



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA

Call



Big Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

Welcome to the New Year! I am privileged to be your Big Sir for the year 2022 and, with help from a great group of guys, will do all I can to ensure that the Branch carries on its tradition of fun activities, appealing lunches and stimulating speakers.

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to a less stressful year as we leave behind 2020 and 2021, two of the most difficult years in Branch 146 history. At the time of this writing, the new COVID variant is causing more problems across the country as well as around the world. Being optimistic, I expect that over the next few months more of the membership will begin to return to their favorite activities and luncheons where we all can see our friends again.

We were able to successfully hold our first two in-person luncheon meetings in November and December. The December meeting, the semi-annual Ladies Day event, was a huge achievement. A special thanks goes to Sir **Steve Ybarra** who again ably managed not only the table arrangements, but was responsible for ensuring that all in attendance were fully vaccinated and had submitted the required SIR waiver form.

I look forward to the New Year when regular monthly luncheon meetings with interesting speakers are planned. Due to significantly higher costs to Boundary Oak in purchasing and preparing food, as well as increased compensation needed to keep adequate staff, the lunch price will increase to \$32 starting in January. While an increase from last year, remember you are being served a three course luncheon with coffee or tea as well as tax and tip included.

Several Thank You's

Past Big Sirs **Richard Hockenbrock** (2021) and **Brad Hatcher** (2020) did an amazing job in reacting to the shut-downs and limitations imposed on the nation (and our Branch) by the pandemic. Following the lead of businesses

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, January 13th, 2022
Boundary Oak
10:45am
See Page 3 to place a reservation!
Deadline for Reservations is January 6th

and agencies throughout the world, Brad and Richard determined how best to use the Zoom platform and held virtual luncheon meetings for 16 straight months. While never more than 50 to 75 of our almost 300 members signed on, it was enough to realize that people wanted to see one another, even if only on a small computer or tablet screen.

I have to give a Shout Out to several folks who helped set up the Zoom meetings, recorded them and produced minutes of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC). These include Sir **Pete Bishop** (our *Zoom Czar*) and Sir **Rich Lyon**, last's year's Branch Secretary. Our Treasurer, **Ross Abbott**, kept the books and paid our bills during the last year; he is being followed in 2022 by **John Alexander**. **Brian McCarthy** (Sunshine Chair) did his best to keep everyone aware of Branch members who were ill or passed away during the last two years.

Henry Thatcher (Branch Photographer) was busy during the year as he kept member pictures on the website up to date; he was called upon to photograph all the new members whenever a safe time and place could be arranged. **Bob Lucido** (Activities Coordinator) played an important role in monitoring the 50 plus branch activities, since there were several COVID-related start and stops during the last year and a half. **Bob** and **Henry** are both continuing as BEC members for their second year.

Both Sirs **Paul Beretz** and **Peter Plante** (Recruiting and Publicity Chairs) implemented a successful approach that attracted over 35 new members during a period when very limited activities could be held and only Zoom luncheons

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.

Big Sir continued from previous page

held. These two important positions will be managed by new BEC members, Sirs **Bob Ford** and **Frank Lucas**.

Ed Brands who was the Member Relations Chair for the last year, taking over from **Tony Greco** (2020), will continue in that increasingly important position; he joins the BEC for 2022.

Past Big Sir **Bruce Borgman** has graciously stepped forward to take on the job of Luncheon Chairman for 2022, an important role while we transition temporarily to a required RSVP form of attendance. Prior to COVID, a member only had to inform the Branch that they were NOT coming. Now, you must call in advance to reserve a spot at the luncheon.

A special thank you goes to Sir **George Mon**, Branch Treasurer during 2020, and a person who took on the position of Membership Chair for 2021, following **Ron Lew** in 2020. In addition to streamlining the membership record process and data base with help from several other members, **George** also took on the responsibility of tracking our member's vaccination status and waiver completion. Data for member wives and their significant others also were recorded since many activities as well as the December luncheon included these individuals.

Wow, as the reader can see, the Branch only functions with the help of many individuals! While almost 20 people are mentioned above, there are others that are assisting during the year that will be acknowledged in the future. A few years ago, a program, *Behind the Scene*, was established to recognize these members who help keep the branch viable (for example, Check-in Table volunteers, the Greeters that welcome people to the luncheons, folks that keep the monthly slide show up to date, old and new member badge tracking and maintenance, web site management, maintaining member biographies, and on and on). Thanks to all of you!

We ask that you consider volunteering in some way to assist with our many activities as well as the organization. Please call or write me if you would like to discuss possible areas where you can help.

Be sure to read **Rich Lyon's** column (Little Sir for 2022) for information regarding monthly luncheon attendance and upcoming speakers. Also, I urge each of you (newer members and old) to see if some of your friends or neighbors would enjoy the comradery of our members. The branch provides a free lunch to a prospective member that you invite.

I hope you all have a Happy New Year and one that is Safe and Healthy!



Little Sir's Corner Rich Lyon

It was great seeing such a good turnout for the December Lady's Day Luncheon. It was the first Lady's Day Luncheon in almost two years. The food service was very good and the entertainment by the magician, Mr. David Hirata was amazing. Please let us know if you enjoyed the magician's performance.

Big SIR Jerry Kaplan also awarded past Big SIR Richard Hockenbrock with a past Big SIR badge and thanked him for his diligent and thoughtful service. As a result of which, Branch 146 has retained most of our members, has about 50 activity groups, golf being the largest, has an active and involved Branch Executive Committee (BEC), dedi-

cated officers, and past Big SIRs keeping this organization going. Many members have contributed to our branch's continued good health, **Ross Abbott** Treasurer, **Paul Beretz** Recruitment, **Clint Collier** SIR Call, **Bob Lucido** Activities, **George Mon** Membership, **Peter Plante** Publicity and, the BEC is just the tip of the iceberg.

At a special meeting in December, the BEC voted to continue requiring an RSVP to attend in-person regular branch or Lady's Day luncheons. Hopefully, we will be able to have in-person luncheons going forward! Please remember that when making an RSVP reservation for a luncheon, the branch is required to pay for your meal. If you can't make it to the luncheon for which you have already sent in an RSVP, please notify **Bruce Borgman** Luncheon chair-

Continued on next page

Little Sir continued from previous page

man, and cancel your reservation before the deadline to avoid having to reimburse the branch.

For our January Luncheon speaker, we will have the distinct pleasure of hearing Mrs. Nancy Schlossberg, BA, BSN, RN, CGRN, CER Program Director Digestive Health Services at John Muir Health. Mrs. Schlossberg served with distinction as the 2000-2001 president of the Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA) and the 2019-2020 president of the American Board Certification in Gastroenterology Nursing (ABCGN). In 2003 she received the SGNA Distinguished Service award and in 2015 she received the SGNA Gabriel Schindler award for clinical excellence. She is an individual member National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. The NCCRT, established by the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1997. In 2000, Mrs. Schlossberg played an instrumental role in the grassroots team efforts that

helped pass the nation’s first legislation to provide colorectal cancer screening by colonoscopy to Virginians enrolled in managed health insurance plans, state employee health plans, or covered by Medicaid. The model set the standard for the country, and the model emulated other states.

As a national leader in her field, Mrs. Schlossberg has a broad background in clinical and programmatic Gastrointestinal (GI) Health Services and frequently is called to consult and teach at health organizations across the country.

Mrs. Schlossberg has a lot to share with us for ourselves and for us to share with our younger family members. Please email me your questions ahead of time so that Mrs. Schlossberg can curate answers in advance. Let’s give Mrs. Schlossberg an attentive ear and a warm welcome.

Respectfully,
Rich Lyon, Little SIR



**Luncheon Chairman
Bruce Borgman**

Following a successful Ladies Day Luncheon in December, we anticipate resuming our monthly luncheon in January with our traditional luncheon on the second Thursday, January 13, at Boundary Oak.


We look forward to seeing you all in the new year, and a slow but sure resumption of our normal SIR luncheons and activities. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

The meeting will again be held following the current protocol for indoor meetings and will require our members be fully vaccinated. We will verify your vaccination status as you respond to rsvp for the meeting. Cost of the luncheon will be \$32 in accordance with our new contract with Boundary Oak, made out to Sir Branch 146, payable on the day of the Luncheon.

