



## Big Sir's Notes Stu Somerville

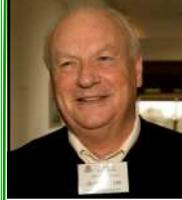
Almost 10 years ago in the Sir Call, Big Sir **Jack Calloway** repeated an old saying, "there is no point in retiring unless you have something to look forward to." Back then and even more so today, Branch 146 offers many activities for our members to engage in with their friends, for example, computer classes, bridge, poker, golf, walking—too many to list. Which brings me to my next point. Members and committee chairmen need to actively look at the Branch Calendar on our web site.

**Chuck Bobinecz** is our Calendar Chairman. He maintains the calendar on our web site for all to see and use. Members should be able to find at least one activity each week to enjoy.

Committee Chairmen must be sure to use the Branch Calendar to make sure an activity is listed properly and to check for schedule conflicts when scheduling a new event or activity. As most of you know, the calendar is available at [www.sir146.com](http://www.sir146.com). Chairmen can call or email **Chuck** to schedule an event or change a date. **Chuck's** telephone number is 925-939-8740 or [bobinecz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobinecz@sbcglobal.net).

If you are interested in a leadership position in the branch or if you would like to recommend a member, please contact a member of the nominating committee for consideration. The committee is chaired by **Jeff Baily** and includes **Jim Stedman, Garth Cummings, Jack Calloway** and **Don Nunn**. Your input is welcome.

Stu



## Little Sir's Corner Dennis Hallett

Our February luncheon speaker will be **Joseph Campbell**, Director of Contra Costa Water District. His presentation will include an update on the water storage crisis, conservation and current water projects. He will be accompanied by **Jim Freschi** who handles the CCWD speaker program.

## Explore and Dine

### John Pearl



Explore and Dine is planning on touring the Paramount Theatre at 2025 Broadway in downtown Oakland the morning of Thursday, February 26. The theatre is only 100 feet from the entrance to the 19th Street Bart Station. We'll have lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. The web site for the theatre is [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com).

Because the building housing the theatre was built in 1931, there is no public elevator to the various floors in the theatre. Traveling between the various floors requires using stairways, each of which is about 30 steps. As a possible "added attraction" if you are interested, the Oakland Symphony is having a rehearsal in the theatre at 3:30 PM. The rehearsal is open to the public, but will however limit our access to the stage itself in the morning.

**John Carroll**, a San Francisco Chronicle columnist, called the theatre "the world's best haunted house." This fine art deco theatre is fully restored. I've gotten a list of nearby restaurants to choose from. The cost for the tour will be \$5 each plus a share of the \$75 docent fee.

Please let me know if you would like to attend our February outing.

John Pearl [mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net) 934-6920



## Duplicate Bridge George Zunich

*Our match is held each month on the Monday after the SIR Luncheon at various homes. Bring your lunch.*

In January Sir **Jim Brown** hosted three tables of Duplicate Bridge at his home.

The results were as follows. **Fred Kovar** took 1<sup>st</sup> Place with 31.5 points. **Bob Donahue** came in 2<sup>nd</sup> with 31.0 points. **Dick Johnson** was in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 29.5 points.

The next match will be held on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at **Fred Kovar's** home.

Contact **George Zunich** @ 376-4439 for information.

Interested members should contact **George Zunich** at 376-4439 for information. We welcome new players.

## Couples Duplicate Bridge Too Joe Barry

*Couples Duplicate Bridge #2 meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.*

Another great time was had by all at **Ken and Elaine Richter's** home for the January Bridge. **Joe and Josie Barry** won the fun event followed by **Dick and Christy DeVoe** and the hosts **Ken and Elaine**. The February Bridge will be hosted by **Jim and Ruth Adams**.

## Area 2 \$ums In Retirement Dave Munson

Happy New Year to one and all and here is wishing each and everyone of you good health and better results from our portfolios this year. 2008 was certainly tumultuous to say the least and, economically speaking, ranked among the worst years for investing ever. We will let the historians sort that out for us.

Our regular \$ums meeting for January will be on Wednesday January 28 at the Diablo Creek golf course starting at 8:00am. For those who come earlier there will be breakfast available at the dining area.

