



Branch 146 *SIR-Call*

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa County



Big Sir's Corner Richard Hockenbrock

.As my term of Big Sir draws to end, I was grateful to be supported by a Branch Executive Committee that was up to the challenges that COVID-19 threw in front of us throughout the entire year of 2021. **Jerry**

Kaplan, who will be your Big Sir in 2022, got plenty of firsthand experience as he worked closely with me resolving a myriad of issues as we held 10 out of 12 of our luncheon meetings via Zoom. **Rich Lyon**, as Secretary and database developer provided his expertise to fix many lingering problems with our member records. **Bob Wilkenfeld**, as Assistant Secretary, provided insight at our meetings on the county's response to COVID utilizing his knowledge as a board-certified toxicologist when he worked for Chevron.

On the financial side, **Ross Abbott**, Treasurer and his back up, **John Alexander** keep our records up to date ably with the State SIR. I singled out **George Mon** at the November BEC meeting for his excellent reporting throughout the year and his accurate tracking of our members who joined and left the organization. He added alternate phone numbers such as text and cell numbers to our membership list making it easier to communicate amongst us. And he upgraded the new member application form on two separate occasions.

Brian McCarthy tracking Sunshine members through the pandemic was challenging but ably handled as was his role as 2nd term director. Two other 2nd term directors, **Paul Beretz** and **Peter Plante** were both instrumental in keeping new members coming through our doors as our branch led all others in utilizing social media platforms Next Door and Patch. **Paul** handled recruitment while **Peter** did publicity.

1st term director, **Henry Thatcher** had the unenviable task of getting photographs of new members when we weren't holding in-person meetings. He made up for it by scheduling photo-op sessions independent of our luncheon meetings and when we finally had an In-person luncheon

SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021
Boundary Oak
11:15am
See Page 4 to place a reservation!

in November.

Bob Lucido, a director in his 1st Term, chaired the all-important activities for the branch as he has done for several years.

Peter Bishop, filled in on the role of Zoom Master, a position we didn't know we needed until COVID hit. He was indispensable in making sure the meetings were set up each month and that the information was shared on screen for all members attending.

Clint Collier's handling of the news in the SIR-Call was outstanding. He introduced new features and recruited new co-editors to keep the newsletter fun to read.

Don't forget to sign up for the Ladies Day Luncheon
You have until December 8th to reserve your spot!

The Ladies Day Luncheon is on Tuesday, December 14th. Here is your chance to get out and enjoy a fun filled lunch with your SIR friends, wives, and partners who many of you have not seen since December of 2019. Go to page 4, fill in the form and mail it with your check to Steve Ybarra, our Ladies Day Luncheon chair.

This year's SIR Veterans celebration fell exactly on the official national holiday, November 11. Little Sir **Jerry Kaplan** tried an innovative approach this year as far as a speaker was concerned. He decided to have fellow BR 146 Sirs **Milt Smith** (Marines), **George Carpenter** (Air Force), **Peter**

Continued on next page

SIR Mission Statement

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

Plante (Army), and **Bob Yolland** (Navy) speak to the assembled group about their personal experience in the service. It was a terrific idea that everyone enjoyed.

As we hopefully round the corner on COVID in 2022 and our meeting schedules stabilize to In-person meetings, keep in mind that we need you to volunteer to keep our branch moving forward.

May you all have a wonderful and joyful holiday season and Happy New Year!



Little Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

It was a pleasure to see so many of our members attend the November luncheon and I hope that more individuals will be able to attend future meetings as COVID ebbs and the level of vaccinations increases. At the

Veteran's Day luncheon in November, eleven new members attended their first get-together and were introduced to the group. There are still another 20 to 25 members who have joined the branch since COVID halted in-person meetings. We all look forward to a future luncheon when more new members can be presented.

As our Big Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** noted in his column, the past year has been an extraordinary one in terms of Zoom meetings, activities stopping and starting, and very few opportunities for members to come together and socialize. Thanks to everyone who assisted in keeping the branch functioning in the background through the last 18 months. Richard has already thanked many of the individuals by name. Of course, many others also volunteered during this "quiet" period and everyone's help was appreciated. Past Big Sir **Bruce Borgman** agreed to take on the key responsibility of the 2022 Luncheon Chairman as we begin again to meet in person. He already did an admirable job of managing the most recent November meeting.

Ladies Day Luncheon on Tuesday, December 14th. ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS TO SIGN UP

Note to Newer Members: The branch holds two special luncheons each year (May and December) where wives

and partners are invited to join the group at a special luncheon. Everyone is welcome, especially single SIR members, who will be seated at a table where they can mix with others.

On page 4, **Steve Ybarra**, who makes all the arrangements for the Ladies Day luncheon, has a form that should be filled out and mailed to him with a check for \$30 per person, but **Steve must receive the form and payment no later than Wednesday, December 8th.**

Bruce noted in his Luncheon Chair column that the Ladies Day event this year has been moved to **Tuesday, December 14th** due to a Boundary Oak conflict. Doors will open at 11:15 for socializing, with a special lunch served at Noon. Entertainment begins at 12:45 and will be provided by Mr. David Hirata, a magician who is hailed as "a master of Deceit" (KRON 4TV). He has performed his magic at many venues around the Bay Area for over twenty years and promises to entertain as well as amaze us all.



Because of State SIR requirements and COVID protocols placed by the county, all attendees must have submitted the required waiver as well as have shown proof of vaccination.

If this is still on your (or your partner's) "To Do" list, please send the required information (copies) soon to **George Mon**, the branch's Membership Chair. Call him at 925 683-0980 if you need assistance.

Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of good health, peace and happiness."

And, please, don't get your Tinsel in a tangle.

2021 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

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

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



Luncheon Co-Chairs Bruce Borgman Rich Lyon

We are pleased to continue on a path of returning to a normal schedule of our monthly luncheons and therefore anticipate with great pleasure the December Ladies Day luncheon which is scheduled for Tuesday December 14. Please note that this varies from our normal date. You will find a form to complete in this SIR-Call issue for you and any companions you may sit with, to be submitted to **Steve Ybarra** with payment and menu selection. The gathering time will be 11:15am with lunch at noon and our entertainment at 12:45pm. We will have a magician - David Harita - a performer of renown who will amaze and enthrall you!

We will anticipate a January luncheon where you will likely again need to rsvp your attendance, but final decision will be forthcoming from our executive committee. Looking forward to seeing many of you in December!

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

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


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

Were you honored by the branch in some way during the last year of virtual meetings?

If you were and you haven't yet received the recognition that goes with that award please stop by the badges area when you check in at the next meeting.

All of the accumulated certificates are being held there for their recipients.

2021 Ladies' Day Luncheon



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Annual Ladies Day Luncheon
December 14th, 2021

Salad
Beet & Citrus Salad
Mixed Greens, Roasted Beets, Seasonal Citrus, Raspberry Vinaigrette

Entrees
Holiday Pork Chop
Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Apple Ginger Compote
or
Seared Salmon
Confetti Rice Pilar, Seasonal Vegetables, Burre Rouge Sauce

Vegetarian
A vegetarian option will be available

Dessert
Holiday Chocolate Cake
Chantilly Cream, Raspberry Coulis

Due to the availability of the banquet room at Boundary Oak, please

NOTE

The change in date from our usual Thursday meeting and that your reservation must be received by December 8th!



SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021 Reservation must be made by December 8th

Number of Tickets _____ at \$30 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ _____ We are sitting with: _____

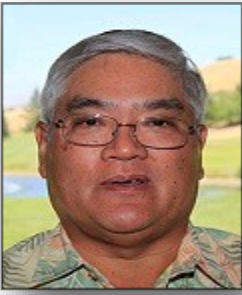
Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Pay?" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

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

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

Name	Pork	Salmon	Vegetarian	Pay?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

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



Membership George Mon

One member was approved by the BEC in November. Let us welcome Patrick O'Keeffe. He was sponsored by John Wilson. Pat was a City Manager and a Consultant. He lives in Danville and has interest in golf, hiking and travel to mention a few.

We had one member resign, **Reginald Fromm**, due to health reasons.

The 2021 membership count remains at 294.

Of the 296 2022 dues letters that was mailed out at the end of October, 63.9% have been returned as of this writing. Members are taking this opportunity to make changes to their contact information too.

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

.George Mon
gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Hope you all enjoyed the live meeting last month as much as I did. Our photographer, **Henry Thatcher** outdid himself... don't miss the photo layout starting on page 7!

Want a SIR cap and it isn't your birthday? Didn't win when it was your birthday? Now, if you win the "Editor's contest", one can be yours. In one of the articles this month there is a bird! Find the bird, identify what it is and [click here](#) to e-mail your answer. First person gets it right gets a hat!

Finally... don't miss our parting shot. When was the last time you read this? Find a grandchild and go for it!

Deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 24th. Please note that this is a bit later than usual due to the Christmas weekend which means we won't be able to work on it until the 27th. If you don't make this deadline your material will not go in! Help us help you by making sure you get everything to us by that date.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier — Editor SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Norm Baietti
Jack Baldassari
James Baldrige
Randall Becker
Russell Bliese
Gary Brown
Walter Busenius

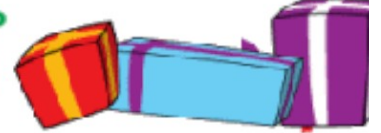
Doug Eisner
John Gray
Bill Hansen
Dave Kwinter
Mac McAllister
George Mon
Mike Navone

Bill Neuman
Donald Nunn
Chuck Oldham
James Passaglia
George Rammell
Dick Richmond
Henry Thatcher

George Trabert
Gene Voelkel
Ray Waletzko
Michael Wolfson

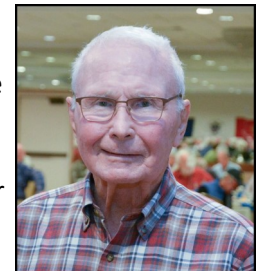


Happy Birthday!



Congratulations to **Mike Rose** our November Birthday winner! Remember... like our Zoom meetings, you have to be Zooming to WIN but now that we are resuming live meetings, you have to be present to WIN!

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



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

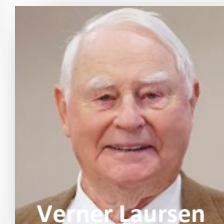
Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.

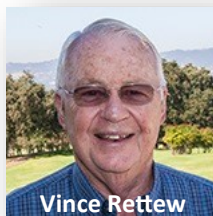
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



Hugh Ferguson



Verner Laursen



Vince Rettew

The Return of Live Luncheons

Photos by Henry Thatcher



The SIR in the Hat is Back



Dave Steinberg taking oath Board member Meeting



BEC Meeting prior to November 2021 Luncheon



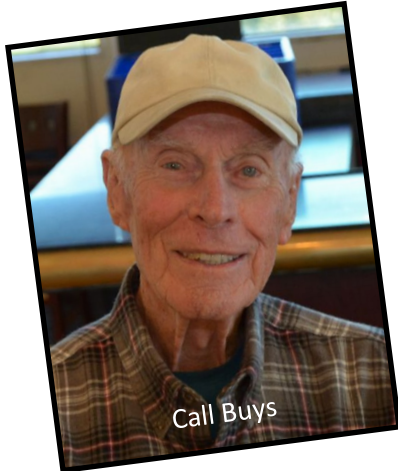
November 2021 BEC Guests



Brian McCarthy & Bruce Kimmis



Dick Richmond & Ron Plachy



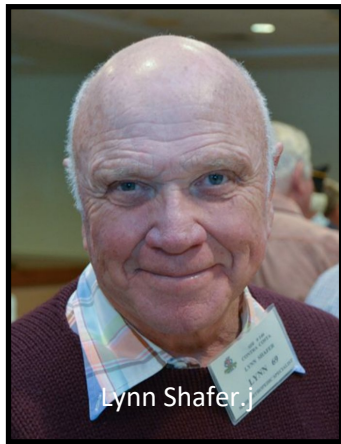
Call Buys



Charlie Koeber



John Elstead



Lynn Shafer, Jr.



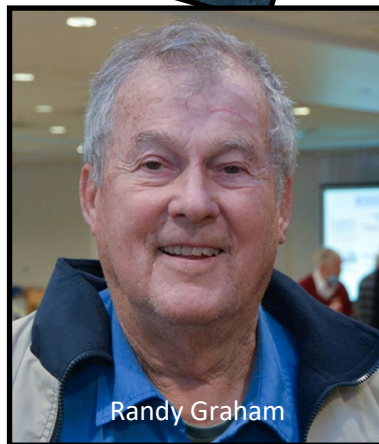
Aubury Moor



George Carpenter



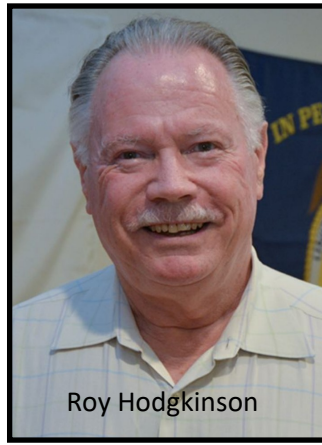
Paul Dubow



Randy Graham



Dave Steinberg

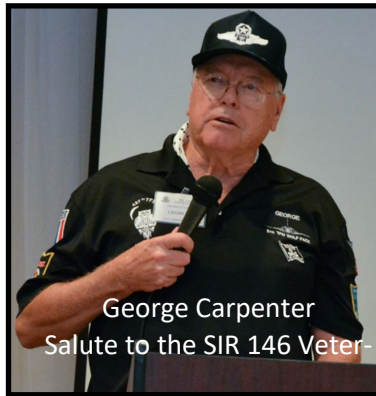




2022 Board - oath of office



Jim Baldrige
Luncheon Invocation



George Carpenter
Salute to the SIR 146 Veter-



Missing Man
Table



Milt Smith
Sharing his experience
in



Peter Plante
Sharing his experience in
the Military



Bob Yolland
Sharing his experience
in the Military



Big Sir Richard Hockenbrock introducing new members
 Steve Oki Don Shaw Doug Hansen Sam Veneziano Michael Sulyma –Partially Hidden
 Randy Graham Dave Kwitter Mike Rothman Bud Pearce Scott Simmons Bill Vissa

At long last... a hearty welcome to our new members!