As we did in November, we will again ask you to positively rsvp your attendance which you can do by the following:

- Make a reservation by providing your name and badge number (just to aid in making sure that it’s you) with an email to: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com, or by phone to (925) 979-5721.
- Have your vaccination info on file, including the waiver; or a negative COVID test result within three days prior to the luncheon.

The deadline for making your reservation is noon on Thursday, January 6.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon
January 13th, 2022

Salad
Organic Mixed Greens
Fuji Apples, Feta Cheese, candied Walnuts, pickled red onion and white balsamic vinaigrette

Entrees
Pan Roasted Chicken Breast
Mushroom Risotto, Seasonal Vegetables
Lemon thyme Beurre Blanc

—
Baked Alaskan Cod
Herb roasted Yukon creamer potatoes, seasonal vegetables, pesto cream sauce

Dessert
Chocolate Fudge Cake
Raspberry Sauce

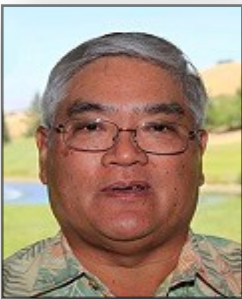
2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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.



Membership George Mon

We had no new members in December.

Two members decided to resign. **Bill Neuman** is resigning due to health reasons. **Jim Kohl** decided that it was time.

The 2021 membership count went from 294 to 292. However, early indications from collecting dues for 2022 is that we have a dozen or more that may decide to resign. The pandemic may have had an effect. We have been a little inactive during the past 18 months.

It's time for all of us to start recruiting!

Of the 296 2022 dues letters that were mailed out at the end of October, 83.4% have been returned as of this writing. There are about 11 members that still have not responded to calls or emails about paying their dues.

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 Ladies' Day Luncheon last month as much as I did. Our photographer, **Henry Thatcher** continues his run with the many pictures from our Ladies' Day Luncheon starting on page 7.

I'm sorry to have to report that our newest editor, **Dave Kwinter** has resigned, feeling that he was over committed in too many areas (in and out of SIR) to continue. It is unfortunate as he had a good grasp of the Publisher software that we use to produce this for the Branch and, even in the short time he was onboard, made a significant contribution to the publication and our editorial staff... thanks **Dave!**

Anyone out there that think they might enjoy joining the editor staff of SIR-Call? Get in contact with me; we'll have lunch and discuss it. Both Bob West and I find it a very rewarding contribution to the Branch!

Also disappointing that we didn't get a real winner for our SIR cap giveaway last month. We wonder who is... or isn't... reading SIR-Call! The answer to our bird question was to be found on page 21 in **Mark Curtis'** Hiking column. The bird in question is the picture in the lower right of the page... the answer can be found in his column. **Steve Ybarra** gets two "atta-boys" for correctly identifying the two sea gulls in one of our many cartoons!

Deadline for submissions for the February issue is January 24th.

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
Surrogate Santa

Cell / Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jim Barry	Steve George	Stan Matsumoto	Mike Riley
Frank Barton	Ben Gleason	Rob Mcspadden	Mike Rothman
Garth Cummings	Dennis Hallett	Pierre Mebane	Lynn Shafer
Jack Dadam	Bill Hoban	Pat Okeeffe	Steve Siljestrom
Dick Devoe	Colin Holland	Peter Plante	Robert Storkan
Charles Eichten	Hank James	Roger Pytlewski	Steve Ybarra
Carl Feil	Bob Lyman	Ken Richter	



Happy Birthday!



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



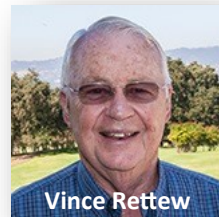
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



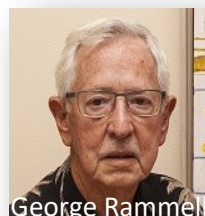
Vince Rettew



Hugh Ferguson



Ray Spears



George Rammel



Verner Laursen

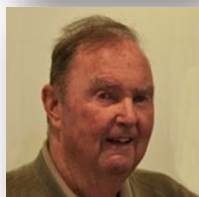


Jim Saavedra

Sir James (Jim) Bogue
June 11, 1930
May 25, 2021



Sir James (Jim) Owen
November 18, 1937
November 12, 2021



It's hard to turn the Page when you know Someone won't be in the next chapter, But the story must go on.

2021 In Memoriam

We pay tribute to those fellow SIR's we have lost in 2021

...and others who left SIR before leaving us!



2021 Lady's Day Luncheon Memories

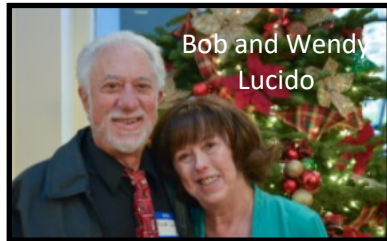
Photos by Henry Thatcher



Al and Diane Munayer



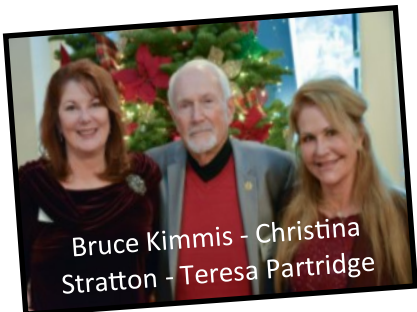
Barbara Thatcher



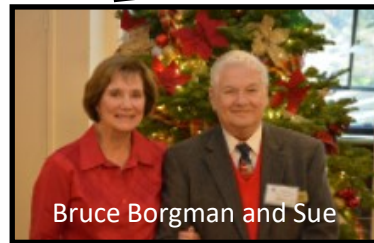
Bob and Wendy Lucido



Bob and Athea Soldano



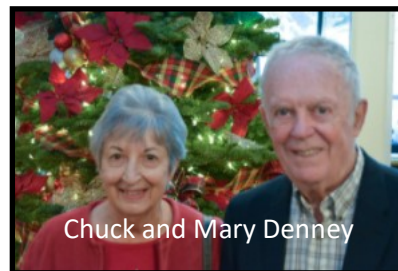
Bruce Kimmis - Christina Stratton - Teresa Partridge



