



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

July 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

What a difference a year makes! In 2022, our Branch lost almost 40 members (~15%). Since the start of this year, we have begun to grow again—adding 10 new members. We have 46 activities in our Branch meeting regularly (54% allow spouses and partners), and our members can participate in an additional 14 activities sponsored by other local Branches. Despite making attendance at the monthly luncheon voluntary, participation has been around 50%. So, **on the surface our Branch is doing well.**

Past Big Sirs. And I intend to “pass it forward” to those who follow behind me.

Our greatest need is for a Secretary for next year! If you have ever taken notes in a meeting (or class), you can do this job! In our Branch, the Secretary succeeds the Little Sir and the following year is the Big Sir. **For 2024, we also need candidates to serve as: Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and several Director positions.**

Women SIR Members?

In 2021, the State SIR Board approved a pilot program for two failing Branches to allow women as members. Their Branch leaders believed that inducting women might save them from closing. One branch inducted some women but closed after several months. The other failing Branch subsequently merged with another failing Branch in the same retirement community, but their combined membership has continued to significantly decline.

In March of this year, the State Board distributed a survey to all Branches asking their BEC's to vote on whether to allow women as members (1) in their own branch, and (2) in other branches. Our BEC responded that we wished both our Branch and the entire organization to remain a men's social group. This position was taken based on (1) informal feedback from our general membership and past Big Sirs and BEC members, (2) knowledge that our spouses, partners and guests can participate in about half of our activities, and (3) informal feedback from spouses and partners of our members indicating they too want it to be a



But I'm going to be blunt—our Branch needs Officers and Directors! If we don't get members to join our Branch Executive Committee (BEC) next year, we will be in serious trouble. The BEC is the governing body for our corporation; they oversee the day-to-day decisions and operations and help keep the Branch healthy. **Without an Executive Committee Branch 146**

cannot legally exist.

There is a misperception that the BEC is all about politics and the positions are time-consuming and difficult. **NOT TRUE.** The BEC meets once a month for about 90 minutes. Outside of the BEC meeting, Officers and Directors spend only an hour or two a week performing their various roles. Most of our BEC members gravitate to positions that fit their expertise – be it accounting/finance, human resources, sales, or management – so the required activities are second nature to them. The group works very collaboratively. Over the past three years, as Secretary, Little Sir and Big Sir, I received much support from other BEC members and

Continued on next page

SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, July 13th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30

Charles Fracchia from ABC News
Fraud Schemes Targeting Seniors

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.

men's social group.

Though only about half of the Branches weighed in on the State's survey, the results were clear. An overwhelming majority of the Branches providing input did not want women to join their Branch. There was only a slight majority of voting Branches who agreed that other Branches should be allowed to have women as full members if they wished. Based on these results, the State Board has decided not to move forward this year with changes to the SIR By-Laws that would enable women to join as full members. Further, the State Board will work with the one Branch in the pilot, that has several women members, to find an equitable wind-down solution. **For now, SIR will remain a men's social organization.**

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands -- one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

—Audrey Hepburn

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.

—Sherry Anderson

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

In June we were slated to have Mr. Zach Harris from John Muir speak about the Future of Health Care. Unfortunately, I was assuming that he was coming in June but his calendar said

July. **Panic**—but to quote Jim Pope: *Life isn't fair ...so just deal with it!!* In my call for help, Jim Pope stepped up to save my bacon and presented his **Popeisims**—phrases he found very useful in his work and personal life experiences. In July we will hear from Charles Fracchia from ABC News who will be speaking on *Fraud Schemes Targeting Seniors* and in August our speaker will discuss *What China's Global Expansion Means to the West and the US in Particular*.

As I mentioned at our luncheon, Frank Lucas went through the Branch member bios to cull out those who were from Chicago and then contacted them, inviting them to come this July and sit at a CHICAGO TABLE where we can share our experiences in the Windy City and decide who is the better team, the Cubs or the White Sox. We hope to encourage others to attempt a similar gathering of members from their hometown or region. Good way to meet new friends who are old members.

Someone recently wanted to look up one of our members and had a difficult time recognizing him as the picture was from some time ago. It might be a good idea for each of us to see if we recognize our own picture and consider updating it. Also if you have not provided a short bio you might consider doing so.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146

*You're in the liquidation phase of life
This happens at least two times in your life:
when your kids go off to college or you retire.
Plan for it*

SIR Mission Statement

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



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

June's luncheon was well attended with 108 members attending. Our speaker was Jim Pope who gave us his take on "Popeisms—Bring FOCUS Back". His talk was entertaining and food for thought.

Our lunches have been running fairly smoothly since moving to a reservation system. We have implemented a system that will automatically create an email message with your choice of menu option. Not all email systems will work automatically with our automation, but if you find you have a problem. Just send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice.

By getting your meal choice ahead of time, we are better able to be sure that Boundary Oak has your menu choice available. All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we can not guarantee you will get the meal you want or even have a meal. Those "extra" meals are on a first come—first served basis. In addition, those members that do have a reservation should check-in by the 11:30am luncheon start time or you may lose your choice of a meal to someone else.

Luncheon

- **Date:** July 13th, 2023
- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$36 per person
- **Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation, you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. To the right, the menu makes this easy for you to do; simply click the appropriate link.

**If you do not reserve by
Friday July 7th by Noon**

We assume you will not be coming

Reservations are acknowledged by return e-mail

- **Check-In:** 11:00am The meeting starts at 11:30am.
- **Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters

- **If you don't have e-mail:** you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to in-

clude your meal choice from the menu!

- **Change of Plans?** If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to **Friday July 7th by noon.**

Send an e-mail to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members:

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at 925.831.9380 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 July Luncheon
Thursday, July 13th, 2023

Salad
Pear Salad
Baby Field Greens, Julienned Pears, Blue Cheese,
Candied Nuts, Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrées
[Marsala Mushroom Chicken](#)
Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes,
Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Marsala Mushroom Sauce
—or—
[Parmesan Crusted Cod](#)
Orzo Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables
Fire Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce
—or—
[Vegetarian](#)
Manicotti stuffed with Ricotta and Mozzarella
Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert
Strawberry Shortcake
Whipped Cream

Lunch Reservation required!
To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.



Membership George Mon

There were no new members that applied in June.

Dick McElroy decided to resign after thirteen years as a member of our branch. The 2023 membership count is at 247.

If you want to sponsor a new member please go to our website www.sir146.com and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is 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

925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
Secretary	Bob Ford
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 3rd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 3rd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Larry Kaye
Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and e-mail addresses.





Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Beginning in August, for the September issue of SIR-Call, we are going to be changing the cut off date for submission of articles. We will be doing this for three months, through November as an experiment in

releasing SIR-Call to the membership one week earlier than we are currently doing.

Our current publication target is one day before the start of the month... you can expect to see the July issue available on or before June 30th.

This publication date is, however, really not adequate notification for coming events, especially the luncheon where reservations are now required. This past month, June by the time you received the SIR-Call newsletter, you only had one day to respond to attend that month's luncheon! We are trying this as a three month experiment to see if releasing the newsletter one week prior to the first of the month alleviates that problem and helps increase luncheon attendance.

This change in cut off dates obviously means some of the activities (those meeting after the cut) will need to plan ahead a bit more. But remember, the main purpose of the newsletter is to announce coming events. Reporting of concluded events encourages members to participate but are not time sensitive as are "coming attractions"!

So... the cut off date for submissions to the September issue will most likely be August 18th for a target

publication date of August 26. Take a look at your calendar and scheduled events now and start planning how this change of dates will affect you and those activities.

Once we see how well this works (or, perhaps, doesn't work) we will most likely set a permanent date for submission for the following month, probably the middle of the month, the 15th.

The deadline for submissions for the August issue is **July 26th**. 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
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Looking for this month's book report?

This group meets after we go to press. They will be back next month!

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Hank James
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



Ron Afdal
John Alexander
Don Arington
Terry Carlin
Salvatore Costanza
Bob Ford
Reginald Fromm
Joe Fuchs

Pete Gates
Gene Gracey
John Harrington
Craig Kauffman
Steve Lane
Edward Marlovits
Jim Nelson
Steve Sprague

Calvin Tucker
John Wilson
Doug Hansen
Jim Saller
Fletcher Tyler
Glenn Breslin
Roger Stephens
Earl Bates



**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE AUGUST MEETING
ON YOUR CALENDAR**



SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday August 10th, 2023

Salad

Butter Lettuce Salad
Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments, Feta Cheese
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrées

[Pork Milanese](#)

Panko Breaded Port Loin, Creamy Polenta
Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Creamy Caper & Lemon Sauce

—or—

[Coconut Crusted Tilapia](#)

Citrus Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Chardonnay Butter Sauce

—or—

[Vegetarian Lasagna](#)

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake

Lunch Reservation Required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.

