

Stu Somerville

Big Sir's Notes

Our Christmas luncheon was a great success! Special thanks go to **Steve Dawkins** and **Tom Thomson** for arranging all the details. Our own Song Sirs put on an excellent holiday program with leadership from **Don Tubb**, **Don Nunn** and **Dave Obera**.

I thank **Jeff Baily**, our 2008 Big Sir, for a very eventful and fun year for Branch 146. It was a pleasure working with **Jeff** and the Branch Executive Committee. Thanks go to those BEC members who are retiring from office: Treasurer **Tom Thomson**, Asst. Treasurer **Rich Colombo** and Directors **Rich Hanford**, **Jack Mathews**, **Dan O'Sullivan**, and **Ken Richter**.

Welcome to our new BEC members: Asst. Secretary **Jim Burk**, Treasurer **Ron de Golia**, Asst. Treasurer **Joe Fuchs**, and Directors **Bob Darius**, **Jack Hockel**, **Vince Rettew** and **Bob Schroder**. Returning members Little Sir **Dennis Hallett**, Secretary **Peter Gates**, and Directors **Larry Mitchell** and **Ron Binder**, along with me, look forward to working together.

Our Branch will likely face several challenges in the coming year. The immediate challenge will be the change in management of the Boundary Oak facility and golf course. How this will impact us we do not know, but being optimistic, every challenge also presents opportunities.

Stu



Don & Joyce Tubb singing a duet

Little Sir's Corner

Dennis Hallett



Our luncheon speaker in January 8th 2009 will be **Thomas B. Isaak**, the President of CourseCo.. CourseCo is the company selected by Walnut Creek City to manage both the operations and maintenance and the food and beverage services at the Boundary Oak Golf course starting in July 2009. **Tom** is a graduate from Stanford University and established CourseCo in 1989. His speech will address, among other things, CourseCo's history and the current status of the City's planning for Boundary Oak's future development.

SIR 146

Computer Users' Basic Tutorial

Who:

Beginners: You need this course
Intermediates: Enhance your skills
Both: Join us and have some fun

What:

Sessions cover:

- Mastering Microsoft Windows
- Sending and Receiving Email (Outlook Express)
- Exploring the Web (Microsoft Explorer)

When:

Four Fridays in January: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
from 1pm to 3 pm

Where:

Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, Room 303
1801 Lacassie, Walnut Creek

Cost:

\$5.00 for the course. Attend as many classes as you want.

To enroll or Ask Questions:

Call or email:

Lo McCarley lomccarley@astound.net
Jeff Baily jeffnalicia@astound.net



Duplicate Bridge **George Zunich**

Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR Luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch.

In December, Sir **Lo McCarley** hosted three tables of Duplicate Bridge at his home.

In a very close match, the results were as follows. **Fred Kovar** took 1st Place with 32.5 points, **Bob Yolland** was 2nd with 30.5 points, **Rich Ahlf** was 3rd with 29.0 points.

The next match will be held on Monday, January 12th at **Jim Brown's** home.

Interested members should contact **George Zunich** @ 376-4439 for information. We welcome new players.



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 **Bob Burley** on November 3rd.

First place went to **Jim Jackson** with 6070 points, second to a tie between **Lynn Freeman** and **Bob Yolland** with 4580 points, and fourth place to **Jim Brown**.

Our next game will be at **Fred Bolton's** home on January 5, 2009.



Couples Duplicate Bridge **Lo McCarley**

Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.

Lo and Sue McCarley hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on December 10th. Every one had a great time. As for the bridge results, **Jim and Allison Todhunter** took first place with 40 points. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** (39 points) came in second. **Jim Brown and Barbara Lundblade** (33 points) captured third place, and **Bill and Margaret Rees** and **Carl and Anne Johnson** tied for fourth place with 31 points. **Lo and Sue**, as good hosts, came in last with an undisclosed number of points. Next bridge will be hosted by **Carl and Anne Johnson** on January 21st.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Too

Joe Barry

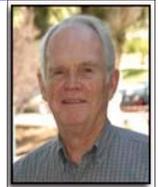
Couples Duplicate Bridge #2 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.

