



# Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

November 2022

# Call



## Big Sir's Corner Richard Lyon

November's luncheon will celebrate the veterans of our armed services to whom the American people owe a debt of thanks! I believe that a higher percentage of our SIR members

are Vets than there are in the general population. Please read **Bob Wilkenfeld's** article for the details of the November luncheon speaker.

Last month, **Ben Gleason** and **Steve Oki** our luncheon managers reported that quite a few SIR members attended the luncheon without an RSVP on record. They showed up anyway. This is the second or third time that Boundary Oak has really had to scramble to feed everyone. When so many show up without a reservation it also slows down the luncheon service and it may become impossible to serve everyone exactly what they want. We are lucky that Boundary Oak is so caring. The deadline for RSVPs is Noon on the Friday before the luncheon and the email address is [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com). If you missed it or didn't receive the luncheon eBlast, RSVP.

This month the Branch will elect next year's officers. As of this writing, the Branch still needs to find an Assistant Secretary to go up the progressive line to Big SIR after three years. The Assistant Secretary position is a "learning" position with few specific duties, but it is crucial to the continued health of the Branch. This year's officers and appointees are really a terrific group. The twelve of us (Big SIR, Little SIR, Secretary, Asst. Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and six Directors) make up the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) which is the governing body of every SIR Branch. The members of the BEC are usually elected by the Branch at the November luncheon. Several BEC Directors take additional responsibilities for the Branch's important Recruiting, Activities, Membership, and Publicity (RAMP) functions.

Beyond the BEC the Big Sir is also responsible for filling numerous appointee positions such as SIR-Call Editor, Luncheon Managers, Audit, Nominating, and Honoree committees to name just a few. Our Branch has over 50 activities, half of which are co-ed, and all of which

are led by one or more of our SIR members. Fortunately, many volunteers have served in their respective capacities for more than a single year! Some BEC, appointees, and other volunteers wear more than a single hat and may also lead one or more activities. Volunteerism has kept our Branch vibrant and strong. It is the magnet of why we joined Branch 146. Being involved in several aspects of the Branch over the last few years has both deepened and broadened my friendships. It has truly been awe-inspiring to have had the opportunity to volunteer over the last few years and to make so many new friends, thank you. Please give your thanks to all of the officers and other volunteers that support Branch 146 and make its future possible. If giving back to the Branch is appealing and you can work in a team environment please contact **Richard Hockenbrock** or **Bob Wilkenfeld** for more information.

The December Lady's Luncheon is being organized again by **Steve Ybarra**. Both **Steve Ybarra** and **Bob Wilkenfeld, Little Sir**, have planned a terrific menu and outstanding entertainment. Please read the SIR-Call for the important details of date, time, and costs. It will be a great time.

Please email your luncheon RSVP to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) so that **Ben Gleason** and **Steve Oki** can order the correct number of meals. Please remember to leave either your fish, meat, or vegetarian menu selection chit on the table at your place setting to help the servers. **Bon Appetit!**

Rich Lyon  
Big Sir, Branch 146

**SIR Luncheon**  
**Thursday, November 10th, 2022**  
**Boundary Oak**  
**11:30**  
RSVP by November 3rd to attend!  
US Veterans Affairs Northern California Healthcare  
Systems



## Little Sir's Corner Bob Wilkenfeld

### Is the End Near for Branch 146?

A volunteer organization, such as Branch 146, cannot survive without the efforts of its members. We all understand this, but unfortunately, we don't always act on it. Our Branch will be facing a real crisis if one of our members doesn't step up soon. Let me explain...

In November, the members of our Branch will be asked to approve the 2023 Officers who have been selected by our Nominating Committee. (These candidates were announced at the October lunch.) Unfortunately, despite the continued efforts of the Nominating Committee and our Big Sir, we have been unable to secure a candidate for the position of Assistant Secretary. This position is critical to the longevity of our Branch as it is the first position held by future Big Sirs. (Our Assistant Secretary normally progresses to the position of Secretary, then Little Sir and finally to Big Sir over a four-year period.) Without an Assistant Secretary next year, we will not have a Secretary in 2024, a Little Sir in 2025, and a Big Sir in 2026. As a California corporation, the absence of a Big Sir means that in January 2026 we will have to either merge with a SIR Branch who has a Big Sir, or surrender our Charter (i.e., cease to exist.) Sure, this scenario may seem alarmist, but if someone does not step up to serve as Assistant Secretary, with the intent to ultimately serve in the other positions, this is the fate in-store for our Branch.

### Veterans Healthcare When and Where You Need It

In November, we are fortunate to have two members of US Veterans Affairs (VA) coming to speak to us about how the VA is extending access to care beyond the traditional office visit. Vickilynn Kimbro (Facility Telehealth Coordinator) and Laura Crawley (My HealtheVet Coordinator) from VA Northern California Healthcare Systems, will discuss a wide range of new digital technologies available to veterans, including Clinical Telehealth, Remote Patient Monitoring, mobile applications, online Personal Health Records, Crisis Hotline and Health Library.

### Strike Up the Band!

Our speaker and entertainment for the December lunch are musicians from the California Symphony. In his presentation, award-winning instructor Scott

Foglesong will explore music that accompanies the Winter Solstice. We will celebrate music that has been part of the great faith traditions of the world and explore beloved compositions that embrace the simple joys of winter. After Q&A, we will be able to enjoy a performance by a five-piece brass ensemble to get everyone in the holiday spirit. I hope to see you and your spouse/partner there!

Bob Wilkenfeld  
Little Sir, Branch 146

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Direc-	
Big SIR.....	Richard Lyon
Little SIR.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Secretary .....	John Kluesener
Assistant Secretary .....	Bob Ford
Treasurer .....	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer .....	Jim Nelson
Director 2nd Term .....	George Mon
Director 2nd Term .....	Henry Thatcher
Director 2nd Term .....	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term .....	Larry Kaye
Director 1st Term .....	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term .....	Frank Lucas
<b><u>RAMP - Chair Members</u></b>	



## Luncheon Chairman

Ben Gleason

We had a total October luncheon attendance of 109 members, guests and our speaker, Ernesto Avila, president of the Contra Costa Water District board of directors. Mr. Avila gave a very informative talk on

the status of the CCWD water sourcing, usage and supply.

The November 10 luncheon will feature an early Thanksgiving meal of turkey and the fixings or a seafood entry featuring baked cod.

With roughly half of our members being veterans, we have invited Vickilynn Kimbro (Facility Telehealth Coordinator) and Laura Crawley (My HealthVet Coordinator) from US Veterans Affairs Northern California Healthcare Systems, to speak to us on how the VA is now able to deliver care where and when it is needed by veterans. They will discuss a wide range of new digital technologies available to veterans, including VA Video Connect, My HealthVet, mobile applications, VEText and VA Health Chat.

This will be the final month that we will utilize our "opt-in" method for you to secure a seat at our luncheon meeting. This will not affect the way that you sign up for Ladies Day Lunches. In addition, Boundary Oak has asked us to give them an earlier "heads-up" for our estimated attendance. The deadline to sign up will be one week prior to the luncheon. This month the deadline to opt-in will be Thursday, November 3. Starting with the January meeting, you will be expected to attend the lunch unless you "opt-out" if you are unable to attend. The deadline to "opt-out" will be one week prior to the meeting.

The check-in tables open at 10:30. Come early to socialize. We will start our luncheon promptly at 11:30. Proof of vaccination and a liability waiver are no longer required.

**Where:** Boundary Oak Golf Course

**Cost:** \$32 Payment by check payable at check-in to SIR Branch 146 is preferred, but we will accept cash.

**Opt-in:** Confirm your attendance by noon on Thursday, November 3, by email to [attendlunchbr146@gmail.com](mailto:attendlunchbr146@gmail.com) or

phone 925.979.5721 and leave a message. Your message will be confirmed. If you find that you will be unable to attend please let us know. If you would like a vegetarian meal, please advise so with your opt-in.

**Sponsors:** If you are bringing a guest, please include his name with your opt-in. Remember, there is no charge for first time guests who are prospective members.

**Questions:** If you have any questions, please call **Ben Gleason** at 925.330.0680.



**THE CLUBHOUSE**  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 November Luncheon**  
Thursday November 10th, 2022

**Winter Greens Salad**

Baby Winter Greens, Golden Apples, Dried Cranberries, Citrus Segments, Grape Seed Oil, Champagne Vinaigrette

**Entrees**

Holiday Turkey Dinner  
Yukon Gold mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Turkey Gravy  
or  
Baked Cod  
Confetti Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Chunky Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce  
or  
Vegetarian Option

**Dessert**

Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream



**Ladies Day  
Luncheon  
Chairman  
Steve Ybarra**

The Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday December 8, 2022. The cost for this event is \$35 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR and guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations must be made to **Steve Ybarra** and received by December 1, 2022. Please use the reservation form provided in this SIR-Call and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$35.00 per person.



