

March—April 2025

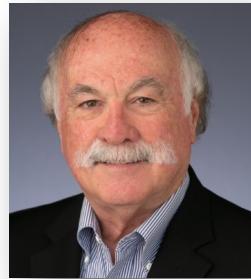


### Big Sir's Corner

**Bob Ford**

I would like to start off by thanking **Jim Pope** for holding a focus group with our newest members. They were asked about what they liked and any improvements they would recommend. They said they were enjoying the various activities, luncheons and social aspects of the club. They made some recommendations for additional activities. They were also interested in having the activity chairs and/or members present more information about what goes on in their activity. The BEC is working on implementing some of their suggestions. Any input the rest of you have would also be welcome. We had a really nice turnout for our March luncheon and received a lot of positive feedback on our speaker from Contra Costa Fire Protection District. I want to say a big thank you to the sponsors of three new members that we welcomed at our luncheon. Please remember to invite your friends as a guest and hopefully to become a new member. Our next luncheon is Thursday, April 10th, 2025. I hope you will join us..

Warm regards,  
**Bob Ford**  
 Big Sir, Branch 146



### Little Sir's Corner

**Thom Degnan**

For our April luncheon, we are pleased to have **Jake Zigelman**, an executive from PG&E to give us an overview of what they are trying to accomplish for the people of Northern California with regards to reducing pricing pressure, and their strategy related to fire control and management.

For the May Ladies luncheon, we have scheduled **Ms. Jackie Byrd**, of the Walnut Creek Historical Society, who will give us an update on this year's activities, tours of the museum and downtown, a gala event of history and wine at Shadelands, and more. Going forward, we will have speakers on the economy, military, history, life-saving techniques, local wine, and many other interesting topics. There is much more to come for the rest of the year's activities and the Speaker's Committee **Glenn Breslin**, **Jim Pope**, **Jim Crites**, and I will keep you updated, and look forward to suggestions for interesting speakers.

The CPR Training Class for February 28<sup>th</sup> was full and was enjoyed by some 29 SIR members and spouses. We have also scheduled a new class for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is open to members and family, and will be formally announced shortly. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIR!

**Thom Degnan**  
 Little Sir, Branch 146

**SIR Monthly Luncheon**  
**Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Boundary Oak 11:30**

Jake Zigelman, PG&E

A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entrée  
 go to page 3. ([click Here!](#))

### Activities for you and spouse...

- Calendar of Events [Page 13](#)
- Lazarus Man [Page 23](#)
- Green Thumb? [Page 31](#)
- Pacific Rim anyone? [Page 14](#)



## Membership George Mon

Three new members were approved for membership in March.

**James "Jim" Dimech** lives in Concord with his wife **Margaret**. He was in Education for AUHSD. He enjoys Bird Watching, Bocce, Hiking and Wine Tasting. He is sponsored by **Jim Rowland**.

**Michael "Mike" Gipps** lives in Walnut Creek with his wife **Peggy**. He was a Manager and an Engineer for Dow Chemical. Mike refereed for various high school sports for over 30 years. He is sponsored by **Bruce Borgman**.

**Joe Ambriz** lives in Pittsburg. He was an Electrician for Union 302, He enjoys all types of outside activities, especially fishing. **Joe** is sponsored by **Nick Jabuka**.

**Ronald Louis** did respond to the contacting efforts on remaining a member for 2025 and was placed back on the active list.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State SIR allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number.

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

We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see a guest at the luncheon, reach out and voice the good things about being a Sir.

The 2025 membership count is **256**.

If you want to sponsor a new member, please go to our website [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com) and go to the Members Only tab to see the Sponsors 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](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon  
925.830.1604 [gckk@comcast.net](mailto:gckk@comcast.net)

**2025**

## Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	<b>Bob Ford</b>
Little Sir.....	<b>Thom Degnan</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Don Shaw</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>John Rexroat</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>Mike Rothman</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Tom Amann</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Mike Davidson</b>
Director 1st Term .....	<b>Jim Crites</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Mark Curtis</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>Randy Graham</b>
Director 2nd Term .....	<b>John Alexander</b>
Director 2ndt Term .....	<b>Don Rhoads</b>

### RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Randy Graham</b>
Activities .....	<b>Glenn Breslin</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Edward Brands</b>
Publicity .....	<b>John Alexander</b>

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses.





## Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Last month we had a very good speaker, Noell Crosse who gave us all good advice about disaster preparedness. It was a timely message as we start to go into fire season. Our luncheons have been going great with increasing member attendance.

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your co-operation.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com). Be sure to include your menu choice!

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours, please send another message to the email above.

### Luncheon

**Date: Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Where:** Boundary Oak

**Cost:** \$36 per person

**Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes it easy to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

**If you do not reserve by Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.**

**Check-In:** 11:00 am The meeting starts at 11:30 am

**Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check-in.

### Other matters

If you don't have email, 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, April 4<sup>th</sup> by Noon**

and you will not be charged.

Send email to [AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com) or

Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

### 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](mailto:AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com).

### Questions:

If you have any questions, please call Steve Oki 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 April Luncheon**

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Salad

Backyard Cole Slaw

Red and Green Cabbage, Carrots,  
Creamy Slaw Dressing

#### Entrées

##### Tailgate BBQ Ribs

Pork Ribs, Mac and Cheese, Seasonal Vegetable,  
Tangy BBQ Sauce

—or—

##### Lemon Garlic Cod

Garlic and Herb Marinated Cod, Mac and Cheese,  
Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Lemon Sauce  
—or—

#### Vegetarian

##### Roasted Tomato Penne Pasta

Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce over Penne Pasta,  
Seasonal Vegetable

#### Dessert

Rocky Road Brownie

### **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 email to send to the attendance group.



## Ladies' Day Luncheon Steve Ybarra

The Ladies' Day Luncheon will be held on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The cost for this event is \$41 per person. Doors open at 10:30am and SIR members and

guests can socialize until 11:30am when the Luncheon will be called to order for the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations must be made to **Steve Ybarra** and received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Please use the reservation form (below) provided in this SIRCall, and make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$41 per person.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

For the Ladies' Day Luncheon event, you need to use the reservation form.

The click to reserve menu will resume with the June Luncheon.



## SIR 146 May Ladies' Day Luncheon Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Salad

Organic Mixed Greens  
Local Baby Asparagus, Kalamata Olives, Shaved Parmesan, Aged Sherry Vinaigrette

### Entrées

#### **Grilled Filet Mignon**

Roasted Garlic Mashed Potato,  
Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Red Wine Jus

—or—

#### **Baked Salmon**

Confetti Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley  
Chunky Roasted Tomato Sauce

—or—

#### **Stuffed Peppers**

Mushrooms, Zucchini, Eggplant Tomato Basil Sauce

### Dessert

German Chocolate Cake



## SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ at \$41 ea. amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ We are sitting with: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

#	F Name, L Name	Filet Mignon	Salmon	Vegetarian	Total Paid
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

*There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!  
Reservations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

# APRIL MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

## WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Clint Collier	2019	6
Bob Finlayson	2019	6
Larry Kaye	2019	6
Bruce Kimmis	2019	6
Ron Polivka	2019	6
Don Arington	2018	7
Brian McCarthy	2018	7
Byron Nelson	2018	7
Steve Lane	2016	9
Joe Starkey	2016	9
Larry Brown	2015	10
John Foster	2015	10
Rich Lyon	2015	10
Jim Barry	2013	12
Mike Conners	2013	12
Roy Hodgkinson	2013	12
John Nelson	2013	12
Frank Lucas	2011	14
Ben Gleason	2010	15
Bill Hoban	2008	17
Steve Sprague	2008	17
Joe Fuchs	2007	18
Gene Schulting	2007	18
Glen Renk	2006	19
Bob Spellman	2001	24
Syd Whalen	2001	24
Jim Brown	1990	35



## Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

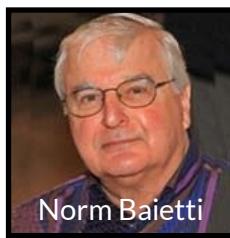


Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



Pat O'Keeffe



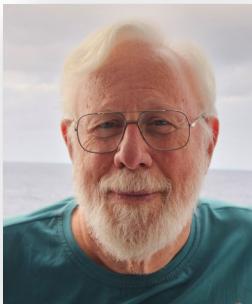
Norm Baietti

## SIR Call Newsletter Group

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

## 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.**



## Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

Well, I'm happy to report that I made it through March. Enjoyed some pie on the fourteenth, liked the corn beef at the luncheon... so much I went out and bought one to cook and enjoy at home. And I love the extra hour of sun each evening and I'm looking forward to mother nature slowly fixing the problem of too little sun, too late in the morning!



