

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Gala Ladies Day Luncheon
Thursday, December 8th
Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Entertainment By:

The Vocal Quartet "House Blend"

Gathering time: 10:45 am

Seating time: 11:45 am

*Make Reservations with Steve
Ybarra by
December 2nd Form on Page 4*



"HouseBlend" is an acapella male quartet performing pop, jazz, seasonal, folk, country, and other assorted musical genres

At the Ladies Day Luncheon, I will pass the gavel and Big Sir name tag to **Alan Elnick** with the expectation and tradition that 2017 will be another very successful year for Branch 146.

I wish you a happy holiday season!!

Big Sir's Notes

Walt Busenius



As I write my last thoughts for the SIR CALL just before Thanksgiving, sincere gratitude and thankfulness come to mind for all the help and advice so many of you have given me this year. I especially thank the Branch Executive Committee for their support

during my tenure. It is a great team!!

At November's meeting it was a pleasure watching our prestigious Branch Certificate of Appreciation being awarded to **Ron Binder** and **Doug Eisner** and having **Robert "Bob" White**, sponsored by **Steve Sprague**, join our branch. We also welcomed three guests whom we hope will become members in the next year.

Our popular December Gala Ladies Day Luncheon is just around the corner on Thursday, December 8th at the Boundary Oak Clubhouse. There is still time to sign up. It is by reservation only and Sirs without partners are welcome. No tickets will be sold at the door. Please see page 4 of this SIR CALL issue for sign-up instructions. The deadline for signing up is very soon, Friday, December 2nd. This festive gala will be filled with holiday music.

As I reflect on the past year, so many members deserve to be recognized for their hard work and dedication -- too many to mention individually. However, a few deserve a special shout-out for their efforts: **Max Hinkle**, retiring Luncheon Chairman; **Ben Gleason**, retiring Membership Chairman; **Jim Barry**, retiring Treasurer; **Richard Hockenbrock**, the continuing SIR CALL editor and retiring 2nd Term Director; **Jerry Kaplan**, our energetic Activities Chairman; and **Al Munayer** who stepped up to fill in as Publicity Chairman.

I would also like to thank our 2nd Term retiring Directors **Bob Spellman**, **Brad Hatcher** and **Corrie Oranje**, as well as our Activity and Administrative Chairmen who have volunteered their time and effort in keeping Branch 146 running smoothly. Without dedicated volunteers, our branch would not have grown to be recognized as one of the premier branches in all of SIR-dom!

SIR Mission Statement

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



Little Sir's Corner

Alan Elnick

I am writing to you from the Big Apple where the holiday season shows itself in all its color and flair. The stores are all decorated, the street lights aglow, it promises to be a fitting finale for what has been, for many, a most memorable year. On Thursday, December 8th, we will be hosting our final event for the year, our Gala Ladies' Day Luncheon at Boundary Oak. This well attended event features a special menu and a program featuring "*The House Blend Quartet*". HouseBlend has entertained us before at a May luncheon, and they promise us a selection of holiday and just plain "good ole faire". Your favorable reviews of their past performance convinced us to bring them back again.

Please be sure to send your reservations and menu choices by December 2nd to **Steve Ybarra, 142 Leonard Dr., Concord, CA 94518-1213**, so that you and yours don't miss this joyful event. The reservation form is found on page 4 of the SIR CALL. There is NOT much time left. As always, singles are welcome and **Steve** will take care of the seating arrangements.

Steve Ybarra and Steve Dawkins donate a large amount of time organizing our Ladies' Day events, and they do us a great service. Let us make sure we show them our appreciation.

Little Sirs eventually grow up and become Big Sirs. I would like to thank our many members whose suggestions and assistance for speakers helped us develop some nice programs this year. Keep those suggestions coming as **Bruce Borgman** will be our Little Sir next year. It is time to focus on family and friends. Have a great holiday season, and let's look forward to a great new year!

Sean: Knock, knock.

Fawn: Who's there?

Sean: Murray.

Fawn: Murray who?

Sean: Murray Christmas, one and all!



Membership

Ben Gleason

Branch 146 Statistics

Our active membership fell to 285 in November, a loss of two members. We inducted one new member and one returned to active status. Two members resigned and two were granted inactive status.

Remember to meet and get to know the new guys (they are the ones with the yellow badges). If you see anyone who is sitting or standing by himself introduce yourself and chat for a while. Please make everyone feel welcome.

