

WE ARE SIR – MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Luncheon – Thursday , February 9th
At the Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Guest Speaker

Dr. Jamie Boudreau

Doctors without Borders

“The Mission of Doctors without Borders
and Experiences during four tours in Chad,
Sudan, Liberia, and Congo”

Gathering time - 11:00 am

Starting time - 11:45 am

Bringing a guest or can't attend?

Email: nolunchbranch146@gmail.com

Telephone Message: (925) 979-5146

By Noon Friday, February 3rd



Big Sir's Notes

Alan Elnick

I must say that at our January luncheon, Sir **Joe Starkey** gave us a wonderful presentation that kept us all involved and entertained. As a hockey fan myself, it was enlightening to me to find that “The Play” was only his second favorite broadcast after the “Miracle on Ice” in the 1980 Olympic Hockey finals when the United States team defeated the “unbeatable” Russian Army team. Thanks Joe for bringing back some wonderful moments for all of us.

Richard Morgan was inducted in January and I would like to welcome him to Branch 146. He's a golfer but has interest in a number of our activities. Let's help him feel at home. He has an interest in Pinochle, so if any of you are similarly interested, Pinochle can be a new activity for our branch. While I am on new activities, **Jim Pope** and **Henry Thatcher** are looking to restore our Explore and Eat activity. At the luncheon, a healthy number of you expressed an interest so let's help Jim and Henry get that going. **Jon Korfhage** is attempting to get our Fall Dinner Dance restarted. I am sure we can help him get the 40 or 50 couples committed to making a successful and entertaining evening in October or November this year. Activities and volunteers are what make SIR Branch 146 one of, if not the, most successful SIR branches. With that in mind, our Branch Executive Committee meets at 9:00 am the morning of our monthly luncheon. For our new members, as well as our long-term members, you are welcome you to attend one or many of our meetings and bring your ideas to keep our organization vibrant, entertaining and great.

Our next luncheon is Thursday, February 9th, 2017. Bring a guest, or two or three. **Russ Anderson, Bruce Borgman, Walt Busenius, Loren DeLaurentis, Ken Donnelly, and Joe Fuchs** together sponsored eight guests at our January luncheon. Thank you! We hope your guests enjoyed their time with us. The Mission of SIR is Make Friends For Life. Your friends and acquaintances need not be retired, they only need to find



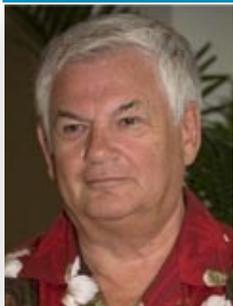
Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Joe Starkey, our very own SIR member, was the featured speaker at the January luncheon. Above, Joe recalls his first-hand account of “The Play” in the Cal Bears improbable football win over Stanford in 1982. To this day, it is still considered , one of the all-time remarkable plays in sports history.

the value of our activities and some free time to enjoy them. See you on the 9th.

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

Bruce Borgman

I know you all enjoyed our first speaker of the year last month when we had our own **Joe Starkey** talk about his experiences as broadcaster for the 49ers and California Bears football, as well as a forty-year career in broadcasting. His talk was witty and most informative and will be a hard act to follow as we find other interesting speakers for the rest of 2017.

For our February 9th luncheon meeting we have Dr. Jamie Boudreau, a physician at Contra Costa Medical Center who is also a volunteer for Doctors Without Borders. Many of you are familiar with this international organization dedicated to providing medical care and aid to people affected by armed conflict, health crises, and natural or man-made disasters. They do this regardless of race, religion, creed or political convictions. Often this is the only organization providing such care. It is often known by its French name – Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) – and has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize its work.

Dr. Boudreau has worked as a volunteer since 2012 and has done four tours with MSF in Africa, often in remote areas; in Chad, South Sudan, Liberia and Congo - working with patients suffering from trauma, malnutrition, and infectious diseases including Ebola. It will be an amazing opportunity to hear about this organization and Dr. Boudreau's experiences – you will not want to miss it.

On another note, you may know that part of my responsibility is to follow up on those Sirs who did not attend the lunch but neglected to notify the "no-lunch" email or phone number. As you know, we need to let Boundary Oak know a few days ahead of the luncheon the number of meals to prepare. We are charged for the number of meals we submit. While we anticipate some unforeseen absences, if you know you will not be able to attend the luncheon, please let us know so we can adjust our meal count accordingly.



Membership

Dave Pierce

In January we inducted one new member, **Rick Morgan**, but three members asked to be placed on inactive status. So our active membership dropped from 285 to 283. However, we had eight guests (thank you, sponsors!), a great turnout. Keep it up. The BEC set goals of 50 guests and 30 new members for 2017. Thirty would provide a return to 285 based on typical losses of 28 in a year. Please help us retain the vitality and energy we so much enjoy by inviting more guests in the months ahead.

New Member Additions in January 2017



Rick Morgan



January Birthday boy drawing winner **John Gray**

I have received several suggestions for speakers for the remainder of the year, but I am always looking for others. If you have one, or, better yet, would like to serve on the committee to select speakers, let me know by email or phone call. See you all for a special presentation in February!



Sunshine

Calvin Tucker

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

- Jim Saavedra
- Bob Walton
- Lynn Freeman
- Al Twyford
- Pete Miller
- Elmer Kaprielian

Please note also the death of **James Howie King**

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

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let the Sunshine Chair know by e-mail or phone so that our Sir members can be advised.