Terry and Sharon Marchione hosted the December event. They were gracious hosts but not that gracious as they took first place along with the major winnings with a point total of 24. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** were 2nd with 23pts, followed by **Joe and Josie Barry** with 22pts.

Ken and Elaine Richter will host the January Bridge.

SongSirs

Don Tubb



We had a good time at the Christmas luncheon and from all reports, our fellow Sirs and their ladies did too. Thanks again for all the effort each one made

It's time that all in SIR had a chance to recognize someone who has made an indelible mark on SongSirs and the chapter. **Rod Sharretts**, our music director, has announced his resignation for health reasons. It's hard to express how much we owe to **Rod** for his skill as a director, his tremendous impact on the quality of our singing and his great patience with us as we struggled and became better singers and a better chorus. He leaves some shoes that will be very difficult to fill, and we will always be grateful for making us much better than the barroom baritones we were when he began to make us into what we are today. We wish you well, **Rod**, and welcome you back in whatever way you can to help us continue the work that you began so well.



Bob & Sally Burley and Diane & Ron DeGolia



Cooking

Dave Johnson

1st Monday at various members' homes.

The Cooking group will not meet in January. Watch for the time and place of the February meeting.

Seasons greetings to all and hope to see you in February.

Pasta Perfect

Whole-grain foods, which retain the bran and germ of the kernel and thus all the fiber and most nutrients, have been linked to many health benefits, including a reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes. Because the fiber in whole grains makes you feel full longer, they may also help with weight control. The U.S. Dietary Guidelines thus recommend that at least half the grains we eat be whole grains. One good way to get more whole grains into your diet is to switch to whole-grain pasta. Once found only in health-food stores, these pastas are now in mainstream markets. And with improved technology, many of them are less chewy and gummy than they used to be. That's how to make the most of your pasta.

From University of California Wellness Letter

Wine Tasting ... Bill Holly

The first wine tasting of this year will be on Thursday, January 29nd from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the home of **Bill** and **Lynette Holly** at: 4409 Winterberry Ct., Concord, CA 94521-4332.

Directions: Take Ygnacio Valley Road North to Cowell Rd.. Turn left at the light and go to the next stop light. Turn right at North Larwin and go 3/4 mile. Turn right on Winterberry Ct. and park near the 5th house on the left side of the street.

We will taste two varietals:



Shiraz/Syrah/Petit Syrah as the red varietal.



Pinot Grigio/Pinot Gris as the white varietal.

Please bring a single bottle of either the red or the white (under \$20) in a brown paper bag plus an appetizer to share. Spouses are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to **Bill Holly** by either telephone (925) 691-5337 or email at bill.holly@comcast.net



Table Pool Bill Weinberg

1st and 3rd Monday at 11:30 am.
(at Masse's 2721 N. Main, Walnut Creek)

The SIR Table Pool Club had their last meeting of '08 and it was a great one. We had 3 tables with some excellent shots. **Howie King** ran the table with defeat staring him in the face. **Hugh Ferguson** obviously has been doing some serious practicing plus we had some new faces playing. In all, it was enjoyable.

I want to extend a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all the Sirs and their families.

Hope to see all of you in 2009. **Bill Weinberg**

SIR HAPPENINGS

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to www.sirinc.org and click on [SIR Happenings](#) to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches. An article by **Jeff Baily**, **Dick DeVoe** and **Jim Stedman** is in the current issue which came out recently. It reveals the reasons why SIR is losing thousands of men and what we can do about it.



Alicia and "Past Big Sir" **Jeff Baily** before the traditional passing of the hat.

