



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

August–September 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

The Nominees Are...

In past articles, I explained the difficulty we were having finding volunteers to serve this year and next on our Branch Executive Committee (BEC). The main hesitancy members had in stepping forward was that Officer positions had effective terms of 2-4 years. To address this concern, the current BEC unanimously agreed to alter the Branch's long-standing practice of having a 4-year advancement chain for the Assistant Secretary position (i.e., Assistant Secretary -> Secretary -> Little Sir -> Big Sir). Starting in 2024, all Officer positions will have no more than an effective two-year term (i.e., Assistant Treasurer -> Treasurer; Assistant Secretary -> Secretary; Little Sir -> Big Sir), and we will elect the incoming Little Sir directly. With this change in our succession practice, our Branch's Nomination Committee (Past Big Sirs **Rich Lyon, Richard Hockenbrock, and Brad Hatcher**) were quickly able to identify volunteer candidates for each of the 2024 BEC positions.

At our September luncheon, we will hold the election for Branch Officers and Directors, so it is important that you attend. (To hold a valid election, we must have a quorum present of the general membership.) We will introduce the following candidates who have stepped forward to be considered for positions on the 2024 BEC.

If there are no additional nominations made from the members in attendance, we will call for a voice-vote for all positions. If there are additional nominations made from the floor, and accepted by the proposed nominees, we will proceed to a secret ballot vote for the positions with more than one candidate. Installation of the elected Officers and Directors will occur at the October luncheon.

My thanks to the candidates and the Nomination Committee for their ongoing and future efforts to ensure the Branch's continued success!

Yes, They're After Us (or at least our money)!

Following last month's speaker, I have been asked several times "Have any Branch 146 members been conned out of money by any scammers and spammers?" Fortunately, the answer is "No." But several of these cases came very close to the loss of several hundred dollars each. To my knowledge, many members have received emails or texts over the past two years purporting to be other members or officers and asking them to purchase gift cards or money orders. In four cases, the recipients purchased several

Nominated Officers and Directors	
Big Sir.....	John Kluesener
Little Sir.....	Bob Ford
Secretary	Don Shaw
Assistant Secretary	John Rexroat
Treasurer	Mike Rothman
Assistant Treasurer	Tom Amann
Director 4th Term	Ed Brands
Director 3rd Term	Mark Curtis
Director 3rd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 2nd Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads.

SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, September 14th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30

Nick Brokaw
 How legislation flows from concept to law
 A reservation is required!
 To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.
 (click this box)

gift cards before they realized that they were being scammed. Fortunately, no money was lost.

These four members should not feel bad, as they are in good company. The FBI reports that in 2022 over 88,000 seniors (folks over 60 years old) lost \$3.1 Billion dollars in scams. (That was an 84% increase in loss from the prior year!) The average loss per victim was \$35,100 and almost 5,500 victims lost over \$100k; so, our members should feel good that they did not lose any money.

The FBI suggests we all take three steps when we receive an email, text or phone call with a request for personal information, money or access to an online account:

STOP. Don't respond until you think.
HANG UP, or DON'T REPLY. Look up the correct address or phone number for the person or company the message or call purports to be from. Then call, text or email the real entity to see if the request is bona fide.

If you find out that you have been scammed, REPORT IT. Don't be embarrassed says the FBI; the sooner you act, the less severe the damage.

"It's Easier to Fool People Than It Is to Convince Them That They Have Been Fooled."

—Mark Twain

Honesty is for the most part less profitable than dishonesty.

— Plato

Men are always doomed to be duped, not so much by the arts of the other as by their own imagination.

—Washington Irving

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner

John Kluesener

Our speaker for August, Mr. Nan Ju, provided excellent insights to China's policy objectives regarding Taiwan, the South China Sea area and the potential impacts on the US and West.

He feels that China's current economic malaise may actually increase their timetable for more aggressive actions with the west to divert the attention of the Chinese from their own internal economic concerns. Hopefully that will prove to be incorrect.

Our speaker in September Mr. Nick Brokaw, is concerned with things closer to home—specifically how legislation flows from concept to law in the cooking cauldron of our State Legislature. He will enlighten us on who the various players are, both the elected officials and their staffs and the outsiders who have an interest in what is being cooked up and perhaps even how we the voters can influence the process.

In October we will have someone speak to us about the wineries in our own Livermore Valley, tasting opportunities at wineries, winery tours and perhaps winery-based dinners with selected pairings of their wines. In November one of our own, **John Elstead**, will tell us about his experiences as a Navy pilot in the Vietnam altercation. December is still open and I am looking for ideas for that celebratory luncheon with our ladies.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146



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 Steve Oki

I will be out during late August and early September on vacation, but will be attending the luncheon. **Steve Lane** has been kind enough to assist with the luncheon tasks leading up to the luncheon. He will be gathering

your reservations and communicating with you as needed.

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5 - 6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. If you walk in without a reservation, we can not guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of the meal that you want.

In addition, those members that do have a reservation should check-in before entering the meeting room and before the check-in station closes at 11:30am.

Our lunches have been running fairly smoothly since moving to a reservation system. We have implemented a system that will automatically create an email message with your choice of menu option. If you find you have a problem. Just send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice.

By getting your meal choice ahead of time, we are better able to be sure that Boundary Oak has your menu choice available. All reservations should be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

- **Date:** September 14th, 2023
- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$36 per person
- **Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation, and you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu on the right makes this easy for you to do; simply click the appropriate link.

**If you do not reserve by
Friday September 8th by Noon
We assume you will not be coming**

Reservations are acknowledged by return e-mail

- **Check-In:** 11:00am The meeting starts at 11:30am.
- **Payment:** The preferred payment method is by

check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters

- **If you don't have e-mail:** you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include your meal choice from the menu!
- **Change of Plans?** If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to **Friday September 8th by noon.** and you will not be charged.

Send an e-mail to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members:

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Lane** at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 14th, 2023

Salad
Hearts of Romaine, Shaved Parmesan,
Garlic Croutons, Caesar Dressing

Entrées
[Bistro Filet](#)
Garlic Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes,
Roasted Carrots
Caramelized Shallot Red Wine Mushroom Jus

—or—
[Citrus Roasted Tilapia](#)
Garlic Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes,
Roasted Carrots Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—
[Vegetarian](#)
[Three Cheese Tortellini](#)
Roasted Tomatoes and Pesto

Dessert
Mocha Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!
To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

With the loss of **Hank James** as one of our proof readers, we are looking for an individual to replace him. If you enjoy proofing (looking for mistakes) and would like to contribute to the organization (it is only and

hour or so each month) we would love to hear from you. Shoot me an e-mail if you have questions about the job or think it is something you would like to do!

With the early cut off date for article submission we are now referring to SIR-Call as a dual month publication... you may have noticed this slight change with this issue! No longer is it a September issue but rather the August-September issue.

The deadline for submissions for the September-October issue will be **September 15th**. This is going to be a particularly demanding month for your editors. Assistant Editor **Bob West** is on vacation the first half of the month, I will be on vacation the second half. Going to be a challenge for us to get this out on time (let's hope the internet on my cruise ship is fully functional). If you can turn in your input before the due date it will really help us!

