



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

September 2022

Call



Big Sir's Corner

Richard Lyon

August's luncheon weather was perfect. We hosted three guests and introduced two new members! Tables were set for eight diners and were well spaced. **Jim Baldrige** delivered an astute, thought-provoking, and succinct invocation, the Boundary Oak menu was delicious, and the service was great. The luncheon speaker, Dr. John Haverman Ph.D. a nationally known economist and an accomplished speaker, kept everyone's attention and answered many questions about whether we are in or going into a recession. His interesting and detailed presentation is on his website. ([Haverman](#))

The Book Corner was set up and enjoyed by many. Our thanks go to the unnamed SIR member who helped bring in the boxes of books and set up the tables, and after the luncheon helped pack the boxes up and load them to **Peter Plante's** car. We will need your kind help again in October and December. Thank you! The Luncheon's attendance was higher again this month.

Bill Synder celebrated the attainment of his Super 90 as presented by **Jim Burk**, we had a birthday hat drawing; the SongSirs closed the luncheon a little after 1:00pm. There were many simultaneous conversations.

At the BEC meeting, **Bob Wilkenfeld** Little Sir, led a discussion resulting in making some clarifications to our By-Laws regarding the popular Annual Luncheon Payers and Exempt Status. **Bob** is also leading an ad hoc committee looking for ways to make our luncheons more engaging and interesting and would appreciate your suggestions!

Current BEC Directors, **Bob Ford**, **Larry Kaye**, and, Past Big Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** are spearheading Publicity and Recruiting with help from **Peter Plante**, former Director, **Clint Collier** SIR-Call Editor, and others to post ads on Patch and Nextdoor, and to distribute brochures. If you can spare a few minutes a month to log on to Patch and/or Nextdoor to copy/paste a post advertising our activities, or want to distribute brochures, please contact **Larry Kaye**.

At the September luncheon, spouses and significant

others are invited to hear Anna Wendorf, a Master Gardener who has been designing landscapes for homes in the Bay Area for over 30 years and is a member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. Her designs range from simple to extravagant while balancing environmental considerations. It is an understatement to say that Anna knows and loves plants that are good for our area.



Ben Gleason, **Steve Oki**, **John Alexander**, and **Steve Ybarra** have met to work out the details for this special, spouses invited, luncheon. Please email your RSVP to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or phone 925.979.5721.

We'll see you at next month's luncheon whose theme is Wear Your Team Colors. The Branch is looking for a couple of newer SIR members with computer skills to serve on the BEC for a two-year hitch. If you're interested in helping out or, want more information, please contact **Richard Hockenbrock** or **Brad Hatcher**, both Past Big Sirs, or me.

Rich Lyon
Big Sir, Branch 146

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, September 8th, 2022
Boundary Oak
11:30
Spouses Welcome!
Anna Wendorf, Master Gardener
RSVP by September 1st to attend!



Little Sir's Corner Bob Wilkenfeld

What a Group of Guys!

Many of us joined SIR with the goal of staying active, making new friends, and learning new things. For me, building a new social network after retirement was

going to be critical to my long-term sanity. I must say that Branch 146 has met and exceeded my expectations in the few years I have been a member. Not only have I found new colleagues with similar interests to mine, but I have also met many SIR members with very interesting life stories.

Finding new friends in Branch 146 has been great, but what I've experienced in the last two weeks has floored me; let me explain... About two weeks ago, my wife was diagnosed with a serious medical condition and will undergo complex surgery later this month. As I began telling my cycling, hiking, and MTD buddies, and my colleagues on the BEC, that I would be cutting back on my availability for the next month or two, I was stunned by the outpouring of care, concern and offers to help. "Let me know if you need anything - transportation, meals, or just someone to lean on. I'm there for you," was a common refrain. And these weren't just frivolous, one-time offers; several fellow SIR members have reached out to me multiple times to check on developments and to again offer help. For this level of support, I am eternally grateful!

Don't Like Cactus?

Facing the impact of an extended drought, many of us are considering eliminating our lawns and re-landscaping our yards. If you are like me, you don't want to end up with stone, succulents, and cacti (no offense meant to those of you from AZ, NV, or UT). But fear not; there are trees, bushes and ornamentals that thrive in our increasingly dry climate. To give us some alternatives to more hardscape (i.e., concrete and rock), artificial grass and desert plants, our speaker this month will discuss gardening with native plants.

Anna Wendorf has been designing landscapes for homes in the Bay Area for over 30 years. She is a mem-

ber of Professional Landscape Designers, a Master Gardener and has her own landscape design business. Her designs range from simple to extravagant, while balancing environmental considerations. I'm really looking forward to Anna's suggestions saving me some water, while keeping my yard lush and attractive.

Bob Wilkenfeld
Little Sir ,Branch 146

2022 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big SIR.....	Richard Lyon
Little SIR.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Secretary	John Kluesener
Assistant Secretary	Bob Ford
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
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

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Vacant
Activities	Bob Lucido
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Larry Kaye

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

SIR Mission Statement

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



Luncheon Chairman

Ben Gleason

As a reminder, we continue to utilize an “opt-in” reservation system in order for us to give Boundary Oak a more accurate estimate and guarantee of attendance. Since our meeting

date, the second Thursday of the month, falls early in the month this time, please respond as soon as possible. As usual, we sit down for lunch at 11:30, but come early to socialize. The check-in tables open at 10:30.

Our speaker is Anna Wendorf has been designing landscapes for homes in the Bay Area for over 30 years. She is a member of Professional Landscape Designers, a Master Gardener and has her own landscape design business. Her designs range from simple to extravagant, while balancing environmental considerations. We understand that she will discuss the use of native plants in this time of drought. Because we have a speaker who is likely to appeal to anyone in your household who has an interest in gardening, as an exception to our usual practice, we are opening the meeting to any interested spouses or significant others of members.

Please see the reservation information below:

September 8th Luncheon

- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$32

Payment

The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146

RSVP

- To attend, you must RSVP by Friday, September 1st before Noon
- Show or have proof of vaccination on-file with Waiver of Liability
- Ways to RSVP
 - Email: attendlunchbr146@gmail.com
 - If you need to call: 925.330.0680 and leave a message with your information
 - All RSVPs will be acknowledged

Special Requests

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

Sponsors

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

Questions

If you have any questions please call Ben Gleason at 925.330.0680 and leave a message to receive a call back.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday September 8th, 2022

Salad

Wedge of Baby iceberg lettuce
Bacon, cherry tomatoes, red onion and bleu cheese

Entrees

Pan roasted bone in chicken breast
Creamy Polenta, seasonal vegetables and wild mushroom sauce

or

Parmesan crusted Tilapia
Rice pilaf, seasonal vegetable, creamy red pepper sauce

or

Vegetarian Option

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake
Chocolate and Berry



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

A number of activities seemed to have had nothing to report. When this happens we remove their article from the newsletter. This does not mean that they are inactive however. This month we finally achieved

a satisfactory version of all of the Branch's activities (thank you to all of you who bore with us and reported that it was hard to read). You will find this new list as part of the Activity Chairman's (Bob Lucido) report on page 8.

Also, a number of events have been selling out when they are announced via e-mail, before they even appear in SIR-Call. I would encourage chairmen of these obviously popular events to consider extending their planning windows so that the events are announced in the bulletin, giving everyone an equal opportunity to sign up.

Deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 24th.

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

Clint Collier – Editor SIR-Call

Cell /Text: 925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved at the August BEC Meeting.

Sir **Bruce Bush** lives in Concord with his wife Silvia and has interest in the fishing activity. He was a systems programmer for Bank of America.

Sir **George Radtke** and his wife **Edith** also lives in Concord. He was an electronic technician at the Concord Naval Weapons Station for 37 years. Both new members are sponsored by **Lee Clark**.

Sir **Michael Rose** resigned our branch because he moved to Maine. SIR member **Bill Boyd** passed away in March of 2021 in Santa Barbara. He was 98 ½ years old.

The 2022 membership count remains at 275. We ended 2021 with 280 members.

Heads up: 2023 Dues letter will be sent out during the month of October. The BEC is currently discussing duesamount and luncheonamount and annual luncheon payeramount for next year. The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Russell Anderson
Joseph Barry
Jerry Benoit
Fred Bolton
Agnello Braganza
Dee Dimatteo

Richard Fiscina
Tony Greco
Max Hinkle
Robert Johnston
Charlie Kahsen
Moose Kelly

Jeff Morrow
Joe Nelms
John Pearl
Rog Rivers
Charles Schreiber
Tony Shebanek

Michael Weiner
Sydney Whalen
Dave Tucker
Bocce-ace Kersis
Bill Schaaf

September Birthdays!



Congratulations on your Birthday Hat, Ross Abbot!



