



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA



June—July 2024



Big Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Well, we are halfway through the year and our goal of adding 25 new members is going strong. We have added 26! Unfortunately, we lost 15 due to deaths, relocations, and other

commitments, so our count has gone from 249 to 261. As you may know we have an obligation to support the State SIR to the tune of \$2.50 per person per quarter. The majority of this (70%) goes for insurance to cover potential costs for the various branches should a suit be filed. Last August the State SIR team fixed our cost based on the then membership of 249. This base fee of \$2.50 x 249 remains the same for each quarter of 2024. They did this to encourage the Branches to focus on increasing membership. So, our treasurer retains anything we receive in dues for members over the 249 base. At the start of this year there were about 8,000 members in the State SIR organization. That compares to 25,000 or so at a peak several years ago. The population of retired men is increasing but the membership in SIR is decreasing. Health data shows that men (and women) engaged in activities, fellowship and mind stimulating games live longer and are generally happier than those who retire into themselves. So, invite a friend, neighbor or someone you meet to one of our activities so they get a feel for the opportunities they can explore with new friends in retirement!

We, Branches 8, 116 and 146, are working with Boundary Oak to resolve some of our issues regarding the luncheons. In June we added the Chicken Caesar Salad to replace the straight meat meal. In July we will have a fish-based salad. Something like half of the SIR members selected the salad in June. There were some concerns because we had a salad for starters and then a salad for lunch. Some thought there was not enough chicken, others thought it was fine. A few felt that Chicken Caesar should cost less than \$36. Boundary Oak is trying to respond to our concerns regarding the

quality, quantity, and timing of the food service. The salads are one of the attempts to test various options. I will put cards on each table next month for comments, positive and negative, so we can get real-time feedback to the Boundary Oak staff. Let's give change a chance! On the issue of cost, you should know that we rent space from Boundary Oak for our morning meeting, for storage of some of our gear and for space for after lunch meetings to go over the cost/revenue issues for the lunch and to indoctrinate new members. BO has also generously offered us space for meetings between luncheons when necessary. All these costs are included in what we need to charge for a lunch.

We are in need of a few good men! Officer positions and directorships will be opening up soon for 2025. We need energetic men with new ideas to help us retain and grow the organization. Men are retiring at a younger age today and have different interests so we need to know and understand their needs and interests. Your BEC leadership team meets every second Thursday at 9am in the room to the right as you enter the building. Come and see how and what we are doing and give us your insights as to how we can improve the organization.

John Kluesener
Big Sir, Branch 146

Luncheon **Thursday, July 11th, 2024** **Boundary Oak 11:30**

Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings
(two retired SFPD Homicide Inspectors)

A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entree
go to page 3. (click this box)



Little Sir's Corner Bob Ford

Hello everyone. Our speakers in June are Frank Falzon and Duffy Jennings, two retired SFPD Homicide Inspectors. In August Fernando Ramirez from the CA Department of Water Resources will join us. In September we will have a speaker from PG&E but we are still working on who it will be. I hope to see you all in July.

Bob Ford

Little Sir, Branch 146

2024 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 3rd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Mark Curtis
Director 2nd Term	Randy Graham
Director 1st Term	John Alexander
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 1st Term	Don Rhoads

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Paul Beretz
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

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

Coming events...

- [Explore and Eat: Oxbow](#) Page 23
- [Bocce's back in action](#) Page 17
- [SIR Sushi](#) Page 24
- [Wine Tasting](#) Page 24
- [Couples Dining Out](#) Page 31
- [Fleet Week](#) Page 36

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

In July's meeting, we are introducing another luncheon-sized salad instead of one of the luncheon entrees. This month we will replace the fish entree with a **Lemon and Herb Salmon**

Salad. This will continue on through August as an experiment for lighter fare being available for the membership for lunch. If it is popular, we may consider doing this more often or reserve it for certain times of the year. Please note that July 5th at noon is the last time to reserve for the luncheon since it is just after the holiday. Please get your reservations in early so we ensure you are able to make the luncheon.

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 cannot guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want. If you have to cancel your reservation after the due date and time, please let us know as soon as possible. If you let us know before Boundary Oak has our final numbers, we do not waste food orders and there will not be a cost to you.

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. Be sure to include your menu choice!

All reservations will 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: Thursday, July 11th, 2024

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 this easy for you to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, July 5th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

Reservations are acknowledged by return email.

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 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, July 5th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to 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.

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.

Luncheon Menus on next page

Pictures from the June meeting are, unfortunately, not yet available.
Look for them in the July/August edition.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 July Luncheon
Thursday, July 11th, 2024

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Golden Raisins, Candied Pecans, Feta,
Poppy Seed Dressing

Entrées

Herb Roasted Chicken

Herb Marinated and Roasted Chicken Breast, Smashed
Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable, Creamy Dill Sauce

—or—

Lemon and Herb Salmon Salad

Citrus Marinated Salmon, Mesclun Greens, Spinach,
Grape Tomatoes and Shaved Carrots,
Poppy Seed Dressing

—or—

Vegetarian

Balsamic Marinated Stuffed Mushroom

Balsamic Marinated and Grilled Portobello Mushroom
filled with Warm Quinoa Salad, Seasonal Vegetables,
Balsamic Glaze.

Dessert

Banana Cream Pie

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.

**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE
AUGUST
LUNCHEON
ON YOUR
CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 August Luncheon
Thursday, August 8th, 2024

Salad

Spinach, Blue Cheese, Mandarins, Candied Walnuts,
Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrées

Sunburst Salad

Grilled Chicken Breast, Mesclun Greens, Mandarin Or-
anges, Berries, Blue Cheese, Poppy Seed Dressing

—or—

Breaded Filet of Sole

Breaded and Fried Filet of Sole, Herbed Rice Pilaf, Sea-
sonal Vegetables, Zesty Tartar Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Asiago Stuffed Gnocchi

Asiago Stuffed Potato Gnocchi, Seasonal Vegetables,
Creamy Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Key Lime Pie

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.

JULY MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Terry Carlin	2019	5
Ken Soult	2018	6
Ken Studer	2018	6
Bob Wilkenfeld	2018	6
Ron Lew	2017	7
John Fitzgerald	2016	8
Steve Dinning	2015	9
Dick Firth	2015	9
John Elstead	2014	10
George Carpenter	2012	12
Brad Hatcher	2012	12
Robert Storkan	2010	14
Dennis Dale	2009	15
Bill Holly	2008	16
Pete Bishop	2007	17
Hugh Ferguson	2007	17
Bob Burley	2001	23
Joe Lamanna	1999	25



Sunshine

Brian McCarthy

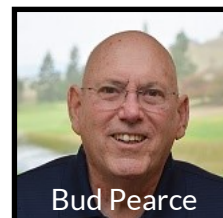


Let us keep the pictured SIR members in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

