



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

October–November 2025

Call



Big Sir's Corner

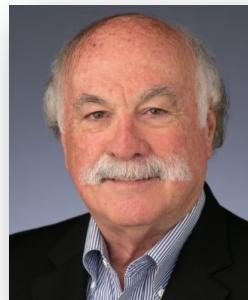
Bob Ford

The November luncheon is probably my favorite one of the year as we pause to think about the significance of Veterans Day. In SIR, we are privileged to have many veterans who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard. Whether they

served in times of war or peace, at home or abroad, their contributions have helped shape the nation we cherish today. Veterans Day is not only a moment to recognize their service, but also to acknowledge the broader legacy of the U.S. military. To our veteran members: thank you. Your stories, your leadership, and your example enrich our club and inspire us all. We are grateful for your service and proud to stand beside you. I hope to see you all at the November Luncheon. The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Remember, your friends and acquaintances need not be retired to join.

Warm Regards.

Bob Ford
Big Sir, Branch 146



Little Sir's Corner

Thom Degman

For our November Veteran's Day Monthly Luncheon, we are very pleased to have SIR146 Member, and former Top Gun Pilot, Mr. John Elstead.

John Elstead was born in San Bernardino on Veterans Day in 1942 and was raised in Riverside. Both his father and uncle were B-17 pilots who were shot down and killed during World War II.

John graduated from Ramona High School in Riverside and then enrolled at UC Riverside where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and Bachelor of Science in physics and played football, rugby, and track. He later earned a Master of Arts in US history from Princeton.

After graduating from college, John became a Navy Fighter Pilot. He flew 196 combat missions in Vietnam, flying F4 Phantoms off the USS Kitty Hawk. He was on active duty from 1965 to 1970 and then flew A7 Corsairs with the Naval Reserve from 1970 to 1976. John still is a private pilot and holds an air transport pilot certificate.

Following his active naval career, John entered Boalt

Continued on next page

SIR Luncheon
Thursday, November 13th, 2025
Boundary Oak 11:30

John Elstead

Top Gun Pilot

A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entrée
go to page 3. ([click Here!](#))

Activities for you and spouse...

- Ladies Day Luncheon [Page 5](#)
- Couples Dining Out returns [Page 32](#)
- A book not to read? [Page 26](#)
- Member photos [Page 25](#)
- Cuba? Japan? Where to go? [Page 18](#)
- Find an activity! [Page 13](#)
- Parting Shot... UP yours [Page 39](#)
- It was a great Pick-A-Nick [Page 14](#)

Little Sir continued from previous page

Law School at UC Berkeley and earned a Juris Doctorate degree. He was granted a teaching fellowship after his second year and during his third year he taught both human rights law and the law of armed conflicts at the Institute of International Law in Pisa, Italy where his students were Italian law and history professors. He was self-employed as an attorney from 1974 to 2013.

John lives in Piedmont, CA. He has one daughter, Logan, a graduate of Northwestern University. **John** is interested in cosmology and theoretical physics, and he also enjoys scuba diving, having earned a divemaster's certificate. He took up golf in 2012.

For our Ladies Day Luncheon in December, we are very pleased to have the Devil Mountain Chorus returning to entertain us with holiday music. I very much appreciate the efforts this year of The Speaker's Committee **Jim Pope, Glenn Breslin** and **Jim Crites**, who made it their mission to find interesting and informative speakers for our luncheons. We look forward to continuing that effort in 2026, and we would appreciate any suggestions that you may have for interesting speakers.

Our CPR Training Class on Friday, Oct. 24th is full, but we can always fit one or two more in if needed, so please let me know if you'd like to join. This will be our 5th class, and we have now updated more than 110 individuals over the past year on current CPR techniques. If one person is positively impacted, we will be very pleased. These are excellent coed training exercises, and we encourage you to join in! It is also a nice way to introduce friends to SIRs!

I want to encourage members to get involved in making SIR the very best it can be. The more contribution we have from our members, the better SIR146 will be. If anyone would like to assist on the Recruiting Committee, planning and executing on new member recruitment activities, please let me know. This will be a key activity in 2026, and our objective is to make SIR146 the very best that it can be.

Thom Degnan
Little Sir, Branch 146

2025 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP-Chair Members

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Recruitment | Randy Graham |
| Activities | Glenn Breslin |
| Member Relations | Edward Brands |
| Publicity | John Alexander |
| Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and email addresses. | |

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events, and luncheons



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Changes to Luncheon Seating

In January we will be changing the number of chairs per table at our regular luncheons. Our attendance this year has varied from approximately 100 to 120. In order

to give our members more room, we will be seating 8 members per table instead of the current 10 members per table. Ladies Day luncheons will remain at 10 persons/table as they are our largest attendance meetings.

Speaker Information

For our November Luncheon, we are pleased to have John Elstead, a member of SIR146, and a former Top Gun Pilot who has some incredible real-life stories,

Luncheon Information

Please remember that you need to make a reservation to attend the luncheon, even if you are an annual payer you must make a reservation. We appreciate your cooperation.

The links behind the entree items on the menu will generate an email for you to send, if it does not, please send an email message with your choice manually to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com. Be sure to include your menu choice!

All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within 24 - 48 hours, please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

Date: Thursday, November 13th, 2025

Where: Boundary Oak

Cost: \$36 per person

Reservation: All Luncheons require a reservation; you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. The menu makes it easy to do this; simply click the appropriate meal link.

If you do not reserve by Friday, November 7th by Noon, we will assume you will not be coming.

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

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

Other matters

If you don't have email, you can call us at 925.979.5721 to leave a message. Be sure to include

your meal choice from the menu!

Change of Plans?

If you responded that you were coming but find you can't, you can cancel up to

Friday, November 7th by Noon

and you will not be charged.

Send email to AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members.

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at AttendLunchBr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve** at 925.979.5721 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 November Luncheon

Thursday, November 13th, 2025

Salad

Mandarin Orange Spinach Salad
Parmesan, Raisins, Poppyseed Dressing

Entrees

Oven Roasted Turkey

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Turkey Gravy and Cranberry Sauce

Lemon Herb Baked Cod

Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Zesty Lemon Garlic Sauce

Vegetarian

Creamy Tuscan Ravioli

Butternut Squash Ravioli in a Creamy Sundried Tomato Sauce

Dessert

Apple Bar

Lunch Reservation required!

To confirm your attendance and select your choice of entrée, simply click on the desired menu entrée!

Clicking will generate the appropriate email to send to the attendance group.



A new way to pay!

Our branch is testing a new option to pay for lunch in advance using Zelle. Most US banks offer this service free to their account holders; all you have to do to start using it is to sign up with Zelle using your cell phone number or email address.

Of course, you can still pay with cash or check at registration, or by enrolling in our Annual Payer program.

To sign up for Zelle, scan the QR code below with your mobile phone. You will be guided through the process of opening your Zelle account and linking it to your bank account. You most likely can also activate and create a Zelle account from the Zelle application within your bank's website or phone app.

Once you've enrolled, please send your Zelle payments to sir146.treasurer@gmail.com. Please complete your reservation and Zelle payment by noon on Friday, the week before the luncheon. Please note that we cannot accept Zelle payments at the luncheon itself; only cash or checks will be accepted at that time. Also, Zelle payments are for the upcoming luncheon only and should not be used to pay for future events. Finally, if you are using your bank's scheduling feature, be sure your Zelle payment is scheduled for delivery before noon on Friday.



OK, so you now have your financial institution's app on your phone and have set up your Zelle account with them. Let's make it "easy, peasy" to use Zelle to pay for your lunch... and if you are going, to this month's couple dining out!

All you need to do is scan the above Zelle QR code from within your institutions banking app, fill in the amount of the event and click send. It doesn't get any easier than that!

A word of caution however, this is a brand new feature within Zelle and it appears that, although it shows up for all banks, some banks seem to be having problems implementing it. I [editor] have two Zelle accounts and I'm currently 50/50. This works with my credit union but has yet to work with my bank. If you have problems reading the QR code, understand that it does work, and you need to work with your financial institution if you find it isn't working there.





Ladies' Day

Luncheon

Steve Ybarra

The Ladies' Day Holiday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11th, 2025. The cost for this event is \$41 per person. Doors open at 10:30 am so SIR members and their guests can socialize until 11:30am which is when the luncheon will be called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Reservations, using the form below, should be sent to **Steve Ybarra** and received by Friday, December 5th, 2025. Please make checks payable to SIR Branch 146 in the amount of \$41.00 per person.

Steve Ybarra

sjybar@gmail.com

For the Ladies Luncheon events you need to use this reservation form.

The 'click to reserve' menu will resume with the January Luncheon.



SIR 146 Ladies' Day Luncheon

Thursday, December 11th, 2025

Number of Tickets _____ at \$41 ea. Amount Enclosed \$ _____ We are sitting with: _____

Use this form to list yourselves and the guests at your table (if any) along with their choice of entrée. Check the "Total Paid" box if you are paying for them, otherwise they will be assigned to your table when their payment is received.

Type in the requested information and print this page, or just print this page and fill your information by hand then cut along the dotted line and send it with your check made payable to SIR Branch 146 to:

Steve Ybarra

142 Leonard Dr.
Concord, CA 94518-1213.

| # | F Name, L Name | Beef Fillet | Salmon | Vegetarian Manicotti | Total Paid |
|----|----------------|-------------|--------|----------------------|------------|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

There will be no tickets sold at the door the day of the event!
Reservations must be received by December 6th.



