

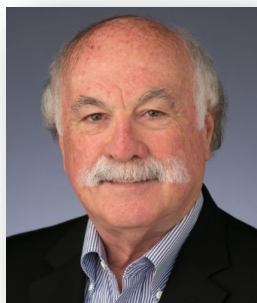


Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

October—November 2026

Call



Big Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

We had an outstanding SIR146 Summer Picnic on Friday, Sept 18th at The Hanna Picnic Area at Old Borges Ranch with some 80 members, spouses and guests in attendance. The event was catered by Kinder's Deli and included ball-tip BBQ, chicken, and Tequila lime ribs, potato salad, green salad and BBQ beans. The event was free of charge for all who attended. We even had one prospective member attend with his wife, and he signed up to become a member of SIR146 as soon as he got home. I want to extend a very special thanks to **Bob Wilkenfeld, Bob Lucido, Bruce Borgman, John Alexander and Glenn Breslin** for their efforts to make this a fun event for SIR146.

We will have another recruiting event at the Walnut Creek Oktoberfest on Friday, Sept 25th from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Saturday, Sept 26th from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm at Civic Park in Walnut Creek. This is a two day event and we are looking for additional members to volunteer to work the booth with us. It takes some effort to organize, set up the booth, staff and man the booth highlighting the benefits of SIR146, especially for a two-day event. Please contact either Glenn Breslin at glennbreslin@gmail.com, or myself at thom.degnan@gmail.com if you'd like to join in this fun recruiting event.

Email Scams: As you are aware, we continue to have email scam events this month with me asking for money for a vendor payment. Fortunately, members who

received it contacted me immediately, and **Ron Plachy** was able to quickly send out an email blast alerting the membership. Please do not respond to these emails as SIR146 would never send out these types of emails. Also, if you receive one, please call me or forward me the email so we can alert our members. Your Little Sir, **Jim Pope**, is organizing a task force to deal with this and we might even consider using an outside company to secure our website. Again, please be aware of the scams and we will keep you posted as to the changes that are coming to enhance our security.

Member Awards: At our October luncheon we are planning to award a new Distinguished Service Award to a member who has substantially contributed to SIR146 success. We will also be awarding a Senior SIR Award to a member. Please come to the luncheon so we can show the respect and appreciation that these awards represent.

CPR Certification: We had two new AHA CPR/AED CPR Certification Classes in September with several members getting fully certified in CPR and AED usage. This was different from our previous training classes in that it was a hybrid class with some three hours of online work that gives you a completion certificate at the end, and then on on-site skills class for about one hour to complete your final CPR Certification. Congratulations to our members for completing this. We will be continuing with the regular CPR training classes in November.

SIR146 is only as rewarding as the members participation levels so I want to extend an open invitation to all

Continued on the Following Page

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, October 8th, 2026
Boundary Oak 10:30

Holly Reese—Healthy Aging
A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entrée
[Click Here](#) to go to page 4

Activities for you and your spouse...

- Luncheon Reservations [Page 4](#)
- Check out OLLI [Page 10](#)
- Theater— New Schedule [Page 12](#)
- Birdwatching [Page 17](#)
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- NEW ACTIVITY, coffee [Page 25](#)
- Dining Out [Page 28](#)

members to come to our BEC leadership team monthly meeting which takes place at 9:30 am on the Thursday before our monthly luncheons in the meeting room to the right as you enter the building. Come in and join the discussion to see how and what we are doing, and give us your insights as to how we can improve the organization. Each and every suggestion will be considered and discussed.

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

Thom Degnan



Little Sir's Corner **Jim Pope**

Surprise: Our speaker, Andrew Parrott, on the State of the Economy for the next quarter cancelled at the last minute. We will have him back or another to speaker on the Economy soon.

So, we have a past speaker that was very popular when she spoke a couple of years ago. And it is: Holly Reese! She is going to speak on Healthy Aging. Holly spoke to us several years ago and was very well received. She will cover the many aspects of aging that we all face. She brings many years of experience in the area.

One footnote: She was the World Record holder for the number of pushups for women in her age group. Recently, another woman has beat her record, but she is very determined and is now working to regain her World Record. I know she is an inspirational speaker and very knowable in the area of Healthy Aging. It will be an informative and enjoyable presentation. Please try and join us for her talk.

Stop Spam: Also, I'm going to head up a group to look at what we could do to stop the scams we have been getting. More information will follow in the future the Little Sir position and the future Big Sir SIRCall articles.

New Members: We have 262 members now, but we need to keep up the effort. We had several prospective members at the Outstanding BBQ Picnic on Friday September 18th at Old Borges Ranch below the base of Mt. Diablo. The weather was Perfect and the BBQ ribs were Great! And the organizing committee did a super job.

We have had a good run for new members so far this year but don't stop looking for new people to join this outstanding organization. KEEP IT UP!

Jim Pope

Little Sir, Branch 146



Membership **George Mon**

Three new members were approved for membership in September.

Don Renzulli lives in Pleasant Hill. He was an ASL Legal Interpreter for the Alameda Co. Superior Court. He was an Emmy

Awardee, Actor, Writer and Producer. He is sponsored by **Thom Degnan**.

Chris Kenny lives in Concord with his wife **Kelley**. He was a Service Tech for Turbo Technicians. He enjoys bocce ball, cycling, fishing and golf. He is sponsored by **Mark Hildreth**.

Paul Ferry lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Gayle**. He was an Asphalt Paving Contractor for his company Ferry's Asphalt Maintenance. He enjoys pickleball, boating and fishing. He is sponsored by **John Foster**.

The 2026 membership count is **262**.

The 2027 Sir Branch 146 Dues letter will be sent out by mid-October. You will be able to pay dues by Zelle this time. However, sending a check is still preferred.

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

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 the address below so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon

925.683.0980 gckk@comcast.net

Officers and Directors 2026

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

RAMP-Chair Members

RecruitmentGlenn Breslin
 Activities Glenn Breslin
 Member RelationsMike Davidson
 PublicityJohn Alexander
 Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.

SIRCall Newsletter Group

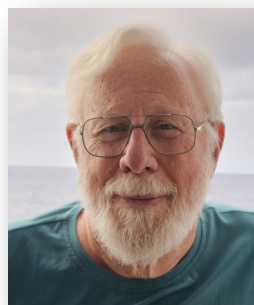
Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Frank Lucas
Internet Posting	Alex Borders

Take SIRCall with you!

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



[Current Issue of
SIRCall](#)



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Boo... Happy Halloween everyone! Tired of choosing chicken or cod, chicken or cod, for your luncheon entrée? We hear you: this month the choice will be cod or chicken! Choose carefully. Especially if you are too

chicken to try the cod.

The cut-off date for SIRCall submissions for the November issue will be noon, October 23 but, as always, we encourage you to send them prior to this date!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

Paying your annual dues by Zelle?

Scan this QR Code in your banking app's Zelle section to insure it goes to the right recipient. (With some banks the QR code may not work)

OR

**enter this e-mail address as the recipient
sir146.treasurer@gmail.com**

Either way, be sure to set the comment to "SIR Dues" and your name!



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>



This is the state SIR web page. It is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase.

[The current STATE newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

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

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

SIR 146 October Luncheon

Thursday, October 8th, 2026

Salad

Arugula with Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese and Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Herb Roasted Cod

Garlic Herb Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables with creamy Lemon Sauce

Crispy Chicken Costoletta

Smashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables with creamy Lemon Sauce

Vegetarian Manicotti

Spinach and Ricotta Stuffed Manicotti
Fresh Mozzarella and House Marinara

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake

SIR Branch 146 meets monthly

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

This is a luncheon meeting and

A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED FOR THE LUNCH.