Status Changes

New Member Additions in November 2016



Bob W. White

(Yes, a second **Bob White**)

Returned to Active: **Bob Wedin**

Active members out: **John George** – Resigned

Paul Remack – Resigned

Darlo Boone – Inactive

Edwin Walker - Inactive

SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy

Will: Where do snowmen keep their money?

Bill: Beats me.

Will: In a snow bank.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Doug Eisner (left) is presented the branch Certificate of Appreciation Award by Big Sir **Walt Busenius** at the November luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Ron Binder (left) is also presented the branch Certificate of Appreciation Award by Big Sir **Walt Busenius** at the November luncheon

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



(L-R) **Ed Marlovits, Lynn Freeman** (recognized at the luncheon as one of the long serving veterans and founding member of SIR Branch 146) , **Bill Snyder, Rich Ahlf** , and **Dick Bohling**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



(L-R) The Marine Corps luncheon table **Bill Schultz, Bill Laws, Jim Brown, Fred Bolton, Bill Rees, Milt Smith, and Ron Plachy**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Sirs engaged in conversation before the luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

John Aaro is the birthday boy winner for the month of November

SIR Happenings Newsletter

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

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Walt Busenius installs the new BEC members for 2017



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Jeff Baily, Jim Stedman, and Jim Pope sitting and ready for lunch



Sunshine

John Pearl

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

- ◆ Jim Saavedra
- ◆ Bob Walton
- ◆ Lynn Freeman
- ◆ Al Twyford
- ◆ Steve Olsen
- ◆ Ken Richter
- ◆ Dennis Hallett
- ◆ John Lewis
- ◆ Elmer Kaprielian

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

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

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

John Pearl, Sunshine Chair

mcpearl@astound.net

925-934-6920

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



(L-R) Golf is probably the subject at this table with George Mon, Pete McNeill, and a standing Joe Fuchs



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

It is November and the weather is getting cold and a bit rainy, but the fishing has been terrific. The best action has been trout fishing at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in Pleasanton. The

Shadow Cliffs "season" runs from approximately October to April. It was a bust last year while this year, so far at least, it has been spectacular. Almost everyone has caught limits of fish up to 5 pounds and the fishermen have often been off the water with those limits by 9:30 am. Many members of our club were successful anglers, including **Reggie Fromm, Gene Schulting, Lee Clark, and Pete Gates** of Branch 146. In addition, **Carl Moyer, Terry Miller, and Gordon Linebaugh** caught a limit of trout at San Pablo Reservoir just before it closed for the winter.

Out on the Delta, **Tom Kostik, Joe Miscione Terry Miller, Joe Karg, Stan Wong, Mike Corker, and Pete Gates** had great success fishing for stripers, catching lots of them with several over 20 lbs. In addition to this, crab season opened on November 1 and **Raleigh Davis and Stan Wong** cashed in with big crabs (and some rockfish) fishing from party boats.

Some of us journeyed out of state and did well. **Ernie Wong** spent three cold, windy days at Pyramid Lake in Nevada but caught and released seven big cutthroat trout, weighing up to 10 pounds fly fishing from a ladder. **Howard Berkman** picked up porgies fishing in the Atlantic off New York City. **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 fished with his son and grandson in Key West and caught and released some large grouper and a bevy of yellow tailed snappers before being grounded by rain and wind.

We also ate as well as fished. **Carl Moyer** hosted our semi-annual fish fry at his home and the group feasted on smoked salmon appetizers prepared by **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 and rockfish and ling cod prepared by **Carl** and cooked by **Gordon Linebaugh, Lee Clark, and Paul Dubow**.

We will be very busy this winter fishing for catfish, stripers, sturgeon, and trout. If you want to take part, please join us at our next meeting at Legends Bar & Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am, but breakfast begins at 7:30. For further information call Big Fish **Paul Dubow** at (415) 495-6504.



Photography Group

Richard Hockenbrock

The photography group takes a break over the holidays so the next meeting will be the last Friday in February.

