



Branch 146

Contra Costa County CA

Call

August 2023



Big Sir's Corner

Bob Wilkenfeld

Are Our Luncheons Too Costly!?!?

Since becoming Big Sir, I have received occasional feedback that our luncheons at Boundary Oak are too

costly, too small, or unappetizing. I'd like to address the first two complaints and explain how we are working with Boundary Oak to address the third issue.

There is no question that inflation has hit the restaurant and banquet industry. So, let's put Boundary Oak's current price of \$36 for a three-course meal, into perspective. Your average moderately priced restaurant (like the Greenery or Buttercup) charges \$15-\$17 for a sandwich and fries. Get something fancier for lunch, like fish and chips or fried chicken, and you will pay \$17-\$19. Add tax and an 18% tip onto that and your total for a simple lunch is at least \$20-\$25. With Boundary Oak, you are getting a fresh salad, entrée with two sides, a roll and dessert. Want iced tea for a beverage? - no charge! Oh, and tax and tip are already included in the price. And remember that a portion of the \$36 cost went towards rental of a banquet hall for 4 hours and use of a public address system, projector, and screen. Just try fitting 125-150 attendees into your average restaurant!

Size matters: I get it. The meal must be enough to fill you up until dinner. But a fair number of members complained last year that the meals were too large. To address that issue and minimize the price increase proposed by Boundary Oak, we agreed to smaller portion sizes. Over the past three months, we have been working with Boundary Oak's catering staff to right-size the portions. Based on feedback following the June lunch, we believe we have found the "sweet spot" for portion size.

Each month, there is always someone not happy with their meal - "undercooked," "over done," or "bland." When our Luncheon Coordinator (**Steve Oki**), Little Sir (**John Kluesener**), or I receive such feedback, we pass it along to the Boundary Oak folks. They have always

been responsive to our constructive input. Remember too that you can always let the server know when there is a problem with your meal.

The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.

—William Arthur Ward

Everyone complains about the weather, but nobody ever seems to do anything about it.

—Willard Scott

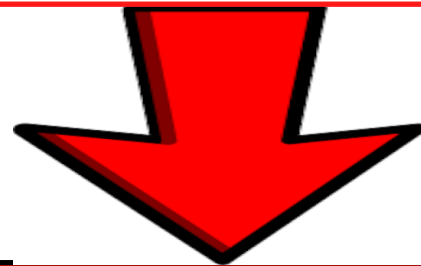
If you have time to whine and complain about something, then you have the time to do something about it.

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

Bob Wilkenfeld
Big Sir, Branch 146



When was the last time you joined your friends for lunch?
Make your reservation now!



SIR Monthly Luncheon
Thursday, August 10th, 2023
Boundary Oak 11:30

Mr. Nan Ju

What China's Global Expansion Means to the West and the US in Particular

A reservation is required!

To make yours and choose your entree go to page 3.



Little Sir's Corner John Kluesener

Our July luncheon featured the CHICAGO table per the research efforts of Frank Lucas. He scoured through the member bios and then contacted all those who were willing to admit that

they were from the windy city to join our luncheon table! We had a good time talking about the good old days of street-corner softball with the mushroom softball (Clincher) that was unique to Chicago, the ethnic neighborhoods, our famous gangsters like Al Capone and our heroes like Butch O'Hare, the first WW II Ace who gave his name to our airport. One of our mates admitted that this was the first luncheon he had attended. Perhaps we need to do more sessions like this to encourage luncheon attendance and common grounds for table talk!!

Our Speaker for July gave us some valuable insights to those who are out there dreaming up ways to help the unsuspecting part with their money. Many of the scams are focused on seniors because they generally have the funds and are more vulnerable to sad but untrue stories. Phone requests to help a "friend" stranded overseas because of a lost wallet or a family member somewhere in distress are examples. Artificial Intelligence can make these voice or even video messages very believable. Its best to do a little checking before reacting but if you do send a check or some such, quick call your bank or credit card source to put a hold on the payment.

In August we will hear from Mr. Nan Ju about China's global expansion and what it means to the West and the US specifically.

John Kluesener
Little Sir, Branch 146

Officers and Directors

Big Sir.....	Robert Wilkenfeld
Little Sir.....	John Kluesener
Secretary	Bob Ford
Assistant Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	John Alexander
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Director 4th Term	George Mon
Director 3rd Term	Henry Thatcher
Director 3rd Term	Robert Lucido
Director 1st Term	Larry Kaye
Director 2nd Term	Edward Brands
Director 1st Term	Randy Graham

RAMP-Chair Members

Recruitment	Larry Kaye
Activities	Glenn Breslin
Member Relations	Edwards Brands
Publicity	Randy Graham

Refer to the Branch Directory, accessible under the Members Only tab heading on our website, for phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

SIR Mission Statement

The Mission of SIR is to enrich the lives of its members through fun, activities, events and luncheons while making friends for life.



Luncheon Chairman Steve Oki

Please note that we depend on you giving us a reservation as Boundary Oak will only produce a few extra plates (5–6 on average) than what we give as our reservations number. We have exceeded this number in the

past couple of months, and members have had to leave or go without a meal. If you walk in without a reservation, we can not guarantee you will get a meal or a choice of a meal that you want.

In addition, those members that do have a reservation should check-in before entering the meeting room and before the check-in station closes at 11:30 AM.

Our lunches have been running fairly smoothly since moving to a reservation system. We have implemented a system that will automatically create an email message with your choice of menu option. If you find you have a problem. Just send an email to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com and send us your menu choice.

By receiving your meal choice ahead of time, we are better able to be sure that Boundary Oak has your menu choice available. All reservations will be acknowledged via email or voicemail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours please send another message to the email above.

Luncheon

- **Date:** August 10th, 2023
- **Where:** Boundary Oak
- **Cost:** \$36 per person
- **Reservation:** All Luncheons require a reservation, you must select your menu choice as part of the reservation. To the right, the menu makes this easy for you to do; simply click the appropriate link.

If you do not reserve by
Friday August 4th by Noon

We assume you will not be coming

Reservations are acknowledged by return e-mail

- **Check-In:** 11:00am The meeting starts at 11:30am.
- **Payment:** The preferred payment method is by check payable to SIR Branch 146 at check in.

Other matters

- **If you don't have e-mail:** 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 August 4th by noon.**

and you will not be charged.

Send an e-mail to attendlunchbr146@gmail.com or Call 925.979.5721 and leave a message.

Sponsors of Guests and New Members:

If you are bringing a guest or a new member, please notify the Luncheon Chair with their name and their meal choice at attendlunchbr146@gmail.com.

Questions:

If you have any questions, please call **Steve Oki** at 925.831.9380 and leave a message with your question or request. Steve will acknowledge by returning your call.



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 August Luncheon

Thursday August 10th, 2023

Salad

Butter Lettuce Salad

Seasonal Berries, Citrus Segments, Feta Cheese
Poppy Seed Balsamic Vinaigrette

Entrées

Pork Milanese

Panko Breaded Port Loin, Creamy Polenta
Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Creamy Caper & Lemon Sauce

—or—

Coconut Crusted Tilapia

Citrus Rice Pilaf, Sautéed Vegetable Medley
Chardonnay Butter Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian Lasagna

Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Red Velvet Cake

Lunch Reservation Required!

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



Editor's Ramblings Clint Collier

We bid farewell to a member of the newsletter group this month. **Hank James** had been one of our proofreaders for the past year but recently retired from SIR and, now, has moved on to the Napa area and is

bowing out. He was a wordsmith technologist with an eye for detail and a deep knowledge of style manuals and his suggestions over his term were invaluable to me as the editor. I shall miss **Hank** and his comments and I can't thank him enough for his help.

Beginning this month we have moved the cutoff for input submission back about a week in order to publish SIR-Call a week before the end of the month rather than at the end of the month. If you planned ahead for this change it should not be difficult. We know some of you have events after the new cut off date. That is OK... You will get your usual coverage, it will simply be in the following issue. So... put on your "thinking ahead" hat and write your columns with both a thought for August and September as it will be here before you know it!

The deadline for submissions for the September issue is **August 19th**. If you have something you would like to say, send it in to br146SIRCall@gmail.com, putting "Member Note" in the subject line, and we will try to get it out in the next available issue.

Clint Collier—Editor SIR-Call
925.457.1489 br146SIRCall@gmail.com



Membership George Mon

There were no new members that applied in July. 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.

Sadly, we lost **Dick Richmond** in early July. He was in a care facility for a short time. **Dick** was one of our Senior Honorary Life Member (2009). He was 82.

The 2023 membership count is at 245.

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

Ross Abbott	Rick Morgan	Curtis Young
Mark Curtis	Glen Renk	Steve Schlossberg
Loren Delaurenti	Gary Schaub	Nick Jabuka
Paul Dubow	William Snyder	Charles Ward
John Fitzgerald	Bob Spellman	Stephen Dick
Roy Hodgkinson	Robert White	
Brian McCarthy	Howard Zimmerman	
Aubrey Moore	Randy Graham	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**MAKE SURE...
YOU HAVE THE SEPTEMBER
MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR**



THE CLUBHOUSE
AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 September Luncheon

Thursday, September 14th, 2023

Salad

Hearts of Romaine, Shaved Parmesan,
Garlic Croutons, Caesar Dressing

Entrées

Bistro Filet

Garlic Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes,
Roasted Carrots
Caramelized Shallot Red Wine Mushroom Jus

—or—

Citrus Roasted Tilapia

Garlic Yukon Gold Smashed Potatoes,
Roasted Carrots Lemon Caper Sauce

—or—

Vegetarian

Three Cheese Tortellini

Roasted Tomatoes and Pesto

Dessert

Mocha Cream Cake

Lunch Reservation required!

