

# SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

November 2016

Sons in Retirement Branch 146 of Contra Costa

Published For Our Members And Friends



## Big Sir's Notes

**Walt Busenius**

At November's luncheon, we traditionally honor our members who have served in the various branches of the Armed Services. Our Veterans Day Salute this year honors all our SIR Veterans through a photo slideshow, a musical salute from our Song Sirs, and speaker Steven Burchik, who chronicled his year of combat in Viet Nam through a camera lens.

It was a pleasure to award our prestigious Branch Honoree Award to **Bill Roberts** at October's luncheon, and in person, to recognize our branch's first Super Senior Anniversary Award winner **Dominic (Dee) DiMatteo**. In his 30 years as a Navy pilot, Dominic served his country courageously in 3 Wars: WWII, the Korean and Viet Nam Wars

Gentlemen, our popular December Ladies Day Luncheon is just around the corner next month on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. Our ladies truly look forward to this event which is by reservation only. The cost is \$28 per person or \$56 per couple. Sirs without partners are also welcome and no tickets will be sold at the door. Please see page 4 of this SIR CALL issue for the menu options and sign-up instructions. The deadline for signing-up is Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Entertainment will be provided by "House Blend Quartet", a men's singing group. These luncheons are great fun.

The 2017 annual member dues of \$18 are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Everyone should have received the letter with a return envelope from our Treasurer, **Jim Barry**, explaining the two options. As in prior years, you have the option of either paying the annual dues or taking advantage of the discounted annual payer program that covers both the annual dues and 10 regular luncheons.

For those who wish to save the cost of a postage stamp, you may bring either your dues or annual payers check in the return envelope to November's luncheon, depositing it in a separate box. To simplify our records,

Luncheon – Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

## Our Veterans' Day Salute

With Guest Speaker

**Steven Burchik "A Compass and a Camera, A Year in Viet Nam"**

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

*Bringing a guest or can't attend?*  
Email: [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com)  
Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146  
By Noon Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



US House Representative for the 11th Congressional District  
Mark DeSaulnier was the guest speaker  
at the October luncheon

## SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life.

*continued from page 1*

everyone is asked to write separate checks for their annual dues payment and for their November luncheon payment. Please do not give your dues or annual payer's check to the people at the check-in tables as that will slow down the check-in process.

The annual branch member survey was conducted by our Member Relations Chairman **Brad Hatcher**. Every member was asked to participate and I understand there was more than 70% participation. The BEC truly appreciates your input which will help in the formulation of future plans and direction of Branch 146. You will be advised of the survey results after November's BEC meeting.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, please bring them as your guest to November's Luncheon. This is your last chance to bring a guest this year!! Don't hesitate, please invite a friend, a neighbor, or an acquaintance as your guest to this luncheon. We are counting on you.

### WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE



## Membership

**Ben Gleason**

### Branch 146 Statistics

We had a very quiet month of October for membership activity. We had no new members inducted and no active or inactive members left our Branch. Our active membership remains at 287. It is very important that we keep recruiting new members to offset months when we will have losses. We are well below our goal of 50 luncheon guests for the year. Since we won't have guests at our December Ladies Day luncheon, we have only one month left this year to improve our recruiting performance.

Somewhere a retiree reads a book on how to use the internet, while a young boy googles "how to read a book".



## Little Sir's Corner

**Alan Elnick**

Many of you enjoyed having Congressman Mark DeSaulnier join us for our October luncheon. With all that is going on in Washington D.C. it was nice to see our representative with such a level head and open mind. He enjoyed his time with us as well and looks forward to an invitation to join with us again in the future, perhaps as a future Branch 146 SIR. I sent him an application.

We celebrate our Veterans this month, and our particular attention this year is to our Viet Nam era vets. Steven Burchik, author of "A Compass And A Camera, A Year In Viet Nam," will be our speaker. He spent a year as a forward observer in our First Army Division in the rice paddies just north of then Saigon. While the war itself is mired in controversy, in my opinion, we have never fully given our vets of that era the respect they deserve. Perhaps that is starting to change a bit now, but we will certainly do that at our luncheon November 10<sup>th</sup>, along with all our other deserving vets.

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Assistant Editor

**Rob Melrose**

Proofreaders

**Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker**

**Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia**

**Ron Plachy**

Internet Posting

Our Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon is December 8<sup>th</sup>. The "House Blend Quartet" will entertain us. They performed for us at our May Ladies Day Luncheon 2015 and a number of you recommended them for a return visit. They will provide a holiday themed set. Hurry up and reserve your places at this well-attended event, at \$28 per person or \$56 a couple, on the form provided on page 4 of the SIR Call. Don't miss this joyful celebration. Single SIR members are invited to attend as well. I, for one, always enjoy the camaraderie.