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

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

Richard Hockenbrock

Email: rhock@pacbell.net

Cell: (925) 324-1713

Home Phone: (925) 935-7464

Next Meeting

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

Subject: Automatically download pictures to the cloud

When: February 24th, 2017 at 9:00 am - 11:00 am



Fishing Group member **Lee Clark** and 3 lb. rainbow trout



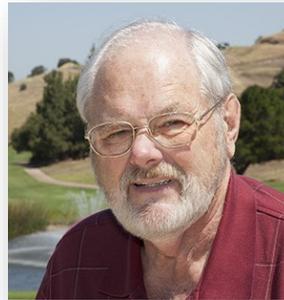
Acoustic Musicians
Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of SIR Acoustic Musicians Group. Please note new address and directions: Tuesday, 2 pm, December 6th, 654 Francisco Ct, in Bancroft Village. From 680 exit Treat Blvd, go east, right on Bancroft, right on La Corso Circle, immediate right on La Corso Drive, left on Via Appia, Left on Francisco Ct. Park @ end of Francisco Ct. by the pool or on Via Appia. Don't park on Francisco. two cars can park in driveway. 654 Francisco is 2nd house from corner on left. If you are lost call 925-864-2641.

We will provide details of each song to make it easy to enjoy our music. Please bring paper & pen.



Carl Tilchen re-wrote the Ramsey Lewis hit "I'm In With The Ram" to "I'm In With The SIR Crowd" and sang it at the SIR Branch 146 November luncheon as **Bruce Borgman** looked on



Theatre
Gary Schaub



Musical Revue is next for SIR 146 Theater Party

A toe-tapping musical revue of popular rock and blues songs is on tap as the next SIR 146 Theater Party. **Smokey Joe's Café** is planned for Friday, March 17th at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. Curtain time is 8:00 pm.

This lively show features the music of songwriters Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller and includes over three dozen of their most popular and familiar songs. There are novelty songs like "Yakety Yak", "Charlie Brown", and "Hound Dog", as well as familiar ballads and romantic songs like "Fools Fall in Love" and "Stand By Me". Songwriters Lieber and Stoller provided music for a generation.

Smokey Joe's Café ran for 2,036 performances on Broadway making it the longest-running musical revue in Broadway history. The production also had a popular run in London. The show won great critical response and was nominated as Tony Award "Best Musical" in 1995. It also won a Grammy Award Best Musical Show Album that year.

A limited number of reduced-rate tickets for **Smokey Joe's Café** have been reserved for SIR members and guests for the March 17th performance. Tickets are \$25 per person and may be reserved with a check payable to SIR 146 and mailed to Sir **Gary Schaub, 1400 Canyonwood Court, #8, Walnut Creek**. If you have questions, call **Gary** at (925) 938-5454.

*** Deadline for reservations is February 24th. ***

Tickets will be distributed in the lobby of the Town Hall Theater, 3535 School Street (at Moraga Rd.) on March 17th beginning at 7:30 pm. On-street parking is available near the theater.



Cooking II

Bob Yolland

Cooking II held its annual wine bottling at the **Yolland's** home on November 14th. This year we bottled a North Coast Petite Sirah which turned out to be very smooth and nice. Each member of our group ended up with 16 bottles of good

wine at a reasonable cost.

This event includes the wives so everyone brought part of the dinner. The **Cammerers, Halletts, and Roberts** brought three great appetizers consisting of a spinach dip, salami and parma ham encased cheese, and a super baked cheese and artichoke dish with crackers. The **Yollands** fixed baby back ribs, red potatoes and cheese biscuits. The **Dawkins and Oranjes** brought an excellent Caesar salad and a great cabbage salad. Last but not least, the **Borgmans and Richters** brought a beautiful layered apple cheese cake and an excellent pumpkin crumble for dessert.

With great weather the gals were able to sit outside while the guys bottled the wine on the lawn. Since it was red wine and it is impossible not to spill some, the spills fertilized the lawn. It turned out to be a truly outstanding event.

We would like to give a big thank you to **Ron Plachy** for formatting our personalized Petite Sirah labels, **Bill Cammerer** and **Bruce Borgman** for picking up the wine Saturday in Half Moon Bay, **Steve Dawkins** for

getting some last minute extra empty wine bottles, **Bob and Janet Yolland** for hosting the event and the entire Cooking II group and their wives for making it a great evening.

Our next lunch will be hosted by **Corrie Oranje** on Monday, January 9th.



Fishing Group picture of **Tom Schulting, Reggie Fromm, and Gene Schulting** at Shadow Cliffs



Table Pool

Bill Weinberg

We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masses, 2721

North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play at other times during the day for the same \$5. Just tell them you are a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.