Now it just a question of not being fooled this month and making it through the day we all so look forward to every year around the middle of April; to paraphrase Harry Potter, the date whose name shall not be mentioned..

Fortunately, the cut off date for SIR Call submissions for next month, Ladies' Day Luncheon month, is the 18th not the 15th.

Clint Collier—Editor SIR Call  
925.457.1489 [br146SIRCall@gmail.com](mailto:br146SIRCall@gmail.com)



Chuck Cornell  
with Little Sir  
Thom Degnan

# APRIL

Lee Clark  
Bill Dastic  
Bob Finlayson  
Malcolm Harrison  
Brad Hatcher  
Jim Mcmanus  
Bob Soldano

Ken Studer  
Donald Shaw  
Howard Goldsmith  
Jim Crites  
Fred Mcneil  
Jim Dimech



I'm at that age where my mind still thinks  
I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12 while  
my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure  
I'm not dead yet.

# March Meeting

Photos by Henry Thatcher



Welcome  
NEW MEMBERS



Joe Ambriz

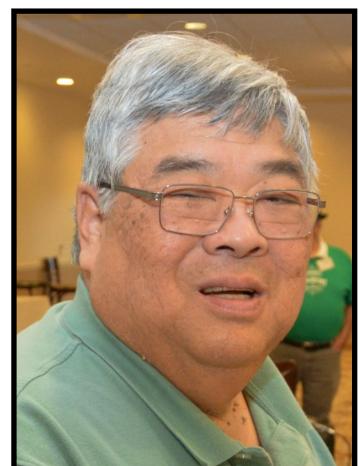
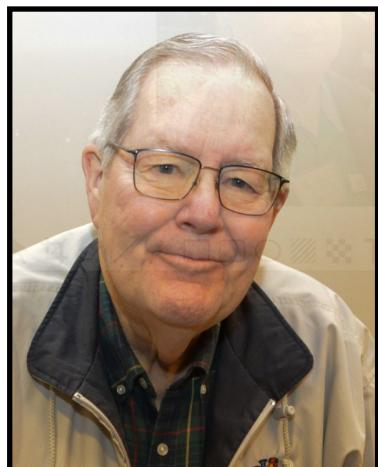
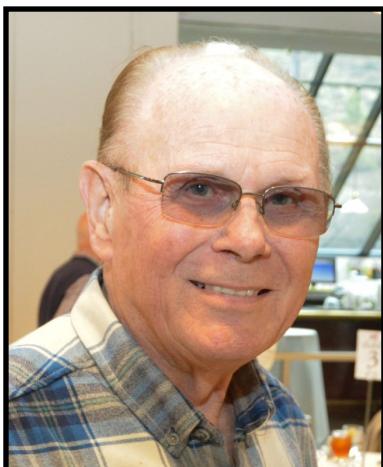
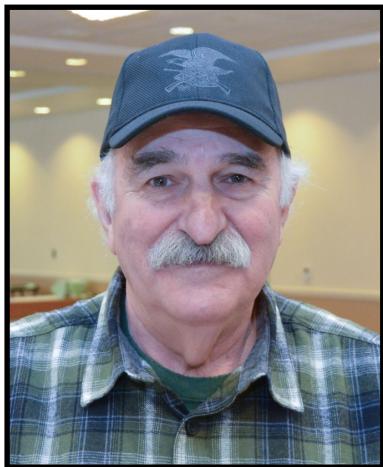


Mike Gipps



Jim Dimech









Speaker  
Noell Crosse  
with Little Sir  
Thom Dunigan



## God Bless America

*Words, Music, History, and More*



# NOTES

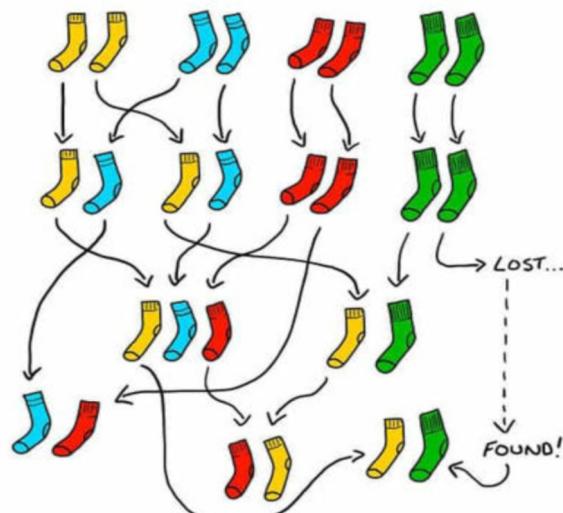
## from Our Members

SIR members **Bob Campbell** and **Steve Ybarra** recently attended a Sacramento Athletic spring training game in Arizona. They got lucky in buying the winning ticket in a 50/50 drawing and won \$2,000.

Congratulations!



### A HISTORY OF MY SOCK DRAWER





# Looking for something to do...



## Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin

I am writing to suggest sharing SIR146 activities with your non-SIR friends. One of our many challenges for this new year is to grow our membership. Members are aging out, moving out or dropping out faster than we are recruiting.

If you are involved in any SIR activity, you should consider telling your friends how much you enjoy these activities. And then ask them if they would like to join in this activity as your guest. Share the treasure of your enjoyment with them. You and other SIR members will enjoy their social interactions and they will enjoy the activity and others' social interactions. Surely a win-win at a minimum!

To grow our branch, SIR146 requires a large number of guests. A percentage of these guests will turn into new members. Sharing your activity enjoyment with guests benefits everyone: you, them and SIR146! Then if they enjoyed the activity it is time to then consider inviting your guests to one of our monthly luncheons.

In addition to the activities that you attend, these upcoming branch-wide activities are open to guests

- 4/22 – Bocce Day
- 5/14 – SIR Day at SF Giants Baseball
- 7/19 – Bee Gees Tribute Band
- Multiple Dates for SIR Travel

If any of these upcoming activities interest you, can you please reach out to me.

Glenn Breslin  
925.788.6520 [glenbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glenbreslin@gmail.com)

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## 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 contact information

<a href="#">Artificial Intelligence</a>	<a href="#">Men's Duplicate 3</a>	<a href="#">Dixieland Musician</a>	<a href="#">Tres</a>	<a href="#">Group 4</a>
<a href="#">Birding</a>	<a href="#">Men's Party</a>	<a href="#">Fishing</a>	<a href="#">Cuatro</a>	<a href="#">Group 6</a>
<a href="#">Bocce Ball</a>	<a href="#">Chess</a>	<a href="#">Gardening</a>	<a href="#">Cinco</a>	<a href="#">Group 8</a>
<a href="#">Book Corner</a>	<a href="#">Cooking:</a>	<a href="#">Golf-9 Hole</a>	<a href="#">Seis</a>	<a href="#">Song SIRs</a>
<a href="#">Book Group</a>	<a href="#">Cooking II</a>	<a href="#">Golf-18 Hole</a>	<a href="#">Siete</a>	<a href="#">Table Pool</a>
<a href="#">Bridge:</a>	<a href="#">Lunch and Wine</a>	<a href="#">Guitar</a>	<a href="#">Ocho</a>	<a href="#">Theater</a>
<a href="#">Beginning/Refresher</a>	<a href="#">Cribbage</a>	<a href="#">Hearts</a>	<a href="#">Nueve</a>	<a href="#">Travel</a>
<a href="#">Couples Duplicate 1</a>	<a href="#">Cycling</a>	<a href="#">Hiking</a>	<a href="#">Diez</a>	<a href="#">Veterans</a>
<a href="#">Couples Duplicate 2</a>	<a href="#">Dining Out</a>	<a href="#">Mexican Train</a>	<a href="#">Photography</a>	<a href="#">Wine Tasting</a>
<a href="#">Couples Party</a>	<a href="#">Couples Dining Out</a>	<a href="#">Dominoes</a>	<a href="#">Pinochle</a>	
<a href="#">Men's Duplicate 1</a>	<a href="#">Explore and Eat</a>	<a href="#">Uno</a>	<a href="#">Poker:</a>	
<a href="#">Men's Duplicate 2</a>	<a href="#">Sushi no Tomodachi</a>	<a href="#">Dos</a>	<a href="#">Group 3</a>	

# SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3	4
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	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
7	8	9	10	11
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00pm–4:00pm AI group Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00am Golf 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #8 4:00pm–7:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2	8:30am Birding Location TBD monthly 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 10:30am–1:30pm Book Corner 11:30am–1:30pm <b>SIR Luncheon</b>	12:00pm–3:00pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi Momoyama, Concord	10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro <b>Noon</b> <b>SIRCall articles due for May!</b>
21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00pm–4:00pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown Walnut Creek Library	9:00am Golf	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 \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1	12:00pm–3:00pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
28	29	30	May 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf 2:30pm–5:00pm Wine Tasting		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



## Travel Glenn Breslin

**GOOD NEWS !!!** Based upon both the SIR Multi-Branch travel questionnaire results and the related member interview input, these travel destinations have been chosen for future SIR Travel. Please let me, **Glenn Breslin**, know if you are interested.

Vietnam/Cambodia (price/price with air)	Australia/New Zealand (price/price with air)	Japan/Korea (price/price with air)
10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495/\$4695)  Angor Wat Post-Trip Included, available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G5-30339	1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295/\$7645)  Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495/\$9095)  Hiroshima Post-Trip available  <a href="#">LINK HERE</a> Group code: G6-30339

### Travel Quotes:

*"There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with"*

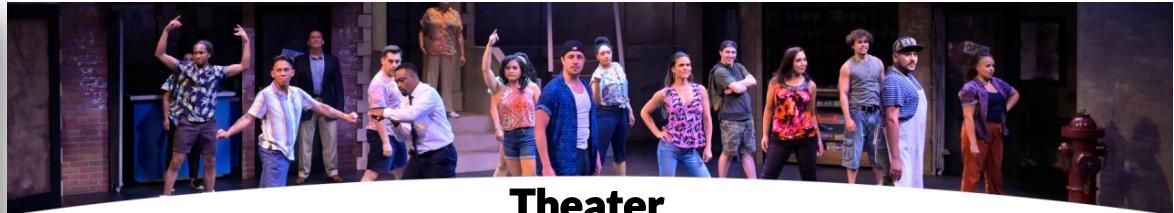
*"You can pack for every occasion, but a good friend will always be the best thing you could bring"*

*"A good friend listens to your adventures. A best friend makes them with you"*

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

.Glenn Breslin  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





## Theater Glenn Breslin

### Save the date

**Note: last month had the wrong date! Save the 19<sup>th</sup>!**

Do not send a check at this time!

Email me with interest, I will inform when to send your check.

#### Bee Gees Tribute Band – You Should be Dancing

- **Date:** Sat July 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm
- **Show:** Bee Gees Tribute Band—You Should Be Dancing is dedicated to faithfully recreating the Bee Gees' iconic sound, while elevating the onstage visual experience.
- **Location:** Lesher Theater
- **Price:** \$58.99 per ticket
- **Limited:** 20 tickets
- **Payment:** Make out your check to SIR146 and send to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549 (when notified)
- **Seat Assignment:** When I return from traveling, I will ask that you pick your seat numbers



- **Optional Dinner:** 5:30pm optional dinner to be announced before the show

Please reach out to me should you have any questions or comments. See contact information below.

I look forward to sharing this SIR-Theater experience with you !!

**Glenn Breslin**  
925.788.6520 [glennbreslin@gmail.com](mailto:glennbreslin@gmail.com)





## Cycling Group Larry Kaye

February 25<sup>th</sup>: The cycling members of SIR Branch 146 met on Tuesday, February 25th at Bark Avenue in Alamo. The ride was a 24-mile round trip to the Tassajara School House on Finley Road in Danville. Our paceman extraordinaire, **Jim Nelson**, led the ride at a solid pace for all that attended to keep up. **Mr. Moose** was sweep to make sure all goes well in the back end of the peloton. The morning fog burned off to yield an outstanding day on our iron horses with warm temperatures and bright sunshine. We rode to "school" and was met with actual school kids in 19<sup>th</sup> century year attire. What a treat!!



The cycling gang took a break. During the break, **Thom Degnan** took a photo of the "school house" riders. On the top row moving from left to right is **Brian Lotter, Jim Nelson,**

**Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Phil Lee, Eric Finson, Elmer Bricca, Pat Hoy** from Branch 8. The other two riders in a semi-crouch position (what are you guys doing) are **Moose Kelly** and **Jim Roland**. After the picture was taken, we mounted our trusty machines and headed to Peet's in Alamo. We met our trusty leader, **Larry Kaye**, for a cup of joe and several belly bombs. All 12 of us sat around the table enjoying the warmth of the sun and solving all the issues in the cycling world. Another ride in the books to help us prepare for our 45-mile ride on May 6<sup>th</sup> to celebrate **Thom Degnan's** BIG birthday. There will be more rides through March and April to help us prepare.

March 4<sup>th</sup>: The SIR Branch 146 Cycling members went out for a ride on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The 24-mile round trip ride started at 55 Joann Court in Walnut Creek, out the Contra Costa Trail to Citrus Ave, on to Oak Grove Road, and then on to Northgate Road for the 1.5 mile climb up to the North Gate Guard Gate to Mt. Diablo State Park. From there we went back through Walnut Creek, down Broadway to Danville Blvd, and then on to Peats for a coffee. After, we rode the 5-miles back to Walnut Creek. It was a cool, brisk morning, with rain tempting throughout the ride, and the hot coffee was very welcome. This ride was led by

**Thom Degnan**, and we took a group picture at the North Gare entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park. The photo is attached with this article, and from left to right is **Bill Holly, Eric Finson, Thom Degnan, Elmer Bricca, Bob Wilkenfeld, Brian Lotter & Jim Rowland**. Thanks to all for joining the ride, and a special thanks to Colleen, the park guard on duty at the guard gate, for taking the group photo.



If you are interest in joining us for a ride, then please reach out to **Larry Kaye** at 925.698.4030. Our rides are a no drop policy where we don't leave anyone behind. During the ride, we occasionally stop to gather the masses, then proceed onward to our goal of having fun and staying healthy through exercise.

March 11<sup>th</sup>: Today saw **Bob Wilkenfeld, Eric Finson, Dave Paulson, Elmer Bricca, Thom Degnan, Brian Lotter** and **Larry Kaye** in attendance. It was cold. We all bundled up and headed out. The wind felt like sharp razors going thru our jackets. "Look for the sun" **Thom** said. Well... it came and went. Finally into Danville we warmed up. Heading into the wind towards Lawrence Road. Upon reaching the turn into Lawrence we were alerted to the fact that **Thom** had a flat. As two brothers stopped with him it appeared to be an easy fix. Seems **Thom** rides a 28" tire. That is not an easy fix. **Elmer** who ran REI bikes mechanics was stymied. The crew waited for the fix and we stayed in contact via cell. After almost a half hour we were alerted to the fact that **Thom** had chosen to head back. His tire was pierced by a 6" nail. The rest of us finished the ride to the end of Lawrence and viewed the vastness of this valley. Up anchor and head home was the mantra. It was late and belly's were screaming. We had headwinds again but fought it back to Alamo.