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



Bill Hartman



Bud Pearce

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

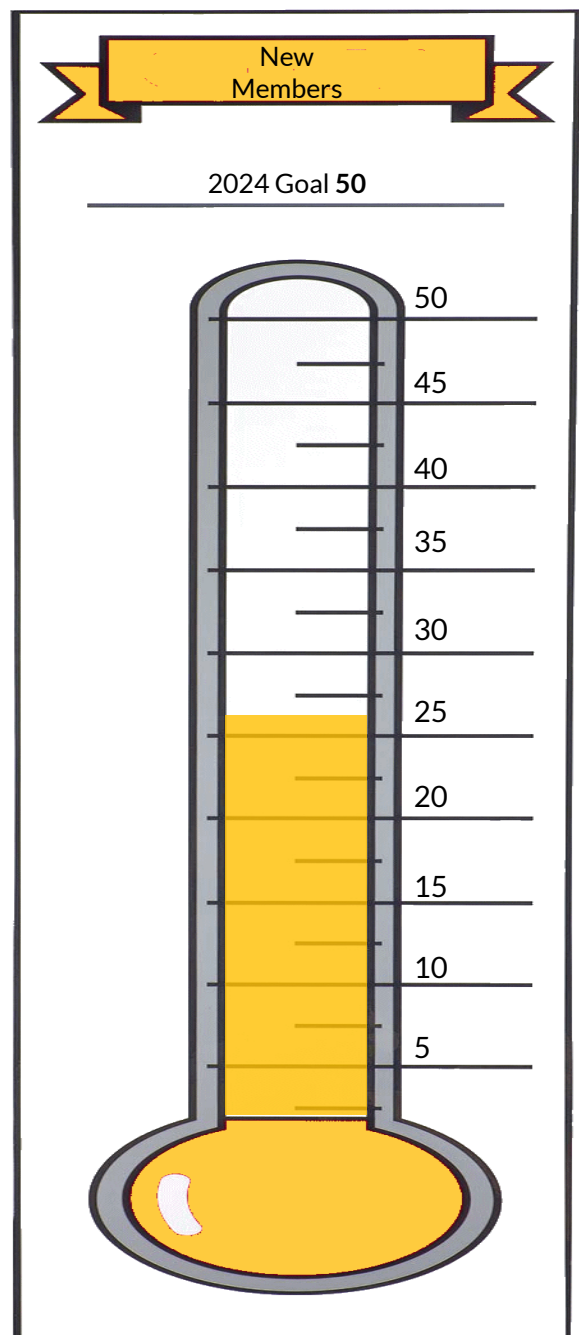
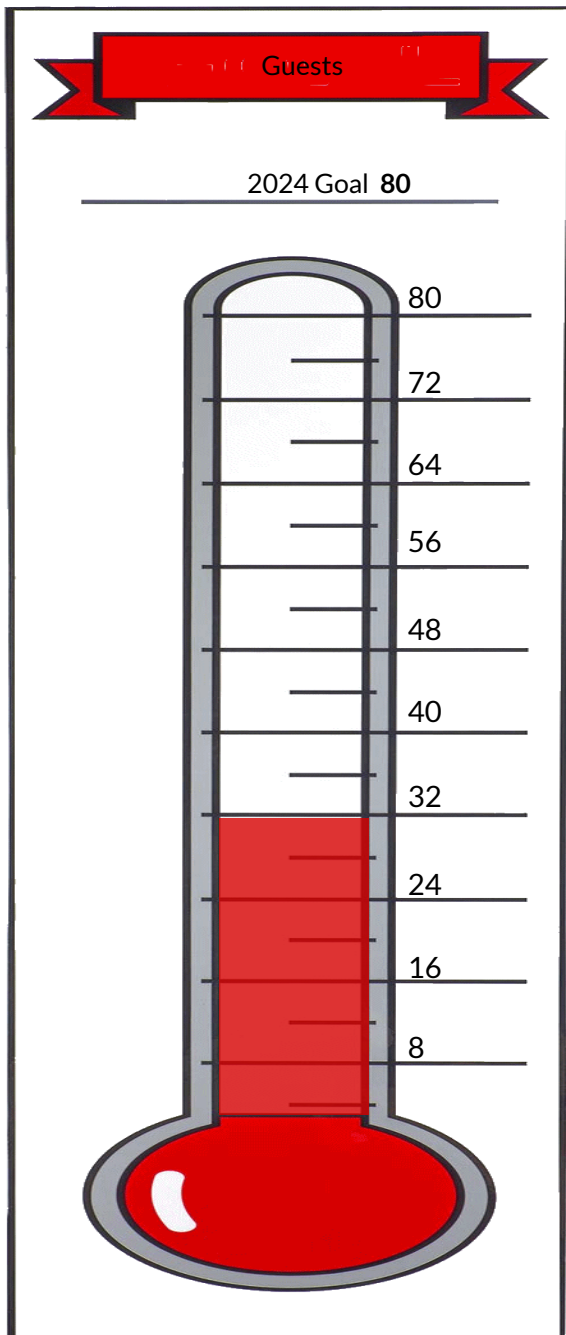
Ron Afdal	Edward Marlovits
John Alexander	Jim Nelson
Don Arington	Steve Sprague
Terry Carlin	Calvin Tucker
Salvatore Costanza	John Wilson
Bob Ford	Doug Hansen
Reginald Fromm	Jim Saller
Joe Fuchs	Fletcher Tyler
Pete Gates	Glenn Breslin
John Harrington	Roger Stephens
Craig Kauffman	Earl Bates
Steve Lane	Ck Leung



Membership starts with



You are the key to new members to keep SIR vibrant





Membership George Mon

One new member was approved for membership in June.

Robert “Bob” Campbell lives in Concord with his wife **Kim**. He was an Accountant for Contra Costa County. He is interested in Couples Dining Out, Poker and

Travel to mention a few. **Bob** is sponsored by **Steve Ybarra**.

It is important 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 have a goal to invite at least 50 guests to our luncheons for this year. We would like to encourage them to become members. So, when you see them at the lunch-

eon, reach out and voice the good things about being a SIR.

The current membership count is 261.

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

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



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

Article submitters... we need your help. First, when submitting an article with pictures, please submit the articles and pictures together. We get literally a hundred or so e-mails each

monthly cycle and we need everything necessary to put your article together in one e-mail. Also, please DO NOT send us PDF files We need you to submit it in

- MS Word
- Google Docs
- Corel Word Perfect
- Rich Text
- Plain text
- E-Mail message
- Text message

The reason for this is that we need to copy and paste your input into MS Publisher in order to format it to the SIRCall standards: fonts, justification, font size, picture size and format, and so on.

Last month we added a new feature; “Coming Events” on the first page along with our Big Sir’s report. It seems to have been well received but, unfortunately when Big Sir waxes eloquently, there is little room left on that front page. So, if you haven’t found it already, this feature has moved to page 2 for now.

Last submission date for the next issue will be July 18th. And, don’t forget, if you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRC-all@gmail.com, put “Member Note” in the subject line

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall

925.457.1489 br146SIRC-all@gmail.com

SIRCall Newsletter Group

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Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

NOTES

from Our Members

Contra Costa Fire Station #7 to the rescue!

Richard Hockenbrock

Many of you may have experienced the same problem I had recently. I never gave it much thought before, then again, I never thought I was too old to climb a ladder. We all have smoke alarms in our homes, and we are used to those alarms going off at all hours of the day when the battery needs to be replaced or worse, the whole detector needs to be replaced. In my home, some of these alarms are in 9-foot ceilings which I have always dutifully climbed using a 7-footstep ladder that I had stored in my garage for this specific need.

And so it was, as a guessing game, to which alarm was emitting the annoying 3 quick beeps interrupting our movie watching at 9 pm on this particular night. The sound offered no help to me as the frailties of my advancing age afforded me hearing aids that moved the sound equally to both ears. Waiting patiently between beeps that sounded every 5 minutes, I called on my partner **Virginia Tygart** to stand on the second floor while I took the first floor. She didn't have hearing aids; nor did she need them. So, the next beep identified the alarm as coming from the second-floor ceiling, right near where she was standing.

Now it was time to get the ladder. Normally I would put it under my arm and carry it up the steps to the second floor; but here is where medical limitations had taken over. I have been receiving treatment for a lung infection and doctors placed a so called medical Picc line in my arm which delivers antibiotics directly intravenous into my body. Instructions from the doctor were no lifting over 5 pounds and no climbing on ladders. I am now also no help to that damn alarm which continues to beep every 5 minutes.

Virginia suggested I call my neighbors, fellow SIR member, **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon** for help. Upon arriving, the four of us all decided, quite quickly, that none of us could tackle climbing up that ladder. Upon them leaving with no solution clearly in sight, I could not think of any younger people I knew who could come over and help us out. It was then that **Virginia** shared her history with her local fire department noting their immediate response and training which allowed them to address her non-fire emergency need at her home in Napa, some years back. She was already looking up the number to the closest fire department, Contra Costa County Fire Department #7 which I told her was just over a mile away.

