

May—June 2025



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Ford

It was great seeing all of the ladies at our Ladies' Day Luncheon and I really enjoyed learning about the history of Walnut Creek. **The upcoming June 12th luncheon is our colorful shirt luncheon.** Wear one of your colorful shirts and light up the room.

We are starting the search for our officers for next year. Please consider taking on one of the positions. Remember that you no longer have to serve in all of the positions in sequence. We only ask that the Little Sir and Big Sir positions are served sequentially. Summer is a great time to invite your friends to one of our activities and get them interested in joining SIR. So far in 2025 we have added 6 new members to our branch. This is a little behind our pace in 2024 so if you know anyone that might join, please invite them. The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be retired to join.

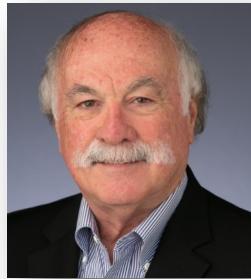
Warm Regards.



Bob Ford
Big Sir, Branch 146

Activities for you and spouse...

- Calendar of Events [Page 12](#)
- Books: *Say Nothing* [Page 24](#)
- Cuba? Japan? Where to go? [Page 13](#)
- What bird is that? [Page 17](#)
- Calling all Vets! [Page 18](#)
- Ready to dine out? [Page 28](#)



Little Sir's Corner

Thom Degnan

For our June Monthly Luncheon, we are pleased to have Loyd Gordon of the Northern California Power Agency. The NCPA, a California Joint

Action Agency, has sixteen members, and was established in 1968 by a consortium of locally owned utilities to make joint investments in energy resources that would ensure an affordable, reliable and clean supply of energy for customers in its member communities. They also own a full-time scheduling and dispatch center for its members. Mr. Gordon is the Plant Manager at the Lodi Energy Center in Lodi, CA and he will discuss the process of converting the existing 310 Mw Natural Gas Power Plant to use hydrogen as fuel. The objective is to significantly reduce the carbon that the natural gas power plant would emit. This leading-edge action is the first in the nation to do this.

In subsequent months we will have a Macroeconomist who lectures at UC Berkeley, a Captain from the Contra Costa Fire Captain on life saving techniques, a Captain from the San Francisco Harbor Pilots, an executive from John Muir, a former Top Gun Pilot, and the Devil Mountain Chorus will return in December. The Speaker's Committee con-

Continued on the Following Page

SIR Luncheon

Thursday, June 12th, 2025
Boundary Oak 11:30

Loyd Gordon
Conversion of Natural Gas to Hydrogen
A reservation is required!
To make yours and choose your entrée
go to page 3. ([click Here!](#))

Little Sir from proceeding page

sisting of Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin, Jim Crites and myself will keep you updated. We appreciate any suggestions for interesting speakers.

The CPR Training Class for May 23rd is already almost full but we have room for a few more, so contact me if you would like to enroll. 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



Membership George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in May.

Ted Upland lives in Alamo with his wife **Arlene**. He was a self-employed Attorney. He enjoys golf and walking to mention a few. He is sponsored by **Don Shaw**.

Anthony "Tony" Astone lives in Oakley with his wife **Erin**. He worked in Insurance for Sunpoint Public Adjusters. He really enjoys fishing. His sponsor is **Nick Jabuka**.

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

The 2025 membership count is 259.

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

2025 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Randy Graham
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edward Brands
Publicity	John Alexander
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

In June, we will have Loyd Gordon from NCPA to speak on the conversion of the Natural Gas power plant to use hydrogen.

Luncheon Information

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 cooperation.

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 acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, June 12th, 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, June 6th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

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

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

Other matters

If you don't have 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, June 6th 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 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 June Luncheon

Thursday, June 12th, 2025

Salad

Mesclun Greens, Carrots, Tomatoes, Croutons, Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Chicken Marsala

Herb Marinated Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce

Cod Marsala

Herb Marinated Cod, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Marsala Shallot Mushroom Cream Sauce

Vegetarian

Spinach Ricotta Manicotti, Four Cheese & Spinach Cannelloni, Seasonal Vegetable, House Tomato Basil Sauce

Dessert

Apple Bar

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.

PUT THE JULY LUNCHEON ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 July Luncheon

Thursday, July 10th, 2025

Salad

Southwest Salad. Romaine with Black Beans, Corn, Pico, Tortilla Chips and a Chipotle Ranch Dressing

Entrees

Achiote Chicken

Achiote Chicken with Rice and Beans, Sautéed Peppers and Onions, and a Lemon Cilantro Crema

Achiote Cod

Achiote Cod with Rice and Beans, Sautéed Peppers and Onions, and a Lemon Cilantro Crema

Vegetarian

Stuffed Bell Pepper with Spanish Rice and Lemon Cilantro Crema

Dessert

Tres Leches Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

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

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.*



Pat O'Keeffe



Norm Baietti

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor

Clint Collier

Assistant Editor

Bob West

Photographer

Henry Thatcher

Proofreaders

Ron Polivka

Internet Posting

Bruce Borgman

Frank Lucas

Ron Plachy

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.**

JUNE MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

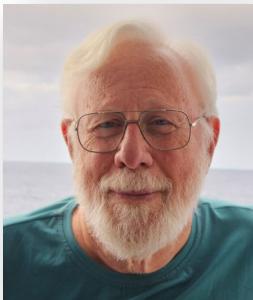
WALT BUSENIUS

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
John Kendrick	2019	6
Herb Wilson	2018	7
John Kluesener	2017	8
Howard Zimmerman	2017	8
John Kelly	2016	9
Bob Lucido	2014	11
George Mon	2014	11
Joe Stengel	2014	11
Colin Holland	2013	12
Don Rhoads	2012	13
Bruce Borgman	2011	14
Bob Soldano	2011	14
John Pearl	2007	18
Dennis Hallett	2004	21
Bill Rees	1989	36



George Carpenter
Mike Conners
Steve Dinning
Joe Flannigan
Richard Hanford
Ron Lew
Jim Pfohl
Ron Plachy
Jim Pope
Milt Smith

Mike Wallace
Mike Whitaker
Dean Mayer
Tom Amann
Tony Pasol
Steve Petersen
Scott Schrader
Cleo Bolen
Ray Bland
George Denney



Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

Last month I mentioned that One of our SIRCall staff is down... but not out. Our photographer, **Henry Thatcher**, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. He seems to be doing fine and is attending some functions with the help of a cane. We are indebted to **Rich Lyon** for filling in as our photographer for the ladies' Day Luncheon. He did a fantastic job. That is the good news. But as the old joke goes, if there's good news there's usually bad news. **Henry**, even with his good recovery is not yet to the point where he can run around the luncheons taking pictures so we are looking for someone to fill in for the next few meetings. It can be someone who is willing to cover all of them, it can be someone who can just cover one (or two, pretty please?). Is that person you? If it is we would like to

hear from you "muy pronto" so we can continue this section of SIRCall. Pay? Abundant recognition in SIRCall to let your friends know that you are doing your best to support the organization!

So, as we move into June I want to wish all you SIR members a Happy Father's Day. And I would be remiss as the leader of Sushi no Tomodachi in not pointing out that June 18th is International Sushi Day! Our sushi group will be celebrating the following day with a dinner at Sasa in Walnut Creek. "Motto o sushi o tabemashou. Karadanidesu yo!"

The cut off date for SIRCall submissions for July is the 20th of June, however don't let that hinder you from turning in your submission earlier in the month!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Ladies Day Luncheon

Photos by Rich Lyon



Speakers: Ms. Lee Culver, Historical Archivist and
Ms. Jackie Byrd, Museum Manager

Henry Thatcher would like to thank Rich and Susan Lyon along with Glenn and Ellen Breslin for making the "Ladies Day Luncheon" special by taking portrait pictures of members and their guests.

These portrait pictures are posed on the SIR 146 Website under the Tab for Special Events where they can be viewed and/or downloaded.

