

# SIR CALL

br146sircall@gmail.com

November 2019

**SIR Contra Costa Branch 146**

Published For Our Members And Friends



## Big Sir's Notes

**Jonathan Korfhage**

As I sit here contemplating this column while reviewing our membership survey results, I am wrestling with my response to some member's concerns. As the leader of the Board this past year, I assure you that we have discussed all the concerns we have received. Here are a few responses:

1. Luncheon seating is always a challenge; some guys enjoy sitting with their friends that they only see once a month. We try to save a few seats at each table with signs. Several of us – Big & Little Sirs and the Luncheon Coordinator try to help and be vigilant about the situation. As you make friends, you also will enjoy sitting with friends. We can use your help!
2. It is not easy to find 'outstanding' interesting speakers every month especially when we can only afford a small gift card as an honorarium. We always worry whether they will show up. We can always use your suggestions and help!
3. Preparing 200+ quality lunches each month that can be served quickly and hot for \$26 (even more reasonably priced if you buy your lunches annually) is a challenge. Some members enjoy paying more money for higher quality. Most of us enjoy the three course lunch. Your suggestions are always welcome!
4. Everyone enjoys being recognized for achievements. Generally, we recognize members for their longevity and for their contributions. We encourage our awards committee to be brief and not verbose. It is challenging for our awards committee to keep track of everything and make timely presentations. Feel free to volunteer to help!
5. SIR is a volunteer organization that offers 50+ activities, that require many 'housekeeping' and supportive services. Our members serve as officers and board members, accordingly many volunteers are required to make this a successful chapter! It is incumbent for all to help out in some way! What can you do?

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

**Luncheon— Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
At Boundary Oak Clubhouse**

**Guest Speaker: Dean McFarren, Chief of Staff, U.S.  
Coast Guard Auxiliary.  
He will offer a brief history of USCG.**

**Gathering time: 11:00 am  
Seating 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 8<sup>th</sup>**



Photo by Henry Thatcher

On the 30th Anniversary of our branch, **Ed Benson**, State President offered congratulatory praise to the branch and its leadership over the years. He also acknowledged the recent awards the branch has won this past June at the annual state meeting in Lincoln, CA.

## 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



### Little Sir's Corner

**Brad Hatcher**

Our October luncheon celebrated the founding of Branch 146 30 years ago. Various highlights are below.

We got'em! Two meanings to that statement. The first is that our branch has two new Honorary Life Members – **Pete Gates** and **Bob Yolland**. The second meaning is that we were able to surprise them with this award and to have their wives present during the ceremony. **Dick DeVoe** and **Paul Dubow** described the paths our new HLMs took at Branch 146 to achieve this State-given high honor.

Our State President, **Ed Benson**, attended the meeting and presented a State award of recognition to **Dick DeVoe** for his service as State Vice President and leader of the State policy and procedures rewrite. **Ed** also described the HLM honor award.

**Doug Eisner** introduced the existing HLMs and Branch Honorees. He also introduced two charter members from 30 years ago, **Joe Suta** and **Bill Rees**. It was great to see them both.

Big Sir then introduced each of the past Big Sirs who were in attendance at the luncheon.

After the business section of the meeting, 6 past Big Sirs covered five-year periods of the history of the Branch. My thanks to those speakers: **Dick DeVoe**, **Jim Stedman**, **Ray Kan**, **Dennis Hallett**, **Pete Gates** and **Bruce Borgman**. It was difficult to cover 30 years in brief five-minute speeches but they each did a sterling job.

The Branch Executive Committee met before the luncheon. Our Treasurer gave his usual report and indicated he is working on the budget for 2020. Big and Little Sir expect to meet with Boundary Oak catering to determine the cost of 2020 lunches. Upon completion of that negotiation, and with BEC approval, we will be able to send out 2020 dues letters along with notice of the cost of lunches in 2020.

The November luncheon will honor our veterans. Our speaker will be Dean McFarren, Chief of Staff, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He will offer a brief history of USCG, its missions, capabilities, and the presence in the Bay area.

Please bring a guest to the meeting as we always



### Membership

**Ron Lew**

BEC inducted 4 new members for the month of October. **Craig Kauffman** sponsored by **Paul Beretz**, **George Sabbagh** sponsored by **Al Munayer**, **George Hatch** sponsored by **Jim Whitsett** and **Clair Weenig** sponsored by **Steve Siljestrom**. They attended the new member orientation class following the luncheon which you are also welcome to join us any time for a refresher or to meet our new members.

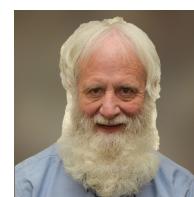
Wear your Rooster Pins to the luncheons and any other SIR activities or functions. If you never received one or lost yours, please email me and I will issue you a new one. Also please check that your personal information is correct in the Membership Directory found on the Members Only tab on our website.

Please continue inviting new members as we constantly lose members to relocation, or health issues.

### October New Member Photo Additions



George Hatch



Craig Kauffman



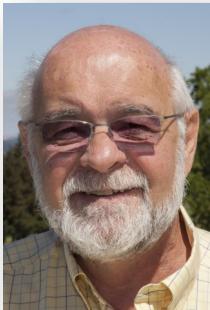
George Sabbagh



Clair Weenig

want to expand our membership and keep the branch vibrant. If you do bring a guest, be sure to let our luncheon manager know who is coming. Please be sure to notify us if you are not coming to the lunch. You can accomplish this by either sending an E-mail to [nolunchbranch146@gmail.com](mailto:nolunchbranch146@gmail.com) or calling 925-979-5146.





## Luncheon Chairman

Rob Melrose

While you are thinking of it, grab your checkbook and make out a check to SIR BRANCH 146 in the amount of \$26 and slide it into your wallet. Checks make our lives so much easier.

- Luncheon Date: November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Cost \$26. The volunteers really prefer checks and if you don't know why, volunteer to work at the check-in table sometime. Plus, it makes it easier for volunteers to balance the books.
- As usual, the Opt Out deadline is the Friday before the luncheon before noon. That would make this month's deadline **NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> BEFORE NOON**. Two ways to opt out are email or voicemail.

Email: [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)

Phone: (925) 979-5146

- Special Requests: If you have dietary restrictions, want a vegetarian meal or can't consume a meal, please send email to [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com) before the Opt Out Deadline.
- Bringing a guest? If you are bringing a guest: please notify Lunch Chair with guest's name at the same email address: [NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com](mailto:NoLunchBranch146@gmail.com)
- Annual Payers: Since we have lowered the price, it is imperative that you let us know if you are not coming before the deadline so we can keep the low price.
- Everyone needs to remember the cut-off date is Noon on the Friday before the luncheon. It is your obligation to let us know if you cannot attend. We will send out a courtesy reminder before the deadline. However, if it goes to your spam folder, that is not a valid reason for failure to notify us before the deadline. **Unattended lunches are not free; SIR Branch 146 is charged \$26 for every lunch that is prepared.** Please notify us as mentioned above so we do not continue to incur these needless expenses.

### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Richard Hockenbrock
Co - Editors	<b>Walt Busenius, Rob Melrose &amp; Bob West</b>
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Jim Barry, Jonathan Korfhage
Internet Posting	Ron Polivka, and Calvin Tucker
	Ron Plachy



## THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon

November 14th, 2019

### Salad

#### **Spicy Carrot Salad**

Baby Greens, Carrots Pineapple, Citrus Segments Champagne Vinaigrette

### Entrees

#### **Holiday Turkey Dinner**

Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Turkey Gravy, Sautéed Vegetables

Or

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

Roasted Tomato Caper Sauce, Rice Pilaf & Seasonal Vegetables

### Vegetarian

#### **Roasted Vegetable Napoleon**

Layered & Served with Melted Plum Tomatoes & Fresh Basil

### 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.*

## HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS AT OCTOBER LUNCHEON



**Bob Yolland** being presented with HLM by **Dick Devoe**



**Paul Debow** presenting **Pete Gates** with HLM award



**Bob Yolland** with wife **Janet** and HLM award



**Pete Gates** after HLM presentation with wife **Ann**



New HLM and wives, **Bob Yolland** and **Janet**, **Ann** and **Pete Gates**.