2016 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

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

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Corrie Oranje
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Brad Hatcher
Publicity	Al Munayer

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



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

The Couples Dining Out activity had an end-of-the-year celebration at our best restaurant yet. We went to Vic Stewart's – "Famous for Steaks" in Walnut Creek. This restaurant has received wonderful reviews and even a national award for being a great place, particularly for steaks. We went on Tuesday, November 15th, and enjoyed a dinner that started with a Caesar salad, then a choice of four entrees, including an 8 oz filet mignon and a 16 oz ribeye steak, as well as a chicken and salmon dish. Dessert was a combination of three mini-desserts. The ambiance of the restaurant was wonderful and we had ample room in the comfortable living room style Grill Room for our social hour prior to the dinner. Despite the fact that this dinner was a bit higher in cost, we had 53 diners and all agreed that we should have this kind of upscale dinner every year.

Our next event will be in the new year, and we are actively taking suggestions on where we shall go. We will likely have the event on January 16th or 17th – mark your calendars. If you have not joined us, put this event on your list. It is a great way to meet new friends or renew old friendships.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Sue Sheldon & Bruce Borgman at Couples Dining Out



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Don & June Seaton with Sue & Lo McCarley

Walking Group

John Lewis

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

*Call **John** for current walk.*

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 825-3561



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dick and Janice Woodman at Couples Dining Out



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Wendy & Bob Lucido at Couples Dining Out



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Al & Diane Munayer at Couples Dining Out



Book Group

Chuck Campbell

The SIR Book Group met Monday, October 31st, to discuss *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Hochschild. She is a Berkeley based sociologist and was attempting to understand why conservative Republicans, who were impacted by severe environmental problems caused by the petrochemical industry, would remain loyal to the Republican cause. Her investigation included five years of interviews with people in small Louisiana communities located among a number of petrochemical industries. The environmental problems confronting the study area included polluted waterways, lost fish and wildlife, and sink holes.

Hochschild made clear to the interviewees her background and the purpose of her study. She found that the local residents wanted the environmental problems to be solved but wanted the State and other local governments, not the Federal government, to take on the problems. There were also some feeling among those interviewed that businesses and industry were able to regulate themselves, and outside regulators were not needed. She also noted a general feeling among many that one would have to live with the industry which caused environmental issues in their area if they wanted jobs and a good economy.

Our group consensus was that the study was conducted fairly and well documented with about a third of the book dedicated to interview notes and references. While limited in geographic scope to a small area of Louisiana, the author was attempting to understand and document the feelings of Tea Party Members (as much as 20% of the US population agree with their ideas).

For our next book we selected *Hero of the Empire* by Candice Millard. We will meet on Monday, December 12th at a location yet to be determined.

We had 12 Sirs attending our last meeting and the current group felt that we should limit the group size to 12. Any prospective group members should contact Jerry Kaplan regarding starting a second book group.

Amanda: What's the difference between Santa's reindeer and a knight?

Robert: What?

Amanda: One slays the dragon, and the other's draggin' the sleigh.



Dale Haukland with **Alicia** and **Jeff Bailly** at the November 15th SIR Couples Dining Out at Vic Stuart's Steakhouse



Ken Richter shares a moment with **Sue Busenius** at the November 15th SIR Couples Dining Out at Vic Stuart's



When she is not winning at the race track **Shari** and **George Carpenter** enjoyed dining with the SIR Couples Dining Out November 15th at Vic Stuart's

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

The Mexican Train Group One's November Game Night was held on the 11th at the warm Walnut Creek home of Sir **Bruce Borgman** and his wife, **Sue Sheldon**. Seventeen members of the group were present; **John "Moose" Kelly** came as a newbie and learned to play the game. He is ready to become a substitute for the group in the future.

For the second month in a row, **Susan Kaplan**, wife of Sir **Jerry**, won five of the eight games played at her table, and averaged 12.3 points per game. However, Sir **Peter Plant's** wife, **Martha**, had the overall lowest average score of the evening, averaging a low of 9.0 points over 9 games played, winning 3 of them. Sir **Corrie Oranje** grabbed a third place finish with a 13.6 average.

The group completed the second half of 2016 season (we don't meet in December). **Susan Kaplan** won the top prize of \$53, averaging only 14.7 points left in her hand after playing 46 different games during the six months. She was followed by **Carmen Schiavone** (an average of 19.3) in second place, worth \$26, with third place going to **Sherry Hockenbrock**, wife of Sir **Richard**, who won \$9 with an average of 19.4.



