

SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

November 2015

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa



Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

In October three new members joined our branch: **David Devincenzi** sponsored by **Curley Kade**, **Jim Solomon** sponsored by **Joe Fuchs**, and **Henry Thatcher** sponsored by **Jim Pope**.

During the month of November we traditionally honor those members of our Branch who have served in the various branches of the Armed Forces. Our Veterans Chairman **Charlie Koeber**, with the help of **George Carpenter**, **Walt Busenius** and our **SongSirs** has put together an expanded program to honor our WWII, Korean and post-Korean veterans.

Our 2016 annual member assessment of \$18 is due by December 31st. Everyone should have received a letter in the mail from our Treasurer, **Rob Melrose**, listing the two options available for paying their annual assessment. For those who want to save the cost of a postage stamp, you may bring your assessment check in its mailing envelope to the November luncheon and deposit it in a separate box. In order to simplify our records everyone is asked to write separate checks for their annual assessment and for their luncheon payment. Please do not give your assessment check to the people at the check-in tables. That will slow the check-in process.

As I mentioned in my column in last month's SIR Call and at the October luncheon, we shall have our regular luncheons at the Concord Hilton during the months of January through April of next year. Our meeting dates will be on the following:

Monday, January 25th
Monday, February 15th
Monday, March 21st
Monday, April 18th

Please mark your calendars accordingly. There will be a silent slideshow depicting the Concord Hilton during the meal portion of the November luncheon for those of you who were not present when we met there earlier this year.*continued on next page*.....

Published For Our Members And Friends

Luncheon – November 12th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Our Veteran's Day Salute
With Guest Speaker
Wayne Korsinen's monologue
"How Could It Be Pearl"

Gathering time – 11:00 am
Starting time – 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?
Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com
Telephone message: 925-979-5146
By noon Friday, Nov 6th



Photo by Corrie's Son-in-law, Patrick Hurley

Bill on the right and **Alice Schultz** on the left, congratulate Sir **Corrie Oranje** pictured here in the red jacket with his wife **Sue** after his performance with the Devil Mountain Chorus at Del Valle Theater on Sunday October 4th. The Devil Mountain Chorus sings Barbershop and their annual performance should not be missed.

Veterans' Day Announcement

Our November meeting will honor veterans, with special recognition of those who began their service in or before 1963. All veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms or other military items such as caps, ribbons or medals to commemorate your service.

Our December Ladies Day Luncheon will be held at the Boundary Oak on Thursday, December 10th. This luncheon is by reservation only. The cost is \$28 per person or \$56 per couple. Sirs without partners are also welcome. No tickets will be sold at the door. See page 4 of this issue of the SIR Call for the menu options. The deadline for signup and receipt of payment is Tuesday, December 1st.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, bring your guest to our next regular luncheon on Thursday, November 12th. If you do, please be sure to notify our luncheon chairman before noon Friday, November 6th.



Little Sir's Corner

Walt Busenius

With Veteran's Day just around the corner, our November 12th luncheon will honor Branch 146 Veterans who served in the military.

This will include the traditional singing of military anthems from our SongSirs to our veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force, Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines. And, we will specifically give recognition to veterans who entered the armed forces between 1940 and 1963.

Our guest speaker, Wayne Korsinen, will present a monologue titled "How Could it Be Pearl?" This is the question Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox asked on December 7, 1941 as the word of the attack on Pearl Harbor reached him in Washington, D.C.

Wayne portrays Secretary Knox as he visits with Chief of Naval Operations Harold Stark during the early afternoon of December 7, 1941. This briefing will reveal the mindset of high-level military personnel regarding Japan from October to December, 1941.

A native Californian and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Wayne is a retired high school history instructor and an experienced speaker on historical events.

Since 1990, Mr. Korsinen has been an honorary member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Mt. Diablo Chapter and has been the long-time chairman of the annual Pearl Harbor beacon lighting ceremony atop Mt. Diablo every December 7th.

November is your last opportunity to bring a guest in 2015. We hope to see you with a guest at this interesting luncheon. Don't wait until next year; there is never a better time to invite a guest than to the very next luncheon.