SIR 146

December Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday December 11th, 2025

Salad

Arugula Salad

Cranberries, Almonds, Goat Cheese, Herb Vinaigrette

Entrées

Filet Mignon

with caramelized shallot au jus
Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables

—or—

Salmon

with Dill Sauce Confetti Rice Pilaf

Seasonal Vegetables

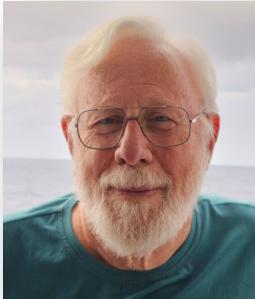
—or—

Vegetarian Manicotti

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake



Editor's Ramblings

Clint Collier

Halloween is soon a memory and we have a winner in my contest in last month's SIRCall; someone who found the hidden "Easter Egg" I had put in the October issue. Curious as to whom? Well you will have to come to the November luncheon when he will receive his treat to find out whom.

Zelle is here! Did you read the article on page 4? Last month we notified you of how to use Zelle with your bank/financial institution. Some of you have started doing that and this month the Couples Dining out is joining the "group" by accepting Zelle payments! So... to make it easier for you to use this form of payment we will start publishing the Branch 146 Zelle QR code. Ready to pay?

- Log into your financial institution on your phone
- Navigate to the Zelle section and select send \$
- You will see a "Scan QR" or similar; select it.
- Fill in the amount, and add any desired comments
- Select Send! You've done it. Congratulations!

Be warned: the cut off date for SIRCall submissions for December comes early in November because of all of this activity. We want to get everything in by noon on the 18th because we, like you, have a date with a turkey later this month!

Clint Collier—Editor SIRCall

925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



[Current Issue of SIRCall](#)

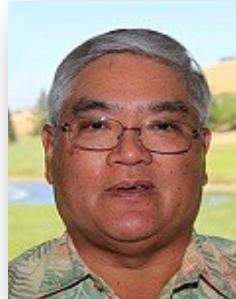
10/2025

SIRCall Newsletter Group

Editor
Assistant Editor
Photographer
Proofreaders

Internet Posting

Clint Collier
Bob West
Henry Thatcher
Ron Polivka
Bruce Borgman
Frank Lucas
Ron Plachy



Membership

George Mon

Two new members were approved for membership in October.

Thomas "Tom" Lambert lives in Concord. He was a Technology Manger for Bank of America. He enjoys bird watching, hiking and reading. He is sponsored by **Cleo Bolen**.

Alex Borders and his wife **Christine McKay** also live in Concord. He was Software Developer for Symantec. He enjoys European style board games. He is also sponsored by **Cleo Bolen**.

Two members resigned. **Ken Richter** is moving to southern California. **Steve Schlosberg** is moving out of California.

The 2025 membership count is 267.

It is important that we have an accurate count of our branch membership since State Sir allocates costs for insurance and operating expenses based on our number. Likewise, it is important to grow our membership to keep our branch vibrant and active. So, please tell your friends and family members about what Branch 146 does and maybe you can sponsor a friend too.

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

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

The Membership Directory is located on our website and is updated monthly.

It is important that any changes to your contact information, especially to your email, phone, or address, are sent to me in an email (gckk@comcast.net) so that we can update the directory with the most current information.

George Mon
925.830.1604 gckk@comcast.net

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

WALT BUSENIUS

| SIR Member | Year Inducted | Years |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| Bob Ford | 2019 | 6 |
| Pete. McNeill | 2019 | 6 |
| Brian Downie | 2017 | 8 |
| Richard Hockenbrock | 2012 | 13 |
| Al Munayer | 2009 | 16 |
| Ron Louis | 2008 | 17 |
| Russ Anderson | 2005 | 20 |
| Joe Barry | 2005 | 20 |
| Ron Plachy | 2005 | 20 |
| Bill Snyder | 1997 | 28 |
| Bob Yolland | 1997 | 28 |



| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| John Aaro | Rich Pace |
| John Boyan | Cliff Perkins |
| Jim Brown | Don Rhoads |
| James Browning | Daniel Schlatter |
| John Elstead | Ken Soult |
| Richard Hockenbrock | Lewis Thompson |
| Dan Holland | Bob Wilkenfeld |
| Siegfried Kalteis | Rex Rexroat |
| John Kendrick | Howard Herbert |
| Ronald Louis | John Reilly |
| Frank Lucas | Mike Kimsal |
| Pete McNeill | Paul Tanzillo |



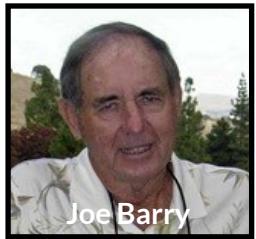
Sunshine

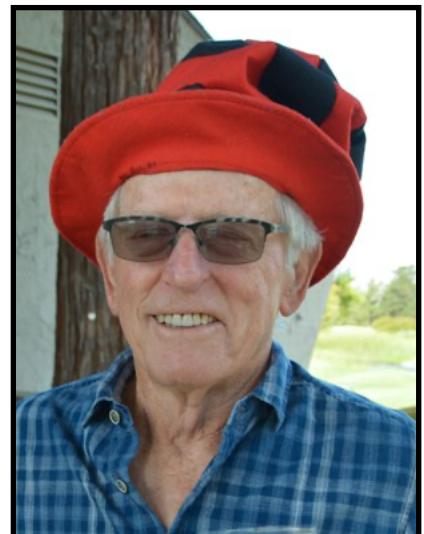
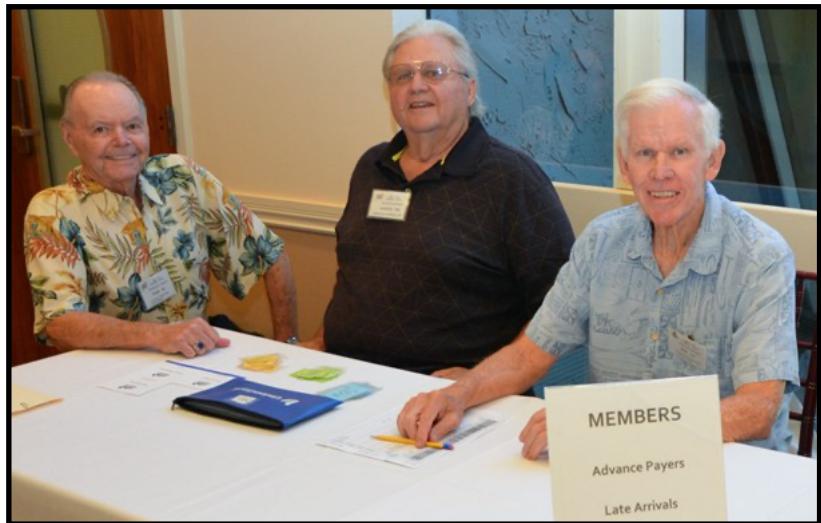
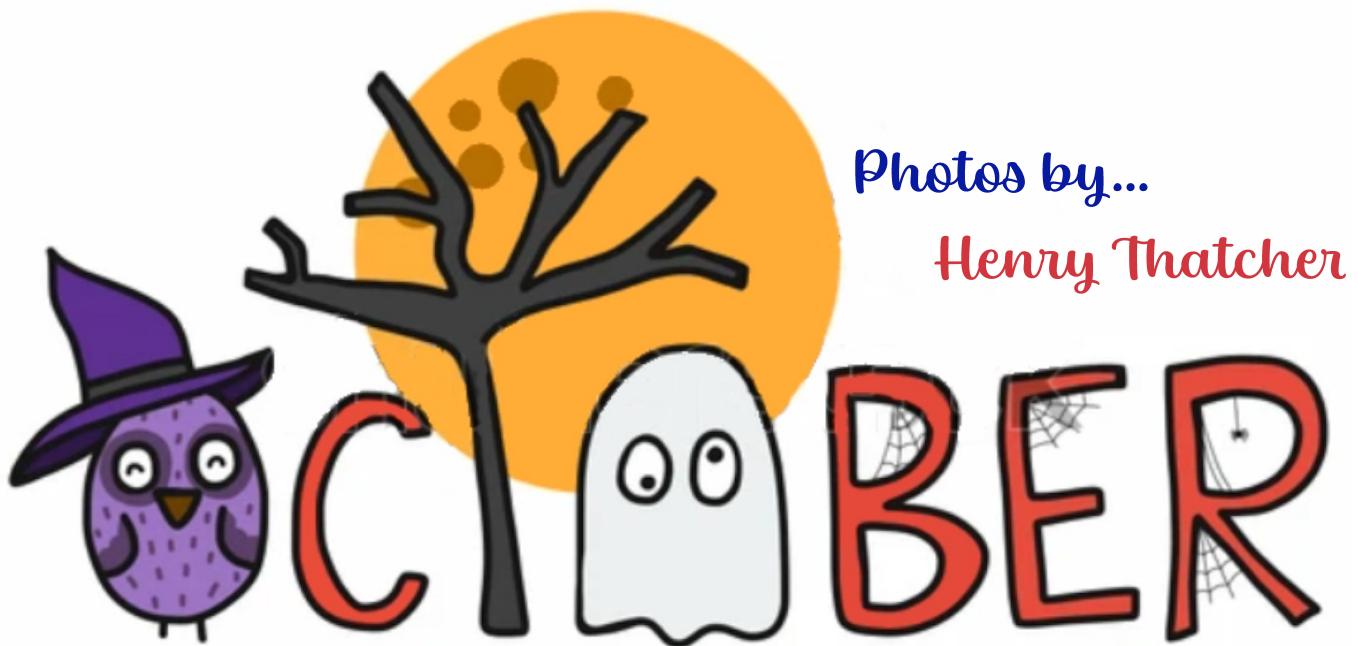
Brian McCarthy

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

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

Stay Healthy.





