



## Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius

In June, we returned to our familiar watering hole, Boundary Oak, for a fun luncheon. Three new members joined our ranks: **Angel Costanza** sponsored by **Sal Costanza**, **John Kelly** sponsored by **Jerry Kaplan**, and **Ken Sihler** sponsored by **Ben Gleason**. Welcome aboard.

Additionally, there were eight guests, our high for this year, at June's luncheon. It is hoped they decide to join our branch as soon as July's meeting.

We also awarded **Cass Buys** the Senior Sir Anniversary Award for being 90 years young and still going strong. **Ken Kratz** was awarded the 20 Year Membership Award. Keep hitting 'em straight and long **Ken**.

Past Big Sir **Ray Kan** triumphed in the colorful shirt contest. A big, big thanks is extended to all who participated. So many great and unique shirts!!

As reported at June's meeting, our nominating committee consisting of **Bill Holly**, **Doug Eisner** and **Terry Marchione** have developed an outstanding slate of officers and directors for 2017. The candidates are:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Big Sir                         | <b>Alan Elnick</b>       |
| Little Sir                      | <b>Bruce Borgman</b>     |
| Secretary                       | <b>Jonathan Korfhage</b> |
| Asst. Secretary                 | <b>Brad Hatcher</b>      |
| Treasurer                       | <b>Roy Hodgkinson</b>    |
| Asst. Treasurer                 | <b>Steve Ybarra</b>      |
| Director (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) | <b>Jerry Kaplan</b>      |
| Director (2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) | <b>Steve Sprague</b>     |
| Director (1 <sup>st</sup> Term) | <b>Dave Pierce</b>       |
| Director (1 <sup>st</sup> Term) | <b>Jim Saavedra</b>      |
| Director (1 <sup>st</sup> Term) | <b>Bill Schultz</b>      |
| Director (1 <sup>st</sup> Term) | <b>Cal Tucker</b>        |

These candidates will be presented at this month's luncheon. During our August luncheon we shall accept nominations from the floor and then vote to elect the nominees for 2017. *(Continued on page 2)*

**Luncheon – Thursday , July 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse**

**Guest Speaker: Eric Ting**  
**Artistic Director Cal Shakes**

**Gathering time - 11:00 am**  
**Starting time - 11:45 am**

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?*  
**Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)**  
**Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146**  
**By Noon Friday, July 8<sup>h</sup>**



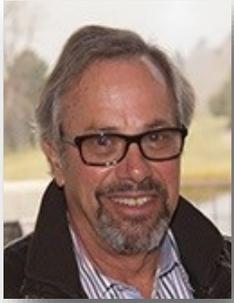
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

The four finalists in the colorful shirt competition this year were **Ray Kan** (eventual winner), **Howard Smalheiser**, **Fred Kovar**, and **Bob Spellman** with judges Big Sir **Walt Busenius** and Little Sir **Alan Elnick**

I didn't make it to the gym today. I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

As a reminder, we shall hold our annual evacuation drill during the July luncheon. The drill will be conducted by Director **Steve Sprague** at the end of our luncheon.

Finally, the doors of our meetings are always open to guests who are prospective members for Branch 146. The summer months are an excellent time to invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance as your guest to one of our luncheon meetings.



**Little Sir's Corner**

**Alan Elnick**

The dog days of summer are upon us, and as a Midsummer Night's Dream, I am pleased to have Eric Ting, Cal Shakes new Artistic Director as our July speaker. Mr. Ting is an Obie Award winning director described as a "magician" by the New Yorker magazine. He is recognized for his advocacy of new plays, as well as his adaptations such as a production of Macbeth set during the Vietnam War. He has directed productions at Manhattan Theatre Club, SOHO Rep, the Public Theatre, and internationally in Singapore, France, Canada, Romania, the Czech Republic and Hungary. It should be an entertaining talk to see what he has in store for our Orinda Shakespeare Theatre.

Many of you expressed that you received some benefit from our June speaker, Peter Bauer, the regional Medicare and Medicaid liaison to our state agencies. Thank you for your feedback!

Volunteering is among the key reasons for our success as a branch. A lot of people doing a few small tasks helps the few people that are doing large tasks all enjoy the benefits of Sir membership. If you enjoy any of our activities, make an offer to step up and help the activity chairman. An immediate need is our luncheon chair who could use a partner or two to help lighten the load.

A number of our fellow Sirs are going through some difficult health issues right now. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Our next regular luncheon is July 14<sup>th</sup>, at Boundary Oak. Please make sure to call or email before the deadline if you will be unable to attend. Our commitments on the number of meals to prepare are difficult to project if we cannot get a reliable count on attendance. All active members, no matter your membership status, should honor this call in request. See you at the lunch or on the links. Bring a guest to learn of the wonderful activities and camaraderie SIR has to offer.