Continued on the Following Page

## Cycling Group continued from previous page

The troops were greeted by **Thom** and **Elmer** as well as **Brian** who had come back with **Thom** at Peets. Java and treats were enjoyed. Age has no meaning when you're an athlete. Get outdoor. **Larry Kaye**

March 18: Today we saw **Elmer Brica**, **Eric Finson**, **Roger Meyer**, **Dave Paulson**, **Moose Kelly** and **Larry Kaye** do the Blackhawk Loop. A few side jaunts and some hills added to this popular ride making it a bit different. The cool weather at the start slowly became warmer which added to a very enjoyable ride. Java at Peets was a great end to this ride. **Larry Kaye**

**Larry Kaye**  
925.698.430



Piano Man Steve Dinning and Paul Beretz introducing a song.



## SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs sang a program of Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day, performing on March 14 at Ivy Park Retirement Home and on March 15 at Byron

Our next rehearsal is on April 2, 2025 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. Our program will be a



Left to Right at Byron Park: Paul Beretz, Mike Ball, Frank Lucas, Ken Soult, Ron Lew, Brad Hatcher and Leader of the Band Bruce Borgman

mix of summertime and patriotic songs for a June 19 performance at the Kensington Retirement Home in Walnut Creek.

We are always looking for new members, so join us for a fun time and camaraderie. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

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



From Left to Right at Ivy Park: Brad Hatcher, Ken Soult, Mike Ball, Bruce Kimmis, Ron Lew, Frank Lucas, Lynn Shafer

Park. The residents enthusiastically sang along with us. We thank them for their support and we enjoy performing for them. A big thank you to Bruce Borgman for stepping in at the last moment to lead the SongSirs for these two performances.

I accidentally passed my wife a glue stick instead of a chap stick...

She's still not talking to me!



## Bocce John Kendrick

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

Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of May through September. All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 12.

Join us for some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

**John Kendrick**

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



## Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

The course is in the best shape of the year. Why don't you come out and see for yourself. 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](mailto:scubabob.ford@gmail.com)



## Tuesday Golf Ed Marlovits

Tuesday Golf is the SIR Branch 146 Golf Club. We play weekly at Boundary Oak. Joining has a cost of \$80 per year which covers your NCGA membership and provides a recognized golf

handicap. Prize fund participation is an option. Most weeks are stroke play but there are typically monthly team events as well.

In addition to branch golf, members are eligible to participate in numerous SIR State Golf events. This year has nine scheduled State events which are shown in the SIR State Golf website: <https://sirgolf.org>.

**Ed Marlovits**

### Childhood injuries:

- Fell off my bike
- Fell out of a tree
- Twisted my ankle

### Adult Injuries

- Slept wrong
- Sat down too long
- Sneezed to hard



## Veterans Larry Kaye

The Vet group will not meet again until MAYBE June. This will be a fun gathering.

**Larry Kaye**

925.698.4030

[larrykaye2@comcast.net](mailto:larrykaye2@comcast.net)



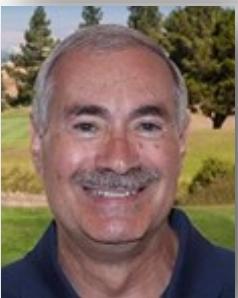
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE  
TO PAINT POTATOES  
THIS EASTER, Y'ALL.





## Hiking

Ray Martz & Bob Wilkenfeld



Our inaugural monthly walk was held on Friday, February 14 with **Mark Curtis, Earl Bates and Bob Wilkenfeld** in attendance. Since there was a small group and all were experienced hikers, we walked a loop on the Contra Costa Canal Trail, and residential streets, from Valley Vista Road to Heather Farms Park and back. Total mileage was 7-miles with negligible elevation. A hydration stop midway at Peet's Coffee replenished our energy.

Las Trampas Wilderness was the location for our hike on February 17. **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld** completed this 4.8-mile hike, with a climb of 1300 feet, in record time and with only "a little" mud on our boots. The weather was overcast, which helped prevent us from overheating, but the unobstructed view from the Las Trampas ridge was amazing — one could see from San Francisco to Mt Diablo and the surrounding area.



Despite gloomy weather and some badly rutted trails, **Cleo Bolen, Eric Finson, Chris Duffek (guest), Bob Lively (and Winny his poodle), Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** had a great outing in the Diablo Foothills on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Our 4.5-mile hike took us over rolling hills for a total climb of 760 feet. We managed to catch our resident photographer, **Cleo** focusing his camera on us!

Castle Rock Regional Park was the venue of our hike on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We ended up hiking 6.7 miles and 1,100 ft elevation gain, due to a miss-calculation by the planner — Yikes! The most memorable moments were watching everyone negotiate the 15-stream crossings along the way — Double Yikes!!!

The Seaview and Vollmer Peak Trails in Tilden Park provided great views on our March 10 outing. **Eric Finson, Chris Duffek, Bob Lively, Ray Martz, Roger May-**

er, and Gene Schulting completed the 5.5-mile hike with a climb of almost 1200 feet. (So much for trusting *All Trails* statistics for planning a hike.)

Though we love the rain, as it means the end of a drought, it also makes for lousy hiking conditions. Thus, our easy, flat walk for the month of March was scuttled. Look for its return in April.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. By popular demand, we will also be hosting a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). The email notifications for each hike and walk will describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests



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

**Ray Martz**  
[rayhvac@gmail.com](mailto:rayhvac@gmail.com)

**Bob Wilkenfeld**  
[Wilkx4@gmail.com](mailto:Wilkx4@gmail.com)





## AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

February and March are usually not good months for fishing in the Bay Area because of the wind and the rain and 2025 has not been an exception.

Our best results, surprisingly, have been with starry flounder in the Delta. The best time to catch this tasty fish is the winter, and 2025 has proven to be an especially good year for them. **Ron Lew** and **Ken Bellendir** made three trips this month and caught lots of flounder, reaching 30 on the best day. **Tom Kostik** caught and released his normal quota of stripers (47, including four keepers) but he also picked up nine flounder. **Mike Corker** fished only for a couple of hours, but he did catch one stripers and one flounder.

Trout fishing was a little better this month. **Stan Wong** made his first trip ever to Los Vaqueros Reservoir, where he caught five trout. He also hauled in a 15 inch black bass and a 20 inch stripers. **Bob Lively** caught lots of big trout (up to five and six pounds) while fishing from his kayak in Contra Loma Reservoir. Unfortunately, however, **Eric Finson** and **Carl Moyer** failed to get a single bite while fishing in Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. And winds of 80 mph stopped **Pedro Contreras** from fishing for cutthroat trout at Pyramid Lake in Nevada.

We are anxiously awaiting the return of halibut to San

Francisco Bay at the end of March, and we are hopeful the bite remains as good as it has been for the last two years. We are also planning for a big trout outing at Lake Almanor in May. In addition, the rockfish season opens on April 1. However, we remain worried about salmon season. We have been unable to fish for salmon in California waters for the past two years and reports of salmon in the ocean or returning to spawn in the rivers have been dismal. There may be a season, but it could be limited to a few weeks.

On the social front, 20 of us celebrated **Gordon Linebaugh's** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the home of **Brion Beetz** on February 26. **Gordon's** birthday is February 15 but, for some strange reason, he preferred to be on a Mexican cruise with his wife on the big day. **Gordon** remains active in the fishing department and is planning to go to British Columbia this summer with three other members of our group to catch some big salmon. But he is being careful. Two of his three companions will be doctors.

Our next breakfast meeting will be on April 24 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway, in Concord. You are welcome to join us, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time. The meetings begin at 8:30 am but come earlier for breakfast (beginning at 7 am) for camaraderie and fish stories.