Membership

Ben Gleason

Our Active membership declined by one in October. At our BEC meeting on October 8th, we approved three new members. Sadly, for the second month in a row, another of our long-time members passed away. Further, two members resigned because of poor health or physical infirmity and one has gone Inactive while spending time in another part of the country. The net result is that our Active roster is reduced to 288 members (including our seven Honorary Life Members).

Status Changes

New Members:

David Devincenzi, Henry Thatcher, & Jim Solomon

Active Member Deceased:

Dave Obera

Active Members Resigned:

Ray Garavaglia, Jim Todhunter

Moved to Inactive:

Darla Boone



October program speaker Marty Brounstein who conveyed a true and inspirational story of rescue, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, with a picture of the story's heroes from World War II, Frans and Mien Wijnakker from the Netherlands, and Marty's number one supporter for his now five-year journey with this story - his wife Leah Baars

Photo by Jeff Baily

December marks another Gala Ladies Day Luncheon. We will be entertained by the wonderful Ladies Quartet "LA DI DA". This is one of those you don't want to miss events. The Sign-up form is on page 4.



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

We know you are all awaiting with bated breath for the announcement of our next Couples Dining Out Event. Alas, because your host (and hostess) have been out of town for several weeks, we have not yet decided on a restaurant for our November event. But, never fear – mark your calendars for Monday November 16th – and we will soon let you know where we will dine. We have a few places in mind and will send out the selection by early November.

Since many of us are back from our vacations, we anticipate a good turnout and a fun get together to share where we have been for the last few months. I know there were some exciting destinations and we want to hear about them. We will plan to have our cocktails at 5:30 as usual, followed by dinner at 6:15 pm.

The restaurant choice will be sent out in an email to all who have come over the last year or two, and we will announce it at our regular luncheon. Or, you can email **Bruce** at bgborgman@aol.com if you are worried about being left out. See you in November!

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Assistant Editor	Jeff Baily
Proofreaders	Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker
	Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia
Labeling & Mailing	Bill Cammerer
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy



Sirs Max Hinkle, Brad Hatcher, Tony Greco and Jim Stedman
prior to the October Luncheon seating



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

November 2015

Salad

Winter Greens Salad

Baby Winter Greens, Golden Apples, Dried Cranberries

Citrus Segments, Grape Seed Oil
Champagne Vinaigrette

Entrees

Holiday Turkey Dinner

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy,
Sautéed Vegetables
Or

Pan Seared Pacific Dory

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables,
Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Pie
Crème Anglaise, Whipped Cream



Frank Sonoda and Vickie Collins having a
good time at the SIR BR146 Annual Dinner Dance



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

The next meeting of the Acoustic Music Group is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at 2 pm.

Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right to 2177 Ward Drive. Call 925-864-2641 or 925-786-7909 if you get lost.

Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at Alan Elnick's home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at carltichenmusic391@gmail.com

I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.



L-R Don Rhoads, Sue Oranje, Corrie Oranje, Steve Olsen & his wife Louise attending the annual Branch 146 Dinner Dance

Reservations for Christmas Luncheon

Salad

Roasted Carrot & Avocado Salad

Baby Carrots, Avocado, Mixed Greens
Maple Fennel Vinaigrette

Entrees

Stuffed Pork Chop

Chorizo & Dried Fruit Stuffed Pork Chop
Seasonal Vegetables, Fennel Potato Gratin
Rosemary Infused Demi Sauce

Or

Pan Seared Salmon

Herb Crusted Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Vegetables
Pomegranate Butter Sauce

Dessert

Petite Christmas Log

Chantilly Cream, Crème Anglaise
Raspberry Coulis

On the form below, type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check to the address below.

Thursday, December 10th, 2015

Number of Tickets _____ at \$28 ea.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NAMES

Entrée Choices

Pork | Salmon

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to: Steve Ybarra, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213

All reservations and payments in full must be received by December 1st. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you when their check and form is received or you may pay for them directly on your sheet listing their name & entrée.



Luncheon Attendance

Max Hinkle

Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the November luncheon is **NOON ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6**. If you are unable to attend, please send an email message to ["nolunchbranch146@gmail.com"](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) before that deadline ("no show deadline"). Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call 925.979.5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the Branch \$25 for the liability we will incur for his meal. Here's a good place to extend our compliments to the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. We appreciate this courtesy that results in an economic benefit to our Branch.

