

Big Sir's Corner
Thom Degnan

Well, here we are, halfway through the year and our goal of adding 25 new members is picking up. Unfortunately, we lost 26 members early in the year due relocations, death or other

commitments, and we have added 10 members this year so our count has now settled in at 250. As you may know we have an obligation to support the State SIR to the tune of \$2.85 per person per quarter. The majority of this (70%) goes for insurance to cover potential costs for the various branches should a suit be filed. Last August the State SIR team fixed our cost based on the then membership of 267. This base fee of \$2.85 x 267 remains the same for each quarter of 2026. They did this to encourage the Branches to focus on increasing membership. So, our treasurer retains anything we receive in dues for members over the 267 base. At the start of this year there were about 8,800 members in the State SIR organization. That compares to a peak of approximately 25,000 several years ago. The population of retired men is increasing but the membership in SIR is decreasing. Health data shows that men (and women) engaged in activities, fellowship and mind stimulating games live longer and are generally happier than those who retire into themselves. So, invite a friend, neighbor or someone you meet to one of our activities so they get a feel for the opportunities they can explore with new friends in retirement! Anyone who brings a

prospective member to lunch will have their meals provided complimentary.

We have made the decision to move the December Ladies Luncheon to an early evening event, starting at 4:30 pm for a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner and holiday music by the Diablo Women's Chorale. We are working on the details now with Boundary Oaks and I'll be able to update you shortly. We wanted to make this a more festive event for all, and the team is working on doing just that. More info to be released in the coming months so put the date of Dec 10th on your calendars now!

We are in need of a few good men! Officer positions and directorships will be opening up soon for 2027. We need energetic men with new ideas to help us retain and grow the organization. Men are retiring at a younger age today and have different interests so we need to know and understand their needs and interests. Your BEC leadership team meets every second Thursday at 9:30 am in the meeting room to the right as you enter the building. Come in and join the discussion to see how and what we are doing, and give us your insights as to how we can improve the organization. Each and every suggestion will be discussed.

We all want to make SIR146 be the very best it can be. We are in SIR to enjoy life so help us keep our organization healthy, interesting, fun, and growing for all of us!!

Thom Degnan
 Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, July 9th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Mr Nan Su , Senior Reporter for the Epoch Times
 CCP's global influence, strategy, and operations

A reservation is required!
 To make yours and choose your entrée
 Click Here to go to page 4

Activities for you and your spouse...

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- Is it your birth month? [Page 5](#)
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- For the birds... [Page 19](#)
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Little Sir's Corner

Jim Pope

Speaker Overview: Mr. Nan Su came to the United States in 1989. Since 2003, he has served as a news commentator for the SOH International Chinese Radio Network and the NTD International TV Network, and is currently a Senior Reporter for *The Epoch Times*, a New York-based newspaper published in 36 countries and 22 languages. His presentation will outline the long-term strategy behind the CCP's [Chinese Communist Party] global influence operations and the implications for the United States.

Nan Su discusses the current situations for China and the world. Including their relations with Russia and Iran and China's support for Russia in the war in Iran and Ukraine. Additionally, he will discuss Israel's conflicts with her neighbors and why the entire Middle East is involved. He will enlighten us on the situation between Taiwan and China and an update on China's activities in the South China Sea.

Key points include:

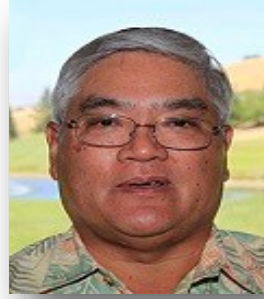
- The impact of China's global expansion on American society and the world
- Why, after decades of investment from the West, the CCP has resisted political reform
- Key point include what Americans can do to safeguard their way of life

The big issue is World Peace and how will or should the US and the EU (And maybe China, Russia, Middle East, Iran, North Korea) develop a plan for World Peace. Should it be through the United Nations? Also, he will cover China's role in World Peace from his perspective, this should be very enlightening.

IMPORTANT, the future of SIR 146: We lost 30 members last year and we need to bring 25-30 new members on board this year. You are the key to this goal. Find a friend and bring them to an activity and a lunch to introduce them to the many benefits of SIR.

Members: Also, I want to encourage all members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. We need more contribution and involvement from **you**. Step up and be a co-chair of an activity. The better SIR 146 will be and the better it will be for **you**.

Jim Pope
Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership

George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in June.

Martin Pendergrast lives in Danville with his wife **Lois**

Flood. He was a chimney worker for his company Pendergrast Masonry. He played guitar professionally. He is sponsored by **Curtis Young**.

Dan Reich lives in Lafayette with his wife **Magda Lopez**. He was an attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency. He would like to see a Sir's activity that attends WNBA games. He is sponsored by **Glenn Breslin**.

Randy Barisof and his wife **Diana** live in Pleasant Hill. He was a Health & Safety Rep. for Chevron Refinery. He enjoys 18-hole golf, fishing and traveling. He is sponsored by **Joe Grady**.

The 2026 membership count is **250**.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State SIR allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number. Likewise, it is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see our guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR.

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
925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net

Officers and Directors 2026

Big Sir.....Thom Degnan
 Little Sir.....Jim Pope
 Secretary John Rexroat
 Assistant SecretaryMike Davidson
 TreasurerMike Ball
 Assistant TreasurerPaul Jones
 Director 1st TermGlenn Breslin
 Director 1st TermBob Lucido
 Director 1st TermOpen
 Director 2nd TermJim Crites
 Director 3rd TermJohn Alexander
 Director 3rd TermMark Curtis

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander

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

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Alex Borders

Take SIRCall with you!

Scan this QR code to open SIRCall in your default browser on your phone. Then create a shortcut to that pdf display and you are all set. Click on the link in the future and you will have the current SIRCall at your fingertips!



[Current Issue of
SIRCall](#)



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Happy Birthday... to U.S.! This month marks the two hundredth and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of what became the United States of America. The nation is celebrating, we are celebrating. The July meet-

ing is **RED** **WHITE** and **BLUE** day; to commemorate this special occasion SIRCall is featuring a colorful footer on each page!

Now, it is your turn.. Members are asked to wear the red, white and blue to our July meeting as SIR celebrates, along with our nation our 250 anniversary!



The cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the August issue will be noon, July 21 but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SIR State Information



<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. It 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!

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

SIR 146 July Luncheon

Thursday, July 9th, 2026

Buffet Lunch

Salad

Sunburst Salad

Entrees

Bratwurst Dogs

Hamburgers

Tater Tots

Gouda Mac and Cheese

Dessert

Assorted Cookies



SIR Branch 146 meets monthly

on the second Thursday of the month
at Boundary Oak golf course in Walnut Creek.

This is a luncheon meeting and

A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCH.

Twice a year, in May and December, we have a Ladies' Day event with spouses invited.

The meetings start at 11:30 but the doors open around 10:00 so members can congregate, order drinks, talk with friends and socialize.

We realize that plans change, things happen. If you have made a reservation but find you can not keep it, let us know! We will try to use it but, be aware, if is less than a week in advance you may still be charged for the lunch!

Bringing a guest? You, as their sponsor, are responsible for making a reservation for them and we suggest you coordinate this with the luncheon secretary.