Photo by Henry Thatcher



Our State President, **Ed Benson** presented a State award of recognition to **Dick Devoe** for his service as State Vice President and leader of the State policy and procedures rewrite.



## Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

At our next meeting, we will explore the new Samsung Note 10 Plus smartphone side by side with the new iPhone 11 Pro from a photograph and video perspective.

**Bob Wilkenfeld** and I will try to take identical pictures from the same locations. Anyone with a smartphone is welcome to join us and compare your photos with ours. It will help you decide if you need to buy a new smartphone.

I plan to put all our pictures on the Branch 146 YouTube channel so join us and later watch the show but come to the meeting too and see the results first hand.

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

Cell: (925) 324-1713

### Next Meeting

**Where :** Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Road  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**Subject:** **Samsung Note 10 Plus** vs the **iPhone 11 Pro** from a photography perspective

**When:** December 13th, 2019 9am—11am



Big Sir **Jonathan Korfage** recognizing **Paul Dubow** and **Steven Dinning** for their behind the scenes activity work.



## RV Wanderers

Bob Lucido

We now have nine SIR's couples interested in our RV activity. We will have a meeting to discuss where to go, how often, etc.

The meeting will be at my house on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The address is 541 Lily St. My phone number is (925) 899-0974.

**Bob Lucido**

(925) 899-0974

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



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Former Big Sir 2018 **Bruce Borgman** reviewing five years of our 30 year history.



Big Sir **Jonathon Korfage** Leading branch in champagne toast to our 30 year anniversary.

My son Luke loves that we chose Star Wars characters as an inspiration when naming our kids. His sister Chewbacca and his brother Boba Fett are less amused.



A perfectionist walked into a bar....Apparently, the bar wasn't set high enough.





## Activities

**Jerry Kaplan**  
and  
**Bob Lucido**



This month a new activity, table tennis, will be started. Because this is a new activity, a meeting will be held to determine where to play, how often, how much beer will be consumed, etc. Also someone will need to volunteer to be chairman.

The meeting will be at my house on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The address is 541 Lily Street. My phone number is (925) 899-0974.

*Reported by Bob Lucido*

**Jerry Kaplan**  
(925) 330-8832  
[mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com)

**Bob Lucido**  
(925) 899-0974  
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Above: Branch 146 SIR 30th Anniversary cake

Below: 30 year Anniversary "Friends for Life" sign



Photo by Henry Thatcher

## SIR BR 146 2020 (BEC) Board Executive Committee:

Big Sir	<b>Brad Hatcher</b>
Little Sir	<b>Richard Hockenbrock</b>
Secretary	<b>Jerry Kaplan</b>
Assistant Secretary	<b>Tony Greco</b>
Treasurer	<b>George Mon</b>
Assistant Treasurer	<b>Ross Abbott</b>
Director 2nd Term	<b>Milton Smith</b>
Director 2nd Term	<b>Brian McCarthy*</b>
Director 2nd Term	<b>Ron Lew</b>
Director 1st Term	<b>Paul Beretz</b>
Director 1st Term	<b>Chuck Schreiber</b>
Director 1st Term	<b>Peter Plante*</b>

All of these 2020 calendar year officers were introduced at the July luncheon and elected unanimously at our August 2019 luncheon. \* Updated 10/10/2019



Photo by Richard Lyon

**Fred Reich** proudly displays the Super Senior State Award after celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> October birthday at a Walnut Creek restaurant. Stepson **Richard Lyon** is also a member of Branch 146.



Father: "Son, you were adopted."

Son: "What?! I knew it! I want to meet my biological parents!"

Father: "We are your biological parents. Now pack up, the new ones will pick you up in 20 minutes."





## Cycling Group

Larry Kaye

October 1<sup>st</sup> We rode from Lafayette to Canyon. This little hidden village sits at the base of roads leading to both Oakland and Berkeley. Its history is worth reading as we visited the Post Office and the one-room school house. On our return to civilization the guys decided it was worth a trip into Orinda. So off we sped to grab a cup of Peets brew. The talk was about the female (?) coyote seen on the trail.

After our break, we headed through the backside of Lafayette, cruising to our chariots that waited in the parking lot. Today's jaunt was 24 miles with 1217 feet of climbing. Attending this slice of history were **Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Roger Meyer, and Larry Kaye**. Spandex Rules!!

October 8<sup>th</sup> This ride took us from Martinez to Port Costa. We experienced the McEwen road decent into Port Costa.--A real killer. The guys explored Port Costa and its various houses of ill repute. We learned its history. Yours truly took a spill. I disregarded the cardinal rule: Do not ride skinny tires on gravel. Pulling up our anchors we headed out to see the Carquinez straits along Snake road. The views are amazing. **Bob Wilkenfeld** gave a short history of the Brick plant and the various tank farms. Rolling along we left the straits and headed down hill into the Martinez marina. Three men needed to go home so only three stayed to the end. We enjoyed coffee at State Coffee which was discovered thanks to **Roger**. It was time then to get on our rigs and trek the last two miles back to our cars. The last hill made us think of evil, as it felt very steep. The boys in Spandex today were: **Jim Nelson, Bill Ross, Michael Wolfson, Roger Meyer and Bob Wilkenfeld**.

October 16<sup>th</sup> Today's ride into history was long, hard and entertaining. The men in spandex set out this cool Wednesday for a look at Danville history. We went thru Danville into the depths of the Tassajara valley. We visited the Highland Elementary school house. Built in 1865, it educated the ranchers and had as a tutor, Bret Harte of Western book fame. We pedaled through the old ranches and came upon a secret satellite installation hidden in the valley. Fenced and signed, we stayed away. One can only guess what those huge dishes listen for.

Descending the Collier Canyon roadway we made a circle from our start. Back onto Highland we rode, stopping in Blackhawk for java and belly bombs. As luck would have it, we had a tailwind and a downhill ride back to Alamo, hitting speeds only seen on TV. Today's ride was

a monumental effort for the guys at 36 miles!! A banner moment. Joining today were **Roger Meyer, Bob Lucido, Bill Ross** and the ever famous **Moose**.

October 21st: We took the path of ease today. Alamo to Southern Dublin, stopping at my favorite cafe for coffee and pastry-Deneca's. Was true to form. Returned on the Ironhorse trail. A great yet relaxing 27 miles. Riding along today was Roger Meyer.

Larry Kaye

(925) 698-4030

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

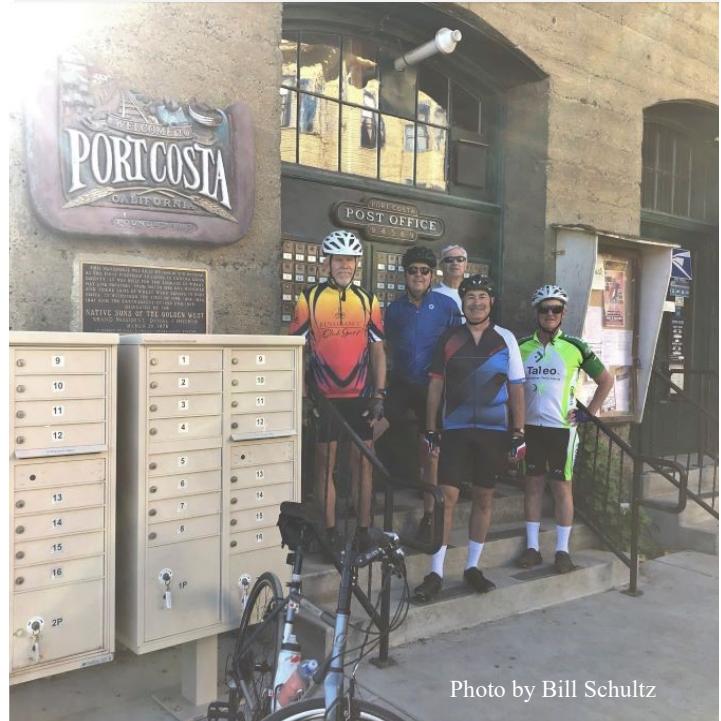


Photo by Bill Schultz

Men in Spandex visiting Old Port Costa: L to R **Jim Nelson, Michael Wolfson** in blue, **Roger Meyer** in rear, **Bob Wilkenfeld** and **Bill Ross**. Covered 1355 feet of elevation climbing. Where consistency pays off.

