

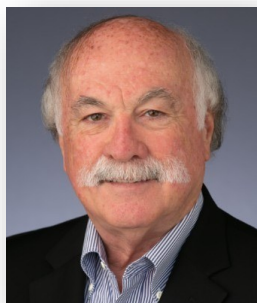


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

August—September 2026

Call



Big Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

I am pleased to report that we have had very good luck replacing a couple of key people on the SIR146 team. As you may have heard, our Treasurer **Mike Ball** is moving out of the area in September, and **Mark Raaberg** has graciously agreed to step in and assume the Treasurer's duties. We thank Mike for his efforts on behalf of SIR and wish him only the very best on his next chapter. **Mark Raaberg** has worked with **Mike Ball** and **Mike Rothman** in the transition and is well up to speed on the Treasurer's role. Additionally, **Bill Holly**, who has been managing the setup of the slide show and sound system at our monthly luncheons for many years now is stepping away from those duties and **Don Casey** has agreed to step into that role. We thank **Bill Holly** for his many years of service and thank **Don** for taking up this responsibility for SIR. The more the members stay engaged, the better the SIR organization is.

The SIR146 team has been hard at work to make the SIR experience as interesting as possible, and promote attendance. The Picnic Committee is working to schedule our annual picnic, with BBQ catered from Kinders Deli, with a date likely in September, and it will be free of charge for our members and a guest to participate. We will have more information shortly but sign up quickly as it will be popular.

Also, In December we decided to move the Ladies Luncheon on Thursday December 10th to an evening event, we will be calling it the SIR146 Holiday Dinner, and it will be

from 4:30PM to 7:30PM. We are still working on the details but it will include a Cocktail Hour with served appetizers and a drink coupon, in addition to a live choral group and dinner. We want to make this a more festive event for all, and **Steve Ybarra** and the team is working on doing just that. More info to be released in the coming months so put the date of Dec 10th on your calendars now! Again, plan early to attend as this will be a festive kickoff to the holiday season.

Our 8th CPR Training Class was held on Friday, July 17th and it was completely full. We have now updated more than 200 individuals on the objectives and priorities of a person faced with assisting someone having an emergency health issue. We will be having the next class in the October-November timeframe and will be having updated information on a CPR Certification Class that is being offered by the Contra Costa County EMS team. I will let you know as more information becomes available.

I want to extend an open invitation to all members to come to our BEC leadership team monthly meeting which takes place at 9:30 am on the Thursday before our monthly luncheons in the meeting room to the right as you enter the building. Come in and join the discussion to see how and what we are doing, and give us your insights as to how we can improve the organization. Each and every suggestion will be discussed.

We all want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. We are in SIR to enjoy life so help us keep our organization healthy, interesting, fun, and growing for all of us!!

Thom Degnan
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon **Thursday, August 13th, 2026** **Boundary Oak 10:30**

Victor Som on the challenges of Cyber Security

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
Click Here to go to page 4

Activities for you and your spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- For the birds [Page 17](#)
- Book Report [Page 18](#)
- Hiking [Page 20](#)
- Couples Dining Out [Page 23](#)
- MTD reports [Page 31](#)
- SongSIRs [Page 21](#)



Little Sir's Corner

Jim Pope

Speaker Overview: Our speaker is Victor Som who will address the challenges that we all face with Cyber Security in today's cyber world.

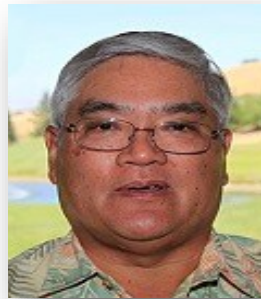
Seniors should know that cyber security means protecting personal information, money, and devices when using the internet. Scammers often target older adults through emails, phone calls, text messages, fake websites, and pop-up warnings that try to create fear or urgency. A message may claim to be from a bank, the government, a grandchild, or a computer support company, but the real goal is often to steal passwords, Social Security numbers, credit card information, or money. If something feels rushed, unusual, or too good to be true, it is best to pause, avoid clicking links, and verify the message by contacting the company or person directly using a trusted phone number.

To stay safer online, seniors should use strong, unique passwords for important accounts and turn on multi-factor authentication whenever possible. They should keep phones, computers, and apps updated, avoid sharing personal information with unknown callers or messages, and never pay someone with gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers because a caller demands it. It is also helpful to talk with a trusted family member, friend, bank, or local authority before sending money or giving out sensitive information. Cyber security is not about being afraid of technology; it is about slowing down, asking questions, and using good habits to stay connected safely.

IMPORTANT. the future of SIR 146:

I want to encourage all members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. We need more contribution and involvement from **you**. Step up and be a co-chair of an activity. The better SIR 146 will be and the better it will be for **you**.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership

George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in July.

Douglas "Doug" Richardson lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Lori**. He was an Anesthesiologist for Kaiser. He enjoys gardening, mountain biking and traveling. He is sponsored by **John "Moose" Kelly**.

Frederick "Fred" Morehouse lives in Alamo with his wife **Katie**. He was an Architect for various companies. He transferred from Sir Branch 128. He is sponsored by **Jim Pope**.

The 2026 membership count is **252**.

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

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon

925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Bud Pierce	2021	5
Ben Smith	2018	8
Mark Curtis	2017	9
Dave. Kingsbury	2017	9
Bob Lyman	2016	10
Rich Pace	2016	10
Peter Plante	2014	12
Tony Greco	2012	14
Max Hinkle	2012	14
Siegfried Kalteis	2008	18
Rich Ahlf	2004	22

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan
 Little Sir.....Jim Pope
 Secretary John Rexroat
 Assistant SecretaryMike Davidson
 TreasurerMike Ball
 Assistant TreasurerPaul Jones
 Director 1st TermGlenn Breslin
 Director 1st TermBob Lucido
 Director 1st TermOpen
 Director 2nd TermJim Crites
 Director 3rd TermJohn Alexander
 Director 3rd TermMark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander
 Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under
 the Members Only tab heading on our website, for
 phone numbers and email addresses.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

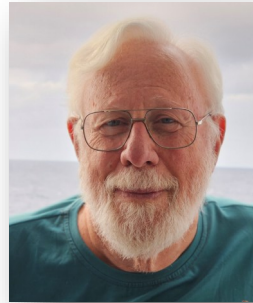
Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Alex Borders

Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIRCall in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[Current Issue of
SIRCall](#)



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

It was my great honor to be presented with the SIR Distinguished Service Award at last month's meeting. Recognition for the job I took on several years ago as the editor of SIRCall. It has been an interesting

and challenging experience and I want to recognize the help and encouragement I have received along the way. First in foremost, thank you all of you activity chairmen out there. Without your monthly reports there would be literally nothing to report. It is our Branch's varied and active list of activities that is the backbone for all we do. But even more than that, this position has offered the opportunity to meet and know so many of you, my fellow SIR members in so many ways, some new friends, some just pleasant passing acquaintances.