Any problems or questions?

925.979.5721 AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

How to Reserve

- **Email:** AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.
 - To make this easy for you, click on the link in the menu (links are bold, underlined and blue) corresponding to your menu choice. If the lunch is a Buffet, click on "Buffet"; no menu choice is required. This will initiate the correct email form for you to fill in your name and send.
 - If your pdf reader does not support calls to your email client you should simply initiate your own email; be sure to include your menu choice in the body of the email.
- **Call:** 925.979.5721 and leave a message indicating your name and menu choice.

How to Pay

There are three ways you can pay!

- **Pay annually!** One payment, once per year with your dues and all is well. Plus you get 10 lunches for the price of 8! That's 2 FREE lunches!
- **Pay with Zelle.** Use your phone and your bank's mobile app. In the "send money" option of Zelle you should see "scan a QR code". Well, here it is. Scan away! Hint... save it for next time!
- **Pay by check.** Mail in or bring your check to the luncheon*, made out to SIR Branch 146, and give it to the member handling check in.
- The current cost is **\$37.00**.



* Same day payment not available for Ladies' Days Luncheons!

July

John Alexander
Don Arington
Randy Barisof
Earl Bates
Glenn Breslin
Terry Carlin
Salvatore Costanza
Bob Ford
Joe Fuchs
Pete Gates
Craig Griffiths

John Harrington
Craig Kauffman
Steve Lane
Ck Leung
Edward Marlovits
Jim Nelson
Steve Sprague
Roger Stephens
Calvin Tucker
Fletcher Tyler

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Put the August Luncheon on your calendar NOW!

SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday, August 13th, 2026

Salad

Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins,
Candied Walnuts with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrees

Pesto Chicken

Herbed Rice Pilaf and Asparagus

Pesto Sole

Herbed Rice and Asparagus

Vegetarian Gnocchi

Asparagus and Creamy Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Strawberry Tart



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*



Pat O'Keeffe



Peter Plante

SIR Mission Statement

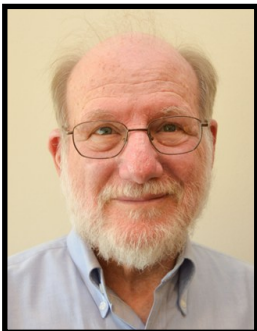
The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons, while making friends for life.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Terry Carlin	2019	7
Ken Soult	2018	8
Ken Studer	2018	8
Bob Wilkenfeld	2018	8
Ron Lew	2017	9
John Fitzgerald	2016	10
Steve Dinning	2015	11
Dick Firth	2015	11
John Elstead	2014	12
George Carpenter	2012	14
Brad Hatcher	2012	14
Robert Storkan	2010	16
Dennis Dale	2009	17
Bill Holly	2008	18
Pete Bishop	2007	19
Joe Lamanna	1999	27



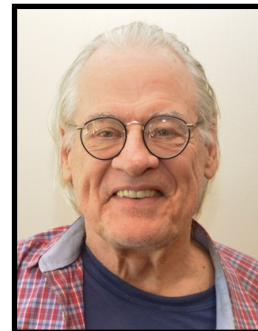
Photos by
Henry Thatcher



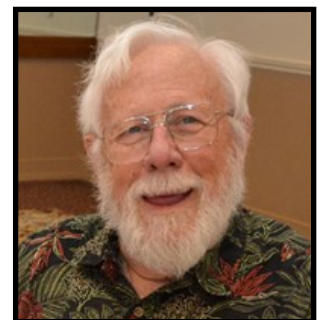
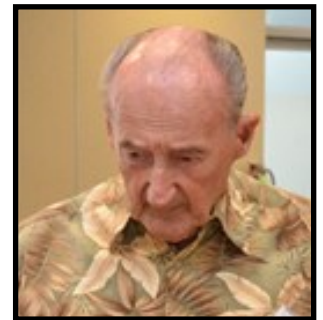
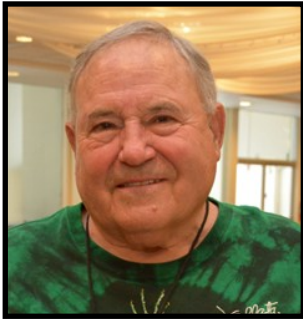
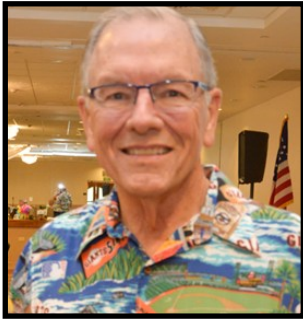
Dan Reich

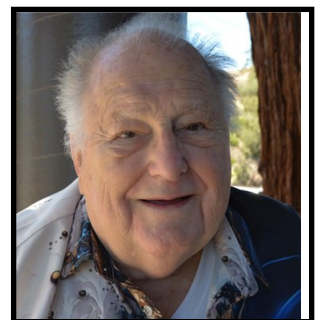


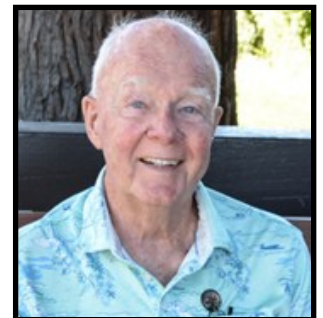
Dave Smith



Martin Pendergrast









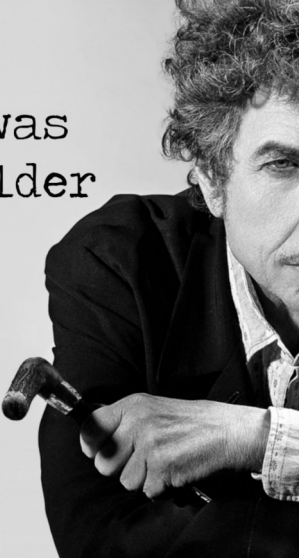
Can you hear me now?

Monthly meetings are now being broadcast to the room via **AURACAST**. If you have hearing aids that support this new Bluetooth technology you can “tune us in”

NOTES

from Our Members

Some thoughtful insights from a legend that some SIR members may enjoy! **Paul Beretz**



Ah, but I was
so much older
then. I'm
younger
than that
now...
-Bob Dylan

The Best Things About Being 80

For Dylan, the greatest gift of hitting 80 is a profound sense of detachment and freedom from the frantic pace of youth:

- **Escaping the timeline:** *"The best thing about being 80 is that you outlive the clocks that have been chasing you. It's freedom from that lie that anything was ever under control."*
- **A quiet independence:** *"You don't chase the parade anymore. You're an old king from some vanished country. You're harder to program. You're not rushing to become anything and you're not haunted by things that you did."*
- **A shift in perspective:** He noted that you stop worrying about past mistakes, though you are instead *"haunted by how little of it really mattered in the way you thought it would."*