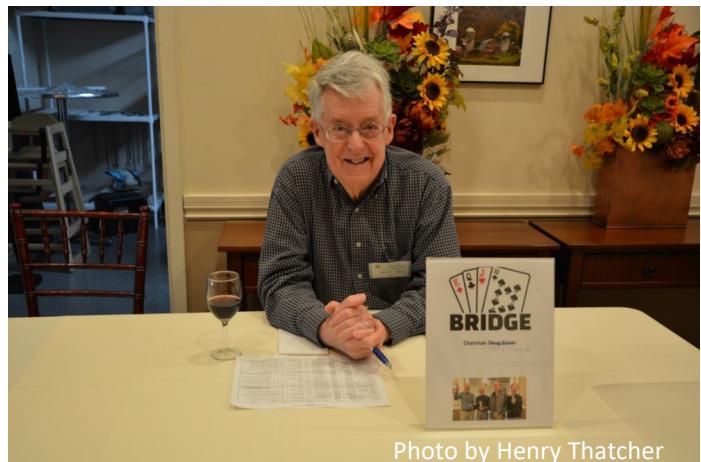


Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Dave Pierce** Bridge Activity table at October luncheon



## Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

Our November Couples Dining Out event will be one for the books! As we indicated in the October newsletter, we thought we would go back to Wence's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill on November 18. We've been to this restaurant on at least two occasions, and the entrée selections are always good, as well as the soup and salad and desserts.

Also, the separate dining area can accommodate our large group. In reviewing the banquet menus, we decided to select one of the higher priced ones since we wanted to have a special dinner as we approach the holiday season. The total all-inclusive price would be \$60 and this menu is truly one of the fancier ones in recent memory. We publicized the restaurant only a day before announcing it at the October luncheon.

Amazingly, we had about 54 diners sign up in about a day, and at this point have closed the signups after we reached 71. I have visited the restaurant again and assured myself that they can seat this number with comfort. The menu will have lots of choices – starting with a choice of lobster soup or Caesar salad. For the entrees, there are five choices: a 12 oz Rib eye steak, a seared Chilean Sea Bass served with prawns, clams and mussels, a Lobster Seafood Fettuccine, and a 14 oz White Marble Pork Chop. For the vegetarian entrée, an "Earth's Garden" selection will be available. For dessert we will have a choice of tiramisu, or cheesecake. Coffee will be available.

We will start with our conventional social cocktail hour at 5:30pm. You will be able to take advantage of the \$5 house wines, or \$4 draft beer during the early Happy Hour. Remember that they have a cocktail menu, which includes higher priced wines and cocktails so take care in specifying your choice. Corkage is \$25.

Wence's is located in an unobtrusive strip mall at 1922 Oak Park Blvd. and parking is limited in the mall lot, but some street parking available as well. Coming early and car pooling will make parking easier with our larger than usual group. Rather than limiting this event to 50 as originally planned, we decided to accommodate this larger group and enjoy this end of our Dining Out season with as many as possible.

No plans yet for January, but we always meet the challenge – and will enjoy socializing and dining with all of you in 2020!



## Travel

Milt Smith

[SIR Branch 146 Grand Baltic Sea Voyage—Small Ship Adventure by Overseas Adventure Travel](#)

**DEPARTURE DATE:** June 6, 2020

- [Denmark](#): Copenhagen, Bornholm
- [Poland](#): Gdansk
- [Sweden](#): Visby, Stockholm
- [Latvia](#): Riga
- [Estonia](#): Tallinn
- [Russia](#): St. Petersburg
- [Finland](#): Helsinki.

Trip extensions available to Copenhagen and / or Stockholm from \$1,295 each.

As noted, this upcoming great trip to the Baltic departs June 6, 2020 and we have 9 Sirs signed up already, but there is still room for more if you act soon.

14 days from \$8,255 Includes international airfare from Sacramento. 14 days from \$6,695 without international airfare. Single Supplement: \$1,395.

Please mention code [GO-23630](#) when booking.

Reservations & Information call [1-800-955-1925](#)

[www.oattravel.com/crb2020](#)

### [California Highway Patrol Academy Tour – Tentative date May 7 in Sacramento](#)

Mark your calendar for a day trip departing 10am and home by 5:45pm. Lunch at the Academy cafeteria followed by a guided tour and time for the museum. Tour cost between \$67 and \$97 depending on number of SIRS we sign up...more to come

Please Note: We are currently looking into trips to the eastern Med. to Egypt and Norway... will need to narrow it down. Also, I am trying to gage interest in a trip to the WWII battlefields in France. Let me know of interest in these or any other trips.

**Milt Smith**

(925) 285-2897

[miltsmith549@gmail.com](mailto:miltsmith549@gmail.com)

Q: What kind of chocolate do they sell at the airport?

A: Plane Chocolate





## SongSirs

### Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs continue to soldier on even with somewhat diminished numbers at our practices. A number of our singers have had to drop out due to health issues. We miss all of you and hope you will be able to return.

We are prepared with the service songs which we traditionally sing at the November Luncheon where we honor our veterans. Despite a smaller number, we have decided to sing for the Sunrise Senior Living Facility on Ygnacio Valley Boulevard on Wednesday, November 6 where we have sung before and where always have an enthusiastic audience. Since it is near the observed Veteran's Day, we will sing the service songs as well as a few other patriotic songs. Also, we will add to this repertoire a number of other favorites, such as "When I Fall in Love", "It's a Lovely Day Today", "I Left my Heart in San Francisco", "Smiles", and our one melancholy song made famous by George Burns: "I Wish I was Eighteen Again". It will be a full program – if you're in the neighborhood, you're welcome to come by – we will sing at 1:30pm.

Also, we have been asked to sing for the VIP group of the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church on Jan. 8, and will likely sing the repertoire mentioned above as well as a few other songs.

We do need some new singers, so if you have an interest in singing, come by one of our practices at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church – normally at 2:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, and at 1:30pm on the third Wednesday. Auditions not required, just an interest and love of singing!

(925) 932-3961

[bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com)



## Book Group

### Chuck Campbell

*The Pioneers*, by David McCullough

Following the revolutionary war, representatives from each of the thirteen original states met in Philadelphia to draft articles on how the new democratic government would work. At about this same time, men in the northeastern states began planning how to open the vast lands of the Ohio river basin for development.

McCullough's book begins by describing how this latter group managed to set up the Ohio Company for financing of the new territory and by drafting the articles (Northwest Ordinance, 1787) needed to join the new United States.

Through research based on personal diaries, letters, newspaper stories and other documents, McCullough reveals the trials and tribulations experienced by the pioneers who had the courage to venture into a world having few people, no roads, nor shelters. The book is an easy read, but the group felt it was not up to the standards of *The Wright Brothers*, which our group read last year.

For our next book we selected *The Guardians* by John Grisham. We will meet at the Greenery Restaurant on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 8:30am.