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
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Jitu Patel	2018	5 Years
Mike Wallace	2018	5
Ross Hallberg	2018	5
Michael Weiner	2017	6
Jerry Benoit	2016	7
Paul Beretz	2016	7
Malcolm Harrison	2015	8
Steve Ondeck	2015	8
Don Dotson	2014	9
Dan Holland	2011	12
Walt Busenius	2008	15 Years
Cliff Perkins	2005	18
Jim Baldrige	1994	29 Years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joseph Barry	Max Hinkle	John Pearl	Sydney Whalen	Bart Gledhill
Jerry Benoit	Charlie Kahsen	Roger Rivers	Dave Tucker	
Dee Dimatteo	Moose Kelly	Charles Schreiber	Paul Kersis	
Tony Greco	Jeff Morrow	Michael Weiner	Bill Schaaf	

September

**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE OCTOBER MEETING
ON YOUR CALENDAR**

SIR 146 October Luncheon



Thursday October 12th, 2023

Salad

Arugula Salad
Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese
Orange Shallot Vinaigrette

Entrées

[Crispy Chicken Costaletta](#)

Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes, Roasted Asparagus
Creamy Lemon Sauce

—or—

[Herb Roasted Cod](#)

Citrus Rice Pilaf, Roasted Asparagus
White Wine Tomato Basil Sauce

—or—

[Vegetarian Grilled Herb Tofu](#)

Grilled Herb Rice Pilar, Roasted Asparagus
Wine Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Spice Cake

Lunch Reservation Required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu item! Clicking will generate the appropriate e-mail to send to the attendance group.

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Vacant
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



**Membership
George Mon**

There were two new members that were approved for membership in August.

Howard Herbert lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Connie**. He worked for Just Tix and previously worked as a Marketing Manager for AT&T. Howard has an interest in these activities: Bocce, Bridge, Couples Dining Out, Theatre, Travel and Wine Tasting to mention a few.

Joseph “Joe” Herger and his wife **Vicki** also live in Walnut Creek. **Joe** retired from the Navy after serving for 34 years. His activity interests include Couples Dining Out, Theatre, Travel and Wine Tasting.

It is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

The 2023 membership count is 247.

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 Sponsor’s Role. The member application is in the Members tab.

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

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

George Mon

925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

AUGUST 2023 LUNCH

Look for the August Lunch pictures in the September-October issue!



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

During the month of September, I will be reaching out to all activity chairs to confirm or update their activity information. My emails will ask for specific activity detailed information. Having updated activity information makes it easier for our members to understand the activity and to then readily join the activity. With 48 activities, this task can take a long time. If each activity chair can readily return the requested activity information, the burden will be lessened. I very much look forward to reading each activity chair's

information.

Gary Schaub is retiring as the Theater Activity Chair. If anyone has interest in taking over this role, please let me know. The Theater Group has been active for many years. I would hate to see this very popular SIR146 activity become inactive.

Looking forward to see you in SIR146 Activities

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as information on who to contact if you are interested in participating.

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar September 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>Sep 1</u>
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			10:00am—2:30pm <u>Men's Duplicate Bridge 2</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
9:45am—3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30pm—10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	12:00pm—3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am—1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am Birding <u>Heather Farms birding pond</u> 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's Pizzeria 6:45pm—10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am—10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am—1:00pm SIR Luncheon	10:00am—3:00pm <u>Men's Duplicate Bridge 3</u> 7:00pm—10:00pm <u>MTD 4 Quattro</u> 7:30pm Theater Party "Anna Christie" Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill Historic Site
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
10:00am Hiking 10:00am—3:30pm <u>Men's Duplicate Bridge (1)</u> 11:30am—1:30pm <u>Tres Gourmet</u> 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:00pm Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00pm—10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30am <u>NINE HOLE GOLF-2</u> 7:00pm—10:00pm <u>MTD 5 Cinco</u>	12:00pm—3:30pm Hearts Rocco's Pizzeria 6:30pm—10:00pm <u>MTD 2 Dos</u> 6:30pm—10:00pm <u>MTD 3 Tres</u>
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
8:30am—10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm <u>SIR Day at Golden Gate Fields</u> 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf	10:00am—11:00am Birding <u>Rocco's Pizzeria</u> 12:30pm—3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm—2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm—3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm—3:30pm <u>\$UMS in Retirement Zoom</u> 6:45pm—10:00pm <u>MTD 6 Seis</u> 5:20pm—8:30pm Couples Dining Out Massimo's	7:30am—9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3	



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Have you been thinking that you would really like to get out and play some golf but you just haven't gotten around to it? You should consider joining

us for a quick 9-hole round. A lot of our members really enjoy the nine hole format because it doesn't take up your whole day and you're not exhausted after you are done. The weather is still very nice and the course is in great shape. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



"You know, eventually someone's going to figure it out that we're not here waiting for our wives."



Table Pool Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact **Jim** or **Bill** for complete information

Reported by **Jim Barry**

jbarry@sbcglobal.net

Bill Weinberg

billw1026@astound.net 925.682.0962

At my age, rolling out of bed in the morning is the easy part.
Getting off the floor is a whole other story!



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

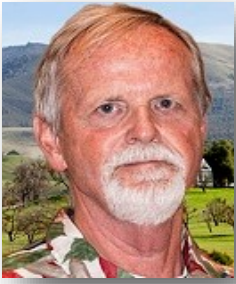
July 19th: The Spandex guys with **Jim Nelson** as the leader took off to Orinda. The day was super, and **Ken Studer, Roger Meyer, Scott Simmons, and Jim Nelson** can attest to that. They rode the

Trail from Pleasant Hill to Moraga and then on to Orinda. Java at Peets added to the fun. Jim mentioned that the lousy roadbed has finally been repaved. That made everyone happy. A great ride I'm told. Thanks Brother **Jim** who took the lead from **Moose** who had a conflict.

July 25th: Finding some time to beat the impending heat a few of us grabbed the day. **Bill Ross, Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Larry Kaye** partook. We toured Danville, Alamo, and some side streets. The heat slowly appeared, and we headed home. The day was completed with Tea and Java at Peets. Sure is fun riding with the guys.

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR 146 photography group met at Rocco's on Friday, August 18th. The group consisted of the following: **Frank Terzuoli, Michael Rothman, Dave Tucker, Bill Holly, and Moose Kelly.**

I want to give a shout out to **Michael Rothman** for providing donuts for the group. Thank you, **Mike!!**

The August 18th meeting topics were varied. We discussed our recent outing to the Pier 24 - "Looking Forward - Ten Years of Pier 24 Photography." We had a group of 4 that attended the exhibit. Please see pictures attached from **Roy Hodgkinson** and **Moose Kelly**. Additionally, we viewed an excellent video from CBS 60 minutes on James Nachtwey who is a wartime photographer. We saw another video on "7 photography errors and what to do about them" from English photographer, Nigel Danson. **Frank Terzuoli** and **Peter Plante** shared their photos on Mono Lake / Alabama Hills and England / Ireland respectively. The group viewed one other short video which was a sneak peak of the Pixel 8 Pro being released in mid-September featuring the audio eraser. Finally, the shutterbugs discussed an article that I sent out on "Tips on Traveling with Your Photography Gear." There were practical tips and tricks that were shared on experiences traveling with your gear internationally as well as domestically.