Sunshine Brian McCarthy



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

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

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

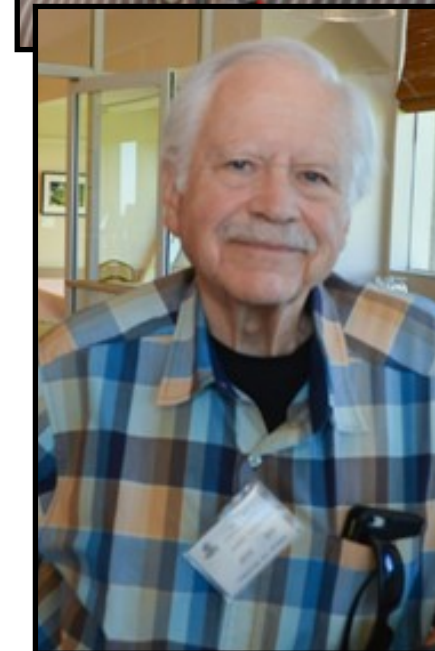
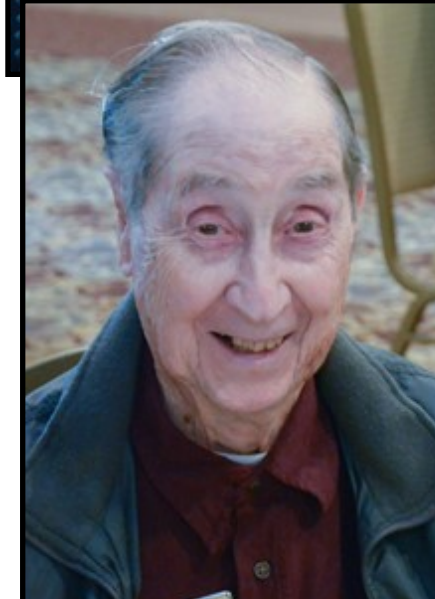
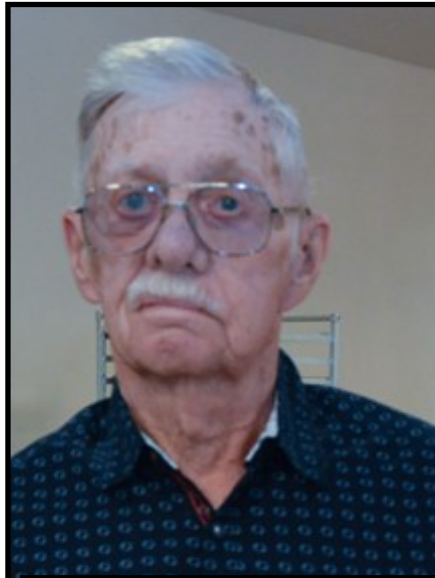
Brian McCarthy
brimacc@comcast.net



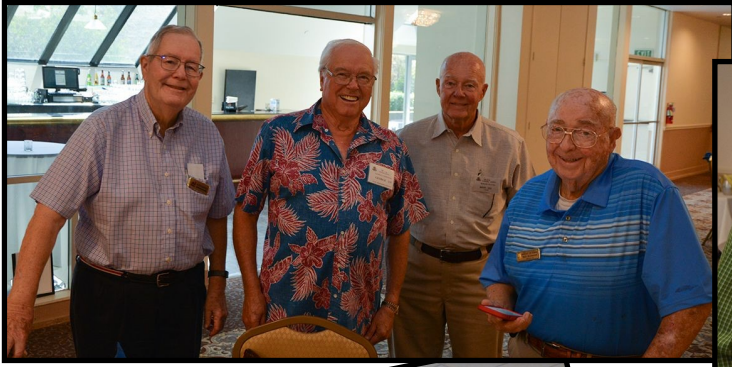
AUGUST LUNCH

Photos by Henry Thatcher









The Branch Honors Bill Snyder With the Senior Sir Award!!

At the August 11th luncheon, we recognized **Bill Snyder** for a special birthday.

Bill was born in Chicago on August 4, 1932, and reached the age of 90 the week before the luncheon. **Bill** was raised in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin and graduated from high school in Monroe, Wisconsin. He then joined the Navy and saw destroyer duty as a sonar man third class.

Upon his discharge from the Navy in 1954, **Bill** enrolled at the University of Miami and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

From 1957 through 1968, **Bill** was a pipeline field engineer for the Bechtel Corporation, building cross country pipelines in the United States and overseas; power plant construction; and camp design for the Alaska pipeline. He then worked for Bridwell Engineering in Madison, Wisconsin as a land surveyor and civil designer from 1969 to 1971. **Bill** moved back to California in 1972 and did subdivision design for Bryan and Murphey in Walnut Creek. He returned to work for Bechtel in 1974 and then worked for BART as a design manager from 1975 to 1991.

Bill and his wife **Donna** have lived in Walnut Creek since 1972. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. **Bill** enjoys reading, bridge, and walking.



Bill joined Branch 146 in November 13, 1997, sponsored by **Chuck Jordan**.

At the luncheon, **Bill** was honored for achieving the milestone age of 90 and Senior Sir status in SIR.

The presenter was **Jim Burk** at the August 11th Luncheon

NOTES

from Our Members

Fellow members of Branch 146.

We need your help. Your branch is looking for a few volunteers, from different geographic areas. The idea is to post thru your local Nextdoor and Patch . The idea is to be able to post thru Nextdoor and Patch in your area. The concept is to recruit new participants for our activities, with the hope they become new members.

The process is not difficult, and someone will be available to guide you. Your name WILL NOT be used as a contact.

We are just asking for some volunteers. The payback is the smile the new members will wear.

Some locations are already covered by active members. If this tugs at you please reach out to our Publicity Director **Larry Kaye** (larrykaye2@comcast.net)

We thank you for at least considering this ask.

A thought from **Paul Beretz**...

Two young businessmen in Colorado were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store in the shopping mall. As yet, the store's merchandise wasn't in -- only a few shelves and display racks set up.

One said to the other, "I'll bet that any minute now some senior is going to walk by, put his face to the window, and ask what we're selling.

Sure enough, just a moment later, a curious senior gentleman walked up to the window, looked around intensely and rapped on the glass, then in a loud voice asked, "What are you selling here?"

One of the men replied sarcastically, "We're selling ass-holes."

Without skipping a beat, the old timer said, "You must be doing well. Only two left."

Seniors — don't mess with them. They didn't get old by being stupid!

And from Bert Payne...

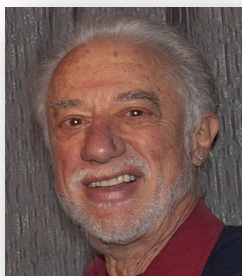
Wife: Shall we try a different position tonight?

Husband: Excellent idea!

Wife: OK, you stand at the sink, wash dishes and I will lie on the sofa and watch TV!



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Bob Lucido

At the next SIR luncheon, we will have a master gardener speaker. This is very good timing because Randy Graham is proposing a new gardening activity. He will speak about this new activity at the luncheon. We still have beer making, wood working, and another MTD activity coming soon.

Attention all Vets. No not the ones who take care of animals, but the ones who have served in the Armed Forces. There is interest in starting a Veterans Activity. Nothing has firmed up yet, but if there is enough interest at the first meeting, members can discuss what they would like to do. Contact Bob Lucido if you are interested.

Bob Lucido

925.899.0974 Bobwendy3@comcast.net

Activity	Chair	Phone #	email address	Meeting Frequency
Bird watching	Frank Lucas	925.316.6122	frank.lucas1105@gmail.com	second Wednesday of the month at 10:30
Bocce	John Kendrick	925.827.0585	jmkendrick23@gmail.com	8:30 2nd & 4th Mondays May through October
Book Corner Chair	Peter Plante	925.457.3785	pcplante109@gmail.com	Jan > every other month
Book Corner Chair Assit.	Dick McElroy	925.672.5612	dmcelroy1827@gmail.com	
Book Group	John Pearl	925.934.6920	mcpearl@astound.net	variable - every 1 to 2 mo.
Bridge Couples Duplicate 1	John Kluesener	925.876.9672	john@klueseners.com	7:00-10:30pm Third Wednesday
Bridge Couples Duplicate 2	Dave Pierce	925.932.3877	dwp@astound.net	Monthly - 2nd Tues. 7pm-10pm
Bridge Couples Party	Tony Greco	925.934.0395	almanorwest@sbcglobal.net	Monthly
Bridge Men's Duplicate 1	Max Hinkle	925.408.6004	hinklemax3@gmail.com	Monthly - 3rd Monday
Bridge Men's Duplicate 2	Dick DeVoe	925.932.5546	dicknchristy@comcast.net	Monthly - 1st Friday 10-2:30
Bridge Men's Duplicate 3	Mike Whitaker	925.376.1288	mrwhitaker@yahoo.com	Monthly - 3rd Friday
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	Jim Pope	925.820.7398	jpope24@comcast.net	9:45-3:00 Monthly - 1st Monday
Bridge Men's Party Co-Chair	Jim Stedman	925.408.0113	jim.r.stedman@gmail.com	
Cooking II	Steve Ybarra	925.676.7405	sjybar@gmail.com	Monthly - 2nd Monday
Cooking Lunch & Wine	Syd Whalen	925.332.5230	sydwhalen@aol.com	Monthly - 3rd Wednesday
Cooking Tres Gourmets	Ron Binder	925.937.3833	ronbfore@gmail.com	Monthly - Jan. to Oct.
Couples Dining Out	Bruce Borgman	925.932.3961	bgborgman@aol.com	Every other Month
Couples Dining Out	Bruce Borgman	925.932.3961	bgborgman@aol.com	Every other Month
Couples Dining Out-Assit Chair	Jim Barry	925.963.8129	jbarry@sbcglobal.net	
Cribbage Chair	Ron Afdal	925.825.4809	ronafdal@comcast.net	12:00 - 4:00pm 4th Wednesday
Cribbage-Assit Chair	John Kendrick	925.827.0585	jmkendrick23@gmail.com	
Cycling	Larry Kaye	925.698.4030	larrykaye2@comcast.net	every week
Dining Out-Assit Chair	Jim Barry	925.963.8129	jbarry@sbcglobal.net	