## Bocce

Stan U'Ren /  
Jim Whitsett

**SEASON ENDED!**

The time has come to announce our annual fall/winter break. We'll plan to start back up in late April/early May 2020. Two months prior to May, we will use this column to alert players of the upcoming start up.

We've had a good year and look forward to next year! Thanks to all who participated. See pictures on page 22 and 26.

*Bocce Ball is played the 2nd and 4th Mondays, May through September at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord, near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads.*

**Jim Whitsett** (925) 689-5493  
[AFRES056789@gmail.com](mailto:AFRES056789@gmail.com)



## AREA 16 Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Summer for fishermen does not end on September 21<sup>st</sup>. It ends on October 31<sup>st</sup>, when the salmon season closes. We did enjoy the best salmon fishing in years and now we have turned to trout and sturgeon.

Our first trout foray saw a large group head north to Eagle Lake and Lake Almanor. They spent the first day on Eagle Lake, where the limit is two fish. Most of the boats limited out but one group returned empty handed. The next day was to be spent at Lake Almanor, where the group was quartered. Unfortunately, howling winds greeted the fishermen when they rose at dawn and it was decided to forego any further fishing. The fishermen departed but, as the last foursome, headed by **Ron Lew** of Branch 146, was leaving, the winds died down. Thus, the four hardy fishermen decided to try their luck and they did bag a few trout before the winds chased them off the lake. Nevertheless, the gang had a good time as camaraderie, food, and hospitality from the staff at LaQuinta Lodge prevailed.

San Pablo Reservoir was not kind to **Rich Fiscina** of Branch 146, **Ed Barney**, **Phil Scimonelli**, and **Carl Moyer**, who fished twice for only two trout each day. **Carl**, **Ron Lew**, and **Thom Watkins** had even worse luck with sturgeon, catching only a few small ones.

However, on the bright side of things, **Ron Lew**, **Carl Moyer**, **Brion Beetz**, and **George Vogt** caught rockfish, cabezon, and ling cod fishing in the ocean. **Tom Kostik** caught limits of trout at Pinecrest Lake in the Sierras and salmon on the Klamath River. **Paul Dubow** and **Don Arington** traveled to Pyramid Lake in Nevada with two others and caught and released 13 cutthroat trout, including a 10 pounder.

We normally meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. But Thanksgiving falls on that day in November and so our next meeting will occur on November 21, the third Thursday. The meeting will be at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am. All SIRs interested in fishing, no matter when they last fished or if they have never fished, are invited and please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30.

For further information, please contact branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

**Dennis Hallett** hosted an outstanding lunch at his lovely home 10/13. With the nice weather and all 8 Cooking II members attending, we enjoyed our appetizers outside by the pool. They included prosciutto panino, a cheese stick wrapped with prosciutto, a cheese board with gouda, sharp cheddar, muenster and Danish fontina, plus crackers. To help keep us healthy he also served pickles, olives, celery and carrots.

**Dennis's** entree was an excellent Mexican Lasagna made with chicken corn, sauce and other goodies, layered on tortillas instead of pasta and topped with cheese. To crown the entree we had guacamole, sour cream and salsa. His salad was a special Blue Cheese grape coleslaw. For dessert he served a very nice rum cake. To top off the meal he offered coffee and a choice of two beautiful 12 and 14-year-old Spey Side Single Malt Whiskies. All of this was accompanied by lots of great conversation and copious amounts of wine. Thank you **Dennis** for a great afternoon.

Our next event will be Monday November 11<sup>th</sup> hosted by **Corrie Oranje**.



Photo by Don Piper

**Don Arington** displays a cutthroat trout caught at Pyramid



Give a man a fish and you will feed him for the day.

Teach a man to fish and he's going to spend a fortune on gear he'll only be using twice a year.





Henry Thatcher

# SIR 146

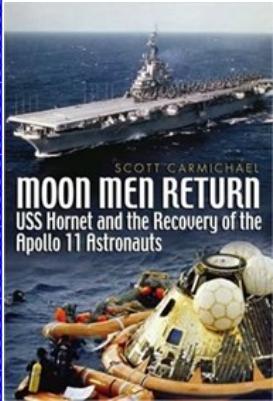
## Explore & Eat



Jim Pope

### USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier Tour

November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in Alameda



The Explore & Eat event will be on the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> in Alameda at 10:00 am.

We will tour the flight deck, navigation bridge, engine room, and several lower decks. The USS Hornet is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. The carrier recovered the Apollo 11 space capsule with the 3 astronauts from the Pacific Ocean. A highlight of the tour will be the space capsule as well as many other artifacts from this historic event. The tour takes about 2 hours.



After the tour, we are having lunch at **Pier 29, 1148 Ballena Blvd. in Alameda**

The cost is **\$15.00 per person (\$30/couple)** for the docent-led tour. We have room for 40 participants and need a minimum of 25. Please make your check payable to **"SIR 146"** and note on the check for **"USS Hornet Tour"**. There will be no refunds after October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please send your check and the name of your guest to: Jim Pope at 385 Bryan Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Email: [jpope24@comcast.net](mailto:jpope24@comcast.net).

**See you all there!**





## Pickleball

### Jim Burk

Branch 146 Sirs (some with their spouses) are now regularly playing this exciting and active game at the Activity and Recreation Center (ARC) of the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church.

The ARC is located at 902 Danville Boulevard in Alamo and has three beautiful courts for playing Pickle Ball. Everyone is welcome to play there during any of the drop-in times on Monday thru Friday between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. A player will pay \$5 per session. Each player will be allowed to get in as many games as the number of players that day allows using the traditional player wait list approach.

There is also instruction available from 1:00 - 2:30 pm on Tuesday and Thursday. Advance reservations are needed. The cost of instruction is \$15 per player, plus the \$5 drop-in fee referenced above. A player would be allowed to play until 4:00 pm, space permitting, before or following their one and one half hour of instruction. A player wishing to take advantage of the instruction should call the ARC at (925) 837-2011 and reserve a time (8 players per hour and one half of instruction is available).

Call or email [jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net) to learn more about the game and/or information about the facility where the Pickle Ball courts are available.

Jim Burk

(925) 946-1192

[jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimanneburk@sbcglobal.net)



## Cribbage

### John Pearl

A large group (nine) gathered at Sir **Barney Meade's** home Wednesday afternoon, October 23rd. We had some new members this month, who all brought money, and some took money home.

Our esteemed Co-Chair **Ron Afdal** had a perfect day, winning all his games and taking the top prize. Others who participated on the podium include **Bob Finlayson**, who is new to our group taking second place. **Kirk McVean**, a regular member from Branch 116, took third place money, while **Peter Plante** came in fourth and also took home money.

It was a crazy afternoon, and we'll try to do it again in November!

John Pearl, Chair



## Pinochle

Charlie Kahsen /  
Jeff Morrow



We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> &  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the

month at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria, 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd, Walnut Creek, CA. Optional lunch is from Noon – 1:00 and card playing from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

All Sirs in Area 16 and their guests (including spouses) are welcome to attend. Introduction and training will be provided to those who have never played before, as well as those who last played many years ago.

If you are interested in joining our group, call one of us or send an email to both our email addresses and one of us will get back to you.

If you plan to come, please let us know ahead of time so we can let Rocco's know you plan to have lunch with the group.

Charlie Kahsen

(925) 943-1750

[cwkahsen@gmail.com](mailto:cwkahsen@gmail.com)

Jeff Morrow

(925) 944-7009

[jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.morrow@gmail.com)



## Table Pool



Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

We meet every Monday at 11:00 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 week 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.

Reported by Jim Barry



Q: Why do they call coffee mud?

A: Because it was ground a couple of minutes ago.



# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

**Jerry Kaplan**

The Group One players met on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the welcoming Walnut Creek Rossmoor home of **SIR Jim Stedman**. Enjoyable snacks were available throughout the Game Night including homemade cookies, cheese, fruits and vegetable dips, as well as delicious petit fours.