**Membership**

**Ben Gleason**

Branch 146 Statistics

We regained our record number of 283 active members in June. We inducted two new members and accepted a transferee from another branch. Sadly, we lost one long-term member. We had eight guests at the June Luncheon which bodes well for the induction of new members in July. Keep up the good work. Remember to meet and get to know the new guys. They are the ones with the yellow badges. Please make them feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in June 2016



**Angelo Costanza**



**John Kelly**



**Ken Sihler**

Active member deceased:

Bob Darius



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Big Sir **Walt Busenius** presents the 20-Year Membership Award to **Ken Kratz** at the luncheon on June 9<sup>th</sup>



## Sunshine

### John Pearl

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

- ◆ Jim Saavedra
- ◆ Roy Luoma
- ◆ Tom Gorman
- ◆ Bob Walton
- ◆ Lynn Freeman
- ◆ Bill Hansen
- ◆ Elmer Kaprielian

I am sorry to report the recent deaths of **SIR Frank Mathos**, an inactive member, and former member **Kent Tyler**. Please include their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

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

**John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair  
[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)  
925-934-6920



# THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

## SIR 146 Luncheon July 2016

### Salad

#### **Louis Salad**

Butter Lettuce, Applewood Smoked Bacon  
Vine Ripened Tomatoes, Feta Cheese,  
Hard Boiled Egg Crumbles  
Creamy Louis Dressing

### Entrees

#### **Pork Loin**

Grilled Herb Marinated Pork Loin,  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Seasonal Vegetables  
Rosemary Port Wine Sauce

Or

#### **Baked Tilapia**

Parmesan Crusted Tilapia, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal  
Vegetables  
White Wine Butter Sauce

### Dessert

#### **Carrot Cake**

Raspberry Sauce, Chantilly Cream

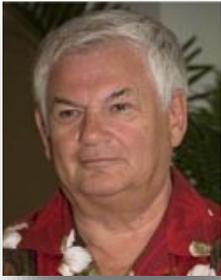
Photo by Richard Hocken



SIR Greeters **Jim McManus**, **Jim Solomon**, and **Gary Brown**

### **SIR Happenings Newsletter**

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



## Couples Dining Out

### Bruce Borgman

As we mentioned in last month's Sir Call, we have selected the restaurant for our July outing! This will be a truly different kind of experience as we have negotiated a wonderful menu with Faz Restaurant in Danville on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The cuisine of this restaurant is inspired by Persian and Mediterranean flavors and the menu will be one that you are sure to enjoy. Even better, we will be dining in the Redwood Gallery – a small private dining room overlooking the patio, which is surrounded by a grove of redwood trees. This setting is truly one of the best of the many restaurants we have enjoyed in the last several years. For our social hour we will enjoy the separate Fireside Lounge, which will have ample room for you to enjoy chatting with old friends and new.

The menu will include Caesar Salad, then a choice of three entrees – Roasted Pomegranate Chicken, Sicilian Style Pot Roast, or Wild Mushroom Ravioli, with a Chocolate Pecan Torte for dessert. The all inclusive price will be \$47 per person – send your check to SIR 146 with entrée choice to Bruce Borgman, 3611 Winchester Pl, WC 94598 to secure your place.

As of this writing we have almost reached our capacity at the restaurant, but have room for two more couples. Please send Bruce an email to indicate your interest and follow up with a check as noted above. Email Bruce at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) with any questions!



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**John Wall** celebrating winning the June Birthday Boy prize



Photo by Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

### Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of The Acoustic Musicians Group at 2 pm Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Directions from 680 going North: (I'm sure you can figure this out from other areas) exit Rudgear Rd, continue on South Broadway, Right on Newell, straight to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood, slight left stay on Blackwood, sharp right on Ward. Alan's home is on the left. If you get lost, call (925) 864-2641 or (925) 786-7909.

Our Acoustic Musicians Group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, etc. The objective is to enjoy our music. All levels of musical skill are welcome.

Spouses and singers are also encouraged. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy.

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups, and enjoy leading this group. **Alan** and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Cass Buys** receives the Senior SIR President's Award from Big Sir **Walt Busenius** for being 90 years young

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor **Richard Hockenbrock**  
 Assistant Editors **Jeff Baily & Rob Melrose**  
 Proofreaders **Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker**  
 Internet Posting **Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia**  
**Ron Plachy**



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

Mt Diablo/Joaquin Miller Hikes

On Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> we will be doing an easy five mile hike on the northeast side of Mt Diablo. This is an easy hike with views of Clayton and the Delta. We will meet at the Regency Gate at 10:00 am. Our ascent will be about 700 ft. and it should take about 3 hours. If

you are thinking about joining our group this would be a good one to start with. After the hike we will gather at Ed's Mudville Grill for a light lunch.

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

### Rain Cancels

### Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00 am

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

E-mail [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Cell (925) 550-4967

Joaquin Miller and Dimond Canyon Parks  
in the Oakland Hills

Our second hike will be on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Joaquin Miller and Dimond Canyon parks in the Oakland Hills. The tree-shaded trails here (many redwoods) are sometimes just a short distance from busy city streets, yet you will feel miles away. To make this a 5 mile mostly downhill hike, we will meet at the Ranger Station / Community Center at Joaquin Miller at 10 am and hike down to Dimond Park. Bring a lunch or snack to have along the way, or at Dimond if we do not get too hungry!