Activity	Chair	Phone #	email address	Meeting Frequency
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	Henry Thatcher	925.838.7366	henrythatcher@comcast.net	
Explore and Eat Co-Chair	Jim Pope	925.820.7398	jpope24@comcast.net	events quarterly
Golf - 18 hole Chair	David Steinberg	925.933.1849	dsteinb@yahoo.com	9:00 Every Tuesday
Golf - 18 hole-away games	Ed Marlovics	925.947.1226	ed.marlovits@gmail.com	
Golf - 9 hole	Bob Ford	925.334.6157	scubabob.ford@gmail.com	9:30 every Thursdays
Hiking	Mark Curtis	925.360.3449	mocurtis1657@gmail.com	10:00am - varies Monday or Friday
Ladies Day Luncheon chair	Steve Ybarra	925.676.7405	sjybar@gmail.com	*Semi-annually
Ladies Day Luncheon-Assit Chair	Max Hinkle	925.408.6004	hinkle3@sbcglobal.net	
Men's Hearts	Bob West	925.518.8472	robrtwest@aol.com	Meet 2X a month - 2nd 12:45 & 4th Friday 3:30
Mex. Train Dominoes (1) Uno	Jerry Kaplan	925.330.8832	mtdana@aol.com	Monthly -plays Friday eve. after luncheon
Mex. Train Dominoes (1) Uno Assit	Corrie Oranje	925.825.5772	corrieoranje@gmail.com	
Mex. Train Dominoes (2) Dos	Ron Plachy	925.286.4552	rjplachy@icloud.com	6:30-10:00PM 4th Friday
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Tres	Walt Busenius	925.457.7428	walterbusenius@gmail.com	Monthly - 4th Friday eve.
Mex. Train Dominoes (3) Tres Assit	Dick Richmond	925.947.1167	drichmon@pacbell.net	
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quat-tro	Jim Pope	925.820.7398	jpope24@comcast.net	Monthly - 3rd Friday eve.
Mex. Train Dominoes (4) Quat-tro Assit	Henry Thatcher	925.838.7366	henrythatcher@comcast.net	
Mex. Train Dominoes (5) Cinco	Dave Pierce	925.932.3877	dwpi@astound.net	monthly -3rd Thursday eve.
Mex. Train Dominoes (6) Seis	Steve Lane	925.984.0341	thelane3@aol.com	6:30-10:00PM 4th Tuesday
Mex. Train Dominoes (7) Siete	Bob Lucido	925.899.0974	bobwendy3@comcast.net	monthly -2nd Wednesday eve.
Mex. Train Dominoes (8) Ocho	Richard Hockenbrock	925.324.1713	rlhock@outlook.com	Monthly - 1st Wednesday of every month
Photography Co-Chair	Henry Thatcher	925.838.7366	henrythatcher@comcast.net	
Photography Co-Chair	Moose Kelly	610.517.0152	rollingstone911@yahoo.com	meets 4th Fri. of every other month
Pinochle Co-chair	Pete McNeill	925.858.9666	petemcgolf@gmail.com	2nd and 4th Wed after lunch
Pinochle Co-chair	Stan Johnson	925.938.7016	stan.johnson88@gmail.com	
Poker Group #1	Dan O'Sullivan	925.685.4772	dndosuli@astound.net	Monthly - 2nd Wed. 1:00-4:00
Poker Group #3	Sig Kalteis	925.229.1173	sigkalteis@gmail.com	Monthly 4th noon
Poker Group #4	Rich Hanford	925.933.9237	sandyrich619@gmail.com	Monthly 4th Monday 1-4pm
Poker Group #4-Assit Chair	Pete Gates	925.937.2035	petegates10@gmail.com	
Poker Group #6	Brad Hatcher	925.935.1571	bhatcher1942@gmail.com	Mo.-1st Thurs 12:30-3-30
Song Sirs	Peter Plante	925.457.3785	pcplante109@gmail.com	Monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed.
Sushi no tomodachi	Clint Collier	925.933.6565	SIRClint@the-Colliers.org	Every other Month
Table Pool	Bill Weinberg	925.682.0962	Weinbergbill3@gmail.com.	Every Monday 11:30am
Table Pool-Assit Chair	Jim Barry	925.963.8129	jbarry@sbcglobal.net	
Theater	Gary Schaub	925.938.5454	gschaub1@gmail.com	2 to 3 theatre parties/yr.
Travel	Milt Smith	925.285.2897	miltsmith549@gmail.com	*As scheduled
Wine Tasting	Brian McCarthy	925.324.2463	brimacc@comcast.net	4th Wed. 2:30 - 5:00p.m.
Other Branch activity open to all SIR members				
Ches+C94:M94s Branch 8	Steve Schramm	925.222.0801	sschramm01@gmail.com	at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center regular meeting on the first Tuesday of each month
Car Enthusiast Group Branch 8	Chick Lowry	925.708.8730	clowry2845@gmail.com	
\$ums Investment Group Area 16	DAVE SUTTON		davesutn@comcast.net	
table tennis Branch 116	Fred Wachowicz			
Fishing (Area 16)	Paul Dubow	415.495.6504	pdubow2398@aol.com	7:30-9:30 Breakfast mtg. 4th Thurs.
Sci & Tech	Gary Willett		kb7qwc@gmail.com	second Wednesday of the month at 10:30

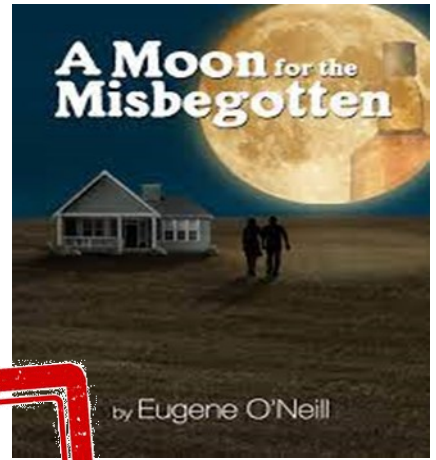
SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar

September 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aug 29	30	31	Sep 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	
5	6	7	8	9
9:45am - 3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm - 7:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 8 Ocho	9:00am - 10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am - 1:30pm SIR Luncheon	10:00am - 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 12:45pm - 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:45pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 1 Uno
12	13	14	15	16
8:30am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm Poker Group #1 6:45pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 7 Siete	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-2 7:00pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 5 Cinco	10:00am - 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 4 Quattro	10:00am - 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 4 Quattro
19	20	21	22	23
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 5:00pm Couples Dining Out T'zunun Restaurant 2618 Pleasant Hill Rd	9:00am Golf	7:00pm - 10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	7:30am - 9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3	12:45pm - 3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Italian Restaurant 6:30pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 2 Dos 6:30pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 3 Tres
26	27	28	29	30
8:30am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord Ayres Rd & Turtle Creek 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	12:30pm - 3:30pm Cribbage Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:00pm - 3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Italian Restaurant 1:30pm \$ums In Retirement Via Zoom 6:45pm - 10:00pm Mexican Train Group 6 Seis	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-4	



LAST CALL
FOR TWO
SIRS
THEATER
PARTIES IN
SEPTEMBER



Early September is the deadline for reserving tickets for two wonderful theatre parties for SIR146 members.

The musical biography of Patsy Cline is scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshar Center. Eugene O'Neill's drama "A Moon for the Misbegotten" is scheduled for a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, September 25 at the Tao House - O'Neill's home from 1936-1944 where the play was written.

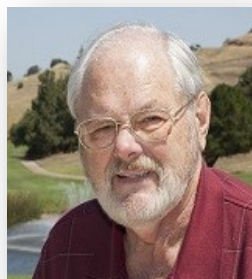
"ALWAYS ...PATSY CLINE": The musical focuses on the life of Patsy Cline, who died in a plane crash at the top of her career in 1963. She became a musical icon for her mix of Pop and Country music and was the first solo woman performer to be elected the Country Music Hall of Fame. Her hits included "Always," "Your Cheatin' Heart," and "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home."

