



Big Sir's Notes

Doug Eisner

December means we're about ready for the changing of the guard and soon the 2014 BEC will be just a distant memory. However, before that happens I owe the current officers and directors a huge "Thank You" for their support and advice during the year. Their guidance made my job so much easier and, dare I say it, so much more fun, too.

I also owe the entire branch a well-deserved Thank You as we welcomed 33 new members during the year, exceeding our annual new member goal of 30. Congratulations, all!

Lots of members deserve to be recognized for their work during the year but there are too many of them to mention individually. However, a few members deserve a special shout-out for their support during the year. These members include: **Baha Zarah** for his excellent work as Luncheon Chairman until a medical issue forced him to go Inactive; **Jeff Baily**, who guided SIR Call into becoming the premier newsletter in our Area 2 and mentored our newest editor, **Richard Hockenbrock**, who will no doubt maintain that high standard; **Chuck Campbell**, completing his second year as treasurer; and **Rob Melrose**, who guided our financial decisions so we maintained a very robust balance sheet; **Jerry Kaplan**, whose enthusiastic promotion has added 4 new activities for our members to enjoy; **Ken Richter** who started up the very popular Book Exchange a few years ago and is now stepping aside in favor of **Hank James**.

With members like these, willing to step up and fill a need when necessary, it's no surprise Branch 146 is recognized as one of the premier branches in all of SIR-dom! I'm convinced that 2015, under **Bill Holly's** leadership, will be another extremely successful year.

I wish you all a very joyous holiday season.

Ladies Day Luncheon December 11th

Featuring:

The Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble under the direction of Elizabeth Emigh

Gathering time - 10:45 am

Seating time - 11:45 am

SIR Happenings

Newsletter

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Jonathan Korfhage greets members to the annual November veterans recognition luncheon



Little Sir's Corner

Bill Holly

For those of you who like to live on the ragged edge, time is running out on the December 1st deadline for the December 11th Ladies Day Luncheon. Send in your check: \$56 per couple or \$28 per single payable to **SIR Branch 146** and mail it to **Steve**

Dawkins at 117 Alegra Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Remember, no tickets will be sold at the door.

The luncheon entertainment will be provided by the Clayton Valley Charter High School Women's Ensemble, under the direction of Elizabeth Wagman Emigh. The CVCHS Women's Ensemble is an advanced choir of approximately 25 young ladies. The choir is often seen throughout the community during the Christmas holidays, as well as local senior citizens and Contra Costa events. The Women's Ensemble has brought home gold medals from several national festivals in Boston, New York, New Orleans, Seattle, Hawaii, and San Diego. They are currently preparing to tour and compete in Washington D.C. next March. You won't want to miss this accomplished group.

Looking ahead to January, there will be a booth set up before the luncheon by a small company from Livermore called "Embroidery and Moore". This company provides monogrammed apparel with the SIR logo such as polo shirts, hats, jackets, mugs, etc., in multiple sizes and colors. If you place an order at the meeting you will receive a discount over the on-line price. Branch 8 had "Embroidery and Moore" appear before their August luncheon and many of their members took advantage of the price discount.

Finally, getting speakers for our monthly luncheons involves the collaborative effort of many people. Since this is my last column as Little Sir, I would like to thank my speaker committee members **Brad Hatcher**, **John Pearl** and **Dave Pierce** for providing suggestions for luncheon speakers. I would also like to thank the Branch 146 members who have made suggestions throughout the year as well as their spouses who have also contributed speaker suggestions. Your help has been greatly appreciated.

I may not have been able to use all of your recommendations; however I have passed them on to next year's Little Sir **Walt Busenius** for future consideration.



Membership

Ben Gleason

At our BEC meeting in November, we approved two new members, accepted the resignations of three members and reported the transfer of two members to other branches.

In addition, we noted the passing of one active member and one inactive member. We now have 271 active members (including our six Honorary Life Members) and 22 inactive members.

New Members added in November



Ronald Afdal



Frank Barton



Big Sir **Doug Eisner** presents **Roy Fredrickson** with the Senior Sir President's award certificate from the State SIR congratulating him on his 90th birthday

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Jeff Baily

Proofreaders

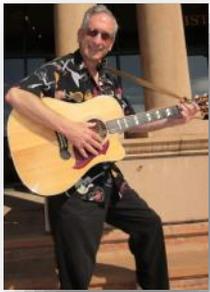
Jeff Baily and **Cal Tucker**

Labeling & Mailing

Bill Cammerer

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [cartilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:cartilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

The next meeting is Thursday, December 18th at 1 PM. Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right on Ward Drive. Call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909 if you get lost.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.