Wide World of Books Terry Marchione



If you recall, last month I indicated that would be my last article. I wish I could say I was back by popular demand but the truth is Big Sir **Somerville**, being unable to find a replacement, asked me to stay with it for a while. So, for better or worse.....

In keeping with the season, my reading selection is "The Christmas Sweater". You may be familiar with the author—**Glen Beck**, the #1 *New York Times* the best selling author and renowned radio and television host, who delivers an instant holiday classic about boyhood memories, wrenching life lessons, and the true meaning of the gifts we give to one another in love.

We weren't wealthy, we weren't poor -- we just were. We never wanted for anything, except maybe more time together....

When **Eddie** was twelve years old, all he wanted for Christmas was a bike. Although his life had gotten harder -- and money tighter -- since his father died and the family bakery closed...**Eddie** dreamed that *somehow* his mother would find a way to have his dream bike gleaming beside their modest Christmas tree that magical morning. What he got from her instead was a sweater. "A *stupid, handmade, ugly sweater*" that young **Eddie** left in a crumpled ball in the corner of his room.

Scarred deeply by the realization that kids don't always get what they want, and too young to understand that he already owned life's most valuable treasures, that Christmas morning was the beginning of **Eddie's** dark and painful journey on the road to manhood. It will take wrestling with himself, his faith, and his family -- and the guidance of a mysterious neighbor named **Russell** -- to help **Eddie** find his path through the storm clouds of life and finally see the real significance of that simple gift his mother had crafted by hand with love in her heart.

Based on a deeply personal true story, *The Christmas Sweater* is a warm and poignant tale of family, faith and forgiveness that offers us a glimpse of our own lives -- while also making us question if we really know what's most important in them.

If you are interested in learning a little more about the author you can visit his website at www.glenbeck.com

Finally, last month, for some reason the title of the book I recommended was omitted (thanks to **Ken Richter** for pointing this out). If you are wondering what it was—"The Brass Verdict" by **Michael Connelly**.

Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Dave Munson

We meet on the 4th Wednesday, 8am (breakfast starts at 7am) at the Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill), North Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4, Concord .

Seasons greetings and a happy and prosperous new year to all the Sirs and their Families. Hope to see all of you in 2009.



Sunshine

Otto Wilson

Phone: 825-1943

E-mail: ottowilson@astound.net

Sir **Stan Pieratt** is now under the care of Hospice. This was effective December 4th.

Sir **Martin Lyle** is at home recovering from a hip replacement.

Sir **Walt Barabash** is in Manor Care under treatment for surgery. He is doing some exercises but recovery is slow. No visitors please.



Jeff Baily holding his "Past Big Sir" plaque

Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

PHIL GOFF, Chairman, 831-3692, philgoff@yahoo.com
DICK CURRY, Asst. Chairman, 376-5541,
racorinda@pacbell.net

Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.)

Thursday, January 15, **Phil Goff** will present "How to Customize Your Homepage" and "Using Photoshop.com to Share Your Digital Pictures." Also, we will present the findings from the web survey run by **Floyd Skelton** in November, 2008 and finish with a Q&A session lead by **Dick Curry**.

Everyone has a homepage they view when logging onto the internet. The recent web survey showed that most used Yahoo, but AOL and Google are also very popular. **Phil** will show you how to customize that homepage so that it contains information that is of most interest to you. He'll show how to add modules on everything from financial news to new recipes for healthy living. Also, he will show how to add RSS feeds for Blogs and other internet sites.

Photoshop.com is a relatively new site and offers unprecedented opportunity for digital photographers to share the photos with one another for free. **Phil** will demonstrate how useful this new website can be for you and your friends.

Floyd and **Phil** will present the findings of the CAT survey that **Floyd** ran last November. We want to use the information to set agendas for future meetings, so please be prepared to discuss the findings. Following the presentations, **Dick Curry** will lead an informative Computer Q&A session.

