



Big Sir's Notes Stu Somerville

In April, our branch submitted a self assessment report which was then analyzed by a SIR state committee along with reports from 29 other SIR branches. Some of the factors considered were average age, number of activities, and luncheon attendance. We received an A rating. No surprise! We all share in the credit for building and maintaining Branch 146. Well done.

New activities in the works:

Tennis: **Nick Abdo**, a new member, who is a certified tennis instructor by the U. S. Professional Tennis registry, is trying to form a "social tennis group". He welcomes players from beginners to expert who would like to get some exercise and have fun. He may be contacted at 930-6308 or email: tensfan@hotmail.com.

Duplicate Bridge: **David Pierce** is trying to form a new couple's duplicate bridge group. Players of all ability are welcome. The goal is to have a social evening and have fun. He may be reached at 932-3877 or dwpi@astound.net.

Looking Forward: Our **July** luncheon will feature members wearing "wild/ comfortable summer clothes". No Speedos please. **August**, we will honor our past Big Sirs. At our **October** luncheon you are encouraged to "show your team colors". They can be high school, college or professional. It's football time!

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.



Little Sir's Corner Dennis Hallett

Our July 9th 2009 luncheon speaker will be **Gary C. Smith**. He will talk about bowling as a sport, its history, and his personal experiences as a member of the Pro Bowling tour.

Regards, **Dennis**

Annual minimum donation update

As announced in the last issue of SIR Call, an annual minimum donation of \$20 has been approved by the BEC to replace the \$1 per month luncheon donation. This change was effective in June 2009 when the June 11th luncheon cost was reduced from \$26 to \$25 per member.

To date, the treasurer has received donations from 77% of our members. Donations are necessary to meet our fixed expenses such as: SIR Call newsletter, website, SIR state dues, and other operating expenses. Members still needing to make a donation should make their check payable to SIR 146 and mail it to **Ron DeGolia** at: 1012 Camino Verde Circle, Walnut Creek, CA, 94597 or hand your check to either **Ron DeGolia** or **Joe Fuchs**.



Duplicate Bridge George Zunich

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

In June, SIR **Jim Stedman** hosted 3 tables of Duplicate Bridge at his home.

The results were as follows: **Bob Yolland** was in 1st Place with 32.0 points. **Jim Jackson** was in 2nd Place with 29.0 points. **Jim Brown** took 3rd place with 28.5 points, and **Bill Rees** finished in 4th place with 24.5 points

The next match will be held on Monday July 15th at the home of **Fred Bolton**.

Contact **George Zunich** 376-4439 for information. We welcome interested members.



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 **George Zunich** on June 1. First place went to **Dick Johnson** with 7110 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 5540 and third to **Bob Yolland**. Our next game will be at the home of **Rich Ahlf** on July 6th.

Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

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



Couples duplicate bridge had three tables (six couples) instead of the usual four tables of bridge. **George Zunich** and **Tamara Judson** hosted the gala evening and we thank **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** for coming to complete the three tables. Finishing in first place were **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** with 24 points. In second place with 22 points **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** tied **Jim Brown** and **Barbara Lundblade**. **Jim Brown** and **Barbara Lundblade** will host next bridge on July 15th.

COUPLES DUPLICATE BRIDGE #3?

SIR 146 has two couples duplicate bridge groups. One plays on second Tuesdays and one on third Wednesdays. I am soliciting your interest in a third, on the first Wednesday evening of the month. My wife and I know of one other couple who want to play regularly in a third group. Many of the couples in the existing groups are willing to sub in a third group but can't commit to regular play. If I can find four more committed couples, I will start one up. We may find some in SIR branch 8 as well, but I want to give 146 first choice.

In general the members will play once/month, rotating among members' homes. The host typically provides wine, soft drinks, coffee and dessert. I have duplicate boards and can come up with sheets for scoring and movements of the boards and players. We will start at 7:00 and probably end before 11:00. If you know bridge but not duplicate, it's easy – you will play the same cards as other couples; hands move from table to table in the duplicate boards. At the end we compare scores. If you are interested or want to learn more, please call me.

Dave Pierce, 932-3877 or dwpi@astound.net



Jim Burk
introduces new member
Michael Stephenson



Sunshine

Otto Wilson

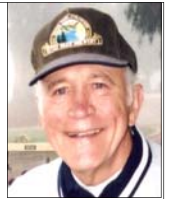
Phone: 825-1943

E-mail: ottowilson@astound.net



Garden Club

Chuck Bobinecz



1st Thursday at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., in the Room 203, unless otherwise announced.