The speaker for the January meeting will **Ms. Judith Bedell**, President and Founder of Bedell Investment Counseling, LLC of Walnut Creek. She and a colleague will give us their outlook on the equity and bond markets for 2009. Bedell Investments was founded in 1975 by **Judith**. The firm is an equity and fixed income portfolio manager. For more information go to their web site at [www.bedellinvest.com](http://www.bedellinvest.com). They are located at Two Walnut Creek Center, 200 Pringle Ave, Suite 450 in Walnut Creek. For the February meeting we will have 2 portfolio managers from Matthews International Capital Management of San Francisco. Their presentation will be on investing in Asia with a focus on technology and small companies. Matthews is the investment advisor to the Matthews Asia Funds. They are the largest dedicated Asia only investment specialist in the U.S. As of the end of 2008 they had \$4.7 billion in assets under management. For more information go to [www.matthewsfunds.com](http://www.matthewsfunds.com).

For those of you who like to plan ahead, our meeting dates for 2009 are below. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Diablo Creek golf course starting at 8:00 am. The only exceptions are November when we meet on the 3rd Wednesday and December when we do not hold a meeting.

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28 and November

**Dave Munson**



## Party Bridge Fred Bolton

*1st Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact Fred Bolton for details. Bring a lunch.*

We played three tables of bridge at the home of **Fred Bolton** on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. First place went to **Lynn Freeman** with 5200 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 4800 points and third to **Jim Jackson**.

Our next game will be played at **Dick Johnson's** home on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge Lo McCarley

*Meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm at participants' homes. Couples play as partners.*

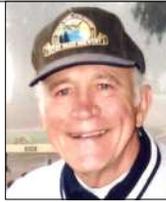
Eight couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on January 21st. **Carl and Anne Johnson** hosted the gala affair. **Lynn and Dasha Freeman** took first place with 38 points, **Lo and Sue McCarley** took second (37 points), **Bob and Janet Yolland** (34 points) placed third, and **Jim Brown** and **Barbara Lundblade** (33 1/2 points) came in fourth.

**Bill and Margaret Rees** will host the next meeting on Wednesday, February 18th.

## Garden Club

Chuck Bobinecz

1st Thursday at 9:30 am at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., in the Multipurpose Room, unless otherwise announced.



## Sunshine

Otto Wilson

Phone: 825-1943

E-mail: [ottowilson@astound.net](mailto:ottowilson@astound.net)



Our February Meeting will be at Heather Farms to prune roses on our usual meeting date, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We will learn more about roses and get some hands-on experience. Bring a lunch and we will have coffee and donuts before we start. Wives and guests are welcome. As my daughter often says, a lot of hands make for light work.

Our March meeting will feature Sir **Fred Kovar** whose topic will be on iris. **Fred** is a member of the local iris club and is quite knowledgeable on this topic. This brings us to our April meeting which will be a bus trip on May 1<sup>st</sup> to the Napa county Iris farm (the iris should be at there peak then) and then to have lunch (bring your own lunch) then to wine tasting in Napa.

The garden club also has a bus trip planned for October 2009 to the Academy of Science in San Francisco (Sir Branch #8 has also has a trip to the Academy of Science planned for May). Wait for Branch #146 trip to the Academy of Science in October and avoid the crowds.

Garden tip of the month: Thinking about planning this year's vegetable garden? Make sure you rotate what you grow in each bed or section of the garden. You can prevent the build up of pests and disease in the soil and foster a diverse population of beneficial microbes underground. Example, plants in the same family (e.g. peppers, tomatoes and eggplant) share common soil borne diseases that build up in the soil. In the fall take a picture of your garden with your digital camera and you will have a good record of what you planted. There are many other benefits to rotating your vegetables.

Sir **Stan Pieratt** passed away December 21st.

Sir **Stan Jackson** passed away December 24th

Sir **Myles Ringle** continues to recuperate at home from a kidney removal.

Sir **Bob Abegg** is recuperating from a knee replacement.

**Evelyn Freeman** wife of Sir **Herb** is home being treated for a serious health problem.

There is a lighter note for this month's Sir Call Report. Sir **Chris Satterthwaite** and his wife **Dorothy** will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on February 15th. One must give **Dorothy** a lot of credit for putting up with an ol' Navy Captain for all those years. Congratulations.

It is time to order your See's candy for the Easter holiday. The price is \$12.40 for a one pound box certificate. Retail is \$15.60 per pound, a savings of \$3.20 per pound. You can buy any type of candy you like, soft centers, nuts and chewies etc. There is no limit to the amount you can order.