Confirmation of No Show Notices: My intention is to confirm the receipt of each "no show" notice via the same mode in which it was received. If you have not received such confirmation within a day or two after communicating your notice please call me at 925.408.6004. This is important because there have been times when emails, for a variety of reasons, were not displayed in the "no lunch" mailbox.

November Luncheon: The November luncheon will be held on Thursday, the 12th, at the Boundary Oak Golf Course in Walnut Creek. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 a.m. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The price of the luncheon is \$25. The preferred form of payment is a check for \$25 made payable to "SIR 146" delivered when you check in on luncheon day. **REMEMBER, WE ASSUME YOU ARE COMING AND YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH COUNT SUBMITTED TO BOUNDARY UNLESS YOU TIMELY NOTIFY US THAT YOU ARE NOT.**

Last Month's Attendance: There were 214 meals served at our October luncheon. 72.6% of our membership was in attendance. We had only 11 unexcused absentees ("no shows"), representing 3.8% of our membership. This was considerably better than the September luncheon and the 10% figure traditionally used in calculating our meal guarantee. Like September, the 214 meals served were 6 more

than our guarantee but 4 less than the kitchen's commitment.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please advise via an e-mail ["nolunchbranch146@gmail.com"](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) by noon on the Friday prior to the luncheon (the no show deadline). If you do not have convenient access to a computer please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL.**

Special Requests: If you or your guest desires a vegetarian meal or requires a special diet or if, for medical reasons, you or he cannot eat lunch please advise before the no show deadline in the manner as described above. Your request will be honored and remain in effect until you cancel it through the Luncheon Attendance Chairman.

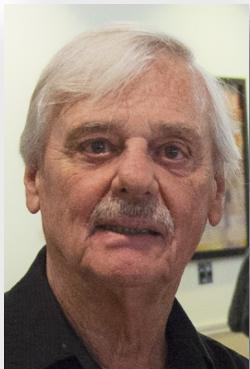
New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.



Guest Steve Drosos with Joe Fuchs and Ken Donnelly at the October luncheon



Long time SIR members **Doug Cook & Joe Suta** at the October luncheon



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

This next month we will be doing an easy five mile hike on the northeast side of Mt Diablo. This is an easy hike with views of Clayton and the Delta. We will meet at the Regency Gate at 10:00 am. Our ascent will be about 700 ft. and it should take about 3 hours. If you're thinking about joining our group this would be a good one to start with. After the hike we'll get together at Ed's Mudville Grill for a light lunch.

Directions—Drive out Ygnacio Valley Road, turn right on Clayton Road, go about five miles, turn right on Regency Drive and drive to staging area at the end of Regency. Walk down the hill to the gate.

Rain cancels the hike

Spouses are Always Welcome

Hike starts at 10:00am, November 13, 2015

E-mail rahlf@sbcglobal.net

Cell [925-550-4967](tel:925-550-4967) (on day of hike)

Photo by Ken Kratz



Dale Haukland and Guy Rudberg at the October luncheon

SIR Happenings Newsletter

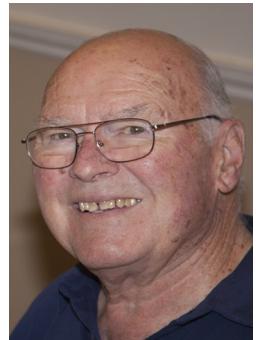
SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.

Walking Schedule

John Lewis

*Every Friday at 9:30 am
at various locales.*

*Call John or just show up.
Rain cancels any walk.*



November walks planned by **Frank Ascatigno**
November walks 2015

Nov. 6th

Walden Park South: Walnut Creek

Meet: Walden Park parking on Oak Rd.
Walk: South on Iron Horse Trail
Coffee: Panera, Bancroft and Treat, W.C.

Nov. 13th

**Hidden Lakes Trail: Morello and
Chilpaningo, Pleasant Hill**

Meet: Hidden Lakes Parking on Morello
Walk: North across park on trail
Coffee: Starbucks, Pleasant Hill Plaza on
Contra Costa Blvd.