For further information, please call me at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow



## Table Pool

Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested in joining the fun we meet at Masses at noon. Send me an email if any questions.

Jim Barry  
[jbarry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarry@sbcglobal.net)

A 350 credit score prevents identity theft!

Today I went to the toilet without my phone.

There are 112 tiles in the bathroom.



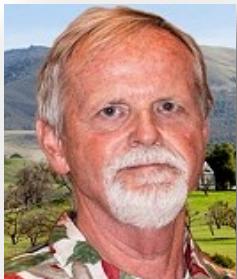
May for the Ladies' Day Luncheon.

## Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in





## Photography Group

### John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members will meet on Friday, April 18th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting will start at 9 AM. All are certainly welcome to attend.

By the time this article reaches you, the March meeting will be over and done with. This meeting was organized by **Mike Rothman** and **Glenn Breslin**. Both these SIR members were responsible for organizing the photoshoot outing at the Berkely Botanical Gardens. Those pictures were displayed in last month's SIRCall. Topics that were discussed at this meeting were:

A YouTube Video that was played on the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden – **Glenn Breslin**

Display of UC Berkely Botanical Garden Pictures – **Mike Rothman**

SIR 146 Google Site for storage and displaying Photos – **Mike Rothman**

Potential photoshoot at the Carnaval in San Francisco on May 24 – 25 – **Phil Lee**

Other random photos that the members want to share – Everyone

March's topic is Landscape Photography organized by **Frank Terzuoli** and **Bob Wilkenfeld**

The following members of the photography group that attended were **Mike Rothman**, **Glenn Breslin**, **Ron Polivka**, **Frank Terzuoli**, **Clint Collier**, **Bill Holly**, **Phil Lee**, and **Henry Thatcher**.

At the March meeting, the photographers will show their top 5 – 7 photos of the various landscape settings that they photographed. The group will upload their photos through the Google sight that **Mike Rothman** has created.

Please review the attached 2025 photography calendar of themes and shooting locations. This calendar has been formulated from last year's feedback of all the photography members. If you are interested in joining us for any particular month, then you can contact me or **Henry Thatcher** for details.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly themes 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 [rollingstone91149@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstone91149@gmail.com)

or

**Henry Thatcher**

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

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## Gardening

### Ken Studer



We meet on the Third Monday of the month at 3:00pm. Our March meeting was attended by 8 rain-soaked gardeners: **Bob West**, **Jane West**, **Tom Stucker**, **Eric Finson**, **Mike Kimsal**, **Bob Lucido** and **Bev Collier**. We met at **Bev's** beautiful home and garden. Our meeting format is to learn about a new topic each time for the first hour and then apply what we learned in the garden.



Our topic for March was "Soil Science". We were introduced to things like soil structure, soil composition, NPK attributes and deficiencies, and Exudates. Soil is science and chemistry and much more. The soil food web is the interesting part with microbes and fungi leading the way.

Our April meeting will be about vegetables, their propagation, soil prep, hardening off, planting and maintaining. With all the tomato plant sales going on in April this will be a fun meeting.

We welcome newcomers and their wives or significant others as well. Send me an email and I will add you to the list of members.

**Ken Studer**

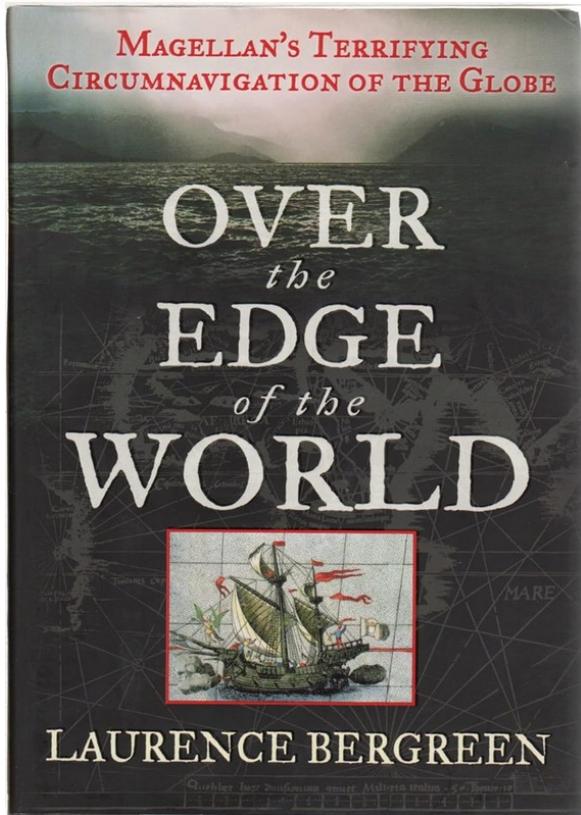
925.963.2536 [kllstruer1161@gmail.com](mailto:kllstruer1161@gmail.com)



## Book Group

### Nick Jabuka

The SIR 146 Book group held its February meeting at Panera Bread to discuss this month's book 'Over the Edge of the World' by Laurence Bergreen, and to catch up on SIR



news and what group members were up to. Our book was an exciting tale of adventure, intrigue, interaction with various native cultures, and detail of the motivations and depravations of the first crew to circumnavigate the globe some five-hundred years ago.

The book chronicles the earlier life and accomplishments of Ferdinand Magellan, a loyal Portuguese soldier, and his attempts to obtain backing from the Portuguese king to lead an expedition to navigate to the Spice Islands (Moluccas) by going West to the Americas and finding an opening (straits) to the Pacific. The Spice Islands were a source of spices, including cloves, nutmeg, and mace. New to Europe, these spices were fabulously expensive, more valuable than gold.

Control of the Islands was a prize both the Spanish and Portuguese sought. Magellan attempted to convince the Portuguese king, Manuel, but to no avail, and he turned instead to the Spanish crown for backing. The

book compiled many diaries and other historical documents from the period. It weaves a fascinating tale of Magellan's Armada and its route to the spice islands, interactions with indigenous tribes in South American and the Pacific Islands, and the political machinations going on between the competing Portuguese and Spanish powers.

Magellan was a man of many contradictions. Courageous, ambitious, tenacious, cunning, and heroic, yet at times foolish and unyielding. Due to bad luck and overly harsh interactions with the crew, he was confronted by several mutinies, both tremendous and small. He managed to survive them all, only to die in the Philippines after getting needlessly involved in local tribal fighting. The author also paints a harsh picture of the starvation, disease, and torture suffered by the crew due to poor nutrition, living conditions, and battles for leadership of the enterprise, which dogged it from the beginning of the trip. The expedition of 5 ships with approximately 270 crew members left Seville in September 1519. Some three years later, only one ship returned with 18 starving and emaciated men.

While Magellan did not survive the trip, in addition to circumnavigating the globe, the expedition was partially responsible for dispelling many reigning myths about "mermaids, boiling water at the equator, sea serpents and powerful magnetic islands." It also provided the first clear understanding of the Pacific Ocean's width and immensity and the position and complexities of the southern route around the Americas.

#### Recommendation

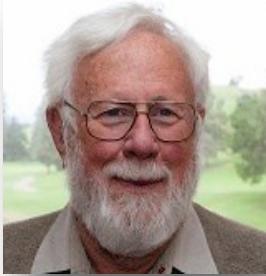
Our group highly recommends this book. It should be a good read and educational to anyone interested in the ocean, exploration, history, or anthropology.

Next month's book is *The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich. It is a story of the rural Red River Valley of North Dakota. This book intertwines themes of community struggles, love, environmental issues, and personal redemption.

**Nick Jabuka, Chair -- Mike Rothman, Editor**  
925.639.0384 [njabuka@yahoo.com](mailto:njabuka@yahoo.com)

I started a company where you can borrow hunting dogs for the afternoon and return them afterwards.

What are you calling it?  
We Lease the Hounds.



## 寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

**Clint Collier**

The overall consensus seems to be that Tanoshi was one of the better sushi restaurants we have visited. Modern, clean décor, great selection of sushi and reasonably priced. Put a smile on everyone's face for our group picture!