To reach the park from Hwy 24, take the Hwy 13 South exit, which is just west of the Caldecott Tunnel. Proceed South on Hwy 13 about 3 miles and take the Joaquin Miller Rd exit. Turn left on Joaquin Miller Rd and proceed up the hill about a mile and turn left on Sanborn Drive (watch for a sign for Woodminster Theater). Sanborn drive has two entrances from Joaquin Miller, but only one has an open gate. If you reach the stoplight at Skyline you've gone too far—make a U-turn and go back. The parking lot is just a few hundred feet down Sanborn Drive on the left, just past the "Do Not Enter" sign. If the small lot is full, there is a much larger one a few feet ahead on the left.

Are you asking "When we get to Dimond Park, how do we get back up the hill to our cars?" I would like to ask one or two drivers to volunteer to meet me at Dimond Park at 9:30 am (I will give you directions when you volunteer). I will drive you to the start of the hike, and you will drive me and other drivers back to our cars at the end of the hike. Clear as mud??

So for this hike, I would really appreciate knowing who is planning on coming so I can make sure I can get you back to your car! I know this all sounds like a lot of trouble, but I bet if you decide to come you will really enjoy it. As always anyone wishing to carpool with me, meet at the Stevens exit off Hi-way 24. Let me know and I will give you availability and meeting time and place. The length of this hike is 5.30 mile with an ascent 421 ft. (-1529 ft.). That's right, we will go down about 1500 ft. with a climb near the beginning about 400 ft. up. This hike should take about three hours.

### Rain Cancels

### Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00 am

July 22, 2016

E-mail [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Cell (925) 550-4967



The hiking group Al Twyford, Pete Gates, Steve Lane, Harvey Oxman, Larry Gray, Walt Schmidt, Gary Brown, Bob Lucido, Bobbie Schmidt, Joe Nelms, and Ismini MacLean

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I changed my car horn to sound like gun shots. People get out of my way faster now.



## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

This time of year normally brings reports of rainbow trout being caught in the local reservoirs and in the Sierras. Not this year. They just are not biting. There are many theories why this is occurring.

Some say the lakes are too warm, others say that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has reduced the number of plantings, still others say that there are too many algae blooms in the lakes. Of course, nobody attributes this to our lack of skill. In any event, this month's report will be devoid of any rainbow sightings.

But there are other fish to fry. **Ernie Wong** was very successful fishing for shad on the Yuba River. **Ernie** and **Don Mittelstadt** did very well fly fishing for cutthroat trout on Pyramid Lake. **Brad Hatcher** of Branch 146 and friends limited out on mackinaws on Lake Tahoe. **Lee Clark** of Branch 146 and **Raleigh Davis** picked up nice salmon in the ocean. **Stan Wong** and **Carl Moyer** tried their luck for rockfish in the ocean and were rewarded with enough fish to cover several meals. Finally, **Mike Corker** and **Tom Kostik** caught and released black bass in the Delta.

We will be very busy this summer fishing for catfish, stripers, black bass, halibut, sturgeon, salmon, kokanee, rockfish, mackinaw, and cutthroat trout and we have not yet given up on the rainbows. If you want to join us, come to our next meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but join us for camaraderie and breakfast, beginning at 7:30 am. If you have any questions, feel free to call Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415)-495-6504.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Vern Laursen** (standing) was the second to receive a free lunch as May Birthday Boy winner



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

At the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, **Rob Melrose** presented pictures he and his wife Carmen took on their trip to Cuba this past May. The photos were very interesting to all who attended the presentation, two of which are shown

below.

Many of Branch 146 SIR members travel and, like **Rob**, we welcome you to present your photos at one of our future meetings.

In addition to **Rob's** photos, **Henry Thatcher** showed some excellent portrait close-up photos of people in several countries he has visited in the past. Harvey Oxman showed examples of jpg vs raw photos in several photos he had taken.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the last Friday in August, on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be announcing a subject closer to the meeting date.



Photo by Rob Melrose

Tropicana Club, a world famous cabaret and club in Havana, Cuba started in 1939.

Photo by Rob Melrose



Image of Camilo Cienfuegos on a Ministry building in Cuba



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Cooking II had an excellent lunch June 13<sup>th</sup> at **Bill Cammerer's** home. We started out with a great home-made spinach dip and a variety of bread and crackers. Several cheeses, including a smoked cheddar with bacon, were also included. **Bill's** lunch was plenty of delicious ribs which were finished on the BBQ served with ears of super sweet fresh Brentwood white corn and a salad of lettuce, tomatoes, hard boiled eggs, olives and other goodies. He finished the lunch with a nice lime dessert. The meal was accompanied with lots of conversation and good wine. Our next event will be July 11<sup>th</sup> at **Bruce Borgman's** home.