I also want to recognize the encouragement and help of the fellow SIR members we call the Newsletter Group, for all they do, especially our assistant editor, **Bob West**. We list them each month in that little insert most of you probably skip over in the left column but they are, one and all, an essential part of sending this newsletter out each and every month and a pleasure to work with and know!

And so, back to business, the cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the September issue will be noon, August 21 but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. It 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!

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday, August 13th, 2026

Salad

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

Entrees

Pesto Chicken

Herbed Rice Pilaf and Asparagus

Pesto Sole

Herbed Rice and Asparagus

Vegetarian Gnocchi

Asparagus and Creamy Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Strawberry Tart

SIR Branch 146 meets monthly

on the second Thursday of the month
at Boundary Oak golf course in Walnut Creek.

This is a luncheon meeting and

A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCH.

Twice a year, in May and December, we have a Ladies' Day event with spouses invited.

The meetings start at 11:30 but the doors open around 10:00 so members can congregate, order drinks, talk with friends and socialize.

We realize that plans change, things happen. If you have made a reservation but find you can not keep it, let us know! We will try to use it but, be aware, if is less than a week in advance you may still be charged for the lunch!

Bringing a guest? You, as their sponsor, are responsible for making a reservation for them and we suggest you coordinate this with the luncheon secretary.

Any problems or questions?

925.979.5721 AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

How to Reserve

- Email: AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.
 - To make this easy for you, click on the link in the menu (links are bold, underlined and blue) corresponding to your menu choice. If the lunch is a Buffet, click on "Buffet"; no menu choice is required. This will initiate the correct email form for you to fill in your name and send.
 - If your pdf reader does not support calls to your email client you should simply initiate your own email; be sure to include your menu choice in the body of the email.
- Call: 925.979.5721 and leave a message indicating your name and menu choice.

How to Pay

There are three ways you can pay!

- **Pay annually!** One payment, once per year with your dues and all is well. Plus you get 10 lunches for the price of 8! That's 2 FREE lunches!
- **Pay with Zelle.** Use your phone and your bank's mobile app. In the "send money" option of Zelle you should see "scan a QR code". Well, here it is. Scan away! Hint... save it for next time!
- **Pay by check.** Mail in or bring your check to the luncheon*, made out to SIR Branch 146, and give it to the member handling check in.
- The current cost is **\$37.00**.



* Same day payment not available for Ladies' Days Luncheons!

Put the September Luncheon on your calendar NOW!

AUGUST

Ross Abbott
Mac Avery
Mike Ball
Lennox Byer
Mark Curtis
Loren Delaurenti
Stephen Dick
Paul Dubow
John Fitzgerald
Roy Hodgkinson
Nick Jabuka
Brian McCarthy
Aubrey Moore
Martin Pendergrast

Bob Spellman
Tom Stucker
Curtis Young
Howard Zimmerman



SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 10th, 2026

Salad

Blue Cheese Wedge Salad
with bacon Bites and Tomatoes

Entrees

[Herb Marinated Roasted Chicken.](#)

Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans

[Citrus Marinated Snapper](#)

Smashed Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans

[Vegetarian Portobello Mushroom](#)

Farro and Garlic Green Beans

Dessert

Baked Peach Tart



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.



Pat O'Keeffe



Peter Plante

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.

July

Photos by
Henry Thatcher



Distinguished Service Awards

The July luncheon started with the presentation of three Distinguished Service Awards: Left to right are the recipients and their spouses. Peter Plante and Martha, Clint Collier with his wife Bev and Steve Ybarra and Dana.

The Branch is indebted to the service these three SIR members have provided over the past years. Peter as the "leader of the Band", so to speak, with SongSirs, Clint, the editor of this newsletter and Steve who manages the Ladies' Day Luncheons.



Doug Richardson



Fred Morehouse



Keith Denison

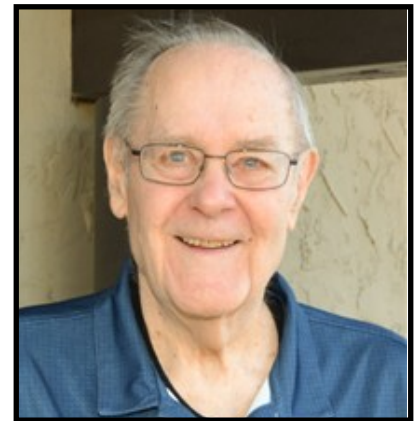


Randy Barisof



June
Pete Gates







NOTES

from Our Members



Moonlight on the Mountain 2026

Save Mount Diablo's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

ABOUT THE GALA

Join us for our 25th annual Moonlight on the Mountain, Save Mount Diablo's signature fundraising gala, a celebration of Diablo's precious beauty and support for Save Mount Diablo's essential work.

Guests are transported up the mountain's slopes where they are treated to an elegant three-course meal, live music, and both live and silent cocktail auctions—all while surrounded by the unparalleled, majestic views Mount Diablo has to offer.

This gala dinner draws a crowd of more than 500 individuals, elected officials, and conservation-minded corporate partners and local businesses.

Your support helps ensure Save Mount Diablo can continue protecting Mount Diablo and its range for future generations of people and wildlife.

Pending interest, we will reserve a table for 10 SIR members/spouses – Cost \$400/person (non-refundable)

Contact Cleo Bolen by May 15th for reservations cleo.bolen@comcast.net or 925-768-7902



Activities!

Stay Active... Stay young



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

A new **SIR146 Film Group** is now forming. Contact Frank Terzuoli if interested: frankterz@hotmail.com. Here is some information about this group:

- The first meeting will be 8/20.
- One 2 hour meeting each month in the WC library to discuss up to three films.
- Attendees don't need a film background. The focus is on what made the film fun to watch vs. analyzing why in detail.
- The technical factors discussion is just a way to articulate why it is a good film vs. over analyzing the film. This will enable the group to understand what good direction entails and why it is challenging.
- Another area of discussion will be comparing the film to good one from a recent past. This often gives better appreciation for the current film upon review.