Flo Dickson wife of **Sir Ernie** passed away May 22nd. Our regrets to the family.

Sir Richard Johnson passed away during the week of June 8th. Deepest regrets to the family.

Sir **Bill Hartman** is recovering at home from surgery.

Sir **Denzil Harrison** is due to have more chemotherapy soon.

Sir **Chuck Hammond** is due to have more surgery on his hip.

Sir **Jack Patton** will be having surgery. This is slated for June. There is a possibility that several surgeries may be needed.

Sir **Bob Frankland** is recovering from gall bladder surgery. He is home and doing well.

Jean Thorbrogger, wife of **Sir Bill**, passed away June 16th . Our regrets to the family.

The July meeting date is changed to Thursday, July 23rd, a BBQ at the home of **Sir Chuck Bobinecz** from 11am to 3pm. He will furnish the sausages and suds. **Sir Lew Thompson** is coordinating this event. Please contact him prior to July 17th as to what you might bring. Salads, deserts, etc. As usual, wives and guests are welcome.

At our August meeting **Sir Steve Dawkins** will be the featured speaker. His subject will be plant pathology (the study of plant diseases) which helps us recognize disease symptoms, diagnose their causes and strategies to prevent them.

Garden tip of the month: Water less often, but for longer periods. A deep soaking once a week is better for your plants than frequent shallow drinks. This soaking encourages deep roots, which means you water less as the summer wears on. Also mulch, mulch, mulch.



Sir Pete Gates greeting the greeters **Calvin Tucker** and **Sal Costanza** with Little Sir **Dennis Hallett** looking on

Bowling

Larry Mitchell



Two tournaments are scheduled for July. Both of them will be mixed doubles and singles events. The first will be held at the Nu Generation Lanes in Yuba City on the 14th and 15th of July. The second will be held at the Napa Bowl in Napa (where else?) on the 28th and 29 of July. If anyone is interested either of these events, let me know and I will supply further details.

We are in the fourth week the SIR summer league at the Diablo Lanes and are still looking for some warm bodies to fill out some teams. No experience is necessary. If you can make a ball roll on a flat level surface, we can use you. If you can't, then perhaps you should take up golf. I think they hit a ball with a stick, then chase it or something like that.

Cooking

Dave Johnson

1st Monday at various members' homes.



The June meeting was held at **Dave's** Diner and, in part, due to threatening emails and harassing phone calls, all members were in attendance. We discussed possible secret group signs and passwords but most suggestions were considered either too vulgar or indecent and the topic was tabled until the August meeting. Our menu was authentic foods of India and included: Punjabi pate and a wedge of Bengali brie, as appetizers; a Calcutta curried chicken casserole, accompanied by a copious salad of exotic fruits and followed by a special coffee (Indian roast, of course). **Barney** capably assisted and provided his homemade Sikh strawberry torte, which dazzled all palates. Our July meeting will be a picnic potluck and ladies will be invited. Members will be contacted, later, with details and marching orders.

Poker Club #1

Frank McNamee



Poker Club #1 met on Wednesday June 10th at the home of **Bill Cammerer**. **Howard Harvey** took no pity on the four regular players and two guests. He ended up the large winner followed by **John Lewis** and **Dan O'Sullivan** with much thanks to guests **Dale Hertweck** and **Ron Binder**.

Our next meeting will be on July 8th at the **Bob White** residence.



Poker Club #4

Chuck Bobinecz



Our next (\$10 to \$10 session -you may win or lose \$10 - rarely happens) on July 27th at the home of Sir **Bob Mehus**.

Texas hold 'em has become one of the most popular poker games. The best initial two cards are an Ace – Ace and the worst are a two – seven off suit.



Dirk Mellema
and
Ron DeGolia

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.) Check out our website at <http://sir-web.org/computer>

The Area 2 CAT group is back from its one month vacation and will meet at 9am Thursday July 16 with two presentations on Genealogy plus the ever popular Q&A lead by **Dick Curry** and supported by other gurus.

Bill Root (Branch 146) will be talking about Ancestry.com

Bob Wolf (Branch 116) will discuss rootsweb.com and other genealogical sites of interest

Dick Curry will be available for a Q&A session after the two presentations, if time permits.