Nov. 20th

**Lafayette Moraga Trail: North Moraga
Road, Moraga**

Meet: Moraga Safeway Parking Lot
Walk: North on School St., cross Moraga Rd.
at light to Moraga Regional Trail to
St. Mary's College
Coffee: Terzetto Cuisine, Moraga

Nov. 27th

No walk



Sal Costanza, Pete Gates, and Jim Brown
enjoying some refreshments before the luncheon



Book Nook

Hank James

November is an odd numbered month, so again it is time for the Book Nook to be open. So, survey your bookcases and book shelves for all those books you have read. Bring them to the Book Nook and share them with other Sir Members. That way you make space for all the exciting books you can pick up at the November Book Nook.

Contact **Hank James**:

hankjames@hankjames.com or
925-351-7440 to volunteer

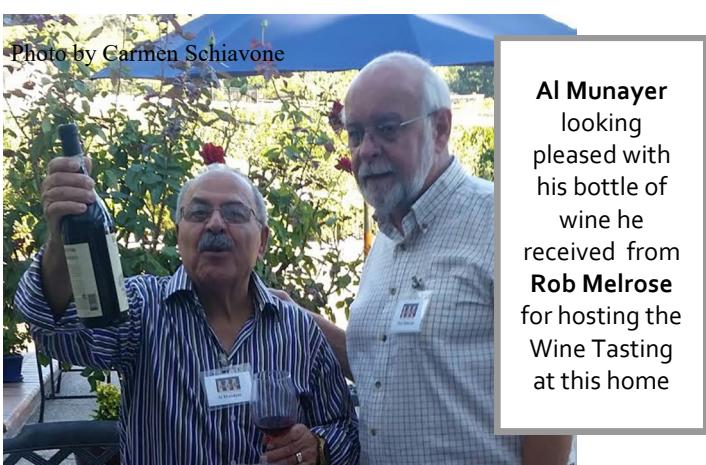


Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Approximately 20 people attended the Oct 21st SIR Wine Tasting event at the home of **Al and Dianne Munayer** where we tasted wines from Italy. A much smaller attendance than normal as Branch 146 just has so many things happening and a number of regular attendance **Sirs** were out of town. Although smaller, the weather and the surroundings made this a perfect opportunity to taste fine wines and get to know our fellow wine tasters.

For their excellent participation in the Wine Guessing program, **Dale Haukland** and **Larry Brown** each received a bottle of red wine and **Jim Barry** a bottle of white. As always the host and hostess received a bottle of wine. Our next wine tasting will be at the home of **Bill and Lynette Holly** in February 2016. If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events, please email **Rob Melrose** at RWMelrose@Gmail.com



Al Munayer
looking
pleased with
his bottle of
wine he
received from
Rob Melrose
for hosting the
Wine Tasting
at this home

- Photo by Rich Ahlf



The October SIR BR146 luncheon is about to begin



Photo by Rich Ahlf

John Lewis & George Zunich are seated and
ready to enjoy their lunch

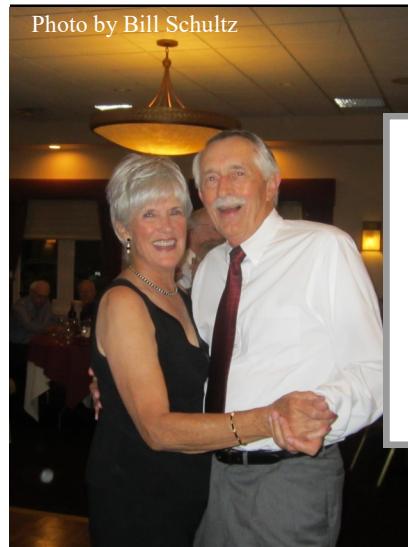


Photo by Bill Schultz

Sharon Nelson and
Larry Gray dancing and
enjoying the music at the
Annual Dinner Dance



Organizers of the SIR BR
146 Annual Dinner Dance
are **Dick Kincaide** and his
wife **Rita**