The group briefly discussed various shooting outing and activities for the coming fall time period. **Steve Dick** suggested going on the inner waterways on his boat to do some photography. Other ideas were a shoot in Half Moon Bay by **Frank Terzuoli** in October. **SOOOO.... come and join us!!!**

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

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

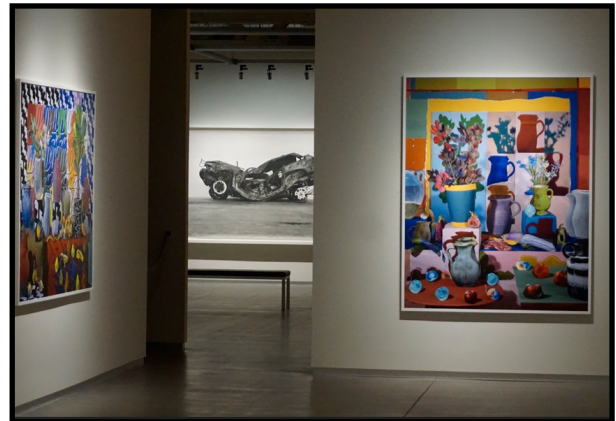
John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Pier 24 Exhibit **Roy Hodgkinson**



Pier 24 Exhibit **Moose Kelly**



Seven Sisters in England **Peter Plante**



Travel Glenn Breslin

I very much look forward enabling SIRs to share travel experiences with other SIR members. SIR Travel **goals** are to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together !! Guests of SIR members are welcome to also join in. Bring them along.

Below are trips offered by all the SIR groups. Rows #6 and #7 are SIR146 originated trips.

#	Trip	Dates	Cost	Includes	Contact
1	Colorado Rockies, Rails & Na-	9/10/23 to 9/18/23	\$3649	Airfare, 11 meals, Coach, 4 National Parks. Tour Director, Bus Transport	John Pletsch, 408-504-1255 jeplet@sbcglobal.net
2	Ballroom Dance Cruise - California	10/7/23 to 10/14/23	Starts \$749	Princess Cruise Amenities. Ballroom dancing and instruction.	Michael Gervais 916-337-1623
3	Croatia and Its Islands - Cruise	9/24/23 to 10/1/23	\$6714 to \$7214	Includes Round Trip Airfare, Travel Insurance and tips. 7-night Adriatic Cruise to Multiple destinations on Croatia	Bill Britton 925-200-1062 bill.britton@comcast.net
4	Autumn Colors Boston to Boston Bus Tour	10/13/23 to 10/22/23	\$4330	Includes air & bus transportation. Highlights: Boston, Mohawk Trail, Mount Washington.	Bill Stires 209-544-2684 bstires46@gmail.com
5	Rose Parade and New Year's Eve	12/30/23 to 1/4/24	\$3375	Includes air fare, lodging, New Year's Eve party, Rose Parade, Nixon Library, coastal cities, luxu-	Joe Salamida 408-767-2838 ascreeenman756@gmail.com
6	Best of Spain and Portugal	4/27/24 to 5/12/24	\$7895	Airfare and 15 day all inclusive guided bus trip. 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 5 dinners. 4 star hotels and all tips included.	Glenn Breslin 925-788-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com
7	Memorials of WW2	9/6/24 to 9/15/24	\$4972	Airfare & 10 day trip, highlighting WW2 events in England (Blitz), Normandy (D-day) and Paris (Nazi Occupation). 9	Glenn Breslin 925-788-6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





146 Hiking Mark Curtis

Here we are now in the “dog days” of summer for this supposed Mediterranean climate. For me personally, this is the least desirable time of year with respect to outside activity in the heat. In winter we plan hikes and walks around potential rain. If there’s a day forecast to be raining, or if the wet stuff happened recently, we walk asphalt or gravel trails. If the forecast is projected to be warm or hot, we try to walk a shorter distance on bayside or riverside trails. Or maybe not go at all! I’ve read recently about individuals who insisted on walking on warm days without adequate water, and they didn’t make it! If we walk on warm days, I recommend that everyone bring ample water, which is a minimum of 32 oz, or better yet, 48 oz. I even carry a bit extra just to take care of our SIR members who don’t subscribe to my philosophy.

At any rate, we hike each and every Monday with most of the hikes in the East Bay Regional Park system, and a few in Mount Diablo State Park or Walnut Creek Open Space. The hikes are intended to be moderately challenging at 4 miles and up to 1000 feet of climbing. We start at 10am with the expectation that we will be done by 1pm. And we take a few hydration breaks as well as a snack break along the way.

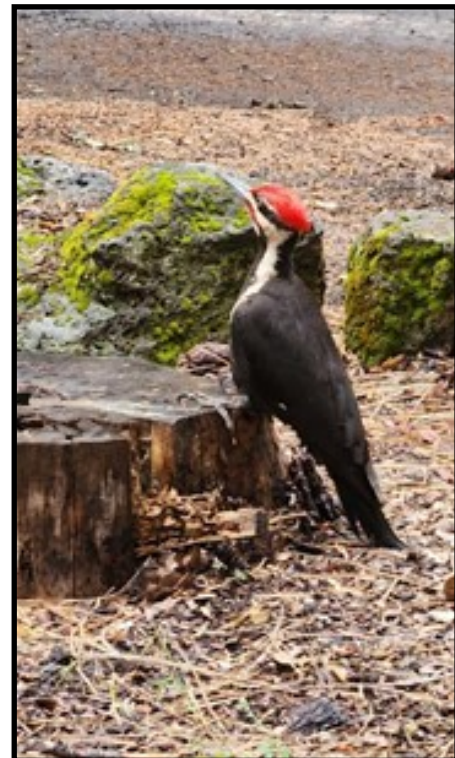
If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always

welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com





AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

We will start with the halibut. It is August and they are still biting in the bay! Normally, the bite ends in June. Notwithstanding the calendar, a group that included **Lee Clark** and **Ross Abbott** of Branch 146 were on the weekly Tuesday charter of the *Sundance* in mid-month and limited out on the flatfish by noon.

Ironically, on the *Sundance* trip the prior Tuesday, a group led by **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, and which also included **Lee Clark**, decided that the halibut Bay bite was over and opted to fish for rockfish in the ocean, given that we now can fish for rockfish in depths less than 300 feet. The group started opposite Baker Beach, but encountered rough water and came up empty. They sailed farther north to a spot opposite Bolinas, where the sea was calmer and found the fishing to be much better and finished one short of the rockfish limit (10 per person). In addition, **Paul** boated four ling cod, three of which were keepers.

On another *Sundance* trip, **Dave Havlik** and **Carl Moyer** picked up eight keeper halibut and three stripers. But the highlight was a four-foot leopard shark that was caught by **Carl's** daughter **Leah**.

Carl Moyer and **Brion Beetz** had an epic day fishing on **Carl's** boat out of Pacifica. They limited on rockfish, caught three big ling cod, and were back in Walnut Creek by noon.

In the Delta, **Tom Kostik** went on four black bass outings, averaging 30 fish per trip and also caught some small stripers. **Mike Corker** did two trips and he also averaged 30 fish on each adventure.

It is summertime and so lots of us were traveling outside of the Bay Area and took some time off to go fishing. **Rich Fiscina** topped everyone. He and nine members of his family chartered a 52-foot boat out of Montauk on Long Island. The group began with striper fishing. They caught 65 stripers, half of which were over the 31-inch maximum for keepers. They then switched to bluefish, landing 60 that averaged eight to ten

pounds. They also caught fluke, seabass, flounder, and dogfish. **Rich** described the trip as the second-best fishing trip of his life. One wonders what happened on the best trip.