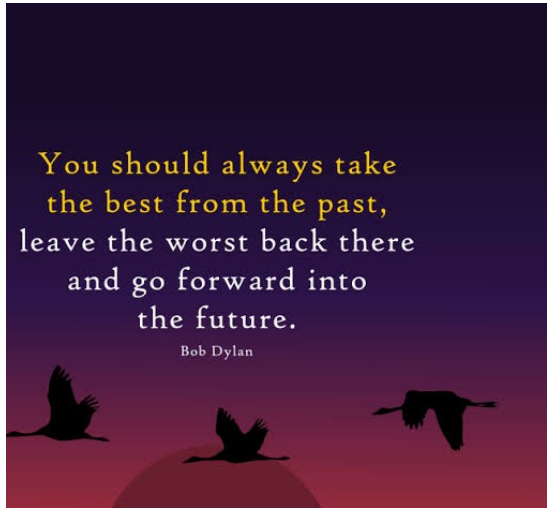
The Worst Things About Being 80

On the flip side, Dylan didn't shy away from the frustrations of a fading physical capacity and the loss of youthful mystery:

- **The friction between mind and body:** *"The worst thing about being 80 is that you still want to say yes to everything, but the world moves without asking. The old fire in your heart still tells you to do this and that, but your body says we already did it."*
- **The death of mystery:** He remarked that *"nothing surprises you,"* adding that while it sounds like a luxury, it isn't because *"you've run out of illusions."*
- **The burden of late-stage wisdom:** He noted how frustrating it is to finally understand life's lessons when it's too late to apply them: *"You find, at last, you've got an understanding of something that might have altered everything in the past, had it come at a time when something could still be altered."*

"When you're young you think that time moves forward. At 80 you know that it doesn't, it stands still. We're the ones that move."

— Bob Dylan



You should always take
the best from the past,
leave the worst back there
and go forward into
the future.

Bob Dylan

NOTES

from Our Members

SIR 146 Beer Tasting



Wednesday July 15, 2:30 PM

[1375 South California Blvd, Walnut Creek, CA, 94956](#)



Come with us and experience Barebottle, Walnut Creek's newest Brew-Pub. Your opportunity to sample their outstanding handiwork. Our beer flight will be an expert, craft brewer selected sampler combined with their commentary and your questions about the styles and methods. If you would like to add a pizza Barebottle has an extraordinary range to suit almost anyone's cravings.

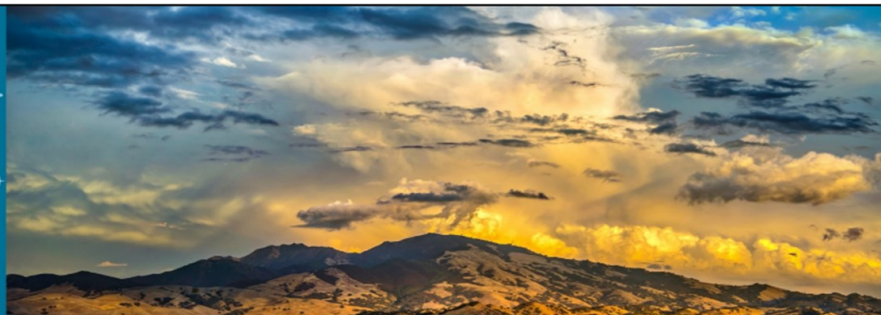
<https://barebottle-brewing-company.square.site/?location=L25ZESE7AZ4DT>

About Barebottle Brewing: Over many years of entering and judging beer competitions, we noticed a simple, but largely unrecognized insight: some of the best, most innovative beers in America are being brewed by homebrewers. In almost every competition we judged, the award-winning homebrewed beers were more inventive and daring than the majority of commercially available beers on the market. That insight, along with an enduring passion for the craft of beer making, led us to create Barebottle, a San Francisco crowd-inspired craft brewery.

You can sign-up and pay by email @ smacdoug@gmail.com. I will send you my venmo. Or, send a check to Scott MacDougall for \$30 for your expert curated 5 beer flight (tax & tip included) Please include your email in your response. Pizza is available at additional cost. Maximum 30 people.

NOTES

from Our Members



Moonlight on the Mountain 2026

Save Mount Diablo's 25th Annual Fundraising Gala

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

4:00 PM - 10:00 PM

ABOUT THE GALA

Join us for our 25th annual Moonlight on the Mountain, Save Mount Diablo's signature fundraising gala, a celebration of Diablo's precious beauty and support for Save Mount Diablo's essential work.

Guests are transported up the mountain's slopes where they are treated to an elegant three-course meal, live music, and both live and silent cocktail auctions—all while surrounded by the unparalleled, majestic views Mount Diablo has to offer.

This gala dinner draws a crowd of more than 500 individuals, elected officials, and conservation-minded corporate partners and local businesses.

Your support helps ensure Save Mount Diablo can continue protecting Mount Diablo and its range for future generations of people and wildlife.

Pending interest, we will reserve a table for 10 SIR members/spouses - Cost \$400/person (non-refundable)

Contact Cleo Bolen by May 15th for reservations cleo.bolen@comcast.net or 925-768-7902



CPR Training

Thom Degnan

We have organized the next SIR146 CPR Training Class on Friday, July 17th, 2026. The details of the class are listed below and as is our practice, the class is coed, open to spouse, partner, friends and family, and there is no cost. Please let me know if you would like to join, it's a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, give me a call or [click here to end me an email](#).



Activities!

Stay Active... Stay young



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

Hi to all SIR Members !! Are you aware that SIR Branch 146 has 50 different group activities. 33 of the 50 activities are available to spouses or significant others. 28 are unique activities. If you are looking for something to enrich your life then go ahead and click on any activity, located at <https://sir146.com/> . Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf, Cards and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know. Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs and what they do to keep our 240+ members involved in stimulating activities. The SIR Mission is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events - while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please continue to let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

I appreciate all our activity chairs. You are the reason that SIR146 thrives !!

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Frank Terzuoli, Bird Watching-Ted Robertson, Bocce-John Kendrick, Book Corner-Paul Kersis, Book Group-Nick Jabuka, Bridge-John Kluesener, Dave Pierce, Tony Greco, Dick DeVoe, Mike Whitaker, Mike Davidson, Cooking-Steve Ybarra , Paul Dubow, Dining Out-Al Guzman & Bob Lucido, Cribbage-John Kendrick, Cycling-Larry Kaye, Explore and Eat-Jim Pope, Fishing-Paul Dubow, Gardening-Ken Studer, Golf-David Steinberg, Bob Ford, Guitar-Curtis Young, Hearts-Bob West-Hiking-Bob Wilkenfeld, Ray Martz, Ladies Day Lunch-Steve Ybarra, Mexican Train Dominoes-Corrie Oranje, Ron Plachy, Walt Busenius , Jim Pope, Steve Lane, Bob Lucido, Richard Hockenbrock, Cleo Bolen, Photography -Moose Kelly, Pinochle-Pete McNeill, Poker-Sig Kalteis, Mark Sorum, Brad Hatcher, Carmelo Piccolo, Song Sirs-Peter Plante, Sushi-Clint Collier, Table Pool-Jim Barry, Theater-Glenn Breslin, Travel-Glenn Breslin, Veterans-Larry Kaye, Walking-Nic Jabuka, Wine Tasting-Brian McCarthy.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities! Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Artificial Intelligence | Men's Duplicate 3 | Dixieland Musician | Tres | Group 4 |
| Birding | Men's Party | Fishing | Cuatro | Group 6 |
| Bocce Ball | Chess | Gardening | | Group 8 |
| Book Corner | Cooking: | Golf-9 Hole | Seis | Song SIRs |
| Book Group | Cooking II | Golf-18 Hole | Siete | Table Pool |
| Bridge: | Lunch and Wine | Guitar | Ocho | Theater |
| Beginning/Refresher | Cribbage | Hearts | Nueve | Travel |
| Couples Duplicate 1 | Cycling | Hiking | Diez | Veterans |
| Couples Duplicate 2 | Dining Out | Mexican Train | Photography | Wine Tasting |
| Couples Party | Couples Dining Out | Dominoes | Pinochle | |
| Men's Duplicate 1 | Explore and Eat | Uno | Poker: | |
| Men's Duplicate 2 | Sushi no Tomodachi | Dos | Group 3 | |



Travel Glenn Breslin

I will be transitioning my travel duties to a new Travel Chair in July I need to firm up with this new prospective travel chair before his name is conveyed to all.