Bill Schaaf



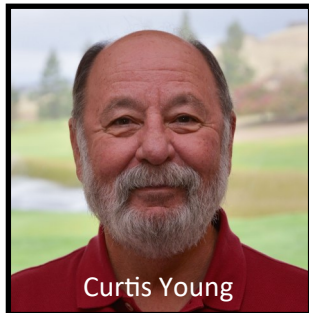
Bill Vizza



Bud Pearce



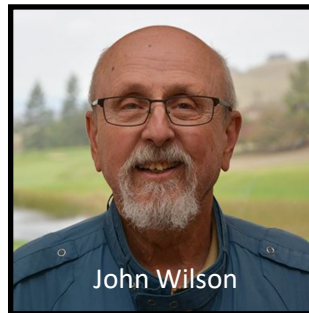
Cliff Sanburn



Curtis Young



Doug Hansen



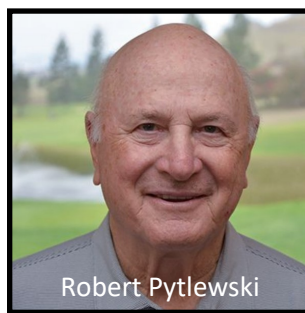
John Wilson



Mike Rothman



Randy Graham



Robert Pytlewski



Steve Oki

Many of last year's awards were finally able to be distributed to their recipients but many remain to be claimed as we slowly return to full in person meetings. If you are one of those who have not yet received your recognition. They await you for your eventual in person recognition!



It has been a difficult year
Thank you Richard!



NOTES

from Our Members

Warning: Don't Do What I Did

Bob Lucido

I had a pain in my leg behind my knee. I ignored it the first day. The second day it got a lot worse and I had trouble walking, again I ignored it because I'm a real man and can handle it. The third day I could barely walk to the refrigerator to get a beer.

At that point Wendy scheduled an appointment for the next day at urgent care.

That night I tried to get out of the recliner, and could not put any weight on it.

So, the next choice was to crawl on my hands and knees to the car and go to the hospital, again being the macho guy I am, I thought that was a good idea. Wendy called a ambulance.

I went to John Muir and got right in.

Hint, if you go to emergency with a broken leg tell them that you have chest pain and they will put you at the head of the line. When the doctor comes in tell him/her that it was only heart burn, and then say since you're here, check your leg.

The nurse came in and asked if I would like some heroin for the pain, I mean morphine.

I said "oh yea shoot me up"

After that about 10 young very attractive nurse surrounded my bed to take of me.

Must have been a hallucination from the morphine.

The bottom line was that it was a large blood clot from the back of my knee to mid-calf.

The doctor said that if I didn't come in it would have been a concern, which in Dr. speak means it could have killed me.

I spent 3 days in the hospital taking tests.

They scanned my leg, lungs stomach, and head which they found empty.

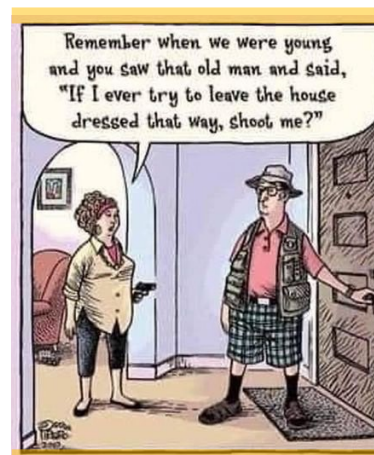
The Vampire nurses came in and sucked most of my blood out to run tests. Over twenty vials in total.

I have to be on blood thinners for 6 months

The nurse told me that the blood thinners were not covered by medicare and would cost 145/month, and could I cover it. I said that I just spent \$2000 on my dog's teeth so I think I can afford it.

The Dr. said not to play contact sports, no problem there. The only thing I can't do now is to dance, but I couldn't dance worth a lick before the blood clot.

Again, pain is the way your body is telling you to do something and listen to your wife and see the Dr. early.





Looking for something to do...

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

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



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

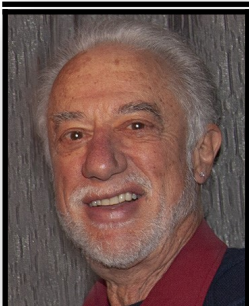
Most of the activities are now open. We only have seven that are still on hold, but hopefully will open soon. Unfortunately, nine activities have closed due to lack of participation.

Pickle ball, ping Pong, chess, and bowling have closed. Chess is no longer a B146 activity, but now is an area wide activity. The Mac User group does not hold meetings, but if you have a Mac question you can contact **Max Burchett** or **Verner Laursen**, and they will try to help you.

Three Poker groups have closed because they did not have enough members interested in losing all their money. If your poker group closed and still interested in playing, contact me and I will set up another group.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 bobwendy3@comcast.net



RV Wanderers Bob Lucido

We are looking for new members to join us, so go out and buy a \$100,000 motor home and join us.

If you're looking for a more affordable option, contact me and I will give you more options including renting one to see if you like it.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 bobwendy3@comcast.net



Cribbage John Pearl

Eight of the SIR Cribbage Group met on Wednesday, November 24th, at Rocco's for the usual raucous sessions. Four of the group took home money, with **Bob Finlayson**, winning all four of his

games for the only clean sweep, in first place. Our co-chair, **Ron Afdal**, came in second, while **Kirk McVean**, representing Branch 116, was third. **Jim Pope** was our fourth-place finisher, winning back his ante. We sat across from the SIR Pinochle group and had to endure their unkind comments about us.

We are trying a "hybrid" approach in our cribbage group, running both the "in-person" and "on-line" matches. **Jim Nelson**, our CTO, graciously volunteered to run the tournaments again, and we started Tournament No. 11, which has 14 entrants!

Our next in-person meeting is not yet officially scheduled due to the Christmas holiday, but is tentatively on for Wednesday, December 22nd.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

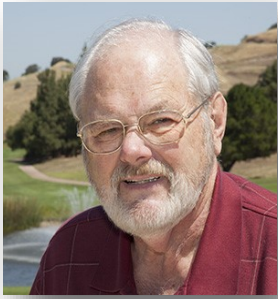
SIR 146 Activities Calendar

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

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

December 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	30	Dec 1	2	3
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos
6	7	8	9	10
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 6:00 PM Fishing Group Christmas Dinner Zio Freddo's PH 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo
13	14	15	16	17
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM LADIES DAY LUNCHEON	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Tres Gourmet 11:30 AM Sushi no tomodachi Morimoto's, Napa 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo
20	21	22	23	24
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo
27	28	29	30	31
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo



Theater Gary Schaub

“How Did They Do That!?”

Was the most asked question, following the festive dinner/theater evening at the California Magic Club in early November. Eighteen SIR146 members and guests had an evening at the Club in downtown Martinez, even if they didn't know “How'd he do that!?”

This was the first in-person SIR Theater Party since early in 2019. And... we were ready!

