



Branch 146

Sons In Retirement, Contra Costa CA



March 2022



Big Sir's Corner Jerry Kaplan

We have scheduled an **In-Person Luncheon Meeting** for March 10th, and I hope that many members will remember how much fun these meetings are (versus Zooming). If you feel comfortable to be with a

large group, please come and see your friends, enjoy lunch, and listen to our speaker. Our Little SIR **Rich Lyon** has lined up what should be an interesting presentation by Mr. **Jamie Knox**, the Chief of Police for Walnut Creek.

Everyone in attendance will be vaccinated; feel free to wear a mask if you're not eating or drinking. Since we are meeting close to St. Paddy's Day, wear something **GREEN!**

I hope that many of our new members who have never attended one of our luncheons will plan to come and see what goes on. For those of you who sponsored a new member over the last two years, I suggest you call them and ask them to come and join you at a table. Show them around, especially where to buy a discounted glass of wine or a beer.

Please see page 3 for complete information on the luncheon including the menu. Note that this meeting requires a positive reservation, not our previous "cannot attend" notification. You will need to reserve a seat.

While some of you may want to wait a little while before returning to the in person luncheon venue, I am optimistic that as the year unfolds, you will feel more relaxed about attending and seeing your friends. By the same token, many of the Branch's activities have either restarted or are planning to; think about getting together with friends for

one of our indoor activities such as poker, dominoes, bridge, hearts, and other indoor activities.

During the February Zoom meeting, **SIR Bob Finlayson**, a member of our branch for 3 years, spoke to the group about his several years' experience with Contra Costa County's Grand Jury. Bob's talk was very interesting and he has offered to provide further background on the process for any member who may be considering applying to become a juror.

Also, during last month's virtual get together, **SIR Walt Busenius**, chair of the Honorees Committee, honored **Mr. Darlo Boone** with a *Senior SIR Award* for reaching 90 years of age. Congratulations, **Darlo!**

I also wanted to announce a few changes in some key positions in branch leadership. **SIRs Ben Gleason** and **Steve Oki** have graciously assumed the important positions as Luncheon Chairmen, taking over from **SIR Bruce Borgman**. Bruce worked hard to shepherd the branch through several in-person meetings over the last six months as we attempted to re-start luncheons.

In another area, **SIR Malcom Harrison** has taken on the role of Branch Historian, an important position whose responsibility includes maintaining the history and records of Branch 146. A summary of the entire branch history going back to its founding in 1989 is available on the Branch website (www.sir146.com) under the tab "Branch Information." Thanks to **SIR Gary Brown** who had admirably filled the position for the last several years.

Our membership stands at 271 individuals, down from about 295 two years ago. This decrease is primarily due to some members who have decided not to renew their participation in the branch as well as a few members who moved from the area and a few others who have passed away during that time.

As we return to in-person meetings in 2022, please invite a friend or neighbor to a future meeting as your guest if you think they might enjoy the activities (many of which are co-ed), the luncheon speakers and the friendship that many of us have found in the SIR organization. The branch will pick up the cost of the guest's luncheon. Remember your

SIR Luncheon

Thursday, March 10th, 2022

Back to LIVE

We once again will have an in person meeting at Boundary Oak.

11:30

Speaker: Jamie Knox Walnut Creek Police Chief

Continued on next page

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.

Big Sir continued from previous page

friends and acquaintances need not be retired.

I ask that you consider volunteering in some way to assist our branch. The efforts of everyone who serve as activities chairmen, assistant chairmen, Branch Executive Committee Board members and Officers and all the “Behind the Scenes” workers are all volunteers whose continuing efforts make Branch 146 one of the best in the State. Thanks for your service! Please seriously consider saying “yes” to a request for your help as a volunteer to keep the branch running well. Call or write me if you would like to discuss possible areas where you can help.

Be sure to read Little SIR **Rich Lyon’s** column for information regarding upcoming speakers.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy but also enjoy what life has to offer! Keep smiling! And finally...*There are two muffins baking in the oven. One muffin says to the other, “Phew, is it getting hot in here or is it just me?” The other muffin says, “AAAAHHH!! A TALKING MUFFIN!” - OR - A ham sandwich walks into a bar and orders a beer; bartender says “sorry, we don’t serve food here.” Did you smile even a little?*

Hope to see you in March – and wear some **GREEN!**



Little Sir’s Corner Rich Lyon

Speakers

At our February (Zoom) meeting **Robert “Bob” Finlayson**, a former London “bobby”, branch member and active in training the county’s civil Grand Jury and Grand Jury’s across California

provided a fascinating view of how our count civil grand jury works and what it can do. Being a grand juror is a significant commitment and a huge public service. **Bob** also mentioned that the first civil grand jury originated in England and that four other states have civil grand jury’s similar to California’s. Our county’s grand jury reports (<https://www.cc-courts.org/civil/grand-jury-reports.aspx>) exemplify citizen oversight of local government. Take a peek and, you too will be impressed!

Our March speaker, Chief Jamie Knox, leads the Walnut Creek Police Department. Chief Knox will speak on current issues and opportunities in law enforcement. Chief Knox believes in process of continuous improvement and quotes Aristotle as, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit”. My guess is that you will want to hear what Chief Knox has to share. We may have time to take questions however, questions emailed to me (7424lyon@gmail.com) a few days in advance will be asked first.

Be sure to RSVP to **Ben Gleason** and **Steve Oki** by email to: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. You must RSVP and be

COVID compliant to attend in-person luncheons.

For April, we will have the distinct honor to hear from Mary Knox Asst., District Attorney with a thirty-six year-long perspective on law enforcement, the courts, and fighting for victims and their families. It should be interesting. Few, if any, in the District Attorney’s office rival Mary’s tenure and breadth of experience.

BEC

The BEC and various officers are using Dropbox more regularly to share information. Two items for consideration are 1) Authorizing the Secretary and Asst. Secretary to manage Dropbox access requests and, 2) Authorizing purchasing a paid Dropbox “Plus Account” for \$120 a year. The Secretary knows who is going on or leaving the BEC and which officers, and committees require access. Purchasing an account will alleviate concern that the branch may soon exhaust the 2GB of “free” storage, and provides clarity going forward.

Lady’s Day Luncheon

Your ideas for future speakers and, especially, **entertainment at the Ladies’ Day Luncheon are needed**. SIR members have provided great speaker suggestions so far, thank you! I’m drawing a blank for the May Lady’s Day Luncheon and would really appreciate your suggestions.

Our meetings are better because of your comments. I look forward to “seeing” you in person in March! Yahoo!! 😊

Rich Respectfully,
Rich Lyon, Little Sir



Luncheon Chairman Ben Gleason

We are excited to be able to meet in person once again and rekindle face-to-face relationships after two years of protective separation. Until we reestablish a routine of attending our Luncheons, we have implemented an “opt-in” reservation system which will allow us to give Boundary Oak an accurate headcount of diners. As in the past, you can choose between two entrees at check-in. Most attendees will have proof of vaccination and a liability waiver on file but anyone attending who hasn't provided them (including guests) will be required to show proof and sign a waiver form which will be available at the check-in table.

March 10 Luncheon

- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **When:** come at 11 to socialize; meeting sit down is 11:30
- **Cost:** \$32
The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146.
- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, March 4 before Noon
- Show or have proof of vaccination on-file with Waiver of Liability
- Ways to RSVP
Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or, if you need to call: (925) 979-5721

All RSVPs will be acknowledged

Special Requests

If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegan meal, or can't consume a meal, please send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com before the Deadline.

Sponsors

If you are bringing a guest: please notify the Luncheon Chair with the guest's name at the same email address: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com. Guests must have proof of vaccination and sign a Waiver of Liability which will be available at the sign-in table.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon
March 10th, 2022

Salad
Irish Garden Green Salad
Mixed Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Hard Boiled Egg
Lemon-Herb Vinaigrette

Entrees
Classic Braised & Glazed Corned Beef
Cabbage, Boiled Carrots & Potatoes,
Whole Grain Mustard Sauce

Searched Salmon Cakes
Lemon Herb Cous Cous, Seasonal Vegetables,
Remoulade Sauce

Vegetarian Option

Dessert
Carrot Cake
Caramelized Pineapple Sauce

Happy Birthday

Tanc Agius
 Rich Ahlf
 John Biasotti
 Ron Binder
 Bruce Borgman
 Ed Brands
 Jim Burk

Chuck Cornell
 Chuck Denney
 Ned Gamsky
 Bill Holly
 Dave Kingsbury
 Jonathan Korfhage
 Todd Lockwood

Al Munayer
 Steve Oki
 Scott Simmons
 David Steinberg
 Joe Stengel
 Richard Woodman

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Congratulations to **ME** Your editor was the Birthday hat winner!