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



AUGUST MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

SIR Member	Year Inducted	Years
Ben Smith	2018	5 Years
Mark Curtis	2017	6
Dave Kingsbury	2017	6
Bob Lyman	2016	7
Rich Pace	2016	7
Lee Clark	2015	8
Peter Plante	2014	9
Tony Greco	2012	11
Max Hinkle	2012	11
Charlie Kahsen	2011	12
Siegfried Kalteis	2008	15 Years
Bill Hartman	2007	16
Rich Ahlf	2004	19
Denny O'Loughlin	1999	24 Years

SIR-Call Newsletter Group

Editor	Clint Collier
Assistant Editor	Bob West
Photographer	Henry Thatcher
Proofreaders	Ron Polivka Bruce Borgman Vacant
Internet Posting	Ron Plachy

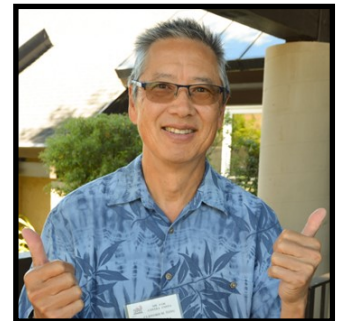
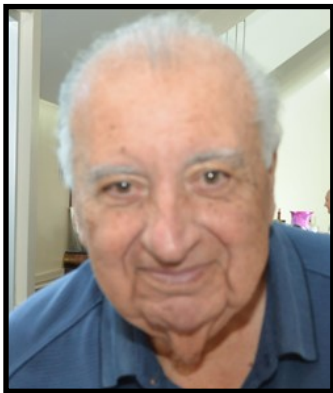
JULY 2023 LUNCH

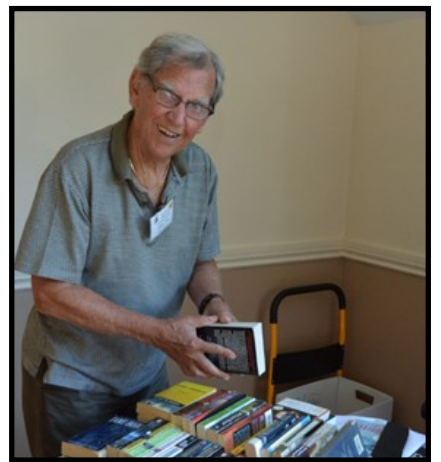
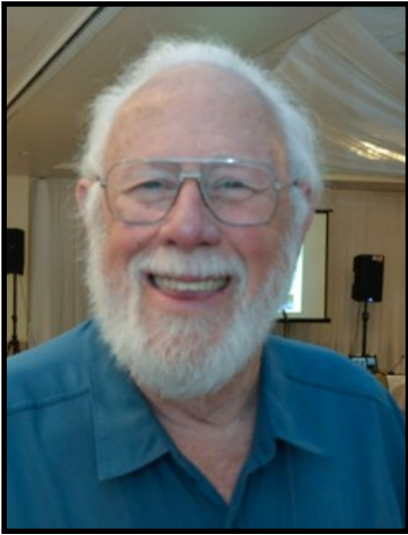
Photos by Henry Thatcher



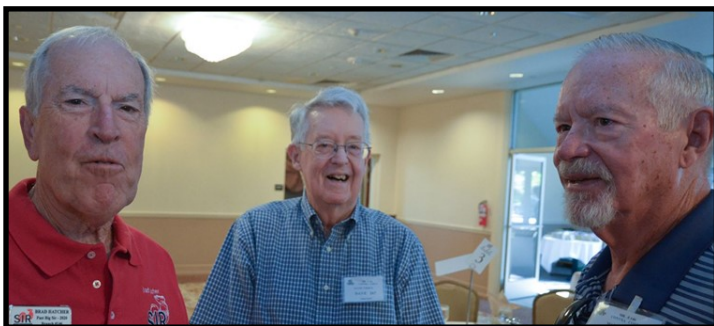
Welcome to SIR!









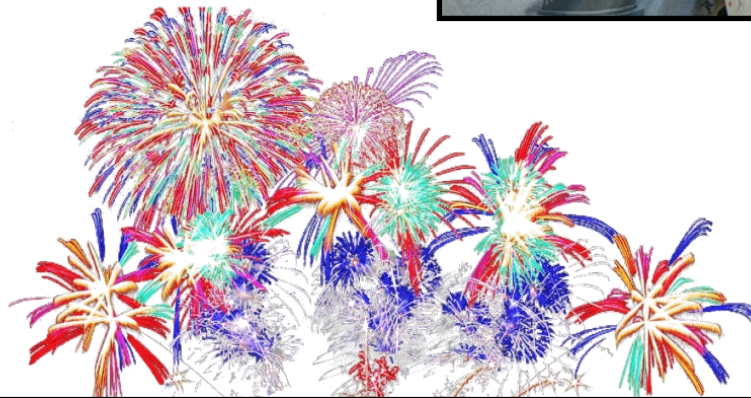
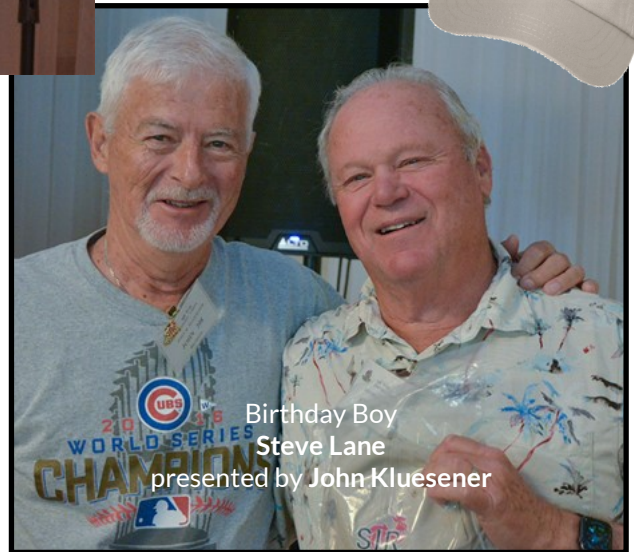








Speaker Charles Fralich
Don't get Scammed!



NOTES

from Our Members

If anyone was missing SIR **Dennis Hallet**, **Steve Ybarra** or **Corrie Oranje** last June, you would have found them with their wives enjoying a river boat cruise through the Netherlands. The 10 day cruise was great! The weather was exceptional with only one afternoon of rain. It was great to travel together and enjoy each others company.



Ann Hallet, Corrie Oranje, Dennis Hallet, Sue Oranje, Steve and Dana Ybarra

A Little Navy Humor

A crusty Navy Master Chief noticed a new face in his unit and barked at him immediately. "Get over here! What's your name, sailor?"

John," the new seaman replied.

"Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy crap they're teaching sailors in boot camp these days, but I don't call anyone by his first name," the chief scowled. "It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority.

I refer to my sailors by their last names only; Smith, Jones, Baker, Jackson, whatever. And you are to refer to me as 'Master Chief.'" He gave him a threatening glare honed by years of experience. "Do I make myself clear?"

"Aye, Aye, Master Chief!"

"Now that we've got that straight, what's your last name?"

The seaman sighed. "Darling, my name is John Darling,"

Master Chief. "Okay, John, here's what I want you to do..."



Looking for something to do...



Activities Coordinator

Glenn Breslin with Bob Lucido

As you all may or may not know, SIR146 has 48 different group activities, with 27 of the 48 activities available to spouses and significant others. Are you 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 Mexico Train Dominoes. For those wanting to be trained to play Mexico Train Dominoes, please let me know. There are many people able and willing to support your need. Also please inform me if you want to start a new activity. I will assist you to accomplish this.

Much appreciation goes out to all the Activity Chairs for helping keep the almost 250 members of our branch positively involved in stimulating activities. The Mission of the SIR organization 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. SIRs 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.

Below are current SIR146 Activities Statistics.

Description	Totals
Total Activities	48
Total Co-Ed Activities	27
Percent Co-Ed Activities	56%
Total Unique Activities	28
BR146 activities shared with other branches	9
Other SIR Branch Groups Activities Shared with SIR146	14

Looking forward to see you in SIR146 Activities

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

SIR Branch 146 Activities Calendar August 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>31</u>	<u>Aug 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3	9:00am Golf 4:00pm Couples Party Bridge	6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 8 Ocho	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-1 12:30pm Poker Group #6	10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
9:45am–3:00pm Men's Party Bridge 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	9:00am Birding Heather Farms birding pond 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle Rocco's 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 7 Siete	9:00am–10:45am BEC Meeting 11:30am–1:00pm SIR Luncheon	12:00pm–3:00pm Hearts Rocco's in W.C. 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 1 Uno
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 11:30am–1:30pm Cooking II 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	11:00am Lunch and Wine (LAW) 7:00pm–10:30pm Couples Duplicate Bridge 1	9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-2 11:30am Sushi no Tomadachi Jo's Honda Sushi Pleasant Hill 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 5 Cinco	9:00am–11:00am Photography Group Rocco's 10:00am–3:00pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 3 7:00pm–10:00pm MTD 4 Quattro
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
10:00am Hiking 10:00am–3:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge (1) 11:30am–1:30pm Tres Gourmet 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses	9:00am Golf	10:00am–11:00am Birding Rocco's 12:30pm–3:30pm Cribbage at Rocco's 1:00pm–2:30pm Guitar Group 1:00pm–3:00pm Pinochle at Rocco's 1:30pm–3:30pm \$UMS in Retirement Investment Group Zoom 6:45pm–10:00pm MTD 6 Seis	7:30am–9:30am Area 16 Fishing Group Legends Sports Bar Diablo Creek GC 9:30am NINE HOLE GOLF-3	12:00pm–3:30pm Hearts Rocco's 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 2 Dos 6:30pm–10:00pm MTD 3 Tres
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>Sep 1</u>
8:30am–10:00am Bocce Newhall Park, Concord 10:00am Hiking 12:00pm Table Pool at Masses 1:00pm Poker Group #3 1:00pm Poker Group #4	9:00am Golf			10:00am–2:30pm Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

SIR Activities!