A limited number of reserved and discounted seats for Thursday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. is being held for SIR 146 members and guests. Tickets are \$36 per person and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR Branch 146 and sent to Theater Activity Chair Gary Schaub at 1400 Countrywood Ct., #8, Walnut Creek 94595 before Sept. 10. Tickets will be distributed in the lower lobby of Leshar Center on performance night, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

"A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN": Members of SIR Branch 146, Branch 116 & Branch 128 have joined to promote a Theater Party for "A Moon for the Misbegotten," an award-winning play by Eugene O'Neill. Reservation deadline is September 15 for the 2:00 p.m. matinee on September 25.

Tickets are \$60. to SIR members on the Eugene O'Neill Foundation's website (<http://Eugeneoneill.org/event/a-moon-for-the-misbegotten/sirs/preferred-access/>). There is a special page on the website offering a limited number of \$5 discount for members of the three SIR Branches. Info for access by National Park Service shuttle from downtown Danville to the National Historic Site will be provided on the website: eugeneoneill.org.

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright, and "Moon for the Misbegotten" is perhaps his most popular play.



Theater
Gary Schaub



146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

It's really difficult to find trails that are challenging enough, but not too much so. My other requirement is to find the right venue if daily temperatures are elevated. Hiking in 90+ degree temperatures demands maintaining adequate hydration, and quite frankly it's a bit unpleasant to do any outdoor activity (other than swimming) at elevated temperatures.

The CORE group has been walking almost every Monday with excursions to Diablo Foothills, Point Pinole, Tilden Nature Area, Reinhart Redwood, Carquinez Straights, and most recently Las Trampas Regional Park. The most challenging part of these hikes is dealing with downhill segments that are covered with loose soil and/or leaves. This scenario is by far the most challenging. And of course most of the hikes include uphill segments as well as the dreaded and treacherous downhill parts. This illustrates the old adage that "what goes up must go down". This recent hike at Las Trampas found us on the "Dewies Birthday" trail, which was the return leg to the trailhead. This trail follows the spine of a ridge and descends at least 600 feet in about a mile. The trail is covered with tree roots, small and large rocks, as well as the dreaded loose stuff. All 5 of us (Martz, Bates, Steinberg, Schulting, and me) struggled with just a few minor mishaps!

Two photos from the 2 most recent hikes; Tilden Nature Area on Wildcat Peak and Las Trampas Dewies Birthday trail on our lunch break.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com





Cycling Group Larry Kaye

July 26th: Training means hills. So today we did them. Bill Ross and I. Covering Danville's back roads and Alamos hidden hills. Yikes. Was fun in a sick way. Java at the end was payment for the abuse we gave our bodies. Onwards towards Diablo.

July 29th: With the wind in our faces, we headed South. Destination was Camp Parks in Dublin and the Base military museum. Fighting the awful wind until Crow Canyon was not fun. At that junction we were gifted with a tailwind. What joy. Dublin was now at least attainable. The base rose up in front of us as we parked our bikes at the museum. The tour was fun, at least for two of us Veterans. The rest of the guys were not impressed. With that we headed home. Tailwinds and headwinds joined us as we rode. What a thrill.

Meandering thru San Ramon, Danville and finally Alamo we eventually got back to our cars. The ride was momentous and hard. The scenery used to be wide open fields, horses, hills and real country. Now? Houses and more houses. What a shame. Progress?

August 10th: As we age all sorts of aches and pains, and assorted bugs attack us. Well today was the day to re-enter the cycling activity for some of the spandex boys. One was coming back from Covid, one from a faraway trip and one from a hip discomfort. Me? I was ok. Today we had **Paul Brown, Bill Ross, and Ken Studer**, and me.

The ride today was fashioned to accommodate us all. We rode thru the backroads of Danville, we hit some hills, and touched the Ironhorse. A fun ride. We went to Macedo Ranch near the end. This allowed a three mile downhill as a prize. What fun. Hitting high speeds, we closed the ride by rolling into Alamo. Great way to finish. Java and belly bombs awaited. Some chat at Peets and off we went to home. Another fun event with the Boys of Spandex. Age? Screw it!

August 23rd: Early birds get a cool ride. Off we went early. Heading South on a ride for all. Moose Kelly back from a health issue, **Bill Ross, Roger Meyer, and Jim Nelson**, and myself, **Larry Kaye**.

We rode South into San Ramon. Cool and fresh. Bang!!!! Jim got a flat. Sidewalk supervisors abound-

ed. Flat fixed and off we went. Heading North after awhile, we took the Iron Horse trail.

Bang!! I got a flat. Been two years. Finding a shady spot I fixed the flat. Into Danville and all was well. Back to Alamo and Peets. **Moose** treated all of us. Felt good to sit on a seat that actually was broader than our butts. Good ride. Everyone enjoyed the pace and the coolness. SIR activities are fun!

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs met on August 3rd and 17th to start a new series of songs for our October 26 concert. Some of the songs we will be singing are "Young at Heart", "Till There Was You", "Moon River", "Song Sung Blue" and "Mr. Sandman".

The SongSirs meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek starting at 1:30pm. Our next rehearsal is on September 7. No auditions are necessary, just a love of singing. Come and join us for good song and camaraderie.

For further information contact

Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



SongSirs Peter Plante, Steve Dinning and Bruce Borgman going over the song list for our September 7 rehearsal.



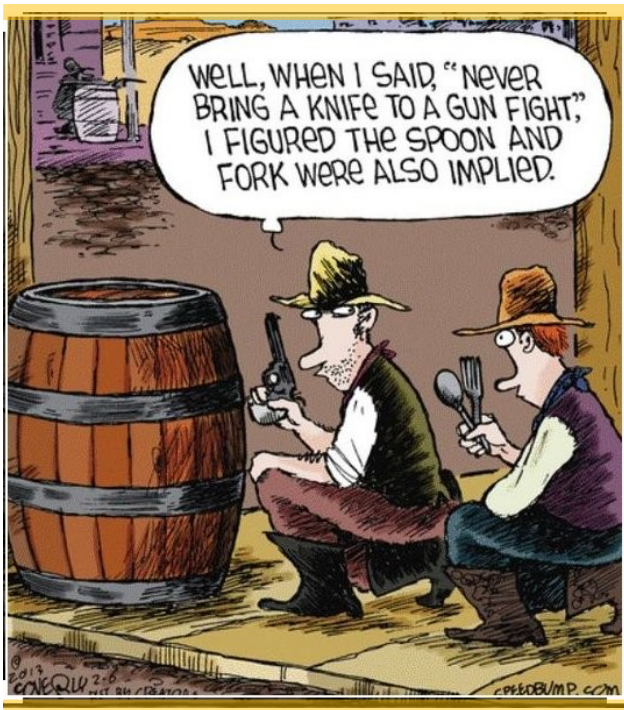
GOLF Ed Marlovits

The Region 5 Individual Qualifier was held August 25 at Blue Rock Springs East. This was open to all branches in our Area 16 and to the other branches in Region 5. We attracted 3 participants from Branch 146, none from the other Area 16 branches and one from Branch 73. All have qualified for the individual championship event at Rancho Solano on October 11. Our event was held jointly with Region 5 (Napa) which had 24 participating.

The next big SIR State Golf event is the 2022 SIR Fall Classic which is to be held on September 14 and 15 at Blue Rock Springs. Disappointing participation is causing financial issues for State Golf so I encourage Branch 146 golfers to participate in at least one of these events. These fine courses are in great shape and you will enjoy playing there.

The following link has event information: [Fall Classic Flyer](#). This link has sign-up forms: [Application & Entry Form](#)

Ed Marlovits



Birding Frank Lucas

Sunday morning, some Branch 146'ers joined up with the Ohlone Audubon Society Birders in checking out the Hayward Regional Shoreline just outside of San Leandro.

Just SOME of the birds I saw (with my binoculars) were: Plovers, Peregrine Falcons, Turkey Vultures, Avocets, Mallards, Curlews, Starlings, Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Herons, Gulls, Curlews...Other birders, who used tripod-mounted scopes, saw even more.



Later, our regular Birding group met at Rocco's on Wednesday to plan our next outing. The 8 of us swapped some



"Old Birders Tales" and then decided to meet next month - at our regular time on the fourth Wednesday of the month - in the parking lot at about 8:00am at.....Who knows where?

Steve knows! He will let us know shortly before we go, based on what's flying at that time.

And all are welcome...ladies too.

Frank Lucas
925-316-6122 frank.lucas1105@gmail.com

Today I gave \$500 to a homeless guy.
You will never know the happiness I felt
...when he put his gun away.