Photo by Bill Schultz



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

The highlight of the month was our two day expedition to Pyramid Lake, 35 miles north of Reno, to try our luck catching beautiful Lahontan cutthroat trout. We were led by fishmasters **Ernie Wong** and **Karl Droese**. The group included five members of Branch 146, to wit, **Rich Fiscina**, **Chuck Cornell**, **Pete Gates**, **Larry Gray**, and **Paul Dubow**, as well as **Larry's son Jeff**. Also attending were **Joe Karg**, **Steve Paulick**, **Ben LaSala**, **Ken Konzak**, and **Pedro Contreras**. We split into three groups, with one group fly fishing from shore, another group spincasting from shore, and a third group trolling and jigging on the lake. We were all successful, as we caught and released nearly 100 fish. And, after the second day, **Pedro Contreras** hosted a rib cookout at his nearby vacation home under the auspices of master chef **Rich Fiscina**.

The year's salmon fishing ended on a mostly high note. **Carl Moyer** chartered a salmon boat out the gate and he and **Brad Hatcher**, **Rich Fiscina**, and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Karl Droese** and **Richard Bal** limited out by 12:30 pm. **Harry Sherinian** was surprised when he caught a 14 lb. salmon fishing for stripers with **Tom Kostik** in the Delta. However, Branch 146 members **Rich Fiscina**, **Chuck Cornell**, and **Paul Dubow**, along with **Jack Waddell**, were skunked on an outing in **Rich's** boat.

In other venues, **Carl Moyer** caught ling cod and rockfish on several ocean trips but was less successful on two sturgeon outings, catching and releasing only small fish. **Mike Corker** enjoyed plugging for stripers, getting more keepers as the fall run begins.

Our next meeting will be on November 19th at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast at 7:30. All of our members are welcome, whether they have never fished, rarely fished, or fished years ago. For further information, contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met September 24th at the Diablo Creek Restaurant at 11 am to discuss The Wright Brothers by David McCullough. We all were aware that the Wright brothers are credited with building and successfully flying the

first motor powered airplane. However, McCullough presents a fascinating account of how the brothers meticulously researched, planned, tested and finally flew their aircraft much to the surprise of other more well-known scientists who were attempting to build/fly their own machines. This is a great read recommended for all. For our next book, the group selected To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The next meeting will be held at 11:00 am on November 2nd at the Greenery Restaurant at the Diablo Hills golf course. All Sirs are invited.



Photo by Paul Dubow



Rich Fiscina & Steve Paulick

show off
two Lahontan
cutthroat trout
that they caught
and released

Rich Fiscina, Brad Hatcher, Paul Dubow and three friends display their limits of salmon on a successful ocean trip



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 1

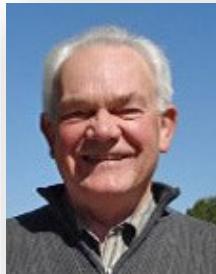
Jerry Kaplan



The October game was hosted by **Sir Frank Ascatigno** and his wife **Marie** at their inviting Concord home on Friday, October 9th. With several of the regulars traveling, we had a smaller but competitive group of 10 folks playing. To make it interesting, the men played at one table and the women at another. Alas, the men got skunked!

The evening's top prizes all went to women playing together **Sue Oranje**, wife of **Sir Corrie**, **Barbara Stedman**, wife of **Sir Jim**, and **Marie Ascatigno**, wife of **Sir Frank** took the top three prizes. We have one more month (November) in this year's Game Nights to see who takes home the prizes for the lowest three averages based on the June through November Game Nights.

After five months, two Sirs are still leading (**Bruce Borgman** and **Terry Marchione**), but **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of **Sir Richard**, is close behind. The group is always looking for a few more substitutes to play on the Friday night following the SIRs luncheon. Single Sirs are most welcome. Typically, during the year, there is room for another two to four people to join the fun. The game is easy to learn. Call **Jerry** at 925 930-7076 or send an email if interested.