**THE CLUBHOUSE**  
AT BOUNDARY OAK

**SIR 146 December Luncheon**  
Thursday December 8th, 2022

**Baby Greens Salad**  
with Feta Cheese, Candied Walnuts,  
Dried Cranberries, & Sherry Vinaigrette

**Entrees**  
Cabernet Braised Beef Short Ribs  
with Thyme infused Au Jus, Mashed Potatoes  
Seasonal Vegetables  
or  
Pan Seared Farm Raised Salmon  
Confetti Rice Pilaf Seasonal Vegetables  
or  
Vegetarian Option available

**Dessert**  
Holiday Cake Whipped Cream



**SIR 146 Ladies Day Holiday Luncheon**

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$35 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

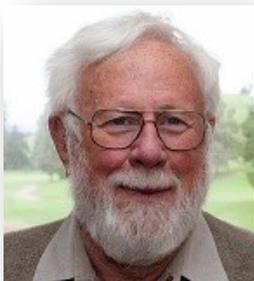
Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Pay?" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

**Steve Ybarra**  
142 Leonard Dr.,  
Concord, CA 94518-1213.

#	F Name, L Name	Braised Short Ribs	Salmon	Vegetarian	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
Reservations must be received by December 1st.*



## Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

I and the SIR-Call team need your help. Putting together a publication of this size is a big undertaking considering that it needs to be done in less than a week. As your articles come in

they need to be placed in what will become the final edition and edited to conform to our publication standards (a few examples: the name of the publication is SIR-Call, not Sir Call, not Sir-call. SIR is the name of our organization. Members are not Sirs or even SIRs but "SIR members". Phone numbers switch to the "internet" format you see below, with the 10 digit number being separated by periods), names of SIR members must be identified and made bold, Font usage standardized (in October I discussed the new SIR standard font, Lato) and pictures formatted and placed. Finally articles need to be moved around to maximize space and excessive white space filled with the jokes and cartoons.

But we are not finished! It then goes to our proof readers to get even more eyes on it and root out misspellings, inconsistencies, and formatting errors. Finally the proof reader's changes are reviewed and made, resulting in the final product to be posted on the web site.

So why am I telling you all this? Because there seems to be a general trend amongst more and more SIR members to miss the deadline we have for submitting articles, putting us under added pressure.

So... deadline for submissions for the December issue is **November 21st**. This is much earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday (we aren't working T-Day). Please take note and plan accordingly!

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](mailto: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](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)



## Membership George Mon

One new member was approved at the October BEC Meeting. SIR member **Charles Ward** lives in Concord with his wife Barbara and was an airline pilot for United Airlines. **Charles** also served as a Marine Colonel in

Desert Storm. He is sponsored by **Dave Steinberg**. The 2022 membership count is at 275. We ended 2021 with 280 members.

SIR member **Steve Siljestrom** passed away on October eighth after a short illness. SIR member **Clair Weenig** decided to resign citing schedule conflicts.

2023 dues letter were sent out during the month of October. Members had an opportunity to update their contact information, including spouse contact information. Also, members could pay for luncheons in advance along with their dues.

Dues are \$25 for 2023. This is an increase of \$5 from 2022.

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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

**George Mon**

[gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)

### **SIR-Call Newsletter Group**

Editor	<b>Clint Collier</b>
Assistant Editor	<b>Bob West</b>
Photographer	<b>Henry Thatcher</b>
Proofreaders	<b>Ron Polivka, BruceBorgman</b>
Internet Posting	<b>Hank James Ron Plachy</b>

## 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.



## Badges Tony Greco

I'm looking for a few good men!

I have been doing badges for approximately 7 years. No worries, this is not a resignation notice. Lol. I'm currently planning to continue in this role for the foreseeable future.

However, I'm in need a few of you to volunteer to substitute for me when I can't attend a particular luncheon. It's a one-man job, but I'd like to have several subs to choose from. Keep in mind that I can count on one hand the number of times that I've been unable to attend a luncheon over the last 7 years.

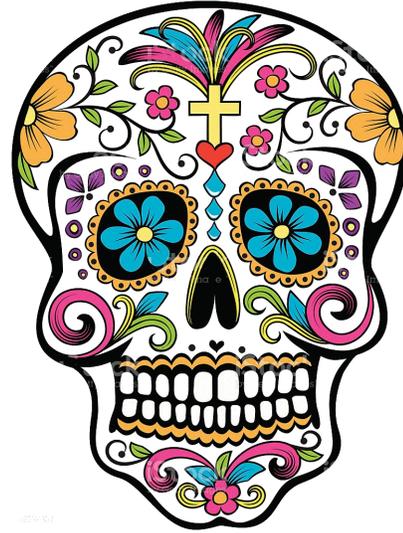
You wouldn't need to do any badge preparation paperwork like making badges, etc. Basically, all you would need to do is bring the badge suitcase and attaché case to the luncheon, place the badges on the badge table prior to the luncheon and then retrieve them at the end of the luncheon. Naturally, you would need to come to the luncheon a little early, stay a little late and help those who need assistance in finding their badge. The prerequisites for this position are being reliable, knowing the alphabet and being able to count up to 350. Lol.

You should also have decent vision.

I await your response. Thanks.

**Tony Greco**

925.642.2899 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)



## November First and Second.

Día de Muertos or Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November first and second, though other days, such as October 31 or November 6, may be included depending on the locality. It largely originated in Mexico, where it is mostly observed, but also in other places, especially by people of Mexican heritage. Although associated with the Western Christian Allhallowtide observances of All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, it has a much less solemn tone and is portrayed as a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have died. These celebrations can take a humorous tone, as celebrants remember funny events and anecdotes about the departed.

Traditions connected with the holiday include honoring the deceased using calaveras (pictured above) and aztec marigold flowers known as cempazúchitl, building home altars called ofrendas with the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these items as gifts for the deceased. The celebration is not solely focused on the dead, as it is also common to give gifts to friends such as candy sugar skulls, to share traditional pan de muerto with family and friends, and to write light-hearted and often irreverent verses in the form of mock epitaphs dedicated to living friends and acquaintances, a literary form known as calaveras literarias.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

John Aaro  
John Boyan  
Jim Brown  
James Browning  
Don Dotson  
John Elstead  
Hugh Ferguson

Bob Greulich  
Richard Hockenbrock  
Dan Holland  
Siegfried Kalteis  
John Kendrick  
Ronald Louis

Frank Lucas  
Pete McNeill  
Denny O'Loughlin  
Rich Pace  
Cliff Perkins  
Don Rhoads  
Daniel Schlatter

Jim Solomon  
Ken Soult  
Lewis Thompson  
Bob Wilkenfeld  
Edward Hewitson



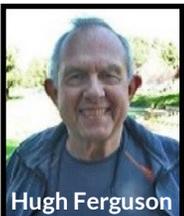
## Sunshine Brian McCarthy



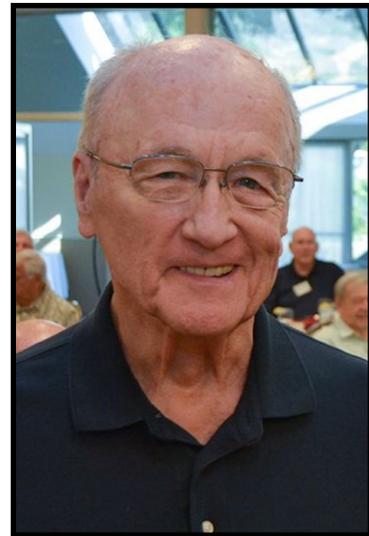
Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net) or by phone 925.324.2463 so that our SIR members can be advised. *Stay Healthy.*

**Brian McCarthy**  
[brimacc@comcast.net](mailto:brimacc@comcast.net)



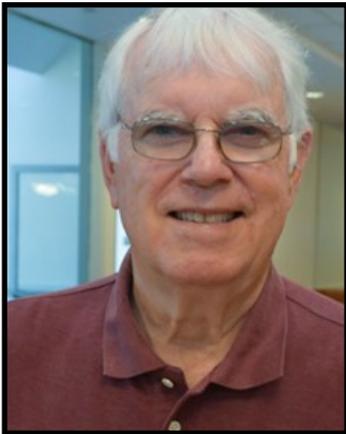
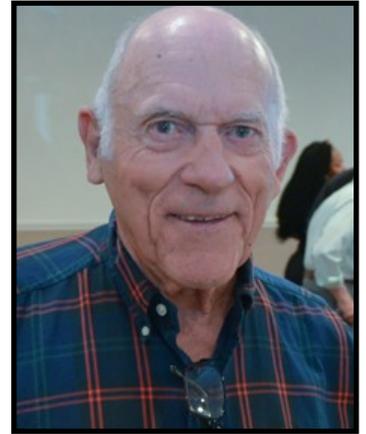
Congratulations on your Birthday Hat, **Paul Beretz!**



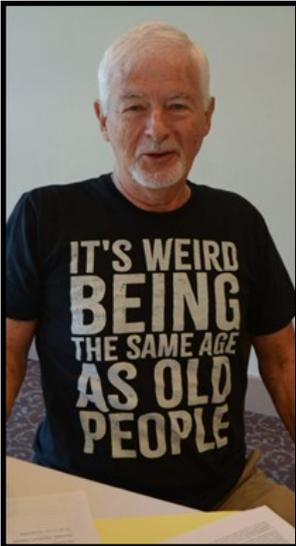
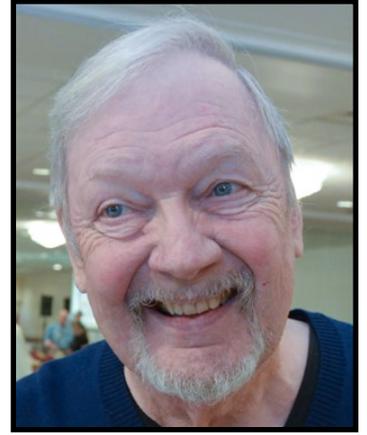
# October Lunch

Photos by Henry Thatcher









Our Speaker  
Ernest Avila  
Contra Costa County Water District

# NOTES

## from Our Members

From Paul Bertetz...  
What was that word again?