[Click Here!](#)



Little Sir Bob Ford: Introducing Speakers





NOTES

from Our Members

The Yacht Club Restaurant in Walnut Creek Closes!

Ron Polivka

After nearly three decades in business, the popular Walnut Creek Yacht Club shut its doors for good on May 7. In anticipation of its closing, four members of SIR 146: **Dennis Hallett, Lew Thompson, Steve Ybarra** and **Ron Polivka**, along with their wives, gathered together over lunch at the Yacht Club on April 28. In addition to simply savoring one final meal at the Yacht Club, three of the couples were also celebrating milestone events. **Lew and Carla Thompson** celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary, **Ron and Victoria Polivka** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary as well as **Ron's** 78th birthday, and **Steve and Dana Ybarra** celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary! The restaurant kindly acknowledged these multiple celebrations by bringing out complimentary desserts for the table!

Dennis, Lew, Steve and Ron all met through their involvement with SIR146, and over the past 5 years, have enjoyed playing golf together each Thursday morning at Diablo Hills in Walnut Creek.



(L-to-R): **Ron Polivka, Dennis Hallett, Lew Thompson, Carla Thompson, Ann Hallett, Victoria Polivka, Dana and Steve Ybarra**

You're not alone, Ron

Editor/Clint Collier

You aren't alone in mourning the loss of the Yacht Club, **Ron**. My wife and I go back over almost the full 30 years with our relation with chef/owner Kevin from when he was one of the two chefs that came to our home to fix us dinner as participants in the Contra Costa Times "Surprise Chefs" program. We subsequently enjoyed many a meal at this Walnut Creek institution as well as a number of parties. Sailing burpees from both of the Yacht Clubs I belong to adorned the walls at this "Yacht Club".

We were fortunate to be part of the Lunch and Wine SIR group who serendipitously chose the Yacht Club for their April event (see their following story) as well as a final lunch with friends there on the 5th. We wish Chef Kevin the best in his new career.... Retired Chef!



Bev Collier, Chef Kevin, Clint Collier

NOTES

from Our Members

And now folks... a little humor to brighten your day.

Anonymous

Yesterday, I was at my local Safeway store picking up a large bag of dog food for my loyal canine friend. While waiting in the checkout line, a woman behind me glanced at the bag and asked, "Do you have a dog?"

What did she think I had—an elephant? But since I'm retired and have plenty of time on my hands, I decided to have a little fun.

"No," I said with a straight face, "I don't have a dog. I'm starting the Dog Diet again."

Her eyebrows shot up, so I continued. "I probably shouldn't, though. Last time, it worked wonders—I lost 10 pounds—but I ended up in the hospital. I woke up in intensive care with tubes everywhere and IVs in both arms."

By now, the people in line were starting to pay attention. "The diet is simple," I explained. "You just keep some dog kibble in your pockets and eat a piece every time you feel hungry. It's nutritionally balanced, so it's perfect for weight loss. I figured I'd give it another shot."

The woman looked horrified. "Why did you end up in the hospital? Did the dog food poison you?" she asked.

"Oh no," I replied, shaking my head. "I stepped off the curb to sniff an Irish Setter's rear end, and a car hit me."

The guy behind her nearly fell over laughing, and I'm pretty sure the cashier couldn't breathe. Suffice it to say, I think I might be banned from Safeway.

Moral of the story? Be careful what you ask retired folks—we've got all the time in the world to come up with creative answers.





Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin

Hi to all SIR Members! Are you aware that SIR Branch 146 has 50 different group activities and 30 of the 50 activities are available to spouses or significant others. If you are looking for something to enrich your life then go ahead and click on any activity located at www.sir146.com. Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know.

Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs and what they do to keep our 259 members involved in stimulating activities. The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

On 5/14, 16 SIR members went to the San Francisco Giants game at Oracle Park



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

[Artificial Intelligence](#)

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Beginning/Refresher](#)

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch and Wine](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

[Dining Out](#)

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Gardening](#)

[Golf-9 Hole](#)

[Golf-18 Hole](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

[Mexican Train](#)

[Dominoes](#)

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Cuatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Diez](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Group 8](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theater](#)

[Travel](#)

[Veterans](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4	5	6
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 WC Library	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal WC 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
9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	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 SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Chess Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr 233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in WC 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
16	17	18	19	20
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00pm–4:00pm AI Investment Subgroup Las Trampas Room Downtown WC Library	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 1:30pm SongSir Rehearsal WC Presbyterian Church 6:45pm–10:00pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 9 Nueve	9:30am Nine Hole Golf–1 12:00 Noon SIRCall articles due 5:00pm Sushi No Tomadachi Sasa, WC 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group Downtown WC Library 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00pm–3:30pm MTD 10 Diez 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
23	24	25	26	27
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm–4:00pm Poker Group #4	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 WC 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
30	Jul 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 WC 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 3:00pm Lunch and Wine (LAW) 4th Celebration



Travel Glenn Breslin

GOOD NEWS !!! **Vietnam/Cambodia Trip Update:** 12 SIRs are going. Only **2 slots** now available. Please inform if you are interested, before this trip sells out. See below for details.

New Trip Announced: Many SIR members have mentioned interested in going to **CUBA** on 3/12/26 for a 7-day tour. If you are interested, then please let me know glennbreslin@gmail.com. Trip details will be sent to all SIR members during June.

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 with air) Angor Wat Post-Trip Included, available LINK HERE Group code: G5-30339	1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295/\$7645 with air) Both Melbourne Pre-Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available LINK HERE Group code: G6-30339	4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495/\$9095 with air) Hiroshima Post-Trip available LINK HERE Group code: G6-30339

TRAVEL NOTES

1. If interested, in any of these trips, please ask Glenn Breslin for the current Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) discounts.
3. All 2026 reservations by 6/15/25 will be *price-protected* against any OAT future price increases over the year.

Travel Quotes:

“Life was meant for great adventures and close friends”

“There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with

“Friends that travel together, stay together”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





Theater Glenn Breslin

SIR Theater/Music Announcement

Bee Gees Tribute Band – You Should be Dancing

- **Date:** Sat 7/19 8:00 PM
- **Show:** Bee Gees Tribute Band
- You Should Be Dancing dedicated to faithfully recreating the Bee Gees' iconic sound, while elevating the onstage visual experience.
- **Location:** Lesher Theater
- **Price:** \$59.00 per ticket. Once I receive your money, I will ask you to pick from the best tickets that I have available.
- **Limited:** 12 tickets remain
- **Payment:** Make out your check to SIR146 and send to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- **Optional Dinner:** 5:30 PM optional dinner to be announced before the show

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or comments. See contact information below. TheLesher theater announces **new shows** during June. Look for some new SIR show announcements in June or July.

I look forward to sharing these SIR-Theater experiences with you !!



Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

March 25th:

April 22nd: The weather was super, the scenery was magazine cover . The ride was The George Miller Trail along the Carquinez straits. Today we had **Jim Crites, Thom Deganan, Tom Alborg, Bill Holly, Dave Paulson, Brian Totter, Jim Rowland, Elmer Bricca, Ken Studer**, and **Larry Kaye**. We had hills, and more hills and more hills. The grades were close to 13%. Killers. The view corridor made that bearable. Up became down. The downhills were sharp and fast. Really fast. The brakes got a workout. The drive was to get to Martinez and visit State Street coffee. Well, we made it but.... They were closed. So as a backup we rode to Starbucks and had crap java. The remainder of the ride got us on some backstreets and finally to our steel chariots. Our legs were happy to stop.

Today it was obvious that age means nothing. Exercise is the key to living a good life. Get off your butts.

April 29th: We were to go to San Ramon and meet the Ride Leader from SIR San Ramon. We did that. Great ride. Today we had: **Brian Totter, Jim Crites, Jim Nelson, Bob Wilkenfeld, Tom Alborg, Ken Studer, Larry**



4/22 (Left to right): **Jim Crites, Bill Holly, Jim Rowland, Ken Studer, Elmer Bricca, Dave Paulson, Brian Totter, Larry Kaye, Tom Alborg**, Photo by **Thom Deganan**.