Bruce Borgman and Sue



Clint and Bev Collier



Chuck and Mary Denney





Dennis and Elaine Dale



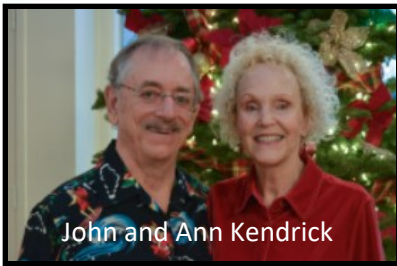
Diane Mumayer - Nancy Pearl -



Jim and Anne Burk



Dick and Judy Richmond



John and Ann Kendrick



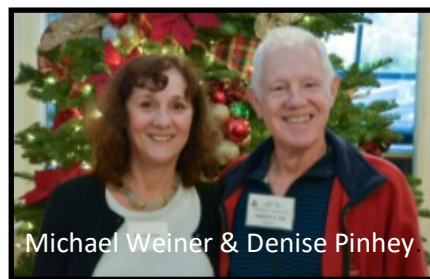
Dick and Christy DeVoe



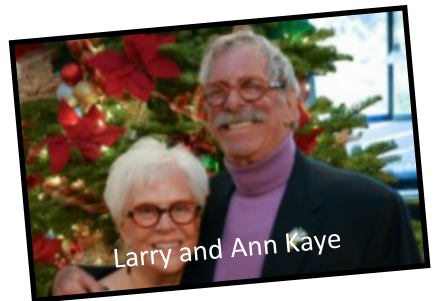
Loren and Marlene De Laurenti



Ken and Elaine Richter



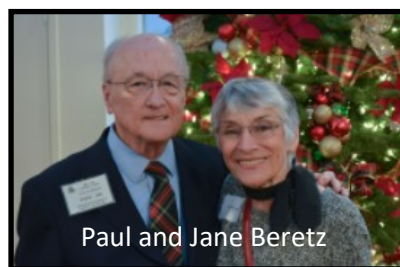
Michael Weiner & Denise Pinhey



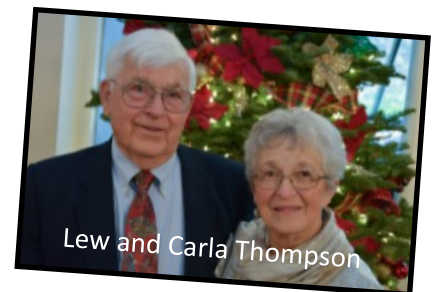
Larry and Ann Kaye



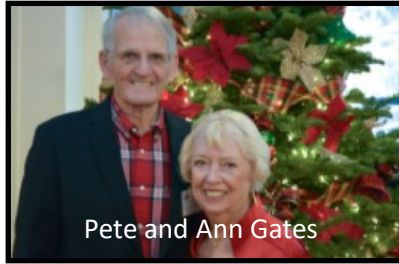
Moose Kelly and Mary Schmidt



Paul and Jane Beretz



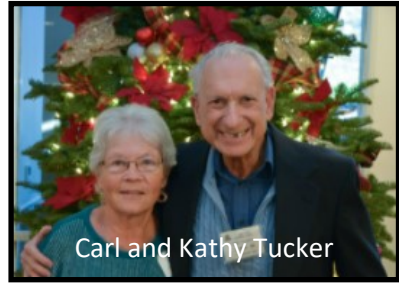
Lew and Carla Thompson



Pete and Ann Gates



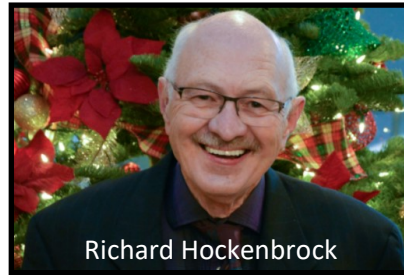
Peter and Martha Plante



Carl and Kathy Tucker



Rich Ahif and Ismini MacLean



Richard Hockenbrock



Steve and Karen Dinning
Ross and Pat Hallberg



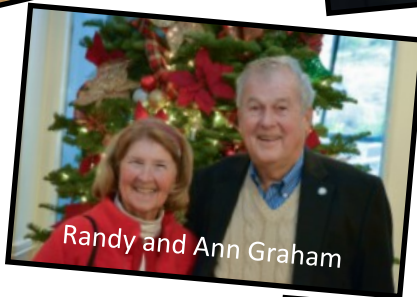
Russ and Carolyn Anderson



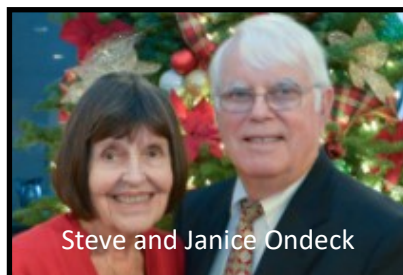
Ron and Anne Plachy



Steve and Karen Dinning



Randy and Ann Graham



Steve and Janice Ondeck



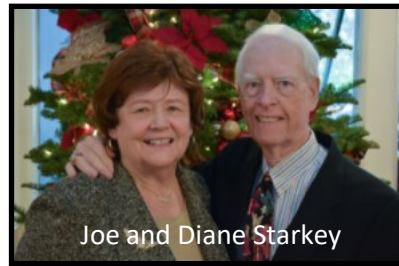
Steve and Linda Siljestrom



Ron and Victoria Polivka



Ross and Pat Hallberg



Joe and Diane Starkey



Tony and Cindy Greco



Santa and Barbara Thatcher



John and Sandi Foster



Phil Lendaris and Stella Cade



Curtis and Karen Young



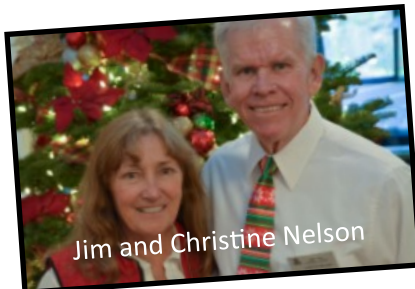
Bill and Donna Snyder



Dave and Joan Pierce



Ted and Sandra Coggiola



Jim and Christine Nelson



2022 Big Sir - Jerry Kaplan



Incoming and outgoing Big Sirs



...as the gavel is passed.



An Abundance of Big Sirs...







As usual, Bruce Borgman and The Song Sirs close our meeting

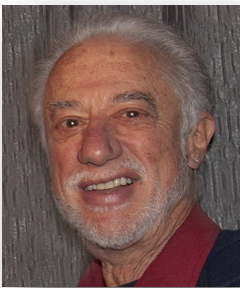




Looking for something to do...

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 they will open soon. Unfortunately, nine activities have closed due to lack of participation.

Ladies

If you have a separate email that is different from your spouse and would like to know what co-ed activities are coming up next month, send me your email address and cellphone number. I will send you information about these activities once a month. I have currently over 50 ladies' emails.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974

Bobwendy3@comcast.net



GOLF Ed Marlovits

And as one of our members recently commented to me, we are fortunate to live in an area when we can comfortably play in the winter. But instead of ice, snow and biting wind, we have welcome winter rains. But have you ever noticed that when our TV weathermen and women are wrong about the rain, they never come back on air the next day to apologize? Well, we had a couple of Tuesdays in December that deserve such an apology. Due to forecasts of miserable weather, we had 5 members show up one Tuesday and ten came to play the next. Both turned out to be fairly nice days to play, (They were also nice days for Christmas shopping.)

The final count is in and we have a golf membership of sixty-five. That's down from a peak of 115 a decade ago.

After more than a decade of managing the Tuesday golf pairings, Away Golf, and Away Golf Pairings, **Joe Fuchs** has retired from the Golf Committee. Thank you, **Joe**, for the years of leadership as well as your diligent and capable efforts toward making Tuesday Golf a success.

Ed Marlovits



Why science teachers should not be given playground duty.

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
January 2022											
3	4	5	6	7							
<p>9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>							
10	11	12	13	14							
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #1</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete</p>	<p>9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting</p> <p style="background-color: #00ff00;">11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts Online Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)</p>							
17	18	19	20	21							
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>	<p>7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro</p>							
24	25	26	27	28							
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00 PM Poker Group #4</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Wine Tasting</p>	<p>12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p style="background-color: #00ffff;">1:30 PM Sums In Retirement Via Zoom</p> <p>8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis</p>	<p>7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3</p>	<p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos</p> <p>6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)</p>							
31	Feb 1	2	3	4							
<p>10:00 AM Hiking</p> <p>12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00 AM Golf</p> <p>9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickle Ball M, Tu, W, Th, F United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p> <p>7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)</p>	<p>9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1</p> <p>12:30 PM Poker Group #6</p>	<p>10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Ping Pong United Methodist Church Athletic Rec. Center 902 Danville Blvd Alamo</p>							



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

Monday, November 29: With a 10 am start offering warmth we rolled out. Heading out towards the Dougherty valley. Warm and sunny. Was fabulous. Taking a few odd roads we eventually got to Peets.

This was the refuel stop. Java and assorted delectables added to the joy. Back towards Alamo we rolled. I took the guys on a weird side trip today over an old bridge in Danville. A few nasty hills and some nice downhills awaited the remainder of the trip. Nobody complained and soon Alamo was in our sights. Riding today was **Scott Simmons, Roger Meyer, Moose Kelly, Larry Kaye** and a friend of mine, Steve Schlossberg.

Year End Summary: It's mid December. The year is almost gone. The cycling group will turn 4 in April. Can you believe it? From a select bunch of 6 we have grown to a svelte team of 14. Along the way we accomplished some super deeds. Unsurmountable Big Rock known as Diablo was conquered. The hills that at the start were killers became tamed. Moose with his 45-pound tank did a 100K ride. Jim with his Lady, the 100 miler. We all had age related ills. Some had surgery, some major aches, some stayed off their bikes due to Doctor's orders. Have to remember we are all considered by our peers to be old. However, we sure showed them. Trim and compact and able to do things they cannot. Exercise works. Really. Its sweat and calories. Your heart loves it.