2026-2027 Initial theater plays and music events have been announced. For additional theater plays and music events details, the Theater section of this newsletter Additional theater plays and a Magic Show will be announced by the end of August.

Leshar Theater

- Sat 9/26/26 at 2:30 PM – Glass Menagerie, group tickets are \$43
- <https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-glass-menagerie>
- Sat 4/3/27 at 7:30 PM – The Doo Wop Project: Echoes of the Street, \$75
- <https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20834/3224>
- <https://www.thedoowopproject.com/>
- Do not send a check just yet. Too far in advance

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

- Sun 12/6/26 at 5:00 PM – Snow Day (Walnut Creek Concert Band), general admission tickets are \$12 each.
- <https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20554/3144>.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities! Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[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](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

[Mexican Train](#)

[Dominoes](#)

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

[Poker:](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



Travel

Glenn Breslin

I will be transitioning my travel duties to a new Travel Chair in August I need to firm up with this new prospective travel chair before his name is conveyed to all.

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires! Let me know if you would like to receive a questionnaire.

Let me if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Special Trip from Milt Smith, State SIR travel.

SIR Members! I have booked a May 2027 trip called Crossroads of the Adriatic. It is with Overseas Adventure Travel; Departure date is May 4. '27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available for Albania. Until they fill single traveler supplements are free.

This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Price, including airfare, starts at \$7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIR to keep our group. **Deadline for us is end of July 2026. Signing up now can also result in some good discounts.** I will also be advertising this with other SIR Branches. So... please take a look at the brochure, if you sign up be sure to use **our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know.** I can email you the brochure. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text...I do all three.

Milt Smith

925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

[Click Here for Trip Brochure](#)



Table Pool

Jim Barry

Since Massès on N Main closed after the Super Bowl in February, the group has been playing at Cue & Brew on Arnold Drive in Martinez. We've been enjoying a good turnout of players, so it would indicate that our members are enjoying the new location.

At our June 8 pool session, **John Rexroat** "ran the table" to win a game, i.e. he sank 8 consecutive balls

including the 8 ball before any balls were made by the other team. Good shooting, **John!**

On Monday, July 20th, **Roy Hodgkinson** sank the 8 ball on the break. That is a very rare occurrence for amateur pool players. Professionals can do it about 20% of the time.

Both above are the equivalent of a hole in one in golf!

Jim Barry

jbarry@sbcglobal.net



AREA 16 Fishing Report



SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are **Pedro Contreras**, 925.837.4847; and **Carl Moyer**, 925.378.9389. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, August 27th at 8:30am. Come early.

Although our salmon season started, the ocean was so rough only a few of us sought the silvery delights. **Geno Calhau** and **Steve Smith** were the only ones with the two fish limit. **Matt Richards** got one. It was very disappointing, **Matt**, **Carl Moyer** and **Dennis Lee** got limits of tasty rockfish. That's all the California ocean gave us in a very unproductive early summer. However, our local lakes left us grinning. **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Phil Schimonelli**, **Ray Pixton** and **Pete Gates** fished Lake McClure for kokanee salmon and rainbow trout. **Tom Chapman** hosted 5 of us, including Ross Abbott and **Brad Hatcher**, at New Melones for more of the same. **Tom Kostik** liked the smallmouth bass and rainbows caught at Pinecrest Lake. **Mike Pruett** went upriver to find some shad. **Ken Bellendir**, **Shawn Kelly**, **Pedro Contreras**, and **Vince Francioni** managed to coax some halibut and stripers from the bay. **Brion Beetz**, **Tom Chapman**, **Lee Clark**, **Steve Paulick**, and **Dave Havlik** went to La Paz, Mexico for a few days of many kinds of salt water finny fighters.

Brad Hatcher for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



9 Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Let's get out and enjoy this beautiful weather. While the rest of the country is dealing with torrential rain come play a round of golf with us. Please email me if you would like to play with us:

(Scubabob.ford@gmail.com) . 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



Bocce John Kendrick

Start your Monday mornings with fresh air, friendly competition, and good company. Join fellow members and guests for relaxed bocce games at Newhall Park—no experience (or special attire) required!

Games are played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from May through September, starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing approximately around 10:00 a.m.

All games take place at the Bocce Ball Courts at Newhall Park, located near the corner of Turtle Creek Road and Ayers Road in Concord.

Join us for a fun and relaxed Monday morning of bocce and camaraderie. Ladies are welcome, and formal bocce attire is not required—just bring yourself and enjoy the game.

Please note: Games will be cancelled in the event of rain.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater and Music Shows

- For many of the below shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, send a check made out to SIR146 and mail to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- I will then give you a choice of the available seats
- **The first ½ of the SIR146 2026-2027 is now announced (see below). The second ½ will be announced by the end of August and include two plays and one Magic Show.**

Sat 9/26/26 at 2:30 PM – Glass Menagerie, group tickets are \$43 each. At Leshar Theater

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-glass-menagerie>

Join us for a powerful evening of classic American theatre! *The Glass Menagerie* is Tennessee Williams' most intimate and emotional play – a beautifully staged story about family, memory, and the dreams we chase. This production has earned outstanding reviews for its acting, atmosphere, and emotional impact. It's a perfect outing for those who enjoy meaningful stories and great conversation afterward. Expect a moving, relatable performance that stays with you long after the final scene.

Sun 12/6/26 at 5:00 PM – Snow Day (Walnut Creek Concert Band), general admission tickets are \$12 each.

at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20554/3144>

Let's welcome the holiday season with music that lifts the spirit. The Walnut Creek Concert Band's *Snow Day!* concert is packed with joyful winter melodies, festive favorites, and the kind of bright, feel-good energy that makes December evenings special. This performance blends heartwarming storytelling with the rich, full sound of a live concert band – the kind of music that instantly puts you in a good mood. It's cheerful, nostalgic, and perfect for sharing with friends. An early evening start, a friendly community setting, and a program designed to make you smile – this is exactly the kind of outing that leaves everyone feeling lighter and happier. Join us for a warm, uplifting holiday concert. RSVP to enjoy a festive night out with our group.

Sat 4/3/27 at 7:30 PM – The Doo Wop Project: Echoes of the Street, \$75 At Leshar Theater

Do not send checks ! Too early. Only RSVP Yes at this time

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20834/3224>

<https://www.thedoowopproject.com/>

America's premier group dedicated to preserving and expanding the genre of this great music we know and love, Doo Wop! The Doo Wop Project brings the classic sounds of the '50s and '60s to life with incredible harmonies, slick choreography, and a modern twist that keeps the energy high from start to finish. Expect beloved hits from groups like The Drifters, The Platters, and Frankie Valli. The boys of the Doo Wop Project also take contemporary songs and give them a Doo Wop twist make the show feel both nostalgic and brand new. It's upbeat, polished, and guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Thanks to this exciting approach, DWP appeals to every generation.