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul DuBow

On August 22, the group did its second annual rockfish charter on the *Sea Wolf*. The trip was nearly aborted because high winds and small craft warnings made it impossible to sail to the

Farallons, the original destination. However, the

captain found a sheltered spot in Drakes Bay, off Point Reyes, and everybody caught his limit of ten and some ling cod were also boated. Although the fish were smaller than those caught in the Farallons, the upside was that it was a lot easier hauling fish up from 60 feet, rather than the 300 foot depth at the Farallones.

Lee Clark, Paul Dubow, Pete Gates, and Steve Loftin, all of Branch 146, traveled to Gustavus, Alaska, with two other fishermen, to fish for halibut and salmon for five days. The halibut catch is limited to one fish per day per angler and halibut between 40 and 80 inches must be released, unless the fisherman is willing to pay \$490 per fish to the State of Alaska, an offer declined by

all of us. The group reached its limit on all but one day (where they were one fish short) and did release quite a few good sized fish. **Lee** won the prize for both largest keeper and largest fish overall. The latter was a 100 lb. fish that Lee caught and released near the end of the last day. The group was less successful fishing for salmon because of an invasion of jellyfish. However, they did come home with 11 silvers and one king.

Dave Rege journeyed to Puget Sound in Washington and hoisted three full crab pots. Twelve crabs were keepers.

Locally, there were two charters on the *Sundance*. The first group of six headed south of the Gate and returned with seven salmon. A few days later, a group led by **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, and which also included branch member **Larry Kaye**, headed south and limited with twelve fish by 12:30, the largest being an

18 lb. salmon that **Paul** caught. On the same day, **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, along with **Pedro Contreras** and **Joe Santone**, headed north from the Gate in **Pedro's** boat and did not do as well. Their only action was a large fish that **Joe** hooked, but lost at the side of the boat.

Gordon Linebaugh and **Ken Bellindir** joined **Rich Fiscina** for a halibut excursion on the Bay in **Rich's** boat. They were met with high winds and six-foot waves but did manage to catch two keepers.

Ron Lew of Branch 146 fished for halibut in the Bay with a friend on three consecutive Fridays. He limited on two trips, but only caught a guitarfish on the third. But it was good eating.

The pier fishing continues to be fun. Although the fish are small and usually are released, they are plentiful. **Mike Browne** of Branch 146 and **Phil Scimonelli** caught rays, small sharks, smelt, and even one rock crab at Point Pinole pier. **Phil** and **Joe Miscione** caught over 70 undersized stripers at the Antioch pier. **Phil** also hooked a large fish which broke off his hook and which he thinks was a sturgeon. **Phil** is still awaiting his first keeper striper at Antioch. **Phil** and his wife vacationed on the Coast for a few days and decided to spend one day at the Pacifica pier, a venue that they had not fished previously. They had fun catching anchovies which they used as bait for smelt and perch.

On the culinary front, a group of 36 diners, including spouses and significant others, attended our annual picnic at **Brion Beetz's** home and enjoyed baby back ribs, pizza prepared by **Rich Fiscina**, and salads prepared by **Brion's** wife. And, after our September meeting, we plan to travel to the Tsar Nicoulai farm in Winton to observe their sturgeon farming operation and sample the caviar that



Lee Clark
40 inch Alaskan halibut
Photo Pete Gates



Dave Havlik, Joe Miscione, Ken Konzak, Larry Kaye, Karl Droese, and Paul Dubow display the salmon catch from the *Sundance*
photo by the Captain

Continued on next page

Fishing, Continued...

is produced from the sturgeon's roe.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings and attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, September 22, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course on Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30am, but many of us gather at 7am 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 branch fishing chair

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566.



Dean Mayer: A Colorful Office Lobby

Continued on next page



Photography Group John "Moose" Kelly & Henry Thatcher

Eight members of SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met outside of Montgomery BART Station in downtown SF on August 15th to photograph the architecture and lobbies in the Financial District. The group was in for a real treat!! **Ron Polivka** worked as structural engineer in downtown SF for 40 plus years. **Ron** led us on a superb tour of the building architecture and lobbies within the Financial District. A HUGE thanks to **Ron** for leading the charge.

Those photographers that attended were: **Ron Polivka, Richard Ahlf, Ismiri MacLean, Dean Mayer, Richard Hockenbrock, Ken Studer, Richard Pace, and Moose Kelly.** After an hour and a half of photographing, we relaxed and had lunch at the Crocker Galleria. We then continued for another hour photographing the Hobart Building, the Shell Building, the Palace Hotel, and other notable architecture before heading home via BART. Several pictures are attached for your viewing pleasure.

Our next photography meeting will be on Friday, October 21st at Rocco's with our gathering time at 8:45am. The meeting will kick off at 9am sharp. Coffee and yes, DONUTS will be served. We have three of our group photographers that just returned from Africa. The group will be anxious to view their prize photos.

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

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

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone911@yahoo.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Rich Pace: Building Reflections



Group members: Ahlf, Mayer, Polivka, Hockenbrock, Studer, Pace, MacLean. Photo by Moose Kelly



Peter Plante - Venice Canals



Rich Ahlf: B&W picture of Russ Building Lobby



No events to report

Table Pool
Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry
Reported by Jim Barry



Bill Weinberg
925.682.0962



Nine Hole Golf Group
Bob Ford

We had the pleasure of welcoming several new members in June and July. We also had excellent turnouts which made it that much more fun. Do you like to play golf? If so, come join us for a round. Our group tees off at 9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. If you are interested, let me know and I will put you on my list. On Sundays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Book Corner
Peter Plante

Thank you to everyone who took home their latest reads and to all who helped bring in the books to set up the display. Thanks also to everyone who helped take down the display and put the books back in the car to return to storage. The next Book Corner will be in October. Happy reading!!





Bocce John Kendrick

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

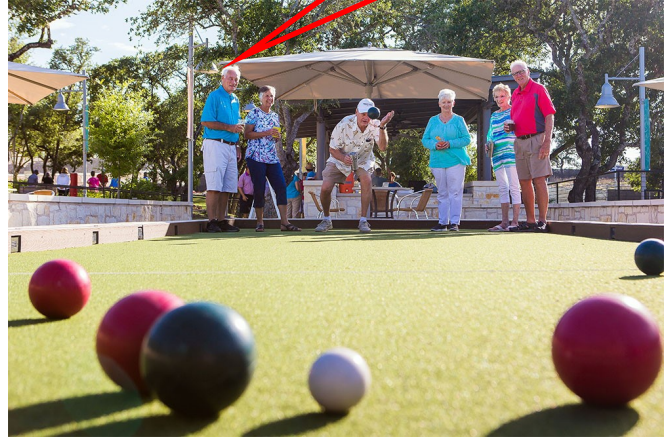
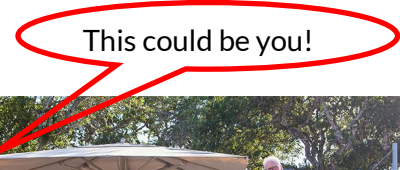
The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30am to 10:00am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

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

Rain Cancels Play.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



Travel Milt Smith

There are several branches working on 2023 trips and Bill Stires has these two booked.

I NEED SOME HELP HERE IN 146.

I will be gone on a trip from August 19 until December 29. Yes four months and 10 days, all of it in Africa and Europe. As an FYI we were in Jamaica for 10 days in early June, flights went well, no troubles.

I need someone to help do any part of Branch travel in which you may be interested, including group trips foreign and domestic, cruises, regional day trips to places of interest within one hundred miles or so, plays, shows etc. (Oklahoma, To Kill a Mockingbird) You do not have to do more than one, just a trip in which you are interested. It may be that you just support someone else's trip by helping to market it... It would be great to get one or two trips on the books for 2023. Please email me ASAP if interested.

**Scenic Ireland Trip through Ireland and Northern Ireland
April 14-27, 2023**

Price: \$5,395 Double Occupancy Single \$6,195. Deposit of \$500.00 to hold your place. Final payment due on December 15, 2022. This is a small group. Departure limited to 24

passengers. Sign up early to reserve your spot on this exciting trip.

Highlights: 12 nights in First Class Hotels. Accommodations: 1 night in Limerick, 1 night in Clifden, 1 in Sligo, 2 nights in Belfast in Northern Ireland, 2 nights in Dublin, 1 night in Waterford, 1 night in Kinsale, 2 nights in Killarney, 1 night in Limerick.

**Autumn Colors trip to East Coast
October 13 - 22, 2023.**

Price: \$4,330 double occupancy. Air Fare to be added in December 2022. Deposit of \$500 per person to hold reservation. Highlights: 2 nights stay in Boston. Tour of city, free time on own.

Visit Manchester, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont; North Conway, New Hampshire; Bar Harbor, Maine; Acadia National Park; Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Scenic drives along the Mohawk Trail and Kancamagus Highway. This trip will fill up fast, so sign up early.

Call Bill Stires at 209-988-5445 or email at bstires46@gmail.com to receive brochure.

Lastly...

Holidays are blooming in the Valley starting November 12th, 2022. See the announcement on the following page!

Milt Smith

925.285.2897 miltsmith549@gmail.com

THE HOLIDAYS ARE BLOOMING IN THE VALLEY!