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

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

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

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

Any problems or questions?

925.979.5721 AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com

How to Reserve

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

How to Pay

There are three ways you can pay!

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



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

October

Paul Beretz
Lloyd Bracewell
Brooksie Brooks
Larry Brown
Dennis Dale
Jeff Denny



John Foster
Larry Kaye
John Kluesener
Brian Lotter
Bob Lucido
John McDonald
John Nelson
Byron Nelson
Stephen Ondeck
Bert Payne
William Ross
George Sabbagha
Joe Starkey
Charlie Walker
Herb Wilson
Bob Yolland

Put the November Luncheon on your calendar NOW!

SIR 146 November Luncheon

Thursday, November 12th, 2026

Salad

Mandarin Orange Spinach Salad
Parmesan, Rasins, Poppyseed Dressing

Entrees

Oven Roasted Turkey.

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy,
Cranberry Sauce

Lemon Herb Baked Cod

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots,
Zesty Lemon Garlic Sauce

Creamy Tuscan Ravioli

Butternut Squash Ravioli in a
Creamy Sundried Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Pie



Sunshine Brian McCarthy

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

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

advised. Stay Healthy.



Pat O'Keeffe



Paul Dubow

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.

SEPTEMBER

Photos by Don Casey

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Curtis Young	2021	5
Ray Martz	2020	6
Craig Kauffman	2019	7
Jim Nelson	2018	8
Charlie Walker	2018	8
Bob West	2017	9
Mike Riley	2017	9
Henry Thatcher	2015	11
Mike Whitaker	2014	12
Pierre Mebane	2011	15
Ed Marlovits	2010	16
Walt Schmidt	2009	17
Dave Pierce	2008	18
John Harrington	2007	19
Corrie Oranje	2007	19
Steve Loftin	2006	20
John Biasotti	2002	24
Garth Cummings	1998	28
Bill Cammerer	1994	32
Dick Devoe	1993	33



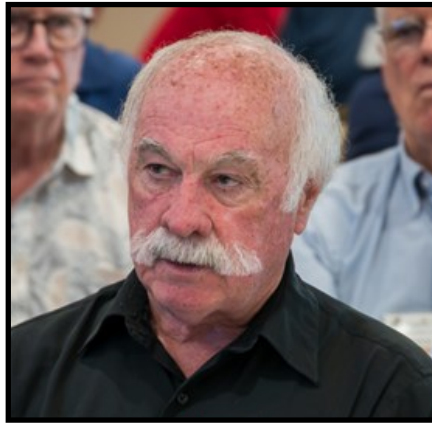
Paul Ferry



September
Phil Lee







NOTES

from Our Members

OLLI at Cal State East Bay

Tom Byrom

Have you heard of OLLI? It stands for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. It's a continuing education program for seniors, offered at many colleges across the U.S. One of those colleges is the Concord campus of Cal State East Bay. It's not widely known around here

My wife and I have attended several classes, lectures, movies and other gatherings there since we moved to the area two years ago. There is no homework or tests - just the pure joy of learning. The instructors are first-rate. Classes are offered in person and via Zoom; we prefer the in person option.



JOIN A COMMUNITY OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

At CAL STATE EAST BAY'S CONCORD CAMPUS

4700 YGNACIO VALLEY ROAD

OLLI OFFERS CLASSES DESIGNED FOR SENIORS

- Stimulating and fun; no tests, no homework, no grades
- A variety of topics – e.g. art, literature, music, science, history, current events
- Expert instructors and former faculty
- Classes both in-person and online
- Classes vary from one-time to 4-6 weeks

MORE THAN CLASSES

- Field trips and excursions
- Special interest groups
- Monday at the movies
- Free monthly lectures
- Social events

WHY JOIN OLLI

- Keep your mind active and engaged
- Make new connections
- Discover new interests

CHECK OUT OLLI : <https://www.csueastbay.edu/concord/olli.html>

Request more info: olli@csueastbay.edu or call 925.602.6776

QUESTIONS? Contact Tom Byrom 925.984.5811 or tombyrom@comcast.net

ACTIVITIES



Activities Coordinator
Glenn Breslin

A new **SIR146 Coffee Group** has formed.

- The Coffee Group meets weekly on Wednesday morning at 9:30 at Panera in Walnut Creek (corner of Bancroft and Treat).
- Our group is informal and open to all SIR members. You may come late and leave anytime, as your schedule requires.
- They do not have a fixed agenda and will discuss any subject that attendees feel is timely and important.

See the Coffee Group Activity page for full details.

2026-2027 Full Theater Schedule now – Tickets are limited

- Sun 12/6/26 Snow Day (Walnut Creek Concert Band)
- Thu 2/11/27 Cal Magic Martinez includes show plus 3 course dinner
- Sun 3/14/27 Native Gardens with Optional Dinner
- Sat 4/3/27 The Doo Wop Project: Echoes of the Street, \$75

See the Theater Activity page for full details and payment details.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

[Coffee Group](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco is inactive]

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



Theater Glenn Breslin

Full 2026-2027 SIR146 Theater Schedule Now Announced

- For many of the below shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, send a check made out to SIR146 and mail to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- For the 4/3 Doo Wop Show, please e-mail me with your interest, but do not send a check just yet

Sat 9/26/26 at 2:30 PM – Glass Menagerie, group tickets are \$43 each.

At Leshar Theater—e-mail me then send a check!

<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-glass-menagerie>

SOLD OUT!

Join us for a powerful evening of classic American theatre! *The Glass Menagerie* is Tennessee Williams' most intimate and emotional play — a beautifully staged story about family, memory, and the dreams we chase. This production has earned outstanding reviews for its acting, atmosphere, and emotional impact. It's a perfect outing for those who enjoy meaningful stories and great conversation afterward. Expect a moving, relatable performance that stays with you long after the final scene.

Sun 12/6/26 at 5:00 PM – Snow Day (Walnut Creek Concert Band), general admission tickets are \$12 each.

at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church—e-mail me then send a check!

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20554/3144>

Let's welcome the holiday season with music that lifts the spirit. The Walnut Creek Concert Band's *Snow Day!* concert is packed with joyful winter melodies, festive favorites, and the kind of bright, feel-good energy that makes December evenings special. This performance blends heartwarming storytelling with the rich, full sound of a live concert band — the kind of music that instantly puts you in a good mood. It's cheerful, nostalgic, and perfect for sharing with friends. An early evening start, a friendly community setting, and a program designed to make you smile — this is exactly the kind of outing that leaves everyone feeling lighter and happier. Join us for a warm, uplifting holiday concert. RSVP to enjoy a festive night out with our group.

Thu 2/11/27 at 4 PM Magic Show – Cal Magic Martinez - \$95 includes show plus 3 course dinner

<https://calmagicclub.com/>

The California Magic Club in Martinez is a well-known local dinner-theater venue that hosts the Cal Magic show — a long-running, close-up comedy-magic experience with food, drinks, and audience participation. A live comedy-magic dinner show featuring rotating professional magicians. Shows often include: Pre-show mingling with magicians, A full dinner, Table-side magic during dinner, A headliner magician performing a 60–75 minute set

Sun 3/14/27 at 2 PM – Native Gardens – Lafayette Town Hall Theater - \$27.00

5 PM Optional Dinner follows the show

<https://www.townhalltheatre.com/calendar/native-gardens-six>

From the wickedly funny mind of Karen Zacarías comes a smart, fast-moving comedy about good fences, bad neighbors, and the chaos that erupts when politeness wears thin. When Tania, a very pregnant Ph.D. candidate, and her high-powered lawyer husband Pablo move in next door, longtime homeowners Virginia and Frank are determined to welcome them. The new neighbors hit it off until a mysteriously misplaced fence line threatens Frank's prize-winning garden.