Mexican Train Dominoes

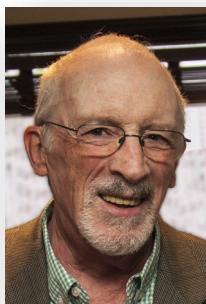
Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Mexican Train Group 1 Members L-R, Jim Stedman, Alicia Baily, Jeff Baily, Barbara Stedman, Corrie Oranje, Sue Oranje, Frank Ascatigno, Marie Ascatigno, and Susan Kaplan



Mexican Train Dominoes

Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily



Tres Dominoes had their third meeting of the year at the home of **Mike and Sharon Varner** and the talent is starting to show. Although we only had 14 players, one table with six players played 10 games. This makes it difficult to have a low average score but **Linda Siljestrom** finished in second place with an average score of 14. **Larry Brown** finished in third place with 19.20 points inching out **Jeff Baily** with 19.40 points. **Steve Siljestrom**, the accountant for the Tres Domino's group, finished in first place with 13 points which prompted an audit of the score card. A big thank you to **Mike and Sharon** for their fabulous hospitality and a delicious pumpkin cake (yes cake) with a pecan topping and caramel sauce topped with whipped cream. (*Written by Steve Siljestrom*)

Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4

(El Quattro)

Jim Pope

MTD4 will be back next month!



Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

Day Trips

December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley.

The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motor coach from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$54 per person. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

February 3, 2016: Jersey Boys. This is the true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. It is the story of how a group of blue-collar boys from the wrong side of the tracks became one of the biggest American pop groups. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in center of orchestra. Cost is \$116. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

Longer Trips

March 25 – April 10, 2016: Big Band Voyage Across The Atlantic Ocean. A 16 day all inclusive cruise across the Atlantic Ocean on the Crystal Symphony. Relish the blissful luxury of days at sea and highlighted by visits to Bermuda, the Azores, Barcelona Spain, Bandol France and Monte Carlo. Cruise cost from \$ 3,665 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

March 13-17, 2016: Spring Training, Phoenix, Arizona. This 5 day/4 night trip has something for everyone. Included in the trip is all transportation starting after arriving at the Phoenix Airport. Your stay will be at the Embassy Suites and all meals will be hosted. There will be three Spring Training Games with the best

seats available which should feature Giants and A's games. During your stay, morning activities will be planned and escorted by our guide. Cost is \$1,795 pp, double occupancy. Air transportation to and from Phoenix is not included. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

May 3-5, 2016: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. A once in a lifetime opportunity to view the Vatican Splendors Exhibit and tour the Reagan Library with lunch under the wing of Air Force One. Also on this trip will be a guided tour of the Mission at Santa Barbara. Included in the trip is round-trip motor coach transportation, 2-night stay at the Pepper Tree (Santa Barbara), 6 hosted meals along the way and Driver Gratuity. Cost \$591 pp, double occupancy. 30 travelers are required for this trip. Contact **Ken Richter**, (Br. 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.

September 13-27, 2016: Essence of the Elbe - Prague to Berlin. This trip starts out with 2 nights in Prague , 7 nights aboard the M/S Allegro in an outside cabin and 3 nights in Berlin. Included are 29 meals with wine and beer served aboard the Allegro at lunch and dinner. There will be 10 exclusive tours with personal headsets and Discovery Series events. Cost starts at \$3,595, plus air. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or KERichter@astound.net.





Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

The Men's Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables of duplicate bridge on October 19th at **Bill Snyder's** house. The competition was fierce during the morning with new regular **Bill Schultz** pulling out to a commanding lead at the break with 15.5 pt. **Bob Yolland, Jim Brown** and **Doug Eisner** were tied for second place with 13.0 pt. However, the afternoon was a different story with most of the pretenders falling away. However, **Fred Bolton** came out of nowhere to tie **Bill Schultz** for first place with 28.0 pt. **Max Hinkle** made a late charge to capture third place with 27.0 pt.