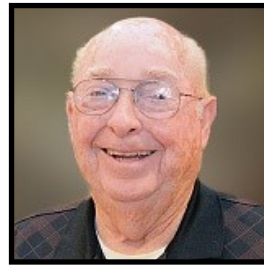


Sunshine
Brian McCarthy



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 e-mail at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



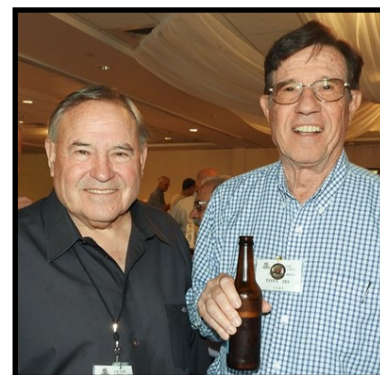
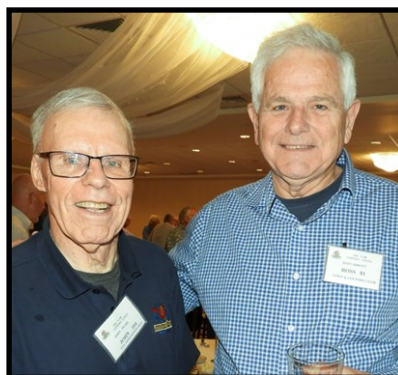
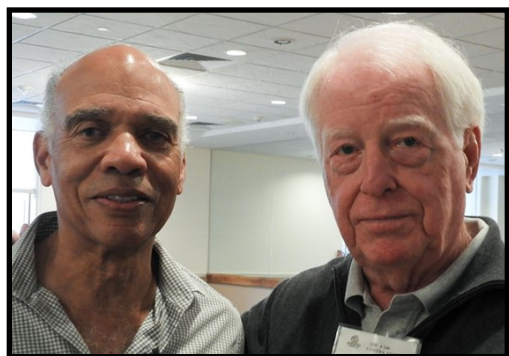
Dick Richmond

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net

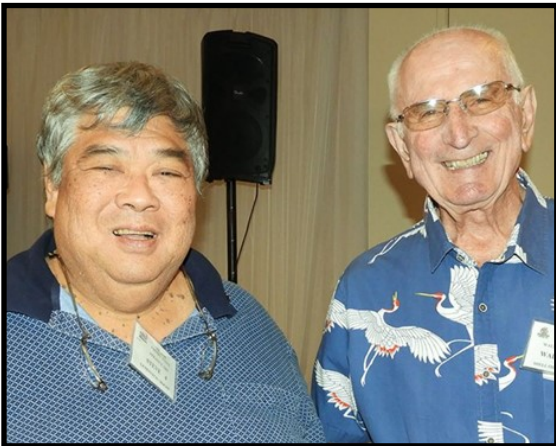
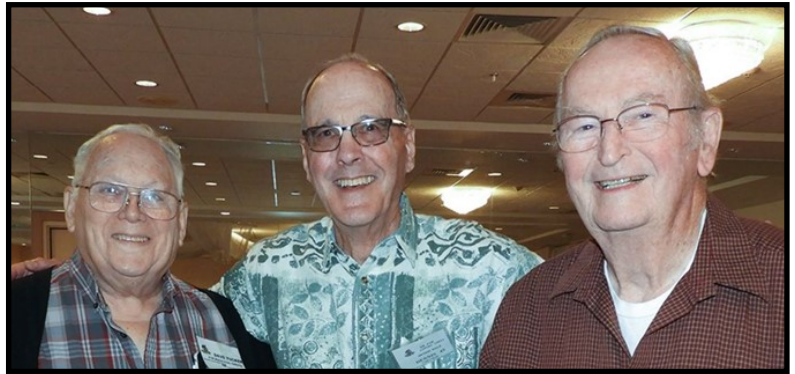
SIR Member	Year Inducted	Member Years
Ken Soult	2018	5 Years
Ken Studer	2018	5 Years
Bob Wilkenfeld	2018	5 Years
Ron Lew	2017	6
John Fitzgerald	2016	7
Steve Dinning	2015	8
Dick Firth	2015	8
John Elstead	2014	9
George Carpenter	2012	11
Brad Hatcher	2012	11
Robert Storkan	2010	13
Dennis Dale	2009	14
Charles Schreiber	2009	14
Bill Holly	2008	15 Years
Pete Bishop	2007	16
Hugh Ferguson	2007	16
Bob Burley	2001	22 Years
Joe Lamanna	1999	24 Years

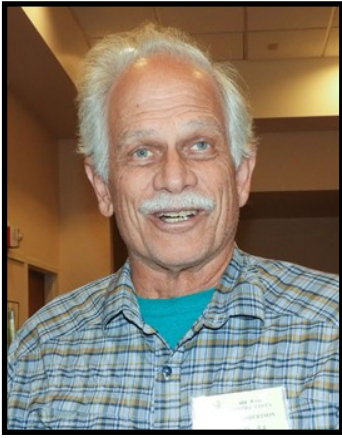
JUNE 2023 LUNCH

Photos by Jim Pope

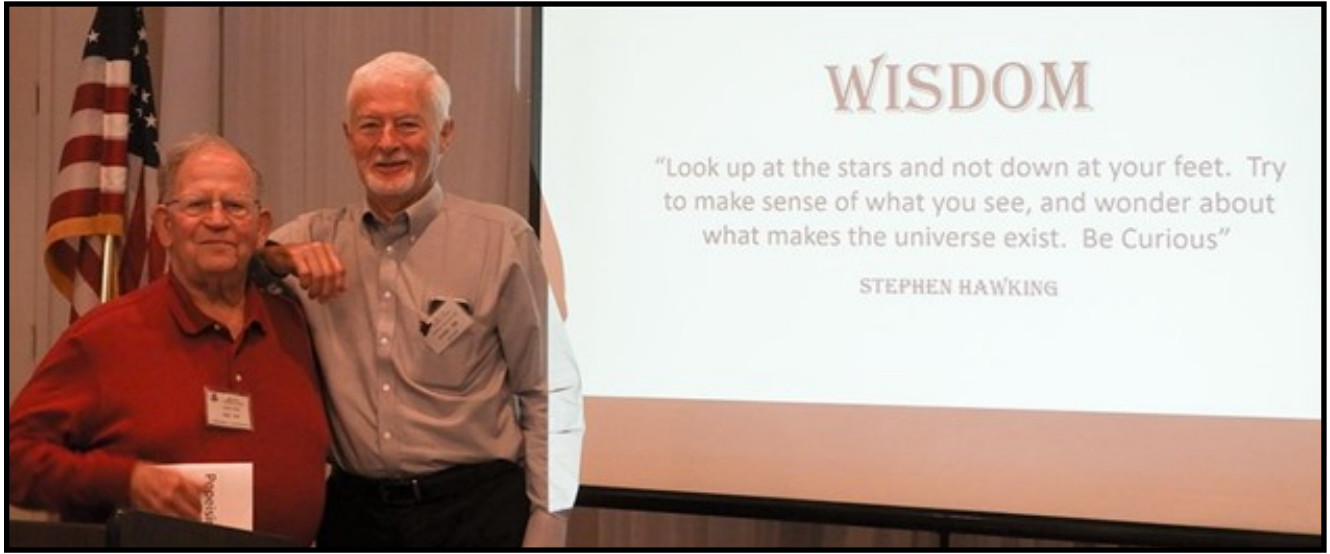














Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Did you know that other local SIR Groups enable SIR146 members to join in on their activities? I recently joined the 15 member SIR8 Heads Up Walkers walking group. It was great to meet new people along the walk and share coffee and conversation with this group afterwards. Below are other SIR group activities (which are also listed at the bottom of the SIR146.com home page) that members are welcome to join.