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

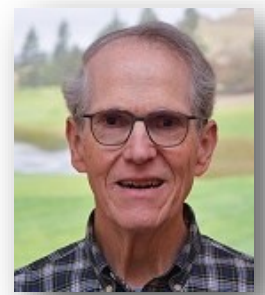
Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Photography Group

The photography members met on Friday, July 17th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. We had a spirited, enthusiastic, engaged group of 13 (lucky number) photographers that attended this meeting. The following members attended: **Miker Rothman, Glenn Breslin, Frank Terzuoli, Bill Holly, Phil Lee, Richard Pace, Henry Thatcher, Earl Bates, Don Casey, Tom Amann, and Moose Kelly.** We had two new photographers that joined the



meeting. A **BIG** welcome to **Doug Richardson** and **Chris Conner** for attending the meeting. A "SHOUT OUT" to **Miker Rothman** for bringing cookies for a great afternoon snack.

Topics that were discussed at this meeting were:

Walnut Creek Senior Men Activities – **Glenn Breslin** provided a demonstration of the website that he created as a recruiting tool for SIR Branch 146. The website did work with the result of **Chris Conner** coming to our meeting today. Way to go **Glenn!!**

The Greatest Photographers of Our Time – **Henry Thatcher** led a discussion on this topic from an article in Amateur Photography by Peter Dench. The author focusses on photographers from roughly the early 1900's to 1970's. There was a panel of 15 judges that decided by voting who were the top photographers of this period. Some of those top photographers were Lee Miller, Robert Frank, Martin Parr, William Eggleston and other. Henry presented the case for one of his own top photographers who was Bernie Boston. Mr. Boston worked for the Washington Star and later the LA Times. He is most remembered for the 1967 photo "Flower Power" which was perhaps one of the most iconic photos of the turbulent 60's. This particular photo was a runner up for the Pulitzer Prize. Bernie served four terms as the White House News Photographers Association President. Nicely done **Henry!**

Nighttime Photography plus Photoshoot Details – **Don Casey** discussed gold vs. blue lightening and the implications of shooting pictures during this short time period. Professor **Casey** discussed how to adjust the Exposure Triangle that consists of ISO, Aperture, and Shutter Speed. Together these three settings control the brightness, focus, and motion in your photos. This is particularly important when shooting around sunset. **Don** discussed two options in shooting in San Francisco in August or September. The first option is to stay around the Embarcadero shooting from piers at the Bay Bridge or looking back into the city capturing the building lights. Dinner would be at Gott's. The second option is shooting in North Beach and Chinatown. Dinner would be at the Lai Hong Lounge which is a Dim Sum restaurant. More information will be forthcoming from **Don**. Another master class in photography!! Thank you, **Don!!**

July Meeting Photo Sharing – **Frank Terzuoli, Bob Wilkenfeld, Doug Richardson, Miker Rothman, Earl Bates, Don Casey, and Moose Kelly** shared photos from vacation travels, local parades et al. Miker Rothman showed how he used an AI program to film himself and his dog, Rosie walking in the field. VERY creative, **Miker!!** My thanks to all the photographers that shared their pictures. Some of those photos are attached for your viewing.

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

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

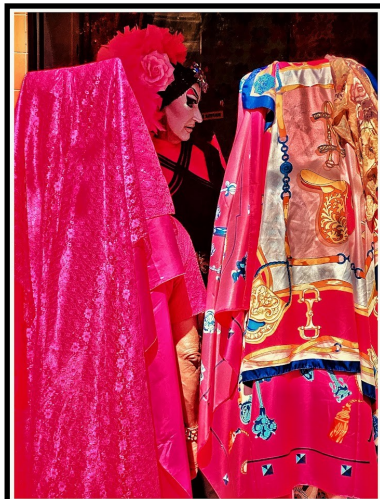
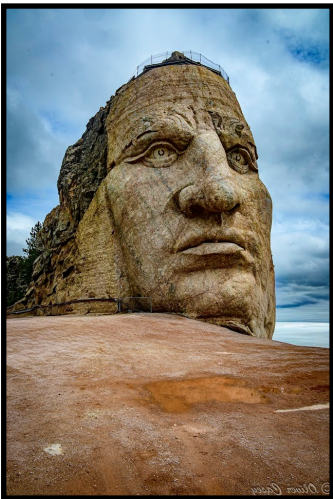
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman

415.937.1846 mrothman9@gmail.com

Pictures on next page





Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30 AM, a group of seven SIR birders met at the Inspiration Point parking lot in Tilden Park and hiked along the Inspiration Trail that follows a scenic ridgeline. In spite of the early morning fog, we ended up spotting or hearing 14 species of birds. We ended up getting great, long looks at our target bird, the Olive-sided Flycatcher. This flycatcher “wears” a magnificent vest and breeding males frequently have a white wing spot that we were all able to see. The bird was silent, but it has a unique song that sounds like: “Quick 3 beers”. We also had long looks at a hovering Western Bluebird as it was hunting flying insects in an oak tree next to where we were standing.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 am on August 10th (2nd Monday). The trip location has not been determined yet; I will be following the latest bird and weather reports in order to find the most unique bird sightings. I will be sending out the location and detailed directions about 1 week before the trip. If you are not on my mailing list, please contact me at tedr@berkeley.edu so that I can add you. Beginning birders are welcome along with their spouses or close friends. I have a few loaner binoculars for those of you just starting out.

Ted Robertson
tedr@berkeley.edu



Group Photo (photo by **Ted Robertson**)



Olive-sided Flycatcher
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Western Bluebird
(Photo by **Bob Hislop**)



Acorn Woodpecker
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Dark-eyed Junco
Oregon subspecies
(Photo by **Earl Bates**)



Book Group Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: July

Bruce Holsinger's *Culpability* explores the fragile dynamics of the Cassidy-Shaw family following a devastating highway collision involving their autonomous minivan. Beyond the immediate shock of the crash, the novel examines moral responsibility, human agency, and the pervasive integration of artificial intelligence into daily life.