Kaye and Pat Hoy from another Sirs group. We met Bill at Starbucks and got the info on Tuesdays long ride to Sunol. Then we came back to our cars. Fun, easy, flat and warm. I wore the new Club Jerseys as requested by **Bob** but... no one else did. Very sharp. We rushed this ride as the wine tasting was also today. Get up, get out of the house and stay young.

May 6th: Today was super. We joined the San Ramon SIR riders and did a long ride to Sunol. 14 Of our 146 guys rode. We went to the famous HEARST Verona bridge. He built it to get to his home from his private railroad stop. Fun ride. It was **Thom's** birthday and so we all rode. Two groups with different routes. We met up in Dublin and returned as a group. Lunch was compliments of **Thom** at Hazy BBQ in Danville. So nice to share events like this with guys that enjoy. Today we had: **Thom Deganan, Larry Kaye, Dave Paulson, Tom Alborg, Eric Finson, Jim Crites, Elmer Bricca, Bob**

Cycling Group continued on next page



Cycling Group continued from previous page

Wilkenfeld, Ken Studer, Moose Kelly, Brian Topper, Jim Nelson, Jim Rowland, and Bill Holly. I ask you, "How many guys over 70 or 80 can do this?" It's called exercise. To find it, go out the front door.



L to right. Ken Studer, Bob Wilkenfeld, Larry Kaye, Thom Degnan, Dave Paulson, Moose Kelly, Elmer Bricca, Eric Finson, Brian Lotter.
photo. Larry Kaye

May 13th: Canyon? What's a Canyon? Well it's a little tiny town nestled between the hills separating Moraga and Oakland. We would explore this gem today.. **Jim Crites, Moose**

The three hardest things to say are:

1. I was wrong
2. I need Help
3. Worcestershire Sauce



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs are preparing a program that will be a mix of summertime and patriotic songs for a June 13 performance at the Kensington Retirement Home in Walnut Creek. We will be singing such favorites as "Beyond The Sea", "The Green Leaves of Summer" and "Blue Moon."

Our next rehearsal is on June 4th, 2025 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30.

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

Kelly, Bob Wilkenfeld, Ken Studer, Elmer Bricca, Thom Degnan, Brian Totter, Dave Paulson, and Larry Kaye. Great ride. The weather in Orinda turned cold but we knew that would change. We explored Canyon and took in the school and Post Office before we headed to Si Si for java. At the cafe we met Bill Ross who's recovering from an injury. The trip back split us into two groups. Moose and a few took the long way back while I, Larry Kaye, and the rest flew down past St Marys' college into and thru Lafayette and back to our warm cars. A very nice ride and some good hills to test one's ticker. A short time in the gym is better than any time on your couch. Get outside while you can.

Larry Kaye
925.698.430



Gardening Ken Studer

We meet on the Third Monday of the month at 3:00. Our format is to meet outside at different member's homes to learn about best practices in the world of horticulture. We learn about different gardening topics each month, such as: soil science, vegetable growing, pruning techniques, irrigation problems, container gardening and sheet mulching to name a few. And we learn from our member's collective experiences. We strive for a social and educational balance in these get togethers. We are a new activity and are still trying to find a good mixture of speakers, demonstrations and public gardens to visit for our get togethers.

Our May meeting gathered at Eric Finson's garden to learn from his experience with vegetables in his raised beds and fruit tree orchard. Ron Lew, Tom Stucker, Bev Collier, Eric and myself were there to learn about pruning techniques. We demonstrated a new way to improve the health and abundance of fruit from his lemon tree. But we learned the most that day from observing how Eric adapted good horticultural techniques to make his garden flourish with color and new growth.

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 klstuder1161@gmail.com



Birding Ted Robertson

At 8:30AM, a group of ten SIR birders explored the Castle Rock Area of Walnut Creek and spotted and heard 33 species of birds. The highlights of the trip included a Peregrine Falcon perched on a ledge in the cliffs, a pair of western Tanagers (one of my favorite California birds), Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Lark Sparrow (my favorite sparrow), and great views of several Western Bluebirds.

I'm also a retired botanist (as well as an ornithologist) so we also looked at several unique wildflowers including rare and endemic Mt. Diablo Globe Lilies and the Mt. Diablo Sunflower, plus the northernmost extension of the Crimson Sage. (Maybe I should call the group birds and botany).

Our next field trip is scheduled for the morning of June 11th (2nd Wednesday) at a location to be announced early next month. I study the county bird reports the week before for the best location.

If interested, please email **Ted Robertson** so you can be added to the monthly mailing list.



SIR Birders (Photo by Jim Roland)



Male Western Bluebird (Photo by Jim Rowland)

Ted Robertson

925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



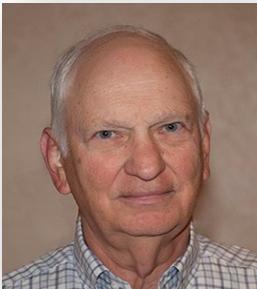
Peregrine Falcon.
(Photo by Jim Rowland)



Crimson Sage growing
along trail.
(Photo by Earl Bates)



Soaring Red-tailed Hawks
(Photo by Earl Bates)



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



Veterans Larry Kaye

June 5th will see the second Veterans group lunch. Two speakers are slated to attend: former Contra Costa County District Attorney and Navy air vet Gary Yancey will talk on his flying experiences from a carrier. Brigadier General Bart Gilbert will once again be present to tell some tales. This will be at the Back Forty Texas BBQ restaurant in the Train room at 11:30 hours. Located in Pleasant Hill. If you have confirmed no need to do again. **Larry**. GO NAVY! [proof reader #1: Go ARMY!]

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030

larrykaye2@comcast.net

One big difference between men and women is that if a woman says "Smell this", it usually smells nice



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

Do you want to work on your short game? Diablo Hills is the perfect place. It has a unique combination of par 3 holes that will improve those short shots. Our group tees off at

9:30am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. 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



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.

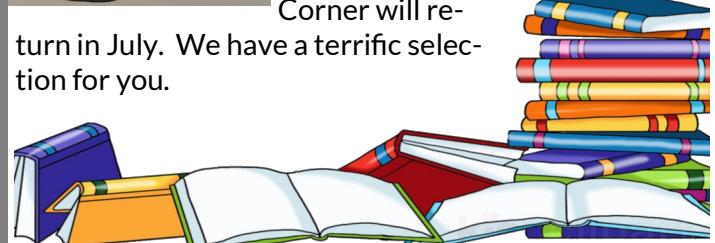
Jim Barry

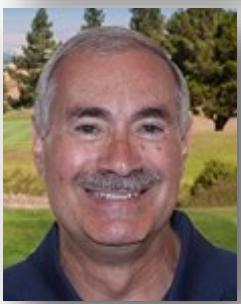
jbarry@sbcglobal.net



Book Corner Paul Kersis

The Book Corner will return in July. We have a terrific selection for you.





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

Our hike up Mt. Diablo on April 28th, from the Regency Gate in Clayton, was advertised to be 5.3 miles and about 1100 feet of climbing. Seven miles later and after 1800 feet of climbing, we were all exhausted and ready for a shower, hot tub and cold drink!! Still **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Gene Schulting and Bob Wilkenfeld** all had smiles on their faces when we returned to our cars.



Globe Lily (AKA Fairy Lantern) Photo by Earl Bates



L→R : Cleo, Bob, Earl, Ray &

Monday May 5 was a glorious day in Briones Regional Park. **Cleo Bolen, Jim & H Crites, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Bob Lively, Ray Martz, and Bob Wilkenfeld** hiked 4.7 miles and climbed 850 feet. Along the way we saw many mountain bikers and other wildlife.