Welcoming Crew



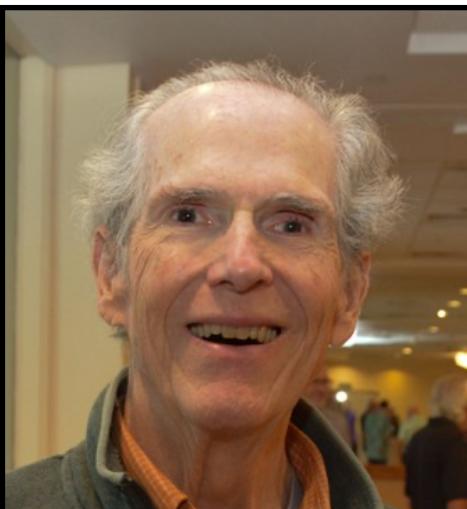
Alex Borders



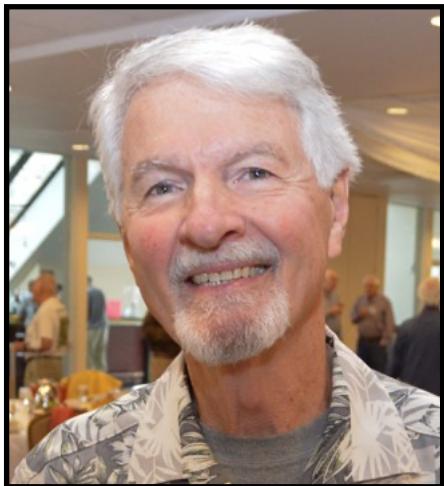
Tom Lambert

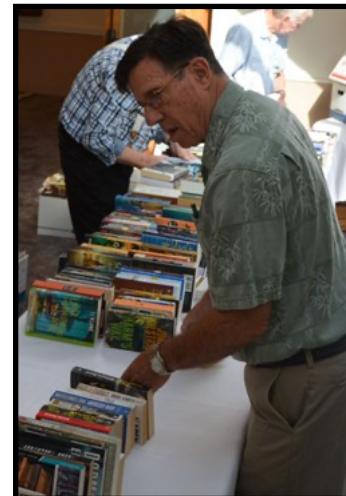


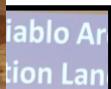
October
Bob Lucido





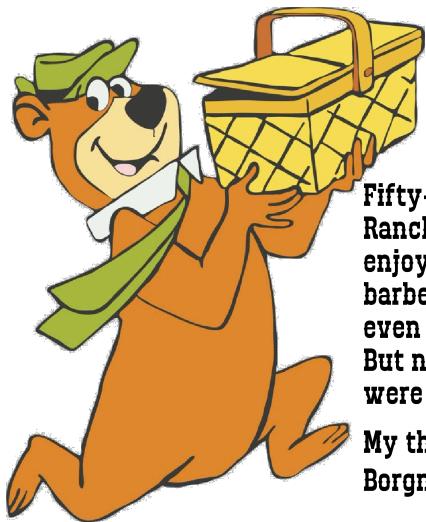






Our Speaker





WoW! Great Event!

Bob Wilkenfeld

Fifty-four members and their guests gathered at the Hanna Picnic Area of Old Borges Ranch for the second annual Sir 146 Picnic. Many folks came early and stayed late to enjoy each other's company. The weather was great, and the food was even better - barbecue by Kinders. There was so much brisket, chicken, ribs and sides to eat that, even after second servings, we ran out of take-out containers before the food was gone! But nothing went to waste, as improvised (at times very novel) take-away containers were found.

My thanks to the other members of this year's Picnic Committee - Glenn Breslin, Bruce Borgman, Bob Lucido - for their help in planning and hosting another successful event!



SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar November 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 9:45 am–3:00 pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI group—Las Trampas Room—Downtown Walnut Creek Library | 9:00 am Golf 4:00 pm Couples Party Bridge | 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal—W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:30 pm–10:00 pm MTD 8 Ocho | 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf—1 12:30 pm Poker Group #6 | 10:00 am–2:30 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 11:30 am–1:30 pm Cooking II 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses | 9:00 am Golf 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #8 4:00 pm–7:30 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 2 | 8:30 am Birding—Location TBD 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's | 9:00 am–10:45 am BEC Meeting 11:30 am–1:30 pm SIR Luncheon | 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess—Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr—233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts—Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 1 Uno |
| |  VETERANS DAY | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 2:00 pm–4:00 pm AI Investment Subgroup— Las Trampas Room— Downtown Walnut Creek Library 5:00 pm Couples Dining Out Aracely Lounge, Danville | 9:00 am Golf 12:00 Noon SIRCall articles due | 1:30 pm SongSir Rehearsal—W.C. Presbyterian Church 6:45 pm–10:00 pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 | 7:30 am–9:30 am Area 16 Fishing Group— Legends Sports Bar— Diablo Creek GC 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf—1 7:00 pm–10:00 pm MTD 5 Cinco | 9:00 am –11:00 am Photography Group— Downtown WC Library 10:00 am–3:00 pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 1:00 pm–3:30 pm MTD 10 Diez |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 10:00 am Hiking 12:00 pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00 pm Poker Group #3 1:00 pm–4:00 pm Poker Group #4 | 9:00 am Golf | 12:30 pm–3:30 pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00 pm–2:30 pm Guitar Group 1:00 pm–3:00 pm Pinochle at Rocco's | 9:30 am Nine Hole Golf—1  | 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Chess—Pleasant Hill Sr Ctr—233 Gregory Ln Pleasant Hill 12:00 pm–3:00 pm Hearts—Rocco's in W.C. 6:45 pm–10:00 pm MTD 3 Tres |



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin

Hi to all SIR Members !! Are you aware that SIR Branch146 has 51 different group activities and 33 of the 51 activities are available to spouses or significant others. If you are looking for something to enrich your life then go ahead and click on any activity, located at www.sir146.com. Just select one of the icons and it will pull up a full description of that activity with the chairman's contact information. If you haven't found an activity that you like, the most popular activities are Golf and Mexican Train Dominoes. If you want to be trained to play Mexican Train Dominoes, just let me know.

Still not finding an interest? How about starting a new activity; I can assist you with that. We greatly appreciate the efforts of all of the Activity Chairs and what they do to keep our 267 members involved in stimulating activities. The SIR Mission is to improve the lives of our members through fun activities and events – while making friends for life. You all have done a great job of implementing this mission! You continue to make SIR146 a successful social organization. SIR would not be the same without you. Please continue to let me know how I can help you continue this success or if you need support in any way.

I appreciate all our activity chairs. You are the reason that SIR146 thrives!

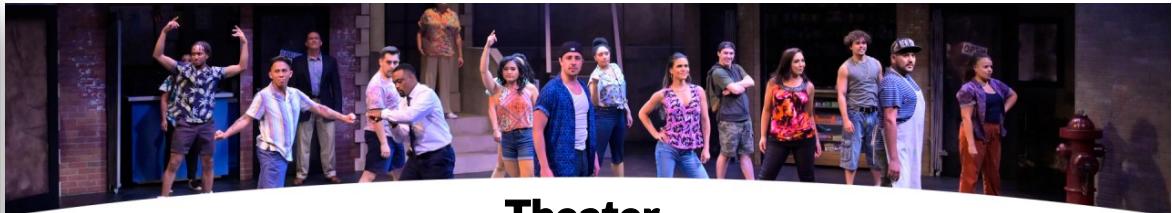
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Frank Terzuoli,
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Investments-Frank Terzuoli,
- Bird Watching-Ted Robertson,
- Bocce-John Kendrick,
- Book Corner-Paul Kersis,
- Book Group-Nick Jabuka,
- Bridge-John Kluesener, Dave Pierce, Tony Greco, Dick DeVoe, Mike Whitaker, Jim Pope, Jim Stedman,
- Cooking-Steve Ybarra , Paul Dubow,
- Dining Out-Al Guzman & Bruce Borgman,
- Cribbage-John Kendrick,
- Cycling-Larry Kaye,
- Dixieland Band-Ross Abbott,
- Explore and Eat-Jim Pope,
- Fishing-Paul Dubow,
- Gardening-Ken Studer,
- Golf-David Steinberg, Bob Ford,
- Guitar-Curtis Young,
- Hearts-Bob West -
- Hiking-Bob Wilkenfeld, Ray Martz,
- Ladies Day Lunch-Steve Ybarra,
- Mexican Train Dominoes-Corrie Oranje, Ron Plachy, Walt Busenius , Jim Pope, Dennis Hallett, Steve Lane, Bob Lucido, Richard Hockenbrock, Cleo Bolen,
- Photography-Moose Kelly,
- Pinochle-Pete McNeill,
- Poker-Sig Kalteis, Mark Sorum, Brad Hatcher, Carmelo Piccolo,
- Song Sirs-Peter Plante,
- Sushi-Clint Collier,
- Table Pool-Jim Barry,
- Theater-Glenn Breslin,
- Travel-Glenn Breslin,
- Veterans-Larry Kaye,
- Wine Tasting-Brian McCarthy,

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

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

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Artificial Intelligence | Men's Party | Gardening | Seis | Table Pool |
| Birding | Chess | Golf—9 Hole | Siete | Theater |
| Bocce Ball | Cooking: | Golf—18 Hole | Ocho | Travel |
| Book Corner | Cooking II | Guitar | Nueve | Veterans |
| Book Group | Lunch and Wine | Hearts | Diez | Wine Tasting |
| Bridge: | Cribbage | Hiking | Photography | |
| Beginning/Refresher | Cycling | Mexican Train | Pinochle | |
| Couples Duplicate 1 | Dining Out | Dominoes | Poker: | |
| Couples Duplicate 2 | Couples Dining Out | Uno | Group 3 | |
| Couples Party | Explore and Eat | Dos | Group 4 | |
| Men's Duplicate 1 | Sushi no Tomodachi | Tres | Group 6 | |
| Men's Duplicate 2 | Dixieland Musician | Cuatro | Group 8 | |
| Men's Duplicate 3 | Fishing | Cinco | Song SIRs | |



Theater
Glenn Breslin

Upcoming Theater Shows – Lesher Theater

- For many of the below shows, only a limited number of tickets are still available
- If you are interested, send a check made out to **SIR146** to Glenn Breslin, 3480 School St., Lafayette, CA 94549
- I will then give you a choice of the available seats
- Look for future notices regarding upcoming Lesher Tribute Band dates

Women in Black Sat 11/15/25 2:30 pm, \$43, Lesher Theater **3 Tickets Remaining**
<https://www.centerrep.org/what-s-on/25-26-season/the-woman-in-black>



"Highest Rating!
A white-knuckle thrill!"
San Francisco Chronicle

The second longest play in the history of London's West End, The Woman in Black is the chilling theatrical event that has kept over seven million theatergoers on the edge of their seats for more than 30 years. When a young lawyer encounters a mysterious figure on the lonely, desolate estate he is charged to settle after the death of its owner, he believes his life has become cursed. To help him exorcise the dark specter from his life, he engages a skeptical actor to help him tell his terrifying story and together they unspool the mysteries hidden among the moors of the haunted estate.