A big Thank You to everyone that already sent in your questionnaires !! If you have not sent in your questionnaire, please do so by 6/30. Let me know if you would like to receive a questionnaire

Contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

Special Trip from Milt Smith, State SIR travel.

SIR Members! I have booked a May 2027 trip called Crossroads of the Adriatic. It is with Overseas Adventure Travel; Departure date is May 4. '27 return May 21. There is a pre-trip available for Albania. Until they fill single traveler supplements are free.

This will be a great trip exploring Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Slovenia. Price, including airfare, starts at \$7,750. This is a small group of no more than 16. We need to get 12 from SIR to keep our group. **Deadline for us is end of July 2026. Signing up now can also result in some good discounts.** I will also be advertising this with other SIR Branches. So... please take a look at the brochure, if you sign up be sure to use **our group code: G7-23630 SIR 146 and let me know.** I can email you the brochure. If you have any questions of any kind please contact me ASAP by email, phone or text...I do all three.

Milt Smith

925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

[Click Here for Trip Brochure](#)



Veterans Larry Kaye

We all took that oath. We stood with many and raised our right hands. We promised to defend this wonderful Country. Some of these heroes met for lunch last Wednesday. What a treat. We had Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines present. The speaker was James Lyons from our Contra Costa Veterans offices. He talked about new service connected stuff, old stuff and answered questions from the guys. It was fun. Very informative too. Lunch was served and we all shared stories. We had in our group the Big Sir as a guest. How lucky we are to be a part of this special group of Hero's.

Elmer Bricca, George Carpenter, Jim Crites and his Dad, Bruce Kimmis, Mike Ball, Larry Kaye, Howard Goldsmith, Gene Schulting, Thom Degnan. Another Vet showed up and I didn't get his name.

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net



Tuesday Golf Dave Steinberg

Branch 146 Golf's Annual Meeting/Lunch has been set for Tuesday Oct 13 at Boundary Oak. All current and former branch 146 golfers will be invited. Golf before or after at your option.

SIR State Golf has a very active schedule. Visit the State SIR golf website (www.sirgolf.org) to find signup information for their upcoming events.

Not all of the State Golf tournaments have been posted there; the planned events are:

- Team Scramble at Hidden Brooke in August.
- Two-day Sacramento event in September at Lincoln Hills and Turkey Creek.
- State Individual Championships at Teal Bend on Thursday, October 1.
- The season finale: Monterey tournament at Blackhorse and Bayonet courses at Fort Ord on November 10-11

Dave Steinberg

925.933.1849 dsteinb@yahoo.com



9 Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Hi everyone, the course is in great shape. Why don't you come out and join us? Please email me if you would like to play with us. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course 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 noting the people who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



I'm best man at my buddy's second wedding...
Is it appropriate to open my dinner speech with
"Welcome back, everybody."



Theater Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Leshner Theater

The Leshner 2026-2027 season has been announced. However, group ticket purchases will be available in mid July. Look for instructions on how to sign up for 2026-2027 Leshner shows by July 30th

Potential Leshner Shows can be found here: <https://www.centerrep.org/> . Other potential shows available can be found here: <https://www.lesherartscenter.org/programs/group-sales> . After clicking on these links, please provide me feedback on these shows. I will be choosing the SIR146 shows by July 30th .

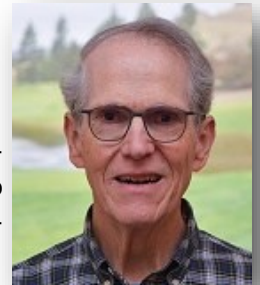
Please reach out to me - should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below. I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly and Mike Rothman



Our next meeting will be on Friday, July 17th at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. At this meeting, some of the following topics will be discussed:

- Greatest Photographers through the Years – Discussion led by **Henry Thatcher**
- Photographing Street Scenes at Night – Discussion led by **Don Casey**
- Photographing the Activity of Your Choice (Parades, Prom Night, Grandkids, Recent Trips even Underwater Photos – All members.

There will be other discussions on various themes and photoshoots of upcoming events such as Night Shooting in Chinatown and in North Beach. Please come and join the gang on Friday, July 17th at the WC Library in the Las Trampas Room on the second floor at 2:30 PM.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our photoshoots or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or **Miker Rothman**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese"!

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman

415.937.1846 mrothman9@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

To borrow from the opera *Porgy and Bess*, it is spring time and the fishing is easy. We began the month with a presentation at our monthly meeting by **Shawn Kelly** about long range fishing

trips out of San Diego. Shawn provided great detail how one prepares for these trips and gets ready for action once the ship reaches the fishing grounds in Mexico. These trips range from three to ten days. **Shawn** prefers the eight day trip on the *Excel*. However, others in our group have sailed on the *Red Rooster* with equally good results.

The fishing was varied and productive this month, although all of us are awaiting the opening of the salmon season on June 27. Pending the arrival of the salmon, **Dave Paulson, Eric Finson** (pictured), **Cleo Bolen, Bob Costen**, and **Sam Oommen** boarded the *Pacific Pearl* for a day on the Bay and limited out on striped bass. They also caught seven halibut, including a 14 pounder. **Shawn Kelly** boated halibut limits on his Boston Whaler, fishing with other members of our group. On another trip, **Mike Pruett** caught ten stripers, but just one keeper. **Nic Jabuka** did not fare quite as well as he and **Dennis Lee** and **Ken Bellindir** landed just one keeper striper and two shakers, fishing on **Nic's** boat.

On the Delta, our resident Delta expert **Tom Kostik** made several trips, hooking 56 stripers, of which ten were keepers, plus two flounder. **Ken Bellindir, Ron Lew** and **Mike Pruett** caught a bunch of black bass on their Delta outings.

Stan Wong limited out on black bass on Lake Berryessa and **Matt Richards** thoroughly enjoyed himself

on the Pacific, catching limits of ling cod at both Bodega Bay and Pacifica plus a rockfish limit out of Bodega Bay. **Dennis Lee** and **Carl Moyer** also boated rockfish, fishing out of Pacifica.

San Pablo Reservoir was also very productive. **Ray Pixton, Phil Simonelli, Gordon Linebaugh**, and **Dennis Lee** all caught trout there. Dennis's 4 pounder was the largest.