There was no hesitancy; they would arrive promptly. The three fire fighters shown in the picture below showed up as expected. They also brought along a smoke alarm which they reasoned would hold us over until I could get a new one. How much did I owe them? Nothing was the reply, as they explained this is all part of their job.

This event ended happily and so I wanted to share it with my fellow SIR members. Other than fighting fires, I didn't realize that the county fire department is a resource we can call on for help when it is not urgent enough to call 911. I am grateful for the support of the Contra Costa County Fire Department #7 employees who were promptly available when we, as senior residents, had exhausted our personal resources.

Richard Hockenbrock
Big Sir 2021





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

Did you know that you can start an activity of your choosing? Yes indeed! It can be very rewarding to introduce your interests to the entire SIR146 community. I am all

ears. Please convey your new activity ideas to me and we will work together to get it started.

When you start a new activity, you not only help your fellow SIR members stay active but also personally benefit with a good feeling that you are contributing to the health of the organization. Leading an activity, you

get to know members at a closer level. Sometimes it seems a little overwhelming to start an activity, but part of my job as Activity Chair is to provide direction and support to ensure your success.

There is also an option to become an Activity Co-Chairman or Assistant!

I look forward to hearing your new activity ideas. Contact Me!

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 contact information

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jul 1	2	3	4	5
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	10:00am - 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
8	9	10	11	12
8:30am - 10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am - 1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf 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 11:30am - 1:30pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm - 3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 12:30pm - 2:30pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Hiking 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	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am - 11:00am Photography Group Rocco's Pizzeria 10:00am - 3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm - 10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
22	23	24	25	26
8:30am - 10:00am Bocce Ball Newell Park, Concord 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	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 Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm - 10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
29	30	31	Aug 1	2
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf		9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am - 2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2



Travel Glenn Breslin

The Oki's, Wilkenfeld's and Breslin's just completed a 14 day Best of Spain and Portugal trip. We all enjoyed touring through all these locations: Madrid, Segovia, Salamanca,

Avila, Lisbon, Porto, Seville, Rock of Gibraltar, Costa del Sol, Alhambra, Granada and Barcelona. We all had a great time and returned to an enriched life thanks to this trip.

For those interested in traveling with other SIRs, I will soon request your travel preferences via email. These may include:

Your top destination choices

How you like to travel, tour, cruise or other.

If you are interested in traveling with other SIRs, then please complete the upcoming short questionnaire, via email. We will then all meet with interested SIR members that responded to the questionnaire. I can plan a SIRs group trip or SIRs with common interests can just join up with one another and travel together outside of SIRs. SIR Branch 8 will also follow this process, offering SIRs twice the opportunity to travel with other SIRs.

Please save Wed 8/21 2:00pm to discuss your travel preferences with me and other SIR members.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



Theater Glenn Breslin

Thirty four SIR members and guests attended the performance of Cabaret at the Leshner Theater in Walnut Creek on the afternoon of June 22, and then sixteen

people stayed on to attend the after-show dinner at OPA. The show was excellent and good time was had by all!

Set in 1929–1930 Berlin during the twilight of the Jazz Age as the Nazis ascend to power, this musical focuses on the hedonistic nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around American writer Clifford Bradshaw's relations with English cabaret performer Sally Bowles. The club itself serves as a metaphor for the ominous political developments in Pre-WW II Germany.

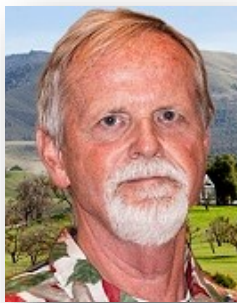
The Leshner plans to announce upcoming shows for the Fall of 2024 and Spring of 2025 on Aug. 1. I will then select a couple good shows for our SIR group's consideration, and will be announcing a sign-up for these shows later this year.

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

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





John (Moose) Kelly
610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com
or
Henry Thatcher
925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com

Photography Group

John “Moose” Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The SIR Branch 146 Photography Group met at the Thurmond Casey Library in Walnut Creek on Friday, May 31st. The theme of our May meeting was flower photography as a follow-up to our Filoli Gardens photo shoot. Attendees included **Ron Polivka**, **Frank Terzuoli**, **Peter Plante**, **Bill Holly**, **Richard Pace**, **Steve** and **Sue Oki**, **David Tucker**, **Jim Rowland**, **Dean Mayer**, **Bob Wilkenfeld**, **Larry McAllister** and **Moose Kelly**. The meeting agenda was as follows:

- * Discussion on photography shoots for the upcoming months:
- * Irving Penn photo exhibit at the De Young on June 20th organized by **Moose Kelly** / Berkeley Tour organized by **Mike Rothman** on August 7th / Half Moon Bay in October organized by **Frank Terzuoli**
- * NASA Pictures from the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024
- * James Balog, Environmental Photographer - video from CBS Sunday Morning
- * ISO Basic Video with photo genius from Australia
- * Presenting shots of flowers by various photographers. Pictures attached to article.
- * International Travel Shots and Stories from SIR's **McAllister**, **Wilkenfeld**, **Polivka**.

A **BIG** shout out to **Larry McAllister** for bringing tasty donuts and also to **Ron Polivka** for delicious coffee. Much appreciated guys!! Those items keep the “troops” engaged at our meeting.

Our next meeting will be Friday, July 19th at the Thurmond Casey Library in Walnut Creek at 9:00am. If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John “Moose” Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to “Say Cheese”!



Rasish Photo by **Jim Rowland**.



Dutch Peony photo by **Bob Wilkenfeld**.

More pictures on the Following Page



Hairy by Frank Terzuoli



Succulent Bloom by Clint Collier



Iris by Bill Holly

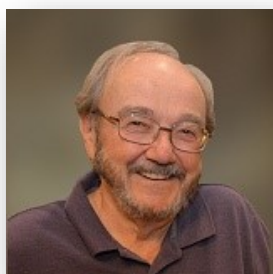


Table Pool Jim Barry

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



Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30AM, a group of five SIR birders plus 2 spouses explored Tilden Park between the Nature Center and Jewel Lake. We spotted and heard 26 species of birds.

The highlights of the trip included Cooper's and Red-shouldered hawks in flight, great looks at Wilson's Warblers, singing Warbling Vireos, several Swainson's Thrushes in melodious song, great views of three Black Phoebes hunting insects over the pond, and decent looks at a few Black-headed Grosbeaks.

Our next field trip is scheduled for 8:30 AM on July 10th (2nd Wednesday) at Briones. If interested, please email Ted Robertson (tedr@berkeley.edu) so you can be added to the monthly mailing list and receive precise meet-up locations.