Taking care of business, there seemed to be a feeling that we should expand our forays into the world of sushi to include our significant others a bit more. So... alert that special person... at the June meeting we'll be inviting everyone to bring a guest.

In the mean time, our April outing will be to try Sushi Momoyama in Concord (1800 Monument) on April 17<sup>th</sup> if we still have any money left after paying our taxes. Confirmation and RSVP notice will go out around the first of the month. If you aren't registered, contact activity leader **Clint** as listed below to be added.

**Clint Collier**

925.457.1489 [SirClint@the-colliers.org](mailto:SirClint@the-colliers.org)

I'm aging, like a fine banana!



## Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met for lunch in March at the home of **Dennis Hallett**. Everyone arrived with a bottle of wine anticipating **Dennis's** home cooked meal. He did not disappoint

The following menu was enjoyed by all:

Appetizers:

A selection of various cheeses, fruits and crackers including prosciutto wrapped mozzarella.

Entree:

Strawberry, mango and dried cranberry salad, Mexican chicken lasagna.

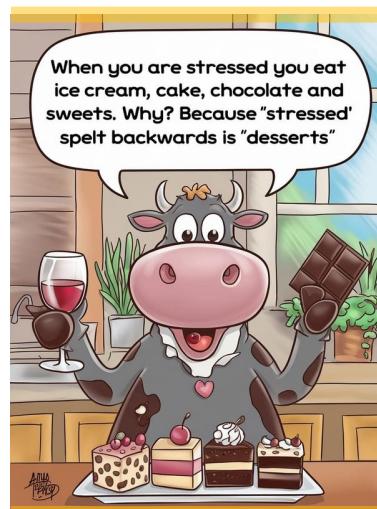
Dessert:

New York style Cheesecake. Fruit, Coffee and chocolate mints.



The group had a lively discussion regarding the current rapidly evolving national economy. **Ken Richter** was cruising and unable to attend. The group will next meet in April, at the home of **Richard Hockenbrock**.

**Steve Ybarra**  
[siybar@gmail.com](mailto:siybar@gmail.com)





## Wine Tasting

Wine enthusiasts, please note that we have changed the date. Normally it is the fourth Tuesday, but for the next wine tasting the date will be April 29<sup>th</sup>, the fifth Tuesday. The wine tasting will be at the home of **Bob and Jane West**. It will

begin at 2:30pm and go until 5:00pm.

The varietals for April are: Red—any red blend, White—Sauvignon Blanc. A blend is two or more varietals. It can be a Rhone blend like a GSM which is Grenache, Syrah and Mourvèdre. It can be a Bordeaux blend which is two or more of the following: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot or Malbec. You can also have a Cabernet Sauvignon/Syrah blend which is a Rhone and a Bordeaux blend. Another popular blend is a Super Tuscan which is Cabernet and Sangiovese. There are even Zinfandel blends. There are many other possibilities out there so have fun selecting your wine for the April tasting.

RSVP by emailing us at [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com) or calling me at 925.324.2463.

**Brian McCarthy**

925.324.2463 [br146winetasting@gmail.com](mailto:br146winetasting@gmail.com)

### How To APPRECIATE WINE



## Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

Under the format that we adopted at the end of last year, the monthly host will either cook lunch at his home or host us at a restaurant of his choice.

This month's host was **Henry Thatcher**. Henry is having knee surgery in March and so he has decided to forego cooking for awhile and instead we met at the Growler Pub, a relatively new facility just south of downtown Danville. All seven of our existing members attended and we welcomed our newest member, **Mark Raaberg**, who fit right in with our attempts to solve world problems.



As all of you know, our usual moniker is LAW Group, and that acronym stands for Lunch and Wine. However, after we were seated, the server asked if we wanted to see the breakfast menu and five of us answered affirmatively. Those of us who decided to stick with lunch ordered beer as their libation. And so, at least for the month of February, we might be known as the BAB Group.

And while we babbled, our spouses enjoyed a very nice meal just a few blocks away at Bridges Restaurant in downtown Danville. You might recall that a scene in the movie *Mrs. Doubtfire* was filmed there a few years ago. The restaurant has been extensively remodeled since then, but the food is still good.

Our March luncheon will be at the home of **Clint Collier** and we are looking forward to it. The ladies are scheduled to meet at Massimo's in Walnut Creek.

**Pete Gates**

925.586.2321 [petegates10@gmail.com](mailto:petegates10@gmail.com)



## Couples Dining Out

### Bruce Borgman

As we indicated in the last issue of the SIRCall, we were actively looking for a restaurant for our March Dining Out event. I can tell you now that we decided to return to one of our top choices of culinary destinations – Luna’s Restaurant in Concord, where we dined in January of 2024. We’ve gotten to know the chef/owner Habib Jacifi over the last few months since he also reigns over another favorite destination – Fiore’s, also in Concord. These restaurants are well known by many of our membership and your hosts have eaten at both restaurants several times. The reviews in Trip Advisor and Yelp describe this restaurant as elegant, romantic and upscale. It is located a stone’s throw from Todos Santos Plaza in Concord, just off Willow Pass Road on a side street.

It is always easy to negotiate a menu and price with Habib and this time was no exception. We were able to add a tasty appetizer – the Olive Pesto dip, as well as a selection of main dishes as entrees. One of Habib’s specialties is soups – and so we have this as one of our menu items, with the Caesar salad as another option. The four entrees include Chicken Marsala, Gamberi, Lasagna, and their signature Short Ribs. We publicized the March restaurant selection at the end of February and true to form, we were sold out in a bit over 24 hours. We had decided to give our new SIR members a bit of a head start by sending out our announcement to members who joined in the last year a few days before the general notice – and two decided to join us!

The total cost of this month’s restaurant choice is \$56, including tax and tip. Because this restaurant is a relatively small neighborhood establishment, we initially limited the number to 46. We quickly reached that number and actually wound up with three couples on the waiting list. We went back to Habib and he expanded our allocation of the restaurant space to include the wait list as well.

As additional incentive, Habib offered his house wine at \$8 a glass, and a bottle for just \$28. The corkage for those wishing to bring a selection from their wine cellar is just \$15 – reduced from the usual \$20. Parking is convenient in front of the restaurant or the nearby small lot.

This Couples Dining Out event will undoubtedly be one of our notable selections. If you missed out on this month’s event, remember that it is a popular SIR activity and is usually booked up soon after the announcement is made. If you wish to be added to our mail list, let me know. If you missed out on the March Dining Out event, don’t despair. Our next one will be in May.

We are looking forward to seeing our friends and making new ones at Luna’s on March 31!!

Bruce Borgman  
Dining Out Host  
[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)

**SOLD OUT**



# MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

## Group Uno 1



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Eleven of our twelve members played Mexican Train on Friday, March 14th. Unfortunately, **Peter Plante** came home from travels in South America with a bad cold. **Peter's** wife, **Martha**, represented the couple and it was a good thing, as she took home the big \$\$\$! The group had two tables. At the black table, the men placed in the top three. For some reason, it seems that the women of the group are in the top three, but this evening was different. **Martha** was the only female to place, with 2nd place going to host **Richard Hockenbrock**, and third place going to **Bruce Borgman**. We enjoyed lots of appetizers provided by **Richard** and a yummy carrot cake at our half time break. We look forward to our game night in April at **Martha** and **Peter Plante's** home.



Corrie Oranje  
[corrieorange@gmail.com](mailto:corrieorange@gmail.com)

What do you call a sad cup of coffee?