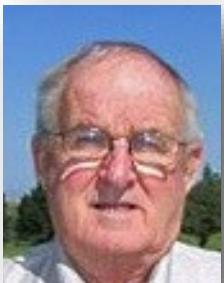
Our next game is scheduled for November 16th at **Bill Schultz's** house. Be sure to car pool as parking is limited near **Bill's** house.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact **Fred Bolton** for details. Bring a lunch.*



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group 1 met September 9th at the home of **Don Del Bene**. The big winner was **Frank McNamee**. As always, there were some small winners and losers. Our next outing will be at **John Lewis'** home on October 7th.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Terry Marchione

We skipped the first Democratic debate to play at the home of **Joan and Dave Pierce** on October 13th. There was no shrinking middle class here as scores were not far from average, and wealth was spread to four couples. As is often the case, subs made a good showing. **Tony and Cindy Greco** tied with subs **John and Linda Boyan** for 3rd place (20.5 matchpoints), and subs **Bob and Janet Yolland** tied the hosts for first (22.5). Thank you, subs. All were rewarded with **Joan's** cool lemon meringue pie on a warm fall evening.

*Written by **Dave Pierce***



Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Poker Group 6 met on October 14th at the home of **Sir Frank Lucas** in Pleasant Hill. We played a number of different games in our normal 3 hour time period. Those in attendance were host **Frank Lucas, Norm Baietti, Bob Larson, Rich Ahlf, Al Twyford, and Harvey Oxman**. **Sid Landman** and **Brad Hatcher** were not available. Big winner was **Bob Larson** at \$15 (highest win yet since we started). Other winner was **Norm** at \$4. Losers were **Al, Rich, Harvey** and our host **Frank** broke even. A couple of interesting winning hands were **Bob's** 3 2's and 2 wild card 3's without drawing a card, and **Al's** 2 tens and 3 wild card 7's without drawing a card in draw poker game. **Frank** provided good red wine and munchies to make our afternoon game enjoyable. Our next game is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 11th, Veterans Day, at **Al's** house in south Walnut Creek. We look forward to another great get together and fun poker games next month.

Sir Call Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

If you enjoy pictures this is the issue for you. In my absence in October, the backup team of photographers stepped forward with their cameras and phones to capture some terrific shots of our members. This reserve team of **Bill Schultz, Rich Ahlf, Ken Kratz, Jeff Baily** and even some member wives or partners got into the act. Look for the photo credits and see if you can find which women got into the act.





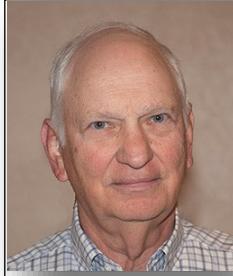
Al Elnick, Jim Solomon, Joe Fuchs and George Mon at the Deer Ridge Tournament on October 1st.

Photo by Bill Schultz



Joe Fuchs in the chips counting with **Roy Hodgkinson**.

Photo by Bill Schultz



GOLF Ed Marlovits

Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.

Since we have so much going on, we publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at sir146golf@gmail.com.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

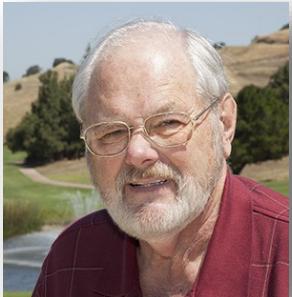
The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2nd Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.

If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game. vlaursen@astound.net



Photo by Joan Pierce

Duplicate III Bridge group
L to R, **Carl Johnson, Bill Schultz, Tony Greco, Harvey Oxman**-tied for first place, **Dave Pierce**, host **Jim Brown, Charlie Abrams, Dave Morris, Jim Stedman, Mike Whitaker, Sid Landman**-tied for first, **Max Hinkle**-3rd place



Theatre
Gary Schaub



Daffy Comedy is SIR 146 Theatre Party for February 18th

To start off the New Year (yes, it's time to think about that!), SIR Branch 146 has scheduled the wonderful Broadway comedy *Born Yesterday* as the Theatre Party event for February 18th. The play, by comic writer Garson Kanin, will be presented by Center REP at Lesher Center in Walnut Creek on Thursday, February 18 at 8:00 p.m. February may seem like a long time off, but reservations for our discount tickets must be confirmed early. A limited number of discount tickets for this award-winning production are available to SIR 146 members and guests who reserve before January 14th, or until our supply is exhausted. The cost is \$35 per person.

Reservations may be made with a check payable to SIR 146, and sent to SIR Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek 94595. If you have any questions, call Gary at (925) 938-5454.