Many of the regulars were there along with substitutes **SIR Bob Lucido** and his wife, **Wendy** and **SIR Jeff Baily** and **Alicia** also came to test their skills. **SIR Sig Kalteis** won \$21 with an overall low average score of 17.6. **SIR Richard Hockenbrock** had only one more point in his hand than Sig did after 12 games and averaged 17.7; he won 2nd place worth \$11. **SIR Jerry Kaplan** came in third place (worth \$4) averaging 19.0.

**SIR Bob Lucido** won one of the two scratchers by having a fairly miserable evening (although he did enjoy all the treats that **Jim** provided). On one hand alone, **Bob** was left with 199 points! The other scratcher was awarded to **Nancy Kalteis**, wife of **SIR Sig**. Alas, as in the past, no magic money appeared on the ticket. To date, only **SIR Corrie Oranje** has won a cash prize from the scratcher. But we all keep trying!

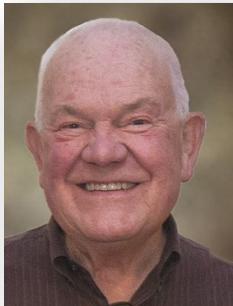
Mexican Train Dominoes is an easy game to learn and a great number of Sirs, many with their partners, have been playing for several years. Single Sirs are always welcome. [Click on the link below](#) to see how to play and use the set of rules that the seven groups in Branch 146 are following. If someone is interested in joining a group, call the chair (listed in the Branch website) to see if there is space to become a regular or a substitute.

[mexicantrainrulesandstrategies.com](http://mexicantrainrulesandstrategies.com)



MTD 1 Group with subs (L – R) Corrie Oranje, Bruce Borgman, Martha Plante, Peter Plante, Sherry Hockenbrock, Bob Lucido, Nancy Kalteis, Wendy Lucido, Richard Hockenbrock, Sig Kalteis, Marie & Frank Ascatigno, Jerry Kaplan, Susan Kaplan, Jeff & Alicia Baily, Jim Stedman and Sue Oranje

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes

### Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

**Rich** and **Ismini** hosted the September game night. **Janice** and I were traveling so didn't get to enjoy their hospitality but I am confident it was a great night for everyone. There were fourteen players including **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini MacLean**, **Bill** and **Bernice Cammerer**, **John** and **Nancy Pearl**, **Bill** and **Lynette Holly**, **Jim** and **Phyllis Meehan**, **Ron** and **Anne Plachy** and **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**.

Thanks to **Ron Plachy** for calculating the results of the evening scores. **Jim Meehan** took first place with an average game score of 14.1 winning \$17.00. Second and third place went to the **Pearl's**. **John** took second place with 15.6 winning \$8.00 and **Nancy** took third place with 17.1 winning \$3.00. Congratulations to all our winners!

October game night is on the 25<sup>th</sup> at **Don and Etta Dotson's**.



MTD Grp 2 (Duos): (L to R) **Janice Woodman**, **Bill Cammerer**, **Ron Plachy**, **Phyllis Meehan**, **Rich Ahlf**, and **Etta Dotson**



MTD Grp 2 (Duos): (L to R) **John Pearl**, **Bill Holly**, **Ismini MacLean**, **Mary Denney**, **Jim Meehan**, **Bernice Cammerer**

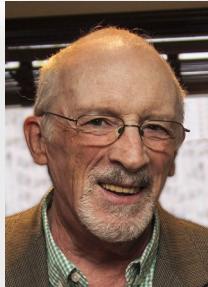


MTD Grp 2 (Duos): L to R -- **Anne Plachy**, **Chuck Denney**, **Nancy Pearl**, **Dick Woodman**, **Lynette Holly**, **Don Dotson**



El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos in costume: **Dick DeVoe**, **Yvonne Killips**, **Kim Pace** and **Rich Pace** (see next page)

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES) Jeff Baily

We held our October games at the home of **Lynn** and **Sally Shafer**. Delicious snacks and desserts were enjoyed through the evening by a full house of players. We were pleased to welcome **Steve Lane** and his wife **Carol** who have joined the Group as Substitutes. **Carol**, wasted no time in demonstrating her skill at Mexican Train Dominoes to take first prize for the night with an impressive low score of 15.2. **Linda Brown**, no stranger to winning, went out in games one, three, four and six and scored 1 in game seven to take second place for the night with a 16.0, while her husband **Larry** went out 3 times and grabbed third prize with 17.5. Honorable mention here must go to **Steve Lane**, who missed being in the money by three tenths of a point. So the **Lanes** and the **Browns** should be happy with a great showing of their abilities at the game.

If you feel a need to brush on the rules of game go to [www.mexicantrainrulesandstrategies.com](http://www.mexicantrainrulesandstrategies.com)  
Happy tapping.



MTD 3 winners: Linda Brown, Carol Lane and Larry Brown



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro) Jim Pope

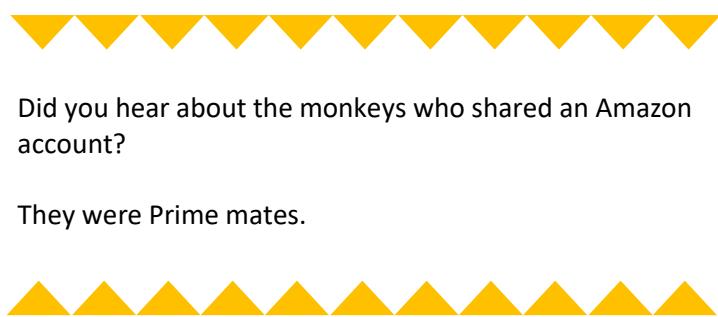
We had the 12 **Scary** Dominos players show up to play dominos Friday night, **Don** and **June Seaton**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Bill Weinberg** and **Yvonne Killips**, **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, **Rich** and **Kim Pace** and **Jim** and **Renie Pope**.

We had several in costumes and masks celebrating Halloween (See Picture). The group was in fine goblin spirit with plenty of laughter, food and drink though out the evening. All food and drink provided by the group members and fitting the evening Halloween theme. We had two tables of 6 playing many rousing rounds of dominos.

The winners were **Dick DeVoe** and **Kim Pace** (See picture). Both receiving 6 California Lotto tickets each with a possible cash prize of \$1000.



MTD 4 winners: Dick DeVoe & Kim Pace



Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account?

They were Prime mates.

# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO) Chuck Campbell

The MTD gathering on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the Hallett's home was memorable – For Some!! Last month's "Male Euphoria" first place and bragging rights came to a screeching halt, when the "Female Amazonians" delivered a clean sweep over five games.

**Pattie Eisner** (42 points) came 1<sup>st</sup>, **Anne Burke** 2<sup>nd</sup> (61) and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Ann Hallett** (76).

The closest male score was 122 points (oh endless shame!!)

As usual the men voiced numerous concerns about the ladies manner of play including taking less tiles than the men, misuse of their iPhone calculator and having too much fun.

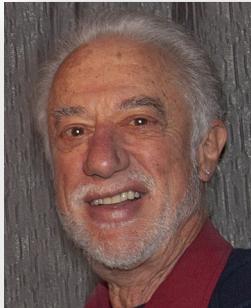
Accordingly, body cameras will be mandatory at the next month's gathering at **Sally and Steve Sprague's** home.

Congratulations ladies!!!!



MTD 5 winners: Patti Eisner 1st, Anne Burke 2nd, Ann Hallett

3rd



## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 7 (Siete) Bob Lucido

**Bob and Wendy Lucido** hosted MTD Group 7 for October. Our winner was **Sherry Hockenbrock**, with a score of 13.4. Our "Scratcher Aficionado" was **Jane West** (with 5 games of the double blank, how can you fault her?)