Here is a list of the activities that are available in SIR Branch 146. Click on the link of the activity that you are interested in to retrieve a PDF file explaining the activity as well as information on who to contact if you are interested in participating.

[Birding](#)

[Bocce Ball](#)

[Book Corner](#)

[Book Group](#)

Bridge:

[Couples Duplicate 1](#)

[Couples Duplicate 2](#)

[Couples Party](#)

[Men's Duplicate 1](#)

[Men's Duplicate 2](#)

[Men's Duplicate 3](#)

[Men's Party](#)

[Chess](#)

Cooking:

[Cooking II](#)

[Lunch & Wine](#)

[Tres Gourmet](#)

[Cribbage](#)

[Cycling](#)

Dining Out

[Couples Dining Out](#)

[Explore and Eat](#)

[Sushi no Tomodachi](#)

[Dixieland Musician](#)

[Fishing](#)

[Golf—9 Hole](#)

[Golf—18 Hole](#)

[Hearts](#)

[Hiking](#)

Mexican Train Dominoes

[Uno](#)

[Dos](#)

[Tres](#)

[Quatro](#)

[Cinco](#)

[Seis](#)

[Siete](#)

[Ocho](#)

[Nueve](#)

[Photography](#)

[Pinochle](#)

Poker:

[Group 1](#)

[Group 3](#)

[Group 4](#)

[Group 6](#)

[Song SIRs](#)

[Table Pool](#)

[Theatre](#)

[Travel](#)

[Wine Tasting](#)



Nine Hole Golf Group Bob Ford

We are really enjoying the nice summer weather. We are usually finished playing and are enjoying lunch in the nice air conditioned restaurant before it gets hot. Please come out and join us. 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



Cycling Group Larry Kaye

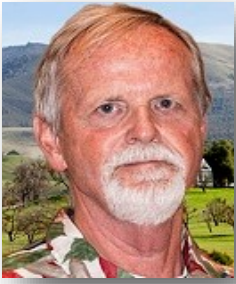
July 19: With the forecast of heat as a warning we left the Alamo area at 8am. **Bill Holly, Tom Alborg** and **Larry Kaye**. This was a Southern ride taking in the sights of Danville, San Ramon and the outskirts of Bishop Ranch. The air was nice, clean and somewhat cool. The ride was uneventful but rewarding. Upon return to Alamo the guys enjoyed some java and snacks at Lever. This is a new coffee shop on the creek. Nice java, and superb pastries. Sitting outside was really nice. The heat began and we returned to our steel cars and headed home. A relaxing SIR ride. .

Larry Kaye

925.698.4030

Why must I prove that I am me to pay my bills over the internet?

Do Strangers pay my bills? And, if they do, why don't you let them?



Photography Group

John "Moose" Kelly and Henry Thatcher

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, August 18th at Rocco's at 9 AM with coffee and donuts gathering at 8:45 AM. We request a donation of \$2.00 to cover the coffee that Rocco's provides us as well as the free use of the room for our meeting.

The August 18th meeting will comprise of a discussion of our recent outing to Pier 24 entitled "Looking Forward - Ten Years of Pier 24 Photography." Those that attended were **Henry Thatcher**, **Peter Plante**, **Roy Hodgkinson**, and yours truly, **Moose Kelly**. After the gallery, we walked along the Embarcadero on a nice day shooting scenes along the way. The group went to Perry's Restaurant inside Hotel Griffon and had a delicious lunch.

Additionally, topics at our August meeting will consist of members of the group presenting pictures on their recent travels. **Peter Plante** will have a series of photographs to share on his recent trip to the England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. **Ron Polivka** will have

some photos to share from his recent journey to Spain and Portugal. There will be additional subjects to display and discuss at our gathering as well.

As we get closer to the meeting date, I will forward an agenda for the meeting to those that are on our mailing list. If you are not on our email list and would like to join the Photography Group or just want to come to our meeting to see what the club is all about, then please contact **John "Moose" Kelly** or **Henry Thatcher**. We would be happy to send you the agenda.

Be safe, be well and be sure to "Say Cheese!"

John (Moose) Kelly

610.517.0152 rollingstone91149@gmail.com

or

Henry Thatcher

925.997.5032 1henrythatcher@gmail.com



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

The SIR state team championship events August 17 or 18 at Haggin Oaks in Sacramento is nearly sold out but a few late tee times may still be available.

Likewise the September 5 through 8 Reno golf event based at the Silver Legacy is nearly fully booked. Check the state golf website for registration information if you have a renewed or sud-

den interest in either of these events.

The state individual championship event will be held October 5 at the Reserve Golf Course at Spanos Park in Stockton. There will not be regional or area qualifiers for this tournament, so to play you just need to register. To do that, look for an email from the state golf chair, Mark Stuart, with registration information in early August. Registration will be by mail.

Further information on these events on the next page!

Ed Marlovits

**"BRANCH 116 AND SIR STATE GOLF INVITE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US THIS SUMMER IN RENO"
TUESDAY 9/5/2023 THRU FRIDAY 9/8/2023**



THE SILVER LEGACY HOTEL AND CASINO HAS:

FIVE RESTAURANTS AND SIX BARS & LOUNGES
SWIMMING POOL WITH DAYBEDS & CABANAS
A SPA & SALON TO RELAX AND INDULGE YOURSELF
FITNESS CENTER WITH WEIGHTS, MACHINES & MORE
NIGHTLIFE FEATURING PERFORMERS & COMEDIANS
TOPGOLF SWING SUITE (reservation required)
CASINO WITH SLOTS, BLACKJACK & POKER
IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO RENO'S BEST SHOPPING

YOUR 2023 EVENT PACKAGE INCLUDES

- THREE NIGHT STAY AT THE SILVER LEGACY HOTEL DOWNTOWN RENO IN A PLAYER'S TOWER PREMIUM ROOM COMPLETE WITH FLAT SCREEN TV, FREE WI-FI, HAIR DRYER, IN ROOM SAFE, FREE GARAGE PARKING
- TUESDAY "WELCOME RECEPTION" COMPLETE WITH APPETIZERS, NO HOST BAR
- THURSDAY NIGHT "AWARDS DINNER" WITH NO HOST BAR
- TWO DAYS OF GOLF AT TOIYABE & WOLF RUN GOLF COURSES AND OVER \$1,000 IN PRIZE MONEY, LADY'S AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALSO WELCOME AND INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THESE TWO DAYS OF GOLFING FUN
- PRIZE DRAWINGS FOR NON-GOLFERS

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

Two Golfers sharing room	\$420 / person
Golfer, Non-Golfer sharing room	\$330 / person
Single Golfer own room	\$575 / person
Two Non-Golfers sharing room	\$240 / person
Non-Golfer, own room	\$400 / person
Golf and Amenities, no room	\$260 / person

FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM,
ENCLOSE CHECK AND MAIL TO
SIR BR 116
PO BOX 683
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

GOLFING ELIGIBILITY

ALL GOLFER'S MUST HAVE A VERIFIABLE INDEX.

GOLF ANYONE?

Register at www.sirgolf.org

If you have any questions about this , please give me a call or drop me an email.

Mark Stuart
2023 State Golf Chair
916.218.2287
mss95678@hotmail.com

2023 SIR STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

HAGGIN OAKS GOLF COURSE - SACRAMENTO



OPEN TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR, NO QUALIFYING NECESSARY, YOUR TEAM'S CHOICE OF PLAYING EITHER THURSDAY 8/17 OR FRIDAY 8/18, TEE TIMES

DRIVING RANGE WITH "TOPTRACER" BALL FLIGHT TRACKING, RANGE BALLS ARE PROVIDED

ALL TEAM PLAYER'S MUST CHECK IN OUTSIDE THE PRO SHOP 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR TEE TIME

FOOD AND DRINK AT THE MCKENZIE SPORTS BAR & GRILL OR AT "THE HANGOUT" AT THE RANGE



THIS YEAR'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE AT THE HISTORIC 91 YEAR OLD ALISTAIR MACKENZIE GOLF COURSE AT HAGGIN OAKS KNOWN FOR IT'S CHALLENGING COURSE LAYOUT AND UNDULATING GREENS



SUGGESTED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS AND SUITES AT 2224 AUBURN BLVD
916 923-1100

HAMPTON INN & SUITES AT 2230 AUBURN BLVD
916 927-2222

HILTON SACRAMENTO ARDEN AT 2220 HARVARD STREET
855 605-0316

TOURNAMENT RESULTS WILL BE POSTED BY MONDAY AUGUST 21ST ON THE STATE GOLF WEBSITE AT WWW.SIRGOLF.ORG

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO HAGGIN OAKS GOLF COURSE:

FROM THE EAST: I-80 TOWARDS SACRAMENTO, TAKE FULTON AVE EXIT ON THE RIGHT TO FULTON AVE, COURSE IS IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR RIGHT

FROM THE WEST: I-80 THROUGH SACRAMENTO TOWARDS RENO, TAKE THE AUBURN BLVD EXIT AND TURN LEFT ONTO AUBURN BLVD, TURN LEFT ON TO FULTON AVENUE WHICH WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE COURSE

FROM THE NORTH: I-5 SOUTH TO SACRAMENTO, FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ABOVE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WEBSITE AT WWW.SIRGOLF.ORG OR CALL MARK STUART - 916 218-2287



CALL HAGGIN OAKS PRO SHOP FOR PRACTICE ROUNDS (Mon-Fri)
916 808-2525



Travel Glenn Breslin

I very much look forward enabling SIRs to share travel experiences with other SIR members. SIR Travel **goals** are to plan travel for as many SIR travelers as possible. Let's share in these experiences and make fabulous travel memories together !! Guests of SIR members are welcome to also join in. Bring them along !