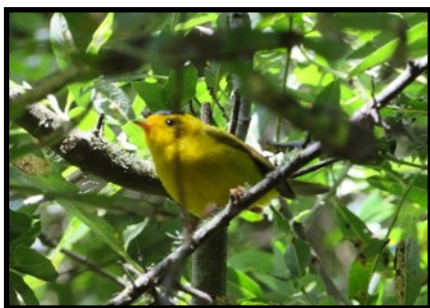


SIR group birding at Tilden Park's Jewel Lake
(Photo by Ted Robertson)



American Robin
(Photo by Ron Polivka)

Ted Robertson
925.899.1872
tedr@berkeley.edu



Wilson's Warbler
(Photo by Ron Polivka)



Hiking Mark Curtis

We are in the heat of late spring and summer. And of course, as we all know, climate change is making temperatures warmer. So, Ray Martz and I

will be designing hikes that will be tolerable with respect to heat index. Recent observations are that the spring wild flower bloom is pretty much done, although we still see an occasional fabulous bloom of some special species. The hike yesterday in Dublin Hills (Donlon Loop) was interesting because we were rewarded with the howling of a pack of coyotes. I'm guessing that there were at least 2 adults and many pups. I'm attaching the link to this audio observation that was submitted by **Jim Crites**.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VDjCBFgM96mj6hWQ8>

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 am 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

I didn't say it was your fault
I said I was blaming you



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

Tuesday, 21-May: We organized a ride from Joann Court on the Iron Horse / Contra Costa Trail in Walnut Creek, with a climb up to the North Gate Ranger Station, then down the Trails to Walnut Creek, heading on Danville Blvd to Alamo for a coffee stop at Peets, before returning to Walnut Creek for a total of about 23 miles. Joining the ride was **Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer, Patrick Hoy & Thom Degnan**. While in Alamo, we were very happy to meet up with **Larry Kaye & Bill Holly**, who were on a separate ride, just eight weeks after **Larry's** health incident. We were very pleased to see **Larry** getting back to his old self, and look forward to his joining on group rides again. A special thanks to **Ann Kaye** for taking the group photo! Thanks to all for joining, and we look forward to upcoming rides! **Thom**



May 21st Ride group, photo by **Ann Kaye**

May 24th: Windy cold and foggy. What better weather for a SIRS ride? Off we went, **Bill Holly, Jim Rowland, Bob Lucido** and Me, **Larry Kaye**. Heading out into the wind was a wonderful idea. Yikes. Nasty and cold all the way. At a turnaround junction I made an executive decision. Turn around. The wind didn't care. It blew at us all the way back to Alamo. Shivering and thirsty we arrived at Peets. The hot java helped stop the shakes. The thought of that hot shower at home was enough to end our bonding session. This was my third ride after my John Muir experience. Felt great. **Larry**

May 28th: the Bollinger Canyon Ride was led by our

pacer extraordinaire, **Jim Nelson** followed by **Thom Degnan, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Bob Wilkenfeld**, and **Moose Kelly**. We headed South along Danville Blvd to San Ramon Blvd. The group decided that we didn't want to tackle a big hill on Crow Canyon but would be fine with adding a couple of extra miles South that led to Bollinger Canyon Road. Once on Bollinger Canyon Rd, the ride is a steady 3% to 4% grade that is a gradual climb to the trailhead at the end of the Road. We regrouped after taking a well deserved break to enjoy the downhill cruise to a road that our pacer extraordinaire, **Jim Nelson** wanted take - the dreaded Faria Preserve Parkway!! Of course, we followed our fearless leader on the climb up a 4% to 6% tough, long hill huffing and puffing. Once we reached the top, we regrouped to take the steep descent with brakes squealing of roughly 9% or more to our well deserved donut and coffee shack for nourishment. After a brief rest stop, we headed to our home base to celebrate the end of our 25 mile challenging ride. It was a helluva workout for all. Well done gentlemen!! **Moose**.

June 4th: It was a very nice day today, blue skies and trending to very warm, so the six riders started a bit earlier than normal. Our ride took us from Peets in Alamo, south to Danville, across east of Danville, east up Sycamore Valley Rd to Camino Tassajara, left onto Blackhawk Rd, down to Green Valley Drive, and Stone Valley, and back onto Danville Rd, ending in Alamo for a coffee stop for a total of 18+ miles with several good hills thrown in.



June 4th Ride: Photo by **Ann Kaye**

Continued on next page

Joining on the ride was **Larry Kaye, Bill Ross, John Kelly, Pat Hoy, Bob Wilkenfeld & Thom Degnan**. Special thanks to **Ann Kaye** for taking the group photo. **Thom**.

June 7th: 9 AM arrived. The sun was out and we were ready to roll. They ride today was to Dublin from Alamo. We were visiting Denecas cafe. Rated as a top cafe in the area. Seven of us took the taste trip. **Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, Roger Meyer, Bill Holly, Jim Nelson and Larry Kaye** and the famous Mooseman. The ride South was windy but we did it. The cafe was clean and the java good. The snacks were enjoyed by all. The trip home was really windy, and until we crossed Crow Canyon, in our faces. Part of the Ironhorse trail is closed for two months so we had to detour around. More fun. Three and a half hours later we arrived back at our cars. A fun trip and one we have not done in years. **Larry**.

June 11th: 100 degrees. That's what the forecast was.



June 11th Ride Group

So being intelligent guys we left at 8:30. Ha Ha. Off we went way out the end of Lawrence road past Blackhawk. Goal was to do a ride and beat the heat back to Alamo. The ride was up and up and some more up. Fi-

nally we arrived at the destination. The air was warm but not hot... yet. Some time spent at the dead end road and then good sense said saddle up. Homeward was mostly downhill. The trip was fun and was a good workout as well.



June 11th Cycling Group

The java joint was in our sights as we flew into town. Hot coffee on a 90 plus degree day? Are we nuts? It's a custom. We ate, drank gallons of fluids and felt the heat grow at our seats. We beat the heat. A great SIRs ride was in the books. **Bill Ross, Bill Holly, Moose Kelly and Larry Kaye** in attendance today.

June 14th: The three cycling musketeers are **Roger Meyer, Pat Hoy, and Moose Kelly**. Pat and I met at Pleasant Hill Park and headed to meet **Roger** at Morello Avenue and Paso Nogal Rd. We then rode the back hills of Pleasant Hill and Martinez on Morello Avenue with **Roger** (YES!! You are reading this correctly) leading the way!! Way to go, dude!!

We followed **Roger** into Martinez along Pacheco Blvd. We stopped at State Street Coffee Shop for our java and belly bomb refuel. Then headed out of town to Alhambra Road which led into Reliez Valley Road. Our fearless leader, **Roger**, wanted to try the bike trail that ran parallel to Reliez Valley Road. So off we went. The trail was a bit rugged in spots but very doable for riding. The trail ended right at Gregory Avenue where we took a left-hand turn and headed for home. The trip was a mix of hills and flat riding for 19 miles. Attached is a picture towards the end of the ride as **Roger** departed on a bike trail for a shortcut home. Another ride in the books!! Moose

June 18th: Today's ride would be a very hilly and tough one. **Moose Kelly, Dave Paulson, Larry Kaye, Roger Meyer and Pat Hoy** would tackle it. The ride began with a slight hill. Then after a while the real hills appeared. Yikes. My new fangled computer kept recording the grades. 4%....5%6%...7% .. 10%.. and the crest at 11%. Some of the guys felt like walking and did so. The last crest was taken and guess what? Another one popped up. Our legs and hearts were screaming. "HELP ME!" Finally the gods provided a downhill; what a downhill. We twisted, turned, braked and held on. At the bottom we came upon Lake Cascade. The lake in Orinda. Relief came over us. Starbucks was next. Hot java and a place to sit. Re-mounting our bikes we headed into downtown. A bridge over Highway 24, a path to Bart all encountered. Finally a path took us back to Lafayette. Our cars never looked so beautiful. As we set out today to prove a point: age means nothing. We showed that age is only a state of mind. A bike ride for the books.



June 18th Group

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



Bocce John Kendrick

The World famous 2024 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity is alive and looking for new players. Nine rollers enjoyed the morning sun on June 10. On court one, the green team of **Larry** and **John** took two games from

the red team of **Clint**, **Tony** and **Peter**. The second game went into extra innings with several coach challenges before the winner was determined.

As always, there was lots of banter, kidding and kibitzing.

As a reminder, the Bocce Ball courts are located near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord.

Bocce Ball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September.

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

Have fun, stay safe and healthy.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com



I used to suffer from soap addiction
but I'm clean now



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Golf is in its mid-summer peak. The course looks great and we are having really good turn-outs. So come join this great group of guys. 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

Laxatives give you a good run for
your money



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed a program for the residents of Byron Park Retirement Home on June 22. We sang such favorites as "Stout Hearted Men," "Mack the Knife," and "America the Beautiful" for a 40-minute performance that is always well received. Thank you, Byron Park. It's a pleasure to sing for you.