## SongSirs

**Bruce Borgman**

The Song Sirs are currently practicing a new repertoire with songs from our pianist's Steve Dinning's vast music collection. These include "It's a Good Day", "All The Way", "You make me Feel So Young", "Jeepers Creepers", "Almost Like Being in Love", "It Had To Be You", and "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face", among others – quite a list. Our next gig is not until August when we've been requested to sing at the Walnut Creek Senior Center, so we'll have a month or two to practice these new fun songs. And, our quartet will continue to practice separately to add to a program of music that is enjoyable for our audience.

Again we wish to put out a call for any of our Sirs who like to sing and get together for comradery and fun to join us – we would like to increase the number of singers in our ensemble. We practice every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church's Multiuse Room. Come and see what we are all about!



## Table Pool

**Bill Weinberg**

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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Denny O'Loughlin and Dom DiMatteo** at the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon

Siamese twins walk into a bar in Toronto and park themselves on a bar stool. One of them says to the bartender, "Don't mind us; as you can see, we're joined side by side at the hip. I'm John, he's Jim.

"Two Molson Canadian draft beers, please." The bartender, feeling slightly awkward, tries to make polite conversation while pouring the beers. "Been on vacation yet, boys" ?

"Off to England next month," says John. "We go to England every year, rent a car and drive for miles. Don't we

Jim?" Jim agrees. "Ah, England!" says the bartender. "Wonderful country ... the history, the beer, the culture ..."

"Nah, we don't like all that British crap," says John. "Hamburgers and Molson's beer, that's us, eh Jim? And we can't stand the English, they're so arrogant and rude."

Bartender asks: Then why do you two keep going to England? "It's the only chance Jim gets to drive."



## Luncheon Chairman

**Max Hinkle**

### June's Attendance:

By my count there were 207 meals served at our June luncheon, 12 more than our guaranteed number and two more than Boundary's commitment. We are

fortunate that the Boundary kitchen staff was nimble enough to come up with those two extra meals. Contributing to my underestimation of the meals was the low number of "no shows". We had only 19 of those, representing only 6.7% of our membership. It appears that our membership over the past year and a half is doing a lot better job of notifying me of their expected absences. There were 195 active members in attendance not including the three new members inducted at this luncheon. That number equals 69% of our membership, a bit less than what we have been averaging. While I'm happy that my guaranteed number of meals was not more than the number of meals that we consumed, I do not like being over the kitchen's commitment.

**July Luncheon:** Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$26. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO BOUNDARY OAK UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.

**Opt Out Deadline for July Luncheon:** Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the July luncheon is NOON ON FRIDAY JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>. We will e-blast a reminder of this deadline a day or two in advance of it. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) before that deadline ("no show deadline"). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the

Branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. This courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

**Confirmation of No Show Notices:** My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice please call me at (925) 408-6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed or not timely displayed in the "no lunch" Inbox.

**Bringing a Guest or a Visitor:** If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the no show deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.



**Dennis Hallett, Dick Richmond, and Max Hinkle** share a pose prior to the start of lunch on June 9th at Boundary Oak

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO) Jerry Kaplan

Mexican Train Dominos Group 1 met on June 10<sup>th</sup> at **Hockenbrock's** home with a depleted group of our regular players. Not to worry though, as **Richard** worked the phones throughout the week to fill the empty seats with substitute players. His task was complicated by the fact that the Warriors were playing game six of the NBA finals and potential MTD subs did not want to miss that game. In the end, Richard called over 10 different couples and wound up with his needed three, **Dick and Judy Richmond, Steve and Karen Dinning, and Lew and Carla Thompson.**

As play began, we later learned that these were not ordinary substitutes. They were very strategic in their moves and certainly were not novices. Perhaps it was their superior play that caused some of our regulars to make some unusual mistakes, like this one below that **Sue Oranje** capture on her phone of having two train markers on her dominoes.

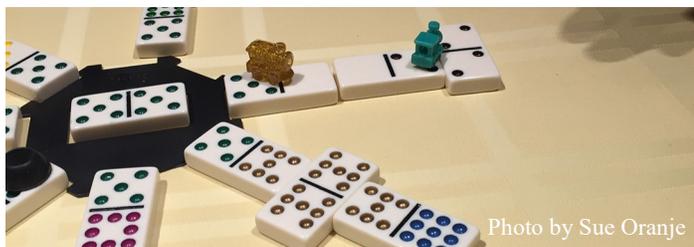


Photo by Sue Oranje

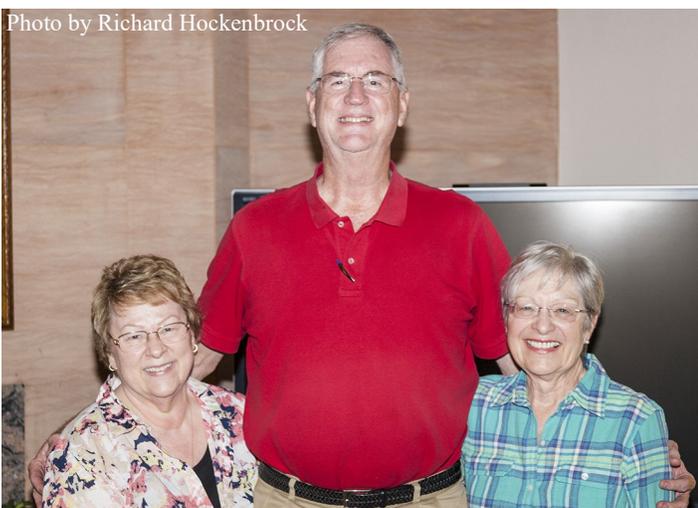


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Winners of game play were (Right side) **Alicia Baily** 1st place, (Left side) **Sherry Hockenbrock** 2nd place, and **Steve Dinning** in 3rd place