On February 19, we will devote the meeting to Genealogy topics. **Bob Testa** (Branch 116) will show the family book he has assembled and **Bob Wolf** (Branch 116) will make a presentation on the Ellis Island Website and some special search engines for that site. If you would like to present your research and findings, please contact **Phil Goff** (philgoff@yahoo.com) or **Derek Southern** (derek.southern@gmail.com).

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We serve coffee and pastries and all SIR members and their guests are welcome.



Theater Gary Schaub

If you think you're likely to be stressed out from the holidays in a couple of weeks, then you should reserve your seats now for SIR146's February theatre event. **Forever Plaid** – a heavenly musical hit that's an entertaining mix of 1950's and 1960's rock n' roll, popular show and dance tunes, blended with witty comedy – is the show to see!

We have a block of seats reserved for us on Thursday, February 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Campbell Theatre in Martinez. This Willows Theatre production is an affectionate revue of the close-knit "guy groups" (i.e. The Four Freshmen, The Four Aces) that reached their height of their popularity during the 1950s.

Songs include such favorites as "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Lady of Spain," "Moments to Remember," and "Sixteen Tons." Tickets for **Forever Plaid** are \$23.00 per person. Send your reservation and checks (payable to SIR 146) to **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598, or call 938-5454 for more information. There are a limited number of tickets available – so order early before the holiday rush! Reservation deadline is February 6. Tickets will be distributed at the door at Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward Street (at Estudillo) in Martinez beginning at 7:00 p.m. on February 26.



Rich Hanford enjoying a lighter moment on a Cooking Too cruise from San Francisco to Vancouver Canada

Luncheon Attendance

Bob Lyman

SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Sunrise at Boundary Oak Restaurant



Call me by Friday noon prior to the luncheon at 825-6386 if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If I am not home, leave your name, badge number and phone number. Be sure you call!

Waiting List:

If you are going to attend, you must call by Friday prior to the Thursday luncheon.

Sir bringing a guest:

Call by Friday prior to the Thursday luncheon and leave your name and the name of your guest.

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than 6 meetings in the last 12 months shall be notified by letter of their pending membership termination.

Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to attendance record.

Luncheon Menu

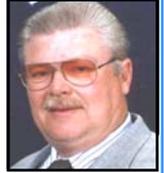
Caesar salad, bread and butter
chicken sauté sec or poached salmon
with whole grain pilaf and roasted butternut squash
baked apple crisp (or seasonal fruit on request),
regular coffee and iced tea.

Special Luncheon Requirements

If you need a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it. If for medical reasons you cannot eat lunch, please notify me. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it, however, you will be required to pay a \$1 fee for club donation when attending the luncheons..

Membership

Jim Jackson



Branch 146 Statistics:

Members 259, HLMs 4, Applicant List 1, Inactive 8.

Ladies Day December Attendance:

Members 120, HLMs 1, Applicant List 0, Ladies 121, Excused N/A, Unexcused N/A.

Total Ladies Day December Attendance: 242.

Status Changes:

Inducted: None

Added to Applicant List: **David Steinberg**

Inactive: None

Resigned: **Al Milano, Jack Matthews**

Withdrew: None

Current Applicant List (prioritized): **David Steinberg**

Note to all members: I am presently updating the membership directory for 2009. Unless you have already done so, please forward to me any changes you may have to your entry, as shown in the 2008 directory, so we will be current in 2009.



Bill and Lucy Danzig



Bob and June Donahue

Explore and Dine John Pearl



Explore and Dine is planning on starting the 2009 season on Thursday, January 22, with a trip to the Jewish Contemporary Museum, located in San Francisco on Mission, between Third and Fourth Streets. This site is easily accessible by BART, via either the Montgomery or Powell Street Stations.

The museum opens at 1:00 pm, and we will begin our private guided tour at 1:30 PM, and it will take approximately 90 minutes. The search is on for a suitable lunch place, which could include the Museum's own cafe.