The Symbol and Prayer of Remembrance at the November luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



The Remembrance Table

Let us pray...Gracious and compassionate God it is with deep gratitude that we come before you during this month of November to honor the veterans who have so heroically served our country. In appreciation of the sacrifices so many have made we honor their memory with the tradition of the Missing Man Ceremony.

I call your attention to the small table that occupies a place of honor before us. The table is empty and is set for those who cannot be with us - those who have given their lives for our country and for those who are still missing in action. Some fell in battle and are resting on foreign soil. Some we know were captured but never released. Some are still missing and unaccounted for, but they are not forgotten.

The table is set for one, symbolizing the frailty of one against many oppressors. The tablecloth is white symbolizing the purity of intention of one who answers his country's call to arms.

The single red rose represents the families who keep the faith awaiting our comrades return. The red ribbon reminds us of the ribbons worn by thousands bearing witness of an un-dying determination to acquire a proper accounting of missing comrades.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of the bitter fate of some. The salt beside it reminds us of the families' tears as they wait.



Congratulations to **Ray Weisz** for getting his first hole-in-one on Tuesday, November 17th at Boundary Oak. His playing partners **Al Zamolo**, **Jack Baldassari** and **Alan Elnick** witnessed his feat. He picked up his ace with a 4 hybrid on the 146 yard 17th hole. As much as **Ray** enjoyed his shot, he was even more pleased to pick up the tab for the rest of SIR golfers who celebrated with him in the Grille. **Ray** was the third SIR golfer to hit a hole-in-one at Boundary Oak this year.

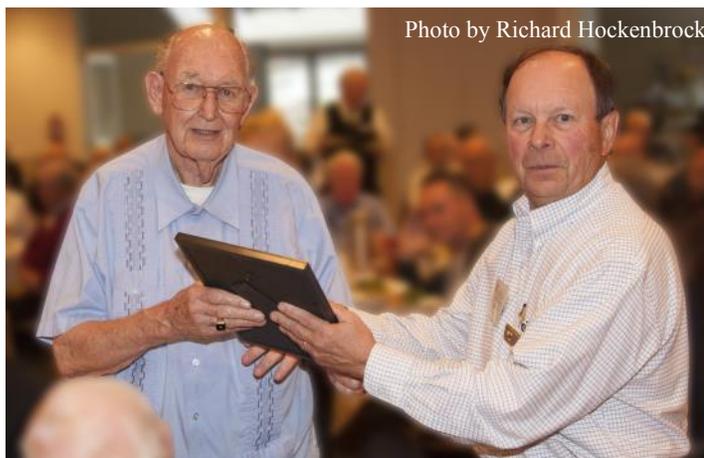
I don't like to think before I speak.
I like to be just as surprised as everyone
else by what comes out of my mouth

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Bruce Jones holds up his Branch 146 Certificate recognizing his 20 years of membership in SIR 146

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Barney Meade is the second member to receive his Branch Certificate recognizing his 20 years of membership in SIR 146

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Don Nunn is the third member to receive his Branch Certificate recognizing his 20 years of membership in SIR 146



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

December 2014

Salad

Beet & Citrus Salad

Roasted Beets, Seasonal Citrus, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Entrees

Apple Stuffed Pork Chop

Herb Coated & Grilled

Seasonal Vegetables, Sweet Potato Gratin

Rosemary Infused Demi

Or

Pan Seared Halibut

Herb Crusted, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables

Pomegranate Béarnaise

Dessert

Petite Christmas Log

Chantilly Cream, Crème Anglaise

Raspberry Coulis

Photo by Bill Schultz



BEC members for 2015 are introduced at the November luncheon



Old Money Poker

Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group #6 met at **Norm Baietti's** house in Walnut Creek on Wednesday, November 1st. We had six players for our monthly game—**Norm Baietti, Bob Larson, John**

Gray, Frank Lucas, Harvey Oxman, and Al Twyford. Three members could not make it: **Rich Ahlf, Brad Hatcher, and Sid Landman.** The big winner was **Frank Lucas**, taking \$13.00, all from **Al.** Everyone else had minimal wins or loses. It has been awhile since **Frank** cleaned us out and in the process, giving **Al** his biggest loss of the year. We played a lot of different games, but Roll Your Own 5 Card Stud is becoming very popular for the group. **Norm** provided good red wine and snacks to keep us going. Our next game is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th at **Sid Landman's** house in Clayton. We all look forward to our last game of 2014.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session, on November 24th, will be hosted by Sir **Bob Mehus.** Our host at our last session was Sir **Rich Hanford** who contributed the beer and snacks along with some of his winnings from previous sessions.