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

MTDUNO last meeting of 2016 at the **Borgman's** home. (L-R) **Carmen Schiavone, Rob Melrose, Bruce Borgman, Corrie Oranje, Martha Plant, Marie Ascatigno, Sue Sheldon, Susan Kaplan, Frank Ascatigno, Jerry Kaplan, Richard Hockenbrock, Jim Stedman, John Kelly, Sherry Hockenbrock, Peter Plant, Sue Oranje, and Sig Kalteis**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 2 (DOS)

Dick Woodman

The October game night was hosted by **Bill** and **Bernice Cammerer**. Again, **Janice** and I were unable to attend but all reports indicate the **Cammerers** hosted a great evening of many goodies and great games. The scores indicate there was plenty of competition at all three tables. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Anne Plachy took first place with 13.6 average points per game followed by **Ismini MacLean** with 14.2 for second place and **Rich Ahlf** with 14.5 for third place. **Don Dotson** followed closely behind. Congratulations to all our winners.

Our November game night will actually be played December 9th at **Don and Etta Dotson's**. The pressure is building for the 2016 June-November Pot. The following are the standings of the top five scorers as of the end of October: **Rich Ahlf** with 16.6 cumulative average points per game; **Janice Woodman** with 19.4; **Anne Plachy** with 20.5; **Ismini MacLean** with 22.3 and **Mary Denney** with 22.6.

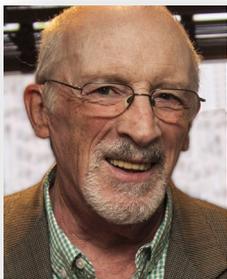


Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

Our Cinco Group met on Thursday evening, November 17th, at **Dave & Joan Pierce's** lovely home in Walnut Creek. We welcomed back into the fold **Dennis Hallett** and wife **Ann** from their trip to Germany. As a "return home" gift, we all made sure that the **Halletts** were the big winners of the night with **Dennis** garnering the number one spot, and **Ann** being the runner up. **Dave Pierce** came in a very respectable third. The remainder of us were still suffering from the "Curse of The Goat" now no longer in the possession of the World Series Winning Chicago Cubs.

Joan Pierce, our terrific hostess, served us a delicious pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream that rivaled those that Mom used to make. We look forward to our next outing in December at the **Campbell's** when we will celebrate the Holiday Season as we attempt to improve on our collective MTD performances.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

A light October turnout of 9 people, including substitutes **Corrie** and **Susan Oranje**, spent a very enjoyable evening at **Jeff and Alicia Baily's** home—4 ladies at 1 table and

5 guys at the second table.

First prize went to **Larry Brown** with the low score average of 14.4. **Larry** went out an amazing 5 times to secure first place just ahead of **Corrie Oranje** who came in with a low score average of 18.9 after going out to end 2 games. Third prize went to **Linda Brown** with a score of 20.6 after ending 4 out of 10 games by going out.

All the games ended just in time to see the bottom of the 9th last pitch to the Cubs and a strike to end the game with Indians 1, Cubs 0. Oh well, there are a few more games to go.



Photo by Jeff Baily

L to R, **Corrie Oranje**, **Linda Brown** and **Larry Brown** holding their prize money



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

The El Quattro Mexican Train Domino group met on October 28th and many were in costume. The Domino competition was intense and scores were close. The food by the ladies was superb with homemade caramel corn, cheeses and fruit and Halloween pumpkin small petit fours. Our next El Quattro Mexican Train Dominos will be our Thanksgiving/Christmas Dominos on December 2nd.



Photo by Renie Pope

L-R: **Henry Thatcher**, **Kim Pace (Sub)**, **Sue McCarley**, **Dick DeVoe** (in back), **Christy DeVoe**, **Barbara Thatcher**, **June Seaton**, **Lo McCarley**, and **Don Seaton**

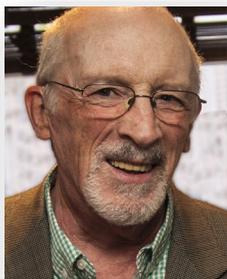


Photo by Bill Schultz

Golf play at Boundary Oak on October 25th with **Vince Rettew**, **Lou Thompson**, **Bill Danzig**, and **Doug Eisner**

Mexican Train Dominoes note:

All five of the Mexican Train Dominoes groups have a substitute list so people can fill in when some of the regular members cannot play. Each of the 5 chairs is asking their current substitute list if they are interested in subbing in another group if they are available. This will allow more Sirs to meet other branch members and play more often. If there is sufficient interest in forming a Sixth Mexican Train Dominoes group, **Jerry Kaplan** will be happy to help get it organized.