The narrative centers on a family intimately tied to their technology. Narrated by father and lawyer Noah Cassidy, the story begins when seventeen-year-old Charlie is in the driver's seat of the family's AI-driven vehicle alongside Noah, while mother Lorelei—a world-renowned AI ethicist—and tween daughters Alice and Izzy are absorbed in their devices in the back. When the vehicle collides with an oncoming car, the resulting aftermath forces each family member to reckon with personal secrets, shifting memories, and hidden culpabilities that obscure who—or what—is truly to blame.

Culpability details the psychological and emotional toll of living alongside autonomous systems. As the police investigation deepens, Noah struggles to protect his family while suspecting that Lorelei's secretive behavior hides a darker truth tied to Daniel Monet, an enigmatic tech mogul with whom she shares a complex past. The novel exposes the unsettling ways AI infiltrates intimacy and trust—from the children confiding in a chatbot witness to the mother framing the ethics of algorithms. Holsinger complicates the blame at every turn, examining whether the fault lies with human distraction, technological failure, corporate greed, or reliance on automated efficiency.

The backdrop of a summer retreat on Chesapeake Bay provides a stark contrast to the omnipresent, nonhuman forces shaping the characters' lives. Surrounded by AI-powered luxury amenities and high-tech over-

sight, the family's attempt at quiet recuperation is undermined by growing dread and suspicion.

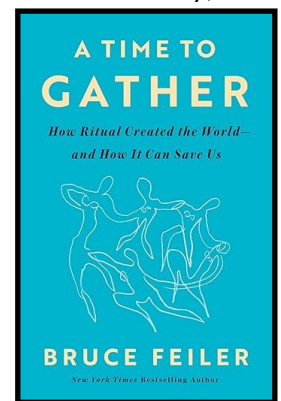
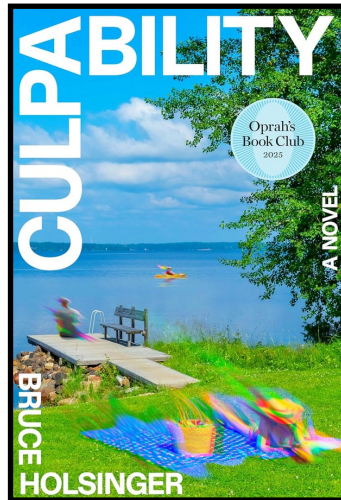
Told primarily through Noah's perspective and interspersed with Lorelei's academic writings on AI ethics, the narrative voice strikes a rare balance between suspense and depth. Holsinger captures the contemporary anxiety of relying on systems we cannot fully control.

Culpability transcends the traditional domestic drama, serving as a timely commentary on accountability, lost autonomy, and ethics in an algorithm-driven era. It is a suspenseful reflection on what happens when nonhuman systems collide with human vulnerability.

We recommend *Culpability* as both a page-turning thriller and an essential read that raises urgent questions for anyone navigating technology in the age of artificial intelligence.

Our next book will be *A Time to Gather: How Rituals Created the World and How They Might Save It* by Bruce Feiler. Our group will meet next on Wednesday, August 5th at 8 AM at the Panera Bread at Treat and Bancroft. All SIR members are welcome, contact Nick Jabuka for more information.

Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike
Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 [njabu-
ka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

June 23: Today was a different day. We had two groups ride as one. **Thom** had a group and **Larry** had a group. We met at a spot in Alamo and merged the two groups. The ride went to Southern San Ramon and then looped back over the Bol-

linger canyon bridge. The day was perfect for a long ride. We stopped at Katy's for fuel and then rode on. Partaking today was; **Bill Ross, Dave Paulson, Thom Degnan, Eric Finson, Cleo Bolen, Brian totter, Moose Kelly and Larry Kaye, Jim Nelson and Elmer Bricca** returned home for time issues. Great ride. Open your door and get outside. **Larry**



June 30: Today we planned to go to Moraga from Alamo. And we did. We had **Moose Kelly, Eric Finson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Thom Degnan, Mike Schrupp, Phil Le, Bill Holly and Larry Kaye**. The ride was nice and the wind was in our faces the entire trip. Java at Si Si in Moraga. Return trip we took the streets. Great downhill, and ugly traffic. Into Lafayette and then back to Alamo. Age seemed to not matter. We just did it. Open the door and put your rear end outside. **Larry**

July 7: The weather was gray and the ride looked to stay under the clouds. We rode. Who cared? Let's get some exercise and maybe the clouds will part. Off we went. The route today was the famous Blackhawk loop with the added Macedo Ranch loop. It was a nice ride and the Ranch allowed us to visit the restroom. The clouds parted as always once we approached Alamo our start and finish. Riding today were : **Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, Eric Finson, Elmer Bricca, Dave Paulson, Mike**

Schrupp, and Larry Kaye

July 14: The ride today was an 8:30 roll out from Alamo. The plan being to beat the impending heat. **Tom Alborg, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Eric Finson, Dave Paulson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Cleo Bolen and Larry Kaye** showed up. The route took us around the back way of Blackhawk. It's hilly and the downhills screamers. A stop at the Danville Park to alleviate some liquids from our well tuned bodies and home we headed. Back at Peets just in time to beat the blast of heat. Great ride. The door front door opens to exercise if you step out. **Larry**



July 21: Knowing the day was to be hot we rolled at 8:30. The plan was head South towards our goal. We rode and stopped at Norris Canyon to discuss the rest of the ride as the heat welled up. Keep on South was the opinion. So we went over the Bollinger Canyon bridge and the heat was growing. Back the group went towards Alamo. Returning some of us met to plan future rides and some went home to cool off. A great ride. Today we had: **Eric Finson, Bill Holly, Dave Paulson, Tom Alborg, Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Bob Wilkenfeld and Larry Kaye**. Remember: Open the door and get outside. **Larry**





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Crocket Hills Regional Park provided stunning vistas of the Carquinez Strait and the town of Rodeo on July 6th. Despite windy conditions and a few wrong turns, **Earl Bates, Chris Duffek, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed the 3.6-mile hike with a little more than 800-feet of climbing.



Summer heat led us to hike Tilden Park on July 13th. The Sky Trail never fails to provide great views of both central Contra Costa and the upper Bay. **Earl Bates, Prashant Gupte Ray Martz, Roger Meyer, Dan Reich, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** enjoyed the wonderful vistas. However, the 5-mile hike, with a little over 1100-feet of climbing, in the 85-degree heat and 50% humidity was tough. And the 600-foot climb in the last mile of the hike whipped all our butts!



The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with around 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilkx4@gmail.com





Book Corner

Paul Kersis

The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book – borrow a book!