Remember... If our meeting is via Zoom you have to be Zooming to WIN.
 If we are having a live meeting you have to be present to WIN!

Winners receive a sharp SIR cap!

Sunshine

Brian McCarthy



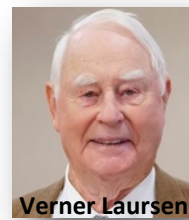
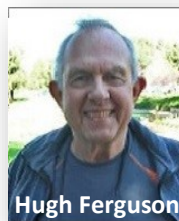
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

Consider contacting a sick SIR member to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome.

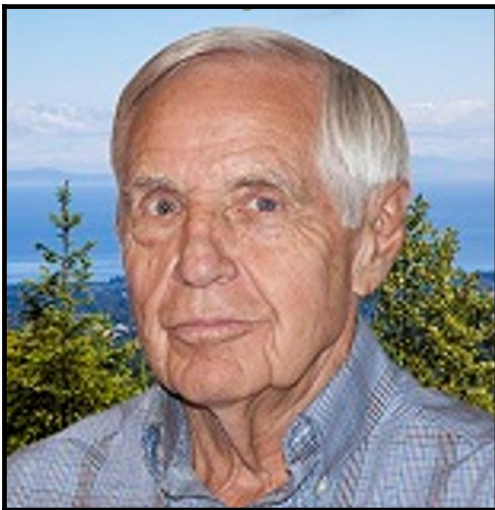
Cards and letters are always appreciated. If you become aware of a SIR member who is ill please let me know by email at brimacc@comcast.net or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised.

Stay Healthy.

Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



February Award Ceremony Honoring Senior SIR Darlo Boone



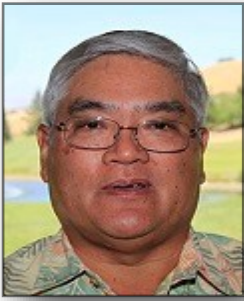
At the February 10th monthly zoom meeting, the Super Senior certificate was presented to **Darlo Boone**, on attaining the age of 90 last month, having been born on January 31, 1932 in Orange City, Iowa. **Darlo** graduated from Orange City high school, and then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial economics from Iowa State University in 1954. After graduating from college, **Darlo** spent three years in the air force and was discharged with the rank of captain. He began his soap-filled working career with Lever Brothers in 1958. In 1968, he was hired by the yummy Mrs. Stevens Candy Company and then joined the Gillette Company in 1970, retiring in 1990 with a life supply of close shaves.

Darlo and his significant other, **Marilyn McComb**, live in Lafayette but spend six months every year in the Villages, Florida. **Darlo** enjoys golf, computers, and studying family history.

We recognize **Darlo Boone** on reaching the big 90 on the last day of January.

Presenter was **Walt Busenius**
at the February 10th Zoom Luncheon





Membership George Mon

We had no new members in February. Nine members were officially deleted from our membership roll of 2022 as they have not responded to renewing their membership after many attempts by various committees to do so.

SIR **Vince Rettew** passed away on January 22nd. He was ill for some time.

The 2022 membership count is at 271. This is down from 280 members at the start of the year.

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 at this address (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
gckk@comcast.net



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

I want to thank Bob West, my co-editor for stepping up and doing the bulk of the editing for this newsletter as I was off visiting Sea Ranch to try to get back into "Vacation mode" after the long covid imposed dry spell.

Don't miss the new section in this newsletter with some of the history of our branch... we start off with our first newsletter, from 1989. I think you'll agree, we've come a long way from those early days.

Deadline for submissions for the April issue is March 25th.

Don't forget, we encourage member contributions to SIR-Call so, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SirCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier — Editor SIR-Call
Cell / Text: 925.457.1489 br146SirCall@gmail.com

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Jerry Kaplan
Little SIR.....	Rich Lyon
Secretary	Bob Wilkenfeld
Assistant Secretary	John Kluesener
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Dave Steinberg
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 2nd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 2nd Term	Bob Lucido
Director 1st Term	Bob Ford
Director 1st Term	Ed Brands
Director 1st Term	Frank Lucas

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bob Ford
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Ed Brands
Publicity	Frank Lucas

Refer to branch directory, accessible under Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses.

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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

NOTES

from Our Members

Blast from the past....

Looking Back in Branch History (Jerry Kaplan)

During the transition from **Gary Brown**, who had been the Historian for several years, to our new historian, **Malcolm Harrison**, I had the opportunity to look through the four boxes of past records that documented how Branch 146 has evolved and grown over time. The records included the earliest newsletters (then called News Notes, see below) as well as real color photographs (often printed by Long's Drugs) of activities and members at meetings. Following are a few interesting gleanings:

Branch 146 did not become an official incorporated and chartered SIR Branch until it reached 100 members (in December 1989) although it began operating in a "probationary" status more than a year earlier.

The branch was always looking for a more permanent home during its first decade, meeting at the Pleasant Hill Country Club, Zio Fraedo's Restaurant, the Concord Elks Lodge, and Blake's Restaurant (Boundary Oak) in June 1992. Meetings were moved back to Zio Fraedo's restaurant in 1998, but came back to Boundary Oak permanently the next year. (While Boundary Oak underwent major renovations, several meetings were held at the Concord Hilton during 1995 and early 1996).

By 1992, the branch had 190 members but only seven activities:

- golf,
- bowling,
- ham radio,
- computers,
- travel,
- Bridge,
- RV's.

By 1999, several new and interesting activities existed bringing the total to 14, including:

- bocce,
- bowling,
- fishing,
- hardware (?),
- greeters,
- SongSirs,
- Sunshine,
- veterans,
- walkers,
- investments.

By September 1994, Branch 146 grew so big that a new branch was spun off and became Branch 171, Lamorinda.

For several years, there was a waiting list to join Branch 146 as well as a limit on the maximum number of members in a branch (300). The State SIR organization eliminated both waiting lists and branch size limitations in 2008.

Take a look at our first newsletter on the following pages!

NEWS NOTES

PLEASANT HILL SIRS PROBATIONARY BRANCH 146

December 1989

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

We meet at Zio Fraedo's, 701 Gregory Lane, on the third Tuesday of each month.

Our next meeting is December 19, 1989.

Social - 11:00 a.m....Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON...OUR FIRST



BIG SIR'S FINAL MESSAGE

Gentlemen. As the year 1989 winds down, I thank all my officers, committeemen and other individuals for their help in running Branch 146 this past year. Please give BIG SIR Gil Rhodes the same support in 1990. Our branch charter will be presented officially at our Christmas luncheon on December 19th by SIRS President Harry E. Estes. Please attend and make this occasion a big success. Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for a Happy New Year!



Charles Unfried

Normally, you are asked to call if you are unable to attend the meeting. For the Christmas luncheon, reverse this procedure and call IF YOU CAN ATTEND THE MEETING - in this case by notifying Dave Hammons (945-6333) who is handling all ticket sales. Tickets for the luncheon on December 19th must be ordered by December 15th. Wives, of course, are invited to this festive occasion but single members are certainly welcome, too. Tickets are \$12.50 each and the entree is either prime rib or chicken cordon bleu. Please let Dave know your choice. Tickets ordered by phone can be picked up at the luncheon. DON'T FORGET - ticket deadline is DECEMBER 15th! !

NOW YOU SEE IT - NOW YOU DON'T

MEMBER TALK

We now have 39 members signed up for golf which represents about 36% of our present membership. Following is the December schedule:

Dec 6	Wed	9:00	Boundary Oaks
13	Wed	8:30	Antioch
20	Wed	9:00	Boundary Oaks
27	Wed	9:00	Boundary Oaks

During 1990, we plan to have a few out-of-town tournaments so as to provide a little more variety. Additional information will be furnished in later bulletins.

November winners were:

Nov 7	Joe Jansen	Flight 1
	Charlie Kiser	Flight 2
14	Hal Rodgers	Flight 1
	Dave Obera	Flight 2
21	Joe Suta	Flight 1
	Chuck Thompson	Flight 2
28	Ed Leal	Flight 1
	Milt Swenson	Flight 2

Entertainment will be furnished by the Magical Martins, namely Marvin and Linda Martin who have been doing magic routines for nearly 45 years as a hobby and on a semi-professional basis. They presented their routine on channel 42 when it was beamed in black and white. Marvin was a member of the Pleasant Hill SIRS for a brief period before he moved to Vacaville. The Martins are real pro's and they put on a great show. Don't miss it!