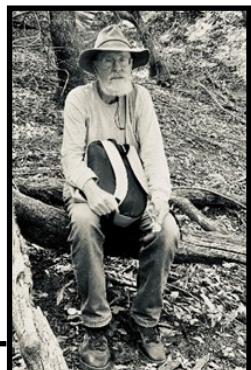


L→R : Eric, Bob W, Ray, Jim, H, Cleo, Chris, Bob L & Winny

Photo by Cleo Bolen



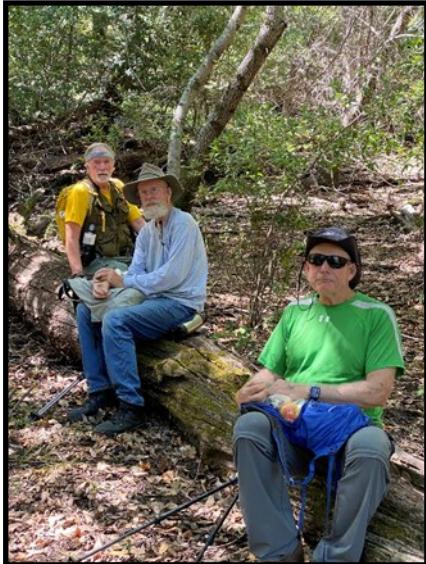
Apparently, April showers bring May showers, so our hike on May 12 was cancelled. We carried over the outing in Las Trampas Regional Park to May 19, which turned into quite an adventure. The "Secret Trail" we took was hard to find and turned out to be an unsanctioned mountain bike slalom course. Fortunately (?), we were headed uphill, as the trail was very narrow and steep in places. **Earl Bates, Eric Finson, Ray Martz, Bob Mason and Bob Wilkenfeld** climbed almost 700 feet in one mile! In the end, we opted to cut our hike short and ended up doing only 3.1 miles, but over 900 feet of climbing.



Hiking Group continued on next page

"Prospector" Earl Bates

Hiking Continued from previous page



The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also host a 3-4 mile flat walk each month on the 2nd Friday of each month (i.e., the morning following our Branch Luncheon). Advanced email notifications for each hike and walk describe the outing details, including starting point, route and difficulty. Spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it. If you are interested in joining us, please let **Bob** know.

L→R **Bob Mason, Earl Bates & Eric Finson**
take a break on the Secret Trail

Ray Martz

rayhvac@gmail.com

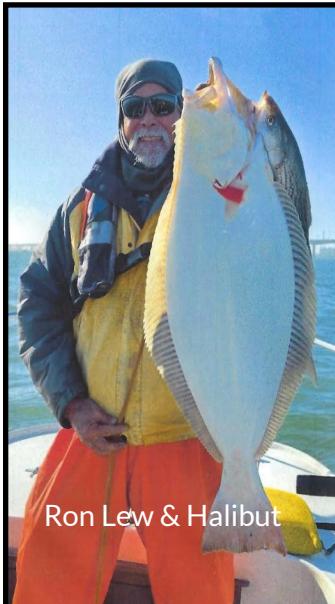
Bob Wilkenfeld

Wilkx4@gmail.com



AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow



Ron Lew & Halibut

To paraphrase the George Gershwin song from *Porgy and Bess*, spring has come, and the fishing is easy---well, sort of easy. But we all had a good time in May, even when we didn't catch fish.

We will start with our semi-annual trip to Lake Almanor. Eight of us journeyed to the lake at the foot of Mount Lassen. We were anxious for a good outcome because **Steve Paulick** had been there one week before and had limited out. Unfortunately, the group ran into stiff winds and they were only able to catch sixteen rainbows in two days of fishing. But the fish were good size. And they made up for the slow fishing

by enjoying themselves at the PG&E campground where they cooked and ate some hearty meals accompanied by a few libations.

Pete Gates and **Steve Lofton** made their annual trek to the Feather River and also fished in Mill Pond, near Graeagle. They kept enough trout to stock their refrigerators with two family meals each. They also had a unique experience with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They were fishing from the shore at Mill Pond when a game warden appeared. While the warden was checking **Pete's** license and examining his catch, he advised **Pete** that there was a fish on his line. **Pete** dropped everything and grabbed his rod. The warden was right behind him and he netted the fish for **Pete**. And so it can be said that we do get some return for the cost of California fishing licenses.

Pete also fished at Los Vaqueros Reservoir with four others, where they caught several trout. **Stan Wong** fared a bit better at the lake. In two trips, he caught 25 stripers, weighing up to 15 pounds, using rattletraps as lures. **Ken Konzak**, **Dennis Lee**, and **Brion Beetz** made separate trips to Los Vaqueros and came home with trout. In other lake fishing, **Ed McElroy** caught a bass in Lake Chabot and **Dave Paulson** picked up a trout at Lafayette Reservoir. However, **Steve Decker** was skunked at Sherman Lake and **Ron Lew** had a similar experience fishing from a kayak at Contra Loma

Continued on next page

Fishing Group continued from previous page

Reservoir. **Geno Calhau** was limited to sunfish at Lake Berryessa. **Steve Paulick, Stan Wong, and Ben LaSala** did well trout fishing in Collins Lake.

Tom Kostik, our resident expert in the Delta, made eight trips to that fishing ground and caught and released 52 stripers, two sturgeon, and a flounder. **Mike Corker, Stan Wong, Harry Sherinian, Ken Bellendir, Matt Richards, and Phil Scimonelli** caught stripers and black bass in the Delta. Phil is also a habitue of the Antioch Pier, where stripers are always plentiful. The stripers are undersized and must be released, but they are bigger than trout and fun to catch. Phil caught over 50 this month.

Halibut fishing in the Bay has not been as good as last year, but we expect it to improve. In the meantime, both **Ron Lew** and **Ken Bellendir** caught a halibut in excess of 30 inches. The minimum size for halibut is 22 inches and fish in excess of 30 inches are rare. Ron also picked up a skate.

In the ocean, **Nic Jabuka** and **Dennis Lee** tried their luck surf fishing at Ocean Beach and Stinson Beach, but only caught a few crabs. New member **Tony Astone** did well fishing for rockfish out of Bodega Bay, and **Carl Moyer** caught some rockfish out of Emeryville.

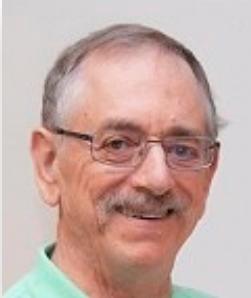
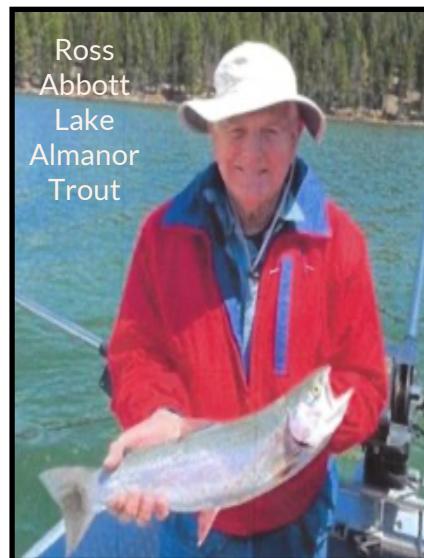
Stan Wong and **Brion Beetz** traveled to Los Gatos with a number of pre-teens, where they taught them how to cast for trout and catfish. They proved to be good teachers because one of the girls on the trip landed a four-foot carp! But the best part of the trip were the hot dogs that Brion and Stan cooked.

And while we are on the subject of food, twenty of us

enjoyed the semi-annual fish fry hosted by **Carl Moyer**.

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for June 26 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am for camaraderie and fish stories, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time but are thinking about starting or renewing this activity.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



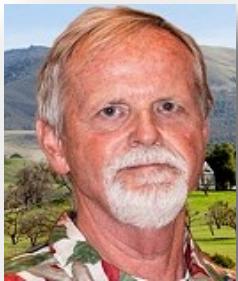
Bocce John Kendrick

Finally, the World famous 2025 SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity finally officially started on Monday, May 12. Unfortunately, Mother Nature made a statement providing rain that cancelled our first meeting. Our next Bocce Ball meeting will be Monday, May 26.