Cal Tucker, Sunshine Chair

phone: (925) 389 6070

Email: calvinctucker@gmail.com

2017 Branch 146 Officers and Directors

Big Sir	Alan Elnick
Little Sir	Bruce Borgman
Secretary	Jonathan Korfhage
Assistant Secretary	Brad Hatcher
Treasurer	Roy Hodgkinson
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Ybarra
Director(2 nd Term)	Jerry Kaplan
Director(2 nd Term)	Steve Sprague
Director(1 st Term)	Dave Pierce
Director(1 st Term)	Bill Schultz
Director(1 st Term)	Cal Tucker
Director(1 st Term)	Jim Saavedra (Al Munayer acting)

RAMP – Chair Members

Recruitment	Bill Schultz
Activities	Jerry Kaplan
Member Relations	Steve Sprague
Publicity	Jim Saavedra (Al Munayer acting)

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



THE CLUBHOUSE

AT BOUNDARY OAK

SIR 146 Luncheon
February 9th 2017

~Salad Course~

Classic Caesar Salad
Hearts of Romaine, Parmesan Cheese,
Croutons Creamy Caesar Dressing

~Entrees~

Pan Seared Breast of Chicken
Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetables Mushroom Sauce

Or

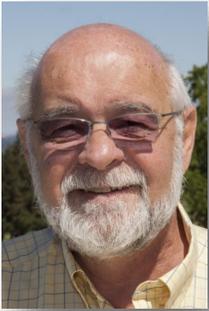
Mango Glazed Baked Salmon
Steamed Jasmine Rice,
Sautéed Vegetables Ginger Butter Sauce

~Dessert~

Chocolate Truffle Cake
Chantilly Cream, Raspberry Sauce

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.



Luncheon Chairman

Rob Melrose

January Attendance: We consumed a whopping 224 meals at our January luncheon, which is one less than our guarantee of 225. We had 214 members of Branch 146, equaling 75% of our membership in attendance. We experienced 32 No-

Shows and will expect a similar number of them to reimburse the branch. I hope the ones that called in Thursday morning reporting having a stomach bug have recovered. We strive to have the number of meals consumed and paid for fall somewhere between the number we guarantee and the kitchen's commitment and even though we fell short of our commitment, I am pleased with the outcome for my first month. It helped having a big name as our speaker.

February Luncheon: Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9th, 2017 at the Boundary Oak Golf Course Club House in Walnut Creek. The price of the luncheon is \$26 as it has been for over a year. There will be the usual no-host bar. The assembly will be called to order at 11:45 am. Please allow enough time to check in and make payment. The money guys really prefer checks so you might want to take a minute right now and write out a \$26 check payable to "SIR 146". Stick it in your wallet and you are good to go on Feb 9th. This is assuming you don't leave home without your wallet. Remember, we assume you are coming unless you let us know by Noon on February 3rd that you will not be in attendance.

Opt Out Deadline for February Luncheon: Please remember that your deadline to opt out of the February lunch is Noon on Friday, February 3rd. We will email at least one reminder of this deadline during the preceding week. Nevertheless, you would do well to mark it on your calendar right now. If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail message to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" before Noon, Friday, February 3rd. Please provide your badge number in that message. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call (925) 979-5146 before the no show deadline and follow the prompts given there. A non-attending member who without good cause fails to meet this deadline is required by our rules to reimburse the

Branch for the liability we will incur for his meal, in this case \$26. We appreciate the "Advance Payers" who timely notify us that they cannot attend a luncheon. As noted above, this courtesy results in an economic benefit to our Branch. A REMINDER TO ADVANCE PAYERS: BE CERTAIN TO CHECK IN.

Confirmation of No-Show Notices: You should receive an email from me after I have updated the attendance records.

Bringing a Guest or a Visitor: If you intend to bring a Guest or a Visitor please so advise via an e-mail to "nolunchbranch146@gmail.com" on or before the opt out deadline. If you do not have convenient access to a computer, please call the phone number stated above and follow the prompts given there. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SPELL THE FULL NAME OF YOUR GUEST OR VISITOR DURING THAT CALL. If your guest decides to come after the deadline, don't let that stop you. Please advise in the same way. We will always accommodate a guest, timely advised or not.

Special Requests: If your guest desires a vegetarian meal or a special diet or if, for medical reasons, he cannot eat lunch please so advise before the opt out deadline in the manner as described above.

New Members, Guests and Sponsors: There will be a luncheon table or tables with places reserved for new members and their sponsors as well as for guests and their sponsors. New members along with their sponsors will be asked to join our Membership Chair immediately following the luncheon for a brief orientation session in a room to be announced at the luncheon.

Final Thoughts: I would like to send a special Thank You to **Max Hinkle** who has done a tremendous job for so many years for his help and advice as the newbie gets up to speed. I would also like to send my thanks to our Big Sir, **Alan Elnick** and our Little Sir, **Bruce Borgman** for their calming words during the nervous time when I felt we had over-committed by a lot. They were right **Joe Starkey is a big draw.**

Q: What do they sing at Frosty the snowman's birthday party?

A: Freeze a jolly good fellow



Activities Coordinator

Jerry Kaplan

The list of Activities for Brach 146 at the beginning of the year is a healthy one and looks to be growing again! As of January 1st, there are 45 different activities that a Branch 146 Sir can participate in; 25 of those welcome spouses.

A new activity, **Explore and Lunch**, is starting and expects to have the first "exploration" happening in the next month or two. Sirs **Jim Pope** and **Henry Thatcher** have agreed to be co-chairs of the activity and will keep everyone informed about their plans through the SIR CALL and at luncheons. The activity will be similar to the Explore and Dine events which were curtailed a year or two ago.