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS) Dick Woodman

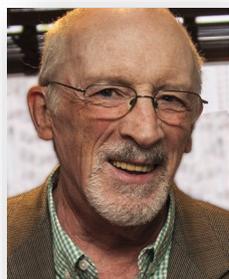
Our Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> game night was at **Dick and Janice Woodman's** home where it was a beautiful evening. Socializing, playing and eating were all great fun

for the evening.

The competition continues to increase and the speed of play increases as we get more experienced. The surprising part is that it gets easier and more enjoyable as we progress.

First place went to **Bill Holly** with an average game score of 13.3. **Ron Plachy** took second place with 13.6 and **Anne Plachy** won third place with 15.0. All had outstanding scores. Many other low scores followed the winners. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Our next game night, July 22<sup>th</sup>, will be at **Chuck and Mary Denney's** home.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES) Jeff Baily

We gathered at **Charlie and Janet Abrams'** home on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup>. At table 2 **Jeff Baily** came in with an amazing 11.8 average followed by **Jim Baldrige** at table 1

with 16.1 and back to **Larry Brown** who had led at table 2 until the last game when fate dealt him an awful array of tiles to end up oh so close to **Jim Baldrige** with a 16.3. Such is the game of Mexican Train Dominoes.

Below are the first-half winners for January through June... Congratulations to **Charlie Abrams** (20.6), **Linda Brown** (21.4) and **Sally Shafer** (23.0). These first three were closely followed by **Alicia Baily, Judy Richmond, Lynn Shafer** and **Linda Siljestrom**, all tied at 23.5 !

None of the subs qualified for the semi annual pot prizes by having played 60% of the total average games played which came out to 29 games. We start anew for the second half pot on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at **Larry and Linda Brown's** home.

2016 pot total collected (\$1 per person per night)= \$100

1st place at 60% = \$60 to <b>Charlie Abrams</b>	\$60
2nd place at 30% = \$30 to <b>Linda Brown</b>	\$30
3rd place at 10% = \$10 to <b>Sally Shafer</b>	\$10



**Mexican Train Dominoes  
Group 4  
(El Quattro)  
Jim Pope**

The gang met Friday night and we had 9 couples and 3 tables. The domino games were boisterous and competitive. The Sweets and Savories provided by four women in

the group were very tasty.



Photo by Renie Pope

Pictured: Dick & Leslie Firth, Don & June Seaton, Ron Louis & Fran Matthews, Lo & Sue McCarley, Darlo & Marilyn Boone, Dick & Christy DeVoe, Henry & Barbara Thatcher, Bill Weinberg, Jim & Renie Pope who were also the hosts. Not in picture: Russ & Carolyn Anderson, Jonathan & Barbara Korfhage, and Elaine Richter.

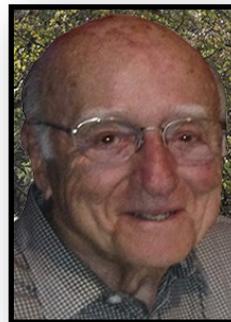


**Cribbage  
John Pearl**

Six of the most faithful made the trek to **Barney Meade's** home on our usual play date, the fourth Wednesday of the month, in this case, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June. Since the Chair was absent, the vice-chair **Ron Afdal** presided. He did such a good

job, he came in first, taking home the most money! Other June money winners were **Roger Peters** and **Howard Nemir**, who took second and third respectively.

We meet again in July, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the fourth Wednesday of the month.



**Bocce Ball  
Martin Lyle  
NOTICE**

For those of you who have not tried Bocce Ball, come and join us for some fun. It's easy, and we have good groups out to play. See you there. No experience necessary.

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



**Mexican Train Dominoes  
Group 5 (CINCO)  
Jim Burk**

Mexican Train Dominoes Cinco played its regular monthly game at the **Eisner's** home on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Two of the six regular couples were absent so we played with 2

tables of 4 people each. Our attention was drawn to the intense 6<sup>th</sup> game of the NBA Finals so we watched the first half of the game, played a few sets of dominoes, then took a break and watched the remainder of the game. **Patti Eisner** captured 1<sup>st</sup> place and **Joan Pierce** took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, squeezing the men out of the money.