Ron Lew and **Mike Pruett** traveled to the American River and caught and released over 100 shad, including a 21 incher that Mike landed.

Brian Beetz led eight of us on our semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor for two days of trout fishing. They did well with a few large brown trout in the mix.

Lee Clark and **Doug Dukes** flew to Port Hardy, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island and had a spectacular trip, bringing home salmon, halibut, ling cod, and rockfish.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 25 at the Legends Bar and Grill, which is located on the Diablo Creek Golf Course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us at 7:30 for camaraderie and breakfast. All are welcome, including those of you who have never fished or haven't fished in a long time.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30 AM, a group of 10 SIR birders met at the Orinda Connector Trailhead (EBMUD Permit required) and hiked along San Pablo Creek and then toward the base of Briones Reservoir.

We ended up spotting or hearing 29 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included getting great looks at a few Wilson’s Warblers and Western Bluebirds.

Due to popular demand and requests, I have stated including several botany observations. A few plant highlights included handling the California State Lichen (lace lichen—*Ramalina menziessii*) and comparing it with the Old Man’s Beard Lichen (*Usnea sp.*). We also learned about poison hemlock, a deadly member of the carrot family (RIP Socrates). Ithelial’s Spears were in full bloom at the start of the hike.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on July 8th (2nd Wednesday) in Tilden Park. I will be sending out detailed directions about 1 week before the trip. If you are not on my mailing list, please contact me at tedr@berkeley.edu so that I can add you. Beginning birders are welcome along with their spouses or close friends. I have a few loaner binoculars for those of you just starting out.

Ted Robertson
tedr@berkeley.edu



Wilson’s Warbler (Photo by Allen Kober)



Western Bluebird
(Photo by Bob Hislop)



Cooper’s Hawk
(Photo by Jim Roland)



Common Buckeye butterfly
(Photo by Jim Roland)



Book Group Nick Jabuka

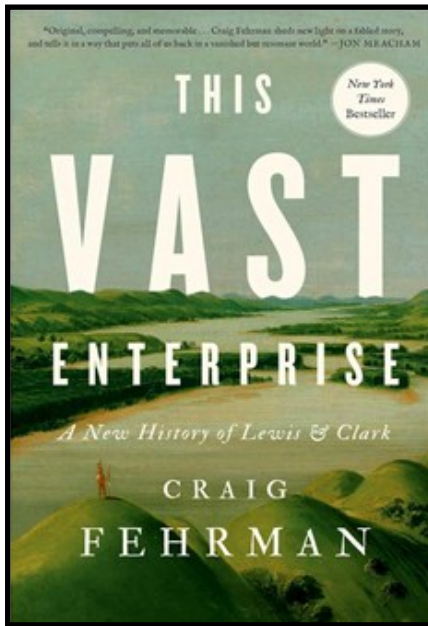
Book Club Review: June

We met on Wednesday, June 3rd, at the Panera on Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek. It was a busy morning, with several groups gathering at the café, including a lively group of women enjoying a card game. The background music seemed a bit louder than usual, but it did little to distract from our meeting.

Our May Read: This Vast Enterprise

This Vast Enterprise: A New History of Lewis & Clark

by Craig Fehrman offers a fresh retelling of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition by shifting attention away from the two celebrated leaders and toward the broader cast of people who made the journey possible. Rather than focusing solely on Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, Fehrman tells the story through the experiences of soldiers, Native American leaders, the enslaved man York, and Sacagawea, creating a richer and more human portrait of the expedition.



The book follows the Corps of Discovery from its departure in 1804 through its journey across the continent and back, highlighting not only the physical hardships of the expedition but also the complex relationships among its members and the many Indigenous nations they encountered. Fehrman explores how diplomacy, cultural misunderstandings, cooperation, and power dynamics shaped the expedition's success.

Why We Enjoyed It & Our Verdict A Great Read!

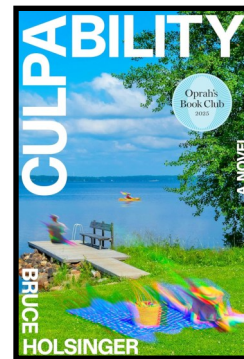
Everyone in the group enjoyed the book and felt confident recommending it to the chapter. What particularly resonated with our members was how Fehrman demythologizes the journey. By elevating the voices of

the secondary figures, the narrative moves away from traditional, top-down history and becomes an engaging human drama.

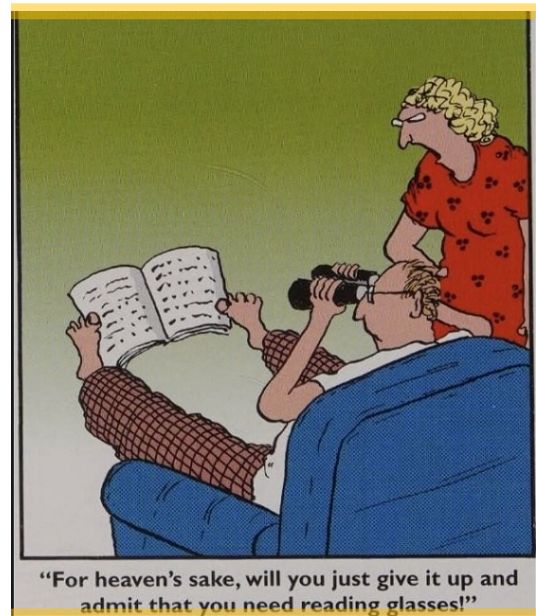
We had an excellent discussion about the challenges of organizing and carrying out the expedition, as well as the remarkable endurance demonstrated by every member of the Corps. The group particularly appreciated the author's ability to combine meticulous historical research with an engaging, fast-paced narrative. The book's rich historical detail and spirit of adventure make it an appealing choice for a wide range of readers, from history enthusiasts to anyone who enjoys a compelling story of exploration, perseverance, and discovery.

Next Month's Book

We chose *Culpability*, a family drama and technomystery by Bruce Holsinger, as our next book. If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love you to join us! We welcome new members.



Nick Jabuka, Chair — Mike Rothman, Editor
925.639.0384 njabuka@yahoo.com



Cycling Group

Larry Kaye



If you are interested in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at 925.698.4030. So, dig out your old bike and dust it off. Come out and join us. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of riding for coffee, having fun, solving the world's problems and staying healthy through exercise.



The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, June 16th. We tied another record with the number of riders. FIFTEEN!!!! YIKES!!!! There were HOW MANY RIDERS??!! There were FIFTEEN (Put your glasses on, dude!), YEP, FIFTEEN CRAZY MEN (**Larry Kaye, Thom**

Degnan, Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Bill Ross, David Paulson, Brian Lotter, Eric Finson, Elmer Bricca, Jim Roland, Cleo Bolen, Phil Lee, Scott Simmons, Michael Schrupp, and Moose Kelly).