During the 3-course dinner, four talented magicians circulated from table-to-table doing “close-up” card tricks and Illusions. “How'd he do that!” Then came the featured magician, Hank Morfin, for an hour-long stage show. Several of our members had a chance to “assist” the performer. It all made for a fun-filled evening.

Photos by Gary....



Clint and Bev Collier enjoyed the pre-show tricks by Bill Hattroth



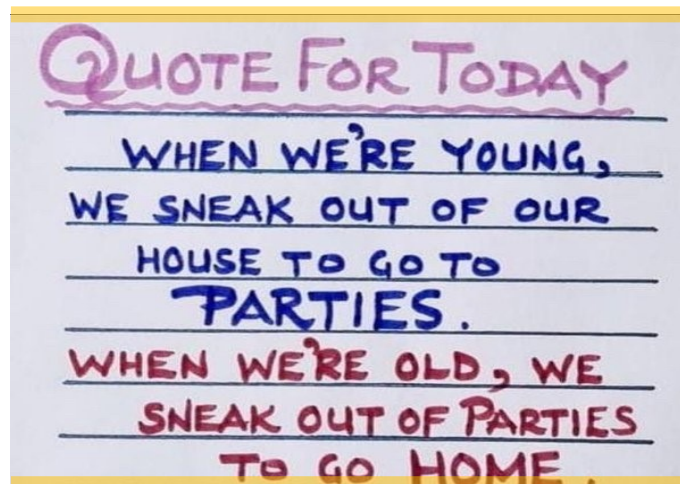
Rich Hockenbrook & Virginia Tygart waiting for the fun to begin



Dan Schlatter in disguise as a magician's aide



Bruce & Susan Borgman, along with Jerry & Susan Kaplan – another night out!





Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

Friday, October 29: With great weather and no wind today's ride was amazing. We left Alamo on what I call the get reacquainted ride. Some of us, mostly me had been sidelined for a period. Well today was the perfect day to ride.

Showing up was **Roger Meyer, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld** and for a while, **Bill Ross**. We got a chance to see **Roger's** new bike rack. Fantastic. One of a kind and really well made. Told he had to mortgage the home to pay for it.

The ride was South with a stop at Katies Kaffee in San Ramon. Good java and some catch up conversation. Off we went to the South a bit and then began what was a ride of turns, Thru the back streets of San Ramon and some of the byways and side streets we pedaled. Always fun doing this type of ride as the only person that's knows where in h... we are is the leader.

Eventually the roads led us thru Danville and back into Alamo. Superb ride.

Everyone's legs were happy and speaking for myself: so was I.

Wednesday, November 3. What looked like a cold gray nasty day turned out to be super. Riding today was **Roger Meyer, Paul Brown, Michael Wolfson, and Larry Kaye**.

Today was advertised as a hilly scenic ride. It was. We left Alamo in the gloom and cold. By the time we rode through Diablo it cleared up. Off we rolled thru Blackhawk and out to Lawrence Road in the outskirts of Danville. Enjoying the scenic tour thru Lawrence Road we headed west to its end. The back country of this area is awesome. Stopping to chat and take care of some senior needs we got off our bikes. **Paul Brown** from SIR 2 celebrated his 5000 mile bike goal. We all applauded him as it really is a major number.

Heading back the group followed a different route. Some downhill added to the fun. Thru Danville and some nasty additional climbs we motored on towards Alamo.

Paul reveled in the fact that he and his lovely wife are now State approved and certified judges for BBQ. The perks are amazing. He worked for it.

The parking lot suddenly appeared and we de biked. A great ride and adding to the elation was **Pauls'** hitting his

5000th mile.

Friday, November 12. Fog in Alamo at the start the sky was foggy. It was cold. It also was a ride day. The promise was that the sun would shine and 70 degrees would be the daytime temp. Oh well. Some called and said it was too foggy. My scout called and said the fog was dissipating in the lower areas of the County.

What the heck, we are all grown tough SIR cyclists I thought... Lets go.

Arriving in the light fog was **Steve Schlossberg**, a friend, **Bob** back from Mexico, **Wilkenfeld, Jim Nelson, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Michael Wolfson, Scott Simmons**, and the famous one, the BIG FISH himself **Ron Lew**. He arrived with his new and hot E Bike. The crew was ready.

Off we rode. Into the first mile as a way to warm up I added a nasty, steep, horrible hill. It really stung. As we were cussing guess who blasts by on his E Bike? Yep. The Big Fish. Laughing at us commoners. Cresting this monster we continued the trip.

The route was a ride to Moraga via the Moraga Trail. The trail was as always, busy but on we pedaled. Finally after a time the trail head was reached. The restroom suddenly became our home. Wow. What fun being well over 50.

After crossing various streets we located the destination. A famous java joint.. Yes, its called Si Si Kaffee.. I had reserved a table for the guys and it was really set up for us. Shock. The usual "what table"? who? Didn't even broach. We jumped off the rigs and chowed down. Great coffee as advertised. Really, even Michael the coffee king agreed that this was really good java,

Fed and rested and once again, relieved we took off. Home was far away and the clock was moving. The sun coated us all the way home. Yummy feeling..

No flats and no mechanical problems today. A real Sirs excursion as it should be.

Having been an injured sailor for some time, I was happy to be with my buds again.

Thursday, November 18. The group gathered for our holiday lunch. We met at Jacks in Pleasant Hill. After the lunch we held an informal meeting outside to discuss 2022 rides and plans.

Michael Wolfson expressed some concern regarding riding on the busy roadways. He felt that we should

Continued on next page



Photo by Ron Lew

Larry Kaye Bob Lucido, Roger Meyer, Bill Ross, Scott Simmons, Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Pat Hoy, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Michael Wolfson, Ken Studer



SongSirs Bruce Borgman

The Song Sirs were honored to participate in the November Veteran's Day celebration with the traditional singing of the service songs.

We had a short practice in early November for these songs and had a regular practice on November 17 where we rehearsed a number of mostly romantic songs as we anticipate re-starting our perfor-



Photo by Bruce Borgman

Bruce Kimmis, Frank Lucas, Ron Lew, Richard Hockenbrock, Paul Beretz, Brad Hatcher, Lynn Shafer, Steve Dinning (standing).

mances in the new year. A picture of our practice is shown above. We will likely plan a performance at Byron Park Senior Center around Valentine's Day. We will have a practice again on December 1 and encourage all our members as well as anyone else who enjoys these classic and memorable tunes to join us. For sure, the SongSirs are back to once again join together in song! We practice in the Multiuse Room at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30pm. **See you there!**

Bruce Borgman

925.932.3961 bgborgman@aol.com

devote much more to riding the trails of our area. It was suggested that since he was so adamant about this that he take the lead and put these rides together. He accepted. **Ron Lew** agreed and he as well was tasked with the same. So, going into 2022 both **Michael Wolfson** and **Ron Lew** will lead this new group of only trail riders. This may impact the roadies in the group. Each person, as has always been fact, will now be able to choose which path they would like to ride on a specific day.

I'm sure both **Michael** and **Ron** will write some great reviews after each ride and submit them to the editors.

In the past our routes have usually included both trail and road. This will change that concept. We support both men in this new venture. Look for their weekly reports.