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.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

The photography members will meet on Friday, June 20th at the Walnut Creek Library on the second floor in the Las Trampas Room. The meeting will start at 9 AM. All are welcome to attend.

By the time this article reaches you, the May 16th meeting will be in the books. We had a spirited, enthusiastic, engaged group of 12 photographers that attended this meeting. The following members attended: **Miker Rothman, Glenn Breslin, Frank Terzuoli, Bill Holly, Phil Lee, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Jim Roland, Clint Collier, Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, and Henry Thatcher.** A "SHOUT OUT" to **Miker Rothman and Jim Roland** for bringing donuts and coffee, respectively. Thanks guys!!!!

Topics that were discussed at this meeting were:

- Additional instructions on using Google Photos as our storage – **Professor Rothman**
- 5 Exciting photography trends for 2025 – **Moose Kelly**
- Discussion on "Random Photos" that were download to Google Photos – **Frank Terzuoli** > Big Sur, **Larry McAllister** > Perth, Western Australia, **Jim Roland** > Santa Cruz, **Miker Rothman** > Bank of America Parking Lot, **Clint Collier** (aka Old GOAT) > Al Eagle, **Moose Kelly** > Ireland and Tunnel Tops at the Presidio
- Updated Lightroom presentation on various photos – **Frank Terzuoli**
- 2025 Carnaval Parade in San Francisco on May 25th – **Phil Lee**

Please review the fabulous "Random photos" that were taken by those listed in this segment. I am biased but I think everyone who participated should be given a "NICE JOB" pat on the back.

At the June 20th meeting, we will be discussing the photos from the 2025 Carnaval shoot in San Francisco. Should be a VERY fun photoshoot. **Come on out and join us!!**

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

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Eagle Head Clint Collier



Family Match at Bank of America **Mike Rothman**

Continued on the Following Page

Continued from previous page



Big Sir Rock Formation Frank Terzuoli



Seals Asleep at Santa Cruz Jim Roland



Sunrise at Lake Kilarney Ireland Moose Kelly



Wooden Man,
Perth, Western Australia
Larry McAllister

It's never too late!

- Ray Kroc—Joined McDonald's at 52
- Henry Ford—Started Ford at 40
- Harland Sanders—Started KFC at 65
- Richard Samela—Won an argument with his wife at 54



Book Group Nick Jabuka

Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe

Say Nothing is the true story of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, a period of violence and social unrest between the Catholics of Northern Irish versus the Protestants and the British authorities. The book covers events primarily during the 1970s – 80s, a period filled with many acts of violence and sad stories of individuals and families caught up in the conflict.

The author uses the abduction of Jean McConville and the impact on her children as a central focus of the book. The book also describes the lives of Dolours Price, Brendan Hughes, and Gerry Adams, who all played significant roles in the strikes, protests, violence, and political strategies employed by the Catholics who were seeking reunification of Northern Ireland with the remainder of Ireland under Irish control.

The author based the book on his research and the many archival records available on the period.

The book's title is taken from the poem "Whatever You Say, Say Nothing" by Irish Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney and underlines the danger in saying anything to the British authorities, as any misguided comment may lead to an adverse action on a neighbor or friend or a response by the IRA against the 'snitch'.

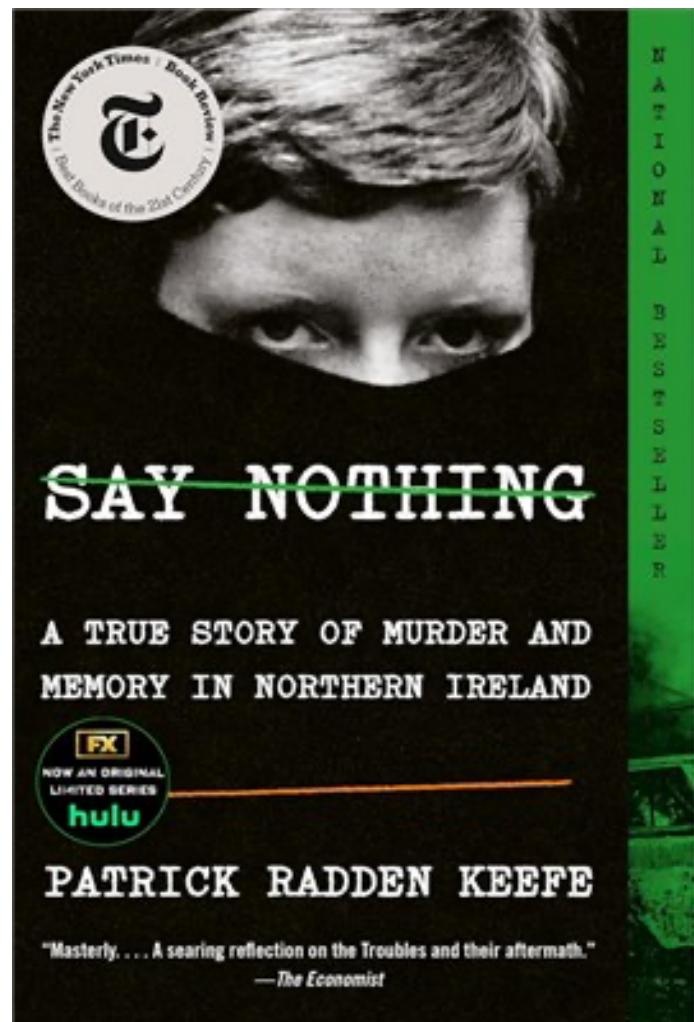
Recommendation/Comments

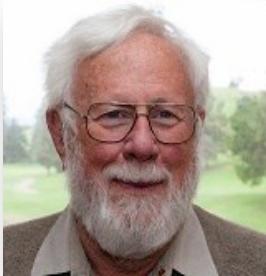
The group generally found the book interesting and informative for those who wanted to learn more about this period in Northern Ireland's history. The book doesn't provide a more extensive history of Northern Ireland or the relationship between the English and Irish peoples. We recommend the book, but **only** for someone interested in this period of Irish history.

Next month's book is *Personal Librarian* by Marie Bene-

dict and Victoria Christopher Murray. The book tells the story of Belle Da Costa Green's work as the personal librarian for J.P. Morgan and as director of the Morgan Library & Museum. The novel follows Belle as she begins her employment with J.P. Morgan, enters the world of high society, and disguises her true identity as a person of color.

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





寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

Who's ready for some first class sushi! Our June outing will be our first non-holiday outing where significant others

are invited to join us. In recognition of the monumental greatness of this occasion I have selected Sasa, in downtown Walnut Creek, as our Japanese restaurant of choice. A number of people have asked why we haven't gone there, well this is now your chance. It was picked because of its offerings beyond sushi for those significant others. It promotes it self as an Izakaya! And, of course, those sushi aficionados amongst us are welcome to deviate in their menu choices as well when we try this famous Walnut Creek Restaurant.

Sasa

But, it turns out that they do not serve lunch during the week, only on weekends. So, a slight change in our routine. **This will be a late lunch/early dinner event starting at 5:00pm on our usual day, Thursday June 19th.**

Reservations are a must. A notice will be sent out the first week in June asking group members to confirm their participation. No shows for confirmed reservations may incur a charge! If you are not a member of the Sushi no tomodachi group and want to join us, shoot me an e-mail and we will try to accommodate as many as our reservation allows.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

The Cooking II group met at **Corrie Oranje's** home on May 12th after a morning rain said goodbye to Spring and Summer. As usual everyone arrived with a bottle of wine in hand. **Corrie** greeted everyone with a new, agreed upon, lighter menu.

The group was first introduced to a variety of cheese, salami and crackers. Next, lively conversation ensued without politics or religion being discussed. The group was then seated in **Corrie's** dining room to enjoy a bowl of split pea soup. **Corrie**, who was born in the Netherlands, served us an old world recipe that was delicious. Accompanying the soup were a variety of sandwiches from the Sourdough Company. The group agreed that the Sourdough Company could be recommended as a local sandwich eatery. The group will next meet on June 9th at the home of **Bruce Borgman**.