The year brought the usual phone calls from **Peter Plante's** Sirs ads. "Can I ride with you guys", "I'm 70 and ride a bike". Sure, "show up". I add them to the blasts. They never show. So many and none showed. We partnered with the San Ramon Sirs cycling group. More opportunity to ride often.

We are a diverse group. We have a member. He loves trails, but hates road rides. He offered to lead some trail rides. The next day after an outburst, he joined the San Ramon brothers on a Road ride. What????

Ron who took off for 4 months to rejoin his past employ. Saved his money and bought a fat tire e bike.

Nice rig. Ron as well has offered to lead some trail rides. With his new beast he can go anywhere.

Tom Alborg a new member moved for a year to his wife's home Country of The Netherlands. He is back for the Holidays. May not be able to go back as they closed up the gates due to Covid.

We rode East, West, South, North and covered many

miles of our beautiful County.

We had a July party. Pool and all. Wine flowed; food was fantastic. So hot even the shy jumped in the water. Wives enjoyed the day with the guys.

One rider finally stepped up and bought a new road bike. It has every goodie. Gears galore. Hills melt under him now. Another bought a newer version of a road bike and he too is a happier rider. Some still wear jeans, or shorts and sneakers and yet accomplish the days ride with zest. Some wear bike shoes that are so old the Smithsonian has made pleas to have them.

On we ride. 2022 is close. The roads are still there. Health remains the main reason to exercise. Onward we go. Age is just a number. Wealth is Health. Keep those pedals turning.

Larry Kaye 925-698-4030



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs took an active role in the Ladies Day Luncheon in December by leading the group in singing some Christmas carols around the piano with Steve Dinning accompanying us. It was a memorable start to the Luncheon,

and we all enjoyed singing these traditional yuletide tunes. We also ended the meeting with "God Bless America", and then finished with "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".

Despite the uncertainty of the how the virus is continuing to affect our daily lives, we are determined to continue to live our lives and resume our activities including the SongSirs practices. At this point, thus, we are scheduled to resume our twice monthly practices, every first and third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. We will plan to meet on January 5 and 19.

We are still anticipating being able to sing at a Senior Living Center in February.

As always, we could use some additional members so if you are ready to lend your voice to our group, we encourage you to attend one of our practices.

Bruce Borgman

925.932.3961 bgborgman@aol.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The crab season is in full swing. Sport fishermen have taken advantage of rules that barred commercial crabbing until the end of the year. They are coming home with limits after nearly every trip and it is difficult to find a parking

place at Fish Emeryville after 6:30 am. **Lee Clark** of Branch 146, **Bob Stein**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Brion Beetz**, **Carl Moyer**, **Stan Wong**, **Pedro Contreras**, and **Dave Havlik** all reported catching limits on various trips.

Tom Kostik fished in the Delta five times and caught over 70 stripers, including a dozen keepers. All fish were released. He also caught a catfish, bullhead, and four clams. **Harry Sherinian** and **Mike Corker** also fished in the Delta for stripers, but caught only one keeper.

Sturgeon remain elusive. **Pedro Contreras** and **Ken Bellindir** spent a long twelve hours on the water one day and did not record a single bite.

Carl Moyer, **Stan Wong**, **Ken Bellindir**, and **Brion Beetz** got in some rockfish outings before the season ended December 30, and came home with limits plus a few ling cod. We are concerned when the season will reopen. It could be as late as June. The ocean salmon season ended in October but one can still fish from shore. **Stan Wong**

tried his luck from the Martinez shore and caught and released four salmon.

Mike Browne of Branch 146 landed a striper in Los Vaqueros Reservoir. He and **Phil Scimonelli** also caught trout while fishing from shore at Lafayette Reservoir. Then, after hearing that Contra Loma Reservoir was recently stocked, Mike journeyed to the location. It was a beautiful day, but no fish.

45 of us, including spouses and significant others, enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner at Zio Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill on December 7.

Bob Lively was elected Big Fish at our December 17 meeting. **Brion Beetz** and **Phil Scimonelli** agreed to stay on as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

All SIR members are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend monthly breakfast meetings. The meetings begin at 8:30 am and are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. And so the next meeting is on January 25. But please join us for breakfast and conversation, beginning at 7:30 am. We have quite a few outings planned for 2022. We are particularly interested in more fly fishing excursions. If you are interested, please call Big Fish **Bob Lively** at 925-383-5193 or branch fishing coordinator **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.



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.



**Ross Abbott
Steve Patton
Al Munayer**



Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962

Pictures by **Jim Barry**

Jeff Bailly





Travel Milt Smith

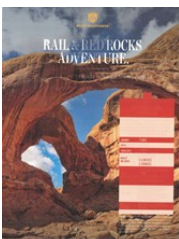
Time to go see some more stuff...

Yes, it is time to travel...even with the ever-changing Covid situation people who are vaccinated, traveling with others who are vaccinated, with tour groups that require vaccinations and other safety measures are traveling and tours are filling. It makes sense to sign up now, we are starting to look at trips for 2023.

Here are the current (3) SIR 144 trips...Please let me know immediately if you are interested in any of these 925-285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

America's Musical Heritage with extended stay in New Orleans – 12 days from from Nashville to New Orleans including 2 nights in Nashville and 4 nights in the Big Easy. May 27-June 7, 2022, Price per-person dbl. occupancy \$4,999, single supplement \$970.

Contact Milt Smith or Alamo World Travel directly. 925-285-287



Rail and Red Rocks Adventure. Salt Lake City to Denver, 6 nights, two days by rail, Salt Lake City, Torrey, Moab, Glenwood Springs, Denver. Extraordinary landscapes and more scenery than imaginable. Sept. 4-10 2022. \$3950 PP, dbl. occupancy \$4895 single.

8 Autumn Nights in the Northeast Cruise, aboard Crystal Serenity. The tour features Air SFO to Quebec City and Newark to SFO, 8 night cruise, all meals, activities, beverages, fine wines, beer and spirits, all taxes fees and gratuities onboard ship. Oct. 5-13 2022. Prices range from \$4900 to \$6300 pp, depending on your cabin. Contact Milt Smith or Alamo World Travel 925-837-8742

Watch for an eblast with attached brochures within a week.

Trips from other SIR Branches...

Holland (Michigan) Tulip Festival Tour Featuring Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel May 12 -19, 2022 Price: \$3,895 Per Person Double Occupancy \$5,375 Single Deposit \$650 per person, final payment January 10, 2022. Contact Bill Stires Branch #143 at 209- 988-5445 or email bstires46@gmail.com if interested in the trip.

Top of Switzerland and Oberammergau, Germany and the Passion Play. August 27 – September 7, 2022, Price:

\$4,725 double occupancy (Land only) Airfare to be added. Registration for this trip is OFFICIALLY CLOSED, if you have an interest I suggest checking directly with Bill. Contact Bill Stires Branch #143 at 209-988-5445 or email bstires46@gmail.com if interested in the trip.

ALASKA LAND & SEA May 23 June 4th. 2022 8-DAY CRUISE Aboard the Majestic Princess ◊ Anchorage/Whittier ◊ Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising ◊ Glacier Bay Cruising ◊ Skagway ◊ Juneau ◊ Ketchikan ◊ Vancouver 6-DAY LAND ◊ 1 Nights Fairbanks ◊ 2 Nights Denali National Park ◊ 1 Night Mt. McKinley Lodge ◊ 1 night Anchorage CONTACT Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245

8 Night Columbia and Snake River Cruise May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines. Explore the Pacific Northwest with your fellow SIR members following the path of Lewis and Clark. \$5600 pp.information contact Tan Matosian Branch 128. tgmatt54@gmail.com Or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223 be sure to mention Branch 128

CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND Sept.29-Oct 7, 2022 Day 1 ◊ Arrive Boston ◊ Upon arrival in Boston meet your Tour Director ◊ Boston Sightseeing restaurants. - ◊ Boston - Portland - Bar Harbor, ME ◊ Bar Harbor - Acadia National Park - Bar Harbor - Bar Harbor - North Conway. ◊ North Conway - Woodstock - Killington/Rutland, VT. for an overnight stay. Killington - Norman Rockwell Museum - Mohegan Sun - ◊ Newport, RI - Mystic Seaport - Mohegan Sun ◊ Mohegan Sun - Boston - Flight Home ◊ This morning travel to Boston & fly home filled with fond memories of your Classic New England Tour. (Breakfast) WELCOME HOME! CONTACT Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245 l.yarberry42@comcast.net Or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 info@talbottours.com Total Land and Airfare \$3950 DBL OCCUPANCY \$5180 SINGLE

A quick word about passports: They say it is taking about two - four months for renewal and about six for new passports. I just renewed mine, paid the extra \$60 for expedited service, it took 11 days including two weekends. Just an FYI.