At our November game we will tally the year's scores, find the lowest score, and award the winner with a bucket full of money.

**Bob Lucido**  
(925) 899-0974  
[Bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:Bobwendy3@comcast.net)

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



MTD 7- high score scratcher winner **Jane West** (Left) and low score money winner **Sherry Hockenbrock** (Right)



"Daddy, I inherited my intelligence from you, didn't I?"

"That's right my clever girl!"

"That makes sense, because mommy's still got hers."



# Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



## Mexican Train Dominoes

### Group 6 (SEIS)

John "Moose" Kelly

Our October game night was hosted by **Peter** and **Martha Plante** at their lovely home in Walnut Creek. **Peter** and **Martha** worked hard to put on a Halloween extravaganza. My thanks for their extra effort in making the warm evening quite enjoyable for one and all.

Competition for the lowest score was fierce as usual. This month results for low score winners were **Jane West** (1), **Jeff Bailey** (2), and **Jan Ondeck** (3). **Bob West** and **Jerry Kaplan** were the high point winners with the "Fast 25" and "Loose Change" scratchers. Congratulations to all the winners!

HHHMM.....Did **Jane** and **Bob West** devised a scheme where they were the low and high score winners to take a prize at the same time?? OR was it really a trick or treat situation??!! We may never know.

Our Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Mexican Train Domino event will be hosted by **Moose Kelly** and **Mary Schmidt**. Details will follow by email at the beginning of November.



MTD 6 Low Score Winners (L to R) **Jane West**, **Jeff Bailey**, **Jan Ondeck**.



MTD 6 high point winners: **Bob West** and **Jerry Kaplan**

#### Turkey fun facts:

Turkey quite possibly didn't feature on the first Thanksgiving menu. The records point more towards a duck or a goose.

Turkeys can get a heart attack. This was discovered when the US Air Force were testing breaking the sound barrier and the huge boom ended up with a field of turkeys dead from fright.

Benjamin Franklin wanted turkey to become US national animal. He thought the eagle had a "bad moral character".

A wild turkey, when scared, can run 20 mph (32 kph).



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

### Doug Eisner

**Jim Brown** hosted four tables in the card room at Montecito on Oct. 21. It's a great venue, and it's great playing with 12 good friends and partners; we don't often have enough for four tables.

It was a tight contest and the top four were closely packed: **Joe Fuchs** (55%), **Tony Greco** (56%), **Bill Schultz** (57%) and **Dave Pierce** (58%) took home the money. **Joe** had a 71% game after lunch to come from way back in the pack. **Jim Stedman** had only two zeros. **Brad Hatcher**, who was fifth, was the only person over 50% for both halves.

Many thanks to **Ed Marlovits** who subbed in after lunch on short notice when one of our players had to leave early. Congratulations to the winners!



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1: L to R: **Dave Pierce** 1st, **Bill Schultz** 2nd, **Tony Greco** 3rd, **Joe Fuchs** 4th.



October Birthday winner: **Steve Ondock**



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

### Bill Schultz

Duplicate Bridge Group #2 had a "Boys Weekend Away" in October called YoDeHa, at Lake Tahoe hosted by **Bob Yolland**, **Dick DeVoe** and **Brad Hatcher** at their respective mountain getaways. Eight regulars and four subs made the trip for bridge, golf, fine dining, and sipping a few libations.

We hope it this will be the first of many annual events. Two 24 hand duplicate bridge games were played, on Thursday and on Friday. In the first game, **Tony Greco** came out strong the first half with a 79% game, followed closely by **Dick DeVoe** and **Rich Ahlf**. **Dave Steinberg**, **Jerry Benoit** and **Doug Eisner** were strong the second half, but in the end it was **Tony Greco** in first, **Rich Ahlf** in second and **Dave Steinberg** in third.

The next day it was **Dick DeVoe**, **Tony Greco** and **Joe Fuchs** leading the pack in the first half, **Dave Steinberg**, **Tony Greco** and **Ray Spears** leading in the second half. When the dust settled it was **Tony Greco** in first place with three players sharing second place; **Ray Spears**, **Joe Fuchs** and **Dave Steinberg**.

For the two days it was **Tony Greco** in first place, **Dave Steinberg** in second and **Ray Spears** in third. There were two perfect six partnerships, **Tony** and **Ray** the first day and **Ray** and **Dave** the second day.

Duplicate Group 2's next game will be Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and the host is to be determined.



Boys Weekend Away at Tahoe: L to R 1st Row -- **Bob Yolland**, **Dave Steinberg**, **Rich Ahlf**, **Brad Hatcher**. L to R 2nd Row -- **Doug Eisner**, **Joe Fuchs**, **Jerry Benoit**, **Ray Spears**, **Tony Greco**, **John Boyan**, **Max Hinkle**, **Dick DeVoe**.



## Couples Party Bridge

### Tony Greco

**Tony & Cindy Greco** hosted our October 1<sup>st</sup> event. All the regulars attended this event. The usual wines, beverages and snacks were served which included the popular Jalapeno Artichoke dip w/ crackers accompanied by pineapple squares, grapes, mixed nuts and dark chocolate balls w/ acai & blueberry centers. For dessert **Cindy** served Pumpkin Supreme topped with whipped cream, and coffee.

It was an average night for scores which ranged from 3390 to 1570 points. There were no hands with slam potential. The highlight of card play was when the **Benoits** played **5 clubs doubled** during the 3<sup>rd</sup> round and made the contract. Good job **Christine!!** This put the **Benoits** into the lead after 3 rounds where they stayed for the remainder of the event. I discourage punitive doubling in a party bridge environment and stress the word "party" over the word "bridge" unless someone is blatantly and frequently overbidding. In this case, since the doubled hand was made no fine will be issued to the doublers. Lol

The official results are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE with 3390 points - **Jerry & Christine Benoit**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE with 2990 points - **Larry & Linda Brown**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE with 2690 points - **Rich Ahlf & Ismini MacLean**

Next month's event will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and hosted by **Jerry & Christine Benoit**.

## Party Bridge

### Jim Pope & Jim Stedman



On Monday Sept.7<sup>th</sup> 12

hopeful players gathered at SIR **Bill Rees**'s home for party bridge. Bill and his wife Margaret were gracious hosts. Eleven of us played our hearts out only to be blown away by **Steve Dinning** with 5900 points.

The nearest competitors were **Bill Snyder** and **Fred Bolton** with 3840 and 3730 respectively. Our next game is Monday November 4. Please join us for an amiable day of party bridge.

Please call **Jim Pope** at 925-699-6447 if you would like to join our group



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Walt Busenius and Verner Laursen** at October luncheon



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Ray Kan** one of our former Big Sirs (2005) reviewing 5 years of our 30 year history.



Photo by Henry Thatcher

**Ron Lew and Pierre Melbane** at October luncheon



## Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

### Mike Whitaker

Duplicate Bridge III held its October meeting on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Bob Yolland**. The coffee and snacks were great and Bob's (maybe Janet's) carrot cake was delicious.

We played 24 hands of duplicate bridge. At the end of 12 hands, **Ray Spears** and **Ray Bland** were tied with 15 pts. The carrot cake must have been to rich for **Ray Bland**'s liking as he faded in the 2nd half. At the end of the day, **Ray Spears** maintained his lead and finished 1st overall. He was closely followed by **Jerry Benoit** and **Tony Greco** who finished 2nd and 3rd. **Mike Whitaker** was 4th and lead the way with 9 2's, while **Jerry Benoit** had the fewest (3) 0's.

The quality of the bridge play was only surpassed by the friendly competitive spirit we share. Our next gathering will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Jim Pope**. Interested? Please contact **Mike Whitaker** at [mrwhitaker@yahoo.com](mailto:mrwhitaker@yahoo.com) or 925-708-8213.