Continued on following page.

Theater. Starts on previous page.

Sat 4/3/27 at 7:30 PM – The Doo Wop Project: Echoes of the Street, \$75

At Leshar Theater — e-mail me with interest. Do NOT send checks, too early; only RSVP at this time.

<https://www.lesherartscenter.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/20834/3224>

<https://www.thedoowopproject.com/>

America's premier group dedicated to preserving and expanding the genre of this great music we know and love, Doo Wop! The Doo Wop Project brings the classic sounds of the '50s and '60s to life with incredible harmonies, slick choreography, and a modern twist that keeps the energy high from start to finish. Expect beloved hits from groups like The Drifters, The Platters, and Frankie Valli. The boys of the Doo Wop Project also take contemporary songs and give them a Doo Wop twist make the show feel both nostalgic and brand new. It's upbeat, polished, and guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Thanks to this exciting approach, DWP appeals to every generation.

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

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report Brad Hatcher

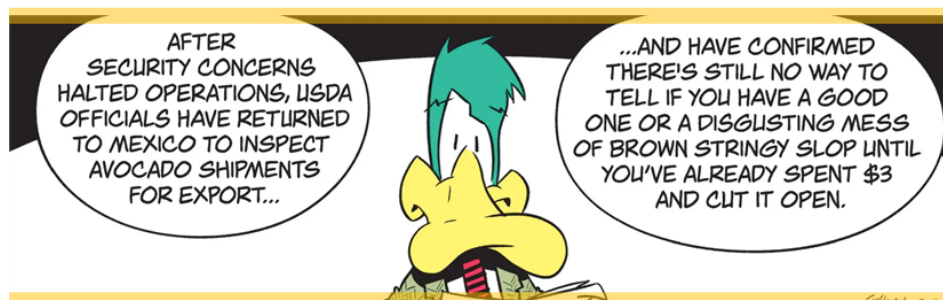
SIR members and guests are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Contacts are **Pedro Contreras**, 925.837.4847; and **Carl Moyer**, 925.378.9389. Next meeting will be at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek golf course at Port Chicago Highway and Highway 4 on Thursday, September 24th

at 8:30am. Come early.

On a new adventure, launching from the beach in a dory, **Pedro Contreras**, **Ken Bellendir**, **Brion Beetz**, **Gino Calhau**, **Steve Smith** and **Rich Fiscina** slayed 6 salmon, 4 ling cod, 48 ginormous black rockfish and 140+ Dungeness crabs in two days of fishing in Pacific City, Oregon. It was an 11-hour drive one way. **Matt Richards** and **Dave Paulson** got salmon locally. **Tom Slivinski** entertained some small stripers from the shore in the delta. **Tom Kostik** and **Mike Pruett** played catch and release with black bass in the delta. **Ken Bellinder** was our busiest. Bass in the Delta, Walleye at Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin, and Bass at Lake of the Four Seasons, Indiana.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Bocce

John Kendrick

The 2026 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity is officially complete. There were existing and 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 10 as the official start of the 2027 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity.

John Kendrick



9 Hole Golf Group

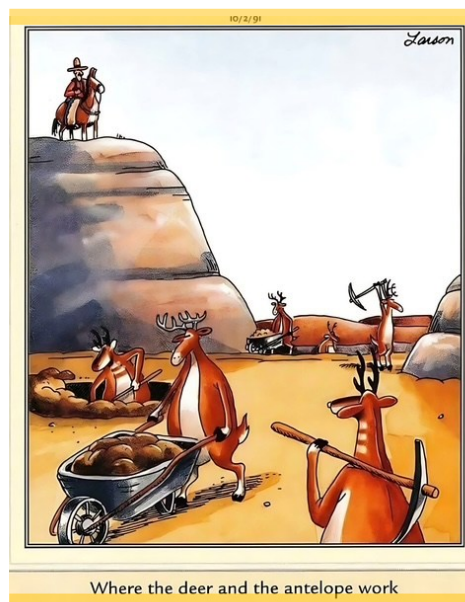
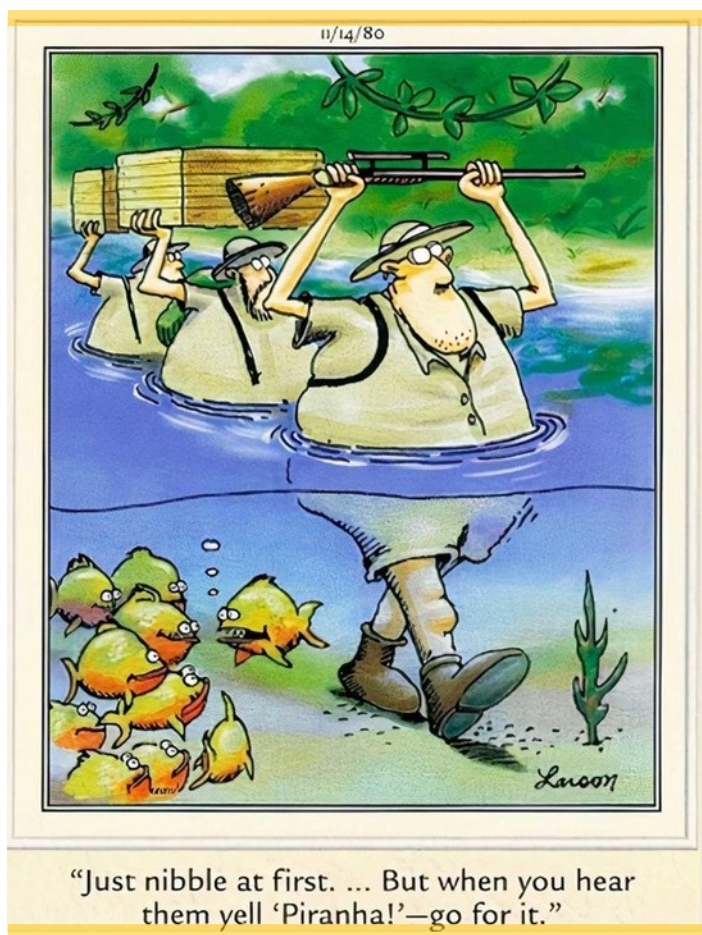
Bob Ford

Fall is here. Why not come join us for some beautiful fall golf. We have great weather and the course is in really good shape. Please email me (Scubabob.ford@gmail.com) if you would like to play with us.

Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with the people who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Book Corner

Paul Kersis



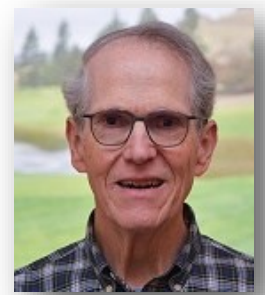
The SIR lending library is available at our general meetings in February, May, August, October and December. Bring a book —borrow a book!





Photography Group

The photography club will meet on Thursday, November 5th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room, From 1 PM to 3 PM. At this meeting, we hope to have a guest speaker from Mike's Camera Shop who will discuss the best cameras and equipment for 2026 and 2027.