Please bring a guest to our November 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon to show him the benefits of membership in SIR.

### **SIR Make Friends For Life.**

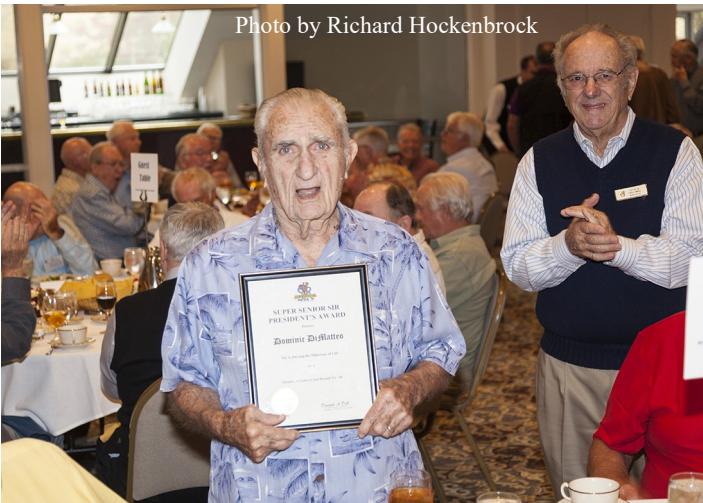
Remember, if you are unable to make the luncheon let us know by the deadline the Friday before. Each no show without notification is a cost to the branch. See you then.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Bill Roberts** (right) is presented the Branch Honoree Award by Big Sir **Walt Busenius** and Honoree Chairman, **Garth Cummings** at the October luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Dominic DiMatteo** who was honored last month at his home where he received the Super Senior SIR President's Award, was honored once again, this time in front of the full SIR membership while attending the October luncheon. **Garth Cummings**, Honoree Chairman, looks on.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Howard Charlop** is the Birthday Boy winner for the month of October



## THE CLUBHOUSE AT BOUNDARY OAK

### SIR 146 Luncheon November 2016

#### Salad

#### **Roasted Sweet Potato Salad**

Baby Greens, Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Citrus Segments Feta Cheese, Dried Cranberries Champagne Vinaigrette

#### Entrees

#### **Holiday Turkey Dinner**

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Vegetables Turkey Gravy

Or

#### **Pan Seared Pacific Dory**

Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce

#### Dessert

#### **Pumpkin Cheesecake**

Crème Anglaise, Whipped Cream

#### **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.*





## Luncheon Chairman

### Max Hinkle

October's Attendance: We consumed and paid for 215 meals at our October luncheon. We had guaranteed payment for 205 meals, setting the kitchen's commitment at 216. 206 of those meals were

served to members of Branch 146, equaling 71.7% of our membership. We experienced only 11 No Shows, 13 fewer than September's luncheon. The 3.8 No Show percentage was almost as low as any we've had during the past two years. Seven, 22%, of the timely notifiers were Advance Payers. It is a boon to the treasury when an Advance Payer gives timely notice of non-attendance. Of course, I strive to have the number of meals consumed and paid for fall somewhere between the number we guarantee and the kitchen's commitment. Therefore, I was pleased with the outcome at this luncheon.

November Luncheon: Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016** at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$26 and there will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The preferred form of payment is a check 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.**

A Word to the Wise: Regular members missing 3 consecutive luncheon meetings without notifying the attendance chairman prior to the deadline for the luncheon or attending less than 5 regular luncheon meetings in the last 12 months will receive a letter notifying them of pending membership termination. Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to the attendance record. Is the November luncheon your last chance to make 5 luncheons this year?

Opt Out Deadline for November Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the November luncheon is **NOON ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH**. We will e-blast reminders of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to

attend, please send an e-mail message to "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 for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. **A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.**

**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 are times when emails, for a variety of reasons, are not displayed or not timely displayed in the "no lunch" Inbox.

**Bringing a Guest or a Visitor:** If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the opt out 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.** If your guest decides to come after the deadline, don't let that stop you. So advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

**Special Requests:** If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the opt out deadline in the manner as described above.

**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.

**Swan Song:** This is my last article for the Call as Luncheon Attendance Chairman. It's time to let somebody else experience the agony and ecstasy of this job. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve the Branch in this capacity. I am happy to have been able to give back to this wonderful organization in this way.



## SIR 146 Hiking

### Rich Ahlf

On November 11<sup>th</sup> we will be hiking up Mount Diablo to Eagle Peak starting from Regency Gate in Clayton. We will be hiking the Bruce Lee trail up to Meridian Gap and over to the Eagle Peak and back down to Regency Gate. The distance will be about 7 miles with about a 2,000 ft elevation gain. Sticks are a must as the trail gets narrow out to the Peak and the downhill is steep. Notice we will be starting at 9:00 am so that we can take our time with ample breaks. We will have lunch at the peak overlooking the best views of the East Bay and Delta below us. I rate this hike as Strenuous.