Astronomy or Science	Heads Up Walkers
Pickleball	Rubber Bridge
SIRs at the Opera	Woodworking
Stamp and Coin	Historical adventures
Car Enthusiast Group	Internet Games
SIRs Giving Back	SIRs in the Garden

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity. and information on who to contact if your are inter-

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar July 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
<p>9:45am – 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge</p> <p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p> <p>4:00pm Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho</p>	<p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF 1</p> <p>12:30pm Poker Group 6</p>	<p>10:00am – 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p>
10	11	12	13	14
<p>8:30am – 10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord</p> <p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>11:30am – 1:30pm Cooking II</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p> <p>2:30pm – 5:00pm Wine Tasting</p>	<p>9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond</p> <p>1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group</p> <p>1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Pizza</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 7 Siete</p>	<p>9:00am – 10:45am BEC Meeting</p> <p>11:30am – 1:00pm SIR Luncheon</p>	<p>12:00pm – 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's Pizza</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno</p>
17	18	19	20	21
<p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>10:00am – 3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1)</p> <p>11:30am – 1:30pm Tres Gourmet</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p>	<p>11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW)</p> <p>7:00pm – 10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1</p>	<p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF 2</p> <p>7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco</p>	<p>10:00am – 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</p> <p>7:00pm – 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro</p>
24	25	26	27	28
<p>8:30am – 10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord</p> <p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00pm Poker Group 3</p> <p>1:00pm Poker Group 4</p> <p>5:30pm Couples Dining out Lemongrass Bistro</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Birding Rocco's Pizza</p> <p>12:30pm – 3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's</p> <p>1:00pm – 2:30pm Guitar Group</p> <p>1:00pm – 3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's</p> <p>1:30pm – 3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom</p> <p>6:45pm – 10:00pm MTD 6 Seis</p>	<p>7:30am – 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC</p> <p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF 3</p>	<p>12:00pm – 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Pizza</p> <p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos</p> <p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres</p>
31	Aug 1	2	3	4
<p>10:00am Hiking</p> <p>12:00pm Table Pool at Masses</p> <p>1:00pm Poker Group 3</p>	<p>9:00am Golf</p> <p>4:00pm Couples Party Bridge</p>	<p>6:30pm – 10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho</p>	<p>9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF 1</p> <p>12:30pm Poker Group 6</p>	<p>10:00am – 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</p>



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

June 9th: The group met on a cloudy blustery morning at Pleasant Hill Park in Pleasant Hill. The cycling group consisted of **Bill Ross, Bob Lucido, Scott Simmons, Roger Meyer, Pat Hoy,**

Mike Wolfson, Moose Kelly, and our elite leader, **Jim Nelson.**

The group headed to the Iron Horse Trail at Pleasant Hill BART station. We were moving along nicely until we crossed Monument Ave to discover that the Iron Horse Trail was closed due to repaving. Jim quickly mapped out an alternative route in his head and moved on. Pushing along on our new route, the wind was relentless in Martinez. We stopped at **Roger's** favorite coffee establishment, State Street Cafe, to refuel and take a breather.

Rejuvenated and in great spirits, the cycling gang focused on getting to Pleasant Hill Park along a steady uphill climb out of Martinez. We stopped close to the top, **Jim Nelson** stated that it was all downhill from here. **Bob Lucido** quickly mentioned that we weren't at the top, which he was correct. Once we did, it was a nice downhill glide on our trusty machines. Another ride in the books with smiling faces and tired legs. The attached picture will attest to that.

June 20th: Five riders led by **Paul Browne** of the Richmond SIRS branch and including **Bill Ross, Roger Meyer, Bob Wilkenfeld,** and **Bob Lucido** from our branch,

left the Martinez Marina on a 25-mile bike the bridges ride. It was a beautiful day for riding with a little wind. The 25-mile ride was to cross both the Carquinez Straits Bridge and Benicia Bridge in a loop that included some hill challenges. Unfortunately, due to some a bike mechanical problem before reaching the first bridge, we unable to complete the ride. Three of the riders went on to do a shorter 15-mile ride towards Port Costa and returning to Martinez over the George Miller Trail. We will attempt the bike the bridges ride again on another day.

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



June SIR 146 Cycling Wacky Group **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer, Moose Kelly, Jim Nelson, Bob Lucido, Scott Simmons.** Photo taken by Paul Brown



June SIR 146 Cycling Group **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer, Scott Simmons, Jim Nelson, Bob Lucido, Moose Kelly.** Photo taken by Paul Brown



Bob Lucido Michael Wolfson, Bill Ross, Pay Hoy, Roger Meyer, Scott Simmons, Jim Nelson.



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



Niles Canyon Railway Tour

Signup Deadline July 17th

Tour July 28th 10:00

Sunol Station 6 Kilkare Road Sunol, CA



A railroad museum where the exhibits come to life!

The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. operates Niles Canyon Railway as a living history museum interpreting the importance of our heritage railroads in the development of California and the nation. The purpose of the organization is to preserve the physical aspects and atmosphere of Pacific Coast railroading during the period from 1910 to 1960. Our mission is to develop and operate a working railroad museum for the benefit of the general public. Operating historic railroad equipment using standard railroad practices for train crews, signaling, block operations, and equipment maintenance.

- Preserving the atmosphere of railroads in small-town America before the 1960s by connecting the historic communities of Sunol, the Niles District of Fremont, and eventually Pleasanton.
- Providing educational programs for schools, civic organizations, and community events.
- Instructing the public in railroad history, tradition, and the evolution of rail transportation technology.

The Pacific Locomotive Association also has railroad artifacts on display and interpretive educational exhibits at the Sunol Depot.

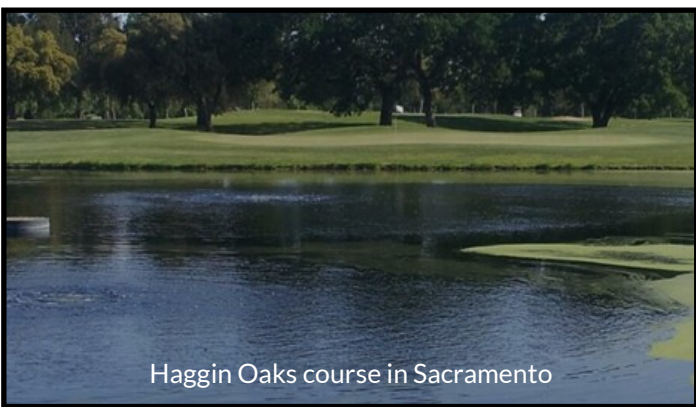
**Signup: send a check for \$8/person (SIR146 w/ note: Railway Tour) to
Jim Pope, 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507.**

Lunch following at [Bosco's Bones & Brew](#), 11930 Main Street, Sunol, across the street from the Niles Canyon Railway Station. Lunch details to follow.



GOLF **Ed Marlovits**

Last month we announced the SIR State Team Championships. There will be no qualifying events and the Championship will be held at the Alistair MacKenzi-designed Haggin Oaks course in Sacramento. You can choose to play on Thursday, August 18 or Friday, August 19. Region 1 leads the way with 15 teams signed up, Region 3 is next with 8 teams, Region 4 with 3 teams, Region 2 with just 2 teams and, finally, Branch 146's Region 5 has just one team signed up. We are hoping to have 50 teams.



Haggin Oaks course in Sacramento

Two other major state events are planned. The Reno outing will be September 5-7 based at the Silver Legacy Hotel. The State Individual Championship will be October 5 at The Reserve Golf Course at Spanos Park in Stockton. It now appears that the regional individual qualifying events will not be held and the state championship event will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be seven flights.

For further information visit the SIR Golf webpage at <https://www.sirgolf.org/>.

Ed Marlovits



Nine Hole Golf **Group** **Bob Ford**

We have really been enjoying our newest members. Several members that normally play at 18 hole courses have started to join us when they don't have time for 18 or want to work on their short game. If you find yourself in this situation just let me know and I will add you to our list. Our group tees off at 9:30am 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. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, 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

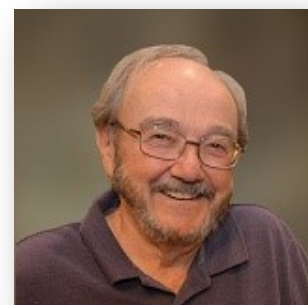


Table Pool **Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry**

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact Jim or Bill for complete information

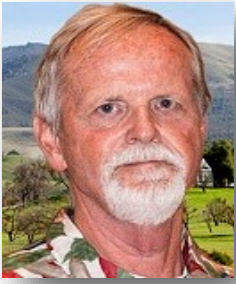
Reported by Jim Barry

jbarry@sbcglobal.net

Bill Weinberg

billw1026@astound.net 925.682.0962

Once upon a time there was a King who was only 12 inches tall. He was a terrible King but he made a great ruler.