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Lynn and Sally Shafer hosted the November games shortly after arriving at OAK on a flight from Portland, Oregon to visit family. They had less than 90 minutes from

arriving home until game time to set up the tables and food etc. for the games yet, when the players arrived, everything was perfectly done as if they had spent days preparing. Nice work **Lynn and Sally**.

We had two tables and an even number of ladies and men so we had a men's and a ladies' table.

At the ladies table **Sue Busenius** went out twice to score an average of 20.5 points per game and come in an overall 3rd place. Remember that in this game, like golf, the low score wins.

After such a hectic day **Sally Shafer** remained cool, scored a zero in one game by going out and secured the overall 2nd place with an average in eight games of 17.5. At the men's table the real cool dude was **Jim Stedman** who went out four times out of 8 games! (the particular game is over upon the first player going out by "posting" all his or her tiles on various trains, thus scoring zero) Occasionally **Jim** took a little flak about being so studious but when he's hot he's hot and takes first prize.

Editors Note: Reports and events covered on this page were not expected to be in the month's copy therefore they are included here and not in their normal position in this month's report.

An elderly, but hardy cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbor that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning.

She did this religiously and lived to the age of 103. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a 40 foot hole where the crematorium used to be.



Luncheon Chairman Max Hinkle

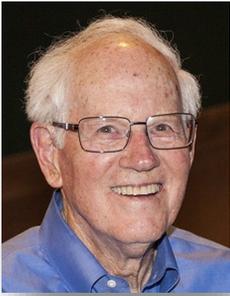
November's Attendance: We consumed and paid for 217 meals at our November luncheon. We had guaranteed payment for 216, setting the kitchen's commitment at 227. As I

strive to have the number of meals consumed and paid for fall somewhere between the number we guarantee and the kitchen's commitment I was pleased with the outcome on this issue at this luncheon. 212 of the meals served were to members of Branch 146, equaling 74.6% of our membership. We experienced only 11 No Shows-the same as for the October luncheon. The 4.2 No Show percentage was almost as low as any we've had during the past two years. Over the course of the past two years this No-Show percentage has shrunk substantially. The only reason I can think of is the practice of e-blasting a series of two deadline notices in the week preceding the luncheon. Four of the "timely notifiers" were Advance Payers. It is a boost to the treasury when an Advance Payer gives timely notice of non-attendance.

January 2017 Luncheon: Please note on your calendars that our next regular monthly meeting will be held on THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2017 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek.

Swan Song Encore: This is my last article for the SIR CALL as Luncheon Attendance Chairman as I am retiring. Rob Melrose has graciously agreed to take on the responsibilities of this chair. You have been kind to me with your expressions of praise and gratitude and the withholding of criticism when I fell short of my goals and your expectations. Many thanks for that. I know you will accord Rob this same courtesy.





Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Six couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on November 16th at **Anne Johnson's** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and enjoyed **Anne's** snacks, dessert and wines. There were three substitutes; **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**, and **Fred Bolton**. As for the bridge results, **Bill** and **Margaret** came in first with 24.5 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** came in second with 23 points and in third place, with 19.5 points, were **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe**. **Jim Brown** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on December 14th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Fred Kovar graciously hosted 3 tables of Duplicate Bridge Group 1 on November 21st. The morning session was routine except that **Fred Bolton** jumped off to a fast start with 16.5 pt for 1st place, no doubt aided by his partners. **Jim Brown** was hot on his heels with 14.5 pt for 2nd place with **Rich Ahlf** close behind in 3rd place with 14.0 pt.

However, the afternoon session was truly noteworthy as for the first time in recent memory the morning session leader held his lead and ended the day in 1st place! **Fred Bolton** was the beneficiary of this turn of events as his 28.5 pt was good enough for 1st place ahead of the second place tie between **Max Hinkle** and **Rich Ahlf** with 27.5 pt.

Jim Brown will host our December 19th game.



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

There was warm weather and even warmer cards when **Larry and Linda Brown** hosted us on All Saints Day. The Saints must be avid bridge players. **Dave** and **Joan Pierce** were 3rd (2970), a mere 30 points ahead of **George** and **Pam Rammell**; **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were 2nd (3500); **Dick** and **Christy DeVoe** were 1st with a mighty 3840. Our hosts were generous with snacks, dessert, and a total lack of high cards — Bummer! As usual, the social content of the evening was as warm as the cards. We all look forward to December, the season of giving. Please give the Browns their share.