A lovely woman from County died. She found herself outside a beautiful garden with splashing fountains and bright flowers; but she was alone and the gate was locked. When St. Peter finally came by, the woman said to him, "This is surely a wonderful place it must be heaven. How do I get in?" "You have to spell a word," said the saint. "What word might that be?" "Love," said he. Well, she spelled it all right and was admitted through the Gates of Heaven.

About a year later, St. Peter asked this woman if she would mind guarding the Gates a short while for him. While she was waiting, her husband arrived. "How've you been?" she asked. "Oh, not bad," he said. "I married the pretty nurse who took care of you, and then I won the lottery. I sold our little cottage and bought a lovely mansion. My wife and I traveled 'round the world. Today I was skiing and broke my neck and...and here I am. How do I get in?"

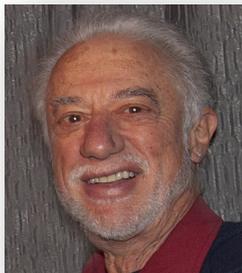
"You have to spell a word."

"What word?"

"Czechoslovakia"



Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator

Bob Lucido

I am updating the activities on the website and the SIR-Call with the help of **Ron Plachy & Clinton Collier**. On the website home page, if you select the icons, it will now give you a fuller description of the activity.

In the SIR-Call under Activities if you select the [name of the activity](#), it will link it to the website and get the information from there. This is a work in progress. The updates take time with rewriting and sending to the chairmen for approval.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 [Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)

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## SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in Branch 146 and, in some cases, SIR. Click on the link (the activities that are underlined) to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity and information on who to contact if your are interested in participating.

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

**Bridge**

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

**Cooking**

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

**Dining Out**

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no tomodachi](#)

[Golf - 18 Hole](#)

[Golf - 9 Hole](#)

[Hiking](#)

[Hearts](#)

**Mexican Train Dominoes**

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

**Poker**

[Group 1](#)

[Group 2](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[RV-ing](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

**Other Branch Activity**

[Chess](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Investing](#)

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar

## November 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>31</u>	Nov <u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes 8 Ocho	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge		12:30 PM Poker Group #6	
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
9:45 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Party Bridge	9:00 AM Golf	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant
10:00AM Hiking		1:00 PM Poker Group #1	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM SIR Luncheon	6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes 1 Uno
12:00PM Table Pool at Masses				
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf	7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30 AM - 9:30 AM Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses	5:30 PM Couples Dining Out Massimo's Ristorante 1604 Locust St., W.C.		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2	
			7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes 5 Cinco	
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf	12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant	THANKSGIVING	12:45 PM - 3:30 PM Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant	9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-3	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes 2 Dos
		1:30 PM Sums In Retirement Via Zoom		6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes 3 Tres
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	Dec <u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
10:00 AM Hiking	9:00 AM Golf		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1	10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
12:00 PM Table Pool at Masses			12:30 PM Poker Group #6	
1:00 PM Poker Group #4				



## 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

So, we have recently had some memorable hikes. And, oh by the way, attendance has been exceptional. We even had a spouse on the last hike in Diablo Foothills, **Karen Lively**.

However, this Diablo Foothills walk did not go as intended. The plan was to do a loop finishing on an un-marked trail, even though the ALLTRAILS APP showed it. This unmarked trail (traversing the face of the Castle Rock cliffs) in my opinion was more hazardous than our group can handle, so 7 of the 9 returned via the first part of the route. **Ray Martz** and **Gene Schulting** tried it, fortunately successfully, and made it back the parking lot half an hour before the rest of us. I think I have learned that ALLTRAILS shows routes that suitable for the youngsters.

The other memorable hike was in a John Muir Land Trust ([jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org)) park called Fernandez Ranch. **Roger Meyer** recommended this to me; Thanks **Roger**. This was a great place to walk with very well-developed trails; none of which were difficult. I recommend this to anyone who wants to spend a couple of hours in our great bay area trails. The route we took was about 4 miles and about 500 feet of climbing. And 8 people (7 SIR members and 1 guest) attended which was great.

And if you take a walk in Briones, take my advice and avoid the Dewies Birthday trail!

My game plan is to continue with Monday hikes/walks on the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 Mondays of the month. We will plan for 2 easy to moderate walks and 2 moderate to strenuous hikes. I will plan the easy ones and **Ray Martz** will be the primary organizer of the more difficult ones.

Now that the weather “has turned”, we will probably be looking at venues that are generally avoided in the hot summer months, including Black Diamond Mines, Round Valley, etc.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 [Mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:Mocurtis1657@gmail.com)



Fernandez Ranch top of ridge; L-R, Mark, Roger Meyer, Scott (Ray's neighbor), Earl Bates, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting, Bob Lively



Castle Rock cliffs; L-R, Earl Bates, Larry Gray, Karen & Bob Lively, Ray Martz, Mark, Jim Nelson, Gene Schulting (Bob Wilkenfeld took photo)



## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

October 11<sup>th</sup>: Crisp and breezy. That's what the day felt like. Early birds today so we can get back for the SIRS wine tasting event.

Off we went. **Paul Brown, Bill Holly, Moose Kelley, Pat Hoy** and myself. Headed towards the old Tassajara school on Finley Rd. Fighting winds we rode East. The school sits on the same spot it has for about 100 plus years. We pulled in and dismounted. Some chat and some facilities usage later we remounted. Back towards Danville and Alamo. The wind going back was at our backs enabling us to hit 20 MPH. Great feeling with the wind in your face. Everyone was ecstatic. Pulling into Alamo the euphoric feeling was nice. We said our goodbyes and headed home to change and attend the wine event. A fun ride and a great testimonial to "age only bothers those that sit on their butts". Get out and chase something.

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.4030

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## Bocce John Kendrick

The 2022 SIR Branch 146 Bocce Ball season is officially closed as the Concord courts are now closed. We have many old and a few new members who enjoyed this great outdoor activity.

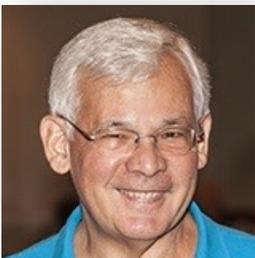
The Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through October at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Ladies are welcome.

Mark in your calendar May 8th as the official start of the 2023 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity.



**John Kendrick**  
925.827.0585 [jmkendrick23@gmail.com](mailto:jmkendrick23@gmail.com)

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## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs will have performed at Byron Park by the time you read this article. Thank you to all the members of SongSirs for their dedication in preparing our program.

SongSirs will be singing the military service songs at the November Veterans Day luncheon. Tune up your voices and be ready to sing for your branch of service. We are always looking for new members to lend their voices. No auditions are necessary. Come and help us make a joyful noise.

**Peter Plante**  
[pcplante109@gmail.com](mailto:pcplante109@gmail.com)



**Bob Yolland, Bud Pearce, Bruce Borgman, Ron Lew, Lynn Shafer, Frank Lucas, Steve Dinning** on piano and **Peter Plante** conducting.  
Photo by Curtis Young



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul DuBow

It is now sort of a “shoulder season” between the ending of the salmon and halibut seasons and the beginning of our quests for trout and sturgeon. But that does not mean that we have

stopped fishing, because there are lots of stripers, rockfish, and black bass out there.

In the meantime, 25 of us took a food break to spend part of a day at a fish fry at **Carl Moyer’s** home where we enjoyed a luncheon of fried rockfish and ling cod, house salad, potato salad, and brownies. At our fishing meeting on October 27, **Pedro Contreras** and **Brion Beetz** gave a power point presentation of their six day long range trip out of San Diego, where they caught several hundred pounds of bluefin tuna and yellowtail. The bluefin weighed between 80 and 130 pounds. **Steve Paulick** and **Stan Wong** were also on the trip. Although the trip was booked for six days, they only fished for five days because they needed to get to port before Hurricane Kay hit. Because they had made a reservation for fish processing after the scheduled end of the trip, they had to spend the sixth day aboard the boat while it was in port, but that enabled them to enjoy the amenities of San Diego.