The cost is \$7.00 each plus a share of the \$100 cost for the leader of our private tour. The tour will be limited to 20 people.

The museum is now housed in a beautiful new and very striking building that opened in 2005. From the museum's web site: www.thejcm.org: Unveiled in 2005, **Daniel Libeskind's** design for the new Museum combines the history of an early 20th-century San Francisco landmark building with the dynamism of contemporary architecture. The design for the new 63,000-square-foot facility marries many of the character-defining features of the original substation, including the brick southern façade, trusses, and skylights, with bold contemporary spaces. The building, with its integration of architectural styles, emanates a powerful connection between tradition and innovation and reflects the Museum's mission to celebrate Jewish culture, history, art, and ideas within the context of 21st-century perspectives.

Fishing Sal Costanza

4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Hwy



Sirs fishing members found a day filled with sunshine, balmy weather, hot chili, great fellowship, and only small stripers when we gathered at the banks of the Sacramento River on Sherman Island Road. **Carl Moyer, Harry Sherinian, Paul King, Paul Dubow, Tom Boltz, Joe Miscione, Gene Schulting, Ken Peterson, Al Meier, and Reggie Fromm** participated. A SIR's invasion of Shadow Cliffs Reservoir proved more productive when **Paul Shulting** and **Dick Thomson** both caught some very respectable trout, **Harry Sherinian, Carl Moyer, Paul Dubow, Joe Miscione, Howard Berkman, and Jim Andrews** were also present. **Al Meier** fished with **Reggie Fromm** near the mothball fleet and caught a huge 40 inch, 30 pound striper. **Terry Miller, Ekkhardt Keller, Roger Borgerson, and Carl Moyer** did fishing right when they drove down the coast to Pillar Point harbor to eat the fish and chips lunch at Barbara's Fish Trap, a most successful foraging trip. Fishing the Sherman Island area with generally good results for stripers were **Joe Peterson, Craig Walton, Joe Miscione, Karl Droese, and Terry Miller. Pete Gates and Carl Moyer** captured a lovely mess of rockfish, ling cod, and cabezone from the ocean. **Joe Miscione** took one of the last rock fish/crab combos out upon the ocean and caught a nice limit of rockfish, but only 2 crabs. He twice fished from the shore at Delle Valle Reservoir, once with **Howard Berkman**, for 2 spunky trout each trip. **Don Mittelstaedt** fly fished the Trinity River for steelhead. We will be very busy in the future with trout fishing in the Eastern Sierras; tuna and bill fish in Mexico, a long range ocean foray from San Diego, delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon, trout fishing in our local lakes, and perhaps several party boat trips for halibut and rockfish for non fishermen.. If you haven't been fishing in a while, but might like to test drive an adventure, come on down to our next meeting.



Sir Al Meier and his 40 inch, 30 pound striper.

**Travel Opportunities
Bob Spellman**



Mar 6, 2009 SIR Day at the Races. It's another chance to visit you money at Golden Gate Fields. The Turf Club SIR package includes: Valet parking, admission and reserve seating, daily racing program, prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of our group. This is a fun day well worth the \$25.00 cost. Contact **Ken Richter** @ 925-689-6217

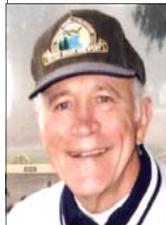
May 12,2009 A Day At The California Academy of Sciences. Visit the Academy of Sciences- the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a 4 story rainforest all under on roof. Whatever your interests, the new Academy is designed to engage and inspire like no other museum on the planet. Cost \$56.00 per person. Contact **Bob Hagler**, Branch 8, 925-934-7620

Aug 8-23, 2009 Romantic Rhine & Moselle Rivers. Explore Holland's colorful capital as you cruise through Amsterdam's enchanting canals. Sail past the famous Lorelei rock and through the dramatic Rhine Gorge on this 14-night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel on board Avalon Waterway's brand new ship, the MS Affinity. Trip includes all meals on board, round trip airfare and airport transfers. Port charges, air taxes, driver tips are also included. Cost runs from \$6270 to \$8669 depending on stateroom. Contact **Ken Richter** @ 925-689-6217