Photo by Bill Schultz

Golfing at Boundary Oak on October 25th with **Bill Schultz**, **Dan Holland**, and **Larry Gray**



Photo by Jeff Baily

The ever present SIR Greeters at the November luncheon (L-R) **Steve Ondeck**, **Joe Nelms**, **Rich Lyon**, and **Michael Connors**

"Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 group was nicely hosted by **Tony Greco** on November 18th. Here are the results of that event:

1st Place: Charlie Abrams definitely brought his "A" game today, comfortably taking 1st place in three (3!) categories. He had a VERY high 33.5 pointer overall, a VERY high 18 points the 1st half, and coasted home with 15.5 points the 2nd half -- his 3rd high for the day. To top it off, he had the fewest number of zeros (2) and tied **Mike Whitaker** with 9 two's. Whew! Congratulations, **Charlie!**

2nd Place: Mike Whitaker easily took 2nd with 28 pts. based on consistent strong play with 14.5 (1st half 2nd tie) and 13.5. As mentioned above, he also tied for high with 9 two's. Nice going, **Mike.**

3rd Place: Jim Brown's 27 pts. slid him into 3rd overall, capitalizing on a tie for 2nd with 14.5 (1st half) and 13.5 in the 2nd half. Good work, **Jim.**

Comeback Kid: Host **Tony Greco** started off slow (obviously due to his hospitality duties) but came on strong in the 2nd half — amassing the largest spread (5 points) between his 1st and 2nd half, while tying for 2nd in that last half. Kudos, **Tony.**

(Reported by Dick DeVoe)

Attention

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

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

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

Tim: Did you know Santa had only eight reindeer last Christmas?

Jim: Huh?

Tim: Comet stayed home to clean the sink.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We played four tables of bridge on November 7th at the home of **Fred Bolton**. First place went to **Fred Kovar** with 6310 points, followed by **Bob Yolland** with 5940, then by **Fred Bolton** with 4870.

Our next game will at the home of **Jim Jackson** on December 5th.



Couples Duplicate

Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Election night, and we took our minds off the returns by playing at **Tony and Cindy Greco's** home. **Brad and Lynne Hatcher** were 3rd (20 matchpoints, 50%), a mere half point ahead of the **Grecos**. **Larry and Linda Brown**, who suffered such poor cards last week, were 2nd (22½, 56%). What's gotten into **Dick and Christy DeVoe**? They were 1st last week with a massive lead and again this week (25, 63%). They're hot. Too bad some of our preferred candidates were not.



"I'm running behind. Can you take half the list and deliver the toys?"

When asked about his job, Frosty always replies, "There's no business like snow business."



Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

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



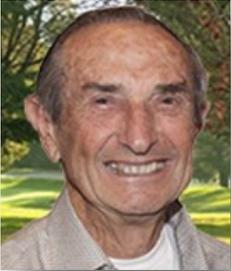
Poker Group 5

Bill Roberts

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

Frank Rockwell, and Paul Dubow.

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



Poker Group 2

Al Zamolo

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



Poker Club 3

Sig Kalteis

*Poker Club 3 meets on the fourth Monday of the month. We usually play at my house. Contact **Sig Kalteis** if you would like to be on the list as a substitute.*

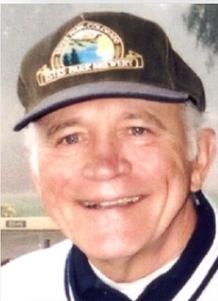


Old Money Poker Group 6

Al Twyford

Harvey Oxman, Brad Hatcher, Norm Baietti, Frank Lucas, Bob Larson, Howard Charlop, and newbie **Charlie Abrams** met at **Harvey's** table for another fun

afternoon. **Harvey** again started the afternoon with a Royal (with the help of 3 wild cards). At one point, **Frank** had to dip further into his wallet, but then immediately proceeded to win the next 6 hands. **Norm** was the big winner with \$9. Question: Has anyone out there ever heard of 4-Card Omaha? Our next scheduled game is Thursday, December 1st. Our host will be **Rich Ahlf** at his home in Clayton. We look forward to another fun game, the last game of 2016, right before Christmas.



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

Our next session, on November 28th, will be hosted by Sir **Garth Cummings**. At our last session in October, our host Sir **Bob Mehus**, contributed the beer and snacks. We are not meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday but will resume

in January when the host will be Sir **Pete Gates**.