Larry

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now on I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Lake Tahoe has a period that it calls the shoulder season because it is a down time between the dates that the summer revelers depart and the skiers arrive. There is somewhat of a shoulder season for Bay Area fishermen as well. It

runs from the end of the salmon season until the time that sturgeon fishing gets hot. Unfortunately, our shoulder season seems to be getting a bit longer because the sturgeon have not been cooperative lately. But we remain hopeful.

In the meantime, **Carl Moyer** and **Phil Scimonelli** ventured out to San Pablo Reservoir and fished from shore near the boat ramp. The ramp itself is closed for the season and will reopen in February. It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining, and the lake was clear. The only down side was that they did not get a single bite. But they had plenty of time to discuss world events and enjoy the scenery. Sometimes the fun of fishing in a beautiful setting is more than catching a fish.

Carl did manage to do some catching, however. He and a friend fished out of Pacifica in Carl's skiff and **Carl** landed two nice ling cod plus eight rockfish. **Tom Kostik** picked up some stripers and catfish in the Delta, but overall the fishing was slow. **Harry Sherinian** and **Mike Corker** had better luck plugging further inland for black bass and stripers. **Brion Beetz** and **Stan Wong** enjoyed a delightful three day trip to New Melones Reservoir, catching large rainbows and brown trout, topped by a six pounder that **Stan** landed.

Our annual Christmas party with wives and significant others is scheduled for 6 pm on December 7 at Zio Fraedo's in Concord. Our next meeting will be on December 16 at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, but our meetings in November and December are on the third Thursday because of the holidays. The meeting begins at 8:30 am but please join us for breakfast and conversation beginning at 7:30. For further information, you can contact Big Fish **Ron Lew** at 925-550-4166 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.

Without freedom of speech we would not know who the idiots are



Bocce John Kendrick

After 14 months of rest plus the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 SIR Bocce Ball activity finally started on July 12th. Because we had unusually warm and dry weather in October, we extended our season one month. The Bocce

Ball attendance this year was great with many past players and new players with their wives.

Mark your calendar because the 2022 Bocce Ball activity is scheduled to start on May 9, 2022.

Bocce Ball is played the 2nd and 4th Mondays, May through September. Play starts at 8:30 am at the Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are located near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

If you are interested in playing Bocce in 2022, please e-mail and I will add you to the roster. This is especially important if you did not participate with us this year.

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

Reported by **Jim Barry**

Table Pool is back in business and we're meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 Noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional information.



Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962



Travel Milt Smith

You may still be reluctant to begin making travel plans again, but I want to assure you that the time is right to do so. During Sept. and Oct. there have been three successful tours by SIRS and other senior travel groups I

know of. Branch 143 led a group to the Great Smokey Mountains in Sept. Another SIR member just returned with rave reviews from a Crystal Cruise to Bermuda he did on his own. A senior group is currently aboard the American Queen paddleboat on the Mississippi. In all cases the travelers were happy and comfortable with the steps taken to assure Covid safety.

Many of the best trips are filling fast so the time to resume with your travel plans is NOW! With so many trips being canceled in the past 18 months, many trips including 2 SIR 143 trips for 2022 are already sold out and taking wait-lists

The Crystal Cruise to Canada and New England was canceled last Oct. but is being offered again in 2022, see below. The tour "America's Music Heritage" is popular and particularly appealing for those who want to stay in the US.



Contact Milt Smith miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897.

Milt Smith



GOLF Ed Marlovits

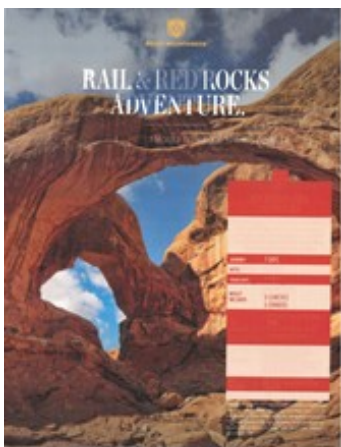
One of the interesting parts about golf this time of the year is the decision to play on rainy days. We hope to have more of such decision days this winter. Tuesday November 9 was one of those

days. Weathermen predicted a rainy day and so most of our scheduled golfers decided not to play. Big mistake. Our group teed off at about our scheduled time and got through the 18 in 4 hours without seeing other SIR golfers and beyond that we only saw two different singles who happened to be behind us at various times on the front and back nines. The sun came out from behind the clouds on #13 but we then saw a light drizzle on #14. Otherwise, it was perfect day for golf. Beyond that, we all beat our handicaps and we all parred #2.

It appears computer programmers are obsessive compulsive. Those who work at NCGA have come up with a new system called, appropriately, Blue Golf. **Dave Steinberg** has been indoctrinated and has started to implement the system for our branch. One of the things we will notice immediately is an improved results system. Coming up is a new way to respond and commit to the next week's play. While there will be a learning curve, we will all benefit from **Dave's** efforts to implement the system.

Joe Fuchs has decided to retire from the golf committee at the end of the year. **Joe** has been a mainstay for over ten years and his departure will leave a void. Consider this a call for volunteers to help fill that void.

Ed Marlovits



How about a trip by rail? A train trip through the Canyon lands by rail aboard the Rocky Mountaineer. Date: To Be Determined.

Take a look at these trips, then let me know ASAP if you are interested, since trips are filling up. Also, let me know if there are specific destinations you'd like me to look into.

Join SIRs America's Musical Heritage with an extended stay in New Orleans. It is set for May 27-June 7. 12 Days with two nights in Nashville and Memphis, four in New Orleans .

8 Night Autumn in the Northeast - CRUISE ABOARD THE CRYSTAL SERENITY QUEBEC CITY TO NEW YORK CITY October 5-13, 2022. Ports of call: The Bay of Fundy, Saint John, Bar Harbor, Boston, Newport, NYC. Crystal Cruises are all inclusive! Pricing from \$4898 pp dbl. occupancy, including airfare.

Time to go see some more stuff...



SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

I wonder how many SIR146 members read this article. Just curious! In my semi advanced age, I have learned that (since retiring in 2013) sitting in my re-

cliner just doesn't cut it. Body parts seem to refuse to function with too much sitting around. I've learned a statement in the last few years that I think applies to all of us Old Farts; "Motion is Lotion". Yes, some of the hikes that I, **Ray Martz**, and **Bob Wilkenfeld** select are maybe too much for some. But I've asked for some input and have not received too much feedback. My target hike is 5 miles and between 500 and 1000 feet of climbing. But I do try to pick a couple of much easier ones each month. I know a lot of our guys walk with their wives in their local neighborhoods, and I think that works. But I challenge you to challenge yourselves to do more! I am a walking/hiking resource, and should you decide to take advantage of that offer, I can point you to some wonderful walking/hiking venues in the East Bay.

I have committed to organizing a walk/hike each and every Monday in our wonderful East Bay hiking venues and will continue to do so as long as I am able. **Ray Martz** and **Bob Wilkenfeld** will pull up the slack if (or when) that situation changes.

We have done some great hikes recently including Sunol, Big Break, Brushy Peak, Diablo Foothills, and many more. We haven't seen too many critters, but the ones that were observed were fabulous; including an American Kestrel, Short Tailed Hawk, and a Red Fox (not joking).