Milt Smith

miltsmith549@gmail.com 925-285-2897.





SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

It's the beginning of a new year, and I hope that there are at least a few of you on my hiking email distribution list that have set a resolution to join us on a walk or

hike at least once in a while. I really try to mix it up with respect to the venue and the difficulty. I know a lot of us older gentlemen and ladies either can't or don't want to challenge themselves with either distance or climbing. I get it! I am not a huge fan of a 10-mile hike with 2000 feet of climbing, but I will occasionally throw one of those in there anyway. There are a few guys who hike in this group regularly that can and would take on that challenge. I intend to plan the Mount Diablo Falls Loop trail towards the end of February or early March. With the rain that we've had so far in 2021, the falls complex should have quite a bit of water coming down the mountain. And with that said, if this rain continues, it's likely that hiking plans that I make will be on asphalt or gravel trails. The wet adobe trails are just a nuisance all around. And if you intend to do more than an easy hike, I would recommend the purchase of trekking poles. These really help going up or down hill on the single-track trails.

Mike Browne and I did a walk on the Marsh Creek trail on Monday, 12/20/2021. We saw a huge diversity of birds; egrets, hawks, kingfisher, kestrel, hooded merganser, just to name a few. I highly recommend this easy trail to do on your own. I'm enclosing a photo of a mature Great Blue Heron; please note the beard!

I'm not going to publish hiking plans for January, 2022 in this writeup. But I will continue to send out emails to my distribution list about a week before each planned group hike. So if you aren't getting notification, please let me know via phone or email, and I will add your name to that list.

Have a Very Happy New Year

Mark Curtis

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

You're never childless when you have a husband.



Bird on 12/20 Marsh Creek Trail hike. Photo by Mark Curtis

My wife was upset because she thinks that I don't like her cooking, so to prove her wrong I had another slice of gravy



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

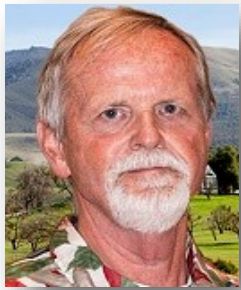
Do you like to play golf but think it takes too long? Then you should try the 9-Hole golf group. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month

when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. We play the nine-hole course then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. Even though we've had a lot of rain lately the course drains very well and is still in great shape. After we play most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course.

If you are interested, let me know 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

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met on Friday, December 17th for an in-person meeting at Rocco's Pizzeria in Walnut Creek. Twelve members of the Photography Group attended; **Bill Holly, Ken Studer, Clint Collier, Peter Plante, Bobbie Schmidt, Richard Pace, Richard Hockenbrock, Rich Lyon, Bob Wilkenfeld, Dean Mayer, Moose Kelly and Henry Thatcher.** The themes for this month's meeting were photographs showing Fall foliage and Scenes of the Holiday. Many photos were shared by the group and while there isn't enough room in the newsletter to show all, some examples are included with this addition of "Say Cheese". We have also included a Zoom Screenshot taking by Moose at our October 2021 Zoom meeting.

In order to keep up with the latest cell phone camera technology a video was shown comparing the Google Pixel 6 Pro vs. the iPhone 13 Pro. For a very comprehensive camera test the iPhone 13 Pro was the winner by slight margin. If you are thinking about buying a new camera or a cell phone, please consider asking a member of the SIR 146 Photography Groups for a recommendation based on their experience.

The next Photography Group Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 18th. **Peter Plante** has been working with Bill Helsel who is the photographer instructor for the Acalanes Adult Education Department. Bill has agreed to be our guest speaker on the wonders of Black and White photography. As we get closer to February, we will let you know more. We may have to do Mr. Helsel presentation over Zoom, but we are hopeful that possibly we will be able to hold the meeting at Acalanes Adult Education. Looking ahead at 2022, Moose and Henry are in the process of gathering ideas from the Photography Group members for photo taking field trips and themes and topics for our bi-monthly meetings. Please let us know your thoughts and/or suggestions.

If you are not on the Photography Group email list and would like to join us for future live / Zoom meeting, then

please contact Sir John "Moose" Kelly by email at Rollingstone911@yahoo.com or text / call at (610) 517-0152 or Sir Henry Thatcher at 1henrythatcher@gmail.com or text / call at (925) 997-5032. Be safe / be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"

John (Moose) Kelly
 610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com
 or
Henry Thatcher
 925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Barbara Thatcher at Alhambra Christmas Tree Farm.



Truck Santa and Friends, photo by Henry Thatcher

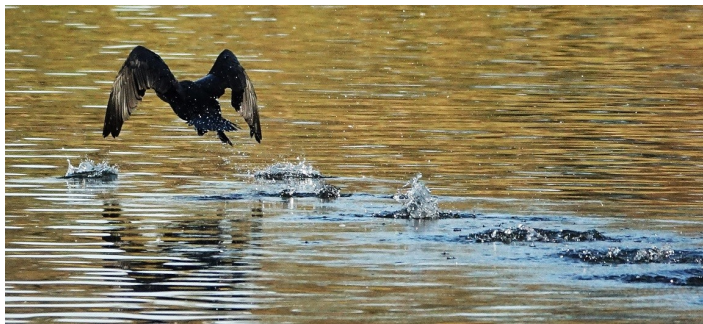
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Why don't hedgehogs just share a hedge?

Photography Photos continued



Burning Bush photo by Peter Plante



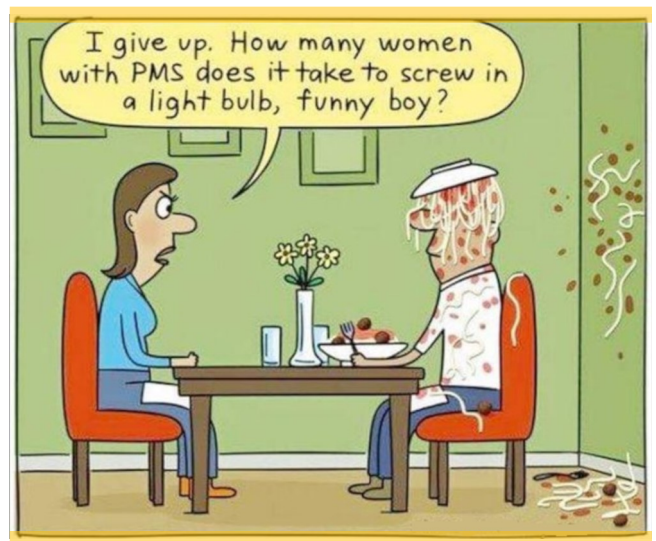
Cormorant photo by Bobbie Schmidt



New England color photo by Clint Collier



October Photography Meet photo by Moose Kelly





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman



As we mentioned in our notice in the December Sir Call, we will resume our regular schedule of Dining Out opportunities in 2022 and will start with a special dinner on Monday January 24. We have

selected a new restaurant in Walnut Creek, La Fontaine located at 1375 North Broadway. You will be familiar with the location, since we dined there when it was Le Cheval, and had planned to dine there when it was a Burmese restaurant. Now it is La Fontaine, the second location for this restaurant which had an excellent reputation in Mountain View. I have been in negotiation with the Chef/ Owner, and am impressed with the French and Italian cuisine which proposes to present the diner with a vibrant menu. I requested a proposal to include a soup or salad, and choice of 4 or so entrees, and a small dessert. [The resulting menu can be viewed on the following page.](#)

The restaurant has a full bar and specialty cocktails as well as wine and beer. It is located across the street from the Broadway Parking Garage so parking will be convenient. We totally understand that some of you are reluctant to join a group of diners, and if so, hope to see you at a subsequent event. We will of course expect that our diners will be fully vaccinated and are anticipate that many of our usual diners will want to participate in this inaugural special dinner. We will likely limit our Dining Out group to 40 or so, so respond promptly if you want to join us.