Our next rehearsal is on July 17 Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We are always looking for new members. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

June has been an active month for our fishing group. Perhaps the highlight was a trip to La Paz, Mexico by eight of us who had a great time fishing in the Sea of Cortez for yellowfin tuna, dorado, pargo, and roosterfish. The big surprise was a large marlin landed by **Dave Havlik**. Marlin normally do not respond to the rigs that we use in La Paz. They are usually released, but Dave's fish was injured during the fight and would not have survived a reentry into the water. And so Dave gave the fish to the guides, who probably had a few dinners out of it. The second largest fish was a 50 lb. dorado that was boated by **Gordon Linebaugh**.



Another group of eight was on our semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor when the June issue of the SIRCAll was published, and we are now pleased to report that it was a successful outing. The group kept 13 fish---11 browns and two rainbows. The released fish included four large browns. **Brion Beetz** thought he caught the largest one---a ten pounder, but just before the group finished on the last day, **Stan Wong** caught a brown weighing twelve pounds.

Farther south, **Steve Paulick** and **Ben La Sala** limited on stripers fishing with minnows on the Sacramento River and **Ron Lew** also did well on the river, catching both stripers and black bass.

We are also enjoying live bait action in San Francisco Bay. Stripers and halibut both like minnows and that has led to limits enjoyed by **Dave Havlik**, **Carl Moyer**, **Ray Pixton**, **Mike Corker**, and **Stan Wong**. **Paul Dubow** took his three sons and a grandson on an outing on the Bay on the Sundance and they caught five keeper halibut, nine keeper stripers, and loads of shakers. Paul's grandson brought a large halibut that appeared to weigh about 25 lbs. to the surface, but the leader broke just as the fish was being netted.

Tom Kostik made seven trips to the Delta, catching and releasing 24 stripers, including nine keepers of which one was 31 inches, plus 30 black bass and five bluegills.

Nick Jabuka went surf fishing at Stinson Beach and did not catch anything, but he did land a 24 inch striper surf fishing in Santa Cruz.

Trout fishing has died down. **Carl Moyer** and **George Vogt** were skunked at San Pablo Reservoir, but **Phil Scimonelli** picked up a few rainbows fishing from shore. He also caught some small stripers fishing with anchovies from the Antioch Pier.

Stan Wong took five kids to Bodega Bay and they caught 18 halibut (releasing most) plus rockfish and ling cod.

Our next two meetings will be on June 27 and July 25 at the Legends Bar and Grill, at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 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, contact me.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566





Book Group

John Pearl

The SIR 146 Book Group's selection for our May meeting was *Rules of Civility* by, Amor Towles. He is best known for *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a best

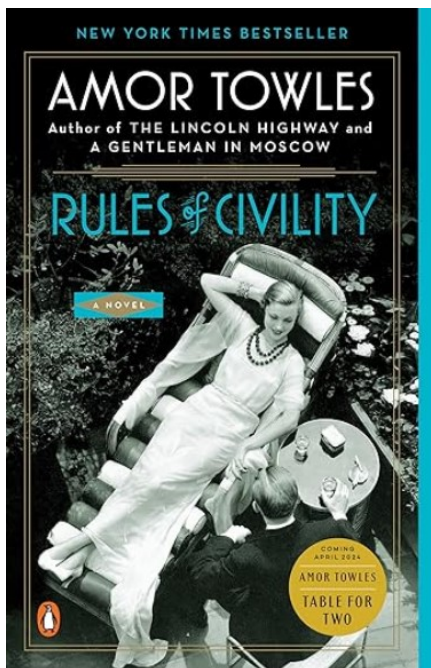
seller and now a mini-series on Showtime/Paramount+. This is his first published novel, and the quality of the work is as excellent as *Gentleman*.

The basic story line is about a 25 year old woman from Brooklyn, Katy Kontent, who moves across the river to Manhattan and begins her adult life. The real story starts on New Year's Eve in 1937 when Katy and her boardinghouse roommate Eve meet a young man named Tinker Grey, who becomes a major character. The book basically covers the year 1938, when the prewar years in Manhattan were filled with good dining, good drinking, and many of friends in similar situations. Lots of these folks drift in and then out of the story – something some reviewers criticized.

Katy gets her first job in Manhattan in a law office working as a secretary in a steno pool, where with diligence and hard work she is offered a promotion to lead secretary in the pool, but she turns it down, because she realizes it will be a dead end. Instead, she quits and finds a new job at Conde Nast, working for a man whose assignment is to start up a new publication under the Conde Nast umbrella, called *Gotham* that will have the inside scoop about life in New York. Katy is one of two women who work on helping their boss launch the magazine. They play multiple roles, including reporting, digging up stories that might be of interest to their yet to be developed readership, typing, and miscellaneous duties as assigned by the boss who is very bright and very much an eccentric.

The story progresses, detailing the lives of Katy and her friends, the people they meet, and the places they go. At this point, World War II is not very visible on their horizons, leaving them free to enjoy life. However, the war does catch up with at least one of the crowd, who joins the conflict in Spain. Katy continues

her climb through the social circles of New York society, meeting people with money, who pick up some of her dining and entertainment expenses, and she enjoys herself while working at a great job and looking for the right man. She does in fact meet him, but that is couched in the story and his identity is pretty much concealed until the end. Read carefully and see if you can decide who this person is.



The group of people with whom she associates have their own problems and they must all deal with them as their lives move on, and their circles of people with whom they interact expands. All is not happiness. One person of the group even moves to Los Angeles, a bigger deal then than it would be now. It well describes the life and times of single people living in New York City in the pre-war years.

Some thought the book dragged in the second half, but we are recommending it. Remember that this is the first book published by this author

who delivers increased quality as the number of his books increases.

We meet in June on Monday the 24th and discuss the book *The Demon of Unrest, A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*, a current best seller by Erik Larson.

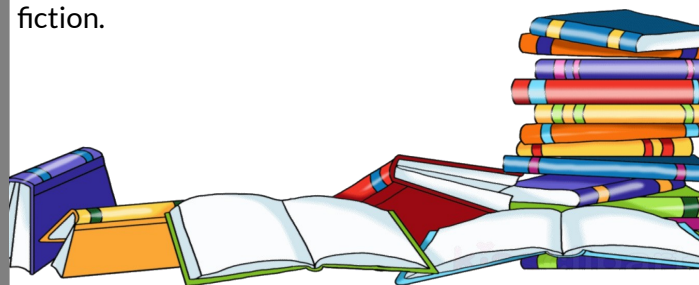
John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner returns in July. Come on by for more fabulous reads in fiction or non-fiction.





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group had lunch in June at Melo's restaurant in Walnut Creek. **Bruce Borgman** was the group's host. This family-owned restaurant has roots in the lush hills of the

province of Calabria in the south of Italy. Most of our group ordered meatball, chicken and Italian sandwiches. I, on the other hand, decided to order one of Melo's signature pasta dishes. I asked our server for a recommendation, and I ordered the Spicy Vodka Rigatoni. I added grilled chicken to this vegetarian dish. The pasta was mildly spicy and fabulous! Upon leaving the restaurant we were greeted by the owner Guy Piccolo, his wife and Office Manager—Partner Olga Coelho Piccolo and his daughter and Manager—Partner Erin Piccolo. This family owned and run restaurant is highly recommended. This restaurant is new to downtown Walnut Creek and located on Locust Street where Lark Creek was formerly located.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com



Cooking Lunch and Wine Pete Gates

A rather light gathering; only four of our group were available for this month's lunch. Vacations and two illnesses took the rest of us out of action. Nevertheless, a chance for good food, good conversation and friendship is not to be missed so we all four enjoyed the pizza and salad that **Bob Spellman** prepared for us and this month's host.