Steve Ybarra





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

The Lunch and Wine (LAW) Group started in 2008 as a monthly luncheon where each member served as host and cooked a very good meal,

while the guests each contributed a bottle of wine. Since then, a few of us retired from the cooking department. And so now the monthly host has a choice of hosting or inviting the others to a local restaurant. When we go to a restaurant, the guests no longer need to bring wine and so they make up for it by paying for the meal.

This month, our host was **Syd Whalen** and he chose to meet at Back Forty in Walnut Creek, where we enjoyed various barbecue plates, including Cajun catfish. The food was excellent.

One of our traditions is that our wives or significant others enjoy a lunch at a local restaurant while we are dining, but they do so at a separate location. This month, however, was a departure, as the women also chose the Back Forty. However, they had a separate room and we did not see them until they were kind enough to drive us home.

If any of you want to join our group, you would be quite welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month from 11:30 am to 2 pm except in November and December. In April and September, we forego the luncheons and have dinner out with our spouses and significant others. And you are welcome even if you don't know how or like to cook or do not have a wife or significant other.

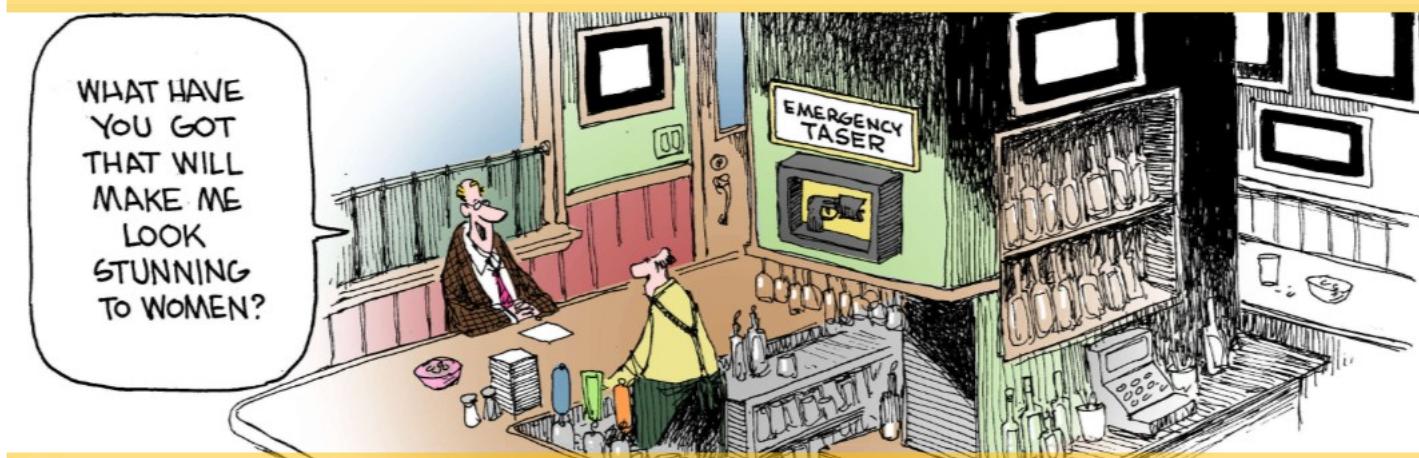
If you are interested, please contact Paul Dubow.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com

I was at a job interview when the manager handed me a laptop and said: "I want you to try to sell this to me."

So, I picked it up and left the building. Eventually he called me and said: "Bring my laptop back now."

I said: "\$500 and it's yours!"



There's a new movie coming out with the story line of scientists who insert the DNA of a dinosaur in a pig.

It's called Jurassic Pork



Wine Tasting Brian McCarthy

The April wine tasting was held at the home of **Bob** and **Jane West** in their recently renovated beautiful yard. It was a lovely spring day. We had an excellent selection of wine and an assortment of delicious appetizers. This all made for a fun-filled day. (How could it not be, with good friends, wine and food.)

Two new members joined us--**Mark Raaberg** and **Ed Lichtig** and his wife, **Lianne Abrams**. We hope to see them again at another wine tasting. They are great additions to the group.

Bruce Kimmis and **Christina Stratton** brought the most popular (determined by vote) red blend. The most popular Sauvignon Blanc was brought by **Tom** and **Pege Amann**.

The one little "hic-cup" that we have every wine tasting is trying to open umpteen wine bottles while the group stands around with empty glasses. So, I want to thank **Bill Holly** and **Curtis Young** for assisting in the bottle uncorking.

We only do four wine tastings a year and they are very popular. We often have a waiting list so when you see the notice, let us know as soon as you can. This brings me to the next wine tasting. The July wine tasting will be on the fourth Tuesday, the 22nd at the home of **Bob** and **Wendy Lucido**'s home. Details will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

Brian McCarthy

925.324.2463 br146winetasting@gmail.com





Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

As we indicated in last month's article, we planned to check out Casa Orinda for our May Dining Out event. This venerable restaurant is one of the oldest in the East Bay, having served the finest Western and Italian food in the area for the past 84 years. The restaurant was presumably started by the engineer who built the original

CASA ORINDA

RESTAURANT

Caldecott tunnel because there was no place for his workers to eat! We did enjoy a Couples Dining Out event in 2019, and we had not returned since it is just a bit further in Orinda out on highway 24. I had a harder time connecting with Claudia, the general manager, because the restaurant is closed on Monday and Tuesday. When we did meet, she was happy to accommodate our group and had all our contact information readily available! So, we arranged to have our Dining Out event on Wednesday, May 21. We thought that we'd have fewer diners attending because of the distance and set our limit at 40 diners. But, many of our group were interested and we reached our goal within a few days. We finally wound up with a total of 52 diners, happily with some new members as well.

The restaurant has a reputation for the best fried chicken in the East Bay, and beyond, and almost half of our diners elected this entrée including **Mary McCarthy** shown with her chicken in the picture! In addition, we had a choice of sautéed prawns, veal scallopine marsala, and chicken cacciatori. We started with a tossed green salad and for dessert enjoyed the house made lemon pie.

You will be able to see several pictures of our event.

Now, I'm pleased to let you know that this time we've already planned for our next Couples Dining Out event - which on our bi-monthly schedule will be in July. One of our regular diners, our good friends the

restaurant at Rossmoor, the Creekside Grill. We were not familiar with the restaurant, which, as you probably would surmise, primarily caters to the happy residents at this well known retirement community adjoining Walnut Creek. **Jonathan** and **Barabara** arranged to have us meet the general manager Stan. He was most accommodating and was able to provide us with an excellent menu at a very good total cost. We stayed for the special dinner that evening in the restaurant, which happened to be prime rib! The dinner that Stan is proposing will be a starter salad, and a choice of four entrees, to include Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon, Eggplant Parmesan, and... the prime rib (!), followed by a red velvet cake for dessert. All of this for just \$55 per person, including tax and tip. This will be one of the best deals of our recent dinners. The dinner primarily with the prime rib will be a wonderful meal.

Since we are early in planning this event, we will be working on the informational flyer which will be distributed to our Dining Out mail list. Or let me know by email that you wish to join us for this event.

We will have one of the private rooms with seating around round tables of 6. Total capacity is probably around 56. As an added perk, we have the use of the patio with tables which overlooks the water features of the golf course and is a wonderful setting for our no-host cocktail hour. I have therefore thought that we will have a slightly expanded cocktail hour starting at 5:00pm until dinner at 6:15. While sipping your wine, you may even wish to get a plate, or platter of calamari and shrimp, on your own, of course and socialize with your SIR friends.

The date for this event will be on Monday, July 21. As noted, we're early in the planning process. Watch for the flyer!

Bruce Borgman
Dining Out Host
bbborgman@aol.com



CREEKSIDE GRILL

Korfhages, suggested that we might check out a res-

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Mexican Train Uno met at Alicia Baily's home for our monthly Mexican Train game. There was one table of 5, and the second table had 6 players.