NO ACTIVITY SECTION



No activities were reported for the bowling, camper, or radio groups. Anyone interested in these activities should contact:

Bowling	Bill Ashcraft (458-5342)
Camper	Russ Rigor (682-5054)
Radio	Charles Unfried (687-1724)

1990 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

BIG SIR	Gilbert Rhodes	943-6421
Little Sir	Eugene Hackett	935-0983
Secretary	Charles Bartsch	283-0336
Asst Secretary	Donald Merchant	933-9310
Treasurer	David Hammons	945-6333
Asst Treasurer	Charles Thompson	935-2385
Directors	Ned Alexander	932-1835
	Oliver Holmes	228-7049
	Jack Lytle	685-8790
	John Rose	672-4061
Bulletin	John Fontenrose	686-1016
Chaplain	Elmer Kaprielian	934-5760
Membership	William Larkins	682-8858
Sunshine	Ellis Holland	935-4208

CONTRACT BRIDGE

SIR Dave Hammons (945-6333) advises that there will be no bridge session during December due to the many activities and commitments of members around the Holiday season. However, he plans to host the next bridge get-together on January 22nd at his home. Each player brings his own brown bag lunch and the host provides the refreshments. Dave encourages all bridge players to contact him for further details. The usual sign-up sheet will be on hand at the January 16 SIRS meeting.



MEMBERSHIP

Happy December Birthday To:

Chuck Bartsch Ken Chrisman Gene Hackett Mike Noonan
 Harry Reick

New Members:

Lynn Lanni (Elena)	1443 Via Loma	Walnut Creek	94598	934-2877
Arthur Peterson (Sonja)	508 Fenway	Walnut Creek	94598	939-4355
Jack Singland (Eve)	9 Stewart Court	Moraga	94556	376-6806

RUSSELL A. FLINT

We were saddened to learn that Russ Flint, one of our new members, recently passed away. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Ruth, and to the family.

1. REGULAR MEMBERS MISSING THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS WITHOUT NOTIFYING THEIR ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN, OR ATTENDING LESS THAN 7 MEETINGS WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, SHALL BE NOTIFIED BY FORM LETTER NO. 4 OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION. CERTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AT ANOTHER BRANCH MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED AS A CREDIT TO THE ATTENDANCE RECORD. ABSENCE SHOULD BE REPORTED TO ATTENDANCE CHAIRMAN.
2. NON-RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE: ALL TOURS, TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ARRANGED FOR OR BY SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., AND ITS BRANCHES ARE FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND PLEASURE OF THE MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS WHO DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE. SONS IN RETIREMENT, INC., AND ITS BRANCHES DO NOT ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WELL BEING OR SAFETY OF THE PARTICIPANTS OR IN ANY MATTERS PERTAINING TO SAID TOURS, TRIPS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.
3. CHECKS FOR TRIPS (3 NIGHTS OR LESS) MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE BRANCH CONDUCTING THE TRIP. CHECKS FOR TOURS (IN EXCESS OF 3 NIGHTS) MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE TRAVEL AGENCY INVOLVED.

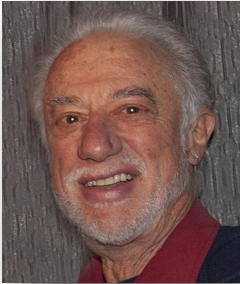
SIRS BRANCH 146
 John Fontenrose
 956 Bannock Court
 Concord, CA 94518
 686-1016





Looking for something to do...

**Activities Coordinator
Bob Lucido**



Unfortunately, Table Tennis and RV Wanderers activities have closed due to lack of interest.

Chess is now an area wide activity, which will become active soon.

We still have 44 Activities.

You may have been holding off on starting a new activity due to COVID restrictions.

Because most of the restrictions have been lifted, now is the time to start new activities or join existing ones.

Bob Lucido

925-899-0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

CURRENT SIR ACTIVITIES 2.14.22 (Page 1 of 2)

Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	Open to new members, or Subs	Co-Ed	Status	Other Remarks
Bocce	John Kendrick	~12 to 24 couples	8:30 2nd & 4th Mondays May through October	yes	yes	Active	Newhall Park, Concord, Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek
Book Corner Chair	Peter Plante	open	Jan > every other month	N/A	N/A	NA	Before SIR luncheon
Book Corner Asst. Chair	Dick McElroy					NA	
Book Group	John Pearl	5 to 10	variable - every 1 to 2 mo.	yes	no	Active	breakfast meeting at local restaurants
Bridge - Couples Party	Tony Greco	6 Couples	Monthly	Yes	yes	Active	
Bridge Couples Duplicate 1	John Kluesener	6 Couples	7:00-10:30 PM Third Wednesday	yes	yes	Active	Only 12 people can play bridge
Bridge Couples Duplicate 2	Dave Pierce	6 couples	Monthly - 2nd Tues. 7 PM-10 PM	yes	yes	On Hold	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 1	Max Hinkle	16 regs. plus subs	Monthly - 3rd Monday	yes	no	On Hold	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 2	Dick DeVoe	18 reg. plus subs.	Monthly - 1st Friday 10-2:30	yes	no	On Hold	
Bridge Men's Duplicate 3	Mike Whitaker	18	Monthly - 3rd Friday	yes	no	Active	
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	Jim Pope	16 plus 4 alt.	9:45-3:00 Monthly - 1st Monday	yes	no	Active	
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	Jim Stedman					NA	
Cooking II	Steve Ybarra	8	Monthly - 2nd Monday	no	Maybe	Active	
Cooking Lunch & Wine	Syd Whalen	8 plus 3 subs.	Monthly - 3rd Wednesday	no	Maybe	Active	*Spouses in related activities but not lunches
Cooking Tres Gourmets	Ron Binder	8	Monthly - Jan. to Oct.	no	Maybe	On Hold	*Have dinner out with spouses - 2X/year
Cribbage Chair	Ron Afdal	8 to 10	12:00 - 4:00 pm 4th Wednesday	yes	no	Active	Meet at Rocco's Italian Restaurant W.C.
Cribbage-Asst Chair	John Kendrick					NA	
Cycling	Larry Kaye	10 to 15	every week	yes	yes	Active	We Share with San Ramon.
Dining Out	Bruce Borgman	~20 to 30 couples	Every other Month	yes	yes	Active	Six times per year
Dining Out-Asst Chair	Jim Barry					NA	
Dinner/Dance Social	Jonathan Korfhage	25 to 40 couples		yes	yes	On Hold	Annual or Semi Annual DANCE - usual price - \$125 to \$150/couple
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	Henry Thatcher					NA	
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	Jim Pope	30 to 40	events quarterly	yes	yes	Active	outings to local museums, attractions, interesting destinations- followed by a stop nearby for lunch

CURRENT SIR ACTIVITIES 2.14.22 (Page 2 of 2)