In other out of town trips, **Brion Beetz** led five fishermen to Stampede Reservoir near Truckee where they caught more than 30 kokanee on each of three days. **Doug Dukes** vacationed on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts and spent one day hauling in lots of bluefish. **Ken Bellindir** visited family in the Midwest and took time out for a successful black bass foray. (Black bass are known as largemouth bass outside of California). **Ray Pixton** caught five rainbows in Icehouse Reservoir while **Gordon Linebaugh** caught two rainbows in Bass Lake. However, **Chuck Cornell** of Branch 146 had a hard time at Lake Almanor. He was blown off the lake by high winds and could only corral a single trout over two days.



Six happy fishermen display their limit of halibut caught on the Sundance

We concluded the month's activities with our annual fishing picnic at **Brion Beetz's** home in Pinole. Our members and our spouses/significant others were treated to pizzas baked by **Rich Fiscina** in **Brion's** outdoor oven, delicious salads prepared by **Brion** and his wife **Christie** that included

ceviche made from halibut caught on our *Sundance* trips, a catered array of ribs and other meat, and a wide choice of desserts. And, of course, we exchanged fishing stories, some of which were even true.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings, even if you have never fished before. During the next few months, we will be fishing for rockfish and lingcod in the ocean, black bass and stripers in the Delta, and trout and catfish at San Pablo Reservoir and other local venues. Later in the fall, we will have overnight outings fishing for trout at Lake Almanor and kokanee in New Melones Reservoir. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, September 28, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 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. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



SongSirs

Peter Plante

Our next rehearsal is on September 6 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

We will be introducing a new set of songs for an October 19 performance at the Ivy Park . We are working on George Burns "I Wish I Was 18 Again," "Sentimental Journey" and "I Write The Songs" by Barry Manilow.

Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



Bocce John Kendrick

The Bocce Ball activity on July 10 had 14 rollers and July 24 had 11 rollers. There is always room for those who are looking for some outdoor fun on a Monday morning.

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. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



GOLF

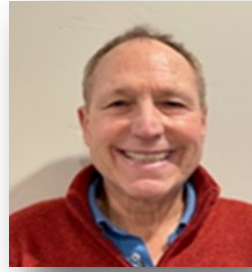
Ed Marlovits

The State SIR 2023 Individual championship event will be held on October 5 at The Reserve Golf Course in Stockton. <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/wp-content/uploads/2023-SIR-STATE-INDIVIDUAL-CHAMPIONSHIP-FLYER-Rev-B.pdf>

<https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/wp-content/uploads/REGISTRATION-FORM-Rev-D.pdf>

There is no qualifying play for this event. In order to participate, you'll just need to sign up and pay in advance. The link to the registration form is here: <https://www.sirinc2.org/golf2018/wp-content/uploads/REGISTRATION-FORM-Rev-D.pdf>

Ed Marlovits



Walking

Glenn Breslin

SIR146 will no longer have a unique walking group. SIR8 has a large walking group (about 15 people that attend weekly walks). For future

walks, please join the SIR8 Walking group. They share their nearby walking activity with other SIR Groups. They walk every Thursday at 9:30am. You can find them at: [Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 \(sirbr8.com\)](https://www.headsupwalkers.com/sir-branch-8).

SIR8 Upcoming Walks

8/31/2023: Moraga: Lafayette—Moraga Trail SMC staging area. Meet at the staging area on St. Mary's Road approx. 1/10th mile north of the entrance to St. Mary's College. Cafe: Noah's New York Bagels. Leader: Jim Sowell. Difficulty: M

9/7/2023: Walnut Creek: Arbolado Park, Ygnacio Canal. Take Ygnacio Valley Rd. to Oak Grove Rd. Then south past W.C. library to Arbolado Dr., left to Arbolado Park, meet at the upper parking lot near the soccer field and rest room. Cafe: Whole Foods - Oak Grove / Ygnacio Valley Road. Leader: Leo Dominguez. Difficulty: E

If you plan to attend a specific SIR8 walk, then can you please contact **Dan Weller** (SIR8) - 925-939-5510 - dweller@astound.net. The same SIR8 Heads Up Walkers link is also on SIR146.com. Please see the Shared Activity with Other Branches section on the bottom left.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect. And for that I am eternally grapefruit.



Book Group John Pearl, Interim Chair

The Branch 146 Book Group met on July 17. Our book for July was *“Palestine 1936, the Great Revolt and the Roots of the Middle Eastern Conflict,”* by Oren Kessler.

This book by Mr. Kessler is in essence a “treatise” on the years in the Middle East, primarily Palestine, between 1936 and 1939, when World War II broke out. The land called Palestine lies between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. The book does contain material well into the late 1940’s about this area. He starts by naming and describing the three main players in the area during those years. This was before the US became a player in the region.

The players are the British, the country with the colonies all over the world and a government designed to manage them; the Arabs who live in what has become “Palestine”; and the Jews who want to return to and settle on the land because they were being persecuted in and encouraged to leave most of the countries in Europe. (The United States was not particularly welcoming, either.) The Jews also considered Palestine their home as well because they were there “first”.

The British have a major problem. As the administrators of Palestine, they control the area that is sought by others, specifically the Jews who wish to move there, and the Arabs, who are already there. The British work hard to achieve a solution that would work for all parties, including themselves. In the background, was the looming reality, not acknowledged by all, that a major war was coming soon, and that Britain would be significantly involved, reducing the resources they had available for Palestine and other colonies.

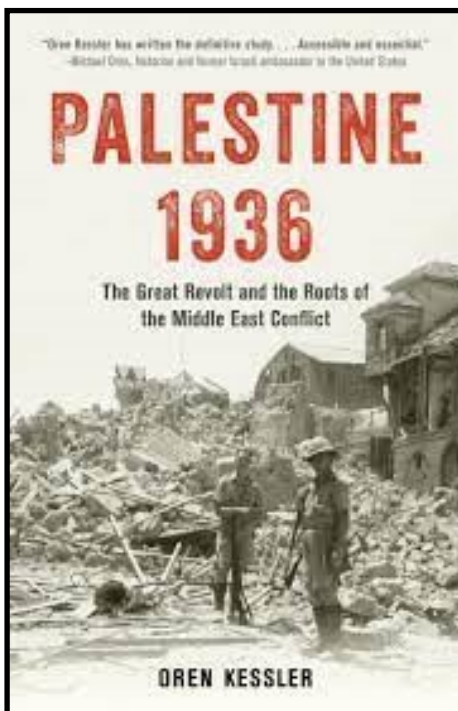
The British create a commission that decides that there should be a two-state solution, but the Arabs would not accept this, wanting one Arab country with minimal immigration of Jews. The Jews were not happy with the proposal, either, because the land they would have received was much smaller than they would have liked and did not include much of the farmland on which

many of them resided and which is part of Israel today. However, the Arab intransigence spared them from an official rejection.

The Arab cause was damaged because they consisted of multiple groups, each of whom insisted that its ideas be the ones that were put in place. There was lots of infighting, including the execution of those Arabs seen as collaborators. The Arabs were also hurt by the stance of the Grand Mufti, their purported religious leader (who was given his title by the British to their latter regret). Although he was dubbed as the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, he spent most of his life out of harm’s way in Lebanon and refused to engage in any type of compromise. The more moderate Arab leaders were afraid to challenge him because his fiery speeches incited the Arab public, who supported him without realizing that his actions were not in their best interest.

Although many of the events in the book seem to be like what is happening today, the book tells the earlier story of the first Arab rebellion, a three-year uprising that occurred a decade before Israel’s birth and which cast the mold for the Jewish-Arab encounter ever since. The rebellion took the lives of many Jews and British servicemen, but far more Arabs. There was a six-month general strike which contributed to the uniting of the many rival groups and drew Arabs and Muslims worldwide to the Palestinian cause. But the infighting in the Arab groups pushed the moderates to the sidelines, leaving the extremists in charge. The British military waged a counterinsurgency that left thousands dead and tens of thousands wounded. All this left the Arab fighting capacity debilitated, its economy gutted, and their political leaders banished.