Sep 24, 2009 Highlights of South Africa. On this comprehensive 19 day trip you'll discover the cultural and natural wonders of South Africa. The trip will take you to Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Wilderness, and Cape Town with optional trips to a big five animal bush safari and Victoria Falls. Cost of the trip is \$4795 per person which includes all airfares, 17 night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours. Space is limited so contact **Bob Spellman** to make reservations @ 925-934-9428.



**Greeters
Corrie Oranje, Ed Wojnar and Sal Costanza**



Garden Club

Chuck Bobinecz

1st Thursday at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., in the Multipurpose Room, unless otherwise announced.

Note that we do not meet in January. Our next meeting will be in February at Heather Farms to prune roses. The time and date will be in next SIR Call.

At the December meeting, we established the agenda for the 2009 year. The garden club has two bus trips planned for 2009. One to Napa to a iris farm and wine tasting and one in October to the Academy of Science in San Francisco (Sir Branch #8 has also has a trip to the Academy of Science planned for May). Wait for Branch #146 trip to the Academy of Science in October and avoid the crowds.

Garden tip of the month: Want to increase your vegetable production by up to 45% and have healthier flowers, etc.? When preparing your flower and vegetable beds in the spring, add mycorrhizal fungi to the soil. What does it do? The fungi acts as extensions of plants' root system helping them take up phosphorus and other nutrients. I got mine at the Home Depot garden department.



Daphne Merritt, MJ Whalen & Elaine Richter

Branch calendar

A primary purpose of the branch calendar is to schedule events so they do not conflict with other recurring or one-time events during the year. This is difficult since our branch has so many scheduled events during the year. Consult the branch calendar if you wish to establish an event. Contact me (Chuck Bobinecz) if you wish to schedule an event and I will enter it on the calendar.

Committee chairmen are requested to review the calendar to verify that the information on the calendar is correct. If your committee or activity is inactive, please contact me and I will remove it from the calendar.

Away Golf

Jim Baldrige



As I mentioned in our December article we have some great help with Away Golf events this year. **Bob Lyman, Ray Kan** and **Bob Mehus** will be setting up tournaments during the year. We have divided up the year to simplify scheduling. **Bob Lyman** will schedule first quarter events, **Jim Baldrige** will schedule second quarter, **Bob Mehus** will schedule third quarter and **Ray Kan** will schedule fourth quarter events. To avoid conflicts with Area, Division and State Golf events we will try to schedule around them and in some months we may not have a branch event so that our Br 146 golfers with busy calendars can compete with other SIR groups.

A reminder about our Br 146 Invitational Tournament at Silverado Country Club: They have offered to reserve the course for our branch on Monday April 27, 2009 for a 12:00 noon shotgun tournament. This year they have again offered us a rate of \$45. This is a special SIR rate. Considering their regular rate is \$150 Silverado continues to treat the Sirs very well. The date is also well into spring so the weather should be great. This is a nice opportunity to invite wives, friends, guests and prospective SIR members to play a private country club and spend a day in the beautiful Napa wine country. I will have sign up flyers out shortly but, don't hesitate to call or e-mail me to reserve a spot for your group. You can sign up as a foursome, twosome or as singles.

Questions: **Jim Baldrige** 925-689-9232

Committee and Activity Chairmen

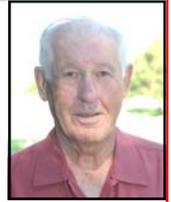
Since the same person does not edit the SIR Call each month it would be very helpful if you would send your notice of the activities to only one email address.

sircall@hotmail.com

This will help the editor keep control of the information.

Thank you.