The photo shows three of us, **Sid Whalen**, **Bob Spellman** (host) and **Joe Barry** enjoying the wine and nibbles. The fourth person (me) is on the other side of the camera!



Not pictured is Raleigh, friend of all.

Clint Collier for Pete Gates
petegates10@gmail.com

Kleptomaniacs always take
things literally





Explore and Eat
Henry Thatcher and Jim Pope



OXBOW

PUBLIC MARKET

Tour on Wednesday August 21st

Event is FREE

**610 & 644 FIRST STREET
NAPA, CALIFORNIA 94559**

Save the Date

The August Explore & Eat event will be something new and a little different. We're planning to go to the Oxbow Market in Napa. The event will be on August 21st and will start at 11:00. We will meet at the Market on the deck overlooking the Napa River and the Oxbow bend in the Napa River. Then we will have a brief overview of the Oxbow Market by the General Manager, Gabe Carlin. He will cover the market's history and several points of interest about the Market. Then he will provide a short walking tour for those that would like to do so. Then you will be on your own to shop at one of the 12 shops and have lunch at one of the 8 restaurants.

This will be a true "Explore & Eat Event".

Please respond your RSVP to attend the event to jpope24@comcast.net by August 16th so we can plan the events logistics. There is no charge for the event but will pass a "Thank You" hat for Gabe.



寿司の友達

Sushi no Tomodachi Clint Collier

Our little group of sushi aficionados gathered for our May meeting at Tatsu, the restaurant we met at when the group first got together. Eight of us demolished their large platter of sushi...

Here we are... ready to chow down!



...before and after !



Our next regular bi-monthly gathering will be on July 18 when we visit Hakashi in Walnut Creek. If you are interested in joining us shoot me an e-mail so we can include you!

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy

Hello Wine Tasting Enthusiasts. Here it is, June! You know what that means--time to RSVP for the July wine tasting. This tasting will be on Tuesday, July 23 at **Bob and**

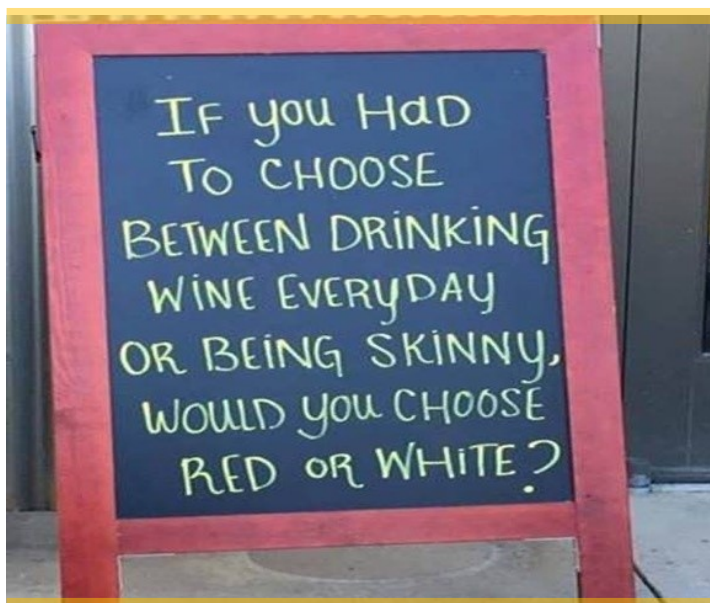
Wendy Lucido's home in Walnut Creek. The tasting starts at 2:30 and goes till 5:00. The theme for July is Pinot. The red wine will be Pinot Noir and the white will be Pinot white, that is Pinot Gris or Pinot Grigio or Pinot Blanc. If you bring a white, make sure it is chilled. Put your wine in a brown paper bag and include the information sheet in the bag. Also, make sure your name is on the information sheet. This will help just in case two people bring the same wine. Don't forget to bring an appetizer to share.

To RSVP you can call me at 925-324-2463 or you can email Bill & me at br146winetasting@gmail.com



Brian McCarthy

br146winetasting@gmail.com 925.324.2463





Couples Dining Out AKA Fiesta Picnic Bruce Borgman

Our Branch's first picnic was a clear success! Despite a very hot day forecasted, 63 members and their guests attended. The venue (Borges Ranch) and efforts of the picnic committee provided plenty of shade (natural and man made) for all. There was also plenty of elbow-room at the picnic tables.

The Mexican food, from El Molino, was delicious and plentiful. Participants enjoyed tacos, enchiladas and tamales, along with all the traditional sides. Even after second portions were had, many folks took home another serving. An unexpected treat was provided by **Clint Collier**, SIRCall editor-in-chief, and his wife **Bev**, in the form of a large variety of authentic Mexican sodas. **Sue Sheldon**, wife of **Bruce Borgman**, provided a final treat of homemade brownies for our already swelling bellies.

The many efforts of our Picnic Committee— **John Alexander**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Glenn Breslin**, **Bob Lucido** and **Bob Wilkenfeld** made this event enjoyable. So please thank them when you get a chance.

Should we have another picnic next year? Whether you attended this year or not, please let [Bruce Borgman](#) or [Bob Wilkenfeld](#) know if you have a strong opinion.

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com





Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bgborgman@aol.com

Our May Couples Dining Out event was a rousing success. You will recall that the plan was to go to Fiore restaurant on May 21. This restaurant is a popular one, located on Clayton

Road in Concord with a cuisine described as Italian Fusion with Mediterranean and Moroccan influences. We wound up with 43 diners which was the perfect number to take over this restaurant. The executive chef is Habib Jacifi who also owns Luna restaurant where we had an excellent Dining Out experience in January. At Fiore the menu includes a few Moroccan dishes and we had included two of these for our entrée selections.

We included their popular Olive Pesto dip as an appetizer, and it was a big hit with our group. Then we had a choice of Caesar salad or a Soup du Jour. The soup this day turned out to be a butternut squash soup. The soup selection at this restaurant changes every day and it is one of Chef Habib's specialties in his culinary spectrum – and this selection exemplified this expertise.

Then, on to the entrees – and many of our diners took advantage of the opportunity to sample the Moroccan specialties. In addition, we had a choice of the homemade lasagna, or the Tiger Shrimp in a cream dill sauce. All were excellent! For dessert, we all had the raspberry cheesecake.

You will be able to see a number of pictures of our diners enjoying this wonderful dining experience.

For your host, this dining experience was a more challenging one. As you know, we had used the Couples Dining Out protocol for the Picnic reservations as well and thus we wound up managing the responses for both the May Dining Out event as well as those for the Picnic. But, all went well and we had two successful Dining Out events!

We will be deciding on our next Couples Dining Out event which will be in July – likely on Monday July 22. We are considering returning to La Veranda Café in Clayton. We have been to this restaurant several times and enjoyed their popular entrees at a reasonable cost. Watch for the announcement. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, let me know at bgborgman@aol.com. See you in July!



MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met at the Sue and Corrie Oranje residence on June 14th, 2024.

much as we enjoy playing the game, it is a true social gathering. The game is part skill and luck, and unfortunately Richard, as well as Virginia (who often are in the winner's circle) had bad luck. I won't embarrass them and will keep their scores secret.

Sue Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranj@gmail.com

With unexpected absence of Peter and Martha Plante, we had the whole group together after skipping our May monthly game. Everyone was excited to see each other. As



Group Tres 3



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We met on the afternoon of May 24th after The SIRCall went to press. Our private eco-friendly Mexican Train chugged its way over the hills

goodbyes, boarded our cars and followed the sun home.

We will meet next on Friday afternoon, June 28th at the Barrys. All Aboard in the Diablo Valley!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com

and bumps of Clayton to the home of Linda & Larry Brown. Along for the ride with a view were Sue and Walt Busenius, Joyce Wells and Jim Barry, Sally & Lynn Shafer, and Sharon Varner. Linda & Larry charmed us with tantalizing sweets and great hospitality.