Photography Group

John “Moose” Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group met at Rocco’s on Friday, June 23rd. The group consisted of the following: **Henry Thatcher, Ron Polivka, Frank Terzuoli, Michael Rothman, Bobbie Schmidt, Richard Lyon, Dave Tucker, Dean Mayer, Glenn Breslin, Steve Dick, The Oki’s (Steve, Sue, and Dad Oki), Clint Collier, and Moose Kelly.**

Henry and I wanted to give a shout out to **Ron Polivka** for providing donuts for the group. Thank you, **Ron!!** We also wanted to give a shout out and welcome **Steve Dick** to the photography group. Steve is an experienced local photography high school teacher.

The June 23rd meeting topics were varied. We discussed our recent outing to the De Young Museum to view the Ansel Adams exhibit: *In Our Time*. We had a group of 14 that attended the exhibit. Please see the picture attached. Then **Dave Tucker** presented his slide show on the recent SIR trip to the Shadelands Museum in March. Additionally, we viewed a video from **David Morrow** on tips of forest photography by adjusting various settings on your camera to allow or deny extra lighting into the picture. **Frank Terzuoli** and **Richard Lyon** reviewed their photos (attached) on spring time lighting in around Mt Diablo –Grizzly Peak. Another topic was the recent Bouquet to Arts Program at the De Young Museum which shows flower creations that are juxtaposed to a painting. **Michael Rothman** and **Moose Kelly** presented photos (attached) displaying this situation. The group viewed two videos: the first was an overview on Motorola Razr Flip Phone; the second video was on the seven top compact cameras in 2023.

The group discussed various photo shoot outings and activities for the coming summer–fall time period. **Steve Dick** suggested going to Pier 24 in San Francisco to visit a photography museum. Other ideas were a shoot in Half Moon Bay by **Frank Terzuoli**, the financial district in downtown SF by **Ron Polivka**, the Presidio and the Tree Tops by **Michael Rothman**. Plenty of ide-

as but now it’s time to execute and have fun!!!
Soooooo come and join us!!!

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to one of our meetings to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John “Moose” Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you information on upcoming meetings.

Be safe, be well and be sure to “Say Cheese!”

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Bouquet to Arts by **Michael Rothman**

[More Photography Photos on next Page](#)

More Photography Photos



Bouquet to Arts by **Moose Kelly**

Group Picture at Ansel Adams Exhibit "In Our Time" at De Young Museum



Flowing Spring Landscape by **Richard Lyon**



Threatening Clouds by **Frank Terzuoli**



Travel Glenn Breslin

I very much look forward enabling SIRs to share travel experiences with other SIR members. SIR Travel **goals** are to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together !! Guests of SIR members are welcome to also join in. Bring them along !

Two International Trips Planned for 2024.

Many people have signed up already, it would be nice to have you along !! Join us in the Fun !!

1. **Best of Spain and Portugal**—Alamo Travel and Insight Vacations

- 15-day trip
- 4/27/24 to 5/12/24
- Includes roundtrip airfare, tours, hotels, all breakfasts and five dinners and two lunches—including wine
- \$200 per person discount offered if your \$325 deposit is received by September 1, 2023
- \$7,395 per person.



- Price discounted if you book your own travel. See me for details.

2. **Memorials of World War II, England and France**—Collette Travel

- 10-day trip
- 9/6/24 to 9/15/24
- Includes round trip airfare, tours, eight breakfasts and four dinners—including wine.
- \$300 per person discount still currently available as of this writing.
- \$4,999 per person. Take \$1,600 off if you plan to book airfare on your own.
- Only 10 total slots allocated to SIR146 - 6 slots are still available. 4 slots currently accounted for. \$698 deposit to hold your slot.



Quotes

"Sharing adventures means enjoying them 100% more."

"A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed."

I look forward to traveling with you!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

The wild flower displays that we have observed on the recent hikes are still fabulous and plentiful. It's interesting to note that each species seems to come out at different times of the spring! I expect that we will enjoy these flower displays through July and maybe even into August.

We recently have walked in Briones Regional Preserve starting from the Bear Creek trailhead with the first leg on Black Oak trail. This hike was almost 7 miles and about 1000 feet of climbing. We started with 10 hikers and 2 dropped out after not too long because most of the climb was in the first 2 miles.

The other hike of note was in the Diablo Foothills. The route chosen on Stage Road required 4 crossings of Pine Creek which still has a fair amount of water flowing. Nobody got too wet. One of my favorite trails, Little Yosemite, was the second leg. And we finished on the Briones to Mount Diablo and Fairy Lantern trails. This hike was in the order of 5 miles with 800 feet of climbing.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I—we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com

Scientifically, a raven has 17 primary wing feathers, the big ones at the end of the wing. They are called pinion feathers. A crow has 16. So, the difference between a raven and a crow is only a matter of a pinion.



L/R on bench: Roger Meyer, Karen & Bob Lively,
Back: Mike Browne, Mark Curtis, Gene Schulting, Ray
Martz
Bob Wilkenfeld took photo



Earl Bates, Mike Wolfson, Roger Meyer, Bob Wilkenfeld
(Kneeling), Jim Nelson, Ray Martz, Karen & Bob Lively with
2 guests, and Mike Browne



I've seen a lot of White Mariposa Lilies.
This Yellow version is not commonly seen.



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Fishing was fair this month and you will note that there will be no mention of salmon (closed this year) or sturgeon (not biting) in this report.

Halibut fishing is erratic. Some good days. Some bad days. **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 had the misfortune to pick a bad day. He was fishmaster for a group of five fishing on the *Sundance* that brought home just two halibut---one caught by the captain and the other by the deckhand! **Paul's** son did catch a shaker halibut and **Dave Rege** landed two stripers, one of which was a keeper. On the other hand, a group that fished on the *Sundance* later in the month that included **Lee Clark** of Branch 146, **Doug Dukes**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Brion Beetz**, and **Carl Moyer**, caught nine halibut and seventeen stripers, all keepers.

Carl Moyer caught limits of rockfish on two trips, as well as ling cod and sablefish (also known as black cod). As of now, one can only fish for rockfish at a depth of 300 feet or more, but this limitation will end as of July 16.

A big event for us was a four-day trip to La Paz, Mexico taken by **Stan Wong**, **Brion Beetz**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Steve Paulick**, **Tom Chapman**, **Dave Havlik**, **Ken Bellindir**, and **Dave Miller**. They caught yellowfin tuna, dorado, pompano, and bonita. The highlight was a 70 lb. wahoo that **Gordon** landed after a 20-minute fight.

Phil Scimonelli fished at the Antioch Pier and landed over 50 small stripers. He and **Mike Browne** of Branch 146 also tried their luck at the Point Pinole Pier, where they caught small stripers and lots of smelt. **Mike** also caught four leopard sharks. This was **Mike's** last outing as a member of our group because he is moving to Ohio to be closer to his sons.

Black bass fishing in the Delta has slowed substantially, although **Tom Kostik** did catch 37 of the fighters on two separate trips. San Pablo Reservoir continues to

produce trout. **Bob Lively** of Branch 146 caught limits on two trips and **Carl Moyer** caught four large rainbows on another trip.

Shadow Cliffs Reservoir may soon be back in the picture. Its water level has been extremely low for the past two years, but it is currently full. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is going to stock it with lots of catfish later this month and so we are looking forward to some fine fishing there soon. However, at least for now, fishing will be limited to the shore and no boats can be launched so that swimmers can be protected.

Speaking of catfish, **Steve Dick** of Branch 146 caught a few of the bewhiskered ones fishing from a dock on Bethel Island.

Up in the Sierras, **Ernie Wong**, fly fished on the Yuba River and caught and released a bevy of shad. **Pete Gates** of Branch 146 made his annual trip to the Middle Fork of the Feather River near Blaisden and was rewarded with a catch of rainbow trout. He also

found a mill pond near Graeagle that had earlier been the site of fishing derby and caught a bunch of trout that had apparently eluded the derby participants.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings, even if you have never fished before. During the balance of the summer, we plan to continue to fish for halibut in the bay, rockfish in the ocean, black bass and stripers in the Delta, and trout and catfish at San Pablo Reservoir and other local venues. In addition, we have scheduled several guided striper trips in the Delta and a kokanee outing at Stampede Reservoir near

Truckee. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, July 27, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30am, but many of us gather at 7:00am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. For further information, feel free to call .