Starting - November 12, 2022

Hosted Lunch at Hilmar Cheese & a visit to Duarte Farms

Enjoy a leisure ride to the Hilmar Cheese Co for a factory tour and a delicious, hosted Sandwich Buffet Lunch. You will also have time to browse and shop in their large country store – decorated for the holiday season, as well as a chance to sample some of their gourmet cheeses. Then you will be transported to Duarte Farms Nursery to view their amazing display of Holiday Poinsettias. Their greenhouse holds one of the largest selections of colors and species, making your shopping choice of a favorite, a difficult decision. You will have time to visit and shop before departing with a complimentary 6.5-inch poinsettia to take home.



Cost Includes:

- * Roundtrip Motorcoach Transportation
- * Hosted Lunch at Hilmar Cheese Co. with time for holiday shopping * Visit and shopping @ Duarte Farms Nursery which includes one complimentary 6.5" poinsettia to take home * Driver Gratuity included

Call for Dates and Pricing!

All trips, tours and shows are subject to change and availability. Specific conditions apply. CST#1002945-40

TravelCenter, Tours and Travel
1936 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 937-2223



Book Group

John Pearl, Interim Chair
mcpearl@astound.net

The SIR 146 Book Group met on Monday, August 22nd. The book we discussed was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, who has been recognized as one of America's premier writers. The book has also been made into two movies, both available on streaming.

The focus of the story is on Jay Gatsby, as told through the eyes of his narrator who happens to be his neighbor, Nick Carraway. It turns out that while Gatsby is the hero of the story, Nick, a newly minted college grad and now a bond trader at a New York company, is the main character who plays the role of an observer of the action.

Jay and Nick live on Long Island, on the inland side, where Jay's mansion is the setting for much of the story. This centers around Jay's ongoing infatuation with Daisy, married to Tom, a wealthy man, and his overpowering desire to get her back, as he was with her before he went off to the First World War.

Jay has lots of high-end parties at his mansion, but is not a major participant in them. No one is exactly sure how Jay earns the money that pays for all this, but the speculation is that he is a bootlegger. The author never reveals the true source of his income.

Scott Fitzgerald is known for his writing style of not using extra words, but is quite descriptive with those he does use. Nick does a good job telling Jay's life as he moves in and out of it, observing all the while.

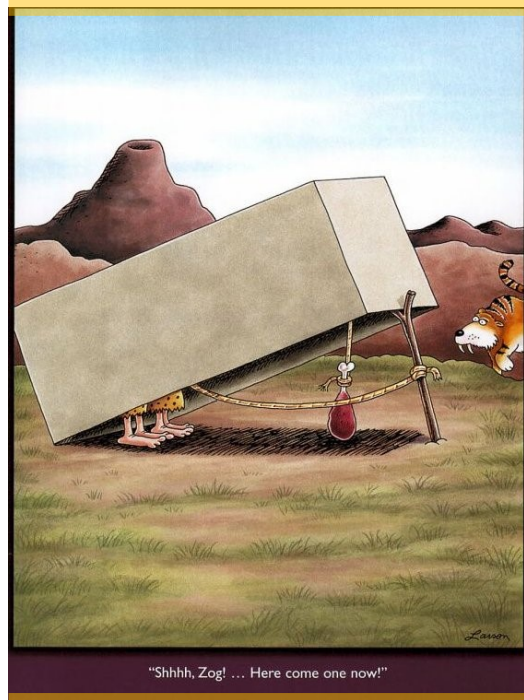
Several surprises occur along the way, including what could be called a tragic ending. Scott Fitzgerald is so very good with his descriptive words so one literally "sees" what is happening. One reviewer said "The best reason to read literature is for pleasure." This nicely sums up this story. "The pleasure from the reading often leaves the reader unaware of the complexity of this story."

Many of us have read this book in our earlier years. It was good to get acquainted with it again, and we recommend it.

For our next meeting, scheduled for Monday, September 19th, we will discuss *Oil*, by Upton Sinclair.

John Pearl, Chair
Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor

Scientists discover the reason Neanderthals went extinct.



"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."

William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

*Important information about
the October meeting at the end
of article!*

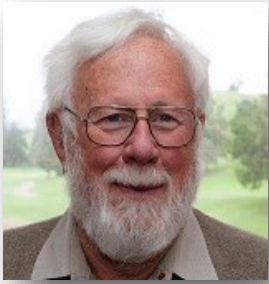
The July wine tasting was held in the picturesque backyard of **Bob & Wendy Lucido**. The weather was perfect. Everyone had an enjoyable time. **Larry & Ann Kaye** won for the most popular sparkling wine. **Richard Hockenbrock & Virginia Tygart** won for the most popular red blend. The appetizers were delicious (as always). The guest list included two new members and their wives: **Larry & Marilyn Ribarich** and **Steve & Nancy Schlossberg**.

Please note that there has been a change of date for the October wine tasting. The new date is Tuesday, October 11, from 2:30 until 5:00. **Al & Diane Munayer** have volunteered to host at their home, 3455 Stone Valley Road in Alamo. The theme for October is your favorite red wine or your favorite white wine. So don't just grab a bottle off the shelf at BevMo. And, don't forget to bring an appetizer.

The number of guests will be more limited this time. So please RSVP as soon as you can. You must RSVP by calling me at 925.324.2463. No emails this time.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

A slightly smaller group of SIR friends gathered to enjoy sushi together and solve the problems of the world at our August event at [Toyo](#) sushi in the Encina Grande shopping center of Walnut Creek. Everyone was off having too much fun! I fear we didn't solve many problems. We did bemoan the rapidly rising cost of good sushi and discuss end of year plan however.

Last year we went to Napa's Morimoto's for our end of year bash and included spouses. We want to find something closer to home this year and I am looking at Sakimoto in Walnut Creek. They, however, don't serve lunch but the consensus was that this might be a good opportunity for a spouses included dinner!

There will be an October meeting of the group before December but members should block of the evening of December 15th in anticipation of a great sushi/ Japanese dinner

Clint Collier

SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

On August 8th the Cooking II group gathered at **Bob Yolland's** home for our monthly lunch. A variety of appetizers and wine were consumed while enjoying **Bob's** lovely backyard setting. Several centuries old oak trees were pointed out and viewed by the group. Lunch was then served in **Bob's** dining room. We were treated to a delicious French Dip sandwich with a side coleslaw. For dessert **Bob** served the group strawberry shortcake.

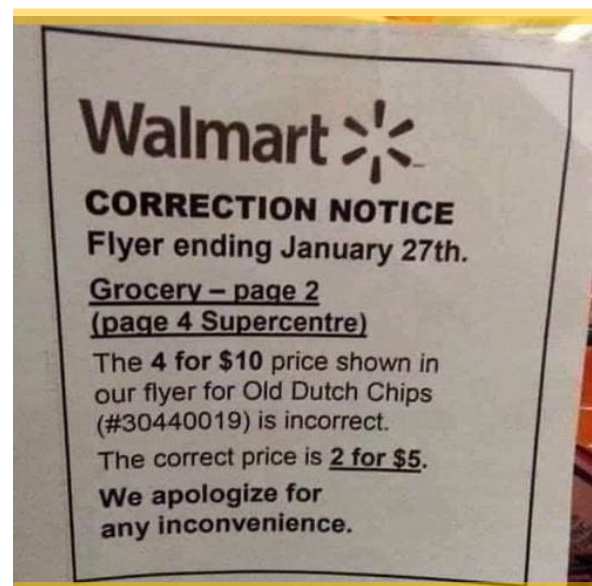


Cooking II: (L to R) Corrie Oranje, Dennis Hallett, Bruce Borgman, Ken Richter, Bill Cammerer and Bob Yolland.



"I tell ya, work has gotten to be so much more fun since we hung that rubber spider in there."

Subsequent to this lunch, **Bob** notified me that he is retiring from the Cooking II group activity and that August would be his last Cooking II lunch. **Bob** was a charter member of this activity and his always present positive enthusiasm will be sorely missed.





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

As most of our regular diners know, we have dined at Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill several times and have always been pleased with the menu selections and service. We have gotten to know the owners, Sandra and Gerardo Wence, who told us about their plans to open a restaurant with



ing is limited right next to the restaurant, but additional parking is available in the adjoining shopping mall.



a unique Mexican cuisine. Recently we found out that the restaurant opened a few months ago and tried it a few weeks ago. We were impressed with the décor, menu and ambiance and arranged with Sandra to have our next Dining Out event there – on Monday, September 19. We have selected items from the menu which are quite unique and unlike any of the conventional dishes in a Mexican restaurant. We will have a choice of two salads, and a choice of five different entrees, and will finish with a Caramel Custard Flan. You can view the full menu on the following page.

We sent out the flyer first to our SIR members who have joined in the last two years, and then to our regular mail list. As is usually the case, we filled up very quickly and I must tell you that we have reached the maximum of 62 diners. We will be taking over the entire center portion of the restaurant.