**Bob Stein, Mike Corker, Carl Moyer, and Brion Beetz** had a nice day on the ocean, boating a bevy of rockfish and lingcod. A few days later, **Carl** sailed on the *Oakland Angler* and caught two halibut. He also had a bit of a thrill when a fellow angler was unable to haul in the fish on his hook. **Carl** took the rod and landed a 20 lb. halibut.

**Terry Miller** and his son **Steve** fished at San Pablo Reservoir. **Terry** was skunked, but **Steve** caught two good sized rainbows. He had a larger rainbow on his line, but lost the fish when his leader broke. **Phil Scimonelli** and his wife **Roisin**, along with **Carl Moyer**, also fished at San Pablo where they caught four rainbows in the 2-3 lb. range. San Pablo closes on November 14 and will not reopen until Valentine’s Day.

Out on the Delta, **Tom Kostik** caught and released 60 stripers of various sizes and a large number of black bass. **Mike Corker** caught two keeper stripers fishing alone and on another day, he and **Harry Sherinian** boated six stripers, three of which were keepers.

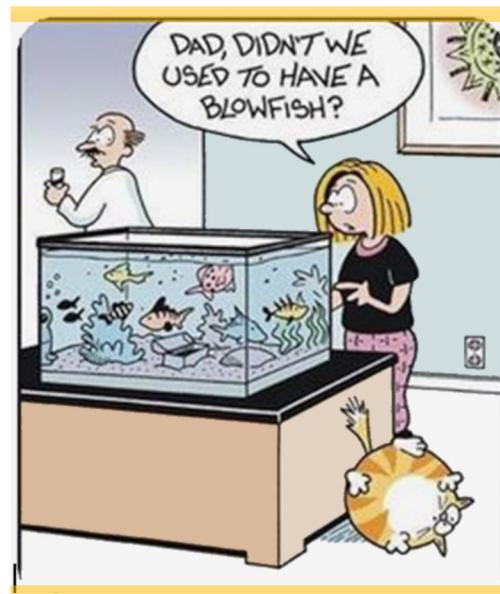
**Chuck Vanoncini** led a group of six fishermen on our

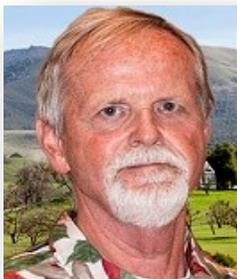
semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor in mid-October. They brought home 25 rainbows over a two-day period and released ten others.

**Paul Dubow, Pete Gates, and Ron Lew** of Branch 146, **Joe Miscione** and his son **Keith**, and **Ken Berry** journeyed to the Sacramento River between Anderson and Corning in the hope of hooking huge salmon. Unfortunately, they ran into the “you should have been here yesterday” syndrome. Fishing had been spectacular in the area right until the day before they arrived, with fishermen bringing home limits before 10 am. Indeed, the river was a virtual parking lot of fishermen who were anticipating a continuation of the good luck. But all good things come to an end, and the end was the day before. Nevertheless, they did land three fish, all over 25 lbs.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 17, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Please note that this is the third Thursday of the month. We normally meet on the fourth Thursday, but the meeting is on the third Thursday in November and December, because of the holidays. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7 am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. You are also welcome, even if you have never fished before, to join us for our regular fishing trips. For further information, feel free to call me.

Paul Dubow  
510.504.3566.





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

**John (Moose) Kelly**

610.517.0152 [rollingstone911@yahoo.com](mailto:rollingstone911@yahoo.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

925.997.5032 [1henrythatcher@gmail.com](mailto:1henrythatcher@gmail.com)

## Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Thirteen members of SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met at Rocco's on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Those SIR members that attended were: **Henry Thatcher, Steve Ybarra, Rick Alhf, Miker Rothman, Dave Tucker, Ken Studer, Bill Holly, Susan and Steve Oki, Sadao Oki (Guest), Clint Collier, Peter Plante, and Moose Kelly.** **Clint Collier** was gracious in providing donuts for the membership. Thanks **Clint!!**

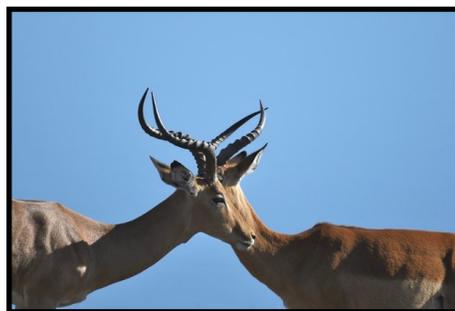
The content of the meeting was under the following headings: Sturgeon Moon Shots from Europe, Buyer's Guide on DSLR cameras, 2022 Epson International Pano Awards on Landscape Photography, Video of the Samsung Glaxy Z Flip Phone, and a video of the new Pixel 7 and the Pixel 7 Pro from Google.

Our theme this month was entitled "Around the House." These were photos of images around the home that you loved with the exception of photos of family and pets. The club reviewed photos of one's gardens, wildlife in the backyard, interior and exterior home objects, and hummingbirds. There are two pictures attached from this meeting segment.

**Ken Studer** recently returned from Africa with stunning shots of wildlife. He presented a slide show to the group that kept everyone engaged. Thanks for sharing, Ken!! There are two photos attached from **Ken's** collection.

Our next photography meeting will be on Friday, December 9th at Rocco's with our gathering time at 11:15 AM. This meeting will be a Christmas Luncheon to celebrate an active year by the shutterbugs of SIR Branch 146. Mark your calendar!!

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.



"The Group!" by **Henry Thatcher**  
Elephant Charging by **Ken Studer**  
Twisted Horns by **Ken Studer**

Pictures Continue on next page



Fredericksburg Lamp by Henry Thatcher  
 Hummingbird Party by Moose Kelly  
 Fly by Richard Ahlf  
 Mushrooms by Richard Ahlf



## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

We are still having some very nice golf weather and the course is in great shape. I hope some of you will be able to make it out and take advantage of our beautiful fall

days. 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 Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

**Bob Ford**  
[scubabob.ford@gmail.com](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



"Take your mother for example. She's not much to look at, but she's darn handy with the cookware."



## Travel Milt Smith

Where in the world is our Travel Coordinator? Why traveling of course.

Last month and this month the SIR travel report is a little bit different than those of the past. That is because, Carolyn and I have been traveling relatively steadily since about June 9th. Why am I telling you this? Because I want you all to know that people are out here traveling. We've conveyed ourselves via planes trains and automobiles.

The traveling has been delightful the people have been delightful, the dollar is competitive with the Euro right now so, if you want to go somewhere, think it over talk it up and let me know. I might be able to arrange some group travel always a great way to save money, and find excellent coverage for travel insurance including health coverage. Carolyn and I were able to extend our travel insurance all the way through December 28, the day we fly home from Amsterdam to San Francisco.

It's fun out here! Milt Smith  
925.285.2897 [miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)





**Book Group**  
**John Pearl, Interim Chair**  
[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

The book chosen for our October meeting discussion was *The Great Railroad Bazaar*, by Paul Theroux. It is the story of his

four-month journey in 1973 through Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. After reaching northern Japan, he traveled by steamer to the far eastern coast of Russia, where he boarded the Trans-Siberian Express to Moscow, and from there to his home in England, where his wife and children awaited him.

Paul Theroux is an 81-year-old American who now lives in the United States. He spent several years in Africa, some of it in the early days of the Peace Corps. He publicly chose the wrong side in a Malawi election in 1963 and had to leave for Uganda. His moves with first wife and children after Uganda included Singapore and London, where they lived for many years. After his first marriage ended, he made the move back to US. He is the author of 10 travel books and 11 novels and has been given many literary awards. He can be quite outspoken on political issues, and critical of public figures.

Paul is what is now called a “traveler,” not a “tourist,” as he spent most of his time on his adventures engaging with the locals, fellow travelers, and the train staffs. He strongly preferred traveling by train, and not by car, ship, or airplane. He did use these a very few times as he crossed the continents.

Do not look for lots of information about trains when reading this book. The “Bazaar” seems to refer the extremely varied people with whom he interacted. These include such people as the train conductors, the porters, and all the others that made the trains successfully transport people. He traveled in all the train classes, First, Second, etc. Each nation had its own rail system and he interacted with people who both used it and ran it.

As Paul was a teacher in England, he was able to arrange his schedule to allow time to give lectures on writing, thus earning money to pay for his food, lodging, and travel. Lots of things we take for granted today had not yet been either invented or used by the general public, such as worldwide credit cards, cell phones, the internet, etc. This necessitated a lot more interpersonal interactions, which is really what the book is about, along with the places he visits.