Make your check payable to "Sir Branch 146" and send it to **Mitch Mitchell**, 5350 Lightwood Drive, Concord, CA 94521. Please include a stamped self addressed #10 envelope (this is the long envelope). The deadline for Mitch to receive this is April 4, 2009. Your certificates will be mailed to you shortly thereafter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of \_\_\_\_\_ one pound certificates.

## SIR HAPPENINGS

SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR Newsletter. Just go to [www.sirinc.org](http://www.sirinc.org) and click on SIR Happenings to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other SIR branches.

An article by **Jeff Baily**, **Dick DeVoe** and **Jim Stedman** is in the current issue which came out recently. It reveals the reasons why SIR is losing thousands of men and what we can do about it.



## Theater Gary Schaub



If you think you're likely to be stressed out from the holidays in a couple of weeks, then you should reserve your seats now for SIR146's February theatre event. Forever Plaid – a heavenly musical hit that's an entertaining mix of 1950's and 1960's rock n' roll, popular show and dance tunes, blended with witty comedy – is the show to see!

We have a block of seats reserved for us on Thursday, February 26 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Campbell Theatre in Martinez. This Willows Theatre production is an affectionate revue of the close-knit "guy groups" (i.e. The Four Freshmen, The Four Aces) that reached their height of their popularity during the 1950s.

Songs include such favorites as "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Lady of Spain," "Moments to Remember," and "Sixteen Tons."

Tickets for Forever Plaid are \$23.00 per person. Send your reservation and checks (payable to SIR 146) to **Gary Schaub**, 1758 Candelero Court, Walnut Creek 94598, or call 938-5454 for more information. There are a limited number of tickets available – so order early before the holiday rush! Reservation deadline is February 6. Tickets will be distributed at the door at Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward Street (at Estudillo) in Martinez beginning at 7:00 p.m. on February 26.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> DINNER DANCE MARCH 4, 2009**

**WE HAVE FINALIZED THE DATE AND LOCATION FOR OUR DINNER DANCE**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE IS NOW**

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> AT**

**ZIO FRAEDO'S**

**611 GREGORY LANE IN PLEASANT HILL**

**WE WILL CELEBRATE A SPRING FLING**

**PRICE WILL BE \$45 PER PERSON**

**INCLUDES PRIME RIB, SALMON OR VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE  
HORS D'OEUVRES, SALAD, DINNER, DESSERT AND COFFEE OR TEA**

**DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC BY DALT WILLIAMS**

**CASH BAR OPENS AT 6:00PM, DINNER AT 7:00PM AND DANCING FROM 7:30PM TO 10:00PM**

**SIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTREE SELECTION**

**PRIME RIB** \_\_\_\_\_ **SALMON** \_\_\_\_\_ **VEGETARIAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU CAN RESERVE A TABLE OF EIGHT OTHERWISE OPEN SEATING -GET THERE EARLY**

**PLEASE INCLUDE A CHECK OR CHECKS FOR EVERYONE. MAKE PAYABLE TO SIR  
BRANCH 146 AND SEND TO SIR VINCENT RETTEW, 290 DOVER DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK,  
CA. 94598**

## Area 2 Computers and Technology Group

**PHIL GOFF**, Chairman, 831-3692,  
philgoff@yahoo.com  
**DICK CURRY**, Asst. Chairman, 376-5541,  
racorinda@pacbell.net

*Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive (just off South Main.) Check out our website at <http://sir-web.org/computer>*

### Thursday, February 19, the Computers and Technology group will focus on genealogy.

**Bob Wolf** will review the Ellis Island website and show how to retrieve data about your ancestors. There is an amazing amount of information available from the website and it's a lot of fun to search for your ancestor's history. He will also show some special search engines that help you find the information you are seeking.

**Bob Testa** has researched his ancestry and written a book showing his family history. He will review how he conducted the research and show the book he has had bound.

**Vic Moore** has done a similar thing for his family history and will show how he has captured the information and assembled it into binders.

Following the presentations, **Dick Curry** will lead an informative computer Q&A session. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. We serve coffee and pastries and all SIR members and their guests are welcome.

## MONTEREY MASHERS GOLF TOURNAMENT March 25-28, 2009

PLEASE NOTE PRICE REDUCTION (We successfully went to major purveyors to secure a better price due to the economy! Basic package is reduced \$50, and course fees for 2<sup>nd</sup> golfers are reduced \$5-\$11/round. After checks are cashed for those paying higher price, you will receive a refund)

You are invited to attend the 2009 Monterey Mashers Golf Tournament, an event that has been held for years comprised mostly of Branch 146 members and guests. However, this is our first year as a Branch 146 SIR activity, open to all members.