In the meantime, the Jews consolidated the demographic geography, and the political basis of their state-in-waiting. The diplomatic community started using words such as “partition” and “Jewish state.” On the other hand, the British decided that their efforts on this problem of two decades had proven too costly, war with Hitler was on the horizon, and it was time to shutter the doors on Palestine. Britain issued a “white paper” which limited Jewish immigration to 75,000 per year for ten years, after which the Arabs could deter-



BOOK GROUP CONTINUED

mine the rate of immigration. Although the white paper antagonized the Jews, its limitations never came to fruition because of the onset of the war and the subsequent creation of the State of Israel in 1947.

The book is filled with names and details of the happenings in these times. Many names are well known, including Prime Minister Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Lord Peel, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Arab author George Antonius, Anthony Eden, Hajj Amin AL Husseini (Grand mufti of Jerusalem), Sir Arthur Wauchope, Chaim Weizmann, etc.

The British tried to “solve” the problem by having many meetings of various groups and commissions but made little progress in the larger arena. And as we saw with the Camp David talks and the Oslo agreements, the parties often seemed to be “close” to a resolution, but in the end the conflict continued.

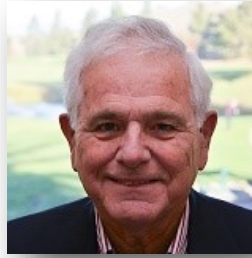
If one is interested in the history of this part of the world, one should learn about the Balfour Declaration of 1917, a British document much debated and often referenced that all sides interpreted differently to support their own ambitions. Wikipedia does a good job on this subject. It was the founding document that set the stage for a Jewish homeland.

In summary, the point of this book is that the 1936 – 1939 period was of immense importance to the formation of Israel and was done in a very controversial way that cost all sides a lot of blood and treasure. Although nobody “won,” it could be said that the Arabs “lost” because Israel exists today while the lot of the Palestine Arabs has not improved. But we recommend that you read the book and draw your own conclusions.

Our next book is *The March*, written by E.L. Doctorow, a Pulitzer Prize winner. The book is a humanistic account of the General Sherman’s “march” through Georgia and the Carolinas at the end of the Civil War.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearlir@gmail.com

A penny found is worth more than a penny earned because every penny earned is taxed!



Dixieland Band Ross Abbott

Our last get-together was after the deadline for this SirCall, but I think it is safe to say we had a great time.

Our little band is still only four members strong and we would certainly like to expand the band so that more can enjoy our toe-tapping sessions.

Current instruments are piano, trombone, banjo and stump fiddle.

If you don’t know what a stump fiddle is, it is worth coming just to hear and see that.

Our next get-together will be at 7pm, September 27th at 77 Karen Lane, Walnut Creek. Come and join the fun.

Ross Abbott

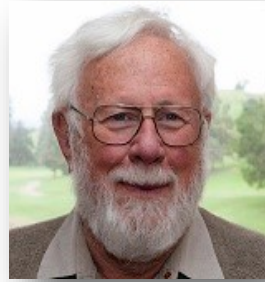
925.939.1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com



Book Corner Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in September for the Luncheon. Bring back the ones you borrowed and take home some new books.





寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Our August sushi adventure was a [Jo's Honda Sushi](#) in Pleasant Hill. Seven of us gathered to explore the world of sushi and engage in wonderful conversation. We welcomed a new member to our group, **Bill Hoban** and presented him with his group masu even though he is not a saki drinker.

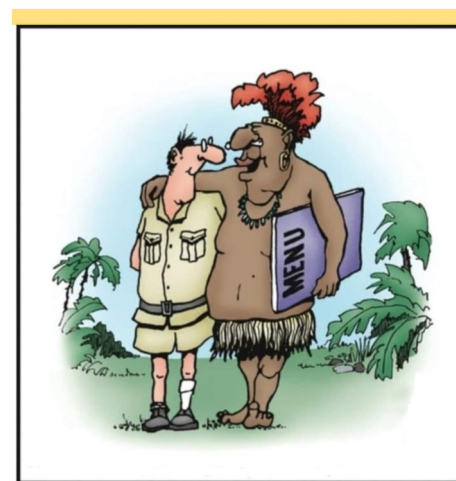


Our next adventure will be on October 26th (note this date change from our usual third Thursday) at Blue Ginkgo Isakaya and Sushi in Lafayette.

Blue Ginkgo

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



"Me and the boys were trying to guess how you spell your name."



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

Corrie Oranje restaurant hosted our August lunch at Fiore's, a gem of an Italian fusion restaurant in Concord. Everyone's lunch was reported to be very tasty. A house special of calamari steak was ordered by **Dennis Hallett** and he

was not disappointed. One of the best things about this restaurant besides quality food is that it is easy on the pocket book compared to similar type restaurants in the area. **Ken Richter** will home host our next lunch on September 18. **Steve Ybarra** Photo by the restaurant maitre d'.

Steve Ybarra



Old age comes at a bad time!
When you finally know everything, you start to forget everything you know.



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Your Couples Dining Out host unfortunately must retract the information in the last Sir Call wherein we announced that our September Couples Dining Out event would be on Wednesday, September 20 at Benvenuti in Walnut Creek. We had come to initial agreement with the restaurant and just the details on the price and specific menu items to be worked out. And we were hoping that we could increase the number of diners from the 36 originally discussed to add another 10 to 12 diners. But, a few days ago the manager/owner of the restaurant sent me a note that after further consideration they regretfully could not accommodate our group. She suggested Massimo's as a larger restaurant which could accommodate us. I stopped by again to discuss how we might still enjoy this restaurant but was unsuccessful in persuading her for the September date.

So, we were back to square one in finding a suitable venue for the September event. A complication is also that your host will be on vacation in mid-September, returning on September 21 and will have scant time upon my return to prepare for the Dining Out event. We decided to return to Massimo's on Locust Street in Walnut Creek – that venerable restaurant where we have been several times and which has never disappointed. We have reserved the upstairs Maximillian Room which will accommodate 50 diners, and will have our dinner there on Wednesday, September 27. We'll have our cocktail social hour at 5:30, with dinner around 6:15pm. We've chosen the less expensive banquet menu which will include a mixed green salad, a

choice of entrees – chicken, salmon, or mushroom/black truffle ravioli, with a Tuscan apple tart for dessert. The flyer with details of the menu will be found on the next page of the Sir Call.

As further evidence of the challenges restaurants face these days – the restaurant now changes a 2% banquet fee, and requires a \$500 deposit – but we were still able to keep the total cost to \$58 per person. The original restaurant we considered – Benvenuti – would have charged us \$67 per person, so all in all I think we managed to plan a September event that will be enjoyable for our diners. The other advantage to Massimo's is that the parking is very convenient either on the street or, better yet, the Locust garage across the street from the restaurant.

It is still possible we might make another attempt at going to Benvenuti, but it would have to be over two evenings – something we could consider in the future.

A number of you had already indicated you wanted to be included in the September event and now that the date and venue has changed, I hope that you will still want to be included. But, I will contact each of you individually to confirm that you will still join us.

Again, if you wish to be included in our mail list, send an email to bgborgman@aol.com, and you will get notified of the next event earlier. Our next event, after the September one, will be in November – we look forward to seeing all of you at this popular activity.