We had a spirited, enthusiastic, engaged group of 12 photographers that attended today's meeting. The following members attended:

Glenn Breslin, Frank Terzuoli, Bill Holly, Phil Lee, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Tom Amman, Earl Bates, Ron Polivka, Richard Hockenbrock, Don Casey, and Moose Kelly. A "HUGE SHOUT OUT" to **Don Casey** for the extra effort on coordinating our night time photoshoot in Chinatown / North Beach. Thanks **Don** for an incredible job!!

Topics that were discussed at this meeting were:

Discussion about a vineyard photoshoot at Peju Winery in Napa in October – **All members**

Discussion about fall season Napa Valley photoshoot the week of November 16th – **All members**

Christmas Party with best picture of the year awards on Friday, December 4th at Rocco's

Video of Underwater Sea Life in Indonesia – **Moose Kelly**

Presentation and discussion of photographs taken on the nighttime photoshoot in Chinatown and North Beach – **Phil Lee, Earl Bates, Don Casey, and Moose Kelly**

Discussion on "Random Photos" that were downloaded to Google Photo link – **Frank Terzuoli** > Windows inside of Windows, **Jeffery Dreyfus** > The Dolomite Mountains in Italy, **Bob Wilkenfeld** > MTD playing with lights out thanks to PG & E, **Ron Polivka** > South Africa Wildlife. COOL photos

Best digital cameras in 2026 discussion – **Bob Wilkenfeld** submitted this article.

CONGRATS to one and all!!

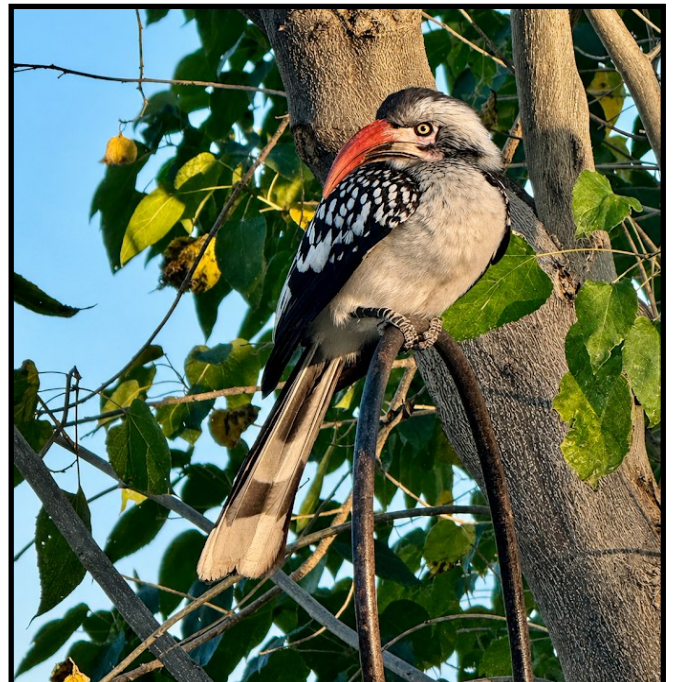
If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our photoshoots or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Mike Rothman**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com.

Mike Rothman

415.937.1846 mrothman9@gmail.com



More Pictures on next page



Photo Group starts on previous page.





Birding

Ted Robertson

This month's bird trip was pushed back two weeks to September 21st, due to my travel in Italy with my family. Thus, the results of this late September field trip missed the publication deadlines for the SIRCall October newsletter.

The October field trip has been scheduled for October 7th (Wednesday), coinciding with the last half of the fall bird migration. If you would like to be part of the birding group and receive monthly announcements with specific locations, directions and times, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the mailing list. Beginners are welcome and I have a few very good loaner binoculars. This is a coed group, so friends and spouses are always welcome, along with your son or daughter.

Ted Robertson
ter@berkeley.edu



Osprey
(Photo by Jim Rowland)



Great Egret
(Photo by Earl Bates)



Red-shouldered Hawk
getting ready to pounce on prey
(Photo by Earl Bates)

I am starting to think I will never be old
enough to know better!

The older I get, the more I miss a world
that no longer exists

Birds, Birds, and More Birds

A photo field day at Borges Ranch by Earl Bates



Birds, Birds, and More Birds

A photo field day at Borges Ranch by Earl Bates



Not really sure what season it is. I saw pallets of watermelon, Halloween candy, pool floaties, fire wood, and Christmas lights at the store yesterday...

They say the machines of the future will be as smart as people.

OK

But... which people? Because it kind of matters quite a bit.

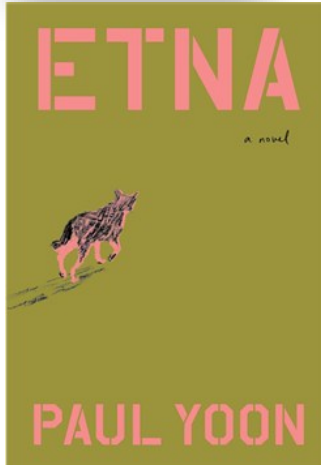


Book Group

Nick Jabuka

We met on Friday, August 28th, at our usual spot — Panera on Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek. The place was busy, and the music was a bit loud, though it was mostly lost under the chatter from all the other tables.

Our August Read: ETNA



Told entirely through the eyes of Etna, a 67-pound mixed-breed shepherd, the novel opens with him being taken from his birth farm by a woman named Soojin and handed over to American combat engineers, who train him to detect unexploded ordnance — and to kill on command. Across years of brutal war, Etna survives explosions, gunfire, and collapsing cities at the side of his handler, Jason. He crosses paths with other animals and humans also searching for a way to rebuild their lives, loses friends both human and animal along the way, and ultimately comes to understand that the home he's been fighting to return to no longer exists.

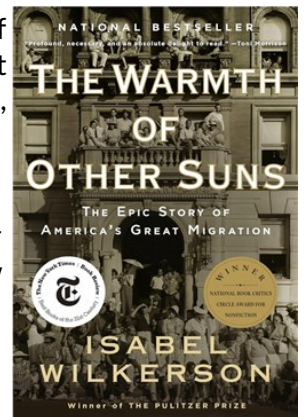
Our Verdict – It's a Go!

The group recommends the book and agreed that a variety of readers would enjoy it. While it is short and an easy read, it does include some deeper themes associated with loss, war, and the search for our past.

Next Month's Book

We chose *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabella Wilkerson. If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love you to join us! We welcome new members.