This is a different cuisine than we usually have and we think you will be pleased with the selections. The total price inclusive of tax and gratuity is just \$50 per person – an excellent value in these times! This is a family owned restaurant - the chef is Jesus Wence, who under the tutelage of his father, the executive chef at Wence's, furthered his culinary training and has now created a menu that has gotten great reviews.

We are looking forward to having you join us for this unique culinary experience! Remember that we will start at 5:00pm for our social hour and will start dinner at 6:00pm

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon

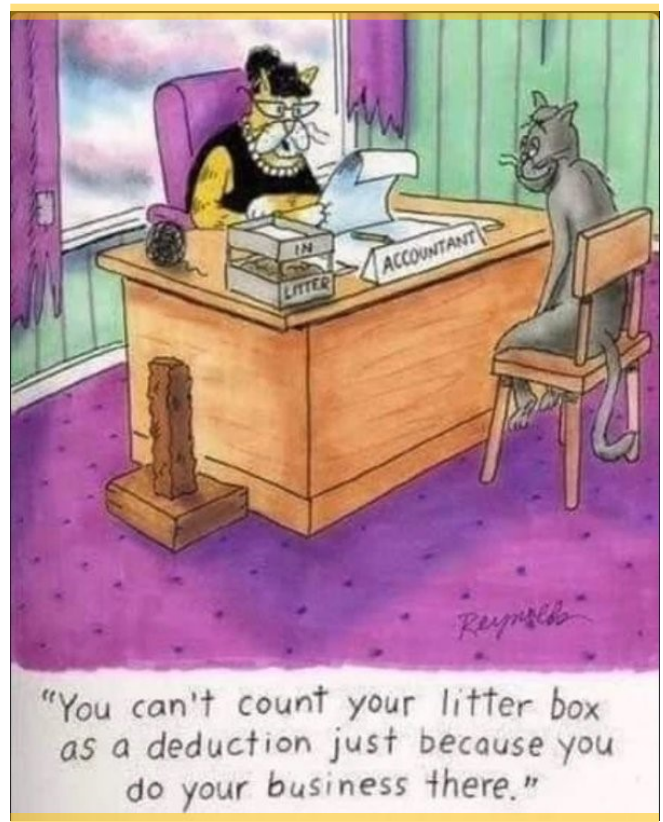
Dining Out hosts

bgborgman@aol.com



We decided to start our usual cocktail—social hour earlier at 5:00pm so that we can take advantage of the Happy Hour pricing. The house wine and draft beer for just \$6, and well drinks for \$7. Also available are several specialty cocktails for a higher price. You may bring your own bottle for a \$20 corkage.

The restaurant is located up the hill on Geary Road from Contra Costa Blvd, then turn right for one block. Park-



COUPLES DINING OUT



Modern Mexican Cuisine

Monday Sept 19, 2022



Mixed greens, Pears, Grapefruit, Cucumber, Lemon vinaigrette

Caesar Salad

Romaine, Queso Fresco, Cherry Tomatoes, Tortilla Crisps, Roasted Poblano

Choice of Entrée

Surf & Turf

Poblano pepper, Dungeness crab, Jack cheese, Skirt Steak, Pickled Onions

Mole Negro

Airline Chicken, Mole Negro, Fingerling Potatoes

Arroz a la Tumbada

Mussels, Clams, Calamari, Prawns, Spanish Rice, Tomato Broth

Langosta Tacos

Handmade tortillas, Maine Lobster, Cotija Cheese, Chipotle Crema

Taquitos Dorados

Dungeness Crab and Brussels Sprouts, Stuffed Taquitos, Salsa Verde
Cherry Tomatoes, Mixed Greens, Crema

Dessert

Caramel Custard Flan

2618 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasant Hill

RSVP by Sept 12 to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com, Confirm with check to Sir 146, mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598 \$50.00 per person, inclusive of tax and tip. Please indicate your choice of salad and entrée with your reservation!

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Our next event will be on Sept. 9 at the Borgman / Sheldon residence, game time at 6:45pm.

Corrie Orange
corrieoranj@gmail.com

The original Mexican Train pioneers met once again this last August 12 at the home of the **Oranje's** with an enthusiastic group of eleven players. After snacking on the provided munchies, we got down to business. With the number of players, two tables seemed to be appropriate and there is always a bit of jockeying for the right mix at each of the tables. We try separate the spouses or significant others at separate tables for (harumph) somewhat obvious reasons and, at this stage of the game for these experienced players, the seating at each table becomes a bit of a game in itself. After those weighty matters were settled, we got to some serious playing. A good time was had by all, and at the break the **Oranje's** tempted us with a delicious Napoleon dessert - calories were suspended. We completed the game after the break and calculated the final scores.

As you can see in the attached photo, the victorious three top scorers were **Virginia Tygart** with 12.1, **Peter Plante** with 16.3, and **Jim Stedman** with 19.6.



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

Ismini came in second and **Rich** followed with third.

Next month we'll be at the home of **Etta Dotson** on Friday, September 23rd. Even though **Don Dotson** has dropped out due to physical problems, I'm sure he'll be the outstanding chef he has always been for our game nights.

Ron Plachy
925.2861.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com

We had a wonderful time at the home of **Dan** and **Mary Holland** last night with outstanding and plentiful deserts snacks...thank you **Mary**

(maybe **Dan** as well).

We had 15 players, **Bill Cammerer** needing to drop out at the last minute. For once the human noise level was not bad...considering the **Holland's** poor dogs being looked away upstairs.

Mary Holland took the honors last night with first place, as her hard work as putting out an outstanding spread dissevered! Continuing their winnings ways,



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres"

Walt Busenius

The ole choo choo chugged into the Northgate station of Walnut Creek in the evening of August 26th where we made the trek to the home of

Sally and Lynn Shafer for a fun night of MTD's. In addition to the Shafer's were the Baily's, the Busenius', Joyce Wells and Jim Barry, Dick Richmond, Sharon Varner, Linda Siljestrom and Jim Stedman enjoying the Shafer's wonderful hospitality of table treats, cake and ice cream to joyfully send us back onto the choo choo train and our trips home. A pleasant gathering of MTD Tres.

When the gamesmanship waned and the table treats were consumed, we had our August Champions. **Jim Barry** won the big money and took home first place with an avg score of 15.11 /gm. **Jim** also went out 3 times. **Alicia Baily** (avg 19.55/gm) and **Jim Stedman** (avg 23.22/gm) were once again in the winner's circle: **Alicia** winning second place with **Jim** coming in third. As side note, **Jeff Baily** drew the double zero 5 times and was able to play it 4 out of the 5 times.

In September, the ole choo choo will take us to **Jim Stedmans'** residence at Waterford in Rossmoor. All aboard!!

Walt Busenius

925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



MTD Tres August Winners L to R: **Jim Barry**, 1st Place; **Alicia Baily**, 2nd Place & **Jim Stedman**, 3rd Place. Photo by **Walt Busenius**



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro"

Jim Pope

MTD had to cancel due to members travel and other items of unavailability. We'll

be back on September 16th.

Jim Pope





Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dave Pierce

August 18th found us at the home of **Joan and Dave Pierce**. Our ranks were thinned by travel (**Yollands**) and Covid (**Burks**); we missed you. **Ann and Dennis Hallett** took advantage, collecting nearly all the winnings. **Ann** averaged 14.5 and **Dennis** 16.3; both went out twice. **Joan Pierce** was third, averaging 22.3 and going out three times. **Jim Baldrige** went out three times as well, but one unlucky round messed up his score. On a warm summer night, **Joan's** lemon meringue pie closed out the evening on a light and tasty note.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis"

Steve Lane

You will have noticed that we missed the deadline to report on the July event for the MTD6 (Siete) group since the event occurred on July 27. So, herewith we will report that we did meet in July and had a great time.

The evening was hosted by **Bruce Borgman** who was well prepared with various kinds of snacks while we socialized before the actual game.

Several of our normal group had conflicts, and we thus anticipated a group of 10 to enjoy the game. However, on the day of the game, we had three more of our group who had to cancel because of health issues. So we wound up with seven stalwart members – and we decided to just have one table of seven which worked out fine on Bruce's large dining room table. Attendees at the event included **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**, **Bob and Jane West**, **Peter and Martha Plante** and the host, **Bruce Borgman**. Having a smaller number allowed us to have plenty of snacks for the remaining players. Competition was fierce, but when all was said and done, the winners of this event were **Richard, Martha and Virginia**.

The next event of our group will be on August 24, which will be hosted by **Richard Hockenbrock**.

Bruce Borgman for Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Brian McCarthy, Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock, Martha Plante, Mary McCarthy, Virginia Tygart, Peter Plante, and Steve Lane the host and photographer



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Many thanks to Dale and Mary Ellen Dalgaard for hosting this month's MTD 7. This was a small group this month of 8 players,

and they still managed to have a lot of fun without the other players.