Just to mention a few names that regularly participate; **Pete Gates**, **Mike Browne**, **Bob Wilkenfeld**, **Gene Schulting**, **Earl Bates**, (believe it or not) **Dave Steinberg**, and only a few more that I cannot immediately remember.

Bottom Line: Do not be cautious about challenging yourself just a bit!!

Mark Curtis

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

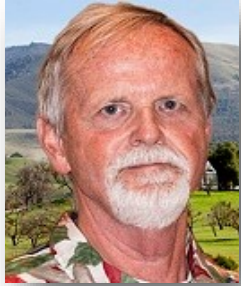


Photo by Pete Gates

Earl Bates, Mark Curtis and Ray Martz



Photo by Earl Bates



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi, I am **Bob Ford** and I have recently taken over the SIR BRANCH 146 Thursday 9-Hole golf group.

Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course 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.

We play the nine-hole course then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. If you are interested, let me know by sending me an email and I will put you on my list.

On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning.

I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com

Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Come one, Come all to our first live meeting at Rocco's on Friday, December 17th at 9 AM until 11 AM. There will be no Zoom addendum to this meeting. We will gather at roughly 8:30 AM with a start time of 9 AM. Rocco's will provide coffee but Henry and I request covering the cost with a two dollar donation from each member that is represented. I will provide donuts for everyone to consume.

The theme of this meeting will be to photograph the Fall Foliage and or the Scenes of the Holiday. Bring your top 5 -10 shots on a thumb drive to present. Professor **Bill Holly** will be bringing a computer and projector to display our photos.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday, December 17th, at Rocco's at 8:30 AM.

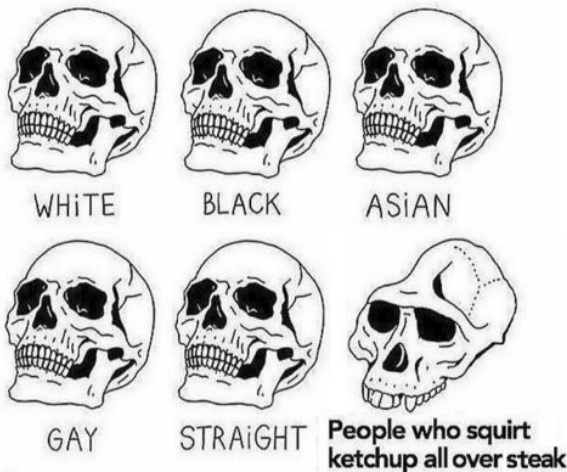
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Clint Collier

Our group meets every other month so there was no meeting in November.

We are coming up, however, on our December extravaganza; a visit to Morimoto in Napa on December 16th!

This is a special event for us both because of the distance and the (hopefully) quality of the cuisine at the "Iron Chefs" restaurant. Additionally, our spouses are invited to join us in this adventure. Additionally, it is what some people might refer to as an extravagance.

This is a restaurant where the old adage applies, "If you have to ask the price you can't afford it". I would expect that we will spend at least twice as much as our usual lunches on this special event.

This is a by reservation only event, your reservation needs to get to me by Sunday December 12th. Make your reservation by [sending me an e-mail](#). Please indicate when you respond your names with an indication of who wishes to partake of the sushi and/or just the [regular menu](#). I will acknowledge your response! As us our regular practice, we will have only one bill and will split it equally amongst the participants unless there is someone who does not drink sake n which case we will make a reduction of their share. (or someone who orders 1lb of waygu beef who will get a surcharge)

Timing and instruction\ will be sent out around the 13th to those who have signed up.

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group continues to be in a holding pattern and will not resume our activity until the new year. As we are slowly getting back to a semblance of normal activities for

the branch, we decided to not attempt an event in November for our Dining Out group but plan to select a restaurant for a January dinner. We will probably still limit participation to a group of 40 or 50, so you will want to watch for a notice and plan to respond quickly since we expect that many of us will be anxious to get together once again! We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season!

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out hosts

bgborgman@aol.com



Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime, we are on Covid-19 hold, and we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all SIR members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

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

What did the grape say
when it got stepped on?
Nothing - but it let out a little whine



Couples Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Wine tasting is back in full swing! We just had our second wine tasting of the year at the beautiful home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld**. It was a

beautiful October day. Thirty-nine SIR wine enthusiasts sat around the pool enjoying Argentinian wine and fabulous appetizer and desserts. A great time was had by all.

Richard Hockenbrock won for the most popular red wine and **John Nelson** won for the most popular white wine.

Our next wine tasting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**.

PLEASE NOTE that wine tasting is often mentioned as 'Couples' Wine Tasting' but it is not just for couples. If your spouse isn't interested in wine and you are — come. You will enjoy the event. I guarantee it!

Bill Holly and I will be sending out an email after the holidays with all of the information including what wines we'll be tasting. So if you are not on the wine tasting mailing list and would like to join us for a fun afternoon tasting wines, please let me know.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



Brad Hatcher looks on as **Richard Hockenbrock** is recognized by **Bill Holly** for the best red wine.



John Nelson had the best white and was rewarded by **Brian McCarthy**!



Brian McCarthy presenting a bottle of wine to **Judy** and **Bob Wilkenfeld** for hosting the event.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Six of us gathered at the home of **Bruce Borgman**, on the 8th of November and welcomed the end of Daylight Savings Time. **Ken Richter** and **Richard Hockenbrock** were not able to attend. **Bruce** treated us to a delicious spread of cheese, cold cuts and crackers, which paired well with the group's accompanying red and white wines. Since the weather had begun matriculating into Fall, we enjoyed the appetizers in **Bruce's** photogenic family room (see accompanying photo). After some light discussion of



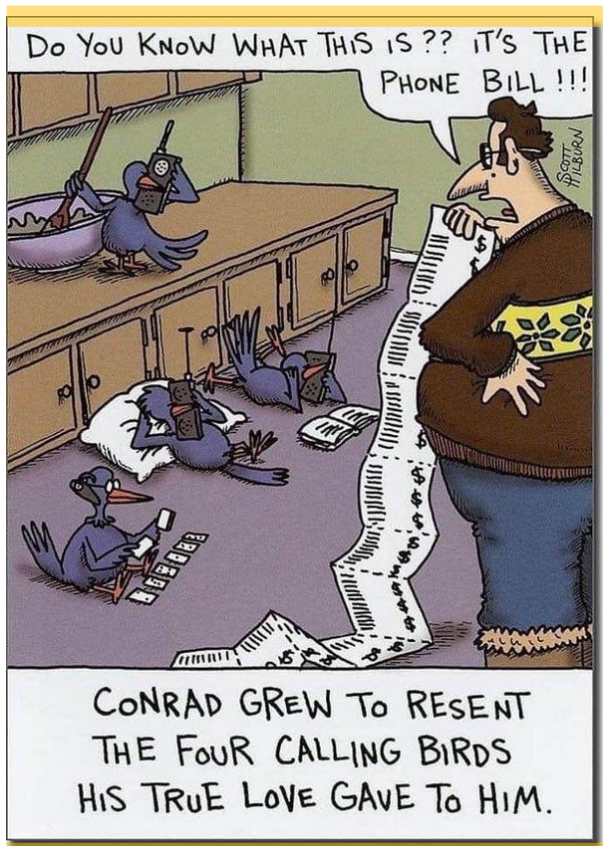
Photo by Steve Ybarra

Bob Yolland, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Bill Cammerer and Bruce Borgman

sports and current events, we adjourned to the dining room for the main course. An incredible beef stew made with a base sauce of reduced anchovies was served to the delight of all. The meal finished with a serving of apple crisp and vanilla ice cream. Cooking II will not meet in December, but will resume on January 10, 2022, at the home of **Bill Cammerer**.