Tuesday Golf Ray Weisz



November 2008 Weekly Results

November 4: First Flight: **Al Zamolo (71), Ray Spears, Bob White.** Second Flight: **Ken Richter (72), Doug Cook, Ralph Fowler.** Closest to the pin: **Bill Boyd #2, Ron Binder #12.**

November 11: First Flight : **Joe Himsl (70), Jeff Baily, Gene Diana.** Second Flight: **Al Zamolo (73), Ernie Dickson, Ray Kan.** Closest to the pin: **Ray Spears #2, Lew Thompson #12.**

November 18: First Flight: **Larry Sheerin (66), Joe Barry, Bob White.** Second Flight: **Ken Beattie (70), Don Del Bene, Ken Richter.** Closest to the Pin: **Bob Mehus #2, Corrie Oranje #12.**

November 24: First Flight: **Ron Binder (66), Ken Kratz, Bill Hansen.** Second Flight: **Corrie Oranje, (67), Dean Merritt, Dan O'Sullivan.** Closest to the pin: **Rich Hanford #2, Ken Richter #12.**

2009 should be another great year. We have 108 members on our roster and 65 members participating in the weekly prize fund. Let's all come out and have fun golfing.



Bob and Jo Spellman

ROMEO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry



The ROMEO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at select restaurants in the East Bay. Come join your fellow SIR members for delicious dining in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

On January 15th, we will be kicking off the new year dining at the "Tower Grille" in the heart of downtown Danville. The cuisine is American/traditional with a wide ranging menu including grilled pork chops or lamb chops, Tuscan steak and penne pasta.

Location: 301 Hartz Avenue, Danville, CA 94526

Web Site: www.yelp.com/biz/tower-grille-danville (includes reviews and directions <easy parking>)
Phone: 925-820-6996

Please RSVP by Tuesday January 13th.

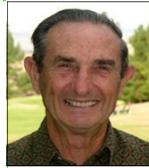
I welcome your suggestions for restaurants that you would like to visit.



Poker Club #1 Frank McNamee

Poker Club #1 met on December 10th at the **Bill Cammerer** home and he proved to be a most congenial and generous host.

He also was very timely with his Christmas decorations which deserve a SIR prize if there is such an award. Santa and his elves were extremely nice to **Frank McNamee** as he won almost enough for dinner for two at your closest McDonalds. **John Lewis** and **Dan O'Sullivan** won almost enough to cover BART fare from Walnut Creek to Pleasant Hill. The rest of the group were smiling contributors. Our next challenge will be on January 7th at **Bob Frankland's** residence.



Poker Club #2 Al Zamolo

Bob Royster got an early Christmas present by winning the largest amount ever for our poker group. **Al Zamolo** and **Jim** were the biggest contributors along with our host **Charlie Kiser**. Our next session will be hosted by **Ron Binder** on Monday, Dec. 29th.

Poker Club #6

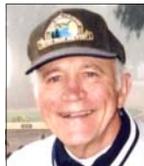
Bill Roberts

Our December game suffered from overcrowding - 8 players showed up. While we managed to get through the evening, confusion reigned supreme. Without mentioning names, we had one player who, after calling 1 or 2 raises wanted to know what the game was!

No big winners or losers emerged but it is worth commenting on the \$1 or so that **Bill Roberts** won. As you know by now, **Bill** is our permanent host and chef extraordinaire. **Bill** has not had a winning game in several months and, in confidence, he has attributed that to his food preparation responsibilities. Well this month, claiming a sore leg (what does that have to do with cooking?), he ordered in pizza. The pizza was ably delivered by **Skip Thomas** (who asked for a tip) and was baked and sliced by **Bob Spellman**. Having no responsibility (other than scrambling to his wine cellar to find a 4th or 5th bottle), **Bill** managed to eke out a positive result at the game.

So much for **Bill's** cook off against **Emeril** and **Batali**: We are now trying to match him up against **Skipolini** and **Melo**.