Activity	Chair	# of Participants	Meeting Frequency	Open to new members, or Subs	Co-Ed	Status	Other Remarks
Fishing	Paul Dubow	~10 to 15 Br 146	7:30-9:30 Breakfast mtg. 4th Thurs.	yes	Maybe	Active	w/ Area 2 (approx. 100 mbrs.) Ron Lew Area 16 Chairman
Golf - 18 hole Chair	David Steinberg	~100 to 115 active	9:00 Every Tuesday	yes	no	Active	40 - 70 golfers at Boundary Oaks
Golf - 18 hole-away games	Ed Marlovics					Active	No Away Golf
Golf - 9 hole	Bob Ford	~25 members	9:30 every Thursdays	yes	no	Active	Every Thursday except the second Thursday
Hearts - Men's	Bob West	6 to 12	Meet 2X a month - 2nd & 4th Fridays 12:45-3:30	yes	No	Active	At Rocco's Pizza (opt. Lunch noon) share with other branches
Hiking	Mark Curtis	6 to 12	10:00 am - varies Monday or Friday	yes	yes	On Hold	Both easy and moderate, some strenuous
Ladies Day Luncheon chair	Steve Ybarra	~250 people	*Semi-annually	N/A	N/A	Active	*Months of May and December
Ladies Day Luncheon-AsstChair	Max Hinkle					NA	
Mexican Train Dominoes (1)Uno	Jerry Kaplan	16 to 18	Monthly -plays Friday eve. after luncheon	yes	yes	Active	6:45PM-10:00 PM
Mex. Train Dominoes (1) Asst.	Corrie Oranje					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mexican Train Dominoes (2)	Ron Plachy	14 to 18	6:30-10:00PM 4th Friday	yes	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (3)	Walt Busenius	18 to 20	Monthly - 4th Friday eve.	yes	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Asst	Dick Richmond					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Co-Chair	Henry Thatcher	18 to 22	Monthly - 3rd Friday eve.	yes	yes	On Hold	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Co-Chair	Jim Pope					NA	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (5)	Dave Pierce	12	monthly -3rd Thursday eve.	yes	yes	On Hold	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (6)	John Moose Kelly	10 to 20	6:30-10:00PM 4th Tuesday	yes	yes	On Hold	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train Dominoes (7)	Bob Lucido	14	monthly -2nd Wednesday eve.	no	yes	Active	accepts substitutes for absent members
Mex. Train(8) Ocho Dominoes (8)	Richard Hockenbrock						accepts substitutes for absent members
Photography Co-Chair	Henry Thatcher					NA	
Photography Co-Chair	John "Moose" Kelly	10 to 20	meets 4th Fri. of every other month	yes	yes	Active	meets @Walnut Crk. Library -Ygnacio Valley Br w/other SIR branches
Pinochle Co-chair	Pete McNeill	8 to 12	2nd and 4th Wed after lunch	yes	yes	Active	meet at Rocco's Pizza (opt. lunch) 1-3 pm w/other SIR branches
Pinochle Co-chair	Stan Johnson					NA	
Poker Group #1	Dan O'Sullivan	7	Monthly - 2nd Wed. 1:00-4:00	no	no	On Hold	
Poker Group #3	Sig Kalteis	7	Monthly 4th noon	yes	no	On Hold	Needs more members to play may shut down
Poker Group #4	Rich Hanford	7	Monthly 4th Monday 1-4 pm	no	no	On Hold	*Have 7 active & 2 substitute members
Poker Group #4-Asst Chair	Pete Gates					NA	
Poker Group #6	Brad Hatcher	6	Mo.-1st Thurs 12:30-3-30	No	no	Active	play nickel, dime, quarter, etc. Max bet is 50 cents
Song Sirs	Bruce Borgman	about 20 active	Monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed.	yes	no	Active	* No auditions required
Sushi no tomodachi	Clint Collier	undecided	Every other Month	yes	yes	Active	
Table Pool	Bill Weinberg	10 to 16	Every Monday 11:30 AM	yes	no	Active	Masses (N. Main St.)
Table Pool-Asst Chair	Jim Barry					NA	
Theater	Gary Schaub	~30 - 40 people	2 to 3 theatre parties/yr.	yes	yes	On Hold	*With a larger group can get better group rate
Travel	Milt Smith	~15 - 50 people	*As scheduled	yes	yes	Active	*Multiple trips per year, Area 2 trips also available w/other SIR branches
Wine Tasting	Brian McCarthy	~30-50 people	4th Wed. 2:30 - 5:00p.m.	yes	yes	Active	*typically Months of February April, July, & October

SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

March 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
28	Mar 1	2	3	4
10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Couples Party Bridge	8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Ocho (8)	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30 PM Poker Group #6	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
7	8	9	10	11
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge 10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM Poker Group #1 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Siete	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (Uno)
14	15	16	17	18

Princess Cruise
Ft. Lauderdale - San Francisco
via the Panama Canal

10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (Cinco)	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro
21	22	23	24	25

Princess Cruise
Ft. Lauderdale - San Francisco
via the Panama Canal

10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	9:00 AM Golf	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30 PM Sums in Retirement Via Zoom 8:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)
28	29	30	31	Apr 1

10:00 AM Hiking 12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses 1:00 PM Poker Group #4	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-4	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
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Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy



Our first wine tasting of 2022 was held at the beautiful home of **Richard Hockenbrock**. The weather was close to perfect for a January day. Every one enjoyed sitting around the patio and yard while some wine enthusiasts gathered around the gas fire pit. **Richard** and **Virginia Tygart** did a fabulous job as hosts. Twenty-nine participants enjoyed the wine, the appetizers and the glorious weather.

Rich Hanford and **Sandy Wagner** won for the most popular red wine, a cabernet sauvignon from the Washington state. **Bob** and **Jane West** won for the most popular white wine, a chardonnay also from Washington.

The next wine tasting will be Tuesday, April 26, at the home of **Larry** and **Ann Kaye**. Details will be in the April SIR-Call.

Brian McCarthy

925-324-2463 Br146winetasting@gmail.com



Photo by :Bill Holly

Rich Hanford winner of the favorite red wine with **Brian McCarthy**



Photo by: Bill Holly

Brian McCarthy with Hosts **Richard Hockenbrock** & **Virginia Tygart**



Photo by: Bruce Borgman

Jane & Bob West winners of the favorite white wine receive a bottle from **Bill Holly**.



Photo by Bill Holly

Rich Lyon, Al Munayer, Bruce Borgman, & Bob Wilkenfeld

More Wine Tasting Photos on Next Page

WINE TASTING PHOTOS CONTINUED FROM PRIOR PAGE (Photos by Bill Holly)



Rich Hanford, Clint Collier, Mary McCarthy, Joe & Barbara Stengel



Janet Ross, Dale & Mary Ellen Dahlgaard, Bev Collier, Jane West, & Virginia Tygart



Don Dotson, Diane Munayer, Wendy Lucido, Judy Wilkenfeld, & Etta Dotson



Appetizers

**MY WIFE SAID THAT IF I DON'T
GET OFF MY COMPUTER AND HELP
WITH THE DISHES, SHE'LL SLAM MY
HEAD ON THE KEYBOARD, BUT I
THINK SHE'S JOKINGSG67SGHI3DHGJ
RE7490DNDWHK3-2J4H37SHDUDKIJ
SD877HR8SKO20A3Y3H3J3UHU338JE
SU83J8R**

**I can't believe it is
Omicron season
already!
I still have my Delta
decorations up.**



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Tuesday February 1: Did you say Wind? Did you read cold? Well, what the heck, we rode anyway. Braving to warnings of huge winds and cool temps we gathered. Off to San Ramon and Katys Cafe. Heading South the temperature was nice.

The group today was : **Moose Kelly, Scott Simmons, Pat Hoy, Bob Wilkenfeld, Larry Kaye** and a guest.

The java was hot, the restroom was utilized and we watched as the wind increased outside the Cafe. Saddle up was the consensus and off we rode. North bound was a nasty headwind. We grouped somewhat together and tried to shield each other by changing leaders. The wind blew. We used various non wind tunnel streets on the way home. It helped. Finally, in the front of us loomed Alamo. Relief was heard from all. Some hardy souls were riding home and they left the confines of the peloton and braved the winds alone. As we dismounted our steel rigs the wind really began to blow.

This was the reason for a shortened ride and a somewhat meandering route home.

What can one say? We braved the winds and the cold to achieve a day of health. Makes good sense to me.

Friday February 11: Warmth was advertised. As we headed out this AM from Danville it was clear it would be snuggly.

Big group today. **Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Pat Hoy, Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Jim Nelson** and Wife **Christie, Larry Kaye** and **Tom Alborg**. Off we went. Riding today to the Olde Tassajara School on Finley Rd. The temperature was perfect. No wind and lots of Sun. We arrived at the site and sat for awhile discussing the WORLD. Thoughts of BBQ lunch waiting put us back on our bikes. All downhill and back to town we rode. Arriving at Hazy BBQ we were met by brother **Ron Lew** who had gone off to help a friend but came back for lunch. Food was enjoyed and a friendly discussion as well. Calories were not discussed. Good fun with like minded cyclists.

Larry Kaye

Stoner thought for the day.
Each time you light your lighter your lighter
gets lighter....
Until your lighter gets so light it won't light.



Bocce John Kendrick

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players.

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The games start at 8:30 am, end at 10:00 am

on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September.

All games are played at the 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.

F.Y.I. - there is a rumor the Olympic Committee is considering adding Bocce Ball to the next summer games. SIR 146 may consider forming a team for the next 2024 Summer Olympic games to be held in Paris, France. Does anyone speak French?

Rain Cancels Play.

Ladies are welcome. Come and join us.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

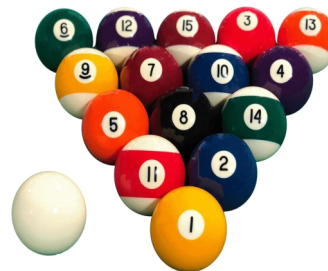


Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

Reported by Jim Barry

Table Pool is back in business and we're meeting every Monday at Masses at 12 Noon for around 2 hours and getting in some very good games!