Hailed by critics as "a white-knuckle thrill" (San Francisco Chronicle) and "Ingenious!" (New York Times) Center REP audiences will be lured into the pulse-pounding and spine-tingling ghostly world of their own imaginations... what happens next is something you must see to believe!

Neil Diamond Concert Experience Sat 1/31/26, 7:30pm \$69 (rows C-E) and \$59 (row H)

Desc: Long-time Las Vegas performer and Legends in Concert alumni ROB GARRETT is America's #1 NEIL DIAMOND Tribute Artist! He is unparalleled in his portrayal of the legendary performer. From Vegas to Honolulu, to New York, to Berlin... Rob has come to be known as the 'King of Diamonds' as he is able to naturally capture the presence, passion, and energy of this iconic performer in all his youthful 'JAZZ SINGER' glory. In 2008 Rob

Continued on next page

Theater Continued from previous page

was awarded with the "Male Musical Tribute Artist of the Year" award in Las Vegas marking the first (and only) time a Neil Diamond tribute act has won such an honor.

This is the ultimate live Neil Diamond In Concert performance highlighting the greatest and most popular music of his career, including 'Sweet Caroline,' 'Hot August Night,' 'Cracklin' Rosie,' 'I Am I Said,' 'Song Sung Blue' and many more 'Live In Concert' favorites!

[Link to Show Webpage](#) [Link to YouTube](#)

Lost In Yonkers - Sat 4/4/26 - 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher Theater

To celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the opening of Lesher Center for the Arts, Center REP is proud to present the 35th anniversary revival production of Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning heartfelt comedy.

This multi-award-winning memory play transports us to a small apartment above a candy store in Yonkers, NY in 1942. Financially strapped and needing to dig his family out of medical debt, Eddie must leave his two teen boys to live with his sister and mother while he takes to the road as a salesman. A strange new world opens up to the boys as they must navigate their estranged mafia-linked Uncle Louie and authoritarian Grandma Kurnitz (and her odorous mustard soup) while befriending their neurodiverse Aunt Bella, whose love and determination buoys the family against the headwinds of transformation.

Lost In Yonkers won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play, among other accolades.

[Link to Show Page](#)

Alanis Morissette's - Jagged Little Pill – Sat 6/13/26 2:30 pm \$43.00 - Lesher Theater

Inspired by one of the best-selling albums of all time, this electrifying new musical charts the lives of Mary Jane Healy and her picture-perfect American family. As hidden secrets and resentments begin to fracture the pristine façade of suburban life, the Healy's are forced to confront the truth of each other and their community, redefining the place they once called home. Raw, personal, and bursting with some of the most explosive songs in pop music history, this Tony Award-winning work from Oscar-winning writer Diablo Cody and Grammy Award-winning songwriters Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard will have you in the aisles while reclaiming the power and purpose of family.

Winner of 2 Tony Awards, 2 Drama Desk Awards, Eight Outer Circle Critics' Awards and a Grammy (Best Musical Theater Album)

[Link to Show Page](#)

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

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

My wife sent me a text, "Your great"
So, naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great"
She's been walking around all happy and smiling
Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

September 23: Four riders left Nancy Boyd park at 8:35. Went through Martinez to Pleasant Hill Rd., Franklin Canyon Rd., Carquinez scenic drive. Gerge Miller trail, back through Martinez to Nancy Boyd. Pace was brisk with many stops to look at trains and water bushes. No problem with heat. Great ride

October 7th: Today we had a catch up ride. A few of us had been away, sick etc. It was a simple flat ride to Katys cafe in San Ramon. **Brian Totter, Mike Schrupp, Elmer Bricca, Bob Wilkenfeld, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Tom Alborg, and Larry Kaye.** Arrived back as the heat set in. Open the door and get outside.



October 16th: Today was my Birthday ride. The guys and I took a nice trip out to Blackhawk. We finished at my home with a birthday BBQ. My wife and her riding buddy took

care of most of the set-up. **Bob Wilkenfeld** did the BBQing. What a treat. The guys gave me a very nice gift and we all enjoyed the sunny afternoon on our deck. Attending: **Bob Lucido, Bob Wilkenfeld, Dave Paulson, Moose Kelly, Bill Holly, Phil Lee, Brian Topper, Elmer Bricca, Bill Ross and Larry Kaye**, me, the birthday boy!

Larry Kaye
925.698.4030



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Bocce John Kendrick

Need a Christmas gift idea ? Ask Santa for your own set of Bocce Balls (not a good idea as a stocking stuffer however).

In a few short months, our SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be active and always looking for new players. Mark your calendars because the SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity will soon be a reality. The fun starts at 8:30 am and finishes around 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays during the months of **May through September**.

The next Bocce Ball activity will be on May 11, 2026.

All games are played at the Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Join us for

some Monday morning entertainment and fun. Ladies are welcome. Formal Bocce Ball attire is not required.

John Kendrick
925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com





Birding Ted Robertson

SIR Birding Trip

Wednesday, October 10, 2025

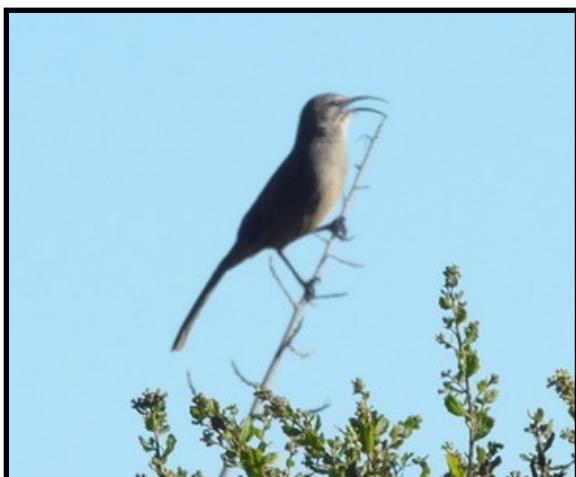
Field Trip Report.

At 8:30 AM, a group of nine SIR birders met at the base of Vollmer Peak in the south end of Tilden Park to look at fall migrating birds. We were rewarded with 19 species of birds. Returning migrants included a Fox Sparrow and three beautiful Townsend's Warblers. Some other highlights of the trip included a California Thrasher that magnificently posed for us, a Cooper's Hawk and fabulous views of the Briones and San Pablo Reservoirs, central Contra Costa County and views of Alameda and San Francisco counties.

Our next field trip is scheduled for Wednesday morning on November 10th. If rain is forecast for the day, the trip could be moved up a day or two earlier in the week. If interested, please email Ted Robertson so you can be added to the monthly mailing list. I have a few loaner binoculars, and beginners are always welcomed.

Ted Robertson

925.899.1872 tedr@berkeley.edu



California Thrasher.
(Photo by Ted Robertson)



SIR birders and guests enjoying a beautiful morning.
(Photo by Max Hinkle)



Fox Sparrow
(Photo by Bob Hislop)



Fox Sparrow
(Photo by Bob Hislop)



Travel Glenn Breslin

GOOD NEWS!

Australia/New Zealand – SIR members now signing up: Check out the discounts below!

If you are interested, then please let me know glenngbreslin@gmail.com.

Japan/Korea – Room for only 2 more. Also, see below discounts.

Also, please look for a new Travel Questionnaire, due out by 11/20. Input from this questionnaire will be used to plan future trips.

| Australia New Zealand | Cuba SOLD OUT! | Japan/Korea ALMOST SOLD OUT! | Vietnam/ Cambodia SOLD OUT! |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1/7/26 to 1/25/26 (\$5295- No Airfare/\$7645-With Economy Airfare) • Both Melbourne Pre- Trip and Fiji Post-Trip available • Click here for details • Group code is G6-30339 | 3/12/26 to 3/18/26 (\$4611 with airfare already includ- ed) • Immersion into culture and history • Five-star lodging • All meals but one includ- ed • All tours included • Click here for details | 4/1/26 to 4/16/26 (\$7495-No Airfare/ \$9095-With Economy Airfare) • Hiroshima post-trip available • Click here for details • Group code is G6- 30339 | 10/19/25 to 11/7/25 (\$3495-No Airfare/\$4695- With Economy Airfare) • Angkor Wat Post-Trip Included available |

Current Discount Offered

- New offer good for signups thru 10/31.
- For Japan/Korea and Australia/New Zealand, convey Code DOBE 507, pay in full within 2 weeks of sign-
ing up for 15% discount off of tour and airfare balance.

Travel Quotes:

“The best journey is the one taken with friends by your side.”

“Traveling with a friend is like stepping into a storybook adventure together.”

“It doesn’t matter where you’re going – it’s who you go with that makes it fun.”

Let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glenngbreslin@gmail.com





Nine Hole Golf Group

Bob Ford

Hi everyone. Come out and take advantage of the beautiful California fall weather. The course is in great shape from the rain we have had. Our group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on every Thursday, except the second Thursday of the month when we go to the SIR luncheon. It is open to all, and you don't need to be a member of the NCGA or have a handicap to play. It takes us about two hours to play, then most of us also have lunch at the Greenery which is the restaurant at the course. On Fridays, I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf and if you plan to walk or ride. On Wednesdays I will send out an email with who signed up for Thursday morning. I hope to see you there!