Cooking Lunch and Wine

Frank Rockwell

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

We gather at 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.

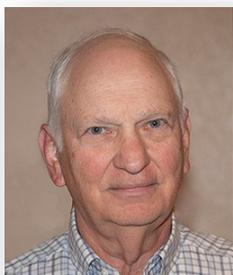


Couples Golf

Paul Masta

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

*We are actively seeking new members, so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group at (925) 933- 3612 or pamasta03@yahoo.com.*



GOLF

Ed Marlovits

Golf is a very popular branch activity with over 100 registered golfers. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak; players are randomly paired and scheduled. Guests are welcome so feel free to check us out! We will pair you with a member of the golf committee. Our members have handicaps ranging from 8 to 40 so you will fit right in.

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

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

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

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

If you would like to participate in Branch 146 Golf, contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. If you are curious, we will add you to the distribution of our weekly golf email.



Nine Hole Golf Group

Verner Laursen

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

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

vlaursen@astound.net



Chuck Campbell and Larry Gray show the ropes to prospective new member **Jay Gordon**



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

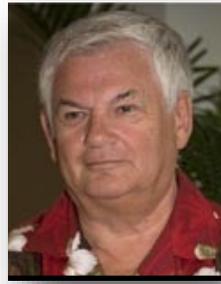
Our next tasting is scheduled for February 22nd; however, we are still looking for a venue. If you enjoy these little get togethers, please consider volunteering to host this event.

If you can host, please contact Rob Melrose at RWMelrose@gmail.com. If you can't or don't feel like you can accommodate a large group, we can limit the number of participants. The hosts determine the wines we will be tasting, so if you have an interest in a region, even more incentive to volunteer your home.

If you are interested in attending future Wine Tasting Events and are not on the email list, please email Rob Melrose @ rwmelrose@gmail.com

2017 Wine Tasting Schedule

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



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs were pleased to join with the rest of our group to honor the veterans at our November luncheon. We sang a medley of all the service songs, and finished with a rousing rendition of "Stouthearted Men". With the addition of our two newest members, we have a good group and have arranged for a performance at the Carlton Senior Living Facility in Pleasant Hill. We have sung there before and always get a warm reception. We will sing at 2:00 pm on Thursday, December 1st, with a repertoire that includes a series of patriotic songs and a number of familiar Christmas carols. Practicing these has put us in the holiday spirit!

We are lucky to have a talented pianist – Steve Dinning who can play practically anything from sight – quite a skill! And we have a number of soloists who will be singing some of the selections.

If you are in the neighborhood, you can slip into the back when we sing and enjoy our performance in this facility located at 175 Cleaveland Road. Maybe you'll even be inspired to come to one of our rehearsals – you will have a great time! We practice every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church's Multiuse Room. Come and see what we are all about!



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Day at the Races

A total of about 20 Sirs from our branch (some with their significant others or friends) came to Golden Gate Fields on a beautiful Friday afternoon on November 4th to enjoy a delicious buffet lunch, wager on "the ponies," and enjoy the sport of kings. Almost everyone who came enjoyed the food and the wagering; some won a little and some lost a little, but one in particular went home with a few dollars more than when she started. **Shari Carpenter**, wife of Sir **George**, bet on six of the nine races offered that afternoon and, -ready- WON FIVE OF THE SIX taking home about \$226. **George** also won one race, but his picks paled in comparison to his wife's. A picture of **Shari** collecting some of her winnings is on the right, plus some other Sirs who attended the afternoon are on page 19.

Thanks to our new Travel Chair, **Milt Smith**, for arranging the day, AND, if **Shari** is going to go to the event next year, many of us will want to sit closer to her table.

Be on the lookout for information regarding day trips to Mare Island and the Sacramento Underground coming soon in this column.

(Written by Jerry Kaplan, Activities Chair)

Photo by Jerry Kaplan



Shari Carpenter collecting her winnings at SIR Day at the Races

Pictures from SIR DAY at the Races November 4th



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Milt & Carolyn Smith



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Milt Smith showing his winnings at Day at the Races



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Shari & George Carpenter



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Steve Dawkins studies the racing program before placing his bets



Photo by Jerry Kaplan

Sue and Walt Busenius show their hopeful winning tickets at Day at the Races

Q: What do you call cheese that's not yours?
A: Nacho cheese!

Question: What goes up and never comes down?
Answer: Up