**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 Dr. then walk down the hill to the gate.

#### Rain Cancels

#### Spouses Always Welcome

Hike starts at 9:00am

November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

E-mail [rahlf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rahlf@sbcglobal.net)

Cell (925) 550-4967



**Bob White, Bill Dastic, Walt Busenius and Jim Burk**  
at Tuesday's October 25<sup>th</sup> Boundary Oak Golf

There's that moment when you put your steak on the grill and your mouth waters all over from that amazing smell. Do vegans feel the same when you mow the grass?



## Photography Group

### Richard Hockenbrock

The photography group takes a break over the holidays so the next meeting will be the last Friday in February. At our last meeting in October, we looked at several new high end or semi-professional cameras.

There is so much written on blogs and YouTube that you can quickly get overwhelmed with information. That's where we can help. If you have a question about photography software or equipment, write your question to me or one of the regulars who attend our meetings and we will do the research for you to help you make a decision or answer your question.

Did you know that with a smartphone you can download all the pictures you take almost instantly when you are in range of a Wi-Fi signal? If you like to share your photos, you can also instantly store them to the Cloud using a Google Drive or a Microsoft One Drive account. If you would like to learn how, come to our next meeting.

If you are new to SIR and interested in photography or want to take better photos with your smartphone, come to our next meeting and perhaps take away some new ideas. Spouses always welcome.

### Richard Hockenbrock

Email: [rhock@pacbell.net](mailto:rhock@pacbell.net)

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

#### Next Meeting

**Where :** Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library

2661 Oak Grove Road

Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**Subjects:** Automatically download pictures to the cloud

**When:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:00 am - 11:00 am

An elderly man was on the operating table, about to be operated on by his son, a famous surgeon. Just before they put him under, he asked to speak to his son: "Don't be nervous, boy, just do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me... your mother is going to come and live with you and your family."



## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Chuck Vanoncini led a group of six fishermen for two days of fishing on Lake Almanor. The group consisted of **Chuck Cornell**, **Pete Gates**, **Tom Boltz**, and **John Wall** of Branch 146 as well as **Ray Pixton** and **Joe Miscione**. They picked up quite a few rainbow trout, with the largest weighing in at five pounds.

**Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 and **Dick Thomson** traveled to Pyramid Lake, north of Reno, and caught and released fifteen cutthroat trout weighing up to five pounds. The next day, they were joined by **Karl Droeze**. After catching and releasing seven cutthroat, strong winds came up at around 11:00 am and they prudently returned to dry land.

**Lee Clark** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Dick Thomson**, **Alex Go**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Gordon Linebaugh** sailed out of the Golden Gate in search of salmon but, by midday, nobody had a bite. They then turned their attention to rockfish and everybody limited out. In addition, **Alex** caught one ling cod and one kingfish.

In the Delta, **Harry Sherinian** and **Tom Kostik** were successful trolling for stripers. **Tom** was joined by **Mike Corker** on another stripers trip. No stripers, but each caught a salmon. On an earlier adventure, **Tom** and **Mike** caught some small stripers plus a bevy of black bass.

On the negative side, **Pete Gates** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146, along with **Carl Moyer**, fished for catfish all day in San Pablo Reservoir and come home empty-handed.

Things are looking up, however. Stripper and sturgeon fishing in the Delta gets hot in November and trout is being planted in the local lakes. We have lots of outings planned for the lakes and the Delta through the end of the year, so feel free to join us. Our next monthly meeting is at 8:30 am on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am. For further information, call Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.

Apparently taking a day off is not something you should do when you work for a calendar company.



## Sunshine

**John Pearl**

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during November. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

- **Jim Saavedra**
- **Bob Walton**
- **Lynn Freeman**
- **Al Twyford**
- **Steve Olsen**
- **Ken Richter**
- **Dennis Hallett**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated.

Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are frequently near the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.

We also wish to acknowledge the recent passing of **Jeanne Afdal**, wife of branch member **Ron Afdal**, and extend our condolences to their family.

**John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair

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

925-934-6920



The fishing group after a routine day on the water





## Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>, **Steve Dawkins** hosted Cooking II to an excellent lunch. We started out with three kinds of sliced meats, two excellent cheeses, special crackers and special multi colored sweet peppers, oven roasted in olive oil and garlic. With the warm fall weather we enjoyed being outside for both the appetizers and lunch. For the main course Steve served a great Spinach and Cheese Lasagna with Garlic/cheese toast and a very nice Caesar salad. To finish, he served Tiramisu and coffee. Of course, there was plenty of good wine and conversation. At the end of the lunch we had the privilege of seeing **Steve's** super chrysanthemums that are just starting to bloom. Thank you, **Steve**.