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Gordon Linebaugh displays a 70 lb. wahoo which he landed after a 20 minute fight



Birding Frank Lucas

Castle Rock State Park, Just South of Boundary Oak... We saw and heard 25 species and traveled 2.2 miles round trip. The Rock Wren, spotted by Steve, was the best of the

day. Our Tally:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 California Quail | 2 Oak Titmouse |
| 2 Wild Turkey | 1 Wren Tit |
| 1 Band-tailed Pigeon | 3 White-breasted Nuthatch |
| 3 Mourning Dove | 1 Rock Wren |
| 6 White-throated Swift | 1 House Wren |
| 3 Anna's Hummingbird | 2 Western Bluebirds |
| 4 Turkey Vulture | 5 House Finch |
| 10 Acorn Woodpecker | 3 Lesser Goldfinch |
| 1 Nuttall's Woodpecker | 2 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon) |
| 2 Black Phoebe | 2 Spotted Towhee |
| 5 Ash-throated Flycatcher | 1 Brown-headed Cowbird |
| 6 California Scrub-Jay | 1 Collared Dove (heard) |
| 3 American Crow On their Nest | |



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are working on our new repertoire of songs for our July performance. We have included old favorites such as "Sloop John B" and "Cool Water" to go along with folk favorites "If I Had a Hammer" and "This Land is Your Land."

Our next rehearsal is on July 5 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be introducing this new set of songs for a July 6 performance at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

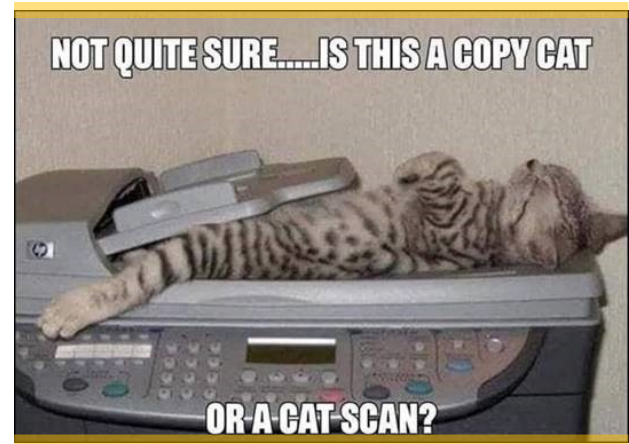
Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



Pictured are Ted Robertson, Steve Loftin, and Glenn Reslin.

Our outing next month might be to the Lafayette Reservoir area.

Frank Lucas
925.316.6122 frank.lucas1105@gmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns for the July Luncheon. There's a great selection in hardcover or paperback. Come by and take home some of your favorite authors.



I was walking in the jungle and saw a lizard on his hind legs telling jokes. I turned to a local tribal leader and said, "That lizard is really funny!" The leader replied, "That's not a lizard. He's a stand-up chameleon."



Walking Glenn Breslin

The Co-Ed SIR146 Walking Group walks for 1 to 1 1/2 hours along paved surfaces (e.g., Iron Horse or other local trails). The SIR146 Walkers enjoy getting out, catching up with friends, making new friends and enjoying entertaining conversation with fellow SIR members. Many times, we will go out for coffee afterwards to continue the fun. We walk on the first and third Thursday, each month. For some walks, we join the SIR8-Walnut Creek Walking Group. They have a large walking group and also walk on nearby trails. SIR8 Walking website can be found here: [Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 \(sirbr8.com\)](http://Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 (sirbr8.com)). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from another local SIR groups and to walk on new and different trails.



Contact me if you care to join.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

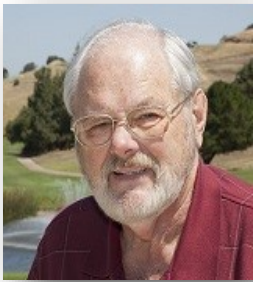
SIR 146 Bocce Ball is alive, active, and always looking for new or past players.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Theater Gary Schaub

"How'd He Do That?"

That was the big question on everybody's mind when the magicians at the California Magic Club did their best to not only entertain but also to surprise, twenty-two members and guests at the SIR Branch 146 Theater Party in downtown Martinez on May 5.

After a three-course dinner, accompanied by a trio of roving magicians stopping by each table to amaze us with their card tricks, we greeted Master Illusionist Alex Ramon for a spectacular show with lots of audience involvement. Alex Ramon is known nationally for his performances at Harvey's Lake Tahoe, in Las Vegas with Penn and Teller, and his Annual holiday specials at Walnut Creek's Leshner Center for the Arts.



Big Sir Bob Wilkenfeld shares long hidden magic secrets with Master Illusionist Alex Ramon



"Which card did you choose?" asks magician Jeff Zell to a group of amazed SIR members?

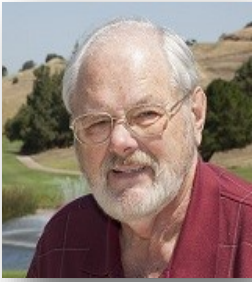


California Magic Club's "Magic Team"
Michael Nguyen, Alex Ramon, and host Gerry Griffin
John Gardener, Jeff Zell

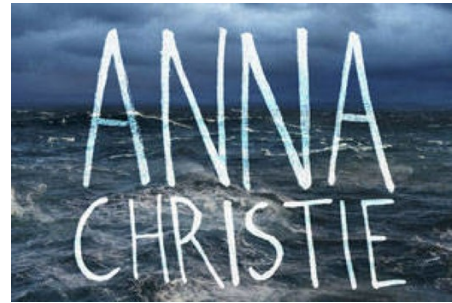


Corrie and Sue Oranje had ringside seats for the best show in Martinez on May 5.





**Theater
Gary Schaub**



THREE SIR BRANCHES JOIN FOR A THEATER PARTY FOR O'NEILL'S "ANNA CHRISTIE" ON SEPTEMBER 15

Three area Branches of SIR are working together to promote a Theater Party for an award-winning play by Pulitzer-Prize playwright Eugene O'Neill at Danville's Tao House.

"Anna Christie" will be staged in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the hills above Danville on Friday evening September 15 for a 7:30 p.m. performance.

Members of SIR Branch 146, Branch 116 and Branch 128 have joined together for this Theater Party event. A special discount is available for members and guests of these three SIR Branches.

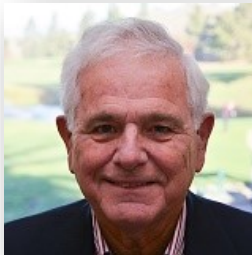
Tickets are \$60. pp on sale on the Eugene O'Neill's Foundation's website beginning July 6 and until August 15 when non-discounted tickets will go on sale to the general public.

There will be a special page on this website offering a limited number of \$5. discounts for members of the three SIR Branches.

Click on <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/sirs-tickets-to-anna-christie-sept-15/>.

Information on required shuttle access to the National Historic Site via NPS from Museum of San Ramon Valley in downtown Danville will be provided on the website: eugeneoneill.org.

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. He lived at Tao House in the hills above Danville from 1936-1943, where he authored many notable works including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh." "Anna Christie" premiered in the 1920s, and evolved to become one of O'Neill's most popular works, and one of his only two comedies.



**Dixieland Band
Ross Abbott**

So far, the band consists of **Ross Abbott** on piano, **Chuck Cornell** on trombone, **Bud Pierce** on banjo and a ring-in friend of **Ross'**, Jim Patrick, on Stumpf

fiddle, spoons and other sundry instruments which always guarantees a fun event.

We play stuff like, *Darktown Strutters Ball*, *Beer Barrel Polka*, *Five Foot Two*, and *Carolina* and would welcome anyone who plays an instrument and enjoys this type of music.

Ross Abbott

925.939.1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com

When squirrels come across an especially spectacular nut, they'll often gather and stare in amazement... very similar to how they're looking right now.