**Jim and Ann Burk** will host our July 21<sup>st</sup> game.

*Doug Eisner for Jim Burk*

**Walking Group  
John Lewis**



*Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.*

*Call **John** for current walk.*

*Rain cancels any walk.*

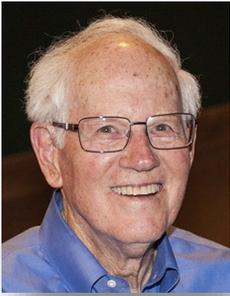
*Ladies Welcome*

*Tel: (925) 825-3561*



When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

**Lo McCarley**

**Dasha Freeman** hosted six couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on June 15<sup>th</sup> with three tables. The group welcomed **Anne Johnson**. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge as well as appreciating **Dasha's** snacks, dessert and wines. As for the bridge results, **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison** came in first with 29 points (lots of points). **Margot Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt** took second with 23 points. In third place were **Dasha Freeman** and **Anne Johnson** with 20 points. **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** will host the next Couples Duplicate Bridge on July 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

**Max Hinkle** hosted 3 tables of Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 on June 20<sup>th</sup>. At the lunch break, **Jim Jackson** showed signs of running away with this month's game as he recorded 18.5 pt, but **Dave Pierce** was keeping pace with 18.0 pt. **Doug Eisner** was far back in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 15.0 pt. However, the afternoon session was another matter. **Jim Jackson** kept his foot on the gas and lived up to his first half start as he blew away all pretenders for the lead. At the end of the round, **Jim** scored a remarkable 37.0 pt, equivalent to a 77% game, and easily took home the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize. Second place was captured by **Bill Rees**, whose 29.0 pt were so far back that he lost sight of the winner. **Dave Pierce** held on for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 28.5 pt. **Jim Stedman** will host July 18<sup>th</sup>.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dave Pierce**

We gathered at **Cindy** and **Tony Greco's** on Flag Day for the monthly contest. **Christy DeVoe** had a long evening of poor hands, but **Dick** and **Christy** must have brought their A game on defense. They took third (52.5% game). **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** were second (58.5%), and **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** brought their A++ game for first and a whopping 70%. They had 11 top boards out of 20. Congratulations! All six couples were lucky enough to enjoy **Cindy's** A++ berry dessert.



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dick DeVoe**

The June 3<sup>rd</sup> Duplicate Bridge 2 event was nicely hosted by **Rich Ahlf**, who also produced a rare win as host; most of the time, hosts end up toward the bottom! His 32 pts. total gave him 1st place overall. Congratulations, **Rich!**

**Jim Jackson** was 2nd, only 0.5 pts. behind **Rich** with 31.5 pts.- enough to have won several other events over the past 15 months. Of significance also is that **Jim's** 18 pts. in the first half is now the highest ever for that part of the event.

First-time sub **Larry Brown** closed with 26.5 pts. for 3<sup>rd</sup>, barely edging **Brad Hatcher's** 26 pts. & 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Interestingly, none of the top three winners held any of those positions over the previous two months, indicating there is no "dynasty" yet being built in Duplicate Bridge 2. :-)

Most Two's: **Rich Ahlf's** thirteen (13!) 2's is the best ever for our group. Wow!

Least Zeros: **Jim Jackson** and **Brad Hatcher** tied with only 2 zeros each for those 24 boards. Sweet.

Comeback Kid: **Dave Steinberg's** relatively weak 8 pts. in first half (at least for him) obviously motivated him to bring his "A" game for the second half, increasing 8 pts. to 16.



## Party Bridge Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Bill Reese** on June 6<sup>th</sup>. First place went to **Bob Yolland** with 6890 points, second to **Jim Jackson** with 4660 and third to **Dick DeVoe** with 4380 points.

Our next session is scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup>, but will advise if it will be cancelled closer to time.

A good golf partner is one who's always slightly worse than you are. that's why I get so many calls to play with friends.



## Couples Party Bridge

**Dave Pierce**

**Dick and Christy DeVoe**

hosted us on June 7th, and as usual there was a crowd around the guacamole. Traditionally (but not always) subs do well in our game, and tonight was no exception. Subs

**Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were third (2730), **Dave and Joan Pierce** were second (2910), and subs **Larry and Linda Brown** were first (4060), the only ones to break 3000 on a quiet card night. Congratulations, subs!

Regulars, please bring your A-game and some singles next time.



## Men's Duplicate

### Bridge 3

**Sid Landman**

The Duplicate Bridge 3 Group was nicely hosted by **Bob Yolland**, who did quite well both as host AND player. This event was

marked by relatively wide ranking spreads by the winners between 1st half and 2nd half:

- 1st Place (29.5 pts.): **Charlie Abrams** took 5th Place in the 1st half and never looked back. His 2nd half tied for 1st Place (16.5 pts.), earning him 1st Place overall. Congratulations, **Charlie!**
- 2nd Place (29.0): **Bob Yolland** tied for 6th Place in the 1st half and also never looked back. His 2nd half tie with **Charlie** for 1st Place (16.5 pts.) resulted in a 2nd Place overall.
- 3rd Place (26.5): **Rich Ahlf's** 2nd Place in the 1st half (14.5 pts.) combined with his 5th Place in the 2nd half earned him 3rd Place overall.
- 4th Place (26.0): **Jim Brown** scored a very high 1st Place in the 1st half (17 pts.), faltered into 9th Place in the 2nd half, but still took 4th Place overall.
- Most Two's: **Rich Ahlf** had 10 two's, followed by **Jim Brown** with 9.
- Least Zeros: **Charlie Abrams** had only 3 zeros, followed by **Bob Yolland** with 4.
- Comeback Kid: **Dick DeVoe** had the widest comeback point spread (6.5 pts.), struggling with 8.5 pts and 11th place in the 1st half but finding 15 pts. and 3rd place in the 2nd half. 8th Place tie overall doesn't cut it though.