Our next event will be red wine bottling at the **Yolland's** home, November 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday

at 11:30 am at Masses, 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 SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are 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.

Two friends are talking, one says: "Man, I fell off a thirty-foot long ladder yesterday."

"Oh no, dude, are you alright?!" inquires the other one, shocked.

"Yeah, I'm OK, I was only on the second rung then."

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Appears that **Jerry Kaplan** has reminded **Jim Barry** that **Jim's** term as Treasurer is ending

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Bob Storkan & Bill Klein** pose for a photo at the October luncheon

## 2016 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

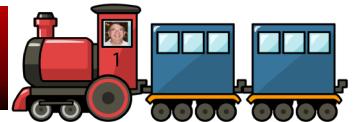
Big Sir .....	<b>Walt Busenius</b>
Little Sir .....	<b>Alan Elnick</b>
Secretary .....	<b>Bruce Borgman</b>
Assistant Secretary .....	<b>Jonathan Korfhage</b>
Treasurer .....	<b>Jim Barry</b>
Assistant Treasurer .....	<b>Roy Hodgkinson</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Corrie Oranje</b>
Director(2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) .....	<b>Bob Spellman</b>
Director(1 <sup>ST</sup> Term) .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Director(1 <sup>ST</sup> Term) .....	<b>Steve Sprague</b>

## RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment .....	<b>Corrie Oranje</b>
Activities .....	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Member Relations .....	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Publicity .....	<b>Al Munayer</b>

Refer to branch directory, accessible under members only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers & email addresses.

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

### Jerry Kaplan

The MTD Group One's October Game Night was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the attractive Concord home of the **Oranje's** (Sir **Corrie** and his wife **Sue**). Seventeen members of the group were present; we are all hoping that **Jim Stedman's** wife, **Barbara** will be able to rejoin the group in the near future.

**Susan Kaplan**, wife of Sir **Jerry**, won five of the nine games played at her table, and averaged almost an all-time low of 6.7 points per game. In the 2 ½ years that Group One has been playing, this is now the 3rd time that someone has averaged less than 10 points per hand. Sir **Jerry Kaplan** once averaged 4.9 per hand during a February 2015 Game Night, and just last month, **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of Sir **Richard** won the night with an average score of 7.8 per hand. Second place in October was won by **Marie Ascatigno**, wife of Sir **Frank**, with an average of 13.5. 3<sup>rd</sup> place was won by Sir **Bruce Borgman** (18.7 average).

The group has only one more month to see who will win the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2016 prize money. The group collects \$1 from each player each month for the semi-annual pot. After five months, there is already \$72.00 ready to divide up among the top three players with one month to go.



MTDUNO Winners **Susan Kaplan** (center) 1st place, **Marie Ascatigno** (right) 2nd, and **Bruce Borgman** (Left) 3rd



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

### Dick Woodman

**Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean** hosted the September 23<sup>rd</sup> game night, and although **Dick Woodman**, chair of the group wasn't there, **Rich** and **Ismini** did

their usual outstanding job. Everyone had a very comfortable visit and a great game night. There was a wide range on the number of games played at the various tables, from 6 games to 13 games. The number of games doesn't affect the results since we use the average to record the night's winners as well as the cumulative average for the semi-annual pots.

**Rich Ahlf**, our host, won first place with an average of 12 points per game. **Chuck Denney** won second place for the second month in a row with an average of 13.4 and **Phyllis Meehan** won third place with 16.4 average points. Congratulations to all our winners.

Our next game night will be at **Bill** and **Bernice Cammerer's** home on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The results of the October meeting will be reported in the December Sir Call.



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

### Jim Burk

MTD Cinco met at the home of **Sally** and **Steve Sprague** on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Two of our couples were traveling so guests **Janet** and **Bob Yolland** filled in. We enjoyed

our social time until 7:30 when serious play began at two tables.

The scores were close at each table but when the scores were averaged, table one was dominant and took all three places. Those taking home more cash than when they arrived were **Bob Yolland** at third place, **Chuck Campbell** at second place, and hostess **Sally Sprague** at first place.