All of us linked up with the Iron Horse Trail from Pleasant Hill Park and rode with a nice tail wind to Buchanan Airport. There, we split into two groups. The first group lead by **Larry Kaye** retraced their "steps" with a stiff (UGH!) headwind to Pleasant Hill Park. The second group lead by **Moose Kelly** continued along the back side of Buchanan Airport to hilly Center Avenue which is challenging. The "band of brothers" then hooked up with Morello Avenue. Our welcoming by mother nature into Martinez along Pacheco Blvd was met with a stiff headwind (a double UGH!!) Well, at least it provided an additional workout.

We stopped at Starbucks in Martinez to replenish our caffeine and food levels. The "gang" solved the world problems and decided to move on before we lost our physical edge of riding. Mounting our trusty "horses", we headed out of Martinez along Alhambra Road where a good size climb awaited us. We downshifted our gears and continued a steady cadence with riders

drafting off of one another up this hill. I was hoping that **Eric Finson** was going to pass **Moose Kelly** so I could draft off of him but that was a fleeting wish. After this steep hill, it was all down hill to Pleasant Hill Park where we finished our 22-mile journey safe and sound. CONGRATS to one and all!! SUPERB JOB on a challenging course!! **Moose Kelly**

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Bocce John Kendrick

Start your Monday mornings with fresh air, friendly competition, and good company. Join fellow members and guests for relaxed bocce games at Newhall Park—no experience (or special attire) required!

Games are played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from May through September, starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing approximately around 10:00 a.m.

All games take place at the Bocce Ball Courts at Newhall Park, located near the corner of Turtle Creek Road and Ayers Road in Concord.

Join us for a fun and relaxed Monday morning of bocce and camaraderie. Ladies are welcome, and formal bocce attire is not required—just bring yourself and enjoy the game.

Please note: Games will be cancelled in the event of rain.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Book Corner Paul Kersis

The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book—borrow a book!





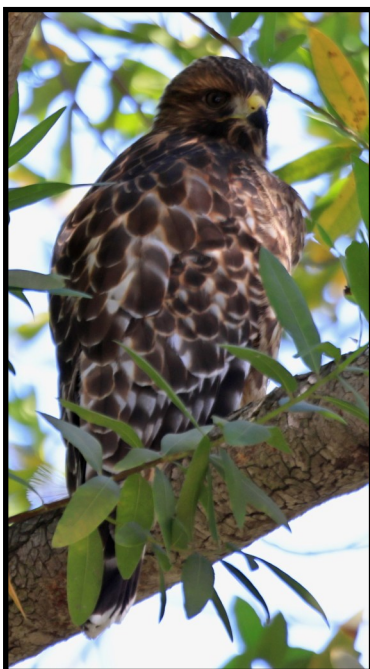
Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Memorial Day: In honor of those who hiked before us, in much more dangerous conditions than our hiking group experiences, we took the day off.

Las Trampas Hike
Neither the 90-degree heat, nor the 1000-foot climb on our 3.8-mile hike kept our band of trekkers from enjoying Las Trampas Regional Park on the first day of June. Fortunately, much of our hike was among dense forest (and poison oak!), and we enjoyed lunch under the shade of a large oak tree on the Eugene O'Neill historic property. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Bob & Winny Lively, Ray Martz, Roger Meyer, Gary Parkhurst, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** made it back to our cars.



Ray Martz led 6 hikers on the French Trail in Redwood Regional Park on June 8th. As usual, the All Trails app was wrong about the elevation gain on the 5-mile hike – we clocked 1200 feet instead of the predicted 900 feet. Oh well, **Earl Bates, Eric Finson, Perchant Gupta, Ray Martz, Roger Meyer and Gene Schulting** still enjoyed the great scenery and company.



June 15th we hiked in Briones Regional Park. Our large group included **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Perchant Gupta, Eric Finson, Bob (& Winny) Lively, Ray Martz, Gary Parkhurst and Gene Schulting**. We began along the Orchard Trail to the Toyon Canyon Trail, to the Old Briones Trail, to the Spangler Trail, to the Alhambra Creek Trail and back to the cars. The loop was ~4.5 miles, with 850 feet of climbing.

Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilx4@gmail.com

This morning, got up at 5am, 8km run completed, came back and prepared a vegetable smoothie for breakfast...
Don't remember the rest of the dream...



寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier



Very lite turn out for this sushi gathering; everyone's off on vacation or attending gradua-

tions! Nevertheless four of us showed up on June 18th at Tatsu in Walnut Creek to celebrate National Sushi Day. **Bart Gledhill, Fletcher Tyler and Bill Holly** along with yours truly celebrated this momentous day in American history!

Bill tipped us off to a new sushi restaurant in downtown Concord; Wasabi Japanese restaurant. Sounds like something we are going to have to investigate with our next gathering in August! Looking forward to that on Thursday, August 20th!



[Clint Collier](#)

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Here we are in summer and you know what that means... wine tasting is just around the corner. Our next wine tasting is Tuesday, July 28th at **Bob & Wendy Lucido's** home. It starts at 2:30 and goes until 5:00. The varietals selected for the July wine tasting are French white burgundy (Chardonnay), brought chilled and French red burgundy (Pinot Noir). Your wine selection must be from France. Please bring your wine in a brown bag if possible. Make sure you complete the form that that you received with your confirmation notice. Oh yes, and don't forget to bring an appetizer to share.

The wine tasting event is always extremely popular, and this one is no different. Currently, the tasting is full. If you are interested in attending, let us know and you will be placed on the waiting list. We usually have a cancellation or two.

fully subscribed

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 925.324.2463 .



Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com

Q: My child will not eat fish. What can I replace it with?

A: A Cat! Cats love fish!





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at **Corrie Oranje's** home for this month's luncheon activity. As is the norm, members arrived with a bottle of wine in hand. **Corrie** greeted the group with an extensive pre lunch spread of appetizers. The highlight of the goodie's was the Gouda cheese. **Corrie** who emigrated from the Netherlands as a teenager gave us a lesson on what a Dutch cheese should taste like. **Corrie** also shared with the group a family experience during the German occupation. Similar to the Anne Frank Amsterdam story, **Corrie's** family had a Jewish family living in their upstairs flat that they protected from being discovered by the Nazi's during World War II. The courage that it took for the **Oranje** family, to hide this Jewish family, was heroic. The group thanked **Corrie** very much for sharing this incredible family experience. The Cooking II group was then served a delicious lunch of homemade black bean soup and sandwiches. For dessert we enjoyed apple strudel with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



SIR Frank Lucas and SIR Ron Polivka at a recent lunch event at Rocco's. Ron Polivka will next host Cooking II on July 13th.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Group (aka the LAW group) gathered together for their June luncheon; a backyard BBQ at the home of **Pete Gates**. We were blessed with very nice weather for the event as well as a very nice selection of wines which each of the guys contributed.

Following an hour or so of stimulating conversation and appetizers, a lunch of grilled burgers with all the fixings was rolled out along with sides including beans and fries. Though already stuffed, no one turned down the dessert which was vanilla ice cream topped with Butterscotch and Spanish peanuts.

Ann Gates had organized a luncheon for the ladies at the Royale in Pleasant Hill, which reportedly went well. **Clint Collier** will host the next LAW luncheon scheduled for July 15th.

Pete Gates for Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 pdubow2398@aol.com



Couples Dining Out



Al Guzman, Bob Lucido, Rich Lyon and Mike Riley.