It looks like **Couples Golf**, though, is being dropped from the activity list due to lack of interest, per Sir **Paul Masta**, who has been chairing the activity. Of course, if other Sirs want to revive the activity or something similar, please feel free to have a go at it. I will help where I can.

The October planning for this year's **Dinner/Dance activity** is being revitalized by Sir **Jonathan Korfhage**. The event has been managed for many years by a most able individual, Sir **Richard Kincaide** (with credit to his wife, **Rita**). **Jonathan** will be providing more details about the event – tentatively scheduled for October 20th - in future issues of the SIR CALL.

It also looks like there may be sufficient interest in starting 1) a **Pickle Ball activity** and 2) a **Pinochle game night**. Information was included in the April 2016 SIR CALL on the rules of how to play Pickle Ball; alternatively you can contact Sir **Jim Burk**, who is interested in seeing such an activity get underway. Other branches already have a Pickle Ball activity and there may be opportunities to play against others in a "friendly" competition.

Several Sirs have noted that they are interested in starting a Pinochle activity. Those interested in learning more about the game can go to the following website for some basic information:

<http://www.playingcardsandmore.com/pinochleanoverview.aspx>.

Sirs interested in either of the above two possible activities, please drop me an email or call me and I will be more than happy to help the activity get underway.

This is your branch and I will be happy to discuss with any members an idea they may have for a new activity. Have fun!



Travel Opportunities

Milt Smith

Mare Island Historic Park Tour

Wednesday, March 1st

Spend the day touring historical Mare Island, the first naval base on the west coast built in 1854. It is an integral part of the United States Maritime History. Cost is \$88 per person and includes: roundtrip deluxe motor coach transport, docent led tour of Mare Island, hosted lunch at the "Front Room at the Wharf". See and tour St. Peter's Chapel, with its famous Tiffany Windows, colonial revival era mansions on officers' row, the opulent 10,500 sq. ft. Admirals Mansion and finally the Mare Island Museum. Bus departs at 9 am and returns at 4 pm.

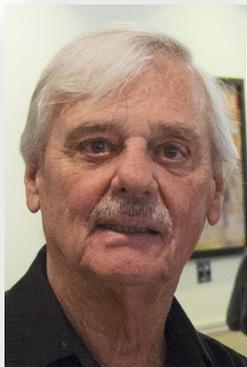
For registration or other info contact **Milt Smith** (925) 285-2897 or miltsmith549@gmail.com. Remember, wives and guests are welcome as we can accommodate a total of 36. Please sign up by January 31st. Lunch choices are: New York Steak, Seafood Linguine or Drunken Chicken along with salad and bread. Let me know your choice when you register.

Send your check payable to SIR 146 for \$88 per person, and food choices to **Milt Smith**, 913 Piute Ct., Walnut Creek, CA. 94598



Photo by Alan Elnick

Big Sir **Alan Elnick** presents the Senior SIR President's Award to **Hank James** at his home on January 23rd, 2017. The Senior SIR Award was given to **Hank** for reaching his 90th birthday.



SIR 146 Hiking

Rich Ahlf

On February 17th, 2017 (this will be the third week of February) we will be hiking on the newly constructed George Miller Trail with scenic views of Carquinez shoreline and Bay. Meet at 10:00 am at the start of the trail. This will be an easy three mile hike. This

hike is entirely on a paved road so the recent rains will not be a factor. If you wish to bring your dogs, no problem. If anybody wishes to have lunch afterward there's a nice Mexican restaurant in Martinez.

Directions: Go north on Alhambra toward downtown about 2mi, left on Escobar St, right on Talbert St. to the gate of George Miller Trail and park alongside of road.

If anybody would like to carpool we could meet at the Best Buy Parking lot at about 9:30 am - Let me know.

Rain Cancels

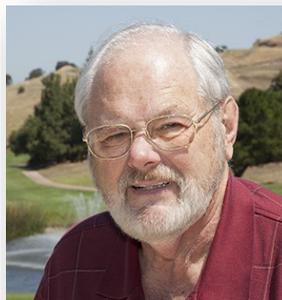
Spouses always welcome

Friday January 17th, 2017

Hike Starts at 10:00 am

Rich Ahlf

Cell (925) 550-4967



Theatre

Gary Schaub



Last Call for Tickets for SIR 146 Theater Party on March 17th

For over twenty years audiences have cheered for *Smokey Joe's Café* – a toe-tapping musical revue of popular rock and blues songs that is SIR 146 Theater Party for Friday, March 17th at the Town Hall Theater in Lafayette. Curtain time is 8:00 pm. Deadline for ticket reservations is February 24th.

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", "Stand By Me", and "Loving You"). Songwriters Lieber and Stoller provided music for a generation.

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.

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. Reservation deadline is February 24th.

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



SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

Richard Hockenbrock

Assistant Editor

Rob Melrose

Proofreaders

Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker

Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia

Internet Posting

Ron Plachy



Fishing Report

Paul Dubow

Water water everywhere and the fish won't bite. The great trout bite that we had at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir in November and early December came to a sudden end. Four outings to the reservoir by

Thom Watkins, Carl Moyer, and Terry Miller resulted in precisely one fish. However, that was one more fish than **Rich Fiscina** and **Sal Costanza** of Branch 146, along with **Pedro Contreras**, caught while fishing for sturgeon in the Delta.