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





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030

August 25th: The Straits. A scenic part of our area. Boats, Trains and all sorts of wildlife abound. Getting there by bike, that's a different deal. Well, 10 of our riders did it. We climbed the hills, we took the descents, and we survived. The wind at the start moved us into different positions and the ride was scary. However, it was accomplished. The view was magazine quality. Riding this path were: **Bill Holly, Moose Kelly, Tom Alborg, Jim Rowland, Bill Ross, Brian Totter, Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, Eric Finson, and Larry Kaye.** The air outside was clean and fresh. Just turn the knob, get a taste and step out into health. **Larry**



September 1st: They were forewarned, and yes, this ride was a nasty one. 9 hardy souls showed up. It was a tough ride. We plugged along and ground the tires as we climbed hill after hill. Will they ever stop? Onward we went. Some of the more hardy few took off and took their own route. The rest followed as we took the promised scenic route past the lake in Orinda. A terrific downhill it was. We all met at Geppettos for java. The return trip was over the same road BUT backwards. Downhill for miles. Yummy. Back to our steel machines and off to home. A super workout. Today we had: **Dave Paulson, Moose Kelly,**

Thom Degnan, Tom Alborg, Bob Lucido Brian Totter and Mike Schruup. It was announced today that sitting in your chair too long brought about Dementia faster. So, get off your butts, turn the knob, get outside and move. **Larry**

September 8th: The report said "hot", so we said who cares. Off we went early AM heading South. Destination Deneca's Cafe in Dublin. A group favorite. Heading South we encountered lots of walkers, no heat and fresh wind. The final approach to the Cafe was a trail. The trail was closed and detoured to a gravel trail. Let's say it was not fun. We made the Cafe and ate giant pastries for our effort. Back on our rigs we headed home with the heat governing our decision. I took the guys on a relatively shady way home. We had a nice wind and the temps stayed cool. We came home through Blackhawk and enjoyed paved and clean roads. Back to Alamo and our rigs. The temps started to rise as we headed home. Riding today: **Eric Finson, Dave Paulson, Brian Totter, Moose Kelly, Tom Alborg, Thom Degnan, Bob Lucido and Larry Kaye.** If you step outside early, you can enjoy the coolness of our climate and as you take those initial steps towards the health you desire, your heart will smile. **Larry**

September 15th: She stood before us, majestic. The day was cool, the sky clear. We rode the mountain today. **Phil Lee, Brian Totter, Scott Simmons, Bob Lucido, Jim Crites, Bob Wilkenfeld, Mike Schuup and Larry Kaye.** The trip up was tough but we did it. **Brian** had a power problem and returned to base. The view is amazing. The ride down was a hand crammer. You need to feel proud to have accomplished this task at our assorted ages. The desire to do it was the reason we did it. Mount Diablo we salute you. The proof is in the news. Getting outside will do you good. It hurts to exercise, but the benefits after far exceed the ache. Open the door. **Larry**



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





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Morgan Territory (August 28):

The planned 5-mile hike turned out to be longer (~7 miles), but everyone survived and enjoyed the outing. The group started at Finley Road and hit the Sulphur Springs, Black Hills and Crestview Trails on the way to the Amphitheater on Mt. Diablo (a former gathering spot for indigenous people).



former gathering spot for indigenous people).

Labor Day (September 8): No labor on Labor Day. We all took the day off.

Diablo Foothills (September 14):

Earl Bates, Jim Crites, Chris Duffek, Ray Martz, Roger Meyer and Bob Wilkenfeld roasted along the ridgeline (Crest Trail), but enjoyed a short picnic lunch in a cool, shady glen along the Stage Trail. The hike was 5.5-miles in length with 900 feet of elevation gain.



Redwood Regional Park (September 21):

Always a favorite, Redwood Regional Park provides challenging trails, beautiful scenery, and shade from the summer heat (not really an issue this day). We started from Bort Meadow Staging Area and hiked 5.8 miles with about 800 feet of elevation gain.

Extra Credit:



Eric Finson and Bob Wilkenfeld had separate week-long backpacking trips in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. There is nothing like the pristine lakes and scenery of the Sierras to motivate you to haul a 40+ pound pack up the slopes, sleep on the hard ground and eat freeze-dried food.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with around 1000 feet of climbing. Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine

friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.



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





SongSirs Don Casey

We've been shifted into temporary quarters at Walnut Creek Presbyterian, which graciously hosts us. It's cozy, but works well for us (see pictures).

The rehearsals were to refine and prepare for a concert, which we gave September 17th at Ivy Park at Walnut Creek.

Songs sung were divided into three groups: Songs of Summer (e.g. 'Roll out Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer'), Songs of Love (e.g. 'Mary Lou') and Songs of Inspiration (e.g. 'High Hopes').

Next up: we'll be prepping for the November meeting, at which we'll perform Armed Forces songs in honor of Veteran's Day.

The photos show a mix of practice and performance. Yes, conducting rehearsals can be draining.

Don Casey

925.689.4209 donjcasey@comcast.net





寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Hope you all didn't get any withdrawal symptoms last month... what with no sushi in September.

We meet on a bi-monthly schedule so no gathering then but get ready, relief is on its way! Did you put October 15th on your "save the date" calendar? I hope so and I look forward to seeing you at 11:30 at Bamboo

BAMBOO SUSHI



Sushi in Bishop Ranch! It is at 6000 Bollinger Canyon Road,

#2201 in San Ramon; a bit further afield than some of our selections but looks worth it (fresh grated wasabi, with your unicorn roll anybody?).

Bring your ideas for the location of our December Sushi Blowout... ho, ho, ho!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

Hello Wine Enthusiasts! The next wine tasting will be on Tuesday, October 27, at the home of **Norm and Mary Azevedo**. The wines selected are Zinfandel for the red and

Sauvignon Blanc for the white. The event is currently full, but we often have cancellations so think about getting on the wait list.

Keep in mind that the host determines the number of attendees, so the number changes each time. The wine tastings tend to fill up quickly. The July tasting was at capacity by the end of August.

The best way to ensure you attend is to offer to host the tasting. This way you are at the head of the list. The October wine tasting completes the year. **Richard Hockenbrock** has offered to host January. Please give some thought to hosting in April, July, or October of 2027

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine Group met for their September luncheon and the home of **Dan Holland**.

Dan treated us to a starter of "finger food" to enjoy with our first round of wine. This was followed by a hearty, delicious "Cob" Salad served with Honey-Dijon dressing on the side plus French bread and butter. For dessert he served what is aptly described as "Rainbow Cake" consisting of six multi-colored layers. Mmmmm!

Meanwhile, the ladies lunched at the Wise Girl restaurant in Pleasant Hill, arranged by Janice Woodman.



After solving all the problems of the world, we discussed our calendar for the remainder of the year. Only one event remains and that is our "Dinner-out for all" next month which, coincidentally, will take place at Wise Girls, on Wednesday, October 7th.

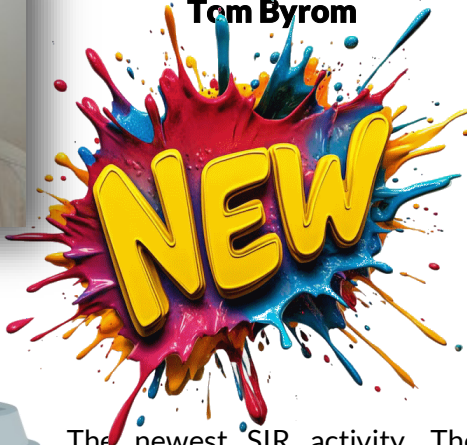
As is our custom, we do not plan any events for November or December.

Pete Gates for Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 pdubow2398@aol.com



COFFEE GROUP Tom Byrom



The newest SIR activity, The Coffee Group, meets weekly on Wednesday morning at 9:30 at Panera in Walnut Creek (corner of Bancroft and Treat).

Our group is informal and open to all SIR members. You may come late and leave anytime, as your schedule requires. We end our sessions no later than 11:00 AM.

Our group is new. We are off to a great start with seven to nine attendees at our first sessions.

We do not have a fixed agenda. Instead, we discuss any subject that attendees feel is timely and important. Some of the topics that came up at our meetings to date:

- 9/11 – where we were when we first heard of the attack
- 9/11 - our reflections on the 25th anniversary of the event
- The heightened concern about the potential destructive power of Artificial Intelligence
- How we use Artificial Intelligence
- Important issues addressed at the state SIR board meeting
- The need to grow the membership of SIR

Conversations were lively and interesting.