March 25, 26, 27- Best Western Monterey Inn.  
Complimentary breakfast provided each morning.

March 26 (Thursday)- golf with cart at Rancho Canada Golf Course. Traditional Thursday heavy hors d'oeuvres/dessert party at the Inn. BYOB.

March 27 (Friday)- golf with cart at Laguna Seca Golf Course. Gala Awards Banquet with wine at Laguna Seca Golf Club. No-host bar beforehand.

March 28 (Saturday)- Breakfast at the Inn and departure for home, perhaps with some shopping and sightseeing in your plans.

Since we are limited by the number of rooms, tee times and/or Thurs. night party at the Inn, we may have to invoke a first replied-first served policy. Do not delay-reply by February 1, 2009. A complete packet of information including room assignments and tee times will be sent to you at a later date.

Make checks payable to Sir Branch 146-Monterey Mashers and send to:

**Dick DeVoe**, 109 Terrace Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

Questions? Please contact **Dick DeVoe** at (925) 932-5546  
or by e-mail: dicknchristy@comcast.net

2009 Committee- Chair **Dick/Christy DeVoe**,  
**Dennis/Ann Hallett**, **Stu/Margot Somerville**, **Lew/Carla Thompson**

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### Monterey Mashers March 25-28, 2009

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Companion \_\_\_\_\_

Complete package including hotel,

golf, and banquet for two \$510 \_\_\_\_\_

Companion will play on Thursday, add \$68 \_\_\_\_\_

Companion will play on Friday, add \$68 \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choice:

Chicken Marsala with rice and vegetables \_\_\_\_\_

Halibut with rice and vegetables \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

## Luncheon Attendance Bob Lyman



*SIR Luncheon is the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Sunrise at Boundary Oak Restaurant*

Call me by Friday noon prior to the luncheon at 825-6386 if, for any reason, you are unable to attend. If I am not home, leave your name, badge number and phone number. Be sure you call!

Please remember that our luncheon will be called to order at 11:45am so please allow yourself enough time to arrive on schedule. Thanks.

Sir bringing a guest:

Call by Friday prior to the Thursday luncheon and leave your name and the name of your guest.

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman, giving a valid reason, or attending less than 6 meetings in the last 12 months shall be notified by letter of their pending membership termination.

Certification of another branch meeting will be considered as credit to attendance record.

## Luncheon Menu

Mixed Field Greens with Italian Dressing  
With Tomatoes and Carrots

**Italian Style Meat Loaf or Red Snapper  
(with roasted crushed tomatoes)**

Roasted Red Potatoes

Tuscan Vegetables (broccoli, green beans &  
Swiss chard)

Banana Chocolate Chip Snack Cake  
(seasonal fruit on request)

## Special Luncheon Requirements

If you need a vegetarian meal or any special meal, please call and make a request. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it. If for medical reasons you cannot eat lunch, please notify me. Your request will stay in effect until you cancel it, however, you will be required to pay a \$1 fee branch donation when attending the luncheons..

## Membership Dale Hertweck



### Branch 146 Statistics:

Members 257, HLMs 4, Applicant List 2, Inactive 6.

### January Attendance:

Members 203, HLMs 2, Applicant List 2, Guests 3, Excused 38, Unexcused 15.

Total January Attendance: 210.

### Status Changes:

Inducted: None

Added to Applicant List: **Calvin Tucker**

Deceased: **Stan Jackson, Stan Pieratt**

Resigned: **Phil Sapunor**

Inactive: None

Current Applicant List (prioritized): **David Steinberg, Calvin Tucker**



## Cribbage Al Tufo

Whoa: Hold the press. The Cribbage Club finally got together, after a couple of months. **Dan Meckfessel** hosted us at his new home in Brentwood. We were able to get in two great tournaments. Damn near forgot how to play the game. **John Pearl** invited a guest to play. Why is it that every time we get a new player or a new member to play with us, he wins? **Kirt McVean** was hot as a firecracker the first tournament and ran away with first place. **Barney Meade** took second, and **John Pearl** took third.

HOWEVER: It was different in the second tournament. The Italian Stallion came out of the gate like a bullet and never looked back. Won going away from the pack. **Dan Meckfessel** tried as hard as he could, but just didn't have a prayer and came in second. **Kirk** managed to hang on and came in third. **John Pearl** will host February.