SongSirs

Don Casey

Wow; changes! I am settling in as **Peter Plante's** replacement, and the group is coming to grips with what it means having a new leader. Mainly they're working to break me in. **Peter** is healing up so he can return at some point as a singing member (his true passion).

While all this is going on, **Steve Dinning**, our pianist, has had some family issues that have made his availability spotty. You may have noticed we've gone a capella at recent monthly meetings... we will continue to rehearse in that mode, both for growth and to cover those cases where **Steve** is attending to more important matters.

We wish both **Peter** and **Steve** all the best, including rapid and happy outcomes.

We're currently working on songs for our next concert, while at the same time trying to sort out where and when (with assistance from **Peter**). The theme is 'Songs of Summer'. We may (with permission) add an a capella "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" as an additional closer at the August luncheon, so come prepared to root for your home team.

The photos show us in our three natural states:

- Rehearsing
- Singing at the April Monthly Meeting
- Appearing at a retirement home performance (Saint Patrick's Day)

Don Casey

925.689.4209 donjcasey@comcast.net





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

Our lunch group gathered at the home of **Clint Collier** for our monthly meeting this month while our "associated ladies" did their thing at the

new restaurant in Rossmoor, the Golden Pear.

As we gathered on the patio and the cork screws came out, the crew got to munch on a selection of crudité's and dips, appropriate fare for the second hottest day we have seen this year. Pleasant conversation and good wine flowed for the first half of our lunch. As the temperature crept towards a hundred, we moved the main course inside for the joy of the air conditioning and **Clint** served a shrimp pasta salad along with balsamic marinated tomatoes. Lunch concluded with some crispy lemon cookies served to complement **Clint's** homemade Limoncello, a definite hit that called for seconds all around!



Get well, Paul, we miss you!

Clint Collier for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 pdubow2398@aol.com



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met on a warm July afternoon at **Ron Polivka's** home. Ron is a new member to the group and this was his first time hosting Cooking II. After showing everyone his lovely and most impressive house the group settled in for an enjoyable lunch on **Ron's** shaded deck. We were first treated to a tray of appetizers. The usual morsels of cheeses and delicacies quickly disappeared. **Ron** then demonstrated his barbecuing technique for cooking moist chicken with special fresh herb seasonings. Accompanying the chicken was a peach-blueberry spinach salad and baked beans with bacon. The entire lunch was prepared to perfection and absolutely delicious. Not homemade, the dessert was special nonetheless. The Cooking II group was treated to chocolate cream pie from the Hick'ry Pit, a Walnut Creek legend. The Cooking II group will next meet on August 10 at a yet to be determined location.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



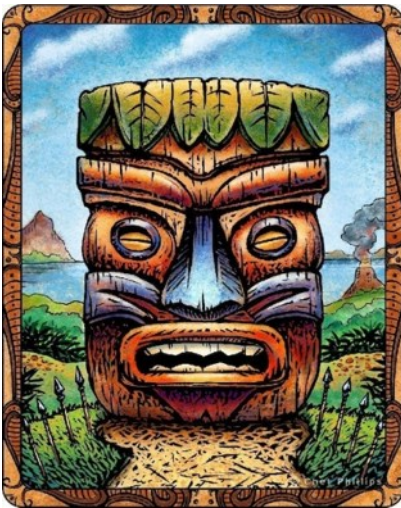
寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Hang in there gang... it is almost sushi time! Only a couple of weeks until August 20th when we will convene to try a new (to us) restaurant in Concord that has escaped our radar up until now. Confirm with the coming August e-mail for Wasabi Japanese restaurant, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Concord at 11:30!

Clint Collier
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Join us for Aloha Hour



Aloha! No Hawaiian vacation this year?

No problem!

Bring a little island spirit closer to home by joining us for our Dine Out Aloha Hour at Kaia's Island Kitchen & Bar.

Come relax on Kaia's tropical patio, catch up with friends, and enjoy a delicious selection of Happy Hour appetizers, small plates, and refreshing drinks. If you're still in vacation mode and decide to stay for dinner, that's perfectly fine—we won't make you leave!

Friends are always welcome, so grab your favorite travel companion (no passport required) and join us for an evening of good food, great conversation, and plenty of aloha.

Mahalo—we hope to see you there! ☺☺

- When: Tuesday, August 25th 2026
- Happy Hour: 3pm to 6 pm
- Location: Kaia's Island Kitchen & tiki Bar,
- 480 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

Parking is easy — there's a convenient municipal parking lot close to the restaurant.

We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food, friends, and laughter!

Please let us know if you will join us. Contact **Bob Lucido** so we can inform the restaurant of how many will be attending.