Bridge 3 winners: **Ray Spears** 1st, **Jerry Benoit** 2nd and **Tony Greco** 3rd.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

### Bob Yolland

This month due to several regular members traveling we elected to pass on bridge. Our next game will be Wednesday evening November 20<sup>th</sup> hosted by **Bob and Janet Yolland**.

Couples Duplicate 1 is actively looking for **one** additional couple to join our group as a regular member. We meet the 3rd Wednesday evening of each month at various members homes for a fun evening of duplicate bridge and conversation, starting at 7 PM.

Anyone interested doesn't need to be expert duplicate bridge players. For more information please contact **Bob Yolland** at ([bobyolland@att.net](mailto:bobyolland@att.net)) or call 932 4758.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

### Dave Pierce

It was the evening that PG&E had threatened to cut off the power at midnight. The hands were suitably weird as well, as was the outcome.

We had a three-way tie for second place: Loyal subs **Rich Ahlf** and **Ismini McLean**, **Tony** and **Cindy Greco**, and our gracious hosts **Ken** and **Elaine Richter** all tied with 50% games. No lack of power in that bunch. **Ken** and **Elaine** saved their best for last, scoring tops on all four of the final boards to come from nowhere into the money. **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were first (59%). **Rich** and **Ismini** had seven tops. It's nice when we can spread the winnings around more than usual.

**Dave Pierce**

(925) 932-3877

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

A man goes to the doctor and says: "Doctor I swallowed a key. Can you please get it out of my belly?"

The doctor asks: "When did you swallow it?"

Man: "About 3 years ago."

Doctor: "Really? Why are you coming this late?!"

Man: "Well... I lost my spare key."

"I am a master of fast calculations."

"OK, what is 758 time 642 divided by 5?"

"22!"

"Ha ha, that's wrong!"

"Might be, but it was fast!"



## Sir 146 MEN'S Hearts

Bob West

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at Rocco's Italian Restaurant, located at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek. We play from 12:45-3:15 pm with an optional lunch at noon. This is a Men's SIR 146 function with new members welcome. Our next meeting is November 21.

At our October 17 meeting, in game 1, Sir **Steve Ybarra** was leading most of the way and only had 14 points thru the 6<sup>th</sup> hand. However, we were finally able to give him a few points and by hand 9, both **Steve Ybarra** and Sir **Bob West** were both tied for 1<sup>st</sup> with 44 points. This was our first ever tie in hearts.

In game 2, Sir **Bob Finlayson** and Sir **Bob West** were neck and neck throughout the game, but **Bob Finlayson** came in first with 26 points, and **Bob West** was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 32 points.

Please contact me at 925-518-8472 or [robrtawest@aol.com](mailto:robrtawest@aol.com) if you have any questions or would like to be added to our group's email list.



Photo by Bob West

Hearts Players from (L to R): **Steve Ybarra, Bob Fitzgerald, Bob West and Ron Polivka.**



## SIR 146 Hiking

Mark Curtis

We will be hiking the Wildcat Peak trail in the Tilden Nature Area on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am. We will meet at Little Farm parking lot for staging. Wonderful views from the top of the peak to most of the bay, including all the bridges, SF skyline, Oakland shipping port, Mt. Tam, etc.

This hike is moderate with about 700 feet elevation change to the peak and is about 4 miles in length. This is a loop hike starting with the Packrat trail to Jewel Lake, then Sylvan trail to hook up with Wildcat Peak trail. After a break at the top of the climb to consume snacks and water, we will make our way down the hill with a brief stop at the Rotary Peace Grove. From there to Laurel Canyon trail, Pine Tree trail, back to Laurel Canyon trail, and finally to Little Farm. At Little Farm you can observe the domestic animals and/or take in a tour of the Environmental Education Center. This hike should take about 2 hours at a brisk pace or more like 3 with many breaks.

From Highway 24 west bound at Orinda, take Fish Ranch Rd to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and turn right. Continue on Grizzly Peak through the Berkeley hills until you reach the intersection of Spruce St., Wildcat Canyon Dr. and Canon Dr. Turn right onto Wildcat Canyon Rd, then immediately make a sharp left turn on Canon Dr. At the bottom, turn left on Central Park Dr. and follow road to Little Farm parking area.

Spouses always welcome

Rain Cancels

Dogs not Allowed

**Mark Curtis**

Cell (925) 360-3449

[mocurtis1657@gmail.com](mailto:mocurtis1657@gmail.com)

Why did the elephant wear green socks?

Because the red ones were wet.

Why did the elephant swim on his back?

So his green ones wouldn't get wet too.



## Poker Group 1

Dan O' Sullivan

Poker Group 1 met October 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Ray Bland**. As always, a good time was had by all.

Our next outing is November 13<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Dan O'Sullivan**.



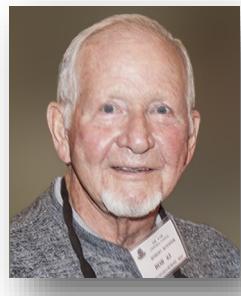
## Old Money Poker

Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our October event was cancelled due to players being unable to gather in sufficient numbers to make the game worthwhile.

Our November game will not be played as we plan to journey to Fairfield for a wine tasting at G V Cellars. Several players are already doing arm lifts with a wine glass to prepare for the event.



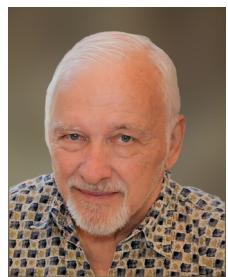
## Poker Group 2

Bob Royster

*Poker Group 2 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes. Contact **Bob Royster** if you would like to join our group as a member or substitute.*

Tel: (925) 935-1571

[bhatcher1942@gmail.com](mailto:bhatcher1942@gmail.com)



## Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 3 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 Group 7

Bob Lucido

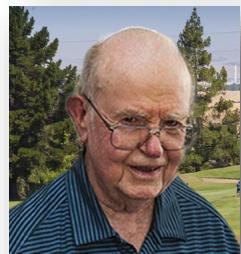
We had 5 players at the last meeting, and **Bob Lucido** hosted the game at his house.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

*We are open to substitutes and would like to have more, so if you would like to participate, please contact me.*

(925) 899-0974

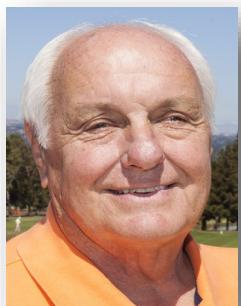
[bobwendy3@comcast.net](mailto:bobwendy3@comcast.net)



## Poker Group 4

Rich Hanford

*Poker Group 4 meets on the fourth Monday of the month at homes of the various members.*



## 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.*



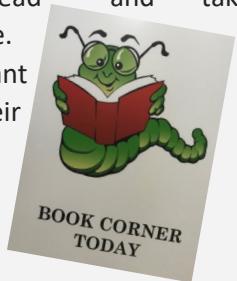
## Book Corner

Peter Plante

The Book Corner is open for the November luncheon!! Bring in the books you've read and take home some more.

Ask your spouse or significant other if they have something on their reading lists.

See you back by the bar.





## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

The Branch 146 Golf Fall General meeting and shotgun "Shamble" was held on a day that went from cool to warm. Those who played #18 early on were faced with a blinding low-in-sky morning sun. But the event was a huge success, with 12 foursomes playing and afterwards participating in a nice buffet lunch. Everyone won a sleeve a golf balls, which was the only "prize".

The key announcement was by **Russ Bliese** who has decided to retire from Branch Golf. If I heard correctly, **Russ** has been part of our activity for 28 years and he has played 1200 rounds of branch 146 golf. Going out with a flourish, he shot the day's low net of 55.