Bringing his A game and coming in 1st Place with a great score of 16.4 ppg was Larry Brown. Sally Shafer was a steady eddy all afternoon and, not to anyone's surprise at table 2, came in 2nd Place with a score of 19.77 ppg. The rest of us fought for 3rd place, but in the end, Sue Busenius claimed that honor with 20.2 ppg. We all chatted a lot, learned some gossip, said our





Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro"

Jim Pope

On May 17th, the El Quatro Mexican Train Dominoes group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 12 people. In attendance this evening were:

Dick and Christy DeVoe, Ron Louis and Fran Matthews, Scott and MarieClaire MacDougall (New Member), **Rich and Kim Pace, Henry and Barbara Thatcher, and Jim and Renie Pope.** 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 **Rich Pace and Dick DeVoe** (see in pictures). There were two high scoring players. **Jim Pope and Ron Louis** were awarded one Lotto ticket. The next El Quatro MTD will meet next on **June 21st.**

(Photos by **Jim Pope** and **Rich Pace**).

Jim Pope

jpoppe24@comcast.net



MTD 4 High
Scorers: **Ron Louis**
and **Jim Pope.**

MTD 4: Winners:
Rich Pace and
Dick DeVoe





Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Martha and Peter Plante's** beautiful home on May 22, 2024 for our monthly get together. Thank

you, **Martha and Peter** for hosting.

Once again, the trolls were in play – however this month they brought some luck!! **Mary McCarthy** brought out her "lucky" troll, and **Peter Plante** joined the fray with his creature.

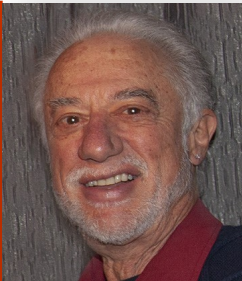
Two tables were in play – **Carol Lane, Brian McCarthy, Bruce Borgman, Richard Hockenbrock, Kathe Mitchell, and Peter Plante** at table one, and **John Kendrick, Mary McCarthy, Steve Lane, Martha Plante, and Virginia Tygart**, at table two.

The winners, using troll powers, were **Mary McCarthy** as number one (14.8), **Mr. Peter Plante** (16.3), and **Richard Hockenbrock** (17.1). As for the loser's circle – SL and MP were their initials- and they will be bringing some trolls to the next game!!

We look forward to our next get together on June 26, 2024, at the home of **Kathe Mitchell** with the **Moose on the Loose** (hosting).

. **Steve Lane**

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Siete" Bob Lucido

The Race is on

And they're off! Ladies and gentlemen welcome to the spectacular MTD 7

extravaganza at the Racecourse of **Clint & Bev Collie!** On May 8th. Nine jockeys, all vying for the title in this thrilling race of Domino's.

🐎 At the quarter turn they're neck and neck, folks! But wait, what's this? **Jane West** draws a double. That's a 50-point disadvantage right there!

🌟 Down the stretch, it's a two-horse race: **Bev Collier & Mary McCarthy!** They're pushing themselves to the limit. But look at **Bev!** She's drawing ahead, leaving **Mary** in her dust.

🏆 And it's **Bev Collier** who takes the crown! A triumphant win by 3 points! **Bev** prances around the track, her victory dance echoing through the stands.

💰 **Bev Collier** has won & pays \$21, **Mary McCarthy** has placed & pays \$11, **Clint Collier** has shown & pays \$3

🎉 Congratulations to our champions! The MTD extravaganza delivers yet another unforgettable race. Until next time, folks—keep those Domino's spinning!

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



May 8th MTD 7 Winners (L to R):
Clint Collier 3rd, **Bev Collier** 1st and
Mary McCarthy 2nd.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho"

Richard Hockenbrock

Fourteen of our regular players and substitute newcomer, **Pete McNeill** participated in the

Wednesday evening games on June 5th at three tables. **Pete**, only playing for the second time since joining the group last month as a substitute, had an impressive 14.6 average. **Susan Terzuoli**, 1st place and her husband **Frank** 3rd place, had average scores of 12.0 and 16.7 respectively.

Richard Hockenbrock and **Steve Dinning** both had winning scratcher tickets too. **Richard**, with the highest evening score, received a free ticket and **Steve** will receive \$4 when he turns in his ticket.

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in July, the 3rd. If you would like to sign up to be on our

substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Nueve"

Bob Lucido

Breaking News: Walnut Creek Police Bust Major Gambling Activity

In a startling turn of events, Walnut Creek police cracked down on a significant Mexican Train Domino gambling operation hosted at the residence of **Dale & Mary Ellen Dalgaard** on May 15th. The illicit gathering was swiftly brought to an end by law enforcement officials.

Dale & Mary Ellen found themselves behind bars for orchestrating the illicit MTD gambling event, only to be released the following day. However, they weren't let off the hook entirely, as they were slapped with a fine consisting of 2 dominoes and 50 points.

During the raid, three individuals emerged as winners, with **Bob "Honkey-Tonk" Wilkenfeld** pocketing \$25, **Judy Wilkenfeld** \$10, and "**Bob West**" \$2 in winnings. However, their ill-gotten gains were promptly confiscated by authorities.

Rather than letting the confiscated funds languish in

police coffers, the money was put to a noble cause. It was utilized to purchase donuts for all the hardworking officers stationed at the Walnut Creek police station.

In light of this incident, it's been speculated that future iterations of such events will be shrouded in secrecy to evade law enforcement detection.

Stay tuned for further updates as this story unfolds.

Bob Lucido
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MTD 9 Winners on May 15th (L to R): **Judy Wilkenfeld** 2nd, **Bob Wilkenfeld** 1st and **Bob West** 3rd.



CARD GAMES

...we play



**Men's
Hearts**
**Bob West
and
Steve Ybarra**



**Old Money Poker
Group 6**
Brad Hatcher

Seven players were at the table at the home of Rich Ahlf. Rich provided us with snacks, sodas, and wine and even water. (It was one of those hot days!)

Since the prior SIRCAll submission, we met on May 24th and June 14th.

The big winners were **Bill Vizza** with 5 games and **Frank Lucas**, **Jim Passaglia**, **Norman Cox** and **Bob West** each with 3 wins. **Jim Passaglia** and **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra** each had 4 2nds, and **Ron Polivka** had 3. The lowest average score was **Dick Wade** with 46 and **Jim Passaglia** with 50. **Frank Lucas** "shot the moon" 3 times and **Tom Stucker** and **Bob West** twice.

YTD: **Bill Vizza** leads with 16 wins and **Jim Passaglia** is 2nd with 15 wins. **Jim Passaglia** leads with a 38% win rate followed by **Bill Vizza** with 36%.

Steve Ybarra leads in 2nds with 19 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 16.5. **Frank Lucas** leads with 7 STM's followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 6. Most Improved are **Glenn Breslin** and **Dick Wade** who have a 188% and 165% higher win rate than last year.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our next matches will be June 28th and July 12th and July 26th.

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

Co-Directors
Bob West and Steve Ybarra

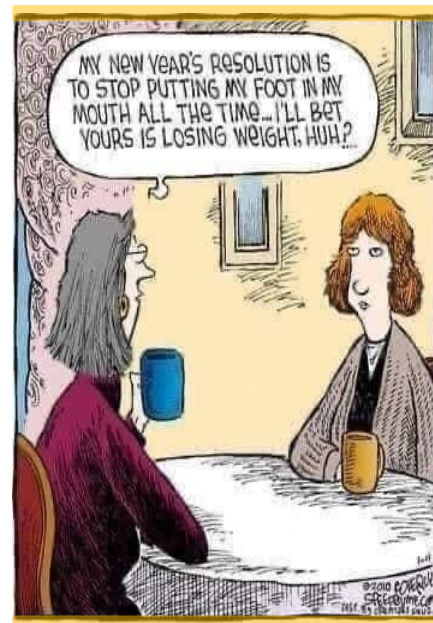
robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

Brad Hatcher was lucky to be dealt a full house of 2 aces and 3 kings in a draw poker hand but that was a sole highlight in his game. He was among the contributors to the "RICH" Ahlf sweep of both hands and money. **Rich** set a record for our group in the amount of his winnings for the day.