Bob Ford

scubabob.ford@gmail.com



Veterans Larry Kaye

Next Vet meeting!

- Date: Wed 1/7/26
- Time: 11:30 AM
- Event: Lunch.
- Price: What you eat and drink. You will receive an individual check for your meal,

Location: Back Forty Restaurant, 100 Coggins Dr., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Menu Link: <https://backforty.us/wp-content/uploads/dine-in-menu-Spring-2025-Web.pdf>

Bring a story to share. A portable microphone and speaker will be available, so everyone can hear. RSVP to attend.

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030 larrykaye2@comcast.net



Book Corner Paul Kersis

Don't miss the BIG book give-away in December

when we will be meeting with the ladies who can take a book or two too!



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed our autumn program on October 3 at The Carlton Retirement Home on Broadway in Concord. We sang songs like "Moon River," "Goodnight, Sweetheart" and "Happy Trails" to an enthusiastic audience. Several people sang along, and a good time was had by all.

Our next rehearsal is on November 5, 2025, at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. The songs for the armed forces will be rehearsed in time for the veteran's day luncheon on November 13.

We are always looking for new members, so join us for a fun time and camaraderie. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

Contact Peter Plante at pcplante109@gmail.com

Peter Plante

pcplante109@gmail.com

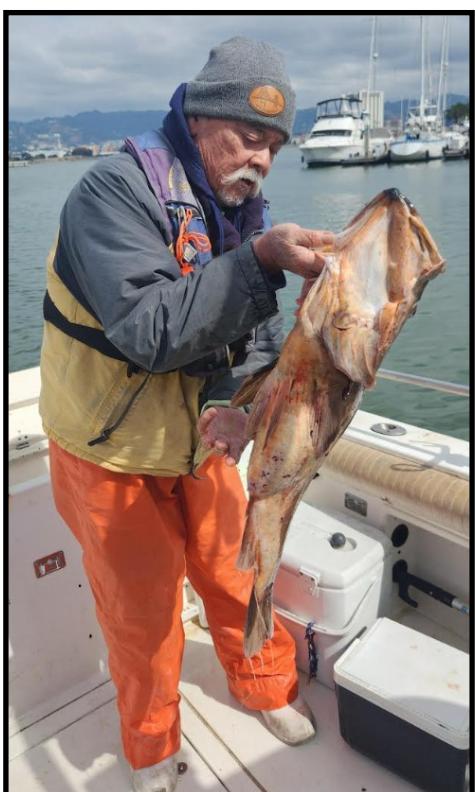


From L to R: Bruce Borgman, Frank Lucas, Ken Soult, Lynn Shafer, Mike Ball, Steve Dinning, Ron Lew, Bud Pearce, Brad Hatcher, Don Casey, Peter Plante



AREA 16 Fishing Report Paul Dubow

Do any of you know what a boccacio is? I certainly didn't. According to Wikipedia, it is a rockfish that is found in the northeast Pacific Ocean. It is also known as rock salmon, salmon grouper, or Pacific red snapper. The last description is usually found in local seafood restaurants.



In any event, I learned something new when **Ron Lew** caught a nice looking and nice sized one that is displayed on this page. We are also glad to see **Ron** back from his liver surgery.

Fishing in October is usually pretty light because the fish that hang around in the summer have largely departed and crab season hasn't

started. However, **Matt Richards, Brion Beetz, Dennis Lee, Shawn Kelly, and Carl Moyer** caught rockfish (other than boccacio) and lingcod fishing from **Carl's** boat. After that, twelve of us had a Chinese lunch at Yan's in Walnut Creek with some of those rockfish. **Tom Kostik** enjoyed black bass fishing in the delta and trout at Pinecrest Reservoir.

Last year, **Rich Fiscina** left the Bay Area to build a riverside home in Port St. Lucie, Florida. He was looking forward to grouper and dolphin (mahi mahi) fishing. So far, the fishing has been sporadic and so **Rich** flew to Hawaii where he caught lots of ono.

Crab and rockfish combo fishing trips start November 1st, and we are eager to crack the tasty crustaceans.

Trout fishing usually starts in the late fall, but the mussel invasion has us shut out of our favorite ponds and so the future in that area may be problematic. But we are hoping.

Our next breakfast meeting is scheduled for November 20 at the Legends Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Our usual gathering is on the fourth Thursday of the month, but in November and December, we meet on the third Thursday because of the holidays. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but please join us for breakfast beginning at 7:30 am for camaraderie and fish stories, even if you have never fished or have not fished in a long time but are thinking about starting or renewing this activity.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



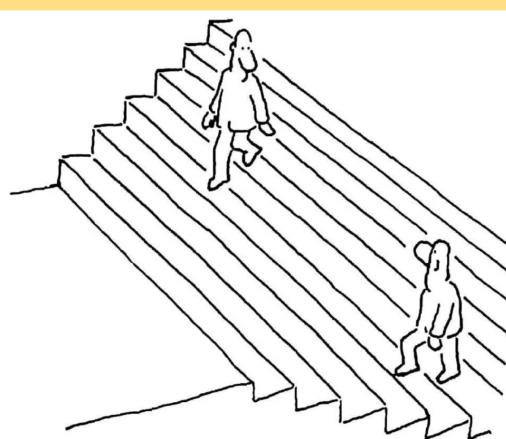
Guitar Group Curtis Young

Guitar Group is starting up again this coming January! After a break from getting together it's time we gather.

Our group is set up for players of all levels, beginner to a seasoned player. If you are interested, look up Guitar Group in the activities page and send me an email.

For those of you that were playing, let me know if you are still interested. The schedule will remain the same.

Curtis Young
cy3772@gmail.com





Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Branch 146 photography members met on Friday, October 17th at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room. Those SIRs that attended are the following: **Bill Holly, Miker Rothman, Peter Plante, Phil Lee, Frank Terzuoli, Larry McAllister, Richard Pace, Bob Wilkenfeld, and Moose Kelly.** HUGE appreciation to **Phil Lee** for bringing donuts and—STOP the presses—Bagels!! **Moose Kelly** brought a gallon of Peet's coffee to wake up the gang. Also, a BIG thank you to **Miker Rothman** for being our computer jockey for the meeting.

The agenda was full with lots of active, spirited discussions. Some of the topics that were discussed:

- Apple 16 Pro Max Issues that arose on **Frank Terzuoli's** vacation. UGH!!
- Two underwater videos from Fiji displaying the marine diversity and health of the reefs - **Moose**
- Our theme this month is October means Autumn. There were a number of pictures from our members showing off their talents. E.G. – **Miker Rothman** capturing various wildlife from his back yard. **Peter Plante** taking mountain shots from traveling in Chile. **Frank Terzuoli** in demonstrating the same picture in color, then in black and white. **Don Casey** displaying pictures of Ashland and Applegate Valley with autumn in full stride. Some of these pictures are attached to this article for your viewing pleasure. ENJOY!!
- A seven-minute video on the similarities and differences of the I-Phone 17 Pro MAX vs. Pixel 10 Pro XL. The conclusion by the speaker was the phones are a personal preference of the individual. That conclusion has led to a shootout with **Bob Wilkenfeld** (I-Phone 17 Pro MAX) vs. **Moose Kelly** (Pixel 10 Pro XL) vs. **Richard Pace** (Samsung 25). We will show the results at our November Mtg.

Our next meeting will be on November 21st at the Walnut Creek Library in the Las Trampas Room at 9 AM. We will discuss the results of the camera phone shoot

out. Additionally, the members will be brainstorming topics, themes, and places for photo shooting the themes. The brainstorming session will lay the foundation to the Photography Group Calendar in 2026. **Henry** and I hope that all of our members are present to provide input for the 2026 calendar which is appreciated and valued.

If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group for one of our monthly photoshoots or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Email **John (Moose) Kelly** at

Rollingstone91149@gmail.com

Email **Henry Thatcher** at
1henrythatcher@gmail.com



Crown Lake
Bob Wilkenfeld

Photo Group continued on next 2 pages

Photo Group Continued from previous page



Mountain Clouds
Peter Plante



Glacier Boat
Peter Plante



Ashland
Don Casey



Owl with prey
Mike Rothman



Ashland 2
Don Casey

Photo Group Continued from previous page



Dik Dik
Bill Holly



Cheetahs
Bill Holly



Lunch Time
Mike Rothman



Nature in Black and White
Frank Turzuoli





Hiking Ray Martz and Bob Wilkenfeld

The Las Trampas Regional Wilderness proved once again to be a tough slog for several of our hikers. The park's steep terrain and rutted trails often tire even the hardiest among us. This was the case on September 29 when **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Ray Martz and Gene Schulting** set out on the Ringtail Cat and Madrone Trails. The 4.8-mile outing, with almost 1100 feet of climbing, proved a challenge for our trek leader. But his fellow Sirs rose to the occasion and made sure he made it safely back to his car.

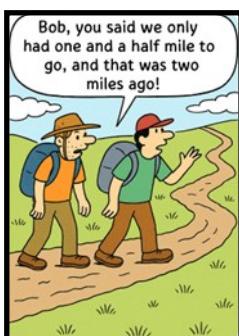


A short hike in Shell Ridge was in order the following week; and it attracted several members who haven't hiked with us in a while. **John Alexander, Mark Curtis, Ray Martz, Tom Lambert, Bob Mason, Roger Meyer, Jim Nelson, Gene Schulting, Frank Terzouli and Bob Wilkenfeld** completed the flat, 3-mile outing, which included the beautiful Indian Creek Trail. Our in-house docent, **Mark Curtis** explained several projects the City of Walnut Creek has planned and completed along the creek.