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



COUPLES DINING OUT

Wednesday Sept 27, 2023

Social hour/no host cocktails 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:15pm

Salad

Mixed Field Greens with balsamic vinaigrette, honey glazed walnuts
and herbed goat cheese crostini

Choice of Entree

Chicken Piccata – Sauteed breast of chicken with Lemon,

Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Beurre Blanc

Porcini and Black Truffle Ravioli
Lemon broth, Oyster Mushrooms, Cream

Dessert

Tuscan Apple Tart



Northern Italian Inspired Cuisine

1604 Locust Street, Walnut Creek

RSVP to Bruce Borgman, bgborgman@aol.com

Confirm with check to Sir146

Mail to 3611 Winchester Pl, Walnut Creek 94598

\$58.00 per person, including tax and tip.

LIMITED TO 50 DINERS



Explore & Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



USS Potomac Tour

October 19th

Signup Deadline October 14th



Ahoy,

The Floating White House was originally commissioned as the USCG Cutter *Electra* in 1934. In 1936, it was renamed the *USS Potomac* and served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht until his death in 1945. More than half a million people have visited and sailed aboard the former President's beloved Floating White House, the *USS Potomac*, since it opened to the public in the summer of 1995. Over a 12-year period, \$5 million was spent to restore the 165-foot-long vessel as a memorial to the President who authored the New Deal and led the United States during the Great Depression and the World War II years. Join us aboard this National Historic Landmark for a cruise on the Bay!

SIR Explore & Eat is a 2-hour tour on *USS Potomac on the Bay-October 19th* departing at 10:30am. Arrive at the office by 9:30 for 20-minute history video. The cruise will depart from **540 Water Street, Oakland CA** and return to Oakland with lunch to follow at Jack London Square. Lunch location **To Be Determined**.

The cost to our SIR group is **\$53/person or \$106/couple**. If you are interested, please make check payable to **SIR 146**. Mail check to: **Jim Pope 385 Bryan Drive Alamo, CA 94507**

We hope you and your guest will come and sail with us on this historic vessel.

Niles Canyon Railway Train Ride and Tour

July 28, 2023

The Explore & Eat group of 40 met in the morning at the Sunol Rail Station to travel on the Niles Canyon Railway train for a 1 and ½ hour ride to the town of Niles and back to Sunol. The group sat in open air rail cars and weather was perfect. The trip was very enjoyable. The group then toured the Chinese Workers Exhibit outlining their work on the Trans-Continental rail system in the 1870's. We then walked across the street to have lunch at the restaurant Bosco's Bones and Brew, named after Sunol's mayor's dog Bosco. A fabulous time was had by all. See the photos by Susan Oki and Henry Thatcher and Clint Collier on the following pages.



The Pacific Locomotive Association, Inc. operates Niles Canyon Railway as a living history museum interpreting the importance of our heritage railroads in the development of California and the nation. The purpose of the organization is to preserve the physical aspects and atmosphere of Pacific Coast railroading during the period from 1910 to 1960. Their mission is to develop and operate a working railroad museum for the benefit of the general public using historic railroad equipment, standard railroad practices for train crews, signaling, block operations, and equipment maintenance.

EXPLORE AND EAT NILES CANYON RAILWAY



EXPLORE AND EAT NILES CANYON (Cont from prior page)





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

Our group was founded in 2008 and for fifteen years, we followed the same format. We had eight monthly luncheons, each hosted by one of our

members who was the chef for the day. The lunches began early enough so that we had time to drink our wine and solve world politics. While we were debating and eating, our spouses and significant others would enjoy themselves at a local restaurant. In addition, we held two monthly dinners at a restaurant where we were joined by our spouses and significant others.

As time passed, some of us downsized where we lived and that made it difficult for them to host eight people at lunch. Others considered retiring from the chef business. And so we decided that the host would have an option. He could continue hosting lunch or he could invite us to a restaurant on a dutch treat basis.

Prior to this month, nobody took advantage of the option. This month, however, **Syd Whalen** decided to engage in the eating out option. And so, we left our wine bottles behind and met at Jack's in Pleasant Hill, where



we dined well. We also put world politics aside (since nobody ever listens to our great suggestions anyway) and spent most of our time discussing the fate of the Pac 12. The talk was interesting, given that two of us are graduates of one of the four schools still in the conference, one graduated from one of the defecting schools, and one is a graduate of a current member of the Big Ten.

While we were at Jack's, our spouses and significant others enjoyed lunch at the Greenery. We don't know what they talked about. Hopefully, it wasn't us.

Next month, we meet at **Henry Thatcher's** home unless he chooses the dining out option.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



I said, 'I wanna marry your daughter when I get some money,' and he gave me twenty bucks.



"I'M SORRY I HAVE TO LET YOU ALL GO, BUT YOU'RE JUST NOT FREAKS ANYMORE."

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Our August game was held at Richard Hockenbrock's home in Walnut Creek. Since we had a slim number of

players, we chose to have only one table. We thought this was an easy solution but it may have caused more havoc than expected.

Our biggest dilemma was the "train station's slots" didn't line up with the players. We had a continual dialogue of whose train was whose!

A lovely carrot cake was served at half time with lots of other yummys including chilled prawns and cocktail sauce.

It was a fun evening and very jovial. Jim Stedman will be hosting our group in September.

Susan Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Jim Stedman, Gabriela Bishop, Peter Bishop
 Virginia Tygart, Sue Oranje, Corrie Oranje
 Richard Hockenbrock



Jim Stedman placed first, Gabriela, 2nd, and Richard, 3rd place

Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

On July 28 th , our choo choo left the roundhouse and meandered through Walnut Creek to Waterford located in

Rossmoor to spend the evening with Jim Stedman for another joyful night of MTD's. In addition to Jim, there was Lynn Shafer, Alicia Baily, Sharon Varner, and Sue and Walt Busenius. Jim, a wonderful host, feasted us with table snacks, cookies, and delicious cheesecake.

We gathered around one table and, as always, had fun and good spirited competition. For the third consecutive month, the outcome was not decided until the last game. In the last game, steady Jim Stedman surged ahead to come in first. Alicia Baily played well only to finish in second place, and Lynn Shafer for the 3rd month once again grabbed third place.

In August, the Mexican train, meaning the group, is taking a break, but we will be back fresh in September. It's Siesta time!

Walt Busenius
 925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Winners
 Lynn Shafer 3rd , Jim Stedman 1st , Alicia Baily 2nd



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro"

Jim Pope

On August 18th, the El Quatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 people. In attendance this evening were; **Dick and Leslie Firth, Dick and Christy DeVoe, Rich and Kim Pace, Steven and Susan Oki,** Two Guests, **Susan Oki's** brother Mike and his partner Delyth from Wales, and **Jim and Renie Pope.** The sweets, savories and wine were provided by several in the group. We played at two tables of six. We paid the player at each table with low table score 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The winners were **Christy DeVoe** and **Susan Oki** (see in pictures). There were three individuals with the table high score; **Steve Oki, Susan Oki's** brother Mike and **Dick DeVoe.** Each was awarded one Lotto ticket.

The next El Quattro MTD will meet next on **September 15th.**

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco"

Dennis Hallett

Our gathering was hosted by **Joan and Dave Pierce** and a great time was had

by all. The ladies are now known as "The Supremes", as they did it again!