We are not meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January with host Sir **Garth Cummings.**

General Rules: Any time during a betting round, if one player bets and no opponent chooses to "call" (match) the bet and instead "folds", the hand ends immediately, the bettor is awarded the pot, and no cards are required to be shown.

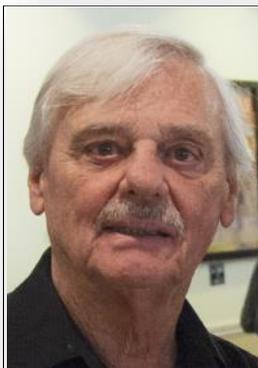


Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met November 12th at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan.** The big big winner was **John Lewis**, followed by **Frank McNamee** and **Bill Cammerer**, but not anywhere near **John.** As always it was a fun

get together. Our next outing will be hosted by **Al Zamolo** on December 10th.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

Last January was our first hike. It was an easy four mile hike on Mount Diablo. Gradually throughout the year we made our hikes a little harder. This last month we hiked Diamond Mines in Antioch which was our hardest hike to date.

This next month we will be hiking on Mount Diablo and it will be about the same as our first hike last year. Many of the people who started with us in January would not have been able to do our November hike. For those of you that wish to join us and get into shape next year and have fun doing it, we will be starting with some easy hikes for the next three months. Come join us at the Regency Gate in Clayton at 10am for about a four mile hike.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, Go about four miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end, walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome



Lunch and Wine

Bob Spellman

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11:00 for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



At the BEC meeting, Big Sir **Doug Eisner** gets into the holiday spirit flanked by new incoming Big Sir **Bill Holly** on his right and new incoming Little Sir **Walt Busenius** on his left



John Boyan, Harry Reiter, and Ron Plachy telling stories about their war exploits



Nine of the twelve Marines in Branch 146 Seated L to R, Harry Reiter, Jim Brown, Ron Plachy, and Jim Todhunter Standing L to R, Bill Schultz, John Boyan, Chuck Clark, Fred Bolton, and Bill Rees

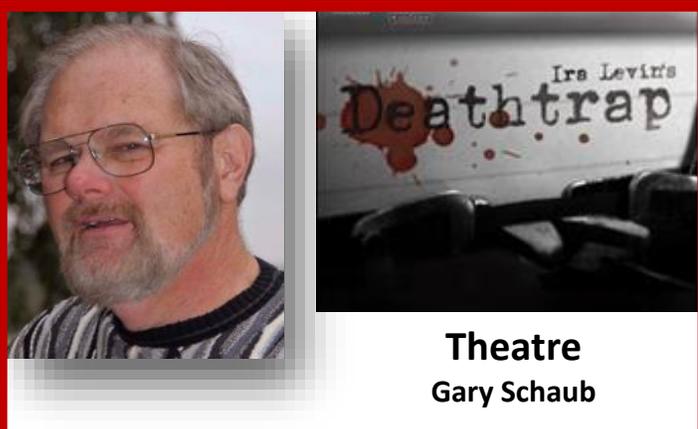


Photo by Gary Schaub



Dick DeVoe telling Jim Todhunter how much he wanted to be a Marine

Attending "Deathtrap" at Lesher Center for SIR 146 Theatre Party in November were (counterclockwise) **Tony Anthony & Cynthia Greco, Helene & Al Twyford, (bottom row) Lynn McManus, Corrie & Susan Oranje** along with (Rear) **Jim McManus, Bill Cammerer & Sue Borgman, followed by Bill & Lynette Holly and daughter Diane, and Bruce and Sue Borgman.**





Sunshine Report

John Pearl

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during December. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

- **Baha Zarah**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our membership can be advised.