Tom Byrom

925.984.5811 tombyrom@comcast.net



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at the home of **Bruce Borgman** on a lovely late summer afternoon. We enjoyed appetizers on **Bruce's** patio taking in the view of his magnificent 45 year old California Coast Redwoods that shaded our table.



Bruce served home made salmon spread, artichoke/spinach dip, BLT canapés and a Dutch cheese plate. The appetizers were amazing, especially the BLT canapés which now lead in this year's 1st place contest. The entree for lunch was a pulled pork sandwich accompanied by a very tasty serving of Cole Slaw. **Bruce** slow cooked a pork shoulder roast for many hours that paid dividends with melt in your mouth sandwiches. The Cole Slaw, which I have never had any better, paired perfectly with the sandwiches. For dessert we enjoyed golden delicious apple crumble with vanilla ice cream. We attempted to solve most of the world's problems but as usual came up empty handed. **Richard Hockenbrock** will next host the Cooking II group on October 12, 2026.



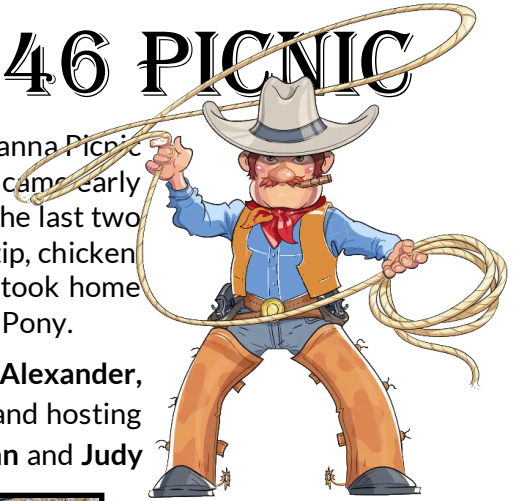
Steve Ybarra

sjybar@gmail.com

THIRD ANNUAL SIR 146 PICNIC

Bob Wilkenfeld: Eighty-two members and their guests gathered at the Hanna Picnic Area of Old Borges Ranch for the third annual SIR146 Picnic. Many folks came early to enjoy each other's company. The weather was fantastic (not hot like the last two years), and barbeque by Kinders was delicious. There was so much ball-tip, chicken ribs and sides to eat that, even after second servings, almost everyone took home food for later. The remaining food and soft drinks were donated to White Pony.

My thanks to the other members of this year's Picnic Committee – **John Alexander, Bruce Borgman, Bob Lucido, Glenn Breslin** – for their help in planning and hosting another successful event! And special thanks to **Thom and Diane Degnan** and **Judy Wilkenfeld** for their help in setting up before, and cleaning up after, the event.



Dining Out



Aloha

On August 25th, the Dine Out crew traded the ordinary for a little taste of the islands at **Kaia's Island Kitchen & Tiki Bar in Danville**. The Hawaiian-themed Happy Hour was the perfect setting for an evening of good food, good friends, and plenty of laughter.



Members settled into the relaxed tropical patio atmosphere, catching up with old friends and getting to know some newer members. The Happy Hour menu offered an array of Hawaiian pupus and small plates, along with colorful Tiki cocktails that added just the right touch of island spirit.

There was plenty of lively conversation, laughter, and perhaps a few ambitious attempts at mastering the Hawaiian language! It was one of those evenings when no one seemed to be in a hurry to leave, and the fun continued long after the last plates had been cleared.



A wonderful time was had by all—and judging by the smiles and lingering conversations, everyone was already looking forward to the next Dine Out adventure.

A hui hou kākou!... "Until we meet again!"

Al Guzman

mralguzman@gmail.com

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net

Rich Lyon

7424lyon@gmail.com

Mike Riley

mike.riley@cbnorcal.com

Where there's a will...
There's always relatives.

Dining Out



Wence's Restaurant

Join the Dine Out crew for an evening of laughter, delicious food, and great company. We're happy to once again be gathering at one of our favorite restaurants, Wence's.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 20th 2026
Time: Happy Hour: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Location: 1922 Oak Park Boulevard, Pleasant Hill CA, 94523
Cost: \$60 per person



~~ MENU ~~

STARTER's (Select one)

Organic Mixed Greens Salad, cherry tomatoes, red onion, asiago-herb dressing or Lobster Bisque Soup

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS (Select One)

- #1 Pacific Coast Wild Prawns Scampi, fettuccine, grape tomatoes, and shallots with white wine lemon caper sauce
- #2 Grilled Free-range Chicken Breast Piccata, sherry mushroom demi-glace, broccolini, and garlic mashed potatoes
- #3 Lemon Dill Wild Charbroiled Salmon, with garlic mashed potatoes, broccolini, and lemon corn dill relish

DESSERT (Select One)

Tiramisu or Vanilla Gelato or Chocolate Gelato

We must have your check by noon Tuesday, Oct. 13th 2026.

Regretfully, no cancellations after deadline.

Please indicate your names and meal choices.

Check No:

Name:	Guest name:
☐ Green Salad ☐ Lobster Bisque	☐ Green Salad ☐ Lobster Bisque
☐ Shrimp Scampi ☐ Chicken Piccata ☐ Salmon Lemon Dill	☐ Shrimp Scampi ☐ Chicken Piccata ☐ Salmon Lemon Dill
☐ Tiramisu ☐ Vanilla Gelato ☐ Chocolate Gelato	☐ Tiramisu ☐ Vanilla Gelato ☐ Chocolate Gelato

Return the bottom portion of this form with your check.

Make checks payable to SIR Branch 146

Mail Check to: Bob Lucido 541 Lilly St. Walnut Creek 94595

Al Guzman

Bob Lucido

Rich Lyon

Mike Riley

mralguzman@gmail.com

bobwendy3@comcast.net

7424lyon@gmail.com

mike.riley@cbnocal.com



Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

We met at **Martha and Peter Plante's** on September 11th, without **Peter**, who was in Washington D.C., and without the intended hosts, **Peter** and

Gabriela Bishop, due to a run in with Covid. Those present were ready to enjoy a small and intimate group of seven.

The evening started with some simple appetizers outside in the **Plante's** lovely garden. The weather was delightful and I think we could have just stayed in the garden and socialized. But true to our mission, at 7:00, we headed inside for the game.

We didn't accomplish many hands played since there were seven players all at one table. In the long run, **Sue Oranje** came in first, with a low score of "29". Second place went to **Virginia Tygart**, with a score of

86, followed by hostess, **Martha**, with a score of 88. Honorable mention to **Martha** for making Tiramisu for our half time break dessert!

Corrie Oranje



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the Martinez home home of **Ron and Anne Plachy** on Friday, August 28th. **Anne** had a

variety of fruit, cheese, and snacks prior to the game. She had a fruit tart for the break that was very tasty.

One of our regulars had last minute out of town guests so missed the game. We also had one no show, so we played with only 6 at one table.

The ladies had a terrific night, the men not so much. **Cindy Greco** came in 1st with a 10.67 average. **Anne Plachy** was 2nd with a 19.8 and **Nancy Pearl** took 3rd with a 23.8.

Next month we will play at the home of **Dan and Mary Holland** in Martinez. We are trying an afternoon

game this time and may very well convert to afternoons next year.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Walt Busenius

We last met on the Good Ole Friday afternoon of August 28th at the home of **Sue and Walt Busenius**. Gathering

around the table were **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**, **Judy Richmond**, **Sharon Varner**, and **Sue and Walt**. **Sue** served up tasty table treats and half-time faire.