A short representative sampling of places he went to or through include Paris, Yugoslavia, Italy, Turkey, Iran, the Khyber Pass, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam (after the Americans had left and the war was winding down), Japan, and Russia. He hated Singapore, Teheran, and Bangkok, had mixed feelings about Tokyo, and liked Peshawar, Pakistan and Kyoto, Japan.

There were lots of descriptions and stories of train stations (some of which he absolutely loved and some of which he despised), local towns he visited, the cultures in the places he visited, and descriptions of the cultures in the many stops he made along the way. He traveled light and bought his tickets as he went along. One strong recommendation if one chooses to use the book: Have Google maps available as he travels along. There are no maps in the book.

There are gaps in the story – it jumps/skips some spots in the route. For example, he is traveling through Sri Lanka toward the capital, Colombo, and all of a sudden, he is back in India. On the other hand, he sometimes fills places he favors with too much detail for most readers.

His travels through Vietnam have him talking about what the Americans left behind, the half American children, the destruction, deteriorating military buildings, and the general post-war conditions. He must be careful, as the war between North and South Vietnam continues, and we know who won.

I thought his travels through India on their trains was one of the most interesting to me, but there were “nuggets” of interest in most of the places he stopped. He would stay most anywhere and eat most anything. Most of the trains in which he traveled were not deluxe by any means.

It was interesting to learn about the places he went in the time setting of 1973. He did not go to China. I think it was quite difficult to get into, let alone travel through China at that time, as the Communists had taken over just a few years earlier in 1949.

He never complained about the trains, the food, the accommodations, etc. He just took it as it came, and he managed to cope.

In some ways this is a history book, as it took place almost 50 years ago, and as we know, the rate of change in the post WWII period has been very rapid, and this is one thing that makes it an attractive read. He does dis-

Continued on next page

parage some of the ethnic and national groups. Some of these people live at a very low level.

There is a lot to learn from this book, but it is long and takes some effort. There are some very interesting places he describes very well. We recommend it highly to those of you who have a general interest in how the other half of the world lives. If you do not have such an interest, don't try it.

Our group meets again on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, will read *Cloud Cuckoo Land* or *The Flag, The Cross, and the Station Wagon*.

**John Pearl, Chair**  
**Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor**



### **Table Pool** **Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry**

No events to report

Reported by *Jim Barry*

**Bill Weinberg**  
925.682.0962

Managing you weight around the holidays just requires a little planning...

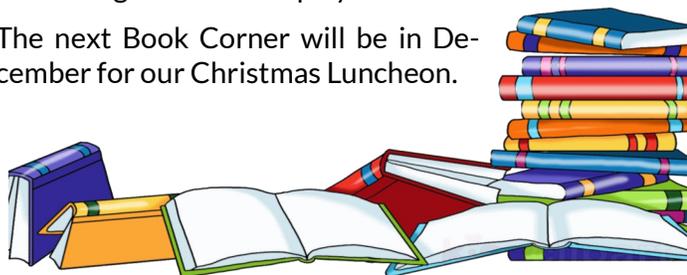
For example, I took the batteries out of my scale on Wednesday!



### **Book Corner** **Peter Plante**

Thank you for all of you who came by to pick up new reading material and to those who donated more books. I appreciate all the help in setting up and taking down our display.

The next Book Corner will be in December for our Christmas Luncheon.



### **Birding** **Frank Lucas**

We met at the Heather Farm Birding circle around the little lake on a perfectly wonderful day. Many birds - and People, doing the same thing. Our walk was set up by **Steve Loftin**, who set us up perfectly. (Rumor has it that **Mike Wolfson** will be leading us to Vallejo next month.)

I kept a list of all that we saw, but will list here only the more water-prone birds we noted, such as: Snowy Egrets, Green Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Say's Phoebes, Gallinules, Moorhens,... And our special sighting: A Great White Egret. (A Life Bird for me)

We met afterwards for coffee and donuts, and swapped old birders tales. Y'all come join us next month. It;s FREE!

**Frank Lucas**

925-316-6122 [frank.lucas1105@gmail.com](mailto:frank.lucas1105@gmail.com)



Our Birders Mike Wolfson, Bob Lucido, Steve Loftin, Frank Lucas, Steve Ybarra



A Great White Egret  
photo: Steve Ybarra



Dana & Steve Ybarra, Diane Munayer, Bob Wilkenfeld, Mary McCarthy, Richard Hockenbrock, Al Mynayer, and Ross Abbott



## Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Our final wine tasting of 2022 was held at the beautiful home of **Al** and **Diane Munayer** in Alamo. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> time **Al** and **Diane** have hosted a wine tasting in the month of October. The weather was

sunny and mild, which made for a most comfortable and enjoyable outing. Everyone enjoyed sampling the large variety of tasty appetizers or sitting around on the patio or in the backyard sipping their favorite wines.

**Bruce Borgman** was the winner of the most popular red wine, a 2017 Élu (a 77% Cabernet Sauvignon blend) from St. Supéry winery in Napa, and **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido** were the winners of the most popular white wine, a 2021 California Chardonnay from Bogle Family Vineyards.

Our next wine tasting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023 (pending a volunteer host). Look for further details in the December and/or January issues of the SIR-Call.

**Bill Holly**

925-588-5380 [Br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:Br146winetasting@gmail.com)



Rich Hanford & Sandy Wagner, Janet Abbott, Beverly & Clint Collier



The Boys  
Tony Shebanek, Bruce Kimmis, Frank Lucas, Larry Kaye, Rich Lyon, and Bob Lucido



The Girls  
Jean Shebanek, Virginia Tygard, Christina Stratton, Wendy Lucido, and Ann Kaye



The Hosts  
Diane & Al Mynayer  
with Brian McCarthy



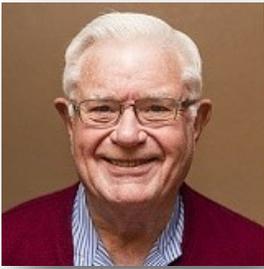
Wendy & Bob Lucido,  
winners of the favorite  
white wine, with Bill Holly



Bruce Borgman,  
winner of the  
favorite red wine,  
with  
Brian McCarthy



Brian McCarthy, Ron Polivka, and  
Joe Stengle  
enjoying some of the wines



## Cooking Lunch & Wine Bill Hartman

On October 19th the LAW Group {Lunch and Wine} met at our newest member's (Clint Collier) home for a Spanish themed lunch.



Our lunch started with the opening of several bottles of wine each member had brought to accompany the lunch. We quickly moved on to an assortment of tapas Clint had prepared for us as he began the process of cooking a paella alongside our dining



table.

In attendance were Dick Woodman, Pete Gates, Joe Barry, Syd Whalen Paul Dubow, Bob Spellman and Clint Collier. Discussion was lively but, unfortunate-



Photo: Clint Collier

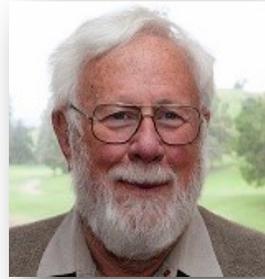
ly, didn't solve the problems of the world.

A few glasses of wine later the paella was ready to serve and seemed to be enjoyed by all. The meal concluded with a dessert of grilled fresh pineapple with a topping of rum raisin ice cream.

A good time was had by all.

Clint Collier for Bill Hartman

925.939.0164 [williamhartman06@comcast.net](mailto:williamhartman06@comcast.net)



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

A slightly smaller than usual group of SIR men, myself, Bruce Borgman, Bob

Wilkenfeld, Bill Holly and Paul Dubow gathered at Hasumi Sushi in Walnut Creek on the 20th to socialize of several platters of sushi. This was Paul's first time joining our group and he was presented with his Sushi no Tomodaci masu to recognize the occasion. All of our chosen restaurants have been top notch so far and Hasumi did not disappoint. Nice array of different fish, all impeccably fresh and a friendly environment and staff. We finished our lunch with a temaki style sushi that is my favorite; braised eel with gobo, sprouts and tobico.



Our next event will be a special lunch/dinner to celebrate the holiday season on December 15th. I'm still negotiating with a couple of local sushi restaurants to obtain a great event at a reasonable price (getting harder and harder to find the latter). This will be a "bring your spouse" event and a non-sushi meal option will be offered. Stay tuned...

Clint Collier

[SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)



## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II activity did not meet in October. We will resume our monthly meetings next month. Dennis Hallett will host the November luncheon

on Monday, November 14.



## Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

At our successful event in September at T'zunun's Restaurant, we indicated that we would have our November Dining Out event at a restaurant which was a notch above in elegance and excellence. Incidentally, T'zunun was reviewed in the current issue of Diablo magazine and given rave recognition for the ambiance and unique Mexican cuisine!

Finding an elegant restaurant for the November event was not particularly difficult, but we did have to compromise a bit on the variety of the menu selections. We will be going to Massimo's in Walnut Creek on Tuesday, Nov. 15. We have been to this venerable restaurant three other times, going back to one of our first Dining Out event in September 2013! How time flies!