The results were better for those who fished for rockfish. **Stan Wong** caught rockfish and crab on two party boat trips, while **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 and **Carl Moyer** caught near limits on a trip out of Half Moon Bay. However, that outing occurred on the last day of the season. We will have to wait until spring before we can fish for rockfish again. The only other positive news that we can report is that **Tom Kostik** caught a few small stripers on each of four trips in the Delta.

Nevertheless, we remain hopeful. We have plenty of outings planned for sturgeon, stripers, and rainbow trout during the winter plus fishing for shad and cutthroat trout in the spring. If you would like to participate, please join us at our next meeting, which will be February 23rd at the Legends Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. The meeting begins at 8:30 am, but come earlier and join us for breakfast.



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 or newer camera you can download 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. We'll cover this as one of the topics at our next meeting.

As I mentioned in my report last month, I'll review the newly-released mid-range Sony alpha 6500 camera. I will compare this camera to my 6 year old Canon 5D Mark II, especially in lower light conditions.

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



Russ Anderson & guest Rem Bernard,
one of eight guests to attend the January luncheon



Newer members **Rich Pace & Bob Beitler**, indicated by their yellow name tags, enjoying conversation prior to the start of the January luncheon

Q: Why did the turkey join the band?
A: Because he had the drumsticks!



Photo by Carl Tilchen

Acoustic Musicians

Carl Tilchen

You are invited to the next meeting of SIR Acoustic Musicians Group. Please note new address and directions: Thursday, 2 pm, February 23rd. (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. Do not 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.



SongSirs

Bruce Borgman

The SongSirs took a well-deserved break from our practices in December restarted with regular rehearsals in January.

We are practicing music which includes some romantic songs, such as "Oh, You Beautiful Doll", "Pretty Baby" and "If You Were the Only Girl in the World". We are also practicing some of the beautiful songs in our Irish music repertoire, such as "When Irish Eyes are Smiling", "Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral", "My Wild Irish Rose", "Danny Boy", and others.

We are anxiously awaiting the return of our director, **Pete Miller**, as he recovers from having a pacemaker put in – Get Well, **Pete!!** – we miss you and hope you can lead us again soon!

We welcome new members as we practice at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church every first and third Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Come see what we are all about!



Cribbage

John Pearl

Our first meeting of 2017 was held at **Barney Meade's** home on January 25th. Seven members of Branch 146's Cribbage Group took advantage of the seldom seen sunshine to attend. Our three winners this month were **Barney Meade** (our tutor), in first place; **Ron Afdal**, our co-chair in second place; while **Peter Plante** picked up third place money.

We plan to continue the fun on Wednesday, February 22nd.

mcpearl@astound.net



Cooking II

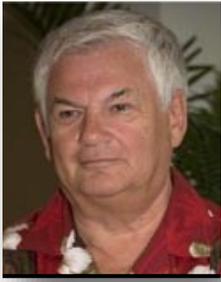
Bob Yolland

To get 2017 off to a good start, Cooking II had a great lunch at **Corrie Oranje's** home on Monday January 9th. He began with an assortment of appetizers including excellent cheeses, salami, great Dutch herring, nuts, olives and his specialty, home made roasted red pepper salsa with several different kinds of crackers. This was followed by a Mexican themed lunch of tasty chicken enchiladas, refried black beans and a fine corn salad. **Corrie** finished the meal with a beautiful flan. Of course, there was lots of good conversation and wine. Thanks **Corrie** for an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next event will be on February 13th when Cooking II will take their wives to dinner at the Dead Fish. We thought Valentines' Day would be too busy so we are having our dinner on the day before, which is our regular second Monday.

"We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress."

-Will Rogers



Couples Dining Out

Bruce Borgman

Our Dining Out event is just a few days away as of this writing! We will be going to La Finestra in Lafayette, a restaurant with Italian cuisine. We notified our mailing list of this event with the caveat that we could only accommodate 50 diners at this smaller restaurant and had our maximum within two days – quite a testimony of this successful activity of our branch! Or, maybe we just like to eat. Nevertheless, we continued to get interest and the waiting list eventually grew large enough that we did not want to disappoint this group. So, we added a second evening on January 30. This group has grown as well and we now have 40 diners on the first evening and 44 on the second. The menu and price is the same. We will start with a Caesar salad, then a choice of Petrale Sole, Lasagna Bolognese, or Porchetta al Prosciutto, with Cannoli for dessert, and coffee or tea. Corkage is \$15 if you bring your own bottle.

The restaurant is located at 100 Lafayette Circle – parking is limited in the small adjacent parking lot, or you can park on the street and other lots. Car pooling is encouraged!

We are looking forward to two wonderful evenings of a good dinner and fellowship with our SIR friends and their spouses or companions!



La Finestra in Lafayette

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.” - George Burns

“Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.” -Mark Twain



Walking Group

Frank Ascatigno

Every Friday at 9:30 am at various locales.

Call **Frank** for current walk.

Rain cancels any walk.