Steve Ybarra

Never laugh at your spouse's choices. You are one of them. .



CONRAD GREW TO RESENT THE FOUR CALLING BIRDS HIS TRUE LOVE GAVE TO HIM.

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Grupo Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

After a long hiatus since our last full group's Game Night, a Holiday end-of-year themed get-together near New Year's is being planned. More information will be provided as

the date gets nearer.

During the 18 months since we last played together in March 2020, a few members were comfortable enough to get together now and then in groups of 4 or 5 or 6 and keep their Mexican Train Dominoes play at a high level. We did hear, however, of a few instances where someone forgot to tap!

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy Holiday season and a wonderful 2022!

Grupo Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train dominos meetings are on hold due to the Covid-19 Delta variant restrictions and "It's Better to Be Safe Than Sorry" principle. We will resume as soon as the restrictions are

changed. We meet the third Friday of the month. Everyone stay safe and we'll see you all soon, I hope.

Grupo Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We did not play in November. Next scheduled game is December 3rd.

Ron Plachy
(rjplachy@icloud.com)

Grupo Cinco 5



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

After 21 months of pandemic isolation, we renewed our fact-to-face friendships and tried to remember how to play. We did miss those who

could not join us. Going well beyond the call of duty, our favorite sub, **Marty Campbell**, warmly hosted the first event. What a sub! We were all so rusty that it's a wonder that anyone won, but in the end **Bob Yolland** (58) was first, **Dave Pierce** (67) was second, and **Dennis Hallett** (92) was third after six games. **Jim Burk** dealt himself the double blank four time but unloaded it every time (moral victory). This may have been our first sweep by the men over the women; perhaps it was because of the full moon and the nearly total eclipse that came that same evening.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net

Grupo Tres 3



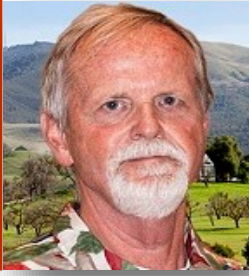
Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We are holding off until January before returning to the tables again out of a sense of caution.

A big, big thank you to **Jeff** and **Alicia Baily** for starting MTD "Tres" and making it a fun group over the years. I will walk lightly in his footsteps the next time the Choo Choo leaves the roundhouse.

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

John "Moose" Kelly

SIR **Bruce Borgman** and **Susan Sheldon** hosted our most recent gathering of the Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6.

Bruce and Susan put on a feast fit for royalty. Their food theme certainly was focused on Thanksgiving tradition with pumpkin pie et al. Thank you **Bruce** and **Susan** for hosting the bandits of MTD Group 6.



Photo by Moose Kelly

The Winners!

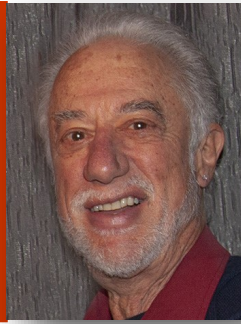
The competition was very close for the top three spots with a double pot at stake. When the smoke cleared, **Mary McCarthy** literally squeaked out the win with **Kathe Mitchell** close on her heels and SIR **Bruce Borgman** taking third. I had to reassure Group 6 that I was the score keeper on table two where **Mary McCarthy** and SIR **Bruce** were sitting; thus, no monkey business. Congratulations to the winners!! Photo is attached.

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 is undecided whether we will meeting in December. Wishing everyone in Group 6 and all the readers of this article happy holidays and a prosperous 2022.

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com

Theremin for Sale
Never been touched!



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

Bob and Wendy Lucido hosted our MTD group this month.

Bob West was the big winner this month and walked away with \$22. Bob, share it

with Jane or I'll rat on you.

Mary Ellen Dalgaard was the big loser. Mary Ellen was the big loser now three times in a row. Still hasn't won anything, but she keeps trying.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net



Photo by Bob Lucido

Bob West , Mary Ellen Dalgaard
Winner—Loser



I got tired of all the bagpipe jokes.



Book Group
John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Six members of SIR 146 Book Group met Monday, November 29th, at the Greenery. Our book for the month was *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles, well known for his successful novel, *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

The first thing to know when starting this book is that it is not a road trip story featuring the Lincoln Highway, but a trip, or journey, along the life roads of five main characters, Emmett, Billy, Sally, Duchess, and Wooly during a 10 day period of their lives. A couple of them did not survive the journey.

The writer excels in character creation and description, in what one said was “Dickensian.” They would come into the story, go, and then often reappear. Most were “good people,” with only one who one would call pure evil. The characters take the role of facilitators as they help connect the various elements.

Comments by the group:

- A true fable, great character development, and is not the same as *A Gentleman in Moscow*.
- Read for the entertainment. Peripheral character development and contributions were well done and important to the story.
- The journey reminds me of Tom Sawyer or Huckleberry Finn.
- Loved the book. Don't judge a book by its cover.
- “Good read,” but felt it was unfinished – wanted to know how it ended (or where it went next on the journey.)
- Let the story come to you.
- A book to read if you are willing to expect the unexpected. The plot line is not the real story, the characters fulfill this role.

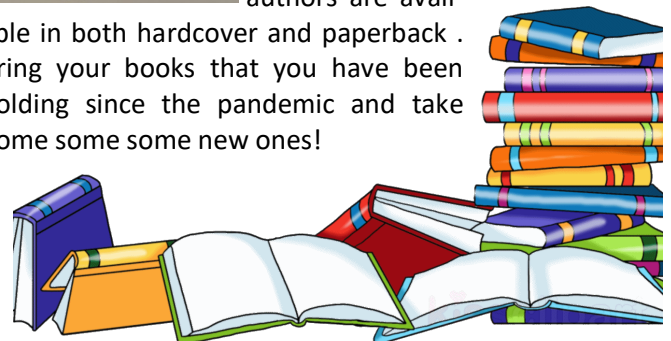
Our next meeting will be on Monday, December, 27th. Our book to discuss will be *Confederacy of Dunces*, by John Kennedy Toole. This was selected from the new New York Times list of the 25 best books ever written in modern times, allowing for one book per any one author.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor



Book Corner
Peter Plante

The Book Corner will return for the Ladies Day Luncheon in December. Some of your favorite authors are available in both hardcover and paperback . Bring your books that you have been holding since the pandemic and take home some some new ones!





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

We met on November 14th for Hearts at Rocco's. In December we will be meeting on Friday December 10th at Rocco's.