We're open for new members just call me or Jim Barry for any additional information.



Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962



Song-Sirs
Bruce Borgman & Peter Plante



GOLF
Ed Marlovits

I have been anointed the SIR Area 16 Golf Chair. This year SIR State Golf is trying to return to normal. I will be in charge of holding 2 Qualifiers for the State Championship Tournaments,

which are discussed below. I also would like to outline the other upcoming SIR State Golf events.

First, I would like to remind everyone about the existence of the **State Golf Website** (<https://www.sirgolf.org>) where details about State Events are posted. Having said that, not all links are currently live, but will be shortly.

In April, State SIR Golf will hold the annual "Spring Fling" on April 19-20 at Chardonnay and Eagle Vines in Napa. Note that these are on Tuesday and Wednesday one of which days might conflict with Tuesday Golf. Unlike Tuesday Golf this popular and conveniently located event welcomes ladies and guests with handicaps. <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/wp-content/uploads/Flyer-Spring-Fling-Rev-B.pdf>

Also, mark your calendars, the Reno golf trip is back! Dates, June 13-17, have been finalized. Details will be posted shortly but we do know the Atlantis Hotel will be the host venue, and we will have events at 3 courses:

- Lakeridge GC – Tuesday 6/14
- Toiyabe – Wednesday 6/15
- Wolf Run – Thursday 6/16

The Fall Classic event which is similar to the Spring Fling event is planned for mid-September. Details have not been finalized, but rumor has it that it will be held at the Foxtail North and South in Rohnert Park.

The State Team Championship Tournament ("The Chairman's Tournament") is set for Monday, August 8th, 2022 at Rancho Solano. I will arrange for the Area Qualifying event, which I hope will be in late May. The rules for this tournament will be more challenging than for our typical scramble events.

Finally, we will have the State Individual Championship on Tuesday, October 11 also at Rancho Solano. The Area Qualifier will be held in early July.

Ed Marlovits

The times – they are a-changing!!! After coordinating and directing the SongSirs for well over five years, I have indicated to our SongSirs group that I am stepping back from these responsibilities and am soliciting for someone else to step up and take over. I received many messages of thanks for the past many years from our dedicated group, and, gratefully one of our loyal members, **Peter Plante** has agreed to take over the role. This last week Peter and I got together to "pass the baton", quite literally, and Peter has taken a good portion of the voluminous music that we have accumulated over the years. **Peter** and I will continue to work together for a smooth transition as we are planning to re-start our regular rehearsals and to start to prepare a program to perform at one of the many Senior Centers in the area. Up to this point these facilities have not allowed the performance of various groups due to the restrictions of Covid regulations. We are hopeful that as we all look forward to a greater degree of social interactions, that we will be able to resume our performances. We certainly expect to lead all of you in our traditional "God Bless America" at the end of our monthly luncheons, starting with our March 10 in-person luncheon.

On a separate but related note, you may have seen our blast email regarding our piano which our pianist, Steve Dinning, plays so capably during our luncheons. Boundary Oak has told us a few months ago that they no longer wish to store the piano between our monthly meetings since they have lots of chairs and other supplies which make it difficult to move around the piano. We first offered the piano to any of our members but got no takers. We've now advertised the piano in on-line social networks – at no cost. If any of you still would like to take it – it is available at no cost, and we will assist you in the moving.

Lastly, we are anxious to expand our SongSirs group and want to re-iterate that if you enjoy singing, we encourage you to join us at one of our rehearsals – every first and third Wednesday at 1:30pm at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. No audition required – just a love of singing and camaraderie!



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

The crab season finally ended and it was one of the best ever. Most of us who set out on the briny and in Tomales Bay came home with limits. Our ability to do well was enhanced because

we had a head start on the professional crab fleet and so sport fishermen had the crustaceans all to themselves for nearly one month.

The crab season was immediately followed by trout season, and it has started well. We began fishing in Lafayette Reservoir, usually catching near limits. The fishermen who tried the reservoir were **Mike Browne** of Branch 146, **Phil Scimonelli**, **Brion Beetz**, and **Stan Wong**. Then, on February 4, San Pablo Reservoir opened, the weather cooperated, and we had a ball. **Phil Scimonelli** caught two five pounders on the same day. On the next day, **Stan Wong**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Brion Beetz** limited out, although it seemed that all of the big lunkers gravitated to Stan's hook. Others who tried San Pablo successfully were **Mike Browne**, **Bob Stein**, **Harry Sherinian**, **Terry Miller**, and **Bob Lively** (in his kayak). For those of you who want to try your luck at San Pablo, the best lure is probably the white mice tail. In addition to our trout adventures in the local reservoirs, **Chuck Vanoncini** fly fished on the Sacramento River twice and returned with limits.

Out on the Delta, **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, **Harry Sherinian**, **Stan Wong**, and **Tom Kostik** all caught stripers, but **Bob Lively** struck out while fishing from

his kayak. **Pedro Contreras** sailed out in the Delta twice looking for sturgeon. He saw quite a few jumping, but none of them were interested in his lures. **Ron Lew** entered the Super Bowl Sturgeon Derby, but his results were similar to that of the Cincinnati Bengals. Nevertheless, the sturgeon are out there and hopefully we can report better results next month.

At our monthly meeting on February 24, we were treated to a presentation by **Steve Dyer**, who has been fishing for rockfish and ling cod since he was a boy in Berkeley many decades ago. He spoke about his techniques and displayed the equipment that he uses. Some of his personally made tackle was available for sale.

Our next meeting will be at 8:30 am on March 24 at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4. It is also the date of our annual auction. This would be an excellent time for those of you who want to start or resume fishing to buy all sorts of equipment at prices substantially lower than what is offered in the local sporting goods stores or even online. But even if you are not interested in the auction, we would welcome your presence. We have lots of trips on our agenda and we guarantee that you will enjoy yourself if you take part in one of our outings no matter what level of fishing skill you possess. If you need further information, you may call Big Fish **Bob Lively** at 925-383-5193 or branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510-504-3566.



JON ADAMS
@CITYCLOPS

"Honey, come look! I've found some information all the world's top scientists and doctors missed."



Travel Milt Smith



Time to go see some more stuff...

There is not much happening in SIRs travel these days. The following two trips are the only SIR trips with space available. There is one sold out trip going to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Switzerland this fall.

Otherwise...SIR members seemingly have little interest in travel right now. However, travel seems to be building all around the globe, particularly smaller groups as considerable savings can be had. I have two suggestions for our Branch: 1. Members should think about 2023 bookings, let me know directly of places of interest to you, I will perform some research for you. 2. Day trips to places such as the Sacramento Underground and Monterey / Carmel, as examples, will be coming back. Again, if you have particular points of interest do not hesitate to let me know.

Important: I am looking for someone to help me with Travel Chair Duties for our Branch, as I plan to be out of the country for most of the last half of this year. If you are interested let me know, I will be happy to discuss the duties.

ALASKA LAND & SEA May 23 June 4th. 2022 SPACE AVAILABLE

8-DAY CRUISE Aboard the Majestic Princess " Anchorage/ Whittier " Hubbard Glacier Scenic Cruising " Glacier Bay Cruising " Skagway " Juneau " Ketchikan " Vancouver 6-DAY " 1 Nights Fairbanks " 2 Nights Denali National Park " 1 Night Mt. McKinley Lodge " 1 night Anchorage CONTACT Larry Yarberry (925) 890-9245 or l.yarberry42@comcast.net, or Talbot Tours 800 662-9933 info@talbottours.com Land & Cruise including roundtrip Airfare \$2995 DBL. OCCUPANCY; \$4250 SINGLE SIR

8 Night Columbia and Snake River Cruise May 12, 2022, via the American Harmony of the American Cruise Lines. Explore the Pacific Northwest with your fellow SIR members following the path of Lewis and Clark. Unpack once and enjoy the beauty of the lush forest of the River Gorge and the high desert bordering the Snake River and Hells Canyon. Prices range from \$5,600 pp for double occupancy. For more information contact Tan Matosian Branch 128. tgmatt54@gmail.com, or contact The Travel Center in Pleasant Hill directly at 925-937-2223. Be sure to mention Branch 128

Milt Smith

925-285-2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Have you been out enjoying our spring-like weather? The 9-Hole golf group has had some beautiful weather for our weekly outing. The course is in great shape, all the muddy patches are gone.

Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to

all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. 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.

If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com

Some people you're glad to see coming; some people you're glad to see going.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.