Ciao **Tufo**

## New Activity Lunch and Wine Group

We have started a new cooking group which we are calling the Lunch and Wine Group (LAW Group). We'll be meeting on the third Wednesday of most months.

It will be a great way to spend time talking, eating, and drinking wine with friends.

Our start-up meeting was January 22nd, and our next meeting will be February 18th, at **Jim Meehan's** home.

Contact: **Dick Woodman**, Chair

925-935-3118

rwoodman@astound.net

### Wide World of Books Terry Marchione

**This is the final chapter! Due to a general lack of interest, the effort to get this activity up and running is being abandoned. I want to thank those who took the time to get me their book lists.**

**For those who have heeded my advice (or on their own) and purchased a Kindle, I have a parting tip. One of the problems with the device (a minor one at that), is that it does not really stay in the holder very well. Get yourself some Velcro and put one piece on the holder and another on the back of the Kindle. You can use either the small squares or one longer strip. Your Kindle will never fall out of the holder again!**

### Proposed new activity PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

I have been approach by a number of members to start a Photography Club. This club will involve general photography, assignments, critiques and the Photoshop Computer program.

Anyone interested contact **Rich Ahlf**  
925-672-2514 rahlf@sbcglobal.net



### Fishing Paul Dubow

*4th Thursday at 8:30 am. at Diablo Creek Golf Course (Legends Grill). North Port Chicago Hwy*

**Kent Cremolini** sailed out of San Diego Harbor twice in the last few weeks, catching tuna up to 231 lbs, a 140 lb marlin, and lots of smaller tuna. **Kent** is leading a group of us there on June 12 and we hope that we can match **Kent's** feat. **Sal Costanza** fished at the mothball fleet and picked up a striper. **Craig Walton** joined a black bass tournament on Lake Berryessa, and managed to catch a bass on a very slow winter bite. A group of ten fished the Delta (off Sherman Island), including **Pete Gates**, **Paul Dubow**, **Tom Boltz**, and **Gene Schulting** of Branch 146. Fishing was moderate and we managed to catch five keeper sized stripers, a few smaller stripers, and some starry flounder. For the second month in a row, **Gene** was the champ on a group outing, picking up three of the keeper stripers. Earlier, **Carl Moyer** and **Harry Sherinian** fished at the mothball fleet and caught a large amount of kingfish and flounder and three shaker sturgeon. **Carl** also fished the same area on two other occasions plus the water near the Dumbarton Bridge with moderate results. **Don Mittelstadt** fly fished for steelhead on the Mokulumne and Yuba Rivers and landed one steelhead. In the coming months, we will be very busy with trout fishing in our local lakes as well as Lake Davis, Lake Almanor, Lake Wishon, Camanche Lake, McSwain Reservoir and the eastern Sierra, tuna and billfish in Mexico, the aforementioned foray to San Diego, delta fishing for striped bass and sturgeon, kokanee fishing in New Melones Reservoir, mackinaw fishing in Lake Tahoe, and several party boat trips for halibut and rockfish.

We welcome Sirs who rarely or who have never fished, but would like to try. If you would like to test drive an adventure, call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504 or attend our next meeting. The date is February 26 and the location is the Legends Sports Bar at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 am and runs for about an hour and half. Our guest speaker will be Dr. **Clark Hanson**, an environmental consultant, who will share his knowledge of the Delta fishery.

## Travel Opportunities Bob Spellman



**Mar 6, 2009 SIR Day at the races.** It's another chance to visit your money at Golden Gate Fields. The Turf Club SIR package includes: Valet parking, admission and reserved seating, daily racing program, prime rib buffet, tax/tip for the food servers and a race named in honor of our group. This is a fun day well worth the \$25 cost.

Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217

**May 12, 2009 A Day At The California Academy of Sciences.** Visit the Academy of Sciences- the only place on the planet with an aquarium, a planetarium, a natural history museum, and a 4 story rainforest all under one roof. Whatever your interests, the new Academy is designed to engage and inspire like no other museum on the planet. Cost \$56 per person.