Our January game will be held on 1/7 (or 1/14). Regular players are **Roberts**, **Spellman**, **Koeber**, **Merritt**, **Somerville**, **Thomas**, **Marchione** and **Richter**.



Poker Club #4 Chuck Bobinecz

We will not have a December game because of the holidays and anticipation of our January credit card statements.

One feature that can make poker a difficult game is bluffing. This distinguishes it from other vying games.

Non-Responsibility Declaration:

Rule 345: All activities arranged for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

March 25-28, 2009

You are invited to attend the 2009 Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, an event that has been held for years comprised mostly of Branch 146 members and guests. However, this is our first year as a Branch 146 SIR activity, open to all members.

- § March 25, 26, 27- Best Western Monterey Inn. Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.
- § March 26 (Thursday) - golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course. Traditional Thursday heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party at the Inn. BYOB.
- § March 27 (Friday)- golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Laguna Seca Golf Club. No-host bar beforehand.
- § March 28 (Saturday)- Breakfast at the Inn and departure for home, perhaps with some shopping and sightseeing in your plans.

Since we are limited by the number of rooms, tee times and/or Thurs. night party at the Inn, we may have to invoke a first replied-first served policy. Do not delay- reply by January 25, 2009. A complete packet of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to Sir Branch 146-Monterey Mashers and send to: **Dick DeVoe**, 109 Terrace Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. Questions? Please contact **Dick DeVoe** at (925) 932-5546 or by e-mail: dickchristy@comcast.net

2009 Committee- Chair **Dick/Christy DeVoe, Dennis/Ann Hallett, Stu/Margot Somerville, Lew/Carla Thompson**

Cut Here

Monterey Mashers March 25-28, 2009

Name _____

Companion _____

Complete package: hotel, golf, and banquet \$ 560.00

Companion will play on Thursday, add \$73.00 _____

Companion will play on Friday, add \$79.00 _____

Total \$ _____

Dinner choice:

Chicken Dijonaise with rice and vegetables _____

Halibut with rice and vegetables _____

Vegetarian _____



Walkers John Lewis



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

Walks for January 2009

- Jan. 2 Heather Farms Park Walk (Whole Park)
Meet: Heather Farms lower parking lot near Iron Horse Trail
Walk: Starts at north end of park
Paved tree lined level
Coffee at Peets or Sweet Affair (your choice) at Ygnacio Valley Center
- Jan. 9 Iron Horse Trail, Danville, South
Meet: Railroad Museum parking lot on Railroad Ave., Danville
Walk: Starts on Iron Horse Trail near museum going south
Paved tree lined
Coffee at Pascals, Danville on Railroad Ave.
- Jan 16 Arbolado Park to Canal Trail
Meet: Arbolado. Park on Arbolado Drive Danville
Walk: North on Canal Trail past the Boundary Oak Golf Course
Paved and level
Coffee at Shadelands Office Park, Kaiser Center
- Jan 23 Cardinet Trail, Clayton
Meet: Clayton Library, Clayton Road. Park at Clayton Library
Walk: Northwest from parking lot, over bridge, along trail past golf course
Not paved, tree lined and level
- Jan 30 Iron Horse Trail, Alamo south.
Park at Alamo Plaza Parking lot off Danville Highway
Walk: South on trail
Paved, level and tree lined
Coffee; Yellow Wood at Alamo Plaza

Thanks to **Bill Cammerer, Don Del Bene, and Larry Sheerin** for folding and labeling, to **Rich Ahlf** for photography, to **Bill Cammerer** for mailing, and to **Jeff Baily** for proofreading.

SIR CALL

Newsletter

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Induction of 2009 Branch Executive Committee
L to R- **Bob Darius, Jim Stedman, Ron DeGolia, Stu Somerville, Dennis Hallett,
Jim Burk, Pete Gates, Bob Schroder, Larry Mitchell and Vince Rettew**
who is partially hidden