SIR BRANCH 146 Hiking Mark Curtis

I participate in two SIR146-sponsored outdoor activities, namely golf on Tuesday at Boundary Oak and hiking in our local east bay park facilities. And the question might be “which activity do I prefer most?”. The short answer is I never have a bad day hiking. The same cannot be said for playing golf! The great thing about each of these activities is that we are outside enjoying fresh air and great companionship. The side benefit is that with each of these activities (if the eyes are open), we have the opportunity to observe various wildlife (animals and plants) around us.

We have done several hikes recently which are memorable. The most recent was on 02/21 in Mt. Diablo State Park and is commonly referred to as “the Falls Loop”. This was the most difficult hike so far this year with almost 8 miles and 1200 feet of climbing. And in a few instances, I would qualify the single-track trails as being moderately treacherous. We also did a nature walk at Hayward Regional Shoreline. There have been others, all of which were enjoyable. And I need to mention the constant core group who participate; **Gene Schulting, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ray Martz, Mike Browne, Dave Steinberg, Earl Bates, Jim Nelson,** and me.

Our next planned outing will be on 02/28 at Sunol Regional Wilderness, and will include a loop hike to the primary water feature, Little Yosemite Falls.

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

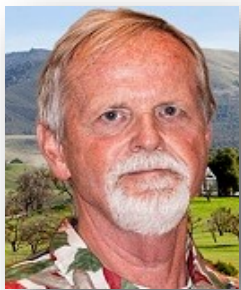
Mark Curtis

Cell 925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Mt. Diablo State Park wildflower from 2/21 Falls Loop hike.





Photography Group
John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met with SIR Branch 8 photographers on Friday, February 18th on Zoom. Twelve members of the Photography Group attended; **Bill Holly, Clint Collier, Peter Plante, Bobbie Schmidt, Rich Lyon, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ron Polvka, Dean Mayer, Moose Kelly** and **Henry Thatcher**. The theme for this month's meeting was "Infra-red Black and White Photography" presented by Bill Helsel. Bill is the photography teacher at the Acalances Adult Education School close to Rossmoor. After Bill's presentation, the members of both branches presented their photographs for review and comments. I have enclosed four photos from our members of branch 146.

We will be having a photography outing to the Presidio in San Francisco on Wednesday, March 2nd. This particular outing is being organized by **Mike Rothman**. The goal of this outing will be to photograph Andy Goldworthy sculptures as well as some of the less common views of the Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Our next meeting is on Friday, April 15th. We will certainly bring more news on this event as the time approaches.

If you are not on our email mailing list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact John "Moose" Kelly or Henry Thatcher. 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 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi

We visited Tatsu in the Ygancio Plaza for this

month's sushi adventure.

In the spirit of adventure we all had a different type of sushi, a dish called chi-rashi which translates to scattered sushi. Rather than individual pieces, this consists of a bowl of sushi rice with different types of fish arranged on top of the rice. Sort of a cross between sashimi and sushi. Our next outing will be in April, on

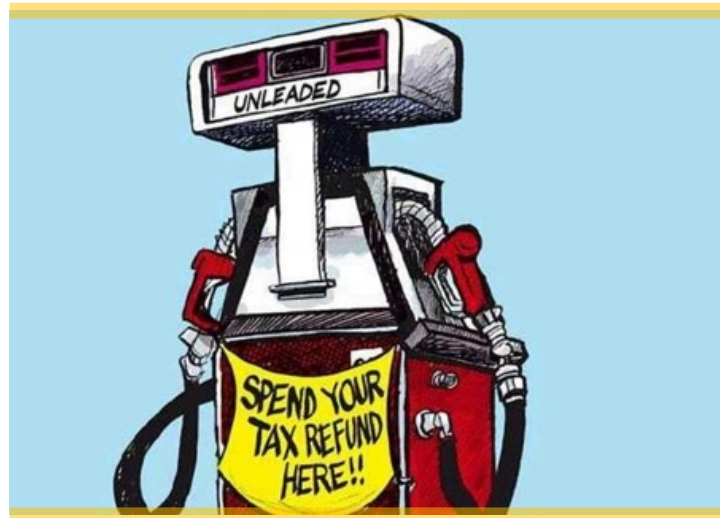


Bill Holly, Brian McCarthy, Bob Wilkenfield, "Moose" Kelly (new member), Don Arington (new member), Bruce Borgman and Clint Collier

the 21st. The restaurant has not yet been selected... watch for the announcement in the April SIR-Call

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org





Explore & Eat

Henry Thatcher & Jim Pope

We are looking forward to the time when we can re-start the Explore & Eat activity with a visit to the Black Diamond Mine or another activity that has been deemed safe. In the meantime, we are on Covid-19 hold, and we want to thank everyone for their past participation and to wish all SIR members a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!

Henry Thatcher 925-997-5032 and
Jim Pope 925-699-6447



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group celebrated Valentine's Day with their wives and significant others on February 15 at La Veranda Cafe in Clayton.

A private room was reserved for the event and all sixteen were able to attend. La Veranda Cafe provided a three course, plus dessert, fixed menu that was enjoyed by all. Appetizers of Scampi Pancetta, Calamari Fritti and Antipasto Misto were plentiful and delicious. The entree choices were Chicken Piccata, Grilled Filet of Salmon and Grilled N.Y. Steak.

Most in the group selected the Salmon which was very good. We finished the dinner with Tiramisu or Cheesecake. Cocktails and wine were available for reasonable prices. Valentine's Dinner has been a long-standing annual tradition with the Cooking II group.

Next month will be hosted by **Bill Cammerer** on March 14 at 11:30 am.

Steve Ybarra



Photo by: Bruce Borgman

Cooking Group II Valentines Dinner (L to R): Janet Yolanda, Richard Hockenbrock, Virginia Tygart, Sue & Corrie Oranje, Steve & Dana Ybarra.



Photo by: Bruce Borgman

Cooking II Group at La Veranda Café for Valentines Day dinner (L to R): Steve & Dana Ybarra, Ken Richter, Dennis & Ann Hallett, and Susan Sheldon



Sorry, did you say something?

That was yesterday...

I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The restaurant scene in the area continues to evolve, with some closing, and others changing owners. Your Dining Out hosts have tried to consider many of these restaurants as the health regulations have eased some and indoor dining has benefited with the relaxation of the wearing of masks. We have had some interesting discussions with some owners since we have gotten to know a number over the years. It is a very challenging time for the restaurants, not only because they have experienced a long period of loss of business, but also because the cost of food and even more so, finding reliable and experienced servers and other staff has been very difficult. Because it is difficult to find staff, the owners often must pay overtime. We will have to be cognizant of these facts and that the cost of our Dining Out experience will be greater than it has in the past.

The \$60 per person cost of our dining event at La Fontaine in January was a very good price, and was, as we noted in last month's SIR-Call, was a very enjoyable and successful event. You will see a few pictures from that dining event which did not make it in the last issue. We hope that more of you will feel comfortable in venturing out and socializing with your fellow SIR members as the Covid statistics have improved.

Now, for the good news! I am pleased to let you know that we have just selected the restaurant for our March Dining Out event. We will be going to Montecatini Ristorante, a dining destination in Walnut Creek that has a 32-year history of serving excellent Italian specialties. This restaurant has just changed owners and was just purchased by a couple who met as server and bartender employees of the restaurant – quite a romantic story. They will retain many of the classic dishes for which the restaurant is known but add some new touches. In fact, the restaurant will be undergoing some renovations in late March. We will be dining there after those are done – on Tuesday, April 5. The details of the menu and the cost are still being negotiated as of this writing but will be communicated to the Dining Out mail list soon. If you are interested in joining us, you will want to sign up quickly when the usual flyer is posted. We will no doubt have a salad, a selection of four or so entrees, including some of their signature Italian specialties, and dessert.

We look forward to a resumption of our bi-monthly Couples Dining Out event, seeing all your bright shining faces and raise a toast to our good fortune in returning to a healthy 2022!

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

Photos from the February Event
(La Fontaine)
photographer Bruce Borgman



**Michael Rose. Sue Busenius, Sandy Wagner,
Rich Hanford, Walt Busenius, Diana Rose**



Happy Dinners!

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Jerry Kaplan

We're about to get back in business! Friday, March 11th is the date and 6:45 is the time for all Group 1 Players to meet at **Jeff and Alicia Baily's** home in Walnut Creek.

I will be reporting monthly from now on (with photos of the winners, and sadly, the losers) to see who is having a good night and a not so good night.