Massimo's, under the tutelage of owner and accomplished chef Max Wolfe has been one of Walnut Creek's best fine dining restaurant since 1977, and the Northern Italian cuisine has been successfully maintained with a reputation for quality ingredients, superb cuisine and professional service. The challenge for your hosts this time was this to provide this wonderful dining experience at a reasonable price. We decided to limit the menu selections so that we'd have a salad and just three entrees: Chicken Piccata, seared Wild Salmon and Penne pasta dish. We'll have a choice of two desserts. You can see the menu in the SIR-Call on the next page.

By not including one of the many other excellent dishes at the restaurant (sadly) we kept the total price to \$57 per person, all inclusive. Additional dishes would have pushed the price to \$70 or more.

We normally publicize our bi-monthly restaurant selection to our Dining Out mail list. This time, to address the concern that our general SIR membership does not have a chance to respond before the event is sold out, we requested that the initial notification go out as a blast email. Everyone thus had a chance to RSVP and, as we anticipated, we were sold out within about 36 hours. The restaurant has a banquet room which is limited to 50. We do have a few on the waiting list.

We are looking forward to a wonderful event as we celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with our Sir friends.



**Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon  
Dining Out Hosts**

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

# *COUPLES DINING OUT*

*Tuesday Nov. 15, 2022*

*Social hour / no host cocktails 5:30pm*

*Dinner: 6:15pm*

**SOLD OUT**

## *Salad*

### Organic Mixed Greens

Mixed greens, Aged Balsamic Vinaigrette, Honey Glazed Walnuts, Goat Cheese

## *Entrée choices*

### Chicken Piccata

Sauteed Breast of Chicken with Lemon, White wine and Capers

### Seared Filet of Wild Salmon

Pan seared Salmon, Fresh Spinach Risotto with Confit, Demi-Glace

### Penne Alla Checca

Penne Pasta, Pomodoro Sauce, Basil, Fresh Mozzarella Cheese



## *Dessert choices*

### Tiramisu

Expresso-Soaked Lady Fingers Layered with Myers Rum, Kahlua and Mascarpone Cream

### Tuscan Apple Tart

Caramel Crème Anglaise

Classic Northern Italian Cuisine

1604 Locust Street, Walnut Creek

# MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met October 14th. Our gracious hosts were SIR member **Jeff** and **Alicia Baily**.

The group of eleven players were spoiled with ample and delicious snacks, including a home made carrot cake, all indicative of the season.

Two tables were set up. The games went quickly and we were able to play eleven hands! The red table doesn't care to talk about their games while the yellow table had five players and three out of the five took first, second and third place.

The hostess, **Alicia**, placed first, followed by **Martha Plante** (2) and **Sue Sheldon** (3).

We all had an enjoyable evening with lots of cheer and wags from Piper. We look forward to our next game on November 11th, to be hosted by the **Plante's**.

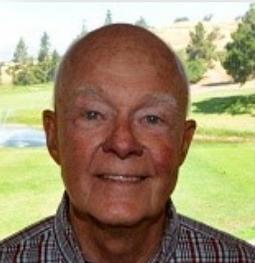


Alicia Baily, Martha Plante and Sue Sheldon

Sue Sheldon for Corrie Oranje  
[corrieoranje@gmail.com](mailto:corrieoranje@gmail.com)



Group Dos 2



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played our October game at the home of Dave & Claire Kingsbury. We had only 11 players due to

travel and illness but we had a great time. The snacks, wine, and especially the breaktime cake were all outstanding.

Rich Ahlf continued his winning ways with an impressive 1<sup>st</sup> place win with a 9.8 average score. Anne Plachy took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 10.6 average. Dan Holland rounded out the winners with a 14.8 average.

This was our last game of 2022 and we announced and paid the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half year. **Rich Ahlf** took 1<sup>st</sup> place with a 15.3 average score. **Ron Plachy** squeezed into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 19.5 average barely beating the 3<sup>rd</sup>

place winner, **Ismini MacLean** who had a 19.6 average. Our three winners can be seen below flashing their winnings.

Ron Plachy  
925.2861.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)





## Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

On October 28th the ole choo choo train chugged its way to the home of **Sue and Walt Busenius** for a fun evening of

MTD's. In addition to the **Jim Stedman** were **Judy and Dick Richmond, Alicia and Jeff Baily, Judy and Jim Baldrige, Linda Siljstrom, and Joyce Wells and Jim Barry.** Sue's halftime halloweenish treat was fantastic apple pie a la mode.

When the smoke settled, we had our Champions: **Alicia Bailey** took home first prize and **Joyce Wells** finished in second place, with **Jim Baldrige** sneaking into 3rd place.

In November, the ole choo choo will rest in the roundhouse. Our next night of MTD will be on December 30th at the home of **Joyce Wells and Jim Barry.**

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 [walterbusenius@gmail.com](mailto:walterbusenius@gmail.com)



Alicia Bailey, Joyce Wells, Jim Baldrige

On the previous page what did you see?  
More than likely, you said, 'A bird in the bush,'  
And... If this IS what YOU said, then you failed to see  
That the word THE is repeated twice!  
Sorry, look again.



## Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

In October, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 people. The

home was filled with many Halloween decorations, one you can see in the MTD winners photos. We played at two tables with six each. The group was small but lively. In attendance were; **Henry and Barbara Thatcher, Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steve and Susan Oki and Jim and Renie Pope.** We paid the player with low table score at each table. The winners were **Christy DeVoe and Susan Oki.** They each received six \$1000 Scratcher Lotto Tickets. We also paid one Lotto ticket to the individual with the highest score at one of the two tables. The winner of the highest score was **Dick DeVoe** (See picture). The members brought caramel corn, peach pie and other sweets and several savorys and wine for all to enjoy. The evening was filled with lovely Halloween cheer and conversation.

Jim Pope



High Score Winner



Low Score Winners



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dave Pierce

Fall: Leaves are falling and so are some of our players. **Jim and Judy Baldrige** were our gracious hosts on October 20<sup>th</sup>, but the Pierces were missing because **Joan** is recovering from a knee replacement, and **Dennis Hallett** was hors de combat after a fall that we hope left no permanent damage. The silver lining was that everyone still standing could play at a single table. No gender gap. **Anne Burk** was first (averaging 15), and **Janet and Bob Yolland** were second and third (17 and 19). Double congratulations to **Bob**; the evening ended with a celebration of his birthday.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwpi@astound.net](mailto:dwpi@astound.net)



MTD 5 Janet Yolland, 2nd, Anne Burk 1st, Bob Yolland



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

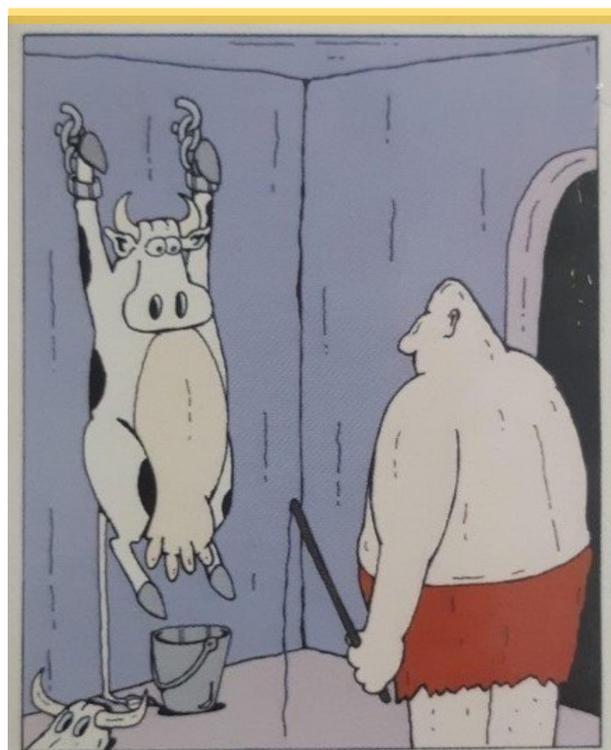
We have no report for October as we did not meet due to member travel plans

**Steve Lane**

925.984.0341 [thelane3@aol.com](mailto:thelane3@aol.com).

The phrase "Take out"  
Can mean food, dating or murder.

English is weird!



The horrible truth behind  
whipped cream.



Group Ocho 8

## Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

No games were played in October due to our house host being ill. Our next outing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm with **Steve & Karen Dinning** as snack hosts. Current Standings for the 6-month payout are 1<sup>st</sup> **Steve Loftin**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **Laurie Hoban**, and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Jan Ondeck**.