Two International Trips Planned for 2024.

Many people have signed up already, it would be nice to have you along !! Join us in the Fun !!

1. **Best of Spain and Portugal**—Alamo Travel and Insight Vacations

- 15-day trip
- 4/27/24 to 5/12/24
- Includes roundtrip airfare, tours, hotels, all breakfasts and five dinners and two lunches—including wine
- \$200 per person discount offered if your \$325 deposit is received by September 1, 2023
- \$7,395 per person.
- Price discounted if you book your own travel. See me for details.



2. **Memorials of World War II, England and France**—Collette Travel

- 10-day trip
- 9/6/24 to 9/15/24
- Includes round trip airfare, tours, eight breakfasts and four dinners—including wine.
- \$300 per person discount still currently available as of this writing.
- Only 10 total slots allocated to SIR146—6 slots are still available. 4 slots currently accounted for. \$698 deposit to hold your slot.
- \$4,999 per person. Take \$1,600 off if you plan to book airfare on your own.



Quotes

"Travel is better with friends."

"There is an unspoken bond you create with the friends you travel with."

I look forward to traveling with you!

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com



146 Hiking Mark Curtis

The previous winter was wet and, hopefully, this will be the norm as the years pass by. We didn't cancel too many hikes due to the weather. We adjusted to venues with asphalt

or gravel trails instead. The warm summer days are

now upon us, and there is another concern that we will continue to address. With the warm hiking days, we need to be prepared with either plenty of water in our day packs, or adjust the venue to a

west bay side location. Recent outings have been to Reinhart Redwood Regional Park in Oakland, Point Pinole in Richmond, and most recently Tilden Nature Preserve. For all 3 of these venues, the temperature was a maximum of 75F as compared to east bay venues hovering in the low to mid 90's. The Falls Loop trail in Mount Diablo State Park was a bit disappointing as there was minimal water in the creeks feeding the falls.

If any of you have suggestions for any hikes that you have enjoyed, or would like me to include your ideas in planning, please let me know. I/we are always open to new venues. Also, spouses and guests are always welcome. Our canine friends will be allowed on leash if the hiking venue permits it.

If you have an interest in participating in this hiking activity, please let me know and I will add your email address to my distribution list.

Mark Curtis

925.360.3449 Mocurtis1657@gmail.com



Reinhart Redwood Regional Park
Ray Martz, Mike Wolfson,
Gene Schulting, Bob Lively,
Mike Browne
(just moved to Cincinnati),
Roger Meyer, Karen Lively



Wildcat Peak
Gene Schulting, Earl Bates, Larry Gray,
Roger Meyer, Mike Wolfson, Ray Martz, Bob Lively



Bocce John Kendrick

The Bocce Ball activity on June 12 had 10 rollers and on June 24 we had 14 rollers. We always have room for anyone looking for some Monday morning entertainment.

The SIR 146 Bocce Ball activity meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8:30 am to 10:00 am, May through September at Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord. The courts are near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads in Concord. Ladies are welcome.

John Kendrick

925.827.0585 jmkendrick23@gmail.com

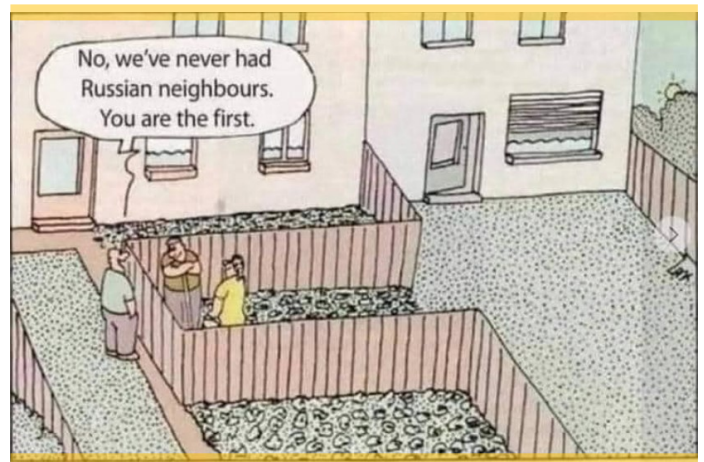




Table Pool

Bill Weinberg / Jim Barry

The table pool group meets every Monday. If you are interested joining the fun contact **Jim** or **Bill** for complete information

Reported by **Jim Barry**
jbarry@sbcglobal.net

Bill Weinberg
billw1026@astound.net 925.682.0962





AREA 16 Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Halibut are not only fine eating, but they apparently are the friend of the fisherman. As we have regularly reported this year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife cancelled the salmon season, which forced fishermen to turn to halibut virtually full time. We have had good luck fishing for these flat fish in the Bay for the past few years, but the bite normally slacks off by mid-June. This fact, plus the decision by the DFW to bar rockfishing in depths less than 300 feet through mid-July caused those fishermen who do not fish regularly in the Delta or the local reservoirs to enter severe fits of depression.

But, lo, halibut saved the day. They have continued to bite in large amounts although they move around, and one needs to find them. A group that includes **Lee Clark** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 plus **Brion Beetz**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Phil Scimonelli**, **Bob Stein**, **Carl Moyer**, and **Dave Havlik** regularly spend Tuesdays fishing on the *Sundance* and they limited out on each trip this month, along with catching occasional stripers.

We don't know when the bite will taper off. However, there have been reports that Pacific halibut are congregating in the ocean a few miles north of the Golden Gate. The halibut in the bay are California halibut, but there is little difference between the two species.

In the meantime, the ban on rockfishing above 300 feet expired on July 15 and so we are ready for some offshore action angling for these fish in shallower venues. **Carl Moyer** opened the "new" rockfish season with a trip on the *Sea Wolf*. The boat fished off the rocks just south of Point Reyes. Within ten minutes, Carl caught a ling cod and a keeper cabezon. His shrimp flies were deadly, and he caught 30 rockfish on them, keeping the limit of ten.

Tom Kostik continued his regular Delta black bass trips, averaging 25 to 40 fish each day plus some stray stripers and bluegills.

All Branch 146 members are welcome to join our fishing outings, even if you have never fished before. During the balance of the summer, we plan to continue to fish for rockfish and perhaps halibut in the ocean,

black bass and stripers in the Delta, and trout and catfish at San Pablo Reservoir and other local venues. In addition, we have scheduled several guided striper trips in the Delta and a kokanee outing at Stampede Reservoir near Truckee. Later in the fall, we will have overnight outings fishing for trout at Lake Almanor and kokanee in New Melones Reservoir. You are also invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is on Thursday, August 24, at the Legends Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek golf course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but many of us gather at 7 am or thereafter for breakfast and/or fishing stories and so please join us at that time. For further information, feel free to call branch fishing chair **Paul Dubow** at 510.504.3566.

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Paul Dubow displays a 12 lb. halibut caught on the *Sundance*



SongSirs Peter Plante

The SongSirs performed our latest concert at the Carlton Retirement Home in Pleasant Hill on July 6. Many of the residents sang along with us as we sang some of their favorite songs. It was a good walk down memory lane for them and we had fun being their entertainment for the day.

Our next rehearsal is on August 2 at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church at 1:30. We will be introducing this new set of songs for an October 19 performance at the Ivy Park Retirement Home (formerly Sunrise) in Walnut Creek. Come and join us for a fun time. No auditions necessary, just a love of music and singing.

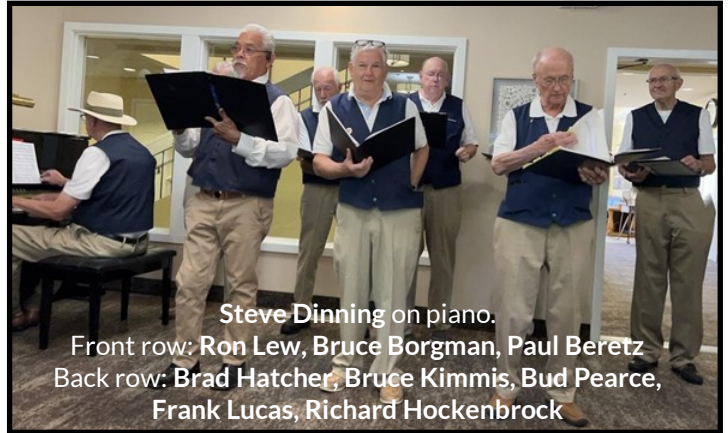
Peter Plante
pcplante109@gmail.com



Peter Plante, Director
Steve Dinning on piano



Steve Dinning on piano.
Front row: Ron Lew Bruce Borgman, Paul Beretz
(Master of Ceremony)
Back row: Brad Hatcher Bruce Kimmis, Bud Pearce, Frank
Lucas, Richard Hockenbrock



Steve Dinning on piano.
Front row: Ron Lew, Bruce Borgman, Paul Beretz
Back row: Brad Hatcher, Bruce Kimmis, Bud Pearce,
Frank Lucas, Richard Hockenbrock

Why was the rabbit so happy?
Because some bunny loved him!