925.899.0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



See Next Page for Menu

Al Guzman

mrvalguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbnocal.com

HAPPY HOUR

~~~Order off the Menu~~~

Fried Fish Tacos (2)	\$8.00
Kalua Pork Tacos (2)	\$8.00
Tiki Chicken Bites	\$11.00
*Green Waves	\$12.00
Tiki Torch Satay	\$12.00
Huli Huli Sliders (3)	\$12.00



Small Plates

Island Fries	\$6.00
Veggie Spring Rolls	\$10.00
Spam Musubi	\$10.00
Maui Salad	\$12.00
Kalua Pork Nachos	\$13.00

Coconut Shrimp	\$15.00
*Poke Crisp	\$15.00
Veggie Garlic Noodle Bowl	\$15.00
Garlic Shrimp Bowl	\$18.00
Early Bird Mix Plate	\$15.00



Drinks

All Draft Beer \$6.00/glass
All Wine/Sparkling wine: \$3.00 off per glass
Select Cocktails: \$3.00 off



'44 Mai Tai
Chi Chi
Painkiller
Blue Hawaii
Zombie
Jet Pilot

Saturn
Kaia's Crown
Cranberry Punch
Seb's Sling
Three Hour Tour
Ipanema Breeze

Remember... let **Bob Lucido** know you are coming so we can inform the restaurant. .

925 .899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met at Sue and **Bruce Borgman's** last July 19th.

A very manageable group of players that were spoiled with the wonderful spread of goodies throughout the game.

The Red table was all business, and were able to complete 10 hands in the time allotted, while the Black table was a bit slower and only completed 6 hands. There was a bit of discussion over our senior eyes having trouble with counting the pips on the tiles! Something we have all encountered during our games. We were treated to **Sue's** famous baking with a Banana cake for half time dessert.

Next month will be at yours truly, **Corrie and Sue Oranje's**.

Corrie Oranje



And the winners are: Corrie (3rd),
Virginia (1st) and Bruce (2nd)

Our generation had Wonder Woman.
The current generation has to wonder if
it's a woman.

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

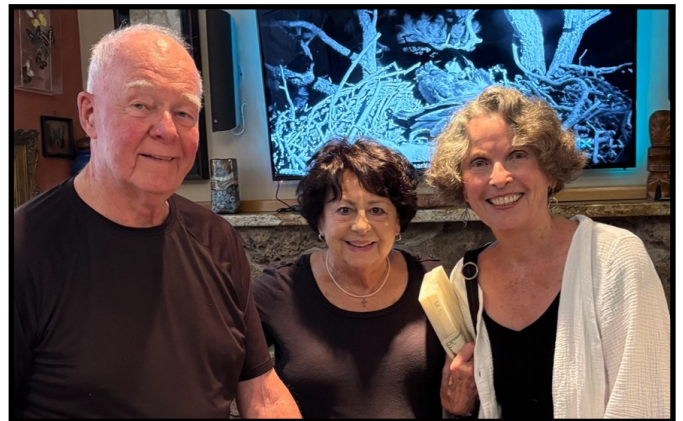
We played at the Walnut Creek home of **Clint and Bev Collier** on Friday, June 26. **Bev** had a supply of

treats prior to the game. Ice cream and strawberries were served at the break.

We once again were joined by **Tony and Cindy Greco** to round our players out to a full 12. We still do not have a new couple to make our group whole.

Marlene DeLaurenti had a fantastic night winning 4 rounds and taking first place with a 11.9 average. **Anne Plachy** came in 2nd with an 18.0 average. **Ron Plachy** rounded off the winners with an 18.4 average.

Next month, we will play at the home of **Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti** in Walnut Creek.



Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, June 26th at the home of **Sharon Varner**. The ole Friday special huffed and puffed its way to her doorstep. Gathering around the table were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Alicia Baily**. Sharon is always a wonderful host who spoils us with wonderful table treats and half-time faire.

Bringing her best game to combat was **Alicia Baily**, taking home 1st Place and all the bragging rights. Both **Judy Richmond** and **Sharon Varner** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd, showing off their skills.

We chatted alot and very much enjoyed the afternoon together. We said our goodbyes, and quietly followed the sun home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, July 24th at the home of **Alicia Baily**. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Alicia Baily, Judy Richmond & Sharon Varner



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro"

Jim Pope

On July 17th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 17 players

The group enjoyed super goodies provided by several members and some wine and beer, too. We had 17 players, so we played at 2 tables of 6 and one table or 5. The low score winners at each table were **Katie Morehouse, Rich Pace** and **Renie Pope**. We paid each table winner 5 or 6 one-dollar California Lotto tickets respectively. There were three high score players at each table: **Sam Ward**, guest (Katie Morehouse's son), **Leslie Firth** and **Henry Thatcher**. They received one Lotto ticket each.

The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on August 21st. (Photo by **Jim Pope**)



MTD 4, July 17th Low Scorers: **Katie Morehouse, Rich Pace** and **Renie Pope**.

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net

Why do the French eat snails?
They don't like fast food.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

Our June 24 Mexican Train gathering was once again held at the home of Kathe Mitchell, with **John Kendrick**

serving as our gracious host.

Congratulations to **Kathe Mitchell**, who continued her winning streak by taking first place once again!

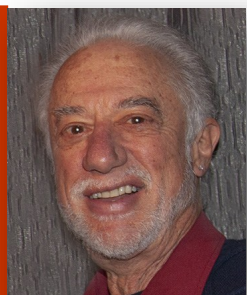
Mary Schmidt finished in second place, and **Bruce Borgman** claimed third.

Special recognition goes to **Peter Plante** and **Sue Borgman**, who shared a scratcher prize for their outstanding play.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next Mexican Train gathering on July 22, 2026, once again at **Kathe Mitchell's** home. See you there!

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

In July, we met at the lovely home of **Bob & Judy Wilkenfeld**, who hosted our MTD 7 event. We had 11 competing players. **Judy**

Wilkenfeld took first place with and **Mary McCarthy** came in second, and **Bob West** was 3rd.

We would like to welcome back **Norm** and **Mary Azevedo** as substitutes

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

With two regular couples unavailable on July 1st, we welcomed **Bruce Borgman** and **Mary Jo Potter**, bringing

attendance to 17, near our target of 18 to 20 players. Snacks for the evening were provided by **Larry** and **Pam McAlliser**.

Now for the scoring details: **Sue Loftin** finished in 1st place with an average score of **9.14**. **Pam McAlister** took 2nd place with an average score of **10.86**, and **Chris Flannigan** finished 3rd with an average score of **14.86**.

Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday, August 5th, with our newest members, **Jeff** and **Peggy Dreyfus**, hosting.

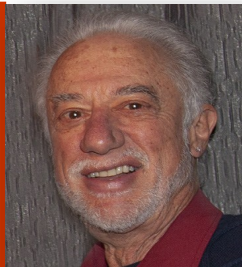
Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



MTD 8 July 1st Winners (L to R): L/R **Chris Flannigan** (3rd place), **Pam McAllister** (2nd place), & **Sue Loftin** (1st place)

I just checked my account balance
at the ATM.

It printed me a coupon for ramen
noodles.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

In June 17th, we met at the lovely home of **Bob & Jane West**, who hosted our

MTD 9 event.

We had **five** players, and **Bob West** took first place, **Jane West** came in second, and **Mary McCarthy** was 3rd.

We welcome back **Dale Dalgaard** as a substitute.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD9 Winners on June 17th; **Mary McCarthy** 3rd, **Jane West** 2nd and **Bob West** 1st.

I'm at the age where picking up a hottie at
the club means buying a cooked rotisserie
chicken at Costco



Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

In July, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Mary Denney** at her home in Walnut Creek on the 17th. We had 6 players join us for fun, snacks and games. The July winners were **Alex Borders**, **Cleo Bolen** and **Frank Lucas**, with consolation prizes going to **Mary Denney** and **Barbara Petersen**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For August, the game will be on the 21st at the home of **Steve** and **Barbara Petersen**. We rotate hosting among different homes.

This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



CARD GAMES ...we play



Cribbage John Kendrick

A lively group of cribbage enthusiasts gathered at Rocco’s Restaurant on the afternoon of June 24, 2026, for a friendly six-person tournament filled with close games, good food, and plenty of laughs.