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair
mcpearl@astound.net
(925) 934-6920



Book Corner

Ken Richter

The Book Corner has been a continued success over the past years because of the willingness of our members to share their books. We anticipate this participation will continue. The Book Corner will

be open the following months in the future: January, March, May, July, September and November.

In January the Book Corner will start its 5th year. After 4 years as Chairman, I will be stepping down and turning the Corner over to **Hank James**. **Hank** has been doing most of the work this last year. If any Sir would like to set up and help, please contact **Hank** at hankjames@hankjames.com. I would like to thank **Hank** for his help and all the Sirs for their support of the Book Corner over the last 4 years.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 AM at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we go to the SIR luncheon.

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

vlaursen@astound.net



Bocceball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.

As you may recall, Bocce Ball does not meet November through April so we do not put anything in the SirCall for those months. However, I will post a note in the April SirCall to alert the players of the May start up, then follow with regular notices in the May SirCall, and following months. Contact me if this isn't clear. mvlyle@yahoo.com

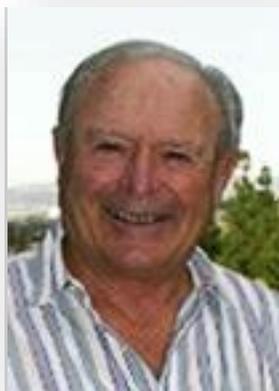


Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 a.m. at Masse's - 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in our Area 2 are welcome.





Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

We began the month with our semi-annual fish fry at **Carl Moyer's** home. The main course was rockfish and ling cod that members of the group caught over the summer which were vacuum packed and frozen

in anticipation of our feast. As usual, a good time was had by all.

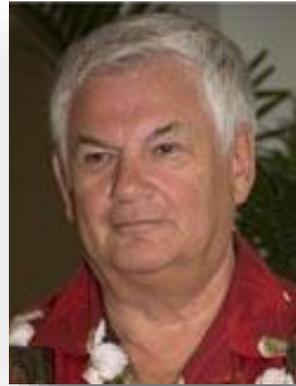
Striper fishing was the highlight of the month. **Harry Sherinian** led eight fellow fishermen to the Antioch pier and the group caught and released small stripers on nearly every cast. **Carl Moyer** was the champ. He caught and threw back 95 fish. After the event, the group was treated to a hot chili lunch that **Harry** prepared, but we had to help feed **Carl** because his arms were so tired.

On other steeper trips, **Tom Kostik** took **Harry Sherinian, Mike Corker, Pete Gates,** and **Terry Miller** out on his boat plugging for stripers and many fish were caught and released. On a separate trip on **Mike Corker's** boat, **Terry Miller** caught a 12 lb. steeper and released a 27 inch steelhead. **Dick Thomson, Karl Droese,** and **Gene Schulting** also fished the Delta for stripers. They had good weather but poor fishing.

Terry Miller, Chuck Vanoncini, Ernie Wong, and **Harry Sherinian** journeyed to Lake Davis for four days of fishing. Unfortunately, they faced heavy winds and the lake was so choppy from the wind that **Ernie**, who was fishing from a float tube, was thoroughly soaked. But he and the rest of the group persevered and, though the catch was less than normal, the average size of the fish that they caught was much larger than usual.

Finally, crab season opened in early November and those of us who ventured out were rewarded with a catch of large dungeness crabs.

Our usual meeting is on the fourth Thursday of the month. However, because of the Christmas holidays, our meeting this month will be on the third Thursday, December 18. It will be at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but most of us get together at 7:30 am for breakfast. Anyone who reads this report is welcome to join us. Please call **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

Just when we thought we could not improve our Couples Dining Out activity, we had another great success on November 17th when we had 70 (!) diners in this little jewel of a restaurant – La Veranda – in Clayton. This is the largest group we have ever had and amazingly the restaurant was able to serve our crowd without any problem. We had three different appetizers, choice of salad, and choice of New York steak, seared salmon, or chicken saltimbocca, plus dessert and coffee.

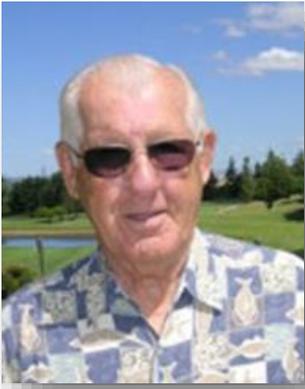
We had a number of new attendees – we always like to engage new SIRs and their spouses in this fun activity.