Depresso

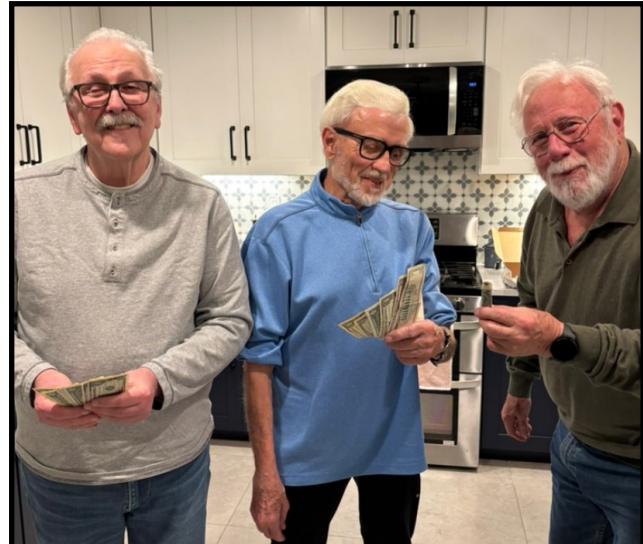
## Group Dos 2



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the home of **Dan and Mary Holland** in February. We had one player missing due to (of all things) WORK! So, we played with one table of 5 and one of 6. Everyone enjoyed the many snacks **Mary** supplied. She had the largest grapes I've ever seen as one option. **Dan** promised homemade puffed pastry but failed to deliver...he's promising they will be there when the **Hollands** host again. **Loren DeLaurenti** came in first once again...we'll have to keep our eyes on him! There was a tight battle for second with **Dan Holland's** 17.0 average beating out **Clint Collier's** 17.4. Our next game is scheduled for Friday, March 28th at the home of **Kirk and Nancy McVean**.

Ron Plachy  
925.286.4552 [rjplachy@icloud.com](mailto:rjplachy@icloud.com)



I asked my friend to spell wonton backwards  
He said not now.



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Tres” Walt Busenius

We met on Friday afternoon, February 28<sup>th</sup> after the good ole SIRCall went to press. Our Friday special huffed and puffed its way to Clayton near the open space to the lovely home of **Joyce Wells** and **Jim Barry**. Gathered around the tables were **Sally** and **Lynn Shafer**, **Linda** and **Larry Brown**, **Judy Richmond**, **Sharon Varner**, **Alicia Baily** and **Carla** and **Lew Thompson**. The **Wells/Barry** duo are gracious hosts who spoiled us with table treats and very delicious half-time fare.

Playing at a high level, **Linda Brown** won 1st Place and bragging rights until next month. Bravo to **Linda** for being in the money the last two months. **Carla Thompson** came in 2nd place showing her excellent MTD skills. **Judy Richmond** continues to have her guns blazing and captured 3rd place again this month. It was competitive and the first time at least 11 players were

available for game day in a long time.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, said their goodbyes, boarded the ole Mexican Train and followed the sunset home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at the home of **Sharon Varner**. All Aboard!!.

**Walt Busenius**

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



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cuatro” Jim Pope

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the El Quattro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 11 players.

In attendance this evening were: **Henry and Barbara Thatcher**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Rich and Kim Pace**, **Steve and Susan Oki**, **Scott MacDougall**, and **Jim and Renie Pope**.

The group enjoyed MTD while consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members. We played at two tables of 5 and 6. We paid the player at each table with low table scores, 5 or 6 California Scratchers Lotto tickets. The tables with the two low score winners were: **Steven Oki** and **Susan Oki**. There were two table high scoring players: **Fran Matthews** and **Henry Thatcher** were awarded one Lotto ticket each. (see in pictures).

The El Quattro MTD group will meet next on March 21<sup>st</sup> and the April meeting will be on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Jim Pope**

[jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net)

Photos by Jim Pope





## Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

We enjoyed full attendance at our host's **Pattie and Doug Eisner's** home on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2025. It was great to have everyone participating and catching up on all the news.

The evening started with wine and soft drinks, then moved to the Men and Ladies respective tables, where a selection of sweets and goodies were available to all. The Men had prevailed during the previous two games, but dark clouds were on the horizon!!

After six games, **Anne Burk** and **Ann Hallett** secured first and second places with scores of 75 and 78 respectively. **Jim Baldridge** came third, with a score of 88, to avoid a clean sweep by the Ladies.

An inquest, following the men's performance, revealed an overindulgence in snacking and too many wine glass refills. This, combined with the large portions of Apple



Pie and Vanilla Ice Cream, served midway through the evening, proved too much of a distraction.

The Men retired to develop new tactics to redeem their honor for the next game, which will be hosted by **Janet and Bob Yolland** on Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dennis Hallett

[dennishallett@astound.net](mailto:dennishallett@astound.net)



## Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

January gathering. After an 8-week layoff due to the holidays, MTD-6 was glad to get back together on January

22<sup>nd</sup> **Peter and Martha Plante** were our gracious hosts.

The tables were peopled by **Mary McCarthy**, **Peter Plante**, **Steve Lane**, **John “Moose” Kelly**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **John Kendrick** and **Carol Lane**, **Mary Schmidt**, **Martha Plante**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Brian McCarty**, and **Kathe Mitchell**.

After some scoring rework, 8 weeks off really messed us up, **John Kendrick** won it all (14.6) with **Mary Schmidt** second (22.3) and third **Kathe Mitchell** (23).

The less fortunate choose to identify themselves with the universal loser sign in our group picture.

In February - MDT-6 gathered at **Kathe Mitchell's** home. Lots of travel last month, so we went with a single table of seven players. **John Kendrick**, **Rich Ahlf**, **Richard Hockenbrock**, **Steve Lane**, **Moose Kelly**, and **Ismini Maclean**.

**Kathe Mitchell** won it all (15) with **Rich Ahlf** second (18.1) and third **Moose Kelly** (22.6).

MTD-6's March get together will be at **Richard Hockenbrock's** home on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Steve Lane

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



## Group Siete



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

The air was filled with anticipation and excitement as the ladies of MTD 7 gathered together to celebrate Valentine's Day in style. Adorned in stunning shades of red, each woman radiated joy and camaraderie, transforming the room into a sea of vibrant hues.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> Brian & Mary McCarthy hosted our MTD 7 event.

Bev Collier took first place, Clint Collier placed second, and Judy Wilkenfeld came in third.

**Bob Lucido**

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



MTD 7 Valentines Day Ladies



February 12th MTD7 Winners (L to R): July Wilkenfeld 3rd, Clint Collier 2nd and Bev Collier 1st.

## Group Nueve



### Mexican Train Dominoes "Neuve" Bob Lucido

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Brian & Mary McCarthy hosted our MTD 9 event.

Bob Wilkenfeld took first place, Brian McCarthy placed second, and Bob Lucido came in third

**Bob Lucido**

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



If fat people go swimming in the nude is it still skinny dipping?



# CARD GAMES

## ...we play



### Men's Hearts

#### Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The big winners were **Steve Ybarra** and **Jim Passaglia** with 3 wins. **Dave Smith** had 4 2nd place finishes and **Ron Polivka** had 3. The lowest average scorer was **Steve Ybarra** with 41 and **Bob Finlayson** with 47. **Steve Ybarra** had 2 STM's.

**YTD:** **Steve Ybarra** and **Brian McCarthy** are tied with the most wins at 6. **Steve Ybarra** has the highest winning percentage of active players at 63% followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 50% and **Bob Finlayson** and **Frank Lucas** with 38%. **Brian McCarthy** is most improved, his 2025 win rate of 50% is 192% higher than in 2024. **Steve Ybarra** is second with 173%.

**Future Meetings:** We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

[robertawest@aol.com](mailto:robertawest@aol.com) and [sjybar@gmail.com](mailto:sjybar@gmail.com)

Have you ever tried eating a clock?

It's really time consuming,  
especially if you go for seconds.

### Couples Party Bridge

#### Tony Greco

**Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** hosted our March 4th event. **Steve** and **Sue Loftin** subbed for **Larry** and **Linda Brown**. It's good to have reliable subs that are available often.

**Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** got off to a quick start in Round 1 and jumped into 1st place with 1180 points by bidding and making 2 games and setting their opponents' game attempt. They maintained their 1st place standing throughout the rest of the event. Congratulations.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 4430 points  
**Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**
- 2nd PLACE with 3660 points  
**John** and **Kathy Kluesener**
- 3rd PLACE with 2560 points  
**Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher**

Our next event will be held on April 1st (no fooling!) and hosted by **John** and **Kathy Kluesener**. Anything can happen on April Fools day. Stay tuned!

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





## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

The group gathered on February 19<sup>th</sup> for a night of cards and comradery hosted by **Janet** and **Bob Yolland**. We were treated to an excellent fare of sweet and salty snacks, fine wines and bubbly sodas as we tried to outbid one another. Results for the evening were **Nora** and **Mike Davidson** taking third place with a score of 20.5, **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini** in second with 22 points and **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** earning the big money with 26 points. At the end of the evening **Bob Yolland** announced that he and **Janet** would no longer be participating in the couples bridge. Sad news as **Bob** was one of the founding fathers of the concept of couples duplicate bridge for the Branch. He managed the group for many years and he and **Janet** will be sorely missed by the group.

**John Kluesener**  
[john@klueseners.com](mailto:john@klueseners.com)

Operator: 911, what's your emergency?  
Man: A guy just got hit by a car,  
I need an ambulance.  
Operator: What's your location?  
Man: I'm on Eucalyptus Street.  
Operator: can you spell that for me?  
Man: (long awkward pause)  
Operator: Sir? Are you there?  
Man: I'm gonna drag him over to Pine  
Street and call right back.



## Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

As usual we will Zoom with SIR Branch 128 (San Ramon) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 PM.

Chair **Tom Henry** Branch 174  
[tomhenry925@gmail.com](mailto:tomhenry925@gmail.com)  
Co-chair **Dave Sutton** Branch 8  
[davesutn@comcast.net](mailto:davesutn@comcast.net)

I sleep better naked.  
Why can't the flight attendant understand this?





## Party Bridge

**Jim Pope and Jim Stedman**

Bill Schaaf was the host for our March game. He did a marvelous job to create good ambience and good snacks. The players were: **Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hingle, Bud Pearce, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.**

The high scorers were host **Bill Schaaf** with 6,230 points, **Joe Fuchs** with 5,940 points and **Ray Spears** with 5,830 points.

The next game will be at the home of **Dick DeVoe** on Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Let me know if you would like to play.

Co-Directors

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



## Poker Group 4

**Mark Sorum**

Poker Group #4 gathered at the home of **Bruce Kimmis** for their game which happened to fall on St Patrick's Day. We had a couple of late scratches but still fielded 5 wild and crazy players. Those that missed it, missed out on a scrumptious assortment of goodies and snacks including a Cherry/something pie. Wine and other potables were offered.

We played a lot of different games, many of which were "Split-the-pot". As a reminder, you don't ever want to come in second. It gets expensive when you loose with hands of "Four of a kind" and a "Full house". One pot was split four ways due to ties for high and low hands.

Bottom line, we all had our moments and it turned out that the kitty was pretty evenly distributed at the end of the day.

**Pete Gates** will host the April game on the 21<sup>st</sup>

**Mark Sorum**



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Brad Hatcher**

Our usual first Thursday game was delightfully hosted by **"Melo" Piccolo**. His selection of Italian and Spanish snacks and beverages disappeared rather quickly during our game.

**Ray Bland** substituted for **Rich Ahlf**. He and **Melo**, sitting next to each other at one end of the table, somehow managed to tip the table and ended up with the majority of the chips at game end.

We look forward to our April game which will be hosted by **Steve Ybarra**

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



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

Spring was in the air as we were welcomed by **Dick and Christy DeVoe** on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The guac was green and hopes for a slam were newly blooming.

Were any slams bid? On Board 3, **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** bid six spades and made it! Wowza! 980. They deserved a top. Did they get a top? Would you believe that **Tony and Cindy Greco** doubled a contract of four clubs by a couple who shall remain nameless, set them five, and thus scored 1100. No justice for **Brad and Lynne**.

There was an irony on Board 19. One couple courageously bid six hearts but went down two. **Margot Somerville** and her friend **Marilyn** cautiously stopped at four and made six (for a top).

At the end of the evening, **Dave and Joan Pierce** were third (but with only 48%), **Tony and Cindy** were second (59%), and hosts **Dick and Christy** were first (69%). Many thanks to **Margot** and **Marilyn**, and **Max** and **Ardith Hinkle**, for filling out the field. We enjoyed their company and are grateful for their presence.

**Dave Pierce**

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



## Pinochle

**Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson**

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925-938-7016, or myself at 925-858-9666. Our next two events are planned for Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm on 6/26/24, and 7/10/24.

**Pete McNeill**

925.858.9666 [petamole@gmail.com](mailto:petamole@gmail.com)

**Stan Johnson**

925.938.7016 [stan.johnson88@gmail.com](mailto:stan.johnson88@gmail.com)



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 event on Friday, March 7 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Rich Ahlf**.

**Max Hinkle** earned 1st Place with 43.5 points. Congratulations, **Max**.

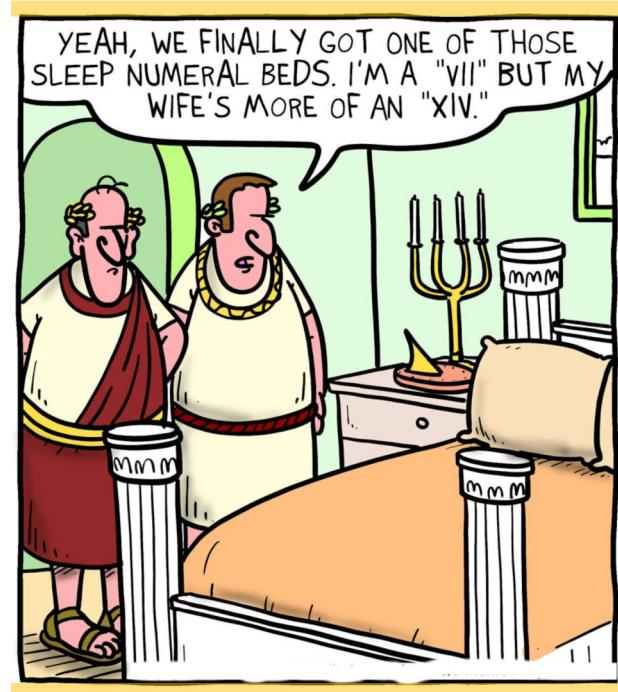
**Tony Greco** was only 0.5 points behind for 2nd Place with 43.0 points.

**Rich Ahlf** was 3rd with 41.0 points.

**Bill Schaaf** was 4th with 40.0 points.

**Dick DeVoe**

[dicknchristy@comcast.net](mailto:dicknchristy@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!

# Parting Shot

21st Century wants...

"I don't want to connect my coffee machine to the Wifi network. I don't want to share the file with OneDrive. I don't want to download an app to check my car's fluid levels. I don't want to scan a QR code to view the restaurant menu. I don't want to let Google know my location before showing me the search results.

I don't want to include a Teams link on the calendar invite. I don't want to pay 50 different monthly subscription fees for all my software. I don't want to upgrade to TurboTax platinum plus audit protection. I don't want to install the Webex plugin to join the meeting. I don't want to share my car's braking data with the actuaries at State Farm.

I don't want to text with your AI chatbot. I don't want to download the Instagram app to look at your picture. I don't want to type in my email address to view the content on your company's website. I don't want text messages with promo codes. I don't want to leave your company a five-star Google review in exchange for the chance to win a \$20 Starbucks gift card.

I don't want to join your exclusive community in the metaverse. I don't want AI to help me write my comments on LinkedIn. I don't even want to be on LinkedIn in the first place.

I just want to pay for a product one time (and only one time), know that it's going to work flawlessly, press 0 to speak to an operator if I need help, and otherwise be left alone and treated with some small measure of human dignity, if that's not too much to ask anymore."

~ Robert Sterling