Nov 14 Match summaries of top players: **Frank Lucas** was the big winner having won 2 games. **Bill Vizza**, had 2 "Shoot the Moons". In lowest average score, **Frank** led with 67, followed by **Bill** with 72.

Future Meetings: We will be meeting on Friday December 10th at 1pm and at noon for lunch. Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robrtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.



Poker Group 1 Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group #1 met at the home of **Bill Cammerer**, as always a good time was had by all. It's been so long that we had to think how to play some of the games.



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brand Hatcher

The game was hosted by **Frank Lucas** and six of us played. Snacks and wine, cards, chips and watching the birds feed were delightful.

Sig was kind to substitute but was not really kind as he went home with a little extra. However, rumor has it that **Frank** may have paid for his Mexican cruise with his card success. He has already notified us that he will not play in December because he will be onboard.

We are still looking for additions to our substitute list. Please contact me if you would like to join.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

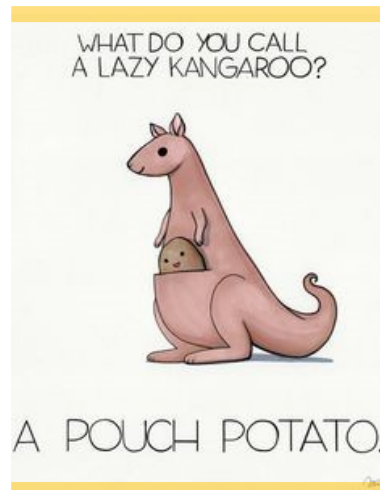
John Kluesener

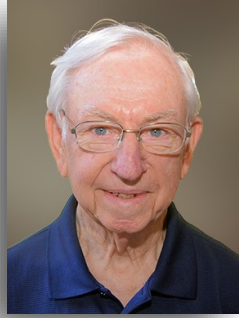
Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met on Wednesday 17 at the **Yolland** estate where they were treated to fine wines, great snacks and challenging cards. Players were

rusty from the enforced layoff but glad to be back at one of their favorite pass times with close friends. Two of our stalwart couples, **Ismeni and Rich Ahlf** and **Gloria and Bud Pearce** were under the weather so **Ken and Elaine Richter** and **Tony and Cindy Greco** filled their chairs. The **DeVoes** were the big winners for the night by 0.5 points over the **Yollands**. **Margo Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** secured third place, 1.5 points behind the **DeVoes**. A good time was had by all and we look forward to our December gathering.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com





Party Bridge
Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

SIR Party Bridge has an event planned for January 3rd. This is our first event since the Covid-19 shutdown. We are looking forward to having many of the Party Bridge group participate. Bridge will be played at the home of Jim Pope starting at 9:45 until 3:00.

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

Co-Directors

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



Couples Party Bridge
Tony Greco

Tony & Cindy Greco hosted our November 2nd event. We finally succeeded in reactivating this activity since the onset of COVID. This event has been inactive since March 2020. It's been a long time coming.

We were all a little rusty with a varying degree of bridge play since March 2020 which ranged from not playing at all to playing frequently online. We pretty much picked up where we left off, similar to "like riding a bike". We thank **John & Kathy Kluesener** for subbing for one of our regulars.

Although we all played one round of bridge with each couple (5 rounds total) and enjoyed the in-person camaraderie, the competition was basically over after the first round of play. I unofficially predicted that **Larry & Linda Brown** the event winners when they scored an amazing 2690 points in the first round by making 2 games (4 Hearts & 3 No Trump) plus a Grand Slam of 7 Hearts. My prediction proved to be correct. As you can see from the official results below, the 2690 first round points by **Larry & Linda Brown** was enough to beat everyone else's total points for all 5 rounds. I can't recall this ever happening before.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4190 points - **Larry & Linda Brown** (1st Round 2690!)
- 2nd PLACE with 2470 points - **John & Kathy Kluesener**
- 3rd PLACE with 2240 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**

Next month's event will be held on December 7th and hosted by **Brad & Lynne Hatcher**. I hope you all had a wonderful thanksgiving and wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2022 new year.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

The Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Group hasn't played since August due to the COVID flareup since June in Contra Costa County and elsewhere. The plan is now to start up once again on Dec. 6 at Dick DeVoe's home. Yay!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

The ACBL has suspended all its face-to-face games and I am following their lead for now. The case rate in Contra Costa County continues to rise, albeit slowly, and is about what it was in late January. <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



Pinochle Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

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

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

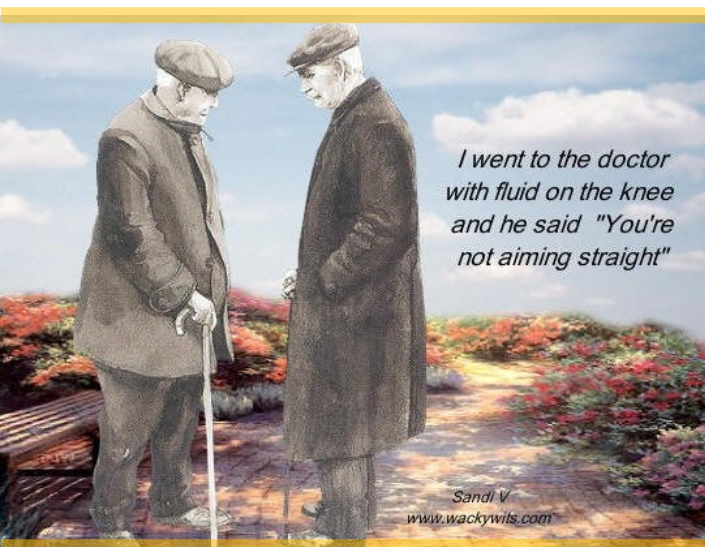
Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen
(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow
(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products. If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group for their November/December Zoom meeting on December 8 at 1:30 PM to avoid conflict with the holidays. Michael Young, Elder Law Attorney, will be the presenter. He covers such things as:



- Dementia Planning
- Nursing Home issues
- Considerations for Widow and Widowers
- Multi-generation Planning and Inherited IRAs (do's and don'ts) and IRA Legacy Trusts
- Charitable Trusts and Charitable Giving
- Impacts of Tax Proposals

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com

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

A rare selfie of Abraham Lincoln



I know what you're all going to say... "It's photoshopped!! Well, it's not. Photoshop wasn't even invented yet."



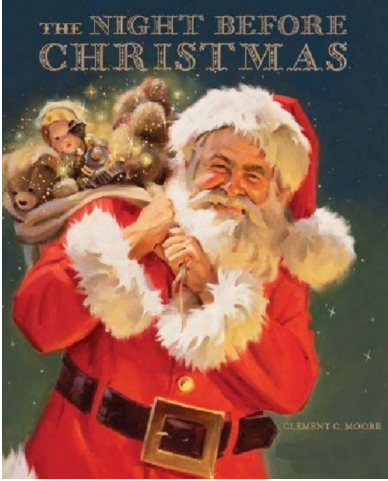
SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Parting Shot



'Twas the night before
Christmas, when all
through the house
Not a creature was stir-
ring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were
hung by the chimney
with care,
In hopes that St. Nicho-
las soon would be there;
The children were nes-
tled all snug in their

beds;

While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by
name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and
soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how mer-
ry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a
jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