The players included **Ron Afdal**, **Steve Cosson**, **Kirk McVean**, **John Pearl**, **Jack Starr**, and event organizer **John Kendrick**, who somehow managed to run the tournament and still find time to play—while also occasionally stepping in to explain the rules one more time

“just in case.”

Despite the relaxed atmosphere, the competition was strong throughout the afternoon, with several matches coming down to the final count. When the cards were finally laid down and the scores were tallied, **Steve Cosson** earned first place, followed by **Kirk McVean** in second, and **Jack Starr** taking third.

The event wrapped up on a high note, with players already looking ahead to the next gathering at Rocco’s for another round of cards, camaraderie, and friendly rivalry..

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Since the prior SIRC call submission, we are reporting on results for June. The major winners were **Cleo Bolen** and **Ron Polivka** both with 3 wins, and **Ron** had 2 STM's.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** leads with 16 wins followed by **Ron Polivka** with 13 and **Bob Haber** with 11. In winning percentage **Jim Passaglia**

leads with 63%, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 50%, and **Bob West** with 40%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** leads with 15, followed by **Dave Smith** with 12. In lowest average score **Jim Passaglia** leads with 43.6 and **Ron Polivka** has 55.3. In STM's, **Ron Polivka** leads with 7, and **Frank Lucas** has 6. In most improved over 2025, **Bob Haber** and **Will Stratton** are both 200% better, followed by **Frank Lucas** at 148%. Best Sheriffs: **Brian McCarthy**, **Ron Polivka**, **Bill Vizza** and **Dick Wade**, all had no uncovered passes this year.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be July 24th, August 14th, and August 28th.

Please email us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

A Special Note: **Bill Vizza** passed on June 8th, and had been a member since 2020. He attended the most heart events of everyone and was a great person, a Navy man to the core, who loved hearts as shown by his playing with us on his 80th Birthday back in 2022. We will miss him dearly and hope to be at his celebration on August 2nd, at 10:00 am, at the Alvarez 9th Street Park in Benicia.

Co-Directors
Bob West and Steve Ybarra
robwtawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Picture of **Bill Vizza** with Hearts Group at Rocco's on his May 27th 2022 80th Birthday.
Bill is in red. Photo by Michelle.

Lance is an uncommon name these days.
But in Medieval times, people were named Lance a lot



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, July 10 with three tables and 12 players was hosted by **Dick DeVoe**.

Scores were really tight, with only 5.0 points difference between 1st and 9th place!

- **Max Hinkle** earned 1st place with 28.5 points. Congratulations, **Max**!
- **Ed Marlovits** was 2nd with 28.0 points.
- **Dick DeVoe** was 3rd with 27.5 points.

Dick DeVoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Party Bridge

Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson

On July 6, we had an 8 player game at the home of **Mike Davidson** who was a fine host. The players were **Mike Whitaker**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Max Hinkle**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Jim Stedman**, **Mike Davidson**, and **Bill Schaaf**. **Bill Schaaf** finished first with 4590 points, **Joe Fuchs** was second with 3920 points and **Mike**



Davidson, third, with 3880 points.

Our next game will be on August 3 at the Boundary Oak facility. Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to play in any future game.

Bill Schaaf

925.899.5913 billschaaf13@comcast.net

Mike Davidson

925.324.1867 mdavidson065@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted our July 7th event. With 2 regular couples unavailable to play this month and lack of enough available subs, we went with a 2-Table event again in lieu of the usual 3-Table event.

John and Kathy Kluesener had good cards and played well. They shut out their Round 1 opponents 1870 to 0 and almost shut out their Round 3 opponents 1130 to 100 but for going down 1 on the last hand of the round. If they only took a trump finesse they'd have a second shutout. Drat. Earlier in the season **John** wanted to burn the cards for lack of point yield. He has since changed his mind. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3600 points - **John and Kathy Kluesener**
- 2nd PLACE with 3280 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**

Our next event will be held on August 4th and hosted by **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Brad and Lynn Hatcher hosted our little bridge club on Bastille Day, July 14th. All of our regulars were there, and we are grateful to **Max** and **Ardith Hinkle** for filling out the field.

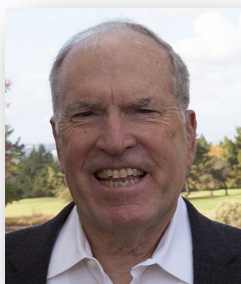
Bridge wise there was not much excitement. No slams were bid. A couple of pairs made six in a game or partscore, but they were probably flukes. But that did not keep us from having a good time, enjoying each other's company and the Hatchers' bountiful snack

table.

At the end of a pleasant evening, **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were third (50%), **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were second (57½%), and **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** were first (62½%).

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our usual first Thursday game was postponed to July 16th. Melo Piccolo hosted the game with his usual flourish of snacks and wine. Enjoying the spread were Steve Ybarra, Frank Lucas, Bruce Kimmis, and Brad Hatcher and our two subs, Ray Bland and Steve Kutay.

Several games had large pots and the best winning hand was five of a kind which edged a royal flush. As the game ended, Steve was the second largest winner with Melo in first by a wide margin.

We will meet in August at Steve's home.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Poker Group 4

Mark Sorum

Our July game was at the home of **Ray Bland**. Only 6 of our regular members were able to play as **Pete Gates** was on a vacation. Playing were **Ray Bland**, **Melo Piccolo**, **Pat Tidmarsh**, **Bruce Kimmis**, **Frank Lucas**, and **Mark Sorum**

Mark and **Melo** were our 2 winners but no losers as those who didn't win any money had 3 hours of fun for only a few dollars. No one got rich, the big winner won \$13....but then no one lost more than \$6 either. We played a variety of games with 7/27, Texas holdem, and

draw poker with a wild card the most popular.

Games are scheduled from 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on August 17 at the home of **Pete Gates**.

Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises.

Dealer antes a nickel per player.

A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.

We are currently full but we welcome alternates.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Parting Shot

A Comment on Technology...

Every day, older patients call our office, confused.

They are told to use the patient portal, upload documents, check lab results online, fill out forms before the visit, and confirm everything through a link.

Some of them do not know what a portal is.

Some do not have a smartphone.

Some have one, but they are afraid to click the wrong thing.

Last week, a man in his late 80s called about his test results.

He said, "Ma'am, I don't mean to bother you, but the computer says I have a message and I don't know how to open it."

He sounded ashamed.

That broke my heart.

He should not have to feel ashamed for needing a human being.

Technology can be helpful. I understand that.

But when people who built this country are made to feel helpless because everything became a login and a password, we have gone too far.

Not everything needs to be an app.

Not every answer should be hidden behind a screen.

~Unknown