Bringing his best game to the table was **Jim Barry**, taking home 1st Place. Both **Sue Busenius** and **Judy Richmond** kept it close and played very well, coming in 2nd and 3rd.

There always is a lot of chit-chat, and everyone very much enjoyed the afternoon. Goodbyes were expressed, and then the sun was followed home.

Our next meeting will be in September at the home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**.

All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



L to R: **Jim Barry**, **Sue Busenius** and **Judy Richmond**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro"

Jim Pope

On September 18th the El Quattro Mexican Train dominoes group met at **Jim**

and **Renie Pope's** home with 8 players. Those in attendance this evening were: **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Scott and Marie-Claire MacDougall**, **Susan** and **Steve Oki** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed outstanding goodies provided by the members and some wine and beer, too. We had 8 players, so we played at 2 tables of 4. The low score winners at each table were **Dick DeVoe** and **Marie-Claire MacDougall**. We paid each table winner 5 California Lotto tickets respectively. There were two high score players at each table: **Scott MacDougall** and **Christy DeVoe**. They received one Lotto ticket

each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on October 16th. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

Jim Pope

jpope24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

On September 17th, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** warmly welcomed and graciously

hosted our merry band. We don't play MTD anymore due to various physical disabilities of our loyal members. We do recognize that maintaining an active

social network is of great benefit to our health and well-being. Eight members were able to take advantage of both the networking and the vast array of treats and beverages that **Bob and Janet** prepared for us. Several absent members were in our thoughts, as they struggle with health issues. We hope to see most of them in December when we enjoy our annual sit-down dinner.

Dave Pierce for Dennis Hallett
dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

The Mexican Train gang gathered on **August 26, 2026** for another evening of tiles, strategy, laughter, and, of

course, a little friendly competition!

Our gracious hosts, **Peter** and **Martha Plante**, welcomed 11 players for the evening, including our visiting player, **Mark**, **Brian McCarthy's** brother. **Mark** joined in the fun and got a taste of the highly competitive Mexican Train experience!

And the Winners Are...

- First Place: **Bruce Borgman** pulled out the victory and claimed the top spot for the evening!
- Second Place: **John Kendrick** was close behind, finishing in a very respectable second place.
- Third Place: **Moose (John Kelly)** rounded out the top three and took home the bronze—or at least the bragging rights!

Bringing Up the Rear...

Every Mexican Train gathering needs someone to keep the caboose company, and this time that honor went to: **Sue** and **Peter**

All in all, it was another great night with good friends, plenty of laughs, and enough Mexican Train competition to keep everyone looking forward to the next gathering at the **McCarthy's** home on September 23, 2026.

Until next time... may your trains be long, your tiles be lucky, and your scores be LOW!



Steve Lane
925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete"

Bob Lucido

In August, the Colliers bravely hosted our Mexican Train Dominoes 7 group.

Bob Wilkenfeld came in first and won a handful of \$20 bills. **Diane Degnan** came in second and won \$30—but the picture shows her holding only \$8 because she was apparently hiding the rest from her husband, Thom!

Finally, bringing up the rear in last place was **Mary McCarthy**, who won a stinking \$3.00—but still had fun!



Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

We were pleased to welcome 19 players who checked in for Mexican Train Dominoes on a warm September 2nd

evening. Our Group 8 remains committed to welcoming new members who would like to experience SIR Mexican Train Dominoes. This generally results in our having 16 to 21 players on any given month.

Steve Dinning, our volunteer host for the evening, provided an ample assortment of tasty snacks including shrimp and a homemade dessert.

With four active tables and a pot of almost \$100, the competition was formidable. When the dust settled, **Steve Dinning** was on top with an incredibly low average score of **5.0**. **Rebecca Byrom** was second with a average score of **9.0** and **Jan Ondeck** was third with an average score of **12.4**.

We look forward to our next games scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th with **Jim Barry** serving as host.

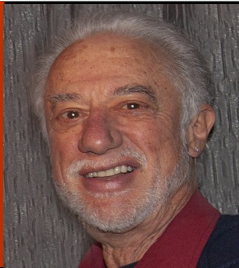
Richard Hockenbrock

rlhock@outlook.com



Winners (L to R): Rebecca Byrom (2nd) place, Jan Ondeck (3rd) place and Steve Dinning (1st) place

To the lady who flipped me off when I
honked at you.
Never mind, your phone probably isn't on
the top of your car anymore.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve”

In August, the **Kingsbury’s** hosted our Mexican Train Dominoes 9 group...

IN THE DARK

The electricity had been out since 8:00 am, and PG&E cheerfully promised it would be restored “well before your MTD games.” Naturally, that meant it was still out when all of us arrived at 6:30. So we did what any responsible adults would do: sat around, talked, complained about PG&E, and stared hopefully at the ceiling like the lights might suddenly feel guilty and turn themselves back on.

Eventually we gave up and decided to play by lantern light. It felt less like Mexican Train and more like Oregon Trail: The Domino Edition. By 9:00 pm the lanterns weren’t cutting it anymore, so we resorted to the world’s first fully tactile domino tournament. There we were, twelve grown people hunched over the table, feeling the dots like we were trying to identify rare artifacts.

Someone proudly announced, “I think this one is a double-six!” It was a double-three. We played on anyway.

The best part? The ice cream for dessert didn’t melt.

Not even a little. It was the only thing that stayed firm and reliable that night — unlike PG&E’s promises.

In the end, we learned three important lessons:

1. Dominoes are surprisingly hard to identify by touch.
2. Lanterns make everyone look 20% more mysterious.
3. Ice cream is the true hero of any power outage.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Who are these mysterious people?
From left to right **Judy Wilkenfeld, Claire Kingsbury,**
and **Mary McCarthy**



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

In August, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Steve and Barbara Peterson** at their beautiful home in Walnut Creek on the 21st. 12 players enjoyed the weather and hospitality on the Peterson patio. There were plenty of delicious treats including peach pie and ice cream treats,

The August winners were **Alex Borders, Mark Sorum, and Barbara Sorum**, with consolation prizes going to **Chris Lee and Bob Mason**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. For September, Rich and Ismini Ahlf will be hosting on the 18th, We rotate hosting among different homes.

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

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen

925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net



CARD GAMES

...we play



Cribbage John Kendrick

A lively group of cribbage enthusiasts gathered at Rocco's Restaurant on the afternoon of July 22, 2026, for an afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie.

Participants included **Ron Afdal, Micheal Kimsal, John Pearl, Peter Plante, Mark Raaberg, Roger Rivers, Jack Starr**, and event organizer **John Kendrick**. Throughout the afternoon, players enjoyed several competitive rounds while sharing conversation and good sportsmanship in a welcoming atmosphere.

When the final scores were tallied, **John Pearl** claimed first place with an outstanding performance. Event organizer **John Kendrick** earned second place, while **Jack Starr** finished in third.

The gathering was another enjoyable opportunity for local cribbage players to come together, celebrate their shared love of the game, and look forward to future tournaments.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Men's Hearts Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results for August. The major winner was **Ron Polivka** with 6 wins, and **Brian McCarthy** and **Bob Campbell**, with 3. **Steve Ybarra** had 5 2nd's and **Jeff Drefus** had 4. **Ron Polivka** had 3 STM's. Lowest Average Score was a tie. Both **Ron Polivka** and **Bob Campbell** had 38.