Cost is \$60.00 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity-check made out to SIR 146 If you wish to attend, RSVP by Jan 17 to Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598. Indicating your choice of soup /salad, entrée, and dessert!

Questions? – phone 925.932.3961, or email to bgborgman@aol.com

We wish all of you a wonderful Christmas holiday and a New Year which will return us to seeing one another in our special dining events.

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out hosts
bgborgman@aol.com

SEE MENU ON NEXT PAGE



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

Our visit to Morimoto in mid December did not disappoint. Great restaurant with great ambiance and great food. We ordered the deluxe sushi

platter for those of us staunch members of the group. The wives either indulged along with us or ordered from the menu.



Two pictures show how we started out and then catch **Bob Wilkenfeld** snagging the last morsel. Our next outing will be in February and will mark the lunar new year.

Our next outing will be February 17th at Sakimoto, a new Japanese/sushi restaurant in Broadway Plaza!

Clint Collier
SirClint@the-colliers.org

COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday Jan 24, 2022

Social hour / no host cocktails 5:15pm

Dinner: 6:00pm

Passed Appetizers during social time

Bruschetta - garlic-basil marinated tomatoes, asparagus, cheese
La Caprese Skewer – fresh cherry tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, EVOO

Choice of Soup or Salad

Soup du Jour or La Fontaine mixed green salad

Entrée choices

Cordon Blue

Free range chicken breast, ham, fontina cheese, herbs, cream, dill

Caserecce Meatballs

Handcrafted fresh Caserecce pasta, veal and beef meatballs, light spicy marinara, fresh herbs

Almond Crusted Sole

Lemon saffron beurre blanc, truffle mashed potatoes

Burgundy Braised Short Ribs

Boneless rib meat, porcini mushrooms, creamy polenta

Mushroom Truffle Ravioli

Very thin egg dough squares stuffed with white mushrooms and imported truffle cream,
mascarpone, basil and white wine
(vegetarian entrée)

Dessert choices

Tiramisu – coffee and zabaglione cream on layer of espresso soaked sponge cake

Panna Cotta – sweetened cooked cream topped with berry sauce



La Fontaine

CUISINE PROVENÇALE

1375 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek

Cost per person is \$60

Reservation by e-mail to bgborgman@aol.com or by calling 925-932-3961.

Indicate your selections for Soup/Salad, Entrée and Dessert.

Confirm your reservation by sending a check, made out to SIR 166

Mail to: Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598



Couples Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



Our next wine tasting will be Tuesday, January 25th from 2:30 to 5:00 pm at the home of **Richard**

Hockenbrock. His address is: 3616 Winchester Place, Walnut Creek.

The wines will be from Washington state. Red will be cabernet sauvignon and the white will be chardonnay. Please bring a bottle (under \$30) of either red or white along with an appetizer to share.

Because this event will be inside, it will be limited to 32 people. Please RSVP as soon as you can to avoid the waiting list.

Please note that while it is often called 'couples' wine tasting, singles are more than welcome. So if your spouse isn't a wine enthusiast, you are more than welcome to come.

Also, please note that because of COVID-19 restrictions, all attendees must have turned in their signed SIR waiver and proof of full vaccination in order to participate in this event.

To RSVP, email: br146winetasting@gmail.com

Or phone Brian: 925-324-2463.

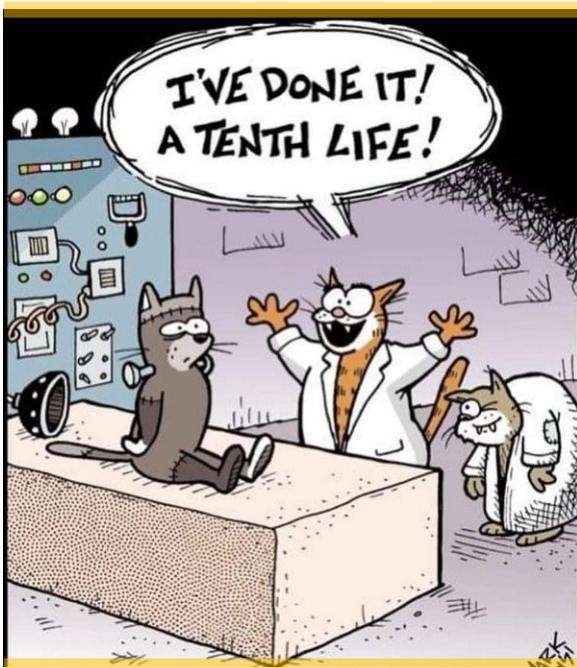


Cooking II

Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group did not meet in December. We will be meeting January 10, 2022, at the home of **Dennis Hallett.**

Steve Ybarra



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

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. I hope that most of our regular players

will be able to attend but will understand if there is some hesitancy about a close indoor gathering with the new COVID variant now causing more problems even among the fully vaccinated.

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 Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our November and last game of 2021 on Friday, December 3rd. We met at the home of **Bill & Lynette Holly**. The **Holly's** had a bevy of snacks and beverages that seemed to be

never ending.

It was **Ismi MacLean** coming in 1st this time with a very low 9.4 average. **Rich Ahlf** took 2nd with an 11.6 average. **John Pearl** came in 3rd with a 16.3 average.

Unfortunately, we learned that two of our founding couples were leaving us. The **Holly's** and the **Dotson's** have opted out.

Fortunately, we have been able to find replacements for them and for the **Woodman's** who left us earlier in the year. Joining us for our first game of 2022 in January will be: **Dan and Mary Holland**, **Dave and Clair Kingsbury**, and **Larry and Pam McAllister**. We are almost back to full strength with 17 players.

Ron Plachy (rjplachy@icloud.com)

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

Grupo Quatro 4



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

El Quattro MDT will not meet in January awaiting issues on the Covid 19 virus. Will contact the group as the CCC Health departments gives reports.

Jim Pope

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

Grupo Cinco 5



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

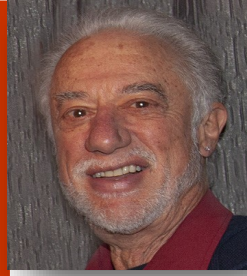
Every year during the holiday season we celebrate our group's friendship and camaraderie with a dinner before

we actually play dominoes. This year's was hosted by **Joan Pierce**, but everyone contributed lots of good food. Best of all, we had extra time to socialize. Women and men even played at the same table this time. **Marty Campbell** was first after seven rounds with 53, and she went out four of seven times. **Joan** was second, with 70, and **Anne Burk** was third, with 78. The women return to dominance after November's sweep by the men.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net

Grupo Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Bob and Jane West** for hosting this month MTD 7 in spite of being homeless due to a major remodel to their home. They

managed to acquire the recreation room at the place where they are staying.

Congrats to **Judy Wilkenfeld** for winning the MTD tournament and **Dale Dahlgard** for taking the consolation prize for highest score!!

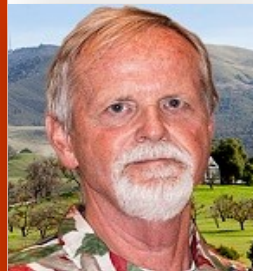


Dec 8th, MTD7 winners
Judy Wilkenfeld and Dale Dahlgard.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

Grupo Seis 6

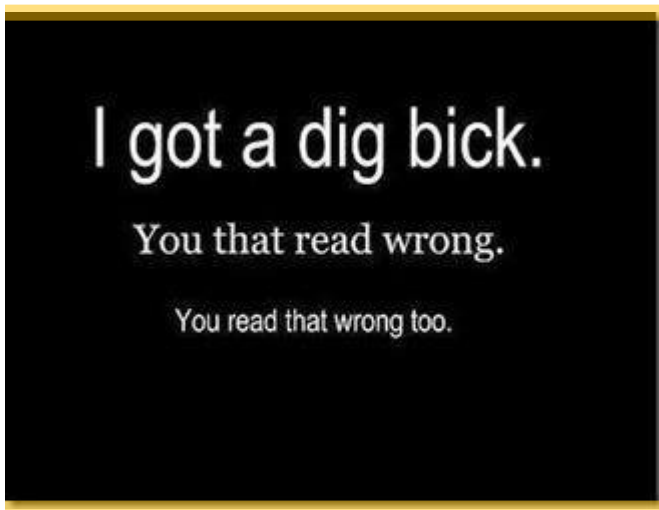


Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" John "Moose" Kelly

The group pulled the plug on a planned December meeting due to the current "surge". Future plans remain fluid.