Contact **Bob Hagler**, Branch 8, 925-934-7620

**Jun 30, 2009 Patti Page at the Grand Sierra Resort.** Best selling female artist of the 1950s and one of the first female artists to cross over from country music to pop, brings her silky smooth voice to the Grand Sierra. The trip includes deluxe Motor coach, overnight accommodations at the Grand Sierra Resort, Casino stop with bonus \$6 food credit, \$5 cash Tickets to **Patti Page** in the Grand Sierra Showroom, Baggage handling and driver tip. Cost \$142 per person.

Contact **Bob Spellman**, 934-8428

**Jun 24-26, 2009 Boulder Creek Golf and Fun Outing.** Join us for our annual golf outing at Boulder Creek. It includes 3 rounds of golf, 2 nights lodging and a banquet dinner. Golfers will have a fun time on this short but challenging course. For those not playing golf, it is a beautiful area to just relax and enjoy the surroundings. All this and it's only 1 1/2 hours away.

Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217.

**Aug 8-23, 2009 Romantic Rhine & Moselle Rivers.** Explore Holland's colorful capital as you cruise through Amsterdam's enchanting canals. Sail past the famous Lorelei rock and through the dramatic Rhine Gorge on this 14-night cruise from Amsterdam to Basel on board Avalon Waterway's brand new ship, the MS Affinity. Trip includes all

meals on board, round trip airfare and airport transfers. Port charges, air taxes, driver tips are also included. Cost runs from \$6270 to \$8669 depending on stateroom. Contact **Ken Richter** @ 925-689-6217

**Sep 13-25, 2009 The Essence of Ireland.** What separates Ireland from its neighbors is the arresting beauty of the land, the turbulent history and the broad smile that welcomes your arrival. This 13 day trip covers Belfast, Londonderry, Westport, Galway, Killarney and Dublin. The trip cost is \$3780 per person and includes: daily breakfast, nightly hosted dinner, coach driver, guides, baggage handling airfare and transfers, Plus gratuities.

Contact **Bob Hagler** Branch 8 @ 925-934-8428.

**Sep 24, 2009 Highlights of South Africa.** On this comprehensive 19 day trip you'll discover the cultural and natural wonders of South Africa. The trip will take you to Johannesburg, Kruger National Park, Swaziland, Zululand, Wilderness, and Cape Town with optional trips to Pilanesberg National Park for a big five-day bush safari and Victoria Falls. Cost of the trip is \$4795 per person which includes all airfares, 17 night hotel stay, 32 meals, and 13 sightseeing tours. Space is limited so contact **Bob Spellman** to make reservations 925-934-9428

### WIN THIS BRAND NEW PRINTER/COPIER/SCANNER AT THE FEBRUARY LUNCHEON!

Branch 146's brand new, never-been-opened all-in-one printer  
for MAC or PC is on the block

.....

Canon PIXMA MP2120 with a stylish design for every-  
thing you do, not just photos  
Cables included.

- Maximum 4800 x 1200dpi with microscopic droplets as small as 2 picoliters using FINE technology
- Print, copy and scan photos and documents quickly and easily
- Borderless 4"x 6" photo in approx 46 seconds
- Faithful photo and document reprint quality with advanced copy technology
- New "Easy-PhotoPrint EX" software for a variety of beautiful prints

.....

Tickets available at the meal ticket table  
\$1 per ticket or 7 tickets for \$5  
Winner to be announced and presented with the printer at  
the luncheon  
Be there and win it!!!

Proceeds stay within SIR 146

## Away Golf

Jim Baldrige



Many thanks to **Bob Lyman** who distributed the Away Golf survey and to all the golfers who responded. The results showed that (1) most golfers are willing to travel 10-50 miles to play (2) Most are willing to pay between \$40 and \$90 for an away event (3) we are evenly divided on format types; 2 man best ball, 4 man/ 2 man and 4 man scramble. (4) Evenly divided on importance of playing with their own travel group or being assigned to a foursome (5) Not strong for or against preferences on courses (6) a majority would accept a somewhat higher price to include breakfast or lunch with the event.

**Bob** is targeting Thursday Feb 19 for our next away event. He is currently talking to Rio Vista Golf Course at a quite favorable rate. Flyers to follow.

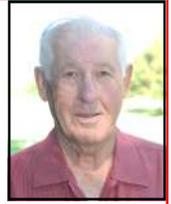
Sign ups for Silverado Country Club Br 146 are coming in quickly. I have 32 signed up already and have heard from several groups that we invite each year who are sending players. This is a 144-player 12:00 noon shotgun event, on the south course. The cost is \$45 for guests and \$47 for SIRs competing in the prize fund; cost includes green fee and cart. Carts are allowed on the course. The Monday April 27 date should give us a great spring day in the wine country. Invite wives, potential members and friends. No risk in signing up early as we can refund cancellations up to the day of play. Singles and twosomes are ok. We will get you into foursomes. Call, e-mail me or send in a flyer.