On Tuesday, June 16th, Branch 146 members and their guests dined at Harvest Restaurant in Danville. Dinner was preceded by a Happy Hour, where guests socialized with one another.

According to owner, Darren Mattee and chef Noe Brisend, the restaurant uses fresh, organic, and locally sourced ingredients whenever possible.

That evening, thirty-three diners enjoyed a menu which showcased their “farm to table” approach to healthy dining. Horseradish salmon, lamb gnocchi, braised short ribs, and a vegetarian bowl were the main entrees, but of course, the diners enjoyed elegant appetizers and delicious desserts.

The good company of our members, the quality of the food, the attentiveness of the staff, and the ambience of the restaurant produced a memorable evening for all.



Al Guzman

mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbtnorcal.com

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes



Group Uno 1

Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno Winners for June 2026. Honorable mention to **Richard**, average score of 5.7! Followed by **Virginia** and Host **Jim**

Stedman.

Our evening game was hosted by **Jim Stedman** with a very manageable group of 10 players. We had a few interesting "coincidences" that makes you wonder. First, we normally handle who sits where, by players drawing a card, the card designates which table to play at. So, all 10 players drew their cards and ironically, couples were seated with their partners! **Peter and Martha, Sue and Corrie** were at one table, and **Sue and Bruce**, and **Virginia and Richard** at the other table. The other coincidence was that the score sheet for one of the tables listed the players in order of playing sequence also matched the scoring placement sequence.

Break time was enjoyed with homemade brownies (who doesn't like brownies?) and lemon bars with lots of table snacks to go around. July will be hosted by **Sue and Bruce Borgman**.

Corrie Oranje



Group Dos 2

Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the Walnut Creek home of **John and Nancy Pearl** on Friday, May 22. **Nancy** had a spread of

treats prior to the game. A tasty cake topped off the mid-game snack.

We once again were joined by **Tony and Cindy Greco** to round our players out to a full 12. We are having a very difficult time finding a new couple to make our group whole.

Clint Collier won 1st place with a very respectful 12.1 average. **Dan Holland** took 2nd with another respectful average score of 12.6. Third place was won by **Mary Holland** with a 19.9 average.

Next month we will play at the home of **Clint and Bev Collier**.

Ron Plachy
925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, May 22nd at the home of **Sally & Lynn Shaffer** in Walnut Creek. The ole

Friday special huffed and puffed its way to their doorstep. Gathering around the tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius, Judy Richmond, Sharon Varner, Sally & Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily** and **Linda & Larry Brown**. **Sally** is always a wonderful host who spoils us with wonderful table treats and very delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her best game to the arena, **Alicia Baily** dominated, taking home 1st Place and bragging rights. Both **Sally Shafer** and **Lynn Shafer** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd place on their own turf, showing off their MTD skills to the rest of the group.

We chatted a lot as always and very much enjoyed the afternoon together. We said our goodbyes, quietly boarded the ole Mexican Train and followed the sun home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, June 26th at the home of **Sharon Varner**. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On June 19th, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim**

and **Renie Pope's** home with 10 players to play dominos. Those in attendance this evening were, **Dick and Christy DeVoe, Scott and Marie-Claire MacDougall, Steve and Susan Oki, Fred and Katie Morehouse** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. **Fred Morehouse** will be a new member in July. The group enjoyed super goodies provided by several members and some wine and beer, too. We played at two tables of 5. The low score winners were **Dick and Christy DeVoe**. We presented each of them five one-dollar California Lotto tickets. There were two high score players at each table: **Sue Oki** and **Scott MacDougall** received one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on July 17th. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

Our MTD group "Seis" rolled into action on May 27 at the beautiful home of **Kathe Mitchell**, with **Moose** and

Mary serving as gracious hosts. As always, plenty of laughs, friendly competition, and delicious snacks were on the menu. Taking top honors was **Kathe Mitchell** (to the surprise of absolutely no one!), followed by **Bruce Borgman** in second place and **Carol**

Lane claiming third. Bringing up the rear were the two JKs—**John Kelly** and **John Kendrick**—who battled fiercely for last place and finished in what was nearly a dead heat. Many thanks to our wonderful hosts and to **Kathe** for once again providing a terrific venue. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, June 24, at **Kathe Mitchell's** home, hosted by **John Kendrick**. Come ready to play, snack, and perhaps improve your chance of beating **Kathe**!

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



"Now that you're semi-nude under garish lighting with a total stranger in an environment synonymous with illness and death, let's take your blood pressure to see if it's normal."





Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Steve & Sue Loftin were our guest hosts for the June 3rd evening serving a nice array of snacks at the planned break time of 8:30 PM. We had some discussion at moving the start of future games to an earlier time, but no decision was made.

Summer starts on June 21st, but **Ron and Victoria Polivka** were celebrating early as the husband-and-wife team each had winning scores coming in 1st and 2nd.

Ron Polivka was the evening's 1st place winner with an average score of 10.3. In 2nd place was **Victoria Polivka** with an average score of 11.7, and in 3rd place was **Alicia Baily** with an average of 12.7.

Our next set of games will be played on the first Wednesday, July 1st with **Larry & Pam McAllister** hosting.

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



Winners

From L to R: **Alicia Baily** (3rd place), **Ron Polivka** (1st place), & **Victoria Polivka** (2nd place)



Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (10) Mark Sorum and Cleo Bolen

In June, Mexican Train Dominoes "Diez" (Group 10) was hosted by **Cleo and Ann Bolen** at their home in Clayton on the 19th. We had 11 players join us for fun, snacks and games. The June winners were and **Phil Lee**, with

consolation prizes going to **Alex Borders** and **Steve Petersen**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For July, the game will be on the 17th at the home of **Mary Denney**. We rotate hosting among different homes.

This is a coed activity, but single SIR members are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in joining us.

Mark Sorum
925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen
925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra



Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results for both April & May. Due to director vacations, this will be a summarized report for those 2 months.

The major winners were **Bob Haber** with 7, **Frank Lucas** with 6 and **Bob Finlayson** with 5.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** led with 14 wins followed by **Bob Haber** with 11 and **Ron Polivka** with 10. In winning percentage **Jim Passaglia** leads with 63%, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 50%, and **Bob Haber** with 46%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** and **Dave Smith** lead with 12, followed by **Cleo Bolen** with 9.5. In lowest average score **Jim Passaglia** leads with 43.6 and **Bob Haber** has 55.7. In STM's, **Ron Polivka** and **Frank Lucas** both have 5. In most improved over 2025, **Bob Haber** is 234% better and **Will Stratton** is 200% better.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be June 26th, July 10th, and July 24th.

Please email us if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Co-Directors
Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**
robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Party Bridge Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson

On June 1, we had a 12 player game at the home of **Jim Pope** who was an excellent host. The players were **Ray Bland**, **Mike Davidson**, **Dick DeVoe**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Brad Hatcher**, **Max Hinkle**, **Ed Marlovits**, **Bud Pearce**, **Jim Pope**, **Bill Schaaf**, **Jim Stedman**, and **Bob Yolland**. **Bob Yolland** finished far ahead of everyone with 6650 points, **Brad Hatcher** was a distant second with 4610 points and **Ed Marlovits**, third, with 4450 points.