The men especially appreciated all the chocolate goodies and nuts served during the games hence they only completed eight games while the ladies stormed ahead with ten. **Janet Yolland** and **Judy Baldrige** easily won first and second places with **Bob Yolland** third and the only man to break 200.

The large portions of **Joan Pierce's** delicious chocolate cake might have distracted the men, but they are expected to "Up" their game next month or face relegation to a lower league.

The next gathering is at **Janet and Bob Yolland's** home on September 21st 2023





Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Ann and John Kendrick's** beautiful home on July 26 for a night of domino play. Thank you, **Kendricks**,

for hosting.

We tried a "social experiment" based on the "request" of the ladies in our group. So, at the ladies table we had **Martha Plante, Mary Schmidt, Virginia Tygart, Carol Lane** and **Ann Kendrick**. At the very manly table were **Bruce Borgman, Peter Plante, John Kendrick, Richard Hockenbrock, Steve Lane** and **John "Moose" Kelly**. The group's feedback on this set up was positive, with possibly doing this in the future?? Or maybe not as all the winners came from the ladies table!!

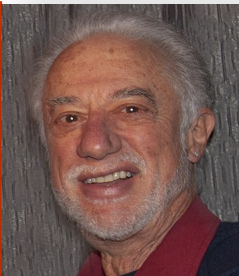
In the winner's circle this month were **Carol Lane** (10.6) followed by - **Virginia Tygart** (11.1) and **Martha Plante** (20.9).

We look forward to our next get together on August

23, 2023, at the home of **Brian and Mary McCarthy**.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

Verily, the MTD 7 event hath been brought forth under the hospitable guidance of **Clint** and **Bev Collier** this

month. A tale of mirth and excitement unfoldeth [sic]!

Lo and behold, **Bob Lucido's** enthusiasm knew no bounds, yet in his fervor, he hath misplaced the score sheets! But fear not, for he resorted to gazing upon the captured images to ascertain the victors of the day.

In the first place, triumphant stood **Clint Collier**, his average score veiled in mystery, yet worthy of a bounteous prize of \$18. A truly remarkable feat, one cannot help but wonder what cunning strategies he deployed in this ancient contest of wits.

Following closely behind in second place emerged **Bob Wilkenfeld** though the precise average score remains a guarded secret, he was bestowed with \$9 as his reward.

As for our third-place winner **Brian McCarthy**, he might not have emerged as victor this time, yet he se-

cured a modest consolation prize of \$3. Alas, his average score doth elude us like a mischievous sprite in the moonlit glade.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



MTD 7 winners: **Brian McCarthy** 3rd, **Bob Wilkenfeld** 2nd and our host **Clint Collier** 1st.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

August 2nd seemed like a homecoming event with most of our regular players coming back from vacations anxious to play Mexican Train Dominoes. We had a record number of players, 20, placed equally around four tables. **Roy Hodgkinson** was our lone substitute. **Jim Barry** and **Joyce Wells** handled the hosting duties admirably.

Now to the results. I mentioned this before, but we continue to see some incredibly low scores being achieved month after month at MTD Ocho. August was no exception, where recent new player **Glenn Breslin** produced a 6.71 low average score through seven games to take first place for the evening. Right behind him was **Victoria Polivka** with the second lowest average score for the evening at 11.5 over 8 games. Just behind her was **Jim Barry** at the same table who turned in the third lowest average score of 12.0. Congratulations to all three of you.

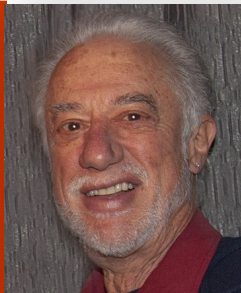
Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Jim Barry 3rd, Victoria Polivka 2nd, Glenn Breslin 1st.



Ron Polivka and Steve Ybarra
were high scorers.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve" Bob Lucido

Way too many folks on vacation this month so we deferred till September.

On September 20th we will be meeting at the lovely home of Bob and Wendy Lucido.

Bob Lucido
bobwendy3@comcast.net

I see people my age out there climbing mountains and here I am feeling good about myself because I got my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the August SIR-Call submission, we met on July 28th and August 11th. The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** and **Bill Vizza** each with 2 wins.

The lowest average score was **Brian McCarthy** with 57,

closely followed by **Ron Polivka** with 58.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 16 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 13 and **Steve Ybarra** with 11.

Frank Lucas leads with a winning percentage of 43%. Followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 39%. Most Improved is **Steve** with 236% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 197%. **Rich Lyon** has the lowest avg score of 67.7 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 72.3.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in September on the 8th and 22nd.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robrtawest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our six-person crew gathered at the home of **Rich Ahlf** on our usual 1st Thursday of the month game. **Rich** provided us with snacks aplenty and

nice variety of wine for our game.

The MAJOR highlight of the day was the celebration of the 90th birthday of **Paul Dubow!** Somehow the windows withstood the terrible voices singing Happy Birthday.

Rich, like last month, managed to make withdrawals from most of the players capital. As we will not play in September, we will have many days to plot our revenge on **Rich**.

We are still looking for poker players to join either as a full-time player or a substitute. Please contact **Brad Hatcher** if you are interested.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

The Couples Party Bridge event for August was cancelled on the morning of the event when the host came down with a bad cold after returning from traveling out of state. Also, there is no event scheduled for September

due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Our next event will be held on **October 3rd** and hosted by **Larry & Linda Brown**. Have a Great Holiday weekend.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

You know when you buy a bag of salad and it gets all brown and soggy?
Cookies don't do that!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 met at the Ahlf residence where hosts Rich and Ismini put on a fine table of goodies cheeses, crackers, nuts and chips topped off with a tasty lemon cake. Coffee, soft drinks and wine kept the games going smoothly. Nora and Mike Davidson graciously substituted for our missing couple. Third place honors for the evening went to our guests, Nora and Mike who had a total of 19 points. Our hosts finished second with 21.5 points and in first with 25.5 points was, not surprisingly, Christy and Dick DeVoe. There is or should be a movement afoot to handicap that pair so the rest of us have a chance! Thank you Rich and Ismini for a very good evening!

John Kluesener
john@klueseners.com



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 Dick DeVoe

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 2 event with three tables was nicely hosted by Brad Hatcher on Friday, August 4. Many thanks to Jim Stedman, Bill Schaaf, and Christy DeVoe for stepping in as very timely replacements!

Ray Spears won 1st place by coming from 6th place with a spectacular 2nd half vs. everyone else. He also had the most twos and two "Best Partnerships".

Brad Hatcher was most consistent, with a 2nd Place for 1st half, 2nd half, and final. Rich Ahlf won a 3rd Place final, with a 1st Place in the 1st half.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (3 boards, with 5.5-6.0 pts.)

Boards 4-6: Christy DeVoe/Brad Hatcher and Max Hinkle/Bill Schaaf- 5.5 pts.

Boards 10-12: Ed Marlovits/John Kluesener- 5.5 pts.

Boards 13-15: Christy DeVoe/Ed Marlovits and Ray Spears/Bill Schaaf- 5.5 pts.

Boards 19-21: John Kluesener/Brad Hatcher- 5.5 pts.