The table of 5 were quite efficient and almost completed a full round of hands, playing all the way from the double 12 to the double one.

We also had a "first" that in all our years of playing Mexican Train has never happened! A good three quarters through the second hand (double elevens), at the end of the six extensions (5 players and the mexican train) were two tens, and 3 fives. Players still had tiles to play in their hands but it turned out that the end tens, and end fives were DEAD. We were able to count 13 tiles (14 faces) of the tens & fives in the played tiles. The hand was ended as no one could make a play. It is an interesting game.

I think everyone had a good time, although **Jim Stedman** felt the Gods were against him. He had an all time high. On the opposite end, the big winner was **Bruce Borgman** (average 11), followed by **Jane Bryant** (average 21.5) and coming in third place was **Sue Oranje** (average 22.5). A delightful raspberry lemon cake was featured at break time. We look forward to our June game at **Peter and Gabriela Bishop's** home.

Corrie Oranje
corrieorange@gmail.com



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos" Ron Plachy

We played at the home of **John and Nancy Pearl** in April. We had a full complement of our regular players.

For the second month in a row, we had winners from the same household. **Bev Collier** (11.75 avg) bested her other half **Clint** (11.80 avg) to take 1st place and leave **Clint** with 2nd place. The score keeper at his table (not saying that had anything to do with it ☺), **Dan Holland**, captured 3rd place with a 16.3 avg.

Our next game is scheduled for Friday, May 23rd at the home of **Ron and Anne Plachy**.

.Ron Plachy
925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com



April MTD 2 winners (L to R): **Dan Holland** 3rd, **Bev Collier** 2nd, **Clint Collier** 2nd.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, April 25th at the home of **Judy Richmond** in south Walnut Creek. The ole

Friday special huffed and puffed its way through the hills of Walnut Creek to Judy's doorstep. Gathering around the tables were **Walt & Sue Busenius**, **Judy Richmond**, **Sharon Varner**, **Sally & Lynn Shafer**, **Alicia Baily**, and **Linda & Larry Brown**. Judy is always a wonderful host who spoils us with table treats and very delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her A game to the arena, **Sally Shafer** dominated, taking home 1st Place and bragging rights with an avg. score of 13.14 pg. Both **Linda Brown & Judy Richmond** played well, coming in 2nd and 3rd place respectively, showing off their excellent MTD skills to the rest of the group. It was competitive, but we chatted a lot and very much enjoyed the afternoon.

We always say our goodbyes, quietly board the ole Mexican Train and follow the horizon home.

Our next meeting will be on Friday afternoon, May 23rd, at the home of **Linda and Larry Brown**. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On May 9th, the El Cuatro Mexican Train dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 8 players. In attendance this evening were **Ken** and **Carol Soult**, **Scott** and **Marie-Claire MacDougall**, **Rich** and **Kim Pace**, and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The

group enjoyed MTD while consuming the wonderful snacks provided by several of the members. We played at one table of 8 and it was a lot of fun. The person with the lowest score was **Marie-Claire MacDougall**, who was warded 8 California Lotto Scratches. The high scoring player was **Carol Soult**, who received one Lotto ticket. (see in pictures).

The El Quattro MTD group will meet in June 20th. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

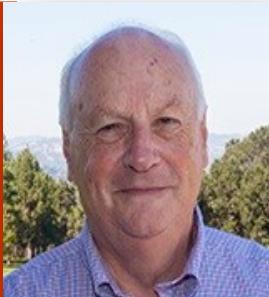


Winner: Marie Claire MacDougall.



High Scoring Player: Carol Soult

Jim Pope
jpopo24@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

On a pleasant spring evening friends gathered at the home of **Joan** and **Dennis Hallett** (traveling to a grandchild's graduation), **Judy Baldridge**, **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** (for health reasons). However, **Bob** stopped by briefly to lift our spirits with a very positive report on **Janet's** progress. We greeted him and his good news warmly.



Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis”

Steve Lane

In April MDT-6 gathered at **Kathe Mitchell's** home. Thank you, **Kathe**, for hosting.

We had **Kathe Mitchell**, **John Kendrick**, **Mary McCarthy**, **Carol Lane**, and **Peter Plante** at one table, and **Steve Lane**, **Martha Plante**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Brian McCarthy**, and **Richard Hockenbrock** at the second table.

Kathe Mitchell won it all (12.4) with **Martha Plante** second (14.5) and third **Bruce Borgman** (17.7).

MTD-6's May get together will be at **Bruce Borgman's** home on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.

The women once again bested the men. **Joan Pierce** had a hot streak and went out all but two times; she was first (53). **Marti Campbell** (88) was third. **Doug Eisner** prevented a total lack of honor by the men and was second (79). Congratulations to the winners. The men at least avoided getting stuck with the double blank this time. Be grateful for small successes.

Next month **Jim** and **Anne Burke** will host, and the men hope to welcome the return of **Bob** and **Dennis** to bolster their ranks (and their success).

Dave Pierce on behalf of Dennis Hallett

Dennis Hallett

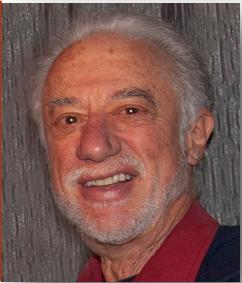
dennishallett@astound.net



Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.





Mexican Train Dominoes “Siete” Bob Lucido

On April 9th, **Bob & Wendy “Rabbit Ears” Lucido** hosted the MTD 7 event. **Bob Lucido** took first place, **Bev Collier** placed second, and **Clint Collier** came in third.

All holding rabbits.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Ocho” Richard Hockenbrock

History was made on this date, May 7th, 2025. One of the Mexican Train Dominoes players, hit an average score of 1.33

played over 6 games. He accomplished this by going out 5 of 6 games and for the game where he didn't go out, he had one domino left, scoring just 8 points. The person achieving this score was, yours truly, **Richard Hockenbrock**. I might add, that sitting opposite of me at the end of the same dining room table was **John Foster** who unfortunately had the highest score of the evening at 437 points, with an average score of 72.8. **John** was happy to receive a scratcher ticket for his trouble but here again, after scratching all the numbers off on the ticket, absolutely nothing was going to make **John** a winner on this loathsome night.

At half-time, **Pete McNeill** laid out a nice selection of meats and then, at the end, cakes, and ice cream. Overall, we had 15 players attending the games.

The top three winners for the evening were **Richard Hockenbrock**, in first place with a score of 1.33, **Alicia Baily** in second place with a score of 11.44, and in third place was **Joyce Wells** with a score of 17.2. The pot paid out \$24 for 1st place, \$12 for 2nd place, and \$4 for 3rd place. The two players with the highest scores were **John Foster** (72.8) and **Pete McNeill** (36.89).

Our next game will be played on the first Wednesday in June, the 4th. The food and snack host will be **Ron & Victoria Polivka**. If you would like to sign up to be on our substitution list, please send me an email at the following address:

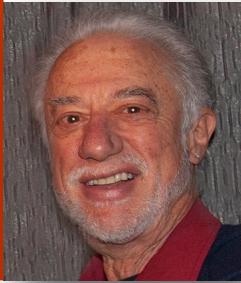
Richard Hockenbrock

925.324.1713 rjhock@outlook.com

Winners
Center 1st
place,
Richard
Hockenbrock,
left of him is
Alicia Baily in
2nd place and
to his right is
Joyce Wells in
3rd place.



Scratcher
Left **Pete McNeill**
Right **John Foster**



Mexican Train Dominoes “Nueve” Bob Lucido

On April 16th, Bob & Wendy Lucido hosted the MTD 9 event.

Bob Lucido took first place, but did not win over \$20, that was photoshopped., **Mary Ellen Dalgaard** placed second, and **Dave Kingsbury** came in third.