Birding Frank Lucas

There will be no input from us this month.. and most likely August also. Only one other person showed up today. (At least 4 were travelling.) Not good for inland birds at this time.



Frank Lucas
925.316.6122 frank.lucas1105@gmail.com



"I'm the only deity this house requires."



Book Group John Pearl, Interim Chair

The SIR Branch 146 Book Group met on Monday, June 26th. The book we discussed was *The Wager*, by David Grann. This has been high on the best seller list for several months.

Grann is also the author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*, a book which the group read and liked several years ago.

The *Wager* was a small merchant ship that had been converted to a naval ship, with guns, in the Royal Navy. It was named for a naval officer and not a type of gambling, but the trip upon which it embarked and which was the subject of this non-fiction story was a gamble from the outset. The *Wager* was part of a five-ship squadron headed by the *Centurion* and commanded by Commodore George Anson. It was assigned to sail to the South Pacific via Cape Horn and intercept the Spanish galleon that annually carried gold, silver, etc., home, from the Spanish colonies in the Philippines. The journey did not go well for the *Wager* and hence the story.

The book is essentially three stories. First is the preparation of the ship, the formation of the squadron and the crew, and the voyage across the Atlantic. Second is the passage around Cape Horn, the shipwreck on an isolated island off the coast of Chile, and the internal politics and actions of the various crew members as they battle over the best way to return to England. The third, and the shortest, describes what happened to them during their return journeys and upon their arrival in England.

Most of the crew of the *Wager* were “recruited” by the infamous press gangs, who gathered up people with little or no experience at sea, and even residents of old folks’ homes. Many were not excited about being there, and were a difficult lot to control. They sailed to the Brazilian coast and then south, with some of the usual issues of the day. The commodore had his hands full with the changes he had to make in the ships’ leadership due to resignations, illness, etc. The captain of the *Wager* was very experienced, but he became ill and died. His successor, David Cheap, had served Commodore Anson well as his lieutenant on the *Centurion*, but he had never commanded a ship and proved to be very insecure. Captain Cheap is one of the main characters of our story.

Two of the ships in the squadron had to turn back before the arrival at Cape Horn because of their poor con-

dition. This caused a delay in the scheduled arrival and the best weather was behind them by the time they reached Cape Horn and so the ships struggled with bad weather as they attempted the crossing.

After several attempts, they completed the crossing. But, as they headed north along the west coast of the continent, the weather caused the ships to separate. The *Wager* was blown too close to the shore, where it foundered and crashed in the rocks close by an unknown island, which has since been named Wager Island. It was a very barren and inhospitable place. The crew set up camp, with one of the main activities being the salvaging of food and supplies from the wrecked ship which was on the rocks and accessible, albeit with some effort.



HMS Wager in extremis
Charles Brooking, 1744

The crew soon broke up into multiple factions. Captain Cheap attempted to implement some kind of cohesiveness in the crew but was not very successful. The groups actually camped on different parts of the island. The makeup of the crew had some strong leaders who had their own ideas on how to proceed and who should be in charge. Many of them disagreed with Captain Cheap’s decisions and were quick to desert the formal organization for what they perceived to be a better chance to survive and hopefully reach England.

Some native people came by and joined them for a while and provided some food and good help, but some of the crew maintained a hostile attitude toward them and they sailed off, leaving the crew once again by themselves. Many of the crew members never wanted

to be on the ship, having been “recruited” involuntary, and were quite cantankerous, and not easily managed. During this period, Captain Cheap shot and killed a crew member, without any real justification.

Captain Cheap decided that the best way to return to England was to continue north along the coast to reach the southernmost Spanish settlement. The majority of the crew disagreed, noting that England and Spain were at war. This group ultimately included the ship’s second officer, but he was a weakling, and its real leader was John Buckley, the chief gunner. In defiance of Captain Cheap, Buckley and his allies built a boat and sailed east on a harrowing journey through the Straits of Magellan, and after several months, reached a Portuguese settlement on the coast of Brazil, and thence England. While sailing through the straits, they abandoned four sailors who had gone ashore to forage for food, presumably forced to do so because of weather conditions. The four sailors nevertheless found their way to the Portuguese settlement and accused their former companions of deliberately leaving them.

In the meantime, Captain Cheap was left behind on Wager Island, with another officer, John Byron, who was the grandfather of the poet and adventurer Lord Byron, and two crew members. They did manage to build a boat and, after some misadventures, reach the Spanish settlement where they were treated decently.

In the third section of the book, the survivors trickled into England, and the Royal Navy put Buckley and his chief cohorts on trial for mutiny. But it was a low-key affair, because the Navy realized that the expedition was poorly planned and executed and was in essence an embarrassment to its upper echelon. Consequently, the charges were eventually dropped. The book also briefly followed the lives of some of the crew members. Although some of the crew members were again forced back to sea by press gangs, others enjoyed fine careers in the Navy. John Byron became an admiral. Although Captain Cheap did not reach that pinnacle, he married well and died a wealthy man. Buckley decided he had had enough of the sea and moved to Pennsylvania with his family where he disappeared from history.

However, there was success in the Pacific. The *Centurion*, now alone in its quest, found the Spanish galleon carrying the gold and silver from the Philippines to Spain and captured it. The ship’s crew shared the “prize” of the booty from the ship and Commodore

Anson became one of the most revered officers in the history of the Royal Navy.

Several books have been written about the *Wager* and its adventures, and this latest one is extremely well-researched and is a good read.

John Pearl, Chair—Paul Dubow, Sr. Editor
jpearljr@gmail.com



Walking Glenn Breslin

The Co-Ed SIR146 Walking Group walks for 1 to 1 1/2 hours along paved surfaces (e.g., Iron Horse or other local trails). The SIR146 Walkers enjoy getting out, catching up with friends, making new friends and enjoying entertaining conversation with fellow SIR members. Many times, we will go out for coffee afterwards to continue the fun. We walk on the first and third Thursday, each month. For some walks, we join the SIR8-Walnut Creek Walking Group. They have a large walking group and also walk on nearby trails. SIR8 Walking website can be found here: [Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 \(sirbr8.com\)](http://Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 (sirbr8.com)). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from another local SIR groups and to walk on new and different trails.

We look forward to having you join in on the fun !

Glenn Breslin
925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com





Walking

Glenn Breslin



The Co-Ed SIR146 Walking Group walks for 1 to 1 1/2 hours along paved surfaces (e.g., Iron Horse or other local trails). The SIR146 Walkers enjoy getting out, catching up with friends, making new friends and enjoying entertaining conversation with fellow SIR members. Many times, we will go out for coffee afterwards to continue the fun. We walk on the first and third Thursday, each month. For some walks, we join the SIR8-Walnut Creek Walking Group. They have a large walking group and also walk on nearby trails. SIR8 Walking website can be found here: [Heads Up Walkers | SIR Branch 8 \(sirbr8.com\)](https://www.headsupwalkers.com/sir-branch-8). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people from another local SIR groups and to walk on new and different trails.

We look forward to having you join in on the fun !

Glenn Breslin

925.788.6520 glennbreslin@gmail.com

A woman went on vacation, leaving her husband behind. Before she left, she told him to take extra special care of her cat and also keep in touch with her mom.

The next day she called her husband and asked if the cat was all right. Her husband said: "The cat just died."

She burs into tears and said "How could you be so blunt? Why couldn't you have broke the news gradually? Today you could have said that it was sleeping on the roof; tomorrow, you could have said that it fell off and had broken its leg. Then on the third day, you could have said the poor thing had passed away in the night. You need to be more sensitive! By the way, did you talk to my mom, how is she?"

Husband replied "Yes, I did. She was sleeping on the roof."



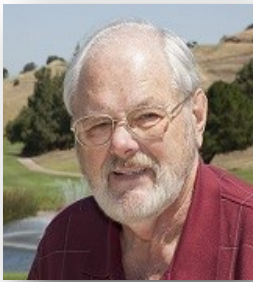
Book Corner

Peter Plante

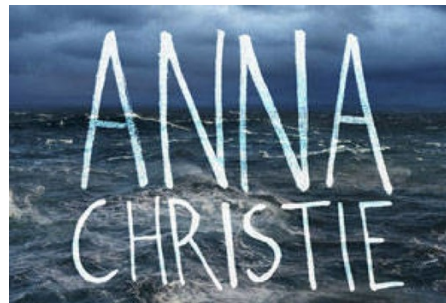
The Book Corner returns in September for the Luncheon. Thanks to everyone who took

home some of their favorites. Enjoy your reading.





Theater Gary Schaub



THREE SIR BRANCHES JOIN FOR A THEATER PARTY FOR O'NEILL'S "ANNA CHRISTIE" ON SEPTEMBER 15

Three area Branches of SIR are working together to promote a Theater Party for an award-winning play by Pulitzer-Prize playwright Eugene O'Neill at Danville's Tao House.

"Anna Christie" will be staged in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the hills above Danville on Friday evening September 15 for a 7:30 p.m. performance.

Members of SIR Branch 146, Branch 116 and Branch 128 have joined together for this Theater Party event. A special discount is available for members and guests of these three SIR Branches.

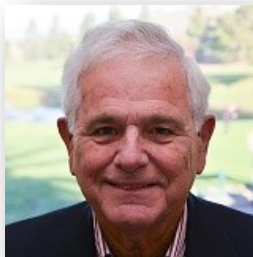
Tickets are \$60. pp on sale on the Eugene O'Neill's Foundation's website beginning July 6 and until August 15 when non-discounted tickets will go on sale to the general public.

There will be a special page on this website offering a limited number of \$5 discounts for members of the three SIR Branches.