Our next game will be on July 6 at the home of **Mike Davidson**. Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to play in any future game.



Bill Schaaf 925.899.5913 billschaaf13@comcast.net **Mike Davidson** 925.324.1867 mdavidson065@gmail.com

It's never too late to start exercising.
That's why I'm waiting until later.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, June 6 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Bill Schaaf**.

- **Ed Marlovits** earned 1st place with 45.0 points, 3 points above the closest competitor. Congratulations, **Ed**!
- **Max Hinkle** was 2nd with 42.0 points.
- **Bob Yolland** was 3rd with 41.5 points.
- **Bill Schaaf** was 4th with 41.0 points.

Dick Devoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

We gathered at the home of **Joan and Dave Pierce** on June 9th to socialize and play a little bridge. We welcomed (back from Croatia) **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Margot Somerville's** friend **Stephanie** (subbing for **Marilyn**), frequent subs **Max and Ardith Hinkle**, and new but warmly welcomed subs **Dave and Nancy Steinberg**. Thank you, subs, for making the evening actually happen.

Excitement began early with Board 1: everyone made six. Unfortunately, nobody bid slam. Only **Dave and Nancy** bid game. I am embarrassed to say I opened one club and it was passed out. I should have opened two clubs. The hand had only 18 HCP but two powerful suits and a key void.

Everyone bid 4H on Board 3 but two pairs made six. I embarrassed myself again on Board 5, when 2S made six. Everyone made 6S on Board 16, but only two pairs were as high as four. Two pairs including yours truly made six on Board 18, but only bid 4H. At least we had some exciting hands.

At evening's end, **Dave and Nancy** were third (51%), **Dick and Christy** were second (54%), and the hosts were first (55%). It was a close match as nobody was below 45%. Best of all, everyone had a good time, and we made new friends

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net





Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Larry and Linda Brown hosted our June 2nd event. With 2 regular couples unavailable to play and my limited time to find subs while being away at Lake Almanor, I decided to schedule a 2-Table event in lieu of the usual 3-Table event. We played 2 extra hands during each round for a total of 18 hands, only 2 short of our usual 3-Table 20 hands. Less table movements allowed more time for socializing and snacking (and drinking too. Lol).

Dick and Christy DeVoe had a good second round scoring 1710 points, more than half their total score, to latch onto first place and never looked back. Brad and Lynne Hatcher made a gallant attempt at a small slam bid of 6 clubs after opening with 2 clubs, but fell 1 trick short, losing an ace and an offside king. There was also another attempt at a small slam of 6 diamonds, also down one. No guts, no glory! Bravo for trying!

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3130 points - Dick and Christy DeVoe
- 2nd PLACE with 2390 points - Tony and Cindy Greco

Our next event will be held on July 7th and hosted by Dick and Christy DeVoe who swapped hosting duties with the Hatchers. You all have a great July 4th Independence Day weekend!

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Cribbage John Kendrick

On the afternoon of **May 28, 2026**, an enthusiastic group of eleven participants gathered at **Rocco's Restaurant** for an enjoyable afternoon of competition, camaraderie, and conversation.

Participants included **Ron Afdal, Kirk McVean, Jim Nelson, John Pearl, Mark Raaberg, Roger Rivers, Mark Sorum, Jack Starr**, and the event's organizer, **John Kendrick**. The group was also pleased to welcome two guest players, **Peggy Alden** and **Steve Cossmono**, who added to the fun and competitive spirit of the event.

After a closely contested competition, the top finishers were announced:

- 1st Place: **John Kendrick**
- 2nd Place: **Mark Raaberg**
- 3rd Place: **Ron Afdal**

On the lighter side,

- One cribbage player told another player, "I only need one more point to win." The other player replied, "That's what you said three hands ago!"
- A player looked at his hand and said, "This can't get any worse." Then he looked at the cut card.

Looking forward to our next tournament on Wednesday, June 24.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

I just accidentally hit a truck loaded with electric guitars.
Luckily, it was just a Fender bender.



Poker Group 4 Mark Sorum

Our June game was at the home of **Bruce Kimmis**. Bruce was a perfect host with good food and plenty to drink. Only 6 of our regular members were able to play as **Pete** was on a vacation.

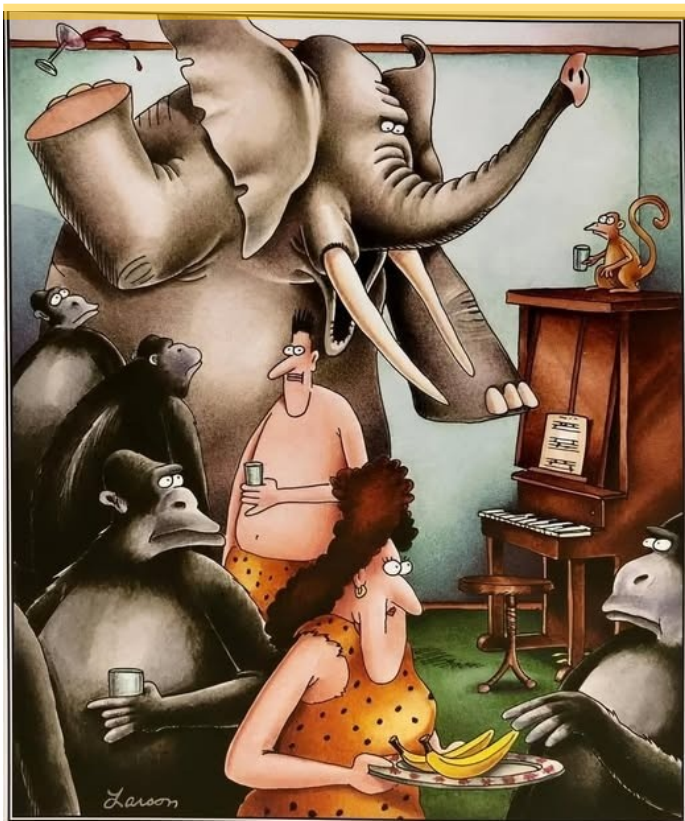
We had 2 winners and 1 player game out exactly where he started. No one got rich, the big winner won \$12....but then no one lost more than \$6 either. We played a new version of 7 stud called top or bottom. It proved to be an exciting game and a real pot builder.

Games are scheduled from 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on July 20 at the home of **Pete Gates**.

- Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises.
- Dealer antes a nickel per player.
- A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.
- We are currently full but we welcome alternates.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



The party had been going splendidly—and then Tantor saw the ivory keyboard.



Parting Shot

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation. We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Reference hath been, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Tyranny, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. — Such has been the Patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct or indirect Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless assented to in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to Tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. — He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the whole remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Dangers of Anarchy and Confusion. — He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migration hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. — He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislature. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. — He has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of these Colonies a State of War, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. — He is at this Time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to combat the Works of Death, Desolation and Tyranny, already begun, with Circumstances of Cruelty & Rapidity hardly paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive in the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Swords. — He has excited domestic Injuries among us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Part, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Mode of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Age, Sex and Condition. — In every Stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every Act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People. Not have We been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Migration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Concinnity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Brethren.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. And for the Support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

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