Rain washed out our planned hike in Fernandez Ranch on October 13, so we rescheduled to the following week. A map-reading error by our trek leader (Bob) forced us to backtrack and climb an additional 400 feet in under $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile! But the guys took it in stride, and no one complained; such gentlemen! **Earl Bates, Cleo Bolen, Chris Duffek, Eric Finson, Tom Lambert, Bob Lucido, Carl Ludwig (Branch 8), Ray Martz, Roger Meyer and Bob Wilkenfeld** finished the 5-mile outing and climbed 1,200 feet in under 3 hours.

The hikes we plan are 4-7 miles in length with up to 1000 feet of climbing. We also



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



Ray Martz rayhvac@gmail.com
Bob Wilkenfeld Wilx4@gmail.com





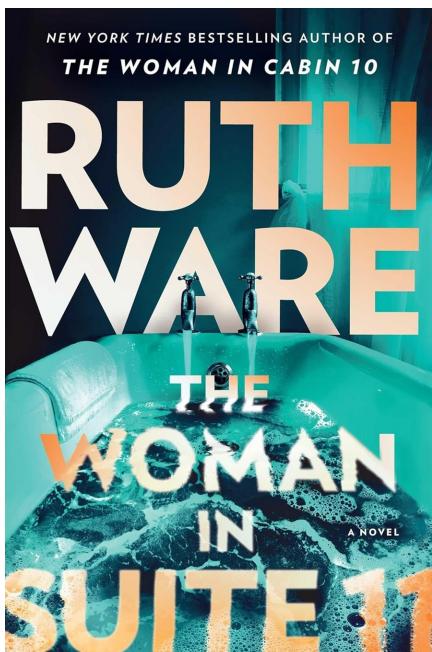
Book Group

Nick Jabuka

Book Club Review: A Thriller in September and a Treat for October

Our book club had a lively meeting in September with eight members present. After catching up on the latest family news and Branch 146, we dove into a rich discussion about this month's book, "The Woman in Suite 11."

Our September Read: "The Woman in Suite 11" by Ruth Ware



This thriller follows journalist Lo Blacklock as she attends the grand opening of a luxury hotel in Switzerland. Hoping to revive her career after a long absence, Lo plans to interview the hotel's reclusive billionaire owner. Her plans take a dark turn when a late-night summons leads her not to the billionaire, but to a mysterious woman in mortal danger. What follows is a tense cat-and-

mouse chase across Europe that explores the thin line between trust and deception.

The book is a direct sequel to Ware's earlier novel, "The Woman in Cabin 10," which proved to be an important detail in our discussion.

Our Verdict

While we enjoy a good thriller, our group did not give this book a strong recommendation. Most of us felt the story had a slow start and a contrived plot. The biggest criticism was that its story was too dependent on the previous novel, making it less satisfying as a standalone read. Our discussions are always honest, and we have a great time even when a book doesn't quite hit the mark!

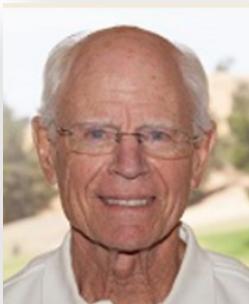
Join Us for Our October Book!

Next month, we are excited to read "Table for Two" by **Amor Towles**. This book, featuring a collection of short stories set in New York and a novella in Los Angeles, comes highly anticipated. Our group has enjoyed other works by Towles, and his writing always sparks a great conversation.

If you enjoy reading and engaging in friendly, interesting discussions, we would love for you to join us! We welcome new members.

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

Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.



Gardening

Ken Studer

Our Garden Club meeting this month was held at Our Garden in Walnut Creek. There we saw how they produce 8000 lbs of vegetables each year for the local food banks. Most of their secret to high yield vegetable production is from **Composting** and adding it to all the growing beds monthly. Master Gardener, Joie Spinelli, taught us how they process the green organic cuttings and combine it with dry fallen leaves to create compost every 6 weeks. 8 club members were there attesting to our growing club participation.

Our next meeting will be about **Integrated Pest Man-**

agement on Monday, November 17 at 3:00pm. We will learn about Good Bug—Bad Bug management. No meeting location yet.

All SIR members and spouses are welcome to tell your wives, as they are usually the home gardener.

Ken Studer
925.963.2536, klstuder1161@gmail.com

Two very good tips for a happy married life:

1. Keep quiet when the wife is talking
2. Don't talk when she is quiet.



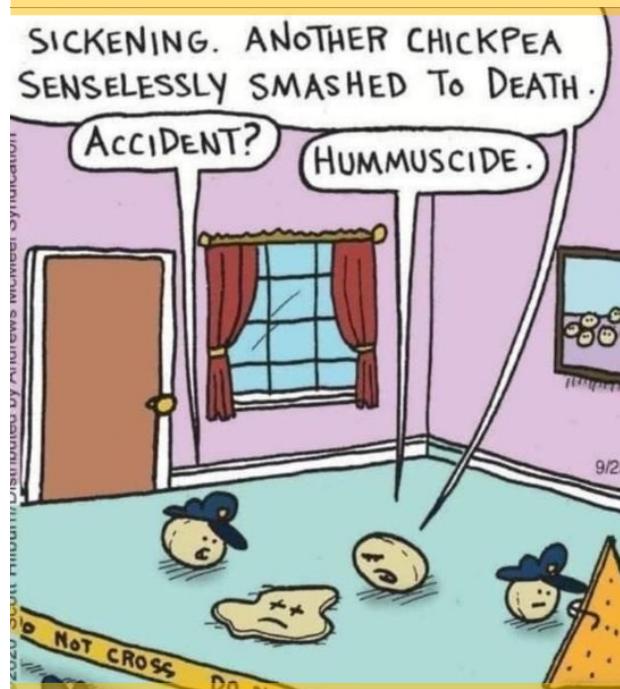
Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

A smaller than usual members of our group met this past month at Henry Thatcher's home and enjoyed a fabulous Mexican themed

lunch following an equally impressive array of hors d'oeuvres with the wine each of us brought to the lunch.

Paul Dubow

510.504.3566 or at pdubow2398@aol.com



Cooking II Steve Ybarra

There were a total of four attendees at the Cooking II October 13, 2025 lunch. Dennis Hallett and Steve Ybarra were not able to attend. Bill Holly was invited as a guest, along with Bruce Borgman,

Corrie Oranje and Richard Hockenbrock. As customary, lunch started with hors d'oeuvre consisting of shrimp, cookies, nuts, crackers and an assortment of cheeses and meats. For the first course, our host Richard, served a bowl of broccoli cheddar soup followed by a fruit-based lettuce salad which included strawberries, pineapple, sliced apples, and mandarin oranges all bathed in poppy seed dressing. The main course was a pork chop encrusted with Shake & Bake bread coating. Scalloped potatoes balanced the meat which was served on delightful and colorful Fiesta Ware, which was in vogue more than thirty years ago. To end the meal, Richard provided a delicious German chocolate cake. Before everyone left, Richard offered up a taste of Remy Martin Cognac which he had stored away for more than thirty years. The next Cooking II lunch will be hosted by Corrie Oranje on November 10, 2025.

Steve Ybarra
sjybar@gmail.com





寿司の友達 Sushi no Tomodachi

Clint Collier

Our October gathering saw seven SIR members, **Paul Dubow, Bruce Borgman, Russ Anderson, Bart Gledhill,**

Fletcher Tyler, Walt Businiuss and myself enjoying

sushi and great conversation at Kana, a small restaurant in Walnut Creek located in the San Miguel shopping center at Newell and Broadway. Everyone was able to order individually here so everyone got exactly what they wanted and all of us were pleasantly surprised at the quality of the various sushi offerings! Great little sushi restaurant off the beaten track.



"Now I get it! Apple picking is fun once you abandon childish dreams of life changing adventure and appreciate the subtle pleasure of driving two hours to do chores."

This appears to be the last sushi restaurant in Walnut Creek; we have visited all of the others as far as we can tell, so we will start having to look further afield or... repeat. Lot of good ones so this will likely happen.

I am looking for a location for our December meeting... it is always special with the holidays and the significant others and friends that we have join us for this special event. The chosen location will be in next month's issue. The consensus of the group was, however, to try to stay local.

Clint Collier

925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Recently overheard wife and husband conversation.

Honey, the car won't start. I think there's water in the carburetor.

How would you know? Do you even know what a carburetor is Loretta?

That doesn't matter, I'm sure there is water in the carburetor.

I doubt it, but I'll have a look. Where is the car?

It's in the swimming pool.



Couples Dining Out

Al Guzman

SIR'S DINING OUT EVENT

ARACELY LOUNGE

148 N. Prospect Ave. Danville, CA

November 17th, 2025

Happy Hour: 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Dinner Seating: 6:15 p.m.

DIRECTIONS and PARKING:

Take the 680 Freeway to the Diablo Rd. Exit 39 (West).

Turn right onto Diablo Rd. Pass the large Oak Tree, then turn left on Front Street.

Proceed to the Municipal Parking Lot on your right.

There is an alley way beside the Senior Citizen's Bldg. that comes out in front of Aracely Lounge.

If there are no available spaces in the Municipal Parking Lot, continue down Front St. to the Village Theatre Municipal Lot and park in that area. In either lot it is a short walk back to the restaurant.

There is no Handicap Parking on E. Prospect Ave., however you may drop your passengers off in front of the venue and then proceed to the parking areas.



Couples Dining Out
Monday, November 17, 2025
Social hour/no host cocktails: 5:00pm. Dinner: 6:15pm.



148 E Prospect Ave
Danville, CA 94526

Parking is available
in the Front St or
Railroad Ave
parking lots.