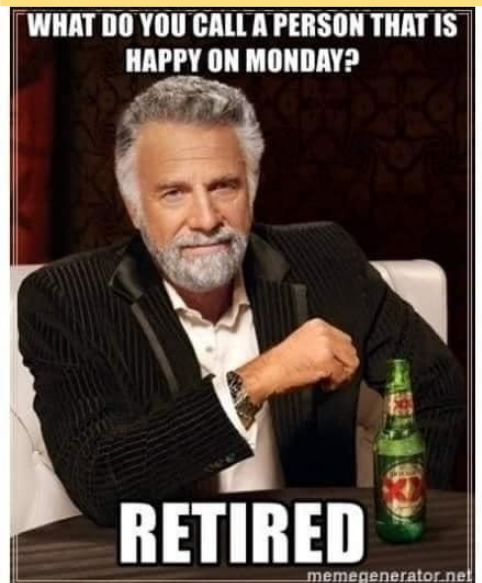
MOST TWO'S

Ray Spears- 9

LEAST ZEROS

Rich Ahlf- 1!

Richard DeVoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net



They say 40 is the new 30 and 50 is the new 40, but all I know is, the older I get, the more 9:00pm is the new midnight!



Duplicate Bridge 3 Michael Whitaker

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 3 Event with three tables was nicely hosted by **Rich Ahlf** on Friday, August 18.

Dave Steinberg and **Sid Landman** tied for 1st Place overall with 31 points, crushing all others by 4 or more points. **Sid** had 1st and 3rd Place finishes in the 1st and 2nd Halfs respectively, while **Dave** had the reverse.

Max Hinkle took 3rd Place overall, with **Ed Marlovits** in 4th Place.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS (3 boards, with 5.5-6.0 pts.)

Boards 10-12: **Tony Greco/Brad Hatcher**- 5.5 pts.

Boards 19-21: **Dick DeVoe/Dave Steinberg** and **Bob Yolland/Ed Marlovits**- 5.5 pts.

MOST TWO'S

Sid Landman- 8.

LEAST ZEROS

Max Hinkle- 2!.

Michael Whitaker

925.708.8213 mrwhitaker@yahoo.com



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce



Dick and **Christy DeVoe** hosted us on August 8th, with an array of delicious snacks and wines. We were especially grateful as well to our subs, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland**, and **Steve** and **Sue Loftin**, who stepped up and kept us from having to cancel. Congratulations to **Steve** and **Sue**, who were the only pair to bid the slam on Board 3 (all declarers made 6 but two stopped in game). Slam bidding remains an opportunity for

the rest of us.

After 20 boards, **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** were third (51%), **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were second (55%), and hosts **Dick** and **Christy** were rewarded with first (60%), a fine score. **Ken** and **Elaine** had the most tops (8), followed by **Dick** and **Christy** (7). **Ken** and **Elaine** had just returned from a cruise in the wee hours of the day before, so special kudos to them for doing so well.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net

I said "Alexa, what do women want?"
The thing hasn't shut up for seven days!



Poker Group 4

Pete Gates

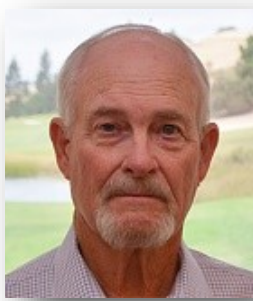
Our group got together at the home of **Dean Buerke** in July. Dean is a member of Branch 19 and has a great set-up with his own table, chips etc. for hosting. Both

Dean and Jay Gordon, another member of Branch 19, introduced us to a couple of new games and managed to grab a few nice pots in the process.

We are planning to gather again on August 28th and are still looking for new players.

Pete Gates

925.937.2035 petegates10@gmail.com



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

If anyone has been thinking they might like to take a look at this card group, now would be a good time, as summer travel plans have typically created several openings at recent gatherings on the second and fourth Weds. of each month.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a two-table game at the home of Bob Yolland who was a great host even though we started the day with no electricity. Bob provided excellent goodies and dessert as usual.

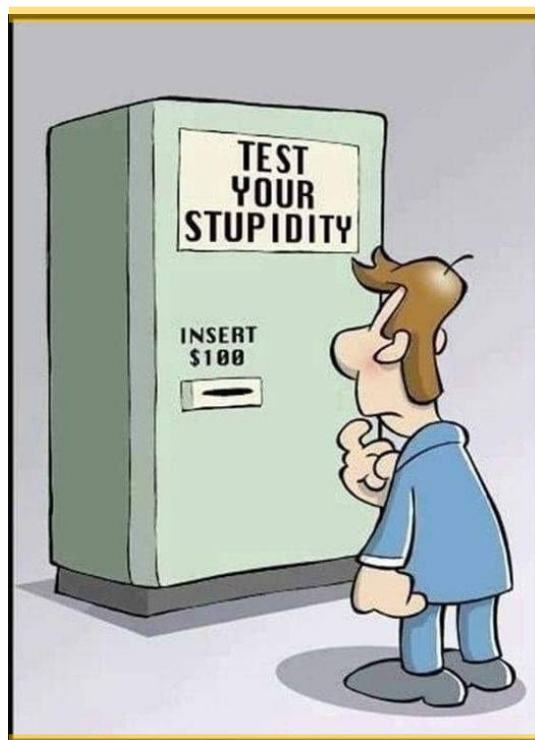
Those in attendance were: **Rich Ahlf, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, and Jim Stedman.**

Joe Fuchs had a record day with 7330 points to come in first. **Jim Stedman** was second with 5630 points and **Max Hinkle** third with 5260 points.

The next game will be on the second Monday, September 11th due to Labor Day weekend, to be hosted by **Ray Spears** in Rossmoor at the Event Center. Directions and details will follow when we know who will be playing.

Co-Directors

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



Area 16 Activities



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed September 27 at 1:30pm. Topic to be announced. E-mail Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

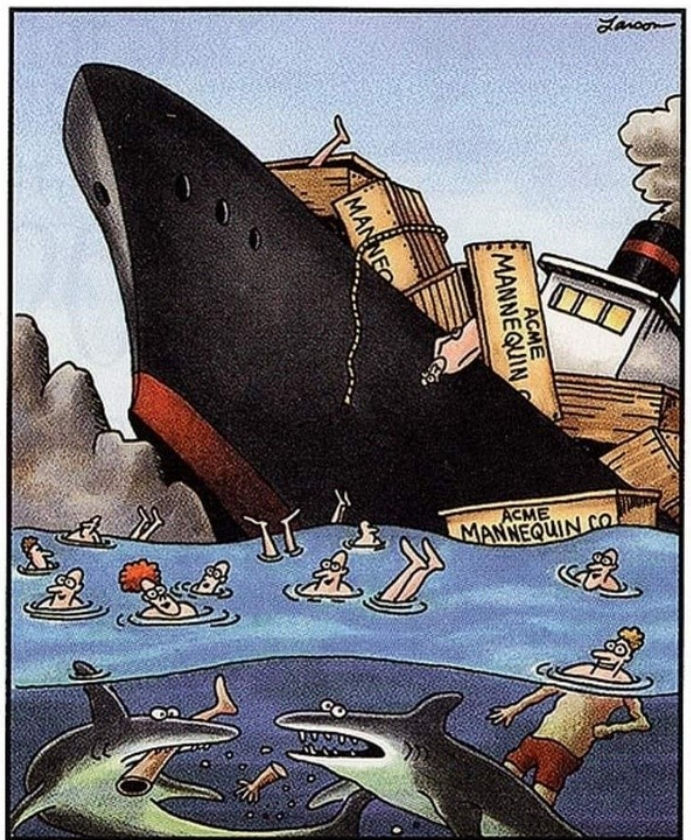


SIR State Information

<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!



Sometimes you meet someone and you know from the first moment that you want to spend your whole life without them.

Parting Shot

For the September Luncheon...