We are looking forward to our next meeting November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the home of **Joan** and **Dave Pierce**. *(reported by Steve Sprague)*



## Couples Duplicate

### Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

**Margot Somerville** hosted six couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on October 19<sup>th</sup> with three tables. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge as well as **Margot's** snacks, dessert and wines. As for the bridge results (close race), **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini Maclean** came in first with 22.5 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** took second with 22 points. In third place were **Ann Johnson** and **Dick DeVoe** with 21 points. **Ann Johnson** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on November 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

The weather and the cards had certainly cooled off since September when **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** hosted us on October 4<sup>th</sup>. But that didn't mean the competition wasn't fierce. **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were third with 2410, a mere 10 points behind **George** and **Pam Rammell** (2420). **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were first (2930) with a couple of no trump games on the final round. **Cindy** served a wonderful pear pie for dessert, so we all went home happy.



Greeters Don Seaton, Dave Devincenzi and Cass Buys with the latest fashion in men's hats.



## Men's Duplicate

### Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

**Charlie Abrams** hosted 3 tables of duplicate bridge on October 17<sup>th</sup>. At the lunch break **Dave Pierce** was leading the pack with a halftime score of 17.0 match points. **Dave** was trailed by **Jim Brown** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 16.5 match points, with **Charlie Abrams** and **Bob Yolland** locked in a 2-way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place with 14.5 match points each.

Unfortunately for **Dave**, the afternoon session was not kind to him. Our host **Charlie Abrams** raised the level of his game substantially to take 1<sup>st</sup> place with a total of 31.5 match points. **Jim Brown** held on to 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 30.0 match points, and **Bob Yolland** and **Fred Kovar** finished tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place with 14.5 match points each.

Our November 21<sup>st</sup> game will be hosted by **Fred Kovar.**  
(reported by Jim Jackson)



## Men's Duplicate

### Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

The Duplicate Bridge 2 group gathering on October 7<sup>th</sup> was nicely hosted by **Tony Greco**.

1st Place: **Dave Pierce** beat everyone with 29 pts., but only after overcoming a relatively slow start in the 1st half with a strong 1st place showing in the 2nd half (16.5 pts.) Congratulations, **Dave**.

2nd Place: **Bill Schultz** earned 2nd place with 28.5 pts., aided by his 1st half tie for 1st place. This 2nd place overall followed on the heels of a 1st place showing in September. Nice going, **Bill**.

3rd Place: **Fred Bolton's** 27.5 pts. gave him 3rd place overall, helped by his 1st place tie in the 1st half. Good work, **Fred**.



I'll keep you posted



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

### Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 Group's most recent game was held on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> hosted by **Sid Landman**. Our usual group of happy bridge players always like the competition but also have just good old fashion fun.

**Max Hinkle** came in first overall with 30.5 points or 64%. **Max** not only won the whole thing, he was number 1 for the first half with such a high score that even his below average second half did not hold him back from finishing first overall. Congratulations to **Max**!

In second place, with only a 1.0 point difference was **Fred Bolton** with a score of 29.5 points or 61%. Fred was a substitute in this game but showed his strong performance in both the first and second half. We will have to reconsider about inviting **Fred** next time.

Finally, **Brad Hatcher** came in third with a score of 28 or 58%. Congratulations to all the winners but watch out for next time. The rest of us are sharpening our bridge skills for next month's game.

## Attention

Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 group is looking for more duplicate bridge players to fill it's ranks. We especially want to invite any new member or members who have not been playing and would like to do so.

The group plays on the third Friday of each month at a host home which rotates among the members. We have three tables of duplicate bridge and 12 players each month. You will have a lot of fun.

Anyone who has any questions or is interested should contact me, **Sid Landman** as chair of the group. You can call me at (925) 673-8817 or email [sidlandman@aol.com](mailto:sidlandman@aol.com).

Doctor, how can I live longer than 100 years?

Do you smoke?

No.

Do you eat too much?

No.

Do you go to bed late?

No.

Do you have affairs with promiscuous women?

No.

Then why would you want to live more than 100 years?



## Party Bridge

### Fred Bolton

We played three tables of bridge on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of **Lo McCarley**. First place went to **Jim Stedman** with 4740 points. Next was **Bob Burley** with 4480 and third was **Fred Bolton** with 3970.

Our next game will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Fred Bolton**.



## Couples Duplicate

### Bridge 2

#### Dave Pierce

Competition was fierce on October 11<sup>th</sup> when **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** hosted us; and I don't mean just the Cubs and the Giants. Four couples were average or better but tightly packed. **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were third with 20%, edging the hosts by ½; just edging them in turn were **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher**, with 21. Our subs **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** were first with 23 (57½ % game). Victory was sweet for all of us when **Elaine** served her cinnamon-apple dump cake.



**Ed Brands** and **Bob Lucido** chatting before lunch

Two men are stranded on a deserted island. One despairs, but the other one claps him assuredly on the back and says, "Don't worry, they will definitely find us, and soon."

"Really? Why do you think so?" asks the despairing one.