Looking ahead to Thursday 20 August, we are planning for **Larry Muth** to talk about video editing, and for **Phil Goff** to introduce us to photoshop.com. As always **Dick Curry** will have a Q&A session to conclude the session.

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone (including coffee & pastries). All SIR members and their guests are welcome.

Thank you for supporting your Area 2 Computer and Technology Group.

Derek Southern, (Branch 8) Co-chair

Wine Tasting ... Bill Holly

Our next wine tasting will be on Thursday, July 30th from 3:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. at the home of **Fred and Peg Kovar** at:
1078 Hacienda Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-4740.

Directions: From downtown Walnut Creek take Ygnacio Valley Rd. North-East to Homestead Ave. Turn right and go approximately ¼ mile to Hacienda Dr. Turn left and go to 1078 Hacienda Dr. (white two-story house on left). Parking is available either in the driveway or on the street.

We will taste two varietals:



Zinfandel as the red varietal.



Viognier 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

Bocce Ball Martin Lyle

2nd and 4th Mondays at 9as, April through November, at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.

Weather is getting hotter and so is the competitive spirit.

This is an easy game to learn and play, with much good cheer resulting. There is always room for more players, so come join us.

Luncheon Attendance

Bob Lyman



SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak Golf Club.

Please call me (925-825-6386) or email me, rjlyman@aol.com, by Friday noon prior to the luncheon if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If no one answers, leave your name, badge number and phone number. Please be sure you call.

Remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am, so please allow enough time to arrive on schedule. A check for \$25.00 made payable to SIR146 is requested for payment of your lunch on luncheon day. Thanks.

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 will result in a letter notifying them of pending membership termination. Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to the attendance record.

Sir bringing a guest

Please call by Friday, noon prior to the luncheon and leave your name and badge number and the name of your guest. Please spell the last name of your guest.

Luncheon menu

The luncheon menu will be available on the www.sir146.com web site 7 days prior to the particular Thursday luncheon. Notification may also be provided via individual email.

Special luncheon requirements

If you require a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through the luncheon chairman. If for medical reasons, you cannot eat lunch, please notify me and your request will remain in effect until you cancel it through your luncheon chairman.

New members and/or sponsors

There will be a dedicated luncheon table set for any new members and their sponsors who would like to sit together to share conversations as new members of SIR 146. It is voluntary and please do not feel obligated, as a new member to sit at this table.

Membership

Dale Hertweck



Branch 146 Statistics: (For June)

Active members 258 (including 4 HLMs), applicant list 4, inactive 9.

June Attendance:

Members 191, guests and visitors 12, speaker 1, for a total of 204.

Status Changes:

Inducted:

Michael Stephenson

Added to Inactive List:

Charles Kistenmacher

Added to Active List from Inactive List:

Arno Marra, Joe Himsl

Resigned:

Lawrence Reilly, Albert Tufo

Transferred:

Thomas Dunne, to Branch #116

Added to Applicant List:

Welby Bigelow, Bill Rash, Ed Malboeuf

Table Pool

Bill Weinberg



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

So you haven't played in years? Come down and join us. We have a great group. Remember the 1st and 3rd of every month at Masse's in Walnut Creek

Bill



ROMEIO

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Malcolm Hendry

The ROMEIO group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30PM at select restaurants in the East Bay. We experience a variety of different restaurants and cuisines while enjoying the company of our fellow Sirs and guests in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

On July 16th we will going Japanese at the Miraku, a charming restaurant that features a large and varied menu of delicious an authentic delicacies as well a full bar.

Location: 2131 North Broadway, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (across from the Main Post Office - Off street parking in rear)

Website: www.mirakuwalnutcreek.com

Phone: 925-932-1112

Please let me know by Tuesday, July 14th, if you will join us.



Fishing Paul Dubow

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

We had mixed results fishing in the bay this month. Halibut continued to bite, but wind and lack of live bait limited our success. However, **Gene Schulting** and his brother headed out for a trip on the New Captain Pete in the bay and they caught four nice stripers as well as a halibut. **Terry Miller** and **Carl Moyer** trolled the bay in Carl's boat and caught just one striper. The wind also kept us off the Delta and Suisun Bay for our usual sturgeon and striper outings. **Sal Costanza** gave it a go, but only caught catfish.