As our usual play day coincides with July 4th, we will likely play on Tuesday, July 9th.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com





Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Our Duplicate Bridge 2 Event on Friday, June 7 with four tables and 16 players was nicely hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve**

Dinning at Boundary Oak.

Mike Whitaker won 1st Place overall for the 2nd straight month! Wow. And just like last month **Mike** won the 1st half, lost his mojo big-time in the 2nd half (15th out of 16...) and **still** hung on to win by 2.0 points. Amazing.

Steve Dinning did a similar thing, taking 2nd Place overall- with 2nd place in the 1st half before free-falling to 14th out of 16 in the 2nd half. Again-amazing.

Tony Greco won 3rd Place overall, but in reverse fashion. He was 10th of 16 in the 1st half, but then tied for 1st Place in the 2nd half. And once again-amazing.

Ed Marlovits took 4th Place overall. Like Tony, his score was less than mediocre in the 1st half but tied for 1st in the 2nd half. He also took the "Most Improved Player" bragging rights.

Dick DeVoe

dicknchristy@comcast.net



Poker Group 4

Pete Gates

Poker Group 4 did not play in May but moved to June 3 to avoid Memorial Day. The game was hosted by **Mark Sorum** at his home in Walnut Creek. With just 5 players, we

stuck mostly with "5 card draw" with and without wild cards. We also mix in some Omaha and various "7 card stud" games.

We decided to get back on schedule so we will play again in June on the 24th, 1 to 4 pm, hosted by **Garth Cummings**.

We are still looking for players to fill out our roster. If interested, contact Pete Gates at:

petegates10@gmail.com or 925-586-2321.

Pete Gates

925.937.2035 petegates10@gmail.com



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

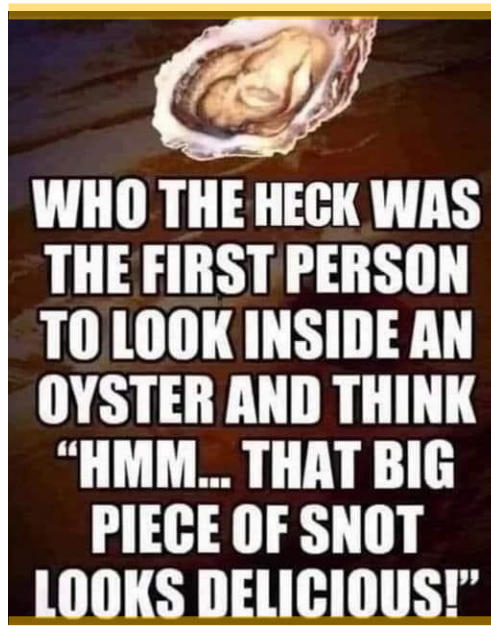
We had a very spirited game on Monday June 3rd hosted by **Ray Spears** who did an excellent job. The highlight was **Steve Dinning's** play. He bid and made a grand slam and a small slam. His total score was 7,110 points, the highest of the monthly scores this year. In second was **Joe Fuchs**, **Steve's** partner in the grand slam, with a very high 6,150 points followed by **Brad Hatcher** with 4550 points. Congratulations for playing very well.

We completed the 6 month contest. **Steve Dinning** was highest with an average of 5,673 points followed by **Bob Yolland** with an average of 4,663 points and **Max Hinkle** with an average of 4558 points. Congratulations for playing well consistently.

Our next game will be Monday July 1st at a location to be determined.

Co-Directors

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





Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

We escaped the heat on June 10th when **Cindy and Tony Greco** hosted us. Thank goodness for air conditioning. We were further blessed with a dining room table loaded with wonderful treats and munchies.

No slams were bid, but two pairs made six on Board 4. Unfortunately, they only bid two (they got the perfect fit). Several others made 6 or 7 in various part scores and games.

We had one score that looks like a slam: 1120. How do you get that score? **Tony and Cindy** played in one spade doubled and redoubled, not vulnerable, making four. You get: $4 \times 30 = 120$, +300 (game bonus), +100 (the "insult" bonus), +3x200 (overtricks). Not bad for a one level contract.

The hosts were rewarded with third place (53%). **Dick and Christy DeVoe** were second (59%), and **Dave and Joan Pierce** were first (61%). There will be no games in July.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick and Maggie Chaffee were first time hosts for our June 4th event. The beverages and snacks were delicious and abundant. The **Chaffee's** kept their house nice and cool on a hot afternoon which we greatly appreciated. However, last month's new cards were not appreciated as they were still not cooperating and yielding very few game opportunities.

Last month the final scores for the top finishers were the lowest since December 2022. This month we managed to somehow break that record with even lower scores. There was one missed grand slam opportunity in round 1 when a bid of 4 clubs made 7. The anonymous players claimed that for this hand the cards were perfectly aligned to make all finesses and had perfect suit distribution, as well.

The official results are as follows:

1st PLACE with 2810 points - **Larry and Linda Brown**

2nd PLACE with 2750 points - **Dick and Christy DeVoe**

3rd PLACE with 2720 points - **Dick and Maggie Chaffee**

Our next event will be held on **July 2nd** and hosted by **Tony and Cindy Greco**.

Have a great 4th of July Independence Day!

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Due to inflation you can now eat food
that has been on the floor for up to
7.3 seconds



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

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Looking back
I really hurt my neck

Old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.



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!



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

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

Email Dave Sutton to be included or to learn the topic.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net



Event Description: San Francisco Fleet Week is an annual event that honors the contributions of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* (a WW II Liberty ship) participates with a cruise around San Francisco Bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and the Bay Bridge for amazing views of the San Francisco waterfront, the visiting Navy ships, and the air show featuring the US Navy Blue Angels.

Date: Sunday October 13th.

Time: Board the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* at 9:00am, Ship leaves at 10:00am, returns at 5:00pm.

Location: Pier 35, Embarcadero, San Francisco.

Park: 80 Francisco St parking garage at Kearny St and Francisco St OR Anchorage Square Parking Garage at Beach St and Jones St OR the Pier 39 Parking Garage. [Editor's note: Having done this several times, you are better off taking BART to SF, get off at Embarcadero and take a pedi-cab or Uber to the *O'Brien*. Quicker, easier, cheaper.]

Cost: \$185 Per Person. SIR146 Wives, Widows and Guests are welcome.

Food and Beverage: Donuts and Coffee Breakfast and Hot Dog and Chips Lunch with Water, Soda and Beer. All are provided at no extra cost. You can also bring your own food. No access to any refrigerators or microwaves on board. No ice chests or personal alcohol allowed.

If interested: Then buy your ticket at: [CLICK HERE](#) and inform Glenn Breslin glennbreslin@gmail.com that you bought your ticket. Unfortunately, no group discounts are available.

Carpools: Closer to the date, we will assess carpool logistics.

Caution: Please provide yourself enough extra time for traffic, parking and walking to Pier 35 over this busy Fleet Week.

Questions: Contact me glennbreslin@gmail.com 925-788-6520 or call *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* direct at 415.544.0100.

My half brother and I are not
allowed to play with chainsaws
anymore!

Parting Shot

Life.*

*Available for a limited time only. Limit one (1) per person. Subject to change without notice. Provided "as is" and without any warranties. Nontransferable and is the sole responsibility of the recipient. May incur damages arising from use or misuse. Additional parts sold separately. Your mileage may vary. Subject to all applicable fees and taxes. Terms and conditions apply. Other restrictions apply.