*Dick for Sid Landman*



## Travel Opportunities

**Milt Smith**

### Local Trips

When: Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

What: Fleet Week Trip on the San Francisco Belle (Hornblower)

Time: Bus Departs 11:30am from Mitchell Ave. Park and Ride; Returns

6:30pm

Includes: Motorcoach Transportation, Cruise on SF Belle, Hosted Hot Buffett Luncheon, Beverages, Champagne, Music Entertainment, Special Viewing of Blue Angels, Keepsake Photo.

Price Per Person: \$141

Make checks payable to: SIR146 and mail to **John E. George**, 536 Silverado Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549 (Tel: [\(925\) 999-6645](tel:9259996645))

The Cutoff date to receive your check is August 18<sup>th</sup> and there are only 36 slots, which will be filled on a first come / first served basis. So send your check in early to assure a spot on the trip. You will receive a confirmation when your check is received if you leave your email address.

### Longer Trips

**September 13–27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin** This trip begins with 2 nights in Prague, then 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and, finally, 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595 pp plus air. Contact **Milt Smith** (Br 146) at (925) 280-0328 or email [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)  
*(Editor's Note: Walt Schmidt has been very active in organizing this trip and is available to answer any questions you may have about the trip. You can contact him at (925) 943-1741 or email: [waltnmis@aol.com](mailto:waltnmis@aol.com)*





## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Group #1 met at the home of **John Lewis** on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. As always there was good conversation and snacks, especially the "cookies". **Al Zamola, Frank McNamee, Dan O'Sullivan** came out ahead. Our next meeting will be at **Frank's** home on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.



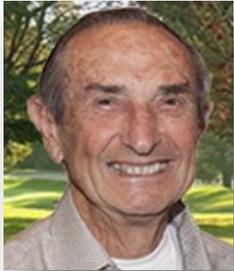
## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Al Twyford**

Poker group #6 met at leader **Al Twyford's** home in Walnut Creek on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our monthly date has changed to the first Thursday each month. Players were **Al Twyford, Frank Lucas, Rich Ahlf, Harvey Oxman, Bob Larson, and Howard Charlop**. Big winner was **Rich Ahlf** \$10, **Frank** \$3, and **Bob** \$3. Losers were **Al** \$8, **Howard** \$6, and **Bob** \$2. As usual we went through 3 bottles of red wine. Luckily, **Norm** was not there or it would have been 4 bottles. We all enjoyed the afternoon of fun poker.

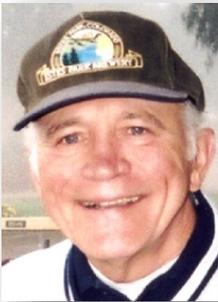
Our next game is scheduled for Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill, 12:30 to 3:30 pm. **Rich** was kind enough to take a group picture of the players shown below.



## Poker Group 2

**Al Zamolo**

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*

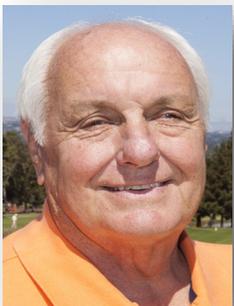


## Poker Club 4

**Chuck Bobinecz**

Sir **Pete Gates** will host our next game on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Sir **Garth Cummings** left our last game early but he didn't give us a reason. If you see him, you might ask him. I am sure we will find out at the next poker session.

I don't know who first said it "I know you have me beat, but I had to call" Unfortunately, I have said it too often.



## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter, Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.***

*Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.*



Photo by Rich Ahlf

Old Money Poker Group 6 are ready for action. L-R are **Bob Larson, Harvey Oxman, Frank Lucas, Al Twyford, and Howard Charlop**

## ACTUAL CALLS RECEIVED AT A PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: What are your green fees?

Staff: 38 dollars.

Caller: Does that include golf?

Staff: Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: How much to play golf today?

Staff: 25 to walk, 38 with a cart .

Caller: 38 dollars?

Staff: No, 38 yen.



## Cooking Lunch and Wine

**Frank Rockwell**

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

*We gather at 11 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.*



## Book Nook

**Hank James**

Book Nook is OPEN at the July meeting.

Bring your books to donate and your list of books to read. Enjoy!



## GOLF

**Ed Marlovits**

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

In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specially set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses. State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses from Reno to Solvang and points in between.