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who came by to take home your favorite authors. The Book Corner will be back in January for your





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Originally announced in the August 2021 SIR CALL, Mexican Train Dominoes numero OCHO or eight in English has been held up launching due to COVID. We are now taking reservations for inaugural game play on Wednesday, January 5th. The aim of MTD 8 will be somewhat different than the other MTD groups.

- 1) MTD 8 will seek to attract all those members who wanted to play MTD in other groups but did not have room in their house to host. In most circumstances, all games will be played at the home of Richard Hockenbrock, but he will initiate the concept of visiting hosts who will be responsible for bringing snacks and drink to the games when it is their turn.
- 2) MTD 8 wants to encourage SIR members and guests who have never played MTD to come to one of the ongoing planned training sessions. Call the number below to arrange a training session.
- 3) MTD 8 will be open to all Sir members and guests including singles, wives, and significant others. MTD 8 is especially interested having new members to try out MTD and experience how game playing with other members and wives, partners, etc. is so much fun.

Details: Play on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022, is scheduled for players to arrive between 6:30 – 6:45 pm. After a meet and greet, play will begin at 7:00 pm – 10 pm with a break at 8:30 pm. Those interested in playing, please send me an email at RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM or call me at (925) 324-1713. I can accommodate 18 players around 3 tables.

*My ex-wife still misses me.
But her aim is starting to improve*



"I hate bothering you, but my wife wants to know if she passed her driver's test."



Bocce John Kendrick

The 2021 SIR146 Bocce Ball activity was a huge success. There were several new players and their wives who joined the Bocce Ball activity. Per the calendar on the wall, the 2021 Bocce Ball activity has ended. Rest up because the 2022 Bocce Ball activity will start the second Monday in May 2022.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and you and your family have a safe and healthy 2022.

Rain Cancels Play.
Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



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.

The book's connection to the Lincoln Highway is tenuous at best – it is a minor “participant” in the story, with its role being to provide the idea of what the book is really all about. One of our group called the book a parable while another called it a fable, set in post WWII.

The tale is about the journey these five people make in this 10 day time period, and the people they meet and interact with on this journey between Nebraska and New York, and not necessarily on the Lincoln Highway.

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

The book begins when Emmett is released because of the death of his father from his term at a reform school in Kansas, where he had been jailed following a conviction of involuntary manslaughter. He reunites with Billy but they cannot stay on the family farm in Nebraska because the bank has foreclosed. They decide to travel west on the Lincoln Highway to California in Emmett's blue Studebaker in the hope of finding their mother, who deserted the family years before. However, their plans are interrupted when Duchess and Wooly appear, having escaped from the reform school where they had been friendly with Emmett. Emmett decides to drive them to the train station in Omaha, because their intent was to travel to New York. Unfortunately, Duchess and Wooly “borrow” Emmett's car for their journey to New York before Emmett can reach Omaha. That forces Emmett and Billy to hop a freight train to New York, the wrong end of the Lincoln Highway, to regain the car. Once in New York, they are joined by their neighbor's daughter, Sally..

The story, or tale, includes the travel from Nebraska to New York, but in different groups. Some of the interesting

characters make their initial appearance here.

The heart of the story winds around the efforts of Duchess and Wooly to link up with their New York relatives, collect Wooly's “inheritance” and then head west along the highway. Alas, all does not go as planned, as they continue to find characters created by the author who are part of the tale.

The story reaches the end when Wooly, from a wealthy New York family, finds what he was looking for, Duchess leaves the group, and the remaining three head out, hoping to reach the other end of the Lincoln Highway by the fourth of July in their newly-painted Studebaker with a now souped up engine, courtesy of one of the characters they meet along the way.

The chapter numbers are in reverse order, but must be considered as markers of the days and then divided into sub-chapters that tell the story from the perspective of several of the characters.

Comments by the group:

A true fable, great character development, but not the same as *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

Read for the entertainment. Peripheral character development and contributions are well done and important to the story.

The journey reminds one 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 or if Emmett and Billy find their mother (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 last meeting of 2021 was on Monday, December, 27th. We discussed the *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 one book per any one author. Look for its review in the February issue.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor

My sex life is like my Ferrari,
I don't have one.



CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

In 2021, we played twice per month thru October online using Trickster-cards.com. The only exceptions were once in August and in Nov-Dec where we played in person at Rocco's. As much as we enjoyed playing online it was nice to meet again

in person.

In December we only had one meeting due to Holidays. The big winner on 12/10 was Bill Vizza who won 2 games, followed by Ron Polivka, Bob Finlayson and Bob West who each won 1 game.

As I typically do at year-end, I summarize the winners by category for the year. Some people say the only point of hearts is to win. However, there are many of these categories that help you win.

Wins: In their year-long battle **Ron Polivka** won with 25, **Bob Finlayson** is 2nd with 24 and **Bill Vizza** 3rd with 20.



Ron Polivka

Win %: **Bob Finlayson** won 39% of all games he played, followed by **Ron Polivka** and **Ray Bland** with 38%.



Bob Finlayson

Brian McCarthy is "**Most Improved**" in that his YTD winning % was 312% of his 2020 percentage. **Ron Polivka** was 2nd with 219%.



Ray Bland

Lowest Avg. Score: **Ray Bland** won with 72, **Ron Polivka** is 2nd with 74, and **Jim Nelson**



Bill Vizza

3rd with 75.

"Shoot the Moon": **Bill Vizza** won with 15 followed by **Ray Bland** with 12 and **Ron**

Polivka with 11, and **Frank Lucas** with 10. **Ray** had "Shot the Moon" in 26% of his games and **Bill** in 22%.

"Best Sheriff": **Bob West** was 1st with someone having "Shot the Moon" on only 3% of his passes, followed by **Rich Lyon** with 7% and **Bob Finlayson** with 8%.

2nd's: **Brian McCarthy** won with 26, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 20 and **Bob Finlayson** and **Bob West** with 18.



Brian McCarthy



Jim Nelson

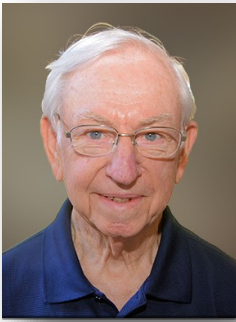
Lowest Game Score: The lowest game score was 8, was also the lowest ever in our hearts group. It was achieved by both **Jim Nelson** on 2/12 and **Ron Polivka** on 7/9. The 2nd lowest score of 12 was achieved by **Frank Lucas** on 9/10.

Of course, we should give a hand to our team leaders who have led online groups most of the year. **Ron Polivka, Rich Lyon, Steve Ybarra, Bob Finlayson, and Brian McCarthy.** Without your leadership we would not have been able to play online. Thanks for all your writeups and support.

Future Meetings: We are playing at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our next games, will be Friday, January 14th and 28th at 12:45 pm., with an optional lunch at noon.

Please call me at [925-518-8472](tel:925-518-8472) or email robtawest@aol.com if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

I loaned my blind friend 50 bucks the other day. He told me he was gonna pay me back the next time he saw me...



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher hosted our December 7th event as we closed out 2021 with our second consecutive event of the year. We are hopeful that we can continue to get together

throughout 2022, notwithstanding Omicron.

On a trial basis, we moved up the start time for this event from 7:00 pm to 4:00 pm to minimize late play and night driving. Participants seemed to think the earlier start time worked okay and were willing to try it again for our next event in January.