Just in time for a hot election year, *Born Yesterday* shows what happens when a corrupt junk dealer brings his ex-chorus girl/mistress – Billie Dawn – with him to Washington, D.C. To make sure that Billie's ignorance doesn't become a liability, the uncouth dealer hires a local journalist to "educate" the daffy girlfriend. That's where the fun begins! It's bound to be an enjoyable winter's evening entertainment. Audiences have enjoyed this award-winning play since its Broadway debut in 1946, and remember a popular 1950's film starring Judy Holiday and William Holden.



SongSirs
Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs enjoyed performing for the Kensington Senior Living facility on Wednesday, October 21st. We had a good turnout and our presentation was received with enthusiasm. Despite being new in accompanying us, Steve Dinning did a great job and we are so pleased to have him play for us.

As all of the rest of our branch we are especially saddened with the passing of Dave Obera. Dave was one of the original members of the SongSirs and his ability to playing the piano, as well as his wonderful bass voice were an integral part of the SongSirs. Dave continued to come even as he was battling his illness – and we will forever remember Dave's contribution and friendship.

We will continue in Dave's memory as he would have wanted – the SongSirs will do a service song medley at the November luncheon to honor our veterans. Then in anticipation of the Christmas season, we will begin practicing some holiday tunes. If you enjoy singing these carols, join us for our rehearsals. We will practice on Wednesday November 4th and 18th, at 1:30 pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church - see you there!



SongSirs performing for the Kensington Senior Living residents facility





Bocce Ball

Martin Lyle

We play the 2nd and 4th Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain cancels play.

IT'S HIBERNATION TIME It's the time of year we allow the winter rains to interrupt play until next spring. We have had a fine year with many hours of spirited play with our regular players plus a number of new players. We will keep you informed of our next scheduled bocce meetings in this Sir Call notice in the months prior to our start of play in May.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II meets the second Monday of each month at our members homes. Due to several members that were not available October 12th we did not have a lunch this month. Our regular members are: **Bruce Borgman, Bill Cammerer, Steve Dawkins, Dennis Hallett, Corrie Oranje, Ken Richter, Bill Roberts and Bob Yolland.** Our next event will be the groups bottling of White Wine Monday November 9th at **Dennis Hallett's** home.



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg



We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives

Photo by Bill Schultz



10/21/2015

Maggie and Paul Masta enjoying a dance

Photo by Bill Schultz



10/21/2015

(L-R) Alicia & Jeff Baily, Sally & Steve Sprague, and Mary & Jim Owen at the Annual Br 146 Dinner Dance

Photo by Bill Schultz



(L-R) Maggie & Paul Masta, Sharon Nelson & Larry Gray, Bill & Alice Schultz, and Steve & Sally Sprague

SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group (MUG) has changed its meeting time from 10 AM until noon to noon until 2PM. You will need to change your lunch schedule. This change is required because someone else has taken our earlier time at the Thurman Casey Library.

Max Burchett and Verner Laursen are the leaders and we are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

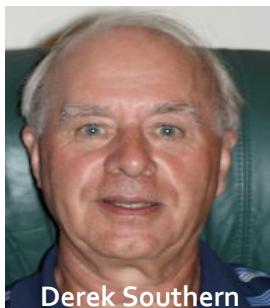
If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Photo by Ken Kratz



Myles Ringle, Russ Bliese, Roger Linn, and Bill Rees assembled before the October luncheon

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

PCs

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group announces that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday November 19th at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

Sir **Alan Baker** will present "Protecting Your Home Computer" with three main topics: why and how we are attacked, automatic system defenses, and human defenses. He will include phishing fraud, how to detect poisoned emails, backups, passwords, and how to handle specific attacks. As usual, the talk will be posted on the A2CAT website in pdf and/or ppt formats at <http://www.a2cat.sirinc2.org>

Some members like to arrive early to enjoy coffee and chat before the presentation which starts at 9:30. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge except for July and December; so there will not be a meeting next month. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Photo by Ismini MacLean



Rich Ahlf high a top a gun mount

SIR CALL *Newsletter*

Sons In Retirement, Inc.
br146sircall@gmail.com