A heads up on the SIR State Golf Las Vegas Tournament date. That event starts on Apr 27th and runs through May 1st; only one week this year. To sign up call 1-866-636-7111 and use the group code "9SIRGI" or sign up on line at [www.suncoastcasino.com](http://www.suncoastcasino.com). You can also sign up using the State SIR website [www.sirstategolf.com](http://www.sirstategolf.com). Other State Sir events are also on this site.

Questions: Jim Baldrige 925-689-9232 or [jimjudy39@aol.com](mailto:jimjudy39@aol.com).

## Tuesday Golf

Ray Weisz



December 2: First Flight: **Rich Hanford** (72), **Dick DeVoe**, **Lew Thompson**. Second Flight: **Ray Kan** (64), **Ron Plachy**, and **Ken Beattie**. Closest to the pin: **Dick DeVoe** # 2, **Ray Spears** # 12.

December 9: First Flight: **Russ Bliese** (69), **Bill Cammerer**, **Ray Spears**. Second Flight: **Ray Kan** (65), **Doug Cook**, and **Ray Weisz**. Closest to the pin: **Frank Rockwell** # 2, **Mike Siebert** # 12.

December 16: Rained out.

December 23: Did not meet required number of participants for a tournament

December 30: First Flight: **Bob White** (70), **Lew Thompson**, **Jack Calloway**. Second Flight: **Ray Weisz** (72), **Ron Plachy**, and **Ralph Fowler**. Closest to the pin: **Al Zamolo** # 2, **Bob White** # 12.

January 6: First Flight: **Ron Binder** (69), **Joe Barry**, **Jim Baldrige**, Second Flight: **John Demos** (71), **Ernie Dickson**, **Joe Lamanna**. Closest to the pin: **Ralph Fowler** # 2, **Ron Binder** # 12.

January 13: First Flight: **Bob Mehus** (68), **Frank Rockwell**, **Ray Spears**. Second Flight: **Don Nunn** (67), **Al Zamolo**, and **Ken Richter**. Closest to the pin: **Bill Weinberg** # 2, **John Harrington** # 12, and **Ernie Dickson** # 12.

Weather has been great. Why not come out on Tuesdays for a round of Golf with good friends. See you at Boundary Oak Golf Course on Tuesday.

### Non-Responsibility Declaration:

**Rule 345:** All activities arranged for or by Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons In Retirement, Inc. and its branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.