We all enjoyed the no host cocktail hour before the dinner when we can catch up with the doings of our fellow Sirs. This event was a great way to kick off the holiday season.

We are already planning our event in January. The plan at this point is to go to Guadalajara Grille in Concord – not far from our November restaurant. This will be different and also quite economical since we can get some good choices of excellent Mexican cuisine and they will be able to accommodate our increasingly large group of diners. It will likely be on Monday, January 19 – but stay tuned for the details as we negotiate a good variety of dishes for a good price. Mark your calendars!



Couples Dining Out at La Veranda in Clayton



GOLF

Ray Weisz

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each

player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. There is a 9-hole group that plays at Diablo Hills. They play every Thursday except the second Thursday of the month, which is the luncheon date.

For those with golfing partners, there is Couples Golf offered on the 4th Wednesday of the month, April through October. Like playing other courses? On the first Thursday of each month (From May through October) we offer "away golf". Do you enjoy competing against Sirs from different branches? We have several different formats throughout the year.

Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be added to the distribution list (non-golfers are welcome, too), please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

The November lunch was held at **Bob Yolland's** home. Along with a fair amount of good wine and conversation we had a nice lunch suited for a rainy day. The starters included, an assortment of cheeses and crackers, thick cut Italian dry salami, a mixed black and green olive tapenade and a French onion dip with chips.

This was followed by hot cheddar and broccoli soup with croutons and an oriental chicken salad main dish with fresh baguettes. To finish off the meal we enjoyed a cold lemon soufflé with whipped cream and sliced almonds. A full complement of our members attended and enjoyed the gathering. We agreed by majority that we would bottle white wine in 2015. This will be scheduled at a later time. Our next event will be December 14th at **Bruce Borgman's** home.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

Everyone enjoyed our last field trip so we are going to explore a new venue with the group. With downtown Walnut Creek aglow with festive streets I'd like to do a holiday season night shoot with a chance to get street and buildings decorated with lights and Christmas displays. You'll get an

email in a week or so to determine your interest and availability in participating in this event.

We don't have a firm date set for this or our next meeting since the library was unavailable on our normal 3rd Friday in January and I cancelled our December meeting due to proximity to the Christmas holiday. If you are interested in joining the group, email me at rhock@pacbell.net



Cribbage

John Pearl

Ten of us braved the first of the hoped-for rains of the season to gather at **SIR Barney Meade's** home for our monthly cribbage game on Wednesday, November 19th. No turkeys were awarded. After the shouting, we handed out a large amount of money, as the

ante by the 10 of us made an extra big pot. First place went to **Paul Debow**, and second place was taken by **John Boyan**. New member **Ron Afdal** finished a strong third, while **Tony Greco**, our treasurer of the day, came in fourth and made enough money so he could play again.

Three carrots are trying to cross a busy highway. The first carrot waits for an opening in a line of cars and dashes across without incident, the second carrot does the same but when the third carrot tries, he doesn't make it and is run over. He is rushed to a hospital where the doctors operate on him.

Finally after a lengthy time in the operating room the doctor appears and says to his anxiously waiting buddies; "the good news", he tells them is that "the injured carrot will survive but the bad news is that he will be a vegetable the rest of his life".



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs had their most demanding performance recently when we sang for the November luncheon of our fellow SIR Branch 8. See the picture below! We were the entire program and sang for about 30 minutes at their Veterans Day observance, thus we sang the service songs medley, *You're a Grand Old Flag*, and a series of other songs which included *Play a Simple Melody*, *I'll Be Seeing You*, *Heart*, and our version of *Thanks for the Memories*. In addition, two solos were sung, *Someone to Watch Over You* by **Corrie Oranje** and *Always* by **Jim Bogue**. The songs were ably narrated by **Lynn Shafer**, who described how our group performs at various places and introduced each song. The performance was very well received, and we've had interest from a few Branch 8 members to join us. We will be happy to have them and will eventually help them start their own group. We also sang the Service Songs for our own branch's special Veterans Day luncheon.

We are now practicing a new repertoire for the Christmas holiday season, which includes some traditional carols and other fun melodies to celebrate the season. In mid-December we will be singing at the

Chateau III in Pleasant Hill, an independent and assisted living facility where we always have had an enthusiastic reception.