Click on <https://eugeneoneill.org/event/sirs-tickets-to-anna-christie-sept-15/>.

Information on required shuttle access to the National Historic Site via NPS from Museum of San Ramon Valley in downtown Danville will be provided on the website: eugeneoneill.org.

O'Neill is America's only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. He lived at Tao House in the hills above Danville from 1936-1943, where he authored many notable works including "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "The Iceman Cometh." "Anna Christie" premiered in the 1920s, and evolved to become one of O'Neill's most popular works, and one of his only two comedies.



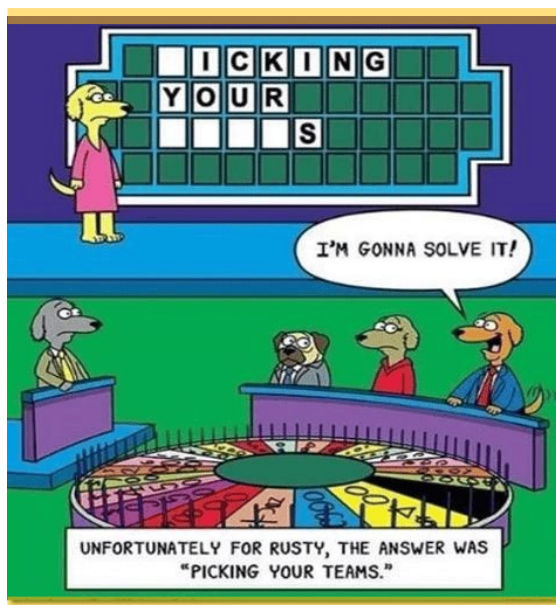
Dixieland Band Ross Abbott

We didn't meet in July because of planned PG&E power outage.

Our next meeting will be on August 23rd so come join us for some toe tapping tunes like *Carolina in the Morning* or *Five Foot Two or Sweet Georgia Brown*. 77 Karen Lane, Walnut Creek at 7pm

Ross Abbott

925.939.1121 rossabbott@hotmail.com





Cooking Lunch and Wine Paul Dubow

All eight members of the LAW (Lunch and Wine) Group met in **Joe Barry's** backyard on July 19. After our usual discussion of world events and life in general, we sat down for the very good meal that Joe provided.

We began with crackers and chips accompanied by some homemade sauces. The best was a mixture that contained prosciutto and ham. Another derived from sour cream infused with onions and sliced cucumbers. The main course was pulled pork sandwiches with coleslaw, potato salad, and watermelon---a good choice for a warm day. The sandwiches were excellent, but Joe conceded that the recipe was conceived by one of his sons. The dessert was spumoni (supplied to Joe by a local restaurateur) with cookies.

The day was enhanced by the fact that Joe's backyard is a garden of mostly succulent plants, and it is spectacular. The highlight is a blue candle cactus, which is 24 feet high. Although most of the plants are in the ground, he also has a substantial number of potted plants. He counted 354 pots a few years ago and he has added quite a few since.

While the menfolk dined at Joe's home, our wives and significant others enjoyed a repast at Pizza Antica in Lafayette. This restaurant offers some unusual pizzas, including a corn pizza that several of the guests tried. It was very good!

Paul Dubow
510.504.3566



Far end of the table. Host Joe in the middle!



寿司の友達

Sushi no tomodachi Clint Collier

Our August sushi adventure will be on August 17th when we'll head for [Jo's Honda Sushi](#) in Pleasant Hill, 150 Longbrook Way (suite C) at 11:30am! Watch for your e-mail invite to RSVP for this lunch.



I'm hoping this restaurant remains as good as I remember. If it is put on your adventurous hat... this is the place where I discovered Kazunoko!

Hot tip: Early last month I found myself in Ft. Bragg in Northern California. If you ever find yourself there and are in the sushi mood, look up Off the Hook Sushi there. Great sushi, fresh local fish, along with the usuals, and very reasonable prices. Can't do better than that. Sorry but we won't be scheduling a SIR Sushi no tomodachi lunch there!

Clint Collier
925.457.1489 SirClint@the-colliers.org



Couples Dining Out Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out group is preparing to enjoy our July event as of this writing. As noted in our June newsletter, we have selected a restaurant that we last enjoyed back in 2016.

We will be going to Lemongrass Bistro in Martinez this coming Monday, July 24. Old time participants of this activity will recall the unique Southeast Asian cuisine which takes its inspiration from the cuisines of Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. We will have 48 diners enjoying an extensive set of dishes from this part of the world.

Originally, we had planned to just duplicate the menu that we enjoyed in 2016, but upon further discussion with the owner / chef we upgraded the menu with some changes.

We will start with two appetizers – avocado rolls and grilled chicken skewers. For the salad we substituted the original green salad with a Green Papaya with Shrimp salad – a more ethnic dish. Next we will continue with the coconut soup. Then, we will continue with three entrée dishes – their signature Garlic Prawns, Mango Chicken, and traditional Pad Thai accompanied with Lemongrass Fried Rice. For dessert we will enjoy the Mango Sticky Rice. The cost for this meal was just \$52.

As those who enjoy going out to eat will testify, the cost of a glass of wine is commonly \$12 or more. We were pleased to announce that the wine at this venue will be \$9 or \$10 and the Singha Thai beer just \$7.



Corkage which at most places is \$20-\$25 is just \$15. So, we anticipate that we will be able to enjoy a wonderful meal at a reasonable price.

We will report on the details of our Dining Out experience in the next SIR-Call.

We will be searching for our next Dining Out event soon after we complete this July adventure.

Our next Dining Out event will be in September. We note that the local restaurant scene was reviewed as Best in the East Bay in the last issue of Diablo magazine. The best restaurant for fine dining was Benvenuti Ristorante in Walnut Creek – a place that we have frequented a few times. Their capacity for a larger group is somewhat limited so we've not pursued this option lately. But, with this latest endorsement we will redouble our efforts. This restaurant is closed on Monday and Tuesday, so we would have to have the Dining Out event on Wednesday, September 20. Make a note on your calendar and we will bring you details as we negotiate a menu. Another option we have considered is Swad Indian restaurant in Lafayette—also recommended in this Diablo issue. We've not gone to an Indian restaurant in the many years of this activity, and I think it's time to try one. We've checked this restaurant out and reviewed the menu and it also does not have capacity for a large group, but we will consider it for a future dining experience with a smaller group.

If you've not joined our Couples Dining Out group and wish to be added to our mailing list, let me know by sending a note to bgborgman@aol.com.

Bruce Borgman and Sue Sheldon
Dining Out Hosts
bgborgman@aol.com





Another Hit!

For Couples Dining Out!

Lemongrass

THAI CUISINE

The main restaurant was closed to other patrons for our dinner, although they were able to serve a few regular diners in their outside patio area. Probably the most notable observation is that the amount of food that was served by the capable restaurant staff was absolutely over the top. The heaping plates of the delectable Southeast Asian dishes just kept on coming and at the end of the meal we filled several of the to-go containers to take home. All the dishes were excellent examples of the savory cuisine of this part of the world. And, the service was excellent!

A notable change in our Dining Out experience over the last few months is that restaurants in the last few months have requested a personal check rather than credit card payment. The restaurant will tack a 3% fee onto the cost of the meal to offset the credit card fee if a credit card is used.

Yet another change in the economics of the restaurant experience.

We are looking forward to our next event in September!





Wine Tasting

Brian McCarthy



The July Wine Tasting was held on July 11 (due to scheduling around vacations for the Wine Tasting chairman and the hosts) at the home of **Bob and Wendy Lucido**. This was the 6th year in a row that **Bob and Wendy** hosted the July wine tasting in their backyard among the towering redwood trees.

We tasted 10 red (Syrah) and 6 white (Gewurztraminer). **Moose Kelly and Mary Schmidt** won for favorite red. **Ted and Jan Robertson** (first-time attendees) won for favorite white. The appetizers and desserts were delicious as always. From the empty bottles and the empty plates, I do believe everyone enjoyed themselves.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the next wine tasting on Tuesday, October 24 at the home of **Bob and Judy Wilkenfeld**. Details will be in the October Sir Call.

Brian McCarthy
925.324.2463





Cooking II Steve Ybarra

This month the Cooking II group was treated to an outstanding lunch of surf & turf. **Richard Hockenbrock** started us off with an hors

d'oeuvre spread of cotton candy grapes, Gouda, Brie and Cambozola cheeses, Italian salami and Prosciutto wrapped in cheese. The main course was lobster tails, beef tenderloin, half of a baked potato with all the trimmings, a Caesar salad and finally, a carrotcup cake for dessert.