We did better with trout. Lake Davis was very good to **Pete Gates** and **Tom Boltz** who caught a large amount of hefty trout, releasing most of them, but keeping a few. **Don Mittlestadt** and **Jim Andrews** also made a foray to Lake Davis, but the weather was harsher, and so the catch was smaller. Trout fishing was great at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. **Harry Sherinian**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Terry Miller** made three trips to the reservoir and limited out by 9:30 am. That inspired **Paul Dubow** to try it, but he came away with just one small trout. As they say, he should have been there yesterday.

Paul did much better on his 40th annual trip to the north woods of Wisconsin to fish with his old buddies from Milwaukee, catching and releasing large amounts of walleye pike and smallmouth bass. He also caught a horse and a cat, that is, a red horse sucker and a channel catfish.

Joe Karg and his son trolled Miner Slough for stripers with no success, but **Joe** was glad to be out on the water. It was his first fishing trip since November 2, because of knee surgery and a bout with sciatica. Good to have you back, **Joe!**

We will be very busy in the future with trout fishing in the Eastern Sierra, delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon, trout fishing in local lakes, mackinaw fishing in Lake Tahoe, and several party boat trips for halibut and rockfish. For those who rarely or never fish, you're welcome to join us.

If you haven't been fishing in awhile, but might like to test drive an adventure, come on down to our next meeting. It will be at 8:30 am on Thursday, July 23, at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Come earlier if you would like breakfast. **Barry Canavero**, a local boat captain, will be our guest speaker, sharing his vast experience about bait fishing for sturgeon in the bay and delta. For further information, call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Pete Gates and Tom Boltz
at Lake Davis

Travel Opportunities

Bob Spellman



Jul 29, 2009 SIR Day with the San Francisco Giants. The game has been set for the 29th with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Ticket prices are as follows: View Reserved \$15, View Box \$22, Lower Box \$29. The game will start at 12:45. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 for tickets. Deadline to order is July 6th.

Aug 6, 2009 SIR Day with the Oakland A's. Oakland will be playing the Texas Rangers with a starting time of 12:35. Ticket price is \$18 per person for lower level seat. Contact **Bob Spellman** 934-8428 for tickets

Sep 13-25, 2009 The Essence of Ireland. What separates Ireland from its neighbors is the arresting beauty of the land, the turbulent history and the broad smile that welcomes your arrival. This 13 day trip

covers Belfast, Londonderry, Westport, Galway, Killarney, and Dublin. The trip cost is \$3780 per person and includes: daily breakfast, nightly hosted dinner, coach driver, guides, baggage handling airfare and transfers, plus gratuities. Contact **Bob Hagler** Branch 8, 925-934-8428.

Sep 24, 2009 Highlights of South Africa. On this comprehensive 19 day trip with Grand Circle Travel 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 Pilanesberg National Park for a big five bush safari and Victoria Falls. Cost of the trip has been reduced from \$4795 to 3945.00 per person which includes all airfares, 17 night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours. This is an extremely good value for this once in a lifetime trip. Contact **Bob Spellman** to make reservations 925-934-9428

The quarterly State *SIR HAPPENINGS* web site at <http://www.sirinc.org/sirhappenings/> offers additional SIR travel options.



Service with a smile! They're happy to check you in, give you a ticket and take your \$\$\$.
Left to right are Sirs **Steve Sprague, Bill Knapp, Wes Hauschildt** and **Otto Wilson**.



Away Golf Jim Baldrige



I'm scrambling to get ready to leave 6/15 to play in week three of the SIR Reno tournament so this one will be short. As of this writing, week one of Reno is complete and week two is finishing. Will try to get some Reno results into the August article.

Dick Richmond is hosting week three in Reno and is planning to play after a long recovery from back surgery. Great to have you back out there **Dick!**

Ron Binder has the results for our branch for the State Individual Qualifier that was played at Boundary Oak. Check with **Ron** to see which Br 146 players might advance to the next level.

Ron Plachy has the sign up sheets for the State Scramble Team Championships Shotgun to be played starting at 8:00 am August 10. The sign up sheets are out at Tuesday golf. You can sign up as a team or individually.