We want to again invite any aspiring singers to join us at our rehearsals – every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church – at a new time of 1:30pm. It's lots of fun and we are welcomed with open arms when we sing at the senior centers in the area. By the way, we still need a pianist to assist Dave Obera!



Photo by Bill Schultz

Lo McCarley & Fred Bolton congratulate Corrie Oranje after he sang with the Devil Mountain Chorus at the Shadelands in Walnut Creek



Song Sirs performing as the featured veterans recognition entertainment for SIR Branch 8 in Concord



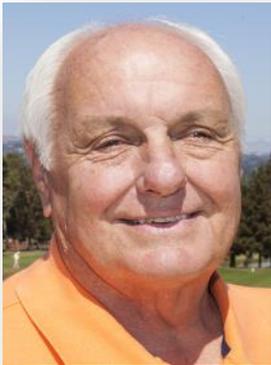
Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

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

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Rich Ahlf** on November 3rd. First place went to **Jim Brown** with 5530 points, second to **Rich Ahlf** with 4730

and third to **Bob Burley** with 4590. Our next game will on December 1st at the home of **Max Hinkle**



Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. Bill Roberts is the permanent host for our event.

The regular players are Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Skip Thomas, Charlie Koeber, Terry

Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 and ends around 8:00 with time out for dinner.



Photo by Bill Schultz

07 11 2014

Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 2 seated members L to R, host **Max Hinkle, Harry Reiter, David Steinberg, Rich Ahlf, Tony Greco** and standing members L to R: **Bob Yolland, John Boyan, Jim Brown, Dave Pierce, Steve Dawkins, Dick DeVoe, and Bill Schultz**. It was **Jim Brown** once again who walked away with the honors. *Reported by Bill Schultz*

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

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



December walks planned by **Martin Lyle**

December 5 th	ALAMO PLAZA , NORTH
	Meet: Alamo Plaza , Parking by Peets
	Walk: West on Stone Valley Road North on Iron Horse Trail
	Coffee: Peets Coffee Alamo Plaza , Alamo
December 12 th	SAN MIGUEL PARK YGNACIO & SAN CARLOS
	Meet: South on San Carlos Dr. Park on San Jose Ct. at entrance of San Miguel Park
	Walk: Across San Miguel Park East on Ygnacio Canal Trail
	Coffee: Panera Bread, Countrywood Shopping Center
December 19 th	WALNUT CREEK CHRISTMAS WALK
	Meet: Walnut Creek Civic Center
	Walk: North across bridge to south on Iron Horse, west on Mt. Diablo to Downtown Walnut Creek
	Coffee: La Scala Civic & Locust, WC
December 26 th	No Walk—Enjoy Christmas



Couples Dining Out clockwise **Josie & Joe Barry, Colin Holland, Bill & Patti Klein, and Julia Holland**



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Dec. 8, 2014:

McHenry Mansion and Duarte Farms Tours. The McHenry Mansion is Modesto's only original Victorian home. The mansion will be decorated in all of its Christmas finery, inside and outside. After the tour of the

Mansion the group will enjoy a hosted family style lunch at Concetta's Restaurant. The group will then visit Duarte Farms to view its amazing holiday poinsettias. Return to Walnut Creek about 4:30 pm. The cost is \$64. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 KERichter@astound.net.

Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. River Journey From Normandy to Provence. A 22 day river cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture and the ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting the D-Day beaches of Normandy, Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handling overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 698-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise. A 12 day cruise aboard the Deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 which include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence. A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** Br 146 (925) 689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net

On September 15, 2014, 55 SIRs and their guests took a tour of Levi's Stadium, the new home of the 49ers. We went behind the scenes of this state-of-the-art venue that has created the ultimate guest experience through innovative technology. Our private docent took us on a tour of the Suite Tower, Premium Club Spaces aka "Millionaire Row", and a visit to the Verizon Press Level to get a bird's eye view of the field. At the end of the tour, we had a chance to see the field from the 50 yard line patio and to visit the Cheerleaders' Locker Rooms. Before leaving for lunch, we spent time in the 49ers Museum presented by Sony and visited the Official 49ers Team Store. (See back page 16 for group picture)