(925) 392-5708



Menu Choices

Salad (please choose one)

- **Caesar Salad** – Piave Vecchio, garlic croutons, little gem lettuce
- **Golden Beet Salad** – quinoa, feta, citrus, fall greens, almonds, rosemary vinaigrette

Entrée (please choose one)

- **8-Hour Short Ribs** – mashed potatoes and zucchini fritters, pan sauce
- **Chicken Marsala** – mushroom sauce, orzo, heirloom peppers
- **Bouillabaisse** – mussels, clams, shrimp, salmon, tomato, green garlic, grilled bread

Dessert (please choose one)

- **Pink Lady Apple Tart** – calvados flambe, vanilla ice cream
- **Dark Chocolate Mousse** – salted chocolate chip cookie
- **Goat Cheese Cheesecake** – pistachio-ginger crust, fresh figs

RSVP your menu choices to Bob Lucido, bobwendy3@comcast.net.

Cost: \$59 per person includes tip and tax

Confirm your reservation with either a check made out to "SIR 146" and mailed to Bob Lucido, 541 Lily St, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, or save a stamp and use Zelle to send your payment directly to: sir146.treasurer@gmail.com.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno"

Corrie Oranje

Mexican Train Uno met at Richard Hockenbrock's home the second week in October to conclude the 2025 Games. Due to travels, guests and "the Holidays", Mexican Train Uno is going into the maintenance yard early this year. After two months and lots of festivities, we should all be refreshed and ready to resume our monthly games, and we have even considered raising our ante to a greater entrance fee.

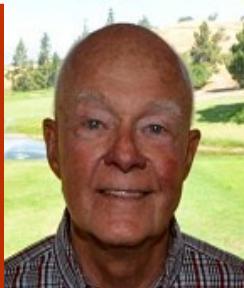
Richard got the entertaining part right, with lots of goodies to get us in the right mood. Richard came in first. His table (Alicia, Martha and Sue O.) played 12 hands, and he managed to go out 6 times! Alicia came in second, and went out 4 times. You can figure out from the stats that Martha and Sue O. didn't have a chance! The second table included Virginia (placing 3rd), Corrie, Jim and Peter Plante.

Happy, healthy and safe Holidays to all! We look forward to 2026!

Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com



Group Dos 2



Mexican Train Dominoes "Dos"

Ron Plachy

We played at the home of home of Clint and Bev Collier in September. Due to the branch picnic we moved the date to Thursday

instead of our normal Friday. Unfortunately, due to a standard Thursday event, Loren and Marlene DeLaurenti had to miss. Tony and Cindy Greco were able to substitute...to Cindy's joy!

Cindy Greco took 1st with a very respectful 8.4 average. Mary Holland took 2nd with a 10.4 avg. John Pearl improved markedly from August moving from dead last to 3rd with a 16.3

Our next game is scheduled for Friday October 24th at the home of Ron and Anne Plachy.

Ron Plachy

925.286.4552 rjplachy@icloud.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

We last met on Friday afternoon, September 19th at the home of **Judy Richmond** in Walnut Creek, after the SIRcall was published. The Friday choo choo huffed and puffed its way through the hills and dales of Walnut Creek to Judy's house. Gathering around the table was **Walt and Sue Busenius**, **Lynn Shafer**, **Judy Richmond**, **Alicia Baily**, and **Linda Brown**. The group was spoiled with table treats and delicious half-time faire.

Bringing her best game to the table, including going out 4 times, was **Linda Brown** who dominated with a score of 13.9 ppg. There was another **Walt Busenius** photo opportunity, as he garnered 2nd place with a score of 20.7 ppg. **Judy Richmond** finished in the money once again, coming in 3rd place with a score of 20.9 ppg.

We had fun and very much enjoyed the afternoon. We

said our goodbyes, quietly boarded the ole choo choo train and followed the sun to our various destinations. We will meet next in November at **Sally and Lynn Shafer's casa**.

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cuatro" Jim Pope

On October 17th, the El Quattro Mexican Train

dominos group met at **Jim and Renie Pope's** home with 10 players to play dominos and to celebrate Halloween in costume (See Pix). **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews** won a prize for best costume and **Rich Price** won a prize for best mask. Each won a bag of Halloween candy and a \$5.00 Lotto ticket. See them in the picture all in costume. In attendance this evening were, **Dick and Christy DeVoe**, **Ron Louis** and **Fran Matthews**, **Rich and Kim Price**, **Steve and Susan Oki** and **Jim and Renie Pope**. The group enjoyed MTD while consuming the super snacks provided by several of the members and some wine. We played at two tables of 5. We paid the player at each table of 5 with low table score; 5 California Lotto Scratchers. The two with the lowest table scores were **Kim Price** and **Ron Louis**: There were two high score players at each

table: **Steve Oki** and **Dick DeVoe**. They received one Lotto ticket each. (see pictures). The El Quattro MTD group will combine November and December meetings in December, date to be determined. (Photos by **Jim Pope**)

Jim Pope
jpop24@comcast.net





Mexican Train Dominoes “Cinco” Dennis Hallett

Joan and Dave Pierce hosted our October 16th 2025 gathering.

We missed Judy and Jim Baldridge, Ann and Jim Baldridge, Marty Campbell, and Janet Yolland were unable to attend.

Our remaining seven members played on one table which worked out fine. Having to draw only ten tiles per player was new to many and proved to make the evening even more interesting.

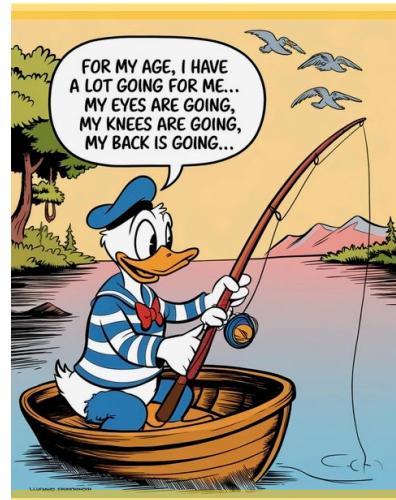
After nine games, **Ann Hallett** emerged as a clear winner with a total score of 124. **Bob Yolland** and **Joan Pierce** were second and third with close scores of 181 and 182 respectively.

During our mid-game break, our hosts served Pumpkin Pie with Cream Frosting. Needless to say, the plates were sent back very clean!! We thank our

hosts for a very enjoyable evening, which included a continuous supply of wine and assorted drinks with ample goodies to munch on during the game. Everyone went home with a smile on their faces after a fun evening.

The next gathering will likely be hosted by **Judy and Jim Baldridge** on November 20th 2025.

Dennis Hallett
dennishallett@astound.net



Mexican Train Dominoes “Seis” Steve Lane

Alas, 5 players were AWOL on September 24, including me, the leader of the pack. But no matter, the other

faithful train engineers, **Peter and Martha Plante**, **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**, **Brian and Mary McCarthy**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart** met at **Kathe Mitchell**’s lovely home. After a lively evening of play, the low scorer and winner of the big bucks was our hostess, **Kathe**, with an average score of EIGHT! In second place was **Richard** with a score of 15.1 followed by **Martha** who came in third with 18.

Steve Lane
925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



I'm pretty sure I had a good time last night..
Let me finish reading the police report and I'll let you know.



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

We have a sparse report this month because I lost the score sheets.

However, we do have pictures of the winners shown to the right. **Pam McCalister** was 1st, **Virginia Tygart** 2nd and **Alicia Baily** 3rd.

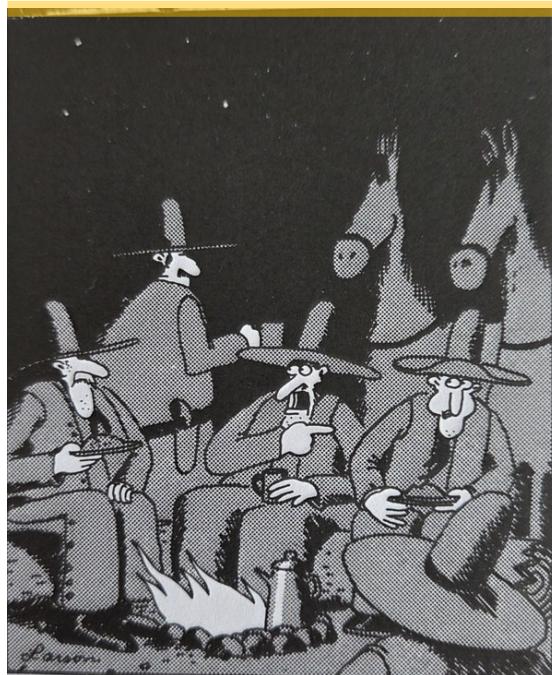
Our next game will be played on November 5th and our hosts will be **Frank and Susan Terzuoli**.

Richard Hockenbrock
rlhock@outlook.com



Car and Driver says 95% of electric cars are still on the road.

The remaining 5% made it all the way home.



"Hey, everyone! Simmons here just uttered a discouraging word!"



CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts

Bob West and Steve Ybarra

Since the prior SIR Call submission, we are reporting on results from September 12th and 26th.

The big winners were **Brian McCarthy** with 4 wins, followed by **Dave Smith** and **Bill Vizza** with 3. **Bob Campbell** and **Frank Lucas** had three 2nds. The lowest average scorers were **Brian McCarthy** with 50 and **Dave Smith & Frank Lucas** with 58. **Rich Lyon** had 2 STM's and **Dave Smith** had 1.



YTD: **Bill Vizza** has the most wins with 22 followed by **Steve Ybarra** with 20, and **Brian McCarthy** with 18.