Bob Mehus is looking for a course for an Away golf event in July. He should have some news out at Tuesday golf shortly. Questions: **Jim Baldrige** 925-689-9232 e-mail jimjudy39@aol.com

MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION JACK CALLOWAY

During the first few months of the year, we lost more members than we inducted. However, at the June luncheon a record number of 11 guests were introduced to the membership. Hopefully, many of those guests will join Branch 146.

In November we will have a drawing for a free lunch for those members who were sponsors in 2009. Your name is entered each time you bring in a new member.

Sir information cards were distributed to those at the luncheon. These can be used in your recruiting of new members. Additional cards are available from the Committee members or at future luncheons.

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.



Sirs enjoying Thursday luncheon left to right; **Jim Meehan, Bob Darius, Lo McCarley and Walt Schmidt**

Explore and Dine

John Pearl



In May, "Explore and Dine" traveled all the way to Concord to visit the Concord Police Department in their new building on Galindo Street. Our tour was led by two members of their large volunteer organization, which helps the department in a myriad of ways.

Some of the things we learned: The police department's building was built to rigorous earthquake standards, and houses the city's emergency operations center. The city has several canine units, whose dogs are trained in a foreign language so as to not respond to commands from others than the officers handling them. We learned about the merits of the new Honda police motorcycles from the actual users. We saw the 24 hour dispatch center, the juvenile section of the jail, and the evidence/property room. We were reminded that accessing the emergency response system by calling 911 on a cell phone may result in a major delay while the call is re-routed to the correct agency. Overall, we got the impression that this is a very professional and proactive organization.

We had a great lunch down the street at Luna, which is always good, with fabulous deserts
We are planning a trip to the National Ignition Facility at the Livermore Lab for June, and exploring other destinations for the rest of the summer.

John Pearl
mcpearl@astound.net
934-6920



Explore and Dine Group at Concord Police Department

Dance-Party

Come join us at our 23rd semiannual dance party. If you don't dance, come party with the members of SIR Branch 146.

Great people, great food and maybe a prize or two.

Wednesday, October 7 at **Zio Fraedo's** restaurant in Pleasant Hill. 6pm to 10 pm.

More to follow. Save the date.



Walkers John Lewis



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

July walks planned by **Pablo Chavez**

- July 3 Arbolado Park north Arbolado Dr WC
Meet: At Arbolado Park parking
Walk: North across Park to Ygnacio Canal paved level some shade
Coffee: La Scala Civic and Main St. WC
- July 10 Lafayette Moraga Trail Olympic Blvd Lafayette
Meet: At end of Olympic Blvd for parking
Walk: West on Lafayette Moraga Trail at end of Olympic Blvd paved level shade
Coffee: La Scala Civic and Main St. WC
- July 17 Martinez Marina walk Ferry St Martinez
Meet: At Sunvalley B of A for car pooling take 680 North . Just before Benicia Bridge Exit right on Martinez Marina vista to Martinez right on Ferry St. Cross Tracks right on Joe Di Maggio left on North Court to parking near water
Walk: Marina Trail not paved level no shade
Coffee Starbucks Pleasant Hill Plaza
- July 24 Walden Park East Oak Rd WC
Meet: At Walden Park parking
Walk: East along Contra Costa Canal paved level no shade
Coffee: La Scala Civic and Main St WC
- July 31 Osage Park Rose Walk Danville
Meet: 680 South to Sycamore Valley exit East First. Right on to Camino Ramon. Left on El Capitan left on Orange Blossom Way to Osage Parking
Walk: Roses around Osage Park paved level no shade
Coffee: Yellow Wood Alamo Plaza



Sirs Jack Hockel and Jeff Baily

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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This past meeting we recognized **Chuck Bobinecz** as a Branch 146 honoree. This distinguished award which included a plaque was presented by our Honoree chairman **Bob Yolland** and Big Sir **Stu Somerville** (right) to **Chuck** for his significant leadership work in our branch. He joined SIR in November 1995 following a career as an engineer with Bechtel Corporation. **Chuck** was instrumental in starting our Garden Club in 2000 and is in his ninth year as the group's Chairman. He also served on our Audit committee with one of the years being it's chairman. In 2006 **Chuck** was our assistant Treasurer and in 2007 started Poker group #4 which he continues to lead today. One of Chuck's fine accomplishments has been to establish our Branch activity calendar on our web site in 2007. He continues to maintain the calendar today.

Thank you **Chuck** for all of your great work and congratulations on being our latest Branch 146 honoree.