Ladies Welcome

Tel: (925) 429-2232



Book Club

Chuck Campbell

Eight members of the SIR Book group met Monday morning January 9th at the Black Bear restaurant to discuss *Killing of the Rising Sun* by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard. The book presents the events leading up to the final bombing of Japan and Japan’s eventual surrender ending World War II. Our members (O’Reilly fans and non-fans alike) found the book interesting, noting a number of happenings not widely known such as:

- Joseph Stalin’s insistence that the Yalta Conference, which would eventually establish the shape of the post war world, be held in the Russian Black Sea Resort because of his health was untrue. Rather, he had a fear of flying that limited his travel.
- Franklin Roosevelt’s health, truly a problem, was made worse by the more than 6,000 miles of travel by air, ship, and car to reach the Black Sea site. It is likely that Roosevelt’s tired condition was a factor in his agreeing to measures that led to millions of Eastern Europeans being forced into 45 years of Soviet occupation.
- The USS Indianapolis, a heavy cruiser, was chosen for the task of transporting parts of the first atomic bomb from San Francisco to the island of Tinian where the bomb materials were unloaded. Four days after that, the Indianapolis was hit by Japanese torpedoes and sank in open seas.

The book clearly described the horrors of an atomic bomb explosion over a large population, yet it was clear to us that the main purpose of the book was to justify Truman’s decision to drop the first atomic bomb on Japan.

For our next book we chose *Blood Meridian, or the Evening of Redness in the West* by Cormac McCarthy. We plan to meet Monday, February 13th, starting at 8:30 am, again at the Black Bear restaurant.

Mexican Train Dominoes Groups



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1 (UNO)

Jerry Kaplan

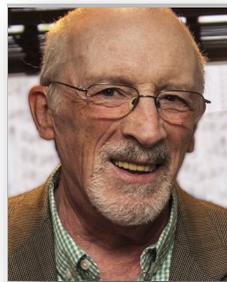
The First of the Year Mexican Train January Game Night was held on "Friday the 13th" at the Walnut Creek home of Sir **Jerry Kaplan** and his wife, **Susan**. All three tables were

full with 18 players; Sir **Charlie Abrams** and Sir **Jeff Baily** and his wife, **Alicia** filled in for three regulars who were absent.

Martha Plante, wife of Sir **Peter**, had an excellent evening averaging only 11.9 points and took first place. This is the second month in a row (also November 2016) that Martha won first place! Sir **Jeff Baily** won second place money with an average of 18.2 while Sir **Richard Hockenbrock** grabbed third place with a 19.4 average. The game is on!



MTD Group 1 players from one of the three tables, **Jim Stedman**, **Marie Ascatigno**, **Peter Plante**, **Susan Kaplan**, **Sue Sheldon**, and **Corrie Oranje**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 3 (TRES)

Jeff Baily

Mexican Train Dominoes #3 met on New Years Eve to play and usher in the new year – at least in New York! We paused from our games moments before 9 pm as the

big ball in Times Square lowered and we opened the phone line to include the **Siljestroms** who were ailing at home. At the prescribed time we all hooted and hollered and sipped "Champagne" as we wished one another a Happy New Year.

After posing for the customary photo it was back to the serious business of Mexican Train Dominoes. **Alicia Baily** edged out **Lew Thompson's** 19.1 with a score of 17.7 and took 3rd prize, **Carla Thompson** went out an amazing 4 times out of 6 games played to cinch second place with an average of 15.5 and **Linda Brown**, playing her usual fine game took home the winner's prize with an average of 11 having gone out 3 times in 7 games played. Our group also has a 6 month low average fund which was allocated in the following manner: 3rd place prize went to **Jim Stedman** with the 6 month average of 20.9, 2nd place prize was won by **Linda Brown** with an average of 20.3, 1st place and the grand winner prize went to **Judy Richmond** with a score of 18.1.

Our thanks and best wishes to **Steve** and **Linda Siljestrom** for supplying the drinks, hats, whistles and other noisemakers that made the festive occasion memorable. *(See group picture on next page)*



MTD Group 1 players from 2nd of three tables, **Jeff Baily**, **Sherry Hockenbrock**, **Rob Melrose**, **Frank Ascatigno**, and **Marth Plante**



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 4 (El Quattro)

Jim Pope

El Quattro Mexican Train Domino group met on January 20th with 7 couples braving the elements showing up for the fierce competition. The dominos were flying around the room and plenty of laughs. The fantastic food was provided by several the women and wine by the guys.

Our next event will be on February 17th.

Mucho Bueno



Mexican Train Dominoes Group 5 (CINCO)

Jim Burk

The New Year for the Cinco Gang began with great enthusiasm and all members were present and accounted for and ready to go. We met at the **Sprague's** beautiful home in Walnut Creek, and **Steve** opened the evening with a Champagne toast for a positive 2017. Like all baseball teams in Spring Training, everyone was also positive about their chances of winning the game and taking home some extra money for MTD success. Reality soon took over and big scores came like the evening's rain drops, except in the case of the **Halletts**. Before the evening was over **Dennis** had again garnered first place, **Ann** took second, and if they had a pet it probably would have come in third since they were so hot. They don't have a pet, so **Doug Eisner** took that position. A wonderful Boston cream pie was on the menu for our dessert for the evening. Some even thought of a second piece, but discretion won out in the end. An "executive committee meeting" was quickly called with threats of turning in a report to the IRS on the **Halletts**. In a very close vote, it was decided to refrain from that action.

The February date will be on the 16th at the **Campbell's** home. There are also serious thoughts of giving the **Halletts** the wrong date, but that probably won't happen either.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Little Sir **Bruce Borgman** (at podium) conducts the drawing of the Birthday Boy drawing as SIR members who have birthdays in January stand



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Attendance at the January luncheon reached an all time high as 224 members and guests congregated in the Boundary Oak club house dining area



Photo by Jeff Bailly

MTD#3 Ushering in the New Year on Game Night at the **Bailys'**. Front Row L to R-Sharon Varner, Sally Shafer, Alicia Bailly, Sue Busenius, Lynn Shafer, Linda Brown. Back Row L to R-Jeff Bailly, Dick Richmond, Judy Richmond, Lew Thompson, Carla Thompson, Jim Stedman, Walt Busenius, & Larry Brown.