- Highest winning percentage is **Bob Finlayson** with 43%, **Jim Passaglia** with 39%, and **Steve Ybarra** with 38%.
- **Bill Vizza** and **Steve Ybarra** lead in YTD 2nd's with 17, and **Ron Polivka** and **Frank Lucas** have 16.
- Lowest Average Scorer is **Steve Ybarra** with 49.7 followed by **Jim Passaglia** with 52.5.
- **Bill Vizza** has 10 STM's, **Brian McCarthy** has 8, and **Ron Polivka** and **Steve Ybarra** have 7.
- Most Improved is **Brian McCarthy** at 122% better than last year, and **Bill Vizza** at 120%.
- Best Sheriff is **Rich Lyon** in that in none of his passes has someone STM. **Norman Cox** had only 2% and **Bob West** 6%.

Future Meetings: We play 4 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at 11:45, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. Our upcoming matches will be October 24th, November 14th, and November 28th.

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

Co-Directors
Bob West and **Steve Ybarra**
robertawest@aol.com and sjybar@gmail.com



Couples Party Bridge

Tony Greco

Dick and Christy DeVoe hosted our October 7th event. We thank Max and Ardith Hinkle and Steve and Sue Lofton for subbing for John and Kathy

Kluesener and Larry and Linda Brown.

Brad and **Lynne Hatcher** consistently scored above average points for each round, taking the lead after round 2 and never looking back. The highlight of their evening was when they played the 1st round leaders in

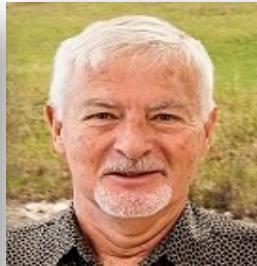
round 2 and took the lead by doubling a 3 no-trump, down 4 for 800 points.

The official results are as follows:

- 1st PLACE with 3750 points—**Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher**
- 2nd PLACE with 3540 points—**Tony** and **Cindy Greco**
- 3rd PLACE with 2650 points—**Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**

Our next event will be held on November 4th and hosted by **John** and **Kathy Kluesener**. Have a great Halloween!

Tony and **Cindy Greco**
925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

Any one interested in joining the group should give **Stan Johnson** a call at 925.938.7016, or myself at 925.858.9666. We meet at Rocco's Pizza at noon and for cards at 1:00pm

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

John Kluesener

Couples Duplicate Bridge 1 group met at the Ahlf residence this week and enjoyed an evening of good fellowship and cards. The hosts, **Rich** and **Ismi** provided treats and drinks for the crew along with a nice warm fireplace to take the chill out of the damp, cool evening. **Bud Pearce** stood in for **Margot Somerville** and **Sue** and **Steve Loftin** were also our guest players for the evening. A decision was made by vote to change the start time from 7:00 pm to 4:30 pm for the convenience of the group. **Bud Pearce** and **Marilyn Miller** who took third place for the evening with a score of 20 points followed by **Mike** and **Nora Davidson**'s second place finish with 24.5 points and **Cristy** and **Dick DeVoe**'s finish with 25 points. Next session will be at the **Davidson**'s home on November 20.

John Kluesener

john@klueseners.com



Tuesday Golf

Ed Marlovits

On October 7 **Dave Steinberg** hosted Tuesday Golf's annual meeting at the newly redesigned Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. Forty-three golfers, including three

SIRs who normally only play Thursdays, attended for nine fun holes on the new executive course followed by a buffet lunch. The course was new to us, but only one foursome got lost during play. After lunch the head pro spoke to our group and described the recent course redesign and renovations, estimating that the NCGA invested \$20 million on the project.

Ed Marlovits



A recent survey found that 90% of bald men still carried a comb.

Turns out they just can part with it.



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

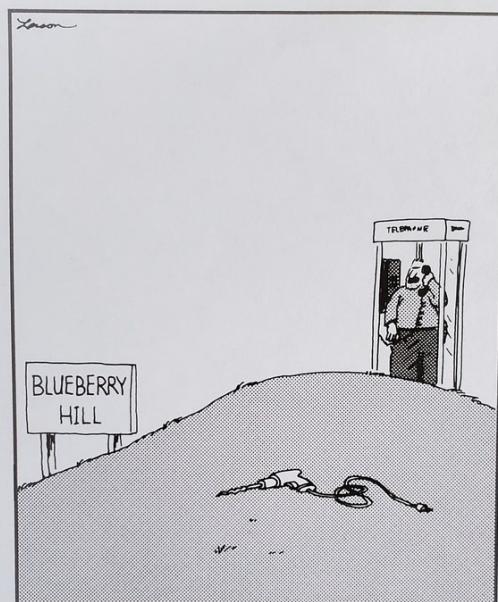
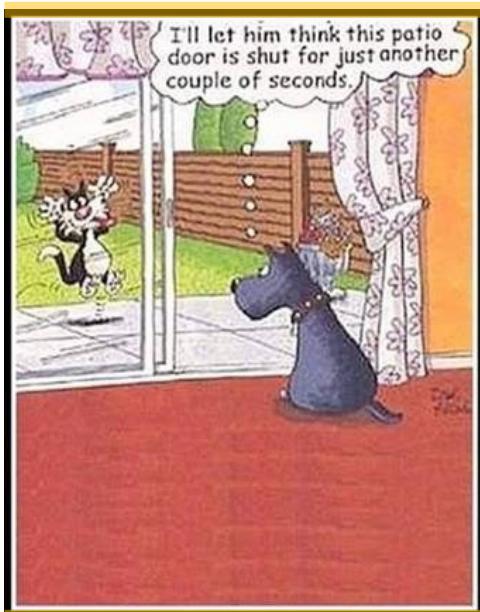
Brad and Lynne Hatcher hosted us on October 14th, and we all crowded around their snacks and beverage counter for much of the evening. We are ever so grateful to subs Max and Ardit Hinkle, filling in for Ken and Elaine Richter who are now happily settled in Southern California, and Penny Gray, playing for Margot Somerville with Marilyn Miller.

No slams were bid, but Marilyn and Penny bid four and made six on Board 5, as did Joan and Dave Pierce. But Brad and Lynne bid 3 NT and made six, for a top. On Board 7, Max and Ardit, Cindy and Tony Greco, and Marilyn and Penny bid four and made 7. And on Board 9, Marilyn and Penny bid four and made six, as did Joan and Dave. So, opportunities existed. On the other hand, some of those overtricks resulted from unusually good fits or good side suits. Perhaps others would have scored better if a family of deer had not strolled through the Hatcher's backyard during the bidding and play.

At the end of an enjoyable evening, Cindy and Tony and Dick and Christy tied for second (50%) while Joan and Dave were first (69%).

Dave Pierce

925.932.3877 dwpi@astound.net



"Norm? This is Mitch....
You were right—I found my drill."



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

We had a high scoring game at the home of Bud Pearce with 5 players earning over 5,000 points. Bud was a terrific host providing ample goodies and a tasty dessert.

Those that played: Ray Bland, Mike Davidson, Dick DeVoe, Steve Dining, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Bud Pearce, Bill Schaaf, Ray Spears, Jim Stedman, and Bob Yolland.

The high scorers were Bob Yolland with 6,770 points, Bill Schaaf with 6,320 points and Max Hinkle with 5,630 points.

Our next game will be Monday, November 3rd, at the home of Max Hinkle. Please let me know if you will play.

Co-Directors
[Jim Stedman](#) and [Jim Pope](#).



Poker Group 4

Our October game was at the home of **Dean Burke**. We only had 7 of our regulars plus a friend of Dean's from another SIRS group joined bringing us to 8. With 8 players we were limited in the assortment of games to play, but we had a fun time with some new ones. We had no big winners this month, but the honor of top winner was **Frank Lucas**.

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

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

Dealer antes a nickel per player.

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

We are currently full.

Mark Sorum

925.577.5153 markandbarbsorum@gmail.com



Old Money Poker Group 6

Brad Hatcher

Our scheduled host, **Bruce Kimmis**, was out of the hospital one day, before our regular first Thursday of the month game.

Frank Lucas generously agreed to host at the last minute. He was also generous with snacks and wine. **THANK YOU, FRANK!**

Happily, **Bruce** was able to attend along with **Rich Ahlf, Steve Ybarra, Paul Dubow, Melo Piccolo, and Brad Hatcher**. There were three notable hands. **Brad** pulled 5 Kings in a 7 card stud "follow the queen" game and split the pot with the low hand. Without a doubt, the biggest money hand of the day with a split pot went to the "unsick" **Bruce** who won with a straight flush beating **Steve** who also had a (lower scoring) straight flush. This reporter was so astonished, he does not remember who split the pot for low.

Bruce promises to be well when he hosts the next game in November.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com

LISTEN and SILENT

Are two words having the same letters.
Amazingly both are meant for husbands!



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

Due to the holidays, \$UMS in Retirement will just have one meeting in Nov and Dec. It will be on Wed Dec 10.

Chair **Tom Henry Branch** Branch 174
tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair **Dave Sutton Branch** Branch 8
davesutn@comcast.net



SIR State Information

<https://sirinc.org/>

This is the state SIR web page. is a wealth of information about SIR, SIR training, and SIR merchandise you can purchase. [The current state newsletter can be found by clicking here.](#)

There are also copies of the many forms SIR uses; in short everything SIR can be found here!

Parting Shot

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the first Thanksgiving's exact menu, much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote:

Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of a long drought that had threatened the year's harvest and prompted Governor Bradford to call for a religious fast. Days of fasting and thanksgiving on an annual or occasional basis became common practice in other New England settlements as well.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year, and in 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States; in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His successors, John Adams and James Madison also designated days of thanks during their presidencies.

In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday; each celebrated it on a different day, however, and the American South remained largely unfamiliar with the tradition.

Early Puritans observed Thanksgiving days of prayer, but Sarah Josepha Hale's crusade for a national day of thanks is what ultimately gave us Thanksgiving.

In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale—author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"—launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians, earning her the nickname the "Mother of Thanksgiving."

Abraham Lincoln finally heeded her request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to "commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife" and to "heal the wounds of the nation."

He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939 when Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and in 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621.

Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird—whether roasted, baked or deep-fried—on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives and host free dinners for the less fortunate.