We have heard during the last two years of a few instances where someone forgot to tap! So before March 11th, practice, practice, practice! If nothing else, at least practice counting the pips on the tiles!

Continuing to wish everyone a continued safe, healthy, and wonderful 2022! Hope to see everyone who can make it in March at the Baily's.

Jerry Kaplan
mtdana@aol.com

Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our first game of 2022 on January 28th. We were only able to host 16 of our regular contingents of 18 as **Mary Denney** came up with a sudden case of COVID and she

and **Chuck** had to cancel at the last minute. Good news is **Mary** had a mild case and was up and raring to go after about a week.

We welcomed three new couples plus a returning single to our game. We now have a complete roster of 18 people, eight couples and two singles.

We played at the home of **Anne and Ron Plachy** with good food, great comradeship, and spirited play. **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni MacLean** did it again taking 1st and 2nd. **Nancy Pearl** squeezed by **Anne Plachy** to take 3rd.

We decided to play only 10 months of the year without doubling up hosting. Our 1st half will be January - May and the 2nd half will be June - October.

Ron Plachy
rjplachy@icloud.com

Group Tres 3

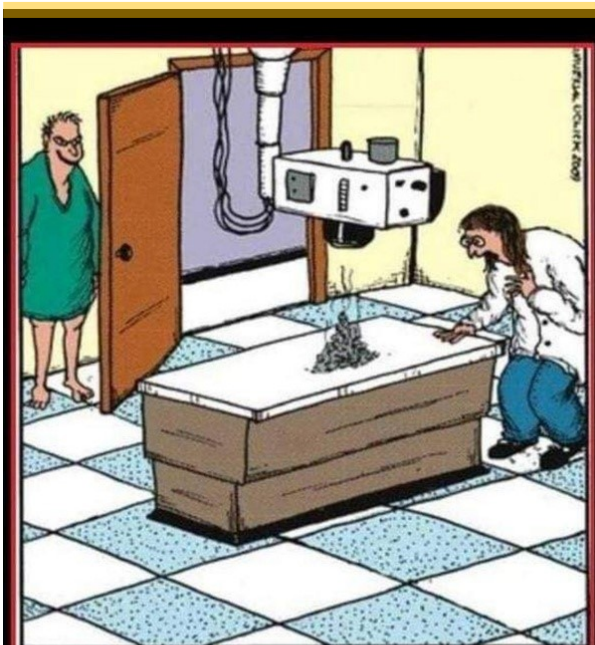


Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We will be contacting our players to restart MTD this month for those in the group who feel it is safe to return to the tables. It has been a long wait since our last event and

we are chomping at the bit to resume and fire up the old choo choo train one more time. All aboard!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Having dumped the bag of ashes on the table, Stew hid behind the door and waited for the X-ray technician's reaction.

Group Quatro 4

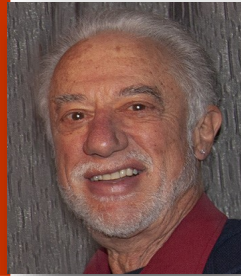


Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

El Quattro MDT will not meet in March while watching issues on the Covid 19 virus B-2 strain. We plan on continuing our "better safe than sorry" approach.

Jim Pope

Group Siete 7



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Brian & Mary McCarthy** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

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

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

Group Cinco 5



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

How sweet it was to see good friends again in person when **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** hosted us. The hosts were rewarded:

after seven games **Bob** was first (average 7.4) and **Janet** was third (20.4), while **Ann Hallett** was second (14.4). **Bob** and **Ann** each went out four times. **Dave Pierce**, playing just before **Bob**, was roundly criticized for contributing to **Bob's** success, but let's recognize **Bob's** skill. The few times we played in 2020 and 2021, he was most often the winner.

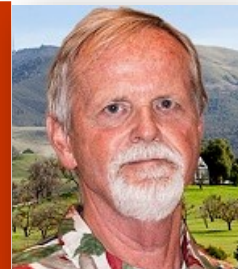
Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Judy Wilkenfeld and Bob Lucido.

Group Seis 6



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" John "Moose" Kelly

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 6 will be meeting on March 23rd. I don't have any further details on our group event as of this writing. I will furnish information on our meeting to Group 6 by March 11th. Keep on playing!!!

Moose Kelly

610.517.0152 Rollingstone91@yahoo.com





Mexican Train Dominoes Group 8 (OCHO) Richard Hockenbrock

MTD 8 OCHO met on Wednesday, February 2nd with 13 people in attendance. This was the first meeting where scoring was kept, and prize money was handed out. Attending were **Ron & Victoria Polivka**, **Steve & Sue Loftin**, **Steve & Jan Ondeck**, **Larry & Pam McAllister**, **Bill Holly**, **Steve Ybarra**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Mary Jo Potter**, and **Virginia Tygart**.

At the end of the night **Victoria Polivka** came in first, **Virginia Tygart** 2nd and **Richard Hockenbrock** 3rd.

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, March 2nd starting at 6:30 pm. All games are played at the home of Richard Hockenbrock, 3616 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek. If you would like to play, send Richard an email to get on the list.

Richard Hockenbrock

Cell / Text: (925) 324-1713 RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM



MTD 8 Feb 2nd winners (L to R): **Victoria Polivka** 1st, **Virginia Tygart** 2nd, **Richard Hockenbrock** 3rd.



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

Six members of Branch 146 Book Group met, via Zoom, on Monday, February 7th. Our "Zoom Master" was Paul Dubow.

Our book was *The Torqued Man*, the first novel by a local author, Peter Mann, professor of European History (PhD), and Literature at Stanford.

The book is yet another spy story of WWII, this time about two men who are working to end the war with a British victory. It is set in the later years of the prewar period and in the war itself. The majority of the story takes place in Berlin, with some of the early days taking place in Spain, primarily Madrid. The two men actually work for Admiral Canaris, the head of the German Intelligence Service. He eventually turns against Hitler and the war, losing his life for this position just before the war ends.

The two main characters, one of which is *The Torque Man*, have a off and on relationship, as they sort-of attempt to do as directed. One is a former IRA member, and wants to see Northern Ireland independent from England. One of his assignments is to go there and stir up the situation in a way that leads to the breakup and rejoining the rest of the island country. The Germans see this as a victory that will help their war effort. Meanwhile the war goes on, and this mission falls off the calendar.

Many of the named characters in the book are real people, starting of course with Adolph Hitler. They include the usual suspects plus a few that are not as well known, such as Doctor Morell, who is Hitler's personal physician, and injects him multiple times a day with some very strange concoctions.

Mr. de Groot is the handler, but unknown to all but him, has switched sides in the war, and wants it to end and Hitler deposed. This decision seems to be based on the death of his handicapped young niece appears to have been deliberately killed in one of the "hospitals" where they place those who do match the profile or meet the standards now in place to be a good German. He goes about this task in multiple ways, including murdering the doctors who work for the Nazi party. He even plots to kill Dr. Morell, or even better, Hitler himself.

The book wanders around, with various characters introduced and participating, including an army of young men who live together in the local wood, and prey on

others that happen to wander by. De Groot plays a major role with them toward the end of the war, as he continues to attempt his planned assignments.

The book is a struggle to read. It is not your usual spy story. It is disjointed and sometimes confusing. One character, Pike, seemed much more real than the other, de Groot, and was the one who lived in the world, while the other lived on the world, while living through Pike.

We selected this book soon after it was available, based on the pre-published review in the SF Chronicle. It did not yet have many other published reviews that would help us differentiate this book from others.

We rated this book about a C+ and do not recommend it.

For our next read, we chose John le Carre's last novel, *Silverview*, published posthumously by his son, who said it was "more like retouching a painting rather than completing a novel."

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 14th.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Editor

Free Marriage tip:
Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready
while she is mowing the lawn.



Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns for the March luncheon. Be ready to pick up some new reads. I am looking for some assistance in setting up and taking down the Book Corner. Please contact me at pcplante109@gmail.com





CARD GAMES

...we play



MEN'S Hearts Bob West

Since the last SIR-Call reporting, we have had in person matches on January 28th and February 11th at Rocco's. Our February 25th meeting will be reported next month.

Bill Vizza was the big winner with 2.5 games, followed by **Bob Finlayson** with 2 wins. **Ron Polivka** had the most 2nd's with 3.

The only person to "Shoot the Moon" was **Ron Polivka** in the 3rd hand of the 1st game on 1/28 which was a hold hand. **Ron** also had STM on a hold hand last month.

Bill Vizza had the lowest average score of 50, followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 61. All were good sheriffs, as the only "STM" was on a hold hand. However, we need to remember that on a hold hand being a sheriff is a shared responsibility. No one person is at fault but we still got whipped by someone on a hold hand.