Wine Tasting

Rob Melrose

Our next tasting is scheduled for February 22nd. I am very excited that **Richard** and **Sherry Hockenbrock** have volunteered to open their home for this event. We will be tasting non-California wines from the US. I talked with **John Rittmaster** and **Frank Rothstein** of Pima Vini in Walnut Creek about our non-CA tasting and they are working to obtain some wines from the Midwest and the East that will be given away at the tasting. Between the venue and the wines, and most importantly the friends, this will be a fun event. I personally look forward to seeing how many people find wines from east of the Rocky Mountains for us to taste. Look for an email with details soon. 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



Book Nook

Hank James

The Book Nook will not be open in February. Continue to accumulate your book donations and your reading list for the March meeting when we will be open again.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Richard Lyon looking over the huge array of books available to choose from at the Book Nook



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.



Cooking Lunch & Wine

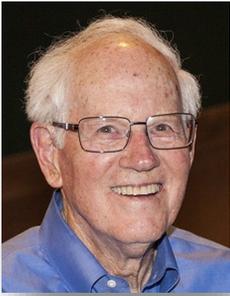
Pete Gates

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.

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt



Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

Lo McCarley

Six couples had a great time playing duplicate bridge on January 18th at **Bill and Margaret Rees'** home. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Margaret and Bill** snacks, dessert and wines. For the bridge results, **Bob and Janet Yolland** came in first with 27 points. **Anne Johnson** and **Fred Bolton** came second with 23 points. In third place with 21 points are **Jim Brown** and **Adrienne Morrison**. **Lo and Sue McCarley** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on February 15th.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 2

Dick DeVoe

Happy New Year!

2016 vs. 2015 RESULTS

In Duplicate Bridge 2, there has been a sea change when comparing results of 2015 and 2016. In 2015, the top three players amassed almost 40% more ranking points than the top three players in 2016. This fact clearly shows that the overall skill of individual players continues to improve, ensuring there is no one consistently near the top of our monthly events.

1st Place 2016 - Tony Greco with three 1st places and two 3rd place ties during the year.

1st Place 2015 - Dave Pierce with two 1st places, three 2nd places, a 2nd place tie, and a 3rd place tie.

2nd Place 2016 - Bill Schultz and Bob Yolland tied. **Bill** with a 1st place, two 2nd places, and a 3rd place tie. **Bob** with a 1st place, a 2nd place, a 2nd place tie, and a 3rd place.

2nd Place 2015- Carl Johnson with three 1st places, and two 2nd places (all as a sub!). We dearly miss you, Carl.

3rd Place 2016 - actually a 4th Place Tie: Brad Hatcher and Dave Steinberg. **Brad** with two 1st places and a 3rd place. **Dave** with a 1st place and two 2nd places.

3rd Place 2015- Bill Schultz with two 1st places, a 3rd place, and a 3rd place tie.

JANUARY 2017 RESULTS

The Duplicate Bridge 2 Group was hosted by **Fred Bolton** for our January 6th event.

1st Place: Max Hinkle starts the New Year with a BANG, earning 1st place with 47 points, against 15 other players. He did this by blowing everyone away in the 1st half with 26 pts. (4 more pts. than the closest competitor), and following that up with 21 pts. (only 1 pt. below 1st place for the 2nd half). That's not all! **Max** had the greatest number of top boards with 9 AND the least number of zeros with only 1 out of 24!

2nd Place: Charlie Abrams took 2nd place overall with 44 pts. He was extremely consistent for the day with 22 pts. in both the 1st and 2nd halves.

3rd Place: Dave Pierce was on **Charlie's** heels the entire time, taking 3rd place overall with 43 pts. He was also extremely consistent, with 21.5 pts. in both halves.

4th Place: Mike Whitaker's 42 pts. easily took 4th place overall, with the closest "also-ran's" 3.5 pts. lower (namely **Dick DeVoe** and **Bill Schultz**)



Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

Dave Pierce

Dick and Christy DeVoe

genially hosted us on a wet wintry evening, January 10th. On the very first board, they scored a top in 4 spades although East held 19 high-card points in the red suits. In a very tight match, they were rewarded with second place (22 match points, 55%). **Tony and Cindy Greco** tied them for second, and **Joan and Dave Pierce** just barely edged them for first (22.5, 56%). **Ken and Elaine Richter** were also above average (20.5, 51%); they had the most tops (7). Despite the chill and the damp outside, the evening's fellowship, as usual, was warm and fulfilling.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Max Hinkle and **Steve Sprague** pose for a picture in the Boundary Oak Club House prior to the start of luncheon activities



Couples Party Bridge

Dave Pierce

It was a dark and stormy night when **Brad** and **Lynne Hatcher** hosted us, January 3rd. The wind howled around the house and the cards rained lots of points on some lucky players and maintained the drought for others. We welcomed new subs **Jerry** and **Chris Benoit**, but they were drought victims. **Brad** and **Lynne** were rewarded for their excellent hospitality with third place (2180). **Tony** and **Cindy Greco** were second (4380); that's typically more than enough to win. **Joan** and **Dave Pierce** were lucky all night (4770). An unusually long social hour followed play, and isn't that what this is really all about.