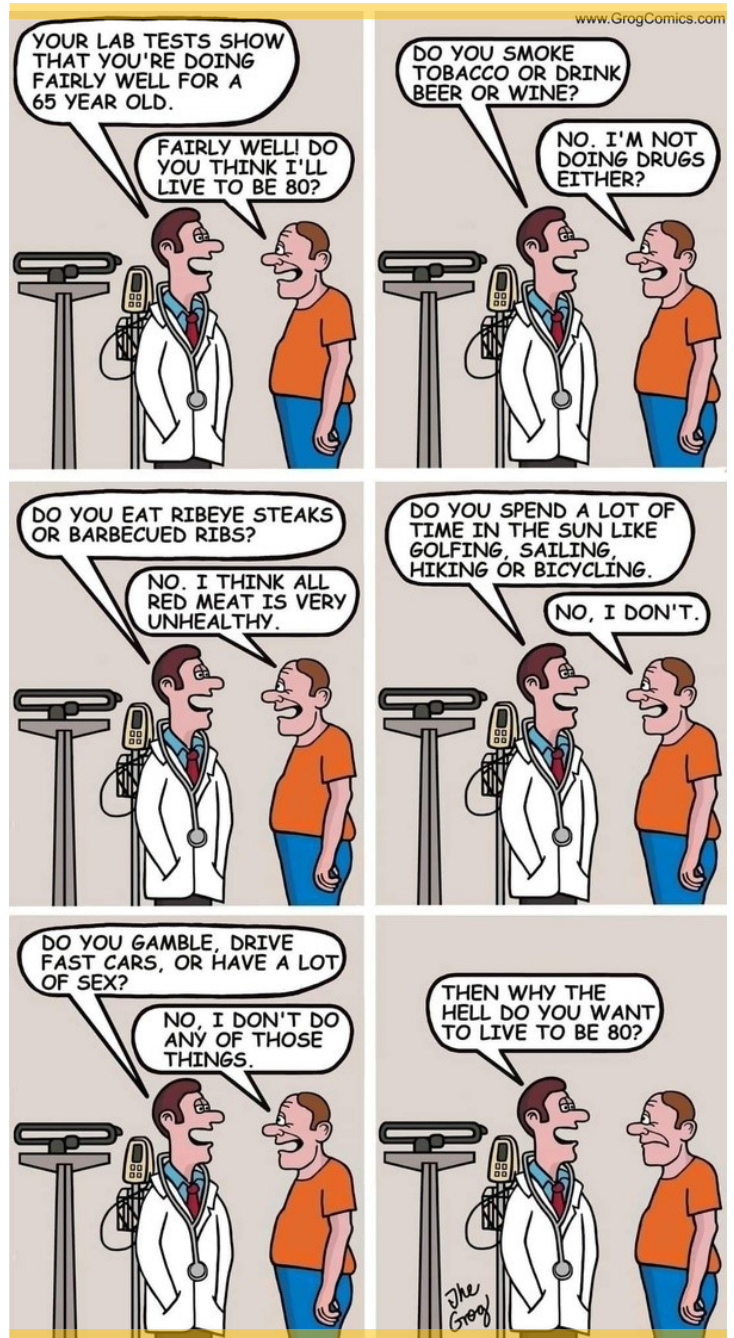
Hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed by the group in **Richard's** lovely backyard. **Corrie Oranje** will host our next lunch on August 14, at a restaurant of his choosing.



Steve Ybarra



Bruce Borgman, Corrie Oranje, Ken Richter, Steve Ybarra and Dennis Hallett. Photo by Richard Hockenbrock.



I feel bad for parents nowadays. You have to explain the birds and the bees.

Then, the bees and the bees. The birds and the birds. The birds that used to be bees. The bees that used to be birds. The birds that look like bees and the bees that look like birds but still got a stinger.

MEXICAN TRAIN Dominoes

Group Uno 1



Mexican Train Dominoes "Uno" Corrie Oranje

Wow, sometimes I think we are using Mexican Train as an excuse to get together to eat and drink! For our July game,

Mexican Train Uno met at the home of **Peter and Gabriela Bishop**.

Two tables were set up and the "red" table produced the top three winners of the evening.

The "blue" table didn't fare so well. And despite **Alicia Baily** going out 4 times, she came in next to last, so it just goes to show you that there is some skill involved as well!

First place went to **Sue Oranje** (average score 18.1), second to **Virginia Tygart** (average score of 18.6) and third place to **Corrie Oranje** (average score of 20.3).

The **Bishop's** treated us to appetizers of cheeses, fruit,

& crackers. At half time, we were spoiled with coffee and a raspberry tart and Linzer torte. Life is good!

Susan Oranje for Corrie Oranje
corrieoranje@gmail.com





Mexican Train Dominoes "Tres" Walt Busenius

On June 23rd, our smokey choo choo left the roundhouse and meandered through Walnut Creek into the countryside to the lovely home of **Alicia Baily** for another joyful night of MTD's. In addition to **Alicia**, there was **Lynn Shafer**, **Jim Stedman**, **Linda Siljestrom**, and **Sue and Walt Busenius**. We feasted on table snacks, an abundance of delicious desserts, and **Alicia's** charming hospitality.

We gathered around one table and had fun and good spirited competition. Our scores were higher and games longer than usual, but no one cares because winning is winning after socializing is socializing. For the second consecutive month, the outcome of the evening was all decided in the last game. In the last game, **Sue Busenius** surged ahead to come in first. **Linda Siljestrom** played like a steady Eddy to finish in second place and **Lynn Shafer** again in June grabbed the 3rd spot.

On July 28th, the Mexican train will exit the roundhouse after this SIR-Call is published. But that will not deter us from telling you next month about our good ole time together. All Aboard!!

Walt Busenius
925.457.7428 walterbusenius@gmail.com



Mexican Train Dominoes "Quatro" Jim Pope

El Quatro MTD was cancelled for July 21st due to member travel and conflicts.

We'll get back together on August 18th. See ya all then!

Jim Pope
jpoppe24@comcast.net



A scammer called me the other day and said he had all my passwords!
I got out a pen and paper and said, "Thank God for that. What are they?"



Mexican Train Dominoes "Cinco" Dennis Hallett

Our June 15th gathering was hosted by **Judy** and **Jim Baldrige**, who made

it very special with a Hawaiian Luau theme and Light Show-how about that ?

Needless to say, everyone had a great time and dressed for the occasion. **Dave Pierce**, with a series of low scores, came first, **Janet Yolland** second and **Judy Baldrige** third.

The Hallett's were absent due to a vacation commitment but were back, fully rested, by July 20th.

The July 20th gathering was hosted by **Anne** and **Jim Burk**. They are always wonderful hosts and made everyone feel most welcome.

Marty Campbell was able to participate and made a wonderful addition.

Ann Hallett managed to win first place by a small margin over **Dave Pierce** and **Judy Baldrige** in third place.

Jim Burk introduced us to new sets of tiles which are "All Numbers". They did appear to speed up the games.

Once again, **Anne Burk** served a wonderful dessert Chocolate cake and Ice Cream. Everyone, especially the men, cleared their plates in record time. All in all, a very delightful evening.

The next gathering is at **Joan and Dave Pierce's** home on August 17th.

Dennis Hallett

dennishallett@astound.net



July Winners



Mexican Train Dominoes "Seis" Steve Lane

MTD 6 met at **Kathe Mitchell's** beautiful home on June 28 to do battle. Thank you, **Kathe**. We had all hands-on

deck with attendees **Bruce Borgman**, **Brian** and **Mary McCarthy**, **Martha** and **Peter Plante**, **Ann** and **John Kendrick**, **Richard Hockenbrock** and **Virginia Tygart**, **John "Moose" Kelly** and **Mary Schmidt**, **Steve** and **Carol Lane**, and **Kathe Mitchell**.

In the winner's circle this month were **Steve Lane** (12.7) followed by - **Martha Plante** (16.1) and **Peter Plante** (22.1).

We look forward to our next get together on July 26, 2023, at the home of **Ann** and **John Kendrick**.

Steve Lane

925.984.0341 thelane3@aol.com.



Winner's Circle
Martha Plante, Steve Lane,
Peter Plante



Mexican Train Dominoes "Ocho" Richard Hockenbrock

More vacations kept our July 5th attendance down for the second consecutive month. Still, we had fourteen assembled

members who came ready to play. We were able to pull in two couples from the Training Corps who received their MTD training several months ago but haven't had a chance to play very much. Those four were made up of **John and Ann Kendrick** and **Joe and Chris Flannigan**. The fifth member of the Corps who filled in was **Roy Hodgkinson**.

Due to a late cancelation, Richard Hockenbrock assumed hosting activities for the evening, and he served the usual go to snacks with shrimp, various meat & cheese charcuteries, pop corn, M&Ms, and some new tasty snacks from Costco.

Now to the results. On this evening at two tables, two players achieved the lowest scores I have ever seen in a competitive Mexican Train Game. The lowest score put forth by **Steve Dinning** was an incredible **5.37** average. And just less than a full point behind him was **Pam McAllister** with an average score of **5.75**. It must have been all the hot weather and all the high broken temperatures that we have been recording; what else could it be - oh yeah, I forgot about the lottery!

Our next game will be played on the usual first Wednesday of the month, August 2nd with **Jim Barry** providing the snacks. We have had several openings over the past couple of months so I you would like to substitute, please send me an email or text to the address below.

Richard Hockenbrock
925.324.1713 rlhock@outlook.com



Pam McAllister (2nd place),
Steve Dinning (1st Place), and
Steve Ybarra (3rd place)



The two high scores for the evening were achieved by **Joe and wife Chris Flannigan**.





CARD GAMES

...we play



Men's Hearts Bob West

Since the July SIR-Call submission, we met on June 23 and July 14. The big winners were **Brian McCarthy** and **Dick Wade** each with 2 wins

The lowest average score was **Dick Wade** with 61, closely followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 62.

YTD: **Frank Lucas** still has the most wins at 15 followed by **Brian McCarthy** with 11.5 and **Steve Ybarra** with 9.

Frank Lucas leads with a winning percentage of 47%. With his wins in the last 2 months **Steve Ybarra** is now 2nd in win % with 39%. Most Improved is **Steve** with 235% of his 2022 winning percentage, followed by **Frank Lucas** with 213%. **Rich Lyon** has the lowest avg score of 67.7 followed by **Dick Wade** with 69.7.

Future Meetings: We play 3 games at Rocco's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, at noon, with an optional lunch at 11:15am. We will be meeting in August on the 11th and 25th.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or are interested in playing.

