forward to having them sub again when the need arises. The good news this month was that we finally broke in the new cards and had an above average number of game bidding hands.

For the top three finishers, total scores were an average of about 25% higher than the last two months. There were four hands where small slams were made but not bid. Maybe next time some brave couple will bid a slam rather than play it safe and only bid game.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4010 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**
- 2nd PLACE with 3440 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**
- 3rd PLACE with 2740 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**

Our next event will be held on **August 6th** and hosted by **John and Kathy Kluesener**. Please note that the **Klueseners** and **DeVoos** swapped hosting months.

**Tony and Cindy Greco**

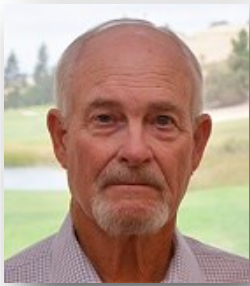
925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

I've always wondered...

Why is lemonade made from artificial flavors but furniture polish is made from real lemons.







## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

We met on our usual first Thursday of the month at the home of Norm Baietti. Norm, as our host, out did

himself with a large supply of tempting snacks and delightful wine.

Six of us played and four of us contributed to the two winners. Both Frank Lucas and Paul Dubow went home with the need for more space in their wallets for their ample proceeds.

We plan on playing on our usual date at Paul Dubow's home in August

**Brad Hatcher**

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)

## Pinochle

**Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson**

Any one interested in joining the group should give Stan Johnson a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next two events are planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 6/26/24, and 7/10/24.

**Pete McNeill**

925.858.9666 [petamole@gmail.com](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## Area 16

### \$UMS Investment Group

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4th Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

When you transport something by car, it's called a shipment.

When you transport something by ship is called cargo.



### 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!



**Event Description:** San Francisco Fleet Week is an annual event that honors the contributions of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* (a WW II Liberty ship) participates with a cruise around San Francisco Bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and the Bay Bridge for amazing views of the San Francisco waterfront, the visiting Navy ships, and the air show featuring the US Navy Blue Angels.

**Date:** Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Time:** Board the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* at 9:00am, Ship leaves at 10:00am, returns at 5:00pm.

**Location:** Pier 35, Embarcadero, San Francisco.

**Park:** 80 Francisco St parking garage at Kearny St and Francisco St OR Anchorage Square Parking Garage at Beach St and Jones St OR the Pier 39 Parking Garage. [Editor's note: Having done this several times, you are better off taking BART to SF, get off at Embarcadero and take a pedi-cab or Uber to the *O'Brien*. Quicker, easier, cheaper.]

**Cost:** \$185 Per Person. SIR146 Wives, Widows and Guests are welcome.

**Food and Beverage:** Donuts and Coffee Breakfast and Hot Dog and Chips Lunch with Water, Soda and Beer. All are provided at no extra cost. You can also bring your own food. No access to any refrigerators or microwaves on board. No ice chests or personal alcohol allowed.

**If interested:** Then buy your ticket at: [CLICK HERE](#) and inform Glenn Breslin [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) that you bought your ticket. Unfortunately, no group discounts are available.

**Carpools:** Closer to the date, we will assess carpool logistics.

**Caution:** Please provide yourself enough extra time for traffic, parking and walking to Pier 35 over this busy Fleet Week.

**Questions:** Contact me [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com) 925-788-6520 or call *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* direct at 415.544.0100.



Whenever I try to eat healthy a  
chocolate bar looks at me  
and snickers

**Final Battle of the Bay Bridge Series**  
**Last Chance to see the Oakland A's hosting SF Giants**



**SIR Day at the Ball Park**  
**August 18, 2024**  
**Oakland Coliseum-Sunday-1pm**

**Mail a \$70 check made out to Lee Moy**  
**Include a return addressed and stamped envelope to:**

**Lee Moy, 127 N. Helm Ave., Clovis, CA 93612**

**Tickets will be mailed to you, so please include the**  
**aforementioned envelope plus your contact info:**  
**phone number & email address.**

**Deadline: 8/8/2024**

Lee Moy  
State SIR Sports

# Parting Shot

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name.

Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down.

It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers.

That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in

Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature.

The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin.

As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's math teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.'

After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher.

'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it.'

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him.

'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.'

All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.'

Chuck's wife said, 'Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album.'

'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary'

Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists'

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

The density of people in society is so thick that we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be.

So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.