Party Bridge

Fred Bolton

We played two tables of bridge on January 2nd at the home of **Bill Snyder**. First place went to **Lo McCarley** with 5540 points, second to **Fred Bolton** with 4500, and third went to **Max Hinkle** with 4240 points.

Our next game will be hosted by **Dick DeVoe** on February 6th.



Men's Duplicate

Bridge 1

Doug Eisner

Bill Snyder hosted 3 tables of duplicate bridge on January 16th. At the half-time lunch break **Charlie Abrahams** was once again leading the pack at the first turn with 17.5 match points. **Bob Yolland** was close behind with 15.0 match points and **Fred Bolton** was a little further back with 13.5 match points.

After lunch all twelve players resumed the game with renewed vigor, but no one could catch **Charlie** and **Bob**, even though their pace softened a bit. However, **Bob** almost retained his first half speed while **Charlie** faded somewhat and **Fred** just fell out of bed. When the smoke finally cleared **Charlie** and **Bob** were tied for 1st/2nd with 29.5 match points each and **Roger Peters** came from out of the pack to take 3rd place with 27.0 match points.

Our February 20th game will be hosted by **Bill Schultz** and directed by **Jim Jackson**.



Men's Duplicate Bridge 3

Sid Landman

The Duplicate Bridge 3 Group had its first event of the year on January 20th, hosted by **Brad Hatcher**.

- ◆ 1st Place: **Jim Stedman** starts the New Year in a super way with a 30-point 1st place win, helped significantly in the 1st half with a high of 17 pts. Congratulations, **Jim!**
- ◆ 2nd Place: Tie: **Charlie Abrams** and **Harvey Oxman** tied for 2nd place overall with 28.5 pts. In the 2nd half, **Charlie's** high of 18 pts. And **Harvey's** 2nd high of 17.5 pts. helped tremendously in pushing their total scores so high. See also below for more of their exploits. Nice going, **Charlie** and **Harvey**.
- ◆ 4th Place: Host **Brad Hatcher** slipped into 4th place overall with 26 pts., by placing 3rd and 4th in the first and second halves, respectively. Good work, **Brad**.
- ◆ Comeback Kids: This is the first time that two players scored so high overall by both earning the Comeback Kid designation. **Charlie** increased his score by 7.5 pts. And **Harvey** by 7 pts.! Way to go, **guys**.
- ◆ Most Twos: **Harvey** (10) and **Charlie** (9) also earned the most Two's!

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.

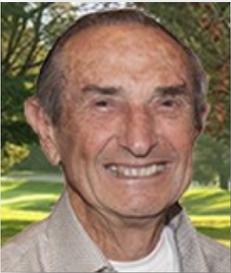


Poker Group 1

Dan O'Sullivan

Poker Group #1 met on January 11th at the home of John Lewis. As always a good time was had by all. Our big winner was **Bill Cammerer**. Our next outing will be at the home of **Frank McNamee** on

February 8th.



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.*



Poker Club 4

Chuck Bobinecz

The January game will be at the home of Sir **Chuck Bobinecz** and will be hosted by Sir **Pete Gates**. **Pete** would like to start the new year the way he ended last year, as a winner.

We meet on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm. Our regular members are **Rich Hanford, Garth Cummings, Pete Gates, Frank Rockwell, Joe Stengel, Chuck Bobinecz and Bob Mehus**. We do not have a regular winner.

Q: What sort of fish performs operations?

A: A Sturgeon

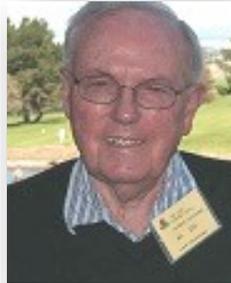


Poker Group 5

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.



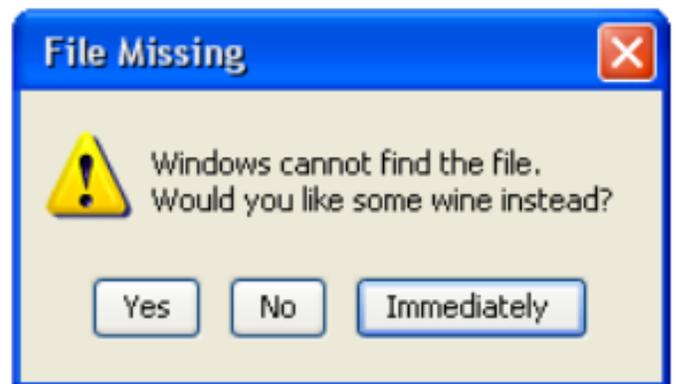
Old Money Poker Group 6

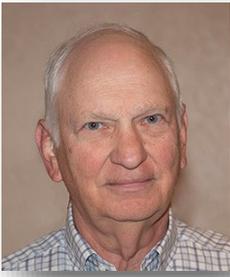
Al Twyford

Poker Group # 6 met on Thursday, January 5th at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill. Five players were present for three hours of friendly poker.

Host **Bob, Al Twyford, Norm Baietti, Harvey Oxman** and **Howard Charlop**. **Harvey** introduced us to a new game, 3 card Molly poker. Everyone seemed to like this game. **Norm** ended up the big winner with **Harvey** right behind him.

Our next game is scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd. It was scheduled for **Al's** home, but he has a conflict with back therapy so we will need to find another host for this date. **Bob** had plenty of red wine and good snacks for the players to enjoy. As usual, **Al** is drinking water while in Chemo treatments.