Future Meetings: We are playing at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Our March games, will be Friday, March 11th and 25th at 12:45 pm., with an optional lunch at noon.

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



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brand Hatcher

We were set to play in early February. However, we had to cancel due to a positive Covid test within our host's family.

Hopefully we can gather in March!

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Larry & Linda Brown were scheduled to host our February 1st event. Unfortunately, a few hours before the scheduled 4:00 pm start time, I was notified that one of our regulars had just suffered a painful leg injury while playing

golf and was waiting for an ambulance to take him to the ER. As of this writing, due to delays in the medical arena, a diagnosis and treatment are still undetermined. Needless to say, the bridge event was cancelled, but a few couples got together anyway and played some bridge on their own.

Next month's event will be held on March 1st and hosted by **Dick & Christy DeVoe** at the start time of 4:00 pm. For this bridge event and future events, I'm requesting that all scheduled players restrain from any physical activity on the day of the event without expressed written permission from me. Lol.

Tony & Cindy Greco

(925) 934-0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



"Anybody that can do at 65 what he was doin' at 25 wasn't doin much at 25!"



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

On Wednesday February 23rd Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met after a week delay due to travels by some of our members for an excellent evening of cards hosted by Gloria and Bud Pearce. There were a number of exciting hands making for an exciting evening of bridge. Finishing in third place with a total of 20.5 points was Janet and Bob Yolland with three twos and five zeros. Ismini and Rich Ahlf came in second place with a score of 23.5 with a total of 5 twos and only two zeros. First place honors went to out visiting guests, Elaine and Ken Richter with a total of 24.5 points, nine twos and only three zeros. Congratulations to the winners and all who joined us for an eventful evening and special thanks to Elaine and Ken for filling in for the group.

Our next event will be hosted by the DeVoes on Wednesday, March 16. Perhaps good old St Pat will be a special guest!

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Ismini, Rich, Elaine, Ken, Janet and Bob

When insults had class....

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

- Clarence Darrow.



Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

SIR Party Bridge will not meet in March watching issues on the Covid 19 virus B-2 strain. We plan on continuing our "better safe than sorry" approach.

Co-Directors

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



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Duplicate 2 Bridge plans to start up once again in April, after skipping Jan/Feb/Mar due to the onset of much higher new COVID case numbers starting in December.

The trend has dipped considerably recently and is expected to continue its downward movement to a much more acceptable level shortly.

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

His dizzy aunt	-----	Verti Gogh
The brother who ate prunes	-----	Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked at a convenience store	-----	Stop N Gogh
The grandfather from Yugoslavia	-----	U Gogh
His magician uncle	-----	Where-diddy Gogh
His Mexican cousin	-----	A Mee Gogh
The Mexican cousin's American half-brother	-----	Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach	-----	Wells-far Gogh
The constipated uncle	-----	Can't Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt	-----	Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle	-----	Flamin Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking	-----	Way-to-Gogh
The little bouncy nephew	-----	Poe Gogh
A sister who loved disco	-----	Go Gogh

The brother with low back pain-----Lum Bay Gogh

And his niece who travels the country in an RV --- Winnie Bay Gogh

I saw you smiling . . . there ya Gogh

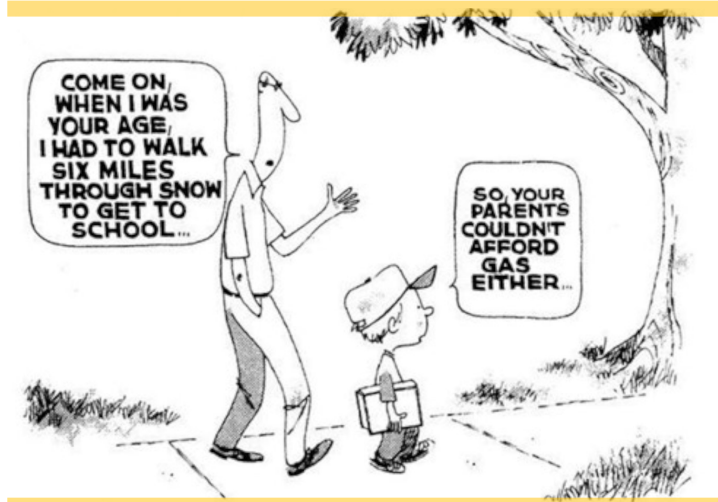


Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Max Hinkle

Men's Duplicate #1 remains suspended during the current pandemic, including no game in February. We'll be watching closely to see how the pandemic is doing.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

We did not reach critical mass in February for travel and health reasons. In March we plan to experiment with an afternoon game starting after lunch at 1:00 pm at **Ken and Elaine Richter's**.

Hopefully this time will serve members who prefer not to drive at night, and/or stay out past their bedtimes.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen & Jeff Morrow

We play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Rocco's Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek (in the Encino Grande shopping center near Whole Foods). Optional lunch is from Noon to 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

This is a multi-branch activity open to women. Beginners are welcome as are partners of members. We provide instruction as requested, and most beginners learn a great deal within the first session. Before the pandemic we were getting 10 to 16 participants, and we have plenty of room for more players.

If you're interested in joining our group, or if you'd like to just attend a session to observe, either call or email **Charlie Kahsen** (contact information below) and he'll get back to you.

Please note that anyone attending must be fully vaccinated and have signed the SIR waiver form.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

cwkahsen@gmail.com

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com



Cribbage

Ron Afdal

The cribbage players had an in-person meeting on the 4th Wednesday, 2-23-2022, noon to 3:30pm, at Rocco's Pizzeria in Walnut Creek. After the hard-fought matches, Ron

Afdal barely edged out John Kendrick for 1st place, giving 2nd place winnings to John and 3rd place to Bob Finlayson. The others left smiling as the food and service at Rocco's was great! We are looking forward to meeting again on the 4th Wednesday in March, 3/23/2022, noon to 3:30pm.

Ron Afdal

ronafdal@comcast.net

Area 16 Events



MUG Mac User Group

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products. If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

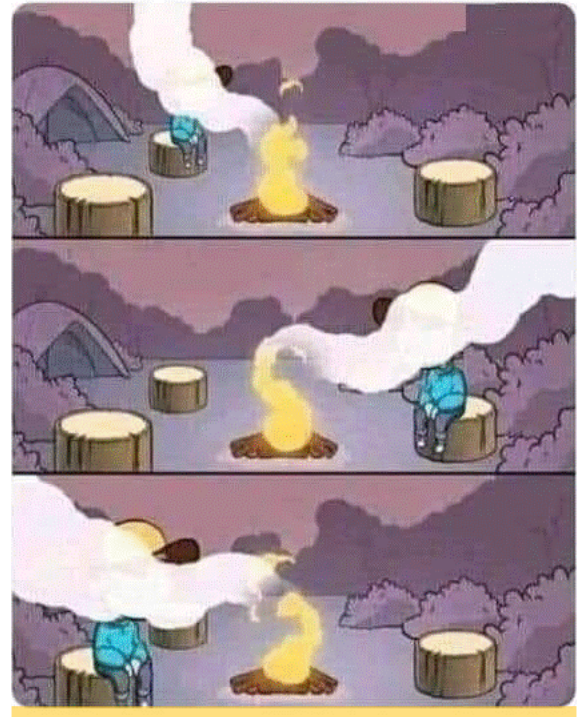
Please note that **Max** and **Verner** are here to help Mac users with problems and solutions and there are not formal meetings. They will inform members of new items of interest.

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

Verner Laursen Vern.laursen@gmail.com

Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Me and every campfire EVER!



SOMETHING WENT ...



TERRIBLY WRONG!



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Parting Shot

- 1. Law of Mechanical Repair** After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.
- 2. Law of Gravity** Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
- 3. Law of Probability** The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- 4. Law of Random Numbers** If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.
- 5. Variation Law** If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.
- 6. Law of the Bath** When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.
- 7. Law of Close Encounters** The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
- 8. Law of the Result** When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!
- 9. Law of Biomechanics** The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
- 10. Law of the Theaters & Sports Arenas-** At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.
- 11. The Coffee Law** As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.
- 12. Murphy's Law of Lockers** If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
- 13. Law of Physical Surfaces** The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.
- 14. Law of Logical Argument** Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.
- 15. Law of Physical Appearance** If the clothes fit, they're ugly.
- 16. Law of Public Speaking** A closed mouth gathers no feet!
- 17. Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy-** As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!
- 18. Doctors' Law** If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.