Bob Lucido

bobwendy3@comcast.net



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

On April 18th, Mexican Train Dominoes “Diez” (Group 10) was hosted by **Fred and Nancy McNeil** in their beautiful home in Diablo. The April winners were **Rich Alf**, **Eric Finson** and **Mark Sorum** with consolation prizes going to **Steve Petersen** and **Phil Lee**.

We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 pm to socialize and have some fun. Our next meeting will be May 16th at the home of Dean Mayer in Moraga. We rotate hosting among different homes.

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

Mark Sorum and
925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com

Cleo Bolen
925.768.7902 cleo.bolen@comcast.net





CARD GAMES

...we play



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

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from April 11th and 25th.

The big winners were **Jim Passaglia** with 4 wins and **Frank Lucas** with 3. **Bill Vizza** and **Frank Lucas** had 4 and 3 2nds, respectively. The lowest average scorers were **Frank Lucas** and **Dave Smith** with 42 and **Bob West** with 45. **Bill Vizza, Steve Ybarra** and **Rich Lyon** each had 2 STM's.

YTD: **Jim Passaglia** has the most wins with 11 followed by **Frank Lucas** and **Steve Ybarra** with 8.

Our seasoned warriors with the highest winning percentage of active players are **Steve Ybarra** with 40% and **Jim Passaglia** with 34%.

Ron Polivka and **Jim Passaglia** lead in YTD 2nds with 8.

Lowest Average Scorer at 49.1 is Steve Ybarra.

Ron Polivka and **Jim Passaglia** lead in STM's with 8, followed by **Steve Ybarra** and **Bill Vizza** with 7.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be May 9th and May 23rd, and June 13th and June 27th.

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

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

robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com

Couples Party Bridge **Tony Greco**

Larry and Linda Brown hosted our May 6th event. John and Kathy Kluesener invited their neighbors John and Mary Pat Moxon to join us as guests to sub for the DeVoes. They seemed to enjoy the event and perhaps will accept future invites as subs, when needed. As you can see from the results below, we "let them" come in 2nd place to encourage them to return. John Kluesener is also pursuing John Moxon as a new SIR member candidate.

Of the 60 hands played, 42 were made and 18 went down. Of the 42 games made, 14 were at game level. Four hands made 6 but were not bid. Final standings were close with only 80 points separating 1st and 2nd place and only 20 points separating 3rd and 4th place. The highlight of the evening was **Larry Brown's** home-made "salmonless" cheese ball.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3070 points
Larry and Linda Brown
- 2nd PLACE with 2990 points
John and Mary Pat Moxon
- 3rd PLACE with 2320 points
Tony and Cindy Greco

Our next event will be held on June 3rd and hosted by **Tony and Cindy Greco**.

Have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Tony and Cindy Greco
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Poker Group 4

Mark Sorum

Our April game was at the home of **Pete Gates** on April 21. Pete was a great host and there was ample food and drink for all. We had 7 players and enjoyed a wide variety of games with various versions of 7 card stud and 7/27 being the more popular. Alas, **Mark Sorum** was the big winner although he didn't win enough for more than a Starbuck's.

Games are usually scheduled for 1-4 pm on the 3rd Monday of each month. Hosting is rotated between members' homes. The host provides light snacks and beverages.

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

Dealer antes a nickel per player.

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

We are currently full.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



Area 16

\$UMS Investment Group

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

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton Branch 8

davesutn@comcast.net

Starting your day with an early morning run is a great way to make sure your day can't get any worse than it started.



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a spirited two table game at the home of **Max Hinkle** who was a magnificent host. Many good snacks, a terrific dessert and a warm patio that we all enjoyed.

The high scorers were **Jim Stedman** with 4200 points, **Max Hinkle** with 4190 points (Very Close) and **Bill Schaaf** with 3550 points.

Our next game will be at the home of **Mike Davidson** on Monday June 2nd. This is the last game of our 6-month contest. Plan to attend to boost your score for a part of the big money.

Please let me know if you will play.



Back Row: Joe Fuchs, Jim Pope, Bill Schaaf, Steve Dinning, Jim Stedman, and Max Hinkle; Front Row: Bud Pearce and Ray Spears. Photo by Max Hinkle.

Co-Directors

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

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!



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 Dave Pierce

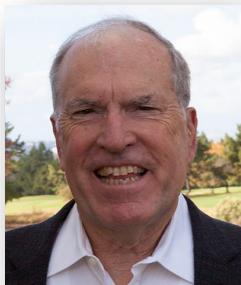
When Ken and Elaine Richter hosted us on May 13th, it was a thin crowd. Two regular couples were missing, and we were trying for the first time a two-table duplicate. That meant playing six boards against each of three couples, instead of four against five couples. The good news was that we got more time to enjoy each couple; the bad news was that there seemed to be less time to graze the snacks table, which is a big loss when the Richters host.

No slams heightened our new mode (although the eventual winners both bid game and made six on Board 1); indeed, there were ties on the first three boards. There were even ties at the end of play; Ken and Elaine tied Margot Somerville and Marilyn Miller for first (58%).

Summer approaches, and people are busier, so in June we will try two tables again.

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Our game was hosted by Steve Ybarra. He provided very nice afternoon snacks and excellent libations (wine) to accompany

those eats.

Our usual gang of seven - Paul Dubow, Bruce Kimmis, Rich Ahlf, Frank Lucas, Melo Piccolo, and Brad Hatcher joined Steve for a 3+ hour game. As we cashed out, the winners and losers were quite close with not much cash gained or lost. We all enjoyed the time spent.

We will join again on the first Thursday in June at the home of Rich Ahlf.

Brad Hatcher
bhatcher1942@gmail.com

Bartender: "I see your glass is empty.
Would you like another?"

Me: "What on earth would I do with two
empty glasses?"



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. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm

Pete McNeill
925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson
925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com

Parting Shot

A staggering 99% of people born between 1930 and 1947 (GLOBALLY) have now passed away.

For those of us born in this time span, our ages range between 77 and 94 years old (a 17-year age span) and we are one of the rare surviving one-percenters.

We are the smallest group of children born since the early 1900's.

We are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war that rattled the structure of daily lives for years.

We are the last to remember ration books for everything from tea to sugar to shoes. We saved tin foil and poured oil from fried meat into cans. We can remember milk being delivered to our house early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" at the front door.

Some of us can remember "Ice Boxes" and the Iceman delivering those large blocks for the compartment in the box.

Discipline was strictly enforced by parents and teachers and the latter applied the cane liberally to the hands, legs or backsides of disobedient students.

We are the last generation who spent childhood without television and instead, we "imagined" what we heard on the radio. With no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside". There was no city playground for most of us. The lack of television in our early years meant that we had little real understanding of what the world was like.

We got "black-and-white" TV in the 50s that had 3 at best stations and no remote.

Telephones (if we had one) were one to a house and hung on the wall in the kitchen (who cared about privacy).

Computers were called calculators; they were hand-cranked.

Typewriters were operated by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. INTERNET and GOOGLE were words that did not exist.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults and our Dad would give us the comic pages after he read the news.

The news was broadcast on our radio in the evening. The radio network gradually expanded from 2 or 3 stations to dozens.

New highways would bring us jobs and mobility. Most highways were 2 lanes and there were no freeways.

We went to the city to shop.

We walked to school and back.

Our parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into working hard to make a living for their families.

We weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played games like Fiddle Sticks, Grab, Monopoly, Marbles, and Jacks by ourselves. They were busy discovering the postwar world.

We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed, enjoyed ourselves. We felt secure in our future, although the depression and poverty were deeply remembered.

Polio was still a crippler. Everyone knew someone who had it.

We are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no major threats to our country. World War 2 was over and the Cold War, terrorism, global warming, and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life.

Only our generation can remember a time after WW2 when our world was reasonably secure and full of bright promise and prosperity. We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better, not worse.

More than 99% of us are retired now, and we should feel privileged to have "lived in the best of times!"

If you have already reached the age of 77, you have outlived 99% of all the other people on this planet. We are 1%'ers!