Bob West

925.518.8472 robertawest@aol.com



Old Money Poker Group 6 Brad Hatcher

Due to various player conflicts, we moved our July game to the day before the July Luncheon. **Steve Ybarra** hosted our usual six players with excellent snacks and wine.

Rich "A"hl brought his "A" game (pun intended) and did well as he was the beneficiary of several large winning hands.

We expect the next game, hosted by **Rich** on the first Thursday of the month, will allow some of us to recoup a portion of our losses.

We are still looking for players who might be willing to join us as substitutes as travel and other events bring our player total below six.

Brad Hatcher

bhatcher1942@gmail.com



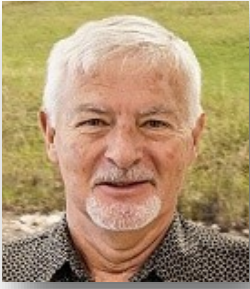
Poker Group 4 Pete Gates

Poker Group #4 resumed play in June at the home of **Pete Gates**, the current Chairman. We happily welcomed two men from Branch #19 who have now joined the group. One of them, **Dean Burke**, will host the next game at his home on July 24th.

Our group is still looking for players. We do not have any guys on our substitute roster so if you are interested in playing full time or just occasionally, please contact **Pete**. We typically meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 to 4 pm.

Pete Gates

925.937.2035 petegates10@gmail.com



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 1
John Kluesener**

We took the month of July off as three of our couples are traveling. In August we meet at the home of Rich and Ismini.

John Kluesener
john@klueseners.com



**Couples Duplicate
Bridge 2
Dave Pierce**

Tony and Cindy Greco graciously hosted us July 11th, a warm summer evening matched by the warmth of their hospitality. **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** started hot, bidding 6NT (making 7) on the very first board. And they didn't use Blackwood. **Brad** opened 1D, **Lynne** responded 2C, and it went 3D, 5C, 6NT. Great job! Points schmoints; both bid what they thought they could make. That's real bridge. Better slam bidding remains an opportunity for all of us.

At the end of the day, **Ken and Elaine Richter** tied **Rich Ahlf and Ismini MacLean** for third (49%), **Brad and Lynne** were second (59%), and **Dave and Joan Pierce** were first (66%). But we all got to enjoy **Cindy's** seasonal quilts.

Dave Pierce
925.932.3877 dwp@astound.net



**Men's Duplicate
Bridge 2
Dick DeVoe**

Our latest Duplicate Bridge 2 Event with three tables was nicely hosted by **Rich Ahlf** on Friday, July 7. Many thanks for **Mike Whitaker** to step in as Coordinator, and for **Mark Curtis** to be a very timely emergency replacement!

Joe Fuchs was tough as nails. He took 1st Place overall, 1st Place for the 1st half, and 1st Place for the 2nd half! His final score of 34.5 pts. was the highest seen in a month of Sundays. He did all this great work by virtue of 13 twos (!) and only 2 zeros. Amazing day, **Joe!**

Mark Curtis and **Tony Greco** were 2nd and 3rd respectively.!

Richard Devoe
dicknchristy@comcast.net

Still trying to get my head around the fact
that
"Take Out" can mean food, dating or murder.



Couples Party Bridge Tony Greco

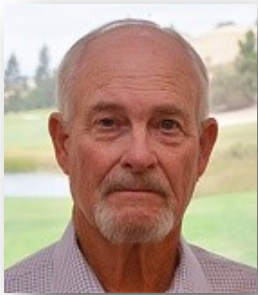
The Couples Party Bridge event for July was cancelled due to the Independence Day, 4th of July, Holiday. Our next event will be held on August 1st and hosted by **Larry and Linda Brown**.

Tony and Cindy Greco

925.934.0395 almanorwest@sbcglobal.net

Your fingers have fingertips but your toes
don't have toetips.

...and yet you tiptoe but not tipfinger.



Pinochle

Pete McNeill and Stan Johnson

If anyone has been thinking they might like to take a look at this card group, now would be a good time, as summer travel plans have typically created several openings at recent gatherings on the second and fourth Weds. of each month.

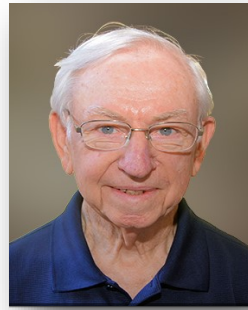
We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Rocco's Pizza, located on the S/W corner of the intersection of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove Rd. on the east side of Walnut Creek. We have lunch from 12 (Noon) until 1:00pm, and play cards from 1:00pm until approximately 3:00pm. No money, other than lunch involved, fun group.

Pete McNeill

925.858.9666 petamole@gmail.com

Stan Johnson

925.938.7016 stan.johnson88@gmail.com



Party Bridge

Jim Pope and Jim Stedman

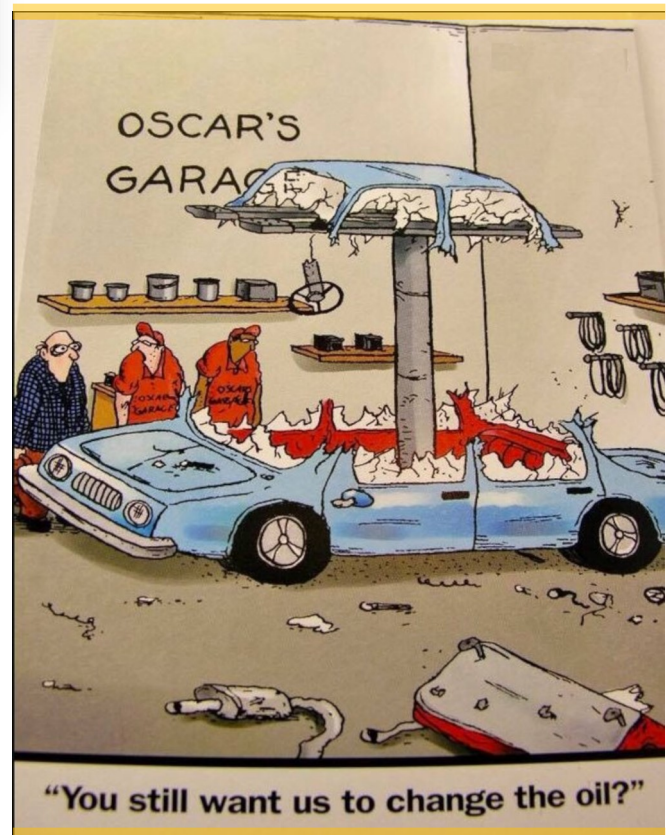
We had a wonderful day of bridge on July 10th at Boundary Oak. We had eight players for a good game hosted by **Joe Fuchs** and **Steve Dinning**. They created a good atmosphere and provided tasty goodies and dessert. Those in attendance were: **Mike Davidson, Steve Dinning, Joe Fuchs, Brad Hatcher, Max Hinkle, Jim Pope, Ray Spears, and Jim Stedman**.

The results were: **Steve Dinning** took top prize followed by **Max Hinkle** and **Mike Davidson**.

The next game will be on August 7th at the home of Bob Yolland.

Co-Directors

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



"You still want us to change the oil?"

Area 16 Activities



Area 16 \$UMS Investment Group

We will again join Branch 128's (San Ramon) Investment Group Zoom meeting on Wed August 23 at 1:30 PM.

The discussion will be to Compare and Contrast returns expected from Municipal Bonds, Corporate Bonds, CD's and Dividend Paying Stocks.

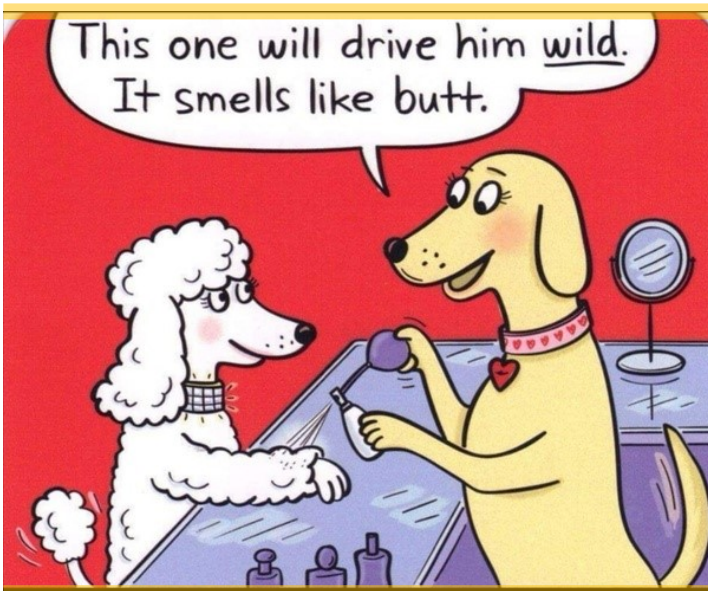
E-mail Dave Sutton to be included.

Chair Tom Henry Branch 174

tomhenry925@gmail.com

Co-chair Dave Sutton 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

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

However, here it is the last quarter of my life, and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well, seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first quarter, and that the fourth quarter was so far off that I could not visualize it or imagine fully what it would be like.

Yet here it is... my friends are retired and getting gray. They move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than I am, but I see the great change. They're not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant. But, like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day and taking a nap is not a treat anymore; It's mandatory because if I don't of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit.

And so, now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did. But at least I know that, though I'm in the last quarter and I'm not sure how long it will last, when it's over on this earth, it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done; things I should have done but truly there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in the last quarter yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, do it quickly. Don't put things off too long. Life goes by so quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're in the last quarter or not.

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of life. So, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember—and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the past years.

**'Life' is a gift to you. Be Happy! Have a great day!
Remember, it is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.**