**Bill Laws** and **Gary Brown** discussed some new rules proposed to go into effect next year. We have had an ongoing concern about pace of play and so we have some new pace of play "rules" to help incentivize us all to pick up the pace. Another somewhat surprising addition to our rules will be the elimination of conceded putts. Now that we are leaving the pin in as we putt, we will not add a lot of time to round but we will make the competition more equitable.

Finally, we had our last Away Golf of the year at Chardonnay, where we had the year's best turnout of 33 players. As seems to be typical with our Away events, no one set the course on fire. Our three top layers shot net 70's.



**Gary Brown, Russ Bleise, Pete McNeill and Dave Steinberg**, at bar celebrating **Russ's** great and final round of competitive golf with the SIRs after 28 years. Based on early numbers **Russ** shot a net 26 on the front 9 and a 29 on the back, don't we all wish we could do that at 93!! Great job **Russ**, we will miss playing with you.



## 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. Exception is the second 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)

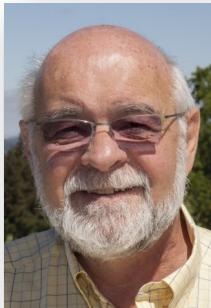
Golf



**Jim Browning, Dave Svoboda, Tony Adduci, and Howard Zimmerman**, having lunch after their round at Boundary Oak



**Tony Greco, Malcolm Harrison and Bob Lucido** having lunch at the clubhouse



## Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Our October Wine Tasting was at the home of **Bob** and **Jane West**. We had about 32 people in attendance and tasted some excellent Zinfandel and Pinot Grigio wines. The weather cooperated, it was a beautiful day. **Bob and Jane** always make everyone feel at home in their fantastic yard.

Our next event is scheduled for February 26th. I will send out an email to the Wine Tasting group with the venue and the wines we are tasting as we near the date. If you are not on our distribution list and would like to be included, please send an email to Rob Melrose at [rwmelrose@gmail.com](mailto:rwmelrose@gmail.com).

Photo by Henry Thatcher



Photo by Bill Holly

**Bob and Jane West** presented with a gift for hosting the event.



Photo by Henry Thatcher



Photo by Henry Thatcher

Some of the wine tasters enjoying the day.

**Joe Stengel** presented with a gift for bringing the best Pinot Grigio

I was sat with my wife while she sipped on her glass of wine, when she said, "I love you so much, you know. I don't know how I could ever live without you."

I said, "Is that you or the wine talking?"

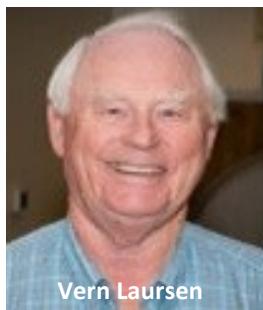
She said, "It's me talking to the wine.

## Area 16 Events

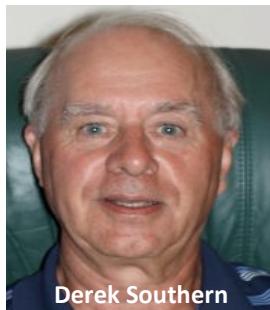
### Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

**The Mac Users Group (MUG)** meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 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 16 \$ums Investment Group

\$UMS in Retirement meets next on Wed November 20 at 8 AM at the Legends Restaurant at Diablo Creek Golf Course on Port Chicago Highway, Concord, just north of Hwy 4. Note this is the 3rd Wednesday due to Thanksgiving - not our usual.

The presenter will be our own Jamshed Gandhi, CPA, updating us on income taxes.

The Legends opens at 7 AM. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Ladies are welcome.

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

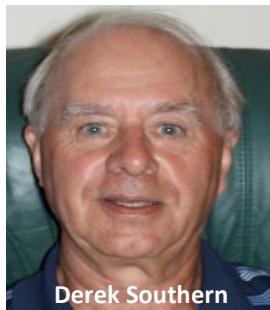
Broccoli: Hey, I look like a tree.

Mushroom: Wow, I look just like an umbrella.

Walnut: I look exactly like a brain.

Banana: Man, can we change the topic please?

### SIR Area 16 Computers & Technology (PCs)



Derek Southern



Neil Schmidt

The next meeting of the SIR Area 16 Computer and Technology Group will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge (1475 Creekside Dr., WC) on Thursday, November 21st, 2019 starting at 9:30 am. SIR from all branches and their guests, including spouses, are welcome and invited to attend. Plan to come a little early and for coffee, goodies and to chat.

The presentation topic for the November meeting will be "Organizing Your Photos" With today's digital cameras and smartphones, it is easy to become overwhelmed and disorganized with a massive photo collection. Neil Schmidt will look at new ways to organize all your photos whether you only have a few photos or lots of them. In addition, he will also explore scanning options for digitizing your old photos so you can digitally combine your old and new photos. He will then compare some of the top-rated PC photo organizing software as well as some excellent photo organizing cloud systems. There are many ways to organize your photos – Which method is best for you?

This presentation will be, and past presentations are available, on the CAT Web page ([a2cat.sirinc2.org](http://a2cat.sirinc2.org)). Note that we ask for a \$5 donation to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies. We look forward to seeing you on November 21st.

A boy is sitting on a bus and eating one piece of chocolate after the other. A man sits down next to him and says: "Eating so much chocolate is not healthy for you boy." The boy replies: "My grandfather died when he was 112 years old."

The man asks: "You think he became so old because he was eating lots of chocolate?"

The boy answers: "He became so old because he minded his own business."

## SIR 146 Activities Calendar

To add new or one time special events for the calendar, contact Bill Holly

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2020
<b>November 2019</b>													
	<b>Monday</b>		<b>Tuesday</b>			<b>Wednesday</b>			<b>Thursday</b>			<b>Friday</b>	
28		29			30			31			Nov 1		
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		9:00 AM Golf		10:00 AM Bowling							9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 2		
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3		9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)											
1:00 PM Poker Group #2		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church											
1:00 PM Poker Group #4		1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)											
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church											
4		5			6			7			8		
10:00 AM Party Bridge		9:00 AM Golf		10:00 AM Bowling		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-1			12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Chess				
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)		1:30 PM Song Sirs 1st		6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Poker Group #8			Pleasant Hill Senior Center				
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Mac User Group (MUG)		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church							6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)				
		1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)											
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church											
		7:00 PM Couples Party Bridge											
11		12			13			14			15		
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		9:00 AM Golf		10:00 AM Bowling		9:00 AM - 10:45 AM BEC Meeting			10:00 AM Hiking Moderate				
12:00 PM Cooking II		9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)		12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Poker Group #8		11:45 AM - 1:30 PM SIR LUNCHEON			10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Men's Duplicate Bridge 3				
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church							7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes - El Quattro				
		1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)											
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church											
		7:00 PM Couples Duplicate Bridge 2											
18		19			20			21			22		
10:00 AM Men's Duplicate Bridge #1		9:00 AM Golf		10:00 AM Bowling		9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Computers And Technology (CAT)							
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)		11:00 AM Cooking Lunch and Wine (LAW)		9:30 AM NINE HOLE GOLF-2							
5:30 PM Couples Dining Out Wence's Restaurant 1922 Oak Park Blvd, Pleasant Hill		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church		12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Cribbage		1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hearts							
		1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)		1:30 PM Song Sirs 2nd		Rocco's Italian Restaurant							
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church		7:00 PM Bridge - Couples									
25		26			27			28			29		
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Table Pool at Masses		9:00 AM Golf		8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Sums in Retirement		THANKSGIVING			8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Dos				
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Poker #3		9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)		10:00 AM Bowling		9:00 AM Area 16 Fishing			6:45 PM - 10:15 PM Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (Tres)				
1:00 PM Poker Group #2		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church				Breakfast Meeting							
1:00 PM Poker Group #4		1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Pickleball (MTWThF)				Diablo Creek CC							
		San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church											
		6:45 PM - 10:00 PM Mexican Train Group Seis											