GOLF

Ed Marlovits

After a frigid finish to 2016, Branch 146 Golf has gotten off to a soggy start in 2017. The year began with two rainouts. These have been followed by cart-path-only restrictions. A post-round stop at the shoe cleaning station will be an important part of your routine as long as the rain keeps up.

Dave Steinberg has tabulated last year's prize fund results and congratulations are due to **George Mon** who outpaced everyone else by a wide margin. He pulled a total of \$180 from the blue envelope. **Pierre Mebane** and **Ron Binder** came in second and third.

2017 signups are complete and we have a total of 100 golfers signed up for the golf activity. In 2016 we had 113 golfers so we have shrunk a bit. Ninety-one members participate in the prize fund.

Golf is one of the most popular Branch 146 activities and a great way for you to get acquainted with many of your fellow Sirs.

If you are new to Branch 146 and would like to participate in great activity, contact us at sir146golf@gmail.com. We would be pleased to add you to our weekly golf email distribution. It would be a great way to see what we are up to. Also, we would be pleased to have you play with us as a guest. You can get in touch with us at the above email address.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Ken Donnelly & guest Tim Clancey at the January luncheon



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Dave Pierce & Bob Mehus



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



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

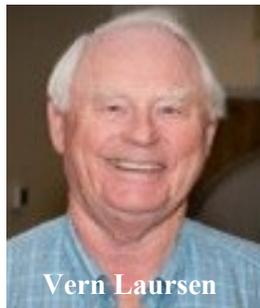
Gene Diana & Ray Kan

Area Two Events

Mac User Group (MUG)



Max Burchett



Vern Laursen

The Mac Users Group (MUG) meets the first Monday of each month from 12 noon until 2:00 pm at the Thurman G. Casey Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Max Burchett and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and are available to help Mac, iPhone and iPad users with their questions. Please note that Mac users do not have problems. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on Mac related products. We will also demonstrate various software products.

If you have or may have an interest, please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from time to time about items that are of interest to Mac Users.

Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

The next meeting is Wednesday February 22nd at 8:00 am at the Legends Restaurant in the Diablo Creek Country Club - Port Chicago Highway, 1/4 mile north of Highway 4 in Concord.

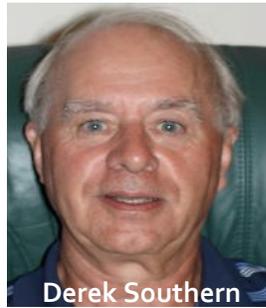
Our speaker will be John Hutchinson of Stifel and Co. He will be speaking about tax-free issues from states and localities.

The Legends opens at 7:00 am. Come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting.

\$ums Chairmen: **Tom Henry** (Br-174) (925) 284-5724
tomhenry925@gmail.com

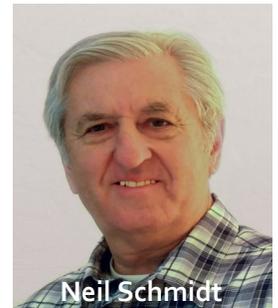
Co-chair: **David Sutton** (Br-8) (925) 686-0158
davesutn@comcast.net

Computers and Technology



Derek Southern

PCs



Neil Schmidt

The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group's [A2CAT] next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, February 16th, 2017 at 9:30 am. Sirs from all branches and their guests are welcome and invited to attend.

The topic for our February CAT meeting will be "Computing Fundamentals (How does a computer work?)" presented by **Dean Steichen**. If you think of a computer as a 'black box' which you input some data, and are surprised when it outputs something useful, come and listen to Dean explain what's goes on in the box! This will help you understand if you need more memory, why an SSD drive is faster than a spinning disk, and which processor meets your needs, and more.

Check the CAT Web page a week or so before the next meeting to download a copy of the presentation: <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>.

The meeting starts at 9:30 am, February 16th, 2017, at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive – so arrive earlier to chat with friends and enjoy the coffee and cookies. We ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies -- but some months are free, so come and see if this meeting is another one of those! All SIR members and their guests (spouses included!) are welcome to attend. See you there.

Neil Schmidt, Chairman

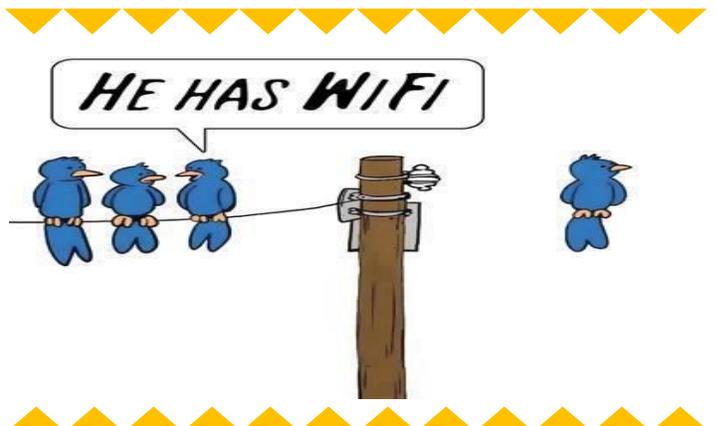


Photo by Bill Schultz



SIR starter **Dick DeVoe** sends **Ed Brands**, **Corrie Oranje** and **Paul Masta** out on the first tee at Boundary Oak

Photo by Bill Schultz



Bill Schultz, **Gary Brown**, **Mike Connors** and **Dennis Hallett** brave the cold weather to complete 18 holes at Boundary Oak GC