Congrats to **Brian McCarthy** for winning the low score. The **McCarthys** have won two months in a row, thereby creating a dynasty. **Dave Kingsbury** had the high score.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Dave Kingsbury and Brian McCarthy
Photo by Clint Collier



Mexican Train Dominoes Group "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

Mexican Train Dominoes OCHO met on Wednesday, August 3rd with 17 members and guests in attendance. The three lowest scores were (R to L) **Jim Barry** 1st, **Pam McAllister** 2nd, and **Steve Ybarra** in 3rd place.

Our next outing will be played on Wednesday, September 7th starting at 6:30pm. 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 to get on the list.

Richard Hockenbrock

925.324.1713 RLHOCK@OUTLOOK.COM





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

The big winner from our July 22nd and August 12th meetings was **Brian McCarthy** with 3 wins, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 2 wins. **Brian** also had 3 seconds, and **Rich Lyon** had 2. **Brian** also had the lowest average score of 56. Other people were playing but it looks like **Brian** overwhelmed everyone.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** is still the leader with 13 games followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 10.5 and **Bob Finlayson** with 8.5. **Ron Polivka** leads YTD seconds with 10 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 9.5. **Brian McCarthy** is the most improved over 2021 with a winning percent of 34% which is 239% higher than his 2021 performance. **Bill Vizza** is 2nd with his 42% win rate which is 143% over 2021. **Bob Finlayson** has the highest winning percentage of 53%, followed by **Bill Vizza** with 42% and **Jim Nelson** with 38%.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd & 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15. September matches will be on the 9th and 23rd.

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

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group played 3 tables, nicely hosted by **John Kluesener** on Friday, August 5. The total spread for Final Winners was only 1.5 pts between 1st and

5th place!

The summary is attached below.

Final Winners (top five)

- 1st- **Ray Spears**- 28.0 pts.
- 2nd- **Bob Yolland**- 27.5.
- 3rd- **Brad Hatcher & Max Hinkle**- 27.0.
- 5th- **Dick DeVoe**- 26.5.

1st Half Winners (top five)

- 1st- **Rich Ahlf**- 16.5 pts.
- 2nd- (tie)- **Bob Yolland & Dick DeVoe**- 14.0.
- 4th- (tie)- **Max Hinkle & Ray Bland**- 13.5.

2nd Half Winners (top five)

- 1st- **Ray Spears**- 17.5 pts.
- 2nd- **Brad Hatcher**- 17.0.
- 3rd- **Mark Curtis**- 15.5.
- 4th- (tie)- **Bob Yolland & Max Hinkle**- 13.5.

Best Partnerships (Maximum 6 pts. for hands)
Rich Ahlf/Dick DeVoe (Boards 10-12) and **Bob Yolland/Ray Spears** (Boards 19-21).

Most Twos

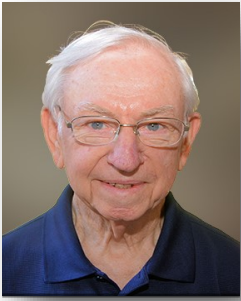
Ray Spears- 11.

Least Zeros

Bob Yolland & Bud Pearce- 3 each.

Most Improved-2nd half after 1st half

Mark Curtis- 9.5 pt. increase (6.0 to 15.5 pts.)



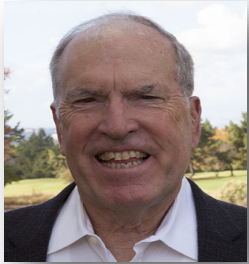
Party Bridge Jim Pope & Jim Stedman

On August 1st, 12 party bridge players enjoyed a day of bridge at the lovely home of **Bob Yolland**. Bob was a wonderful host and provided tasty goodies and dessert. The winners were **Joe Fuchs** with 5300 points, **Max Hinkle** with 4400 points and **Rich Ahlf** with 3850 points. Our next game will be on September 12th at the home of **Bud Pearce**.

If you would like to join the party bridge group contact **Jim Stedman** at jim.r.stedman@gmail.com or **Jim Pope** at jpope24@comcast.net.

Co-Directors

[Jim Stedman](mailto:jim.r.stedman@gmail.com) or [Jim Pope](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net).



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

We played at the **Denney** residence as **Chuck** nicely took on the August game. **Paul Dubow** was the day's winner. He now

has almost made up for some past losses. At the other end of the hands was your new Bird Watchers chairman (name withheld at his request). We will play again on Thursday, September 1st, right before Labor Day. Looking forward to it!

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Our group met on Wednesday the 17th at the home of **Gloria** and **Bud Pearce** for a festive evening of cards, friendship renewals and fine foods and drinks. We were joined by special guests to stand in for our travelling regulars. Many thanks to **Joan** and **David Pierce** who stood in for the **DeVoes** and **Joe Fuchs** and **Steven Dinning** who replaced **Margo Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt**. Play was very competitive resulting in very close scores except for the visiting **Pierces** who ran away with the first-place score of 24.5 points. **Janet** and **Bob Yolland** were in second place with a total of 20.5 points while the hosts, **Bud** and **Gloria** came in third with a total of 20.5. We are looking forward to our next gathering in September when we will meet at the home of the **DeVoes**.

John Kluesener



From (L to R): **Bob** and **Janet Yolland**, **Joan** and **David Pierce** and **Bud** and **Gloria Pearce**



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

Retired people are busy. In August, we just couldn't reach critical mass. Finding subs proved to be impossible. So, we had to cancel the game. The **Pierces** will host on September 13th.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

Brad & Lynne Hatcher hosted our August 2nd event. Four regular couples participated in this event with Bud & Gloria Pearce and Dick & Maggie Chaffee subbing for the Browns and Grecos. Thank you to Brad Hatcher for coordinating the game day activities in my absence. Maybe I just found my replacement to chair this activity. Lol.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE - John & Kathy Kluesener
- 2nd PLACE - Dick & Maggie Chaffee
- 3rd PLACE - Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean

Due to the Labor Day Holiday most of the regular couples were not available to play on September 6th so the event has been moved to Wednesday, September 7th and will be hosted by Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean. Have a great Labor Day weekend.

Tony & Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Putin joke

Putin dies and goes to hell, but after a while, he is given a day off for good behavior. So he goes to Moscow, enters a bar, orders a vodka, and asks the bartender:

- Is Crimea ours?
- Yes, it is.
- And the Donbas?
- Also ours.
- And Kyiv?
- We got that too.

Satisfied, Putin drinks, and asks:

- Thanks, how much do I owe you?
- 5 euros.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 Mike Whitaker

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 did not meet in August. Our next scheduled game will be on Sept. 23rd. If interested in joining email Mike Whitaker at mrwhitaker@yahoo.com

Mike Whitaker
925.708.8213.



Cribbage Ron Afdal

The cribbage players met Wednesday, 8/24, at noon, for monthly play at Rocco's Pizza in Walnut Creek. Jim Nelson beat all players with Peter Plante and Roger Rivers making good efforts to finish 2nd and 3rd in the very competitive games. Many will be gone next month so our activity will be cancelled for the meeting September 28. Jim Nelson will soon again be starting on-line tournament competition for the group. Also discussed was adding an additional day to our monthly meetings and having the meeting place at a members home and this will be further explored. We welcome new members with any interest or playing ability to join us.

Ron Afdal

ronafdal@comcast.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
Max Burchett Meburchett@astound.net

Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed September 28 at 1:30pm.

Topic to be announced.

Email Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair - Tom Henry Branch 174 tomhenry925@gmail.com
Co-chair Dave Sutton - Branch 8 - davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

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

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

PLAY ONE DAY OR BOTH,
DAY 1 - \$ 60, DAY 2 - \$60, BOTH DAYS - \$120

2022 SIR Fall Golf Classic

MEMBER & GUEST TOURNAMENT
LADIES - NO HANDICAP REQUIRED!

Blue Rock Springs West
Blue Rock Springs East
Vallejo, CA

Wednesday & Thursday
September 14th & 15th

"PLAY ONE OR BOTH DAYS"

8:00AM shotgun start both days

Entry fee includes green fee, cart, range balls & prize fund both days

Have a non-golfing spouse?
Check out all the nearby activities [Click Here!](#)

Applications at www.sirgolf.org
Your Hosts: Jim Gurke, John Harrison, Pete Morelli, Mark Stuart
SIR members and men guests must have an established NCGA index.

Men's Program
Day 1 - 4 Men's Team - 2 Best Ball (net) Play with a foursome of your choice or we place you on a team
Day 2 - Men's Scramble Play with a foursome of your choice or we will place you on a team
Closest to pin contests on both days! Front & Back nines.

Women's Program
Day 1 - 4 Women Team - 2 Best Ball (net) Play with a foursome of your choice or we will place you on a team
Day 2 - Women's Scramble Play with a foursome of your choice or we will place you on a team
Closest to pin contests on both days! Front & Back nines.

Parting Shot

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that “the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed.” Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

“A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts” Mead said.

“We are at our best when we serve others.”