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

All eight members of the LAW (Lunch and Wine) cooking group met at **Bob Spellman's** home for our monthly gathering. We started in **Bob's** backyard patio

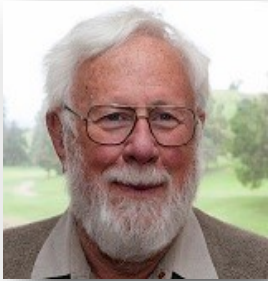
and enjoyed a round of appetizers consisting of various cheeses, salami, olives, peanuts and grapes and of course also enjoyed the wine contributed to the event by the attendees. Surprisingly, there was little discussion of world affairs and politics. Perhaps we now realize that no minds get changed notwithstanding how erudite we are. We did talk about travel, given that since our last luncheon, **Henry Thatcher** traveled to Alaska where he was lucky enough to get a nice view of Denali; **Bill Hartman** traveled to Mount Rushmore and nearby Deadwood in South Dakota; **Syd Whalen** visited family in eastern Canada; and **Pete Gates** toured the Texas wine country. Yes, there is wine country in Texas! It is in the hills between San Antonio and Austin.

After the wine and appetizers, we moved indoors where **Bob** treated us to tri-tips accompanied by a tomato and orzo salad and followed by an ice cream and cookie dessert.

While we were having a good time at **Bob's** home, our spouses and significant others had a hearty dim sum lunch in Walnut Creek.

Our next luncheon will be at Joe Barry's home on July 19.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

For our June meeting we all gathered at Kobi, a Japanese teppan restaurant in Pleasant Hill, since, in addition to their teppan offerings, they have an extensive sushi menu.

It turned out that our timing was spot on; they were running a June sushi special of three rolls for two people to share. We promptly paired up and took advantage of this significant discount to get a great sushi lunch for under \$40 per person, an unfortunately rare occurrence these days of high inflation! Since there were seven of us that left an odd man out... so we ordered four lunches for two, resulting in significant left overs since each lunch was wonderfully substantial.

Here we all are, ready to dig in...



Bruce Borgman, Bart Gledhill, Paul Dubow, me, Clint Collier, Brian McCarthy, Big Sir Bob Wilkenfeld, and Fletcher Tyler. Gentlemen, start your chop sticks!

For our next outing on August 17th we'll head for [Jo's Honda Sushi](#) in Pleasant Hill.

Clint Collier
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Your Dining Out hosts again were challenged to come up with a restaurant selection for July that would be a somewhat unique and enjoyable experience. We considered several suggestions from our diners which we checked out, and we dined at a few. We reviewed our binder of past choices and hit upon one that we had been to in 2016, but to which we had not returned. That choice was Lemongrass Bistro in Martinez. Some of you may be familiar with this establishment which has become a hidden treasure of a unique cuisine in what may be a less visited area of Contra Costa County. This restaurant is located on Main Street in Martinez in an upbeat, cozy “bistro” setting, but, really, you should know, and is lauded for its cuisine. Lemongrass Bistro focuses on creating dishes that combine the aromatic qualities of Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia, emphasizing the customs inherent in dining as a family. Inherent also are the effects of Southeast Asian herbs and spices and you will enjoy the visual presentation which will enhance your dining experience.

We reviewed the menu selections which we chose back in 2016, and really, could not improve on those, although we continue to dialogue with the restaurant to adjust those earlier choices. You will find the flyer on the next page but know that we may make some minor adjustments in the next week or so. To whet

your appetite though, we will have two starters—the avocado rolls and grilled chicken skewers, followed by a green salad, coconut soup, and several entrees, including their signature garlic prawns, and mango chicken and the Pad Thai. We’ll also have a dessert. The dishes are served family style.

Wow, you say, I don’t want to miss out on this July’s restaurant selection. But here is the bad news. Even though we will effectively take over the restaurant on Monday the 24th of July, it is a smaller establishment, and we are limited to just 50 diners. As is our practice, you must send me an email to reserve your spot and follow up with a check. Since these dishes will be served family style, the cost of the dinner is just \$52 per person, including tax and gratuity. Again, this type of presentation of this very savory cuisine is much more economical than the traditional plated meals, and I know you will not be disappointed.

As noted earlier, this is a smaller restaurant, and is limited to beer and wine for our social hour and no-host cocktails. The corkage is just \$15 if you bring your own.

We are looking forward to sharing this Southeast Asian cuisine with our SIR gourmands and to enjoying your company!

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



COUPLES DINING OUT

Monday July 24, 2023

Social hour – no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

Avocado Rolls

Fresh rice paper rolls stuffed with vermicelli rice noodles, avocado, lettuce, carrots, cucumber, mint leaves, and cilantro.
Served with side of peanut sauce.

Grilled Chicken Skewers

Chicken breast marinated with yellow curry, coconut milk, lemongrass, and Kaffir lime leaves. Served with a side of peanut sauce and cucumber salad.

Green Salad

Mixed greens, cucumber, carrots, red onions, tomatoes and avocado
Served with a with a side of sesame dressing.

Coconut Soup

Coconut milk, mushrooms, bamboo shoots galangai, and cilantro

Lemongrass Fried Rice

Fried rice, eggs, pineapple, raisins, cashew nuts, onions and curry powder

Garlic Prawns

Prawns sauteed with butter, garlic cilantro, shrimp paste, tomato paste, and black pepper. Served with vegetables.

Mango Chicken

Chicken sauteed with sliced mango, bell pepper, string beans, onions, and yellow curry powder.

Pad Thai

Rice noodles, eggs, tofu, bean sprouts, onions, and crushed peanuts.

Dessert



LEMONGRASS
B I S T R O

501 Main Street, Martinez

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com, Confirm with check to Sir 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl,
Walnut Creek 94598.

\$52.00 per person, including tax and tip.

LIMITED TO 50 DINERS!!! Served family style.

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

The train arrived on time at platform 3067 Friday, June 9th with 10 passengers on board. **Peter and Martha Plante**

hosted a delightful evening of fun!

Both **Alicia Baily** and **Richard Hockenbrock** went out 5 times but even with that **Alicia** did not place and **Richard** only came in 3rd. Big winners were hostess **Martha Plante** (first) followed by **Bruce Borgman**, second, followed by **Richard Hockenbrock**.

We thank **Peter and Martha** for a fun evening. We were treated to blueberry cheesecake squares and black and white brownies. Delicious goodies all around!

Susan Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Richard Hockenbrock, Martha Plante,
Bruce Borgman Sue

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our May game at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**. We had only nine players as many of our group

were not able to be there. The weather did not cooperate, and **Clint** was not able to use his outdoor tables.

All enjoyed the snacks and goodies **Bev** put out. The lemon squares especially were too sweet and tasty!

Coming in first was **Rich Ahlf** with a fabulous 5.7 average score! Second place was taken by our hostess, **Bev Collier** and **Ismini MacLean** came in third. Our next game is scheduled for Friday, June 23rd at the home of **Dan and Mary Holland**.

Ron Plachy
925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Group Tres 3

Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

On May 26th, the ole dependable choo choo left the roundhouse and traveled through the countryside to the hillside home Sharon

Varner for a joyful night of good ole MTD's. In addition to Sharon, there was Lynn Shafer, Joyce Wells and Jim Barry, Linda Siljestrom and Sue and Walt Busenius. We feasted on table snacks and an abundance of delicious desserts, as well as Sharon's charming hospitality.

We gathered around the dining room table and had fun and good spirited competition. Our scores were higher than usual, but no one cares because winning is winning after socializing is socializing. The outcome of this match was all decided in the last game. Like horse racing, there was back-and-forth jostling until it became a photo finish. Linda Siljestrom turned on the jets to leap into first place, followed by Joyce Wells in 2nd place, and Lynn Shafer grabbing the 3rd prize.

On June 23rd, the Mexican train will exit the roundhouse after this SIR-Call is published. But that will not deter us from telling you next month about our good ole time at the home of Alicia Baily. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



L to R: Lynn Shafer, 3rd, Linda Siljestrom 1st, Joyce Wells 2nd



Group Quatro

Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

On June 16th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominoes group met at Jim and Renie Pope's home with 10 people. In attendance this evening were;

Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, and Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steven and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope. The sweets, savories and wine were provided by several in the group. We all wished the fathers in attendance A Happy Father's Day. We played at two tables of five. We paid the player at each table with low table score 5 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were Renie Pope and Kim Pace (see in pictures). The two individuals with the table high score at were Ron Louis and Fran Matthews awarded one Lotto tickets. (Photos were taken by Jim Pope) The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on July 21th.



Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

After taking the month of April off due to 12 of our 16 members/alternates traveling, on May 24, 2023, the MTD 6

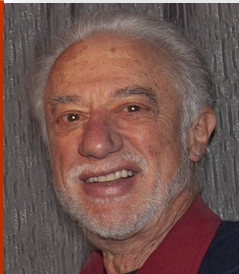
reconvened at our host **Bruce and Sue Borgman's** home to catch up on travel stories and play some dominos. Thanks much to the **Borgmans**. Attendees were **Bruce and Sue Borgman, Brian and Mary McCarthy, Martha and Peter Plante, Ann and John Kendrick, Jim Nelson, Kathe Mitchell, and Steve Lane.**

In the winner's circle were **Kathe Mitchell (10.4)** followed by **Steve Lane (12.1)** and **Mary McCarthy (12.6)**, top picture.

We look forward to our next get together on June 28, 2023, at the home of **Kathe Mitchell.**

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Bob & Jane West hosted our MTD 7 this month.

Bob West came in first with an average score of 16 for a prize of \$21, **Clint Collier** came in at a close second of 16.8 and won \$12, and **Jane West** got back her entry fee of \$3 with an average score of 17.3.

It was very suspicious that the couple that hosted the evening both won.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



I tried to come up with a carpentry pun that woodwork.
I thought I nailed it but nobody saw it.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

Vacations cut into the number of players we had for our June 7th gathering of Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO. Still, we had

thirteen enthusiastic players seated around three tables hoping to cash in on some portion of the collected \$39 prize money. On this evening, **Steve Ybarra** provided a wide array of delightful food and snacks including a delicious homemade cake that completely disappeared by the time everyone was heading home.

The picture below shows the top three winners. **Steve Loftin** took first with an average score of 10.25, followed by **Susan Terzuoli** in second place with a score of 12.0. Rounding out the winners, in third place, was **Steve Dinning** with an overall score of 19.1.

The two high scores for the evening were achieved by **Alicia Baily** 36.9 and **Steve Ondeck** 36.6 which shows convincingly that LUCK is the dominant factor in determining how well one does in playing Mexican Train Dominoes!

Our next game will be played on July 5th with **Richard Hockenbrock** providing the snacks. We had seven

open slots unfilled for June so if you would like to play as a substitute, especially during these summer months, send me an email and I'll try and work you in.

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



Winners Steve Loftin, Susan Terzuoli, and Steve Dinning



CA Scratcher Recipients
 Alicia Baily and
 Steve Ondeck



June's assembled Players



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

Bob Lucido

Brian & Mary McCarthy hosted the game this month.

Brian McCarthy won first place with an average score of 16.3 and was rewarded with \$21. **Claire Kingsbury** came in second place with an average score of 19.7 and won a prize of \$12.

Finally, **Jane West** came in third place with a score of 20.75 and won a measly \$3, but was still happy winning something.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the May SIR-Call submission, we met on May 26th and June 9th. The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** with 4 wins and **Bill Vizza** with 3. **Frank Lucas** led in 2nds with 4 fol-

lowed by **Norm Cox**(BR8) with 3.

The lowest average score was **Steve Ybarra** with 68, closely followed by **Bill Vizza** with 73.

Steve Ybarra "Shot the Moon" three times with a little help. Once someone did not pass him a heart and the 2nd time someone did not cover the heart they passed him which was his only heart.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 15 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 9.5 and **Steve Ybarra** quickly gaining with 9. Steve won 4 games this month and 3 last month.

Frank Lucas leads with a winning percentage of 50%. With his wins in the last 2 months **Steve Ybarra** is now 2nd in win % with 39%. Most Improved is **Steve** with 235% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 227%. **Rich Lyon** has the lowest avg score of 67.7 followed by **Bill Vizza** with 73.2.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in July on the 14th and 28th.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robertawest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Poker Group 6 met on our usual first Thursday of the month in June. **Frank Lucas** hosted the event with the usual beverages and snacks.

For those of us facing outside, **Frank's** bird feeders provided added interest.

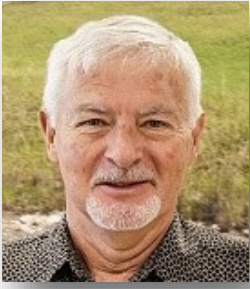
Speaking of interest, the results of the game provided losses for several and a significant gain to **Paul Dubow**. The gain probably need not be reported to the IRS but it was among the best returns in a long time. Congrats **Paul!**

We continue to look for additional players and/or substitutes. Come join our group of happy card players. If interested, please contact **Brad Hatcher**.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

**THEY SAY 40 IS THE NEW 30
AND 50 IS THE NEW 40, BUT ALL I
KNOW IS THE OLDER I GET, THE
MORE 9PM IS THE NEW
MIDNIGHT.**



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Our group met at the home of Janet and Bob Yolland and we began the evening with a toast by Bob Yolland to the memory of

Gloria Pearce, Bud's wife who succumbed to cancer in May. Bud and Gloria were members of our group for over a year and great fun to be with! We all miss them!! Our group for the evening included two guest couples, Sue and Steve Loftin and Joan and Dave Pierce. The nibble's table was graced with homemade lemon squares, crunchy candies, crackers, cheeses, fresh cherries and of course wines, sodas and coffee. When we were not too busy with the good food we managed to sneak in a few games of cards. Honors for the evening went to Christy and Dick DeVoe for third place with 21 points, Janet and Bob Yolland for second

with 22.5 points and our guests for the evening Joan and Dave Pierce took first place honors with 25 points. Many thanks to our guests and hosts for a great evening. We will take the month of July off as three of the couples are traveling. In August we meet at the home of Rich and Ismini.

John Kluesener
john@klueseners.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

June and the living is easy, but some of the hands were not at all easy when Ken and Elaine Richter hosted us on June 13th.

When the fray ended, the top three teams varied only by half a match point. Last month the hosts were first,

and once again the hosts were rewarded for their excellent hospitality. Ken and Elaine (somewhat to their surprise) were first (56%). Dick and Christy DeVoe were second (55%), and Joan and Dave Pierce were third (54%). A very tight match. No slams were bid on, although Joan made 7NT on a part score hand with very unusual distribution. You don't see a score of 270 very often.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 2 Event with three tables was nicely hosted by Dave Steinberg on Friday, June 2.

Max Hinkle was in his element. He took 1st Place overall, 1st Place for the 1st half, and 1st Place for the 2nd half! For good measure, he tied for most twos and had only one zero all day. There just was no stopping him. Bob Yolland and John Kluesener were 2nd and 3rd respectively.

- 1st Place- Max Hinkle- 32.0 pts.
- 2nd Place- Bob Yolland- 29.0.
- 3rd Place- John Kluesener- 28.0.
- 4th Place- Brad Hatcher-26.5.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (3 boards, with 5.5-6.0 pts.)
Boards 4-6: Ray Spears/Joe Fuchs- 6.0 pts!
Boards 19-21: Tony Greco/John Kluesener and Bob Yolland/Max Hinkle- 5.5.

MOST TWO'S
Bob Yolland and Max Hinkle-9 each

LEAST ZEROS
Max Hinkle- 1!

Richard Devoe
dickchristy@comcast.net

Final



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

John & Kathy Kluesener hosted our June 6th event. For this event we had 4 regular couples and 2 subbing couples. We thank **Jerry & Christine Benoit** and **Dick & Maggie Chaffee** for subbing for **Brad & Lynne**

Hatcher and **Dick & Christy DeVoe**.

The cards were kind with a fairly even distribution of points in each hand throughout the event. Everyone scored points for each round with the exception of one couple for only one round. Consequently, the final scores were very close with a total point spread of only 450 points between 2nd and 6th place. Also, everyone's final score was over 2000 points. **Larry & Linda Brown** took the lead after the 1st round and led the pack throughout the event. Congratulations on your consistent play and 1st place finish!

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 3580 points – **Larry & Linda Brown**

2nd PLACE with 2540 points – **Dick & Maggie Chaffee**

3rd PLACE with 2360 points – **Tony & Cindy Greco**

Next month's event has been cancelled due to the Independence Day, 4th of July Holiday. Our next event will be held on **August 1st** and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**.