The tour was replicated when another 40 Sirs and guests toured the stadium on October 27, 2014.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on November 19th at **Bill and Margaret Rees'** home. Everyone had a great time playing bridge and enjoying **Margaret's** snacks and **Bill's** wines. The group

thanked **Jim and Ruth Adams** and **Fred Bolton** for substituting. As for the bridge results, **Carl and Anne Johnson** came in first with 39 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** with 36 points came in second. In third place, **Dave and Joan Pierce** tied **Jim and Ruth Adams** with 32 points. **Bob and Janet Yolland** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on December 17th.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

It was election night when **Joan and Dave Pierce** hosted the group. As is often the case in the Bay Area, there was some disparity between the returns for some parties. Three candidates in our field of six were neck and neck in a close race for third. However, subs **Bob** and

Janet Yolland were elected (2960 votes), the hosts won second (3490 votes), and in a landslide victory, **Doug and Patti Eisner** emerged victorious (4260 votes). Since December is a lame duck month, all candidates are taking that month off. Happy Holidays.



Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our October 3 event kindly hosted by **Jim Brown** was as interesting as ever. Whenever **Carl Johnson** subs for us, we've come to expect one of the prizes going his way, and this time was no exception. **Carl** took 1st place with perhaps the highest score ever for the group with 32.5 points. No wonder- he had twelve 2 pointers, five more than the three next-higher players!

John Boyan's highly respectable 29 pts. easily won 2nd, albeit 3.5 pts. less than **Carl's** amazing total. **John** also won bragging rights for the least number of zeros with only three— nice work. Sub **Walt Schick** from Branch 8 placed 3rd with 26 pts., slipping by **Bob Yolland's** 4th with 25.5 pts.

Of worthy note was **Tony Greco** winning the Comeback Kid award with a 6 pt. spread between 1st half and 2nd half, bouncing up 2 places.

Our November 7th players met at host **Max Hinkle's** home. (See page 11)

- **Jim Brown** is coming into his own with an overall win of 31.5 points, after gleaning a 1st half win and 2nd half 3rd.
- **John Boyan** used his 2nd half's 1st place and 2nd half's 4th place to slip into a tie for 2nd with 29.5 pts. This performance complements his 2nd place ranking last month!
- **Bill Schultz**, the most consistent of our leaders that day, with 2nd places for 1st AND 2nd half, tied for 2nd overall with 29.5 pts.
- **Dave Steinberg's** 2nd and 5th places respectively earned him an overall 4th.
- **Harry Reiter's** 5th and 6th places resulted in a 5th place overall.

Five places are shown for the first time because our Marine contingent took 4 of the top 5 places. Thanks, **Dave**, for blocking them from taking it ALL.



Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

Doug Eisner

The men's duplicate bridge group played 4 tables at **Lo McCarley's** house on November 17th. The scores at the lunch break were rather underwhelming with **Jim Jackson** in the lead with 17.5 pt followed

closely by **Fred Bolton** with 16.5 pts, **Jim Brown** with 15.5 pts and **Max Hinkle** and **Doug Eisner** with 13.5 pts. However, the afternoon session was a thing of wonder for **Jim Jackson** who left the rest of the players wondering what was in his lunch. **Jim** blew away all pretenders with a tremendous second half and tallied 51.0 pts for the day, the highest score recorded by this group in at least the past 3 years! Way back in second place was **Fred Bolton** with 43.5 pts followed by a three-way tie for third place between **Dave Pierce**, **Max Hinkle**, and **Jim Todhunter** with 41.0 pts. Our next game is scheduled for December 15th at **George Zurich's** house with three tables.

Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Jim Adams / Dick DeVoe

The Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 group's November 11th event was hosted by **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione**. **Christy DeVoe** and **Doug Eisner**-substituting for **Christy's** spouse and exposing the weak link in the spousal partnership-took 1st place honors with 24 pts. They compiled 1st & 3rd place rankings for the first and second halves, respectively.



Terry and **Sharon's** 22 pts. were comprised of a tie for 2nd and a 4th in the "halves" contest which resulted in a 2nd place ranking. They are on a three-month run of 1st or 2nd place wins; another month and it might not be considered luck after all! **Lynn** and **Dash Freeman** took 3rd with 21.5 pts. resulting from 4th & 2nd place finishes in the first two halves. They also won more top boards than anyone else.