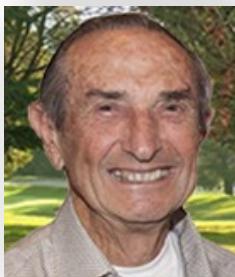
"I owe the IRS five years' worth of taxes."



## Poker Group 1

### Dan O'Sullivan

Poker group #1 met October 12<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Pete McNeill**. As always a good time was had by all. **Frank McNamee** was our big winner. Our next outing will be at **Don Del Bene's** residence on November 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Poker Group 2

### Al Zamolo

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Al Zamolo** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*



## Poker Club 3

### Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 4 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*

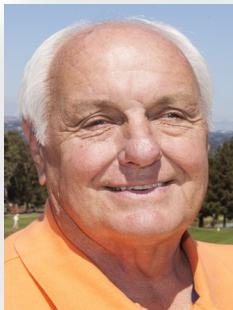


## Poker Club 4

### Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, will be hosted by **Sir Garth Cummings**. Our regular players are **Garth Cummings**, **Pete Gates**, **Chuck Bobinecz**, **Joe Stengel**, **Rich Hanford**, **Bob Mehus**, and **Frank Rockwell**. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 to 4 at the home of **Chuck Bobinecz**. If you would like to be a sub, call **Chuck Bobinecz** at 939-8740.

We are not meeting in December, due to the Christmas holiday but will resume in January when we will be hosted by **Sir Pete Gates**.



## Poker Group 5

### Bill Roberts

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts**, **Bob Spellman**, **Charlie Koeber**, **Doug Eisner**, **Ken Richter**, **Frank Rockwell**, and **Paul Dubow**.*

*Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4 pm and ends around 8 pm with time out for dinner.*



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

### Al Twyford

The "Old Money" poker group met at the home of **Frank Lucas** in Martinez last Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. **Frank Lucas**, **Harvey Oxman**, **Rich Alf**, **Howard Charlop**, and **Brad Hatcher** were joined by **Frank's** neighbor, **Wes Zocher**. The afternoon started off with a bang for **Harvey**. Fours were called wild for the opening hand, and **Harvey** was showing an Ace with 2 fours. This did not deter some of our stalwarts and the betting continued on. In the end, **Harvey** turned over his 2 down-cards....both Fours! And it didn't stop there for **Harvey** who was the day's big winner raking in \$18. Our next game is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> at **Harvey's** home in Walnut Creek.



## Book Nook

### Hank James

Got books! The Book Nook got books, and they are FREE. The Book Nook will be open in November. You can browse and select the books you will enjoy while relaxing in your easy chair. Remember to bring those books collecting dust on your bookshelves at home to the November meeting to share with your fellow Sirs.

Q. How can you lift an elephant with one hand?

A. It is not a problem, since you will never find an elephant with one hand.

There is one word in the English language that is always pronounced incorrectly. What is it?

Incorrectly.



## Cooking Lunch and Wine

### Frank Rockwell

The LAW cooking group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.

We gather at 11 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.



## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

Golf is a very popular branch activity with over 100 registered golfers. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak; players are randomly paired and scheduled. Guests are welcome so feel free to check us out! We will pair you with a member of the golf committee. Our members have handicaps ranging from 8 to 40 so you will fit right in. If you would like to participate in Branch 146 Golf, contact us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com). If you are curious, we will add you to the distribution of our weekly golf email.

On first Thursdays from May through October we schedule "away golf" at nearby courses. By the end of this year we will have played Deer Ridge, Chardonnay, Blue Rock and Paradise Valley. Next year we will add Eagle Vines to the mix.

SIR members can also participate in fun events sponsored by State SIR Golf at interesting courses from Reno to Solvang and points in between. These events allow you to bring your spouse and other guests.

State SIR Golf sponsors two competitive championship events in which every SIR with a golf handicap index is eligible to participate. A team championship event is held in early August at Poppy Ridge.

The 2016 State Individual Championship event was held on October 17 & 18 at Laguna Seca. Twelve Branch 146 members participated in the Championship Qualifier tournament at the Elkhorn Golf Club in Stockton on August 24. Eight of us brought home some money. **Gary Brown, Ken Sihler and Max Hinkle** qualified to play in the State Championship Tournament and while **Max** and **Ken** had a good time, **Gary** brought home 2<sup>nd</sup> place in his flight. Well done!