## Committee and Activities Chairmen

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Activities Coordinator | <b>Dick DeVoe</b>         |
| Attendance/Lunch       | <b>Bob Lyman</b>          |
| Audit                  | <b>Rich Colombo</b>       |
| Badges                 | <b>Bill Roberts</b>       |
| Bocce Ball             | <b>Bob Frankland</b>      |
| Bridge-couples         | <b>Lo McCarley</b>        |
| Bridge Couples Too     | <b>Joe Barry</b>          |
| Bridge-duplicate       | <b>George Zunich</b>      |
| Bridge-party           | <b>Fred Bolton</b>        |
| Candy Sales            | <b>Mitch Mitchell</b>     |
| Chaplain               | <b>Chuck Kistenmacher</b> |
| Computer Classes       | <b>Lo McCarley</b>        |
| Cooking                | <b>Dave Johnson</b>       |
| Cooking Too            | <b>Rich Hanford</b>       |
| Très Gourmet           | <b>Ron De Golia</b>       |
| Cribbage               | <b>Al Tufo</b>            |
| Explore and Dine       | <b>John Pearl</b>         |
| Fishing                | <b>Paul Dubow</b>         |
| Gardening              | <b>Chuck Bobinecz</b>     |
| Tuesday Golf           | <b>Ray Weisz</b>          |
| Golf Scheduling        | <b>Tom Gorman</b>         |
| Golf Treasurer         | <b>Walt Barabash</b>      |
| Away Golf              | <b>Jim Baldrige</b>       |
| NCGA-Handicaps         | <b>Dick Richmond</b>      |
| Greeters               | <b>Sal Costanza</b>       |
| Guys Dine Out          | <b>Malcolm Hendry</b>     |
| Historian              | <b>Jack Calloway</b>      |
| Honorees               | <b>Bob Yolland</b>        |
| Lunch & Wine Group     | <b>Dich Woodman</b>       |
| Membership             | <b>Dale Hertweck</b>      |
| Newsletter Editor      | <b>Rich Ahlf</b>          |
| Asst. Editor           | <b>Pete Gates</b>         |
| Asst. Editor           | <b>Bob Darius</b>         |
| Mailing                | <b>Bill Cammerer</b>      |
| New Member Relations   | <b>Pete Gates</b>         |
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| Nominating             | <b>Jim Stedman</b>        |
| Pianist                | <b>Dave Obara</b>         |
| Poker Club 1           | <b>Frank McNamee</b>      |
| Poker Club 2           | <b>Al Zamolo</b>          |
| Poker Club 3           | <b>Ron Plachy</b>         |
| Poker Club 4           | <b>Chuck Bobinecz</b>     |
| Poker Club 6           | <b>Bill Roberts</b>       |
| Social                 | <b>Don Tubb</b>           |
| SongSirs               | <b>Don Tubb</b>           |
| SIR Happenings Coord.  | <b>Rod Sharretts</b>      |
| Sunshine               | <b>Otto Wilson</b>        |
| Table Pool             | <b>Bill Weinberg</b>      |
| Theatre                | <b>Gary Schaub</b>        |
| Travel                 | <b>Bob Spellman</b>       |
| Asst Travel            | <b>Charlie Kiser</b>      |
| Veterans               | <b>Lynn Freeman</b>       |
| Walkers                | <b>John Lewis</b>         |
| Webmaster              | <b>Jeff Baily</b>         |
| Wine Tasting           | <b>Bill Holly</b>         |



## Walkers John Lewis



Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales. Call **John** or just show up. Rain cancels any walk.

### Walking Schedule For February

- Feb 6 Sycamore Road Trail Danville  
(Sycamore Road and the pumping station)  
Meet at Sycamore Road pumping station parking lot  
Mostly paved and level  
Coffee at Pascals in Danville on Railroad Ave.
- Feb 13 Canal Trail West from Heather Farms Park  
Meet at Heather Farms Park northwest parking lot  
Paved and level  
Coffee at Deli Delight Kaiser Shadelands
- Feb 20 Osage Park Walk Danville (Connect to Iron Horse Trail if desired)  
680 to Sycamore Valley Rd. Exit—Over Freeway—Right on Camino Ramon  
Follow sign.  
Paved and level—parking at Osage Park  
Coffee at Pascals, Danville Railroad Ave
- Feb 27 Lafayette-Moraga Trail  
Meet at end of Olympic Blvd. Walnut Creek for parking  
Walk left on Lafayette/Moraga Trail  
Paved and Level  
Coffee at Yellow Wood in Alamo at Safeway Parking Lot

### Past Big Sirs

- 1989 **Charles Unfried**  
1990 **Gill Rhodes**  
1991 **Gene Hackett**  
1992 **Walt Entelman**  
1993 **Kap Kaprielian**  
1994 **Joe Jansen**  
1995 **Bob Walton**  
1996 **Dick DeVoe**  
1997 **Warren Boero**  
1998 **Don Nunn**  
1999 **Dave Valladao**  
2000 **Jack Calloway**  
2001 **Bill Hansen**  
2002 **Fred Kovar**  
2003 **Bob Yolland**  
2004 **Doug Cook**  
2005 **Ray Kan**  
2006 **Garth Cummings**  
2007 **Jim Stedman**  
2008 **Jeff Baily**

### 2008 Officers and Directors

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Stu Somerville</b> | Big Sir         |
| <b>Dennis Hallett</b> | Little Sir      |
| <b>Pete Gates</b>     | Secretary       |
| <b>Jim Burk</b>       | Asst. Secretary |
| <b>Ron DeGolia</b>    | Treasurer       |
| <b>Joe Fuchs</b>      | Asst. Treasurer |
| <b>Ron Binder</b>     | Director        |
| <b>Bob Darius</b>     | Director        |
| <b>Larry Mitchell</b> | Director        |
| <b>Jack Hockel</b>    | Director        |
| <b>Vince Rettew</b>   | Director        |
| <b>Bob Schroder</b>   | Director        |

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# SIR CALL

## Newsletter

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**SIR Vietnam/Thailand tour led by Bob Spellman**