For Round 1, last month's winners, **Larry & Linda Brown**, were off to a slow start with only 50 points, whereas **Tony & Cindy Greco** got off to a great start with 1370 points. However, for the remaining 4 rounds, the **Browns** gained momentum while the **Greco's** faded. The end result was that **Larry & Linda Brown** took 1st Place, **Tony & Cindy Greco** hung on to 2nd Place, and **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean** coasted into 3rd Place. I may reevaluate the earlier start time, if certain players continue to perform better earlier in the day! Lol

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 3340 points - **Larry & Linda Brown**

2nd PLACE with 3090 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**

3rd PLACE with 2310 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**

Next month's event will be held on January 4th and hosted by **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** at the early start time of 4:00 pm. Hope you all had a great holiday and have a Happy New Year!

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Party Bridge

Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

SIR Party Bridge will meet with 12 players on January 3rd at **Bill Snyder's** home at 9:45 to 3:00.

If you are interested in Party Bridge, please contact **Jim Stedman** or **Jim Pope**, Co-directors. 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 Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener



On Wednesday the eve of December the 15th the fearless members of Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 ventured into the wet,

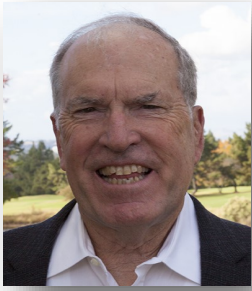
windy environs of Clayton to enjoy the hospitality of **Ismini** and **Rich** at the **Ahlf** residence. Lot of tasty tidbits and fine wines to savor as we viewed the photo gallery of **Rich's** fine photographs. And oh yes we did play some exciting games of bridge as well! Honors for the evening are as follows: In third place with a total of 20.5 points were **Janet** and **Bob Yolland**, a mere 0.5 points ahead of **Ismini** and **Rich**; in second with 21 points were **Gloria** and **Bud Pearce**; while first place was taken by **Christy** and **Dick DeVoe**.

Our next gathering will be on January 19th at the **Klueseners**.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com

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



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brand Hatcher

Our December game was hosted by the **elf Ahlf**. We had a full table of seven with the addition of new member **Steve Ybarra**. To show our delight in having him join, we made sure (yeah right) that he went home with the most proceeds of our game. He had more than a couple of significant hands.

We look forward to the first game of 2022 on January 6th at Norm B's home. Happy New year to all!

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



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



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted on December 3 by the **DeVoes**, with four tables of 16 regulars. It was most enjoyable getting together socially (and of course, competitively...) once again after four months.

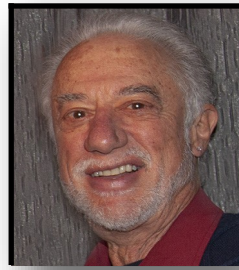
Tony Greco was the clear winner with 44.5 points, while coming in 4th in the first half and 2nd in the second half. **Brad Hatcher** was 2nd with 43 points, **Bob Yolland** 3rd with 42.5 pts., and **Rich Ahlf** 4th with 41.5 pts.

Bob and **Tony** had more top boards than anyone else, with seven each. And, of particular note, **Brad** had no zeros for all 24 boards!

Next month we meet at **Tony Greco's** home on Friday, January 7.

In the meantime, everyone please have a very safe and happy holiday season!

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought:
"That's the last thing I need!"



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.

(925) 899-0974

bobwendy3@comcast.net



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 dwpi@astound.net



Cribbage John Pearl

Eight members of the Branch's Cribbage Group played their monthly games Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd, at Rocco's.

We used the pre-printed score sheets "invented" by our Chief Technical Officer (CTO) **Jim Nelson** that literally told each player who was his next opponent after each of their games. This worked well. Thanks Jim.

First place this month was **Bob Finlayson** who won four of his five games, but three of his wins were by 30+ point margins, or "skunks" and were awarded an extra point, giving him a total of 11 points. Coming in second was our Co-Chair, **Ron Afdal**, while the third-place winner was **Paul Dubow**. Fourth place money went to **Peter Plante**.

We are planning on playing next in January, if the Covid rules permit, again on the fourth Wednesday, the 26th.

John Pearl

mcpearl@astound.net

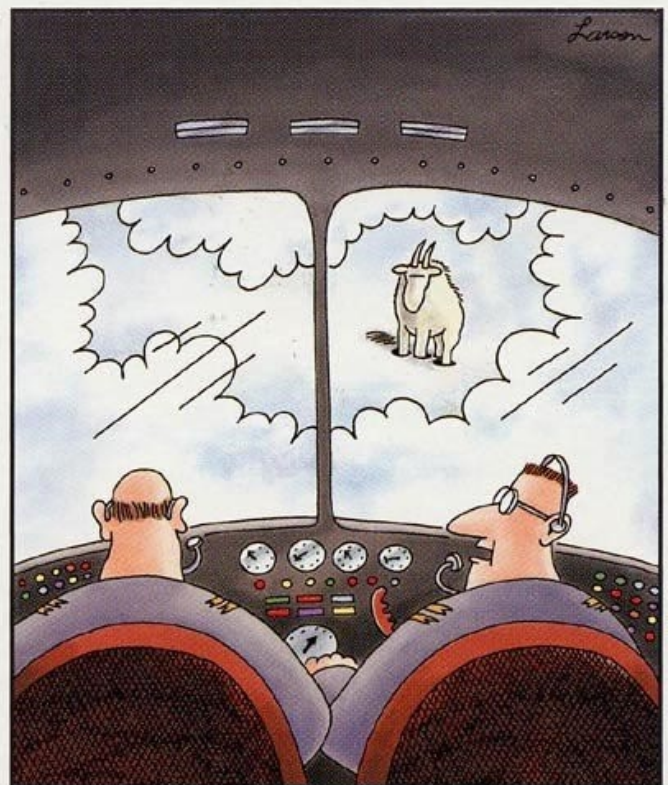
A Pole goes to an ophthalmologist.

The doctor shows him:

CZJWINOSTAWCZ

- Can you read this?

- Read? I know this guy!



"Say ... what's a mountain goat doing way up here in a cloud bank?"

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.

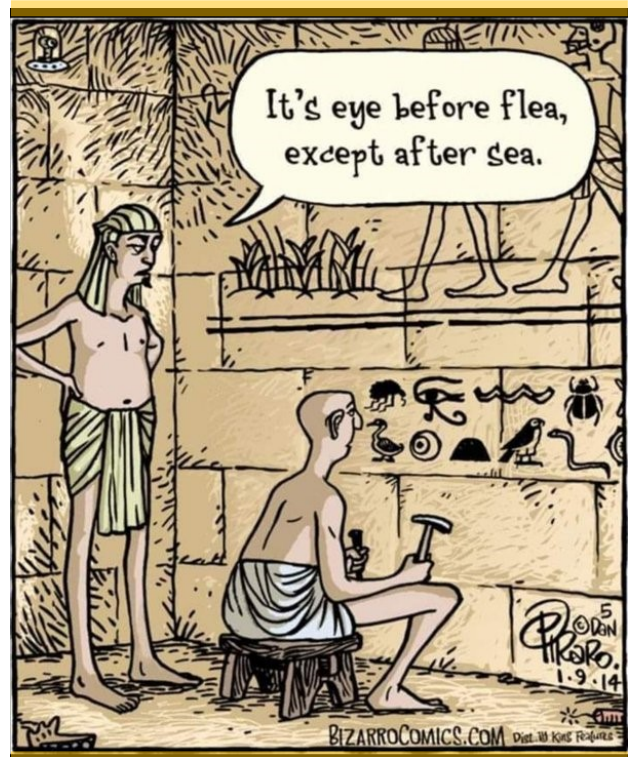
If you are a Mac user and want to be included, please let **Verner** know.

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 Zoom meeting – back to our normal schedule - on Wed January 26 at 1:30 PM. Is it good to Buy on Dips?--if so, how do you identify what is dipping and what to Buy? A rise in the VIX to 50 or higher. Invest in the Vanguard Small Cap Value ETF. Is it good to Buy low and Sell high? What is a Value stock? Participants should try to identify examples of each for our discussion and indicate why they have selected that company as a example.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net



It helps if you imagine auto correct as a tiny little elf in your phone who's trying so hard to be helpful but is, in fact, quite drunk.



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



happy new year