Have a Great Holiday!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a wonderful day of bridge on June 5th at the home of **Max Hinkle**. As usual, he was a terrific host with great ambience and goodies. **Max Hinkle** was also winner for the day with a high score of 5,630 followed by **Bill Snyder** with 5,510 and **Dave Steinberg** with 5090.

This was the last game of the six-month contest. 12 players qualified for the contest; each having played in at least four games of the six months. The six-month winners were **Joe Fuchs** with an average score of 5,398 followed by **Ray Spears** with 4,698 and **Bill Snyder** with 4,270. There were five different monthly winners in that six-month period which demonstrates how competitive we all are. The average score for the six-monthly winners was 5,825 which shows the great skill of the winners. Congratulations.

Our next game will be on Monday July 10th at Boundary Oak GC hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning**.



Co-Directors

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



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

Duplicate Bridge III held it's June meeting on Friday the 16th at the home of **Jim Pope**. **Jim** provided a nice assortment of snacks and delicious peach and cherry cobblers for dessert. **Tony Graco** and **Joe Fuchs** led the way in the 1st half. At the end of the day, **Tony** held on for 1st overall with 29.5 pts. Our next game will be on July 21st at **Bob Yolland** 's.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com

Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

If anyone has been thinking they might like to take a look at this card group, now would be a good time, as summer travel plans have typically created several openings at recent gatherings on the second and fourth Weds. of each month.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Area 16 Activities



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wednesday July 26 at 1:30pm. The topic will be announced.

E-mail Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

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!

**"BRANCH 116 AND SIR STATE GOLF INVITE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US THIS SUMMER IN RENO"
TUESDAY 9/5/2023 THRU FRIDAY 9/8/2023**



THE SILVER LEGACY HOTEL AND CASINO HAS:

FIVE RESTAURANTS AND SIX BARS & LOUNGES
SWIMMING POOL WITH DAYBEDS & CABANAS
A SPA & SALON TO RELAX AND INDULGE YOURSELF
FITNESS CENTER WITH WEIGHTS, MACHINES & MORE
NIGHTLIFE FEATURING PERFORMERS & COMEDIANS
TOPGOLF SWING SUITE (reservation required)
CASINO WITH SLOTS, BLACKJACK & POKER
IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO RENO'S BEST SHOPPING

YOUR 2023 EVENT PACKAGE INCLUDES

- THREE NIGHT STAY AT THE SILVER LEGACY HOTEL DOWNTOWN RENO IN A PLAYER'S TOWER PREMIUM ROOM COMPLETE WITH FLAT SCREEN TV, FREE WI-FI, HAIR DRYER, IN ROOM SAFE, FREE GARAGE PARKING
- TUESDAY "WELCOME RECEPTION" COMPLETE WITH APPETIZERS, NO HOST BAR
- THURSDAY NIGHT "AWARDS DINNER" WITH NO HOST BAR
- TWO DAYS OF GOLF AT TOIYABE & WOLF RUN GOLF COURSES AND OVER \$1,000 IN PRIZE MONEY, LADY'S AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALSO WELCOME AND INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THESE TWO DAYS OF GOLFING FUN
- PRIZE DRAWINGS FOR NON-GOLFERS

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

Two Golfers sharing room	\$420 / person
Golfer, Non-Golfer sharing room	\$330 / person
Single Golfer own room	\$575 / person
Two Non-Golfers sharing room	\$240 / person
Non-Golfer, own room	\$400 / person
Golf and Amenities, no room	\$260 / person

FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM,
ENCLOSE CHECK AND MAIL TO
SIR BR 116
PO BOX 683
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

GOLFING ELIGIBILITY

ALL GOLFER'S MUST HAVE A VERIFIABLE INDEX.

GOLF ANYONE?

Register at www.sirgolf.org

If you have any questions about this , please give me a call or drop me an email.

Mark Stuart
2023 State Golf Chair
916.218.2287
mss95678@hotmail.com

2023 SIR STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

HAGGIN OAKS GOLF COURSE - SACRAMENTO



OPEN TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR, NO QUALIFYING NECESSARY, YOUR TEAM'S CHOICE OF PLAYING EITHER THURSDAY 8/17 OR FRIDAY 8/18, TEE TIMES

DRIVING RANGE WITH "TOPTRACER" BALL FLIGHT TRACKING, RANGE BALLS ARE PROVIDED

ALL TEAM PLAYER'S MUST CHECK IN OUTSIDE THE PRO SHOP 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR TEE TIME

FOOD AND DRINK AT THE MCKENZIE SPORTS BAR & GRILL OR AT "THE HANGOUT" AT THE RANGE



THIS YEAR'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE AT THE HISTORIC 91 YEAR OLD ALISTAIR MACKENZIE GOLF COURSE AT HAGGIN OAKS KNOWN FOR IT'S CHALLENGING COURSE LAYOUT AND UNDULATING GREENS



SUGGESTED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND SUITES AT 2224 AUBURN BLVD
916 923-1100

HAMPTON INN & SUITES AT 2230 AUBURN BLVD
916 927-2222

HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN AT 2220 HARVARD STREET
855 605-0316

TOURNAMENT RESULTS WILL BE POSTED BY MONDAY AUGUST 21ST ON THE STATE GOLF WEBSITE AT WWW.SIRGOLF.ORG

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO HAGGIN OAKS GOLF COURSE:

FROM THE EAST: I-80 TOWARDS SACRAMENTO, TAKE FULTON AVE EXIT ON THE RIGHT TO FULTON AVE, COURSE IS IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR RIGHT

FROM THE WEST: I-80 THROUGH SACRAMENTO TOWARDS RENO, TAKE THE AUBURN BLVD EXIT AND TURN LEFT ONTO AUBURN BLVD, TURN LEFT ON TO FULTON AVENUE WHICH WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE COURSE

FROM THE NORTH: I-5 SOUTH TO SACRAMENTO, FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ABOVE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WEBSITE AT WWW.SIRGOLF.ORG OR CALL MARK STUART - 916 218-2287



CALL HAGGIN OAKS PRO SHOP FOR PRACTICE ROUNDS (Mon-Fri)
916 808-2525



The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc.
An open letter to all Sirs
June 12, 2023

Dear SIR Member,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health and good spirits. I am writing today to bring you up to date about The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc. (SIRF). And ask that you take a moment to read my important letter.

Many of you already know, the Foundation (SIRF) was established in 2019 to collect and distribute funds for SIR members who suffered significant losses in the Camp Wildfire devastation of Paradise and Magalia. Through the generosity of individual SIR members and SIR Branches the foundation collected and distributed over \$41,000 to victims of that disaster. Since then, SIRF has provided annually, Zoom licenses to support "Grants of Use" to SIR

Branches wishing to hold meetings and activities online during and after the pandemic. The Foundation has other expenses as well, annual State of California fees and required liability insurance for non-profit organizations. The annual administrative costs total about \$1400. A purpose and goal of SIRF is to support the needs of SIR Branches and their members, and be prepared should an occurrence like the Camp Wildfire happen again. We also look to support other organizations for projects that make meaningful improvements to facilities and infrastructure benefitting the applicants local communities.

The purpose of my writing today is to solicit your support for the Foundation by encouraging you to make a donation, no matter how small, to replenish the SIRF coffers that are now essentially empty and allow us to maintain the Foundation and continue our ability to support our members and their branches with appropriate help when needed.

The Sons In Retirement Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible within the limits prescribed by California law.

SIRF is currently managed by a five-member volunteer Board of Directors. We invite any SIR member with fundraising experience to help the Board obtain donations that allows us to continue providing grants where needed or requested.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to your continued support. A donation form is available by clicking on the button below, or just contact me for a copy.

[**Please click here for your donation form**](#)

I will be happy to answer any questions or address any comments you may have, just send them to jwalton2176@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Jim Walton, PBS 152
Foundation President

Parting Shot

His phone rang in Church by accident during prayers...

The Priest scolded him. The worshippers admonished him after prayer for interrupting the silence.

His wife kept on lecturing him on his carelessness till they reached home.

You could see the shame, embarrassment and humiliation on his face.

That evening, he went to a bar.

He was still nervous and trembling.

He spilt his drink on the table by accident.

The waiter apologized and gave him a napkin to clean it up.

The janitor also mopped the floor.

The female manager offered him a complimentary drink. She also gave him a huge hug while saying "Don't worry man. Who doesn't make a mistake?"

He has never stepped foot in the church ever again.

He has never stopped going to that bar since then.