YTD: **Frank Lucas** and **Ron Polivka** are tied for the lead with 21 wins followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 13 and **Bob Haber** with 12. In winning percentage **Bob Finlayson** leads with 50%, followed by **Ron Polivka** with 45%, and **Bob West** with 41%. In seconds, **Frank Lucas** leads with 20, followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 15.5. In lowest average score **Ron Polivka** leads with 50.3 and **Brian McCarthy** and **Frank Lucas** have 56.7. In STM's, **Ron Polivka** has 10 and **Frank Lucas** has 7. In most improved over 2025, **Ron Polivka** is 161% better, followed by **Frank Lucas** at 145%, and **Dick Wade** at 138%. Best Sheriffs: **Brian McCarthy, Ron Polivka, Bill Vizza** and **Dick Wade**, all had no uncovered passes this year.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, following an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be September 25th, October 9th, and October 23rd.

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

Co-Directors **Bob West** and **Steve Ybarra**

robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

If you're happy and you know it...
It's your meds!



Party Bridge

Bill Schaaf & Mike Davidson



On August 31, we had an 12 player game at the home of **Mike Davidson**. The players were **Mike Whitaker**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Max Hinkle**, **John Kluesener**, **Jim Pope**, **Jim Stedman**, **Mike Davidson**, **Steve Dinning**, **John Rexroat**, **Bob Yolland**, and a welcomed guest, **Jane Bradley**. **Max Hinkle** finished first with a current year record 5630 points, **Jane Bradley** was second with 4990 points and **Jim Stedman**, third, with 4600 points.

Our next game will be on October 5 at the home of **Brad Hatcher**. Let **Bill Schaaf** or **Mike Davidson** know if you would like to play in any future game

Bill Schaaf

925.899.5913 billschaaf13@comcast.net

Mike Davidson

925.324.1867 mdavidson065@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Our Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Wednesday, September 16 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by **Nora and Mike Davidson**.

- **Dick and Christy DeVoe** earned 1st place with 24.5 points.
- **Mike and Nora Davidson** were 2nd with 21.5 points.
- **Margot Somerville and Stephanie Siri** were 3rd with 19.5 points.

Dick DeVoe for John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Our September 1st event was dual hosted by **John and Kathy Kluesener** (house) and **Dick and Maggie Chaffee** (all food & beverages). We thank **Max and Ardith Hinkle** for subbing for **Brad and Lynne Hatcher**.

Tony and Cindy Greco had favorable cards taking and holding onto the lead through the first four rounds. **Max and Ardith Hinkle** were close behind and overtook the **Greco's** in the fifth and final round by a mere 30 points. Similarly, **John and Kathy Kluesener** overtook **Dick and Christy DeVoe** in the final round to secure 3rd place.

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 3470 points - **Max and Ardith Hinkle**

2nd PLACE with 3440 points - **Tony and Cindy Greco**

3rd PLACE with 2310 points - **John and Kathy Kluesener**

Our next event will be held on October 6th and hosted by **Tony and Cindy Greco**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick Devoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, September 11 with three tables and 12 players was nicely hosted by **Bud Pearce**.

- **Mark Curtis** earned 1st place easily, with 35.0 points. He scored highest in 1st and 2nd half, plus had the most two's and least zeros. Wow. Congratulations, **Mark!**
- **Dave Steinberg** was 2nd with 30.0 points.
- **Tony Greco** was 3rd with 29.0 points

Dick Devoe

dickandchristy@gmail.com



Poker Group 4

Mark Sorum

Our August game was at the home of **Pete Gates**. Pete provided a wide range of terrific snacks and drinks. We even had See's candy! Only 6 of our regular members were able to play as **Ray Bland** was on his Maine vacation. Playing were **Pete Gates, Melo Piccolo, Pat Tidmarsh, Bruce Kimmis, Frank Lucas, and Mark Sorum**

No one got rich, the big winner won only \$3....but then no one lost more than \$5 either. We played a variety of games with Texas holdem, Omaha, and draw poker with a wild card the

most popular.

Games are scheduled from 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages. Our next game is on September 21 at the home of **Pat Tidmarsh**.

Buy-in is \$10 and stakes are nickel, dime, and quarter with a limit of three raises.

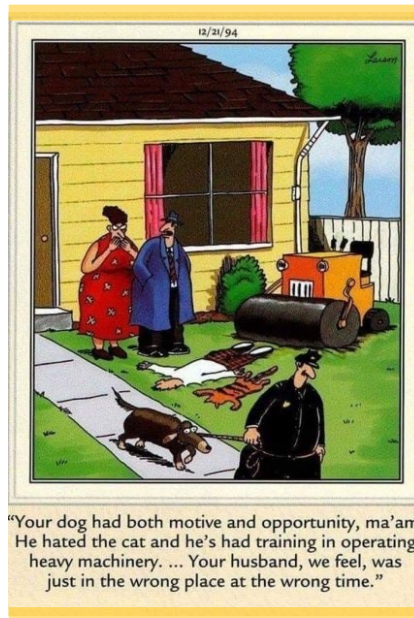
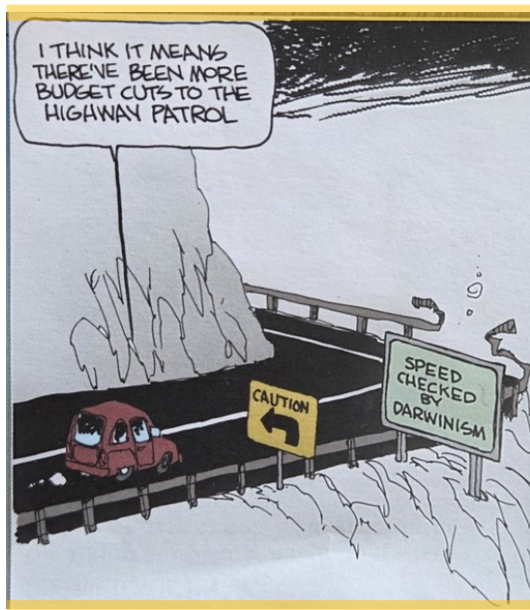
Dealer antes a nickel per player.

A wide variety of poker games are played. Dealers' choice.

We are currently full but we welcome alternates.

Mark Sorum

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"Your dog had both motive and opportunity, ma'am: He hated the cat and he's had training in operating heavy machinery. ... Your husband, we feel, was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Parting Shot

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went.

I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. However, here it is the last quarter of my life and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast?

Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well, seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first quarter and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could not visualize it or imagine fully what it would be like. Yet here it is... my friends are mostly retired and getting grey - they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that taking a nap is not a treat anymore, it's mandatory... because if I don't of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit!

And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But at least I know that, though I'm on the last quarter and I'm not sure how long it will last, that when it's over on this earth... it's over.

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done but there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. Whatever you would like to accomplish in your life do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the last quarter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life.... so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember - and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past

Remember, it is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. 'Life' is a gift to you. Be Happy!

You may think:

Going out is good - but coming home is better!

You forget names - but it's okay because some people forgot they even knew you!

You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf - but you like the outdoors!

The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore -

but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.

You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV on than in bed - you call it 'pre-sleep'!

You miss the days when everything worked with just an 'On' and 'Off' switch!

You tend to use more 4 letter words - 'what' and 'when'.

You have lots of clothes in your wardrobe, more than half of which you will never wear - but just in case remember!

Old is good

Old is comfortable

Old is safe

Old songs remind you of good times

Old movies... and best of all Old Friends

So, stay well and take care, 'Old Friend!' have a fantastic day and an awesome quarter - whichever one you're in!

Remember, it's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.