## Couples Golf

### Paul Masta

The SIR Couples Golf Group play at local courses on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly Tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players' contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933-3612 or [pamasta03@yahoo.com](mailto:pamasta03@yahoo.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 Mondays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch. On Wednesdays 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. Most of the time the lunch is better than our golf game. [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)



The 9-hole golf group takes a break at the Greenery Restaurant clockwise around the table starting on the left:

**John Helgeson, Lynn Shafer, Tony Shebanek, Ray Kan, Jim Pfohl, Michael Rose, and Vern Laursen**



## Couples Dining Out

### Bruce Borgman

After our successful Dining Out event at Fiore Ristorante in September when we had so many diners that we actually had two evenings, we decided to celebrate the end of year Couples Dining Out experience with a really upscale event.

We recently enjoyed a fine dining experience at Vic Stewart's in Walnut Creek for a special occasion, and decided to explore this restaurant for our November event. This restaurant's tag line is "Famous for Steaks" and this is truly a wonderful restaurant particularly for steaks with many accolades and reviews. We were able to get the main dining room, the Grill Room for our celebration. This wood paneled room with a fireplace and oil paintings on the wall evokes a living room ambiance with comfortable seating. The dinner will include a Caesar salad, and a choice of salmon filet, chicken saltimbocca as well as filet mignon and their signature ribeye steak for our entrée, and a trio of desserts. While the total cost is a bit higher than usual at \$70 per person – the signup for the event has been very good. As of this writing we are up to 62 diners. We can accommodate just a few more. We will have the adjoining Atrium room for dining as well as the bar area for our social hour which will start at 5:30 pm. The date for this special evening will be Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The restaurant has extended their happy hour pricing so that we will be able to have a \$5 glass of wine, or get a bottle for \$25. Corkage will be \$20 – but, this may be the time to bring that special wine from your cellar! Email Bruce at [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) for questions.



**Paul Dubow**, his wife **Joan** along side **Bill Cammerer** and his wife **Bernice** attending September's second Couples Dining Out evening on the 20<sup>th</sup>



## Cribbage

### John Pearl

Nine of the group took advantage of a fine fall day to travel to **Barney Meade's** home on October 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a very large pot so it was split four ways. One of our newest members, **Bob Beitler**, came in first. Second place was

taken by **Jim Pope**, third by **Jeff Baily**, and fourth by **John Pearl**.

The highlight of the day was the hand of **Bob Beitler** with a count of 28, a virtually perfect hand that is almost never achieved. We will continue the fun at Barney's house in November.



## Bocce Ball

### Martin Lyle

The time has come to announce the start of our six month Bocce Hibernation period, when rainfall might interrupt our play. We will get word out in the months prior to our May start up. We have had a very good year with our regular players and many others new at the game. This is an easy game to learn and new players are always welcome.

*We play the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Walking Group

### John Lewis

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

*Call John for current walk.*

*Rain cancels any walk.*

*Ladies Welcome*

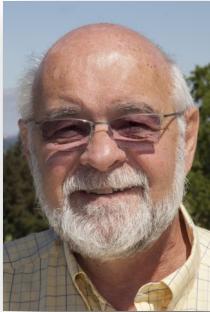
*Tel: (925) 825-3561*



What can go up a chimney down, but can't go down a chimney up?

An umbrella.





## Wine Tasting

### Rob Melrose

Approximately 30 people attended the October 19<sup>th</sup> SIR Wine Tasting event at the home of **Tony** and **Jean Shebanek**. We tasted a variety of wines from California ranging from Monterey County to the Mexican border. At each event, we have a drawing for a white and red wine. Both of our winners were first time tasters. **Michael Rose** won a bottle of Au Bon Climat Chardonnay and **Marian Pfohl** won a bottle of Qupé Syrah.

Our next tasting is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>, however, we are currently looking for a venue. If you are interested in hosting the event, please contact **Rob Melrose**. If you can't or don't feel like you can accommodate a large group, we can limit the number of participants. The hosts determine the wines we will be tasting, so if you have an interest in a region, even more incentive to volunteer your home.

If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events and are not on the email list, please email **Rob Melrose** @ [rwmelrose@gmail.com](mailto:rwmelrose@gmail.com)

#### 2017 Wine Tasting Schedule

- February 22
- April 26
- July 26
- October 25

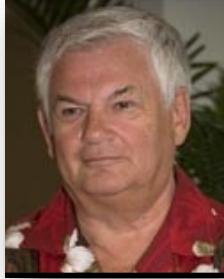
Photos below by Richard Hockenbrook



Inspecting the wines are **Bill Holly**, **Roy Hodgkinson**, and Wine Tasting Chair, **Rob Melrose**



Beautiful day  
for wine  
tasting



## SongSirs

### Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs are practicing the Service Song medley for our November luncheon to honor our veterans. We applaud the service of our veterans along with the rest of our SIR family!