There are two competitive championship events sponsored by State SIR Golf. This year's State Individual Championship event will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Laguna Seca. Area qualifying events are not yet announced but will be held in July. The Sir State Team Championship qualifying event for our area will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> at Deer Ridge Golf Club in Brentwood. The Team Championship will be August 8<sup>th</sup> at Poppy Ridge in Livermore. Last year we had three teams competing for the championship.

Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please contact us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com). If you would like to join Branch 146 Golf, also contact us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).



## Couples Golf

**Paul Masta**

The SIR Couples Golf Group play at local courses on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or [pamasta03@yahoo.com](mailto:pamasta03@yahoo.com).



## Nine Hole Golf Group

**Verner Laursen**

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

*If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesdays I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game.*  
[vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

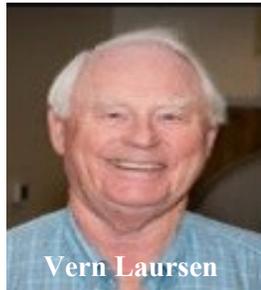
When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

It takes longer to learn to be a good golfer than it does to become a brain surgeon. On the other hand, you don't get to ride around on a cart, drink beer, eat hot dogs and fart if you are performing brain surgery!

## Area Two Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)

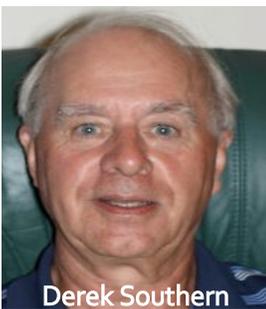


*The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.*

*Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we 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.*

### Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am.

Arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included) are welcome to attend. See you there.

### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

No meeting in July or August. The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group meets at 8 am on fourth Wednesday of the month at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

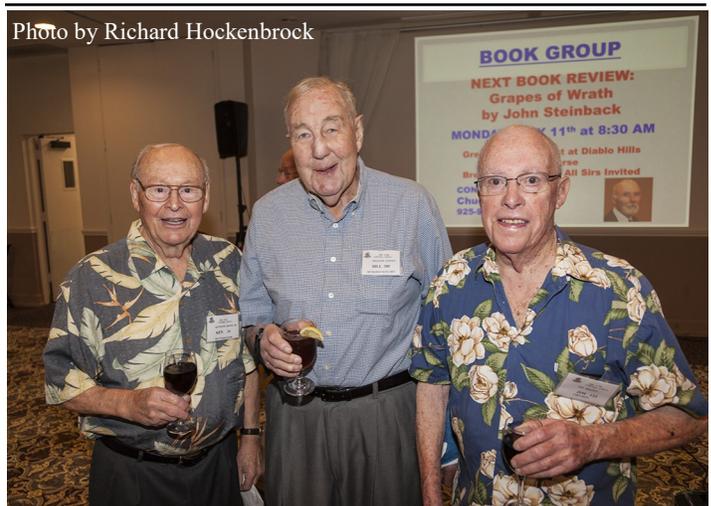
Co-Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724  
**David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Al Zamolo and Don Del Bene sharing a happy moment at the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Drinks in hand, Ken Kratz, Bill Hanson, and Jim Brown pose for a picture at the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

Away golf at Chardonay GC on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 with **John Hammond, Guy Rudberg, Colin Holland, and Bill Dastic**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Bill Schultz**, who always contributes pictures of golfers to the SIR CALL, shows off his colorful Warriors T-shirt at the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Ben Gleason, Alan Elnick, Bob Lucido and Frank Pandolfi** comparing scorecards after finishing their round of golf at Boundary Oak on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016

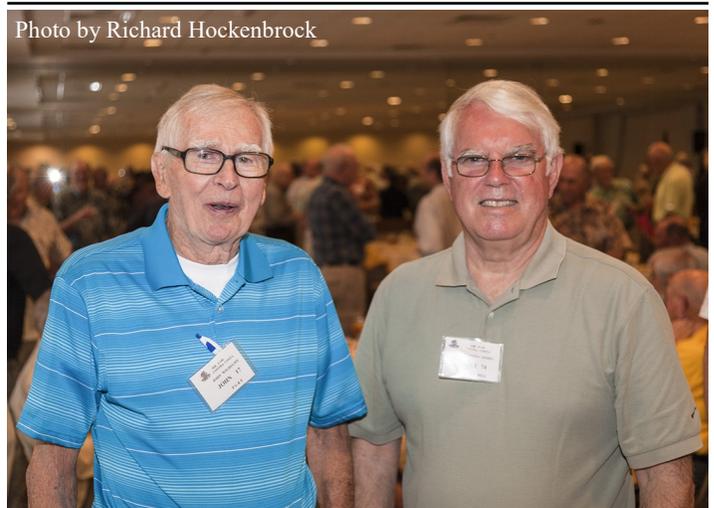


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**John Wilhelmy and Steve Odeck** pose for a picture at the June 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Jim Passaglia, Bob Yolland, Ed Marlovits, and Max Hinkle** on the Boundary Oak 18th green after **Max** has just made an unlikely par on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



Photo by Tony Greco

In light of the Warriors playoff run, **Richard Hockenbrock & Steve Dinning** pose as two tall basketball stars