Player	2nd Half Cumulative Average	Current Rank	Eligible games played in green
Barry, Jim	25		25
Dinning, Steve	35.4		16
Dinning, Karen			
Hockenbrock, R.	29		27
Holly, Bill	26.6		16
Loftin, Steve	17	1	26
Loftin, Sue	28.1		22
McAllister, Larry	25.4		8
McAllister, Pam	13.7		7
Ondeck, Jan	21.8	3	24
Ondeck, Steve	23		22
Polivka, Ron	23.8		15
Polivka, Victoria	23.9		16
Potter, Mary Jo	22.8		16
Tygart, Virginia	22.4		20
Wells, Joyce	22		15
Ybarra, Dana			
Ybarra, Steve	18.2		13
<b>Subs</b>			
Shebanek, Tony	30.6		8
McCarthy, Brian	25.8		24
McCarthy, Mary	26.7		23
Hoban, Bill	30		14
Hoban, Laurie	18.9	2	19

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 at [RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM) to get on the list.

**Richard Hockenbrock**  
[RLHock@outlook.com](mailto:RLHock@outlook.com).925).324.1713



Group Siete 7

## Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to **Clint and Bev Colliers** for hosting this month's MTD 7.

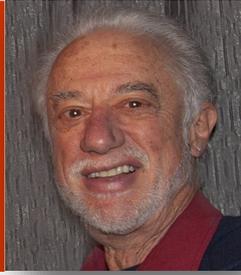
Congrats to **Mary McCarthy** for winning the low score of 5.5. The **McCarthys** have won a total of three months in a row, thereby creating a dynasty. We will have to overthrow them soon. **Mary Ellen Dalgaard** had the highest score.

The high and low-score ladies celebrated with a tiara.

**Bob Lucido**  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 6 October 12th Low and High score, **Mary McCarthy** and **Mary Ellen Dalgaard**. Photo by **Bob Lucido**.



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Yes, another MTD group. My goal is to have all 275 members playing MTD. It

SIR may take 20 years, so I may not be around to see it. We have a full group but will accept substitutes.

Many thanks to **Bob** and **Wendy** for hosting this month's MTD 9.

Congrats to **Wendy Lucido** for the first time winning the low. She scored 16.5. **Mary Ellen Dalgaard** had the highest score. The MTD gods rewarded them with tiaras.

Bob Lucido

[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



MTD 9 on October 19th. Wendy Lucido low score and Mary Ellen Dahlgaard high score. Photo by Bob Lucido

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough"

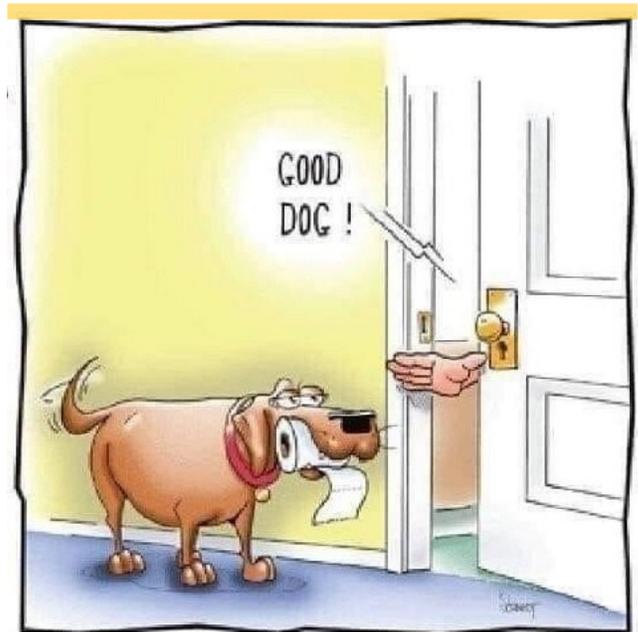
### NURSERY RHYMES UPDATED FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall  
The structure of the wall was incorrect  
So he won ten grand with Claims Direct.

It's raining, it's pouring  
Of course its global warming.

Jack and Jill went into town  
To fetch some chips and sweeties  
Now he can't keep his heart rate down  
And she's got diabetes.

Georgie Porgie pudding and pie  
Kissed the girls and made them cry  
When the boys came out to play  
He kissed them too coz he was gay.



PERHAPS THE MOST NOBLE OF ALL RESCUE ANIMALS: THE LAVATORY RETRIEVER



# CARD GAMES

...we play



## Men's Hearts Bob West

The big winner on our October 14<sup>th</sup> matches was **Steve Ybarra** with 2 wins, **Steve** also garnered 1 second, and had the lowest average score of 58.

**YTD:** **Bill Vizza** is the leader with 17 games followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 14.5 and **Frank Lucas** with 9. **Ron Polivka** leads YTD seconds with 14 followed by **Steve Ybarra** and **Bob West** with 10. **Brian McCarthy** is the most improved over 2021 with a winning percent of 39% which is 277% higher than his 2021 performance. **Bill Vizza** is 2nd with his 43% win rate which is 145% over 2021. **Bob Finlayson** has the highest winning percentage of 45%.

**Future Meetings:** We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting only once in November and December due to holidays on November 11th and December 9th.

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

**Bob West**

925.518.8472 [robrtawest@aol.com](mailto:robrtawest@aol.com)



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Another successful event duplicate bridge event was held on October 7, hosted by Ed Marlovits. There was more social time than usual

due to a couple of board-passing mix-ups (they were ironed out). Also, several hands seemed more perplexing than usual for players on how to bid and/or to play them.

### **FIRST HALF**

- 1st Place (tie)- 14.5 pts.- **Bob Yolland** and **Jim Pope**.
- 3rd Place - 13.5 pts.- **Ray Spears**.
- 4th Place (tie)- 13.0 pts.- **Max Hinkle** and **Tony Greco**.

### **2ND HALF**

- 1st Place- 17.5 pts.- **Max Hinkle**.
- 2nd Place- 15.5 pts.- **Bud Pearce**.
- 3rd Place- 14.5 pts.- **Bob Yolland**.
- 4th Place(tie)- 14.0 pts.- **John Kluesener** and **Steve Dinning**.

### **FINAL**

- 1st Place- 30.5 pts.- **Max Hinkle**.
- 2nd Place- 29.0 pts.- **Bob Yolland**.
- 3rd Place- 27 pts.- **Ray Spears**.
- 4th Place- 26 pts.- **John Kluesener**.

### **BEST PARTNERSHIPS (5-6 pts.)**

- Boards 16-18: **Bob Yolland/John Kluesener**- 6 pts.
- Boards 22-24: **Mike Whitaker/Bud Pearce**- 5 pts.
- Boards 22-24: **Ray Spears/Max Hinkle**- 5 pts.

### **MOST TWO'S**

- Max Hinkle** and **Steve Dinning**- 10.

### **LEAST ZEROS**

- Bud Pearce** and **Max Hinkle**- 4.

### **MOST IMPROVED (1st vs. 2nd Half)**

- Bud Pearce**- 10.0 to 15.5 pts.

Dick DeVoe



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

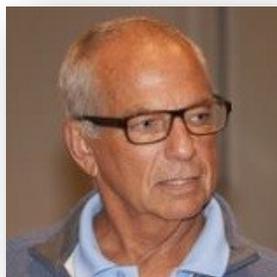
**John Kluesener**

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met on Wednesday the 19th at the Yolland residence for a night of cards, comradery and delicious snacks prepared by the

Yollands. The wines, cheeses, sodas and sweets were excellent! We were pleased to welcome two guest couples to fill in for our travelling regulars; **Maggie and Dick Chaffee** and **Sue and Steve Loftin**. Competition was tough and in the end, scores were bunched pretty tightly except for the winner. First place went to our guests **Maggie and Dick** who ran away with the lead scoring 29.5 points. Second place went to **Christy and Dick DeVoe** with 21.5 points and our hosts finished a close third with 21 points. Our other guests, **Sue and Steve** came in a close fourth place with 20 points. Overall our guests did an excellent job of challenging our regulars, helping us improve our game! Next month we meet at **Margot Somerville's** home on the 16th of November.

**John Kluesener**

[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)



## Cribbage

**Ron Afdal**

The Cribbage players met at Rocco's Walnut Creek Pizza on the 4th Wednesday, noon to 3:30pm. **John Kendrick** took 1st place soundly beating all the other players.

**John Pearl** and **Kirk McVean** placed 2nd and 3rd while **Roger Rivers** and **Ron Afdal** soundly brought up the rear! As the next two scheduled meetings will be near holiday times, possible cancellation may be announced.

**Ron Afdal**

[ronafdal@comcast.net](mailto:ronafdal@comcast.net)



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Dave Pierce**

Autumn, and the living is easy. At least, several couples made the bridge look easy when **Tony and Cindy Greco** hosted us on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Our super-

subs **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismeni MacLean** took first with a 64% game and nine tops out of 20. **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were second with 63% and eight tops, just half a board behind. It's unusual to have one couple over 60%, much less two. Congratulations to the **DeVoes** for being in the money three months in a row. **Ken and Elaine Richter** were a very respectable third, at 58%, good enough for first some months. They too have been in the money three months in a row. Congratulations, all. Be sure to vote before our next game, on Election Day.