Dave and **Joan Pierce** easily won the "Come Back Kids" award, coming back from last place in the first half to first place the second half. They closed with a 4th place overall and a barely above-average score of 20.5 pts.

Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?"

Student: "Meat!"

Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give you?"

Student: "Bacon!"

Teacher: "Great! And what does the fat cow give you?"

Student: "Homework!"



**Mexican Train
Dominoes Group 1
Jerry Kaplan**

The Mexican Train (dominoes) keeps rolling down the tracks. The November game night was hosted Friday, November 14th by **Sharon** and Sir **Terry Marchione** at their beautiful home in Walnut Creek. We will take a break in December

and resume in January.

The evening's big winner was **Terry Marchione**, who played nine rounds and only accumulated a minuscule 93 points over the course of nine games, an average of only 10.3 points per round! **Terry** is an excellent player as demonstrated by his finishing either first, second, or third place in four of the five months he has played in 2014 and picking up money in each of those wins as well. The crowning moment came at the end of play this night when he claimed the "annual pot" of \$50.00 that was collected from everyone's cumulative contributions. **Terry** averaged a low overall total of 14.7 points left in his hand while playing 39 different rounds.

Second place in November went to **Richard Hockenbrock** with **Sig Kalteis** coming in third place. **Sig** and **Richard** also came in second and third respectively in the "annual pot" and collected a few dollars each.

A total of 16 people played in November at three tables. The game continues to prove quite popular and a new group with another 16 to 18 players has been established and is being led by **Dick Woodman**. Any other Sirs (couples or singles) interested in learning more about the game should contact **Jerry**. If enough folks are interested in starting a third group, **Jerry** will help get it started.



**Mexican Train
Dominoes Group DOS
Dick Woodman**

Thanks to the help of the original Mexican Train Dominoes group led by **Jerry Kaplan**, the second Mexican Train group is formed and ready to enjoy our first night together Friday, November 21st. **Rich Ahlf** will host the

first gathering in his home. We are starting with a full complement of 18 players (3 tables of 6 each) but there are changes and we are accepting alternates. **Corrie** and **Sue Oranje**, **Bruce** and **Sue Borgman**, as experienced members from the original group, will be on hand to coach and mentor our playing so everyone is comfortable with the game. If you are interested in joining the group or being on the alternates list send an email rwoodman359@gmail.com



Practice play by Group DOS



Some serious Mexican train dominoes players from Group 1 adding up their scores at the November game night.

----- Monterey Mashers-Save the dates. -----

Save Sunday March 22nd thru Tuesday March 24th for the 2015 edition of the
MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT
in Monterey, California.

Included are three nights lodging, breakfasts, two in-house cocktail parties and a round of golf at Pacific Grove Muni & Laguna Seca GC plus an awards banquet on Tuesday evening.

There is also a non-golfer's program.

Questions? – Contact any committee member **Lew Thompson, Chuck Eichten, Dick Richmond, Corrie Oranje and Dennis Hallett**

See page 15 to register

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Verner Laursen

The Mac Users meet the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 AM. We finish by noon. Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac. This month we will learn how to update to IOS 8 and the future system software to Yosemite. We would like the PC users to realize that the cost of these updates is free.

If you have or may have an interest please contact me and we will put you our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from me, from time to time and I will let you know of items that are of interest to Mac users. **Vern Laursen**

Talking Dog for Sale

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in.

"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

Register

Reply by January 10th 2015

A complete package of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you shortly after the closing date.

Make checks payable to:

"SIR Branch 146—Monterey Mashers"

Mail to: Dennis Hallett
38 De Laurenti Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Cut Here and Mail with your Check

Enrollment

Name _____

Companion _____

(Check boxes that apply)

A) Couples package—Two Golfers: \$720.00
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf each - two golfers.

B) Couples package—One Golfer: \$600.00
Room 3 nights, Banquet, 2 Rounds of golf—one golfer

C) Companion to play golf Monday only, add \$72.00

D) Companion to play golf Tuesday only, add \$47.00

Total Enclosed:\$ _____ .00

Banquet Choices: (enter number of entrees)

Filet Mignon:.....

Baked Salmon:.....

Vegetarian:.....

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com

Photo by SF 49er Tour Photographer



On September 15, 2014, 55 Sirs and their guests toured Levi's Stadium, the new home of the 49ers.