We also are practicing a number of other patriotic songs including the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic', 'You're a Grand Old Flag', 'This Land is Your Land', as well as 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game', and a popular tune from My Fair Lady - 'Get Me to the Church on Time' – with **Bob Yolland** singing a solo. We are preparing to sing this group of songs to a local Skilled Nursing Facility yet to be determined – probably in November or December. And, we will begin to include some Christmas songs as we approach the holiday season.

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our group – **Paul Beretz** and **Joe Starkey** and some inactive singers have re-joined us as well. If you like to sing, we invite you to join us as we practice every first and third Wednesday at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian



## Travel Opportunities

### Milt Smith

Photo by Bobbie Schmidt

September 2016 Elbe River Cruise SIR trip are left to right: **Walt Schmidt**, **Steve & Dana Ybarra**, **Cornelius Buys**, **Dennis & Ann Hallett**, **Gwenn Boero**, **Margot Somerville**, **Phyllis Sammon** enjoying a taste of Pilsner beer and lunch in Restaurant Bärenschänke, Torgau, Germany. Torgau is where the Russian Army and American Forces linked up in 1945.

## New Event Opportunity

Anyone for pickle ball?  
What's that, you say?



"Three things to know about pickle ball. It's fun, it's good exercise, and it has nothing to do with pickles. As legend has it, the curious name was coined in 1965 by a group of Dads near Seattle who came up with a game that combined elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis to entertain their kids. A dog named Pickles got into the act by chasing the balls, and, well, a backstory was born." [Angela Hill, writer for the Bay Area News Group].

Pickle ball is one of the fastest growing sports for all ages, particularly seniors. It has seen a re-growth over the last decade that rivals bocce ball. It is played on a court the size of a badminton court (20' x 44') and does not require a player to cover large amounts of space, particularly if it is played in doubles format, which most often it is. It has become quite the rage among seniors and is able to provide a very healthy and fun exercise without taxing your body to a significant degree. The net is set at a height of 36" similar to a tennis net. In addition, it has a "no volley zone" which is 7 feet from the net and this prevents a player from being able to get to close and smash the ball over the net easily from a close distance.

The paddle is approximately 8" wide x 15" long with a handle made of wood or a composite material.

The ball used is a "whiffle" ball but is slightly heavier than what we remember from our childhood days when we played baseball with a white whiffle ball, or now one we might use for golf practice.

I am encouraging our branch members to think about starting a pickle ball activity and, perhaps, eventually to develop a "SIR Pickle Ball League" in which branches would compete against each other. From a personal and prejudicial viewpoint, the church that my wife and I attend in Alamo (San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church) has become the recipient of a very generous anonymous gift sufficient to build a new gymnasium on our church campus located at 902 Danville Blvd. in Alamo. Pickle ball is one of several sports that will be featured and we are anxious to recruit pickle ball users to our facility at a very nominal fee (i.e., \$4 for a three-hour period which allows you to play as many games as you can, depending upon the demand from the number of players wishing to participate). Construction of the gymnasium known as the "Athletic & Recreation Center," or ARC, is well underway and we expect to open for business in either late 1Q, or early 2Q, 2017.



If you have any interest at all and/or wish to ask additional questions, please contact either me or **Jerry Kaplan**, our Activities Coordinator for the Branch. Thank you for your consideration.

**Jim Burk**

E-mail: [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)

Telephone: (925) 946-1192



**I RELISH  
pickleball**

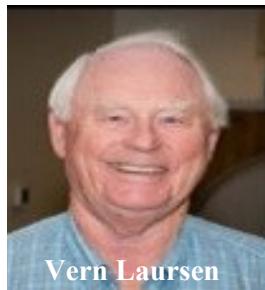
www.thewhichisgood.com 2010

## Area Two Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

*The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.*

**Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and 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.

### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

*The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group meets at 8:00 am on fourth Wednesday of the month at Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.*

\$ums, the investment activity of SIR Area 2, is changing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday morning of November for 2016. The date is November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The time remains 8:00 am to 9:30 am. The location remains the Legends Restaurant at the Diablo Creek Country Club on Port Chicago Highway 1/4 mile North of Highway 4. Our speaker will be Jim Carley on Reverse Mortgages and Long-term Care Insurance. Both investments have been controversial in the news in recent times. Jim will tell us about the pitfalls of these investments if they are not made with your specific needs in mind.

<https://www.reversefunding.com/jim-carley>

Tom Henry[tomhenry925@gmail.com )  
Co-Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724  
**David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158

### 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

At this meeting **Bob Testa** will be discussing "Home Video Camera Systems". He will be reviewing various camera options, advantages and potential problems. SIR attendees who have video cameras in their home will be encouraged to contribute their installation and use experience.

Arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies., Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. 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 Sirs members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

We don't meet in December, so our next session will be on Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



# Pictures from Fleet Week with Blue Angles October 8<sup>th</sup>