**Dave Pierce**

925.932.3877 [dwp@astound.net](mailto:dwp@astound.net)



## Duplicate Bridge 3

**Michael Whitaker**

Duplicate Bridge III had it's October game on Friday the 21st at the home of **Ed Marlovits**. 10 regular members and 2 subs played 24 very enjoyable hands of duplicate

bridge. When we broke for lunch after 12 hands, the host, **Ed Marlovits**, had the lead. At the end of the day, however, **Dick DeVoe** emerged from the pack to finish 1st overall. **Ed** did manage to hold on for 2nd place.. Our next game is scheduled for November 18th at **Max Hinkle's**.

**Michael Whitaker**

925.708.8213 [mrwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mrwhitaker@yahoo.com)



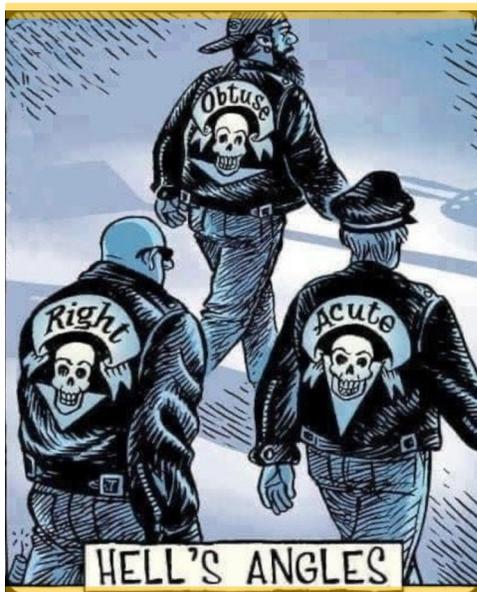
## Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

SIR 146 Party Bridge met at Boundary Oak Golf Course hosted by **Steve Dinning** and **Joe Fuchs**. The results were: **Bob Yolland** was the winner with a big score of 5210. **Ray Spears** was second with 4240 and **Steve Dinning** third with 3820.

The standings for the 2022 Contest to date are: The average score for the five highest scores of all game's year to date is the result that will determine the winners. The standings currently with the highest five score average are: **Steve Dinning** leading with 4266 average followed by **Joe Fuchs** with 3918 and **Bill Snyder** with 3780. We have two games left for the year so anyone with at least three scores and plays the next two Party Bridge events can compete for the 2022 contest. Remember only the five highest scores for the year will be counted. If you can score high for the next two games you have a chance to be one of the three winners.

The next game will be Monday November 7th at the home of **Bud Pearce**. We hope to see you there.

Co-Directors



## Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was held on the usual first Thursday of the month. Our host, Brad Hatcher, provided snacks and wine and welcomed six players. Dick Woodman joined us as a substitute. Thanks Dick!

Paul Dubow no longer can whine about his prior losses as he, again, managed to take home a goodly chunk of several player's original deposits.

We look forward to next month as we play at Steve Ybarra's home. Steve has missed several games due to his busy schedule so it will nice to have him join us again.

**Brad Hatcher**  
[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



## Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

**Dick & Christy DeVoe** hosted our October 4th event. Four regular couples participated in this event with **Bud & Gloria Pearce** and **Dick & Maggie Chaffee** subbing for the **Klueseners** and **Ahlf/Ismini**.

This month we had good fortune. The weather cooled down from last month and the cards heated up. Scores were almost tripled from last month's event. The **DeVoes** took the lead in the first round by bidding and making a small slam of 6 spades (and making 7) for 1010 points. The **Greco**s caught up to them with a strong third round of 1790 points, but the **DeVoes** retook the lead with a solid 1250 points in the fourth round and coasted into 1<sup>st</sup> place by the end of play.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4450 points - **Dick & Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 3410 points - **Tony & Cindy Greco**
- 3rd PLACE with 2960 points - **Larry & Linda Brown**

Next month's event will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup> and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**. Hope you have a great Halloween and Thanksgiving.

**Tony & Cindy Greco**  
925.934.0395 [almanorwest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:almanorwest@sbcglobal.net)

# Area 16 Activities



## 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, that don't exist, 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](mailto:Vern.laursen@gmail.com)  
Max Burchett [Meburchett@astound.net](mailto:Meburchett@astound.net)

## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting. Due to the holidays, there will only be one meeting for Nov / Dec:

on Wed December 7 at 1:30 PM.

Topic to be announced. Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair – Tom Henry – Branch 174

[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)

Co-chair Dave Sutton – Branch 8

[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)



## SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in

# Parting Shot

Normally, I keep this last page short and to the point as its name implies it should be.

This month, however will be a bit different and it is much longer, too long to fit on a single page. It is an article that came across to me on the internet as so much does for everyone these days.

And, although I don't consider myself as overly religious, I found it intriguing and interesting and something worthy of sharing because they are talking about men our — my — age. So here you go... **read on!**

Editor

When you get to be old farts as we are, you recognize that Jesus never made it to his 70s or 80s.

This guy who is the model for every Christian — What would Jesus do? — spent a lot of his life getting ready for his work. Then came his active ministry of three years.

And then his crucifixion at the age of 33 and his resurrection.

We remember our 30s and all the world-changing energy we had. We know what it's like to go full throttle all day and get by on a few hours' sleep and have endless amounts of ambition to right wrongs.

We can see Jesus walking up and down Galilee and into Samaria and up to Jerusalem. We know how he felt. We can see him joining the disciples to pass around the five loaves and two fishes to feed the multitude. We can see him preaching the Sermon on the Mount.

And we can see him in the temple, knocking over the tables, whipping the moneychangers, and driving out the oxen and sheep sold there for sacrifice.

We can't see ourselves doing that. Not anymore. For one thing, people would just laugh at two old dodderers trying to be heard over the din of that mercantile space. And, for another, some bouncer — hopefully, a kindly bouncer — would simply step in and herd us to the door.

We couldn't physically do it. And, truth be told, we'd have a hard time stoking up enough fire of indignation to carry it off. Over our many decades, we've seen a lot and done a lot and been indignant about a lot. Now, we're kind of tired and a little sad.

What would Jesus do if he were 70 or 80? We're trying to figure that out.

We used to be gladiators in the arena of fighting for what's right, like members of a band of knights on a quest for the holy grail — one of us as a priest and then an attorney, the other as a newspaper reporter. And we still do a little of that.

But, as we said to each other over breakfast the other day at a corner diner, the world has let us know it doesn't need us anymore. Often, each of us feels like an aging dot of flesh clinging to the tiny rock of earth hurtling at dizzying speeds past stars and whole galaxies in an edgeless universe.

In our 30s, we felt our efforts were essential to the betterment of the human race. Now, if one of us is standing on the El train in Chicago, a young woman — pregnant! — will give up her seat for him. (This happened. More than once.)

One thing, we're pretty sure, is that, if Jesus was, say, 75, he'd join us for breakfast. Or for lunch. Or for a weekly golf game. Or for a very slow game of basketball. (If you ever want to feel old, just get into a game with three or four guys in their 30s and watch them fly up and down the court, barely taking a breath.)

We do a lot of these social things because, well, we have the time.

If Jesus had joined us for breakfast, he would have joined us in talking about memory lapses like *Why did I walk into this room?* — and about a close friend who died a couple years ago and about a grandchild and about someone we know who's grieving over the death of a sibling. He would have taken part in our discussion of trying to figure out how to relate to our adult children who, to our great surprise, have lives that don't have us at the center.

And Jesus would have joined with us in bemoaning our aches and pains and health worries and limitations. And he would have had his share. He was human, after all.

Actually, if Jesus had gotten to 75, he'd be doing just about the same sort of stuff we're doing. Like the two of us, he'd be talking regularly with doctors who'd be so much younger that they'd seem like teenagers. And he'd be finding ways to fill his time while the rest of the world went about its busy business.

And he'd be hanging around with and talking on the phone to and going to wakes and funerals for other old farts.

What would Jesus do? He would live the same sort of life that we're living. He would be. Simply be.

Instead of ministering to huge crowds and traipsing long miles on dusty roads, he'd be ministering to guys like us, like him. By simply being there.

He would minister by being Christlike. That is, by really listening to the other old guys who aren't looking for answers so much as they are for someone to hear them. He would be honest about what he was feeling at such an advanced age. If he was troubled in spirit, he'd be honest about it and not try to pretend that everything was hunky-dory. When you get to be our age, nothing's all that hunky-dory.

He would visit the sick, if it wasn't too depressing for him, or too traumatic. He would accept the humility that age had forced on him — unless this was one of those times when he was angry about it.

He would take each moment as the gift it is, and each person, too. And reflect that to everyone around him.

So, that's how we've decided to act. We're going to be like Christ.

Which is to say that we're going to be ourselves, but just better.

National Catholic Reporter "What would Jesus do in old age" by Patrick G. Reardon, Patrick T. Reardon

Happy  
Thanksgiving

